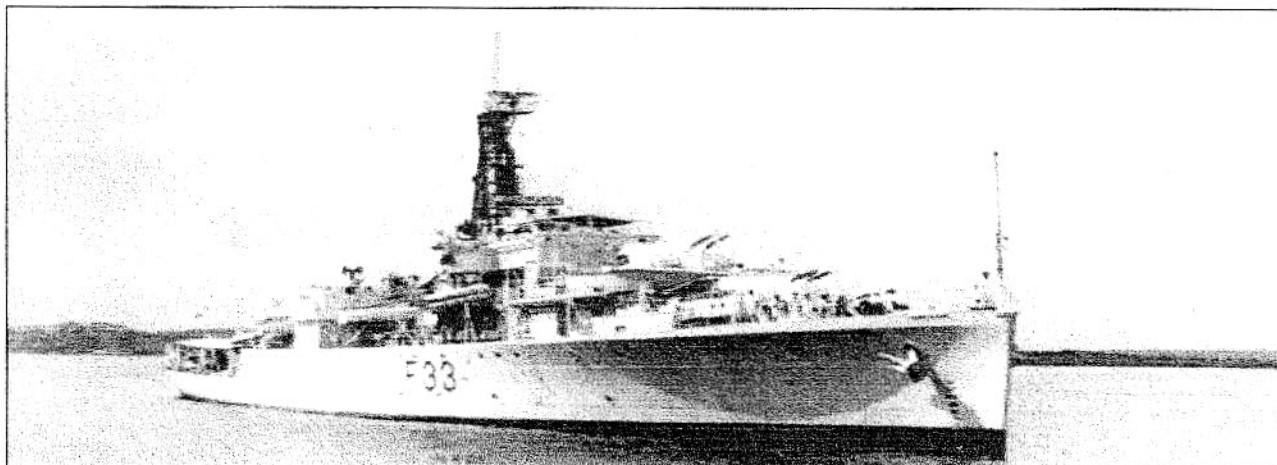


HMS OPOSSUM ASSOCIATION



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2004

1945-1958

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members
and their families. A time of peace and good will to all men**



The Roll of Honour story that lasted several weeks was less of a subject and more one of argument. The seemingly minor problem mushroomed into a major issue being distorted from a lack of communication and misunderstanding that almost prevented a solution. Democracy prevailed with three quarters of the membership returning their Postal Votes that resolved the problem. The votes were 21 to 31 in favour of all names who have crossed the bar from HMS Opossum's five commissions whether a member or not being included in our Newsletter Roll of Honour.

The only casualty was the resignation of our Chairman Stan Oldfield who has held the post since the inception of our Association in 1994. We thank him for all his effort and guidance over the years and extend to him and his family health and happiness for the future.

Our new Chairman designate is Tom Tolson. While he has recently undergone major abdominal surgery we all wish him a speedy recovery.

We have two new members who have joined our ranks, Tony Draycott of the 1952-54 commission and Gary Holmes a Coder national serviceman who joined Opossum in January 1955 and left in June 1956 thereby bridging two commissions.

I did intend standing down as your Secretary and Newsletter editor after my illness on returning from holiday in September. But I have decided to try and carry on until our reunion in May. I am still in full time employment six days a week and intend carrying on. Balancing the day job with the Association's activities is slowly taking its toll. If any member would like to take over the positions of Secretary and Newsletter editor they have six months to prepare themselves.

To keep our little band together is a worthwhile task. While there's a lot of work trying to keep tabs on everything from correspondence to preparing the Newsletter for publication the satisfaction in doing the best you can for the benefit of others is immeasurable.