FAMOUS AND NOT SO FAMOUS OWS

By Tony Maskell OW 49-51

My comments in blue, OW Colin Thurlow 62-65

15 minutes of Fame!?

In listing the "famous" Old Worcester's, there are many who will be left out, there were for instance a number of Admirals, 19 and a further 19 of Flag Rank which could be considered the pinnacle of their profession; 3 Foreign Admirals and 2 Foreign Commodores, plus 6 Lag equivalent Rank in the RAF I have not listed them all.

Admiral "Teddy" Evans for instance is well documented elsewhere and is THE "BOYS OWN" example.

Captain Superintendent Gordon Steele likewise is well documented. I shall group them in block periods, as they left HMS Worcester.

Revd Alfred Wardroper (1863) Founder of the Association of Old Worcester's in 1887, he and his brother Walter were in the first 16 cadets to join the Worcester at the Blackwall Reach in the

Thames, they both went to sea in square riggers, but Alfred took holy orders.

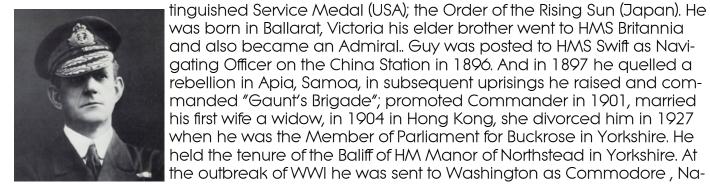
Admiral Count Heihachiro TOGO IJN (1874) he devastated the Russian fleet at the Battle of Tsushima in 1905. Awarded;- the Collar of Chrysanthemum by the Emperor of Japan and the Order of Merit by the British Government. He gave the HMS Worcester his battle flag, which was returned to the Japanese Navy in 2005.

LCDR William Ferdinand TYLER RNR (1883); he was a CMDR in the Chinese Imperial Navy

and a Coast Inspector of Chinese Maritime Customs, he collected a number of Chinese awards, some from the Emperor and some from the Chinese President. They were:- Order of the Striped Tiger, Order of Peacock Feathers; Order of the Double Dragon; and the Order of Excellent Crop. He wrote of his experiences in china; "Pulling Strings in China" published in 1929, critics gave it a good write up.

Captain Superintendent Ernest William WISE RNR (1885) our first Capt Supt of General Botha, a Captain in the South African Infantry, and after the General Botha was Superintendent of Prisons in Durban.

ADM Sir Guy Reginald Archer GAUNT RN (1886); KCMG; CB; Mentioned in Despatches; Dis-





val Attache, heavily involved in counter espionage, and at wars end appointed to Naval Intelligence and elected as a Younger Brethren of Trinity House. Then came the scandal with his first wife. He retired on his yacht to Tangier, and aged 52 married another widow of 35, they had two daughters, he published his autobiography, "the yield of the years" in 1940. He died at Woking in 1953. He was known as the "Breezy Admiral" He commanded 3 Cruisers and two Battleships. He was involved with the "Zimmerman telegram, which brought America into World War I. It was said that Ian Flemming used his career as a model for James Bond!

LCDR Charles Henry COWLEY RNVR (1888) Award the VC, the first awarded to an ex HMS Worcester cadet. He was the pilot of the ss **Julnar** slated to go on a suicide mission up the Tigris to attempt to relieve General Townsend at Kut. Only bachelors were allow to volunteer. She was loaded with 270 tons of desperately needed supplies, she sailed on the evening of 24th April 1916, the ss Julnar was discovered with half an hour of sailing up the Tigris, they had 25 miles to go! They came under very heavy artillery bombardment and machine gun fire. The Turks had stretched wires across the river to trap the ship, she was now hit at point-blank range, the Captain killed. LCDR Cowley was wounded when taken ashore by the Turks, but separated from the other survivors, later they assassinated him, his nickname at the time was the "Pirate of Basra", he had lived most of his life in Mesopotamia, although on leaving the HMS Worcester he had gone to sea on McDiarmid & Co's ship **Pendragon**, though when his father died he joined Lynch brothers trading in the Persian Gulf and the Tigris. **Link HERE**

Captain Henry Eilbeck HILLMAN RN (1890), he later was an Coastal Inspector of Chinese



