

THE COMMUNICATOR

The Magazine of the Communications Branch, Royal Navy

SUMMER, 1951

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"THE COMMUNICATOR" IN 1952

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PUBLISHED AT H.M.S. "MERCURY,"

NAVY CUP WINNERS, 1950-51



*Left to right—Back Row: L/Sea. R. Tedder, O/Sig. L. Patten, P.O. R. Yates, P.O.Tel. J. Jobling, Tel. T. Bethell, Sig.T. Turner.
Centre: Lt. A. S. Morton, R.N., C.Y.S. L. Roe (Capt.), Capt. J. G. T. Inglis, O.B.E., R.N., P.O.Tel. R. Blacklock, C.P.O.Tel. G. Baister.
Front Row: Yeo, M. Woodhall, L/Tel. D. Wilkins, O/Sig. V. Moulds, L/Tel. P. Thomson*

SEASON 1950-51

Navy Cup Winners; Runners-up Portsmouth U.S. League, Division II; Runners-up Portsmouth U.S. Junior Challenge Cup
Played 37, Won 18, Drawn 8, Lost 4

EDITORIAL

To those of you who have entered the world of communications within the last three or four years, it must seem as though there has always been a COMMUNICATOR and probably always will be. Even the veterans may by now have forgotten its origin—if they ever knew it.

The first Magazine to be published at the Signal School was not this one, but a smaller, less ambitious journal known as "The Sparker." It, however, was so short-lived that it lasted for precisely one issue—that of December, 1946. It was purely a Leydene venture, using local advertisers and intended for internal consumption only. It was unfortunate that the editors were demobbed just after Christmas, especially in view of the fact that they had contracted—with advertisers—for at least two more issues. The only possible course was that taken; somebody must take up the threads, issue enough numbers for everything to be paid off and closed down, and then quietly fade away. Accordingly, in Easter, 1947, the first number of THE COMMUNICATOR was published with the blessing of the Captain, H.M.S. *Mercury*—this time, not as a Signal School venture only, but as a "Branch" magazine. Still in existence is the Minute Sheet containing the list of possible titles, and the discussion which they provoked in all departments, everything from the "Mercourier" to "Call Sign" was rejected in turn, until only THE COMMUNICATOR was left.

It was very soon realised that there was a very definite demand for a Magazine of this type, so much so, in fact, that it was taken far beyond its original scope, and became, really and truly, a Branch Magazine in the fullest sense, and the Editor was able to say proudly to advertisers, "We have, of course, a world-wide circulation!"

There are two things which keep a Magazine of this nature alive. The first of these is the contributions of its readers. The more there are of these, the greater selection will be possible, allowing a high standard to be maintained, and the wider will be the scope of subjects covered, making far more interesting reading. There can never be too many contributions. And please do not think that because a thing was not printed, the author has been slighted. Assuming, of course, that an article arrives in time for publication, then it will receive careful consideration. Surely it is a better thing to hope that your bit is good enough to be included than to feel that anything must be printed because of lack of material. Those who do send stuff, at the moment, do extremely well. We are very grateful to them, and the high standard which they have set and which they and their successors continue to maintain is a very fine achievement. But more is needed, especially in the way of good cartoons, poems, and feature articles—either technical, humorous, topical or just plain "interest." If your article is not printed, it is either being held over for sheer lack of space (which does sometimes

happen) or it has been rejected; when there are plenty of contributions, and if this happens it does not mean that yours was not good, but that somebody else's was better—and are you going to submit to that?

The second major factor in Magazine production is the advertising. The bigger and better the magazine, the more people will advertise, the more money they will spend on it, which means an even bigger and better Magazine, and so on. The other encouragement to the advertiser is that his wares should be bought; so if you are buying, please do support the manufacturers and business men who use THE COMMUNICATOR. If you are ordering anything which you have seen in these pages, then mention the fact, it helps considerably.

We are convinced, by its history, that THE COMMUNICATOR is wanted; we feel, however, that there are still too many who take a look at the mess copy—or worse still, ignore it altogether. Sales and branch numbers still do not fit as well as they could. When finances permit, it is hoped to run a competition page with definite prizes if such an idea proves popular. In the meantime, however, help THE COMMUNICATOR to "press on regardless!"

PROMOTIONS

All Communicators will join with us in congratulating the following (C) Officers whose promotions were announced in the latest list of half-yearly promotions:—

Commander to Captain:

C. B. Brooke.
E. T. L. Dunsterville.
N. J. Wagstaff.

Lieutenant Commander to Commander:

J. B. R. Horne, D.S.C.
N. L. T. Kempson.
A. G. McCrum.
J. W. Meadows, B.E.M.

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

If we examine the whole field of Comparative Religion, we shall find that all religions have one thing, at least, in common, and that is that they all stand for certain principles. Bound up with this is the discovery that man is a religious creature, as William Blake wrote: "Man must and will have religion; if he has not the religion of Jesus he will have the religion of Satan and will erect a synagogue of Satan." Dr. Julian Huxley describes religion as "an almost universal human function."

The very word "religio," which has the root-meaning of "Scruple," implies a realisation that there are certain things which are done and certain things which are not done, and this of course involves principles. If we try to run our lives without principles

and, by implication, without the "religio" which inspires those principles, we shall be as dangerous to society as a highly-powered vehicle with ineffective brakes, tearing down a hill. Thus religion is a necessity to man, and he can no more live effectively without it than a flower without the sunshine.

Space does not permit a detailed account of the respective principles of the great religions of the world, but it will be timely for us, who live in a nominally Christian society, to examine the principles which animated the teaching of Jesus and lie at the heart of Christianity. These have been defined as threefold—Spirituality, Personality and Responsibility.

Spirituality defines that frequently expounded principle of Jesus that it is the quality of life that really matters and not life as an end in itself. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . for where your treasure is there will your heart be also" (St. Matthew, chapter 6, vv. 19-21). We live in a material world and there is always a great temptation to see material things out of their true perspective—this, Jesus constantly taught in words that will readily come to our minds from the Gospels, is a great danger to our spiritual nature, and keeps us bound to the earth, with our feet stuck fast to the ground and our eyes constantly cast downwards.

Personality lays down the principle that we all count for one in the sight of God and are potentially

of equal value to Him. If only we could all appreciate the truth of this—that we are each one of us of tremendous value to God—why, it would be bound to affect our whole outlook upon life. "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore: we are of more value than many sparrows" (St. Luke, chapter 12, vv. 6-7). Our lives emanate from God and we must do our level best to see that we do not impair their value to Him by our conduct and actions.

