

DEPLOY

DUNCAN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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CAPTAIN'S WELCOME

Hello and welcome to *Deploy*, HMS DUNCAN's newsletter, an opportunity for us to keep our loved ones at home up to date with DUNCAN's trip and the operations her crew are conducting. We are now integrated with the French Carrier Strike group to provide air defence and tactical control to her fighter jets. The operation is preparing the ship and the Navy for operations with our carrier HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH next year. I am immensely proud of my Ship's Company and what they have achieved in such a short space of time so far, and I am pleased we can share our successes with you here. This month has seen a variety of activities from competitive Adventurous Training to high-end maritime tasking. We continue to contribute to operations in the Mediterranean whilst also taking any opportunity for training and wholeship activities. I am grateful to you, the families and friends of HMS DUNCAN, for the constant support and encouragement you provide to our crew. I hope you enjoy reading this first edition of *Deploy* and I wish you all the best for the month ahead.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Did you know, it would take 7 years sailing at 25 Knots (35 mph) to deplete the carrier FS CHARLES DE GAULLE of all the fuel in its nuclear reactor?

FREDDIES BACK IN THE HOT SEAT

Making use of the Ship's world-class radar sensor suite, HMS DUNCAN'S Fighter Controllers (affectionately known as 'Freddies') have successfully completed the first control sorties of the deployment, working closely with French Rafale and Portuguese F-16 fighter jets, including a much anticipated fly-past of DUNCAN for the enjoyment of the ship's company. Freddies coordinate the air battle on behalf of the command team. At the time of writing, DUNCAN is working as part of TG 473 with the French carrier CHARLES DE GAULLE, with many more missions with fast jet aircraft to come before August.

LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT

After readying the Ship for 6 months of deployment and ensuring we were sustained for the Operations ahead, the department soon settled into a routine and found opportunities to have a bit of fun while raising money for Charity. A small team, led by LCH Raine, put their best baking skills to the test to provide an array of mouth watering delights, ranging from home made chocolates, chewy brownies and a Caribbean lemon drizzle cake to sell at the whole ship Bucketball competition. Everyone supported the event and £241.00 was raised for our selected Ship's charities.

Whilst visiting Gibraltar, new POSC Ronda Crampton-Reid donned her angry white pyjamas (judo suit) and met with the female Gibraltar judo team manager, 6th Dan Toni Willer where she joined the Budo Kai Judo Club and trained under the instruction of Professor Charles Conroy. 2nd Dan Ronda who is on the GB Masters team is currently preparing for the Commonwealth championship, where she hopes to retain her title later this year.

The Logistics department sees a new head take the reigns next month as Lt Cdr Ellen Laird leaves after 22 months in the post. Thanks for all her hard work and effort – we wish her all the very best!



THE JOURNEY SO FAR...



WEAPONS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

DUNCAN set sail on the 8th March passing round tower saying goodbye to friends, family and loved ones. Since then the WE department has been busy assuring all warfighting capabilities and electronic sensors are ready for operations in the eastern Mediterranean with the French Carrier Strike Group and her flagship the FS CHARLES DE GAULLE.

The installation of Ship's WIFI, a new addition since the last deployment, has proved a great hit with the Ship's Company and the CIS team have been working hard to ensure maximum availability, allowing near real time contact with loved ones back home.

The first month of deployment has been a busy time, including full testing calibration and firing of the ship's gunnery systems, from small arms to our main 4.5" gun. The department continues to support efforts in the Med, ensuring all equipment is ready to be employed at a moments notice.

ADVENTURE AND SPORT

On the first 'Sunday routine' of the trip, LPT Hadaway ('Clubz') secured a 2 hour window to host a Bucketball competition. Bucketball is fairly similar to netball; however you can have a team member move the bucket (the net) to make it easier to score a bucket. The competition took the form of a 'Cup and Plate' contest, which meant every team, got to play at least twice. The Ship's Company had a brilliant afternoon, and 'ME's' (a Marine Engineer Junior Rates team) won the Plate, and the Cup, and overall winners, were 'Boom Boom Shake the Room' team (made up by the Junior Officer's from the Wardroom).

ROCK RUN

Roughly 60 members of Ship's Company rose early on 15th March for the infamous Gibraltar Rock Race. The 2.7 mile steep up hill race, very quickly gets extremely challenging. However, the Ship's Company, soon dug their heels in and got to the top in good time. The reward was a Pusser's sausage sandwich - giving them all the more reason to get there in good time! By the time the race was coming to an end, the sun had just risen and it made for a brilliant setting to the end of a short trip in Gibraltar.



WARFARE DEPARTMENT

It was a strong start to the deployment for the warfare department, with a lot of hard work from everyone to bring the team together. The first few days after leaving the wall included continuation training for the ship, to bring all personnel to the highest standard before entering a busy area of operations. After a short but challenging stint at sea, the opportunity for a leg stretch was relished by all who could go ashore in Gibraltar.

Again, much was achieved in the 24 hours alongside with many participating in the famous Rock Run. Sadly, a weapons engineer took first place, but it was an all-round good effort from everybody that took part for team warfare. After sailing, the mood across the ship changed and the key word was 'anticipation'. What were we to expect as we began transiting to the Eastern Med? Tension has been eased by the introduction of ship's WiFi. All members of the warfare department have enjoyed the addition and found it much easier to keep in contact with loved ones. One member of the department has seen exactly how WiFi on board has been a good thing. LS Anthony Catlin waved goodbye to his pregnant wife in early march, not expecting to have much contact. When his wife Rachel went for her 20 week scan, as anybody would expect, Anthony was disappointed he couldn't be there. But this was eased when his wife sent him a picture via the Wifi to his phone of the scan. Anthony said, "A moment that I thought I was going to miss, was made easier for myself and my wife. To be able to share this experience together made the distance between us feel like nothing." The warfare department are now operating with the French Task Group and are eager to learn and develop skills ready for the integration with the HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH next year.

MARINE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Being a Marine Engineer on a Type 45 is no easy feat, often the first aboard and the last down the gangway; our ME's are some of the most disciplined, hardworking members of HMS DUNCAN. It's where 21st century technology meets the beating heart of the Engine Room. Having won 'The Fleet Engineering Excellence (Surface) Runners Up 2018' award the Engineers were asked to once again ready the ship for deployment. After painstaking defect rectification right up to sailing, that solid work ethic has now turned to training. Some of the department have already achieved the final steps to becoming a valuable watch keeper, crucial for the safe running of equipment and machinery while at sea. Congratulations to all! That training has reaped tremendous benefits already, with a number of ETME's passing their respective boards: Sea Watchkeeper Qualification: ETME's Burns, Clement, Morrison and See. ME Officer of the Watch 2 Qualification: LETME Mills. ME Officer of the Watch 1 Qualification: CPO Powis, PO Faloon. Leading Engineering Technician Board: ETME Roberts. ETME Curtis

THE BISH'S CORNER

The Chaplain's role is to be a friend and advisor to all on board. I provide a space for worship that is inclusive, fun and hopefully thought provoking, to all ranks and rates. For this lent, we are reflecting on 40 words, one for each day, for example, hope, joy, love, fun and promise. We hope you at home have a wonderful Easter period full of blessings and joy!

