



The Rum Tub or Norrie's Nocturnal and Nautical Natter

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APHORISM - "a short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation or a general truth"

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humour you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conferences are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at school reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 am; for example, it could be the right number.

HMS Ulster Rum Tub

Volume 9,

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April 2020

Editorial

By Shipmate Norrie Millen

Hi! Shipmates,

This is a difficult editorial to write, I am filled with all sorts of emotions and thoughts; at these very trying times. I am sure all our hearts go out to all those poor victims of the Covid-19 virus. I don't think the world, or indeed any of us have ever experienced anything like this devastation now upon us and racing across the world like an out of control bush fire.



This virus is being spread rapidly and in a lot of cases unnecessarily by the cretins, fools and idiots who will not adhere to the advice given out by the government. What is the solution; Boris talks about calling in the troops, but to do what? Maybe it is time for very harsher police actions like clamping owner's cars that are out for an unnecessary walks/walking the dog, exercise etc. Maybe for continual and repeated offenders shut them away somewhere, in some sort of isolation internment camp. Why should they be allowed to roam around in this very serious situation possibly infecting many others?

Well I guess I have vented my frustrations enough. Like a lot of you, I am in a 12 week lock down and going quickly stir crazy. The good news is I am getting around to those tasks I was always going to do tomorrow, but we all know tomorrow never comes.

Some of the best sunny weather we have seen in a long time and majority of us are confined to barracks, no shore leave for at least another 10 weeks. That run ashore cannot come soon enough for me!

Still at least we are here to complain about it. They say a matelot (and ex matelots) are not happy unless they are 'dripping'

I hope, pray and trust that you all stay on the right side of the grass and have no need for your wooden overcoats just yet. The navy didn't kill us and neither will this if we follow the rules

The way I see it anyway!

EXPLOSION at GIBRALTAR

Submitted by Shipmate Ken Jones a.k.a. Jonah (1961-63 Commission)

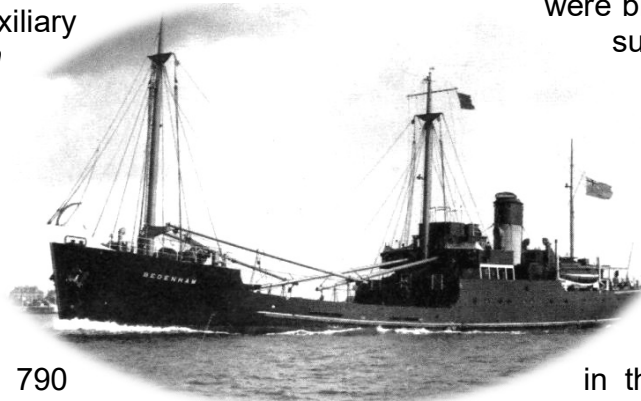
The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) *Bedenham* arrived in Gibraltar on the 24th April 1951 having loaded at Bull Point Naval Armaments Depot, Plymouth with approximately 790 tons of depth charges, ammunition and other ordnance destined for Gibraltar and Malta.

On the 27th of April 1951 an R.F.A. armament carrier, the RFA *Bedenham* was unloading a mixed cargo of naval explosives at the Gunwharf Quay. Which is just round the corner from where F.O. Gibraltar's building now stands; when a depth charge in a lighter moored alongside caught fire.

The crew and dockyard workers were cleared from the immediate area. Sub-Officer George Campbell Henderson of the Dockyard Fire Service doggedly played a jet onto the depth charge. However, the fire spread to the ship and the whole lot went up!

Incredibly, moored contact mines were among the cargo but these were blasted out of the ship and landed in the harbour where they were retrieved by service boats. This shows the value of plugged detonator spaces.

The Captain and civilian Armament Supply Officer who were standing on the bridge



RFA Bedenham

were blown into the harbour, but survived! There were 13 men killed, including Sub Officer Henderson, who was posthumously awarded the George Cross.

One other fireman, two traders who were caught in the blast and nine others were killed, though scores were wounded by flying glass and masonry and were transported in a fleet of army lorries to be treated at the Royal Naval Hospital.

