



Newsletter Volume 4 – No 1. Autumn/Winter 2011.

Opening Comment: - A word of apology is due in respect of the fact that a newsletter has not been forthcoming for some time? Some of you (*those with e-mail*) are already aware of the reason for this, it was due to me being hospitalised on the 24th August for heart surgery. On the 25th August I had an A V R (aortic valve replacement) operation and at the same time a repair to the aortic valve seating was carried out. I was in Southampton General Hospital's (SGH) Cardiac Unit for 12 days and cannot praise enough, not only the team that carried out the op, but also the nursing staff that cared for me 'post-op'. Fortunately the Cardiac Unit at Southampton is considered one of the top in the country and the consultant who did my procedure is indeed very highly thought of. The first few weeks post-op were very traumatic, with me being very sore, uncomfortable and not a little confused at times in the early days. However, the turning point was sometime around 1st October, when I seemed to improve daily! Barbara has been a treasure throughout and I really do not know what I would have done without her. Apart from a little problem with side effects caused by statins, all seems to be going well and my 'follow-up' appointment on Monday 14th November went well, being given a 'clean bill of health' and discharged fully to my GP with the proviso that a watching brief would be kept by 'Cardiac'. I was given the go-ahead to drive again around the 3rd week in October and up until that time it was definitely a case of "*Thank God Bar can drive*"! A few days ago, my GP changed me from 'statins' to something new, so now I am hopeful of getting away from the misery these have been causing me. **Terry.**

Chairman's Corner: - Hello Shipmates, our committee met on Monday 4th July at the Maritime Club in Queens Street Portsmouth, with the main points of discussion being post-reunion 2011, also reunions 2012 & 2013; the meeting was fruitful and satisfying. There is further comment re this elsewhere in the newsletter. Quite soon after the last newsletter went out, I received a phone call from Eddie Goldsmith in Newcastle. He apologised for not having been in contact sooner, saying this was due to his illness and his having been in hospital. He wanted to thank everybody for signing his 'card' at Torquay, saying he was most touched that we had thought of him! This is a rather belated message, but it was Eddie's wish that his thanks were sent out. Early on the morning of 31st August, the latest Type 45 Destroyer, HMS Dragon entered Portsmouth, ready to be handed over later that day to the RN from the builders. She entered harbour with a large red dragon painted on the bow; we think with the builders hoping it would remain there. It has since been painted over, because it was not seen to be in keeping with the norm for the Royal Navy!

It was recently reported that Daring is now on 'Full Operational Duty'.

Once again, I was kindly invited by Shipmate Ken Toop (2nd commission), to attend the 72nd anniversary of the sinking of HMS Royal Oak at Scapa on the 14th October 1939; Ken was a survivor of that very tragic sinking. I had the honour to carry out the piping during the Memorial Service held in the Church of St Barbara at Whale Island. After the service we repaired to the G.I.'s mess where we enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch; there were over a hundred people in attendance and all had some connection with the Royal Oak's company, including two actual survivors.

I was privileged to show people the 'Book of Remembrance', which contains the names, rank or rate and official number of the 834 men and boys who perished when the ship sank. This book is truly magnificent, written in calligraphy and in alphabetical order.

Best Wishes to you all, Yours Aye, John.

Re-Union 2012: - Britannia Hotel, Coventry.

Members with disability. The hotel has advised us that they have two rooms especially for anyone with an infirmity. If any member feels they would like to be considered in this respect, would they please contact the hotel and make their problem known.

Car Parking – we were recently advised by the hotel's management, that due to a change of ownership of this facility, there are changes to the charges. These are a little complicated, but briefly as follows: -

Friday – 1400 to 1800 = £3, overnight charge = 50P, **Saturday** – 0800 to 1800 = £10, overnight charge = 50P,

Sunday - 0800 to 0800 Monday = £1, **Monday** - 0800 to 1000 = £1.80. Total weekend charge = £16-80P.

Disabled Blue Badge holders, on showing badge on request at barrier to CCTV staff, allowed in free!

Saturday – Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. A coach with 49 seats has been arranged for this day. As it is felt that this will prove to be a popular day out, it has been decided that seats will be allocated on a '**first come - first served**' basis. I therefore ask that those wishing to attend, to send me their names, plus a donation of £2-50 per person, ASAP and at the very latest by the 30th January 2012.

Sunday's Routine: - Church Service: - This will as usual take place at 1000 on Sunday and has been arranged by our good friends Frank & Leah Hawkes.

AGM: - this will as usual take place at 1100 following the Church Service with all members cordially invited. Part of the proceedings will of course be the election and/or re-election of officers and committee members. Our existing members are all willing to stand for re-election, but anyone feeling they would like to volunteer for any position, or nominate someone (**with their permission of course**) for such, will they please submit details to me a couple of months in advance of the AGM.

Up Spirits: - This time-honoured event will take place after the AGM, with wine as an alternative if so desired for the ladies.