The third principle is that of Responsibility. "To whom much is given of him will much be expected." We have a saying in the Navy, "Rank brings privileges," but it is fully realised that the privileges are a compensation for the greater responsibility. One of the worst features in our life to-day is the alarming selfishness which has manifested itself in these post-war years. This is a dangerous and sinister symptom, and this idea of grab all and give nothing is as alien from the teachings of Jesus as anything possibly could be. Wealth, position, good health, prosperity—all these things are a sacred trust from God himself and they will never bring happiness unless they are regarded and used in that light.

It is, more than ever to-day, the duty of the Church to enunciate clearly and fearlessly the principles of Christ Himself and to urge all men of goodwill to apply them to modern life so as to make it a thing of beauty and joy.

PADRE.



“MERCURY PIGS LTD.”

All Communicators, at some time in their careers, appear on the books of H.M.S. *Mercury*. When this happens, they become shareholders in “MERCURY PIGS LIMITED.” It will no doubt be of interest, therefore, for readers to know something about how this farm operates.

How did it all start? In May, 1950, the civilian who had been running the Poultry Farm went sick on shore. Jo Phillips, the First Lieutenant, envisaging himself feeding hens, collecting the odd egg and sweeping out hen coops, was fortunate in finding one of the other camp civilians who understood the strange art of making chickens pay their way. This was Mr. Thatcher, and he agreed (with a certain amount of foreboding) to take over the job. This apparently was justified, as only a few weeks later Mr. Thatcher approached the First Lieutenant in despair and pointed out that keeping chickens in H.M.S. *Mercury* was rapidly becoming a financial embarrassment. Fortunately he also pointed out that if he could be given a few pigs to fatten, he would very soon be able to show a profit. Visions of pigs—great fat pigs—turning into nice little thin pound notes then prompted the First Lieutenant to investigate the possibilities of farming pigs at *Mercury*. On 1st June, 1950, it was proposed at the Welfare Meeting to wind up the Poultry Farm and start a Pig Farm in lieu. It was pointed out to the Committee that the Poultry Farm had only shown a profit of £23 over the first year. The figures were then produced, and it was provisionally estimated that a loan of £400 would be required with the aim in view of keeping forty pigs and making about £10 per pig profit. The initial loans to start this enterprise consisted of £220 from the Welfare Fund and a further £80 from the Wardroom.

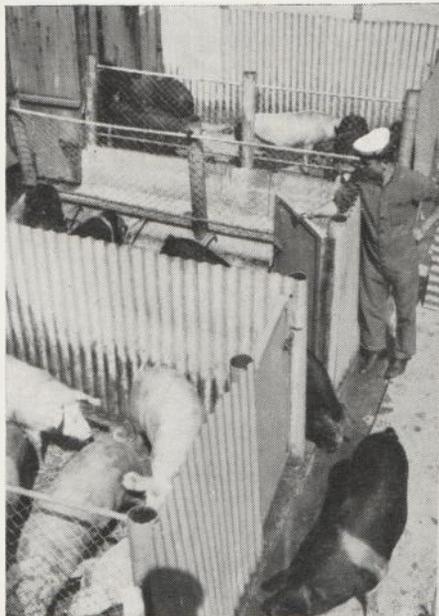
With the money in the cash box, we then had to set about building the Piggery. Chief Petty Officer McQueen, the Chief Buffer, with his band of Able Bodied citizens, then set-to with sand, shingle and cement and a few components of the Poultry Farm to transform the waste land north of the cinema into one of Hampshire's smartest Piggeries. All records were broken in the building trade and the accommodation was ready for the first draft of New Entry Piggies by the end of the month.

Since that date, and to the time of going to press, we have purchased 138 pigs and sold 88. The approximate cost of these pigs has been £903 and the receipts from sales have been about £1,751. In addition to the selling of pigs, the farm has realised a further £40 odd from the sale of surplus swill and manure. Only one pig has been lost, and that died of a blood clot. The carcass of course had to be buried, and apart from the £10 insurance, this member of the happy family can be considered a “dead loss.” The original capital was paid back into the Welfare and Wardroom funds by March this year and the first

share-out of £200 was made on 23rd March. The second share-out, this time £100, was made during the following month, and a further £200 will be paid into the various funds by the time we go to press.

The original Pig Farm consisted of ten sties, each capable of holding about eight pigs, a boiler house where the swill is boiled, and a shed for keeping straw. During this year, a road has been constructed which leads down to the Piggery and facilitates the movements of tractors and lorries. Another recent improvement is the water supply which has been laid on to the boiler house. This obviates the use of the trailer pump and numerous lengths of hose each week. Further to the original farm, we have now added a run-about pen for the smaller pigs, a weighing pen and a weighing machine. The whole farm is now fenced with stout wire, and various gates and a stile have been fitted.

The weighing machine is used every fortnight when each pig is weighed individually. This is a very unpopular pastime for the younger set, but the old three-badge pigs do not seem to worry and afford little difficulty to the weighers when being coaxed into the weighing cage. The weights are carefully checked and entered in the Pig Log, and on Saturday forenoons the First Lieutenant can be seen at his desk pondering over the figures with his Piglinometer. The latter is an ingenious machine whereby the approximate date can be forecast on which any pig may expect to vanish from the farm and turn up



“The Pens”



“Weighing Up”

again in the form a cheque.

Cross-breds and Saddlebacks are purchased when they are about eight weeks old and are sent to market, as directed by the Ministry of Food, when they are approximately eleven score live weight (220 lb.). All the pigs are insured with the Country Gentlemen's Association against swine fever and theft, and each new batch of pigs is visited by the Vet. as part of their joining routine.

One of the most expensive items on the farm's shopping list is straw. Pigs need a lot of this in the winter, and although they are very clean animals, it has to be constantly changed. Consideration has been given to the possibility of producing our own straw, but there are various complications to this, and the matter has had to take a back seat due to the rapid growth of *Mercury* playing field. We do, however, get a certain amount of straw in exchange for manure.

Several keen shareholders have inquired why we do not go in for breeding. This, of course, would ensure a supply of young pigs at a very cheap rate, but there are many snags attached to this side of pig keeping. Firstly, full-time civilian labour would be required (as opposed to civilian labour for about one hour per day)—a very costly item these days. Secondly, space is limited and we would be unable to build breeding sties, and thirdly, the farm is run on a schedule, which must be kept to strictly if the economical use of kitchen gash is to be maintained. The loss of one litter of piglets (and they are very easily lost) would result in a breaking of this schedule.

