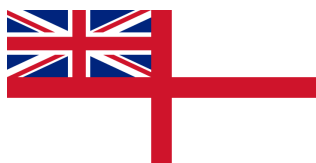


HMS Amethyst Association Newsletter



President's Letter

Once again Eric and Trudy organised an excellent Reunion in Plymouth. We all very much enjoyed being in our home port. Luckily my son and granddaughter from New Zealand were able to come along and they were pleased to meet so many of our Veterans and their families.

A small contingent of Veterans marched at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Sadly John Parker (LONDON) and John Dunstan (BLACK SWAN) have both called it a day, and I wonder for how long I will be able to keep going.

We look forward to seeing some of you at the Swindon Reunion. We certainly enjoyed the Mercure Hotel last time we were there so things are set for a splendid weekend.



Ray Kitto, our hardworking Welfare Officer and acting Sin bosun, is in poor health. We hope he will be well enough to attend the Reunion. We all send him our very best wishes.

Good Luck and Best Wishes to you all

Stewart Hett

Lt. Cdr, Stewart Hett MBE RN Retd

Inside this issue

President's Letter..	1
Recent Books.....	2
Amethyst Project	2
Crossed the Bar	2
Remembrance Day 2014.....	3
Reunion 2015	3
Peter Hurley Article	3
Committee details.....	4
Membership.....	4

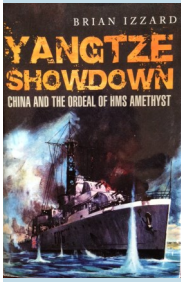
Reunion September 2015

The 2015 reunion will be held on the 18th to 20th September 2015 at the Mercure Swindon Hotel South Marston, South Marston, Swindon SN3 4SH.

We have a carvery meal and AGM arranged for the Friday and our Gala meal on the Saturday. Dinner, bed and breakfast for a double works out at £244 and single at £191 (Sat nav SN3 4SH). All welcome!

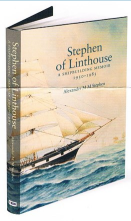
Booking: rooms can be booked now, phone no 01793 833700 and please say you are with the Amethyst Association.

Yangtze Showdown by Brian Izzard



A new book about the Incident has just been published called "Yangtze Showdown. China and the Ordeal of HMS Amethyst" by journalist Brian Izzard. It is published by Seaforth Publishing, cost £25 and can be obtained from Amazon.

Stephen of Linthouse, A Shipbuilding Memoir 1950—1983 by Alexander MM Stephen



AMETHYST was built by Stephens, on the Clyde, and is mentioned in his book, which might be of interest to you.

Simon Ships Out by Jacky Kim

Amazon at £7.99. It is the story of Simon in HMS

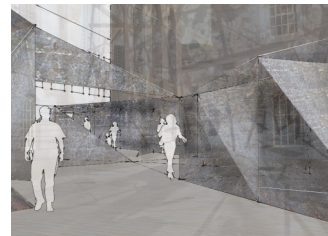
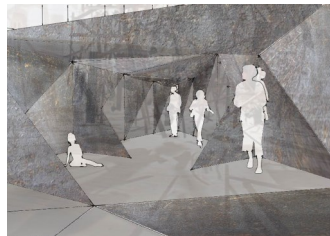
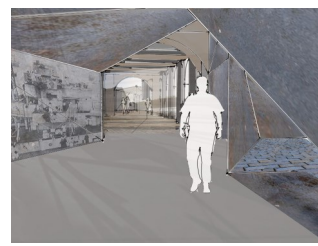


AMETHYST including her participation in the 1949 Yangtze Incident. Simon the Cat and Peggy the Dog tell the story in their own words. The Author has exercised a certain amount of artistic licence in covering the story.

Amethyst Project by Final Year Architecture Student, Rebecca Stone, Granddaughter of Bob Stone

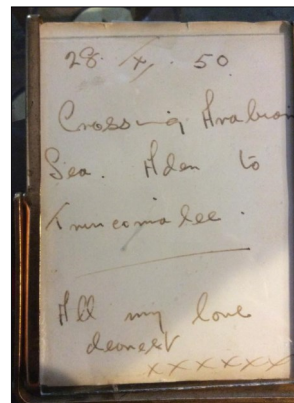


There are five images of my project that I have exhibited in both Bournemouth and London. Also one of my exhibiting presentation of work, as well as of me with my work at my graduate exhibition in Bournemouth.



