

## ARTHUR HORROCKS

These notes were made by Barrie Downer, of the Submariners Association, from Arthur Horrocks' service records

Arthur Horrocks was born in Bolton, Lancashire on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1899 and was a 'Spinners Assistant' prior to joining the Royal Navy. He originally joined the Royal Navy as a Boy 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (O/N D/J76178) in HMS POWERFUL (the Boys Training Ship at Devonport) on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1917. He was rated Boy 1<sup>st</sup> Class on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1917 and Ordinary Seaman on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1917. On 6<sup>th</sup> November 1918 he was drafted to the Canopus Class Battle Ship HMS ALBION where he served until 5<sup>th</sup> November 1918 when he moved ashore to HMS VIVID (the Royal Naval Barracks at Devonport). He was rated Able Seaman on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1918 and, on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1919 he was drafted to the 18,500-ton Battle Cruiser HMS NEW ZEALAND.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 1919 Arthur Horrocks was 'recategorised' as a Short Service Stoker with a new Official Number of SS122750. HMS NEW ZEALAND then made a world tour with Admiral John Jellicoe onboard on his 'Review of Dominion Defences' visiting India, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and other Pacific Islands including Hawaii before returning to Devonport where she 'Paid Off' on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1920. On 19<sup>th</sup> March 1920 he returned to HMS VIVID. His next Sea Draft was to the Destroyer Depot Ship HMS COLUMBINE 'for HMS DOUGLAS' on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1921 returning to HMS VIVID on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1921 before being drafted to the Battle Ship HMS WARSPITE on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1921.

On 25<sup>th</sup> October 1922 Arthur Horrocks transferred to a Continuous Service engagement with another new Official Number of K60209. He continued to serve in HMS WARSPITE until 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1924 when he again returned to HMS VIVID. A draft to the Training Ship HMS IMPREGNABLE at Devonport 'for HMS KING GEORGE V' in the Reserve Fleet followed on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1924.

After returning to HMS VIVID on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1925 Arthur Horrocks joined submarines with a draft to HMS DOLPHIN as a volunteer 'for the Submarine Course' on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1925. After Submarine training he was drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS MAIDSTONE 'for Submarine H52' on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1926. He was advanced to Acting Leading Stoker on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1926 and, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1926 he was drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS VULCAN at Portland 'for E Group Submarines in Reserve'. This was followed, on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1927, with a draft to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS CYCLOPS (1<sup>st</sup> Submarine Flotilla) at Malta and 'for Submarine L23' (Lt Cdr H E Spragge) on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1927. He re-joined HMS CYCLOPS on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1927 and then joined HMS CALLIOPE on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1927 for the Passage home and re-joined HMS DOLPHIN on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1927.

Arthur Horrocks was confirmed as a Leading Stoker on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1928 and, on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1928 he was drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS LUCIA (2<sup>nd</sup> Submarine Flotilla, Atlantic Fleet) 'for Submarine L71' (Lt Cdr C de S Brock) on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1928. He continued to serve in Submarine L71 until 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1931 when he left Submarine with draft to HMS VIVID.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1931 he joined the 1,300-ton Destroyer HMS WALKER (Lt Cdr G B O'B Harding, 5<sup>th</sup> Destroyer Flotilla, Atlantic Fleet). After a return to HMS VIVID on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1931 he joined the 1,120-ton HMS WHITEHALL (Lt Cdr F R G Maunsell) on re-commissioning at Devonport on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1931 'for service with the 8<sup>th</sup> Flotilla, China Station'. He was advanced to Stoker Petty Officer on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1932 and returned home to HMS VIVID on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1933. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1933 Arthur Horrocks was drafted to HMS DEFIANCE (the Torpedo School Ship at Devonport where he served until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1933 when he re-joined HMS VIVID and, just over three weeks later on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1933, he was drafted to the 31,100-ton Battle Ship HMS MALAYA (Captain G W Hallifax) the Flag Ship of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle Squadron, Home Fleet.

Arthur Horrocks left HMS MALAYA on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1934 and he then joined HMS DRAKE - the renamed Royal Naval Barracks at Devonport - before being drafted to HMS DECOY 'on commissioning at Devonport on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1934 'for duty with the Mediterranean Fleet'. Shortly afterwards HMS DECOY was redeployed to the China Station and Arthur Horrocks transferred to the 1,140-ton Destroyer HMS WITCH (Commander B A Warburton-Lee) on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1934 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Flotilla, Mediterranean Fleet - based on HMS St ANGELO. He was advanced to Chief Stoker on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1936 and served in HMS WITCH until 30<sup>th</sup> August 1936 when he again returned to HMS DRAKE. A draft to the 1,350-ton Destroyer HMS FORESIGHT (Lt Cdr J H Huntley) - 6<sup>th</sup> Destroyer Flotilla, Home Fleet followed on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1936 and he served in this ship until joining HMS DRAKE on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1939.

A return to HMS WITCH followed on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1939 - now a Tender to the Cruiser HMS COLOMBO in the Reserve Fleet at Devonport. Arthur Horrocks served in HMS DRAKE until 6<sup>th</sup> May 1941 and was then drafted to HMS ORLANDO which was World War II Shore Establishment and Gunnery School at Navy House, Greenock, Scotland. No further drafting information is available other than he was 'Invalided' on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1945.