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Ahoy Shipmate

RNA Torbay Newsletter

Volume 8

Issue 1

February 2019

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Further Education -nothing like it!

Mick: I've been going to Night Classes every night for 5 months now.

Paddy: oh!

Mick: For example, do you know who Alexander Graham Bell is?

Paddy: No

Mick: He's the inventor of the phone in 1876; if you took night classes you'd know this.

The next day.

Mick: Do you know who Alexander Dumas is?

Paddy: No

Mick: He's the author of "The 3 Musketeers". If you took night classes, you'd know this.

The next day, once again:

Mick: And do you know who Jean-Jacques Rousseau is?

Paddy: No

Mick: He's the author of "The Confessions" If you took night classes, you'd know this.

This time, Paddy got irritated and said: And you Mick do you know who Sean Reilly is?

Mick: No

Paddy: He's the fellow who's sleeping with your wife? If you stopped going to night classes, you'd know this!

You got to love the Irish!

Editorial

By Shipmate Norrie Millen

Hi! Shipmates,

They say trouble comes in three's, that unless your name is Millen! Not been a very good start to 2019 for me at least. My son seriously ill after a botched operation. My car torn down side by a piece of scaffolding sticking out of a hedge below my line of sight, which cost me almost £800.00 to have repaired; falling same evening landing on my butt and severely bruising my tail bone (coccyx) Next my PC crashed and had to be deep cleaned, another cost I could have done without and then too cap it all my Canadian pension did not appear in bank account. Just like UK, random checks are done to make sure you are still alive and kicking. The Canadian Service Department had been sending mail to an address I had not lived at for over 12 years. I had written twice since moving UK giving my current address, to which they stated they had no record! They also say it never rains but it pours, been a blooming monsoon in my case!

Once again a very successful Festive lunch which our chairman covers in more detail in Chairman's Corner. It was once again largely due to all the hard work put in by our Acting Local Unpaid Social Secretary (Pro Tem). My sister and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as I feel sure all that attended did too. Certainly one of the best attendances in recent years.

I feel sure that between all of our Branch members, there must be enough material, anecdotes, 'black cats' and other amusing things that would fill several books, so why not share that with other members via this newsletter?

I normally have to rely on the Internet for material which I know you all find interesting, however it would be so much better if we could use all of your memories rather than Internet! I know when you have had a tot or three lamps swing and the ditties come out.

The way I see it anyway!



Chairman's Corner

By Shipmate John Soanes

Since the last edition

(November 2018) we enjoyed a very successful Festive Lunch at the Redcliffe Hotel in Paignton, with a record number of 65 in attendance. It was great to enjoy the company of other local Associations, namely RBL Paignton, The RAFA Association, and RNA Newton Abbot and Brixham. Congratulations to Wendy Membery, wife of our President S/M Terry Membery who won the bottle of Pusser's Rum. I suspect she will let Terry have a tot now and then!

The AGM in January was well attended despite the weather and the two main items on the agenda were debated and unanimously agreed, firstly the purchase of a trophy which will be awarded annually to a local Torbay Sea Cadet for special achievement in the year, (exact details yet to be confirmed with the Unit Commander)

Secondly, the arrangements to commemorate annually the birthday of the late S/M David Cartwright by drinking a toast to his memory.

You will remember that these projects were David's request on how to use the generous legacy he left to the Branch, details of which have been supported and agreed by his sister Jane.

The Branch was very well supported at the funeral of our late shipmate Patricia Haward, with about fifteen members in attendance, many members from Torquay and Paignton Royal British Legion were there to pay their respects.

I think we were all proud to learn that, towards the end of WW2 Patricia as a young eighteen year old Naval nurse was sent by troopship to Australia to care for returning British and allied service men, former prisoners of war in Japan.

The Branch forwarded a donation in her memory to the charity of her choice namely HCPT Group 539, based in Torquay which offers pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes in the South of France for disabled and disadvantaged people

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Some members may be aware that my rear garden backs on to the woods surrounding the Barton Hall Estate, However. I wonder how many know of -

### The Ghost of Barton Hall

Most large country houses are said to be haunted and Barton Hall is no exception. The Barton 'White Ghost' is said to inhabit the woods around the hall and is supposed to be the spirit of a woman murdered by her husband. An eyewitness account by a woman in 1929 who was returning home at about midnight after visiting a friend says....

"I be gwain up around Barton Hall woods when I meets this yer woman running and screeching with a white ghost chasing of 'er. Had been to Barton Hall to 'elp with the dishes and 'er was coming back along home when this 'er ghost runned after 'er. It weren't no earthly person and us both of us see'd it "

I have lived here for over 22 years and every night from my bedroom window I always look over into the woods and to date I have never seen anything resembling a ghost like figure, all I ever spot are squirrels, the odd fox, a rabbit or two, pigeons and shitehawks. *Maybe one night I will!*

*I tried shouting "Up Spirits" but nothing appeared.*





## Festive Lunch Pictures



Larger pictures on Branch website at

[https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/rna\\_torbay/festive\\_lunch2019.html](https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/rna_torbay/festive_lunch2019.html)

## Australia's Future Submarines: The World's Best Non-Nuclear Subs?

*By Michael Ward on the Internet*

"Australia has the potential to acquire the most capable conventional submarine in the world..."



There has been considerable public debate about Australia's future submarine program with much of the focus being centred on whether submarines should be produced locally or procured offshore. But surprisingly little of the debate has touched on the imperative to avoid a capability gap once the Collins-class submarines begin to be retired from service in the latter half of the next decade, nor on how Australia might best utilize existing sovereign submarine capabilities to achieve that.

Given the unique nature of the Australian requirement, it seems highly unlikely the solution for Australia's future submarine would be either an "off-the-shelf" purchase from an offshore supplier or an onshore design-and-build activity. Notwithstanding the fact that Australia doesn't have the design capabilities to go it alone on the future submarine program, any existing design would need to be customized with a US combat system and weapons while an appropriate indigenous design would obviously have significant cost, risk and time implications. Instead, the optimum acquisition strategy for Australia's future submarine program is likely to fall somewhere between those two approaches as part of a "hybrid" design-and-build process.

While it's clear that Australia cannot, and should not, undertake the enormous venture of the future submarine on its own, there are many reasons why a collaborative approach, encompassing Australia's sovereign capabilities in submarines and the sovereign capabilities of a partner nation with experience, capability and capacity in large conventional submarines, would be sensible, practical and feasible.

Such an approach would draw upon the submarine design capabilities of an international partner; a US combat system and weapons (based upon 'spiral development' of the Collins class combat system); Australian industry's

existing naval integration capabilities; and the submarine sustainment capability resident in-country. It would also facilitate the inclusion of leading-edge international and Australian technologies, build on Australia's sovereign submarine capabilities, and provide considerable work for Australian industry. Overall, it would result in the lowest cost/risk approach to the provision and sustainment of a new submarine capability for Australia.

From a capability perspective such a collaborative approach would facilitate the timely provision of an appropriate future submarine capability for Australia on a schedule that would militate against a capability gap once the Collins-class submarines begin to be retired from service in the latter half of the next decade.

