



Newsletter Volume 4 – No 9. May 2014.

Opening Comment: - we seem to have had the odd 'tickle' of decent weather, but so far nothing to get excited about; thankfully however, the weather favoured us for our get-together at the beginning of May. It was good fortune that we had to hold it a week later than usual, because the previous week's weather was atrocious in Devon. The weekend went very well and the feedback was most heartening. It was decided at the AGM to use this venue again for 2015, but as yet I have not yet received a new booking form from the hotel management; this will be sent out in the usual manner in the next newsletter. Those who were unable to join us this time will hopefully join us in 2015; Barbara and I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours aye,

Terry.

Chairman's Chat: Firstly might I say I am proud to have been elected as your Chairman for a second time and I can assure you I will work hard on your behalf. I know that my job will be relatively easy as we have a very experienced and efficient team who work so hard for our Association.

This year's reunion was a great success and **very** good value for money. At the A.G.M. it was unanimously agreed that we should return to the same venue for next year's reunion and I would urge any of our members who have not attended for a while to join us next year.

My thanks go to all the team who made this year's reunion such a grand weekend.

Yours,

Brien

Secretary's Piece: - Well that's another reunion gone swiftly by and I am glad to say everyone had a good time; even the weather was on our side!

We now have a new chairman, Brien Harrison, and I am looking forward to working with him.

As usual I was helped considerably by Terry to produce a weekend that only had a couple of small hiccups and not a single quibble from anyone. The Staff were friendly and only too willing to do what was asked of them, even joining me in a dance which got me in a bit of trouble when it appeared on Facebook! The hotel was clean; the food very good and there was varied entertainment each night. A lot of members missed out on a bargain weekend, so start saving up for next spring and join us for a fantastic time in 2015.

A collection for the staff amounted to over a £100, with this going into the staff's monthly share-out.

A few weeks back, accompanied with Terry & Barbara, a visit was made to the Riviera Hotel in Weymouth, which was quite nice and might well have made a good alternative for 2015, but the vote at the AGM went fully in favour of returning to the Anchorage in Babbacombe.

The Saturday visit to the White Ensign Club in Exeter was its usual success, and on the return ride to the hotel, we stopped for an hour on the sea-front at Teignmouth for a nice stroll before returning to the hotel and preparing for the gala reunion dinner.

The raffle, left in the capable hands David Maynard, was quite successful with a number of good prizes. Next year sees the 25th anniversary of the formation of the association and it would be great to have as many members as possible attend. It was suggested by Shipmate John Wyeth that a celebratory card is produced to commemorate this milestone event.

That's all for now folks, but once again please let me know of any member who is sick, etc. so it can be promulgated. Your quiet, reserved Secretary,

Cliff.

Reunion Quiz: - The usual Sunday afternoon quiz – our ninth – was quite well attended and seemed to be popular. The categories this year were: - 'Mixed Bag' – 'In & Around Gt Britain' – 'Nautical' – 'Connections' - 'General Knowledge'. There were ten questions on each subject, with this causing much deep thought and head-scratching. The first letter of the Gen Knowledge answers made an anagram and John Ling was the first to come up with the answer; SEAMANSHIP! Wally Bartlett was just as quick, but his answer was not the correct one. For his effort John won an Easter-Egg. We had the usual '20 faces to name' page, but as an extra there was a set of 'Dingbats'; this proved to be quite amusing. Tables 4 & 5 tied with 62 points each and table 4 won the tie-breaker winning a packet of Jaffa cakes, which they sportingly shared with table 5. I thank all who took part and Rosemary for marking and keeping score.

John Wyeth.

Treasurer's Report: - Yet again a very enjoyable reunion. The raffle was well supported and overall made a profit of about £120.00. It's that time of year again, with subs due, still only £5.00. If you don't pay by standing order, please forward a cheque made payable to HMS Ceylon Association Thank you,

Andrea.

Crossed the Bar: - 1. Eric Whyte, L/Sig 1950/52

We were contacted by Mr Kevin Gabe, his son-in-law who wrote –

“Looking through mail etc. after my father-in-law passed away on 1 March 2014, I came across the HMS Ceylon newsletter and thought his daughter Julie and I should contact you. Eric was born in 1923 and joined the Navy as a boy shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. He served on various craft including fishery protection and minesweepers. However, some of his more notable drafts were aboard vessels (**including King George V**) on Arctic Convoy duties. He became a ceaseless campaigner for the award of the Arctic Convoy Medal and thankfully he received his towards the end of last year. At last a just reward!! He was a signaller and served on HMS Ceylon during the Korean conflict. I'm not sure that he should have kept them, but we now have original copies of some communiques including from Rear Admiral Gyngrich and Vice Admiral Clark (USN) thanking the officers and men of HMS Ceylon for their efforts as they were about to leave their tour for home; treasured moments of history.

