



Veterans & Families – Listening Project

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www.vflp.org.uk



Welcome to our October Newsletter 2023

Hi everyone.

Welcome to V&F-LP's monthly newsletter featuring some fascinating features, concerning Veterans' issues. Most of the interesting information highlighted, is taken from a variety of named resources.

So... Go grab yourself a brew and make yourself comfortable, and let's get started...

We're back
So
grab
a
snack
It's time for...

Hot Topics



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@VnF_LP



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email: veteransfamilies@yahoo.com
www.vflp.org.uk

V&F-LP is an independent member of ASDIC.
The association of Ex-Service Drop-in Centres.
Linking Veterans' Drop-ins together across the
United Kingdom.





Farewell to a former 'face of the Royal Navy'



You may not know his name, but Tony Davidson inspired thousands of men and boys to join the Royal Navy.

Or visit Navy Days. Or even learn about fitness and morale in the Senior Service.

For most of the 1950s the then junior seaman, who has died aged 90, was the public face of the RN.

Of hundreds of teenagers going through HMS St Vincent in Gosport in 1950, Tony was selected to be painted by A R Thompson of the Royal Academy – a prolific and versatile artist who produced work for the war effort, railway companies, Hollywood (such as Alec Guinness' *The Man in the White Suit*) and portraits.



Farewell to a former 'face of the Royal Navy'



Thompson's stylised poster of Tony was used in a series of Senior Service recruiting campaigns under several slogans: 'Make the Royal Navy your career', 'A man's life in the Royal Navy' and (perhaps apocryphally) 'Join the Navy and feel a man'.

A version of the poster featured on the cover of Plymouth Navy Days' brochure 1959 and, most recently, appears on the cover of Kevin Brown's study of RN fitness and morale in WW2, *Fittest of the Fleet*.

That alone would be enough for most matelots to spin a good dit, but Tony Davidson had a hatful.

He joined the RN as a junior seaman on TS Mercury in 1949. While serving at HMS Excellent in 1952 he was selected to be part of the gun carriage team pulling King George VI's coffin at Windsor (his proudest moment, for which he was awarded the Royal Victorian Medal by a young Queen Elizabeth).



Past meets future as new HMS Glasgow hosts WW2 veteran ack-ack Archie



The past met the future as WW2 veteran Archie Hazledine shared his experiences in HMS Glasgow with crew of the namesake new frigate.

The 98-year-old Royal Marine gunner from Oxford was treated to a VIP tour of the BAE yard in Scotstoun, where the ninth ship named after Scotland's great industrial city is being fitted out.

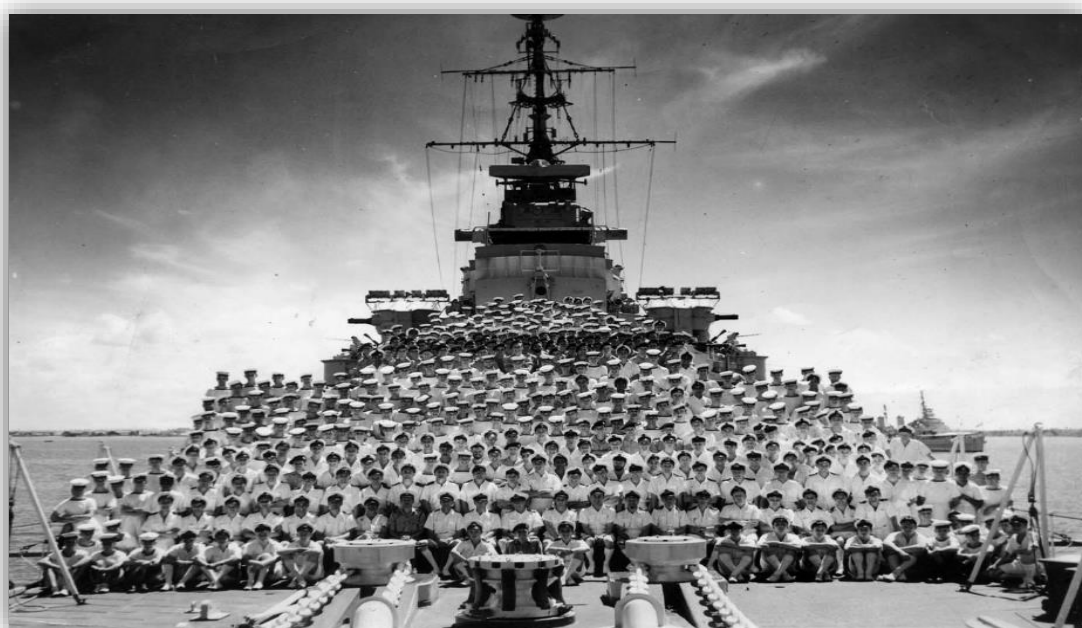
Archibald 'Archie' Hazledine served in HMS Glasgow No.7, a Town-class cruiser (and sister of HMS Belfast, the museum ship on the Thames), in the closing months of World War 2.