The First Lieutenant, Lieutenant Commander

“Hugie” Lee, and his assistant are thinking of experimenting in the production of a Pig Mark II*. This, to the layman, is a pig which can fatten on old pickle jars, sardine cans, Tickler tins and the such like. This is rapidly becoming an essential as “shareholders” of all sizes and descriptions do not seem to realise that the ordinary Mark I Pig (as stocked at present) can only consume food which is edible to humans. The author would like to take this opportunity of begging all inmates of *Mercury* to take care when ditching gash in the bins marked Pig Food. Take for example soft soap. Could you eat it? No. Then do not put it in the pig bins.

On summing up, I think it is fair to say that after ten months the farm is now running at full efficiency. The part-time pigman, Mr. Thatcher, has proved himself to be a past master at the art of fattening for the kill and the steady income signifies that the project was well founded.

BOOK REVIEW

TELEVISION EXPLAINED. By W. E. MILLER.
(Published by TRADER PUBLISHING COMPANY LTD
Distributed by ILIFFE AND SONS LTD. (5/-).)

This little book provides a simple introduction to the theory of Television for those who want to know what goes on inside the set; for those who wish to pursue the subject further, it provides a very good introduction to the more advanced books. It is not intended for the complete layman; a reasonable knowledge of normal radio theory is assumed.

After a chapter on the aerials used in television (the author wisely avoids plunging into the theory of a subject whose theory defies simplification, and concentrates upon the practical aspects and upon the importance of the directional aerial as a means of avoiding interference), two introductory chapters on the nature of the television signal, and an outline of the receiver, follow. This presentation shows the reader where he stands, and he is not, as is so often the case with technical books, faced with a baffling array of details before he knows where they are leading.

A more detailed account of the receiver, and of the cathode ray tube and its synchronisation follow. The theory in these sections is kept extremely simple and will be well within the scope of the average P.O.Tel. Indeed, for the P.O.Tel. who knows nothing about television but wishes he did, this book could hardly be bettered.

A final chapter on the installation and operation of the receiver, and a series of photographs illustrating the effects of incorrect settings of various controls, cover the practical operation of the set.

“Television Explained” is not a comprehensive account for the more advanced student (even the beginner in television might wish that more had been said about the relative merits of the straight and super-het receivers, and nothing is said of the transmission end), but in its own field it is a “five-bob bargain.”

FROM THE FAR EAST

FAR EAST FLEET

Life in the forward area continues—from the communications aspect at least—at pretty high pressure, keeping ships in two to three watches. Other aspects may indeed tend to become a little monotonous, but the spate of encrypted traffic never ceases where ships are at sea, and the return to harbour when one can drop either Guam or Singapore Fox, is something to be looked forward to. No check of the amount of incoming traffic broken down is readily available, but it may be of interest to note that *Belfast*, acting as a private ship, ran up a total of 10,000 groups of “out” traffic in one month of which some twenty-one days were spent at sea.

Duties of the main part of the Fleet up north continue normal as before. *Theseus*, now relieved (in a veritable hail of “chocolate” signals from everyone) by *Glory*, alternating with U.S.S. *Bataan* on the west coast air support; *Belfast*, now refitting and relieved by *Ceylon*, and *Kenya* alternating on the Inchon blockade of the West Coast assisted by destroyers or frigates as requisite, and usually one destroyer or frigate working with the U.S. Forces on the East Coast.

Theseus and *Bataan* operating at one stage provided the whole naval air support on the East Coast whilst the 7th Fleet were temporarily absent. The cruisers occasionally get a little bombardment practice in using airspot from whichever carrier may be on support duty—*Bataan* airmen being Marines are expert at the game. Another job of the cruiser is to stand by to provide gunfire support at Inchon. Normally, however, a U.S. cruiser is made available for this duty. As a slight indication of the pressure when armies do this sort of thing, *Belfast* found herself doing this duty once and had six lines manned (three on speakers) in the B.W.O. plus the usual two broadcasts and an occasional weather in the L.R.R., and two guards being kept by a couple of the frigates on patrol some 100 miles away.

Combined working is the rule of the day. Janaps and A.C.P.'s are our bread and butter up north—and recently have been introduced throughout the station, and the broadcast has now gone over to the new procedure. North of Hong Kong all British books except those on crypt are returned to the C.B. office—partly in the hope (albeit sometimes in vain) that the pages of the F.S.B. and C.O.F. may tend to stay where they are supposed to be.

In the personalities sphere, Rear-Admiral Scott-Moncrieff has now taken over as Second in Command (and also C.T.G. 95.1) and Lt. Cdr. Wells has relieved Cdr. Dreyer. More changes are pending in the next few months.

H.M.S. “BELFAST”

Since last writing to THE COMMUNICATOR we have spent eighty-two days at sea out of ninety-seven around Korea and, as we were in two watches on sailing, ours was a satisfied feeling on reaching Singapore for the refit. The staff got a fairly big hand from the Captain and the Signal Officer. The only complaint had been so little time for letter writing. Up there we spent most of the time on the west coast, and though it was for the most part monotonous and uneventful, the days seemed to pass quickly. Small wonder when all time off watch was spent in sleep! Operational waves were usually quiet, but the broadcasts, FE's and GUAMS, never let up; GUAM fairly steams, and there's barely time for the T.O.R. before he is off again. Machine crypto traffic was heavy and our three machines were rarely switched off. Fortunately, thanks to good operating, editing presented little difficulty except when reception was poor. Ionospheric storms troubled us for days at a time and complete fade-outs on all broadcast frequencies were commonplace. Searching on all bands we found that the highest frequencies invariably returned first. Enough of that.

Whilst at Singapore it has been arranged for the staff to spend a period of the refit at Kuala Lumpur and Kranji W/T. Malayan Scouts (a similar unit to the Chindits) at Kuala Lumpur have asked for any help we can give on the W/T side, but we are assured their stay will be pleasant and not a lot of it as instructors. As the train to and from Kuala Lumpur



Broadcast Operators soon settle down

is occasionally troubled by bandits, arms and ammunition were issued, but the first party has arrived without incident. Even so, they are not yet out of the wood; they move around armed all the time in that territory.

Two P.O.Tels. and six others are at Kranji, where they are finding life pretty good in spite of instructions daily. Dhobeying is collected and returned in a day, beds are made and shoes cleaned.

On board the R.E.'s are stripping almost everything, and our one concern now is, will it ever work again?

H.M.S. "KENYA"

We have now been working at war pressure since early July, 1950, almost a year, and it has been a year of much watchkeeping with little rest or relaxation.

The work of all was reflected in the B.E.M. awarded to Chief P.O.Tel. Mitchell and the Mention in Despatches of Ldg.Tel. Burdall in the Honours List last February.

