

A ceremony took place at Kylesku on Sunday 22nd September, blessed by glorious weather, to mark the 81st anniversary of Operation SOURCE (the midget submarine attack launched from Kylesku against the German battleship Tirpitz, in 1943) and to inaugurate a new bronze “Roll of Honour”, information boards and landscaping at the site. The ceremony was organised by Major General Patrick Marriott, CB CBE DL, Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland.

The service of inauguration was led by The Venerable John Green CB, himself a retired Chaplain to the Fleet and now living in Sutherland. Wreaths were laid on behalf of HM King Charles III, the Submarine Flotilla, the Submariners Association, the Friends of the RN Submarine Museum, We Remember Submarines, the Sutherland and Inverness Branches of the Royal Naval Association and the Arctic Convoy Museum.

Piper Mr Adam Barnes played a lament and fiddler Mr Graeme Scott played “Waters of Kylesku” to finish the service.

There were two sons of VC winners present: Paul Magennis, son of James “Mick” Magennis, VC and John Miers, son of Rear Admiral Sir Anthony Miers, VC KBE CB DSO*. Also present was Iain Russell, late MD of J K Galbraith in Inverness, and grandson of Commander Reginald Hayter RN, who lost his life in HMS THETIS in Liverpool Bay in 1939. The Lord-Lieutenant is himself the son of a wartime submarine Commanding Officer (Captain Sam Marriott DSO DSC RN).

Commodore Submarines was represented by PO Paul Hogg and LS Martin Hawes, instructors from the Submarine Qualification school, and trainees AB Marcus Chambers and LH AA William Pringle, who laid a wreath on behalf of SUBFLOT.

The refurbishment project has been led by Commander Tim Honnor, with support from many others, but especially Reay Forest Estate on whose land the memorial stands. Mr Neil Macdonald DL, of Reay Forest Estate, welcomed everyone to the commemoration.

Sonia Cameron Jacks, author of “X-Craft Hero of the Tirpitz Raid”, and who started the initiative to refurbish the site, also attended and laid a posy of flowers in memory of Commander Donald Cameron VC RNR - his VC being one of two won on the raid (as a Lieutenant). The other VC was won by Rear Admiral Godfrey Place VC CB CVO DSC (as a Lieutenant).

A lunch was held afterwards at the Inchnadamph Lodge where Paul Magennis read out some of his father’s letters following the award of his VC in 1945.