



# HMS HURWORTH

## October 2015



As the calendar changed to mark the beginning of a new month, the autumnal weather proved favourable for HURWORTH who was already in HMNB Faslane completing her Ready to Train (RTA) assessment with staff from Flag Officer Sea Training's organisation onboard. The weather remained on side as the ship sailed north to Loch Ewe to take part in Exercise JOINT WARRIOR as part of our pre deployment training.



### Exercise JOINT WARRIOR



HURWORTH took charge of her sister ships, MIDDLETON, PEMBROKE and RAMSEY for the transit north through the inner islands off the West Coast of Scotland. Operating in the Minches and Loch Ewe, the ships conducted mine hunting and diving serials overlaid with Force Protection exercises involving ships and helicopters from other NATO nations.



Loch Ewe was the base for the Russian Arctic Convoys in World War 2 and therefore has a rich naval history. As the starting point for the treacherous journey to the Soviet Union, these sailors ran a gauntlet of German warplanes and U-boats to keep the Red Army supplied and fighting on the Eastern Front. It was described by Winston Churchill as the "*worst journey in the world.*"

During a routine logistics stop at the fuelling jetty in Loch Ewe to replenish fuel, food and stores, HURWORTH welcomed onboard 2 groups of school children (Years 1-3 and 6-7) and teachers from Poolewe Primary School for a Capability Demonstration. They were shown items of the ship's equipment which are used to ensure the sailors can extinguish fires and deal with floods onboard, but also be ready to render assistance to other mariners in the form of Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

All the children enjoyed the opportunity to look around, test out the equipment and sit in the Captain's seat on the bridge as well as taste the cakes on offer from the chefs!



## Remembering those who went before us on the previous HURWORTH (L28).

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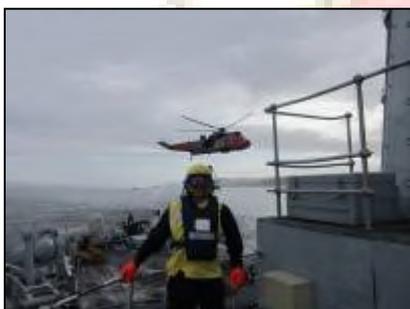
The previous HURWORTH was a Hunt Class Escort Destroyer who spent most of World War 2 in the Mediterranean. She went to the assistance of the Greek destroyer ADRIAS which struck a mine in the Aegean Sea on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1943, and whilst trying to save lives she also struck a mine, the ship split in half and sunk within 15 minutes. She is now a War Grave resting on the seabed at a depth of 100m within Greek territorial waters. A memorial was erected as a tribute which reads:

*“Remember that on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1943, 134 British Officers and men of HMS HURWORTH commanded by Commander R Wright DSO RN nobly risked and lost their ship and lives to save the company of HHMS ADRIAS which was in peril.”*

## Operational Sea Training (OST)

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After completing Exercise JOINT WARRIOR, we returned to HMNB Faslane and undertook an intense period of Operational Sea Training (OST) working alongside MCM1 Crew 4 in HMS PEMBROKE, to ensure that both crews are at the required standard to be ready to deploy on operations overseas.



This involves a myriad of training serials designed to test and stretch the crew in all manner of scenarios from fire fighting and damage control onboard our own ship, to assisting other vessels at sea as part of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), to conducting our core role working in partnership with another MCMV, of hunting and disposing of sea mines using our Seafox Mine Disposal Vehicles, and our embarked Clearance Divers.

HURWORTH and PEMBROKE will complete OST together in mid November prior to making final preparations for their deployments.

## BRAVO ZULU

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A huge congratulations to LET(ME) Butler who was selected for promotion to Petty Officer, and to ET(WE) Bird who was selected for promotion to Leading Hand. Both sailors will remain onboard for the forthcoming deployment and will then leave Crew 5 to commence their various professional and leadership courses, and new jobs within the Fleet.

We have welcomed several new faces to Crew 5: Lt Beau Henrickson (Navs), PO Booker (NSKO), PO Spalding (DWEO), LCH Woods, and ET(ME) Head who is assisting us from MCM2 Crew 8. Finally a very Happy Birthday to LET(ME) McCabe, however we will not reveal his age!

## Editors Comments

HURWORTH media articles have been submitted to Navy News and are now on the RN Website:

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2015/october/14/151014-hurworth-drops-in-scottish-loch>

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