



## SEVERN UP!

*Fides Invicta Triumphat' Faith Unconquered Triumphs*



Sep – Nov 2016

### SEVERN Collaborates with Submarines, Helicopters, and the Irish Naval Service

After a successful period of maintenance alongside in base port HMS SEVERN embarked two submariners and sailed west to take part in Submarine Command Course (Perisher) Training. This included a few days of high speed manoeuvres in close proximity to a submarine to test the student Captains' navigation skills on board the boat. The course came to a close with a final day into night exercise during which SEVERN played the vital role of surface supply ship to a Type 23 frigate, HMS SOMERSET, who was hunting the submarine. Hugging the coast disguised as a fishing vessel with radars strangled, different engine configurations and bright lights flooding the cargo deck, SEVERN successfully remained undetected and watched the game of cat and mouse unfold between the frigate and submarine in play.



After an exciting few days working with a submarine, SEVERN took the opportunity to conduct flying serials with HMS SOMERSET and her Merlin. This allowed the ship's company to show once again how flexible they can be as they successfully winched their shipmate off the Ship from the cargo deck into HMS SOMERSET's helicopter.

Following this successful week of training in a task group, SEVERN transited into the Irish Sea to work with the Irish Navy. The next few days involved joint exercises with the LE ORLA during which SEVERN was on the receiving end of the Irish Navy's armed boarding operations and the Irish got a taste of how the Royal Navy conduct Safety Of Life At Sea operations. The two ships parted in style, completing a forenoon of exhilarating high speed Officer

of the Watch manoeuvres with HMS SEVERN conducting a steam past in close proximity to the LE ORLA before making her way to the Irish city of Cork in time for Cork music festival.

### Operational Sea Training

October was been a busy month for HMS SEVERN, beginning with the entire Ship's Company being onboard – a rare occurrence for a three-watch manned ship. The preparations for Operational Sea Training had been months in the making, ensuring SEVERN was up to snuff for the FOST Staff. From scrubbing bulkheads to swabbing decks, drilling exercises through the day and night, the crew worked around the clock getting ready for the big inspection. The training and assessments validated that SEVERN's Ship's Company was a capable team and gave confidence to new members of the crew in roles they may not have experienced before. ET(ME) Bell, having never stood In Charge of the



Standing Sea Emergency Party, stepped up to the plate during the training and was even singled out by the FOST Staff for his achievement. "Being given a position of authority and responsibility like this is such a great motivator. I was shocked when I was chosen, but eager to take up the position" he said, after a particularly difficult fire exercise.

SEVERN's training consisted of upwards of 12 damage control exercises fighting simulated fires and floods, two safety of life at sea operations that involved boarding a damaged vessel to provide life saving assistance, machinery breakdown drills, force protection exercises and live firing shoots using our main 20mm armament and General Purpose Machine Guns. Over the 10 days of OST SEVERN conducted 21 pilotages taking the ship to a buoy three times, to anchor twice and to sea each morning then alongside each night to under go inspections and conduct harbour exercises at the end of each day. SEVERN's training came to a close with the opportunity to show off her flexibility with a reflection of the flying training conducted at the beginning of the month. All the hard work paid off when a proud Ship's Company mustered on the cargo deck to receive well deserved praise of their efforts from the Commander in charge having accomplished a 'Very Satisfactory' standard overall and the Logistics Department earning a 'Good' with the accolades of being the best FOST had seen in 18 months.

SEVERN then received a signal disclosing activation to proceed on National Tasking the following day. She had proven her operational and tactical capabilities up in the Scottish Lochs and looked forward to her next mission.

### **National Tasking**

The Ship's Company enjoyed an evening off before stocking up and proceeding south in accordance with the National Tasking signals received. It was SEVERN's job to intercept a Russian warship. "As I stood on the bridge wing, the North Sea's blistering wind fresh on my face, I thought, with Nav Sea Week just around the corner, my time onboard is invaluable as although I've covered the bridgeman'ship and the academic part of my training this operational experience has given me the zeal and courage to pass course" said SLt Dan Earland, one of the 4 Young Officers onboard. The tasking itself took SEVERN to the edge of the UK's Economic Exclusive Zone from The Isles of Scilly to the Fjords of Norway, steaming a total of 2547 miles in 11 days before making her way to Edinburgh for a few days of well deserved rest and recuperation.

### **What's next for SEVERN?**

SEVERN is soon to sail with two members of the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals from base port to London where she will take part in the commemorations of Remembrance Sunday in support to the Royal British Legion and for official engagements related to her upcoming Patrol. Following London, SEVERN will continue to carry out UK Maritime Enforcement Operations, which will see her go back to her core role of protecting the UK fishing industry.