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Western Joint Branch

Technical Lecture

Perisher: 100 Years of the Submarine Command Course

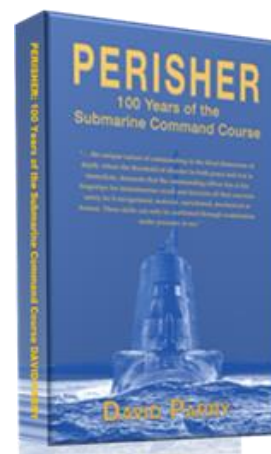
Presented by Dr David Parry

Please note the talk will be preceded by the Western Joint Branch AGM

Date: Monday, 21st of November 2022
Time: Refreshments at 19:00, lecture starts at 19:25
Venue: BRLSI, 16-18 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN
Organiser: Western Joint Branch RINA/IMarEST **Contact:** secretary.wjb@branches.imarest.org

Background: Find out more about "The Perisher" and how it prepared our Submarine Commanding Officers for the high-pressure, high-risk situations that they faced in war and peace. In 1917 the Periscope Course was started to give submarine commanding officers practice in periscope attacking. The course succeeded, and a 'pass' became the ambition of every submarine executive or warfare officer and a requirement for the unique job of commanding a submarine. This caused a name change to the Commanding Officers' Qualifying Course (COQC) and the adoption of the moniker 'PERISHER'.

In 1947 and the advent of the Cold War, the battle moved underwater with the inherent complexities, advanced technologies and the introduction of nuclear submarines. In response, the course morphed into the Submarine Command Course (SMCC) and a demanding test of command attributes by putting a student commanding officer under great pressure in decision-rich, risk-ridden scenarios to prove his capability. As a result, Perisher was sometimes feared, often admired and even coveted. This story of Perisher's evolution will be of interest to submariners of all nations, naval historians as a new dimension to the history of the Royal Navy, those whose interest is in sea-command, pressure management and training, and all who have an interest in the world of submarines.



(Image Credit – The book by Dr David Parry)

Presenter: Dr David Parry is from a Liverpool Merchant Navy family who went into the Royal Navy where he specialised in navigation and submarines. In 1978 he qualified for submarine command by passing the Perisher course and subsequently commanded HMS Opportune. His naval career cut short by injury, when he retired he continued his interest in maritime and naval history with a master's degree at the University of Greenwich and then a PhD at King's College London researching the 100-year history of Perisher out of which his book, 'Perisher: 100 Years of the Submarine Course' and this presentation were born.

Registration:

We will be running this event **in-person only** as per the speakers request. We will have limited spaces available so please only register if you can attend - [Click Here to Register](#)



CPD Certificates will be sent out on request.

Next event: Christmas Debate: Future Fuels

Date: 12th of December 2022

Time: Refreshments at 19:00, start at 19:25 **Venue:** Lecture Theatre 1N05, Building N, UWE, BS16 1QY



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