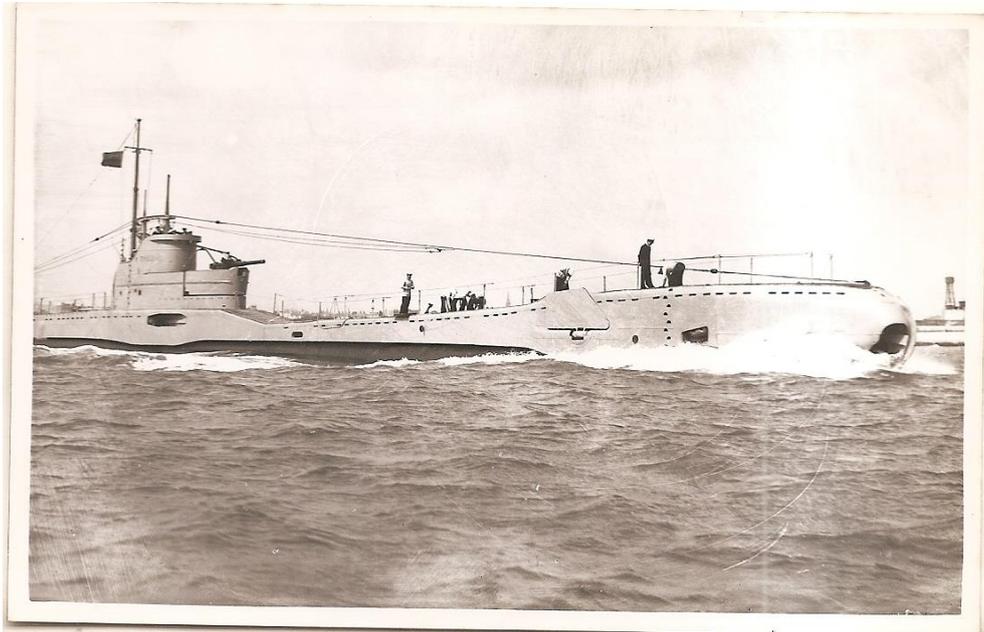


HMS TRIUMPH ASSOCIATION

January 2018



Dear Members of the Triumph Association and friends of Triumph

Happy New Year! Today is the 76th anniversary of Triumph's loss, and I thought a good day to send out a short newsletter to summarise the year just past.

Of course the year began, exactly one year ago, with a memorial service at Alrewas. Around 40 members of the Triumph family came, some bringing medals and original documents. The Rev Tim Flowers delivered a memorable church service.



While we aren't meeting today, I'm sure that all of us will give a quiet thought to Triumph's people, patiently waiting for us to find where they are.

During the rest of the year four new relatives found their way to the Association, three with photographs and memorabilia. We now have relatives of 33 crew members, and photographs of 29. We also have unnamed photographs of another dozen or so in groups, with one new group photo, probably taken at the end of a patrol, in Alexandria:



I've updated the crew collage to bring the new photos in:



The search

Plans for the search remain interrupted by the continued crash in the price of oil (I'm in the oil business – not fun at the moment) meaning rather more time spent in the office than planned, and rather less time and money available for looking for Triumph. So the only real progress to report this year is a growing crew list.

One major step forward this year is the very welcome agreement of the Chief of the Defence Staff – Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL – to become a supporter of the Association after I met him at Faslane during a weekend to commemorate the loss of HMS K13. His support will be a significant help in Greece in the future, where our credibility and integrity are naturally under intense scrutiny.

A smaller step, but a very happy one, was the appearance of a set of wonderful photographs of the interior of a working T-boat – HMS Tigris – taken in 1942 by a film crew. These are now on our website, and give a fantastically immediate feeling for everyday life in a WW2 submarine at war. If you haven't yet seen them please go and have a look.

Many people are searching for lost submarines all the time. A Polish team has just found (it thinks) HMS Narwhal off Aberdeen. An Australian team found HMAS AE1 off Papua New Guinea only last month. And JP Misson, a notable Belgian diver, thinks he has found a handful of boats off Tabarka (Tunis). It is very possible that Triumph will be found by someone else before we go and look. We will be very happy when she is found, whoever finds her.

Publications

We contributed an article on submarine losses to All Round Look this year (ARL is the news publication of the Submarine Museum). If you'd like a copy please email me.

This year has also seen the publication of a short memoir of HMS Rorqual, which spent a lot of time in the Mediterranean. It can be downloaded for free here (<https://www.rnsubmusfriends.org.uk/Napier.pdf>) and is well worth a read.

Funds

As Triumph's crew was small (60) we will inevitably have only a very small membership, and very little money, but in spite of that we have received approximately £400 in donations in 2017, which have largely covered the cost of running Triumph's website. The website is the main channel for finding new relatives, so is an essential part of the search.

Well, that's all I have to report. Thank you for your support, have a happy 2018, and wish us luck.

Gav Don