



Newsletter Volume 4 – No 5. February 2013.

**Chairman's Chat:** - A Happy New Year to all, I hope you all had a good festive season and feel ready to enjoy yourselves in sunny Bournemouth!! . The committee met recently to finalise arrangements for the re-union, it would seem the response for bookings has been good so we should have a good crowd. We have not made any arrangements for outings this year as Bournemouth is a seaside town with all the usual offerings, which we know you will make the best use of.

Should any member have any suggestions for the committee, please do not hesitate to forward them to the secretary. I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

**Tony Mendoza.**

**Secretary's Piece:** - Hi Shipmates, we seem to have had a good response to our reunion at Bournemouth. So far 68 have booked, so if **YOU** haven't, you could well miss out. No trips have been arranged, because of not knowing numbers; plus coach costs are so very expensive these days. There is much of interest in the Bournemouth area and we feel sure you will find plenty to do; **if it's not raining!** There is a very good information centre quite near to the hotel. We are pleased to have on board some new members (**see below**) and I look forward to seeing them at the reunion; I'm also very much looking forward to seeing you all once more. Name badges will be available when you sign in on arrival; please wear them but don't forget to hand them in at "Up Spirits", then you will become eligible for the chance to win in the bottle draw! There will be two draws this year and tickets will be on sale early, the second is a 'charity draw' with a special prize donated by the Russell Court Hotel - 'a free stay at the hotel for two people, any two nights, Sunday to Thursday Inclusive, between the end of October and the end of December 2013, room only, either Twin or Double Bed'. The proceeds will be divided between the hotel's "charity of the year" and on behalf of the association, St Dunstan's.

**Cliff.**

**Treasurer's Report:** - I have nothing to say at this time, except to remind people that subscriptions for the coming year will need renewing as from the 1st May. For those attending the reunion at Bournemouth, the get together will be an ideal opportunity for you to pay them.

**Andrea.**

**Sickness Reports:** - Ken Toop, 1950/'52, a survivor of the sinkings of both Royal Oak and Manchester, had a very bad fall in early December, severely damaging his neck, with the result that he spent a month in Basingstoke hospital. He has now returned home and making good recovery. All good wishes to you Ken from the rest of us; get back to normal soon!

**New Members:** - (1) Associate – Mrs Pat Howell, ex-Wren, Pat is the widow of late member George Adamson – A/B, '52-54 commission.

(2). Bryan Duncan Segar – (Chick) – A/B 1958/59.

Let us give these people a warm welcome, especially Chick who is coming over from Ireland!

**Crossed the Bar:** - 1. L/Sea (TAS) D F (Doug) Hackney, 1950-'52. 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012. A service conducted by Christine Allaway was held at Portchester Crematorium on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 1315 and attended by some forty friends and relatives including R/Adm Whetstone, CB. The service commenced with the music from "Band of Brothers" and followed by a recital of John Masefield's epic poem "Sea Fever". Doug, the eldest of two boys, was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1929 in Lincoln and brought up in the area. Keen on a 'sea life', he joined the local Sea Cadet Unit at age 12 and on leaving school joined the navy as a 'Ganges Boy'. He had many ships, including Dido, Carysfort and Ceylon and was a staunch supporter of Ceylon's Association, attending many of its reunions. He and Evelyn married on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1954 at St Mary's Church, Lowdham, Nottinghamshire and they began married life in Portsmouth. Their son Andrew was born in Southsea in 1956, before moving to a 'quarter' in Gosport where in 1957 daughter Andrea was born, then later moving to Mansfield Road where son Michael was born in 1958. They then lived in their own property in Sedgeley Grove for several years before finally moving to Parham Road in 1978. On completion of his "22", Doug went to sea in the merchant navy before finishing up as a security officer with British American Tobacco. Retirement meant a lot of travelling, including a flight on Concorde, a holiday in Switzerland with Des and Audrey, and a trip to Germany to see Andrew who was working there. He and Evelyn often shopped in Fareham, but if he ever went on his own it included a big fried breakfast; **which she never found out about!** Andrea recalls her Dad being proud of his appearance at all times; he liked to look smart and always wore a collar and tie, even if it was just for a trip to the shops. Being conversant with computers, he spent many hours in contact with old shipmates.

He was very proud of his grandchildren, Frances, Peter, Philip and Jenny, also great-grandson Richard.

In 1991 a great sadness befell the family with the death of Andrew in Germany, and unfortunately he and Evelyn didn't get to spend a great deal more of time together as she died in 2002.

Further misfortune befell, when three years after this Doug experienced health problems which resulted in the loss of his sight, a devastating blow as he was no longer independent, having to rely totally on carers and Andrea. He became involved with St Dunstan's, spending a week at their rehabilitation unit doing activities; proof for him that life went on even without sight. He was very supportive of this organisation and did a great deal towards the raising of funds.

Early in 2012 Doug celebrated his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday with his family; a lovely surprise for Doug was the fact that his brother David came along! However, his health having deteriorated considerably over the past 2 years, he was admitted to hospital at the end of last October and although he entertained hopes of returning home after just a couple of weeks, it was not to be! On the 15<sup>th</sup> November he suddenly departed life leaving everybody with a feeling of great loss; the only comfort being that he was then free from pain!