Tony.

Crossed the Bar: - 1. Eddie Goldsmith, M/E 1950/52 commission, after a great deal of suffering, passed on in the morning of Thursday 7th July. Agnes his wife, tells us that Eddie's funeral was held on Friday 15th July, being given an excellent 'send-off' by the Northumbria Branch of the BKVA of which Eddie served as secretary for some 15 years. The branch and sixteen fellow veterans formed a 'Guard of Honour', accompanied by two members of the Ceylon Association. During the service, a RM Commando read Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar" and the 'Last Post' was played; later in the hall there was a special "Up Spirits" for Eddie. Agnes further informs us that not only was the occasion overwhelming for her, but also for many of his friends who were there! Eddie was a founder member of the Ceylon Association, a former chairman and a man who gave us much support during our many reunions; especially remembered for organising our 'Up Spirits' and 'Draws'.

2. We were advised by an e-mail received by Ron Boniface from Ted Pearson that his friend Bill, W F Wimbleton had died on the morning of 22nd July. Bill served in Ceylon during the first commission as a L/Sea (Radar), from the time of the ship's commissioning until her return to Portsmouth at the end of 1945. His ships prior to Ceylon were the cruiser 'Cairo' and the escort carrier 'Attacker'. Bill was widowed some years ago and recently started to have severe problems with his eyesight, with him unfortunately going totally blind overnight! This necessitated him having to move into 'care', unfortunately, after only seven weeks in care, he crossed the bar. Bill was a stalwart member of the association and regularly attended our reunions. He will be sorely missed by many 'Ceylons'.

3. W (Bill) Andrews 19 43/46 commission. Information was received from Frank Norman that his friend and old shipmate from the first commission sadly died on the 8th July 2011.

4. John Hawthorne - 9th August 2011, Sto/Mech, 1950/52 commission. John, although a stalwart member for many years, felt that he had to drop out some time ago due to the fact that he was so ill and incapacitated. I remember that he used to help the Ch/Stoker (photographer) with the production of the many photos taken during '50/52.

Sickness Reports: - We have a couple of shipmates who are in need of our thoughts at this time:

Firstly, Frank Hawkes is waiting for an appointment to have a 'knee' operation and
Secondly, John Ling is apparently suffering severely with neuralgia

Resignation: - Sid Chase, domiciled in Australia, has for various reasons decided to call it a day as a member. He served in Ceylon during the '56/58 commission. Shortly after leaving the Marines, he migrated to Australia and joined the Police Force in that country. Later, upon his learning about the association and then contacting Brian Blackburn, he decided to join us because he frequently returned to the UK in order to visit his mother and fondly hoped that some of these visits would coincide with our reunions. Unfortunately she has since died and as he no longer has reason to visit England, has decided to call it a day! So-long Sid!

C30 Surfers: - Hi all, glad to have our editor back in business; had a few enquiries about membership and sent off the required info etc. but so far no replies!

Here are a couple of requests for info, hoping someone can help.

1. Dear Sir, my late husband George Bungard was a serving officer on the Ceylon during 1945/46 and was at the surrender of the Japanese taken by Lord Mountbatten. After reading about your association I am wondering if there are any members who may have served with my husband. He talked with great affection about the Ceylon and after reading the 'History' I can understand why. I have a few snapshots that may be of interest. With best wishes, Ellen Bungard MBE. e-mail ellen.bungard@virgin.net
2. I write with regard to my late father, Maurice Barnes ("Barney"), stoker, who served in HMS Ceylon during the Korea Tour. I would very much appreciate if you could let me know if anyone remembers my Dad, and if there are any photos available for me to view or any other information from any old mates of his. I look forward to hearing from you. Best regards, Brent Barnes. e-mail brent.barnes@rbcv.com

Happy surfing - Ron Boniface.

