



HMS Ambuscade association

www.ambuscade.org

March 2011

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FROM THE CHAIR

Most resolutions will probably be in tatters by now but as we look back

OVER 2010 it has been another eventful year for the association in which the Ambuscade ensign has been flying high and proud.

The calendar started really well when we had one of now legendary road-shows in Portsmouth; this was kindly hosted by the Mary Rose Trust who once again looked after our members and families for our regular trip to Pompey. The Association is very proud to be associated with the trust and have pledged support in helping them raise funds for the new museum complex that will house this amazing Tudor warship.

We must also be some form of lucky charm to our host city as this is now the second time we have pre-booked an event in Pompey only to find them away at Wembley for the FA Cup Final, we are therefore anticipating calls from the likes of Accrington Stanley and Barnet as our status of talisman spreads.

Perhaps the biggest development of the year was the birth of the **Type 21 Association** and **Ambuscade** was instrumental in terms of both the idea and delivery of this new group. We are well represented on the new committee with our own Mike Townson holding the Chair and who

along with Peter Mosse worked exceptionally hard on turning the concept into reality. More of the 21 Club to follow but it is worth stressing that this will in no way detract from what we have with Ambuscade but should indeed compliment and benefit our already strong association.

A first this year was an offer from our beloved Crewe inviting the Association to lay a wreath at the Crewe cenotaph for remembrance day. This was indeed an honour and a fully suited PO Mick Openshaw looked splendid in his blues at the front of the parade. Mick & I were then invited to TS Ambuscade to meet the CO and crew for drinks and snacks which enhanced the already strong bond between the association and our cadets.

Looking forward we have a fantastic event planned for the 6 & 7th May when the **Cheshire Regimental Association** have invited us to be their guests at Chester Races, this will be open to all members and their families and full details are available on the website. As well as the races on Friday we will be having a committee meeting on the Saturday afternoon followed by an informal social in Chester Castle on the Saturday night again as guests of the Cheshire's.

On a sad note we said a fond and very premature

goodbye to one of our own who crossed the bar just before Christmas. Don Cox an AB(M) and Ships Diver 1983 – 1988 was a very popular Ambusman and a real blokes bloke. Four of us made it down to his funeral on the 13th January to pay our respects and I know that his family drew great comfort from our presence and even honored us by asking us carry his coffin. Gone but never forgotten, Don RIP.

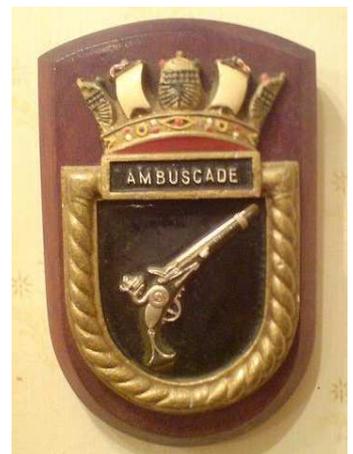
I really hope you are able to join us either at Chester in May or Plymouth in the Autumn but in the meantime I hope you all have a fabulous 2011.

Best Wishes
Mark Brocklehurst
Chairman



Reunion dates

Chester Roadshow	6th-7th May 2011
Type 21 club 2011 Reunion	8th- Oct 2011
Falklands 30 Crewe	TBC May 2012
Check www.ambuscade.org for updates	



The birth of The 'Type 21 Club' Mike Townson

Type 21 Club Inaugural Committee Meeting, AGM and Reunion 9th October 2010

For those who were fortunate enough to be able to attend, the weekend was generally agreed to have been a great success. We started with an informal gathering on the Friday night in the St Levans Inn where Paul, the landlord, made us very welcome, though we rather swamped his bars! Many old friendships were rekindled and new ones formed. This event proved a good icebreaker for the more serious business to come on the Saturday.

Saturday commenced with a Committee meeting where the ad hoc committee handed over to the incoming provisional Committee. The ad hoc Committee had done stalwart work organising and planning the weekend's events and assembling a provisional Committee for the Club for which our grateful thanks.