He specialised as an ack-ack (anti-aircraft) gunner, a role he'd performed defending airfields during D-Day.

Glasgow took part in the Normandy operation, but Archie was only assigned to her after the invasion, when she was refitted to prepare her for the war in the Far East - not least to bolster defences against Japanese Kamikaze suicide attacks.

The revamped cruiser was sent via Gibraltar, Malta and the Suez Canal to the Far-East to participate in the final invasion of the Japanese home islands.

As it was, Japan sued for peace after the two atomic bombs were dropped, and formally surrendered before Glasgow arrived in Singapore.





FIZZIN' WITH FLAVOUR



"You've been giving me the same biscuits twice a day for the last 7 years. That hardly qualifies as a 'treat', now does it?"

LEATHER WORK WORKSHOPS



Key rings... wristbands... tote bags... passport covers... belts ... and more...

**Come and drop in at High Cross Church
Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm
Adults £3, children (over 8yo) £1**

END OF AN ERA IN ALDERSHOT



A MUCH-RESPECTED military outfitter has admitted "wiping away a few tears" after locking the door on his Aldershot shop for the final time.

Donald Riding (pictured) quit his premises in Queen's Avenue over the summer after more than four decades of serving the Army's spiritual home.

With the lease up, and online sales growing, he decided to shift the enterprise to his sister shop in Bulford along with brother William.

But the departure from Aldershot marked the end of an era for Glover & Riding Tailors.

"Locking up for the last time was emotional," Riding admitted. "I'd been at the premises for 43 years without ever taking a day off sick and I wiped away a few tears."

Pg.16 | September 2023 Soldiermagazine.co.uk

A son of well-known Edinburgh tailor Charles Riding, Donald initially followed in his father's footsteps with an apprenticeship in the trade before embarking on three years of service in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

But his calling proved too strong and he signed off to work at a shop in Aldershot owned by Harry Glover.

Riding, who is now 67, went on to buy the business when its long-standing owner retired in the 1990s, renaming the venture with the two family names and taking on his second outlet in Wiltshire.

Suicide Awareness Training - veteran edition

For further information:

<https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/suicide-awareness-training-veteran-edition>



10 Things to know about a veteran deskguide (HTML)

Published 27 June 2023

The purpose of this desk aid is to help you better understand veterans and their families who might interact with your policies or services, be a customer or require support and advice. Understanding more about this community will allow you to design, adapt and evolve your work to make sure it is accessible and effective.

The desk aid contains 10 introductory facts and key points about the veteran community. We hope you find it a helpful introduction and a source for finding out further relevant information to support your work.

Contents

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Definition and self-identification | 6. What is transition from service? |
| 2. Experience of Service | 7. Asking for help and military culture |
| 3. Identifying as a veteran | 8. Telling their story |
| 4. Families | 9. Accessing services and expectations |
| 5. Armed Forces Covenant | 10. Challenges, barriers and opportunities |

Further information can be found:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-things-to-know-about-a-veteran/10-things-to-know-about-a-veteran-deskguide-html>



HIGH CROSS CHURCH

FOR GOD | FOR WORSHIP | FOR YOU

**A service of love
and hope as we
remember those
who have died**

**5th November 2023 3:00pm
at High Cross Church**

**‘Love remembered,
hope remains’**

VCHA rehab pilot gets underway

OCTOBER 3, 2023 | NEWS



The VCHA's best practice pilot model for veterans in rehabilitation services started this week – 2 Oct 2023. Based upon the recommendations from last year's **Rehab report**, the model will be piloted at four sites over the next six months.

