

Once you've dealt with Rothesay, even 15-foot

SHE was a little old Irish lady, Mrs Fegen, lodged in the Greenock nursing home run by his parents, and – on the eve of young Hutchison's departure for Merchant Navy training – she called him aside, and pressed something into his hand.
'And that was 1949, and I have it still,' says Captain Robin 'Hurricane' Hutchison, and there

by John MacLeod

it indeed is. A brass officer's whistle which had belonged to Mrs Fegen's son – a storied hero of the late war.
In November 1940, Captain Edward Fogarty Fegen, 49, was commanding the scantily armed merchantman Jervis Bay in chill Atlantic waters

'Hurricane' Hutchison's wry – and sometimes daunting – memories of a lifetime spent plying the Clyde as a master mariner

The whistle was a small, unassuming object, but it carried a great deal of history. It was the last gift from his mother, Mrs Fegen, before she passed away. Captain Hutchison, now a retired naval officer, has kept it as a memento of his mother and the time he spent at sea. The whistle was used by his father, Captain Fogarty Fegen, during the Battle of the Atlantic in 1940. It was a symbol of the merchant navy's bravery and sacrifice during the war.

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a cargo of pigs loose at waves hold no terrors



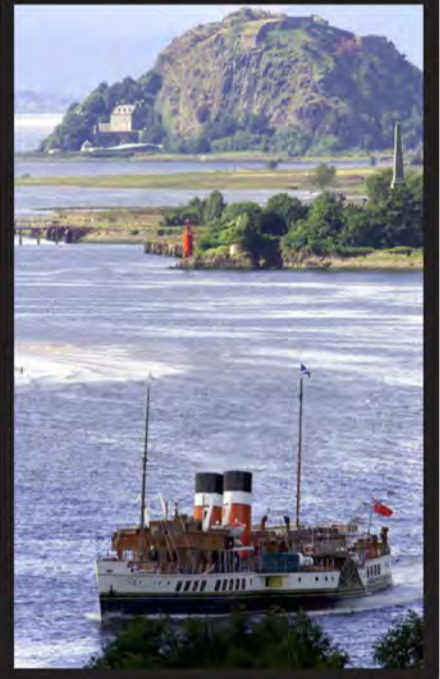
Ship-shape: Robin Hutchison on the bridge early in his career



Institution: Captain Hutchison spent years commanding CalMac ferries between the mainland and islands



Challenging: CalMac's Caledonian Isles enters Ardrossan harbour; above. Right: The Waverley paddle steamer near Dumbarton Rock



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A most prized possession: The brass whistle belonging to Captain Fegen VC

● Hurricane Hutch's Top 10 Ships of the Clyde. By Captain Robin L Hutchison, £20. www.hurricane-hutch.co.uk