



Newsletter – Volume 3 - No 8 – Winter 2010.

**Opening comment:** - Wowie! Winter arrived with a vengeance, did it not? I really hope that it is not a sign that we are in for yet another harsh one! Generally in our part of Hampshire we tend to be lucky with really adverse weather; *not this time!* As far as I am concerned, there are but two places for snow etc; either on a Christmas card or someplace else! *Terry.*

**New Committee Position:** - Joan Willerton, after many years service on our committee, firstly as treasurer and latterly as membership organiser, decided it was time to call it a day. At the recent committee meeting, our Vice-Chairman, Cliff Pell, volunteered his services as Membership Secretary, with his offer being readily accepted. Will members with *any* information please inform Cliff. Cliff will in turn inform all others needing to know.

**Chairman's Corner:** - Hello Shipmates, by the time you are reading this, Remembrance Day will have passed and doubtless you will have observed the 'Two-Minute Silence' in your own particular way? Here in Winchester we were outside the Guildhall at 1100 on the 11<sup>th</sup> where I was privileged to pipe the still and carry-on for the R B L. Numerous standards were on display and Cliff Pell carried the Winchester R N A standard. There was quite a crowd supporting the Mayor of the City and on the hour traffic in the city came to a standstill. I think maybe that most places in the country were lucky on both Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> in that the rain held off during the crucial ceremonial times.

The Navy seems to shrink yet even more in the wake of the latest round of cutbacks, with Ark Royal to be de-commissioned or sold, although I have since heard that some high ranking naval officers are urging the government to think again about this. However, it does seem that the two new 'carriers' have escaped the axe; but what is this that one of these could possibly be used by the French?

Just after sunrise on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September last, the third Type 45 destroyer HMS Diamond (D34) entered Portsmouth and later that day she was officially handed over by BAe Systems when the Blue Ensign came down and the White hoisted. On 11<sup>th</sup> October, HMS Duncan the sixth Type 45 was launched at the Govan Yard; Ceylon was launched there in 1942!

How many of the 2<sup>nd</sup> commission gave it thought on the 15<sup>th</sup> September when it was the anniversary of the ship carrying out a lengthy bombardment at Fankoki Point, which was meant

to be a diversionary tactic to take attention away from the fact that the Inchon landings were to take place the next morning; 60 years, and where has the time gone!

On October 9<sup>th</sup> at the invitation of Ken Toop, I attended the Royal Oak Commemorations at Whale Island, after which we were treated to a splendid buffet at the GI's Mess. This year they used the Senior Rates mess and I was amazed, it was just like an hotel, very lavish with its own bar and patio area outside where there were seats aplenty to sit and enjoy the barbeque. Although I have been to Excellent many times, I had never realised how big an establishment it really is.

A couple of thoughts on which to finish: -

‘Efficiency means accomplishing more with less exertion and expense,’

‘Today is the tomorrow I worried about yesterday and it did not happen’.

*Yours aye,*

*John.*

**Secretary's Piece:** - “*Action Stations*”. Earlier this year, during a ‘Thursday Eastney Tavern Luncheon’, I mentioned that HMS Ceylon may have been the last to sound ‘action stations’ in a major warship; at Suez in 1956. I was on duty on the bridge and my oppo was in the after steering position. This led to quite a debate, with the question asked as to when it was that HMS Newfoundland, in company with HMS Diana, when in the Gulf of Suez, opened fire and sank the Egyptian frigate ‘Domiat’ (formerly HMS Nith). Later, there could have been sporadic shelling of the western coast of Malaya in the 1957/58 period, similar to a continuous 48 hour bombardment period by HMS Newcastle in 1955, but it is doubted whether ‘Action Stations’ was sounded at this time.

*It is on record that Ceylon sounded this call on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956, making her the last major warship to do so.*

**Reunion 2011:** - Since this was arranged, a “right royal occasion” has been arranged for our opening day, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April; this is now a Bank Holiday! No problems are envisaged because of this however. The bookings have gone well, at the time of writing this there just five rooms left available; so get in there if you wish to come along! A coach trip has been arranged for Saturday (30<sup>th</sup>), leaving the hotel at around 1000 and for Exeter, stopping there for a wander around, then lunch and ‘up-spirits’ at the White Ensign Club. The charge for this will be £10 per person. If interested, send your names (*with cheques*) to Tony Mendoza.

**Reunion 2012:** - This reunion at Coventry is ‘in the frame’. Information re this will be handed out and discussed at next year’s AGM, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**C30 Surfers:** - We still get various contacts made through our website, which very much proves that having this medium is worthwhile; long may it reign!  
*Ron Boniface.*

**Change of Address:** - Please be advised that Shipmate Ron Smith, POME of the 2<sup>nd</sup> commission has changed his address. We hope that they are making a good job of looking after you Ron!

**Crossed The Bar:** - News was received from Keith Wilson in New Zealand and also from Frank Norman, of the sad death of their friend and shipmate from the first commission; Ivan Bain. Ivan, who lived in Oamaru in the South Island, had a massive heart attack which hospitalised him, but some 18 hours after admittance on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, he suffered a second fatal attack. Frank received a nice letter from Ivan’s daughter Julie and from her we learned that there were 250 people at his funeral, with lots of tributes from his children and grandchildren. Frank often corresponded with Ivan and spent a holiday with him and his wife Noeline. When Barbara and I vacationed in New Zealand in 2004, Keith and Ila Wilson took us on a three week tour of the

South Island, during which we stopped a night in Oamaru when we called at the Bain home, being given a right royal welcome and a splendid dinner. Afterwards Ivan took us on a tour of his town, where among the many things he showed us, we remember particularly the Oamaru stone quarry and the nesting area of the Blue Penguins; all great stuff!

