



# *the Penguin POST*

*HMS SCOTT's NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND Families*  
*Summer 2015 Edition*



## SCOTT Back To Sea At Last!

After eighteen months of late nights, welding, and painting HMS SCOTT finally slipped out of Number 8 dock. After more, sometimes fraught, days of commissioning trials she was allowed to proceed to sea under her own "steam," or diesel engines to be more accurate.

The relief was clear to see from the Captain down, huge smiling faces resplendent in their new style working uniforms.



## Editorial Comment

It has been far too long since our last edition, for which I apologise most profusely; however, and quite rightly our focus as a Ship's Company needed to be on getting SCOTT to sea safely, successful completion of Operational Sea Training and the first survey under our belt.

Now that we have achieved these major milestones we are now able turn our attention to other matters, including keeping our friends and affiliates up to date on what we been up to.

Any feedback, contributions and images are most welcome.

Send to *The Editor* [HMSCTT-PRO@mod.uk](mailto:HMSCTT-PRO@mod.uk)

# *Penguin learn*

## Operational Sea Training (OST)

With sea trials successfully completed, SCOTT and her Ship's Company turned to the next milestone in her return to sea; OST. Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) is responsible for ensuring the Royal Navy's ships and their crews are able to meet the challenges of deploying away from the UK. SCOTT's Operational Sea Training



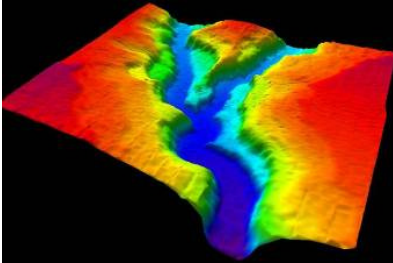
(OST) package was four weeks in June, testing the ship with a variety of different exercises, including; fires, floods, man overboard, terrorist attack and evacuating civilians from a war-torn country to name but a few.

The tempo and difficulty of the exercises rose each week to a crescendo that culminated with the Final Inspection. A white glove inspection of the whole ship, whilst the crew responded to multiple threats and damage to the ship, which of course HMS SCOTT passed.



# *Penguin work*

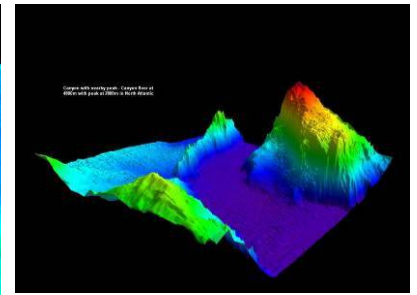
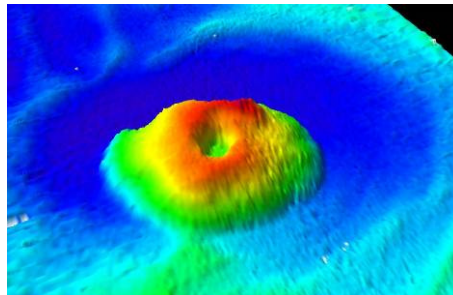
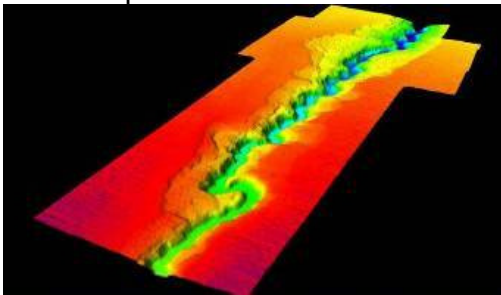
## Masters Of All They Survey



Almost immediately after the FOSTies had left the ship SCOTT departed for the wide open expanses of the North Atlantic to do what she was designed to do, surveying the deep ocean. As soon as her custom made High Resolution Multi-Beam Sonar System was set to work the results came flooding in. Pictured are various images from her sonar of features, some never seen before, on the deep ocean floor.

The end of the North Atlantic survey season was marked by a significant change in the weather, making surveying very difficult and forcing many to remember where their sea-legs were kept.