Maritime Customs. He commanded the HMS **Woodlark** at the Boxer Rebellion and also became the Harbour Master of Canton. He won the Shadwell Prize from the Naval Hydrographer; and awarded the following Chinese honours:- Order of the Excellent Crop in 1915, and the Order of Brilliant Jade, he died in 1938. Link to his medal sales HERE

Captain Maxwell Barham SAYER RNR (1890), left the HMS Worcester to sail on Devitt & Moore's sailing ships, then Orient Line, involved in the Boer War, awarded:- a CBE in 1918, Mention in Dispatches,, the order of the Nile for advising the Egyptian government on training issues, in WWI he was gazetted as a Lieutenant Colonel Royal Engi-

neers and the assistant Director of Inland Waterways and Docks, organising shallow draught Hospital ships, Troopships and tugs for use in the Tigris. After WWI he became the Captain Superintendent of HMS Worcester from 1919 to 1928 There is an memorial article in the 1929 Easter Vol 16 No1 Dog Watch.

RADM Henry James FEAKES RAN (1893) on leaving the HMS Worcester he spent 4 years on

sailing vessels, then joined P&O at the same time being a SBLT . Awarded a CBE in 1933. He commanded the first Royal Australian

Ship; HMAS **Parramatta**. Link HERE

HERE

When the Commonwealth Naval Forces of Australia (the original name of the RAN) were looking for officers, he applied and was appointed SBLT in 1906. At that time the Australian Parliament had not approved plans to build a Destroyer Flotilla; but in 1907 he took the nucleus crew for HMAS **Parramatta** and HMAS **Yarra** to England. At that time the SNO on the Australian Station was an RN officer. The ridiculous rules at that time and well into the 20th cen-

tury, although he had been promoted to Captain RAN, but all RAN officers had to serve in the RN at each rank and had to be recommended by an RN officer for the next rank. Because Captain Feakes had not served in a RN ship as a Commander, that meant the British Admiralty

would not accept him in command of one of their ships. He had held high positions in the RAN including on the Australian Naval Board. In the Depression of the 1930's with the RAN having too reduce men and ships, he was facing unemployment. He was saved however by another OW, none other the RADM E.R.G.R (Teddy) Evans, then the C in C of the Australia Squadron who specifically requested Feakes to be appointed to command HMAS **Albatross** a seaplane carrier, his book "White Ensign Southern Cross" was published after his death in 1950.

CMDRE George Parker BEVAN RN (1894) AM (Albert Medal) DSO, CMG, MiD, Legion of d'Honneur (France) Order of St. Anne (Russian). He was awarded the AM for saving the life of the Chief Officer of the **Earl of Forfar** an ammunition ship on fire in Archangel. His DSO was given for his efforts in the landings at Sulva (Gallipoli) along with his Mention in Despatches. He became the SNO Persian Gulf, but died suddenly in 1919 at Aden.

Leut Colonel John Medley Lovebond FULFORD, (1895) South African Light Horse. His claim to

fame was that he was a POW in the same cell as Winston Churchill during the Boer War, after that he was with various South African Police Forces, he died in 1963. Some details HERE

ACM Sir Frederick William BOWHILL RAF. (1896) GBE, KCB, CMG, DSO, CB, MiD*******, Commander Legion of Merit (USA), Order of Polonia (Poland), Order of Savur (Greece), Grand Cross of Orange Nassau, Order of St Olav (Nor-

way). He was born in India; he gained his Master in sail, whilst being also a SBLT RNR and spent 16 years in the Merchant Navy. In 1915 he had command of a submarine **E1** at Gallipoli and in the Baltic. 1916 he was a Sqan Cmdr in the RNAS and had command of the seaplane carrier HMS **Empress**. He was the Commanding Officer for the RANS/RAF in East Africa and became WCMDR RAF in 1918, Air Vice Marshal in 1931, Air Chief Marshal in 1939, and was Air Officer Commanding Coastal Command in WWII. He was a contemporary of Admiral Evans and Air Vice Marshal Webb-Bowen. He presented the prizes on the HMS Worcester in 1951.



