

## HMS EMPEROR – DEC 43 TO FEB 46



HMS EMPEROR



On 10 December 1943, he joined the Escort Carrier HMS EMPEROR, presumably again as First Lt.

She was originally built in the US during 1942 and 1943 as a US Navy Bogue class Escort Carrier USS PYBLO, before being re-designated for British use.

She was commissioned in New York as HMS EMPEROR on 6 Aug 43, before returning to UK. On arrival, she went to Belfast for conversion work, completing this in December, which is when Terence joined. The work probably included work to modify the petrol systems, the British thought that the American systems were too dangerous.

In Jan and Feb 1944 she took part in the Battle of the Atlantic, sailing to Norfolk VA in Jan, then Argentia in Newfoundland and then the Clyde.

In March she was with the Home Fleet operating off Norway. This may have been in support of the Russian convoys. Between April and May 1944, she took part in operations against the TIRPITZ and other shipping in the Bodo and Rorvik areas and elsewhere in Norway. While this was not actually the Russian convoys, it was Northern Norway and March 1944

would have been pretty cold and this may be what Jane and Pamela are referring to. There is a photograph on the web of the cable party on the forecastle with snow on the deck and more snow falling

From mid May she reverted to Western Approaches Command and in May and June she was in the South West Approaches, supporting the Normandy landings

EMPEROR sailed from the Clyde on 15 July and between July and November she operated in the Mediterranean and the Aegean. Operations included DRAGOON, the invasion of Southern France in August and strike operations in the Aegean in September 1944. She operated as part of a Group of seven RN Escort carriers.

In November 1944 she returned to UK and from November 1944 to January 1945 she was refitting in Newport Dock in UK. She sailed for the Far East in March to become part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Carrier Squadron, arriving in Colombo on 25 March. Subsequently her base seemed to be Trincomalee to which she returned after her operations. She took part:

- In April 1945, in Operation DRACULA with strikes on the Rangoon and South East coast of Burma.
- In May support to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle Squadron which was operating in the Andaman Sea against the Japanese Cruiser HAGURO.
- In June and July on Operation COLLIE carrying out strikes against the Nicobar Islands and to provide air support to Minesweeping work off Pukhet. She returned to Ceylon on 19 July
- In September she took part in ZIPPER the reoccupation of Malaya, but fortunately the war ended after the second Atomic bomb before the landing took place, probably therefore saving both Terence's and David Porter's lives, because the casualties would have been high.

She was at Singapore for the surrender on 12 Sept. She then went to Southern India and then Colombo. She had disembarked her aircraft and loaded stores and passengers for return to UK.

She arrived back in UK in the Clyde on 4 December 45 to offload the stores and passengers. She then went to Plymouth to remove specialist equipment in Jan 46. She sailed for the last time from UK on 23 Jan. She was decommissioned in Norfolk VA on 12 Feb 46. By the date (see below) it is probable that Terence stayed with the ship till she decommissioned in Feb 46.

EMPEROR's CO's were:

- Sept 43 to Jan 45 Captain TJN Hilken
- Jan 45 to Feb 46 Captain sir Charles E Madden Bart. Jane reckoned he was responsible for Terence's promotion, maybe he was in Malta later on

Pamela was born in Sept 1945, so must have been conceived in Dec 44 when she was in Newport Dock.

On 11 Nov 45 he was recommended for the Staff Course.

## **ADMIRALTY FEB TO JULY 46**

On 27 Feb (or 7 March) 46, he was appointed President for duty inside Admiralty with First Sea Lord for a period not exceeding 3 months. We believe that this was the time that he was writing speeches. Pamela had thought it was for Mountbatten, but the consensus view is now that it was for the First Sea Lord. The First Sea Lord until 6 Jun 46 was Admiral Sir Andrew (ABC) Cunningham, when he was relieved by Sir John Cunningham. ABC was in hospital for 6 weeks from March to May and finally left London on 11 June and had a large number of significant occasions that he attended, so we believe it was Andrew Cunningham he was writing for. Significantly ABC's Naval Assistant at the time was Captain Madden, who had just been Terence's CO in EMPEROR and would probably have recommended him.

## **STAFF COURSES - JULY 46 TO JULY 47**



**RNC GREENWICH**

Between 27 July 46 and Dec 46 he attended the Naval Staff Course at Greenwich. Between 20 Jan and July 47 he attended the first Joint Services Staff Course at Latimer. Hope said that they had used a number of the Greenwich Schemes for the JSSC, so the whole thing didn't require much work.

