



## Smoke Signals

To all members of the Sea Staff who have retired recently, we send our best wishes for future happiness.



Photo: F. Mann

Captain H. L. Holland

**Captain H. L. Holland**, Master of the *Capetown Castle*, retired on 1st February after 36 years' service.

Born on 31st October, 1904, he joined the Union-Castle Company on 13th August, 1929, as Chief Officer and served in all grades of cargo and passenger vessels until appointed to the command of the *Roslin Castle* in June, 1947. He was promoted to command in the Intermediate Service in November, 1955, and to the Mail Service in August, 1964, when he joined the *Capetown Castle*.

During the last War Captain Holland was in the *Capetown Castle* for 4½ years in two spells and in India for 2 years in the assault training ship *Llanstephan Castle*.

In retiring from British & Commonwealth, **Mr. Duncan B. Abercromby**, C.B.E., Commodore Chief Engineer of the Union-Castle Line, feels he has completed a circle, for he commenced his sea-going career with Clan Line.

Born on 27th November, 1900, he served his apprenticeship with Rankin and Blackmore of Greenock and Wilson Burrows & Company of



Mr. D. B. Abercromby

Oban, before going to sea with Clan Line in December, 1923. He joined the Union-Castle Company on 10th September, 1928, and his first appointment was to the *Capetown Castle* as Intermediate 7th Engineer.

Already the holder of a 2nd Class M.O.T. Steam Certificate, obtained in January, 1928, he passed his 1st Class Steam Certificate in May, 1932, and 1st Class Motor Endorsement in 1936.

At the outbreak of war he was serving as Junior 2nd Engineer of the *Arundel Castle*; in December, 1939, he transferred to the *Capetown Castle* where he remained until July, 1946. He then proceeded to Belfast to assist in the reconditioning programme which was taking place at the works of Harland & Wolff Ltd.

Mr. Abercromby returned to sea service in October, 1950. He was promoted to Chief Engineer of the *Bloemfontein Castle* in February, 1951, and three years later transferred to the Mail service. He sailed on the maiden voyages of the *Pendennis Castle* and *Windsor Castle*, remaining in the latter ship until January, 1965; he subsequently served in the *Pretoria* and *Transvaal Castles* and came ashore on leave in June pending retirement on 27th November, 1965.

Mr. Abercromby was appointed Commodore Chief Engineer of the Union-Castle Line in March, 1960. He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List, 1962.

A Clan Line Chief Engineer, **Mr. F. J. Huxtable**, retired on 1st January.

His service with the Company commenced in June, 1929, when he commanded the *Clan Murdoch* as 5th Engineer.

He obtained his 2nd Class Steam Certificate in March, 1934, and two years later passed his 1st Class Certificate.

Mr. Huxtable served afloat during the Second World War and was on the *Clan Macgregor* when the vessel was sunk 100 miles off Gibraltar on 16th November, 1942.

Promotion to Chief Engineer came in January, 1951; in this rank he served in the second *Clan Macgregor* and various ships until, for health reasons, he was obliged to carry out relieving duties. From May, 1962, to December, 1964, he was Chief Engineer of the *Kinparnie Castle* and subsequently sailed in the *Margaret Bowater*. His last appointment was relieving duties on the *Clan Urquhart* until 28th November, 1965, when he came ashore unwell. We wish Mr. Huxtable improved health in his leisure days.

**Mr. F. C. Petit**, Chief Engineer, who retired on 1st January, began his sea-going life in 1925 with the Eagle Oil Shipping Company; he transferred in 1933 to the Union-Castle Line and his first appointment was 6th Engineer, *Llandoverly Castle*. He subsequently served in various vessels and obtained his Motor Endorsement in June, 1938.

During the Second World War Mr. Petit was sailing in the *Roxburgh Castle* when she was sunk off the Azores by a German submarine in