Some details HERE

AVM Sir Tom lince WEBB-BOWEN (1896) RAF. KCB, CMG, Oder of St. Michael & St. Lazarus (Ita-

in the first of th

ly); Order of St. Anne (Russian); Order of Leopold II (Belgium); Order of Savoy (Italy); Croix de Guerre. He was first in the Middlesex regiment, then as 2nd Lieutenant in 1899, in the Bedfordshire Regiment. Became a FIt CMDR in the RFC in 1912, Commanding Officer of No. 2 Squadron RFC moving to a Brigadier General in 1916, General commanding the 11th Brigade RFC in Italy and became a Major General in 1919. When the RAF was formed in 1919 became a GP Captain, and Air Vice Marshal in 1925, the Air Officer Commanding in India, Member of the Air Council and Airforce Personnel before WWII, retired in 1933, and joined Imperial Airways. Then re-joined at the outbreak of WWII as an Air Commodore in Fighter Commands Operations room; he died in 1953. He was a contemporary of

Admiral Evans and Sir Frederick Bowhill all leaving in 1896. Some details HERE

Leut Henry Robertson BOWERS RIM (1899) Silver Polar Medal. A lot has already been written about this Officer, but I will add. He was 28 when recommended to Scott by Sir Clements Marcham after a dinner with the Capt. Supt. of HMS Worcester, Captain Wilson Baker. He commanded a river gun boat on the Irrawaddy, then HMS **Fox** in the Persian Gulf. It was "Birdie" Bowers that took the actual navigational sights that established Scott's party were at the South Pole. His nickname "Birdie" came about because of his beak like nose. **HERE**

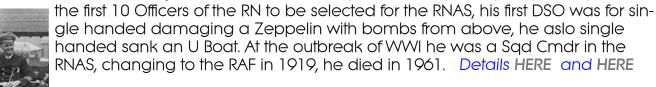


VADM Sir Noel Frank LAURENCE (1899); DSO*; KCB; CB; Order of Vladimir (Russian) Order of Naval Merit (Spain) Legion of d'Honneur (France); Order of St George (Russia). Was at Gallipoli in command of the submarine E1, where he sank 2 German battleships in the Baltic; later in command of HMS Eagle, an aircraft carrier and ADC to King George Vth., was RADM Submarines, VADM Carriers, VADM Reserves and in WWII the Naval Representative for aircraft procurement. He died in 1970.



FIT SBLT Harold James BATCHELOR RNAS (1900 – 1906) He is mentioned, because he is the longest recorded, serving cadet on HMS Worcester, in WWI he attempted to shoot down a Zeppelin over the North Sea, but was shot down himself in 1915.

Air CMDRE Arthur Wellesley BIGSWORTH RNAS/ RAF; (1902) DSO*; GMG; AFC; MiD***; one of



LEUT Archibald Dayrell-REED RN (1903), DSO*; MiD*; Croix de Geurre (Belgium) (he spent most of his career in Coastal Motor Boats and was involved in the Ostend Zeebrugge attempt

across Zeebrugge harbour for which he got his first DSO, after WWI had finished he and CMB88 were sent to the Baltic to attack the Russian Bolsheviks at Kronstadt he was fatally injured in the attack, Leut Gordon Steele – as he then was – took charge and sank two ships in the harbour, Dayrell-Reed died back at

to seal in UBoats by sinking an obsolete cruiser

the support ship in August 1919. Details HERE and HERE and a good picture HERE from the previous site.

Brigadier, Noel Robert Charles COSBY; (Indian Army (1907); MC; CIE; MiD*. He was born in India and became a 2nd Lieutenant in the Indian Army, the sole survivor of the 1st Gurkha Regiment at Gallipoli, went on to fight in the Western Front and gain two Military Crosses, eventually became the Inspector General of Frontier Forces in North India, on the Afghan border.

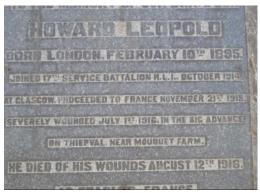
Major Wulstan Joseph TEMPEST (1907) RFC; DSO; MC MiD He started WWI as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but was gassed at Ypres and invalid out, he rejoined this time in the RFC, and while flying a BE2c over potters Bar shot down a Zepplin. *Picture HERE and Story HERE*



Archdeacon Harold Mayo Harris (1910) Leutenant RNR in WW1 OBE; RD; RNZN. In WWI he was the Prize Officer of a fully rigged American ship the "Pass of Balmata" carrying contraband cotton, he in turn was captured by a German UBoat U31 and taken to Cuxhaven and became a POW for three years, and 5 different POW Camps. After the WWI he became 3/O in NZSC, later Wanganui Harbour Master's dredger and later still of Wellington. In WWII he commanded HMAS **Geraldton** between 1942 and 1943, after being ordained he had a number of New Zealand parishes, before becoming the Archdeacon to the RNZN.