Many faces have changed in the Department; some have left for home and others have grown appreciably longer in the past month.

The last few months have been relatively quiet for naval operations. The war ashore see-saws back and forth and the port of Inchon is threatened with each Chinese offensive. *Kenya* then moves to her familiar bombarding billet off Wolmi-do and we almost regard Inchon as our Home Port.

We have worked up a good liaison with our two Brigades ashore, who are now on the western flank of the U.N. line. It has cheered the Army to know that the Navy is here and they are more convinced of our usefulness now that they know we have hot baths on board. As *Kenya* creeps to her berth one can almost hear the tom-toms beating out the news of "bath-night."

The bitter weather of last winter, when duffie coats felt like mosquito nets, is behind us. The grim Korean hills are now covered with a mantle of green instead of snow, but the Army will soon be cursing the dust, and we shall be complaining of "pricklers" brought on by "darken ship" during the hot weather. Till then we enjoy the delightful Korean and Japanese spring while we can.

FAR EAST STATION

It has been remarked that the Korean War for the Navy has been a communication war. If the number of messages handled and the extra lines manned at short notice by overtaxed Communicators is any criterion, then this statement may well be true.

One matter on which we should give serious thought was summed up the other day by the C.-in-C. himself, who said that "the trouble with you people is that you go on giving other people facilities, a service here and a line there, until you find you are watch

on stop on and only then do you squeal." Perhaps the spirit of co-operation can sometimes be carried too far, but the problem is made particularly difficult in working with U.S. forces, because their ships seem to have an inexhaustible supply of communication personnel and can therefore manage when we are out to a clinch.

The ever-increasing volume of station signal traffic is another headache. Our fleet is being maintained a long way from its main base, and it is inevitable that signals take the place of letters and the burden therefore falls on our communication services. By accepting this burden, we invite an even greater load and no appeal to the provisions of G.S.L. Article 3, is of any avail.

SINGAPORE MAIN SIGNAL CENTRE

The arrivals and departures have slowed down a little, but we have bid farewell to Lt. Mann and welcomed Lt. Fitzherbert to the team; C.Y.S. Frampton will be happy to know that we must be smiling face. We will soon be saying farewell to three more of our stalwarts, Yeoman Gregory and Signalmen Hearn and Royal. We hope that their relief will be keen both in the office and on the field.

The Commander-in-Chief's Offices are still being badly battered by a squad of Chinese female labourers, knocking down walls here and there and building heavenwards, but we got our particular oar in first and our alterations are complete.

The home of the C.-in-C.'s staff ratings and the Main Signal Centre personnel at Keppel Barracks is losing its shine now that work has started on the new quarters at Kranji. The change-over date is not as yet settled, but having watched the speed at which the Chinese build, we feel that it will be just after this summer number has gone to press. The move is regarded with mixed feelings as Kranji is fifteen miles from the bright lights of Singapore, whereas Keppel is only three and a half. Kranji, however, can offer us quite a lot in the shape of a cinema, acres of sports grounds, and it is even rumoured that a swimming pool might put in an appearance if certain people can be won over. One of the biggest "misses" when we leave Keppel Barracks will be the birthday celebrations of the mother of the Chinese contractor, who occupies a third of the building, with Malayan and Chinese bands and dancers, Chinese chow and European drinks and the celebrations lasting three days. One would imagine that the officer in charge would be inundated with requests for seagoing jobs, but no. Mr. Cottle, C.C.O., C.Y.S. Stannard and P.O. Mercer were officially invited, but there were few in Keppel Barracks who did not join in at some time over the three days.

Socially the Chief and Petty Officers have held some very pleasant little "get togethers" when the living-out members and their wives were invited.

We have recently been presented with a young electrical artificer who, besides having a passion for parrots, can knock a decent tune out of a piano, which of course makes all the difference.

We have good reason to be proud of our 1st XI football team who go on from strength to strength in the local league. We have played 7, won 4, drawn 2 and lost 1 at the time of writing.

Our cricket is not to be sneezed at, for we have won three out of five of the most recent games. It might be worth recording that we beat Kranji a few weeks ago, so our future messmates will have reason to treat us with a little respect when we take up residence with them.

HONG KONG

Since last time we were on the air in the "Communicator band" a lot has happened, six months in fact. After the first three, we cast off our overcoats, relieved at the end of the terribly low temperature of 45 degs. The international tension makes life here particularly interesting, the emergency requisition of the Chinese Tanker, *Yung Hao*, and the interception of the British s.s. *Nancy Moller*, carrying rubber to a Chinese port, tending to accentuate this.

We are at present in the process of organising M.F.V. swimming parties. The humid weather at this time of the year makes everyone feel a bit listless, but the excessive rain has its advantages. We find that by donning a swimsuit and standing in the open we have all the benefits of a good dousing without the exertion of swimming.

During the month of April it was decided to redecorate our Communication Offices—correction, "Signal Centre"—and in order to dodge the blithe spirits wielding the paint brushes, and also to try out completely our emergency set-up, we moved to the underground battle-box. We spent three weeks below ground, and apart from minor teething troubles all went remarkably well except that the atmosphere was of the "gets one down" variety. We did not lose face but we did lose a little complexion, and it was noticed that several Wanchai Rangers emerged as better men. Perhaps the close proximity of Satan in the depths gave them food for thought, but, like the Signal Books, this did not last for long.

The whisper of "New Books" is growing into a crescendo, and the wide boys amongst us are changing their Cantonese/English dictionaries for American/English editions.

By the time this goes to press we shall have a new Communicator among us in the person of Mr. Hollis as Officer-in-Charge, Hong Kong Receiving Station. We shall be sorry to see the departure of Mr. Hensman, who has borne the weight of the Receiving Station through many trying periods, and wish him the best of fortune.

C.P.O.Tel. Chatfield has recently placed his awful burden upon the shoulders of C.P.O.Tel. Couchman and there are several other impending changes in

the near future among the senior rates. No less than four of the Chief Yeomen from a total of five on *Tamar's* books are due for relief in the next few months. Attention, Vicarage Road.

The highlight of the Commission for Signalman Roberts occurred during his last three weeks on the station. He entered the "matrimonial stakes" by tying the knot with a member of the W.R.A.C. and both sailed "in company" in the *Empire Fowey*. It is seldom that the services offer "honeymoon cruises." We wish them luck and may all their troubles be Communicators.

The departmental soccer team, having won the Knock-out Competition for the second year in succession, concluded their season by winning the League Shield. We now look forward to its repeating the effort in the 1951-52 season, in spite of the recent departure of one of the mainstays, Tel. Brownsell. We are now pitting our strength in the inter-Service six-a-side Hockey League, but must hasten to add that we have not yet played our first game owing to monsoonal rains.

