

**CALCHAS SEWING BOX  
BY  
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My grandmother Evelyn or "Evie", was the wife of Lawrence Holt, partner in the Blue Funnel Line, and, with him at her side, she launched the *Calchas* on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1946.



Launch of *Calchas* by Mrs L D Holt accompanied by Lawrence Holt

The builders of *Calchas* – Harland and Wolff, Belfast – presented Evie with a sewing box as a memento of the occasion.



As can be seen from the photographs, the sewing box has a small plate fixed to it recording the name of the vessel and the launch date.



The box, which is currently in the possession of my mother, born Olive Holt, is still in fair condition. It is made of wood and covered with blue leather.



**Footnote:**

My uncle, Julian Holt, whilst serving as 3<sup>rd</sup> Mate on the Blue Funnel *Stentor*, wrote a letter to his parents from Sydney on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1946, in which he made the following comment:

*“An amazing rumour is gaining currency out here, namely that the ‘Calchas’ is to be manned by apprentices – I now refuse to call them midshipmen. Is that true? I can’t quite find out how it began, but everyone has heard it. We are all most keen on more knowledge, for we are wondering what officers will sail there!”*

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