



the Penguin Post

HMS Scott's NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND Families

December 2016 Edition



NEW YORK, NEW YORK!

From the last issue of the 'Penguin Post', you will be aware of SCOTT's successful and highly enjoyable port visit to Halifax, Canada. After some well-earned rest and recuperation the Ship sailed from Canada with attention quickly turning to a month of surveying in the North Atlantic. The weather throughout the period remained generally favourable with the notable exception of one storm where wind gusts increased to over 80mph. Luckily, this weather passed through and surveying could resume in short order.



The vast majority of the Ship's Company also had one eye on the Ship's next port visit.

Any feedback, contributions and images are most welcome.

Send to the Editor:

HMSSCTT-WAR-HM1@mod.uk

A number of the Ship's Company had already visited New York City before, whilst for some it would be their first time; everyone was looking forward to it. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all with a berth only 15 minutes walk from Times Square, the heart of midtown Manhattan.

The Ship again sailed in late August, heading into the North Atlantic for the continuation of her tasking where, despite SCOTT's location being slightly further to the south than previous times at sea, the weather decided to be as problematic as it could. As you would expect however, SCOTT's resilience won through and a significant proportion of the tasking was achieved.

A very busy watch handover ensued in Plymouth at the end of September before sailing for some more surveying. Gibraltar was the Ship's next stop, and a very busy Fleet Time Support Period, with ample training opportunities to keep the Ship's Company very much on their toes.

As you would expect, there was still plenty of time for the Ship's Company to make the most of what Gibraltar had to offer.

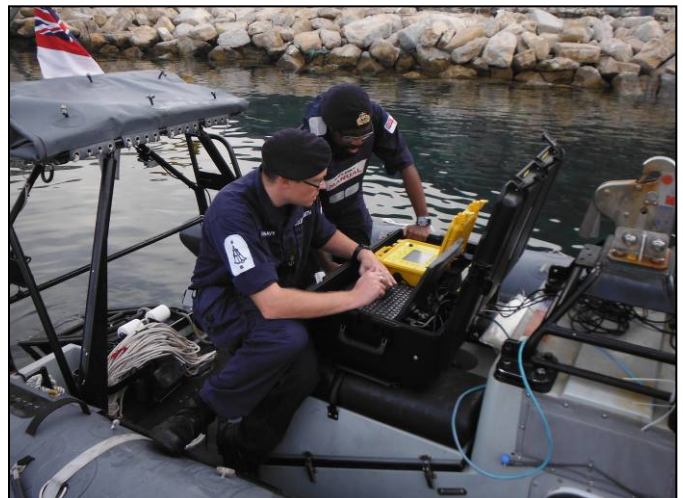


NO TRAIN, NO GAIN



Whilst alongside in Gibraltar, SCOTT's survey department took the opportunity to conduct a harbour survey. The scenario was that Gibraltar was an unknown harbour with personnel heading ashore and determining whether the Ship could safely navigate alongside.

Due to the Ship's primary role as a deep ocean survey vessel, this aspect of surveying is not something many of the team had practiced since initial HM training. However, over the three days of practical surveying the team's enthusiasm and knowledge ensured a comprehensive survey was conducted.



HITTING THE HEIGHTS

5 members of SCOTT's Ship's Company took full advantage of a weekend alongside in Gibraltar by undertaking a trek to the summit of Mulhacén in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Mulhacén, at 3479 metres, is the highest mountain in both continental Spain and the Iberian Peninsula as well as the third most prominent peak in Western Europe after Mont Blanc and Mount Etna.

The trek was led by AB 'Pusser' Hill who had recently qualified as a 'Mountain Leader'. The group consisted of LS(HM) 'Bully' Bullivant, ET(ME) 'Paddy'

Conlan, ET(ME) 'Smudge' Smith and LMA 'Chelle' Carter.

The team left the Ship early on Friday 11 November for the drive across the border into Spain. Trekking for five hours, they reached their first refuge in the early evening ensuring a good night's rest prior to embarking on the next stage the following morning.

The second day involved another five hour trek with increasingly spectacular views before reaching a second refuge where they would stay before making their final ascent to the summit the next morning.

An early start and a hard two hour final slog to the summit was rewarded with some breathtaking views from the snowy peak as the sun rose over the Sierra Nevada. Afterwards, the team made a safe descent prior to returning to the Ship and 'turning to' for work the next day, albeit with some very weary legs.



Charity corner

FREE 'PHYS' TO RAISE AWARENESS

Two of SCOTT's sailors have been raising awareness of suicide rates of military veterans by completing the 22 day push up challenge.

CPO 'Stevie' Doyle and PO 'Baz' Pritchard had been taking part in the challenge after being nominated by colleagues. To enhance the challenge the two have been coming up with weird and wonderful ways of achieving their aim. This included completing the day's required push ups in full fire fighting gear as well as out on the upper deck whilst the ship was being battered by 80mph winds and high seas.



WO Cunningham ensures none of the Ship's Company skip any of their 22 press ups.

Of the challenge Stevie said: 'After being nominated we were both keen to do our bit to raise awareness of such a worthy cause. The challenge for us was thinking of interesting and unique ways in which each day's challenge could be competed, which we have hopefully managed to achieve.'

A study in 2013 found that on average 22 veterans took their own life everyday in the US alone, with much of this down to the experience of suffering from undiagnosed or untreated Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Since its launch the challenge has gone viral with the aim of reaching 22 million push ups in total.

SENIOR RATES RAISE OVER £950 FOR MS SOCIETY



Whilst alongside in Devonport, SCOTT's Senior Rates Mess organised a traditional meat raffle in order to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. A presentation was made by the Mess President, WO1 Cunningham and CMEM Stevenson of a cheque to the value of £961 after a number of fundraising events throughout the year.

Penguin sport



FDNY BRING WINNING RUN TO AN END

Confidence was high for the SCOTT football team after the comprehensive win over limited opposition during the recent port visit in Halifax, Canada. The team was looking to build on their promising performance as well extending their longest winning run for some time of 1 match.

Word must have spread from Canada of the team's improved performance; the first match against the NY Police Department team unfortunately had to be cancelled as the opposition failed to turn up; perhaps the best way for them to avoid heavy defeat.

The team then turned their attention to the NY

Fire Department, but with only 2/3 of the squad available due to leave, the team was left somewhat depleted with a number of key players already on the plane back to the UK for Watch Rotational Leave.

In the end, a well drilled opposition with some impressive talent available to them ensured that SCOTT's winning momentum could not be sustained in a well contested but ultimately disappointing 2-0 loss.

After the match however some top drawer hospitality from the Fire Department ensured that luckily the result was soon forgotten.