Charles was born on 10 July 1947.



**JSSC LATIMER**

## MALTA (1) – AUG 47 TO JUL 50



**FORT  
RICASOLI**

On 4 Aug 47 he was appointed to HMS ST ANGELO (in Malta) additional for passage. He went out in the EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA from Liverpool, joining the ship on 7 Aug, passing through Gibraltar on 11 Aug and arriving in Malta on 14 Aug.

On 14 Aug he joined St ANGELO additional as Officer In Charge Petty Officers Course vice Bromley. It is also shown in his S206 as the Training Officer. The job was at Ricasoli.

The family came out separately in the Dunota Castle, Hope, Jane, Pamela, Charles aged 2 months and the Nanny. They lived in Sliema above the GOOD HOPE garage in 28 Melita Street. I don't think they came out till after October 1947, because on 13 October 1947 Terence's father died. In Oct, Titchfield Abbey Cottage was being let and on 9 Dec 47 Hope was seeking approval to destroy his letters.

On 23 Feb 50, he was appointed Ricasoli in command temporary, vice Cdr B H de C Mellor (who was presumably sick).

On 30 June 1950, he was promoted Commander.

By 21 July 1950 he was back in UK having left Malta. They came back in the EMPIRE WINDRUSH, but we don't know exactly when.



## **ADMIRALTY – AUG 50 TO AUG 51**



On 9 Aug 50, he was appointed PRESIDENT (APL) for duty outside Admiralty as NLO to the Chairman of the Western Union Commander in Chief's Committee vice AP Northey. Just what that entailed we do not know.

On 10 May 51 Terence and Hope attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. In say June the family watched the Trooping of the Colour from Terence's office. The King was ill and the Inspecting Officer was Princess Elizabeth.

## **FONTAINBLEU AUG 51 TO OCT 52**

On or 1 Aug 51, he was appointed President for duty outside Admiralty as Staff Officer (Ops and Plans Division) at HQ Flag Officer Central Europe (HQCINCENT?). It is described elsewhere as "Staff Officer Training and Liaison on staff of Flag officer Central Europe". This is the Fontainbleu appointment. We think that Hope stayed in UK but visited from time to time.

In Oct 52 he must have come home because on 18 Oct 52 he was appointed DRAKE while unemployed.

## **MALTA (2) FEB 53 TO AUG 54**

### **HMS MESSINA**

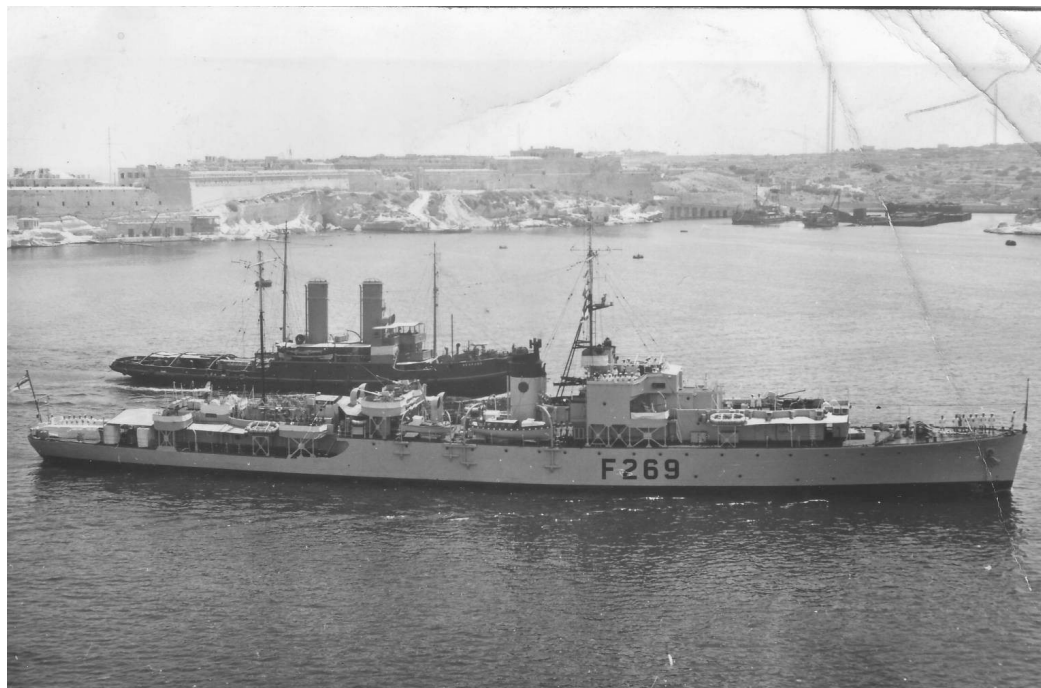
Between Nov 52 and Jan 53 he attended courses including the School of Amphibious Warfare or Combined Operations.