Norman Gerrard

The Daughter of Gerrard, who lives in the USA has contacted Jacky Kim, the Author of "Simon Ships Out". Norman Gerrard served in AMETHYST and her daughter sends some pictures of him. His picture is inscribed on passage from Aden to Trincomalee. This passage is likely to have been in the summer of 1945, so Gerrard obviously served in the ship in 1945/6. His daughter says he worked in "refrigeration", and from his picture I guess he was a stores rating. I do not suppose anyone remembers him now.



Sea Cadet Unit TS AMETHYST By Stewart Hett

I was able to attend the TS AMETHYST AGM in Welwyn Garden City. Terry Atkins, the Commanding Officer reported that the unit had enjoyed a good year. Number have increased to a total of 40 with a large number of juniors. At last year's Inspection, which included a field gun run in pouring rain, the Inspecting Officer reported a "Happy and Hardworking ship". In June 15 cadets and 4 Instructors were expected to attend the Sea Cadet training in Weymouth Harbour. Most of the unit's boats have been refitted and are in use in the local Stanborough Lake. The unit is working hard to earn their burgee in 2015.

Remembrance Day 2014



Group Captain Peter Hurly RNZAF

Peter Hurley has made contact with our Association. He is an Air Force Medical Officer specialising in Aviation Medicine. He served in the South African Army but moved to New Zealand as he did not like apartheid. He is now semi-retired and his hobby is Military History and he collects military memorabilia.

He saw the Yangtze Incident Film as a boy and has collected some books about the Incident. As a boy he was enthralled and in awe over the Incident.

Peter Hurley recently, came across two framed items that were up for auction. One is a cap tally of HMS Amethyst, together with a covering letter by Lt Cdr Kerans dated 20 November 1949 to the Auckland Navy League. Apparently the Navy League, at that time, planned to hold a charity "Amethyst Fair" on 2 December 1949 and had asked Lt Cdr Kerans for a cap tally to be auctioned as part of the fund raising. It is believed that there was spirited bidding and the item was sold for 10 pounds 10s. The other frame was described as having two challenge coins commemorating HMS Amethyst. As the term "challenge coin" had not existed at that time, Peter Hurley tried to find out a bit more about the medallions. It appeared that a previous crew member, a George Hickingbottom, had, at his own expense, struck these medallions to be given to all of the ship's company in recognition of their bravery and ordeal. Certainly the medallions seem to be from this striking and feature HMS Amethyst on the obverse and the reverse has the ship's crest and the words "Have rejoined the fleet - God save the King".

We were able to tell him that AMETHYST never visited New Zealand and to confirm that the story about George Hickingbottom's medals is correct. AMETHYST received many letters of support from organisations around the world the cap ribbon and letter were undoubtedly a standard response to these many letters.



David Ferrier was working in New Zealand before he moved to Australia. He visited the UK for some AMETHYST Association Reunions and there are photos of him at the time that George was giving out his medals. We told Peter Hurley that we believed he had died a couple of years ago. Before he died Ferrier had made a generous donation to the AMETHYST Association. Peter Hurley said that when he was next in Australia, he would try to get some information about Ferrier.

Peter Hurley followed up by telling us that he had taken apart the frame with the medallions and confirm that they were awarded to David Ferrier. It seems that they may have hung in an ex- servicemens' club in New Zealand (together with the

HMS Amethyst cap tally), which may have subsequently closed down. He assured us that he will honour both the man and the ship's company.

He also contacted the manager of Moolap Caravan Park, who confirmed that David Ferrier died about two years ago. She added that he did lead a full and happy life.



HMS Amethyst Association Newsletter

Committee and Officers

President	Stewart Hett	019238 27132	stewartthett@gmail.com
Chairman	Eric Mustoe	01213784618	eric.mustoe@btinternet.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Trudy Sampson	01827830334	trudysam@btinternet.com
Sin Bosun	Raymond James	01792642556	rjames9@cwgsy.net
Welfare Officer	Ray Kitto	01784259584	thekittos@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Gilly O'Reilly	07887517663	gillianoreilly@icloud.com
Other members	Andy Maynard		
	John Roberts		

Maritimequest Website

www.maritimequest.com

Crossed the Bar

Sadly we have some shipmates who have crossed the bar.

Douglas Bedford December 2014

Brian Griffiths 10 November 2014



Membership

The subscription fee for membership is £7.00 (widows £4.00), although many members send more than this as the membership fees are our major source of funds. Subscription for the year are due in January. Any fees or donations should be sent to Trudy, our secretary and treasurer.

Trudy Sampson 1 Warton Lane, Austrey, Atherstone CV9 3EJ
Phone: 01827 830334
E-mail: tryudysam@btinternet.com

We also welcome new membership and attendance at the reunions. Look forward to seeing you next time!