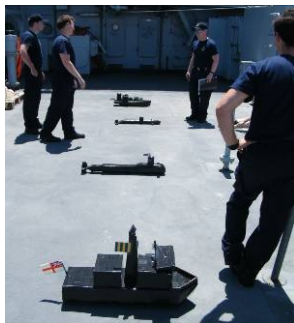
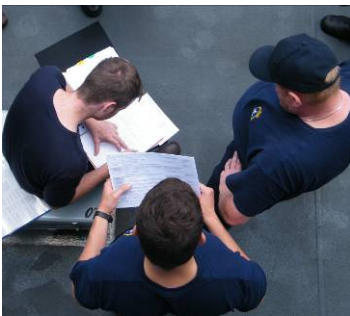
The heavy weather also took a toll on the ship too, fortunately SCOTT stopped in Gibraltar for a Fleet Time Support Period (FTSP), essentially a 10,000 mile service but for ships.



## Playing Ships

Operating within a task group is not something that SCOTT tends to do that often; so teaching our Young Officers (YOs, future Officers of the Watch) the finer points of Officer Of The Watch Manoeuvres (driving large ships in close proximity to each other without crashing) is essential. This requires rapid coding and de-coding of the signals to conduct these manoeuvres and without a fleet to hand, a novel solution was required.

The Executive Officer (XO) Lt Cdr Simon Pink challenged the YOs to build a model warship each. On a suitably sunny afternoon the "fleet" assembled, under the direction of the Navigator, Lt Stuart Lee and with the seaman specialists passing the signals our budding Officers of the Watch were put through their paces.



# Penguin Life

## Port Stop - Azores

SCOTT's first port stop after leaving the UK was Ponta Delgada, San Miguel, the main island of the Azores group.

This was a routine port visit in order to conduct a watch rotation. SCOTT is a three-watch manning ship, that only needs two of the three watches onboard to sail, allowing the other third to catch up on some well-earned leave.

The crew had no hesitation in taking advantage of the stunning scenery including the volcanic springs and crystal clear waters, to re-charge their batteries ready for the next leg.

The British Ambassador to Portugal dropped in with her family to say hello and tour the ship.



## Port Stop – Boston

A beautiful day greeted the SCOTT as she made her approach to Boston, USA; the most eagerly awaited port stop of the ship's 2015 deployment.

Full use was made of her extended visit to explore and make lots of new friends, *more on the sport page*, including excursions to Harvard University, Fenway Park home of the Boston Red Sox, New York and the world famous Six Flags Amusement Park.

The weather was glorious and the ship was berthed just a short walk from the city centre, with the crew enjoying the legendary hospitality of their American hosts.

## Fancy a Dip??

With temperatures averaging 27-30° the cool azure blue sea became increasingly inviting. As the survey was ahead of schedule the ship came to a stop, posted a shark sentry armed with a rifle and once the rescue boat was in the water the traditional pipe (*announcement*) was made "Hands to Bathe."

The sea is a whopping 7m jump from the deck; the braver or more stupid ones (*depending on your point of view*) went from the next deck up, which is a knee knocking 13m.





# *Penguin people*

## Beardy Weirdies

Never one to resist a challenge our sailors found another novel way to raise money for a good cause. In return for topping up the charity tin members of the crew “discontinued shaving.”

The proceeds of the competition will go to the MS society. The worst excuse of a beard “won the prize” of wearing the penguin suit for the photograph.



## All The Fun Of The Fair

A sunny Saturday summer afternoon can only mean one thing a Village Fete. All the traditional stalls were present, including the human fruit machine and splat the rat to name but a few and the perfect way to end the day, a well-stocked BBQ.



## Recently Departed

Sadly pictured are some of our family who have come to the end of their time onboard HMS SCOTT and have moved on to new postings.

We wish them all good luck with their new jobs and look forward to seeing them again soon.



