

Quarterdeck

FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE

SPRING 2014



Aboard the Foudroyant 1922
@HMS Trincomalee
Mess Deck Crossword / Future events

Editorial

First of all I thank everyone who submitted photographs to our competition. The judges were impressed by the overall standard. The front cover picture was taken in 2010 by Malcolm Cook of Hartlepool, and on page 8 is his photograph judged as best entry, the judges remarked that it is "good technically and has sharp contrasts with snow and a luminous sky."

The back cover appropriately has a photograph of the stern of the ship, and also one of the "square meal" aboard the ship taken by the runner-up, William Telford of Ponteland.

Time for a party. The inaugural committee meeting of the Friends of HMS Trincomalee was held on Thursday 10th June 1993, and to celebrate our 21st year there will be a party on the ship on Wednesday 28th May. Further details are on page 12.

The article "Aboard the Foudroyant 1922" gives a flavour of the contents of Geoffrey Wheatley Cobb's diaries which rest encased in our exhibition gallery at the Historic Quay in Hartlepool.

Finally any submissions from members of material suitable for use in future issues of the Quarterdeck will be gratefully received.

Hugh Turner (*Editor*)

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Aboard the Foudroyant in 1922

The Trincomalee Trust has three diaries on loan from the National Museum of the Royal Navy, these having been kept by Geoffrey Wheatley Cobb, the owner of our ship from 1897 until his death in 1931. Geoffrey saved HMS Trincomalee from being dismantled, acquiring her as a replacement for the Foudroyant, which had been Nelson's flagship, after she had been wrecked near the north pier in Blackpool during a storm in October 1897. Subsequently our ship was renamed the Foudroyant.

The three diaries are dated 1909, 1922 and 1929 during which the Foudroyant was used as a training ship for boys. They are kept in a display cabinet within the exhibition gallery at the Historic Quay in Hartlepool and presently I have been looking at the 1922 diary.

The diary is quite a lengthy affair, the entries vary from accounts of events that occurred each day to highly personal musings. It begins with Geoffrey celebrating the start of the New Year at Caldicot Castle, his home near to Newport, South Wales. Geoffrey had inherited the castle and lived there with his wife Anna, whom he had married the previous year. He enjoyed joining in and encouraging boyish frolics as the first entry in the diary shows:

January 1 Sunday

Saw New Year in on top of keep with 7 boys. ... Let off fireworks, but they were cut short by a spark which ignited what was to have been the remainder of show, and the box was soon full of exploding rockets & squibs. Fred found his own parapet & then tried to play Auld Lang Syne on his cornet, but his lips were scorched and it died away in a melancholy wail.



Caldicot Castle

Later that month he is consulted by a representative of Newport Council, Geoffrey having been made a freeman of Newport in 1912:

January 15 Sunday

... In afternoon Alderman Parry of Newport came to ask my acquiescence in proposal that Newport Corporation should extract water from Castrogi (a stream near to the castle) above Caerwent for purpose of augmenting their supply for 3 years till their new works were completed. I said I could not agree. I had no water now & I could not agree to arrangements whereby that condition should continue for 3 years.

The next day a visit is made to London to see his dentist, Phillips of 5 Grosvenor Square, he has tea out and visits an exhibition of pastels at the Royal Institute in Piccadilly, arriving at his home in Portsmouth at about 10pm when Anna was playing the piano in the drawing room. She "soon went to bed. Boys & Café au lait. Bed very late."



Geoffrey Wheatley Cobb

It is clear that Geoffrey does not enjoy the company of many people and his relationship with Anna is far from ideal. Anna is busy refurbishing Caldicot Castle:

January 21 Saturday

We are very deep in patterns of tapestries and other materials for curtains & wall panelling & the flood of artistic talk is very wearing. I am interested in making the rooms nice but have none of Anna's delicate perceptions. She has completely spoiled the drawing room which was a beautiful room, so I don't mind what more she does there. Fortunately she approves of the dining room & guardroom so I hope they may escape.

It is made very clear that Geoffrey's marriage to Anna was financially motivated:

February 5 Sunday

My whole soul revolts from this marriage. If I could wake & find it a dream I should be wild with joy. But I should have to do it to save the ship.

The ship is Geoffrey's escape from the above and the diary entries from 13 February to 1 March detail how he spent this time away from Anna, living on board the Foudroyant.

February 13 Monday

Fred & I to Falmouth ... Gig on Fish Strand & Jack took my bag down. Ship looking very shabby outside & must be painted. Gig which had her stern torn out is repaired and was in water for first time. Overhead paint in aftern cabin has been burnt off & new paint put on, a great improvement. Jack waited at my dinner.