In conclusion, Communicators (Hong Kong) send greetings to Communicators (World Wide). Not too many volunteers for this station, please, as no one wants to come home. All we can promise is blood, sweat and tears, and two years watchkeeping in the "digit-out" position.

KRANJI

Hallo from Kranji Wireless, here are a few items which may be of interest to you.

Although we are very busy here at Kranji, we still find time for quite a lot of sport. The tennis courts are never long vacant, and recently Lt. Cdr. Ridler, R.N., the Communication Officer (Malaya) and Officer in Charge Kranji, presented Singapore Communicators with two cups—one for singles, the other for doubles, both to be retained at Kranji, with replicas in miniature for the winners. The cups to be played for every 1st of June and 1st of December. L./Tel. Girt (Kranji) carried off the singles trophy by defeating L.R.E.M. Wright (Suara); L.R.E.M. Wright partnering L.R.E.M. Beverstock (also Suara) defeated R. E. Knight and L./Tel. Macmillan (both Kranji) in the doubles. Mrs. H. H. Ridler, the wife of the Officer in Charge, presented the cups, and also medals for the runners-up.

On the football field Kranji 1st XI have recently entered the Singapore Amateur Football Association Division III League. Of fourteen games to be played we have won the first six, being one of the only two teams in the four divisions with a 100 per cent. record. Our closest rivals are R.N. Keppel Barracks (C.-in-C.'s Staff) who are undefeated in their first six matches, but have drawn two games. In athletics we have also made our mark. At the H.M.S. *Terror* meeting on 25th May we managed to win the 220 yards (C.R.E.A. Reading) and the 440 yards (C.R.E.A. Reading). In the 3 miles O./Tel. Brewer ran a good

race to take second place. At the R.N. (Singapore) Championship on 30th May, Reading and Brewer were in the H.M.S. *Terror* team. Reading ran second in the 440 yards and fourth in the 220 yards. Brewer took fourth place in the 3 miles. Now we are all wishing Chief Reading good luck when he runs for the Navy in inter-Service Athletic Meeting on 9th June.

We are still hoping to have our Swimming Pool repaired, but since it will need some pretty extensive work, not to mention some thousands of dollars, it will probably be some time before this is done. In the meantime we are using the "pool" as a .22 range. So far we have been holding some inter-watch shooting matches. Later we hope to form a station team and possibly enter the H.M. Dockyard League.

So much for sporting activities and to a matter "Communicationary." We were thrown into some confusion when, to keep in line with the Americans, it was decided to introduce the new procedure in A.C.P.124 (A), A.C.P.125 (A) and A.C.P.126 on the Far East Station on 1st June. The Glorious 1st June just wasn't in it on that date. There are some ugly (but unconfirmed) rumours going the rounds that more than one P.O.O.W. and L.H.O.W. were hardly prevented from committing hara-kiri (or other equally horrible forms of oriental suicide) when confronted by multi-routed signals in two procedures. However, we are managing to cope, despite some "orrid bloomers," and with harbour exercises to help out we hope to be one jump ahead of the rest of you when these procedures come into force world wide.

H.M.S. *Belfast*, who is taking a short respite in Singapore from the Korean War, is sending her sparkers up to Kranji in batches (or strings) for a fortnightly instructional and rest period. We have learned a lot from their experiences up north, especially in connection with combined procedure with the Various United Nations, and the reception of Fox Easy.

Finally, let me extend a welcome to all seafaring Communicators who happen to be in Singapore. We shall always be glad to give you a game of football or cricket. Or you can just come up and have a look round and find out what makes Fox Easy tick.

Before I say cheerio, read the following signal service message received from a tug which had just sailed from Singapore:

"I am to set watch on Fox Fox SOP,
There is nothing about it in S1.
You pass our traffic at those
times—S1—FE—Para 7—S.O.P.
Will adhere to those times
The Skipper says that the times
are all wrong."

What would you do chums? Cheerio and good wishes to all Communicators.

DO YOU SPEAK AMERICAN?

If you want to get your hand in with the new books, see if you can put this signal into plain English. It is reproduced here as received from H.M.S. *Glory*, who is having a busy time off the coasts of Korea and working U.S. methods of signalling:

"FM A.B.M. OF W.

TO COMSIGSCOOLED

PAREN CITE PAREN URMSG RE QUOTE
COMMUNICATOR UNQUOTE PRESS RELEASE
PD DESIRE NOTIFY ACTIVITIES ADDRESSED
OF DUTIES UNDER OP CONTROL CTGEORGE
NINEFIVEPTONEONE CLN GLORY (CVD)
WHEN RFS PROCEED WEST COAST KOREA
TO FORM CTEASY NINEFIVEPTONEONE CMA
WITN FOUR DOGDOG PD DAILY AIROPS
FIVE EVENTS XEROSIXFOURFIVE THRU
ONENINEFOURFIVE PD EACH EVENT TWO
CAPETER CMA ONE ABLE SLASH SUGAR
CMA FOUR OR EIGHT ABLE SLANT ROGER
OR CHARLIEABLESUGAR PD COMBUNTOSS
POMP KEEP FOR ACTION AND PASS FOR IN-
FO COMSPARKS CRYPT GUZZ GOMADSIG-
DIV HAS FOR INFO OTHER MEANS GLORY
SENDS.

AUTHENTICATED

FLAG SECRETARY

APPROVED

DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS/

OFFICIAL

ELECTRONICS"

(For solution see page 70).

WHAT IS A WATCHER?

Watcher Smith or "Wotcher" Smith, what is it, friendly greeting or what? This has foxed many a wise one and so here's the answer:

"Watcher" originated in the Merchant Navy where they had few Radio Officers. To "close the gap" chaps were trained to know the ship's call sign in Morse, so that when the heard it they shook the Radio Officer who woke up and answered.

In fact, a Watcher was a member of the W/T department who knew little Morse.

This is exactly what he is in the R.N.V.(W/R. A recruit to the (W/R. who is called a Watcher until he passes his Morse test for Ord. Tel.

The object is to prevent "Draftie" sending a chap to a ship to do a Tel.'s job when in fact he knows no Morse. Imagine a poor Chief Tel. with half-a-dozen Watchers and himself two days after Mobilisation.

I hope this "clears the air" on "what is a Watcher" and if you want to say "wotcher" to a Watcher watching, go along to the R.N.V.(W)R.T.C. any night of the week.



