



Newsletter – Volume 3 - No 7 – Autumn 2010.

Chairman’s Corner: - Hello shipmates, I hope you are all keeping reasonably well and looking forward to next year’s reunion. Sadly since the last newsletter we have lost more shipmates, namely RM Ron Carrington (the association’s first treasurer), L/Sea Ray Robotham, L/Sea Gordon Knight, from the 2nd commission and Lt. RNVR, Ian MacDonald from the 1st.

I wonder how many of you managed to get to celebrate Armed Forces day on the 26th June, there were many events held around the country, with the main one of course being held in Cardiff, which apparently was quite a splendid affair and attended by Prince Charles. Here in Winchester, the RNA celebrated with their usual lunch party in a local hotel and during his speech at this function, our president said that the setting aside of a day to be made a public holiday had been advocated for a number of years.

This years ‘Navy Days’ weekend was held in Portsmouth, with the main attraction being the two new Type 45 destroyers, Daring & Dauntless, but the queues were enormous and the security ‘tight’! By the way, have you noticed that the for’ard upper deck is no longer the cable deck? This is all now on a deck below as in a carrier, except that it is totally enclosed and I am informed that the noise down there when working cable can be horrendous!

Remembering past times, I recall as probably many of you also do, that the recently celebrated 60th birthday of Princess Anne reminds me that on the day she was born, Ceylon was in Junk’s Bay, Hong Kong, exercising all departments prior to her joining ‘Task Group 96.8 (West Coast Support Group)’, part of the Far East Fleet in Korea.

To finish up, I thought that a couple of little ‘one-liners’ would not go amiss: -

Efficiency is the knack of getting someone else to do a job which you dislike.

Watch your tongue; remember that it is in a wet place and therefore likely to slip.

Do not wait for your ship to come in, row out and meet it.

An auctioneer is a dangerous man with whom to be on ‘nodding acquaintance’.

Best regards to you all

Yours aye,

John.

Reunion 2011: - Bookings for the 2011 reunion are starting to roll in and it is advisable that if you are thinking of coming along, then do make your reservation sooner rather than later! The thinking of, “*I will get around to that later*”, tends to allow it to slip one’s mind entirely! Remember that a booking form was incorporated on the bottom half of page three of the last May’s newsletter. So just cut off the appropriate part of that page and send it with your remittance to the hotel; the insurance option is recommended!

Tony is hoping to run a 'coach trip' on the Saturday, but as yet nothing has been firmed up. As soon as details are available, they will be promulgated. **Terry**

Reunion 2012: - Whilst it may not always be noticeable, your committee meets often and a lot of effort goes into determining future venues for our yearly event. At the last meeting and after a lot of discussion, it was felt that a decision had to be made for a venue in 2012; the final choice was the Britannia Hotel in Coventry. The deal on offer was considered the best available: - 3 nights would cost £130, 2 nights would be £115 and 1 night would come out at £90 and compares most favourably against all other offers. The Britannia deal had a lot in its favour and being a little more to the north would give our shipmates from the farther regions a lesser distance to consider. Thus the deciding factor in this that Coventry is geographically quite central. The only minus point was the parking situation, *however*, the hotel is offering to pay half the £15 cost for three days of parking and the committee felt that £7-50 was not really an undue amount to consider; £2-50 a day can compare favourably to a trip into 'town'? It is early days yet, but a coach trip could be laid on for the Saturday to visit the National Memorial Arboretum at a cost yet to be determined, *this would certainly not be very costly!* It is possible that such a trip would be quite popular, so anyone interested please indicate ASAP in order that the necessary transport can be arranged. Contact your secretary Tony Mendoza.

C30 Surfers: - The following e-mail was received via the website and I have copies of the pictures mentioned on the computer. The group picture contains all the RM's after their training and all their names are at the bottom of this photograph; it was taken in 1947. Andy Kay's e-mail is as follows: -
"Pardon the intrusion, but I thought you might like some of dad's RM & HMS Ceylon pictures. I assume like dad, that many of the "969 N.S. Squad" would have served aboard HMS Ceylon - hence the squad picture.
The other three small pictures (rest of his time was aboard HMS Newcastle...). My Dad (Kenneth Victor Kays) is sat under one of the guns with his arms crossed.
I hope you can put these to good use. Unfortunately, dad passed away this year aged 80, but he always liked telling us about his time aboard Newcastle and Ceylon.
Kind regards, Andy Kays (Ken's son)." **Ron Boniface.**

The pictures mentioned could be sent by e-mail as attachments to anyone interested, the group squad picture in indeed very good. One of the other snaps appears to have been taken on the Ceylon in Portsmouth Dockyard, with what looks like Fountain Lake in the background together with a glimpse of the old Royal Yacht "V & A"! A thought on my part about the pics taken on the ship in the Dockyard, is that I do know that Ceylon at this time was used by Whale Island to take 'Classes' on board for the purpose of furthering the knowledge of trainees in respect of a 6inch Mk 23 turret system: maybe that is why these chaps are shown in these snaps? **Terry.**

Sickness Update: - First commission man, John Bailey, contacted me to say that his wife Effie has recently been developed spinal arthritis, which is very painful and extremely uncomfortable. However, she is facing it all with great courage, but the situation could well affect their being able to attend any future reunion. This would indeed be great shame, as John and his wife have been great supporters of us at all our past reunions, and let's face it the numbers of the first commission men have been dwindling far too alarmingly of late! I for one am hoping that we will indeed see them both again. **Terry.**

Crossed The Bar: - (1) On the 6th June, an e-mail was received from Sally Fuller informing us of the sad passing of her father, **Ron Carrington**, 2nd commission Royal Marine. Her message is herewith reproduced -
"I am Sally Fuller and I am e-mailing you to ask if you could please put in your next newsletter that my father Mr Ronald Carrington who served in H.M.S Ceylon in the early fifty's passed

away on 5th June 2010. I am not sure how many of his comrades are left now, if any, but my brothers and I would just like it known that he is now at peace. Thank you, Sally Fuller."

