



Newsletter Volume 5 – No -4-.December- 2015. {a}

Opening Comment

Thank you all for your messages of support, the previous newsletter was not perfect I am hoping that this one will be an improvement. I will always find room for your short stories or photos, You can even write a short story about other ships on which you have served. I have written a short article about mesothelioma on Page 3, at last something may be done. Happy Christmas & Healthy New Year. **Alan**

Chairman's Chat: -

Christmas is almost upon us so may I on behalf of Joyce wish you all a very Merry Christmas and above all a Healthy New year. As many of you will know Terry Randall has had a great deal of Medical problems recently, but I am delighted to say that he appears to be responding to his treatment. I have also been in touch with Frank Hawes, who has recently been hospitalised but is now home and is slowly recovering. I am not aware of any other member with health problems, but if anyone knows of a member who is ill please let a committee member, or me know so that we can keep in touch.

Bookings for the reunion are going well and I would urge them who have not already booked to do so as soon as possible. Kind regards,

Brien.

Secretary' Piece;

Hello shipmates, it only seems like yesterday since we were all at Babbacombe and I am looking forward to meeting you again at Market Bosworth. As mentioned before don,t delay your booking as we may fill our anticipated quota. A trip has been arranged for Saturday and for the small sum of £7.50 it's worth it [no pun intended]. So far we have 31 members booked at the Hotel so it looks like we could have quite a party.

A Merry Christmas to you all, Cliff.

Treasurer's Report: -

I have had a few members replying to the request in the last Newsletter, re; SUBS, I can only repeat my request that you pay promptly. Will you please send the money for the Saturday trip, £7.50 per person, to me instead of the Secretary, whom has asked me to take this on, see you all at Market Bosworth.

Happy Christmas All.

Sick Bay :

John Wyeth is much better now and more mobile, his next appointment with the Specialist is just before Christmas. We wish him well.

Crossed the Bar Eric Malcolm Palmer A/B QA, 1931-2015.

It was with deep sadness that I heard of the death of my long time 'oppo', Eric Pedlar Palmer, Eric died 16th October suffering from cancer of the Oesophagus, his funeral took place at Aldershot Crematorium at 1330 on Monday 2nd November 2015 and I count myself fortunate that I was able to attend the service, and get together afterwards to chat with his family. He had a good send off and it was gratifying to hear words spoken about him. I still cannot get over the fact that the day of his funeral was the 67th anniversary that Eric and I joined the Royal Navy together ! . On Tuesday 2nd November 1948 we met at Southampton's RN &RM Recruiting office, to formalise our entry into the ' Andrew' via HMS Royal Arthur, Corsham, Wilts.,and it is almost impossible to accept –and very likely unique-that he and I went together on various drafts for the next four and a half years!, our Official numbers were consecutive.

Royal Arthur 2/11/48 [training ship shore base]16/11/48. Excellent 26/5/49, RNB [P] 5/11/49.

Ceylon2/12/49-.RNB[P] [after foreign service leave] 10/11/52, Excellent 19/11/52, RNB [P] 22/6/53

Excellent 19/11/52. RN[P] 22/6/53. It was at this point we finally parted and went our different ways, me to Reserve Fleet and Eric to Hornet. Even during our Courses at Whale Island we were' lent 'to the Island Firing ship for 14 day periods, 1949 to HMSFinnisterre and 1953 toHMS Sluys.

It was strange to realise just how much we paralleled in our later years, we both underwent aortic valve replacement operations, and then developed cancers: albeit that Eric's were much more of a serious nature!. I passed the Ceylon's condolences to the family, **Terry Randall**

Korean War Veterans

Brian Cunningham A/B , Crossed the Bar on 28th January 2015, 1950/52 commission.

I sincerely regret that I was lacking last February in that I did not pass on information received of the sad passing of a well remembered shipmate, messmate and shared action station; a Fo'castleman whose action station was in 'A' Turret.

Brian had battle bravely against dementia for some time, before finally succumbing on the above date. His family sent me a very nice card outlining the sad event **but I** unfortunately received it a fraction too late to include it in the Newsletter, about to be posted at that time. It was filed ready for the next Newsletter, but regrettably overlooked it! on reflection, I realise the reason for this-**my own medical condition which was unknowingly developing around then**, a reason perhaps, BUT certainly no excuse and I am still upset over this, particularly as Brian was a much respected fellow shipmate.

Some of you may recall that he undertook some years ago the task of locating in Korea some Korean nationals who at the end of 1950 were living in rather squalid conditions, in an Orphanage near Inchon; they were discovered by a 'foraging' party from the ship.As a result, the children who were in the care of a very old lady, were subsequently given help and succour by supplying food, clothing and fuel; I recall most vividly the winter of 1950/51 being one of Korea's worst with record low temperatures.

The only saving grace perhaps is this, is the fact that Brian was remembered at the 'roll calls' at the last reunion; Saturday night dinner toast ' absent friends' and the Sunday morning Church Service.

Terry Randall

Dennis F. O'Gara, crossed the bar on 17th September 2015, aged 87.

