

## Historical Photographs.

### Weather observations taken by Royal Navy ships over the Atlantic during World War 2.

I recently had the pleasure of a conversation with Mr Charles Stern (who is no relation to myself, but is the father of one of our computer facility personnel) about the weather observations taken by the Royal Navy ships over the Atlantic during World War 2.

These data were particularly critical immediately after the Normandy landing. This was because Britain was under attack from V1 and V2 bombers and the information was required for defensive operations.

When taking weather observations, the ships would travel in a straight line (instead of the usual zig-zag arrangement). This made them vulnerable whenever radio silence was broken, as there was a risk that the ship's position would be given away.

However, the information of incoming weather from the Atlantic was vital for military activities over the British Isles and Europe.

Mr Stern has provided me with a number of photographs, which he took whilst at sea. The first photograph shows the ice-encrusted flower class corvette upon which he served, the H.M.S. Lavender, while it was in Placentia Bay during February 1944 (those on board had to chip the ice away, lest the ship become top-heavy).

The second photograph shows the H.M.S. Swansea in the Atlantic during September 1944.

**Harvey Stern.**