The four NHS England trusts are: The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust; Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust; Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in Swindon; and University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust. These were chosen due to the current high standard of rehab provided within each trust, the scale of the local veteran population, and the strength of the veteran aware work in each trust.

The model will include signposting to any relevant NHS services and charities that can help support patients throughout their rehab journey and promote self-management of their condition in the longer term.

The Armed Forces Community can access this information through a patient resource pack, either via scanning a QR code on our poster, or our [website](#). The resource pack also contains a values-based goal-setting sheet to help establish appropriate SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic, Time-bound) goals for veterans. The VCHA programme intends incorporating a rehab standard into the Veteran Aware accreditation process.

Physio and Rehab Lead, Linus Cosgrove said: "This is a really exciting time as it means we will now start seeing our recommendations being put into practice, potentially helping more of the Armed Forces Community and the wider NHS population.

"We know that the most common reason for medical discharge from the Armed Forces is related to musculoskeletal (MSK) injuries. We also know there is significant unwarranted variation and disadvantage in the diagnosis, treatment and rehab services for veterans with MSK disorders. We believe that through this work we will have one consistent standard for MSK rehabilitation services across England based on best practice. The pilot will be completed by March 2024 when we should have all NHS trusts accredited as Veteran Aware."



An aid for the support and effective discharge of patients who are members of the Armed Forces Community



[OpCOURAGE](#)
Mental Health



[Royal British Legion](#)
Support & Advice



[SSAFA](#)
Support & Advice



[Little Troopers](#)
Military Children Support



[Blind Vets UK](#)
Sight Loss Support



[BLESMA](#)
The Limbless Veterans
Charity



[Defence Medical
Welfare Service](#)
Healthcare Support



[Veterans Gateway](#)
Directory of Services



[Veterans Trauma
Network](#)
Service Attributable
Physical Injuries

Who are members of the Armed Forces community?

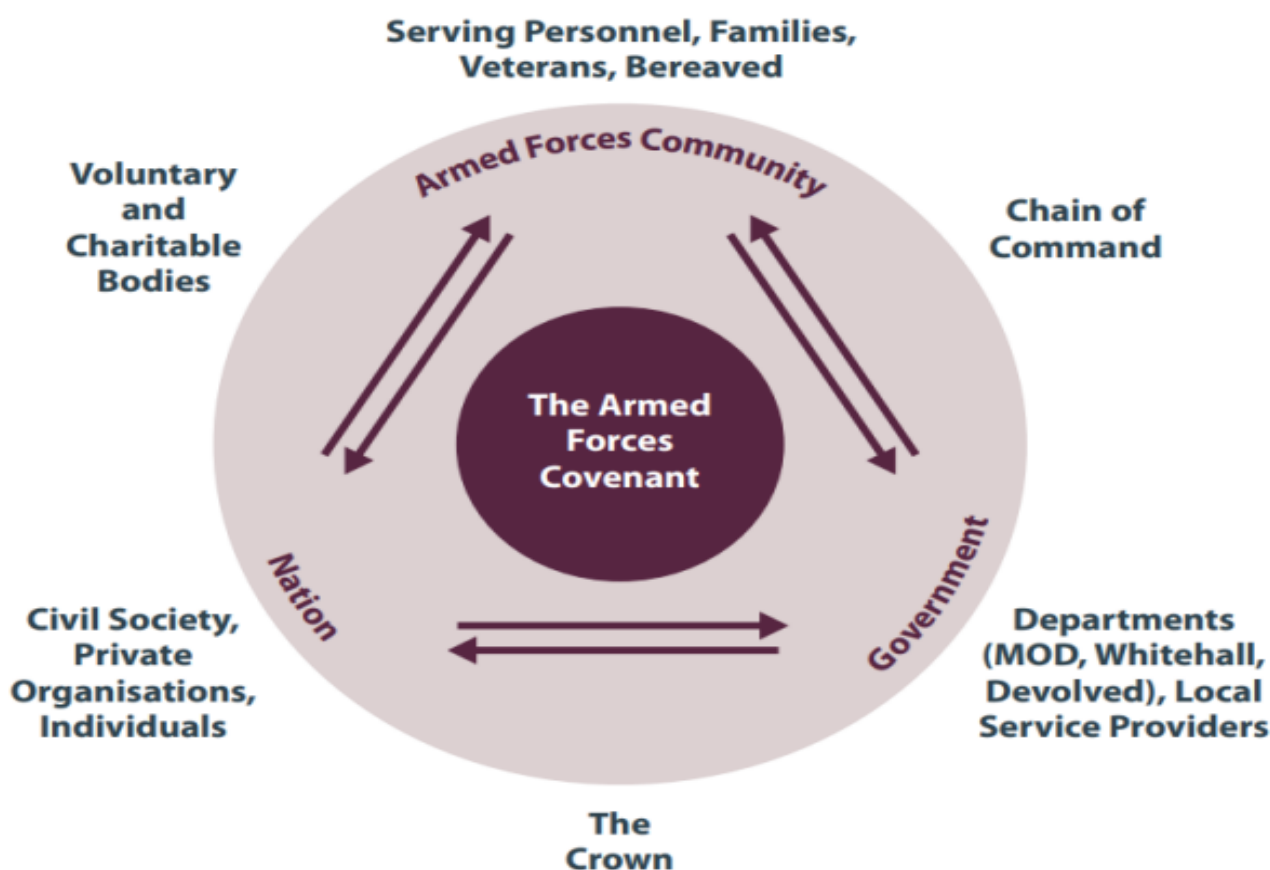
Regular Personnel – Individuals currently serving as members of the Armed Forces

