

Captain Peter Y Bell

Crossed the Bar 5th July 2000

Roll No.41

Peter went to sea on 1st November 1939 joining the **Clan Fraser** as an apprentice.

On the 6th April 1940 the vessel, while unloading ammunition and high explosive shells was struck by three bombs forward, amidships and aft killing seven crew and wounding nine. She blazed furiously and when four hours later blew up with a blast so tremendous that it shook buildings 12 to 15 miles [24k] inland. This disaster occurred in Piraeus Harbour and two ships nearby sank at their moorings – the **SS City of Roubaix** 7108 GRT and **SS Cyprian Prince** 1988 GRT, and three others were badly damaged – **SS Cingalese Prince** 8144 GRT, **SS Devis** 6054 GRT and nearby the **Clan Cumming** 7264 GRT also discharging ammunition and 50 ton of TNT heeled heavily under the impact catching fire and was abandoned. The crew later reboarded the vessel and they brought the blaze under control.

Peter later in July 1944 joined the **SS Samderwent** as 3rd Officer joining her in Portland Maine USA, a brand new Liberty ship and was landed ill at Rosario, Argentina. Later on arrival back home in the UK he joined the **SS Fort Saleesh** as 3rd Mate and then in 1945 re-joined the Clan Line and sailed on eight ships of that company.

Peter joined Adelaide Steam Ships in 1951 and served on nine company vessels, the last one being as Chief Officer **MV Manoora** then in 1960 transferred to Waratah Tugs and served as Master on all the tugs of the fleet until retiring in 1988.

Peter was known amongst his colleagues affectionately as 'Ding Dong' and remembered for his broad Scottish accent.

Biographical Note written by Peter Bell and found in the League's Files.