Many of you will recall that Ron was on the original committee and ably served in the position of treasurer for a number of years, carrying out his duties with an efficiency that became even more remarkable when he went through a phase of blindness. His late partner, who tragically died in a motor accident a short while ago, was very supportive of him during this time and her support for Ron in respect of this will never be forgotten; both of them will be fondly remembered by many of us!

(2). **Ray Rowbotham**, L/Sea 1950/52. Very shortly after attending the Chester reunion, accompanied by his very caring family, Ray was taken into hospital at the beginning of June with a perforated bowel. Unfortunately his general health and strength was such that an operation was out of the question and on the 23rd June, Ray sadly passed on. His funeral was held at 1400 on Friday 9th July at Mark Eaton Crematorium where he was afforded a good send off, attended by all his family, many friends and associates and of course, many old shipmates. The RBL, BKVA and HMS Ceylon were well represented, whose members along with two standards, formed a 'guard of honour'. At the following 'get-together' there was plenty of opportunity for people to recount their own personal recollections of this very much respected man. My own abiding recent memory of Ray was that he was a man who never complained!

(3). **Ian MacDonald**, Lt. RNVR, First Commission. Rather belated news was received of the passing of this gentleman. Not only was he a member of our association, but for many years was the 'right-hand man' of our late president, Admiral George Thring. Ian was not far short of his 87th birthday when he was taken ill with a cancer that took his life so very quickly, being ill just three weeks with the third week bedridden; he faced up to things with the fortitude one came to expect from him! He died on Tuesday 8th June and his funeral took place at St Leonard's Church, Butleigh, Somerset at 1430 Friday 2nd July. He was given a big send-off and the Sea Cadets, of which he was a stalwart supporter, sent a large contingent which formed a Guard of Honour. He is survived by his wife Anna, daughter Kate and three sons, Angus, Neil and James; Angus the oldest will be taking over the running of the family farm and business.

New Member: - John J Lalley, L/SM, 2nd commission,

(This should have been published in the last newsletter! – I apologise sincerely for this omission).

National Memorial Arboretum Visit – June 2010.

Four members of the Wessex BKVA (Terry & Barbara Randall, Rosemary and I) were fortunate to be invited along on a trip to the Arboretum that had been organised by the Wessex Branch of the Normandy Veterans Association. Starting off in fine sunny weather from Southampton on the morning of the 5th June, we made a pleasant detour through the Cotswolds, making our main stop for the day at the delightful village of Bourton-on-the-Water. There was time for all to have a good look around this lovely old place and before reboarding the coach, we enjoyed a wonderful picnic at the side of the vehicle, provided by the trip's organisers. There was a plentiful supply of snacks and a choice of wine, beer or soft drinks. On recommencing our journey we made our way across country to our destination, The Great Barr Holiday Inn, just north of Birmingham, where we were allocated our comfortable rooms. Just prior to dinner, we all gathered at the coach, where we were all treated to pre-dinner 'aperitifs'; dinner was served buffet-style with a good and plentiful selection! After a good nights sleep, we gathered in the dining room next morning for a really splendid buffet breakfast, with most people managing to fortify themselves adequately for the long day ahead. On arrival at the NMA, we disembarked in good time to look round the displays before taking part in the daily 11AM Service in the Chapel. It was a very nice service and the recorded Last Post and Reveille sounded really good. At the end of the service, a presentation was made to the 'one-millionth' visitor who had turned up that morning. We all then moved

on to the Normandy Memorial to take part in a ceremony commemorating the 66th anniversary of D-Day and wreaths were laid and standards dipped for the 'Two Minutes' silence; the veterans were lucky that for this little ceremony a proper bugler had turned up to do the honours! We then moved on to the new National Memorial, where a little wreath-laying ceremony took place to honour the past exploits of the Hampshire Regiment, by a party of veterans from that regiment's association.

By now it was time for the Ceylons among us to visit our tree and see how well it was doing and it was good to see how well the tree had flourished. A few poppy crosses were planted for those of our shipmates who have recently 'Crossed the Bar'; among them - Ian McGregor, Harry Bird, Bryan Jervis and Dusty Miller. A final 'aperitif' session took place at the hotel before dinner that evening and after this meal, everyone enjoyed a convivial evening recounting a great weekend before our return home the next morning. A fantastic two days, with grateful thanks to Wessex Branch of the Normandy Veterans!

John Wyeth.



30th July 2005.



6th June 2010.

As can be seen from the above picture, the tree is in excellent shape, has thrived and grown considerably in the five years that it has been ours!

That's all everyone; hope everything is clear to you - and dare we hope that the summer that went 'walkies', might return?

Terry.

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