



Newsletter Volume 4 – No 10. August 2014.

Opening Comment: - It is my sad duty to bring to your attention the “crossing of the bar” of Ron Boniface - Communications 1950/52 – a stalwart association member and our webmaster. Ron had suffered much of late with lung problems and was recently re-admitted to hospital with suspected pneumonia; one thing the medics were sure of was the fact that his problems were **not** smoking related! At 0430 on Wednesday 13th August, Eve was contacted by the hospital and advised she should attend as Ron was “extremely poorly”; unfortunately she did not make it in time. I feel sure that all who knew Ron will join Chairman Brien, the committee and me in sending condolences to Eve. Ron’s funeral will take place at 1215 on Monday 1st September at Falconwood Crematorium, Eltham, London SE9 2AZ. ***Yours aye, Terry.***

Chairman’s Chat: - I hope you are all enjoying and making the most of the lovely summer weather that we have been having and were not affected by the stormy weather we had earlier. For those who have been on holiday, I hope you had a great time and for those yet to go, may the weather be kind to you. Looking forward to next year, our reunion is to be held at the Anchorage Hotel, Babbacombe again. I am sure that most of you will know this will be the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Association, so I would urge you all to try to be there to make this year rather special. As a founder member it would be nice to see as many of the original members who are able attending. ***Regards to you all, Brien***

Secretary’s Piece: - After a good time at the Anchorage it was voted as the next venue for 2015. You will be pleased to hear that the price is the same (***see booking form***) and it took a bit of “talking” to retain this figure. As this is a special year for us – the 25th anniversary of the association’s founding - it would be fantastic if we could ***all*** make it a ***must*** and fill the hotel. A trip has not been arranged this time, but if any members would like a trip or perhaps suggest an outing, could they please let me know ***A S A P*** so it can be arranged. Venues for the future are being considered, but if anyone has any ideas or referrals, these would be appreciated. As you all know we try to keep the price down and this eliminates us from some areas, restricting our choice. Everybody must be ***“fit for duty”*** as I haven’t received any excused duty chits. We will keep you informed of any happenings and hope to see you all again next April. ***Regards, Cliff.***

Treasurer’s Report: -Our finances are still in a healthy state, this meaning we do not have to think about any possible rise in the cost of ‘subs’; at £5 each I think maybe we are not undercut by any other organisation? We have had a few members lapse in the past year, with no indication as to why. ***Andrea.***

Fleet Visit to Korea and Japan – May 1959.

Alan K Hadley, LME 1958/60 recalls the time Ceylon as part of a Task Force visited Korea & Japan. The Force comprised cruisers Ceylon and Royalist, destroyers Cheviot and Cossack and oiler RFA Wave Master. Rear Admiral Sir Varyl Begg, DSO,RN, flew his flag in Ceylon.

“We sailed from Hong Kong on the 9th May 1959 and because of extreme bad weather to the south of Formosa (Taiwan), the Admiral decided to take the ships through the Formosan Straits, with the islands of Quemoy and Amoy on one side and Formosa the other. The political situation in the area at that time was such that the Nationalists and the Communists occasionally exchanged gunfire; also International relations between China and the West were very strained, with the United States supporting Formosa. So it was decided that all ships would pass through ‘darkened’ with white ensigns illuminated at the mast heads. For most of the night we were closed up at actions stations and for me this meant I was down below the Royal Marines Barracks looking after the H P Air Compressors which supplied air to the guns of the 6” turrets; luckily nothing happened! We sailed through the East China Sea and into the Yellow Sea and arrived at Inchon in South Korea, just south of the 38th Parallel. This port was **totally** controlled by the Americans and on our arrival the local news media arrived and were shown around the ship; they took many pictures and before leaving had tea with the officers.

The Squadron football team played the R O K Marines in Seoul’s Football Stadium, and lost! You would never guess that Seoul was South Korea’s capital, the war damage was terrible and the tallest building I saw was only two storeys high! I went ashore as one of the supporters and we were bussed from Inchon to Seoul, so I was able to see some of the countryside. Before the game commenced, the opposing side came onto the pitch and performed physical exercises and no wonder they won, they were so fit!

The American Forces had a Canteen in Inchon to which all crews were invited. We had to change our money into American Scrip, but they would not allow anyone to pay so everything was free! What can you do when they insist that you have a free drink, they were so hospitable. With the tide at Inchon dropping as much as 25 feet, on our return to the ship we found it a long way down into the liberty-boat.