Captain Howard Leopold Davis Highland Light Infantry (1912), he was wounded in June 1916 near Mouquet Farm on the Somme but died of his wounds, of the 800 men in the brigade who went into action that day only 36 answered the roll call that evening. In his honour his father Thomas Benjamin (Xtra Master), owning a Stevedoring firm in East London and Durban;





purchased HMS **Thames** of the Admiralty and had it fitted out as a training ship for South Africa, calling it the SATS **General Botha**. Thomas Benjamin who was born in St Helier, Jersey became a philanthropist and put up the Howard Davis Challenge Cup, to be rowed between Worcester, Conway & General Botha; there was only ever one race held in the London Docks in 1935, where HMS Worcester came first, followed



by the General Botha. The Cup is now held by the Nation-

al Maritime Museum, Greenwich. Details HERE link to cup picture HERE

WNG CMDR Dennis Yeates WHEATLEY (1913) Order of Merit with Bronze Star (USA) in WWI



he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, but was gassed at Passchendaele. He became the author of many thriller novels, and in WWII as a WNG CM-DR RAF in Intelligence. Some details on a few pages HERE

Captain Eric Barry Kenyon STEVENS RN (1914) DSO*; DSC; Legion of d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre (France); on HMS Pakenham he sank U59, NE of Port Said in 1940, then on HMS Imogen sank U42 of SW Ireland in a surface action. Also served in HMS Havelock.



FLT CAPT John William George Price (1915) DSC*; DFC*; Order of Leopold (Belgium) Croix de Guerre. A LCDR RNR who changed to RNAS. He was award the DSC for his time on HMT **Nadine**. He was shot through the back of his head twice!, fought 30 German Foker planes single handed, shot down with 8 bullets in his body, during WWI he collected 32 bullets in his body.

VADM Sir Eric George Anderson CLIFFORD. (1916) KCB; CB; CBE; MiD***. He was at one time



the Fleet Navigation Officer for the China Station, His Mention in Dispatches came from his time in HMS **Diadem** on Operation Neptune, the Naval part of Operation Overlord, He was Chief of Staff in Hong Kong, Captain of HMS **Ilustrious**, the SNO for the RN in the Korean conflict, and lastly the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, In 1954.

MIDN Andrew William Elliot WELCHMAN RNR (1917) DSC in 1920, was aboard **CMB 36** at the Kronstadt raid, he later became a Captain in the Royal Artillery.



Major Charles Henry Maxwell KNIGHT (1917) OBE; in the Intelligence

Corps a member of the Zoological Society and a broadcaster on the BBC on matters of nature and the countryside. Some Details HERE and HERE

VADM James Wilfred JEFFORD RIN (1918) CBE; CB; OBE, on leaving the Worcester he served in the RN, the RIN, the RPN as Flag Officer Commanding, and the Pakistan Navy latterly as the C in C of that Navy on retiring he was the Chairman of the Penang Harbour Board, he died in 1980.

Captain Wilfrid George MOSS (1918), he was possibly the last OW to serve as Mate in a barque called SVIREN (Syren?), in the Depression of the 1930's he worked as a postman.

Captain Kenneth Alfred Hugo CUMMINS, (1918) served with P&O a Younger Brethren of Trini-

ty House. The longest living OW who when he died in 2007 was 106, and one of the 4 survivors of WWI in 2006. Some details HERE



Captain Richard Vere Essex CASE RNR (1919) DSO: DSC* RD; was in command of a Anti-submarine trawler the HMS Stella Capella working off Norway where he was awarded his first DSC, he then commanded the corvette HMS Campanula where he picked up survivors of 4 Merchant ships in the Atlantic and in Operation Torch on the frigate HMS Rother he sank U134 in 1943 gaining his DSO,



HMS Campanula

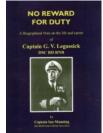
He later became the Marine Superintendent for Coast Lines.

