

CAVALIER CAPERS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE H.M.S. CAVALIER ASSOCIATION

Web: <http://hmscavalier.org.uk>

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Chairman's Report

I really hope our members are well and keeping safe during these trying times.

We seem to be in the same lockdown position as we were the last time, I did my report for Capers. I really hope that the 21st June is the final time we experience any sort of restrictions, although I think we're going to be blindsided yet again.

In hind site the committee is pleased that we didn't organise this year's reunion for our usual dates in May this year. We really hope that by October will be back to normal. The committee will be looking at the situation at the beginning of August and should the need arise, make alternative arrangements regarding dates.

Because of the reunion date change to the beginning of October, I have had to cancel the working weekend as there is a clash. I have re-scheduled the date for the weekend 22nd – 24th October. Please can you let Julie know if you will be attending, for meals and accommodation.

Jim Lowe has put an article in Capers relating to the state of the ship, this is understandable because CHDT has be shut down for so long, therefore we need as many as possible for the working weekend so we can start getting her ship shape.

As you are all aware Chris Jones retired from CHDT just before the first lockdown and a replacement Ship Keeper was appointed, his name is James Morgan. We had a long chat on the phone regarding the WWE's and his response was very positive.

You may or may not know that Richard Holdsworth is retiring from CHDT this summer. Richard has been a great supporter of the Cavalier Association over the years. The committee has

decided to make a presentation to Richard on behalf of the Cavalier Association. This will take place sometime in July.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Bristol reunion in October.

Tony Cox

President's Corner

I must admit that, after so long a period of lockdown, it is becoming a little difficult to know what to say! But perhaps we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, although I am sure that all of you will be making your own risk assessments about how rapidly you want to return to normal social life. That seems only sensible, because we are all in different circumstances.

However, I hope that will not deter you from attending what will be our first Cavalier reunion for two and a half years, and something to which I am sure you, like me, will be much looking forward to. It should be a joyful occasion, if sadly tinged with sadness for those who have crossed the bar since we last met. I would like to thank Tony Cox and his all the members of his committee for keeping the show on the road and Cavalier Capers in our post boxes during the lockdown, and for so determinedly looking for the chance to hold a reunion and for finding a new organiser for it who seems to be both enthusiastic and capable. We all owe them a hearty vote of gratitude for their efforts. I am sure that it will be a splendid occasion and I hope to see as many as possible of you at Bristol at the beginning of October.

Meanwhile, stay safe and well.

Jeremy Blackham

Vice Chairman's Report

Not much to say this time just hope we have all survived this terrible disease that landed on us. Hope you all had your vaccinations without any trouble.

We are still on track for Bristol this year unless we cop for more problems with restrictions. I know we have had to re-arrange the date, but it would be nice to see as many shipmates as possible. It is hoped that next year's reunion will fall in May again, and if all goes well should be in Llandudno.

My wife and I have managed a couple of staycations this year to Skipton and Whitby in self accommodation cottages. It's nice to visit our attractions for a change and not give it to the French and Spanish etc.

Anyway, we hope to see as many as possible in Bristol, keep well and carry on.

David Shardlow

Secretary's Report

Here's hoping that you are all keeping well and probably like us, fed up with all the restrictions on our lives, although very necessary.

Same as everyone else, not much to report on really. I have had a few emails and photos sent in which are in this issue. But I really need some more material from you guys, without material coming in, unfortunately Capers will dwindle, so come on, put your thinking caps on and let's have some old stories, tales, dits, photos etc, anything that is worth a good read. As Rowdy mentioned, we have had correspondence with Richard Caines family, mainly Lise, who has sent me some photos and hopefully a piece to be written by his son, so look out for these in our next issue.

Kevin and I are really looking forward to the get together in Bristol, hopefully in October, let's hope things continue to improve and our Reunion can go ahead.

The working weekend has been re-scheduled for the weekend of 22nd Oct, as Tony said, anyone wishing to attend, please let me know how many nights you will be staying on board and if you would like meals. I will book the pub Ship & Trades for an evening meal Friday 22nd at 7pm, again numbers please.

Take care all, stay safe and hope to see you in October.

Julie Tester

Treasurers Report

Salute

Prior to the current committee members taking their seats, our predecessors, those ex-Chairmen, Vice chairmen, secretaries and treasurer and members who have donated time and effort

over the years to keep our association thriving so that it could become the vibrant organisation that it is today.