Photo: Portsmouth Evening News

“The Battle Is On”

CRICKET

THE ANCIENT MARINERS V THE GENTLEMEN OF HAMBLEDON

Our cricket critic being absent without leave, the bos'un of the Cross Trees was detailed to cover the old time “Match at Cricket” on Broadhalfpenny Down, on 16th June. The day was a glorious one, he reports, and some thousands of spectators ventured up to the old original cricket ground of the Hambledon Club, by the Bat and Ball Inn; and they, by their very number as well as the old-time costumes worn by the players, and the old-shaped bats and wickets recreated much of the eighteenth century cricket atmosphere. The Ancient Mariners, from the gallant frigate H.M.S. *Mercury* recently back from a glorious cruise plundering traders and merchantmen in the Spanish Main, arrived in a wagon drawn by a couple of beautiful greys—the journey was slow and comparatively peaceful. The Hambledon Men arrived in a coach and four.

The Ancient Mariners were bare footed, and being accustomed to the perfect decks of H.M.S. *Mercury*, which were never known to be covered with anything but blood, splinters, shot and the occasional doubloon, found the Broadhalfpenny thistles excessively tiresome. One member of the team states he trod on 123 thistles, two pieces of broken glass and four unshod fag ends! The bos'un of the Cross Trees never witnessed Hambledon beating the Ancient Mariners, for he had been attracted by a description of the punch drunk in those days:

“Punch!—not your modern cat-lap milk punch—but good, unsophisticated, John Bull stuff—stark!—that would stand on end—punch that would make a cat speak!” and then went to investigate.

We are still waiting for the bos'un to come round.

Incidentally, it may be of interest to readers to know that the Ancient Mariners were beaten by the Gentlemen of Hambledon by 218 to 167.



Photo: Portsmouth Evening News

The Teams

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

We believe this is the first R.C.N. contribution to THE COMMUNICATOR and we hope that you will be able to find space for us in future issues.

In the last year there have been some sweeping changes in the R.C.N., and it may be of interest to bring our commonwealth relations up to date on our Branch.

It may be remembered that in the days of reduction in 1946, we decided to combine our signalmen and telegraphists into one communication rate. At that time it was felt the visual signalling was designed for the limbo, the electricians could do the maintenance, and we could reduce our complements. It was a grand idea, but circumstances change, today we know that the signalman is as busy as ever and the telegraphist has no time to learn the Conduct of the Fleet. So as from 15th March, 1951, the R.C.N. communication branch split into what is now called communicator (V) for visual and (R) for radio. There is a certain amount of speculation on the future of "Chief Petty Officer Communicator Visual bring me the log," but in practice Chief Yeoman is still the cry.

Another change, which may have confused some of you already is our rate structure. All men in the R.C.N. have a substantive title such as Chief Petty Officer 1st Class, Communicator (V) as opposed to your Chief Yeoman of Signals, or Leading Seaman Communicator (R) instead of Leading Telegraphist. This may seem long winded, but the abbreviations which are applied together give a self-evident indication of a man's substantive rate, non-substantive rate and his trade group. In the above two cases,

C1CV3 and LSCR1. This, taken in the Navy as a whole, is a great assistance in records and pay.

Together with this system we have introduced 1st and 2nd Class Chiefs and Petty Officers. This is to bring all three Canadian services to the same standards of pay, rank and duty. Thus a Chief P.O. 1st Class is equal to a W.O.1 in the army, a Leading Seaman equal to a Lance Corporal, and a Petty Officer 2nd Class is the equivalent of a Corporal.

Our Communication School is now a very pleasant modern brick structure in Halifax which we share with our close associate the Electrical Branch. But we are both expanding rapidly and the building just is not large enough so our school has to move. About 1st October of this year we expect to establish ourselves in the R.C.N. new entry training base, H.M.C.S. *Cornwallis*.

The present staff of the school is 10 officers and 20 instructors. Of the latter, certainly C1CV3 Duncan McFarlane must be well known by the older hands. After completing his time he found the hurly-burly civilian life too much and signed on to complete "twenty-five." Also in the school we have at present a long course and 150 new qualifiers, plus those small courses which continually crop up.

There is certainly no shortage of jobs and in fact most of us are doing two. However, we feel that some day there will be enough hands to go round and with the advancement prospects as bright as they are, we can safely conclude that on the whole things are looking up.

HOME FLEET NOTES

THE HARWICH MINESWEEPERS

We are a very new baby, the first of us having only commissioned from reserve on 1st May. However, this "fourteen days' notice" business was taken pretty seriously, and mid-May found us round Portland, hard at it trying to sort things out and starting a stiff working-up programme.

At the moment we consist of the 4th Minesweeping Flotilla of eight Algerines and 104th Flotilla of eight M.M.S.'s, but we expect more. We will be based on Harwich, administered by C-in-C. Nore, operated by C-in-C. Portsmouth, and exercise from time to time with the Home Fleet; so we are very independent really. How much of the time we are going to be in Harwich we do not know yet. In the meantime there

are lots of buzzes about visits abroad.

But all that is in the future, meantime we are busy at it working up, sailing at the crack of dawn every morning for manoeuvring exercises and not returning to harbour till late in the evening. One of our few lighter moments was leaving harbour with the bunting tossers below in the wireless office and the sparkers up top. The first time we did a "Turn Together" the Officer of the Watch was rather astonished to be told that the flag signal for mine water boats to come alongside had just been executed.

Incidentally, we may be small, but we've as many halliards as any mast in *Mercury*, and believe it or not, our ship's telegraphist complement is bigger than that of the *Vanguard*.

The Communications Officer in *Bramble* is Lieutenant H. Selby Bennett, nobly aided by C.Y.S. S. W. Hunter and P.O.Tel. J. Laing who is shortly due to sew on his Chief's buttons.

H.M.S. "ILLUSTRIOUS"

Greetings, fellow Communicators, heavens knows when an article from us was last forthcoming, but we have now decided to rectify the matter and make our peace with the signal world by offering this contribution.

After a long refit at Devonport, we sailed in April for the usual post-refit trials, which also included the testing of the Arrestor gear and barriers. We then assumed our duties as "trials carrier" and started the cruise very well indeed, with visits to Torquay and Guernsey and then to "Pompey."

Since the ship's last visit to Portsmouth the staff has changed considerably, but at last we are beginning to settle down and work well together, and have profited by the few mistakes made at first.

Mr. Froud, C.C.O., has been appointed to the S.T.C. Malta, and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing him all the best in his new appointment. He has been succeeded by Mr. Hardy, C.C.O., to whom we bid welcome and hope that his appointment will be a happy one.

