



The XII Submarine Flotilla - Chariots & X-Craft

The XII Submarine Flotilla, established in 1942, included those serving in both the two man 'Chariots'- or human torpedoes - as well as the slightly larger X-Craft with a crew of four.

The memorial cairn here at Kylesku, where much of the training for these most dangerous special operations occurred, commemorates the forty people who lost their lives during World War II.

These operations were absolutely top secret and Loch Cairnbawn, in the waters below (designated 'Port HHZ'), was where the training for attacking the larger, deeper and more heavily guarded targets, was carried out.

All those involved in these special operations were volunteers, who knowingly had to accept the most arduous of conditions in the knowledge that their missions would be hazardous in the extreme.

Apart from 'Operation Source' (see other information board), operations were conducted by Charioteers against the Tirpitz, the Axis Fleet in Tripoli, Palermo and La Spezia harbours, and against the Japanese Fleet in Phuket, Thailand. X-Craft also attacked Japanese cruisers at Singapore and severed vital communication links in the Mekong Delta and helped to survey the Normandy beaches, prior to the 'D' Day landings in June 1944.

Awards of the Victoria Cross

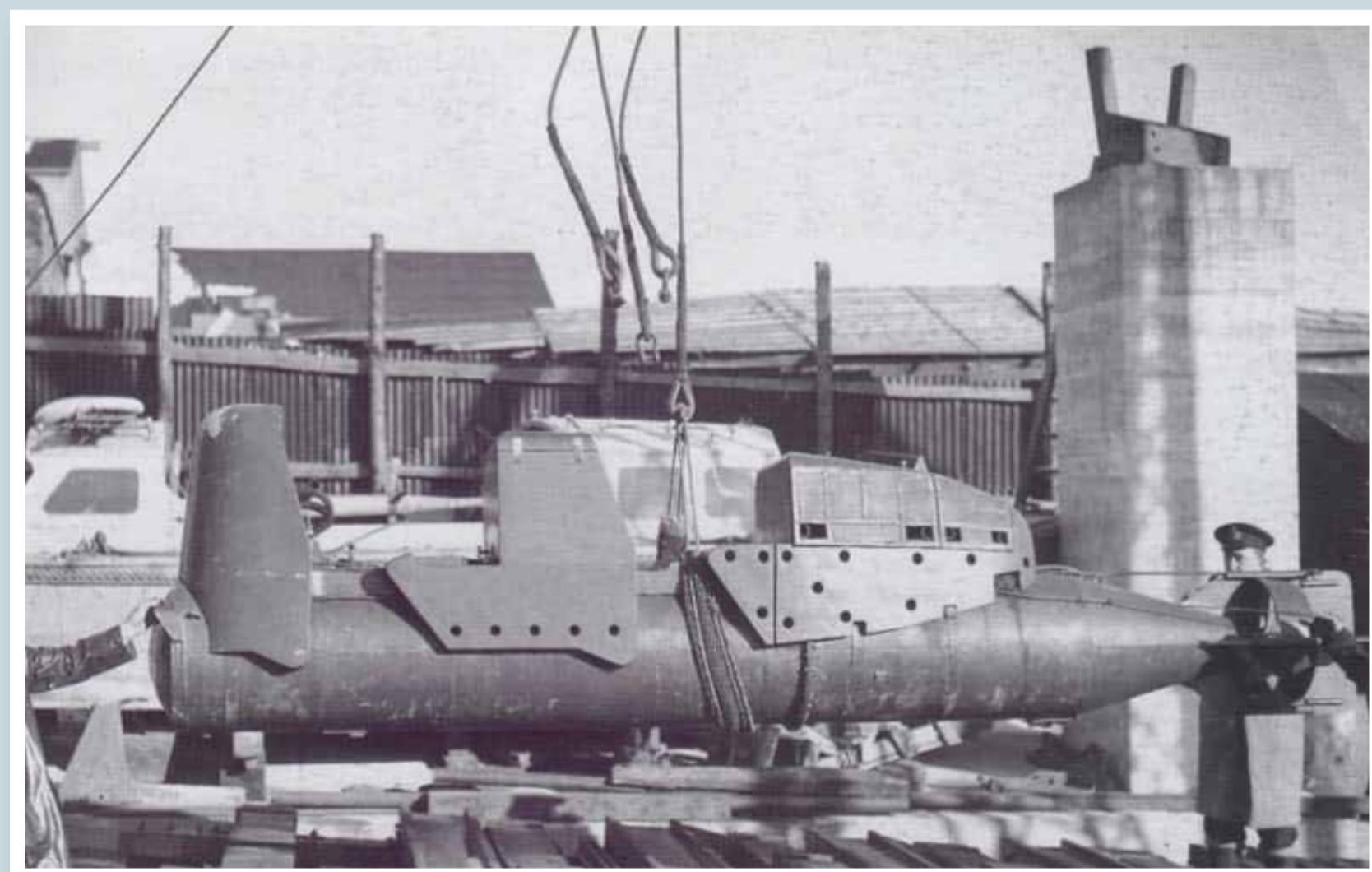


*Lieutenant Godfrey Place
(HMS X-7) & Lieutenant
Donald Cameron
(HMS X-6) - Attack on the
Tirpitz - September 1943*

