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From Lieutenant M H Burton Royal Navy



NAVY COMMAND

Secretary to The Commanding Officer
HMS BROCKLESBY
BFPO 241

E-mail: HMSBROCKLESBY-GunneryOffr@mod.uk

31st May 2019

To Japan Sea Council,

The Commanding Officer of HMS BROCKLESBY has asked me to write to give you an update on your Ship's activity and this letter comes with his best wishes. Since I last wrote, we have had a busy and successful period supporting coalition maritime security operations within the Arabian Gulf.

We are now conducting a short period of maintenance whilst we prepare to hand HMS BROCKLESBY over to her next crew – MCM2 Crew 4. Our six month tenure with the Ship has been enjoyable and challenging, and we will leave with fond memories of the 'mighty Broc' when we depart to join her sister Ship HMS MIDDLETON. This seems a fitting opportunity to give you a final update on our activities. We have produced a newsletter detailing some of our progress to date, and I have enclosed a copy for your review. I must also encourage you to view our Twitter Feed '@HmsBrocklesby', where we provide regular progress updates from your Ship.

Lieutenant Commander Adam Riddett, Royal Navy and his team will soon be relieving us, and will be in touch in due course. If there is anything I am able to help you with in the meantime, or any updates to contact details that I should be aware of, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Yours sincerely/
Matthew A. Riddett*





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The support network available to the friends and families of deployed personnel is extensive. Here are a few useful contact details.

Revd David Simpson, MCM2 Squadron Chaplain

Our designated Chaplain David can be approached about any matter in confidence: 07740 641899

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Welfare

A team of Social and Support Workers who can be approached in a crisis: 02392 728777

The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell (JCCC)

The should be contacted in the case of a sudden serious illness or emergency for an immediate family member: 01452 519951

The Naval Families Federation (NFF)

The Naval Families Federation (NFF) is a registered charity set up at the request of the Government in order to allow the families of the Naval Service to have their voices heard. The NFF can be found at: nff.org.uk



@HMSBrocklesby

HMS BROCKLESBY
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BFPO 241



MCM 2 Crew 8

Newsletter

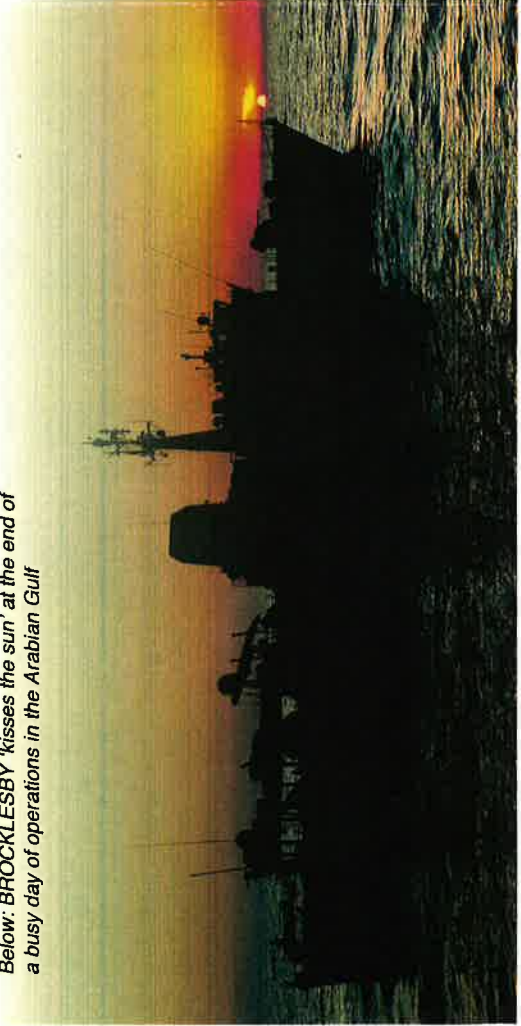
May 2019



Dear
Family and friends
from
Chris Hollingworth
Lieutenant Commander,
RN Commanding Officer, MCM 2 Crew 8

HMS BROCKLESBY is now into the trade in and out of the Arabian Gulf. 5th month of Operation KIPION. These periods at sea have seen the deployment has continued its fast pace crew work tirelessly in 'Defence and has been as busy as ever. Having Watches' (6 hours on, 6 hours off) for completed a successful maintenance weeks at a time. This has provided the package alongside in Bahrain, the Ship's Company with the opportunity to mighty 'BROC' has spent extensive test and hone their mine hunting skills, periods at sea conducting Detailed proving to be successful with Route Survey and carrying out exemplary results across various maritime security operations; both exercises. crucial to allowing free-flowing

Below: BROCKLESBY 'kisses the sun' at the end of a busy day of operations in the Arabian Gulf



Whilst on operations in the Middle East the Ship has played something of a diplomatic role, assuring regional allies and demonstrating Britain's capabilities abroad. This was the case when the Ship visited Qatar and carried out a number of exercises with their Qatari counterparts, including Officer of the Watch Manoeuvres other training exercises.

Whilst in Qatar the Ship's Company took advantage of some down time, taking part in a 5-a-side football tournament and reaching the semi-finals.



Royal Navy and Qatari Young Officers oversee Ships Conducting Officer of the Watch Manoeuvres with Qatari Emiri Navy

Back in Bahrain the crew have had a few opportunities to go head-to-head on the Karting track, emulating the likes of Lewis Hamilton at the Bahrain Grand Prix. We also held a Ship-wide golf tournament giving the Masters a run for its money and narrowly lost a closely contested rugby fixture against HMS DRAGON.

In April it was time for the much anticipated Operational Stand Down and a chance to relax; a reward for the unrelenting work ethic of the crew. From desert safaris to lounging by the pool, everyone took in the many sights and experiences the Arabian Metropolis has to offer.



Carol Vorderman joins MCM 2 Crew 8 following a fantastic Bahrain Grand Prix

The 'countdown' to coming home began in earnest upon Carol Vorderman's visit to the Ship. She spent the afternoon looking around and talking to every one of the Ship's company, conveying a real interest into the work that we do. Her visit was, of course, not complete without a visit to the Forward Mess where she experienced the life of a Junior Rate complete with a lie down in AB(MW) Max 'Bish' O'Loughlin's pit.

I must also take this opportunity to congratulate AB(MW) Lee 'Dusty' Miller and AB (MW) Nicholas Von Zuben, for achieving their AB1 badges - the culmination of much hard work and a testament to how they have both grown as part of the crew and as sailors throughout this deployment. I must also join in congratulating PO(MW) James 'Ginge' O'Dowd on the birth of his first child.



AB(MW) Kieron 'Kez' Walledege and AB(MW) Max 'Bish' O'Loughlin raising money for Red Nose Day in a bake sale

Finally, as we approach the end of this deployment, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you, friends and families, for your continued support over the past 5 months. I appreciate it is a long time to be away from loved ones but you have made it possible for us to continue our efforts out here.



AB(MW) Ben 'Swifty' Taylor demonstrating SeaFox to the RAF deployed contingent from Al Udeid airbase in Qatar