

Manifest

Seagoing supplement to CLANSMAN magazine

No. 17

Retirements

After 48 years at sea, Charlie Read left the *Pendennis Castle* at the end of October after nine years there as second cook. He first went to sea with the Cunard Line as a bell boy, and after many world cruises with the *Empress of Britain*, joined Union-Castle. Throughout the last war he served in *Winchester Castle*.

F. Fawcett, who retired on October 1, had served for over 27 years as a radio officer. Although officially employed by Marconi International Marine Radio Company he has served entirely in group vessels since September 1951 becoming directly employed by Clan Line in October 1959. His first vessel in 1951 was the *Clan Maciver*; since then he has served in *Clan Farquharson* from 1962 to 1968 and in *Clan Maciver*.

Capt. David Cornwell served with various

companies before obtaining his first command in the Athel Line in 1943. During the war he was awarded the MBE for service in the North Atlantic and in October, 1949 he took command of the *Sir John Biscoe* under Hector Whaling Management.

He continued his service in command of various Hector Whaling tankers including *Hector Heron* and *Hector Hawk* until 1966 thereafter commanding *Clan Farquharson* and various other Clan vessels until his last, *Clan Macgillivray*, before retiring on October 1.

On his retirement on September 1, Percy Frank Phillips had completed nearly 52 years in the engine rooms of Union-Castle ships. Strangely enough he started as a deck boy on the *Walmer Castle* in September 1920 before changing over to be a trimmer. He later became fireman/trimmer and then fireman, including a period on *Hansa* and *Eider* on the feeder service from Southampton to the Continent.

Percy then changed to motor ships as a greaser cleaner before being promoted to engine room storekeeper of the *Richmond Castle* on her maiden voyage in 1939. When she was sunk in the North Atlantic in 1942 he was appointed storekeeper of the *Winchester Castle*. Then followed 16 years as storekeeper of the *Stirling Castle* during which time, in June 1953, he was awarded the Coronation Medal. Percy Phillips' last vessel before retirement was *Windor Castle*.

Capt. J. G. Smith, who retired on October 1, joined the company as a fourth officer on the *Clan Macaulay* in August, 1937. The following year he was promoted to third officer, *Clan Buchanan* and later the same year to *Clan Macinnes*, being promoted second officer in the same vessel in July, 1941.

He then served in various vessels as second officer including *Banffshire* which was sunk by enemy action in the Indian Ocean in 1943. In 1950 he was promoted to chief officer, *Clan Machendrick* and received his first command, *Hesione*, in March, 1959. He commanded many other vessels which included *Scottish Hawk* and *Clan Matheson* and his last command before retiring was *Clan Maciver*.

Capt. T. H. Graham retired on November 1 after 42 years with the company. He joined as an apprentice in February, 1930. After being promoted to fourth and third officer he gained his first mate's certificate in 1938 and was promoted to second officer in *Clan Macfarlane* in June, 1940. He was promoted to chief officer *Clan Maciver* in

March, 1947 and to his first command, *Clan Macfarlane*, in March, 1958. Since then Capt. Graham has commanded most classes of Clan vessels including the tanker *Scottish Ptarmigan*. His last command prior to retirement was *Clan Macintosh*.

Elizabeth Claire McCormick, who joined the *Pretoria Castle* in April, 1957 as a laundress and has served continuously in company vessels since then, retired from *SA Vaal* on October 29.

Rose Thomas, a laundress on *SA Vaal*, also retired recently. She joined the company in January, 1960 and her first ship was the *Stirling Castle*.

Kenneth Hann, first class shipman, retired recently after nearly 38 years with the company. The last 15 years have been spent aboard *SA Oranje*.

He remembers when serving in *Llandovery Castle* in 1937 that the ship struck a mine after leaving Las Palmas en route for Marseilles, and he thinks this mine was connected with the Spanish civil war.

Academic honours

Double congratulations to R. A. Slack, chief officer, on obtaining an upper second class B.Sc. honours degree in maritime studies at the University of Wales and on his marriage to Miss Linda Pirie at Barry Angus.

For their studious achievements, we also congratulate C. B. Guirey and P. R. Brown on obtaining the Ordinary National diploma in engineering; A. M. Baron and I. J. Thompson for gaining the Marine Engineering Technicians certificate and P. L. Borley for gaining an Ordinary National certificate.

Ship's news service

Special historical note contributed by W. L. Ahernan

Saturday, September 30, 1972 was the end of a service on board ship which had been taken for granted for many years. This was the news service which was transmitted to ships at sea and published on board those vessels for which the owners paid their subscription to the Wireless Press Ltd. who operated the service.

It is interesting to recall that the first time news from the outside world was received on board by "wireless" and published was November 15, 1899. It was on the *SS St. Paul* of the American Line when Marconi himself was on board. He was

(continued in column 3, page 16)



■ Above: Capt. T. H. Graham received a retirement gift of a clock and a barometer from Sir Nicholas Cayser.



■ Leslie Simpkins (right) who has spent the last three and a half years as solo pianist on board Edinburgh Castle was presented with a ship's wheel clock by Capt. R. Shattock to mark his retirement. Officers and crew were present at the ceremony in the engineers' smoke room. Picture: P. Szczepaniak, Transocean Photographic.