So far this cruise the work has been very pleasant. We have as our "chaser" H.M.S. *Ulster*, who, except when we are in harbour or when other ships are passing, provides our sole "oppo" for carrying out V.S. although the W/T side of the staff find life quite busy, at least it appears so, for feverish activity greets one when opening the door of the B.W.O.

The following is offered as a true story. The ship was due to weigh at 0730 and a Signal Boy had been detailed to stand by the Jack in case we were delayed, when it would be needed. At 0700 he appeared on the flag deck complete with Jack and lacing. When asked what he was doing, he replied, "Well we are sailing early and so we'll be holding colours early."

One of the minor tasks of the Leading Signalmans on the compass platform is keeping the score of the landings, and as a matter of interest (and perhaps easy to some), to date we have completed 1195 landings since leaving Devonport, 557 of which have been carried out in the last two-and-a-half days.

So far, Lady Luck has smiled on us, and we have kept a clean deck, and apart from one or two minor incidents, no mishaps have occurred to mar the cruise.

During July, *Illustrious* is to be the principal performer in a broadcast by the B.B.C., who have been carrying out reception trials with their various equipments. All seemed to go quite satisfactorily, so if any readers are interested, just watch the "Radio Times" carefully and take a trip with us on the air.

We bid you farewell until the next issue, when we hope to be with you again.

In closing, may we wish you all a very enjoyable seasonal leave, with plenty of sunshine; and to Communicators serving abroad, keep smiling.

R. A. D.

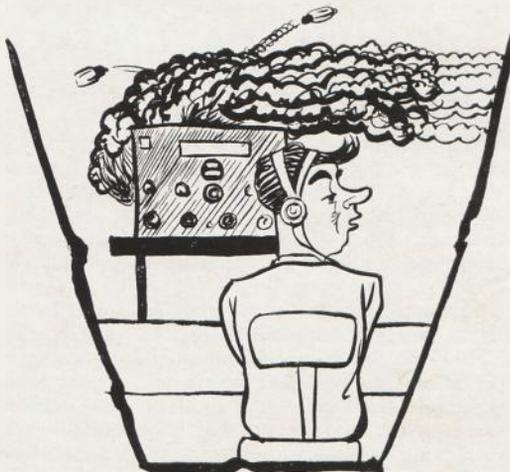
(Note.—We apologise to Mediterranean readers generally for delays in delivering some of the previous issues. We hope to avoid such delays in future.)

H.M.S. "VENGEANCE"

Shortly after our last screed was written, all hands proceeded on a very welcome leave. Alas, it seems a very long time ago now, but it was obvious then that all had enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately, this period in Portsmouth brought with it a crop of the usual draft chits and we sailed again minus many of the experienced stalwarts who had given us so much good service.

Amongst the newcomers to the ship were four of the Communicators from *Mercury*, who now rotate for periods of one month each between No. 1 TR and the Flag Deck. Times are certainly changing when we see ratings wearing Sparkers badges hauling on wet halliards (and wishing they were back in the office?) or running forward with cable flags under their arms. However, all seems to be working out quite well (and they can make tea as well as anybody).

The sporting ability of the staff has not yet had much chance to show itself, although it undoubtedly exists, as proved by the winning of the deck hockey competition at the end of last cruise. A decisive win, with no hospital cases. In many ways we were very sorry that a few more games of football could not have been arranged, particularly as we have now welcomed to the team two members of the *Mercury* cup winning side—Ldg. Tel. Thompson and Ord. Sig. Patten. We did play one match after their arrival, against a team from Culdrose, which we won. The game was followed by a large tea in the canteen, thoughtfully provided by our hosts. Altogether a good time was had by all. In return, two parties of Wren Communicators (and others!) from Culdrose were entertained on board, and thoroughly enjoyed their look around. It will be seen that a very close liaison was maintained with Culdrose throughout,



"Er-Chief!"

and they were very helpful.

The cricket team, enthusiastically led, managed and directed by P.O.Tel. Park, has had one outing against a team from Vicarage Road. Although we lost by two wickets, the game enables the "powers that be" to sort out the wheat from the chaff. We hope we have slightly more of the former. Ldg.Tel. Bell seems to have slipped quite easily from goal scoring to run scoring. Needless to say, all enjoyed it. One incident worthy of note was when a certain unnamed senior member of the side opened his bag after the match to disclose a dozen bottles of the best—he certainly became the man of the moment.

Our movements since writing last have been very much the same as last cruise—a trip to Bangor, and the remainder of the time working from ports in the West channel area. Our routine also very much the same. "Shop Window" was a brief but very welcome interlude, and as our communication organisation became much more varied than usual, all hands were galvanised into welcome activity. Our previous duty as training carrier has now given way to the status of a fully fledged unit of the Home Fleet.

The ship's sports are due in the week following this effort. We have much untried material, but we hope to retain the cup which was won at the cost of sweat and tears last year. The winner of several major events then—Yeo. Corbett—is still with us, so we are hoping for a repeat performance.

The future looks as though it will be a very busy one, for as well as F.O.S/M's. Summer War, which will soon be upon us and for which there has been much preparation, we are also due for Admiral's inspection in a few weeks' time.

In conclusion, we would like to say "well done" to *Mercury's* football team, both for the honour and esteem they have brought to the Branch by their efforts, and for giving us the chance to mention it to anyone who may not have heard!

THIRD TRAINING FLOTILLA

The Spring Term passed all too quickly, and it was with much regret that we had to maintain silence for the last edition of our Magazine. Indeed, it would have been a "no change" report, because apart from the eternal flog up and down the Foyle, things were very much the same as they always are in Londonderry. Those who have served up here will know exactly what we mean!

However, interest was suddenly awakened by the strong buzz that the Flotilla would perhaps visit Norway on a training cruise during the Easter leave period. After much strife on the part of our hard-working First Lieutenants, a scheme was worked out to enable everyone to take leave and still take part in the cruise, before the term really started—no small feat. Accordingly, we hurriedly painted ship and in due course paid visits to Bergen, Haugesund,

Odda and Norheimsund. A grand change and one which, we hope, heralds the dawn of a new era. The practical experience gained was well worth the extra work involved, and at long last our "flag-tearers" are aware that the F.S.B. contains other small matters apart from A/S control! The sparkers, too, made their first ventures into the mystery of ship-shore working and learned that Ship Broadcasts are not just a figment of the imagination. The term definitely started with lots of new zeal as a result, and we are hoping that this was an experiment that has come to stay.

