

NMRN

COLLECTIONS AND STORIES





WE TELL THE STORY of the Royal Navy's roles in the past, and explain its purpose today. Using examples of what the service did and continues to do, we show how for centuries it was the pre-eminent agent of first the British Crown and then of state policy throughout the world. This purpose has included life-or-death struggles against implacable foes like the defeat of the Spanish Armada, to great set-piece sea battles like Trafalgar, or huge,

multi-faceted combined operations like D-Day. Sometimes the Royal Navy was the implacable foe, enforcing state policies like the opium trade or enabling colonial expansion. Beyond these significant events the Royal Navy's purpose has always included peacetime service as well as war fighting. Its success has always been defined as much by the complex logistical operations which keep warships at sea, as by the warships themselves.



OURS IS THE EPIC STORY of the Royal Navy, its impact on Britain and the world from its origins in 625 AD to the present day. We will tell this emotionally-coloured and nuanced story, one of triumph as well as failure and muddle, through four key themes.

1 Company from the first Royal Marine Commando unit, formed in 1942.

2 The sailor Jack Tar capturing Napoleon, 1803.

## People

WE TELL THE STORY of the Royal Navy's people. We examine the qualities that distinguish people serving at sea: courage, loyalty and sacrifice but also incidents of ignorance, cruelty and cowardice. We trace the changes from the amateur 'soldiers at sea', through the professionalization of officers and then ships' companies, onto the 'citizen sailors' who fought the World Wars and finally to today's small, elite force of men and women. We highlight the change as people are rewarded in war with personal profit and prize money but then dispensed with in peace, to the different kind of recognition given to salaried public servants. Increasingly the people's story becomes one of highly trained specialists, often serving in branches with strong corporate identities: the Royal Marines, the Submarine Service and the Fleet Air Arm. We will examine these identities and the Royal Navy's unique camaraderie, characterised by simultaneous loyalties to ship, trade, branch, service and comrades.

## Purpose



## Power

WE TELL THE STORY of the Royal Navy's power as a defining influence. We show its impact through operations on Great Britain, Europe and the wider world, and the effect of the informal export of its culture, traditions and infrastructure. We explore how Kings and states used the power of ships, how the development of the Nation and navies are linked and the part played by the Royal Navy in the creation of British national identity. We reflect on the Royal Navy's contribution to wealth and power; as principal engine and client of the Industrial Revolution; as key player in the formation of Empire; as the force that controls the sea and allows trade. We show how the Royal Navy's power has increasingly had to be exercised in partnership with allies, multinational organisations like NATO and the United Nations and non-state actors. We discuss how the Navy's status has declined from a powerful internal force which at times shaped the policies of the state, to an armed force whose resources are determined by government priorities.

## BRITAIN'S SEA POWER



3 Poster advertising 'War Savings' to fund naval expenditure, c.1942.

## Progress

WE TELL THE STORY of the Royal Navy and innovation. Constant technological developments in ship design, weapons, navigation, infrastructure and communications have been essential in providing a fighting advantage. These accelerate from the 1840s as the Navy changes from a force of wooden sailing vessels to a fleet of steam-powered steel warships that is supported by aircraft and submarines. At times this advantage comes from innovation that transforms the health of ships' companies such as Lind's discovery that lemon juice could combat scurvy. We tell these stories through the impact that these changes had on naval personnel, and at times on wider civil society. On occasion it is the Royal Navy's people who have driven innovation and at other times the Navy has adopted ideas from external sources.

3 Poster advertising 'War Savings' to fund naval expenditure, c.1942.

4 The Royal Navy's first aircraft flight from a stationary ship, 1912.



# Our Collections



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL NAVY (NMRN) tells this story through this country's most comprehensive collection of Royal Navy heritage; through the ships and buildings open to the public, and through nearly 2,500,000 individual items in museum collections. The collection's unique quality comes from the historic closeness of individual museums to the Royal Navy and its branches – and crucially to its people. This has given the NMRN the ability to acquire and preserve material in a way not open to any other museum, and to capture the provenance which gives it meaning.

Too often these collections have been inaccessible and hidden from view – none of the artefacts pictured in this booklet are on permanent display.

Too often the international significance of collections has been obscured, because material which is intimately linked is dispersed across different stores, on different museum sites. Too often the collections have been at risk of damage from display inside in inadequate conditions – or even at times outside.