The intention was for the provisional Committee to discuss various issues concerning the Club and then to put their recommendations to AGM in the afternoon. The following is a distillation of the recommendations:

1) The Committee should comprise:

President

Chairman

Two representatives from each of the 8 ships

In addition there should be a Life President

It was also agreed that the Committee could co-opt additional members to the Committee as they saw fit.

2) Membership should be open to all who served in any capacity on any of the eight Type 21 Frigates. In addition there should be a Class of Associate Member comprising those who were closely associated with the ships, such as shipbuilders, dockyard staff, specialist suppliers, etc.

3) Affiliations were discussed and it was agreed that several organisations should be approached to investigate interest.

4) Recognising that four of the ships had their own Associations, it was agreed that close links should be established and maintained with these through their ships' representatives.

5) Future reunions should be held annually in Plymouth during the second half of the year. However, it was recognised that this is a long trip for many and it was agreed that regional "mini reunions" could be organised by members on an ad hoc basis and that Committee members would support these where possible.

6) It was agreed that the Committee should recommend that the first Captain of the Type 21 Squadron, Admiral Sir Hugo White be the Life President of the Club, the position of President of the Club be left, as yet, to be filled, and that the Chairman be Mike Townson. The names of the proposed Committee members are to be found on the Type 21 web site together with the names of

the ships that each represents. Where appropriate, Committee members' proposed roles are also indicated.

7) As yet, there was no need for an annual membership fee since the funds situation was sufficiently positive and gathering such a fee would impose a large administrative burden on the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer.

All of the above was put to the members at the AGM and all was accepted unanimously, including the election of the whole Committee as recommended..

In addition it was agreed that the Association should be known as "The Type 21 Club"

The whole proceedings were held at the premises of The Royal British Legion at Crownhill who did a magnificent job of looking after us all and kept the beer flowing and food appearing! We were all most grateful for their efforts and look forward to our return next year. Date still to be determined!!

Having formally established the Type 21 Club at the AGM, a great evening followed which led to many sore heads the following morning!

For those interested the Committee is still looking for a second rep for Ambuscade, Volunteer names to Mike Townson (email address via the web site) www.type21club.org.uk



Aunty Bollers does a Basil

By Nobby Clark

So, the ship was off the Northeast coast of Scotland, we were doing some type of Gunnery shoot and for reasons best known to themselves the Gunners needed a fixed Dan buoy laid in a certain position, (diagram attached for the non dabbers). Basically this is a long pole with a float in the middle, a radar reflector on the top, lots of wire and a heavy weight with an Anchor attached.

On the Morning it was due to all happen I was the killick of the Morning watch on deck (0400–0800 for the S&S). I reported to the Bridge to find out the Depth of water so as to work out the required amount of mooring wire, having gained this info, off I went with the rest of the lads to the Flight deck/Quarter deck to get things ready.

To prepare for the drop you have to ensure that all parts on the Dan Buoy equipment is outboard of the guardrails, and tied on with thin rope, this we did and I reported to the bridge that all was ready. The reply came back that we still had a couple of miles to go yet (time for a smoke).

The sequence of events should go something like this; “quarterdeck, Bridge 2 cables to run stream the bight” (a loop of mooring wire). When that is achieved the next thing that happens is from the Bridge, “Bridge Quarterdeck standby to lay. Lay, Lay, Lay”. We cut all the string, there is a big slash and I should make my report to the Bridge “Dan Buoy watching correctly Sir”, job done. However, on this occasion we got the Lay, Lay, Lay, from the bridge, we cut the strings, there was a big splash and my report to the bridge was, “Bridge quarterdeck, the buggers sunk Sir”.

I was summoned to the Bridge where there was much debate going on. I assured the OOW and the Navigating officer that I had converted the chart depth from metres to the wire length which is in Fathoms. There was much grumbling and pouring over charts and it was eventually decided that we should

lay the other Dan Buoy. So back down the flight deck I go.