Eric also served on HMS Victory and possibly when he passed away was the oldest surviving member of its staff. It always amused the family to remind him of that! Many thanks for having kept him informed of the activities of his former ship and it is sad that we now have to inform you of his having "crossed the bar".

Best wishes, Kelvin Gabe.

Resignation: - Mrs Dorothy Goodacre, who is the widow of past shipmate Kenneth F Goodacre has been admitted into a care home in Gosport and feels now is the time to let her associate membership lapse. Dorothy's daughter, Mrs Barbara Saunders, was kind enough to bring us up to date on this and I feel sure that all our best wishes go with her into her new residence.

C30 Surfers: - Hi Folks, it has been very quiet on the website since the last newsletter, with no changes at all and no queries. All the best,
Ron Boniface.

Updated List of Committee, etc. Includes recently elected Chairman.

It is recommended that this item of news is kept for future reference: -

PRESIDENT. Lt/Cdr David M Scott RN.

VICE PRESIDENT (New). Brien Harrison.

CHAIRMAN. Brien Harrison

VICE CHAIRMAN. Cliff Pell.

SECRETARY. Tony Mendoza.

TREASURER. Andrea Maynard.

COMMITTEE:

Terry Randall.

Ron Boniface.

Frank Hawkes.

John Wyeth

Welfare: - 1. We were recently contacted by one of the last of the first commission people - Jim Rush, A/B AA3, 1943 to 1946' He has advised us that due to old age creeping on (now 90), he feels that attending future reunions is possibly no longer on the cards. Jim joined the association in 1992 and attended his first reunion - the one held in Leamington Spa - the same year and subsequently attended all those since. It now seems that any future reunion will not have a representative from the wartime commission and I for one find that quite saddening; ***time marches on!*** Let's face it, even the youngest of those from the second commission are now in their 'eighties'!

2. Arthur Findley, 1950/52 is most certainly not having much luck in life! Arthur who was diagnosed with Parkinson's a couple of years ago phoned Cliff and informed him that he'd recently undergone operations on his face, neck and jaw for cancer. On top of this, his wife was hospitalised after suffering a heart attack; all this of course meant he was unable to join us in May; something which he was very much looking forward to attending.

A Memory of the 1952/54 Commission: - John C Rickwood wrote in with a short resume of his time in Ceylon 1952/54.

"I joined Ceylon in July/August 1952. She lay in drydock, HMS Terror, Singapore undergoing a dockyard refit. I was an SBA trained at 'Haslar' and the Royal Naval Dental School, so was able to do both jobs. Sick-Bay Chief put me as the Landing Party SBA with the Royal Marines, so when they jumped, I did, when they swam, I did, whenever they went ashore, I did. When they retreated, I was ahead of them - ha-ha! I left Ceylon in 1953 and joined HMS Perseus (?), working my passage home in her. I did 2 years and ten months 'foreign'. I was on 'Mauritius', then on 'Kenya' as Dental SBA.

then I reverted back to General Service so got sent to the Ceylon. Sadly the Kenya Association to which I belong is shrinking due to 'age' and other infirmities. Their dates have always clashed with Ceylons, but I will try for next year with you. It is sad to see other 'Colonies' closing, but we will 'sailor-on'! Best wishes to you all, **John.**

Saturday's Coach Trip: - The coach arranged by the hotel left on time for Exeter where we arrived at 1100;

WELCOME TO THE EXETER
WHITE ENSIGN CLUB



HMS CEYLON ASSOCIATION



SATURDAY 3rd MAY 2014

enough time for most people to have a good look around the shops situated quite close to the White Ensign Club. Marion at the club, who organises the buffet lunches, did us quite proud and I was assured that everybody was pleased with their repast. 'Up Spirits' was piped and tots issued with miss-musters to follow; unfortunately there was only two 'Bos'uns' this time, one had gone sick and another was on leave. The usual wine alternative for the ladies was supplied. The weather was particularly kind to us so the coach returned to the hotel via the scenic route, taking in Powderham Castle, a canal, Dawlish and then Teignmouth, where we stopped on the front for an hour. All in all a very pleasant afternoon!

Yours aye,

Terry.



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