



Capt TG Nelson (40-42)

Anyone reading, in Masfield's *HMS Conway*, the account of the 1941 air raids on Liverpool, the mining of SS *Tacoma* and of Cadets rescuing 45 of her crew, could well imagine the effects on young lads of sixteen. One such was Geoff Nelson who Crossed the Bar in March 2011, aged 86. His father was Alfred Holt's chief marine superintendent so it was not surprising that Geoff followed in his father's footsteps by joining Blue Funnel, starting his apprenticeship in such dramatic and testing times. Later on, he was in one of the first Convoys to relieve Malta, not that Geoff, when talking about it, ever conveyed anything but a cheerful demeanour.

He took his certificates in Liverpool and, after passing for Extra Master, he worked for a salvage company before joining Liverpool College as a lecturer. In the mid 1960s, a separate cadet section was created within the growing department of Maritime Studies in Plymouth and Geoff was appointed its first head. Initially it was strongly boosted by the whole annual intake of cadets from Shell Tankers, but Geoff was instrumental in broadening entry to include most UK and Irish companies and it rapidly became one of the largest departments in the country.

He retired in 1983 and remained in his beloved Salcombe where he was well known as a small boat sailor. A devoted family man, he and Betty celebrated their diamond wedding two years ago. Sadly Betty died only seven months after him. Our warmest sympathy goes to his daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

George A Newcombe (50-52)

Born in St Helens, Lancashire in 1934, George attended Cowley Boys Grammar School until he left to join Conway which he enjoyed immensely. When he left, he was indentured to TJ Brocklebank Ltd, sailing from Liverpool to America, Canada and the Far East. In 1956, he qualified in Liverpool, being named 'Best Second Mate of the Year', and awarded the Captain Charles Badon Memorial Prize.

He married Becki in 1959 and went into banking with Williams & Glynn, later to become Williams Deacon Bank and finally RBS. Sadly Becki died in 1982, leaving two sons, David and Andrew. He later married Cynthia, a former childhood friend, and moved to Rainford. He attended Conway lunches in Liverpool for several years which he very much enjoyed, but as his health deteriorated, due to Parkinsons, he was no longer able to attend.

He died in August and was cremated at St Helens Crematorium. His son David read John Masfield's *Sea Fever* and his coffin was draped with the Conway Ensign which I'm sure he would have appreciated. A bronze plaque has been placed at the Conway Chapel, Birkenhead Priory, in his memory.

Thanks to George's wife Cynthia for this obituary.