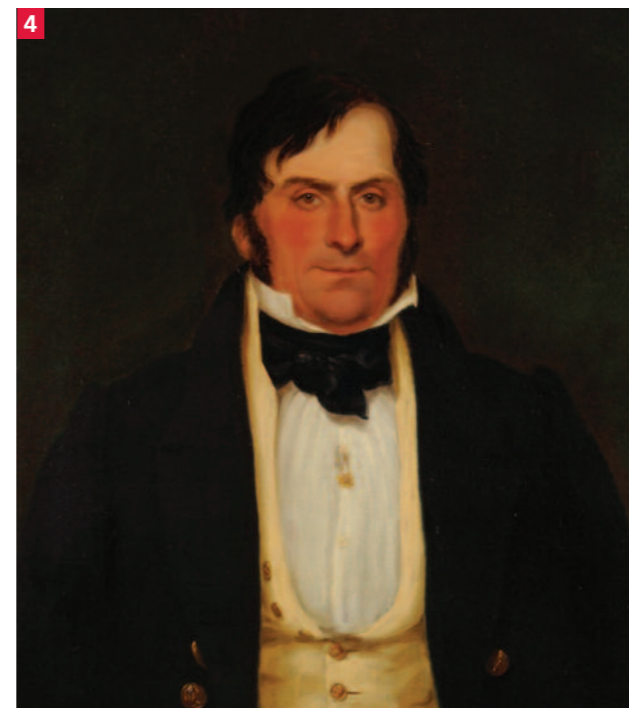
Now in 2015, the NMRN has developed the plans which for the first time allow this heritage to be preserved, managed, developed and enjoyed as a single national collection. With a single application for museum Accreditation and a single Collections Management Plan, the foundations are in place to bring this collection into the light and to transform public access through the SeaMore project and its Centre for Discovery.



2



3



4

COLLECTION SIZE AND SIGNIFICANCE		
Collection Type	Collection Items	Significance
Aircraft, airframes and equipment	10,000	International Importance
Art	6,000	Important
Costume	15,000	National Importance
Film and Sound Recordings	1,500	Important
Library	25,000	Important
Manuscripts, documents, archives	300,000	International Importance
Models	1,000	Important
Orders, decorations and medals	15,000	International Importance
Personal equipment and ephemera	6,000	National Importance
Photographs	2,000,000	National Importance
Ships and vessels	18	International Importance
Ships' equipment	7,000	National Importance
Trophies	6,000	National Importance
Weapons	4,000	National Importance
Women's Royal Naval Service	6,000	National Importance

1 A Royal Marine Shako.

2 Medals of Major E.M. Pritchard, the first man to cross the Atlantic in an airship, 1919.

3 Cup given to John Drysdale for treating Yellow Fever in the West Indies, 1782.

4 Oil painting of Boatswain Robert McKenzie, 1840 – a rare portrait of a warrant officer.

5 A cartoon of his staff by Commander Peyton-Jones, from the 'The Nore Joke Pack', 1940.



5

1 Figurehead from HMS Poictiers, 3rd rate ship of the line, built in 1809.

2 Regimental Colour for the Royal Marine Barrack, Plymouth, presented in 1951.



THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS can be the folk memory of those who have served, and the corporate memory of the Royal Navy and its branches. These collections hold significant material which is unique to the Navy – figureheads, flags, ship's crests, Royal Marine colours, Submarine Service Jolly Rogers and nose art from aircraft – all capture a unique tradition and distinctive ethos.



## Unique Perspectives from the Navy

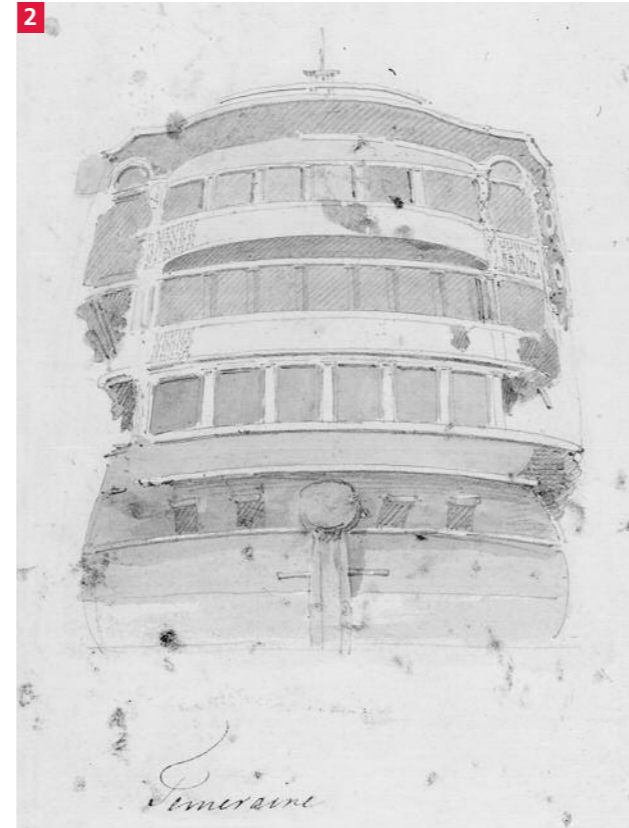
5 Jolly Roger from HM Submarine HMS Rorqual, c.1942.

