

Conflict in the South Atlantic Ocean in World War Two

by John Lloyd

In June 1941, my father Reg Lloyd, who was born and raised in Bryn Place, Seaside and later lived in Glanmor Villa and Denham Avenue, was conscripted into the Royal Navy. He served as a Radar Operator on HMS Queen of Bermuda and HMS Redpole, being discharged from naval duties in December 1945.



My father Reg, holding me, aged two-and-a-half, strolling around Devonport with my mother, Helen, while on Basic Training at HMS Raleigh in June, 1941, before joining HMS Queen of Bermuda.

During his wartime service, he travelled the world extensively and had many experiences to relate. One of which was when he and two other crew members spent an afternoon as guests of the great Jack Dempsey, the former World Heavyweight Champion at his bar on Broadway, New York, a story I shared with readers in Book 11. Another was when he was sailing on HMS Queen of Bermuda, an Armed Merchant Cruiser, in 1941. The ship was equipped with 7 six-inch guns and 2 three-inch guns as armaments, being deployed to the South Atlantic Ocean to investigate reports that German ships were raiding Whaling Stations on the islands of South Georgia, St Helena and the Falklands. Their assignment to protect the islands from the enemy continued from September, 1941 to August 1942. They operated in extremely harsh

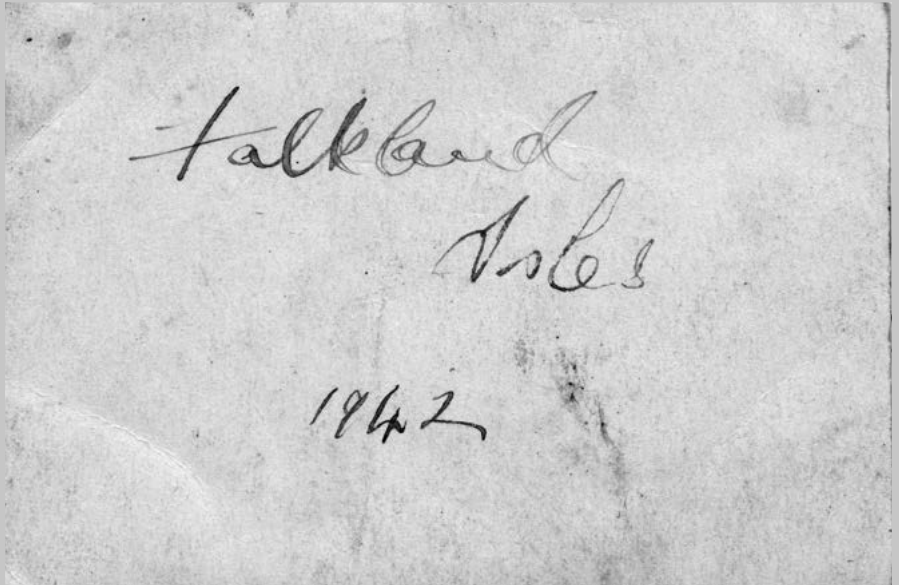
weather conditions, before being redeployed to join the Eastern Fleet in the Indian Ocean in September 1942.

My father had many photographs from the conflict, which are in my possession, with his hand-written notes on the reverse side.

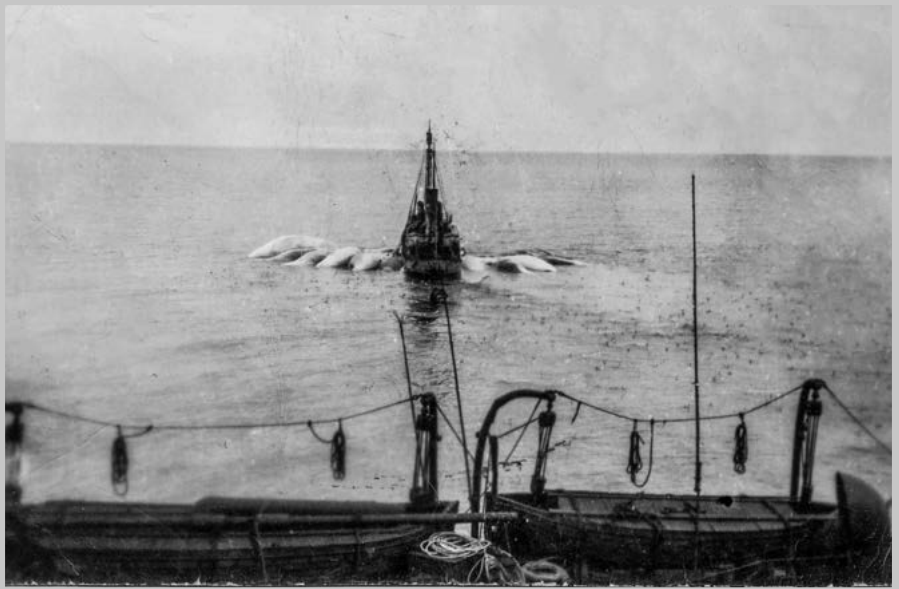


H.M.S. Queen of Bermuda
 Armed Merchant Cruiser
 Six, Six inch.
 at anchor off South Georgia.
 German raiders were reported
 raiding whaling factories.
 Q of B. sent to investigate