(2). Rene Evans, wife of L/Sea Dave Evans, 1<sup>st</sup> Commission – Rene sadly died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 of a massive heart attack. Dave informed us that Rene had recently taken a bad tumble but was apparently recovering quite well, however he was contacted by the Coroner who said that Rene had indeed been a very sick lady due to her heart condition. No time is a good time for bereavement, but the beginning of the Christmas season is an especially bad time? Condolences were sent on behalf of the association by Cliff.

(3). Roy Shuttlewood, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. 1<sup>st</sup> Commission 1942/1945. Born in Leicester in December 1925, he was in his 87<sup>th</sup> year when he passed on. On enlistment in WW2, Roy did his training as a

Seaman/Gunner at Collingwood and served in other ships before joining Ceylon; he enjoyed sharing his recollections with his son Kevin. After navy life he had various jobs, his last one before retiring was as a Dye House Operative. Until his recent illness he had been a very fit and active chap, still drove and liked fishing and gardening; sadly he lost his wife in 2008. Kevin and his partner Lyn wish to remain as members of the association in fond remembrance of Roy; welcome aboard!

**C30 Surfers:** - All quiet again for the moment apart from the following request received via our website; can anyone help? Mr Paul Bell sent in the following: -

*"I am researching a very close family friend who served in HMS Ceylon during WWII - he was a Signalman/Telegraphist who moved up to Petty Officer. His name was Paul Casey. Would the association have any relevant information or pictures please to help me with my research?"*

*Kind Regards, Paul.*

I hope that none of you were involved with all the flooding we had a short while ago.....

Regards to all out there,

**Ron Boniface.**

### **The Story of a Landing: - Chomdong near Mongumpo, Choppeki Point. 30<sup>th</sup> August 1951.**

Submitted by "**one who was there**" - Just 5 days after the night landing in which we unfortunately saw AB Marcioni from HMNZS Rotoiti killed, I was one of a platoon of Royal Marines, commanded by Lt. Hunter RM, taking part in the above raid; to say the least we were rather apprehensive! As we approached what appeared to be a lovely tranquil sandy beach, it seemed very peaceful and I thought at the time it would be an excellent place for a 'Ban-Yan'. I could see three small boats on the left side of the area where we were to land and the run in was very smooth. When the ramp went down we ran up the beach and quickly spread out. Almost immediately we came under heavy small arms fire and I could see and hear a number of explosions around me. Several of the platoon fell down; at the time I was unsure if they were wounded or dead. I went to ground and tried to identify where the small arms fire was coming from, so that I could return fire, when I suddenly felt an explosion, just behind and to the right of me. I heard Marine E. McKiernan calling for help and I could see that he had a huge wound to his left leg. As I looked round I could see both my legs bleeding profusely, until that point I had no idea I had been injured. A number of mortar bombs and landmines were still exploding around us. It was quite obvious that we were heavily outnumbered and I was relieved when the order was given for us to withdraw. As there was so much happening around us, I didn't have time to think about the wounds or what would happen next. As I crawled back to the landing craft I started to feel the pain in my legs. The morphine injection I was given on the way back to Ceylon worked like magic and I began to drift into semi-consciousness, which was quite amazing, as the landing craft was awash with a mixture of injured bodies, blood and seawater. When the landing was discussed later it was obvious that the beach had been heavily defended by trip-wired mines as well as small arms fire and mortars. The wounded were worried about the severity of their injuries and what the future held for them.

**Official Account:** - The official account of this raid is to be found in BR 1736(54) Naval Staff History, British Commonwealth Naval Operations, Korea 1950-53. Published 1967 and reads: -

*"A somewhat unfortunate raid was carried out early on 30 August. Its object was to round up a number of enemy troops reported by "Leopard" to be in Chomdong. No serious opposition was expected but the raid was on a larger scale than heretofore, the landing party consisted of two platoons of Royal Marines and one of stoker-mechanics from HMS Ceylon. The assault party HQ and*

1 Marine platoon under Captain HE Kelsey-Burge was to follow ashore with the two remaining platoons, if the beach-head was established.

HM Ships Ceylon, Concord and HMNZS Rotoiti had approached in the darkness to between one and two miles from the beach, and as soon as it was light enough for daylight spotting, delivered a heavy twelve- minute bombardment, while the assault party accompanied by Lt Col Ergott USA proceeded ashore in an LCI/P (previously embarked at Sasebo) and manned by sailors from Ceylon. The bombardment was then lifted inshore and the party landed. As they deployed across the beach, an accurate and heavy small arms fire opened from the flanks. The fire was returned and covering bombardment was renewed while the party withdrew and re-embarked, but fifteen casualties, some serious, were suffered."

As I remember, Captain G A Thring was most unhappy with the intelligence as supplied by Col Ergott, (**code-name Leopard**) blaming it for the disastrous episode this turned out to be! **Terry.**

Well we seem to have survived the awful snowy weather that hit the country in January and here's hoping it doesn't return! We were fortunate here in South Hampshire, but even so - unusually for us - we did get quite a downfall of the stuff; all gone now though! So, here's looking forward to seeing you in Bournemouth. To enable you to have an idea of the area, a copy of a map of the area is herewith attached; sorry it is not in colour, but colour printing does tend to get a little expensive!



*Yours aye,*

*Terry.*

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