Dennis joined the Royal Navy as a Stoker at HMS Royal George on 12th September 1946, he passed the Educational Test for Specially Selected Stokers on 13th August 1948. He served onboard HMS Ceylon from 18th February 1950 to 21st July 1952, and saw action off the Korean coast. He stood by the building of HMS Bulwark in Belfast in 1954, and met his future wife in a shop where he bought his cigarettes. Dennis witnessed the Atom Bomb tests off Christmas Island in 1957. Both his sons joined the Royal Navy and his daughter joined the WRNS. Dennis completed his service at HMS Vernon as an ERA 2 on 11th September 1958. He served on the following ships, HMS King George V, Zodiac, Welcome, Ceylon, Petard, Bulwark.

Gordon Phipps crossed the bar on 11th September 2015, 56/57 commission.

Thomas Gilbert crossed the bar, date not disclosed, O/A 43/46 commission.

MESOTHELIOMA

On 2nd November in my daily newspaper [the i] was an article about ex-servicemen who had served in the Royal Navy between 1957 – 1995, one of them had an undisclosed sum paid to him by the M O D, the other two received nothing, that was because they left the R N before 1987, the case was brought up in the House of Commons, I believe at Prime Ministers question time by a local MP, the case was about mesothelioma which we all know was caused by asbestos while carrying out our duties onboard. The moral of the story is that if you have continuous chest problems let the doctor know you have worked with asbestos and contact your local MP.

Footnote; It is expected that 2,500 ex-sailors will die of the disease by 2050, a sobering thought.

I have received this Obituary notice from Debbie Smith , whose father's name was in the last Newsletter, I thought it deserves another, fuller ,reading.

IN MEMORY OF MY DAD- DAVID MILLS, 30TH December 1929 – 9th April 20125

Dad was born in Hampton Lucy near Stratford upon Avon on the 30th December 1929, He worked from an early age initially delivering bread around the local villages with my Nan. This progressed into working at the local Garage at Napton serving petrol before he went to work on the Great Western Railway, where he was based at Honeybourne near Evesham, which was a four line junction. There was the line from Paddington to Worcester, another which went to Cheltenham and the West country, and one that went to Stratford, Birmingham and the North. There would have been at least 40 trains a day calling there. The Station had four platforms Waiting rooms and covered pedestrian bridges for accesss. During World War II it was an important station, because there was an American Base [where Long Lartin prison now stands] about two miles towards South Littleton and an aerodrome towards Weston Subedge.

At 17 Dad enlisted in the Royal Navy on 16th July 1947. He served seven years as a Stoker and was deployed on active service in the Korean War. He was part of the ship's company of two vessels , mainly on HMS Ceylon.

Dad loved his time in the Royal Navy, particularly when onboard HMS Ceylon, which saw action off the Korean coast. He was a talented and diligent engineer and quickly rose through the ranks to Petty Officer and also passed his Chief Petty Officers exam. He travelled extensively in the Far East and the Mediterranean, and particularly enjoyed Singapore and Hong Kong, although I don't think he once tried the local food.

In Hong Kong his quick thinking prevented an explosion in the Boiler room after an Engineering Officer has adjusted the boilers without telling anyone. Unfortunately, in opening the Safety valve he released tons of acrid black smoke into the air causing 'night to descend on the harbour.' As it was a matter of pride to the Royal Navy never to produce black smoke, especially in harbour, the Captain was none too pleased so he ended up on a charge, but actually ended up with a Commendation.

A close family friend reminisced in a letter to me "I don't know whether you know that when your Dad was in the Navy he visited Japan". Diana my sister and I asked him to bring us some chopsticks, he brought us back ornamental chopsticks with pointed ends from Hiroshima, when he gave them to us, some liquorice torpedo sweets were produced and we were told we could eat as many as we could pick up with the chopsticks! I still have and treasure the chopsticks!

Dad left the Navy when it became clear that he would have to sign on for another tour of duty before his promotion would be confirmed. Following his discharge on 31st March 1957 Dad retained his links with the Senior Service, becoming a member of the HMS Ceylon Association, he enjoyed the annual reunions, catching up with his shipmates, especially having a tot or three with John McNeil and Cliff. Since my Mum,s death in 2005 Brian and I have accompanied Dad to the yearly gathering to which we have been made more than welcome and now feel part of the crowd.

Although Dad is no longer with us we will continue to attend and as discussed at the AGM my family and I have requested that donations to his memory are made to the Association and are put towards a trip or something that the members can all enjoy, which is what Dad would have wanted.

We will all miss my Dad dreadfully but get comfort in that he crossed the bar peacefully in his sleep and is reunited after 10 years with my Mum.

Debbie Smith

Coach and Train trip;

The coach will depart the Hotel at 1030am to go to Foxton Locks where it will arrive at 1130am for a walk around and get some light refreshments.

The coach will leave Foxton Locks to arrive at Shackerstone Station, on the Battlefield line at around 1230pm, there are things to look at and you will be booked on a train ride at about 1.45pm [time to be confirmed when the time table has been agreed for2016]. A full trip on the train is about 1 hour which will include a cream tea. The entrance includes two rides on the train, you can visit other stations along the line and this can be done at anytime during the time spent on the railway. Leaving Shackerstone Station on the Battlefield line at about 4pm to return to the Hotel by 4.30pm. The cost per person will be £7.50., please fill in the slip below and send to the Treasurer.

Written and Produced by Alan Hadley [58/60]

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Please make cheques payable to HMS Ceylon Association and send to the Treasurer by March 1st 2016.

NAME[S] of members attending

Number of members attending;.....

Cheque Amount;.....