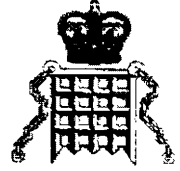


The Bond



Newsletter of the Federation of Customs and Excise Retired Staff Associations
and
The Sports and Social Club Retired Members Branch

February 2002

Volume 7 Issue 2

FIRST DAY ON THE "JOB"...

It is great to read some of the old APO tales in "The Bond" recently, especially from many people I remember.

When I started as an APO I moved from the Registry in King's Beam House on Friday to the Harpy on Monday.

Wally Bishop, who many will remember as the Office PO, sent us to get our uniforms then gave us various small jobs (like making the tea) while we waited to go on the Waterguard Training Course.

After about four days I was asked by one of the regular APO's if I would do his evening River Boarding Watch as he wanted to go to the Staff Dance and couldn't find anyone who wasn't going. The CPO agreed (exceptionally, as I hadn't been trained) for the one evening.

I was living in a hostel in London, sharing a room with 7 other Civil Servants who were all going on their 9 to 5 jobs while I was still in bed.

I turned up for work in the afternoon, and went out on the river with an old PO called Bob Greenman. We boarded a German timber vessel and Bob told me to look around the cabins. I found a sailor, went to see his cabin, said "Very nice indeed" and joined Bob in the Captain's cabin. "Would you like a beer?" said Bob; "Yes please"; "Give him a beer Captain". "Would you like another...." etc.

We then went to ship stores on an outward British ship where we downed a couple of very large whiskeys whilst counting the stores. Then came a small Dutch vessel where I had my first taste of Dutch gin. After this we went back to the Harpy to complete the records

As I didn't have a clue as to what was required, and I think I was cramping my PO's style a bit, Bob sent me home. I arrived back at about 6.45 pm, just in time to have dinner with my roommates at the hostel, and hardly able to string two words together.

Naturally there was a sudden interest in how one applied for the Customs, and the Waterguard in particular.

The rest of my 40 years didn't all match up to that evening, but it was a very happy time shared with some wonderful people.

BILL STREETER

REUNION, TYNEMOUTH, 2002

IF YOU WISH TO GO ON ONE OF THE COACH TRIPS ARRANGED FOR YOU AT TYNEMOUTH, WOULD YOU PLEASE FORWARD YOUR BOOKING SLIP (DECEMBER "BOND")
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

RETIRED MEMBERS BRANCH : NEWS ITEMS

1) A reminder that items for the **AGM** agenda and nominations for officer (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and committee posts (3) should be sent to the Secretary, Alan Hollingsworth at 10, Heather Rise, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 3AG (Email alanholli@ic24.net) at least two months before the AGM

2) The present officers and committee members are willing to continue in post.

3) **Sports Day 2002** will be on 25th July at Canterbury High School. Overnight accommodation is being arranged at the adjacent Kent University and it is expected the cost will be £30 per person DB&B. Further information will be given in future issues of The Bond but anyone who may require accommodation should tell either Alan Hollingsworth or Gordon Hodson as soon as possible. It is worth noting that the organisers have decided that late bookings for accommodation will carry a £5 surcharge. Spec-tators will be very welcome (particularly if they can leave the beer tent occasionally to give vocal support to the RMB competitors)

4) **World Police and Fire Games 2003** will take place in Barcelona from 27th July to 3rd August 2003. This will be a superb venue for these Games. Jim Smith, Hon Sec. Of the Sports Club is already drawing up plans, including a list of those who wish to go to the Games, either as a competitor, or as a spectator. Any members of the RMB who may wish to go in either capacity, should let Jim know as soon as possible. He can be contacted on 0207 8655870 or by mail to New King's Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PJ

And finally; (but MOST importantly) : at the Sports Club AGM held in NKBH on 5th December 2001, **Daphne Amos-Pugh** was made a **Life Vice President** of the club; the highest honour it can bestow. As Jim Smith read out the citation, (far too long to be listed here but in summary, masses of medals and trophies in the widest variety of sports imaginable plus years involved in organising events) several of the younger ladies there who knew Daphne but had never heard the extent of her achievements, dubbed her "superwoman" The final straw for them came when Jim told the gathering that Daphne had achieved all that after having six children! At that point I think we all stood back in awe! Well done Daphne and sincere congratulations from all your colleagues in RMB.

Federation of Customs & Excise retired Staff Associations Accounts 1st October 2000 to 30th September 2001

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£	1999/2000 ex £
Bal. Brought fwd.	125.00	AGM Expenses L'pool CERSA	3.24	127.50
Affiliation fees 1999/2000	75.00	AGM expenses FoCERSA	7.20	127.50
Affiliation fees 2000/2001	325.00	Chairman's expenses	45.79	26.52
Affiliation fees 2001/2002	25.00	Treasurers expenses	4.98	34.80
Donation London Area	200.00	Secretary's expenses	24.30	84.96
Uncleared cheques	24.30			
		Girobank balance	688.79	125.00
TOTAL	774.30	TOTAL	774.30	398.78

K J Potter, Treasurer

We have examined all the receipts and payments and are satisfied that they correctly reflect the financial position of the Federation as at 30th September 2001.