However, the thing that saved the town and more lives was the fact that the dockyard was at a lower level and the 80 ft. defensive bastions surrounding the town deflected

the blast upwards. The

mainmast of the ship

was blasted into the

air and landed on

the water

catchments on

the Eastern side of

the rock above

Catalan Bay So what's

my connection to

all this? Well, as a

service brat I lived

in a hiring near the junction of Rosia road and Scud hill, No2 The Sandpits, a two story house with a veranda and flat roof and should have been at school that day but for the fact that I was off sick. An army medical officer had diagnosed a tropical chill but in fact it was appendicitis and shortly after that I ended up in R.N.H. in a ward full of



Gunwharf Quay after the explosion showing two of the four cranes demolished and the bows of the ship up on the jetty and areas of the machine shops either demolished or with their roofs missing.

wounded from the explosion.

However on that day, hearing sirens I was on our first floor veranda and, looking out over the dockyard roofs saw smoke, then a massive flame and a split second later the blast and what looked like a swarm of objects filling the sky, I had been joined by my

mother and she, a Londoner who had lived through the blitz, grabbed me and hurled me through the door into the house and we ended up under the stairs. Blast does funny things and although we didn't lose any glass, there was a 10lb twisted chunk of ship in our walled backyard but the houses behind us had their windows shattered. and ceilings down. At my School, St. Georges in town there were many injured as shards of glass were driven into the classrooms. Prior to this there was a building boom underway to house non-essential members of the civilian population of the Rock who had been repatriated to Madeira and Jamaica at the start of WWII but this was put on hold to enable the blast damage to be repaired.

Editor's Note: Ironically I lived at same address as Ken many years later when I was Staff NBCDI at HMS Rooke and FRG

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### The new £20 banknote

*From the Internet*

The new £20 banknote has entered circulation and it includes a piece of Royal Navy history.



**Part of the vessel on the dockside, the rest in the water**

On the reverse side of the note, 'The Fighting Temeraire' painting by artist JMW Turner is featured. The iconic artwork depicts a steam tug hauling HMS Temeraire to Rotherhithe shipyard in London to be broken up in 1838.

HMS Temeraire, a 98-gun ship, played a distinguished role in Lord Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The painting, which was completed in 1839, was thought to represent the "decline of Britain's naval power", according to The National Gallery.

On the new note, a self-portrait of Turner is also featured alongside the painting.



Like the Sir Winston Churchill £5 and the Jane Austen £10, the new £20 is made from polymer. It replaces the old paper note featuring economist Adam Smith and has been described by the Bank of England as its most secure note yet.

It has a hologram image which changes -

tilting the note from side-to-side, the words change between



"twenty" and "pounds".

The note also has transparent windows, with blue and gold foil on the front and silver on the back.

A silver foil patch containing a 3D image of the coronation crown is also included. The note is around 139mmx73mm in size

and has raised dots to help blind and partially sighted people identify it.

The note also has some special features, Snapchat users will be able to bring it to life by hovering over the note or an image of it.

It will appear to transform into a live piece of artwork through the use of augmented reality.

For now, the old paper £20 note can continue to be used as normal.

The Bank of England will give six months' notice ahead of its legal tender status being withdrawn.



**GRANDPA WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE GREAT CORONAVIRUS PANIC OF 2020?**



**WELL SON, I HAD A VERY DANGEROUS JOB. I WAS A TAILGUNNER ON A CHARMIN DELIVERY TRUCK**

## Admiral who sank Cherie

Being head of the Royal Navy has many perks (all the rum and lashing you can take, for a start), but invitations to Downing Street are not among them. In Tom Bower's new biography of Tony Blair, he reveals that Admiral Alan West, below, didn't visit Downing Street once during his four year tenure as First Sea Lord. "If I'd been a member of a pop group, I'd have been invited," West grumbled. He found a cunning way of getting his own back though, when Cherie Blair asked him if she could personally launch a ship. West replied she could launch the twelfth of the Type-45 destroyers her husband had commissioned. He failed to mention that Tony Blair was about to cut the number of ships to eight, sinking HMS Cherie!

Admiral Alan West



## Didn't he do well?"

Compiled by Norrie Millen with information from a proud grandfather and mother

### **Peter Shepperd (AB on 1958-60 Commission) has just been made a very proud grandfather**

His grandson, Stephen, who joined Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in September 2019, was commissioned on 2 April 2020 to join the Warfare Branch. Sadly no ceremony or family day and visitors allowed because of this terrible Covid-19 pandemic

Peter attended the BRNC last October and enjoyed a beautiful Devon sunny and warm day. He had a guided tour of the college which was fantastic and also learned that it is built to represent the ship, HMS *Britannia* which was the first college on the River Dart. When this fact is explained to you and how the college buildings work it all makes sense.

