



FORM AND ORDER OF SERVICE

for the
Service of Thanksgiving
upon the Decommissioning of

**Her Majesty's Submarine
OPOSSUM**

at HMS Dolphin
Friday, 3rd September 1993

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY:

**The Reverend Father William FRANKLIN MA, Royal Navy
Chaplain HMS DOLPHIN**

After a brief introduction led by the chaplain, all will sing:

HYMN

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who Wondrous things hath done,
In Whome His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore:
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Amen.

The Commanding Officer will read a lesson from the book of Psalms, 107, verses 22-31.

The Chaplain will lead the following prayers of thanksgiving for the lives and work of all who have served in HMS OPOSSUM.

Almighty and everlasting God, the Creator and upholder of all, who hast in every age inspired thy servants with courage and skill; we give thee thanks for the example of those who have gone before us; for seamen of our nation; for all who in great or small ships have braved the perils of the deep - especially all who have served in this boat HMS OPOSSUM and for all who have given their lives to this country. For ourselves, we thank thee for thy guiding hand, for thy strength to us who have been watchful at our posts. We thank thee for all who have contributed to the wellbeing of this ship and her company and for the part we have had in helping to further the cause of peace in the world. In our tasks, now allotted to us, make us ever mindful of the needs of others, sharing our joys and bearing their burdens in the work thou hast given us to do; and keep us always in thy love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished which yieldeth the true glory; through him, who for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life: our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

All shall say together the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses. As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

Led by the Chaplain, the following prayer shall be said by the whole Ship's Company:

THE NAVAL PRAYER

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end; be pleased to receive into thy Almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants, and the fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen ELIZABETH and her dominions; and a security for such a pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our country and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve thee our God; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All sing:

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power
Our brethren shield in danger's hour,
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go:
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

HMS OPOSSUM

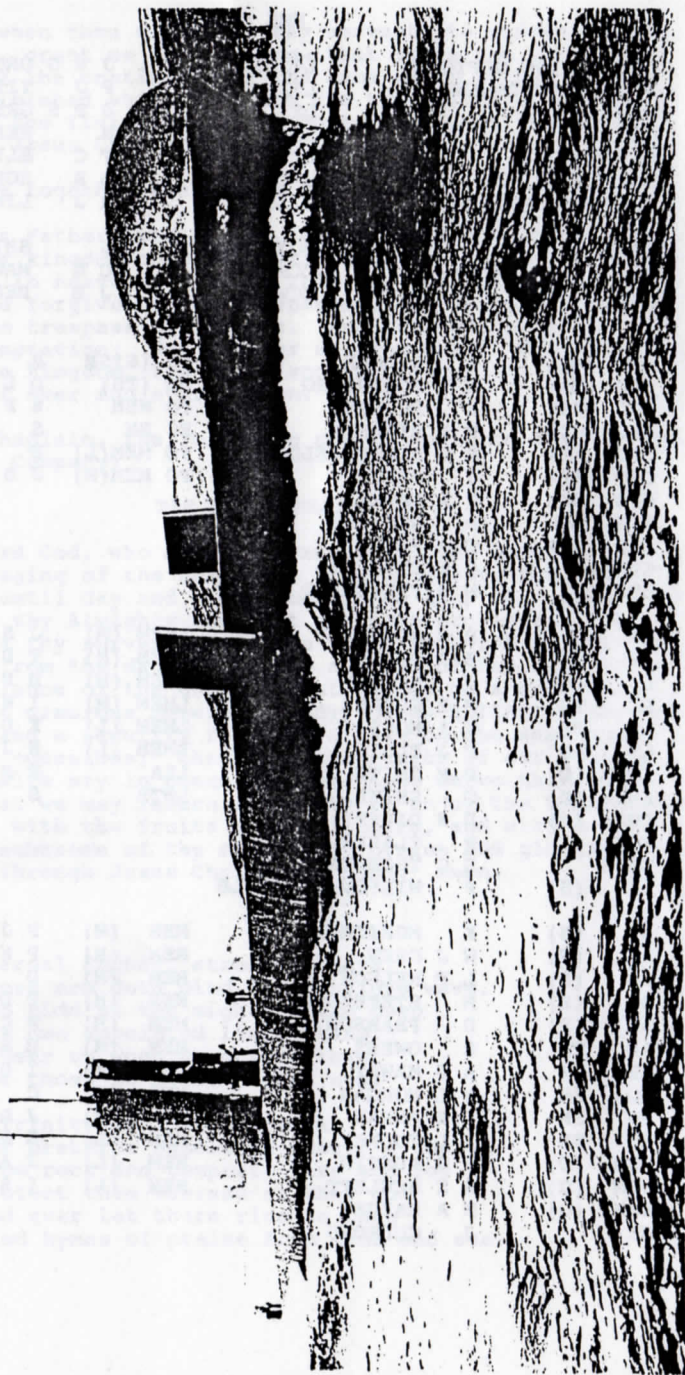
COMMANDING OFFICER	LT CDR	J R G	DRUMMOND
FIRST LIEUTENANT	LT	P J	TITTERTON
WEO	LT	D P S	GREEN
MEO	LT	M	PEACOCK
NAVIGATOR	LT	P C	BLYTHE
SONAR OFFICER	S/LT	M R	HONNORATY
TORPEDO OFFICER	S/LT	R J	LINDSEY

