

**Captain Norman Jewell RN, known to the submarine world and particularly to SOCA [Submariners Old Comrades Association] now long ago disbanded in favour of the SA [Submariners Association] AS 'Bill'**

Bill Jewell was an active member of the SOCA which met at HMS Dolphin each year to spend a weekend reminiscing. Friday was a wardroom affair with a splendid dinner and much officer talk. Saturday moved to the CPO's Mess where all SOCA members gathered to engage in submariners talk whilst attempting to drain the local brewery of its stock. Bill, as I recall, was a popular submarine captain, and along with our several VC holders, had some good tales to tell.

Remember WW2 and "The man who never was", which was a real human dead body dressed in a Royal Marine officers uniform and handcuffed to a brief case?

The story was mentioned in his obituary which is replicated here.

12:03AM BST 24 Aug 2004

Captain Bill Jewell, who has died aged 90, planted a corpse off the Spanish coast in 1943 as part of the deception plan which was later filmed as *The Man Who Never Was*.

As captain of the submarine *Seraph*, Jewell had the grim task of launching into the sea a dead body, which was dressed as a Royal Marines officer and handcuffed to a brief-case containing fake plans and letters. The ruse was part of Operation Mincemeat, an attempt to deceive the Germans about preparations for the Allied landings in southern Europe.

Jewell had brought the body from the Clyde in a sealed canister packed with dry ice; as he ordered his crew to leave him alone on the casing of *Seraph*, he told them that it contained a secret weather-device.

Then, once he was on his own, he read the 39th Psalm - "I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue" - as he pushed the body into the deep.

It was duly washed up at Huevla, on the Spanish coast. The fictitiously named "Major Martin" was buried in the town a few days later with full military honours and a wreath from his supposedly heartbroken girlfriend in London. The brief-case was then returned to the British authorities, apparently unopened; however, the Spanish had copied the papers for the Germans.

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Hitler swallowed the bait whole, ordering the strengthening of fortifications in Corsica, and sending a Waffen SS brigade to Sardinia. He dispatched Rommel to Athens to inspect plans for the defence of Greece, and - perhaps most damaging of all to the Germans - he ordered two Panzer divisions to prepare to move from Russia to Greece just as the great tank battle at Kursk was reaching its climax.

Operation Mincemeat was a closely guarded secret even after the Second World War, though eventually *Seraph* was the subject of several books and of the film *The Man Who Never Was* (1955), in which Jewell was played by William Squire.

In Jewell's own book, *Secret Mission* (1944), he never mentioned this particular operation. However, the politician and diplomat Duff Cooper's novel, *Operation Heartbreak* (1950), dealt loosely with the affair; and Ian Colvin, later a distinguished *Daily Telegraph* journalist, linked it to a footnote in a memoir by General Westphal, formerly Kesselring's Chief of Staff.

Colvin proceeded to locate the dead man's grave, and wrote *The Unknown Courier* (1953), which was so close to the truth that the authorities had little choice but to allow Ewen Montagu, who had organised the deception, to publish his own version of what was the most important strategic deception of the war. Nevertheless, Montagu's book, *The Man Who Never Was* (1954), failed to reveal the true identity of the body, which was probably that of either a down-and-out in London or a sailor lost from the carrier *Dasher*.

Norman Limbury Auchinleck Jewell was born on October 24 1913 in the Seychelles, where his father, a doctor of Ulster stock, was serving as a colonial officer. Young Jewell was educated at Oundle before joining the Navy. He became a submariner in 1936 and passed his "perisher" course in 1941.

On taking command of *Seraph*, Jewell made his first patrol in July 1942 off Norway, where his baptism of fire came courtesy of the RAF, which opened fire on the submarine but failed to score a hit. The boat was then sent to Gibraltar to join the 8th Submarine Squadron during the build-up to Operation Torch, the Allied landings in North Africa.