I take this opportunity to pay my respects to you all especially perhaps those that were in at the beginning and not forgetting Nobby who remained in office for over twenty years.

Thank you BZ.

Donations

Donations come in in many ways from £5 to the hundreds, from a book of stamps to lottery prizes and from many sources and, as you can see from our audit, they add up to a substantial sum. I thank you all on behalf of the association and I am aware that not everyone can or needs to contribute so please do not feel slighted if you have not done so. Your £15 subs is all the support we need.

I am currently in the process of sending out membership cards to all the honorary and life members a few at a time and you should have had yours by the time you read this.

I had a Mrs Lise Whittle join as an Associate recently. She is the niece of Dick Cains, now deceased, who served in the 44/45 commission. So welcome to you Lise.

That reminds me, in a recent report I stated that we only had two remaining members from that commission but, unforgivably I neglected to mention Slinger Woods an illustrious life member now residing at the Thornes Retirement Home in Lancaster. So, my apologies to you Shipmate.

Audit ...

H.M.S CAVALIER ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS

From: 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Income		Expenditure	
Opening balance -			
Welfare account	5,500.00	Welfare payments	1,500.00
Opening balance -		Stamps	609.76
Treasurers account	6,180.28	Printer	457.10
		Website	268.79
Total opening balance	11,680.28	Audit	120.00
Income received in year		Inks	96.02
Subscriptions		Stationery	48.15
	2,067.21	IT support	46.00
Donations		Flowers	28.00
	1,020.00		
Total income received in year	3,087.21	Total Expenditure in year	3,173.82
		Closing balance -	
		Welfare account *	1.00
		Closing balance -	11,592.67
		Treasurers account	
		Total closing balance	11,593.67

The balance of the Welfare Account (less £1) was transferred to the Treasurers account on 08 December 2020. I confirm these accounts give a true and fair view of recorded transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021

Adrian Clare, ACMA
ADC Consultancy

As you can see, we made a small loss over the year, but of course we had no income from the AGM. Nevertheless, we are in good shape. You will notice that I closed down one account which as I explained last time round was because I was having trouble with access to it. All our funds are now in the one account which is functioning well.

Thank you to Ian Hughes who took the trouble to undertake some intelligence gathering in Bristol for us recently. That was very helpful, thanks Ian.

Finally, I hope that you are all well and looking forward to a return to a degree of normality in the near future and let us hope that the reunion goes ahead successfully.

Incidentally, to help us assess numbers it would be helpful if you would put your deposit down ASAP. Once you have done so we will have a clearer picture of numbers and can plan accordingly, and I expect the other committee members may have more to say on the issue.

Thank you all for your support, see you in Oct.

Alan (Rowdy) Yates
Keeper of the Coin

Cavalier No 2

After lockdown on April 12th my In House Advisor and I went off to our boat which we hadn't visited for 5 months, what a relief it was to finally be let out to play.

The boat was fine so off we went for a little trip to get rid of the cobwebs and start the 2021 work-up, our destination was Banbury, which I might add is a 10 minute car drive from my marina, but by sea (canal) a comfortable 3 days.

Once in Banbury we had to shop for victuals (the liquid type, wee di a circular route and on the way back I noticed this.



Not only was the boat called Cavalier, but it also sported the ships crest towards the stern:



Now being the noisy type and thinking we might have a new member to swell our ranks I went and knocked on the side of the boat.



To my surprise a young chap appeared and explain to me that he had only had the boat a couple of years, and yes he bought it off a chap that was indeed, on the Cavalier but unfortunately he couldn't remember his name.

So, the challenge is:

1. Is the original boat owner one of our members?
2. Can anyone identify the cavalier and what commission was he on?
3. And who did the artwork for the crest?

Just goes to show that you just don't know what's around the corner.

Tony Cox



Pictures sent in by Raymond Cordery

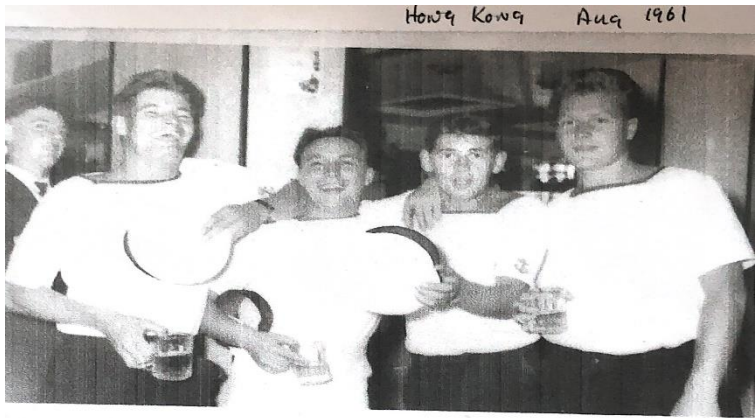
Ray says "I found some photo's from the Cavalier 1960-61.