The bow is to the left and right, as you look at the building, quarter deck to the right, bridge, in the middle and a walkway to emulate the walkway which was used to access the training ship on the Dart. He says he had an amazing and great day. He was entertained to a field gun run, intricate drill and PE.

Peter said it was a wonderful day and afterwards the officer cadets were allowed out into Dartmouth in full uniform with their parents, this coincided with a food festival in Dartmouth so he

was well wine and dined royally.

Sadly Peter's grandson Stephen lost his father when he was 8 years old. Peter's daughter remarried and had another boy by her new husband; he incidentally is in the University Air Squadron at Swansea; hoping to be a pilot one day.

Stephen joined the Sea Cadets in Winchester and sailed on the tall ship TS *Royalist* a number of times, including a leg of the Tall Ships Race and for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Regatta on the Thames. He also played rugby for the Winchester Rugby Club Boys Team. He was really good at Seamanship which Peter had taught him all about and also taught him knots and splices etc.

While attending Cardiff University, Stephen joined the Royal Naval Unit. During that time regularly sailed on the P2000 HMS *Express*, including summer deployment in the Baltic.

Peter said he talked to Stephen a lot about the navy; but his mother; Peter's daughter encouraged him all the time to join the navy.

Peter lives in Watford and they live in Winchester so he doesn't see him that often. Stephen by his own drive and ability made it to Dartmouth after several setbacks. Now however, he is a Commissioned Officer in the Royal Navy and Peter is so proud of him and rightly so.



Stephen



## NAVAL OFFICERS FINISH TRAINING AMID COVID-19 RESPONSE

03 April 2020

**As Royal Navy medics and planners join the national effort against the coronavirus, a new generation of naval leaders today joined its ranks.**

Two Naval nursing officers were among more than 130 men and women completing their 29-week training which has turned them from civilians into naval officers.

They paraded at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth - the spiritual home of the Officer Corps for more than a century - to mark their success. The Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd, was the inspecting officer and addressed the newest Naval Officers ahead of them joining the Fleet.

Under normal circumstances, the passing-out on the parade ground in front of Britannia's famous façade is attended by family and friends. However due to the coronavirus outbreak, the parade took place behind closed doors.

Passing out were more than 60 engineers, 50 warfare specialists, a couple of Naval chaplains, five logistics experts and nine officers from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which supports the Royal Navy on its operations around the globe.

Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd told them:

"Now is your moment to add to the Royal Navy's long, proud history, to serve your nation, to live up to the example set by the thousands of leaders who have passed through this magnificent College for more than a century, to lead sailors in some of the most challenging times

our nation has faced.

"Some of you will be involved almost immediately in the national effort to deal with the coronavirus. All of you will play your part in some way the coronavirus. All of you will play your part in some way.

"And when this pandemic passes, which it will, you will continue to be there for your nation, ensuring the safety, security and prosperity of the British people."

Among those passing-out was Officer Cadet Joseph Colyer, aged 22, from Cumbria. He said: "While the future holds many unknowns, I am confident in my training and the ability it has given me to do whatever I am asked to assist the nation in these turbulent times."

Officer Cadet Georgia Robbins joined the Royal Navy in 2015, as a rating specialising in supply chain. The 27-year-old, from Preston, said: "I enjoyed my time as a rating however I knew the Training Managers Officers branch was where my passion really lay. I look forward to the challenges ahead but I feel my training has prepared me well for what is to come, and I welcome the opportunity to assist the nation in her time of uncertainty through this current crisis.

Despite the pandemic, instruction continues at Dartmouth - with appropriate medical precautions taken - to ensure the constant flow of trainees to the front-line Fleet, which is carrying out its duties above, on and below the waves around the world as regularly as allows during the emergency.

Each cadet will receive a souvenir DVD of the parade as a memento of the occasion, courtesy of the Britannia Association; a charity dedicated improving the lived experience of Naval Officers whilst at BRNC.



