

At her Democratic National Committee speech, Michelle Obama said:
“They see our leaders labelling fellow citizens enemies of the state while emboldening torch-bearing white supremacists. They watch in horror as children are torn from their families and thrown into cages, and pepper spray and rubber bullets are used on peaceful protestors for a photo-op.”

Field notes:

I was looking at a photo of my stepfather, taken near the pet cemetery in Mount Edgcombe. From the gun emplacement on Staddon Heights, he watched the city burn.

Research Questions:

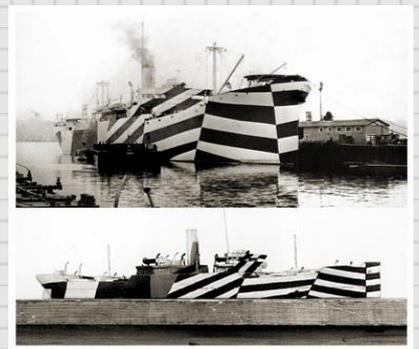
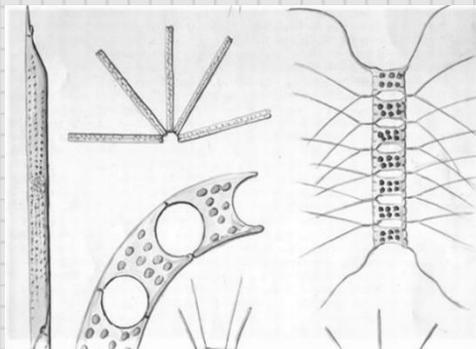
- Why were the military interested in Joan’s research?

At the same time as Huxley and Hodgkin’s Squid Axion experimentation at the Marine Biological Association on Plymouth Hoe was leading to the development of centimetric radar for the RAF, other marine biologists were also engaged on projects for the war effort on the degaussing grounds and sound mirrors.

‘Several members of staff collaborated on a reinvestigation of the problem of marine fouling of ships, rendered an urgent matter by wartime measures [*Corrosion and Degaussing*]. The war had also made it urgent to find a new source of supply of seaweed products formerly imported from the Far East, particularly agar jelly used for cultivating bacteria and the alginates that formed the base for special camouflage that would not show up under infra-red photography [*Classified research, as of 2020*]. The team investigating seaweeds at Plymouth included Dr Mary Parke...She was only the third female scientist to be employed at Plymouth, and only the fourth woman to be appointed to the Association’s scientific staff [*The Seaweed Collection was digitised and is available to the public*] Southward, A.J. and Roberts, E.K. (1984) ‘*The Marine Biological Association 1884 – 1984: One hundred years of marine research*’, Plymouth: The Marine Biological Association.

Dream: Joan toured the silent laboratory and watched the developing dogfish wriggling in its egg sac. Mary demonstrated how the light microscope produced an impression of the seaweed onto the agar gel and then she explained how the agar camouflaged any object from infra-red photography. The magnetometer cameras at Rame used similar filament lenses and also printed the magnetic fluctuations from the seabed-mounted listening posts. “Oh yes,” said Mary “quite the opposite of the dazzle ships, almost 95% invisibility

Dr Parke was also known for her beautiful and accurate drawings of algae using the light microscope, and her renderings of algal structures using the electron microscope set a new standard in the field.



Sonic considerations: The ‘Lion’s Den’ on Plymouth Hoe became notorious for being a men-only naked sunbathing platform. It was the only Second World War ‘Sound Mirror’ (*aka concrete sound-wave focussing structure*) to be used in this manner. Reflect a distant naked sound wave.

Links: De-gaussing mechanism at Rame film clip.

http://www.ramehistorygroup.org.uk/files/pier_cellars_de_gaussing.mp4