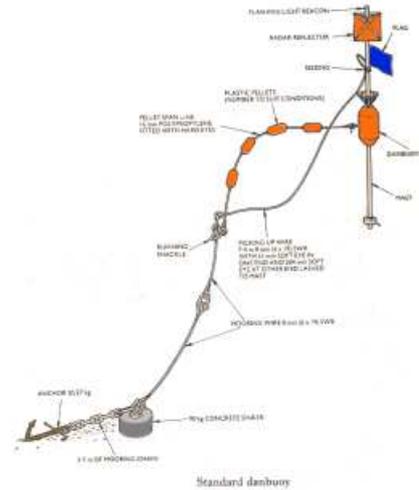
Having now got all the new gear laid out on deck, it was obvious that I was no longer to be trusted, and so our brand new First Lieutenant came down to check the length of wire. Uncle Tom Sunter had recently left us and his relief was Tony Bolingbroke, who was instantly nicknamed Aunty Bollers.

For those of you who have never met Tony he is a rather tall and slender Man. Aunty Bollers then proceeded to pace out the wire to ensure we had attached the right amount. All was going well until someone whispered “Don’t mention the War”. We all erupted into fits of laughter as he looked exactly like Basil Fawlty doing his funny walk. You had to be there, I almost wet myself. The lads were all stood by the hanger door and could hardly stand up for laughing. As aunty Bollers was an unknown quantity we had no idea how he would react, at the time we were all past caring as it was just so funny.

As I turned out we didn’t think he noticed and he carried on regardless, and then informed me that the wire was the correct length. Once we had all composed ourselves and wiped the tears from our eyes, we laid the Dan buoy, this time it floated and thus a new nickname for the Jimmy was born, BASIL.

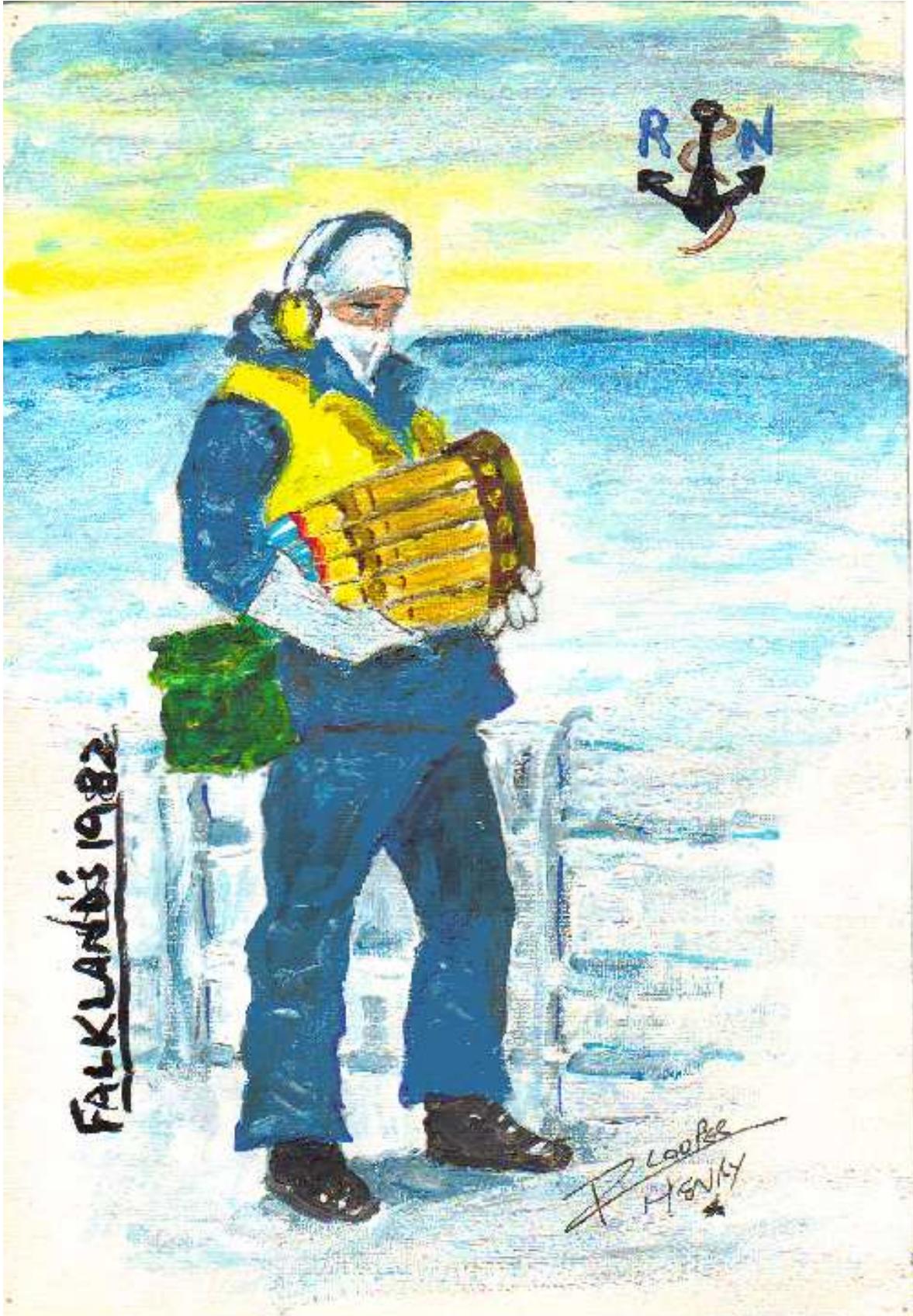
I mentioned that I didn’t think Basil noticed our laughter. However, some time later when I was on watch as QM, I did notice that he was going ashore wearing a rather Fetching flat cap!!