## RECRUITS FINISH TRAINING AMID CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

27 March 2020

**As Navy medics and planners play their part helping the NHS save lives during the coronavirus outbreak, the next generation of recruits at HMS Raleigh have today joined the service to fill key roles.**

A class of 53 new Royal Navy sailors – including two naval nurses and a medic – have completed their basic training at HMS Raleigh and now stand ready to proceed with their next stage of training.

The recruits embarked on their Royal Navy careers in January and have now completed the Navy's 10-week training programme designed to transform them from civilians into military personnel.

While the finale of the course is normally a passing-out-parade attended by family and friends, due to the coronavirus outbreak, the parade took place behind closed doors with a live stream made available for families to follow.

Captain Rich Harris, the Commanding Officer of HMS Raleigh, said: "We continue to train sailors to support the country in times of need, as so many of our people are doing right now in helping the NHS save lives during the coronavirus outbreak. Among the people finishing their training are medical personnel, chefs, supply chain specialists, and engineers, who the country will call upon in times of emergency."



"While this passing-out-parade and currently those planned for future recruits will be held without their families to share in the pride and joy of their achievement, it in no way undermines their great efforts and readiness to serve their nation."

"HMS Raleigh will continue to deliver essential training to personnel in order to fulfil operational outputs. This means that trained personnel will be ready to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation and provide resilience as the Royal Navy's support increases, while maintaining key defence outputs. Training continues in line with Public Health England guidance and will be kept under review."

It comes as the UK Armed Forces are committed to supporting the NHS and other government departments in the response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Air Engineering Technician Michael Guthrie, from Fareham, was among those completing training. The 19-year-old is the fourth generation of his family to join the Armed Forces, following in the footsteps of his parents, uncle, grandparents and his great-grandfather.

He said: "I joined the Royal Navy for a stable career in a varied and challenging environment."

Training was a bit of a tumble between happiness, nervousness and pride in what I and the rest of my class achieved every day. I am very proud to join the Royal Navy and follow my family in what has developed into a tradition."

The class was predominately made up of engineers and members of the logistics branch. They are now ready to progress onto their specialist training.

## The remarkable story of 'Tojo' - The rum-loving monkey who crash-landed in Ireland during WWII

*From the Internet – The Irish Post*

That headline is a little misleading. The monkey himself wasn't actually piloting the plane - which crash-landed in Clonakilty, but he was an important member of the American crew who dropped out of the sky into a little seaside town in Co. Cork on a rather eventful April morning in 1943.

Before finding themselves surrounded by hundreds of fascinated Irish folk, the airmen in question had taken off from the United States in an aircraft named 'T'Ain't a Bird' and, after a short stop in Morocco in North Africa, were bound for England. However, they ran out of fuel over the Emerald Isle after a misleading radio report had thrown them off course.

On board, were 10 crewmen, along with a monkey - Tojo, who they'd picked up in Morocco as a mascot.

As the story goes, the Boeing B-17 - dubbed the 'American Flying Fortress' - began circling the town of Clonakilty around midday on April 7, 1943.

The enormous plane, something few Irish had ever seen the likes of before, which flew so low that locals feared it would knock out one of the church spires, eventually headed out to sea before turning and landing on a marsh.

The crew inside had initially thought they'd crashed in German-occupied Norway, and were allegedly readying cyanide tablets they had to hand as the rescue party approached.



But after being assured that they were on friendly soil, and once their identities were confirmed, the crew, and Tojo, were soon welcomed with open arms.

Local businessman Thomas Tupper told the BBC that the crew were taken into police custody, but that "the custody consisted of them being in a local hotel where a party ensued for three days."

As the men and their monkey mascot settled into their new surroundings, they decided to share the 36 bottles of rum they had on board with the wide-eyed Irish men and women who came to see them - as well as with Tojo, who took a liking to the booze (he's got good taste).



"When we discovered they were Americans, there was great excitement in the town," said Dena O'Donovan, whose family ran the hotel where the crew were staying.

There was a sort of carnival atmosphere for days. People took time off work to go to see this massive plane and the soldiers were like celebrities. But none were as famous as Tojo. No one had ever seen a monkey, so he was treated very well indeed."

Eventually, the call of duty interrupted the party and the crew were taken to Cork before being driven to Northern Ireland and handed over to the RAF. But one member of was sadly unable to make the trip - Tojo.