*Seraph* was chosen to take the American General Mark Clark and his staff to talks with French officers in Algeria. On October 19 Jewell landed Clark's party in small collapsible boats about 50 miles west of Algiers, with a close protection squad of three British marines.

*Seraph* spent a day lying submerged in deep water but, after dark, Jewell took her in until there was less than 10 ft of water under the keel; but the sea was too rough to recover the boats from the beach. Meanwhile, Clark had been betrayed, and Jewell took *Seraph* in until she was almost aground. Clark and his party then dashed for the boats, paddled hard through the surf, and were hauled on board; *Seraph* reached Gibraltar on October 25.

Clark had been told that the only man who could unite the French forces in North Africa was General Henri Honoré Giraud, who had escaped from German internment and was hiding in Vichy France. Jewell and *Seraph* were sent to pick him up, but Giraud refused to be rescued by the British - so an American, Captain Jerauld Wright, was placed nominally in command of *Seraph*; Jewell commissioned Wright as a Royal Navy officer using a rolled-up picture of a voluptuous nude torn from a magazine.

For five nights the boat patrolled the southern coast of France until *Seraph* drifted slowly shoreward to rendezvous with Giraud, who was waiting in a small dinghy. *Seraph* flew the stars and stripes and, for several days, its ship's company practised their best movie American, with cockney accents. Giraud was too proud to notice the ruse de guerre, though he thanked them all politely in English as he and his staff were transferred to a Catalina flying boat.

During this period Jewell rammed and badly damaged a U-boat; and, in more conventional patrols, sank 7,000 tons of enemy shipping and damaged a further 10,000 tons. He was appointed MBE; later he was awarded the US Legion of Merit for his part in Operation Husky, when *Seraph* acted as a beacon for Allied landings on Sicily. Jewell also received the DSC for his successful patrols and, after the war, the Croix de Guerre with palm.

Although *Seraph* was scrapped in 1963, her periscope and other items were presented by the British government to the Military College of South Carolina, where General Clark was the president for some years and where the *Seraph* Monument commemorates Anglo-American co-operation during the Second World War; it is the only place in the United States permitted to fly the White Ensign.

Jewell commanded several submarines and, in 1948, became Captain 3rd Submarine Flotilla. He was a director of the RN Staff College at Greenwich and also worked on Mountbatten's staff, where he took pride in having predicted Iraqi threats to Kuwait in the early 1960s, persuading the Navy to send ships to the Gulf to forestall an invasion. Mountbatten told him that he had been too precocious, and should have waited until he was an admiral before proving himself so right.

Jewell retired in 1963, and worked for the Mitchell and Butler brewery in Birmingham, where he was also life president of the Submarine Old Comrades' Association.

In 1945 a doctor found that Jewell had broken two vertebrae when he had fallen down a hatch four years earlier, which meant that he had fought the rest of the war with a broken neck. In 1998 Jewell fell again, but this time he was not so lucky: he was paralysed from the neck down, and was confined to a wheelchair at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond.

Bill Jewell, who died on August 18, married Rosemary Patricia Galloway in 1944: she died in 1996, and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Below is his splendid naval career.







**JEWELL,  
Norman Limbury Auchinleck  
"Bill"**



Son (with two sisters and one brother) of Norman Parsons Jewell, CBE (1885-1973), a colonial officer, and Sydney Elizabeth Auchinleck (1884-1970), of Norrington, Pinner. Married ((12?).1944, Westminster district, Middlesex) Third Officer Rosemary Patricia Galloway, WRNS ((09?).1919 - 08.1996), only daughter (with one brother) of William Galloway (1886-1936), and Ada Gwendoline Palfrey (1893-1965), of Bedford; two sons, one daughter.

