

From Commander M J C Hember Royal Navy



Navy Command

Commanding Officer
HMS DARING
BFPO 270

Mr Callum Sillars
DARING Yachts
c/o Royal Yacht Club
The Parade
Isle of Wight
PO31 7QS

10 January 2017

Dear Callum,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you all as I today assume command of HMS DARING as her latest Commanding Officer.

Having joined the team with previous experience as the Commanding Officer of HMS DIAMOND, I feel strongly about maintaining links with the society we serve back at home in the UK and key to doing so is through our valuable affiliated partners networks at home in the UK. I know that Commander Phil Dennis found relationships with you all hugely beneficial and that the Ship's Company have equally enjoyed opportunities to get out around the UK to meet you and talk about working life and their experiences onboard one of the Royal Navy's most modern warships.

And such experiences have certainly been exciting over the last few months. As you know, HMS DARING has been key to maintaining maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Arabian Gulf areas over the last few months – such work has been demanding and worked the Ship's Company hard, but equally, all have enjoyed the opportunity to 'do the job they joined up for'. HMS DARING's Ship's Company are rightly held in high esteem at the moment and I look forward to leading the team through the second half of a deployment which is so clearly in the National interest.

On HMS DARING's return to Portsmouth during May 2017 I very much look forward to meeting you and, once longer-term intentions for the Ship are known I shall instruct my Affiliations Officer, Lieutenant Commander Gareth Turner, to begin planning an opportunity for you and your teams to visit us over the course of next summer.

In the meantime may I take this opportunity to wish you and your teams a happy and prosperous 2017.

Yours aye,

Marcus Hember



HMS DARING

Newsletter

January 2017



A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CAPTAIN:

"I am proud and pleased to take command of HMS DARING as she enters the second half of her busy and demanding OP KIPION deployment. DARING came into Bahrain just before Christmas, and I was impressed by the huge amount of hard work and long hours put in by the Ship's Company during the recent mid-deployment support period. This has not stopped, and we have returned to a busy operational program.

Now back at sea the next few months promise to be challenging and rewarding as we continue to play an important role in ensuring security in the region. As I get to know DARING's sailors I am particularly grateful to their family and friends for the support they give to us all during this important deployment."

Marcus Hember
Commander Royal Navy
Commanding Officer

DARING begins the second half of her OP KIPION deployment

In the middle of January HMS DARING sailed from Bahrain following the completion of her month long mid-deployment support period. This time allowed for maintenance to take place, and for the ship's company to enjoy some hard earned leave. Now back at sea DARING has a busy and exciting few months ahead...

Images:

Top:
Commander
Marcus Hember

Immediate right:
Wholeship photo

Far right:





A day in the life of a chef:

Chloe Toussaint, 25, is originally from the Isle of Spice (Grenada), the second most southern island in the Caribbean. Before joining the Royal Navy she worked as a pre-school teacher, and was a boxer and sprinter for the island. She was recently awarded the Captain's Efficiency award for her work in the galley:

"HMS DARING feeds on average 250 sailors 3 times a day – as Chefs we don't only cook core meals, we also write the menus and cater for dinner parties. On top of that we leave the galley to manage the store rooms, which includes stock taking and stock rotation ensuring that the right amount of stores are delivered to the galley to feed the Ship's Company.

I never would've thought that I would be a chef before joining the navy. My dream was to become a physical training instructor (PTI), I was told to join as a chef and then transfer. During my phase two training in HMS RALEIGH I realised I was falling in love with making great dishes.

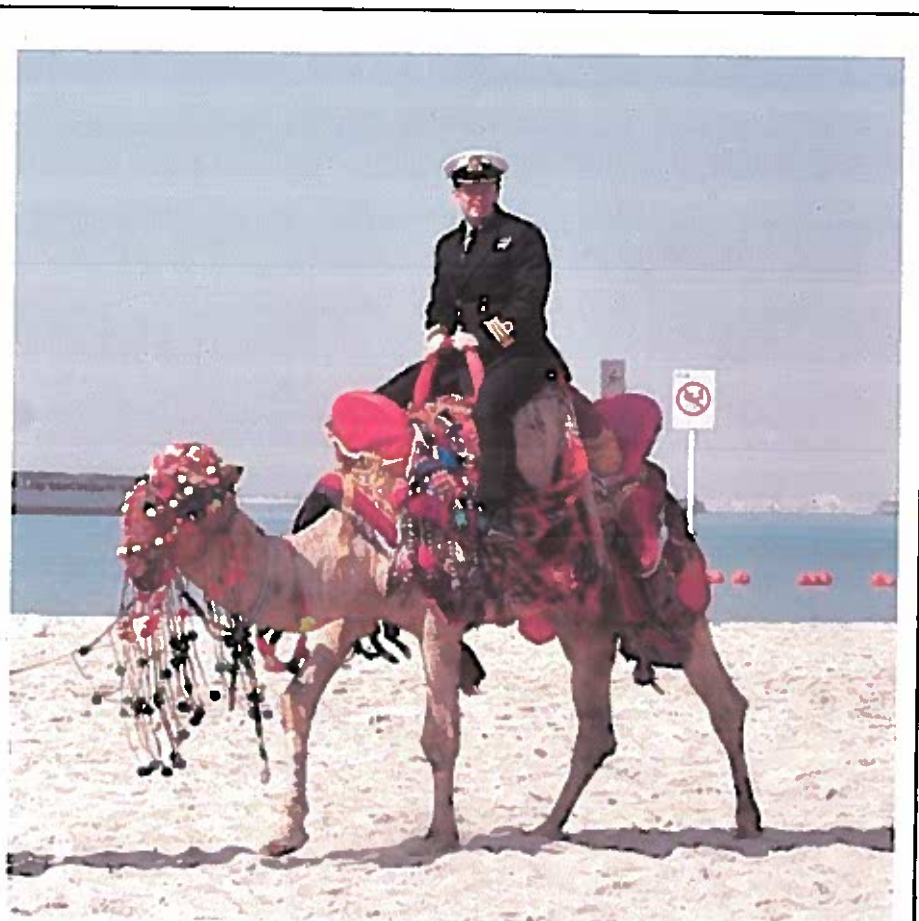
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HMS DARING bids farewell to Commander Dennis:

As DARING prepared to sail from Bahrain one more important task remained - the Ship's Company gathered to wave off their departing captain as he rode across the beach on the back of a camel. For Commander Dennis it was the end of two a half years as the captain of DARING.

In his final message to the Ship he wished the Ship's Company well for the second half of their deployment; adding:

"I hope that you are as proud of your efforts as I am of you"



A day in the life of a chef continued...

Whether it was baking cinnamon rolls, or deboning a whole chicken, I loved it! I loved the challenge and sought more. I won the Jennings Master Chef award by the end of phase two, before joining my first ship: HMS ST. ALBANS. After a year I then swapped drafted to DARING. I love my ship and its kind Ship's Company. I love showering them with moral and hopefully I will continue to do so throughout the fleet. One day I hope to open my own bakery.

Bahrain Half-Marathon:

HMS DARING's mid-deployment support period in Bahrain coincided with the city annual half-marathon and three of our energetic crew participated: ET **Debbie Gilbert**, LET **Jay Shirlaw**, and our Dutch exchange officer Lt **Dennis Van Kinderen**.

This annual event took place on 6th January and began near the Seef Mall, with around 450 runners participating. It promised to be a challenging race that would push the mental and physical stamina of the runners.

ET Gilbert writes: "We left DARING at 6am, feeling apprehensive and cold – it was only 12 degrees! We got to the start of the race at the Seef Mall, and hid inside the shopping centre to keep warm until nearer to the start time. There were a lot of other runners there, adorned with their 'Ironman' branded clothing which did nothing to put our minds at ease. We were now thinking we were going to be competing against proper racing snakes and were now REALLY nervous, if we hadn't been before!



After a little confusion at the start with where we were starting from, we were off. We ran along a coned off section on King Faisal highway, past amazing buildings like the World Trade Centre, and getting the odd toot from passing travellers. Four miles into the run we were climbing our first mountain – and I thought Bahrain was flat! There was also the wind to contend with between miles 7 and 8, on another nasty incline which was pretty tough going. We ran through Bahrain bay and started on our way back towards the mall, passing the impressive Financial Harbour Towers and other unusual constructions before finally reaching the finish line back at Seef Mall, (not before overtaking some of those 'Ironmen' though!)

It was the smallest half marathon event that I have taken part in and there was not much in the way of spectator support but it was very well organised, the marshals were helpful and encouraging throughout and the post race food and drinks were also much welcomed."

Their hard work was rewarded with a medal and a t-shirt at the finishing line. Jay completed his first half marathon with no training in 1 hour 50, Dennis in 1 hour 52, and Debbie 1 hour 58. A BZ to all three



Life on board as a "Bootneck":

Royal Marines from 43 Commando Fleet Protection Group, are deployed on ships around the world to provide a boarding capability used against piracy and illegal trafficking.

Being onboard, a team of Royal Marines get the chance to train and develop personal soldiering, mainly Close Quarter Battle (CQB) skills, with the added benefit of doing so in a maritime environment.

In order to ensure we are always ready to deploy, we maintain a high standard of these skills and regularly train techniques that many other Marines don't get the chance to, such as fast roping (descending at speed from a helicopter using just a rope and a strong pair of gloves!).

With the Corps' maritime origins, Marine and Matelot integration is natural and good humoured, which in turn means morale is generally high, unless of course it's Fish Friday (Marines generally prefer meat).

Deploying aboard one of the Royal Navy's Destroyers brings the opportunity to travel the world,

see different countries and cultures and broaden the mind. If we achieve nothing else then at least we accumulate some good dits.

Fitness is known to be a large portion of Bootneck life and the facilities onboard, despite lacking in wide open fields, are perfect for maintaining a high all round level of physical ability. There is always high enthusiasm from our Royal Navy counterparts who get involved and push themselves out of their comfort zones. We typically hold an Ultra-fit event every Sunday and get a strong turnout from all areas of the Ship's Company.

Being onboard has given us a greater understanding of the Navy's capabilities and how we as Marines fit into the larger operational picture. Overall, life onboard a warship is ideal as a platform for personal development and integration between arms of the service.



That's all for now! DARING continues to operate in a busy environment so look out for a jam packed March edition of the newsletter (including pancake day!).