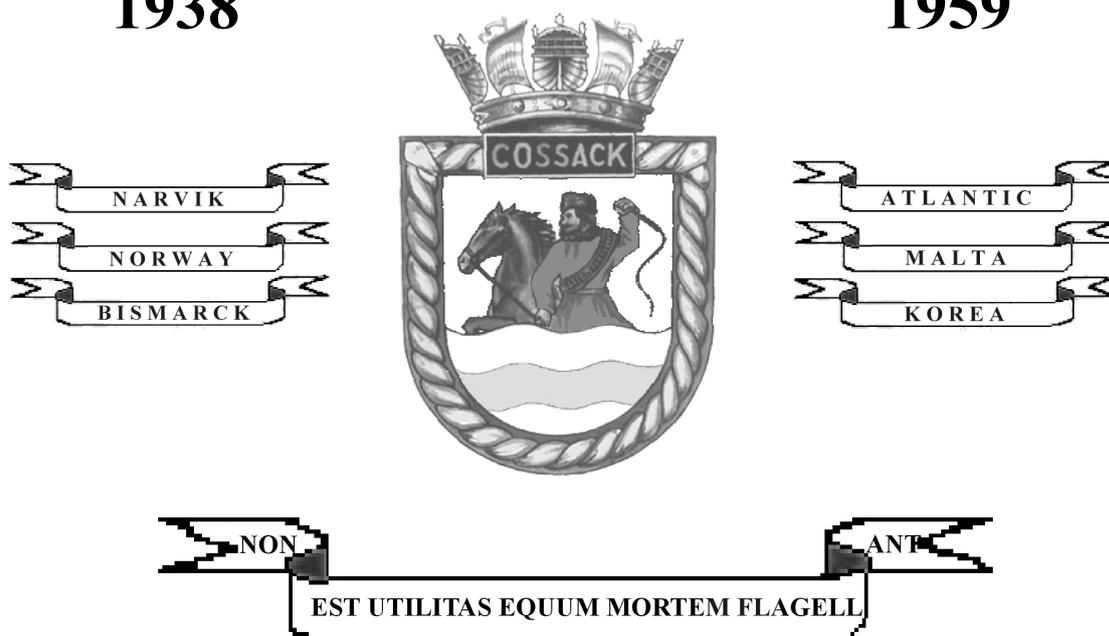


H.M.S. COSSACK ASSOCIATION

1938

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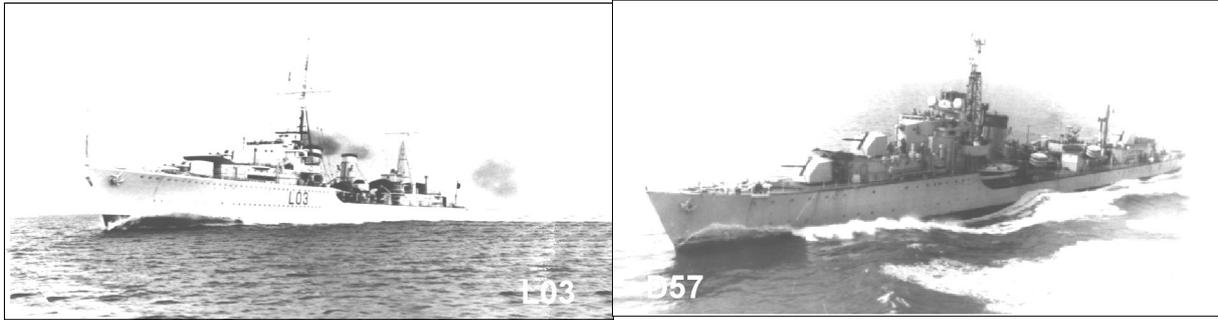


THE COSSACK CHRONICLE (NEWSLETTER 5/2017 - December)

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OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President	The Hon. Rupert Digby
Joint Vice President	Mr. A. Edinborough
Joint Vice President	Shipmate E.P. Harrison
Chairman	Shipmate K. Satterthwaite
Vice-Chairman	Lt.Cdr. K. Batchelor (SCC) RNR
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer	Miss. D. Taylor
Newsletter Editor	Shipmate E.P. Harrison
Membership Secretary & PR Officer	Shipmate D. Parkinson
Slops Organiser	Mrs J. Taylor
Archivist	Lt.Cdr. K. Batchelor (SCC) RNR
Bosun	Shipmate P. Gaffney
Standard Bearer	Shipmate M. Loughlin
Committee Member	Shipmate P. Hampstead

Chairman's Chatter – Ken Satterthwaite.

