

T.S. VINDICATRIX ASSOCIATION NSW-ACT

A part of the world wide Vindi family



Yet though her splendour may have ceased to be she played her sovereign part in making me.-*John Masefield*
Branch newsletter 2009 number 60



Another Christmas Past.
Hope you had a nice one
Wishing everyone
A happy & Healthy 2008

A word of thanks to our Christmas party workers
In the 'Hat' Debbie Siegle Santa's helper.
On the Mike is Mick (Wilko) Wilkinson
And enjoying the Perks of the job is our resident
Santa Mike Siegle.



The 2007 Vindi Christmas Party
A beautiful day in sparkling Sydney Town
A great happy & friendly party
Old friends to greet & New friends to meet



We Vindi still believe in Santa.
L-R Bryn Hansell, wrestling his present away, John Mears looking teary ??, Gloria Hodgson looking happy with hers, Amanda Wilson smiling about something! What's Santa up to?
Santa & Sam Gregory handing out liquid cheer.



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2008 VINDI CALENDER

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JANUARY

Saturday 12th 1100 Bi monthly meeting. Quarryman's Hotel 216 Harris St. Corner of Pymont Bridge rd. Pymont, along the road from the Pymont Bridge Hotel (Monty's pub).

Monty's has got too noisy & 'young' and too expensive for us oldies. So we are trying the Quarrymans. *Unfortunately I was too late for this but the Quarrymans got a good report from the lads who did go.*

FEBRUARY

Sunday 17th. 1100/1130 Picnic day. This year we are having a change from the Forest of Tranquillity and meeting at a lovely park in Noraville/ Norah Head on the central coast. Vindi boy Len Britton has sussed this one out for us. It is a nice park with lovely views and has the added attraction of having a MN memorial garden in nearby Norah head Reserve.

How to get there Newcastle freeway then exit for Toukley turn east along Sparks Rd. - through the roundabout at Pacific Hwy. The road changes name to Wallarah Rd it crosses the spit between Lake Tuggerah & Budgewoi changes name again to Main Rd, At the roundabout at the end of Main Rd. that takes you through Toukley to Noraville take the 3rd exit onto Central coast hwy. 200 metres turn left at Bungary Rd -200metres turn left into Park St. Look out for Vindi Boys. Len Britton's mobile 0429165869

MARCH

Saturday 8th. 1100 Bi Monthly meeting at the Quarryman's Arms Pymont.

28/2930 Friday-Saturday & Sunday – Boys Only weekend!!

12 noon Friday to 1000 Monday

Venue - Ben Ricketts Mountain Cabins - Jamberoo Mountain road, Jamberoo.

Details - I have booked a 6 berth cabin for the 3 nights-stay 1/2/3 nights your choice.

How to Book Contact me Terry Hales. More details on next page

MAY

Saturday 10th. 1100 Bi Monthly meeting Quarryman's Arms Pymont.

JUNE– 14 Red Ensign Mid year Muster- Details next issue.

JULY

Saturday 19th. Bi monthly meeting combined with **Peter Bearmans 70th. Birthday bash!!!**

Venue & details TBA

AUGUST 2 night Golf Hotel package at Dormie House Moss Vale.

Lovely place, lovely food, 2 dinners 3 breakfasts, nice accommodation, log fires, games rooms, lounge bar. 3 games of golf. You don't have to be a good or a golfer at all as it's a great social outing, don't need a crowd just 2 or 3 is fine. Contact me -Terry as soon as you can as they need to be booked early to get the cheap packages, or we could go to a country town stay in a motel and use the local golf course.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 13th. Bi Monthly meeting Quarrymans Arms Pymont.

OCTOBER– THE BIG ONE

October 31 to Nov 2

The 8th. Annual Aust/NZ DOWNUNDER Vindi reunion—Christchurch, south island NZ –

More details on page 7 and on loose leaf Registration form

Saturday 27th. Vindi ladies day!! . Factory Outlet Shopping trip (chauffer driven) – followed by a special Luncheon somewhere nice in Sydney Town.

