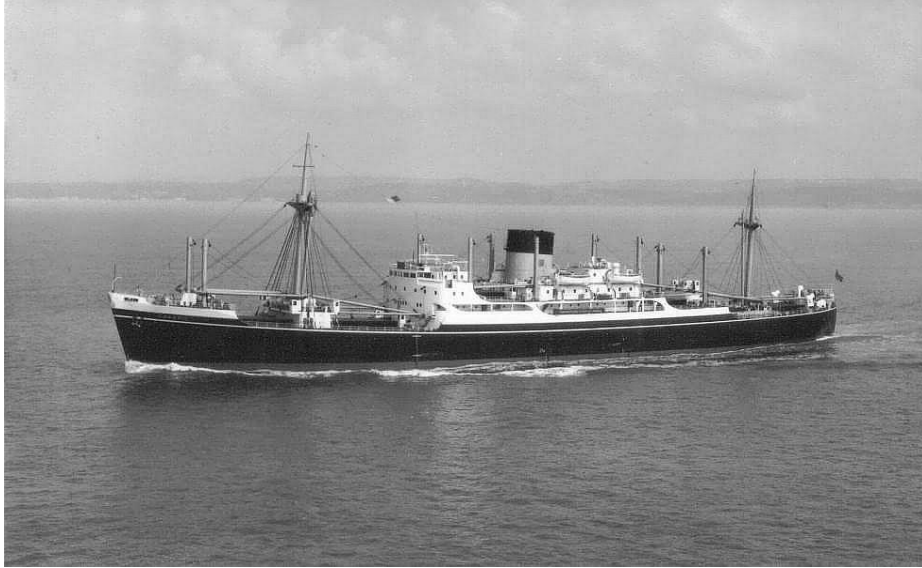


8) M.V. Canopic (British India Co.) 11,166 GRT R/O  
London 2/9/71 - 9/9/71 Liverpool.



This was a UK Coasting trip, where I was only on board whilst the regular radio officer had some leave. A ship over 1800 tons could not sail without an R/O, even just around the coast, so I was his temporary relief. He would return when the ship did her next deep sea voyage. I could have got to like this ship. It had a very comfortable bar and nice accommodation!

There was not a lot to do really, just take the weather forecasts and send and receive a few messages concerning arrival and departures, all cleared without trouble on MF via the UK coast stations. The ship was relatively old, and really did not need the services of an Electronics Officer. It was mostly all "handomatic" with very little electronics on board at all. And provided a nice quiet start to my marine electronics career.

These coasting voyages, lasting only a few days, or a couple of weeks at most, could also be a bit of a problem. You never really "belonged", as everyone knew you would be leaving shortly. Sometimes, quite a number of the crew would be only doing a coasting voyage whilst the regular crew got some leave. Even so we would have quite a good social life on board. Many wives would take the opportunity to sail around the coast with their husbands, which made for a very relaxed and convivial atmosphere aboard. The voyages were short, and we could receive English radio and TV most of the time. Mail was regularly received, and the pubs ashore were well known to those who had been there often before. Even those that stayed aboard had the benefit of fresh draught beer, a sheer luxury for most deep sea ships. Draught beer does not travel well, so on almost every ship I have been on, I have had to drink canned or bottled beer.