

HMS DEFENDER D36 NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011



A MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER NICHOLAS BOYD SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER



Welcome to the Winter 2011 edition of HMS Defender's newsletter. I write this having taken Defender to sea for the first time and completed a very successful set of sea trials. These trials have proven the power plant, propulsion, navigation equipment, communication systems, ship's services, fired all the guns and started the initial integration of the Combat System.

My Ship's Company now stands at 12 Officers, 39 Senior Rates and 13 Junior Rates and the majority have had a spell at sea. It was a great opportunity to build our team spirit and start to get to know and operate our new ship.

As well as sea trials our involvement with our affiliations is increasing to our mutual benefit. I wish them and all of you reading this a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Finally spring will see us at sea once again on our second set of sea trials. The summer will see us delivered to our home port; Portsmouth.

BUILD PROGRESS

HMS Defender has seen an extremely busy period in her build. Since the last newsletter, she has been back in the dry dock to have her propellers fitted and final underwater inspection and then back alongside for the final preparations to get her ready for sea trials. With 4 weeks to go to sailing, the ship was still filled with scaffolding and in some areas looking like a building site. It did not seem possible to be ready to sail as planned. However, BAE Systems Surface Ships, the shipbuilder, were confident and we duly met our sailing date of 21 Oct 11. At 0700, HMS Defender now fully alive slipped from the jetty and, under her own power, sailed down The Clyde for the first time. Darkness prevented effective photography and the image below was taken later that forenoon as we passed Kilgreggan.



Now back from sea trials and again alongside in the Clyde, the build continues and preparations for the second set of sea trials are underway.

Defendendo Vinco

HMS DEFENDER SEA TRIALS

By Commander Pete Walton, Weapon Engineer Officer

Launched on Trafalgar Day 2009 and sailed for the first time on Trafalgar Day 2011.

The sun had yet to rise but at 0700, on a cold autumnal day, HMS Defender slipped from the Scotstoun jetty and headed down the Clyde to yet again mark the auspicious Royal Naval Battle of Trafalgar anniversary. The darkness was not disappointing, as the dockyard lights actually highlighted the ship as she sailed.

Shortly after, the time of sunrise couldn't be better as HMS Defender was seen in her full glory as she appeared out of the mist and sailed under the Erskine Bridge.



The first trial was to anchor off Greenock, which all went to plan, and confirmed that if anything went wrong, we could anchor in an emergency. She then sailed, and proceeded out of the Clyde estuary to commence power and propulsion trials. Every thing was going swimmingly, when we received the news that one of the propulsion motors had suffered a defect and as a result we went back to the Greenock anchorage to assess, analyse and repair. Following a couple of days at anchor, but still conducting trials on auxiliary and combat system equipment, the all clear was given to again proceed to sea with much relief from BAE and the Ship's Company.

The Ship's Company were onboard to provide the Emergency Party to fight any fire or flood incident. Thankfully, we did not have to respond to a real incident but we did get the chance to exercise on several occasions, getting used to the equipment and communications that we will use in service. Although the company was operating and maintaining the equipment there was plenty of opportunity to get alongside the contractors for some excellent transfer of knowledge. Following three and a half weeks at sea, the team are becoming very familiar with their equipment and surroundings which bodes well for taking the ship over.



DO NOT ADJUST YOUR SETS!!!!

The first half of sea trials concentrated on the power and propulsion plant with the navigation system, especially radars and GPS all proved for navigation safety. The propulsion and power plant was gradually set to work and trialled building up to the ship operating at full power and manoeuvring. This gave the perfect opportunity to see the first HMS Defender Ship's Company photograph with the ship in a high speed turn. The photograph is impressive but it still does not give the full feeling of power that a 7500 tonne vessel heeled over to nearly 20 degrees off the vertical gives you whilst onboard!

Defendendo Vinco

The first half of sea trials, feeling the full power and manoeuvrability of a 7500 tonne vessel was most impressive but even that did not beat the second half which saw the Combat System come to life. The sensors and weapons are a fantastic leap in technology and will provide a modern and relevant capability. Each sub-system was brought to life and then integrated into the overall system with the net affect of having all the sensors aligned and all systems communicating over the Local Area Networks. It all culminated in a few days firing the gunnery systems.



First the 4.5 inch gun was functioned, going through varying bearing and elevations and differing number of salvos. The second day of firings saw the 30 mm canons functioned again at varying bearings and elevation. Finally, the force protection GPMGs and miniguns were fired to prove the positions around the ship.

Life onboard was not just about sea trials. Many events were run for fun and to raise money for the BAE and HMS Defender charities. These evenings also provided the perfect opportunity to cement our ever growing relationship with the contractors and therefore ensure our path through to Acceptance Off Contract will be a smooth one. Some events of note were a couple of horse racing nights (for those not aware this involves wooden horses on a track and dice thrown to select the colour of horse and how many squares to move) and a colossal rowathon over the length of the River Clyde. This plus some sterling efforts to run a tuck shop and laundry managed to raise, in the order of £2500, to share between the HMS Defender and BAE charities.



In addition, HMS Defender was at sea for Remembrance Sunday. A service, led by the Navigating Officer, Lieutenant Oliver Craven, was held in the hangar with all members of the Ship's Company and many from BAE and their sub-contractors present. During the service wreaths were lowered into the sea, by the Admiralty Trials Master, Captain Graham Baxter, the Senior Naval Officer, Commander Nicholas Boyd and the Senior BAE Representative, Mr John McComb.



