

Submarines Four new stamps celebrate the

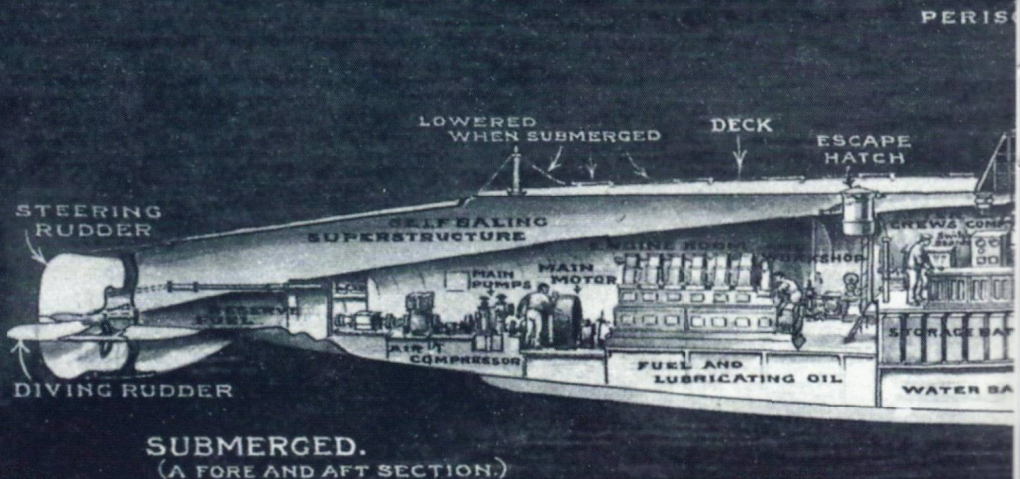


The stamps were designed by Dick Davis, whose 1998 Light-houses stamps were voted the most popular set of that year by *Bulletin* readers. The Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport was extensively consulted in development of this issue and the images are from their archive. The Museum is restoring the oldest surviving British submarine, the *Holland*, for public display – part of the celebrations for the centenary of the Submarine Service.

Below, a later development of the original Holland Class, an illustration published in 1915.

TO COMMEMORATE the centenary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service, four stamps featuring submarines will go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic outlets on 10 April. They depict four different classes of submarine: 2nd class (19p) Vanguard, a modern nuclear-armed vessel; 1st class (27p) Swiftsure, of the Cold War era; 45p Unity, of the Second World War period; and 65p Holland, the earliest RN sub.

The technical details of each class are given in the presentation pack. In summary, the Holland Class measures 18.9m (63ft), had a displacement of 122 tons, and a complement of eight men and three white mice to indicate the build-up of dangerous gases. Propulsion was by means of petrol-electric drive. The Navy's first submarine, *Holland 1*, launched on 2 October 1901, fired a single torpedo with a range of less than 300m. The Unity Class was 57.3m (191ft), with a displacement of 540 tons and a complement of 31. Vessels were diesel-electric driven.



history of the Royal Navy Submarine Service



Left, the insignia of the Royal Navy Submarine Service.

The Swiftsure and Vanguard Classes are propelled by nuclear power/steam turbine drive. Swiftsure subs are 81.6m (272ft) long with a displacement of 4900 tons and a complement of 116. Vanguard vessels are 147.3m (492ft) long, displace 15,900 tons and have a complement of 135 (two crews). Life on board a submarine is far from cosy – details of the conditions on HMS *Splendid*, based on the Clyde, are given in the presentation pack.

They are the first British stamps featuring submarines, although a Polaris sub shown on the River Clyde featured on a Scottish aerogramme issued in April 1982. A number of special handstamps have, in recent years, featured submarines. A postmark commemorating the centenary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service is in use throughout 2001 – announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, 5 January 2001. Covers to receive this postmark should be sent to Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA requesting handstamp number 7199.

Technical details

Printer House of Questa

Process Gravure

Size 41 x 30mm

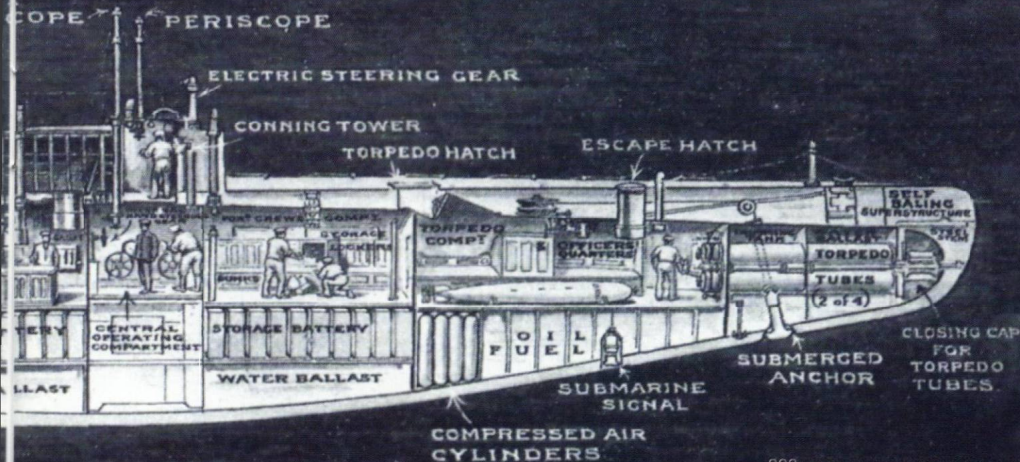
Sheets 100

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical





Presentation packs containing single stamps (right, £1.95) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.

Other handstamps for 10 April will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from Royal Mail, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (£1UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 10 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the four stamps or cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Portsmouth must reach Royal Mail (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Bureau postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Portsmouth postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO109' (Bureau), or 'FDO110' (Portsmouth). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Portsmouth postmark.

SUBMARINE STAMPS IN BOOKS A book containing four 1st class definitives and two 1st class Submarine stamps will be available from philatelic outlets from 17 April, price £1.62. Printed by Quеста, all stamps will be self-adhesive. A prestige stamp book entitled *Unseen & Unheard*, commemorating the Submarine Service centenary, will be issued on 22 October.

Cylinders and colours

2nd Q1 black ● Q1 brownish black ● Q1 dull purple ● Q1 gold

1st Q1 black ● Q1 azure ● Q1 slate-blue ● Q1 gold

45p & 65p Q1 magenta ● Q1 chrome yellow ● Q1 new blue ● Q1 black ● Q1 gold

The phosphor cylinder 1 was used for each value.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS The presentation pack, designed by Dick Davis, includes an article by Alexandra Henderson and illustrations by Matthew Cook on life on HMS *Splendid*. Alexandra and Matthew spent a day on the nuclear-powered sub, and the pack contains their reflections on life on board the vessel. Matthew Cook designed the Summertime stamps of 1994. A Submarine coin cover, with medal marking the Submarine Service centenary, will be issued on 17 May, price £12.95 ●