# *Penguin friends*



## **Olde Ironsides**

No visit of a Royal Navy warship to the city of Boston is complete without a tour of “the one that got away,” the US Navy’s Flagship USS CONSTITUTION. Built in Boston in 1797 she is the second oldest warship in the world still in commission, forty seven years younger than our own HMS VICTORY. Nicknamed “Olde Ironsides” after a bruising

engagement with the British frigate HMS GUERRIERE, which was eventually captured with heavy loss of life on both sides. In return for being invited to a reception onboard the SCOTT, her sailors were treated to a tour of the CONSTITUTION, including areas not normally seen by the public. Both Captains met afterwards exchanging gifts before the obligatory photo-call by the ship’s wheel.



## **Water Conservators & Captain Scott Society**

Before she deployed HMS SCOTT was able to host some of our friends and affiliates whilst alongside in Devonport, Plymouth. Representatives from the Water Conservators, our affiliated City Livery Company and the Captain Scott Society joined the crew for a tour and lunch.



## **By Royal Command**



To commemorate the birth of HRH Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, the Admiralty gave permission for the Royal Navy to “Splice the Mainbrace” an age-old naval tradition of toasting with a tot a rum or a non-alcoholic alternative, a celebration or, a reward for a job well-done. Complete with the “Up Spirits” signal flying from the mast SCOTT sailors honoured the tradition

whilst attempting to recreate a similar scene from a WW2 battleship’s rum issue then drank to the Princess’s health.

The ship also received a card from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge thanking them for the gift of a fluffy penguin toy for their new arrival.





# *Penguin fun*

# Les Miserable's



You be the judge, is the television personality and comedian Les Dennis a dead ringer of HMS SCOTT's Leading Steward "Dickie" Henderson? Clearly Les Dennis seems to think so when he posted a "selfie" of himself with a picture of Dickie titled "*Back at you*" in response to the rising Twitter trend on the subject posted by his giggling shipmates.

# A Fowl Hand To Migrants

Pictured right is the ship's very own Dr Dolittle (Lt Cdr Pink) releasing one of two racing pigeons following their unannounced 24hr stopover onboard for a spot of rest and recuperation due to a navigation error.

Quickly identified as racing pigeons thanks to their leg rings; leading to a quick internet search on finer points of pigeon care and hospitality. Comfortable quarters were found and suitable meal provided before they continued on their way.



## Family Support

HMS SCOTT's three-watch manning system permits a relative degree of certainty (compared too other ships) in her programme for planning leave and family time. Being deployed Ship's Company is allowed to make use of the Royal Navy's Operational Welfare Package.

This package offers a number of perks for the sailors, but their families as well. It is intended to make up for the time spent away; these include for sailors internet access, magazines and papers, but also for those left behind, family days out, social groups and cinema tickets organised by Service Families Organisations such as the HIVE and SSAFA.

# Penguin sport

## Mystic Rugby

*"I've arranged a match against a local team for you, it will be against their third XV" read the email from the British Consul's office; "great, see you there" was the reply. Little did the SCOTT 15 realise exactly what they were up against. The physiological warfare had begun before the whistle as it dawned that Mystic River Rugby wasn't just a group of*



maturing ex-pats, but in fact the third best team in the USA's amateur league, growing a number of international players in their own right. A common experience amongst visiting ship team's? Despite a valiant effort from the SCOTT, the lack of training opportunities and small numbers meant the result was never going to be in question.

The exact score is a mystery as the scoreboard could only manage double figures and on reflection probably for the best. SCOTT XV never gave up and the team captain AB(HM) Jake Whittlesea scooped up an excellent grubber kick off the boot of AB(WS) "Robbie" Fowler, grounding the ball near the corner, scoring SCOTT's only try.

## Football

Determined not to suffer the same humiliation as the egg chasers, SCOTT's football first XI laced up their boots for a game against a mixed team of Boston locals and other SCOTT sailors. In what turned out to be a closely contested affair, 10-6 to the home team.

In Gibraltar the first XI played took on the HMS ECHO crew sadly losing 6-4. However their team manager is upbeat *"It was a game of two halves. The lads did well, but the better team won in the end. We have to do better, the fans expect it."* said a sanguine LWTR Fletcher afterwards *"but when the seagulls chase the fishing boat."* and with that ended the interview.