

Lodge of Seafarers No 9589 – Operation RyBorne

Patrol Report



Start Ex: = 03032017/10:00Z

End Ex: = 05032017/17:00Z

On Friday 3rd March, 8 members from the Lodge of Seafarers set sail from Downend Jetty accompanied by a further two additions, the helmsman who was from Kingswood Chase Lodge and a carer for Ken 'Father Time' Willies - (Debs)!!

Though the morning of sailing was wet and leaving harbour complex, the ship's company were in good spirits with expectations of the forthcoming Operation being HIGH.

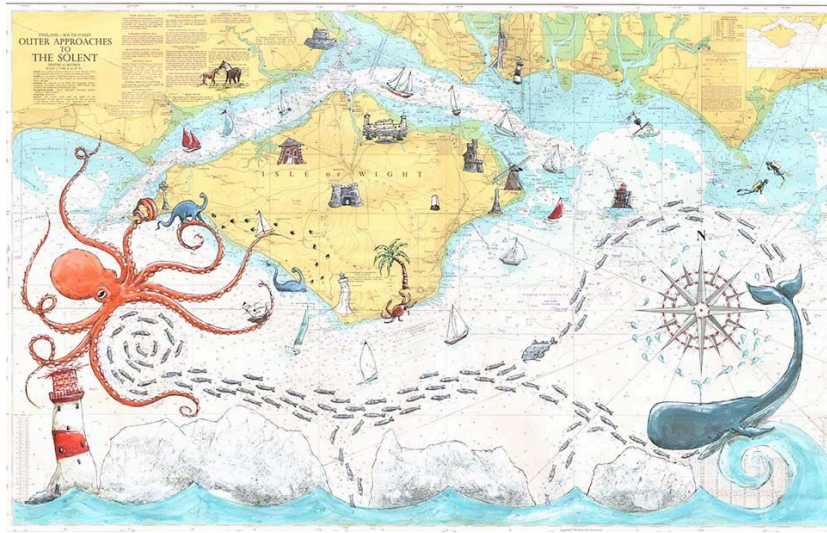
After the crew had negotiated the short transit to Lymington, marking the Northern edge of the exercise area, they embarked upon the 'Wight Sky'



.....for the brief transfer to the main exercise area, known locally as: "South Island".



Acting like simple tourists



Arriving under the guise of ‘simple tourists’ the crew established their ‘HQ’ in Yelfs Hotel in Ryde known as ‘The Town on the Beach’.



After a quick security check of the accommodation areas it was time for the gallant expeditionary force to head to the first rendezvous point (RvP) where Ken “Father Time” and escort were to establish contact with local agent.... Tony “Cod ‘n’ Chips” Latter!



With the early endeavours taking a toll on one or two of the crew, “Stand Easy” was piped and the crew settled down to await the next evolution.....



.....which was taking place at Ryde Lodge No 698

The crew took up station in the South section of the Lodge and prepared for action.....



W.Bro Jon Bright (Seafarers) & W.Bro Collinson(Ryde)



Seafarers taking up station in The South

The WM of Ryde gave up the Masters seat to the Provincial Grand Master of the Province who then gave an address to the Brethren regarding Masonry in their Province and in particular, issues of recruitment and retention of Brothers to and in the craft.

On completion, the WM resumed his chair and the Officers and Wardens of the Lodge gave an excellent demonstration of the 2nd Degree Passing Ceremony.

Once it was established that every Brother had had his due, the meeting was concluded and the Brethren repaired to the dining hall for the evening's festive board.



This consisted of a four-course meal along with complimentary wine – excellent company and numerous introductions to new shipmates.

During the proceedings, the WM took the opportunity to present the PGM (Hampshire and the Isle of Wight) and the WM of Ryde Lodge, each a set of Seafarers cufflinks with and a tie pin. These were gratefully received, despite the dire warnings regarding the Curse of the Links..... Which as Bro. Kitson explained, can only be counteracted by wearing them to a Seafarers meeting within 12 months of issue.

Due to severe diary clashes it was agreed that for the PGM, it would suffice for this to be delegated to a Provincial meeting the PGM is due to attend later in the year.

