

For inclusion in Conway magazine "CADET" January 2014

PETER HOPPER (1943-45)

Born in Belfast in 1928 Peter spent most of his early childhood in Calcutta where his father worked as a civil engineer with the railways. Early WW2 years were spent at the Ryde School on the Isle of Wight until joining "Conway" in 1943.

On leaving the Conway Peter signed-on with the Alfred Holt and Co. Blue Funnel Line and he joined the "Menelaus" in 1945 as a Cadet and his first voyage was to Hong Kong with supplies for the British Army and his ship was believed to be the first cargo ship to enter Hong Kong following the Japanese surrender.

Peter's service with Alfred Holt continued until coming ashore to obtain his Masters Certificate following studies at the Sir John Cass Nautical College, London, in 1956. He married Lorna in New York in 1954 and two daughters Lyn and Kath were born.

Moving to Australia in 1955 he took a position as stevedoring supervisor with Patricks in Sydney for ten years before returning to sea as Chief Officer on Ampol tankers; "Adams" "Walkley", and "Thomson" servicing the East coast of Australia and Indonesia.

In 1968 Peter finally came ashore to join the Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency as Assistant to the New South Wales Operations Manager; he soon became General Manager -Operations of this agency which in addition to Wilhelmsen vessels also handled ScanAustral, Farrell Line and Australian West Pacific Line ships.

In 1985 Peter moved back to Patrick Stevedores and after a brief spell at Newcastle, New South Wales, returned to Sydney and within a short time he became General Manager, Australia remaining in this position until retiring in 1992, he was heavily involved with the development of containerisation and new cargo handling systems. In December 1986 he married Lesley.

On retiring Peter's love of the land led to the purchase of a 5 acre farm on the outskirts of Berry a picturesque town 145 kilometres south of Sydney. After 10 years, a move to Kettering near Hobart saw Peter renew his seafaring activities with the acquisition of a timber motor-sailer yacht in which family and friends enjoyed the beautiful cruising areas of south east Tasmania. Playing golf was also a major interest.

Peter died in Hobart on the 18th September ; he was a highly respected and likeable person renowned for his imperturbable outlook and ready humour and he will be sadly missed by Lesley, Lyn, Kathy, grandchildren and his many friends.

Alan Read (1943-44)