THE JOLLY ROGER FLAGS made by submarine crews record each boat's history. The symbols on HMS Rorqual's flag reflects her service as a minelayer in the Mediterranean: the white bars stand for a sunk merchant ship: a bar with a U is an enemy U-boat sunk: the crossed gun barrels represent sinkings by gun action (each star is a ship): the dagger means a 'cloak and dagger' operation: the crosses show how many times she used Malta as a base to load mines.

3 Ship Crest of HMS Fearless.

4 Silk Ensign flown by HMS Warspite at the Battle of Jutland, damaged by gunfire.





- 1 Gosport, oil painting by Thomas Fletcher, c.1796.
- 2 Sketch showing damage to the stern of HMS Temeraire after Trafalgar, by John Livesay, 1806.
- 3 Burning the Barracoons on the Gallinas River, watercolour by an officer of HMS Penelope, 1845
- 4 The Northern Patrol, oil painting by Leading Signalman Phillip Needell, 1918.
- 5 Red Light, pen drawing by Jules George on board HMS Tireless, 2014.



## Unique Art



THE MUSEUM'S ART COLLECTION includes over 4,500 oil paintings, watercolours, drawings and prints. Its most distinctive works were created by artists who either served in the Royal Navy's different branches, or were given unique access to the Navy. These are an intimate witness to life and work, made at sea, on campaign or back at base.



6 Elephants carrying the Mountain Train Howitzers during the rainy season, watercolour by First Lieutenant Henry Grant, 1858.

HENRY GRANT was First Lieutenant of HMS Pearl for 3 years from 1856 to 1859. His album of 37 watercolours includes amazing sketches showing the naval brigade that landed and travelled 1,000 miles inland during the Indian Mutiny. The sketches show the crew fighting, relaxing, or as here struggling to move their guns.