NOVEMBER

December

The Vindi Christmas Party—A date & place yet to be booked—investigating having a combined one with the Red Ensign groups somewhere central in town. Early days yet.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE NOW OVERDUE**

**Please send to Mick Wilkinson 8/16 Wyadra Ave Harbord 2096
\$25 Full / Associate \$15**

A few more Photos from the 2007 Christmas party

A face conspicuous by its absence was that of Les Reed from Macksville who has always been a big supporter of our Vindi events. Mick Wilkinson informs me that Les has spent most of the last 5 months in hospital and recently had 5 toes amputated because of diabetes. Hope that you are soon feeling better Les and learning to get mobile



Above—The noisiest crowd at the party



Above left Max Bergamini & Eric Hitchen from Ballina, Max & Eric sailed on the NZ coast together many moons ago! —Centre Len Britton & his partner Amanda Wilson—
Right Marjorie Hall & Gloria Hodgson

BOYS ONLY WEEKEND

***An extraordinary lamp-swinging extravaganza.
An opportunity to really put the world to rights.***

Where- Ben Ricketts environmental reserve – 774 Jamberoo Mountain Road, JAMBEROO NSW 2533

When – Friday/Saturday/Sunday March 28/29/30th.

What – The three cabins available at Ben Ricketts all have slow combustion wood heaters, electric heaters, electric stoves, microwave ovens, refrigerators, and kitchen facilities. Each cabin has its own shower & toilet facility. All bunks/ beds have pillows, blankets and doonas. You need to bring your own sheets, pillow-slips, towels, personal needs, indoor and outdoor footwear, food and torch. BBQ – Bush walks - Property adjoins farms and a farm visit can be arranged..

Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve and the Friends of Ben Ricketts are dedicated to conserving the unique plant & animal biodiversity of the Illawarra escarpment and providing affordable holiday accommodation to families, groups and individuals. The company has entered into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement with the NSW Minister for the Environment. This will ensure that the property is managed to maximise its important environmental value. The Preserve is owned by a group of individuals and families who have bought shares in the property to ensure that the natural and built environment is preserved in perpetuity.

So far I have booked one 6 berth cabin (can possibly make it a couple more with throw down mattresses on the floor) any more and I will book another cabin.

I will get all the food & drink in, let me know any special preferences in those lines.

Free transport to & from Kiama railway station to save you having to drive.

Cost of cabins- \$100/night divided by how many in cabin. Eg 6 in cabin = \$17/night

Have a look at www.benrickettscabins.com.au

PS another cabin can be booked for any ladies wishing to come along.

To Book contact me Terry Hales



Manchester Ship canal back in action

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Was the headline in the Manchester Evening News on 19/10/2007.

THE Manchester ship canal has been re-born as a major haulage route for a supermarket for the first time in over forty years.

Tesco has announced it has started using two barges to carry 1,600,000 litres of wine into Manchester each week in a bid to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. The waterway initiative will take 50 lorries off the road a week and save a total of 700,000 miles of haulage journeys on British roads every year.

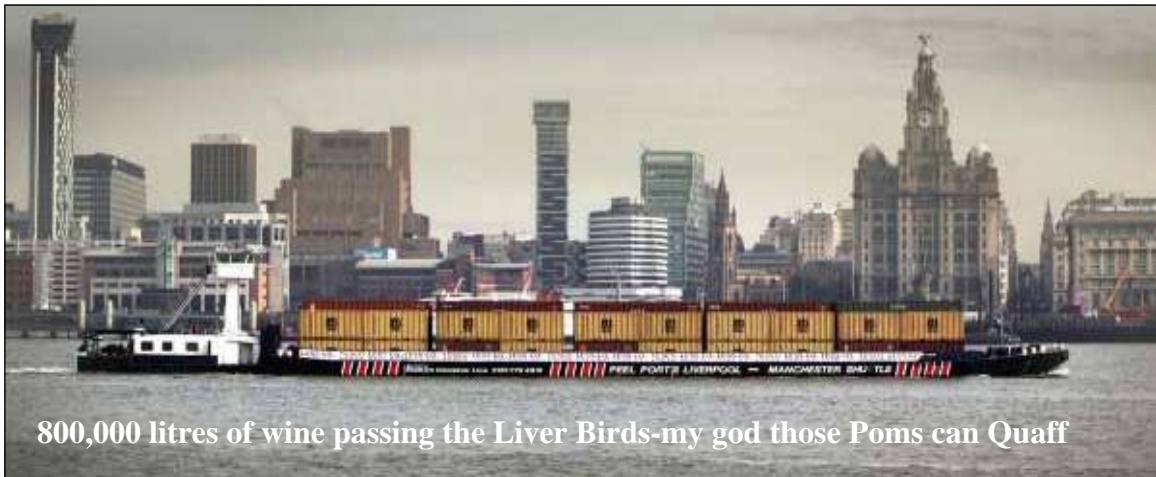
Manchester Ship Canal, which was opened by Queen Victoria in 1894, is currently used primarily for the transportation of Petrochemical products, scrap metal and grain.

