

Memoirs of an Old Sailor
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Prologue

I had never in my wildest of dreams ever dreamt of becoming a writer, but somehow I became one, though lowly in status it may be. Anyway, writing has become my hobby. I had written only newspaper and magazine articles before. As I'm now addicted to writing, I will need to keep writing something. I came up with an idea to try my hand at writing memoirs sometime in 2020 while being confined to home because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the past, whenever I contemplated on writing a memoir I dare not try it, as I never kept a diary and thus I was afraid I may not be able to recall things correctly. However, after reading the memoirs of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the late Minister Mentor of Singapore, I was greatly inspired. According to him, he too was reluctant at first,

because he never kept a diary, but was encouraged by his wife and with her help, he managed to write one. My memoirs are nothing compared to those of that great man, but I'm just explaining how I got the inspiration and courage to write one.

In doing so, I had to rely on my elder brother Dr. Tin Aung, retired Professor of Physics, Yangon Arts and Science University to verify some facts, for which I owe him my sincere gratitude. Here, I would like to humbly request the readers to understand me and to kindly pardon me if I should wrongly mention some numbers and dates or omit them. Although I can recall most of the facts and places vividly, I'm not at all good at remembering the dates and numbers. Lastly I would like to mention that in writing this memoir, I used the names of places relevant to the times and periods when the events mentioned in it took place, such as: Burma, Rangoon, Akyab, Arakan, Maymyo, Irrawaddy and etc; as those names were not officially changed as yet then.

