



SS ADJUTANT

I joined the "Adjutant" of the General Steam Navigation Co. on January 1st 1957. It was going to be a four on four off watch the first time I had worked these hours. We sailed for Italy and during this month we managed to get three of the Sundays at sea, which was worth a days holiday pay. For that month I was paid £46 12s 2d. I resigned on the 1st February and I note we were paid 4 shillings (20p) a day for the two watch system. We sailed to Bremen and returned to London on the 14th February and then sailing to Hamburg on the 16th arriving 18th and departed on the 19th. We passed the Company's "Woodwren" at sea and docked at London on February 21st. We sailed again for Hamburg on Saturday 23rd February and on the Sunday we were off the Dutch coast when we set off a war time mine.



SS GANNET

Captain G.W.B. Lawrey sent out a distress signal and then shortly after cancelled it when he found out the water-tight doors were holding. By this time I was up on deck with a broken nose which I received when a radio flew across my cabin hitting me full in the face. We spent some time on deck kicking into the sea the heaving lines of other ships who wanted to claim salvage. We waited for the company ship "Gannet" to arrive to take us in tow. Because of the damage we were unable to steer the ship from the bridge and all course alterations had to be relayed to the poop helm aft. Monday 25th was spent at sea under tow heading towards Amsterdam. After dry docking we were found accommodatic in the mission to Seamen and spent eight nights there. Working by the ship during the day on March 6th we were paid-off and we arrived in London on the 7th. For that one month and six days I was paid with a total of £51 10s 6d. As a memento of the ship I brought home with me the ships rotator and frog which I made into a table lamp and I still have it.

Norman Brice R56522

THE STANDARD BEARER

I am a Standard Bearer, I am striding mighty proud
 Conscious of my posture as I pass the cheering crowd.
 My Standard is a tribute and it represents the men
 Who served and died for country, plus veterans since then.

You will see the likes of me, with blazer and gloves so white
 Leading homage with my colleagues in uniforms alike.
 Since the Romans with their Standardards to which they always had
 There has been a Standard Bearer with his special flag.

An honour and a privilege, I do the job for free
 I ask no fame, nor princely fee, the honour is for me.
 Unshamed to shed a tear at funerals where I go
 I am thinking of my freedom and debt I surely owe.

I stand tall at the functions where all the Branch will be
 The Cenotaphs, or marching where the band plays a march for me.
 It's fitting and my duty, while the "Last Post" sounds ahead
 For me to dip the Standard, remembering the dead.