L Ashplant
P Bown

Hon Examiners
The Bond, February 2002

CUSTOMS & EXCISE SPORTS CLUB RETIRED MEMBERS BRANCH
Accounts 1st October 2000 to 30th September 2001

INCOME

EXPENSES

	1999/2000	2000/2001		1999/2000	#	2000/2001	#
Sports club grants	3170.00	7722.00	Administration	1204.33		538.03	
Miscellaneous	470.28	25.00	Social	1215.75		1332.50	
Bank Interest	16.87	46.94	Focersa Fee	Nil		25.00	
			Fishing	105.00	4	60.00	2
			Sailing	210.00	7	310.00	8
			Walking	60.00	2	Nil	
			Golf	573.30	32	527.90	19
			Sports Day	98.00	5	32.00	1
			Squash	40.00	1	Nil	
			Bowling	96.26	4	42.50	2
			Running	53.80	3	Nil	
			Football	40.00	1	31.30	1
			<u>Total Expenses</u>	3696.94	59	2899.23	33
			<u>Surplus/Deficit</u>	-39.79		4894.71	
TOTAL	3657.15	7793.94		3657.15		7793.94	

BALANCES ON HAND AT YEAR END

FLOW OF FUNDS

	1999/2000	2000/2001		1999/2000	2000/2001
Barclays Comm A/C	627.21	1425.57	<u>Funds B/fwd</u>	2647.62	2607.83
Uncleared Cheques	-36.00	-200.30	<u>Surplus/Deficit</u>	-39.79	4894.71
Barclays Premium A/C	2016.62	6277.27	<u>Funds C/fwd</u>	2607.83	7502.54
	2607.83	7502.54			

P.F. Caswell, Treasurer

number of members

THE MACKAY-BENNETT

John Avery, retired Customs Officer went, aboard the cable ship *The Mackay-Bennett*, then used as a Customs Bonded Warehouse, in 1962.

The ship had been used in 1912 to recover bodies from the *Titanic* disaster. There were interesting charts about the search on board, canvas body bags and the legend of a ghost

He has now published a booklet about the ship and her unusual role and some of the unanswered questions about the *Titanic*. Here are a few brief extracts:



Even in death, 1st class passengers got preference

The world at that time was one of class distinction and no more so than on a passenger liner. The bodies recognised as being first class passengers were placed in coffins and embalmed, others into the canvas bags. The remains of crew were laid out on the deck and washed down with ice water; there was no embalming for the crew bodies. Any personal possessions of crew or steerage passengers were also left on deck in small piles. The undertakers were but following the custom of a class structured society. The ship sent a radio message to White Star: "All unembalmed will be buried at sea at eight in the evening with divine services, can only bring embalmed bodies to port."



The majority are buried in the non-denominational cemetery at Fairview. A two-year-old boy does have a stone to record his death; in fact there was a clamour of well wishing residents and businesses coming forward to pay for his stone. However their offer was declined. The crew of *The Mackay-Bennett* saw that to be their privilege and collected a sum to pay for the stone. (*Interestingly George Taylor a retired Waterguard colleague from LAP writes to say that he visited Fairview Cemetery, Halifax NS two years ago.*)

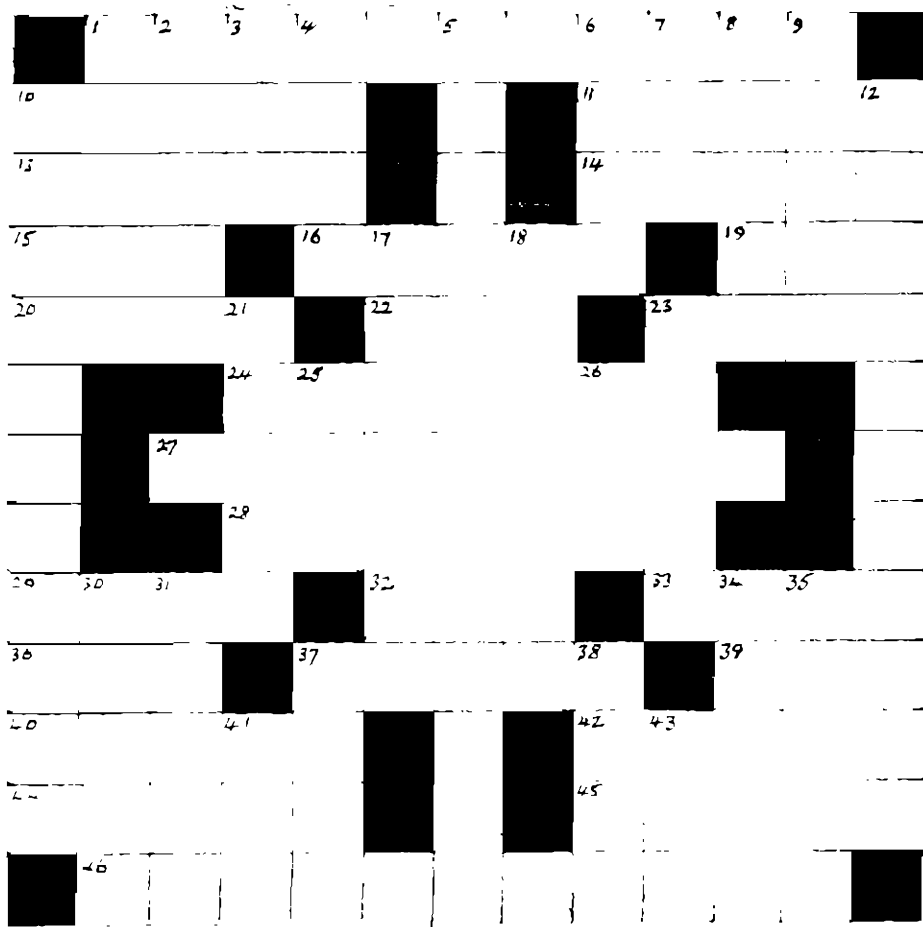
Later the unknown child was assumed to be Gosta Paulson who had been travelling with his mother and two siblings; if this was correct then the child's body lies but a few feet away from the grave of his mother. By legend, the spirit of a child roaming *The Mackay-Bennett* is associated with this family (See page 16)

