

ANDY BRIERLEY'S BLOG

Hello Shipmates,

From the tabloid press it seems the M.O.D.'s perpetual wasting of tax money is rivalled only by transgender issues in the competition for front page space.

For the latter I wish them a chance to get on with their lives privately, as my own ilk.

Rear Admiral Burton R.N., Commander U.K. Maritime Forces, 'took issue with the President of the United States' for banning that section of the community from serving in the U.S. forces, whose stated purpose being, time and money spent on 'sex change questions' was not a military requirement; war wounded in dire need of help is.

My stance in this is a feeling that Rear Admiral Burton could better spent his time and effort in addressing the first item mentioned. He could, perhaps, ensure fighting ships sail with full magazines or even, in some cases, magazines with only cobwebs. He does bill himself as a 'senior war fighter'.

Which war that was I am unable to enlighten you. Recent headliner informed us the M.O.D. had just written off £218 million on lost equipment and projects axed. Amongst item lost is a state of the art 'targeting pod' for front line Typhoon aircraft. A spokesperson says, 'extensive searches have taken place, but it couldn't be found'. They are only £601,000 a copy!

I would be surprised if a chap called Ivan has it on his bench in 'magnitogorsk'. Working out electronic counter measures.

R.N. section included non-refundable hotel bookings for crew of sub. *Ambush* after it collided with a merchantman and limped into Gibraltar, then redirected to the U.K... Cost £453,000 Some hotel.

We seem so complacent about these things, it's all a bore to parliament. That the R.N. wants to enrol a further 4000 bodies to operate properly - but we do not have the cash. That number of bodies were made redundant 3 or so years ago. The politicians' solution is to cut the Royal Marine's recruitment by 4000, and then dress them - the extra 4000 available - in bell bottoms. The Cadets (middies) at Dartmouth, one learns, are no longer taught Naval History and its influence on international affairs. That could mean plenty of 'unknown mistakes' will be remade.

In two month's time we are due a 'Strategic Defence Review', it is the 'habit', this last half



dozen years, for those in power to pass it 'without debate'. Defence Sec. Fallon will be in vigorous 'smoke and mirrors' mode. He has just been on the Clyde where steel was reportedly cut for the new Global Frigate Type 26.

Defence Sec. named it *Glasgow*. Now the P.R. wonks are bound to drop the name, at regular intervals, as if it was at sea, in the fleet.

Artist's impression in Naval News will be a half or full page before, the sports' section. It will not tell you this anti-sub frigate has no anti-submarine weapons (FACT). On the foc'sle will be the de rigour 5" gun. Chinese frigates being turned out like plastic ducks, sport Mach 3 anti-ship missiles.

B.A.E.'s Global Frigate is in the competition to meet Australia's frigate requirement. Other two are Navantia - Spain, and Fincantieria - Italy. Both the latter have their new vessels in Australian waters; Italy for a month, Spain for the last six months, cross-crewing with Oz naval types. Both countries agree to co-ordinate with builders in Adelaide for 8 vessels. That's a thumbnail sketch of events, so far. With no pun intended, do you think B.A.E has missed the boat?

Now, here is the R.N about to score a first amongst Western navies.

It had announced it is designing a uniform with 'burka attached'. Thus allowing recruiters to attract Muslim females. Imagine how thrilled their fellas will be with our 'gender equality service'. They will be in close company, I assume in some cases, touching 'infidel males'.

It has the hall marks of some dreadful disaster, perpetrated by an I.S.I.S. sleeper. How exasperated can you get knowing the R.N.'s massive deficiencies, when serious cash and time is spent on such bilge.



Another Admiral of questionable service to 'our service' figured in a colour picture, late July's Daily Mail, alongside Prince Andrew - both braid bedecked, having a belly laugh. Have racked my brain but cannot dredge up his name.

He figured in an illustrated rogue's gallery of top civil servants who resigned their departments, to go directly into the employ of the firms they dealt with when in government. Such conduct is unlawful until a cooling off period has elapsed, and their knowledge of government policy is 'old hat'.

In the R.N.'s case it is not hard to see how substandard, inappropriate equipment, at inflated prices, gets into circulation, with such honest brokers like him in charge.

The crime is compounded - they are allowed to get away with it!

That's today's drip from 'beautiful downtown Newington'.