Just as now the ship required constant upkeep. Geoffrey was also trying to get funds for his other ship, the Implacable:

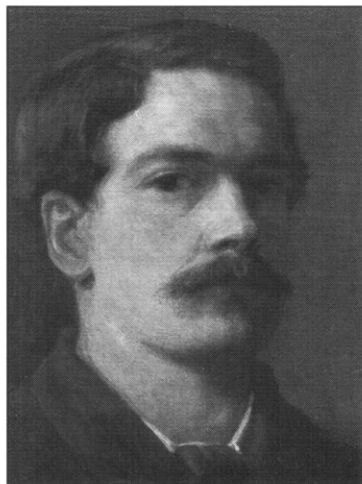
February 16 Thursday

Cornford sent final proof of Im placable appeal. It has the coloured reproduction of Tuke's water colour which is very nice. Cornford has made some alterations in my part which are not improvements, and has punctuated it to death. I must now get it printed. It is quite a nice thing & I don't think anyone will throw it away without looking at it.

The artist, Henry Scott Tuke, was a friend of Geoffrey and is famously known for his paintings of ships, seascapes and boys posing. Geoffrey commissioned at least one portrait from him:

February 17 Friday

... Got Tuke's portrait of Joe which is now framed & brought on board. It is a beautiful thing and a better likeness than I thought. The mouth & chin are most beautiful, the eyes & hair not good enough. But it is not as a glorious boy; it has a real look of Joe. No picture could give the enchanting moment when he opens his eyes with a smile. I am glad it is in oils not pastels. It is much the most brilliant of the series, and the biggest.



Henry Scott Tuke
Self-portrait

February 18 Saturday

Choir practice 12. A good muster but I want many more. ... I fixed Joe's portrait on the mahogany door on forward side of fore cabin. There were two crossed swords there which I was sorry to displace but it was the best light. Wrote to Tuke telling him I have it & love it and asking him whether he would not like to send it to the R. A. exhibition. It is one of the best things he has done this year. Quiet afternoon aboard & most delightful tea.

There was a band aboard the ship which had been improved "by 3 new clarinets & Teddy's new euphonium. But I don't think they are playing very well."

Other activities included dancing and football:

February 21 Tuesday

... Robinson aboard again this evening & dancing in poop again. Jack can't dance. He has an inflamed bunion as well as the old varicose veins. I can still dance a sword dance ... I shall not be able to do it much longer. I have become very old in the last 6 months.

February 22 Wednesday

Showery. Boys ashore in afternoon for football. They fell in on midday for inspection so they may not go ashore in dirty knicks. Knicks are now worn very short; only half way down thigh & the tall long-limbed boys look very splendid.

7.30 ashore & to a ... concert at Henry's Hotel for the Falmouth Association Football League. Singing not up to much.

February 24 Friday

... Ship with head in south & rolling. Band practice 3 to 4. Tuke dined here. I fetched him from yacht club. Very dark & tide low & could not get to Club steps and went to Greenbank & walked to Club ... Tuke saw his painting of Joe framed. I also showed him the reproduction of his watercolour in Improbable appeal which he said was satisfactory. Took him back to Custom quay about 11...

Choir practice 11.30. Robinson wants to take the boys in hand & make them sing better & so do I ... Only 3 lads attend as a rule, Teddy, Roberts & Price and he asked to have them in poop instead of on main deck as heretofore. So in poop it was, & we sung scales before starting on ... hymns. The old poop piano is a poor substitute for harmonium.

February 26 Sunday

Wet morning but cleared later. Ship rolling hard & there was consequently a long pump on starboard side of main deck ... not dry by church time. Service in consequence on starboard side. Boy Dowles in uniform for first time.

February 27 Monday

Very wet in morning & ship rolling. I less sleepy in morning & bathed. Water intensely cold but did me lots of good. Old & rheumatic as I am &, I fear, fat which is worse I ask. I still enjoy it.

February 28 Shrove Tuesday

Wedding of Princess Mary to Lord Lascelles. I doubtful whether day was fine enough to dress ship, but decided we would & flags flew from 9 am to sunset and were not much the worse.



HMS Foudroyant
And
Cutty Sark
At Falmouth

March 1 Ash Wednesday

I bathe every morning & hope I have got back the habit. Posted final proof of Implacable appeal to Hudson & Kearns & asked for 1000 copies. 500 to be sent here & 500 to Caldicot, also 500 envelopes to hold it with title printed on outside. Very wet & windy. Anna arrived at Kiln Quay. I shored off at 5.15 & went there, I hoped in time to see her arrive, but she had come & I had to apologise. I had tea with her and she came up here for dinner. I got one silver candlestick & accessories & George gave a nice little dinner. Cabins looked very comfortable much more comfortable than her beautiful house. She would like much to come & live aboard It is not merely that I don't want her. It would change the character of the ship. She would then be a yacht not a training ship.