24.10.1913  
Mahe, The Seychelles  
-  
18.08.2004  
Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey

Midsh.	01.01.1933
A/S.Lt.	01.05.1935
S.Lt.	12.08.1936, seniority 01.05.1935
Lt.	01.02.1937
<b>Lt.Cdr.</b>	01.08.1944
Cdr.	31.12.1948
Capt.	30.06.1953 (retd 03.04.1963)

	MB E	23.02.1943	brought General Giraud from France to Gibraltar [investiture 02.02.45]
	DS C	18.04.1944	patrols Mediterranean, sunk 3 ships &c. [investiture 02.02.45]
	MI D	12.08.1941	sunk 3 supply ships
	LM	24.10.1944	attack on Sicily
	Leg H	01.08.1952	services to France
	Cd eG	01.08.1952	services to France

Education: Oundle (New House, 1926-1931).		
(05.1933) -	(01.1934)	HMS Royal Oak (battleship) (Mediterranean) *
08.03.1934	(03.)1935	HMS Devonshire (cruiser) (Mediterranean)
02.05.1935	12.1935	promotion course, RN College, Greenwich [HMS President]
06.01.1936	(08.)1936	promotion course, Portsmouth [HMS Victory]
31.08.1936	(10.)1936	submarine course, Portsmouth [HMS Dolphin]
12.12.1936	(08.)1938	HMS Clyde (submarine) (Mediterranean)
(10.1938)		no appointment listed
06.11.1938	(08.)1939	HMS Dwarf (particular service vessel) (for Reserve Group "B" of submarines)
02.08.1939	(09.)1939	HMS Osiris (submarine) [tender to HMS Dwarf]
11.1939	(12.)1939	HMS St Angelo (RN base, Malta) (additional; for submarines)
01.02.1940	(08.)1940	First Lieutenant, HMS Otway (submarine)
21.08.1940	(04.)1940	First Lieutenant, HMS Truant (submarine)
(06.19)		submarine


41)		Commanding Officers' course [HMS Dolphin] *
(08.1941)		HMS Cyclops (submarine depot ship) *
10.08.1941	(12.)1941	Commanding Officer, HMS L 27 (submarine)
12.1941	(02.)1942	HMS Cyclops 42 (submarine depot ship) (for submarines)
28.02.1942	(02.)1944	Commanding Officer, HMS P 219, 1943 renamed: HMS Seraph (submarine) (with which he carried out the deception operation with the corpse of Major Martin)
03.1944	(04.)1944	Commanding Officer, HMS Seanymp (submarine)
17.04.1944	(10.)1944	HMS Saker (RN base, Washington, USA)
15.11.1944	(04.)1945	Commanding Officer, HMS Tactician (submarine)
25.06.1945	30.06.1945	[Commanding Officer?], HMS Trespasser (submarine)
30.06.1945	(10.1945)	Commanding Officer, HMS Sportsman(submarine)
01.04.1946	(04.)1947	HMS Indefatigable (aircraft carrier)
07.1948	(07.1948)	Commanding Officer, HMS Thermopylae
17.01.1949	(05.)1949	HMS Protector (for duty in HMS Royal Sovereign)
14.06.1949	(05.1951)	Admiralty [HMS President] (for miscellaneous services)
(05.1953)		no appointment listed
08.05.1954	(04.)1955	Commanding Officer, HMS Royal Prince (RN base. Germanv) &

		Captain RN, Rhine Flotilla (Krefeld)
03.08.1955	- (01.)1957	Commanding Officer, HMS Adamant & as SM3
03.06.1957	- (01.)1959	Assistant Chief of Staff to Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic Command, NATO (Northwood, Middlesex)
16.03.1959	- (01.1960)	Captain of the College, RN Staff College, Greenwich [HMS President]
(07.1961)		no appointment listed
25.08.1961	- (02.1963)	for duty with Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and as Member of the Joint Global War Study Group [HMS President]
07.07.1962	- 07.07.1963	also: Naval ADC to the Queen

Worked for the Mitchell and Butler brewery in Birmingham, where he was also life president of the Submarine Old Comrades' Association.

Published: *Secret mission* (1944).

\* indexed, but not listed as such