Reservists – Volunteer Reservist and Regular Reservist

Veterans – Those who have served for at least one day in HM Armed Forces, whether as a Regular or as a Reservist

Families of Regular, Reservists and Veterans – The immediate family. This is defined as spouses, civil partners, and children for whom they are responsible. Can be extended to, as appropriate, parents, unmarried partners, and other family members

Bereaved – The immediate family of Service Personnel and Veterans who have died, whether or not that death has any connection with Service.





The Independent Review of UK Government Welfare Services for Veterans: What did we learn and what needs to change?

In March 2023, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA) launched an independent review of veteran welfare services overseen by the UK government. The review aimed to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of government-administered veteran welfare services, primarily managed by the MoD, and make recommendations for potential enhancements.

Additional Information Links

[Ministry of Defence \(MoD\)](#)

[Office for Veterans' Affairs \(OVA\)](#)

[independent review of veteran welfare services](#)

1. The **Veteran Welfare Service (VWS)** offers support to veterans and their families following unexpected changes to their personal circumstances.
www.gov.uk/guidance/veterans-welfare-service

2. The **Defence Transition Services (DTS)** provides support for particularly vulnerable Service leavers and their families who are in their transition out of Service.
www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-for-service-leavers-and-their-families

3. The **Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans Framework (IPC4V)** supports individuals after Service with complex and enduring health conditions resulting from a Service injury.
www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/armed-forces/integrated-personal-commissioning-for-veterans-ipc4v/#:~:text=The%20Armed%20Forces%20personnel%20in,to%20injury%20whilst%20in%20Service.

4. **Ilford Park Polish Home (IPPH)** is a residential care home catering to individuals who were members of the Polish Forces fighting for Britain in the Second World War, and their spouses.
www.gov.uk/guidance/ilford-park-polish-home

5. **The Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPCs)** were previously responsible for providing guidance on war pensions although this role is now filled by organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, and so their current function is poorly defined.

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-advisory-and-pensions-committees
[x13#:~:text=We%20serve%20and%20support%20ex,by%20the%20Ministry%20of%20Defence.](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-advisory-and-pensions-committees#:~:text=We%20serve%20and%20support%20ex,by%20the%20Ministry%20of%20Defence.)

6. **Northern Ireland Veterans' Support Office (NIVSO)** was established to promote, guide and support applications for grant funding for Northern Ireland-based projects.

<https://nivso.org.uk/>

7. **Veterans' Gateway (VG)** funded by OVA and delivered by the Royal British Legion (RBL), was developed as a single point of contact for veterans and their families to access relevant support. Currently it offers a 24-hour helpline and support search engine.

www.veteransgateway.org.uk

The review process involved extensive engagement with key stakeholders, including charitable organizations within the veteran welfare network and other government departments responsible for veteran services. The team also organized focus groups involving veterans and charity representatives and analysed secondary data from internal MoD sources, GOV.UK, and the Office for National Statistics.



