

Vice Admiral David Steel CBE



Second Sea Lord and  
Chief of Naval Personnel and Training

**NAVY COMMAND**

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2SLCNPT 02/04/06/02

Mr Jim McMaster  
Submariners Association  
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15 April 2013

Dear Mr McMaster,

You will recall that I wrote to you in December last year inviting your thoughts about the Naval Service's plans for commemorating the Centenary of World War One. I am pleased to report that the First Sea Lord has now approved the amended plan, a copy of which I attach along with the intentions of the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN).

You will see that the programme is designed to support the overall National programme ensuring a strong maritime narrative focusing on key events supported by broader themes; the latter will include aspects such as the role of Reservists (18 VCs), Women (the Centenary of the WRNS is in 2017) and Merchant Seamen (20,000 merchant seamen were lost in action), and the role played by the Royal Navy (Royal Naval Division) and Royal Marines on the land, notably at the Somme (7 Naval VCs) and Gallipoli (7 Naval VCs). We also intend to promote a human angle focusing on some of the 48 Naval Service personnel awarded VCs awarded during WW1.

I would be most grateful if you would [as you kindly indicated in your replies – all those who replied] lend the support of your Association to these plans, which I have no doubt will make a real difference to their success. Taking this forward will be a small planning team under the overall direction of Flag Officer Regional Forces, Rear Admiral Chris Hockley; if you have any questions for the team, they can be directed through this headquarters by contacting Mr Giles Ahern, Deputy Command Secretary on 02392 62 5485 or giles.ahern706@mod.uk.

I do hope that you find this helpful in keeping you and your Association in the picture.

As ever,

David Steel.



2SLCNPT 02/04/06/02 DATED 6 MAR 13

NAVAL SERVICE COMMEMORATIONS – PRIORITIES 2013 – 18 – MASTER LIST

Major and Supporting Events

Ser	Date	Event (Location)	Activities	Comments
1	2013	70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic (BOA)	Commemorations in Liverpool, London and Londonderry	National event
2	2014	<b>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the British Empire entering WW1</b>	<p>Locations: Brookwood Cemetery, Folkestone, Mons (4 Aug 14).</p> <p>Naval perspective: The Naval Arms Race, the Dreadnought era, Fisher's Reforms, Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, the Maritime Flank and the bottling up of the German High Seas Fleet / sweeping of the seas and the first surface engagements</p> <p>Supporting Events:</p> <p>Aug: Battle of Heligoland Bight            Oct: Battle of Coronel            Oct: Royal Marines 350            Dec: Battle of the Falkland Islands            Jan 15: Battle of the Dogger Bank</p>	<p>National event</p> <p>Royal Navy promoted – regional events</p> <p>Third Sector support: NMRN exhibition 'The Race for War'</p>
3	2015	<b>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gallipoli / Dardanelles Campaign (Jan 15 – Jan 16)</b>	<p>Confirmed national event with ANZAC lead plus Turkish Royal.</p> <p>Potential opening of M33 in Portsmouth in 2015 (NMRN lead).</p> <p>Gallipoli links to many aspects of naval operations including amphibiousness, Royal Naval Division, submarine operations and early naval aviation. Col Sykes RM</p>	<p>National / Overseas Event</p> <p>NMRN supported</p>



			<p>commanded RNAS at Gallipoli (later transferred to RAF and became first Chief of Air Staff).</p> <p>Also commemorate the RN personnel killed on 18 Mar 15 in an attempt by the combined Fleet to force the Dardanelles.</p>	
4	2016	<p><b>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Jutland (31 May 16)</b></p> <p><b>Connect to the Somme Commemorations in 1916 (July 16)</b></p>	<p>Jutland commemorations: Scotland, London, Naval Bases.</p> <p>Tie in with NMRN exhibition in 2016 on 'Big Gun Battles of WWI', events at HMS Caroline, Belfast, the restoration of HMS Caroline and potential Ben Kingsley film 'Jack' about Jutland and the boy Jack Cornwell VC (HMS RALEIGH link).</p> <p>Potential Royal interest – future George VI service at Jutland in HMS Collingwood.</p> <p>Commemorate the role of the Royal Naval Division in the land environment -- event at RND Memorial at Horseguards.</p> <p>The RND fought at Antwerp in 1914, Gallipoli and in France from May 1916. More than 40% of all RN casualties in WW1 were from the RND; as a component of the RND, this was the main contribution of the Royal Marines (less the Royal Marine Artillery) on land in WW1.</p>	<p>National Event</p> <p>NMRN supporting</p>
5	2017	<b>Blockade and Counter Blockade</b>	<p>The decisive factor in the defeat of Germany. The role of non Dreadnoughts and the Merchant Navy, and the defeat of the U-boats. Tie in with NMRN exhibition in 2017/18: Blockade and counter blockade.</p>	Royal Navy Event



			Supporting Events:  Potential to focus on Merchant Navy Day 2017 (which is 3 Sep annually) including at the MNA Memorial, Leith. Centenary of the formation of the WRNS	
6	2018	<b>100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1</b>	Cenotaph – Heads of State  Building on the themes above, highlighting the decisive strategic effect of the maritime blockade in the defeat of Germany  Supporting events:  Zeebrugge Raid	National Event