(2) J E (Jim) Hull, R M Cpl, 2<sup>nd</sup> commission, member's number 173. The following e-mail was received by Ron Boniface via our website, from Jim's son, Mr Ian Hull.

“Ron, I am so sorry to have to inform you that my father RM7419, RM SGT Hull, died in hospital on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at the age of 79. He had been suffering from Parkinson's and Dementia over the past 5 years, with my mother caring for him at home. He fought hard at the end but passed away peacefully. My father Jim was a very proud man, disciplined and a leader, he enjoyed attending many of the Ceylon reunions so could you please pass this sad message on to all that may have known or served with him.

Many Thanks Ian Hull”.

Jim was to later serve in HMS Belfast and in the Birmingham 1956/58 G.I. He was apparently selected for Officer Training, but left the Corps in 1960 to marry and settle down.

(3) A message was received via the website from Jane, daughter of Colin Sanders, L/Tel, 1950/52 that unfortunately her father had succumbed to Mesothelioma at 4am, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Colin lived in Helensburgh, Scotland with his wife Jenny. I believe Colin was successful in getting promoted into the Wardroom. Our sincere condolences go out to his family.

**Annual Goodwood Revival Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010.**  
**A Memorable Day Out!**

As a special treat, my son took me to this event on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> and what a day it turned out to be! We were seated in the stand opposite the pits and along the starting grid, which afforded us a fantastic view of the happenings of the day. The racing this day consisted of various types of racing cars and motor-cycles from the '40's, '50's and '60's; there were also parades of steam lorries, vans and vintage motors as well as a fleet of Wolesley Police cars.

In the area outside and inside the main entrance was a vintage funfair as well as many stalls, while in the middle of the circuit, ranged up for public viewing, was a dozen or so very old bi-planes. During the morning a Spitfire and a Mustang flew overhead in close formation, looping-the-loop and performing victory-rolls.

At 1300 the racing was halted in order that an important commemoration could take place; this year being the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Battle of Britain'. To my delight, a Royal Marine band came marching along the grid and halted at the podium, closely followed by a unit of the Royal Horse Artillery; their 6 horses pulled a cannon and limber and with this later fired a salute. Next, along came a car carrying the Earl of March (Freddie), who is the owner of Goodwood. Then a Spitfire and a Hurricane taxied along the track and stopped directly in front of us. Last but not least, eight open-top 4x4's came along, each with an elderly gentleman in the passenger seat. The Earl of March then gave a speech, explaining that during the Second World War, Goodwood had been the Royal Air Force Base Westhampnett, where Spitfires and other fighters had been based. He then named each of the eight elderly gentlemen; they were some of the pilots who had flown from that very field during the Battle of Britain. A lady then stood up on the podium and sang "White Cliffs of Dover".

Finally, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight - a Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane - flew low circuits over the field and then to tumultuous applause the pilots were driven slowly away; a very fitting tribute to some very brave men.

*John Wyeth.*

**Further to the 'B of B', it brought to mind a recent letter in a Hampshire newspaper from a Cdr RN about the Fleet Air Arm's contribution to this effort. Apparently 2 Squadrons (804 & 808) were employed in the defence of the Portsmouth area, while 25 navy pilots were loaned to the RAF, of which 12 were killed in that battle, with 7 more later dying in battle; they apparently achieved a high success rate in downing Luftwaffe aircraft.** **John.**

S. 109. (Established March, 1911. Revised November, 1927.) H.M.S. *C. E. L. N.*

GENERAL MESS MENU.  
11th July, 1943.

For week ending 19


Day and Date	Breakfast	Dinner	Tea	Supper
Monday 5th	Herrings in Tomato Sauce	Roast Beef, Roast Potatoes, Haricot Beans. Spotted Dick	Jam	Faggots & Peas
Tuesday 6th	Sausages and Brown Gravy	Roast Mutton, Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Baked Bread Pudding	Marmalade	Fish & Chips
Wednesday 7th	Bacon & Beans	Brown Stew, Boiled Potatoes, Harrowfat Peas, Rice Pudding & Currants	Syrup	Layer Pie
Thursday 8th	Scrambled Eggs	Beef Pie, Boiled Potatoes, Carrots, Sultana Roll.	Jam	Sausages and Chips
Friday 9th	Fried Fish	Roast Beef, Roast Potatoes, Cabbage Jam Tart	Marmalade	Cheese & Pickles.
Saturday 10th	Sausages and Tomatoes	Preserved Meat, Potatoes, Beetroot, Dundee Pudding	Meat Paste	Liver & Mash
Sunday 11th	Bacon & Egg	Roast Mutton, Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Stewed Fruit & Custard.	Cake	Salmon.

Chocolate and Coffee will be issued from the Galley on alternate days for Supper.

Accountant Officer, PAYMASTER COMMANDER, S. 109. T.S.-7c.

OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 1 A.M.

*The House for*  
*"Service to the Services"*



*The Coffee Club*

DADY HOUSE,  
50/52, CHURCHGATE STREET,  
NEAR FLORA FOUNTAIN, NEXT TO EASTERN BANK, LTD.

**BOMBAY**

PHONE 21922

The above two items were sent in by Steve Langford's son-in-law and generated enough interest perhaps for publication. Do any of our 1<sup>st</sup> commission men recall partaking refreshments in the Bombay Coffee Club, or remember those delicious 'General Mess' meals back in 1943? As a very hungry, deprived young evacuee of the era, the thought of this grub made my mouth water!

**Terry**

That's all everyone; hope everything is clear to you - and was it just me but did the transition from what was passing for summer suddenly went through a brief (albeit beautiful autumn) into a pretty nasty bout of winter? However, a Merry Christmas, a Happy and a Healthy New Year to one and all!

**Terry.**

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