

SSN 18

HMS TALENT – Family Newsletter

Issue 02 | Summer 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Commander
Paul Jamieson

Dear Friends and Families,

I have the pleasure of writing to you today having seen TALENT achieve a number of key successes during the first half of 2019. We completed a Mediterranean deployment, were the first Trafalgar Class Submarines to make the move north to Faslane, delivered a short leave period for the Ship's Company and have prepared the boat for its next period of operations.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your continued patience during the last deployment, where our return date was frequently under review. I appreciate that our recent period alongside was slightly shorter than expected, however I have been given assurances that the current plan is for the submarine to be back in the UK during the festive period and I fully intend to get as many of the crew away for as much leave as possible. I will of course keep you informed as our programme develops and as ever, please keep this information strictly confidential as any compromise could jeopardise our return date.

All of our recent successes have only been achieved with the huge efforts that you, our friends and loved ones, deliver every single day. I cannot overstate the importance of your contribution in supporting your friends and families in facing the unique challenges of the Submarine Service. For your continued support, I offer my sincerest thanks.

KINGS OF THE NORTH

HMS TALENT arrived in Faslane in July after sailing from her lifelong home of HMNB Devonport to HMNB Clyde. She is the first Royal Navy Submarine in over a decade to complete a Base Port Change, permanently moving to Faslane as part of the establishment of the Submarine Service Single Operating Base. A plan many years in the making, this development will eventually see all Royal Navy Submarines and associated support and training based out of Faslane. The Ship's Company have been quick to integrate themselves with their already Scottish-based counterparts and make the most of the array of sporting and outdoors activities that Faslane has to offer. Information for any families considering following the boat north is available on page 3 of this newsletter.



MED 2019 DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

HMS TALENT sailed from Devonport earlier in the year to undertake a deployment in the Mediterranean, during which time she conducted a series of exercises with NATO Submarines. These types of exercise allow the platforms involved to flex their tactical and technical muscle whilst simulating a series of war-fighting scenarios.

During an operational stand down period in Souda Bay on the Greek Island of Crete, a contingent of Officers and Sailors from TALENT were invited to represent the Royal Navy at the 78th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Crete. The Battle of Crete began on the 20th May 1941 when German paratroopers launched an airborne assault on the Greek Island. A valiant defence was put up by allied forces consisting of British, Australian and New Zealand armed forces fighting alongside local Greek militia before ultimately being overrun by the superior number of the invading German forces. The commemorations were particularly poignant as the grandfather of TALENT's very own Coxswain, CPO Stu Marr, fought in the battle. Coxswain Marr was amongst those in attendance at the ceremony and was especially proud to be there honouring the memory of his forbearer.

Following a further period of time spent beneath the waves, the Ship's Company's next opportunity to step ashore was during a port visit to Gibraltar. Whilst a routine stop for many Royal Navy vessels, this occasion was made all the more special by the fact the American Submarine USS OLYMPIA was berthed forward of TALENT. The OLYMPIA, a Los Angeles class SSN, has much in common with TALENT and she is currently the oldest active SSN in the US Navy.

To mark such a special occasion and make their cousins from across the pond feel welcome, TALENT hosted an evening reception onboard. Highlights of the evening included the promotion presentation and oath swearing of two US Navy Officers and the Dolphin presentation of two trainee Royal Navy Officers, along with the opportunity to introduce the guests to traditional Royal Navy dishes such as 'Cheesy Wham Bams'. Guest of honour, Commodore Henry OBE RN, Commanding Officer British Forces, Gibraltar, took the opportunity to comment on the fine 'vintage' of both Submarines during his thank you speech.

The following day the Ship's Companies of both Submarines met on the sports field for some friendly Inter-Navy sporting competition. A Football (Soccer) match, American Tag Football match and a Volleyball tournament were organised, that provided the opportunity for both Ship's Companies to test their sporting skills!