The crew who crash landed 'Taint a bird' with Tojo in Clonakilty in 1943

His Irish excursion was a short one, but Tojo left a legacy that thankfully to this day hasn't been forgotten

Due to his taste for rum, the monkey, who had no doubt continually raised the spirits of American crewman and Irish farmers alike, contracted pneumonia, and despite the best efforts of local vets, doctors and even chemists, Tojo sadly died a few days later.

"People were genuinely devastated when he died. Some say his little body couldn't handle the cold in Ireland, others say it was the food. Monkeys have not been known to eat black pudding. But others have said he was given quite a bit to drink," added Ms O'Donovan.



Shortly after his death, Tojo was laid on a bed in one of the rooms in the hotel and hundreds of people queued up to see his body.

Sweetly, Tojo was given a traditional Irish wake with full military honours, offering a glimpse into the impact the little primate had during his brief stay.

Further still, in 2013 a statue of Tojo was unveiled in Clonakilty, where he and the American crew had made an emergency landing seventy years prior.

There's even been a local American Pale Ale named after him, to honour his drinking exploits!



**Don't these food  
hoarders understand?  
The more food they buy,  
the more toilet paper  
they'll require.  
It's a catch twenty-poo**

## UK government warned to meet Australian job pledges in \$30 billion warship program

By Defence correspondent Andrew Greene

**Concerns are being raised that local businesses may be excluded from taking part in the \$35 billion project to build a fleet of nine new warships for the Royal Australian Navy.**

### Key points:

- UK company BAE Systems was chosen in 2018 to construct Australia's future frigates
- A senior defence official has flown to the UK to remind the UK government it needed to honour its commitment to include Australian companies
- The defence department said construction on the \$35 billion program was on track to begin this year

The ABC has learned a senior defence department official has flown to the United Kingdom to emphasise the need for Australian industry to take a central role in constructing the British-designed Hunter class frigates.

Last week Defence Minister Linda Reynolds warned the French company building Australia's \$80 billion future submarines that the government would hold it to account on its commitments to local suppliers.

The Defence Department confirmed head of national naval shipbuilding Tony Dalton was meeting the UK government and company BAE Systems, which was chosen in 2018 to construct Australia's Future Frigates.

"Mr Dalton is meeting with his UK Ministry of Defence counterpart as part of a routine

program of engagement to support the delivery of the Hunter class frigate program," the Department told the ABC.

"While in the UK, Mr Dalton will also meet with key industry representatives from BAE Systems and Thales UK."

BAE Systems says it's confident of achieving 'well north' of 60pc Australian industry content

Defence sources have told the ABC the Deputy Secretary had been dispatched to remind the UK government it needed to honour its commitment to including Australian companies, and that the \$35 billion frigate program was not to be simply used to prop up British shipbuilders.

"The Australian Government has been clear about its expectations for maximising Australian industry content in the Future Frigate program," a Defence spokesman told the ABC.

In a statement BAE Systems Australia said it had "worked in Australia for over 65 years and as a result have gained a solid understanding of the capability of local industry".

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**Photo: BAE Systems' Type 26 Global Combat Ships will start replacing Anzac class warships.** (Supplied: BAE Systems)



**PHOTO: The ANZAC Class frigates, including HMAS Anzac (pictured) are to be gradually replaced.** (Supplied: Australian Defence Forces)

"This provides us with the confidence that we will be able to achieve well north of 60 per cent Australian Industry Content over the life of the Hunter Class Frigate Program," the spokesperson said.

"Supporting and investing in the capability of

Australia's defence industry is critical to our goal and that of the

Commonwealth, which is to put in place a sovereign shipbuilding industry

"Our team engages daily with thousands of Australian small

and medium sized businesses and we have great confidence in their capability to be able to wholly support the success of the Hunter Class.

Frigate Program and the establishment of a successful and sustainable naval shipbuilding industry."

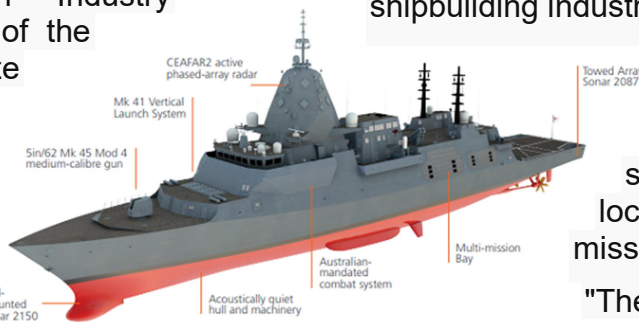
South Australian crossbench Senator Rex Patrick said he was concerned local contractors may be missing out on work.