I hope this brings a smile to the faces of those who were there and Tony I also know that you can’t get your own back as you are living on a desert Island in the Pacific Ocean.



Henry Coopers' Art

Ambusman, Robert 'Henry' Cooper (PO GI 1975-77) has contributed with these excellent examples of his talent





Aussie Sea-Shanty

Peter Mosse

Our President recently returned from Hong Kong and Australia celebrating 45 years since he joined the RN - there was a goodly crowd of 30 from UK, then joined by twice that number downunder, with a few ex-pats thrown in for good. We understand that a nostalgic time was had by all up the Peak, Trafalgar Night at the Yacht Club, missus breaking the bank in Stanley market, racing at Happy Valley and the rest of time and money down the Wanch (Wan Chai). This was followed by various action replays sea borne in Sydney Harbour and it was here that the following dit was chanted over the broadcast by a local host, which might stir a memory:

ODE TO MANLY PIER

I was down on Manly Pier, sipping tubes of ice-cold beer,
 With a bucket full of prawns upon my knee.
 When I'd finished my last prawn I had a technicolour yawn,
 and I chundered in the old Pacific Sea.

Chorus

Drink it up ... drink it down ...,
 Come along and crack a tube with me -
 If you wanna throw your voice, mate you haven't any choice,
 But to chunder in the old Pacific Sea.

I was sitting in the surf, with a mate of mine called Murph,
 When he said "C'mon and crack a tube with me".
 When I'd finished the last bit, I had for the very biggest spit,
 and I chundered in the old Pacific Sea.

Chorus

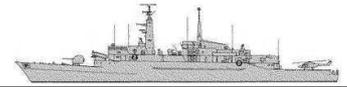
I've had liquid laughs in bars and I've hurled from movin' cars,
 and I've chundered where and when it suited me.
 But if I could choose the spot to regurgitate the lot,
 Then I'd chunder in the old Pacific Sea.

Chorus

You're not fair dinkum mate when you're sober and you're late,
 To a party that's been given just for thee.
 So you skol the bloody keg. In the dunny you renege,
 Which is flushed into the old Pacific Sea."

