



Newsletter Volume 5 – No 5 -March ,2016

**Editor's Comments:**

A New Year has arrived, let us hope it is better than the last one, one piece of good news is that it has been recognized as having the disease from living in asbestos filled ships. More about this below. Would you please let me know when you change your e-mail details? There is a new web site for HMS Ceylon, it is, [anything@hmsCeylon.co.uk](mailto:anything@hmsCeylon.co.uk), with thanks to Brian Smith for his work in setting it up, Brian would appreciate some photographs and written work for inclusion into the website The postcode for the Hotel is CV13 OLP, for those with satnavs. See you all at the re-union, **Brian's email address is :- [brian@thesmithhouse.co.uk](mailto:brian@thesmithhouse.co.uk).**

**Alan.**

**Chairman's Piece ;**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am writing this and looking out of my lounge window at the seemingly never ending wind and rain. This area has been plagued by floods but fortunately our village has not been affected. I would at this point like to thank the several members who contacted me by e-mail and telephone to check .that we had not been affected, their concern was greatly appreciated.

Hopefully the weather will soon improve and bless our re-union with some warm sunny weather and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Kind regards, **Brien**

**Secretary's Piece;**

**Hello shipmates,** The bookings for our next re-union are quite good so far. If you haven't booked yet I suggest you do so, as the Hotel may close our allocation. Also there is still room on the trip, **anyone who hasn't a form for this should contact the Treasurer and book with her directly,**[details in the September 2015 Newsletter.] We will close the lists on March 31<sup>st</sup> as deposits and numbers will have to be submitted to the Railway Company.

**Cliff**

**Treasurer's Piece**

Please have the money for the trip and cream tea to me by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. **Andrea.**



Do you know the names of these handsome stoker-mechanics and leading hands, the photograph was taken in Hong Kong at Christmas time in 1958, the one in the centre is the Editor, on duty.

### **An Eventful Tour of Duty**

After less than an hour after berthing at Fountain Lake jetty in Portsmouth Dockyard yesterday, most of the 530 Officers and Men of the crew of HMS Ceylon went off for Christmas leave. Hundreds of relatives and friends waited at the quayside as Ceylon, home from a 70,000 mile, 17 months tour of duty in the Far East came up harbour.

For some of the crew it meant seeing for the first time their young sons and daughters. After Christmas leave the ammunition and stores will be unloaded, and then then the crew will be given foreign service commission leave. Capt. FR Twiss, Commanding Officer of HMS Ceylon, said the ship left Portsmouth in July 1958, and arrived at her Far East Station in November of that year.

On her way out Ceylon lifted the last British troops- The Cameroonians- out of Jordan and took them to Mombasa in Kenya, for 12 days we had over 400 men and their Regimental Band living on deck, said Captain Twiss. At Aquaba the ship was visited by King Hussein of Jordan, who was greeted by a 21 gun salute. While in the Persian Gulf, Ceylon helped in the salvaging of the 21,000 ton Liberian tanker "Melika", which caught fire, and which another British ship, HMS Bulwark also played a leading part in the salvage operation. Captain Twiss said that the ship had taken part in exercises under every pact that Britain had put her signature. This will be Ceylon's last tour for the British Navy. Yesterday the Admiralty announced that she had been purchased by Peru and renamed BAP CORONEL BOLOGNESI. [A small detachment of our sailors stayed aboard and sailed with them to the Azores, from where they flew home].

This item was sent in by **Frank 'Pony' Moore** , can we have more please, the reserve tray is empty.

**MESOTHELIOMA** ; The Ministry of Defence revealed the plight of ex-personnel denied the six figure settlements civilians receive, it means that about 2,500 Royal Navy Veterans who will die of the disease from being exposed to asbestos on ships decades ago will benefit from large one-off payments from next April 2016, when new rules come into effect. New; March 1st 2016. The Veteran's Minister, Mark Lancaster MP Has told MP's the options of a LUMP SUM will be extended to ALL, same as civilians, from April 11<sup>th</sup> 2016. From the I newspaper March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

## Korean War Veterans visit to ROK Navy Ship – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

As a member of the Wessex branch of the British Korean Veteran Association, I was fortunate to receive from [via the Korean Embassy in London] an invitation to attend a reception on the Republic of Korea ship Jong San Kim in Portsmouth Naval Base at 1830 hours on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

The Jong San Kim is a very formidable looking Destroyer and is part of a Cruise Training Task Force, at this time operating in our part of the world. On arrival at Victory jetty in the Naval Base, Barbara and I were greeted by being photographed and then” ceremoniously” being saluted aboard by a saluting party comprising ROK sailors and Marines, each Veteran was appointed an ‘under training’ Midshipman who took exceedingly good care of us throughout the evening; mine was a very well- mannered and most courteous man by the name of Kwon.