The one with Americans were "Ticonderoga" the aircraft carrier (pitched up crew from the Gemini Space Craft).

The other photo's I'm sure can have some names put to them"?

Source / Les / Ray Cordery.





|KEN HICKMAN | RAY CORDELY

Buster Brown | Ray Cordery | Buck Ryan | ? Dave



Singapore Dock Yard 1961

? / Scouse / Ray Cordery
 ? / Buster Brown / Buck Ryan

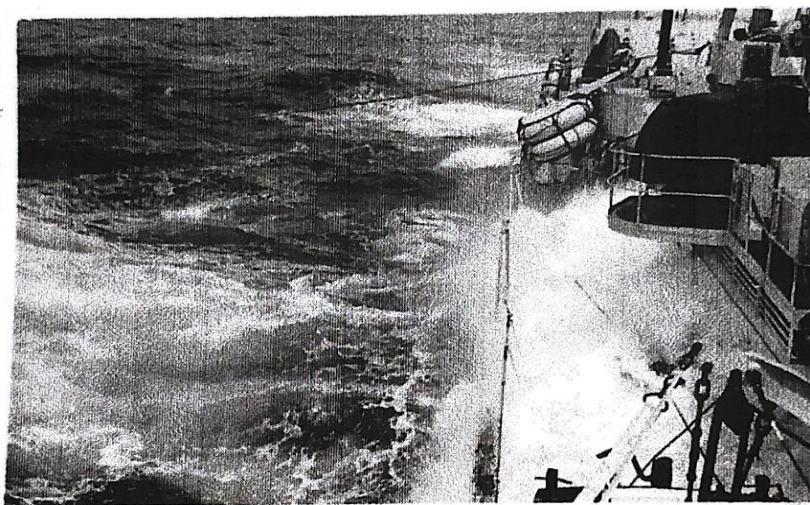


HMS Terra Swimming Pool July 1960

Cavalier - Transfer at Sea
 60-61



Cavalier - Transfer at sea 60-61



Crew from - "TILWIDELOGA"

1960.



T.A.S. PARTY

1960 - 1961



Hong Kong - April 61.

Rugby Social -



Emails

To the Cavalier Sea Dogs.

I was speaking to Bill Arbin about the Cavalier's race against the Rapid in July 71 which we duly won and Bill mentioned that the Cavalier also raced against other Ca destroyers back in the 60s when the Cavalier was out in the Far East but cannot remember all the Ca's that were involved in the races and again the Cavalier won but only just this time . My question is does anyone remember the other Ca's involved?

Jim Low

70 - 72 commission

Volunteers

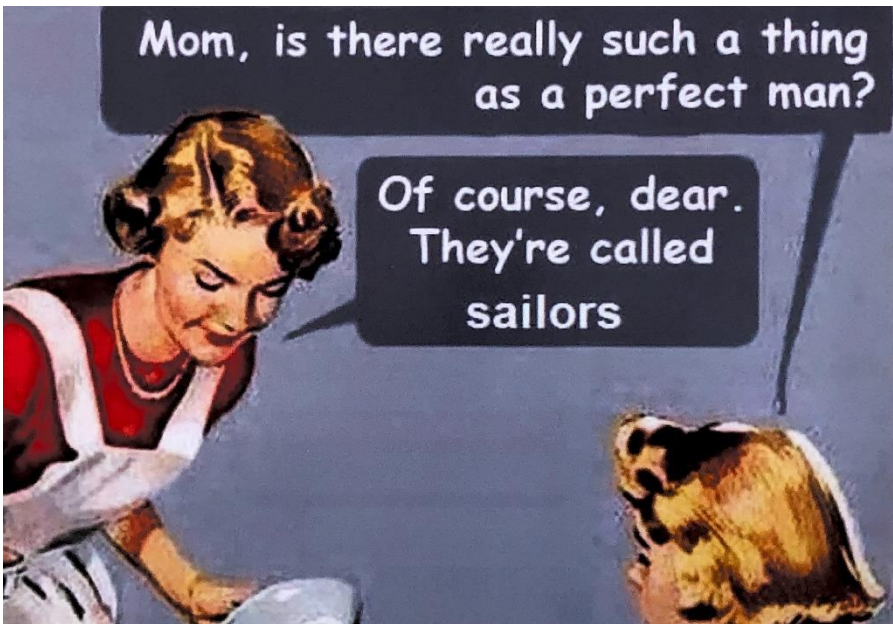
I was going to continue with the saga of Danny Sprinks the rascal but now that the Cavalier has opened to visitors and volunteers I've decided the Cavalier is what the association want to know about as a priority. The next episode of the rascal Danny Sprinks maybe put in at a later issue.