I have had a month's holiday & now it is run. Sometimes it seems impossible to go back to ... the constant effort. Anna is so good & kind that it is impossible not to be good to her...

It was very dark when we took her back, and blowing & raining. One of our lanterns was out of order ... found a splendid carbide, one which threw a long beam ahead & enabled me to bring the gig alongside quay with ease.

Hugh Turner

Mess Deck Crossword Solution

Solution:

C	H	A	T	H	A	M		C	O	C	K	P	I	T
O		D	A			O		H		L	E		R	
M	A	J	O	R		A	L	E	X	A	N	D	R	A
E		U	T		T	S		M		A		I		
D	I	S	C	L	O	S	E	S		A	N	O	N	
Y		T	E					M		R		T		I
			E	P	I	S	C	O	P	A	L	I	A	N
E		A	O		I		V		C		C		G	
L	O	V	E	O	F	T	H	E	S	E	A			
I		I		L			U			C		A		F
C	O	A	L			A	B	S	C	O	N	D	E	R
I		T		Y		T		I		U		R		A
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E		O		G			N		H		S		F	C
D	A	N	C	I	N	G			T	H	E	A	T	R

Autumn 2013

- ACROSS

 - 1 Site of a Royal Engineers establishment in the mid-nineteenth century (7)
 - 5 Wyllie sketched in an open one (7)
 - 9 Wyllie held this rank in 1916 (5)
 - 10 Future Queen carried to England aboard the Royal Yacht (9)
 - 11 Reveals (9)
 - 12 After awhile (4)
 - 14 Form of Church government (12)
 - 18 Wyllie inherited this from his father (4,2,3,3)
 - 21 Sought for around Fort Victoria by the occasional frigate (4)
 - 22 One who slips away (9)
 - 25 Fitting (9)
 - 26 Be supreme (5)
 - 27 Part of a Naval Academy's curriculum (7)
 - 28 Smitheman designed for this (7)
- DOWN

 - 1 Farce (6)
 - 2 Alter (6)
 - 3 Smitheman depicted HMS Trincomalee here (10)
 - 4 Defensive trenches (5)
 - 5 Castle (5,4)
 - 6 Shellfish (4)
 - 7 Overly concerned (8)
 - 8 On HMS Foudroyant Wyllie was Director of this (8)
 - 13 Hippodrome (10)
 - 15 Locating (9)
 - 16 Evoked (8)
 - 17 Subject matter for some of David Bell's art (8)
 - 19 Free from moorings (6)
 - 20 Smitheman has shown pictures here (6)
 - 23 Used to aim a gun (5)
 - 24 Type of Hindu ascetic (4)



Winning Photograph
By
Malcolm Cook of Hartlepool



Monkey Business

At the Quay 2013

(Note newly repainted ship)

By John Davies of Seaton Carew



If it's not too late, the crew wish you a very happy New Year and a prosperous 2014. The start of the new tourism season is very much at the forefront of our minds at the moment as we make everything shipshape for our spring and summer visitors.

One very useful job we've completed recently is adding to and replacing the canvasses we use for functions in internal areas of the ship. As a result guests at our famous Christmas lunches and dinners on board in December enjoyed an unprecedented level of warmth and comfort at their function as we also took the opportunity to temporarily canvass across the Gun Deck near the Captain's Cabin and additionally heat the area enclosed.

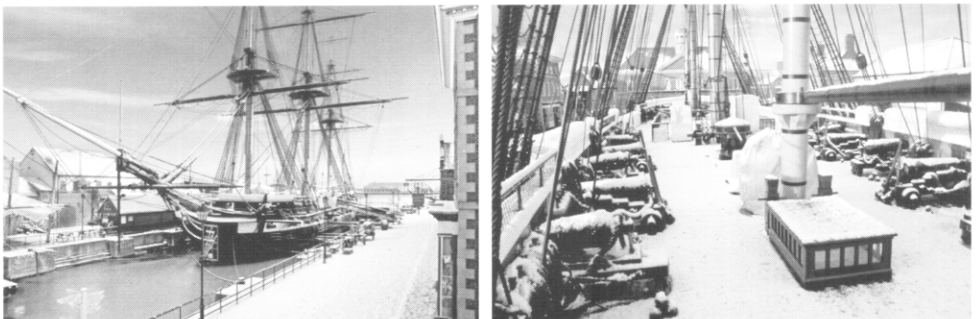
Touching history and celebrating Christmas

The look and feel of the ship did change in December as guests took advantage of a remarkable historic environment in which to celebrate the festive season with colleagues, friends and families. We hosted lunches and dinners throughout the month. The Friends held their annual Carols in the Captain's Cabin event and the Trust's Live at the Trinc with York – based 2 Bob was a complete sell out and a memorable evening for all attending and especially for the lucky lady who won a wooden reindeer made by the craftsmen of HMS Trincomalee. By Christmas though, all was back to normal.

