

DEPLOY

DUNCAN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

#JustSendDuncan

ISSUE 04 | JUNE 2019



CAPTAIN'S WELCOME

We are over half way now and HMS Duncan is being as proactive as ever. This month has shown how truly versatile a career in the Royal Navy can be; operating as a maritime police force, taking part in disaster relief exercises and conducting a wide range of both marine and weapon engineering work. Some of the Ship's Company have had a good opportunity for some mid-deployment Adventure Training and some well deserved rest. As we look into the final period of the deployment I want to, again, wish you all the best and thank you personally for your continued support.

FLIGHT DEPARTMENT

Duncan arrived in Larnaca, Cyprus at the end of May to take part in Exercise ARGONAUT, a search and rescue and disaster relief exercise designed for humanitarian training. It was a chance for Vantage to showcase its Search and Rescue capabilities once again - AET Kennedy winning casualty dummies from the sea for treatment by the medical team. June also saw a few celebrations with Flight Observer Lt Horne (FLOBS) and AET Smith both turning 30 in the same week! With over 80 hours flown so far, Vantage and her crew remain poised for the final third of the deployment.

WEAPONS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Maintenance Period provided an opportunity for many within the department to catch up with loved ones and take some well earned time away from the ship and the deployment, allowing them to stay in hotels, ease the burden and break the deployment up into easier portions. For others SMP provided the chance to take part in Adventurous Training (AT) activities including paddle boarding and rafting. During our longer period at sea this month, a departmental bucket ball competition was successfully organised on a scorching hot day by SLt Spender with individual teams playing each other 'round-robin' style until an eventual champion emerged. A great afternoon was had by all; a fantastic opportunity to let off some steam and bond as a department.

On a side note, commiserations to LET Butler; caught off guard and murdered with a junior ratings cap - one of the final members left in the Ship's Cluedo game. LS Evans seized the opportunity in the hangar whilst the team enjoyed the bucket ball matches!

It has been a successful month for the department in terms of promotion. Both LET(WE) Butler & LET(WE) Howells were selected for promotion to Petty Officer from Leading Hand and from the Engineering Technicians: ET(CIS) Hutchinson, Local Acting LET(CIS) Gill were selected for promotion to LET(CIS). ET(WE) Russell and ET(WE) Helme were also selected for promotion to LET(WE). Congratulations and BZ to all!



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The football team took on 'The Poachers' this month - an Army team based in Cyprus. Unfortunately, although we played our best, team DUNCAN were defeated against a good, well experienced team. However spirits remained high and the team enjoyed food and drink afterwards with their victorious opposition. At the same time, the Rugby team conducted a good training session in the sun, blowing off the cobwebs and training hard for the next fixtures this month. During SMP 50 of the Ship's Company took part in various activities including Sea Kayaking, Mountain Biking and Paddle Boarding; the weather holding out and all activities enjoyed by all. In other news, Leading Regulator Nathan Holtom, one of the service police onboard, has been selected to be promoted to Regulating Petty Officer so a massive BZ and congratulations to him.

LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT

This month kicked off with a very short but busy maintenance period for the Ship in Greece, which was well supported by the Supply Chain section and ensured all necessary stores required were delivered.

After months of preparation, the department achieved a strong pass after the Fleet Logistics Inspection and assurance visit by the Portsmouth Flotilla Staff, BZ to all. To celebrate the department seized on the opportunity for drinks and a round of upper deck sports - perfect for some team bonding and relaxation after a period of busy preparations. Congratulation also goes out to AB(Std) Nicholls and AB(Chef) Rostance for being selected for promotion to Leading Hand. Chief Hall, POSC Crampton-Reid, LSC Foster and Std Matthews all celebrated their birthdays this month too; we wish them all a happy birthday!



WARFARE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to LS(AWT) Darbyshire who got engaged to his girlfriend this month during the Ship's maintenance period in Crete. Having met in the same country on deployment 2 years prior, this was the ideal moment to propose before watching the Champions League final on the waterfront.

A big well done too, to AB(EW) Powell who achieved his AB1's this month. It is the first level of promotion and the first of many more to come, we are sure!

This month saw us operating off of the North coast of Africa searching for vessels suspected of illegal activity. The boarding team was kept very busy interviewing fisherman in the area with the rest of the department focused on identifying vessels of interest.

As we head in the penultimate month, we are looking forward to our next round of exercises and foreign port stops!

We miss you all and cannot wait to arrive back for Homecoming in weeks few!

MARINE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Just under two months to go until Homecoming, we're starting to see that light at the end of the tunnel. Some of the Department have already made it home for a very special occasion; we would like to congratulate WO1 Moore and his family on the arrival of their new baby boy, Jake, and ET(ME) Cummins and his partner on the birth of their baby girl, Imogen. The ME Department wishes you all the very best of luck. While on the subject of birthdays, one of our Stokers has just achieved a milestone many in the Royal Navy will never see. The Chief Stoker, CPO Stevens now has 35 years of service in the Royal Navy. Some say his first job was onboard HMS Victory but a true boiler-front stoker and a vital component to the safety of DUNCAN as well as the training of young engineers – we want to say a big thank you for your service.

HMS Duncan remains in a good state thanks to the hard work of our engineering department during the ships maintenance period. In particular our gas turbine sections were very busy, working long days to make the deadline of sailing with two healthy engines. Diesel section, on the other hand, were able to take a step back and relax when they had an urgent defect with one of the Sea Boats. It seemed the Captain wanted to get involved and ended up rectifying the rope snagged driveshaft himself. We look forward to seeing him on the next bilge dive to enjoy a less glamorous job down in the depths of the machinery spaces. The never ending clockwork of watch-keeping continues; our engineers keeping eyes on all machinery, all hours of the night and day to ensure the running and safety of Duncan. Providing maximum power to Command, all the way home, because there's no better motivation than family!



WHOLESHIP CLUEDO

The first game is over - LS Evans the victor! The game works three-fold; you are given a victim, a weapon and compartment onboard - nowhere is safe. With just enough time before home, Cluedo 2 is about to start. Let the murders commence!