

Captain Herbert Woodville Bolles
25th September 1923 - 8th November 2008
Roll No. 21
Member of the League

Herbert's parents, Joseph and Helene Macdonald were married in Townsville QLD in 1922 and their son Herbert W Bolles was born in Brisbane in 1923 before they moved to Perth, Western Australia. Two years later Joseph Bolles, was appointed manager of an insurance company, and was transferred back to Townsville at the beginning of World War Two.

On the 4th March 1941 Herbert W Bolles joined the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company as an Indentured Apprentice joining the passenger vessel **SS Ormiston** [built 1922], which sailed along the eastern Australian seaboard. On the 17th December 1941 Herbert was transferred along with another apprentice to the cargo vessel **SS Macumba**, which also plied the eastern seaboard with voyages to Port Morseby with supplies for the Australian and American forces.

In March 1943 Herbert joined the Eastern & Australian Steam Navigation Company passenger ship **SS Tanda**. Over the next year he made numerous voyages to Sri Lanka and India with cargo and passengers, including on one voyage, General Sir Iven and Lady Mackay.

Herbert passed his Second Mate's Certificate in Sydney and was posted as Third Mate to **SS Mildura**, transferring several months later to the **SS River Fitzroy** and in March 1945 joining **MV Corinda**, which became part of the British Fleet Train for the British Pacific Fleet. Herbert had many lucky escapes during the war. The **Ormiston** was damaged off Coffs Harbour, and the **Macumba** and **Tanda** were sunk, all after Herbert had been transferred.

After the war Herbert sailed on a number of AUSN vessels as Third and Second Mate before, on the 1st March 1948 he transferred over to the British India Steam navigation Company, another P&O Company.

Herbert was on board the **Garbeta** in June 1955 when it caught fire at the finger wharf in Woolloomooloo, which resulted in him being in Sydney when the BI Cadet Ship **Chantala** arrived where his good friend the Chief Officer, introduced him to Maureen who would become his wife. Herbert transferred to **Chakdina** and was promoted to Chief Officer.

After marrying Maureen, Herbert left BI and joined the Western Australian State Ships in 1957. In 1960, looking to get a command, Herbert left WASS and joined Austasia Line.

Herbert took command of **Matupi** 11th October 1960. Sailing from Australia to New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. His last command was the **Malaya** before joining the Sydney Pilot Service in 1963 and serving as a Pilot until 1984. His last ship piloted being the Australian tanker **Arthur Phillip**.

Herbert's brother Alastair Stewart Bolles also went to sea starting as an apprentice with British India and becoming Assistant Harbour Master in Melbourne, Victoria.

Herbert Bolles also wrote two books:

Shipwreck, Massacre and Mayhem [1993] The story of Captain Joseph W Bolles and his wife Henrietta Jane Craig of Cooktown QLD, his great grand parents.

We Seemed to Get There [1997] His Biography

Captain Herbert Woodville Bolles also donated a set of Merchant Navy Masters epaulettes, his Vernier Sextant with additional monocular and a Micrometre Sextant to the Australian War Memorial Collection.

Information taken from "*We Seem to Get There*" by Herbert Bolles and Australian War Memorial.