### Key Themes

Ser	Date	Event	Comments	Leads
1	1906 onwards	British Technology, Innovation and Industrial power	Creation of the Dreadnought, the submarine and aircraft carriers. British ship building. British Merchant Marine.	NMRN, NHB
2	-	Key personalities: Winston Churchill, Jackie Fisher, Sir Julian Corbett,	Jackie Fisher (founder of the modern Royal Navy), Winston Churchill (controversial head of the Navy as First Lord of the Admiralty), Sir Julian Corbett (the brains behind the strategic utility of Navies),	NMRN, NHB
3	Jul 1914	Formation of Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) and the start of Naval / Military Aviation	First aircraft carrier operations, Cuxhaven Raid. HMS Ark Royal at Gallipoli, HMS Argus (first ship that could recover) and HMS Hermes (first ship designed as an aircraft carrier)	RAFAA
4	-	Exploits of the Submarine Service	Exploits of Naismith and Boyle in the Dardanelles / Sea of Marmara, Horton and Laurence in the Baltic	RASM
5	1916	Major Gun Battles of WW1	Centred on Battle of Jutland	NMRN
6	1915/16	Role of the RND on the land	Gallipoli and the Somme	FORF
7	Nov 1917	Formation of the WRNS	Founded Nov 1917	Association of WRNS
8	-	Naval VCs	Cdr Loftus Jones VC RN (Jutland – killed in	NMRN, NHB

			<p>command of HMS Shark engaging German battlecruisers at close range), Boy 1<sup>st</sup> class Jack Cornwell VC (Jutland - HMS Chester). Major Harvey VC RM (actions in Q turret saved HMS LION).</p> <p>Gallipoli and Zeebrugge Raid VCs</p>	
9	-	NMRN supporting activity	<p>Major Conference programme</p> <p>Publication of a number of major works on the 20<sup>th</sup> century Navy. Digital initiatives. Potential educational programme in Schools and online.</p>	NMRN



## NMRN Centenary of the First World War

Project	Brief Description	Investment	Funding Sources	Delivery Date
Steam pinnace 199	Restoration of the pinnace to steaming condition. The pinnace came from a First World War Battleship, possibly HMS Marlborough	£120,000	HLF: £50k (awarded) Trusts and Foundations: Balance £6k still to raise	May 2013
HMS Caroline	Restoration and public opening of the light cruiser HMS Caroline. Caroline was built in 1914 and is the last survivor of the Grand Fleet and the Last survivor of the Battle of Jutland. She is located in Belfast.	£15,000,000	National Heritage Memorial Fund: £1.1m (awarded) HLF: £11.5m (decision awaited) NI Government: £2.5m (committed)	May 2016
M33	Restoration and public opening of the Monitor M33	£2,000,000	HLF: £1,400,000 (projected) Hampshire CC £600,000 Potential sponsorship from News International, £250k	August 2015
20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> century galleries, Portsmouth	Nine hundred square metres of new gallery space including a temporary exhibition gallery	£4,500,000	HLF: £1.407m (awarded) Industry: £1.3m (pledged) MoD: £900k (pledged) HNIW: £200k (pledged)	May/June 2014

			Trusts and Foundations: £700k applications in train	
The Race to War	First temporary exhibition focussing on the naval race before the First World War. To tour to regions if funds/partners allow	£200,000	Part of the £4.5m gallery cost	May/June 2014
Jutland and the Big Gun Battles of the First World War	Second temporary exhibition. To tour the regions if funds permit	£200,000	To be raised	May 2016
Blockade and Counter Blockade	The story of economic warfare waged by Britain and Germany in the First World War	£250,000	To be raised	Mid 1917
Fleet Air Arm Museum new entrance and galleries	Putting on display the only surviving First World War seaplane lighter – the world's first aircraft carrier - plus new galleries covering the airship story	£3,500,000	HLF £2m (application in train) Rope Trust £500k (raised) Balance of £1m to be raised	May 2016
Major NMRN academic conference	Papers to be published	Self-funding		Summer 2014
Major NMRN academic publication	Publisher signed up to an NMRN series of publications of which this will be the first	Self-funding		Summer 2014

## Learning Activities

First World War Commemorations	Programme of learning activities being developed for 2014 public commemorations	£10-£15,000	Funded by NMRN	2014
HMS Caroline	Learning programmes for primary and secondary curricula focussing on the First World War, the role of the Royal Navy,	£50,000	Funded via HLF bid, above	2014-18



	the Battle of Jutland and HMS Caroline's role in Belfast			
20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> century galleries	World at War. A week-long event for Key stages 1-3 pupils (Mondays to Fridays) and families (weekends) to be held in the Victory arena. To include workshops, drama performances, poetry, art and craft and object handling. Developed with veterans and black, Asian and minority ethnic focus groups. Minimum 800 people expected.	£10,000	HLF funded via grants above	June 2014
	New resources workshops aimed at KS1-4, colleges and universities linked history, the development of science, design and technology. Available on site, on line and as outreach.	£10,000	Funded by HLF as above	2014-18 and beyond
	Gallery talks linked to key dates and events led by the project historian and curators	£5,000	NMRN funded	2014-18
	Archive access and object handling. Sessions aimed at adult and community learners	£5,000	NMRN funded	2014-18
	Community Road show. Combining NMRN, with Portsmouth Museums, Explosion, Fort Nelson and other local museums and heritage attractions. Location to be confirmed.	£2,500	HLF funded as above	Spring half term 2014