

- 1933 The Good Companions--J.B. Priestley--was very memorable. John Gielgud was in it.
- *Private Life of Henry VIII--1st British film to get big international acclaim--Charles Laughton and his wife Elsa Lanchester in a classic scene as Anne of Cleves, on their marriage night.
- 1934 Norma Shearer in the Barretts of Wimpole Street being obliged to drink a pint of 'porter' for her health.
- 1934 The Thin Man--Myrna Loy and William Powell--a series of films that cut new ground with sophisticated witty dialogue
- 1935 [illegible] I was 18 and remember most of these films, the greatest being the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers Gay Divorce [referring to The Gay Divorcee] (also Top Hat)
- (Gracie Fields met our ship's company in Australia in 1945 but she wouldn't sing for us)
- 'Smoke gets in your eyes'--a great film song [referring to Roberta]--lots of smoking in films of 1930s.
- 1936 Charles Laughton in Mutiny on the Bounty was another ripe field for memory--my captain in the destroyer ACHERON 1939-40, Lt Cdr Northcott, was exactly like him)
- 1937 I liked Deanna Durbin in 3 Smart Girls
- 1938 I was in the destroyer EXMOUTH at Dover to escort the King and Queen en route to state visit in Paris, part of efforts to cement Anglo-French alliance. All the wardroom went ashore to see SNOW WHITE and loved it, quite amazing breakthrough in cartoons.
- 1938 I saw UN CARNET DE BAL (French) in London and was very impressed by it. Saw several foreign films in London around this time--not shown elsewhere. THE POTEMKIN STEPS ? [referring to Battleship Potemkin] etc. STUDIO 1 theatre and CURZON. The Russian film about mutiny on a battleship? Later the scene with the rotten meat was repeated when our doctor in Murmansk in 1942 had to condemn some reindeer meat supplied by USSR (so there was no mutiny!)
- 38 or 39 'The Donkey Serenade' film was great, with Jack Jones's dad, Alan [referring to The Firefly].
- 1939 --don't think I had much time to see films!

Janet Gaynor--a pin-up, pretty little thing.

Boris Karloff--another great source for impersonations--the butler showing the guest into the haunted bedroom. 'I have made arrangements, Sir, for you to be called in the morning...but I do not think it will be necessary.' Also 'The Mummy'. I met BK in New York in 1943, actually a most courteous and charming English gentleman.

The Marx Brothers--Groucho and his walk. Never saw them until after WW2, and then I got hooked.

The ritual of the Sunday-night flick on the quarterdeck of warships, to which ladies were invited. (The exotic scents of the gorgeous ladies ferried in my motor boat across Alexandria harbour to the cruiser DEVONSHIRE (1936).) Mountbatten's RN Film Corporation perhaps worth a mention. The US Navy set great store for morale with films on its warships.

British comedy films--George Formby and Will Hay etc--were very popular, probably unknown in USA.

Lots of funny shorts. One with a gang of children. Laurel and Hardy.

The general view that films in the 1930s were 'escapist'--comedies, or spectacular, or gangsters etc. Few with any 'message'--perhaps I missed them.