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SCOTSTOUN T45 COMMUNITY TRAFALGAR NIGHT DINNER IN PADDLE STEAMER WAVERLEY

By Commander Pete Walton, Weapon Engineer Officer

Lieutenant Commander Stephen Anderson, HMS Defender Wardroom Mess President was delighted to welcome Sir Robin Knox Johnson (saw service in the last HMS Duncan) as the VIP for a Trafalgar Night Dinner that included officers from HMS Defender and HMS Duncan and representation from some of their military affiliations and BAE.



HMS Defender is extremely proud to have the Paddle Steamer Waverley as an affiliation. The Master, Captain Andy O'Brian and his crew really pulled out the stops and provided both a fantastic venue and superb service; everyone was made to feel extremely welcome and all commented on how the night would be remembered for many years to come.

It is hoped that when HMS Defender is in service the Wardroom will be able to reciprocate a similar level of hospitality to Waverley and our other affiliations.

AFFILIATION NEWS

HMS Defender is proud and very honoured to have the following affiliations:

Sponsor:

Lady Julie Massey

Civic:

City of Exeter

City of Glasgow

Livery Companies:

Worshipful Company of Fletchers

The Trades House of Glasgow

The Merchants House of Glasgow

Charities:

Kelbourne School - A children's special needs school in Glasgow.

Dream-A-Way - An Exeter based charity that provides holidays and outings for disabled people of all ages throughout South West England.

Military:

The Exeter Flotilla - (An association of retired Royal Navy and Royal Marine Officers, and their Reserves, who meet once a month at Lympstone near Exeter.)

12 Regiment Royal Artillery – An air defence regiment based at Thorney Island near Portsmouth and recruiting from Cumbria and Lancashire.

Exeter School CCF

Devon Sea Cadet District - IncTS EXETER - The City of Exeter Sea Cadet Corps

Clyde North Sea Cadet District – Inc TS GALATEA - The City of Glasgow Sea Cadet Corps

13 (City of Exeter) Squadron – Air Training Corps

Others:

The Paddle Steamer Waverley - (The last seagoing paddle steamer in the world.)

The D-Boats Association – A Veterans organisation covering WWII and post war 'D Class' and 'Darina Class' Destroyers.

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SHIP's COMPANY OFFICERS AND KEY SENIOR RATES – HMS DEFENDER

Executive:

Senior Naval Officer - Cdr Nicholas Boyd RN
Executive Officer – Lt Cdr Stephen Anderson RN
Executive Warrant Officer – WO1 Bob Morrison
RN Police – PO Dean Arnott

Warfare:

Operations Officer – Lt Dave Thompson RN
Navigating Officer – Lt Oliver Craven RN
Officer of the Watch 1 – Lt James Way RN
Officer of the Watch 2 – Lt Edward Marsh RN
Officer of the watch 3 – SLt Chris Rothwell RN
Departmental Coordinator – CPO James Hickman
Communications – CPO Paul Oliver and PO Simon Williams
Chief Bosun's Mate – CPO Scott Richens

Marine Engineering Department:

Marine Engineer Officer – Cdr Nicholas Boyd RN
Deputy Marine Engineer Officer – Lt Darren Minty RN
Warrant Officer 2 – WO2 Dave Barritt
Departmental Coordinator – CPO Grant Furnival
Propulsion Group Head – CPO 'Alex' Higgins
 Generation – PO 'Quaker' Oates
 Controls – PO Lisa McMahon
Services Group Head – CPO 'Tug' Wilson
 Generation – PO Stu Ingham
 Distribution – PO Andy Thorpe
Ship Group Head – CPO Paul Line
 Auxiliaries – PO Ian Atkinson
 Domestics – PO 'Spud' Spurgeon
 Hull – PO Paul Devoy

Weapon Engineering Department:

Weapon Engineer Officer – Cdr Pete Walton RN (tbrb Lt Cdr Jon Pearce RN on 1 Mar 12)
Deputy Weapon Engineer Officer – Lt Adam Robertson RN
Sensors Manager – WO2 Ian Gorman
 I/C Communications & Information Systems – CPO Stephen Tyrell
 Communications & Information Systems 1 – PO Mathew Rhodes
 Communications & Information Systems 2 – PO Alan Vinton
 I/C Command System – CPO Mark Lehane
 Command System 1 – PO Lee Agutter
 Command System 2 – PO Adrian Peele
Weapons Manager – WO2 John Gibson
 I/C Ordnance – CPO Juan Lawson
 Ordnance 1 – PO Brendan Stuart
 Ordnance 2 – PO Russel McArdle
 I/C Above Water Warfare – CPO Derek Fraser
 Above Water Warfare 1 – CPO 'Nobby' Hall

Logistics Department:

Logistics Officer – Lt Cdr Charlie Reaves RN
Departmental Coordinator – CPO Kenny Dunlop
Supply Chain Head – PO(SC) Kat Tandy
Petty Officer Writer – POWTR Byrne

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USEFUL LINKS

HMS Defender's Website – www.royalnavy.mod.uk/The-Fleet/Ships/Destroyers/Type-45-Destroyers/HMS-Defender

Royal Navy Website – www.royalnavy.mod.uk

City of Glasgow – www.glasgow.gov.uk

Trades House of Glasgow – www.tradeshouse.org.uk

Merchants House of Glasgow – www.merchantshouse.org.uk

City of Exeter – www.exeter.gov.uk

Worshipful Company of Fletchers – www.fletchers.org.uk

Exeter Flotilla – www.exeterflotilla.org

Paddle Steamer Waverley – www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk

Dream-A-Way Charity - www.dream-a-way.co.uk

12 Regiment Royal Artillery – www.army.mod.uk/artillery/units/12_regt_ra

D-Boats Association – www.d-boats.co.uk

TS EXETER - www.exeterseacadets.co.uk

TS GALATEA - <http://www.units.ms-sc.org/glasgow/default>

13 (City of Exeter) Squadron – Air Training Corps – www.13atc.co.uk