



Newsletter – Volume 3 - No 10 – Summer 2011.

**Opening Comment:** - Yet another successful reunion was held at the Inglewood in Torquay; shame about it clashing with the Royal Wedding though, however all went well. At ‘election of officers’ time at the AGM, it was proposed and carried that the present committee be re-elected ‘en-bloc’. Details re these people are listed below; please retain this for possible future reference. On a pleasant note, a motion was passed that Joan Willerton should be awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her much appreciated past services; particularly as Treasurer and helping Trevor as Secretary.

*Terry.*

**PRESIDENT.** Lt/Cdr David M Scott RN.

**VICE PRESIDENT.** Brien Harrison.

**CHAIRMAN.** John Wyeth,

**VICE CHAIRMAN.** Cliff Pell.

**SECRETARY.** Tony Mendoza.

**TREASURER.** Andrea Maynard.

**COMMITTEE:**

Terry Randall.

Ron Boniface.

Frank Hawkes.

**Chairman’s Corner:** - Hello Shipmates, our 21<sup>st</sup> reunion proved to be successful, with Sue and her staff being very accommodating; plenty to eat, always hot and very tasty; I am sure everyone enjoyed the weekend and the entertainment. After the Loyal Toast was given, a toast was given to the ‘newlyweds’; Prince William and his bride Kate. This was followed by toasts to the Ceylon Association and Absent Friends. Our esteemed president then read the message we received from Her Majesty the Queen - a reply to a message sent on behalf of the Ceylon Association (*see below* \*).

Sunday was a very full day, starting with the Church Service, again very ably arranged by Frank & Leah Hawkes; this year the altar was flanked by two standards, one RNA and the other BKVA. Sadly, the list of names read in remembrance of ‘Crossed the Bar’ members, was much longer than usual.

The AGM followed, with this in turn followed by “Up Spirits”; the beverages were issued by Cliff and Geoffrey the hotel barman who was suitably rigged for the occasion, even to sporting a Ceylon tally on his ‘sennet’. Many were the pictures taken of him!

In the afternoon a well-attended quiz with a strong nautical theme was held, there being pictures of ‘sailing ships’ & ‘iron ships’ to name. Even the anagram was nautical; the answer being ‘battleship’, very quickly worked out by a lady on table 5; she won a packet of Jaffa cakes. The overall winners were table 2 and their prize was a packet of Kit-Kat; my thanks go to all who gamely took part.

I have since received a phone call from Richard Packham, who unfortunately could not attend due to his recent operation, he sends his sincere thanks to all who signed his get-well card; it was most appreciated.

**Copy of letter sent to Buckingham Palace; - \***

*Please convey our sincere congratulations, best wishes and blessing to your grandson Prince William and his bride Kate on their marriage. We are holding our 21<sup>st</sup> annual reunion at Torquay on the weekend of the Royal Wedding. At the Saturday evening banquet we will as always propose the Loyal Toast, followed this year by a toast to Prince William and Kate. Your obedient servant, J Wyeth, Chairman.*

*Yours aye, John.*

**Secretary’s Piece:** - It has been confirmed that reunion 2012 will take place at the Britannia Hotel Coventry. A booking form is reproduced at the bottom of page 4 for the use of those wishing to attend. Anyone with ‘special needs’ is advised to note these in the space under ‘Date of Departure’. In order for me to be able to keep an overall picture of things, will anyone with any query whatsoever please take it through me. All members who do not pay by bank mandate, are requested to please send their subs (only £5), which became due on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, to Andrea as soon as possible. *Yours Tony.*

**New Members:** - We are pleased to welcome the following as Associate members to our Association, people in the main who have attended many of our past functions –

1. Gill Harrison
2. Jane Bannister.
3. Debbie Smith
4. Kay Wallbridge

**Address Change:** - Please note a change of contact for Chris Evans, 43/46 commission;

**Recollection from the 1958/59 commission:** - Alan Hadley, L/ME during Ceylon’s final commission in the RN, kindly sent this little story of some of the ship’s time in the Far East.

Sailing from Hong Kong, the cruisers Ceylon and Royalist, accompanied by the destroyers Cheviot and Cossack, also the oiler RFA Wave Master, were making their way to Incheon in South Korea, with Rear Admiral Sir Varyl Begg, DSC, flying his flag in Ceylon. Admiral Begg decided that as the weather south of Formosa (Taiwan) was extremely bad, he would take the ships through the Formosa Strait. With the political situation as it then was - *the USA recognising the Nationalist Government based in Formosa* - this was a decidedly tricky decision. The Communist controlled islands of Quemoy and Amoy would be off to port and Formosa to starboard and it was well known that from time to time the two opposing forces opened fire on each other! The squadron was ordered to make passage through the strait with the ships at Action Stations, darkened and showing illuminated White Ensigns at their mastheads; fortunately passage was negotiated without incident! My ‘action-station’ was aft, down under the Royal Marine barracks, tending the H P air compressors which supplied the 6”guns with air for their run-out cylinders and ‘air-blasts’.