But this is the first time a major retailer has used the canal in over four decades to connect Liverpool's Royal Seaforth Container Terminal with the Irlam Container Terminal, in Salford.

Waterways are widely regarded as an environmentally friendly way of transporting non-perishable freight as barges use approximately 80 per cent less fuel than lorries to transport the same load. Laurie McIlwee, Tesco's distribution director, said that the scheme could initiate a new golden age for the Manchester Ship Canal. "By 2012 we aim to halve the amount of carbon emitted per case of goods delivered." Once the shipments, containing wine from Australia, California, Chile and Argentina, have been transported the 40 miles to Irlam, they will then be taken to Kingsland Wines and Spirits bottling site, which is less than half a mile away.

Tesco's 'new world' wine shipments have previously arrived in the UK at various southern ports before being driven to the Manchester bottling depot.

The shuttle service is being operated by Manchester-based Seaborn Container Line, which has invested £1.8million in the two barges to transport wine.



800,000 litres of wine passing the Liver Birds-my god those Poms can Quaff

SEAMEN (*These days one should say Seafarers*) WANTED

Fancy going back to sea to work? Here's a couple of jobs you might like to try for;

Location: United Kingdom, Aberdeen—Salary: US\$22,903 per Year

Status: Contract – Job Level: Internship - Company: Tidewatermarine

Address: Souterhead Rd. Altens Industrial estate, Aberdeen .

Or

4 ABS REQUIRED FOR DEEP ANCHORHANDLING IN TRINIDAD ASAP-6TH Jan 2008

TEMP CONTRACT - £125.57 day rate.

Ed. I guess you would need to know what you are about in this job as these Oil rig anchors can weigh up to 500 tons, must play havoc with stability when you have one hanging of the side of the tug.

Whilst still in the job market theme I thought you might find this article interesting.

I'm not quite sure what it 'is' saying though.

Class still rules the UK

Journalist Mark Steel points out that social class is still a major factor in British society. "The pundits who regularly declare its disappearance usually refer to the decline of industries such as mining and the docks. But there are now three times as many people working in call centres as there were mining in 1980. And, in theory, they could cause havoc if they all went on strike, because even the army couldn't take over in an emergency. ... To have any meaning, class must be about whether we have any control over how matters are organised in society. If you're Rupert Murdoch or on the board of a major bank you probably have. But if you work in Ikea or a call centre, or for Legal & General or you're a salesman or an air hostess, it doesn't matter that you're not covered in soot, you're probably working class."

The Independent (United Kingdom)

**The 7th. Annual Vindicatrix
Australia/New Zealand reunion November 2007**

The West Australian Vindi Boys really did us proud, the venue was great, we had the Cockburn Sound Motor boat club all to ourselves for the three days, the food was just great the Buffett dinner had the tables bending with Roasts of beef, Turkey and lovely fish, plus too many dishes to many to mention.

The transport laid in to run us around for the 3 days was a genuine 1989 London double deck bus, which really added to the 'flavour' of the occasion. The bus driver/owner shipped it out as a business venture and now has another one en route from London.