Christmas is almost upon us again, where do the months disappear to!! I have had my final cataract done so it is back to reading glasses, only £1 from the Pound Shop, a bit different to £250 for varifocals from the Opticians.

I have been given to believe numbers are down again so far for the 2018 reunion. I do appreciate that is inevitable, but if there are members out there have a reason they are not attending which the association might be able to help solve then please do contact us, or is it venue, cost (thought the association is subsidising the cost this year), or some other problem you see, anyway I look forward to seeing you all once a year?

Portsmouth Cathedral's Dean would not let us parade our standard at the Sunday service we could only parade at the entrance, so after consulting with the committee I have decided we would continue with the service at the Dockyard Church St Annes as we have always been more than welcome there.

Another bit of news, the Officer Commanding Southwark Sea Cadet Unit (TS Cossack), the unit we have been supporting, has recently changed, the new OIC is Sub Lt (SCC) James Thompson RNR who was 1ST Lt of the unit, we wish him well in his new post and look forward to him attending a reunion in the future. The previous OIC Lt (SCC) David Bradbury RNR has completed his tenure and has moved on to a position in the London Southern District we wish him well in his new venture.

Well when you receive this 2017 will be well on the wane and we shall all be looking to see what 2018 will bring us- happiness and prosperity, I hope, for us all?

'Years end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instil in us' – Hal Borland-December 1964.

The Navy's Here'.

Ken Satterthwaite



*Merry
Christmas*

To One and All

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

An appeal from the Hon. Secretary

At the end of November only 29 people are booked to attend the Reunion in April next year. If I add we add the President and his wife Charlotte that just makes 31. Normally at that time we would have expected almost double that number!

Please everyone, if you are going to attend the reunion but haven't yet booked, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Debbie

Report by the Membership Secretary .

Membership Report December 2017

Things are normal on the Membership front for a cold December 1st in that nothing has changed since my last report in October. It would be nice to have some good news to report but "Father Time" seems to have a hold on our dwindling ships company now.

Just considering age, a Boy Seaman on the last commission would have been 16 in 1958 which would make him 75 now. Not a lot of opportunity to recruit!

So here we are with numbers:-

Ship Members	54
Life Members	10
Assoc. Members	31
Hon Members	5
Total	100

I've just about completed my tenth year as Membership Secretary. As I started there were 236 members so we have lost an average of nearly 14 members per year but as mentioned in the last Newsletter we lost 15 over a six months period. You don't have to be a genius to estimate how long until we are down to very low numbers indeed. If anyone has ideas of how to reverse the trend speak up before it's too late.

Doug Parkinson

Rifle Shooting

.22 to .303

By Shipmate Doug Parkinson

Evenings at sea in the tropics can be a luxury for Cruise liners nowadays but in 1957 on Cossack, the ship's company had not all that much to occupy themselves apart from occasional films and games of uckers. The gunnery department, to their eternal credit, introduced .22 rifle shooting.

The range was set up across the foc'sle with targets mounted on a long board at the jackstaff and the firing points at B gun flare where a collision mat was laid for the comfort of participants. The range therefore was about 25 yards with four people able to shoot at a time.

Each shooter fired five shots onto the target and after firing went forward to collect their targets and replace with fresh ones. Given that even though shooting did not take place in poor weather, a slight swell could see the bows dip in with some soggy clothing results especially as the outer two targets were way outside the actual bow.

Competition was either individual, inter division or mess and the whole arrangement proved very popular.