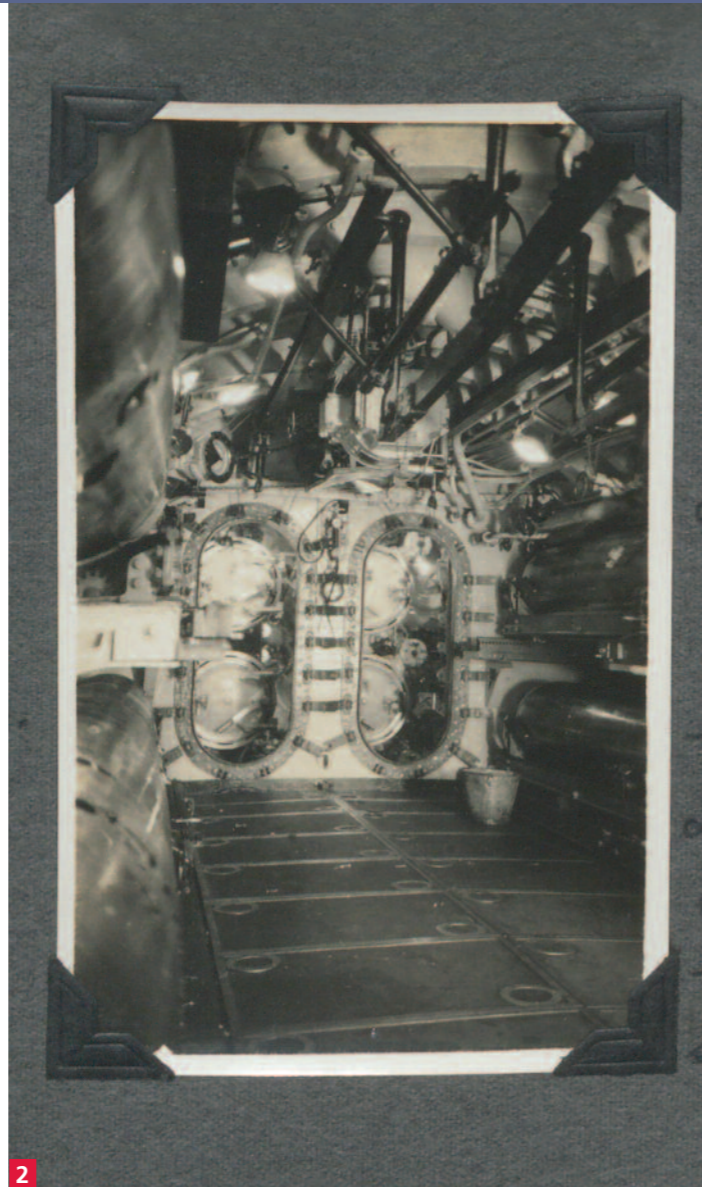


# Unique Archives

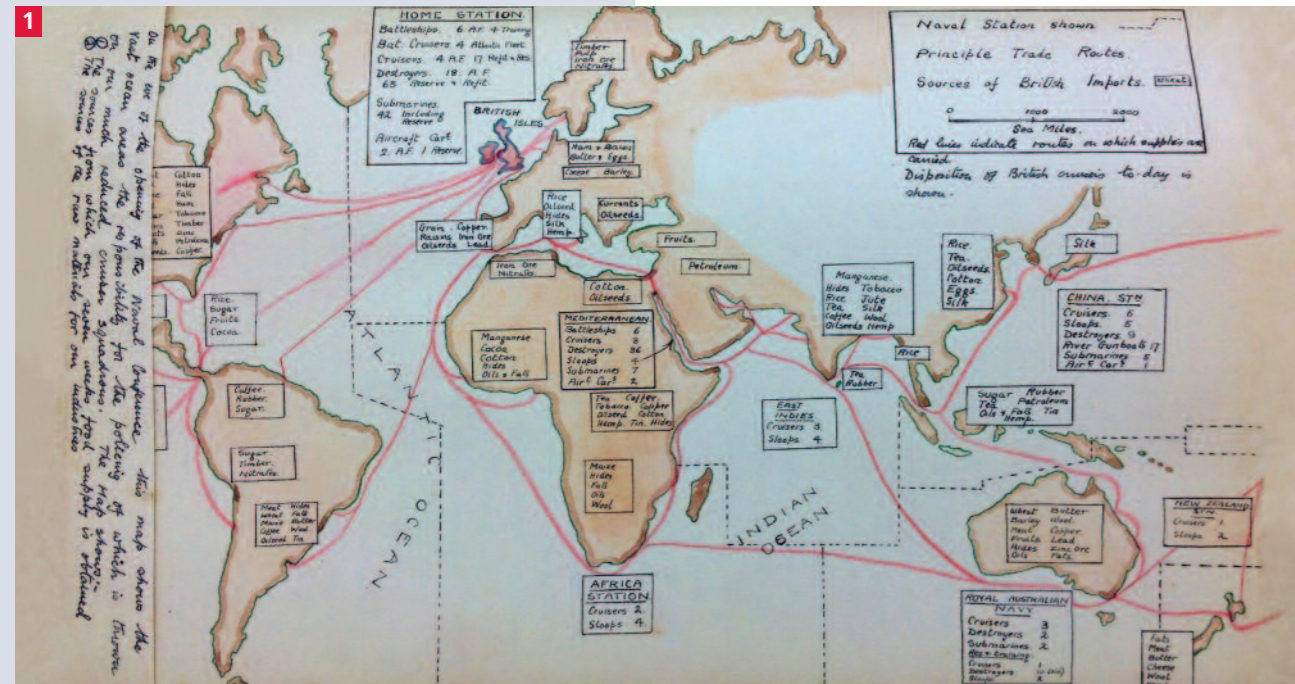
- 1 Diagram showing the Royal Navy in relation to British trade, from a Midshipman's journal, 1931.
- 2 Torpedo stowage space, 1931.
- 3 Unique 'Ships and Captains' ledgers recording the commanding officers of all Royal Navy ships from 1688.
- 4 Engagement Ledgers from the Women's Royal Naval Service, 1917-18.
- 5 Letter from James Robinson, HMS Mars, 1805.

THE MUSEUM'S ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS, containing over 2,000,000 individual documents, manuscripts, photographs, audio and film recordings, are of international significance.