The volunteers had an email about a controlled return and I was in the first group to get back. We were given the safety covid talk and then allowed to get onboard for the first time in fifteen months and the shock at the state was unbelievable I just couldn't believe the efforts that the volunteers had put in were all undone. The birds mess the rust the deck were all in a really neglected state that should never have be left so long . I know covid is the dominating factor here but there were proposals put

into getting volunteers working safely and of course back on the ship to address these issues but to no avail . I don't know about the working weekends if they will still be allowed but if they are our top brass of the association might need to make sure they happen and as many of the team being available as possible to get it back to a smart ship again.

That's my moan for this episode and I know there's real sadness brought on by this horrible virus and even in our association there has been shipmates that have had sad times but we will get over this.

Jim Lowe



Duke of Edinburgh

Fond memories of Prince Philip

FORMER Royal Navy and Merchant Navy seaman Roger Bliss recalled fond memories of Prince Philip, who was laid to rest at Windsor Castle on Saturday.

The nation fell silent in memory of the 99-year-old Duke of Edinburgh, who died earlier this month, while his funeral was taking place at St George's chapel.

At the Garden of Remembrance in Stratford, Mr Bliss laid a wreath in memory of Prince Philip and raised the union flag at half-mast. Mr Bliss had met the Duke of Edinburgh a couple of times while serving for the Royal Navy and recalled some fond memories.

"He shook my hand and asked where I was from – that's the normal thing royalty do," he said. "At the time he was admiral of the fleet – and was always admiral – and was a bit of an imposing figure."

"Twenty years ago HMS Cavalier, an old wartime destroyer, was saved for the nation and he helped save it."

"When it came to Chatham to be put into dry dock and become a museum ship, he came and visited and talked to everybody. He was only supposed to be there for one hour, but he was there for five hours and his next duty, which was in London, had to be cancelled."

"He sat down with many of the sailors and had a drink with them. He had a few tots of rum, which did not go down well with his security guys. He always had a great affinity with the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy, and of course all servicemen. He was well thought of."

Mr Bliss added: "They had some nicknames for Prince Philip, but I won't say those at the moment."

Roger Bliss



■ Retired Royal Navy and Merchant Navy seaman Roger Bliss pays his respects to the Duke of Edinburgh on Saturday at the Garden of Remembrance.

Photo: Mark Williamson G4/4/21/7221

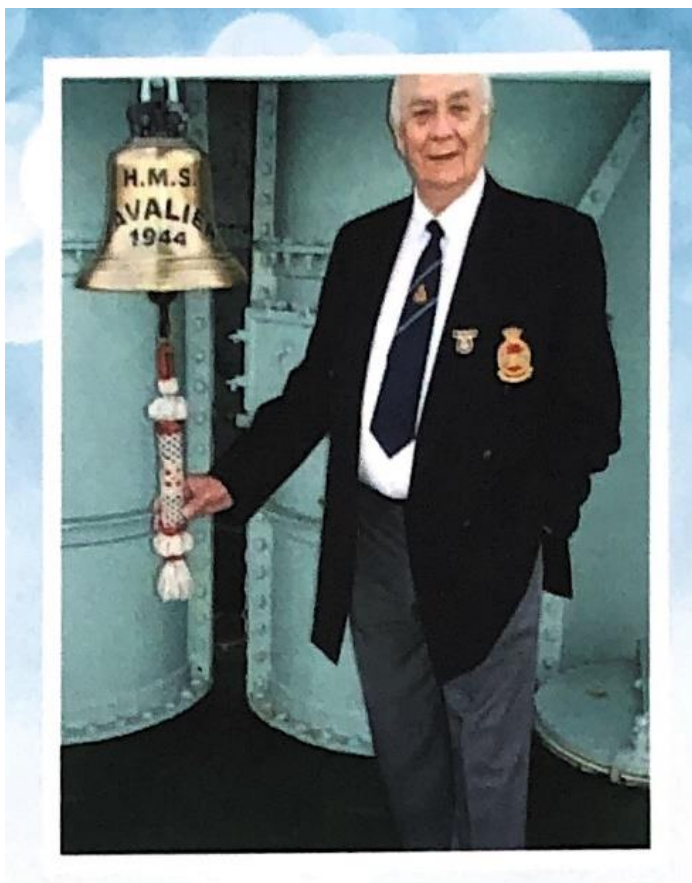
Guinness is good for you !