After our period at the Nuclear tests at Christmas Island we were returning via Fiji and again Gunnery dept came up with plans to compete in the Fleet rifle shooting back in Hong Kong early in 1958. The Fijian armed forces had a rifle range by the sea which was made available to Cossack for training and sorting out who would be able to take part. This turned in to something of a Banyan Party as the Gunner's Yeoman brewed up a pot mess instead of the normal Pussers bag meals. It turned into a pleasant day with some good and some not so good shots! We even took a break at one time to try our hand at .32 revolver shooting. No Wyatt Earps were found!!

Fast forward now to Hong Kong where some serious practice was set up for those involved. This took place on Stonecutters Island in HK harbour.

The range was up to 600 yards formed in and over a bay. The Chief OA took charge of our zeroing in our rifles which we would retain for the duration. Zeroing was a tad odd as we fired the .303 on a 25 yard range where the Ch OA adjusted the sights according to your results.

Down to serious practice over several visits, firing from 100 yards, 200 yards and, later, 500 and 600 yards. The firing points at the longer distance meant that the outer points were firing over water, due to the curve of the bay, whilst the inner points had interesting wind conditions due to the rise of the land.

So what did we have to practice for? Well for example long range shooting was usually carried out laying down but an event called 600 yard run down started at 600 yards at a signal you then ran down to 500 yards layed down & fired two shots at a six foot target. Too slow and you lost time when the target was visible. Another signal sent you to 400 yards two more shots similarly to 300 and 200 yards Sitting or kneeling and finally to 100 yards two shots Standing. I will tell you after running that far with wild breathing it was B difficult to sight your rifle on the seemingly huge six foot target.

Another activity was Snap shooting where the target is only the size of Inner & Bull. It is down for so many seconds and exposed for a lesser number, ten shots in all. Here I must tell of some problem I had and some luck. Loading my rifle the magazine catch was mal functioning. The firing point officer got fed up with the length of time I was taking so took his meaty hand to it and Wrecked it. Another rifle was passed up from one of our team (remember I had not zeroed this one). I got my best score of the whole meeting two bulls and seven

inners - but this was only practice. After repair my rifle was never up to snuff.

There was also another run down firing a bren gun. Teams of three with each taking turns to fire, with the others carrying spare magazine and barrel.

Well how did Cossack do? Can't remember all of it but Chief OA Gledhill became individual champion after a shoot off with a marine sergeant and just look at the photograph included which shows all the "Pots" way more than any other ship.

Bit of an anti climax after that but we did have some impressive .22 wins back in Singapore and some pleasure rifle shooting at Freemantle.

By the way, we did not wear ear muffs — which may explain my need for hearing aids!

Doug Parkinson

GROWING UP QUICKLY

by S/M Sub-Lieutenant Tony Woods

I arrived in Hong Kong to join COSSACK on 6th April 1953, having left Southampton on board the EMPIRE TROOPER seven weeks beforehand. She was the original Slow Boat to China, hardly the best preparation for the life that was to follow!

During the previous eighteen months I had spent eight months at RN College, Greenwich followed by technical courses at each of the Portsmouth Schools. Now, confirmed in the rank of Sub-Lieutenant, I had to obtain my Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate before being eligible for promotion to Lieutenant.

As can be imagined, it was somewhat daunting to join a Wardroom years older than oneself and who had already served in the ship since re-commissioning in November 1951. I relieved a Lieutenant RNVR who was returning to "civvy street" and therefore found myself as the Cash and Victualling Officer, responsible for paying and feeding the ship's company, and for which I had had no training whatsoever! Accounts had to be submitted at the end of each month to the Base Supply Officer in Hong Kong, but the Captain counted

the money weekly in five different currencies which I had to keep in my safe!

