

Hello Shipmates,

While our politicians - last month - wishing for your support competed on the Beeb I looked back on our promised fare in 2017.

Prominent was the NSS (National Ship Building Strategy) which encompassed Fleet Auxiliaries; that original fantasy now updated to include merchant vessels will boost their overall estimate in numbers to 150.

Do I need to tell you how many have skidded down the slipway anywhere in the U.K. since that time? The NSS was to give 'planning clarity'; this to narrow the focus on such as *Vlad the Invader* launching his blitz on Ukraine.

Before that though we must navigate all those transgender issues in the schoolroom and which side of the dispatch box gets to wear the knickers this session of parliament. No action required in the Lords, where density of pervs and fraudsters is legendary; I could cite the forgoing as reason, I'd feel blessed to be born an Englishman, the great charter Magna Carta allows us free speech since fifteen twelve-ish.

At risk of boring you with a splash of figures determined by the same people who were dog fighting to be Prime Minister, build rate for next 30 years was as follows:-

Type 26 frigates,	a future Type 82 destroyer - to replace Type 45's,
5 Type 31 frigates,	5 Type 32 frigates,
up to 6 multi-role support ships,	1 Auxiliary Converted landing ship dock,
3 Fleet Sarid support ships, no number stated,	1 Fleet oiler, future O.P.V's (offshore or overseas);
Mine Counter Measure vessels, no number stated,	Hydrographic Survey vessels, no number stated,
1 new Ice Patrol ship,	4 Strategic Lift vessels.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE GREAT OMISSION?

No submarines, they run a separate programme; who controls it? All latest to join fleet obscenely over budget and delivery date - the norm!!!!

Last halt in submarine programme resulted in bulk of nuclear build skilled force becoming Canadian, U.S. & Australian citizens head hunted in double quick time, and I do not feel that's a lot to do with Brexit; U.K. no longer has the capacity or core skills to build the list above, so if the need is urgent enough your tax cash will be spent in a foreign land - shame on us and shame on the M.O.D. that sink hole of talentless suits up to the armpits in the public purse to no visible effect. I fear we need a revolution to clear all droppings from the stable floor.

We, meanwhile, evolve further into a nation of pie eaters, 'pie in the sky' so that's certainly your diet for the next five years, bound to be full of hot air so take care who you stand next to in the bus queue.

KEEPING ABREAST OF THE TIMES

Couple of interesting newspaper items last week; one said that in future all Wrens will be issued with sports bras. Not being an authority on that bit of kit can only assume it's to give them an advantage when wrestling with the Queen's enemies.

The other said that Ms Truss, who looks like our next P.M is adamant the R.N will continue to patrol the Channel picking up illegal rubber boats; can only conclude, why do we need more frigates for that task?

I do wonder what the Queen and Philip would think of the R.N.'s job picking up illegals in the Channel as their proper job while the Border Force tell their bosses what they will and will not do.

It makes me long for Ronald Regan in Downing Street, he who first warned Germany that Russia was playing a long game with his Baltic pipelines. Better than that, Air Traffic Controllers who decided to strike over the entire United States were informed they were then jobless. Whoever thought that the biggest of U.S. organisations would be told to reapply If you want your jobs back. That crisis vanished like the will- o'- the-wisp.

Our own current crisis baffles me; I read that by October we will have driverless cars on our arterial roads, yet that ghastly R.M.T. union holds our capital up to ransom yet again by calling an underground strike; a system, to me, like a sophisticated tram that has an easy ability to run crewless as, at least, 50% of the world's metros do. 'Our' underground, the world's first has, as a consequence, a bog standard control first generation system, no great loss or disruption to scrap.

About 30 years ago I had the need to get to Berkley from San Francisco; their metro runs under that vast bay, it was crewless then, so clean and user friendly plus, nearly silent running on rubber tyres. Tried to peer at the 'bogies' I recall but stops were not arranged for nosy tourists.

A quick look at the foregoing confirms a cynical grumpy old man now pushes the pen in erratic spurts. I do it to retain a 'sheet anchor' to a vanished past, whose thoughts and opinions I'll wager are not unlike my own.

Tattybyethenoo