The booklet has 24 pages, is illustrated and has laminate covers is available from the author at £1-50 including postage.

J.G. Avery, 2 Beech Court, Beech Avenue, Southampton SO18 4TS

All profits to the charity *The Landmark Trust*.

THE BOND CROSSWORD No 12



- 6 Start out with no time to see the ruler (4)
 7 Possessed by 'The Thing' ? (3)
 8 Witchcraft about Ireland produces a palebook (5)
 9 An old form of knots (5)
 10 Office vacancy or job ? (4-7)
 12 They harass the dark blues to cut gold in (11)
 17 European carton returned - found when goods were 5 (2 5)
 18 Essential part of the sky ? (7)
 21 Grateful that a fool has joined the investigators (5)
 23 No saw made just at this time (2 3)
 25 but quietly at first this saw cuts keyholes (3)
 26 Decline place (3)
 30 Habituate in France next to a river (5)
 31 and in France fellow points in this direction (3,2)
 34 To get up in the car is easy (5)
 35 Woman meets the Queen in a very thin fabric (5)
 37 Head for France ? (4)
 38 Nothing in the Highland Light Infantry resembles a Hindu festival (4)

ACROSS

- 1 Name on a lapel tip perhaps (11)
 10 Previously head of a nose of friars (5)
 11 Carries back a strip of leather (5)
 13 Irons out regional birds (5)
 14 Strange ideas should not be heard (5)
 15 A drunkard in his other state (3)
 16 Penetrate a damaged tree with the head of a nail (5)
 19 One could legally be called to this for a drink (3)
 20 In the way Noah was made to stow animals (4)
 22 See return about one fuel (3)
 23 Is sick at having to sail out (4)
 24 Suitability of a training head (7)
 27 Some cheap art men take to a separate room (9)
 28 I am bold enough to cause idolater to be left out (1 4 2)
 29 Requirement for the start of education after the end of the cane (4)
 32 But is able to see no end of it (3)

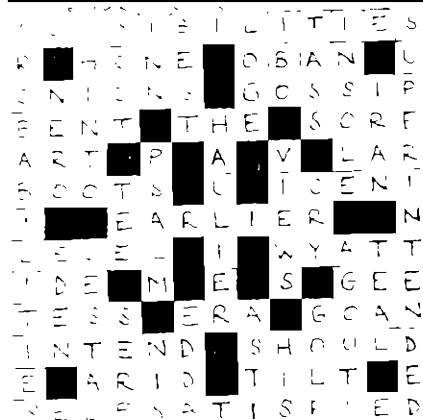
- 33 Used to be once (4)
 36 Village cricketers may take lunch here before starting their innings (3)
 37 which ends when this wicked falls (5)
 39 Greek character may be found in your house (3)
 40 Repeated to imply a sexual innuendo? (5)
 42 Rose I made into basket material (5)
 44 Coarse meal ? Grub anyway! (5)
 45 Is defeated in solo sessions (5)
 46 He can retain 16 and cause amusement

DOWN

- 1 Pointed argument the Revenue Assistant returns to ? (5) 2 Point out the piebald horse (5)
 3 And conservationists leave to make a Hawaiian dish (3)
 4 Language used in the summer season ? (4)
 5 Train lists not made out correctly at end of journey ? Something missing ! (4 2 7)

Compiled by Bob Easton

CROSSWORD No. 11 SOLUTION



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EDITORIAL

I have recently received enquiries – complaints, one might say – that the November issue of *The Bond* had not been received.

There was a very good reason for this absence; no newsletter was published for November! Since I took over the job as editor, it has been the target to produce 6 issues per annum, in the "even" months. November being an "odd" month it was therefore not due an issue.

The reason there were issues in September 2001 and January 2002 is that there was sufficient material submitted to justify the extra work, and whenever this is the case I shall "publish".

If you like *The Bond*, therefore, and would like to see more issues, the answer is obvious: you submit as much as you like, and I shall put the newsletters together!

Dave Taylor

If you would like to join the **History Network** and receive their Newsletter, write to

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