That said the Government doesn't have the luxury of time in their decision-making process. It's clear that to avoid a capability gap, Australia should confirm its acquisition strategy and move as soon as practicable to establish a long-term collaborative partnership for the design and build of the future submarine. Raytheon Australia has now released its own paper, which confirms that if the first future submarine is to be in the water by 2026, an acquisition strategy needs to be settled now.

From a defence industry perspective, such a collaborative approach would provide many new, long-term Australian jobs. That's a view that has been articulated by ASPI, argued by Government and confirmed by our own analysis.

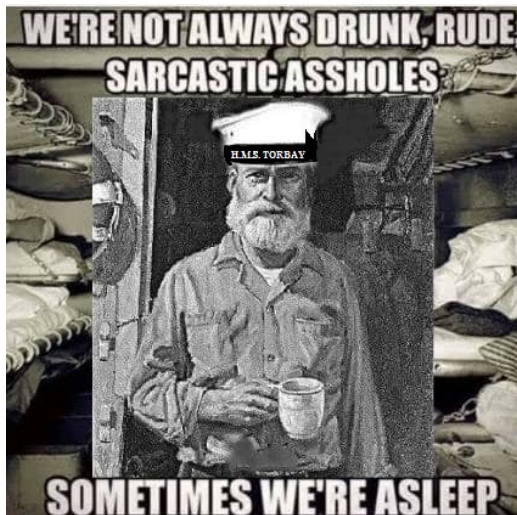
To be clear, the likely roles for Australians under a collaborative design-and-build model would, at a minimum, include: mission system design—working closely with an offshore designer; mission system integration; hull consolidation; test and activation; and the substantial task of sustaining the submarine throughout its



approximately 30-year operational life. Potential also exists for a level of in-country platform assembly. Such a collaborative approach would also require a substantial Australian supply chain.

Through a collaborative approach with an international partner, Australia has the potential to acquire the most capable conventional submarine in the world, optimized for its needs while delivering maximum value for money for the taxpayer. That means Australian industry has every reason to welcome the opportunities presented by the SEA1000 future submarine program.

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand pounds, but its state of the art. It's perfect.'  
'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'  
'Twelve thirty.'



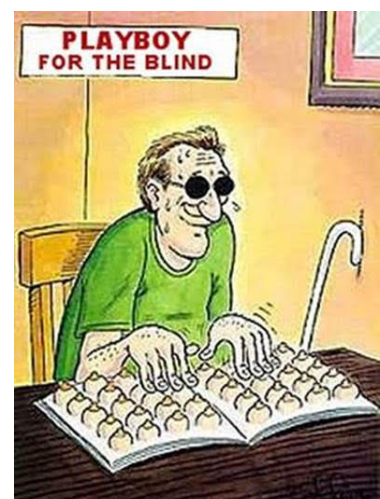
A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool... After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?' 'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

**COMMON SENSE  
IS LIKE DEODORANT.  
THE PEOPLE WHO  
NEED IT MOST  
NEVER USE IT.**



Not to brag, but I just went into another room and actually remembered why I went there.

It was the bathroom, but still.....



## How Harry Fusao O. Ha'Ra MM, made history

*From the Internet*



At only 17 years of age, Harry was on a holiday cruise between Japan and Hawaii with a party of 30 fellow students when they were shipwrecked. The students made it to a desert Island and survived on a diet of seagulls and turtles and by drinking rainwater. Sadly one of the teenagers died and his schoolmates cremated his body on a pyre. The youngsters were eventually rescued by an American ship and the bones of the unfortunate young man were brought with them back to Japan.

The experience didn't put Harry off travelling, however, and as a young man he visited China, the Philippines, Siam, Singapore, Ceylon and India. He wrote three books about his experiences and in India he worked for a time as a journalist. Harry also supplemented his earnings with martial arts instruction and he was teaching Jiu-Jitsu to the King's Own Scottish Borderers when war broke out.

Harry decided to enlist in the 34th Sikh Pioneers and arrived in France by troopship in September 1914. He saw action with the Sikhs and then with the Gurkhas before transferring, in October 1915, to the Middlesex Regiment. While fighting on the Western Front, he was wounded six times and it was discovered that he bore nearly 70 battle scars. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal for his bravery. While in hospital, he occupied himself by making a model Japanese village and if asked about his bravery he would only say:

Just one of those things...it was luck...it was duty-that is all."

After the war ended, O'Hara married a British woman named Muriel McDonald and settled in London where they had three children. Although he remained a Japanese citizen for the rest of his life, he never went back to Japan.

"He loved England, and the English way of life," Reedijk, 87, his only surviving daughter told Kyodo News at her home in Holland.

O'Hara's injuries made it difficult for him to hold down steady work, and with only a meagre pension the family initially struggled financially until he eventually found a job at a charity decorating trays and boxes with lacquer.

"We weren't rich, but we were very happy," she said. "We had enough."

Reedijk described her father as a kind, quiet man who adored his children and "fitted in very well."

*In later life, when he heard that the son of one of his neighbours was going to join the RAF, he bought him a Parker fountain pen as a gift, saying "Young man, you have made a wise decision".*



*Harry Fusao O, Ha'Ra. the only Japanese pilot known to have served in the RAF, died at the age of 60 in Hampstead in 1951.*

"He would go shopping and the girls would flock to help him, because he was very friendly," she said. "He would bow, and they thought that was marvellous." He was often known as O'Hara



## Tomb of the Unknowns Guards Begin Use of Custom M17 Pistols

### *From the Internet*

Yesterday, Tomb Guards from the US Army's 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) were presented with 4 ceremonial M17 pistols at Arlington National Cemetery. These works of art were created by SIG SAUER specifically for use by the Guards.

This ceremony marks the first use of the M17, which will accompany the Sentinels of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers they stand guard 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

The unique distinguishing features for the M17 Tomb of the Unknown Pistols include:

- **Pistol Names:** each of the four pistols bears the name of Silence, Respect, Dignity, or Perseverance and is featured on the dust cover. Dignity and Perseverance represent "The Sentinel's Creed," and Silence and Respect represent the request to the public by Arlington National Cemetery when visiting the Tomb of the Unknown, and during the Changing of the Guard;

- **Custom Wood Grips:** in 1921 the chosen Unknown was transported to the United States of America aboard the USS Olympia. The custom wood grips are made with wood from the USS Olympia and include the crest of the 3rd Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier identification badge inset;



- **Cocking Serrations:** XXI cocking serrations are engraved on the slide to signify the twenty-one steps it takes for the Tomb Sentinels to walk by the Tomb of the Unknowns and the military honour of a 21 Gun Salute;

- **Sight Plate:** an engraved impression of the Greek Figures featured on the east panel of the Tomb – Peace, Victory, and Valour – are featured on the sight plate;

- **Sights:** a glass insert made with marble dust from the Tomb of the Unknown fills the sights of the ceremonial pistols;



- **Engraved Magazines:** the 21-round magazines feature an aluminium base plate engraved with the names of the Greek figures featured on the Tomb of the Unknown – Peace, Victory, and Valour – and include a name plate on the bottom of the magazine engraved with the Tomb Sentinel badge number.