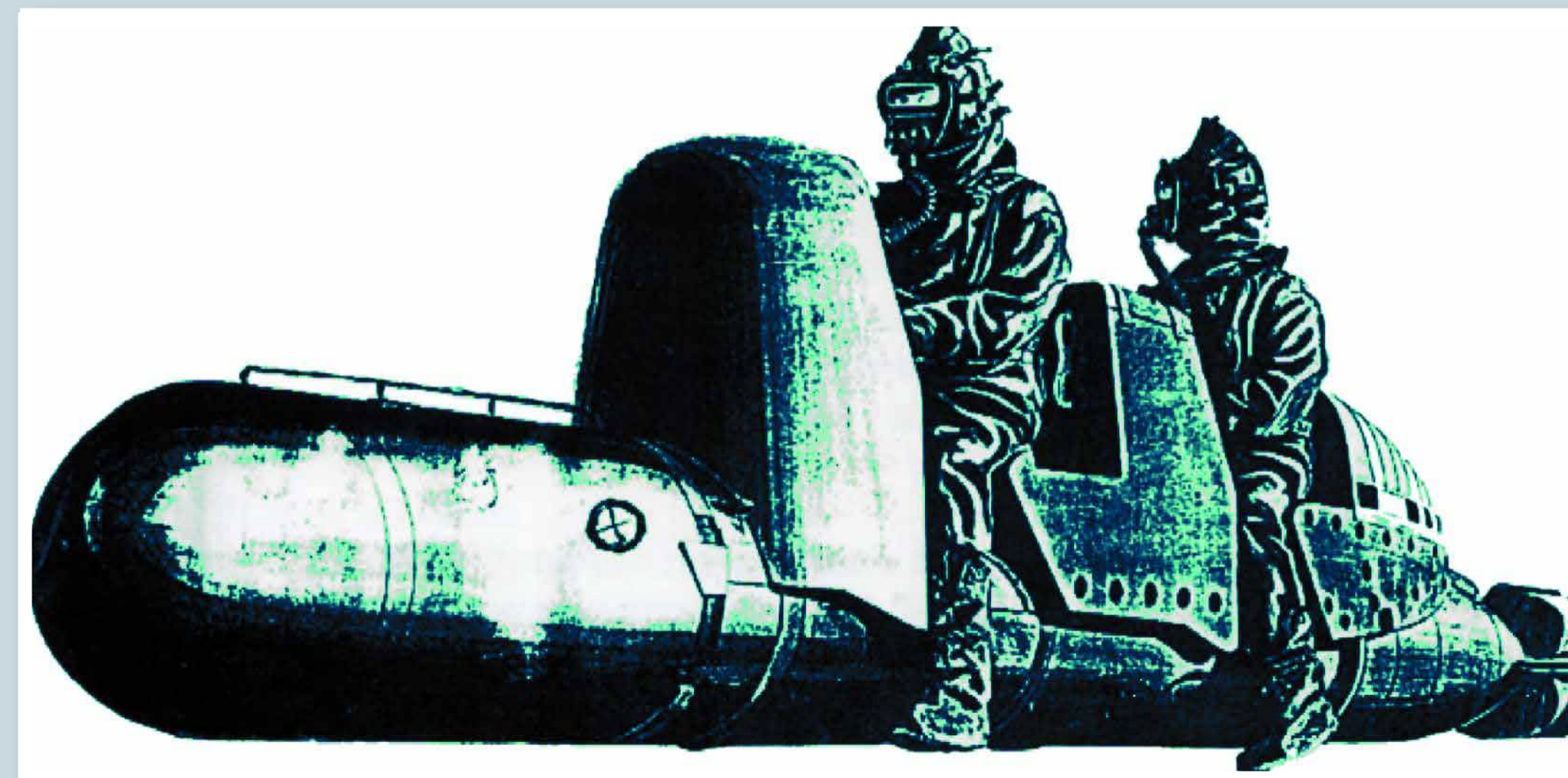


*Lieutenant Ian Fraser &
Leading Seaman James
(Mick) Magennis
(HMS XE-3) - Attack
on Takao - Singapore 1945*

Apart from the four Victoria Crosses another 46 awards for bravery were given to X-Craft Crews and Charioteers of the XII Submarine Flotilla.



Chariot on Crane Hoist



Mark 1 Chariot Manned Torpedo



The refurbishment in 2024 of this memorial and the new bronze plaque was made possible by generous donations from The Submarine Family, We Remember Submariners, the Submariners Association, the Friends of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum and numerous private donors, and the support of the Duke of Westminster.

Scan this QR Code to access the submarine book of remembrance. It contains the names of all submariners who have given their lives in the Royal Navy Submarine Service, and many of their stories.