No such dispensation was provided for the WM of Ryde Lodge!!

Once this aspect of the evening had run its course the crew of Seafarers went below to the mess deck to entertain their hosts with some songs from the sea and general Yo Ho Ho-ing.



Preparing to Yo Ho.... During a fast turn to port....!!

After singing many songs, about a boy called Aladdin, Engineers, Dicky Dai Does and various other nautical ditties and shanties the crew embarked on the short voyage back to HQ where a short closing ceremony was performed in the hotel bar!!

With an early sailing on the cards the crew were up and about ready for Snorkers, BiTS, TiTS, Spithead Pheasant, Seggies, Shrooms, donkey's, etc. in the breakfast room of HQ, setting them up for the days' forthcoming activities.



"The crew taking on fuel"

From left clockwise – Steve Putnam, Ivan Vine, Mike Conner, Jon Bright, Steve Manning, Barry DouL, Ken Willies.

The first evolution of the day was a brief trot move from Ryde to Newport where the crew were allowed a short period of shore leave.

This entailed some local sightseeing which included a brief visit to Albany Lodge, Fields Men's Outfitters and as the sun was out and dehydration a worrying factor, it was decided to set up a temporary HQ in the Newport Ale House, whilst waiting for the crew to return from their various endeavours.



Albany Lodge architecture



Albany Lodge



Newport Ale House

Whilst in the temporary HQ it was deemed prudent to interrogate some of the locals, with the aid of the local linguist Tony “Cod ‘n’ chips” Latter acting as translator, being fluent in the local lingo and customs.



‘Feisty locals’



Seafarers after subduing insurgents

Whilst working on local liaisons it was deemed appropriate to adopt an alias thus maintaining operational security.



Hammy ‘Worry Beads’ Taylor



Cuddles Vine



Frisky Andrews

After the crew were safely mustered at the temporary HQ transport was organised to head back to Ryde... for those that had a ticket.....!!

After a day in mufti it was back to the rig of the day in readiness for the visit to Osborne Lodge Number 2169.



At Osborne Lodge the crew were made very welcome and introduced early on to their bar staff, who had clearly heard that sailing is a thirsty occupation.

This was only a brief welcome however as it was shortly time to proceed upstairs to the ‘business in hand’ which was a another 2nd Degree Ceremony, led by the excellent W.Bro Mike Grist.



With the business in the Lodge completed the crew mustered downstairs in the dining cabin where a veritable four course feast had been prepared. After a long day ‘in theatre’ this was gratefully received by the crew who set to the task of tucking it away most heartily.

The WM of Seafarers found himself beside his..... long lost twin..... who it transpires had been press ganged and subsequently billeted on the South Island in a previous existence! It appears that on the South Island hair grows better on top of the head!!!



Seafarers standing by to receive food alongside

W.Bro Jon Bright & W.Bro Mike Grist

Having availed themselves of Osborne's hospitality the crew found the Pas Boat back to Ryde waiting.... (for those who had a ticket.....) which enabled the crew to change into native dress and go into the local bazaar on an 'intel' mission.

For some this consisted of setting up a surveillance operation in a local 'spoons' whilst several of the crew maintained comms back at HQ posing as customers in the bar.

Having noticed various suspicious activity, a further mission was approved – there being no 'Operatives' some of the 'Free and Accepted' or 'Speculative' crew volunteered for a dangerous incursion into the local Turkish quarter, where posing as 'customers' and keeping up appearances by indulging in the local speciality of Donner 'n' cheeps they maintained their cover until recalled to HQ for debrief.

The following morning a breakfast 'intel' meeting was called.....



.....and the previous nights' intelligence reviewed.

It was around this point that "End Ex" was called and the crew retired to stow gear, complete all paperwork, secure for sea and prepare for the voyage back to home port.

After a sweep of the local area, maintaining cover of simple tourists.....



.....the crew mustered back on board.

Harbour Stations were called at 12.00 and with the crew all accounted for it was time to cast off.



"Happy have we met, Happy have we been – Happy may we part, And happy to meet again"

END OF REPORT