- **Serial Numbers:** the pistols are serialized with a unique set of serial numbers that incorporate items of significance to the Old Guard: "LS" represents line six of the Sentinels' Creed, "My standard will remain perfection; "02JUL37" to signify the first 24-hour guard posted at the Tomb of the Unknown on July 3, 1937; "21" to signify the 21 steps it takes the Tomb Sentinels to walk by the Tomb of the Unknown, and the military honour of a 21 Gun Salute. The full series of M17 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Pistols serial numbers are



LS02JUL37A21 (Silence), LS02JUL37B21 (Respect), LS02JUL37C21 (Dignity), LS02JUL37D21 (Perseverance).

## China Sea Bridge – Longest Bridge in world

*From the Internet*

**Chinese project is one of the most criticised initiatives in Hong Kong, where the bridge is seen as another way for Beijing to extend its control**

The world's longest sea bridge is set to open this week, linking the cities of Hong Kong and Macau to the Chinese mainland as part of a broader contentious plan to integrate the special administrative regions into China.

The \$20bn Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge officially opens on Tuesday in a ceremony that Chinese president Xi Jinping is reportedly planning to attend. Officials are billing the 55km bridge as a key part of the Greater Bay Area plan, a campaign to connect Hong Kong and Macau to 11 Chinese cities to form a high-tech region to rival Silicon Valley.

The bridge links Hong Kong's Lantau island to Zhuhai on the southern coast of Guangdong province and the gambling hub



of Macau, a popular tourist spot for Chinese visitors.

The bridge is not just a mega transport infrastructure jointly built by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau," Hong Kong's secretary for transport and housing, Frank Chan Fan, said on Friday.

"The collaboration between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in terms of trade, finance, logistics and tourism will be strengthened. Hong Kong will assume a more proactive role in the development of the Greater Bay Area."

**Stretching more than 55km (34 miles), the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge spans the Pearl River Delta and is an unparalleled engineering feat.**

However, private cars will only be able to use it after applying for a special permit. The crossing will mostly be used by private shuttle buses and freight vehicles. The bridge is not served by public transport.

Since its inception, it has been one of the most criticised initiatives in Hong Kong, where residents believe it is a poor use of taxpayer funds.

Conservationists have blamed bridge construction for falling numbers of the threatened Chinese white dolphin. Others say the bridge is another way for Beijing to bind the autonomous administrative





regions closer to China.

“It is a politically driven mega-project without urgent need,” said pro-democracy lawmaker Eddie Chu. Earlier this year, officials said traffic on the bridge would see about 25% less traffic by 2030 because of another competing bridge. “Basically it is redundant,” he said.



The structure is designed to withstand earthquakes, the seasonal typhoons which tear through the region and accidental ship strikes

been fined for endangering workers.

Earlier this year, concrete blocks around the artificial island appeared to be floating away, prompting criticism of the quality of the bridge. Officials said the placement was deliberate.

Some say the bridge is not needed, given

Under construction since 2009, the structure is supported by three cable-stayed bridges and designed to withstand winds of up to 340km an hour. A 6.7km undersea tunnel has been built to avoid disrupting shipping lanes, connected by two artificial islands.



existing transport links to mainland China. “I don’t think people are too excited about it. It’s been dragged

on for so long and it’s so expensive, and there are already means of going to the western side of the Pearl River Delta,” said

Mee Kam Ng, a professor at the department of geography at the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

Towers above the bridge are designed to look like dolphins, in honour of the white dolphin, Chinese knots and a boat’s mast, according to the bridge’s designer. The curves of the road are meant to resemble a snake.

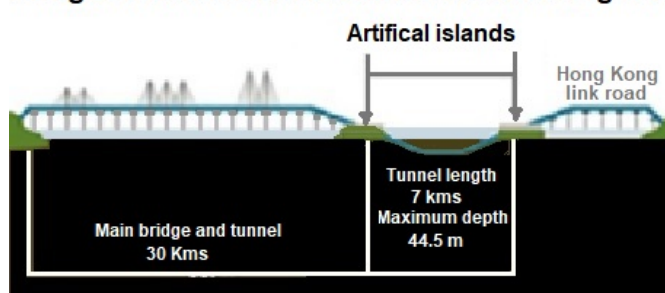


In some ways, the bridge does advance integration of the three cities. Commuters on the bridge will go through three different checkpoints for Hong Kong, Macau, and Zhuhai.

Originally slated to open in 2016, the bridge has been dogged by construction delays, budget overruns, and safety issues. Nine workers have died and more than 200 others have been injured building the bridge. This year, six subcontractors have

“From the opening of the bridge to the eventual integration of these three different places, with three different sets

**Bridges and tunnel between border crossing areas**



of institutions, regulatory regimes, and very different histories and cultures, it is an interesting experiment,” Ng said.

## Iran launches 'cruise missile capable' submarine

A handout picture provided by Iran's presidency on February 17, 2019, shows Hassan Rouhani (dressed in black) during the unveiling of the country's first semi-heavy submarine at Bandar



Abbas naval base

Iran on Sunday launched a new locally-made submarine capable of firing cruise missiles, state TV said, in the country's latest show of military might at a time of heightened tensions with the US.

The launch ceremony, led by President Hassan Rouhani, took place in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

"Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully self-reliant on land, air and sea," Rouhani said.

"Our defensive power is meant to defend our interests and we have never sought to attack any country," he added.

Named the Fateh (Farsi for 'Conqueror'), Fars news agency said the new submarine is Iran's first in the semi-heavy category, filling a gap between the light Ghadir class and the heavy Kilo class submarines that the country possesses.

Fars said the near 600-tonne underwater vessel is equipped with torpedoes and

naval mines in addition to cruise missiles, and can operate more than 200 metres below sea level for up to 35 days.

The US withdrew from a 2015 multilateral nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018 and re-imposed biting unilateral sanctions later last year.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on February 7 unveiled a new ballistic missile with a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles), according to the elite unit's official media agency Sepah News.



The surface-to-surface missile -- called Dezful -- is an upgrade on the older Zolfaghar model that had a range of 700 kilometres, aerospace commander Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said.

Rouhani said on Sunday that "pressure by enemies, the (Iran-Iraq) war and sanctions" were incentives for Tehran to be self-reliant in its defence industry.

"Maybe we would not have this motivation to industrialise our defence sector," he said, if Iran could just buy the weaponry it needed.

Iran's top military brass and cabinet ministers attended the ceremony.



Some people were dropped as babies but **Clearly** you were **Thrown** in the air **Smacked** by the ceiling fan, & **Tossed** out of the window.