"The Australian government has to take seriously the issue of Australian industry content, it's really important and thus far they have let both the Australian public down and Australian industry," he said.

Defence said construction on the \$35 billion future frigate program was on track beginning this year.

**INFOGRAPHIC: An annotated computer-generated image of the Hunter class Type 26 global combat ship, by BAE Systems.**  
(Supplied Prime Ministers Office)

"The UK Government and BAE Systems are committed to honouring the terms of the contract."



**WHAT IF THEY CLOSE THE SUPERMARKETS? WE'LL HAVE TO HUNT FOR OUR FOOD.**

**I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE DORITOS LIVE!**

**To the people who have bought 27 bottles of hand sanitizer, leaving none on the shop shelves for others.**

**You do realise that to stop getting coronavirus, you need other people to wash their hands too.**

**YOU THOUGHT DOGS WERE HARD TO TRAIN?**

**LOOK AT ALL THE HUMANS THAT CAN'T SIT AND STAY!**

**MY BODY HAS ABSORBED SO MUCH SOAP & DISINFECTANT RECENTLY, THAT WHEN I GO IT CLEANS THE TOILET**

**They have driven us mad with Coronavirus...**

**I went to the bathroom at a restaurant. I washed my hands, opened the door with my elbow, I raised the toilet seat with my foot, I switched on the water faucet with a tissue then opened the bathroom door to leave with my elbow and when I returned to my table I realised....**

**I FORGOT TO PULL UP MY TROUSERS !**

**And just like that  
1969 was  
50 years ago.**

## Historic 104-Year-old Battleship Close to Sinking

*From the Internet by George Winston*

**Battleship Texas BB35 is a New York-class battleship that has the distinction of having served in both World War I and World War II. The 104-year-old ship is facing possibly its toughest battle as it fights a two front war against time and budgetary constraints.**

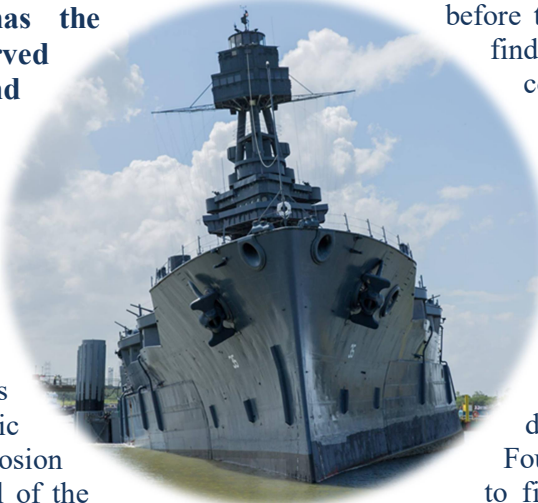
The aging battleship is currently closed to the public as it undergoes repairs. Corrosion has caused leaks in the hull of the last remaining WWI dreadnought. Officials have stated that they are pumping 300,000 gallons of water out of the hull every day.

The state of Texas had been paying for maintenance on the ship but it has announced that it will no longer do so after paying \$35 million to have the ship floated to a shipyard to undergo the repairs.

This means that the ship will have to support itself based on admission fees. That would require 300,000 people to pay to visit it each year in order to fund its own maintenance costs. Currently, the ship is berthed by the San Jacinto Battle Monument in La Porte, Texas. That site does not get enough visitors to keep the ship afloat.

The tale of American exploits during WWI and WWII will not be complete without mention of Texas BB 35

Galveston has emerged as a front runner to provide a home for the Texas. They have two locations that could take the battleship, though



**USS Texas BB35 - Credit: usstexasbb35.com**

both have problems which need to be addressed before the ship could dock there. These findings are from a citizen-led committee's report which provides recommendations on where the ship could be berthed.

Seawolf Park on Pelican Island and Pier 21 located on Galveston's harbour are the two locations identified in the report.

Bruce Bramlett, executive director of the Battleship Texas Foundation, says that the ship needs to find a spot with higher visitation which would rule Seawolf Park out in his mind. "That would be a worse location than what we're in," he said.

