

HMS ARGONAUT ASSOCIATION

November 11

First Online Only Newsletter

Time to job share!!!



If we are to push the Association forward we need to share the tasks that are associated with the running of the Argonaut Association.

We need volunteers for the following:

Website maintenance : Adam Phillips

Media Requests : Adam Phillips

Reunion : "H"

Newsletter : Needed

Archiving : Needed

Recruitment : Needed

Treasurer : Emma Phillips

Subscriptions for 2012



Subscriptions for 2012 are due in January. The cost of subscription for 2012 will remain £10.00 this will cover the hosting charge for the website plus help with the cost of the reunion.

From time to time the Association gets the opportunity to purchase historical items that should belong to the men of the Argonaut your subscriptions help to do this.

Unfortunately in 2010 or 11 not many members paid the subscriptions so we are very light on funds. This has a dramatic effect on what I can do and hence the reason I have not been able to produce a Newsletter for some time. Please if you wish to continue with your membership send your subs to me ASAP

2012 Reunion

I have been struggling to organise the reunion over the past few years and to top this off the 2011 reunion was double booked.

"H" a long serving member of the Association has agreed to help with the organisation of the 2012 reunion. Please take a look at the reunion page on our website for more details.

<http://www.hmsargonaut.co.uk/wordpress/reunion/>

Applications welcome

Anyone who is retired or has the time to run the Association is more than welcome to take it over and give it the attention it needs. If you want the Association to grow and get stronger this needs to happen. If no one takes over the only way I can run it is by conducting all communication via the web and email. **You have the choice to change this if you wish.**

A little bit of history

JUNE 1942

ATLANTIC - JUNE 1942

United States - Winston Churchill flew to Washington DC for another series of meetings with President Roosevelt. They agreed to share nuclear research and concentrate the work in the United States. The resulting 'Manhattan Project' was put under military control in September 1942. Agreement did not come so easily on the question of where to open a Second Front in 1942. The Americans wanted to land in France to take pressure off the Russians, but the British considered this impossible at present and proposed the invasion of French North Africa. The President did not come to accept this until July. Planning then started on what became Operation 'Torch'.

17th - As destroyer "WILD SWAN" headed for Gibraltar/UK convoy HG84 she was attacked and sunk off south west Ireland by German Ju88s, but not before she had shot down a number of them. The convoy lost five ships to U-boats.

21st - Ex-US submarine "P-514" on passage around the coast of Newfoundland from Argentina to St Johns was rammed and sunk in error by Canadian sloop "Georgian".

Russian Convoys - PQ17 and QP13 set sail towards the end of the month.

Battle of the Atlantic - In the first six months of 1942, Axis submarines worldwide sank 585 ships of over 3,000,000 tons, mostly in the Atlantic - and a large proportion of these in American waters, where losses remained high in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. At the same time the 108 new U-boats entering service far outweighed the 13 sunk in the Atlantic in this period.

Monthly Loss Summary: 128 British, Allied and neutral ships of 650,000 tons in the Atlantic from all causes, 1 destroyer and 1 submarine; - 2 U-boats by US forces off Cuba and Bermuda

EUROPE - JUNE 1942

Czechoslovakia - Reinhard Heydrich, German 'Protector' of Czechoslovakia died from wounds after an assassination attempt in May. In part-reprisal, the village of Lidice was wiped out and its people murdered.

Eastern Front - Towards the end of the month the Russians started to evacuate Sevastopol and by early July all the Crimea was in German Hands. By this time the Germans had started their Spring attack in the **South** with the aim of taking Rostov-on-Don and pushing **further South** towards the vital oilfields of the Caucasus. Meanwhile, from the area of Kursk and Kharkov, a second army group would move on Stalingrad to protect the left flank of what was initially the main thrust to the south. Stalingrad later dictated the outcome of the entire campaign.

Monthly Loss Summary: 5 British, Allied and neutral ships of 3,000 tons in UK waters.

INDIAN & PACIFIC OCEANS - JUNE 1942

Midway and the Aleutians - Adm Yamamoto, with over 130 ships in a number of separated groups, set out to seize Midway island, occupy the western Aleutians, attack the eastern end, and draw out the Pacific Fleet for destruction. At the heart of the armada was the First Carrier Fleet (Adm Nagumo) with four of the Pearl Harbor attack carriers. The Americans had far fewer ships, but these included carriers "Enterprise", "Hornet" and "Yorktown" barely repaired after the Battle of the Coral Sea. **Battle of Midway** - On the 3rd, Dutch Harbor, close to Alaska, was attacked from two light carriers. But the main battle was far to the south off Midway between the carrier aircraft of both sides. On the 4th/5th in the close run battle, all four Japanese carriers - "AKAGI", "HIRYU", "KAGA" and "SORYU" went down. "YORKTOWN" was badly damaged and finished off by a Japanese submarine on the 7th. The Japanese forces retreated, Midway was spared, and the Allies had their first major strategic victory of World War 2. However, the Japanese Navy remained strong, with more carriers in the Pacific than the Americans. The occupation at this time of Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians was of little consequence.

Australia & New Zealand - The US Pacific Fleet was reorganised in June. Task Force 44 was allocated to Australian and New Zealand waters with Australian cruisers "Australia", "Canberra" and "Hobart", and the American "Chicago" under Rear-Adm V. A. C. Crutchley RN. Until the arrival of the British Pacific Fleet in early 1945, Australian and New Zealand ships were almost the only representatives of the White Ensign in the Pacific.