ATLANTIC RESCUE

David Marchant



HMS Ambuscade's rescue of Irishman Enda O'Coineen who was crossing the ocean in a dingy ! I can remember this episode quite well. It was a bit harry roughers somewhere in the North Atlantic. Apparently a civvy airliner had picked up a distress signal and relayed it to the Rescue Co-ordination Centre. In turn, Ambuscade received a signal to assist in the rescue describing an inflatable sinking (about 300 miles west of Ireland, I think). I can't remember how long it took to get to the scene, but RFA got there slightly ahead, and plucked the very wet chap and his part deflated inflatable craft from the oggin. A short time after he was transferred to Ambuscade, complete with his kit and boat. The rubber inflatable which can't have been more than a few metres long was lashed to the quarterdeck, and Enda was accommodated in the wardroom (I believe). I spoke to him down at the back end on a couple of occasions, and he seemed quite a decent fellow. On arrival at Devonport a few days later, he was met by the press, and appeared in the national press and TV.

Well naturally, the usual cracks of the Irish conducting bizarre activities were heard at the time. This evening I thought I would see if I could find anything about this plucky sailor and the

search lead me to a couple of books offered by Amazon. This is an extract from the synopsis of his biography, *The Unsinkable Entrepreneur*:

Once a troubled teenager and eccentric sailor, now an entrepreneur and financier - this is the story of how Enda O'Coineen made millions in the telecommunications and information technology sectors of Central and Eastern Europe. Desperate to get off the dole during the grinding recession of 1980s Ireland, Enda discovered a unique approach that allowed him to begin his first publishing business in the middle of a recession - without any cash whatsoever. He describes how he started commercial ventures, publications and charities in the face of incredible odds and in more than a few amusing situations. Since then he has refined his formula into a distinct business philosophy, applying it over and over again to more than 15 separate enterprises. Now an established financier he presides over his own investment banking company and venture capital firm, Kilcullen Kapital Partners.

Arf arf arf!!! I wonder if he wants to join the association?!!

David Marchant

"The signal gave name a Edna OKeneen - resulting in ship smelling like Turkish brothel from aftershave, etc. What a surprise when the jackstay delivered a man - his name was Enda O'Coineen"
Tony Mizzen



'We need
your Dits!'

Don't let your dits fade away like the RN we once knew..

Send your photos/dits/jokes for inclusion in future Pistol Posts. Feedback is welcome.

Please e-mail webmaster@ambuscade.org.uk

Please visit your website <http://www.ambuscade.org> and update your contact details if you haven't recently. Why not contribute to the crew photo albums?

Visit <http://www.type21club.co.uk> for 21-club reunion details

Or use our Type 21 Club social networking site
<http://type21club.ning.com/>

Announcements

HMS AMBUSCADE ASSOCIATION CHESTER Mini Reunion Friday 6th/Sat 7th May 2011

Our affiliated regiment The 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Cheshire) have invited us to attend their Regiment Race-day at Chester Races on Friday 6th May. Partners are welcome to attend.

The Club will be open in the Courtyard at the rear of the Headquarters (Chester castle) from approximately 11 a.m. and of course a beer tent will be open on the race course itself until the end of the last race".

On Saturday, there will be a meeting during the day and later a Social Evening [Meal or Curry Supper in Castle depending on attending numbers).

If you would like to attend this mini reunion Friday 6th May (races) and Saturday 7th May Meeting & social evening , please e-mail webmaster@ambuscade.org.uk and let us know if you are attending : 1. Races on Friday 6th 2. meeting Sat 7th 3 evening social also on Saturday. (hopefully all three)

TYPE 21 CLUB REUNION – PLYMOUTH 7/8 OCTOBER 2011

Following on from last year's success, the second Type 21 Club reunion is taking place in Plymouth on the weekend of 7/8th October 2011 in Plymouth and at the Royal British Legion Club in Crownhill.

PROGRAMME details will appear on the T21 website as they are finalised . (www.type21club.org.uk)

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition of the Pistol Post

Best wishes to you and your families and we look forward to see you at a reunion soon

HMS Ambuscade Association

President	Peter Mosse
Chairman	Mark Brocklehurst
Treasurer	Richie Killick
Membership secretary	Ian Thoburn
Webmaster	Steve Griffin
Committee members	

Paul Cousens	Phil Henry	Kev Meadows	David Thomas
Frank Parker	Paul Pedrick	Mike Townson*	Mick Openshaw
Sam Potts			

*also chairman of the Type-21 Club

H.M.S. AMBUSCADE