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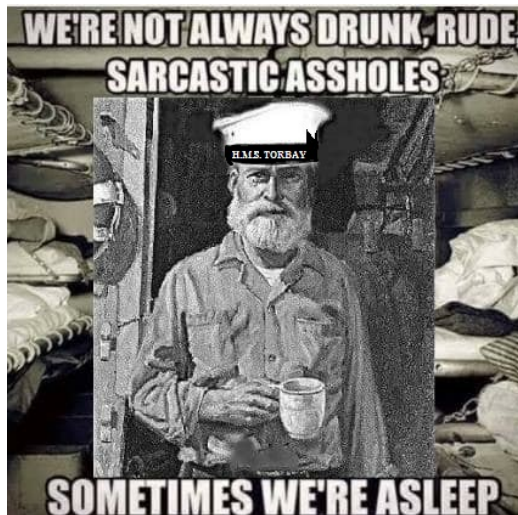
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'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'
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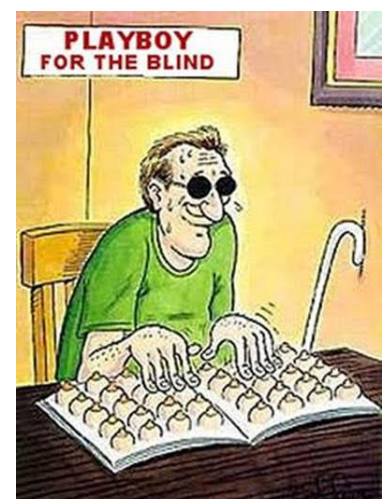


Not to brag, but I just went into another room and actually remembered why I went there.

It was the bathroom, but still.....



Found an extra pair of boots at the worksite. Decided to give my supervisor a heart attack.



How Harry Fusao O. Ha'Ra MM, made history

From the Internet



At only 17 years of age, Harry was on a holiday cruise between Japan and Hawaii with a party of 30 fellow students when they were shipwrecked. The students made it to a desert Island and survived on a diet of seagulls and turtles and by drinking rainwater. Sadly one of the teenagers died and his schoolmates cremated his body on a pyre. The youngsters were eventually rescued by an American ship and the bones of the unfortunate young man were brought with them back to Japan.

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Tomb of the Unknowns Guards Begin Use of Custom M17 Pistols

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- **Custom Wood Grips:** in 1921 the chosen Unknown was transported to the United States of America aboard the USS Olympia. The custom wood grips are made with wood from the USS Olympia and include the crest of the 3rd Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier identification badge inset;



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of Macau, a popular tourist spot for Chinese visitors.

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"The collaboration between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in terms of trade, finance, logistics and tourism will be strengthened. Hong Kong will assume a more proactive role in the development of the Greater Bay Area."

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“It is a politically driven mega-project without urgent need,” said pro-democracy lawmaker Eddie Chu. Earlier this year, officials said traffic on the bridge would see about 25% less traffic by 2030 because of another competing bridge. “Basically it is redundant,” he said.



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existing transport links to mainland China. “I don’t think people are too excited about it. It’s been dragged

on for so long and it’s so expensive, and there are already means of going to the western side of the Pearl River Delta,” said

Mee Kam Ng, a professor at the department of geography at the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

Towers above the bridge are designed to look like dolphins, in honour of the white dolphin, Chinese knots and a boat’s mast, according to the bridge’s designer. The curves of the road are meant to resemble a snake.

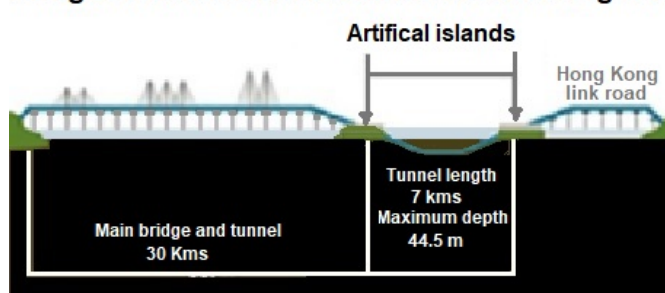


In some ways, the bridge does advance integration of the three cities. Commuters on the bridge will go through three different checkpoints for Hong Kong, Macau, and Zhuhai.

Originally slated to open in 2016, the bridge has been dogged by construction delays, budget overruns, and safety issues. Nine workers have died and more than 200 others have been injured building the bridge. This year, six subcontractors have

“From the opening of the bridge to the eventual integration of these three different places, with three different sets

Bridges and tunnel between border crossing areas



of institutions, regulatory regimes, and very different histories and cultures, it is an interesting experiment,” Ng said.

Iran launches 'cruise missile capable' submarine

A handout picture provided by Iran's presidency on February 17, 2019, shows Hassan Rouhani (dressed in black) during the unveiling of the country's first semi-heavy submarine at Bandar



Abbas naval base

Iran on Sunday launched a new locally-made submarine capable of firing cruise missiles, state TV said, in the country's latest show of military might at a time of heightened tensions with the US.

The launch ceremony, led by President Hassan Rouhani, took place in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

"Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully self-reliant on land, air and sea," Rouhani said.

"Our defensive power is meant to defend our interests and we have never sought to attack any country," he added.

Named the Fateh (Farsi for 'Conqueror'), Fars news agency said the new submarine is Iran's first in the semi-heavy category, filling a gap between the light Ghadir class and the heavy Kilo class submarines that the country possesses.

Fars said the near 600-tonne underwater vessel is equipped with torpedoes and

naval mines in addition to cruise missiles, and can operate more than 200 metres below sea level for up to 35 days.

The US withdrew from a 2015 multilateral nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018 and re-imposed biting unilateral sanctions later last year.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on February 7 unveiled a new ballistic missile with a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles), according to the elite unit's official media agency Sepah News.



The surface-to-surface missile -- called Dezful -- is an upgrade on the older Zolfaghar model that had a range of 700 kilometres, aerospace commander Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said.

Rouhani said on Sunday that "pressure by enemies, the (Iran-Iraq) war and sanctions" were incentives for Tehran to be self-reliant in its defence industry.

"Maybe we would not have this motivation to industrialise our defence sector," he said, if Iran could just buy the weaponry it needed.

Iran's top military brass and cabinet ministers attended the ceremony.



Some people were dropped as babies but **Clearly** you were **Thrown** in the air **Smacked** by the ceiling fan, & **Tossed** out of the window.



www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/rnator

Ahoy Shipmate

RNA Torbay Newsletter

Volume 8

Issue 1

February 2019

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Further Education -nothing like it!

Mick: I've been going to Night Classes every night for 5 months now.

Paddy: oh!

Mick: For example, do you know who Alexander Graham Bell is?

Paddy: No

Mick: He's the inventor of the phone in 1876; if you took night classes you'd know this.

The next day.

Mick: Do you know who Alexander Dumas is?

Paddy: No

Mick: He's the author of "The 3 Musketeers". If you took night classes, you'd know this.

The next day, once again:

Mick: And do you know who Jean-Jacques Rousseau is?

Paddy: No

Mick: He's the author of "The Confessions" If you took night classes, you'd know this.

This time, Paddy got irritated and said: And you Mick do you know who Sean Reilly is?

Mick: No

Paddy: He's the fellow who's sleeping with your wife? If you stopped going to night classes, you'd know this!

You got to love the Irish!