A fiercely contested Football match ended with a 4-2 victory to TALENT. After a brief respite consisting of American BBQ fare and a crash course in American Tag Football, the competition continued. Despite some initial confusion amongst TALENT's team regarding the rules and regulations of the game, they were able to overcome all odds to beat the Olympia's team 6-0. Down but not out, the American's battled their way back into the competition with a 2 to 1 match total in the Volleyball. Continuing their sporting endeavours, the day before sailing 40 of TALENT's Ship's Company braved an early morning start and dodged Gibraltar's notorious monkeys to complete the renowned 'Rock Run'. All who started finished, with the fastest amongst the runners, SLt Harry Cottenham making it to the top in a very respectable 24 minutes 57 seconds. Lt Joe Hatherall came a close second at 25 minutes 21 seconds, with CPO David 'Digger' Gardner hot on his heels at 26 minutes 7 seconds.

During the relentless tempo of life onboard a deployed Submarine, the Ship's Company found the time to train, mentor and qualify 16 Submariners who were presented with their much-coveted Dolphins at the end of an extensive qualification process. The Ship's Galley in which three chefs work around the clock to produce four meals a day served over 30,000 individual meals (including one very special meal to celebrate TALENT's 29th Birthday!). Fitness fanatics kept in shape using the limited space onboard to great effect, lifting weights in the 'Bomb-nasium' (located in TALENT's Weapons Stowage Compartment) and conducting CrossFit workouts in the 'Switch-nasium' (located in TALENT's Switch Board room, it is awaiting confirmation as the world's smallest and deepest recognised CrossFit gym). Ten individuals from across all departments were selected for promotion to either Leading Hand or Petty Officer.



FLAVOURS OF THE DEEP

The Submarine Service has a rich culinary heritage and every Submariner has their own favourite dish. One item on the menu that is almost universally adored is the 'Cheesy Hammy Egg' or 'Cheesy Wham Bam'. A deceptively simple lunchtime classic (normally served on a Tuesday) that is made using bread, cheese, ham, egg and a blend of 'secret' herbs and spices. Easy to learn but difficult to master, HMS TALENT's very own Naval Chef, Joshua Stennett has agreed to share his take on this secret recipe for you to enjoy at home...



Cheesy Hammy Egg Recipe

- 1) Toast one side of a slice of white bread.
- 2) Mix grated cheese and finely chopped ham in a bowl. Add mustard, Worcestershire sauce, and an egg to bind the mixture together. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- 3) Spread the mixture onto the side of bread that isn't toasted. Put under the grill and leave until cooked, this should take 5-6 minutes. Meanwhile fry an egg.
- 4) Remove the Cheesy Hammy Egg from the grill and put the fried egg on top.

And Wham Bam! There you have it, your very own Cheesy Hammy Egg!



WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

The unique communication challenges faced by members of the Submarine Service and their families can add additional stresses during times of crisis and emergency. Whilst thinking about accidents, emergencies and illness can often be a struggle it is important to know what to do and who to contact should the worst happen.

The first point of contact for less serious and ongoing welfare issues is Naval Service Family and People Support (NS FPS) the contact number for NS FPS is below and additional information is available online at <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/community-and-support>.

The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) is the first point of contact should there be a serious illness, serious crisis or death in the family. In such instances service personnel can be returned on compassionate grounds. Expected events, such as a scheduled surgery and births, are considered routine welfare cases and are managed by the unit.

The JCCC work with service welfare organisations to decide what travel and assistance can be provided. In the most serious cases, the individual will be returned to the UK the fastest way possible. The contact number is below and more information is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/joint-casualty-and-compassionate-centre-jccc>.

SECURITY

As ever, we need to remember the importance of personal and operational security. It is crucial that you never discuss the Submarine's programme via telephone, e-mail or social media. Doing so could put your loved ones at risk. For more guidance please visit:

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare/keeping-in-touch/social-media>

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre (JCCC)
01452 519951

Naval Service Family and People Support Aggie Weston'
02392 728777

02392 650505