



Captain E.C. Plowman

Eric Plowman, Past Captain of the Club, went aloft on 7th November, aged 83, after a long battle with illness. He joined B.I. as a cadet in 1942 and spent most of his seagoing career in their troopships. His first command was the *Dunera* and he also had the sad task of driving her up onto the beach at Bilbao when she was scrapped in 1967. He also commanded the *Sir Lancelot* in the mid '60s before those vessels were taken up by the RFA in '71.

His most rewarding command was that of the *SS Uganda* when she was converted to educational cruising in 1968.

On Trafalgar Day, 1969, Eric had taken the ship inside the shallows off Cape Trafalgar to give the historians onboard a chance to capture the authentic feel of naval battles when it all became a bit too real. Shells from a Spanish shore battery began to fall around them so he increased speed and cleared the area as soon as it was safe to do so. It turned out that it was a "legitimate" firing practice although no such information was held on *Uganda* or at the UK Hydrographic office. The Spanish government did apologise. The Daily Mail's headline was "Captain Turns Nelsonic Eye to Spanish Barrage". B.I.'s Chairman was not amused but the Deputy Chairman had happened to be on board at the time so Eric was "spared a hundred lashes".

Eric's last command was also the last ship to be ordered by B.I., a side loading container ship, the *Zira*, in 1972. She was transferred to P&O in the big re-organisation in '73 and Eric left B.I. and took a job as Marine Super for Arya Shipping in Tehran. When the Shah was deposed Eric and his wife Val had to leave in a hurry, Val said "with almost nothing".

They moved to a house on the Thames in Chiswick and Eric worked for the port division of Gray Mackenzie (Inchcape) in London, retiring at 60. He got bored with that and acted as Marine Consultant, then Marketing Manager for Poole Harbour Commissioners, before retiring finally 7 years later in '93.

They moved to Ocean Village in Southampton and in '96 Eric joined the Cachalots, being elected Captain of the Club in 1999.

Our condolences to wife Val and daughters Rosalind, Christina and Diane.