

## Mystery Photo: the names

The surrendered U-Boats were the responsibility of HMS Ferrett IV, under the command of Acting Captain P Q Roberts (Acting Captain SM Surrendered U-Boats Lisahally).

On the back of the photo are some names. They are in pencil and it's not easy to decipher them. No indication of date or place.

The website unithistories.com 'World War II Unit Histories and Officers' was a starting point – it's for all three British and some US armed forces. I mailed scans of the photo and its reverse, plus my best guess of the names, to the website author. A Hans Houterman, replied almost by return with the full list!

Now, one name was a Lt. [01.01.1944] John Herbert Francis Perowne RN. Recognise the surname? So did I! I therefore dropped an enquiring email to Admiral Sir James Perowne. A delightful response came – "That's my Dad" said Admiral Sir James, "My family were in Londonderry; I was one at the time!". So, not only providing a lovely family connection with the 'mystery photo', but strongly implying that the group pose was in fact at Lisahally, Londonderry. Admiral Sir James says

"My father did Perisher in 1950 and then commanded HMS Sturdy in Malta in 1951. Crap Miers was his Captain SM!! Actually they got on well.

He then was First Lt of HMS Verulam, a Type 15 frigate, and then left the RN in 1954 to take over the family farm."

Also, while searching for the Lieutenant Perowne, another Perowne appeared, this time Christian name Ben. In fact, Admiral Sir James tells me that Rear Admiral Ben Perowne was John's first cousin and father of Rear Admiral Brian Perowne. What a family!

As far as I can see, none of the officers in the photo were appointed to Ferret IV. According to the notes on the reverse of the photo, there are six COs. So, I'm still stumped on location.

On the date, if it's Lisahally, my guess it's soon after the last XXI arrived there, ie 9 June 1945. If it's somewhere else, it could be earlier. There are various aerial photos on the web of surrendered boats at Lisahally, but they are May 1945 and show no sign of Type XXIs. The big question concerns the floating dock, containing some sort of merchant ship.

Here is a list of the names on the reverse of the photo, in their expanded unithistories.com form.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Officers**

T/S.Lt. [17.04.1944] Ralph Leslie Cheesman RNVR

S.Lt. [01.01.1945] John D'Olier Cornwall Lewis RN

T/S.Lt. [10.11.1944] Robert Stewart Beausire RNVR

T/S.Lt. [25.04.1945] Raymond Edward Law RNVR

T/S.Lt. [07.10.1944] Alister Fitzgerald MacAlister RNZNVR

### **Commanding Officers**

Lt. [28.02.1943] Alan Flockhart Esson RNR

11.06.1945 - 04.09.1945: CO, Ultimatum

T/Lt. [01.04.1943] Hubert Charles Parker DSC RNVR

Lt. [16.10.1940] John Peter Angell DSC RN

07.10.1919 - 18.02.2012

Lt.Cdr. [01.03.1942] Mervyn Robert George Wingfield DSO DSC and Bar RN

Lt. [01.04.1941] James Stewart Launders DSO and Bar DSC RN

T/Lt. [04.10.1939] Maurice Herbert Atkinson DSC RNR

### **1<sup>st</sup> Lieuts and EOs**

Lt. [01.06.1944] David Monck Mason Hackett RN

Lt. (E) [01.03.1943] Allan Francis Japp RN

Lt. [01.08.1943] William Patrick McLoughlin RN

Wt.Eng. [01.04.1939] Arthur Bertram Uren RN

possibly: T/A/Lt.Cdr. (E) Kenneth Atkinson RN

T/Lt. (E) [21.10.1941] Peter Douglas Scott-Maxwell DSC and Bar RN

Lt. [16.03.1943] Sydney Alfred Warner DSC RN

T/Wt.Eng. [01.02.1941] Edward Quinney Kibblewhite RN

T/Wt.Eng. [01.02.1941] Cecil Arthur Dawe DSM RN

Lt. [01.01.1944] John Herbert Francis Perowne RN, father of Admiral Sir James Perowne.

On the photo, they feature in rows thus:

|                      |                         |                  |            |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1Ls and EOs<br>(top) | T/Wt.Eng<br>Kibblewhite | T/Wt.Eng<br>Dawe | Lt Perowne |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|

|              |               |           |                  |                |                       |                        |           |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1Ls &<br>EOs | Lt<br>Hackett | Lt E Japp | Lt<br>McLoughlin | Wt Eng<br>Uren | Lt Cdr E<br>Atkinson? | Lt E Scott-<br>Maxwell | Lt Warner |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|

|     |             |                |              |                  |                |                |
|-----|-------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| COs | Lt<br>Esson | T/Lt<br>Parker | Lt<br>Angell | L/C<br>Wingfield | Lt<br>Launders | T/Lt<br>Atkins |
|-----|-------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|

|                 |                  |               |                  |          |                    |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 3rd<br>Officers | S/Lt<br>Cheesman | S/Lt<br>Lewis | S/Lt<br>Beausire | S/Lt Law | S/Lt<br>MacAlister |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|--------------------|