



Newsletter Volume 4 – No 8. March 2014.

Opening Comment: - Reunion 2014 – ‘safe’ Anchorage: - the numbers booked are good for this “V F M” event, so now might well be a good time to send a timely reminder to those who have been putting off their booking? The management have again requested that people put their contact phone number on the booking form; this has proved most useful on the odd occasion when there has been a query and thus been able to sort things quickly by making a phone call! There are yet a few spaces available on the coach to the White Ensign Club on the Saturday morning; Andrea will be pleased to receive your booking slip – **bottom of page 3 last newsletter** – together with your cheque made payable to HMS Ceylon Association for £10 per person. The Saturday night Gala Dinner will have a vegetarian option and the hotel would like to have names for this by dinner-time on Friday evening; **breakfast Saturday morning at the very latest!**

Secretary’s Piece: - Hi Shipmates, we are getting close to our reunion again! So far 38 rooms have been booked but it would be nice to fill all 52 rooms so that we have the run of the hotel. At a price of just over £100 it’s a snip, so if you have contact with any members please ‘gee’ them up a little, or even ask a friend(s) to come along? The trip to the White Ensign Club has been booked for Saturday so please let Andrea know – **A S A P** - if you would like to join in. We need to know what size coach to book; also we have to give the club our numbers for the food, tot (**wine alternative for the ladies**) at least 2 weeks prior. The coach will leave the hotel about 1015 and on arrival in Exeter there will be time for shopping before arriving at the club in good time for “Up Spirits” at 1245; immediately following, “Hands to Dinner” will be piped.

At £10 a head, it cannot be bad! We will return to the hotel in good time to get ready for the Gala Reunion Dinner, an event usually enjoyed by all.

I have managed to negotiate special bar prices for the weekend; 10% off all pints, house doubles and bottles of wine, i.e. pints, £3 (£3-30): doubles (ditto): house wine £11 (£12-25) I hope that you will all feel happy with this.

I’ve been informed that Shipmate Arthur Findlay is receiving treatment for cancer but entertains high hopes of making it to the Anchorage for the weekend, with his son bringing him along. For my part, I’m looking forward to a weekend free of ‘stress and worry’, allowing me to just sit back and let the world go by! (**surely I jest?**)

One last thing, I would like to ask if any member(s) can recommend a venue for a future reunion, one which would possibly include a tour or visit; if so, please submit same to your committee for discussion. I realise that many of our members seem to prefer coastal towns, but we have had many a good time at inland hotels. We have a possible venue for 2015 but it would be nice to be in a position to offer a choice. Obviously price comes into the equation, with this often the deciding factor; **any** possible attractive deal sent in will be given full scrutiny. **Cliff.**

Treasurer's Report: - I do not have very much input at this time, except to say that there are just a few who have not renewed their subs for this year; due 1st May. Perhaps now is a good time to remind members that next year's dues –and/ or arrears - can be paid to me during the reunion weekend. **Andrea.**

Crossed the Bar: - 1. News arrived from John Barlow in Arizona of the passing of an old shipmate and past member of the association; Albert O Stanworth – known as Stan – Sto/Mech from the second commission, 1950/52, who died suddenly on 20th December 2013. Stan's son Dave contacted John with this information and although he was a past member, none-the-less he was a shipmate and will be remembered thus by many; our condolences are extended to Stan's wife Hilda and son Dave. John & Lynn often stayed with Stan on the Humberside during their visits to England and will miss the contact greatly.

2. John Castle, first commission Royal Marine, 1943/46, who lived in Portland, Dorset, 'crossed the bar' 23rd August last year. Andrea was contacted recently by his son David, who informed her of this sad event. An obituary did appear in the Dorset Echo last September but this was not picked up by anyone. John joined the Royal Marines aged 17 in 1941 and served in the Ceylon under Lord Louis Mountbatten - 1943/46 - and later in the Vanguard; he was an active participant in the sport of boxing. A belated condolence card has been sent to the family by Secretary Cliff.

