

## **Captain Alaric J. Corner**

Past Captain “Larry” Corner was born in 1925 and, in the dark days of 1942 when UK shipping losses were at their peak, he joined his first ship as an Apprentice. The “*Fort Abitiri*” was operated by Smith Hogg & Co. of Hartlepool on behalf of The Ministry of War Transport and he served on her until 1945 earning awards of The Atlantic Star, Burma Star and Italy Star.

His career then followed the traditional path and he served as a certificated Officer with Ropners, Australian Shipping Board and Furness Withy before culminating his educational career by achieving “Extra Master” in 1955.

In 1956 he joined the Bowater Steamship Company and, in 1957 was appointed to Command - reputedly, the youngest person ever to Command a Bowater vessel.

In 1960, Larry joined the Department of Transport as a Marine Surveyor subsequently serving as an Examiner and Ship Surveyor. He was a specialist in Marine Pollution Control and, as such, safeguarded United Kingdom interests following the “Amoco Cadiz” incident in 1978. His impressive career reached its peak in when he was promoted to Chief Surveyor – a post he held until his retirement in 1987.

I first met Larry in 1967 when I was posted to Southampton as A Marine Superintendent and he was one of the BOT Surveyors locally. I, too, had commanded a Bowater vessel (when that company merged with B&C) so we had a common interest. Traditionally, we both attended the weekly Fire & Emergency Drill on the pre-sailing day of the Union-Castle mailship and this was preceded by luncheon. Invariably these were jolly affairs and the laughter from our table -usually generated by Larry’s reminiscences – could be heard throughout the Saloon !

He became a Cachalot in 1969 and served as Captain of the Club in 1977 having been a member of several Committees. Thereafter, he remained a regular and popular attendee -often accompanied by his late wife, Marjorie, who pre-deceased him -until ill-health deprived us of his welcome company. He was – and still IS - GREATLY missed.

Crk 3.8.19