The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust: One Is Too Many Suicide Prevention Conference

📍 Online 📄 Free, Registration required

THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

ONE IS TOO MANY

SUICIDE PREVENTION
CONFERENCE

Wednesday, 11 October 2023

10am to 1pm

Join us virtually

Explore the impact of this innovative funding programme

Be inspired by the grant holders who will speak about their work across the UK

Hear findings from the external evaluation, presented by Professor Alan Finnegan and his team at Chester University

Plus key speakers from MOD, the OVA and NHS England, as well as people sharing their lived experiences.





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On 12 November, The Tank Museum will be hosting the Royal Armoured Corps Remembrance Sunday service within the Cold War Hall, followed by wreath laying.

The Museum is open from 10am to 5pm, and general admission is free.

Timings will be confirmed closer to the time.

Space at the service is prioritised for invited military personnel and their families and is likely to be full, however if there is capacity on the day, members of the public are welcome.

If there is no space at the service or you do not wish to attend, you are welcome to pay your respects at the Museum separately.



Remembrance Sunday

12th November 10.30
at High Cross Church

Followed by a free curry lunch (please book by calling 01276 66798)



HIGH CROSS CHURCH
FOR GOD | FOR WORSHIP | FOR YOU



"Actually there's a lot less pressure since I've gone from his best friend to his therapy dog."



Thank you
VETERANS

HONOURING ALL WHO SERVED





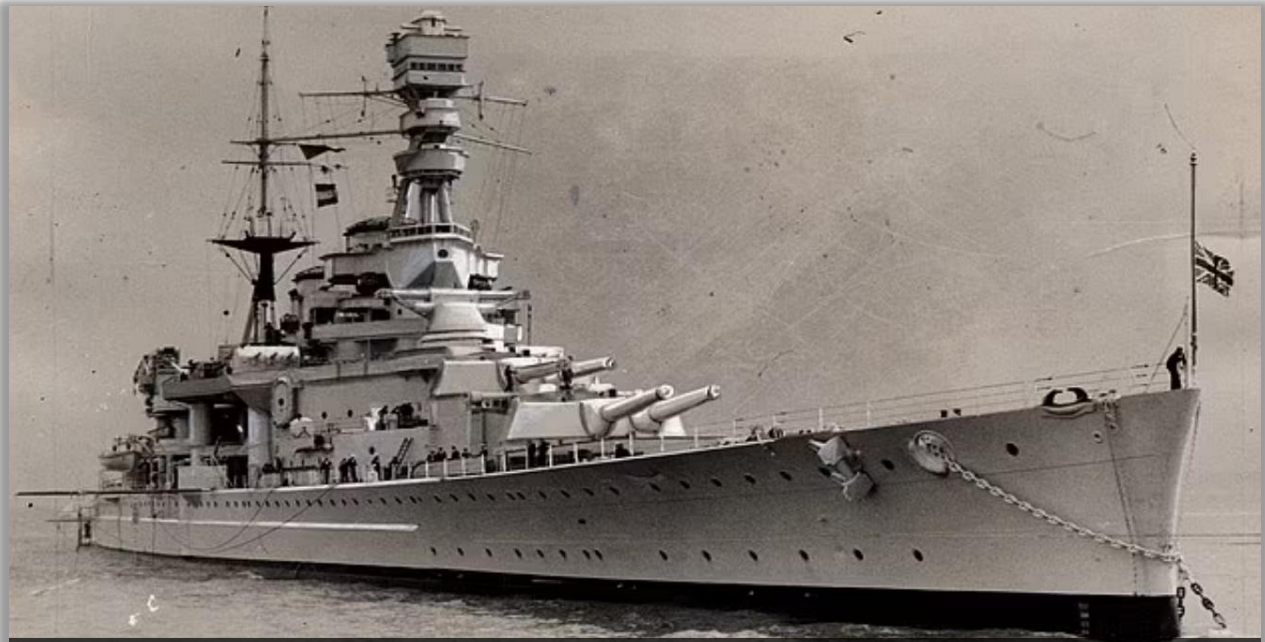
Could compensation time limits be cut?

