

## LT. Les Blake - DECOMMISSIONING MEMORIES

The Flag bag Surprise. When they found out it was hanging on by memory when they started to take it down to be sand blasted

The look on the face of the man who found out how much money he would have to spend to treat the ballast water in a fuel tank. The idea was quickly dropped.

The spark arresters that were found at the top of the masts, they were not in the records and had not been maintained.

The void tank found in the engine room bilge which would have made an excellent sump to pump them dry had we known it was there. It did not show on the plans.

The crack in the hull under the aux condenser which was leaking water into the engine room. This happened within days of decommissioning. One of the yard birds crawled up under the condenser and welded the crack, there was some doubt as to if it would work or make the crack larger

The happy man who wanted to be a ship fitter who was able to cut pipes flush with the tank deck.

The mysterious way the inner stack gained four feet in height

The main pump room flooded in Hong Kong harbor. Every time it was pumped down it flooded up to the same level. Finally realized that was the same level outside. All caused by paint chips in two valves.

The mine sweeper taking out two port holes from the engineer compartment with their anchor while the new commodore was on our bridge waiting to be high lined to take over the group.

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