GUINNESS
IS GOOD FOR YOU

Rowdy receiving an award from Guinness after
Winning a walking race in Sydney 1966.

Remembering Fredrick George Shanks



RNSA Medway Branch

After many months of negotiations with Homes England regarding the Dockyard Slipway, the RNSA MEDWAY BRANCH are hopefully in the final stages of signing the lease to remain on the Slipway. We have been tirelessly working throughout the lockdown to ensure that we remain on the Slipway and continue to maintain the sailing links with the Royal Navy.

Sally Mace says:

“The signing of the lease with Homes England is very important for MEDWAY RNSA. The club would probably fold without access to our Moorings. The late Paul Mace (67/69 commission) played such a vital role in the initial negotiations with the Historic Dockyard in 2008 . We worked extremely hard to build the club and the facilities that we have today. It would be such a shame to see it all disappear. The area was our second home, I have lost count of the hours spent trying to improve the facilities for our members”

Following Article taken from the Medway Messenger

A group of sailors are due to move out of their riverside home as part of plans for a new development.

The Royal Naval Sailing Association has been operating and maintaining a slipway in the Historic Dockyard Chatham for 11 years, giving a number of clubs including the Sea Cadets Medway Towns and the Sea Scouts access to the River Medway



But this could all come to an end as developers plough on with plans to develop the land.

The groups will begin to move out over the weekend.

The association has used the slipway since 2009 but was handed a letter asking them to leave by April.

Members have been told the plan is for them to return, but they don't know when, or what space they will be allocated. Some fear they will never return at all.

The plans were first signposted by Medway Council in 2017 to develop what is known as the Riverside site – where there is

a slipway giving access to the river – and the Brunel site which lays between the car park for the Dockyard and Dock Road.

Landowners Homes England wrote to the association – which leases the land from the Historic Dockyard but maintains the slipway – in October. The letter gave them until April to clear all of the clubs' equipment and boats.

Association members fear the decision will leave them and the other groups with nowhere to go and have been in talks with Homes England to remain on the site.

Committee member Brian Foreman said: “During the summer it’s almost every day that something is going on.

“In terms of looking at the future in Medway, it is another opportunity that kids won’t have.



If we are not careful, Homes England will take this site on and that will be the end of it."

Branch captain Sally Mace added: "We were looking to include wider aspects of the community with developing the area."

Under the plans, which include residential, leisure and education use, the slipway would be maintained and incorporated into the development.

But association members are worried about using the site in the interim and what access they will have to it.

Brain, who is from Cranbrook, said: "It's difficult to move that amount of equipment and people."

We think it's totally out of proportion in terms of the effect it will have on the local community."



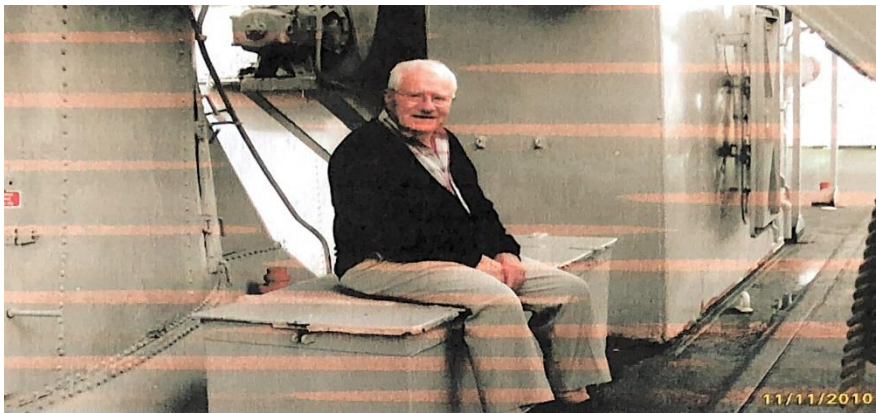
We featured the story in the Medway Messenger at the start of this month when Homes England spokesman Rosemary Davenport said: “We are pleased to be making progress to develop this important historic site which will not only provide much-needed new homes for the local community; but will enhance access to the slipway for public use.