In Feb 53, he was appointed MESSINA additional for passage and additional for command of Amphibious Warfare Squadron (AWS) vice Luard. MESSINA was presumably a support vessel ex LST. This was the time of the Comet crashes and the squadron was used to search.

### **HMS MEON**

On 11 May 53, he was appointed MEON in command and vice Sayer for command of AWS. We think that MEON was in UK and Terence would have come back to take over command. Jane and Pamela were on board MEON for the Coronation Review at Spithead on 15 June 1953. MEON was then just about to go out to the Mediterranean.

HMS MEON  
entering  
Grand  
Harbour  
Malta.  
Taken from a  
postcard that  
Terence  
sent Charles





The Officers of MEON, presumably after a particularly enjoyable dinner

Hope, Jane, Pamela and Charles flew out to Malta at some stage after June and stayed in the Plevna Hotel. They lived this time in Anobat flats (Tabona backwards?).



HMS  
MEON

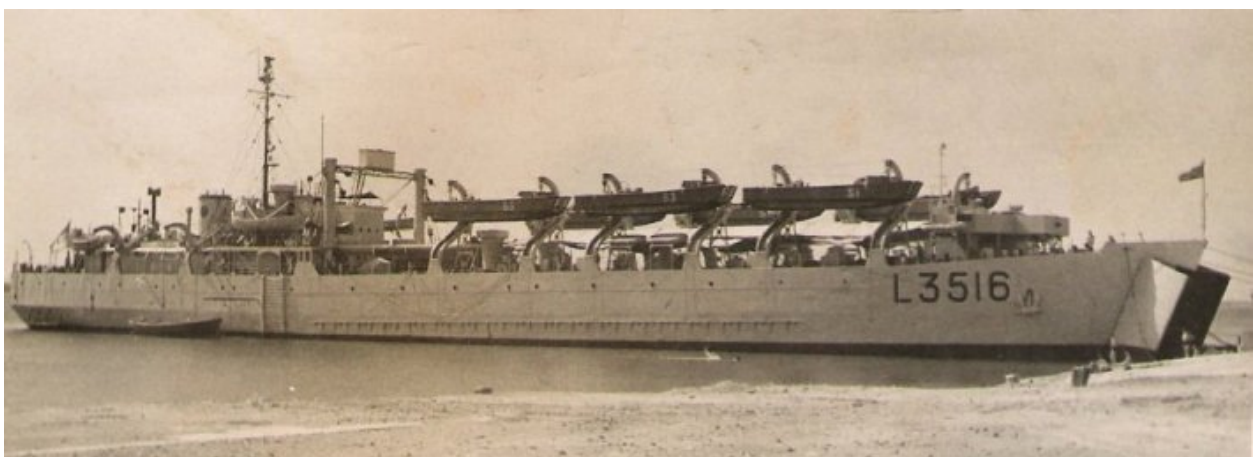




Terence and Hope –  
looking very happy – in  
Malta. Taken some  
time during the period  
1953- 1954

[In 1965 the Coxswain of RHYL, in which I was serving, told me that he had served with Terence in the AWS. Terence talked to all the Ships Coys and had said this was the only Squadron in which they were supposed intentionally to put ships aground.

### **HMS STRIKER**



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On 24 Oct 53 (after only 5 months after taking over MEON) till Aug 54, he was appointed to HMS STRIKER in command vice Keir. Terence was superseded as IC AWS by Captain



Masterman and as CO of MEON. This was apparently a Mountbatten thing to make the CO of the Squadron a Captain. Terence wasn't very happy about it.



HMS STRIKER and other ships of the AW Squadron  
doing an amphibious landing in Mellehia Bay, Malta

In Dec 1953 letter there was a letter from Mountbatten to Terence saying how well he had done etc

On 18 Nov 54, he was appointed to DRAKE while unemployed.