■ PLANS to scrap the timeframe in which compensation is claimed for injury or illness suffered while in service are due to be considered by the government later this year.

The move follows a review of the Armed Forces compensation scheme, which recommended there should no longer be a time limit on when claims can be submitted.

Under the current system military personnel must make their claims within seven years of being injured or falling ill.

The Royal British Legion has welcomed the proposal, with Director of Research, Policy and Campaigns Angela Kitching saying: "For many their conditions can take years to be diagnosed, or they may not know they are able to claim until it is too late."



Prof Tweddle said the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office had blocked his plans to commemorate the sinking of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse (pictured) by the Japanese in 1941

Tribute to 800 sailors lost in one of Britain's worst naval disasters of the Second World War is 'blocked' by the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office

- **Dr Dominic Tweddle wanted to commemorate sinking of two ships during WW2**
- **The HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse were sunk by the Japanese in 1941**

The sinking of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse with the loss of more than 800 lives remains one of the worst losses in British naval history.

But now an unseemly row has broken out over plans to create a new memorial for the men who died after being targeted by Japanese bombers during World War Two.

Doctor Dominic Tweddle the head of the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth fears both the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office are blocking his plans to establish a memorial in the UK which can be visited by the loved ones of those killed.

He said: 'We have asked for this material, and we are somewhat disappointed with the response that the Ministry of Defence wants it to stay in **Malaysia** for some unknown reason.'

'What I want is the two anchors, the hawsepipe which goes through the side of the ship and a number of personal objects including items of clothing, cutlery and everyday signs of life.'

'I think if you look at it from the perspective from the families of the people who were lost on these two ships, they would probably prefer a memorial to be created back in the UK than in Malaysia because it's easier for them. It becomes more present.'

Dr Tweddle and his team at the museum are trying, as yet unsuccessfully to repatriate items which once belonged on HMS Prince of Wales.

He said he had no idea why his proposal was being blocked.

But sources believe the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, who would have to meet the costs of bringing the material back to the UK, would prefer it to stay in Malaysia, perhaps forming a memorial in that country.

HMS Prince of Wales along with the battlecruiser HMS Repulse was sunk in the South China sea on 10 December 1941 just days after the attack on Pearl Harbour.

The two vessels accompanied by four destroyers, which formed Z force, had been on a mission to intercept Japanese invasion convoys in the South China sea when they were attacked by waves of Japanese bombers.

The British ships had no air cover of their own.

Both vessels turned over as they sank – the remains of the Prince of Wales sit at a depth of 223 ft while the remains of the Repulse are at 183ft.

When told of the sinking war time prime minister Sir Winston Churchill said he never 'received a more direct shock.'

The two vessels which remain in the South China Sea are designated war graves.

Earlier this year it emerged that the Prince of Wales had been targeted by Chinese pirates who had looted material from the ship.

The authorities in Malaysia recovered much of the stolen material and these are the objects Mr Tweddle wants to bring back to the UK.

In August he wrote to the British High Commissioner in Malaysia to claim the items.

Mr Tweddle, an archaeologist, said its vital that material from both vessels, which are now classed as war graves, are cared for properly.



Doctor Dominic Tweddle (pictured), the head of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, is battling with the government over plans for a memorial for 800 sailors lost in one of Britain's worst naval disasters of the Second World War