HMS Queen of Bermuda, an Armed Merchant Cruiser equipped with 7 six-inch guns, at anchor off South Georgia. German raiders were reported raiding whaling factories. Q of B sent to investigate.



Falkland Isles, 1942, Whaling Station just visible in centre of photograph.



Towing
whales
to factory
in Georgia
Antarctic 1942
Falkland
Isles

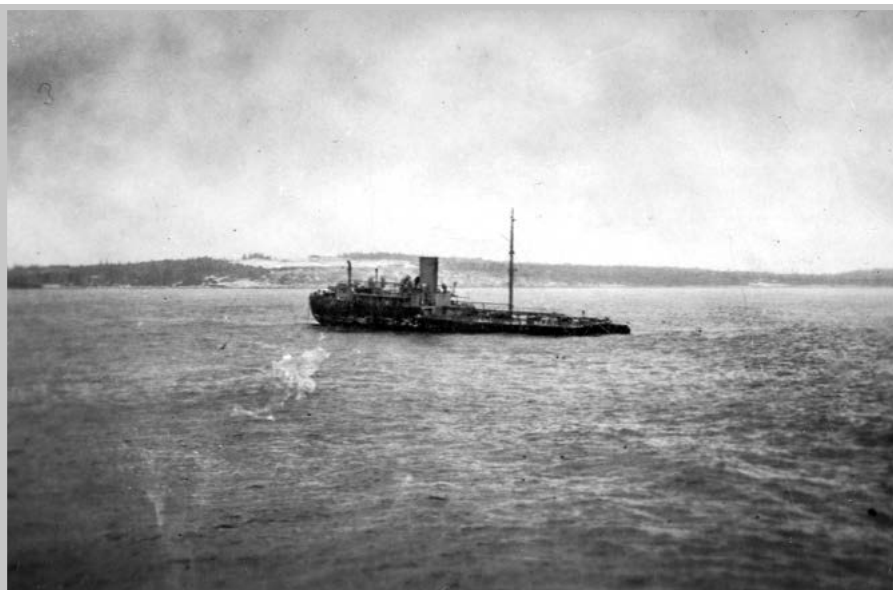
Towing whales to factory in South Georgia, Antarctica, 1942.



Whaling off Falkland Isles.



St Helena, South Atlantic.

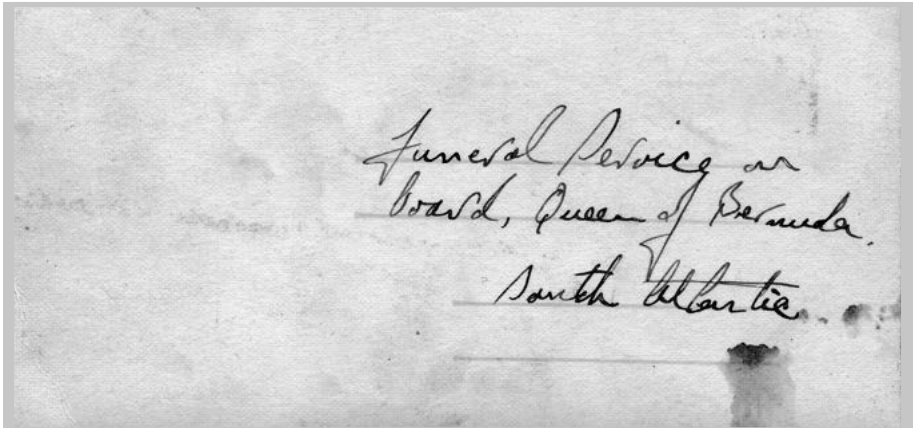


Ship hit by torpedo. After end sinking.



Forward part of ship split in two parts by torpedo.

During the defence of the islands, a member of the crew sadly died and a funeral service was conducted by the Captain on board ship. The body was sewn in a weighted sailcloth, draped in the Union Jack flag and buried at sea, in the South Atlantic Ocean. My father was a member of the Guard of Honour at, what he said, was a very moving and emotional ceremony. Proceedings were concluded by a 21 gun salute to the fellow crew member, and the sounding of the 'Last Post'.



Funeral Service on board Queen of Bermuda, South Atlantic.



