



Royal Naval Bomb
and Mine Disposal
Frogman



Jackie Rae
WHAT ABOUT SOME ACTION DOWN THERE!
R. Flanagan
Lex Barker
Jan Gardner
scouse Vernon
Mick Curran
Wullie Fletcher
Davis

*Best Wishes
The Bomb and Mine
Disposal Team
Portsmouth*

Jack Hughes

Bomb unit team saves lives for 10s. a day



Lieut.-Cmdr. J. Rea, R.N. (left), checks details as members of the Bomb and Mine Disposal Unit prepare for a "job."—E.N.7143

(By Our Naval Correspondent)

EVER since the end of World War II more than 18 years ago, there have been almost daily reports of "unidentified objects" washed up on the beaches around Britain's coast.

For all those years members of the Royal Navy's Bomb and Mine Disposal Unit have cheerfully faced danger and adversity in rendering safe explosives, or setting the minds of sea folk and others at rest by pronouncing that unidentified object as "harmless."

With the beaches now cleared of holiday-makers the time is now ripe for members of the unit to carry out one of the more mundane, yet essential, tasks of clearance searches.

Emergency calls may still be expected, but for the greater part of the winter, the men will spend long hours making routine searches along the coast, peering into nook and cranny, "poking" among stone and rock ... looking for the unknown.

Portsmouth Command's Bomb and Mine Disposal and Operational Diving Unit—to give it its full title—operates from H.M.S. Vernon, and is responsible for the safety of more than 300 miles of coastline stretching from Lyme Regis to The Wash. Their work also takes them inland.

Three week task

At present they are engaged on a survey of beaches around the Isle of Wight, a task which will take them about three weeks, and in which they are about half-way through.

It is then hoped to start a systematic search of the south and south-east coasts which come within the command of the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.

So far this year the unit has answered nearly 200 emergency calls connected with the disposal of bombs, mines, torpedo warheads and other explosives as well as smaller and less dangerous objects like submarine smoke canisters.

They have also dealt with as many diving jobs, such as changing ships' screws under water,

By and large, however, a clearance diver must have a high degree of training, have an even temperament and be 100 per cent fit. He is available for duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is liable to be called from his bed in the middle of the night if an emergency arises.

With bag packed

He must be ready, with bag packed, at all times to leave for a journey of some hundreds of miles and work just as long as is necessary to make safe that "unidentified object."

For this he is paid something like 10s. a day extra to his basic Service pay (it varies a few shillings according to rank or rate).

The Portsmouth unit consists of six men under the command of Lieut.-Cmdr. Jack Rea, R.N., who has had long experience of bomb and mine disposal work, having previously served in a similar capacity in the Portsmouth and Nore Commands, and with the Mediterranean Fleet.

His team is made up of C.P.O. R. Flanagan, P.O. J. B. Davis, Leading Seaman W. Fitcher and A. Vernon, Able Seamen C. Gardner and W. Curran.

Their most recent assignment in the Portsmouth area was the exploding of four German bombs of World War II vintage (two of 2,000lb. and two of 1,000lb.) located by a skin diver off the Winner Bank, half-mile seawards from Fraser Battery, Eastney.

Torpedo warhead

Although most of the tasks are concerned with relics of World War II, it is by no means uncommon to deal with objects of the 1914-18 vintage. Such a task was the one last month when the unit was called to Cromer Beach on the east coast to deal with a torpedo warhead estimated to have

Portsmouth Command B&MD dealing with a 2,000lb Blast bomb Oct 1963

Jackie Rae

Sean Curran



What do we do now?

Part of Portsmouth Command B&MD 1963 - German Blast Bomb

Lex Barker

R Flanagan

P/O davis

Sean Curran



Divers Dinner - Queens Hotel
Pompey 1963

Morty Drummond



Lex Barker CD3

Buster Brown CD3

WESTERN EVENING HERALD

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PLYMOUTH, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER

George Witherall - Al Dalton - John Higginson - Lt Larry Parks - Sean Curran - Lt Cyril Laferty - Dick Viney - Dennis William - Les Wood



1967

Members of Plymouth Command clearance diving team had reason to smile in this picture today after they received the Commander-in-Chief's commendation at H.M.S. Drake for carrying out "hazardous" tasks in course of duty. Some of the team are not in the picture—they had to dash off beforehand to deal with another "incident." See Page Five.

