



■ Angus Galbraith, navigating cadet, now serving with the unit aboard *Clan Malcolm*.

Memories of The Invincibles

Sir,

I was most interested in the item "Remember Hendon?" in issue No. 13 of *CLANSMAN*.

Although not of the same generation of those in the photograph, being only seven years of age in 1931, nevertheless, as a Hendon Boy my memory was taken back to brighter summer days, than those in the picture, in the years before 1939. I was a very keen cricketer. We had our own Boys Cricket Club, apart from school cricket, known by the doubtful and dangerous name (for us) of the "Hendon Invincibles".

I cannot place the Schweppes ground in my memory, and write to ask if George Leckie would be so kind as to tell me its location. Is the ground in Hendon, or perhaps West Hendon? I should be delighted to hear from any other Hendon types who are living in South Africa; or in Hendon still. I joined the Union-Castle in 1946 and after doing various staff relief in London and Southampton was appointed third radio officer of the grand old *Llangibby Castle*. Previously I had served on Dutch tankers during the last two years of World War II.

My chief on the *Llangibby Castle* was George Kilmister, a natural radio man, and a most kind and understanding senior. It must be remembered that in 1946 ships were only getting under way again in reverting to peacetime radio procedure, and all youngsters who had gone to sea during the war had not touched a Morse key since passing exams ashore; total radio silence being the rule, unless you were sending an SOS.

I so well remember the first traffic (telegrams) I handled on the *Llangibby Castle*. We were in radio touch with Lands End radio coast station. The operator sending to me, no doubt under great pressure of work, was short-tempered with my request to repeat something. George Kilmister, standing behind me had, of course, been reading everything and took over the key, and asked GLD to have a little consideration as I was a "new man" he was breaking in.

I shall always remember how appreciative I was of his support.

I would like news of George Kilmister and how he is enjoying his years of retirement.

Also I wonder how is Robert Brew, who was chief radio officer on the maiden voyage of the rebuilt, refurbished *Warwick Castle*. Brew was another in the great traditions; a brilliant radio officer and most patient with me, as his inexperienced third.

I came ashore in 1948, married a Fish Hoek girl, and my roots are now deep here; with our first grandchild just 1½ years old.

HAROLD D. H. PERETH
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Simonstown Road,
Fish Hoek, C.P.

clansman classifieds

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PHOTOGRAPHS required of Gordon Castle (1901), Umfuli (1893), Grysbok, Sambuff, Samsteel, Helius (1888), Charles L.D. (1933), Jean L.D. (1935), Huntspill (1904), Villeda Majunga (1931). Please assist in obtaining pictures of these vessels for U-C photographic history being compiled by Richard Mellor, Room 227, Cayzer House, London.

CAUSEWAY "CARINSE" home car washers at discount price to B&C staff. See story in issue No. 16. Interested readers should contact: J. Abernethy or L. Pritchard at Causeway Steel Products Limited, Five Ash Works, Dover Road East, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0RE. Telephone: Gravesend 67871.

an attempt at a total ban would have much chance of success.

I am no deep sea lawyer or bar-room loud-mouth who thinks he can put the world right at the stroke of a pen—I consider myself an ordinary law-abiding citizen. But after some 34 years in the docks industry I can claim to have some knowledge of my subject. I am encouraged to think the way I do when I remember that the Post Office strike ended a few days after it was declared official, and the penultimate dock strike lasted just two weeks after being declared official.

I think if my idea was the law of the land the number of strikes would be greatly reduced and that did occur would be of short duration. I hope this letter—if you publish it—will serve to start the ball rolling.

H. W. PELETIER,
10 Jonathan Close,
Lymington,
Hants.

Footnote: H. W. Peletier, now retired, was formerly managing director of Strathclyde Stevedoring Services Ltd.

In fairness we offer priority consideration for a future issue to anyone wishing to express the opposing view on unofficial strikes.

But we hope readers will try to move away from the day-to-day arguments (such as the one for and against unofficial strikes) and give us some farther-out views and ideas. *CLANSMAN* warmly thanks reader Peletier for making a start, as well as others who have written or 'phoned their support for a free-expression column in the magazine. A special message of thanks goes to readers in South Africa who teleaxed their approval of the column. More, please.