We've booked 2 Bob again for a Christmas party on 19 December 2014 and have released tickets already. So if you were unable to get tickets last Christmas, why not book now – well in advance to secure your festive treat? Bring family and friends. Our ticket office is open daily from 11am - 3.30pm, tel: 01429 223 193.

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!

We've had a marvellous summer in 2013 and so far the winter of 2013/14 has been kind. However, as I write this in late January, a change of wind direction to northerly and a chance of snow is forecast. It made me recall a set of photographs of a snowy Trincomalee, some of which may make it onto our Christmas cards next year.



Photographs: Christopher Armstrong

News from the Ship

We're busy planning our programme for 2014 – and are hoping for an eclectic mix of events to tempt you to join us on board. For 2014, we have live music, fayres and dining events planned.

In May, we're hosting a Belly Dance Convivial. We're joining forces with the Historic Quay for a Pirate themed day, probably in July and, for the first time, we're planning to do something for 'Talk like a Pirate Day' in September. Aaarr!

We'd love to establish a Comedy Club on board too – 'Scurvy Dogs and Scallywags' – unless you've got a better idea for a name for it? And we've always wanted to do a proper Carol Service on board or on the Quayside at Christmas – 9 Lessons and Carols. Combine this with the 100th anniversary of the Bombardment of Hartlepool on 16 December and the desire to establish a small but prestigious lecture programme and we have the makings of a fascinating and diverse programme this year.



Keeping in Touch

'How can I find out about events on board?' is a question we're often asked. Whilst we don't have a set formula for advertising events as some sell out simply by word of mouth, we always promote them on our Facebook sites and on Twitter. We are also currently building a database so we can promote events by email. This will begin later this year. So, to answer the question, you should become our Friend on Facebook (HMS Trincomalee Hartlepool), follow us on Twitter (@HMSTrincomalee) and join our database by emailing office@hms-trincomalee.co.uk using the words 'join database' in the subject line. By joining us on Facebook and Twitter, you'll be in good company as we currently have 779 Facebook Friends and 1704 Twitter Followers with numbers growing daily. Sadly, we cannot afford to print and mail out by post.

A Date for your Diary - Trafalgar Night 2014

We were sorry not to be able to accommodate several Friends and their guests for our Trafalgar Night Commemorative Dinner last year as we were fully booked. So the message is – Book Early!

This year, the dinner is on Saturday 18 October 2014 and tickets are £45 each with an early bird offer of £42 each for tickets booked and paid for before Friday 22 August. We already have a booking for 12% of the tickets and enquiries for a further 45%.

The Spirit Locker

New to the Ship Shop is The Spirit Locker. We're building a range of rums and gins to complement our existing and popular heritage ales. Pusser's British Navy Rum and Lord Nelson's Rum have proved very popular last autumn and as Christmas presents. The overproof Senior Service Gins are just becoming available and these will soon be joined by new product lines Foudroyant Ale and Houstoun Passage Ale.

As the days lengthen, we'd be delighted if you could find time to visit us again. Bring family and friends, all welcome!

With my warmest wishes,



David McKnight

General Manager, HMS Trincomalee Trust



FRIENDS' 21st BIRTHDAY PARTY WEDNESDAY 28th MAY 2014

Starts 7.00pm aboard HMS Trincomalee

Friends and their guests are invited to attend this event aboard the ship. There will be a complimentary drink on arrival, snacks and a birthday cake with entertainment.