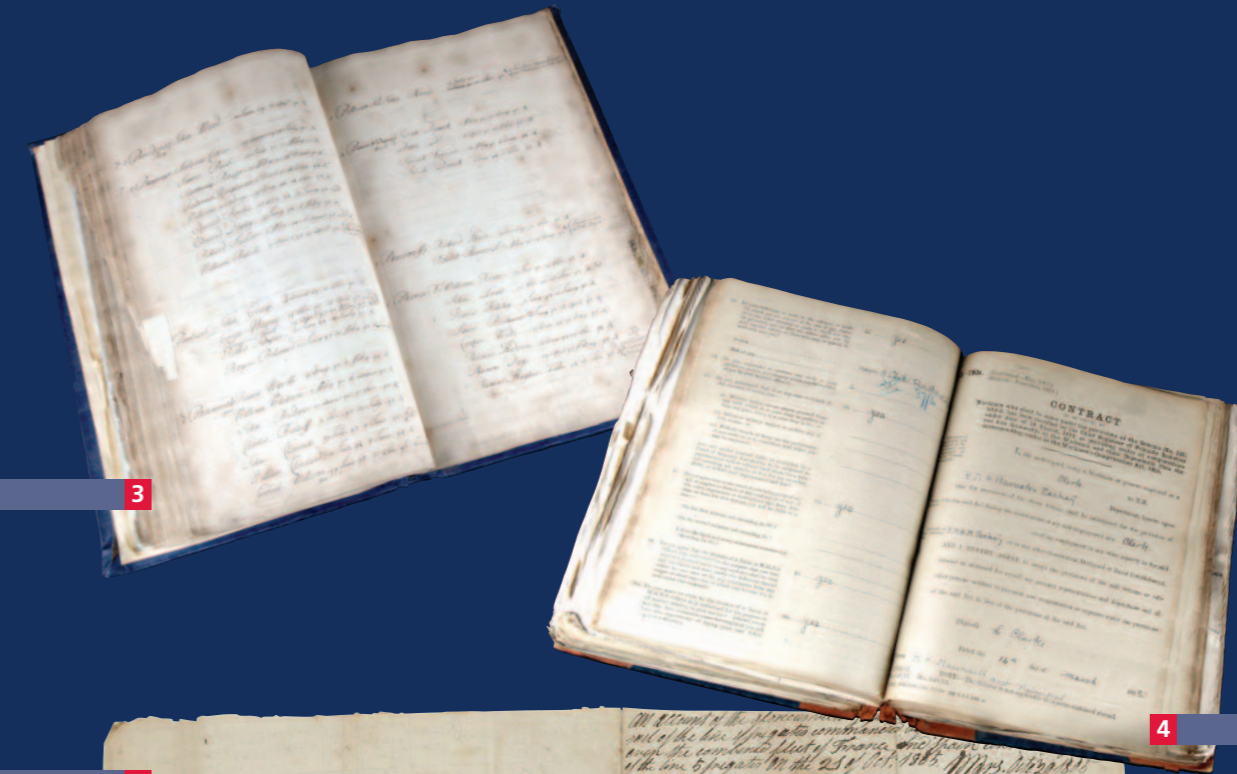
The archive contains: personnel records from key branches of the Royal Navy which unlock the histories of 100,000s of men and women: personal collections including journals, letters and over 1,000 diaries from the American War of Independence in 1776 to Afghanistan in 2003: rich photographic collections.



2



1



3

4



5

- 6 Ensign Popular reflex camera, tripod and original glass plate negatives.

LEONARD STACE joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1916. As a keen amateur photographer he took his camera to his work as an Ordinary Telegraphist on HM Trawler Sesostris and captured stunning images of her minesweeping work in the North Sea. His family donated not only three boxes of original glass plate negatives, but also his tripod and Ensign Popular reflex camera.



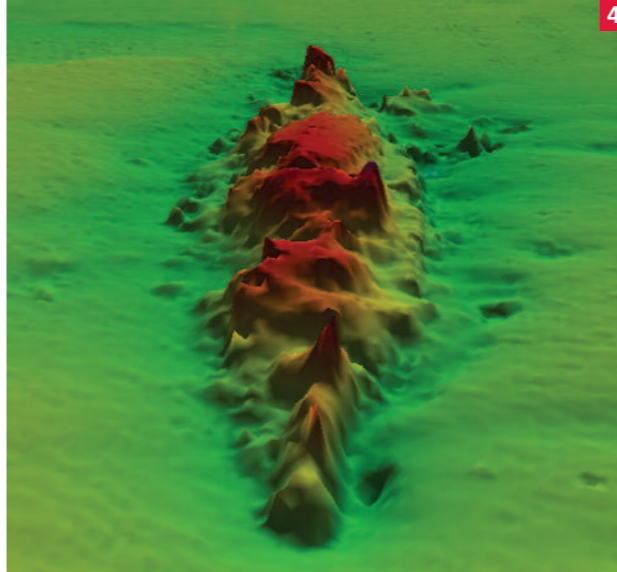
OBJECT  
STORY



## NMRN | COLLECTIONS AND STORIES

THE MUSEUM HAS A GROWING collection of significant archaeological material – material which often provides the only available evidence of the Navy's ships.