3. John Duncan Gordon Troup (**known as Duncan**) – Lt (Surgeon), PHD, DSC (MED), F (FOM), RCP (HCN), 1950/52 commission. Information was received re the passing of this much respected Doctor from both his close friend and shipmate, Lt (D) David Andrew and Duncan's nephew, Angus Milne. He died on the 20th December 2013 at his home in Huntley, Aberdeenshire. Apart from being kept busy dealing with normal duties as a medical team and dealing many times with wounded personnel, he and the PMO (Lt/Cdr (Surgeon) spent many busy days while on patrol in the Yellow and Eastern Seas, performing a number of operations – particularly appendectomy - on personnel from not only our Fleet, but also men from Commonwealth and other United Nations Ships. On leaving the navy, Duncan had a distinguished career specialising in spinal injury treatment, including the setting up of a spinal injury unit in Helsinki. On retirement, he bought a house (an old Manse) and several acres of ground which he turned into a small nature reserve, taking much pleasure from that. Mr Angus Milne, Duncan's nephew, supplied further information as per his obituary in the Daily Telegraph – "John Duncan Gordon Troup, elder son of Captain Francis Gordon Troup and Olive Mary Katharine (nee Mosse)"; adding "An additional reason for contacting you is that we have so

little information about his time in the Royal Navy, and hope that you can fill in some blanks for us. Duncan went on to enjoy a most distinguished medical career, of which much is documented. Are you able to tell me when he served in HMS Ceylon? There are photos at his house of HMS Ceylon visiting the island of Ceylon, but no dates. Was this undertaken as National Service, or as a regular? Was the whole of his service in Ceylon, or did he transfer from or to other ships? There may well be plenty of other questions that I should be asking, but don't know to ask, so any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Duncan remained unmarried, therefore has no children. His sister – my mother – was Mary Osgood Gordon Milne (nee Troup), long deceased”.



Lt (S) Troup is pictured here on the right in the front row, sporting a very smart 'set'.

In the rear rank, 2nd from left is L/SBA Jack Weedon, with whom I met up in 1954 at Ghajn Tuffieha , Malta when he was qualifying in 'Small Arms' preparatory to joining the RM Cdo's, with whom he spent the rest of his career.

Photograph taken summer 1952?

4. Mr G H Pritchard, Cpl R M's 1st commission, 1943/47. We learned in a very convoluted manner of the death of Mr Pritchard, whose last known address was 12, Marlborough Road, Bournemouth. It would appear that some time ago he changed residence and by not informing us, contact was lost. Unfortunately we are unable to contact his widow, but as a past shipmate our thoughts go out to them both.

5. John Wright, an A/B from the 1st commission – 1943/1946, died 9th December 2013. Widow Mrs P Wright wrote very briefly to say that he had died, cancelling his membership.

Resignation: - Our esteemed ex Sec/Treasurer Joan Willerton, recently received a letter from Mr A Hutton, Collyhurst, Lancs; who had been a Stoker/Mech during the 1st commission serving in Ceylon 1943/45. Very briefly he tendered his resignation from the association, giving no reason and we can only hope that it is not some form of serious ill-health that has brought him to this decision. Whatever the reason, I am sure you will all join me in wishing him well.

C30 Surfers: - Webmaster Ron, received an e-mail from a nephew of Surgeon Lt Troup (*see above obituary*), with this supplying further information gleaned from Dr Troup's obituary in The Times of 24 December 2013, as follows: -

“ TROUP John Duncan Gordon, PhD, DSc(Med), MRCS, LRCP, F(FOM)RCP (Hon), FRSM, FErgS, FSA(Scot), late of Aberdeenshire: died 20th December 2013 at home. Elder son of Captain Francis Gordon Troup and Olive Mary Katharine (nee Mosse). Further information available from Messrs Murdoch, McMath & Mitchell, Solicitors, Huntly.”

Most of the rest of Angus Milne’s e-mail contained information as already shown in the above obituary,
Regards,

Ron Boniface.



Changes in Portsmouth: - Over the years when visiting Portsmouth, I have often driven along Queen Street and noticed the R N Wardroom opposite RNB, wondering what would ever become of this imposing building? Recently I was sent a news clipping saying that it was *‘in the pipeline’* to become the new Portsmouth Maritime Academy; for myself I am happy to see such use made of these historic buildings. Is it just me, or am I not alone in thinking that it is not right that such buildings are torn down and replaced by some of the modern day monstrosities nowadays seen?

Another letter and with it the hopeful end of an extremely wet and trying time for many! Close friends of ours from Romsey (just 3 miles away) were seriously affected and now have to relocate for many months while their home is completely refurbished! One or two recent days have been promising with a bit of sunshine, but we really do need a continued dry spell. I am also looking forward to the day when I see that - to me - magical temperature of 16C, which equates to 61F! Barely a couple of months now to our next reunion, something Bar and I are looking forward to very much; for those of you booked - **and yet to book** – we say “see you there”.

Yours aye,

Terry.



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