Editorial

By Shipmate Norrie Millen

Hi! Shipmates,

They say trouble comes in three's, that unless your name is Millen! Not been a very good start to 2019 for me at least. My son seriously ill after a botched operation. My car torn down side by a piece of scaffolding sticking out of a hedge below my line of sight, which cost me almost £800.00 to have repaired; falling same evening landing on my butt and severely bruising my tail bone (coccyx) Next my PC crashed and had to be deep cleaned, another cost I could have done without and then too cap it all my Canadian pension did not appear in bank account. Just like UK, random checks are done to make sure you are still alive and kicking. The Canadian Service Department had been sending mail to an address I had not lived at for over 12 years. I had written twice since moving UK giving my current address, to which they stated they had no record! They also say it never rains but it pours, been a blooming monsoon in my case!

Once again a very successful Festive lunch which our chairman covers in more detail in Chairman's Corner. It was once again largely due to all the hard work put in by our Acting Local Unpaid Social Secretary (Pro Tem). My sister and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as I feel sure all that attended did too. Certainly one of the best attendances in recent years.

I feel sure that between all of our Branch members, there must be enough material, anecdotes, 'black cats' and other amusing things that would fill several books, so why not share that with other members via this newsletter?

I normally have to rely on the Internet for material which I know you all find interesting, however it would be so much better if we could use all of your memories rather than Internet! I know when you have had a tot or three lamps swing and the ditties come out.

The way I see it anyway!



Chairman's Corner

By Shipmate John Soanes

Since the last edition

(November 2018) we enjoyed a very successful Festive Lunch at the Redcliffe Hotel in Paignton, with a record number of 65 in attendance. It was great to enjoy the company of other local Associations, namely RBL Paignton, The RAFA Association, and RNA Newton Abbot and Brixham. Congratulations to Wendy Membery, wife of our President S/M Terry Membery who won the bottle of Pusser's Rum. I suspect she will let Terry have a tot now and then!

The AGM in January was well attended despite the weather and the two main items on the agenda were debated and unanimously agreed, firstly the purchase of a trophy which will be awarded annually to a local Torbay Sea Cadet for special achievement in the year, (exact details yet to be confirmed with the Unit Commander)

Secondly, the arrangements to commemorate annually the birthday of the late S/M David Cartwright by drinking a toast to his memory.

You will remember that these projects were David's request on how to use the generous legacy he left to the Branch, details of which have been supported and agreed by his sister Jane.

The Branch was very well supported at the funeral of our late shipmate Patricia Haward, with about fifteen members in attendance, many members from Torquay and Paignton Royal British Legion were there to pay their respects.

I think we were all proud to learn that, towards the end of WW2 Patricia as a young eighteen year old Naval nurse was sent by troopship to Australia to care for returning British and allied service men, former prisoners of war in Japan.