ACMDRE James Laurence FULLER-GOOD RAF (1919) CB; CVO; Director of Airforce Personnel, and Commandant of the RAF Regiment.



Air Marshall Sir Harold Douglas JACKMAN RAF (1920); KGB ;AFC: CB; CBE; MiD*, served his time in Royal Mail, joined the RAF as a Pilot Officer in 1926, died in 1990.

Captain George Victor Legassick RNR (1921) DSC; RD; when he left the ship he went into



P&O, got his DSC in 1942 on HMS Saladin, was General Manager of a ship building yard in Holland. Appointed the Captain Superintendent of General Botha, but dismissed by the South African Minister of Education for not being fluent in Africaans! After eleven years at the General Botha. A book was published, called "A name among Seafaring Men" by a Captain Ian Manning SAN. Botha HERE



HMS Saladin

Mr Fergus Kinloch ANDERSON (1925) was the Motor Cycle Champion of the world on Moto



Guzzi, winning the Grand Prix of Switzerland and the Grand Prix of Spain as well as 2 wins at the Isle of Man TT races, he died in a crash in Belgium in 1956. For some reason he was noted in Hitler's "Black Book"? Some details HERE

RADM Ahmed Mohamed BADR (1925) Egyptian Navy, he was C in C of the Egyptian Navy from 1948 to 1951, his brother Mohamed Twefik also an OW was a CMDRE in the same Navy.

RADM Anthony Hubert Gleason STORRS RCNR (1925); DSC*; Legion of Merit (USA); Legion of Honour (France); Croix de Guerre (France) Admirals Commendation (Canada). He won a P&O Scholarship. His first seagoing appointment was on square rigged ships, then went to the Chinese Maritime Customs. He was awarded his second DSC when in Command of the 31st Minesweeper flotilla off Omaha and Utah beaches in Operation Neptune. Commanded the HMCS Magnificent the aircraft carrier, became the Director of Marine Operations of the Canadian Coastguard and founded the Canadian Coastguard College in Nova Scotia. The first and only to date of a Reserve Officer to be an Admiral! Video of the Magnificent HERE

LEUT John Niven Angus LOW RN (1927) GC; originally awarded the Empire Gallantry



Medal, exchanged for the George Cross. He was the OOW on HMS **Unity** when in collision with the Norwegian cargo ship the **Alte Jahr**. Leut Low, along with AB Miller ensured that everyone escaped from the submarine before it sank except themselves. He served his time in the Federal Steamship Navigation Company, and was 3/O on the **Somerset**.



Captain Richard Hamilton AYRES (1927) MBE; Lloyds Medal for



Gallantry; was in British India company until becoming the Marine Superintendent, he was awarded his MBE, when as 2/O on board the ss **Gairsoppa** after being torpedoed the sole survivor after 13 days in an



open boat, he left the ship with 32 men, when the ship got to shore with only 3 men left it overturned in the swell and he was washed up on to a rock. He died in 1992. Some details HERE and HERE and special coin HERE (sold out)

LCDR Andres Collard RNR (1928) MBE; Chevalier of the Order of Orange Nassau. In WWII he was in mine disposal, and recovered a "T" mine. The "T" mine was a pressure mine with a booby trap when disarming it. There were 3 million produced by the Germans in WWII.

CMDR Philip Frederick COLE RN (1931) DSC; MiD; served in Elders Fyffe, the GSNC before joining the RN. He was awarded his DSC when on HMS **Obedient** on Russian convoys' he lost a leg at Crete when on HMS **Orion**, he was the RN Philatelic Officer for 13 years at the FAA museum Yeovilton

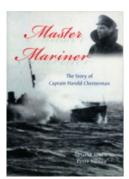


Captain Arthur Godfrey HAWKINS . (1931) OBE; MBE, was the 2/O of the San Demetrio in convoy HX48, when she was shelled by the Scharnhorst and set on fire. The ship was abandoned, but the following day the 2/O and his lifeboat crew re-boarded her, repaired and extinguished the fire and sailed her back to Ireland. He later became a Trinity House Pilot operating out of Harwich. He died in 1980. Some details HERE

Captain Harold Geeves CHESTERMAN RNR (1933) DCS*; MBE; MiD; RD; he



was born in Melbourne went into the Dominion Line then Port Line, an also in the RNR he was awarded two DSC's one for defending a convoy and damaging an UBoat, he was the youngest commander of HMS **Snowflake** a corvette at 25, when in command of a Destroyer HMS **Ambuscade** he was sunk, after WWII he joined the Queensland Lighthouse Service and became Master of the **Cape Morton**, serving for 30 years, allegedly the role model for the "Cruel Sea" part played by Jack Hawkins as CMDR Ericson.