We left Inchon on the 16th May and made our way into the Sea of Japan, and on the 19th May the destroyers went into Tokyo while Ceylon and Royalist berthed in Yokohama and the Wave Master in Yokosuka. On berthing a Japanese Police Band played and when the gangway was in position the Admiral and Captain walked to the bottom where they were presented with flowers by two Japanese girls dressed in Kimonos, after which they were introduced to the waiting Dignitaries. This was not a particularly nice experience for Captain Twiss, as during WW2 he had been the Lt/Cdr Gunnery Officer in HMS Exeter and had been taken prisoner when the Japanese sank his ship in the Sunda Strait; we later laid a wreath at the site of the sinking. We spent a week at Yokohama and one day a group of us were taken to a large department store where we were split into groups of two and shown around by two young Japanese women who had just a smattering of English; our Japanese of course was non-existent! I bought two dolls, a boy and a girl dressed in national costume, for my wife Diana; **she still has them**. Football and baseball was played against teams from the Japanese Defence Force and they were very good at baseball; we beat them at football but they beat us at baseball. Some of the crew went on a sight-seeing trip to Tokyo, but for me I well remember walking from the base to the shops and bars, noticing that the roadside stalls sold warm Sake which is very strong! During our stay we threw a party for some of the local children; a wire was rigged from B Turret to the Capstan on which a rocket was fixed. The children love zooming down in the rocket and there was an endless stream of children using it. We supplied the usual cakes, sandwiches and coke drinks and I was one of the helpers. On the last day of the visit a party of 400 children arrived, unknown to us they had travelled 400 miles to look over a British Warship! They were fed, watered and shown around the ship and finally left us all very excited; they had certainly taken some looking after!

We left Yokohama on the 25th May and the Squadron assembled in Tokyo Bay where exercises were carried out, one of which was an A A shoot at a drogue towed behind an American aircraft. One of our guns shot it down, which was not supposed to have happened, apparently the correct 'off-shoot' settings had not been applied and the American Pilot was none too happy. We sighted Mount Fuji in the distance and also saw the Island of Oshima which had a volcano on it throwing out smoke and ash.

So now it was time to make our way to Singapore; this time sailing south of Formosa!"

Alan.

Anchorage Hotel – Babbacombe

Aveland Road, Carey Park, Babbacombe, Torquay. TQ1 3PT.
Tel 01803 326175.

Booking Form
HMS Ceylon Reunion Weekend

Friday 24th April to Monday 27th April 2015.

3 x Nights – Dinner, Bed & Breakfast pp	£101-50.	
2 x Nights – Dinner, Bed & Breakfast pp	£74-00 *	
* Please circle for either - Fri/Sat – or – Sat/Sun.		
1x Night - Dinner, Bed & Breakfast pp	£45-00	
Gala Dinner only pp	£18-00	

NAME:- _____

Address:- _____

Tel number:- _____ (For Confirmation Purposes)

Rooms Req'd (please circle) Single: Double: Twin:

Dietary Needs:-

Special Requests:-

Deposit - £20 pp (Non Refundable).

Cancellation Policy.

Cancel within 0 – 7 days prior to arrival	-	100% Accommodation Charge
Cancel within 8 – 28 days prior to arrival	-	50% Accommodation Charge

Please Note! - Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the Hotel or its grounds.

The booking form for the 2015 reunion is as usual on the bottom half of page three, please cut off this section for onward posting to the hotel. We hope to see lots of you there at the end of next April.

Further to my remarks at the beginning of this letter re Ron, I would like to add that he will be sorely missed, not only as a friend and shipmate, but someone on whom we could rely to do the job for us. Typical of Ron was the fact when he was re-admitted to hospital, his main concern was to be getting home and printing out the labels for this newsletter! He always felt that the website was not taxing enough, with him never getting satisfactory feedback for people who looked us up; he was **always** keen to help anyone who made contact. He did a good job of looking after the membership lists and whenever I requested a set of labels for the newsletter envelopes, they always turned up 'poste-haste'! For stepping in the breach and filling the void created by the unfortunate passing of Ron, I send heartfelt thanks to our treasurer Andrea; **thank you so very much Andrea!**

Now that the long hot days of summer – **all fifteen of them** – are over, I only hope that those of my friends who complained of the heat are now feeling more comfortable.

Yours aye,

Terry.



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