The Branch forwarded a donation in her memory to the charity of her choice namely HCPT Group 539, based in Torquay which offers pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes in the South of France for disabled and disadvantaged people

~~~~~

Some members may be aware that my rear garden backs on to the woods surrounding the Barton Hall Estate, However. I wonder how many know of -

### The Ghost of Barton Hall

Most large country houses are said to be haunted and Barton Hall is no exception. The Barton 'White Ghost' is said to inhabit the woods around the hall and is supposed to be the spirit of a woman murdered by her husband. An eyewitness account by a woman in 1929 who was returning home at about midnight after visiting a friend says....

"I be gwain up around Barton Hall woods when I meets this yer woman running and screeching with a white ghost chasing of 'er. Had been to Barton Hall to 'elp with the dishes and 'er was coming back along home when this 'er ghost runned after 'er. It weren't no earthly person and us both of us see'd it "

I have lived here for over 22 years and every night from my bedroom window I always look over into the woods and to date I have never seen anything resembling a ghost like figure, all I ever spot are squirrels, the odd fox, a rabbit or two, pigeons and shitehawks. *Maybe one night I will!*

*I tried shouting "Up Spirits" but nothing appeared.*





## Festive Lunch Pictures



Larger pictures on Branch website at

[https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/rna\\_torbay/festive\\_lunch2019.html](https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/rna_torbay/festive_lunch2019.html)

## Australia's Future Submarines: The World's Best Non-Nuclear Subs?

*By Michael Ward on the Internet*

"Australia has the potential to acquire the most capable conventional submarine in the world..."



There has been considerable public debate about Australia's future submarine program with much of the focus being centred on whether submarines should be produced locally or procured offshore. But surprisingly little of the debate has touched on the imperative to avoid a capability gap once the Collins-class submarines begin to be retired from service in the latter half of the next decade, nor on how Australia might best utilize existing sovereign submarine capabilities to achieve that.

Given the unique nature of the Australian requirement, it seems highly unlikely the solution for Australia's future submarine would be either an "off-the-shelf" purchase from an offshore supplier or an onshore design-and-build activity. Notwithstanding the fact that Australia doesn't have the design capabilities to go it alone on the future submarine program, any existing design would need to be customized with a US combat system and weapons while an appropriate indigenous design would obviously have significant cost, risk and time implications. Instead, the optimum acquisition strategy for Australia's future submarine program is likely to fall somewhere between those two approaches as part of a "hybrid" design-and-build process.

While it's clear that Australia cannot, and should not, undertake the enormous venture of the future submarine on its own, there are many reasons why a collaborative approach, encompassing Australia's sovereign capabilities in submarines and the sovereign capabilities of a partner nation with experience, capability and capacity in large conventional submarines, would be sensible, practical and feasible.

Such an approach would draw upon the submarine design capabilities of an international partner; a US combat system and weapons (based upon 'spiral development' of the Collins class combat system); Australian industry's

existing naval integration capabilities; and the submarine sustainment capability resident in-country. It would also facilitate the inclusion of leading-edge international and Australian technologies, build on Australia's sovereign submarine capabilities, and provide considerable work for Australian industry. Overall, it would result in the lowest cost/risk approach to the provision and sustainment of a new submarine capability for Australia.

From a capability perspective such a collaborative approach would facilitate the timely provision of an appropriate future submarine capability for Australia on a schedule that would militate against a capability gap once the Collins-class submarines begin to be retired from service in the latter half of the next decade.

That said the Government doesn't have the luxury of time in their decision-making process. It's clear that to avoid a capability gap, Australia should confirm its acquisition strategy and move as soon as practicable to establish a long-term collaborative partnership for the design and build of the future submarine. Raytheon Australia has now released its own paper, which confirms that if the first future submarine is to be in the water by 2026, an acquisition strategy needs to be settled now.

From a defence industry perspective, such a collaborative approach would provide many new, long-term Australian jobs. That's a view that has been articulated by ASPI, argued by Government and confirmed by our own analysis.

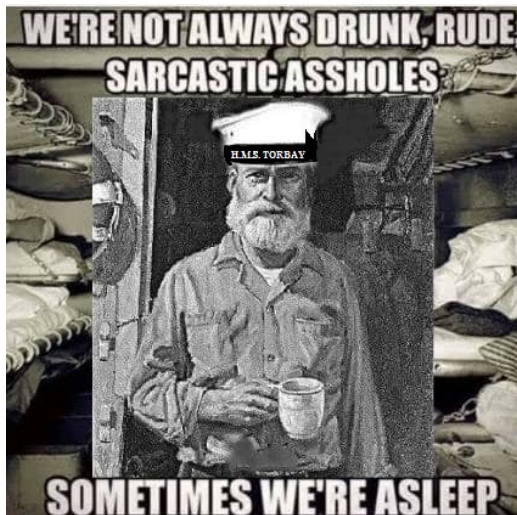
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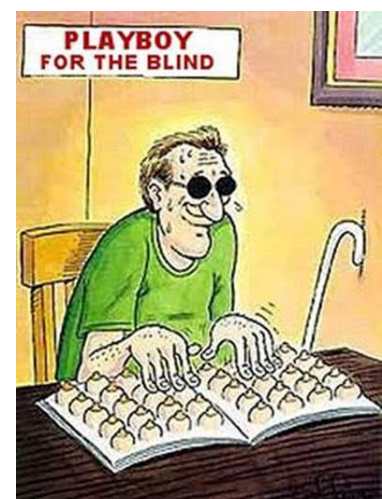
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on for so long and it’s so expensive, and there are already means of going to the western side of the Pearl River Delta,” said

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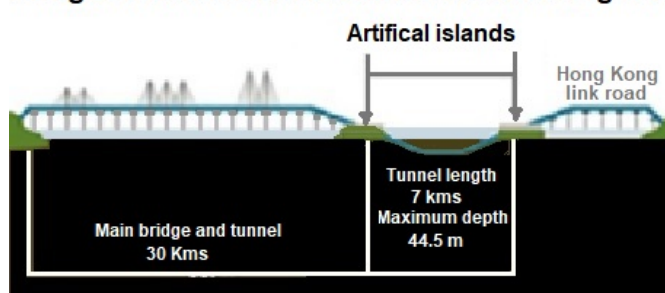


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Bridges and tunnel between border crossing areas



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## Iran launches 'cruise missile capable' submarine

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Iran on Sunday launched a new locally-made submarine capable of firing cruise missiles, state TV said, in the country's latest show of military might at a time of heightened tensions with the US.

The launch ceremony, led by President Hassan Rouhani, took place in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

"Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully self-reliant on land, air and sea," Rouhani said.

"Our defensive power is meant to defend our interests and we have never sought to attack any country," he added.

Named the Fateh (Farsi for 'Conqueror'), Fars news agency said the new submarine is Iran's first in the semi-heavy category, filling a gap between the light Ghadir class and the heavy Kilo class submarines that the country possesses.

Fars said the near 600-tonne underwater vessel is equipped with torpedoes and

naval mines in addition to cruise missiles, and can operate more than 200 metres below sea level for up to 35 days.

The US withdrew from a 2015 multilateral nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018 and re-imposed biting unilateral sanctions later last year.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on February 7 unveiled a new ballistic missile with a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles), according to the elite unit's official media agency Sepah News.



The surface-to-surface missile -- called Dezful -- is an upgrade on the older Zolfaghar model that had a range of 700 kilometres, aerospace commander Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said.

Rouhani said on Sunday that "pressure by enemies, the (Iran-Iraq) war and sanctions" were incentives for Tehran to be self-reliant in its defence industry.

"Maybe we would not have this motivation to industrialise our defence sector," he said, if Iran could just buy the weaponry it needed.

Iran's top military brass and cabinet ministers attended the ceremony.



Some people were dropped as babies but **Clearly** you were **Thrown** in the air **Smacked** by the ceiling fan, & **Tossed** out of the window.





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## Ahoy Shipmate

# RNA Torbay Newsletter

Volume 8

Issue 1

February 2019

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### Further Education -nothing like it!

**Mick:** I've been going to Night Classes every night for 5 months now.

**Paddy:** oh!

**Mick:** For example, do you know who Alexander Graham Bell is?

**Paddy:** No

**Mick:** He's the inventor of the phone in 1876; if you took night classes you'd know this.

*The next day.*

**Mick:** Do you know who Alexander Dumas is?

**Paddy:** No

**Mick:** He's the author of "The 3 Musketeers". If you took night classes, you'd know this.

*The next day, once again:*

**Mick:** And do you know who Jean-Jacques Rousseau is?

**Paddy:** No

**Mick:** He's the author of "The Confessions" If you took night classes, you'd know this.

This time, Paddy got irritated and said: And you Mick do you know who Sean Reilly is?

**Mick:** No

**Paddy:** He's the fellow who's sleeping with your wife? If you stopped going to night classes, you'd know this!

**You got to love the Irish!**

### Editorial

*By Shipmate Norrie Millen*

Hi! Shipmates,

They say trouble comes in three's, that unless your name is Millen! Not been a very good start to 2019 for me at least. My son seriously ill after a botched operation. My car torn down side by a piece of scaffolding sticking out of a hedge below my line of sight, which cost me almost £800.00 to have repaired; falling same evening landing on my butt and severely bruising my tail bone (coccyx) Next my PC crashed and had to be deep cleaned, another cost I could have done without and then too cap it all my Canadian pension did not appear in bank account. Just like UK, random checks are done to make sure you are still alive and kicking. The Canadian Service Department had been sending mail to an address I had not lived at for over 12 years. I had written twice since moving UK giving my current address, to which they stated they had no record! They also say it never rains but it pours, been a blooming monsoon in my case!

Once again a very successful Festive lunch which our chairman covers in more detail in Chairman's Corner. It was once again largely due to all the hard work put in by our Acting Local Unpaid Social Secretary (Pro Tem). My sister and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as I feel sure all that attended did too. Certainly one of the best attendances in recent years.

I feel sure that between all of our Branch members, there must be enough material, anecdotes, 'black cats' and other amusing things that would fill several books, so why not share that with other members via this newsletter?

I normally have to rely on the Internet for material which I know you all find interesting, however it would be so much better if we could use all of your memories rather than Internet! I know when you have had a tot or three lamps swing and the ditties come out.

***The way I see it anyway!***



## Chairman's Corner

*By Shipmate John Soanes*

### Since the last edition

(November 2018) we enjoyed a very successful Festive Lunch at the Redcliffe Hotel in Paignton, with a record number of 65 in attendance. It was great to enjoy the company of other local Associations, namely RBL Paignton, The RAFA Association, and RNA Newton Abbot and Brixham. Congratulations to Wendy Membery, wife of our President S/M Terry Membery who won the bottle of Pusser's Rum. I suspect she will let Terry have a tot now and then!

The AGM in January was well attended despite the weather and the two main items on the agenda were debated and unanimously agreed, firstly the purchase of a trophy which will be awarded annually to a local Torbay Sea Cadet for special achievement in the year, (exact details yet to be confirmed with the Unit Commander)

Secondly, the arrangements to commemorate annually the birthday of the late S/M David Cartwright by drinking a toast to his memory.

You will remember that these projects were David's request on how to use the generous legacy he left to the Branch, details of which have been supported and agreed by his sister Jane.

The Branch was very well supported at the funeral of our late shipmate Patricia Haward, with about fifteen members in attendance, many members from Torquay and Paignton Royal British Legion were there to pay their respects.

I think we were all proud to learn that, towards the end of WW2 Patricia as a young eighteen year old Naval nurse was sent by troopship to Australia to care for returning British and allied service men, former prisoners of war in Japan.

The Branch forwarded a donation in her memory to the charity of her choice namely HCPT Group 539, based in Torquay which offers pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes in the South of France for disabled and disadvantaged people

~~~~~

Some members may be aware that my rear garden backs on to the woods surrounding the Barton Hall Estate, However. I wonder how many know of -

The Ghost of Barton Hall

Most large country houses are said to be haunted and Barton Hall is no exception. The Barton 'White Ghost' is said to inhabit the woods around the hall and is supposed to be the spirit of a woman murdered by her husband. An eyewitness account by a woman in 1929 who was returning home at about midnight after visiting a friend says....