Eventually the ships sailed into the China Sea, then the Yellow Sea before arriving at Incheon, where they learned to be very wary of the fast 25 feet tide-fall, making sure that all care was taken when using liberty boats, etc.

From Incheon, the ships sailed back to the Sea of Japan, with Ceylon and Royalist making their way to Yokohama, while Cossack and Cheviot berthed in Tokyo and Wave Master went to Yokosuka. For the C O of Ceylon, Captain F R Twiss DSC, this was a very poignant time; his first visit to Japan since having been a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese during WW2; he was captured when HMS Exeter was sunk in the Sunda Strait.

*I often wonder what the thoughts were of those members of Ceylon's company who had also served in the ship during her 2<sup>nd</sup> commission when the ship was often in Incheon Harbour. A place we all grew to know very well; but only from the point of view of looking to shore; it was spelled Inchon then!* **Terry.**

**C30 Surfers:** - We have received two messages via our website, requesting any kind of information or news re past shipmates; the first (*received at the beginning of April*) stipulates a period of 1950/56, while the second says around 1956.

1. "I am hoping that you can help me with regard to information concerning my late father's time on HMS Ceylon between the years 1950 to 1956. Sadly, my Dad, William "Bill" Owen passed away last week at the age of 82. He served in HMS Ceylon as a Royal Marine at some point during the period mentioned above. I searched HMS Ceylon on the internet and found your Association's site, and wondered if you could approach other members to find out if any members remember my Dad. His funeral is to be held on the 14th April and it would be amazing to find someone who may know him and be able to provide us with a little information about his time in the ship, Best regards, Andrew Owen.
2. "I am wondering if i could find out more about the time my father served on the ship, as I have no living relative to help me out with details and my family would like more information. My father's name was Frank Baker Pickstock. Kind regards, Suzanne Wingfield.
- 3.

It would be rather nice if once again we could be of help in providing information about a shipmate for his family!

***Ron Boniface.***

**Sickness Reports:** - The latest news re shipmate Eddie Goldsmith is that he is indeed very ill and unable to attend any of our functions. He is totally housebound and when realises just how active he has always been in the past, especially in helping at our reunions, particularly at 'Tot-Time', we have had it brought home to us just how much he is missed. I am sure that all our members join me in wishing Eddie all the best; 'Good on yer Oppo!

Ron Packham recently underwent by-pass surgery and is another one who is needs our loving thoughts, please join in and send these to him.

With regard to myself, I am pleased to report that the first stage of my 'hospitalisation', the angiogram, went without mishap. The arteries are okay, so no need for 'bypass', but the aortic valve is pretty dodgy and I will be going in for a valve replacement in 3 to 4 months. I am hoping of course, that it will be sooner than that, because I really do not wish to go through the whole summer feeling as 'down' as I do!

***Watch this space!***

**Crossed The Bar:** - Ronald Smith, POME – 1950/52. Too late for inclusion in the last newsletter, came information from Mrs Gillian Walker on the Isle of Wight, telling of the sad departure of her father, Ron Smith,. He died peacefully in his sleep at the Briars Residential where he lived, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March; Gillian and her husband Roy were with him at the time. His funeral was held at 1430, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at St Blazius Church, Shanklin, Isle of Wight. Condolences were sent by our chairman.

That's all for now and here's hoping that after my next bout of hospitalisation I will get back to being something like my old self!

***Terry.***

**Britannia Hotel Coventry**

Fairfax Street, Coventry, CV1 5RP.

Telephone 02746 633733.

Name: - \_\_\_\_\_

Address: - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: - \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle preferred option

Please reserve      Double      Twin      Single

Number of nights      1      2      3

Date of arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Date of departure \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion packages: -

3 nights @ £135.00 per person

2 nights @ £115.00 per person

1 night @ £90.00 per person

£35.00 Gala Dinner only.

Please include £10.00 deposit per person for accommodation booking and SAE if you wish to receive confirmation and a receipt by return.

Gala Dinners will need to be paid in full on booking - £35.00 per person.

Signed: - \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that all deposits are non-refundable. Britannia Hotels will send you a confirmation of your booking when receiving the above details and your deposit.

Cheques to be made payable to Britannia Hotel.

Full payment is required to the Hotel when checking in for all your weekends' requirements.