Breakfast at Sea

One fine morning while sailing across the Indian Ocean, the main galley broke down, which meant of course no hot breakfast for the lads, most of the lads made do with a piece of toast. I had my usual cup of tea and a woodbine at about 08.00. All seaman had to muster on the focsle TAS to starboard, gunners to port and RPs combing their hair in the opps room. Ginger Williams was moaning about not having a hot breakfast. The 1st Ltc Cdr Daniel William Prosser Davis RN walked over to Ginger and said “what are you dripping about William”. Ginger replied “I haven’t had a hot breakfast sir”. No1 said “follow mw Williams”. Off he went down the portside ladder and stopped at the galley, he ordered Ginger to sit on the locker, under the sea boat and wait for me. A little while later No1 came out of the galley with a tray of steaming hot breakfast, a mug of tea, a cloth over his arm, looking like a steward. He then gave it to Ginger and said “here is your breakfast Williams and don’t you ever complain about food on this ship again.

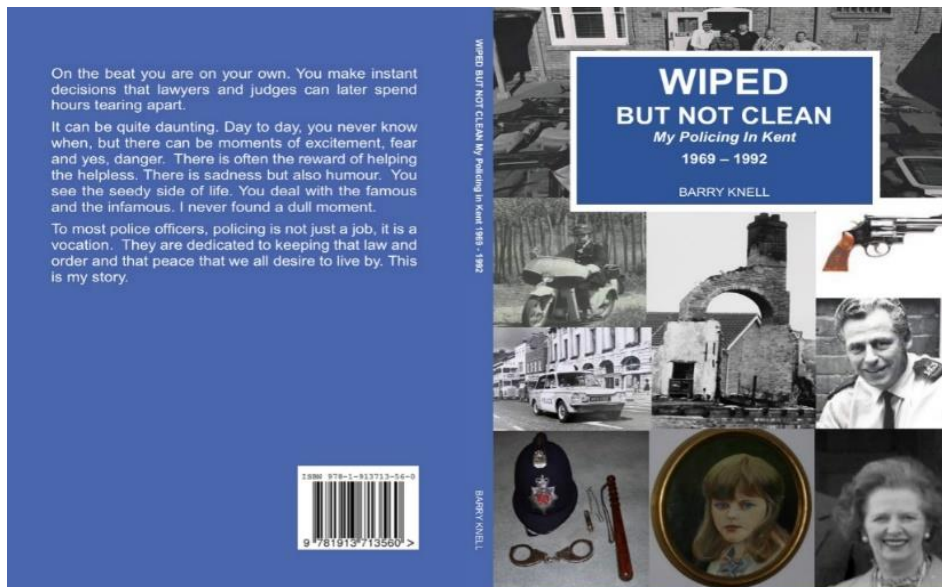
Question ? Was Ginger the only A.B. in the R.N. who had his breakfast served by a Lt Cdr. ???

**Bill Arbin and run ashore Oppo Ginger Williams
1961-63 Commission**



GINGER WILLIAMS
AFTER FIFTY YEARS PLUS
STILL WAITING FOR
HIS BREAKFAST
CAVALIER 61-63

New Book by Barry Knell



Barry's new book is at the printers, so will soon be available
For a good read. Well done Barry.



HAPPY

HOOR!



... GET UP IN THE ...



... FRESH

AIR

AND ENJOY

YOURSELF -

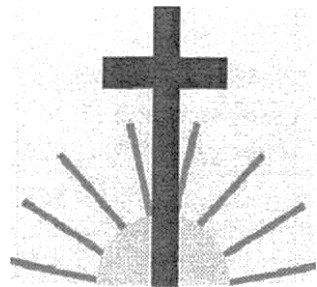
INSTEAD OF ...



... ROTTING DOWN BELOW ...



FALLEN SHIPMATES



Mrs Tess Pritchard	03/21	Hon
Philip E Cox	28/12/21	70/72
Pat Grotrain	15/12/20	59/60
Fredrick George Shanks	15/02/21	70/72
David Gymer	30/04/21	70/72
James (Jim) Slaughter	08/05/21	70/72



**Deepest sympathies are extended to our shipmates
families and friends.
May they find calm seas and a safe anchorage**