Friday night was comedy night we were entertained by 'Tommy Cooper' AKA David Partridge who got us all laughing and by a nice keyboard player playing 'our kind' of music.

Saturday night saw even more food bending the tables and we were entertained by the professional comedy duo Adams & Rix who took of famous movie & TV stars and singers our days and kept our ribs aching for half an hour, Rix's impersonation of Frank Spencer from some 'Mothers do have them' was spot on!.

Later we had a real surprise, a Belly Dancer Esmeralda—AKA Moira Butler wife of WA Vindi Boy Derek who put on a really good show balancing swords on her head whilst gyrating around the floor.

But I think the high light of the event was the unveiling of David Partridges poem 'Heroes' -to tell the story of this I will use the WA Vindi president Tony Harben's own words, " Some time ago I read the poem Heroes written by Vindi lad David Partridge, I was so moved by it that I put it to our members that we should try to obtain an updated version which includes allied merchant seamen who lost their lives at sea during the wars and have this cast onto a bronze plaque, it was agreed that we start the ball rolling, so with the help of the committee we managed to get a grant from the Lotteries West Commission of \$25,000 and the bronze plaque was manufactured in Sydney and shipped to us just in time for the reunion.

I asked David to come up to the stage were he unveiled the Bronze plaque which measures 600X350mm.

I think everyone who saw this very emotional unveiling agreed that the plaque is indeed a work of art"

The plaque will eventually be mounted an the Fremantle Cenotaph on Monument hill.

Truly a great credit to the West Australian Vindi Boys.



The Bus

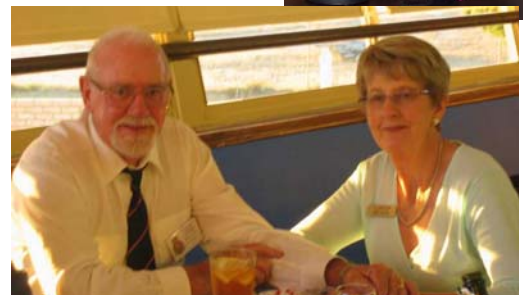


In & out of The Bus - Saying goodbye on the last morning - Fremantle Maritime Museum

The 2007 Downunder cont.



Mike Day SA



The unveiling of the 'Heroes' Plaque Dave Partridge & Tony Harben– Scrumptious Fish & Chips on Fremantle's waterfront.–Belly dancer 'Esmeralda' AKA Moira Butler wife of WA VB Derek– UK Vindi visitors L-R couple from Doncaster cannot recall their names, Rob & Norma Lewis from Liverpool- Tommy Cooper' AKA Dave Partridge THE SUIT is his sons when he was 'best man' recently. Peeping out of his little tent is the indomitable Mike Day from Pinaroo SA– 1939 VB Bill Gould with Allan & Lillian Smillie from SA Vindi they live in a huge campervan and are permanently travelling around OZ, if you have parking room in your yard email them on coorain@bigpond.com and they will pay you a visit– Ron Howells with his partner Verna, Ron lives in Fremantle but has been a NSW member since we started– Left two more UK visitors Ron Singleton V1944 and his travelling mate Don Pendlebury from Disley Cheshire, Ron who lives in Marple Cheshire was one of my Vindi hosts when I did my first big UK canal & river walk in 2003. Ron is active on the MN scene in his local area getting the Red ensign flown on MN & Remembrance days, a MN plaque added to the memorial inscribed with the name of his elder brother killed when his ship was torpedoed in 1942. Below left the NSW contingent minus Barry & Margaret Akers, they seem to vanish at photo time L-R Mike & Lynn Kingcott– Dave Partridge–Bill & Jacqui King– John & Rosetta Butler –Terry & Maureen Hales. Right– we found Barry Akers (First on left) but not Margaret– with the 'Heroes' plaque





**THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
DOWNUNDER VINDICATRIX REUNION
CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND
OCTOBER 31st.—NOVEMBER 2nd. 2008**



The reunion will be based at the **WOOLSTON CLUB** a large community club in Woolston which is about 5 Kms SE of the Christchurch CBD.