My previous seagoing experience after the Cadet training cruiser DEVONSHIRE had been in the carrier VENGEANCE and a frigate of the Plymouth local squadron. COSSACK was a different world altogether. 250 people crammed into a wartime Emergency class destroyer hull; the only air conditioned space the Wireless Office, action working dress worn at all times when at sea in the war zone; the heat and humidity of the Far Eastern summer and finally the first experience of runs ashore in Japan. One grew up amazingly quickly! Coronation Day was spent alongside in Sasebo and, as you would expect, the Sub-Lieutenant was O.O.D. On board festivities were rudely interrupted by a typhoon warning and we had to sail early for the Korean East coast. It was one Sunday afternoon during this patrol that Action Stations were sounded when I was in the middle of preparing the cash for the Captain's weekly count. The safe was open, money everywhere, and off I sped to the 4.5 inch Director. Never was I more thankful than to discover that Leading Writer Pugh had come to the rescue and locked the Ship's Office door!

Our final patrol before the Korean War ended lasted 25 days and we even ran out of spuds before returning to Kure. The good news of the end to hostilities meant that the destroyers of the Far East Fleet were now allowed to operate South of Hong Kong, and COSSACK was rewarded with a Borneo Cruise. This was an amazing experience, pure Somerset Maugham. Starting in Kuching, Land of the White Rajah, we visited Jessleton, Tawan, Sandakan, Kudat and Labuan. Personal highlights were dining at the Astana, the palace of the White Rajahs in Kuching, a cricket match at Tawan on what was the District Officer's front lawn, and a liquid evening's Bridge with rubber planters at Milestone 3 in the jungle at Kudat. Luckily I had our splendid newly joined Polish First Lieutenant, George Lukas, as partner to take care of me!

Happy times continued with two months spent in Hong Kong in what was then called a "self-refit". It was here that I was able to meet up with an old family friend of my own age who worked for wine merchants Caldbeck McGrigor. He had the onerous task of selling

booze to the three Services and expats in Hong Kong, poor fellow! It was a real eye-opener to enjoy the luxury of the Union Mess where he lived on the Peak.

After the 8th DS had mustered for the Squadron pulling regatta, a really happy, old fashioned and competitive day in Junk Bay, it was time to head north again to Japan for Christmas. On arrival at Yokosuka, the Captain gave me permission to go food shopping at the US Navy's logistics base and I like to think that the ship's company enjoyed a rather better Christmas dinner than would otherwise have been the case!

On leaving Yokosuka we embarked on a series of Anti-submarine exercises with the US Navy. Known as HUK (Hunter Killer) exercises, they gave me my first serious experience as Officer of the Watch since the award of my ticket. Furthermore, we were using the new Allied Tactical Publication (ATP1) and its associated Allied Naval Signal Book (ACP175) for the first time, another big plus in my seagoing education.

After the exercise wash-up in Okinawa, the end of the Commission and the modernisation refit in Singapore loomed. There was still time for for a final rabbit run and Squadron Athletic Competition in Hong Kong – an event in which someone unkindly entered me for the 3-mile race. I survived, just!

We arrived in Singapore mid-February and immediately de-stored and de-ammunitioned. The old Commission caught a troopship home whilst those of us who remained decamped to the comforts of HMS TERROR. My last memory of the COSSACK is of her in dry dock, rain pouring through a gap in the midships iron deck and out through the ship's bottom!

When I sailed for home as a working passenger in the MAENAD, last of the 6th Minesweeping Squadron to leave the Far East Station, I began to appreciate just how much I had learned during my short time in the COSSACK. Above all else she had a wonderful ship's company, who could not have been more supportive to a very green Sub-Lieutenant.

Thank you.

Tony Wood

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Things you have been longing to know about

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David

Hearts - Charlemagne

Clubs - Alexander, the Great

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

$111,111,111 \times 111,111.111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?

A. Obsession

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?

A. One thousand

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?

A. All were invented by women.

Q.. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

>In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase 'goodnight, sleep tight.'

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-

law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.' It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!

AND FINALLY

First of all, thank you for those who sent in contributions for inclusion in the newsletter. What would it have been without them?!!

But now, almost Christmas time and the end of the year.

On behalf of myself and the Committee may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

That's it folks

Just be careful out there