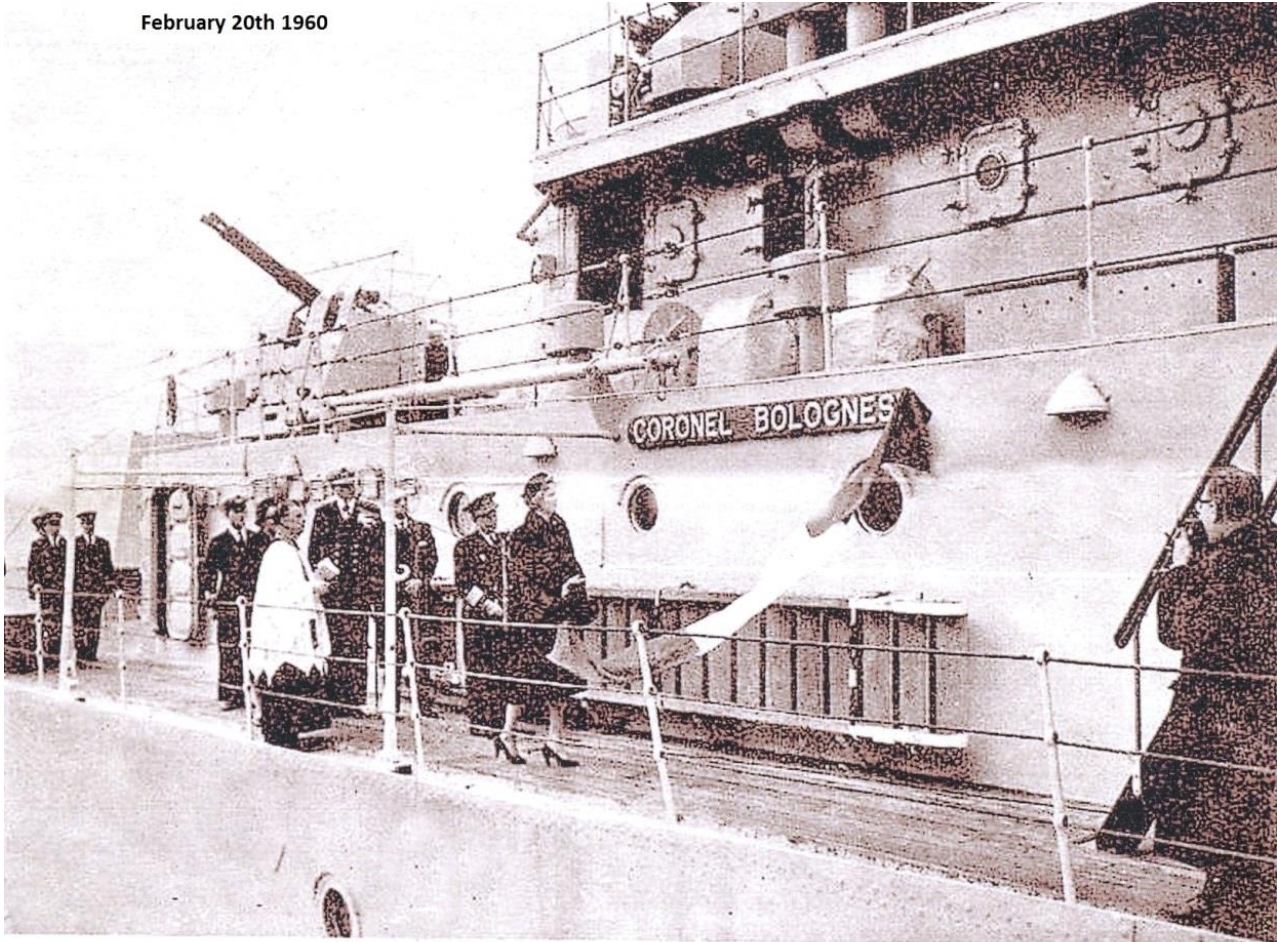
The picture reproduced on page 4 was kindly passed to me at the last reunion in Torquay and I thought it interesting enough to be included in this letter? Although it will of course be of special interest to those of the final commission, I am sure many other members will like to see it? There is however, one small area of doubt in the reporters footnote as to Admiral Sir Manley Power handing her over! For my part, I somehow feel that the Admiral one can just about make out, is perhaps his son, who at that time was Admiral Superintendent in Portsmouth Dockyard; a man who for the latter

half of the second commission was Ceylon's Gunnery Officer; and a very good one at that!

Clarification sought!

Terry

February 20th 1960



A BRITISH CRUISER HANDED OVER TO PERU: At a ceremony in Portsmouth Dockyard, Madame Rivera Schreiber, the wife of the Peruvian Ambassador to Britain, unveils the new name-plate 'Coronel Bolonesi' on the cruiser which was formerly H.M.S. *Ceylon*. The ship was handed over by Admiral Sir Manley Power, the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth. The purchase by Peru of *Ceylon* was announced last December. Completed in 1943, the ship has a displacement of 11,110 tons (full load) and has spent much of her operational life to date in Eastern waters, including active service off Korea. *Coronel Bolonesi*, named after a Peruvian patriot, will be the only cruiser in the Peruvian Navy, whose largest ships hitherto have been frigates.

Theft of Medal at Southsea: - It beggars belief that anyone could stoop so low as to steal a medal from a museum, but that's exactly what happened at Southsea's D-Day Museum recently! Apparently without being seen, some low-life forced a locked display cabinet and stole - along with a 1936 Olympic Games Souvenir Badge - a George Medal that happened to be on loan to the museum. This sort of theft incenses me so much that if I had my way, I'd chop their fingers off as punishment!

That's all Folk; might I end on a seasonal note, sending not only best wishes for

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

from myself and Barbara, but also from all the members of the Ceylon Committee. Good luck, Good health and keep smiling!

Yours aye,

Terry.

Written & Produced by Terry Randall ('50/'52) -