WOOLSTON CLUB

**Welcomes Vindicatrix lads and lassies to CHRISTCHURCH NZ
For the ANZ Vindicatrix Down-Under Reunion 2008**

The Woolston Club based on 18 acres of land in South East of Christchurch is a local community and entertainment facility with bars, restaurant, gaming, TAB and Sports options. The Club is both a home to its 5000 members and a major local community entertainment and leisure facility.

This is a top venue for Vindicatrix Down-under Reunion

The Woolston Club also has parking for up to 400 vehicles and will be allocating space in this area for those choosing to travel by campervan.

For more information on the Woolston Club see our website at www.woolstonclub.co.nz

We look forward to welcoming you all to Christchurch in October/November 2008 and to share our facilities and City with you at that time.

The Woolston Club 43 Hargood Street Woolston CHRISTCHURCH NZ

**The Vindicatrix Association, South Island NZ is hosting this event
so let's all help to make the 2008 reunion an event to remember.**

For bookings please find enclosed loose sheet.

For more details www.nz.vindicatrix.com email reunion@vindicatrix.com Or contact me -Terry Hales

Accommodation

**Spring in Christchurch is a busy time with big horse racing carnivals and other national events
near our dates so it is important to book your accommodation as soon as you can.**

Suggested near by accommodation :

Using a Camper van?

The Woolston Club has camper van parking spots-contact the club. Tel +64 3389 7039. fax +6433897036

The Arcadia Motel (self catering) is on Ferry Road and only a 5 minute walk to the Woolston Club. Their website address is www.arcadiamotel.co.nz tel +64 33894756

All Seasons Holiday Park (self catering) park cabins on Linwood Avenue, this would be about a 3 minute drive down the road from the Woolston Club. The Woolston Club do run a courtesy shuttle, or it would be a very easy taxi ride.

Their website address is www.allseasonsholidaypark.co.nz Or +643384 9490 Fax - +64 3384 9843

Or contact:

Christchurch Visitor Centre PO Box 2600 Christchurch, New Zealand Ph: +64 3 379 9629 Fax: +64 3 377 2424

Email: info@christchurchnz.com

Or your local travel agent at home.

Jobs at Sea Again

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If you do get a job in the North sea watch out for the oil production platforms that are littering the place up as one captain found out recently.



LONDON: A British court sentenced a Polish sea captain to a year in prison Friday Nov 2nd. 2007 for crashing his 2,000 ton ship loaded with wheat from Lubeck to the Humber into an unmanned North Sea gas platform while drunk. Zbigniew Krakowski, 56, pleaded guilty to exceeding the blood alcohol limit for someone in charge of a sea vessel by nearly three times and hitting the Viking Echo gas platform, 65 kilometers off Cromer on the Norfolk coast.

Reading the press reports it seems whilst on watch by himself he decided to catch up on some admin work on the computer leaving the ship to run on automatic When he finally glanced out of the window the

unmanned Viking Echo Delta facility was just 100 yards away - and a collision was inevitable.

Lincoln Crown Court heard how the resultant smash caused £10million of damage to the platform and up to £6million in lost production.

Yet Krakowski responded to the resultant chaos by helping himself to a few drinks as his crew on the 2,000-tonne MV Jork leapt into a life-raft. (Which is how he explained being 3 times over the limit when tested by the police just after the rescue helicopter landed.) He eventually decided to attach himself to a lifebuoy and throw himself into the waves - but forgot to release the cord that attached it to the stricken ship and he had to be cut free when rescuers arrived.

Jailing him for a year the judge said it was fortunate no one was killed during a "breathtaking set of events". Judge John Milmo QC said: "A master's reluctance to leave his ship might in some circumstances be seen to be heroic. "Here it indicates either drunken stupidity or the realisation of the consequences of what you had done. It is clear that your career has gone."

The court heard it was left to "heroic" chief officer Jan Hiechetek, 46, to assume control by issuing a mayday and rounding up the crew from their cabins.