The items are largely taken from sovereign wrecks and are allocated to the Museum by HM Receiver of Wrecks. We work in partnership with Mary Rose Archaeological Services on conservation, and are developing active relationships with partners to survey wreck sites.



4 Sonar of the wreck-site of SMS Lützow from the Battle of Jutland, taken in 2015.

5 Powder barrel from the wreck of HMS Invincible in 1757.

## Unique Finds

1 Bronze cannon from the 1744 wreck of HMS Victory.

2 Close up of the cannon's muzzle.

3 The badge of HMS Wakeful, the destroyer sunk at Dunkirk, 1940.



6 Bell from HMS Hood, raised in 2015.

WHEN HMS HOOD was sunk on 24 May 1941, 1415 men died – the largest ever loss of life from a single Royal Navy ship. The bell was raised from nearly 3,000 metres deep in the Denmark Strait in the summer of 2015.

The bell is now being recorded and conserved with advice being given on its memorial character by the HMS Hood Association.



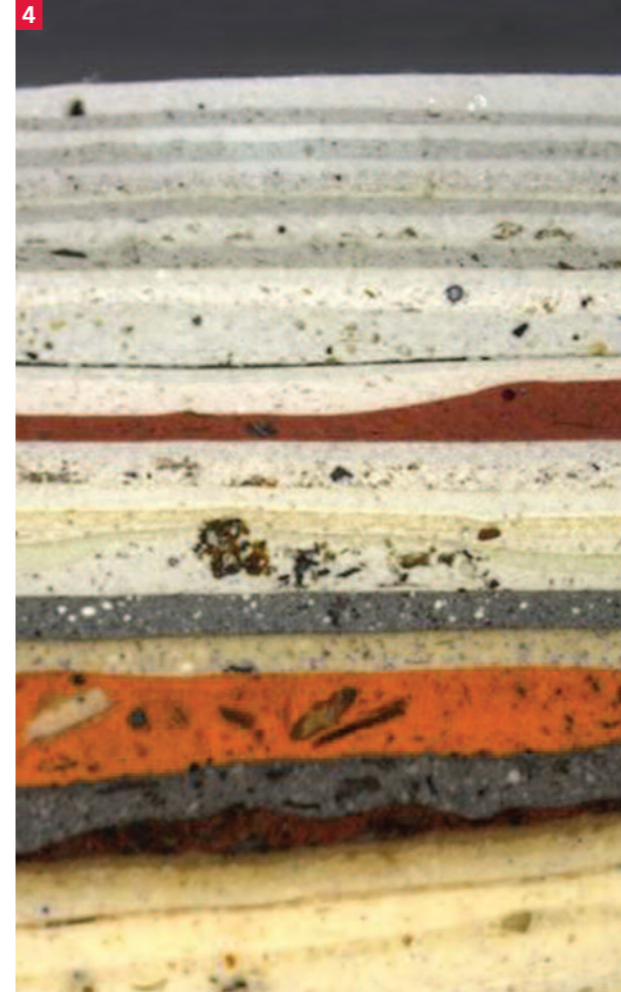
OBJECT  
STORY



1



2



4

1 Digital time-lapse film of the raising of LCT 7074, October 2014.

2 Brooch commemorating the launch of HM Submarine Holland 1, 1901.

3 Letter sent to R.A.D. Chapple, Private Royal Marine, of HMS M.33, 1915.

4 X-ray of paint layers on board HMS Caroline.

5 The Boatswain's accounts of HMS Victory, 1805.



5

## Unique Ships and Records

THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION OF SHIPS is of international significance, containing 10 vessels from the National Historic Fleet – ranging from HMS Victory, the world's only surviving 1st rate ship of the line, to HMS Alliance, a Second World War era submarine. The ships themselves are only the most visible part of the historic evidence which we hold, and which are essential to understanding

their design, service, modification and conservation. We preserve original archives and artefacts that could never be displayed in the environmental conditions on board; we retain fittings and material removed during restoration; we research, record and analyse the ships as artefacts – leading increasingly to digital records.



