

Readers' letters

A happy way to remember John Doran

Sir,
I enclose a photograph of a presentation of a wheel chair to an Indian girl at Stanger, Natal. The story behind it is this: when the ship was in Durban in March a group of us were reading an article in the *Daily News* and there was a photograph showing an Indian boy having to carry his sister (aged 20) around because they could not afford a wheel chair for her—the girl being severely handicapped from birth. The newspaper was appealing for anyone with a discarded chair to give it to her.

We decided that if a wheel chair was not

forthcoming we would club together and buy her one. A raffle was held and with money donated we had enough to buy two chairs which we bought in England.

When we arrived in Durban this time the *Daily News* arranged for four of us to take the chair to the girl's house. In the photograph are, from left to right, myself, John Snell, Doug Cooper and Taff Davis. I am showing the girl, Sarthie Haripersadh, a picture of *Pendennis Castle* and saying that it is too big to sail in her bath!

"Action Line" of the *Daily News* tells us that as a result of an article telling their readers of *Pendennis Castle*'s action they have received donations enabling them to buy four more chairs. Incidentally the second chair that we were able to buy was given to the newspaper to find a deserving



■ At right: ex-shipping company officials from East Africa met recently at a small social gathering in Sussex. On the right is Cecil Haylett who managed the Clan Line Agency for a number of years in East Africa. Centre is Alastair Niven who was with the Union-Castle Line for 16 years in Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam. On the left is John Morton, ex-chairman of Smith Mackenzie, East Africa, who served in all the ports in Kenya and Tanzania over some 30 years. Also at the gathering was Capt. G. R. Williams, who served in both Union-Castle and British India before becoming general manager of the shore handling contractors to the East African railways and harbours.



case. A label on the chairs reads: "Presented by the crew of *Pendennis Castle* in memory of John Doran". John Doran was a member of the crew who died tragically at sea recently.

DOT WILLIAMS,
Telephonist,
Pendennis Castle.

Something missing— a list of ships past?

Sir,
Are there others like me who feel that *CLANSMAN* lacks just that little something?

For a number of years I was actively connected with ships and their non-European crews and during this period had much personal contact with officers, engineering and catering personnel.

Although I receive *CLANSMAN* regularly I feel that I am not up to date despite the magazine's crew lists. So many names of personnel do not appear anywhere and so many of the dry cargo ships are no longer mentioned. I know that some of these latter were sold, but not entirely due to age, and I wonder if *CLANSMAN* could fill the gaps.

Would it be possible for one of the issues to carry a list of personnel who have, perhaps, resigned from the group and also a list of those ships that have been sold? On the other hand, of course, it may be that the disclosure of such information might be considered undesirable to group policy. In that case I will have to remain in continued ignorance despite the fact that my approach is prompted by nothing more than real sentimental interest.

W. J. STOKES,
42 Kents Hill Road,
Benfleet,
Essex SS7 5PL.

Editorial note: how many other readers would like a list of ships sold? If there is sufficient interest we will have another look at the prospect. Please write.

■ At left: Sarthie Haripersadh gets her new wheelchair (see first letter, this page). Picture: *Daily News*, Durban. Tony Hodge writes: "Dot Williams and Taff Davis are to be married shortly. Two such warm-hearted people cannot fail to be very happy."