Monthly Loss Summary: Indian Ocean - 18 merchant ships of 90,000 tons; Pacific Ocean - 6 merchant ships of 31,000 tons

Hairy Bikers in the galley

The Portsmouth-based helicopter carrier and the historic flagship of Horatio Nelson are to feature in the upcoming episode of the series, which looks at the history of the food enjoyed in Britain today.



What's on at the IWM (North)



A Closer Look : War Correspondent

2.15pm Meet at the Tour Point in the Foyer

To coincide with our special exhibition, War Correspondent, join us for a 20 minute tour looking at the changing nature of war reporting and exploring a number of personal stories, from the First World War to present day including Philip Gibbs, Richard Dimpleby and Kate Adie.

A special extended session on Sunday 6 November will also include a screening of archive film from 1943, 'Cameramen at War'.

Tuesdays 1, 15, 22 and 29 November
Wednesdays 2, 16, 23 and 30 November
Thursdays 3, 17 and 24 November
Fridays 4, 18 and 25 November
Sunday 6 November

Film recommendation



Taking over England's top football club Leeds United, previously successful manager Brian Clough's abrasive approach and his clear dislike of the players' dirty style of play make it certain there is going to be friction. Glimpses of his earlier career help explain both his hostility to previous manager Don Revie and how much he is missing right-hand man Peter Taylor who has loyally stayed with Brighton & Hove Albion.

In 1974, Brian Clough was named manager of Leeds United, then one of the most successful teams in English football. He was fired 44 days later after Leeds got off to its worst start in 20 years. He had replaced the legendary Don Revie who left Leeds to become manager of England's national team but never managed to gain the loyalty of the players nor implement his own style of managing. In flashbacks, Clough's rocky relationship with Revie is revealed going back to an FA Cup match in 1968 when he felt Revie snubbed him. As presented in the film, Clough was driven to show up Revie and was a very successful manager, leading Derby County to the league championship. In the end, his ultra-sized ego and lack of concern for those around him led to his downfall. In future years Clough had great success, re-established himself as a top manager leading his teams to victory and was, in the words of the filmmaker, the greatest manager England never had

Trivia

The scenes in the film set at the Derby County training ground were actually filmed in Leeds at a football pitch ironically overlooking the Leeds United stadium.

Goofs

Factual errors: A game against Leeds is described as being four days before the 1973 European Cup semi final in Turin versus Juventus. Derby actually played Arsenal on that particular Saturday. The events shown in that game are completely false and notice that no score for that game is shown.



SEA KINGS HELP SEIZE MASSIVE DRUGS AND EXPLOSIVE HAULS

Royal Navy helicopters have helped to stop insurgents in Afghanistan building more than 1,500 homemade bombs.

That's just one headline figure from a summer and autumn of success, 'eyes in the sky' Sea Kings have used their cutting-edge radar to track insurgents so ground troops could pounce.

Over the past five months more than seven tonnes of explosives have been captured, and a similar amount of drugs – worth well over £10m on the streets of the UK – thanks to the helicopters of 854 Naval Air Squadron.

Commanders in theatre say the Sea King Airborne Surveillance and Control – to give the Baggers their official title – are playing “a pivotal role”.

The helicopters, based at Camp Bastion, are flying up to 50 hours a week, using specialist radar in a giant sack on the side of the Sea King – which gives the squadrons their 'Bagger' nickname – to follow the movements of insurgents thousands of feet below on the ground.

In the past fortnight alone the squadron – which comprises fewer than 50 personnel in Helmand – has directed troops on to three men travelling in a truck which was carrying 570kg of opium – with a street value of £1m, while £250,000 of heroin was found on another vehicle.

But the biggest boost to the concerted effort to strangle the insurgency however comes in the amount of explosives that have fallen into the hands of friendly forces thanks to the Sea Kings, known as 'cloudwalkers' by Afghans.

The summer haul totals 7.2 tonnes of explosives – enough to produce more than 1,500 10lb small improvised explosive devices which have killed and maimed thousands of British, Allied and Afghan troops – and Afghan civilians.

In addition to these successes, the past two weeks have also seen the helicopters pass on 70 intelligence tip-offs to ground troops to follow up.

“Individually, these ‘busts’ are quite small, but collectively, our small force is making a very big difference,”

said Cdr Pat Douglas, Commander Maritime Sea King Force.

“We may be only operating over Helmand and environs but the impact of what we do spreads across the entire country.”

“Every single time a vehicle we've tracked is stopped and drugs or explosives are found by ground forces, we are making things a percentage safer for Afghan civilians and the forces there who are protecting them.”

The Baggers have been in Afghanistan since May 2009, with 854 and her sister squadron from RNAS Culdrose, 857 NAS, taking it in turns to constantly monitor insurgent activity.

Although their missions are hundreds or thousands of feet above Helmand and the helicopters are based many miles from the scene of the various interdiction operations, Allied troops are very quick to pass on their gratitude for the intelligence the Baggers provide.

“We're told quite quickly the outcome of our actions and the feedback we get is that we're making a difference, which has a big effect on morale – really satisfying,” said Cdr Douglas.

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And finally....