"I be gwain up around Barton Hall woods when I meets this yer woman running and screeching with a white ghost chasing of 'er. Had been to Barton Hall to 'elp with the dishes and 'er was coming back along home when this 'er ghost runned after 'er. It weren't no earthly person and us both of us see'd it "

I have lived here for over 22 years and every night from my bedroom window I always look over into the woods and to date I have never seen anything resembling a ghost like figure, all I ever spot are squirrels, the odd fox, a rabbit or two, pigeons and shitehawks. *Maybe one night I will!*

I tried shouting "Up Spirits" but nothing appeared.



Festive Lunch Pictures



Larger pictures on Branch website at

https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/rna_torbay/festive_lunch2019.html

Australia's Future Submarines: The World's Best Non-Nuclear Subs?

By Michael Ward on the Internet

"Australia has the potential to acquire the most capable conventional submarine in the world..."



There has been considerable public debate about Australia's future submarine program with much of the focus being centred on whether submarines should be produced locally or procured offshore. But surprisingly little of the debate has touched on the imperative to avoid a capability gap once the Collins-class submarines begin to be retired from service in the latter half of the next decade, nor on how Australia might best utilize existing sovereign submarine capabilities to achieve that.

Given the unique nature of the Australian requirement, it seems highly unlikely the solution for Australia's future submarine would be either an "off-the-shelf" purchase from an offshore supplier or an onshore design-and-build activity. Notwithstanding the fact that Australia doesn't have the design capabilities to go it alone on the future submarine program, any existing design would need to be customized with a US combat system and weapons while an appropriate indigenous design would obviously have significant cost, risk and time implications. Instead, the optimum acquisition strategy for Australia's future submarine program is likely to fall somewhere between those two approaches as part of a "hybrid" design-and-build process.

While it's clear that Australia cannot, and should not, undertake the enormous venture of the future submarine on its own, there are many reasons why a collaborative approach, encompassing Australia's sovereign capabilities in submarines and the sovereign capabilities of a partner nation with experience, capability and capacity in large conventional submarines, would be sensible, practical and feasible.

Such an approach would draw upon the submarine design capabilities of an international partner; a US combat system and weapons (based upon 'spiral development' of the Collins class combat system); Australian industry's

existing naval integration capabilities; and the submarine sustainment capability resident in-country. It would also facilitate the inclusion of leading-edge international and Australian technologies, build on Australia's sovereign submarine capabilities, and provide considerable work for Australian industry. Overall, it would result in the lowest cost/risk approach to the provision and sustainment of a new submarine capability for Australia.

From a capability perspective such a collaborative approach would facilitate the timely provision of an appropriate future submarine capability for Australia on a schedule that would militate against a capability gap once the Collins-class submarines begin to be retired from service in the latter half of the next decade.

That said the Government doesn't have the luxury of time in their decision-making process. It's clear that to avoid a capability gap, Australia should confirm its acquisition strategy and move as soon as practicable to establish a long-term collaborative partnership for the design and build of the future submarine. Raytheon Australia has now released its own paper, which confirms that if the first future submarine is to be in the water by 2026, an acquisition strategy needs to be settled now.

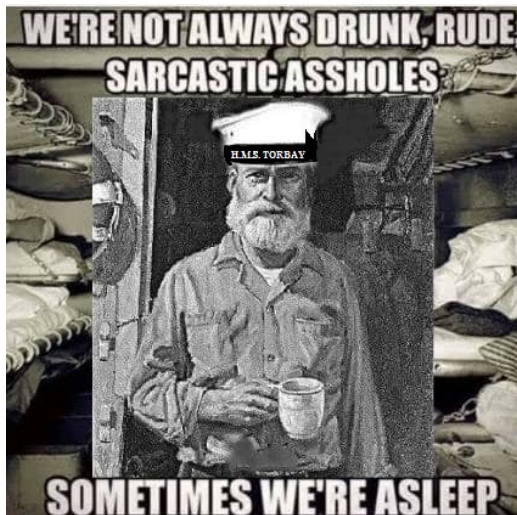
From a defence industry perspective, such a collaborative approach would provide many new, long-term Australian jobs. That's a view that has been articulated by ASPI, argued by Government and confirmed by our own analysis.

To be clear, the likely roles for Australians under a collaborative design-and-build model would, at a minimum, include: mission system design—working closely with an offshore designer; mission system integration; hull consolidation; test and activation; and the substantial task of sustaining the submarine throughout its

approximately 30-year operational life. Potential also exists for a level of in-country platform assembly. Such a collaborative approach would also require a substantial Australian supply chain.

Through a collaborative approach with an international partner, Australia has the potential to acquire the most capable conventional submarine in the world, optimized for its needs while delivering maximum value for money for the taxpayer. That means Australian industry has every reason to welcome the opportunities presented by the SEA1000 future submarine program.

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand pounds, but its state of the art. It's perfect.'
'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'
'Twelve thirty.'



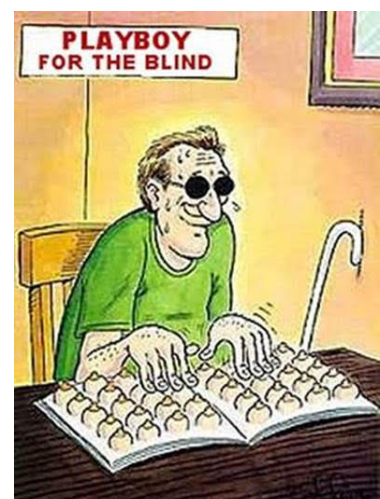
A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool... After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?' 'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

**COMMON SENSE
IS LIKE DEODORANT.
THE PEOPLE WHO
NEED IT MOST
NEVER USE IT.**



Not to brag, but I just went into another room and actually remembered why I went there.

It was the bathroom, but still.....



How Harry Fusao O. Ha'Ra MM, made history

From the Internet



At only 17 years of age, Harry was on a holiday cruise between Japan and Hawaii with a party of 30 fellow students when they were shipwrecked. The students made it to a desert Island and survived on a diet of seagulls and turtles and by drinking rainwater. Sadly one of the teenagers died and his schoolmates cremated his body on a pyre. The youngsters were eventually rescued by an American ship and the bones of the unfortunate young man were brought with them back to Japan.