The event took place on the ship’s large quarterdeck, with main and side awnings spread and groups of tables and chairs set out. A splendid range of drinks were available and Kwon continuously tempted us with these ! Speeches were made by the ROK Admiral and others of his Senior Officers; these were responded to by the attending RN Admiral, whose father apparently was also a Veteran of the Korean War, having served in the light carrier ‘Glory’., with the formalisation over, we were treated to a concert of entertainment: Singers, Bandsmen, and a group of traditional Korean drummers who were all very talented and awe inspiring. The musician’s skill and superb singing was top grade. I am always astounded at the ‘operatic’ quality of some of the voices you hear from Korean nationals. The evening came to a close at around 2100hours, and on our departure our hosts presented each of us a bag containing presents; a very good musical box adorned with a [ Thank you for your help in our time of need card], a commemorative mug, a very interesting Korean War diary, and a Cruise Training Task Group Flag, this was rounded off by being saluted ashore by the same ceremonial squad of crew members. Altogether an evening not to be missed! Sent in by **Terry Randall**, who it seemed had a very interesting evening.

### ROHS JONG SAN KIM



## **Crossed the Bar:**

**Richard Packham** crossed the bar in Guildford Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016, he served aboard HMS Ceylon on the 1950-1952 commission during the Korean War, and again in 1956 during the Suez War. Richard came from Battle, near Hastings, he joined HMS St Vincent in May 1949, Aged 15 -3 months and was in Class 66 he joined HMS Ceylon for the Far East Station 1950-1952, his Action and Defence station was the S2 4" guns crew. By 1956 Richard was a Radar rating and serving aboard the Ceylon again. Richard was one of the **Founder members** of the Ceylon Association, he attended many of the re-unions with his wife, Shirley.

A moving service was held in the Chapel at Hills Cemetery, Horsham, conducted by the Revd Bernard Sinton BSc, then laid to rest there, Revd Sinton being Chaplain of the Royal Naval Association. Those in attendance, as well as his wife Shirley and family were- our esteemed President David Scott, Cliff Pell, Terry Randall and John Wyeth, also there were the St Vincent's Standard bearer Mick O'Keefe, accompanied by St Vincent's Chairman Ken Cast. The local Royal Naval Association Standard Bearer, and one other member.

After his Naval Service Richard worked in T V Rental and Repairs, then 27 years as a Fireman at British Aerospace at Dunsfold Aerodrome, Surrey. [This Obituary piece was sent in by **John Wyeth** who attended the funeral]. Received from the daughter of Richard Packham, Thank you so very much to you and fellow members for attending my Dad's funeral, my mum, brother and I appreciated it so very much. **Jane.**

Further to the Obituary notice for Kenneth H Toop published in the September newsletter, shipmate **John Wyeth** has sent this in from the St Vincent magazine.

In the last mag I made mention of shipmate Arthur Smith [Maintop 58, 6/36] who presented to the Museum a White Ensign that had been a memorial on the official grave site of HMS Royal Oak and had been presented to him when it was replaced. Arthur stated that he was the only living survivor as the other survivor, Kenneth Toop, having just died. What I did not know was that Kenneth was also an ex St Vincent Boy and that HMS Royal Oak was his 1<sup>st</sup> sea going draft after completing his training. This was one of the many Obituaries: -Kenneth H Toop, Seaman, Diver. Joined at aged 15, served 1938-1953. First sea going draft as a Boy 1<sup>st</sup> Class to HMS Royal Oak and was the youngest on board to survive the torpedo attack in Scapa Flow, October 1939. Served aboard HMS Manchester {survivor}, Ceylon, Lundy and Korea. He was the driving force of the Royal Oak Association from the early 1970's and the Secretary from the 1990's until his death, driving annually by car from Hampshire to the Orkneys for the Annual Memorial Service, and writing hundreds of letters to survivors and families of the bereaved. A true Gentleman, crossed the bar May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, aged 91 years.

**Many thanks** to the contributors of the above articles.

Taken from the 'Semaphore Circular' February 2016, The RNA Headquarter

HMS Newfoundland and HMS Kenya Veteran's Annual get together to be held April 8<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Carlton Hotel, Torquay. This invitation is open to other members of the Colony Class Cruiser's.

Sent in by **John Wyeth.** **Written and produced by Alan Hadley 58 / 60.**

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