LEUT (A) Rupert Lisburn Groynne DAVIES RN (1934), on leaving the ship went to Port Line at the start of WWII joined the FAA, was shot down while flying a Swordfish aircraft against the **Scharnhorst**, made a POW tried to escape 3 time from Stalag Luft III, after the war became an actor, best known as Maigret the Belgium detective. Some details HERE

LEUT(A) Peter Nelson DEAN (1934) KIA while flying a Swordfish against the **Scharnhorst** and **Gniesenau** as they made their dash up the English Channel. Some details HERE

Mr. Charles Michael ROBERTSON (1937) served his time in Stricks, came ashore and in WWII was a motor transport fitter in the RAF. He created out of an old Gun Powder works in Cornwall what became Trago Mills a cut price retail outlet, starting by selling surplus Russian Wellington boots and surplus Villiers diesel engines. There are now three outlets and it has been going for 50 years. He died in 2005.

FLT LEUT Kenneth Urquhart MORGAN RAF (1935) at the start of WWII he was in the RAK Marine branch, but later became a Veterinary in the Army in India, on return to the UK set up a practice in Plymouth but died in 2000.

Prince Hamid Mirza KADJAR (1936) also known as LCDR David Drummond RN, he was an Iranian prince who had lived in England since he was 6 years old, he did not speak Persian, joined the RN in WWII and afterwards worked for Mobil Oil. He died in 1970. Some Details HERE and HERE



Captain Angus Harvey BABER RNR (1940) MiD RD. He served in Shaw Savill,



sailing on the **Dominion Monarch, Southern Cross** ending as a Marine Superintendent, he was in the last torpedo attack by destroyers against the Japanese fleet, while serving on HMS **Vigilance** in the Pacific. He died in 2014. Details HERE and HERE at the 2012 Portsmouth Reunion.



2/O Albert Geoffrey Allson (1942) DCM; Lloyds War Medal. Was an Apprentice on *Clan Ferguson* in the Malta Convoy, Operation Pedestal, she was torpedoed and he swam around with a small life-raft saving persons taking them to a bigger life-raft, he then became a POW in Italy. Obit Details HERE

Sir Christopher John Benson (1949) KBE; served his time in Union Castle, then did National



Service as a 2nd Leut in the REME, a Chartered Surveyor and a past Master of the Waterman and Lightermans Guild; became Chairman of Boots the Chemist and the House of Fraser. **HERE**

Captain John David Rendle (1947) Xtras Master, served in Shaw Savill & Albion, then Shell Tankers becoming in 1987 the Managing Director of Shell Tankers. He died in 2000.

Major (Honorary Colonel) Kenneth Hurrell HEDGES (1951) Doctor RAMC British Polar Medal*; MiD; Puyat Jasa (Malaysia); Commander of the Order of Jerusalem (Canada) Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was awarded his Mention in Dispatches for work when with the SAS in Northern Ireland. He was part of a team of 4 with dogs, that walked across the Arctic over a period of 476 days. Details HERE and HERE



Mr Athelstan Joseph Michael EAVIS (1952) CBE, served his time with Union Castle and was the creator and founder of the Glastonbury Festival. Some Details HERE

Mr. Roger David MORRIS (1952) served his time in Furness Withy then to Union Steamship, at one point in his career was the 1st Mate of the replica Barque Bounty. Has been a notable marine artist for many years, lives in Auckland NZ. Details HERE

Captain Douglas Christie McLEISH (1953) served his time in Clan, then to South Africa lines, on to The Cook Strait ferries, but became a director of Funeral Services in Fiji, accredited to cater for burials at sea!.

And lastly

Mr. Richard Paul Young (1968) who is the last (by the Alphabet) cadet recorded as having been a full time cadet on HMS Worcester.

Tony Maskell Medowie November 2015.