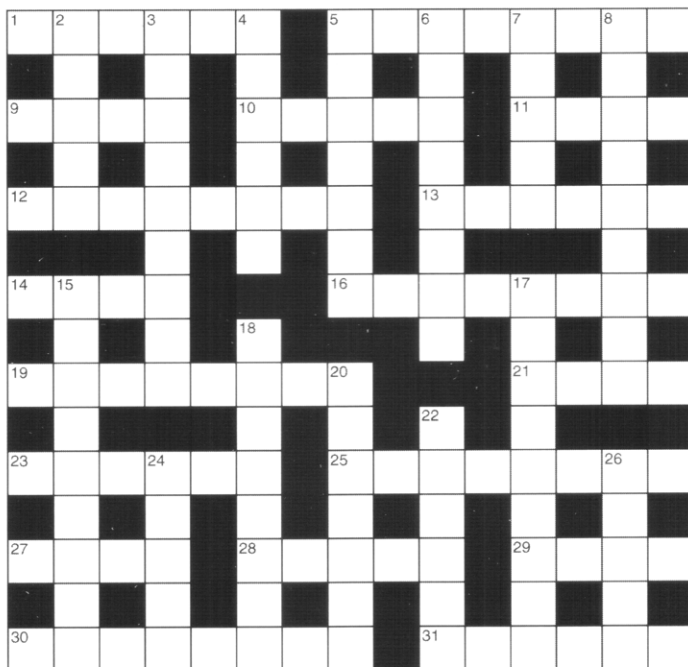
In order to organise this we will need to know numbers attending by 16th May, and we would encourage members to inform us as soon as possible prior to this date if they are intending to come.

Contacts: TrincomaleeFriends@tiscali.co.uk

(Or (01429) 236848)

Mess Deck Crossword

Spring 2014



HDT

ACROSS

- 1 Cobb held one for the Implacable (6)
- 5 Cobb's Welsh Castle (8)
- 9 Ancient Indian (4)
- 10 Sea-nymph (5)
- 11 Joe did this for Tuke (4)
- 12 Stream near to Caerwent (8)
- 13 Cobb enjoyed such frolics (6)
- 14 Lavish party (4)
- 16 HMS Foudroyant was Nelson's (8)
- 19 Bowl for phlegm (8)
- 21 Cobb's wife (4)
- 23 Fred played one (6)
- 25 Cobb's wife had such perceptions (8)
- 27 Capital of the Ukraine (4)
- 28 Assign (5)
- 29 Containers for beans (4)
- 30 Copies (8)
- 31 Writings (6)

DOWN

- 2 Raccoon-like animal (5)
- 3 Passing of a bill (9)
- 4 Grants tenures (6)
- 5 City to the west of Newport (7)
- 6 Thrown by a splendid carbide (4,4)
- 7 Suggest (5)
- 8 A persistant thought (9)
- 15 26 Down had a new one (5)
- 17 Tuke painted these (9)
- 18 Tuke did Joe's (8)
- 20 Small bumps (7)
- 22 Dress (6)
- 24 Pertaining to warships (5)
- 26 A member of the Foudroyant choir (5)

Solution next issue

THE FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE

Spring to Summer Events 2014

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 26 March
Wednesday | <i>"A seven month voyage in the Booth Line Dominic"</i>
<i>Captain Sandy Kinghorn</i> |
| 30 April
Wednesday | <i>"Admiral James Saumarez"</i>
<i>Keith Atkinson</i> |
| 28 May
Wednesday | <i>Friends' 21st Birthday Party</i>
<i>For further details see notice on page 12</i>
<i>Friends attending need to inform us by 16 May</i> |
| 23 September
Tuesday | <i>Annual General Meeting</i>
<i>Speaker: Colonel Euan Houstoun</i>
<i>President of HMS Trincomalee Trust</i> |

*Unless otherwise stated all events take place in the Captain's Quarters
on board HMS Trincomalee at 7.00pm – Talks starting at 7.30pm
after refreshments*

These events are free for Friends, with guests charged £1 each.

Friends receive free entry to HMS Trincomalee and Hartlepool's
Maritime Experience for one year, can attend talks and
presentations on board, receive the Quarterdeck magazine which
is published three times a year and receive a 10% discount on
items in the Ship Shop.

An application form is opposite.

APPLICATION FORM
to join
THE FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE

Membership categories and twelve monthly subscriptions:
(Fixed until 24th September 2014)

Adult	£20.00
Concessionary *	£15.00
Joint Adult	£35.00
Joint Concessionary *	£27.00
Family Group +	£45.00

- * Children, students, senior citizens and those unwaged
+ Two adults and up to three children in a family

Please complete, detach and return this form to:

The Friends of HMS Trincomalee
Jackson Dock, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool, TS24 0XZ

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE

YOUR DETAILS:

Title Surname

First Names

Address

.....

..... Post Code

Tel.

Membership Category

Cheques made payable to 'HMS Trincomalee Trust'

AMOUNT

☐

GIFT AID DECLARATION. As a UK taxpayer I
would like the HMS Trincomalee Trust to claim back
the tax on this and all future donations.

Please tick the box.

SIGNATURE