Prosecutor Mr Lody added: "While this was going on Krakowski remained passive on the bridge. He didn't react. He said he would stay and go down with the ship." Twelve hours later the Jork sank within 500 yards of the platform - close enough to give British courts jurisdiction over the case.



Talking about Polish nationals in the UK

This quaint story appeared in a UK newspaper recently

An 87-year-old Polish veteran died on November 1, 2007, in Wolverhampton, England, where he had lived as a recluse on a traffic island for the past 35 years. Jozef Stawinoga, veteran of the Polish armed forces in World War II, lived in a tent on the traffic island surrounded by trees since the early 1970s. Authorities of Wolverhampton, in west-central England, had accepted his explanation he suffered from claustrophobia since he was prisoner of war in a Nazi camp and didn't evict him from his tent. Polish radio reported that the town's social services were supplying Stawinoga with hot meals regularly.

Old Boys

In my October newsletter I mentioned that 1942 VB Len Wade of Figtree NSW was in dock with heart valve/fluid on lungs problems he got over them with medication. And has been OK the past couple of months but talking today to wife Betty she tells me Len has to go for an Endoscopy on Monday investigating a ulcer somewhere.

I had a couple of colonoscopies recently so if they don't get you one way they get you the other!

New Boys

I don't think there has been a mention of two new Vindi Boys who joined our ranks fairly recently so I will put that to rights right now.

Roger Johnson Vindi December 1965/Jan 1966 catering this young fellow hails from Swindon and his MN time was on the Chusan, Canberra, Orcades, starting as Bell Boy and finishing in 1971 as P.R.S. he did tell me what that was but I have forgotten He migrated to OZ in 1971, at present living in Port Kembla. Were I see him occasionally.

Graham Franklin Vindi October 1943 this senior fellow hails from Braintree (*Sounds a good place to be born in*) Essex

He is now residing in South Grafton.

His ships were the Empire Spartal cargo, Empire Bombadier tanker, Empire Doon a reparation ship seized from the Germans.

And the Atlantis from whence it seems he became an illegal immigrant in Fremantle in June 1946.

Jumping out of the frying pan into the fire he joined the Australian Army for the next 25 years including a stint serving in Vietnam. The branch has quite a few Vbs who later joined the army here & UK.

The other day we had a reply to an advert from **Fred Cooke** who lives in Georgetown Tasmania don't know anything else as yet except that he was on the Russian convoys, so obviously much senior to me and obviously a fellow who can tell us a thing or two

In my last newsletter no58 I did a story about Raymond Steed 14 a Galley boy who was the youngest serving person killed in action in WW2 and is buried next to the grave of General Claude Auchinleck in Ben M'Sik military cemetery in Morocco. Vindi Boy Des Jenkins in NZ informed me that the general specially asked to be buried next to Raymond as he was in charge of the North African campaign and Raymond the youngest to fall. Symbolic of the scope of war.

Some Real Shit Houses I have known

9

In my time I have been cursed to meet some horrible toilets, here is a little story about some of them.

But first - we all have to admit that the modern toilet is a marvellous invention!

One press of a button and that mess you just made is instantly someone else's problem.

Did anyone else as a deck boy or JOS have the misfortune to join a ship that had been idle in a UK port with no crew on board and find that the crews accommodation had been used as a doss house by dockside layabouts.

The mess rooms and the cabins would be absolutely filthy, full of old newspapers, dirty oily old clothes, bits of dirty tarpaulins used for bedding, left over food scraps and an awful stink from the piles of turds and pools of piss.

The saltwater tanks on top of the poop housing for flushing the toilets would have long emptied and every toilet pan would be blocked full of shit & crumpled newspapers to the brim.

With these full the temporary residents then used the showers, drying room or alleyways as shit houses.

It happened to me twice and it always seemed to be MY JOB TO CLEAN IT ALL UP!!!