3

## OBJECT STORY



3811

6

6 A 'raze mark' from HMS Victory.

EVEN TIMBER which has been removed from HMS Victory during different phases of restoration is worth preserving. This piece shows a 'raze mark' made by shipwrights in one of the naval dockyards – clearly showing it as destined for HMS Victory. Analysis of marks like this can date the timber and help us understand the history of changes to the ship.

## Unique Technology



THE MUSEUM HOLDS two major technological collections which uniquely continue to add current equipment through our continuing relationships with the Royal Navy.

The Fleet Air Arm Museum's holdings of 100 aircraft, and 10,000 supporting parts and equipment, are of international significance – particularly strong for the period from 1939 onwards. The collections of guns, missiles, torpedoes and small arms at Explosion – the Museum of Naval Firepower, is of national importance. Each site includes large reserve collections which are included in plans for increased virtual access.



- 1 The reserve collection at the Fleet Air Arm Museum.
- 2 Delivery of the 'Goalkeeper' weapons system to Explosion in 2015.
- 3 The 20mm Gambo – the last gun fired on HMS Ark Royal in 2011.
- 4 A Grumman Martlet/Wildcat single seat monoplane fighter, from the Second World War.



5 Short Type 184.

ON 30 MAY 1916, Lieutenant Frederick Rutland took off from in this flimsy aircraft from the sea plane tender HMS Engadine. That afternoon he spotted and reported a German fleet at sea – the fleet which the following day fought the Royal Navy's largest ever action at the Battle of Jutland. This was the first ever use of aircraft for reconnaissance of a fleet.



- 1 A canoe store on the upper floor at the Royal Marines Museum.
- 2 Landing Craft F7 – a Falklands veteran at risk from display outside at the Royal Marines Museum.



OBJECT  
STORY



4

## Our Collections at Risk



2

THESE COLLECTIONS are currently stored: in 30 separate stores: within 14 buildings: across 6 sites (at Explosion – the Museum of Naval Firepower, the Fleet Air Arm Museum, the National Museum of the Royal Navy Portsmouth, the Royal Marines Museum, the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, and within Portsmouth Naval Base).

The suitability of these stores for collections varies significantly, and only 2 stores have active environmental control. The buildings used for storage at the Royal Marines Museum and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum sites are particularly poor and already place collections at risk; without significant investment this will become critical. Significant figureheads, boats and armaments are stored outside and are already at critical risk.



OBJECT  
STORY

THESE MODELS are from a collection of 10 large, significant shipbuilders' models stored off site in a building without environmental control. Recent inspection of HMS Canada showed significant mould growth. HMS Swiftsure was restored for the special 'Gallipoli' exhibition in 2015 – when this exhibition is replaced in early 2016 the model risks being returned to damaging conditions.

- 3 Models of HMS Canada (1914), left, and HMS Swiftsure (1903), above.
- 4 The figurehead of HMS Amazon.

3



- 1 Part of a model of HMS Hood.
- 2 Sheepskin jerkin worn on HMS Cumberland.
- 3 Toy Royal Marine figures, c.1900.
- 4 Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Lieutenant Thomas Jones, RNR, of HMS M.33.
- 5 Artificial limb worn by Royal Marine, Raymond Hughes from 1943.
- 6 Silver Liberty brooch of a submarine.

## Our Collections in the Future

**THE MUSEUM NOW HAS** a clear strategy to secure the future of these collections which tell the rich, shared history of the Royal Navy, and to transform public access. Underpinning the strategy is the 'Collections Management Plan, 2015-2020' which sets out in detail the work necessary to achieve this goal.

**VISION**  
To build the intellectual, physical and digital infrastructure which will create, manage and develop a single naval collection of international significance, allowing us to transform the work of staff and volunteers, and transform access for all of our users.



### AIMS

- Create a single, coherent collection which reflects the history of the Royal Navy, and its auxiliaries, from earliest times to the modern day.
- To remove and reduce the risks to our collections through a programme of planned investment in collection stores, collection moves and radically improved collections care.
- To implement a single, integrated system across all sites and collections which will manage all aspects of collections information.
- To transform digital and physical access to expertise, collections and collections information.





AT THE HEART of the Collections Management Plan is the delivery of the SeaMore project between 2016 and 2019. The project will create a Centre for Discovery and a New Royal Marines Museum within Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, providing the widest possible audiences with access to, and understanding of, this unique tangible and intangible heritage.

The Centre for Discovery will move and unite collections which are currently dispersed across sites. Instead of 30 separate collection stores across 6 sites the Museum will have just 3: the Centre as the collection hub, and specialist stores for technological collections of aircraft and armaments at the Fleet Air Arm Museum and Explosion – the Museum of Naval Firepower.