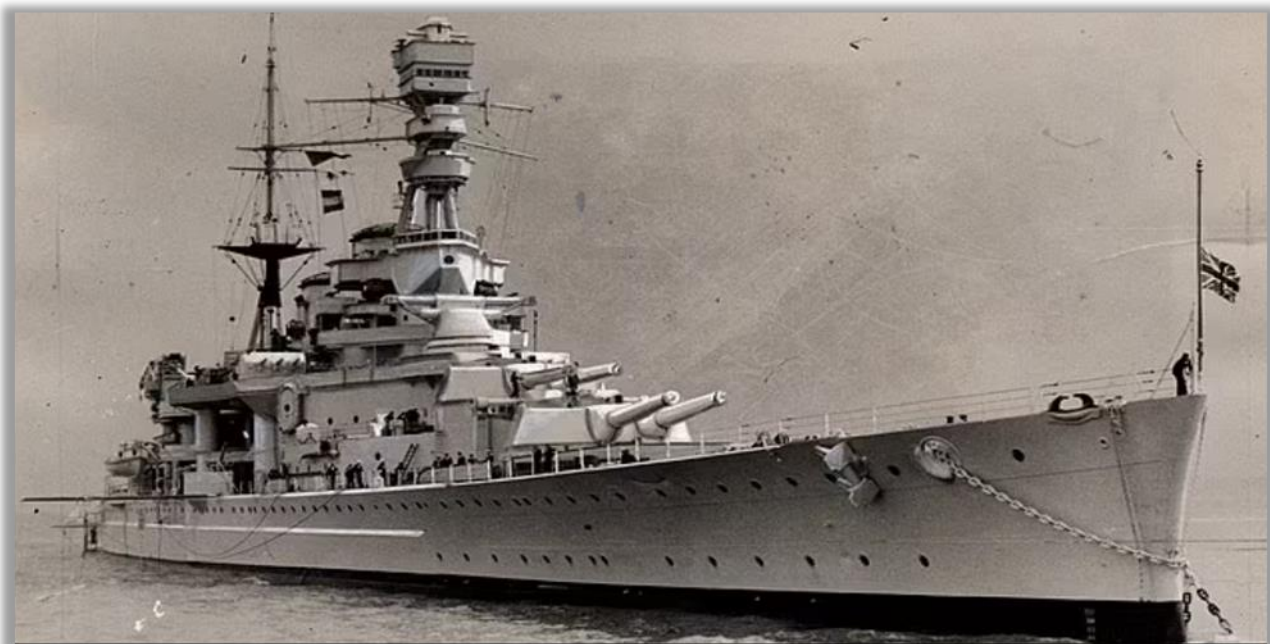
He said: 'We thought that these ought to be returned to the United Kingdom. They need conservation. Any metal that's underwater for any length of time acquires salt from the sea. It gets into the structure of the metal and if it's not washed out the metal will over time fall apart. They need specialist treatment these items.'

He added: 'I think these are some of the most significant naval losses of the second world war. They shocked the nation. Hundreds of people lost their lives. They have been preserved as war graves since the end of the second world war and if they can't be preserved in situ it seems to me, they should be represented in the UK to memorialise the people who lost their lives.'

But a Royal Navy source last night insisted that no decision had been made about the future of any of the items.

They said: 'There is no block here. This is a delicate diplomatic process that is ongoing.'

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence said: 'We are working closely with appropriate authorities and partners to ensure the future preservation of the recovered artefacts.'



Prof Tweddle said the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office had blocked his plans to commemorate the sinking of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse (pictured) by the Japanese in 1941

'We consider these sunken British warships to be the final resting place of our servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and have engaged with the local and regional authorities to ensure that our position is understood.'

The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office declined to comment

By [CHRIS HASTINGS](#)

PUBLISHED: 00:43, 8 October 2023 | **UPDATED:** 13:08, 8 October 2023

Source: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12606473/Tribute-sailors-Britain-Second-World-War-Ministry-Defence-Foreign-Office.html

Our thoughts & prayers to go out to all the families and loved ones of Supernova festival, held in the desert in southern Israel to coincide with the Jewish festival of Sukkot. That were massacred by Hamas terrorists.

To the families and friends of these remarkable people. We cannot even begin to imagine what you are going through. This tragedy has been heart wrenching throughout our communities. May you find the strength and peace to comfort you during this difficult time. May their memories forever be a blessing.

We re-posted the following article 09.10.23 from our X social media platform (formerly Twitter) on our FaceBook / Meta. Unfortunately, due to their rules it was removed...





Foreign, Co...  · 2h

"We must be clear there is never justification for the brutal targeting of civilians."

Foreign Secretary
[@JamesCleverly](#)
visited the Israeli Embassy in London today to show UK support in the face of terrorist atrocities. 



Don't forget

to thank a vet!

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www.facebook.com/VeteransnFamiliesListeningProject

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V&F-LP Veterans & Families-Listening Project
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Take care
From the team V&F-LP

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