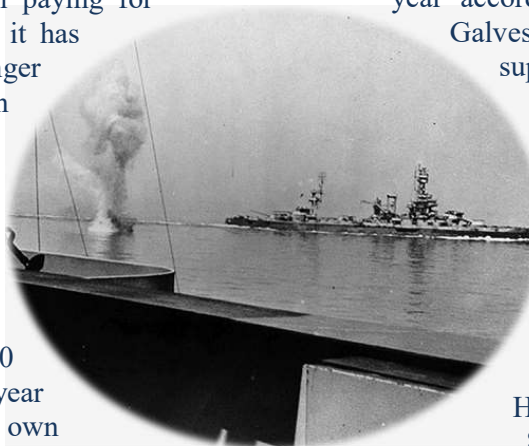
Seawolf Park currently sees 80,000 visitors per year according to park managers for the Galveston. This is not nearly enough to support the Texas. But Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau Chief Tourism Officer, Michael Woody, believes that the number would rise with the Texas berthed there.

"The historic warship faces an uphill battle against leaks and decay."

Having the historic ship located in Seawolf Park, which already hosts the USS Cavalla and the USS Stewart, would provide opportunities for education programs, school

trips, corporate events and even increase leisure traffic at the park.

Pier 21 has the benefit of being near downtown and cruise ship traffic. This would provide the necessary numbers to support the ship. But having the battleship docked there would exacerbate parking and crowding issues already being experienced at the pier.



**A heavy German coastal artillery shells falls between Texas (in background) and Arkansas while the two battleships were engaging Battery Hamburg - Battle of Cherbourg 1944**

Also, the berth at Pier 21 is 510 feet long but the Texas is 560 feet long. With budgetary constraints, the city may simply not be able to afford the work required to bring the Texas to that site.

The city officials have stated that they will require more information before deciding if they want to make a bid for hosting the Texas.

Representative Mayes Middleton is on the committee researching locations in Galveston says that the bottom line is whether Galveston has the number of visitors required to support the Texas. He says that since the ship needs 300,000 visitors each year and Galveston sees over 7 million tourists every year, the numbers aren't a problem.

The committee is expecting to release the full report along with its recommendations this month.

Meanwhile, the Battleship Texas Foundation, which is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Texas, is pushing for the ship to be placed in a dry berth. The constant contact with salt water has weakened the hull of the ship and caused many leaks.

Work on building the Texas began in 1910. After serving in both world wars, the Texas was placed under the care of the Battleship Texas Commission in 1947. The Texas became one of the first museum ships in the US. In 1983, leadership of the Texas was transferred to the Texas Park and Wildlife department. At that time, a survey showed that the watertight seal. The ship was closed to the public for nearly two years while repairs were made.

In 2010, a new leak led to the ship sinking 2-3 feet. In 2012, 30 new leaks were discovered. The ship was once again repaired and reopened to the public.

The Battle Ship Commission would like to see the ship placed in a dry berth, out of the water. Then they could stop spending money on repairs. But getting the Texas out of the water will cost \$40 million. The foundation is willing to raise part of the money but seeking assurance from the government that they will provide the rest.



I'm having a quarantine party this weekend!

None of you are invited!

THEY SAY, "DON'T HANG OUT WITH MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE"

HELL, I DON'T EVEN LIKE 10 PEOPLE



**I was at the bank this morning and two people came in with masks. We all freaked. Then they said it was a burglary. We all calmed down.**



**Day 3 and I'm already tired  
of babysitting my mom's  
grandkids**

**How long is this  
social distancing  
supposed to last? My  
wife keeps trying to  
come in the house.**

**Raw toilet paper for sale £20**



**Some assembly required**

**Day 1 of working from home:  
My wife has already filed a  
harassment complaint to HR!**

**Corona free man seeks  
corona free lady with  
toilet paper. Send  
pictures of toilet paper!**

### **CRITICAL ADVISORY**

**8pm is now the  
official time to  
remove your day  
pajamas and to  
put your night  
pajamas on**



**If the schools are  
closed for too long, the  
parents are gonna find  
a vaccine before the  
scientists...**

I'm either coming out of this quarantine  
20 lbs lighter, chakras balanced & a  
house full of completed craft projects  
Or.... 20 lbs heavier with a drinking  
problem. 🤖