Other team members during this year: Derek Clark PO CD1, Jim Thomson L/sea CD2 - B&MD Taff Sweeney - Bob Cockane - Pete(skid) Marks - Blondy Reece(cox'n MFV 1527)

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Inshore Minesweeper HMS Aveyley - Members of Plymouth Command Clearance Diving Team

Historical Note: James Thomson L/sea CD2 was drafted to Aveyley for 4 days, May 1967 as Helmsman - to assist Sir Francis Chichester back to Plymouth in his Yacht Gypsy Moth IV after his circumnavigating the globe.





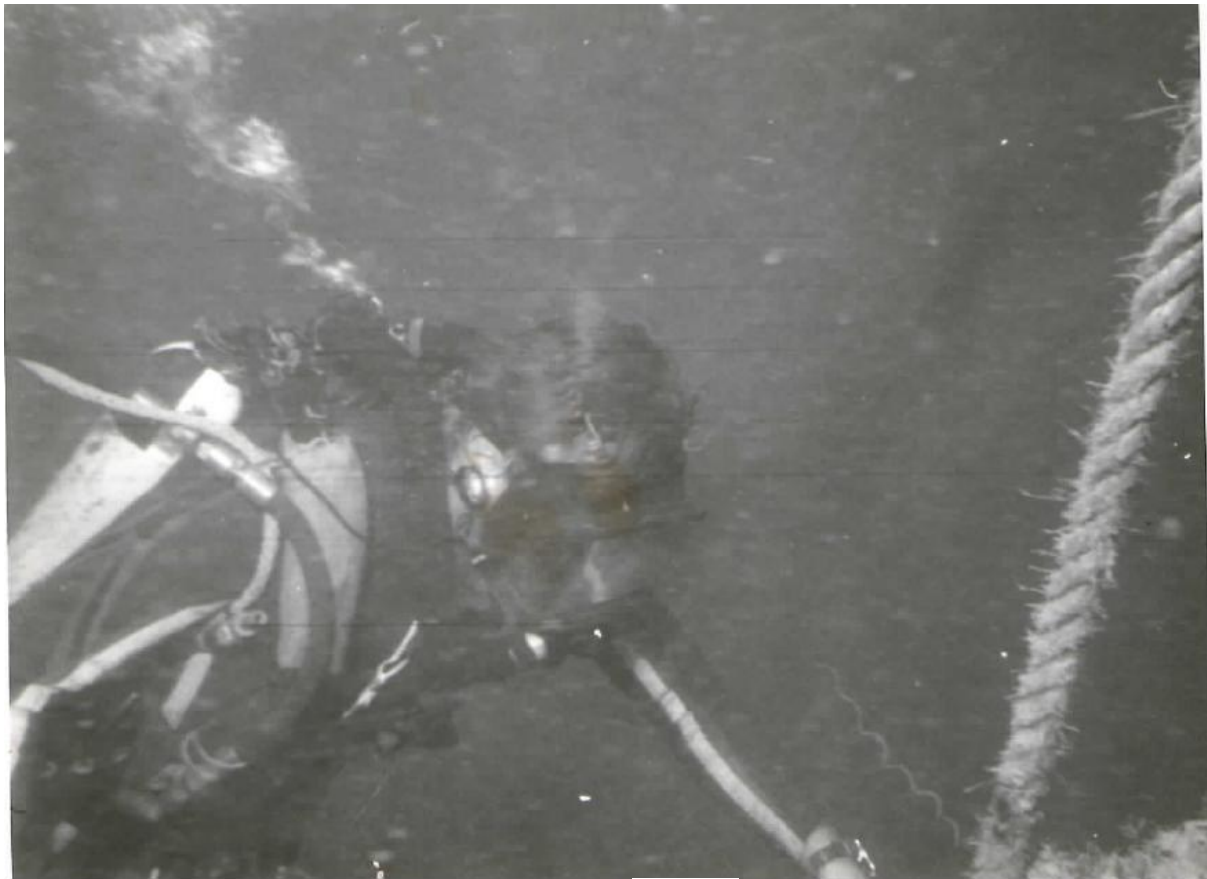
Sean Curran - SDDE 1966 HMS Prince of Wales



Sean(mick) Curran, Clearance Diver. Using SDDE(Surface demand diving equipment) on the Battle Cruiser HMS Prince of Wales 1966 on the deck of HMS Sheraton.



On the side of HMS Prince of Wales. Sean Curran 1966



Sean Curran Diving on the Battle Cruiser HMS Prince of Wales - 1966



Sean(Mick)Mick Curran Clearance Diver, on the deck of HMS Sheraton – 1966, During the Diving Operation on the Battle Cruiser HMS Prince of Wales.

PDF, put together from Sean's old Diving Buddy, James(Tommo) Thomson. 7/9/2015