



In 1943, a Liberty ship was assembled in a shipyard in U.S.A. She was launched as *Augustus Herman*, and completed as *Samsette* on lend-lease charter to the UK, managed by Alfred Holt Co. She sailed into Portsmouth, Plimsoll Line depth loaded with equipment to help the war effort.

On 6th September 1945, she sailed into Hong Kong loaded with all types of equipment for repairing areas of the province of Hong Kong. She had 22 extra crew, RAF, for maintenance of their equipment, bull dozers, diggers etc. Also DEMS (Defensively Equipped Merchant Shipping) crew for maintaining all guns, of which she had 8 on board.

On 16th October 1945, now empty, she steamed up the coast of China, unloading 8,000 tons of coal to Shanghai, badly needed for their generators, having loaded at a coalmine on the way. The *Samsette* was the first ship to enter both after the war.

From Shanghai to Vancouver, all armaments were removed as not needed, and loaded up with 5,000 tons of grain for Karhki; then up the west coast of Africa, picking up loads for the UK and home.

This trip was from 25th May 1945 to 25th April 1946. After this trip, I went away as a boy and came back as a man.

In May 1998, my wife and I attended a Regimental Reunion in Liverpool. Yes, I served 22 years in the Royal Artillery, retiring as a Warrant Officer.

On the Friday, at a shipping office, I was given an address to write to with reference to my time in the Merchant Navy, which I did at the cost of £34. Sadly, it was not complete, as we will see in the next overseas trip.

The *Samsette* set sail on 20th May 1946. London to Penang is missing, I suspect we sailed south on the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean bed, then sailing on to Hong Kong. All of us who were there around 6 months ago were astounded by the new Hong Kong; the residents must be praised for this, the way they have turned the place around. The harbour, the town, the country side, was Hong Kong with coloured lights shining on Sampaur, welcoming all to a great new era.

Returning to home, Liverpool, 2nd December 1946, I left the *Samsette* in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, at the same time as I retired from the Merchant Navy. The *Samsette* was sold out of the Company in 1947.

1947: Euryplus, China Mutual

1951: Pembrookeshire, Glen Line Ltd.

1960: Euryplus, Ocean SS Co.

1966: Kota Bahru, Federal Shipping Co.

1968: Scrapped, Taiwan