

## SUBMARINERS REMEMBRANCE CEREMONIES NOVEMBER 2020

The sacrifice of members of the Royal Navy Submarine Service has been marked during this year's Annual Submariner Memorial weekend. This year's Ceremonies had to be drastically slimmed down on account of the ongoing corona virus situation and numbers participating were reduced to six to comply with the regulations.

Serving personnel from the Submarine Service, and Veterans' organisation - the Submariners Association - sent representatives to Westminster Abbey and to the National Submarine War Memorial on the Embankment on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, and Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

On the Saturday, Submariner Andy Jeffrey visited the Poppy Gardens at Westminster Abbey where he set out crosses on behalf of the Submarine Service. At 1400 there was a short service and wreath laying at the Abbey's Combined Service Memorial, led by Canon Anthony Ball.

The Commodore of Submarines, Commodore Jim Perks CBE and Iain Mackenzie, Vice Chairman of the Submariners Association laid Wreaths at the foot of the Submariner memorial



On Sunday Morning activity moved to the National Submarine Memorial on the Embankment where there was a short Service of Remembrance. The Honorary Chaplain of the Submariners Association, the Reverend Professor Stephen Dray, officiated during the service which included a Reading from the Holy Scriptures by Commodore Perks, the Naval Prayer, The Exhortation and The Two Minutes Silence. This was followed by Wreath laying on behalf of the Submarine Service and the Submariners

Association. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of many Branches of the Submariners Association and the HMS URGE families association. Whilst the Wreaths were being laid the Chairman of the Submariners Association read the Roll Call of Submarines lost.



The Service was concluded with the Chaplain leading the Parade in the Lord's Prayer and the reading of the Submariners Prayer before giving the Blessing. Iain Mackenzie then gave the Orders 'Out Hip Flasks' and 'Absent Friends' before dismissing the Parade.

Present at the National Submarine Memorial were Commodore Jim Perks, CBE, Barrie Downer (Chairman, Submariners Association), Iain Mackenzie (Vice Chairman & Parade Marshal), Trevor Thomas (National Standard Bearer) and a serving Submariner.

Watching from a distance were the Submariners Association Patron, Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Boyce, the Association President, Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour and several other Serving and Veteran Submariners.