WHY – Perhaps it was because I was brought up in a house with an 'orrible toilet, so here's that little story - I remember being scared of the backyard toilet at the house I grew up in Oldham, a wooden seat over a vertical earthenware shaft 18 inches in diameter that went down into the dark depths. I was always frightened I was going to fall down it. From the this deep blackness came eerie noise's, sighing whispers, wafts of hot air – a giant monster breathing - other times roaring noises and a gale of wind blowing up the shaft. The shaft, went down to a 'tipping' earthenware box fitted into an opening on top of the sewer pipe that was supposed to seal it but it never worked properly I can still picture my mother always trying to reset it with a long pole and carrying buckets of hot soapy water up from the copper on wash day to give it a good flush out to reduce the smells.

But with hindsight I realized that we were lucky as our family had this toilet to ourselves, in other parts of our long street of terraces, three houses, some of them with 8 or 9 kids shared just one toilet!

From there of course things went down hill fast when I joined the Vindi, with the toilet in the old stables on the canal side. To be truthful I can't remember using this toilet but having heard so much about it I just had to include it in a story like this. I never slept on the ship, for my troubles, I was made Bosun's mate for my last 3 weeks and had the dubious pleasure of looking after a hut full of newboys each week. And living in fear of getting a week on my course for having a dirty hut, so I got plenty of experience in cleaning the hut toilets everyday and especially for the Captain's inspection on Saturday morning.

I became an expert on all facets of the workings of toilets from the bowl to the overboard discharge valve when on Maggie Booths "Hubert" she was cursed with toilet piping problems from the passenger accommodation so I was "promoted" to Chippies mate, great I thought until I realized why – Toilets- the unblocking of! Day and night I would have my hands down the pan or be unscrewing some pipe on some deckhead somewhere and pushing rods through or hooking the blockage out. Murphy's Law ensured that you always finished up wearing some of it.

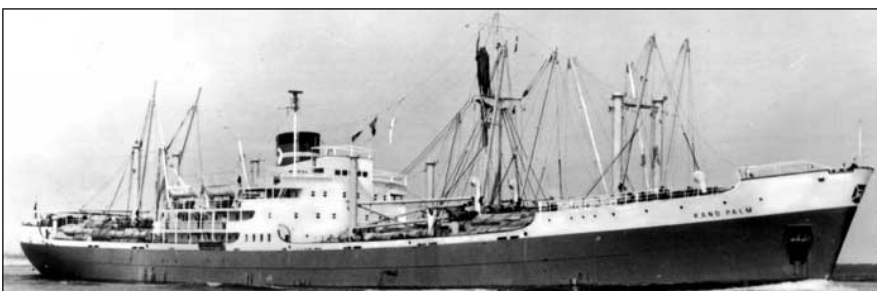
But my 'Piece de Resistance' in the toilet world was on the 'Kano Palm' on a trip down the West African coast.

The 'Kano Palm' was perhaps the best ship I served on, accommodation & food-wise she was fairly new with a well planned deck to work on, the derricks, winches, hatches and all the working gear easy to use and get at. But best of all, we the crew living down aft had a large comfortable single berth cabin each, the first time I had sailed on such a ship. But best of all was the food which was really good and it was served in a midships crew dining room, small round tables with white table cloths, no common mess room thank you. And to top it off we had a Messman to look after our every want, "would sir like his grapefruit cut up?" I was flabbergasted! He was just great and looked after us like a bunch of children, "just sit down and I will serve your lunch!!" He was of the gay fraternity but far too big for anyone to make any unfriendly remarks to him, but he was gentle giant.

So what spoils this 'Floating Shangri-La?' Again it was a TOILET

In this case it was the Krew Boys toilet, at our first west African port, Takoradi we took on board about 30 Krewboys who worked the ship's cargo around the coast. They lived and ate and slept on number one hatch forr'ard, the Krewboy galley being in the Foc'sle Head.

But their toilet was built on the stern, RIGHT OVER MY PORTHOLE!!! It was a timber affair 2 beams lashed outboard with a foot board and outboard of that a rail to poke your rear end over. All this 2 feet over my porthole you can imagine the view out of my cabin was dominated by the sight of a row of black arses. Needless to say I didn't open my porthole again until we had dropped the Krew Boys off and cleared Takoradi northward bound for home.