Funeral cortege entering the burial area South Atlantic 1942



The body sewn in a weighted sailcloth, draped in the Union Jack flag and buried at sea.



The actual burial.



Pallbearers in position immediately after burial.



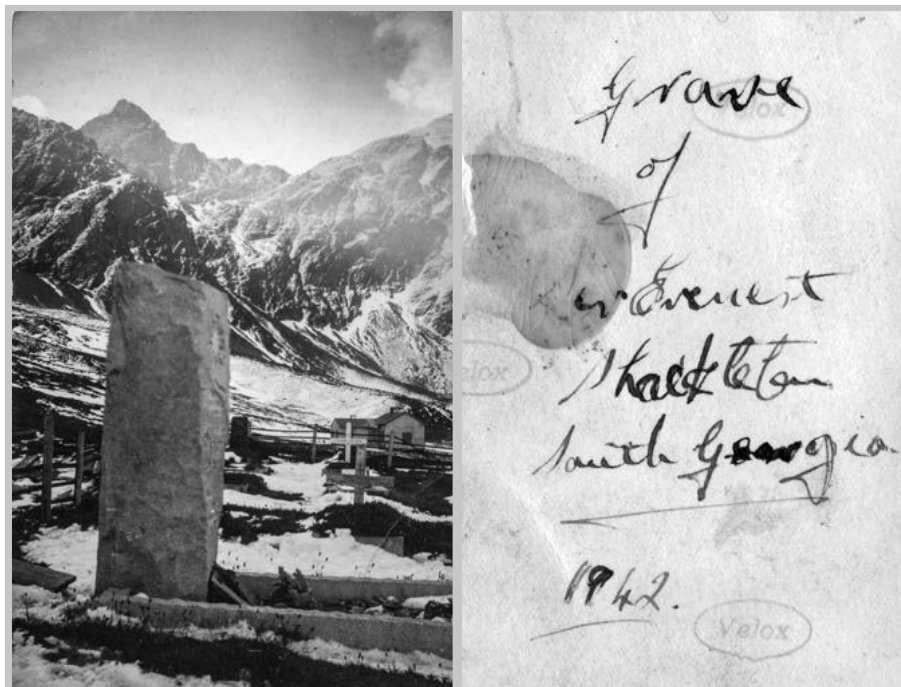
The 21 gun salute after the burial.

Whilst patrolling the waters around the islands they also went ashore for reconnaissance purposes and to service the 2 four-inch shore guns protecting South Georgia. Incidentally, the guns are still there and, at that time, were manned by volunteers from the Norwegian whalers, working at the Whaling Stations on the island.

On one of their visits to South Georgia, my father and other crew members spent time at the graveside of the famous explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, who was buried in Grytviken in 1922. This visit coincided with the 20th anniversary of his death and the men placed a small posy of wild flowers on the grave in his memory and to his outstanding bravery.

2016 marks 100 years since Sir Ernest made his epic journey to rescue all 22 of his men after they had been stranded for almost 4 months on Elephant Island, an uninhabited, ice covered mountainous island off the coast of Antarctica. More information about Sir Ernest Shackleton's epic Endurance mission can be found on the Shackleton Foundation website www.shackletonfoundation.org.

My father was discharged from his Royal Naval service in December 1945, after peace was declared, having served for four-and-a-half years. He was awarded the Atlantic Star, the Burma Star, the King George VI medal and the 1939-1945 Star.



The grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton at Grytviken, South Georgia, 1942.



at anchor
 off
 South Georgia
 Antarctic
 1942

H.M.S.
 QUEEN
 OF
 BERMUDA
 A.M.C.

HMS Queen of Bermuda A.M.C. at anchor off South Georgia, Antarctic, 1942.



HMS. Nelson, Eagle &
Llangibby Castle
off Pt Helena
S. Atlantic

HMS Nelson, Eagle & Llangibby Castle off St Helena, S. Atlantic.



Ice floes, South Atlantic.



The harsh weather conditions encountered during patrolling duties, South Georgia, 1942.



LEADING SEAMAN R.S. LLOYD
ROYAL NAVY (JUNE 41 - DEC. 45)
QUEEN OF BERMUDA (SEPT. 41 - MAY 43) - H.M.S. REDPOLE (JUNE 43 - DEC. 45)

Leading Seaman R. S. Lloyd.
Royal Navy, June 1941 to Dec 1945

The Atlantic Star is a campaign medal awarded to British commonwealth subjects, for service in WW2, specifically those who took part in the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest continuous campaign of the war.

The 1939-1945 Star awarded for service in WW2.

The Burma Star awarded for service in WW2 and specifically in the Burma Campaign.

The King George VI Medal awarded by the King to full time personnel for service in WW2.