COXN	COXN	J	SHIELDS
CHIEF ARTIFICER	CCMEA	C G	MACKAY
CCWEA	CCWEA	J B	DENIEL

CPO WEA	A	BEAMAN	PO (S) SM	R	FORDER
CPO WEA	M	SODERBERG	PO (TS)	D L	WATKINS
CPO WEA	N	PHIPPS	PO WEM	S P	BARNES
CPO MEA	R A	BISSETT	RS SM	S	WHITE
CPO MEA	R G	BLOOMFIELD	PO MEM(L)	H	FOULIS
CPO MEA	J	BRIER	PO MEM(M)	J B	PEACH
CPO MEA	P A	DALE			
CPO MEM	D	NICHOLS			
CPO MEA	T J	SHONE			
CPO OPS	G R	WRIGLEY			
CPO US	M J	FITZGERALD			

LS (S)	D G	DONNELLY	LMEM (M)	J S	WILLIAMS
LS TS	B R	POOLE	LMEM (M)	T D	IZZARD
LS TS	J	REILLY	LMEM (M)	B P	MARSHAL
LS TS	M E	FULLER	LMEM (M)	I W	SHARP
LS TS	S A	MOSS	LMEM (L)	K D	THOMAS
LRO SM	P J	ELLIS	LMEM (L)	R J	RIPLEY
LWEM (O)	P M	SMITH	LSA	P M	MEDHURST
LWEM (O)	G	SMITH	LWTR	S	MAYGER
LWEM (R)	D W	DIFFEY			
LCK	P	CLARKE			
LSTD	B C	THOMSON			
LS (S)	P	WILSON-SUFFIELD			

AB (S)	K	MORTIMER	MEM (M)	P J	MOODY
AB (S)	W J	CREW	MEM (M)	P M	NELLIS
AB (S)	L F	NELSON	MEM (M)	D	BOYD
AB (S)	M	STEPHENSON	MEM (M)	P D	CLEGG
AB (S)	D	PEARSON	MEM (M)	W C	CARTER
AB TS	C	OWENS	MEM (M)	M R	ROBERTS
AB TS	A P	MAWBY	MEM (M)	I D	SANDERSON
RO SM	M L	MORGAN	MEM (M)	C	ELLMORE
RO SM	D K	ANNAN	MEM (M)	J D	MALLABAND
RO SM	M L	TUCKEY	MEM (L)	G A	GLOVER
WEM (O)	S G	AUSTIN	MEM (L)	J A	KNIGHT
WEM (O)	A S	HEWLETT	MEM (L)	I S	BURDIS
WEM (O)	M A	MAYUEW			
CK	J	CULROSS			



HMS OPOSSUM was built by Cammell Lairds in Birkenhead and was launched by Lady Hezlet on 23 May 1963. She was first commissioned on 5 June 1964 and has served in the First Submarine Squadron throughout her life. She has had four refits, during which the sensors and weapon systems have been progressively updated, and she has remained fully operational to the end; indeed in 1990/91 she went on a round the world deployment, which included a Falklands patrol and participation in the Gulf War.

HMS OPOSSUM is the last of the PORPOISE and OBERON class, of which 21 were built for the Royal Navy between 1956 and 1967. A further 14 were exported to Australia, Canada, Brazil and Chile and all but one of these are still in service.

HMS OPOSSUM is the final submarine in the First Submarine Squadron at HMS DOLPHIN, bringing to an end the continuous use of Fort Blockhouse by submarines since the arrival of the 5 HOLLAND class boats in 1905.