The Kano Palm
Minus the
Krew Boys
toilet



No I haven't suddenly developed new skills. This Vindi cartoon is an hitherto unpublished cartoon from the pen of Terry Caplin the cartoonist of the UK Vindi News fame. Terry & I were on the Vindi together back in 1953, our Vindi dates correspond exactly but we have different class photos which is a puzzle but despite this we have been communicating for some years now.

WW2 film

Western Approaches

AN URGENT appeal was launched in May to find people who were involved in the making of an historic documentary film in Holyhead.

The acclaimed wartime docu-drama, Western Approaches, was the first documentary to be shot in colour.

Special colour cameras were brought from America and the cinematographer on Western Approaches was the legendary double Oscar winner, Jack Cardiff.

It was made by the Crown Film Unit as a tribute to the Merchant Navy – with real seamen recreating the horror of being torpedoed and sunk at sea.

The landmark documentary is now being honoured as part of the North Wales Film and Television Trail.

Richard Burnell, the vice chair of the Maritime Museum, said he was delighted the film is being honoured as part of the trail.

He said, "It was cutting edge stuff, it's quite a film when you look at it, a classic of its type. We are very pleased that the film and Holyhead's part in it are being honoured."

The organisers are desperate to locate anybody who might have been involved in some way.

A SUNNY DAY.

Before I open my eyes in the morning
 The birds inform me, a new day is dawning.
 The sun, neath it's covers, peeps out with one eye,
 Throwing tinges of orange all over the sky.
 The lovely 'Dawn chorus' is gathering strength
 And the new days shadows are at maximum length.
 The trees are all changing from black into green
 And when fully transformed they're a sight to be seen.
 As the sun rises into a day bright and new
 It lights up with colour the sweet morning dew.
 That sun is still glowing a very bright red
 As it climbs very slowly from a lovely warm bed,
 To set all afire with it's very warm glow,
 Sharpening shadows, even melting some snow.
 Night animals and insects return home to sleep
 Whilst day creatures rise, appointments to keep.
 As the sun rises higher it's bright colours fade
 And the Earth becomes clearer with diminishing shade.
 When it changes colour from orange to gold
 It radiates heat to eliminate cold.
 The birdsong is now quieter than it was at dawn
 As most are now feeding like those on the lawn.
 The Blackbird, the Robin, the Starling, the Wren
 And large portly pigeons, I can see at least ten.
 The lovely gold orb ascends to great height,
 The shadows are shortening, the Earth looking bright.
 The air smells fresh in the warm summer breeze
 Which flutters the leaves as it glides through the trees,
 Animals everywhere enjoy the new day
 And those who are nocturnal asleep where they lay.
 But Humans continue with their daily chores
 As they work through the day with hardly a pause.
 The birds have gone quiet as they cower in the trees
 Trying to benefit from the very slight breeze
 The sun is descending, it's heat warms us all
 It's travelling westward, to it's last port of call,
 It has warmed up the Earth, It's day nearly done
 And all life below has certainly won.
 The sun begins gently, heading down to it's bed
 And as it descends it goes orange, then red.
 It spreads a red smile across the whole sky
 Wishing all well as it says it's goodbye.
 From four in the morning till about ten at night,
 It amazes me how he stays so bright.
 We all know just how much it's warm smile is worth
 For that's what sustains life down here on Earth.
 So thank you SUN for the gift that you give
 And for rising up daily so we continue to live.

Colin D. Rodgers. 1st Jun 2007

From the ever Bubbling Colin Rogers of Beautiful Bewdley in the county of Worcestershire.

Buster Crabbe story sequel

You may I hope recall in my last newsletter I had a Buster Crabbe story, recently this article appeared ;

Eduard Koltsov has now given an interview to a Russian documentary team in which he claims that he was ordered to dive beneath the ship and investigate after a frogman was spotted in the water. Mr Koltsov then 23 claims that he cut Crabb's throat after finding him attaching a limpet mine to the hull, according to a BBC report.