The experience didn't put Harry off travelling, however, and as a young man he visited China, the Philippines, Siam, Singapore, Ceylon and India. He wrote three books about his experiences and in India he worked for a time as a journalist. Harry also supplemented his earnings with martial arts instruction and he was teaching Jiu-Jitsu to the King's Own Scottish Borderers when war broke out.

Harry decided to enlist in the 34th Sikh Pioneers and arrived in France by troopship in September 1914. He saw action with the Sikhs and then with the Gurkhas before transferring, in October 1915, to the Middlesex Regiment. While fighting on the Western Front, he was wounded six times and it was discovered that he bore nearly 70 battle scars. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal for his bravery. While in hospital, he occupied himself by making a model Japanese village and if asked about his bravery he would only say:

Just one of those things...it was luck...it was duty-that is all."

After the war ended, O'Hara married a British woman named Muriel McDonald and settled in London where they had three children. Although he remained a Japanese citizen for the rest of his life, he never went back to Japan.

"He loved England, and the English way of life," Reedijk, 87, his only surviving daughter told Kyodo News at her home in Holland.

O'Hara's injuries made it difficult for him to hold down steady work, and with only a meagre pension the family initially struggled financially until he eventually found a job at a charity decorating trays and boxes with lacquer.

"We weren't rich, but we were very happy," she said. "We had enough."

Reedijk described her father as a kind, quiet man who adored his children and "fitted in very well."

In later life, when he heard that the son of one of his neighbours was going to join the RAF, he bought him a Parker fountain pen as a gift, saying "Young man, you have made a wise decision".



Harry Fusao O, Ha'Ra. the only Japanese pilot known to have served in the RAF, died at the age of 60 in Hampstead in 1951.

"He would go shopping and the girls would flock to help him, because he was very friendly," she said. "He would bow, and they thought that was marvellous." He was often known as O'Hara

Tomb of the Unknowns Guards Begin Use of Custom M17 Pistols

From the Internet

Yesterday, Tomb Guards from the US Army's 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) were presented with 4 ceremonial M17 pistols at Arlington National Cemetery. These works of art were created by SIG SAUER specifically for use by the Guards.

This ceremony marks the first use of the M17, which will accompany the Sentinels of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers they stand guard 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

The unique distinguishing features for the M17 Tomb of the Unknown Pistols include:

- **Pistol Names:** each of the four pistols bears the name of Silence, Respect, Dignity, or Perseverance and is featured on the dust cover. Dignity and Perseverance represent "The Sentinel's Creed," and Silence and Respect represent the request to the public by Arlington National Cemetery when visiting the Tomb of the Unknown, and during the Changing of the Guard;

- **Custom Wood Grips:** in 1921 the chosen Unknown was transported to the United States of America aboard the USS Olympia. The custom wood grips are made with wood from the USS Olympia and include the crest of the 3rd Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier identification badge inset;



- **Cocking Serrations:** XXI cocking serrations are engraved on the slide to signify the twenty-one steps it takes for the Tomb Sentinels to walk by the Tomb of the Unknowns and the military honour of a 21 Gun Salute;

- **Sight Plate:** an engraved impression of the Greek Figures featured on the east panel of the Tomb – Peace, Victory, and Valour – are featured on the sight plate;

- **Sights:** a glass insert made with marble dust from the Tomb of the Unknown fills the sights of the ceremonial pistols;



- **Engraved Magazines:** the 21-round magazines feature an aluminium base plate engraved with the names of the Greek figures featured on the Tomb of the Unknown – Peace, Victory, and Valour – and include a name plate on the bottom of the magazine engraved with the Tomb Sentinel badge number.

- **Serial Numbers:** the pistols are serialized with a unique set of serial numbers that incorporate items of significance to the Old Guard: "LS" represents line six of the Sentinels' Creed, "My standard will remain perfection; "02JUL37" to signify the first 24-hour guard posted at the Tomb of the Unknown on July 3, 1937; "21" to signify the 21 steps it takes the Tomb Sentinels to walk by the Tomb of the Unknown, and the military honour of a 21 Gun Salute. The full series of M17 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Pistols serial numbers are



LS02JUL37A21 (Silence), LS02JUL37B21 (Respect), LS02JUL37C21 (Dignity), LS02JUL37D21 (Perseverance).

China Sea Bridge – Longest Bridge in world

From the Internet

Chinese project is one of the most criticised initiatives in Hong Kong, where the bridge is seen as another way for Beijing to extend its control

The world's longest sea bridge is set to open this week, linking the cities of Hong Kong and Macau to the Chinese mainland as part of a broader contentious plan to integrate the special administrative regions into China.

The \$20bn Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge officially opens on Tuesday in a ceremony that Chinese president Xi Jinping is reportedly planning to attend. Officials are billing the 55km bridge as a key part of the Greater Bay Area plan, a campaign to connect Hong Kong and Macau to 11 Chinese cities to form a high-tech region to rival Silicon Valley.

The bridge links Hong Kong's Lantau island to Zhuhai on the southern coast of Guangdong province and the gambling hub



of Macau, a popular tourist spot for Chinese visitors.

The bridge is not just a mega transport infrastructure jointly built by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau," Hong Kong's secretary for transport and housing, Frank Chan Fan, said on Friday.

"The collaboration between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in terms of trade, finance, logistics and tourism will be strengthened. Hong Kong will assume a more proactive role in the development of the Greater Bay Area."

Stretching more than 55km (34 miles), the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge spans the Pearl River Delta and is an unparalleled engineering feat.

However, private cars will only be able to use it after applying for a special permit. The crossing will mostly be used by private shuttle buses and freight vehicles. The bridge is not served by public transport.

Since its inception, it has been one of the most criticised initiatives in Hong Kong, where residents believe it is a poor use of taxpayer funds.

Conservationists have blamed bridge construction for falling numbers of the threatened Chinese white dolphin. Others say the bridge is another way for Beijing to bind the autonomous administrative



regions closer to China.

“It is a politically driven mega-project without urgent need,” said pro-democracy lawmaker Eddie Chu. Earlier this year, officials said traffic on the bridge would see about 25% less traffic by 2030 because of another competing bridge. “Basically it is redundant,” he said.



The structure is designed to withstand earthquakes, the seasonal typhoons which tear through the region and accidental ship strikes

been fined for endangering workers.

Earlier this year, concrete blocks around the artificial island appeared to be floating away, prompting criticism of the quality of the bridge. Officials said the placement was deliberate.

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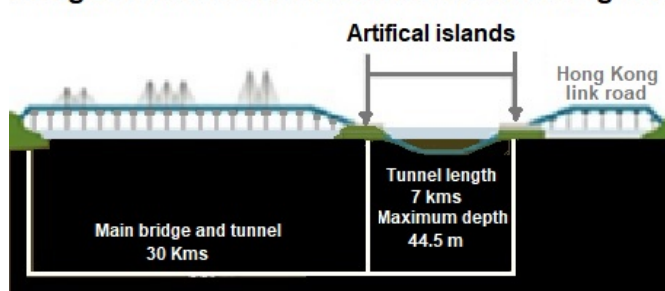


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