The Centre for Discovery will secure the future of our collections, and create new opportunities to protect the heritage which is held by the Museum's affiliates, and by partner collections within the Dockyard.

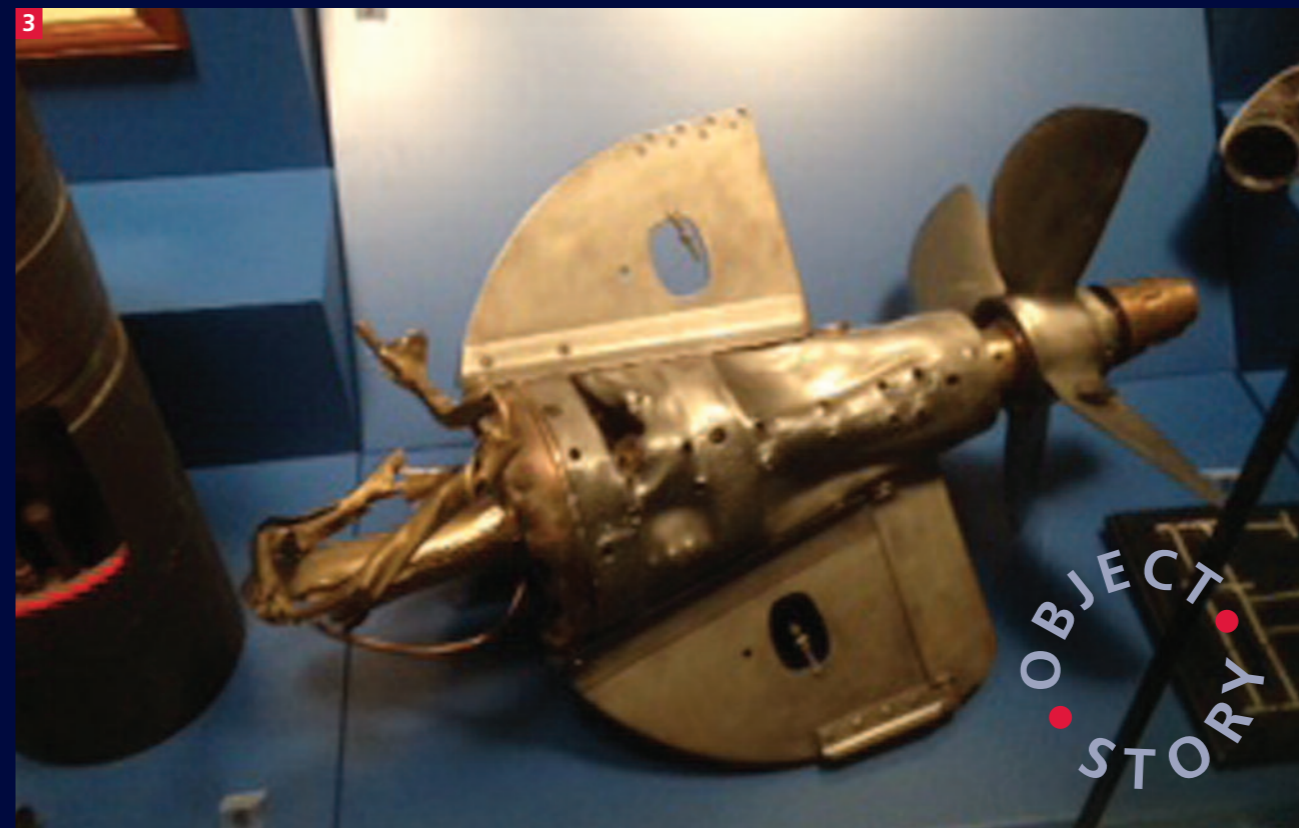
## Our Collections and the SeaMore Project

External funding will be vital to deliver the project supporting vital work by staff and volunteers to plan the move of collections, and the digital programme which will transform our ability to share our collections and stories.



1 Trench Periscope used at Gallipoli.

2 Uniform of a Private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry.



3 THE 2015 EXHIBITION 'Gallipoli Myth and Memory' drew together unique material relating to the Royal Navy in the Gallipoli Campaign from 5 collection stores in 5 different NMRN museums.

3 Torpedo from the submarine E.11.

4 Model of the sea plane carrier HMS Ark Royal.

The Museum's new plans will mean that in the future these items, conserved and restored for exhibition, will be permanently accessible together in a single store in optimum conditions.