Meanwhile, our eternal sea and harbour training goes on, though with rather depleted staffs. The C.C.O. has been heard to promise (or threaten) Marching Manoeuvres in the Dockyard if he can ever get enough bodies to experiment with, but this seems doubtful (Drafting Offices please note). Chief Yeoman Carter has rejoined the ranks in *Mercury*, closely followed by Yeoman Reith—unfortunately without relief. We feel that their departure is our loss, but hasten to welcome C.Y.S. Mattingley despite his unfortunate experience in qualifying for the extra eighteen months service. He is truly "in the same boat" as that other stalwart of the Flotilla. C.P.O.Tel. "Knocker" White.

To conclude, we look forward to welcoming two new names to our call-sign list, in the somewhat vague future, and to making the acquaintance of their seemingly complicated electronic devices. Time marches on!

FIFTH F.F.

("STRUTTING MAKES HISTORY")

During the past few weeks, history has been made by H.M.S. *Peacock*, Leader of the Fifth Frigate Flotilla, due mainly to the efforts of C.P.O.Tel. John Noyes. A tug-of-war team from this very small ship won the Destroyer Command Championship and then went further to win the Fleet Championship in convincing style. During these two Championships *Peacock* did not lose one single pull, having won sixteen straight. This is the first time the name of a small ship has appeared on the Fleet Cup among others such as *Q.E.* and *Revenge*.

Yeoman Bovington is now trying to uphold this high standard with his polo team, so even amidst lots of communication exercises the staff can still find time and energy to bring new honours to the Communicators. Well done the boys.

A.W.W.

R.N.V.R.—R.N.V.(W.)R.

Recently, while spending a short period at the "Alma Mater" of the communication world, we heard the following comment on the Reserve, "What a Navy, fourteen days training, and fifty weeks leave!" and we felt it was high time to give some of these "naval types" the low-down on the trials and tribulations of belonging to the R.N.V.(W)R.

One of the highlights of the ordinary member is the day he gets his G.P.O. licence, his transmitter and receiver from his District or Section Officer, and dreams of a QSA5 on "Voice" from his affiliated ship doing the Spring Cruise in the "Med." Little does he think that all the R.N.V.(W)R. frequencies have been chosen with a view to giving the members as much experience as possible in reading through QRM.

If he is one of the idle rich he probably takes his gear home from the Training Centre in his car, if one of the proletariat he lumps it there on a handcart, but the result is invariably the same. The little woman says in effect, "Where do you think you are going to get that?" Restraining from giving the obvious answer our hero compromises eventually by installing it in either the coal house, or in a shed in the yard.

Erecting aerials can be great fun. Having "encouraged" one or two wooden poles as long as possible, on a suitable Sunday morning the rest of the Unit assemble and the battle commences. All the neighbours stand at a safe distance, and the local police hold a watching brief to see that adjacent cooperation property, lamp standards, etc., remain intact after the operation has been completed. After much heaving and straining the masts are up, and while they may not be in a vertical position, they at least provide something to hang an aerial on. It isn't until next morning, when the landlord calls for the rent and hints that he isn't responsible for any outside repairs if that "something" mast falls on the roof, that some misgivings are aroused as to the wisdom of the installation.

The first test out of the installation is always a small one. After a few errors the aerial ammeter springs to life, and we are really on the air. A long call to the District produces the following results. The little woman dashes in and wants to know why the house lights are going up and down, and a deputation of T.V. listeners are hammering impatiently at the door. Previous naval experience helps to shoot a line and please both parties, but by then everybody else has closed down in the District and it's time for bed.

Of course, our main activity is based around our Training Centres. Some of them are spacious; in others, it's not a case of being able to swing a cat around, you couldn't even get the cat in. For sheer entertainment, humping a 89Q up two flights of stairs often some beating. It creates a thirst that one wouldn't sell for quids, and the language of the

S.O. when one rests a corner of the transmitter on his pet corn passes belief.

From the days of 1932, when the Reserve had to provide its own furniture, to 1950, is a long step, and one could fill volumes with the trials and tribulations of a bunch of civies trying to adjust themselves to naval routine, but then there's no difference fundamentally between sparkers the world over. They must be "crackers," or very keen types, to take on a communication job.

"SPARKS."

* * * * *

Our recruiting figures are steadily rising and we look forward to the return of our pre-National Service colleagues soon to return to "civvy street" with all the "gen" from the Fleet.

Co-operation with our affiliated ships is always good and we hope to extend this to the Med. Fleet in the near future.

Since the Christmas Number we have been joined by C.P.O.'s Baister, Sweeney, Devlin, Mills and Hughes, who have gone to Stockton, Swansea, Belfast, London and Dundee respectively. We bid them all a hearty welcome and hope they enjoy their time with us, no doubt Stockton's football team will soon be on the upgrade.

All our instructors are going to *Mercury* in October for a rub up on the new procedure, etc., won't the chiefs' mess be glad.

At the present time the district strength stands at 74, of which about a quarter are pre-National Service ratings. Our farthest flung outpost is L/Tel. J. Farquhar, R.N.V.(W)R., who is a one-man training centre at Wick, Caithness. We hope, however, he will shortly be able to recruit some local talent and expand his activities.

Aberdeen Training Centre is under the charge of Lieutenant A. Birnie, R.N.V.(W)R. with Act. L/Tel. Wood as the senior rating who will no doubt be remembered as one of the Telegraphists at V.A.(Q) B.P.F., Albert Park, Melbourne, during the war.

Dundee Training Centre is also the District Office and is situated in H.M.S. *Cressy*. The District Officer is Lieutenant (Ce) E. Morley, R.N.V.(W)R., who was also on the Communications Staff of V.A.(Q) B.P.F. for a period during the war. The rating in charge is L/Tel. Barbour who is also very interested in the Sea Cadet Movement.

Edinburgh Training Centre has Lieutenant Commander S. M. Mainland, R.N.V.(W)R., in charge, and L/Tel. T. A. N. Brown, R.N.V.(W)R. as the rating in charge. L/Tel. Brown joined the old R.N.V.R. Wireless Branch in 1935 and transferred to the R.N.V.(W)R. on 1st January, 1939.

Glasgow Training Centre has the District Instructor C.P.O.Tel. T. Richardson, R.N., in charge. The Chief joined Glasgow in September, 1948, straight from

Basegram Hall (H.M.S. *Mercury*). Glasgow is at the present time our largest training centre and has thirty-four ratings, almost half of the total strength of the district.

Recruits are required for all centres, particularly Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen, so if there are any volunteers from north of the border we shall be more than pleased to see them.

TAY DIVISION

H.M.S. *Cressy*, Dundee, is now graced with three Chief Yeomen, two R.N.V.R., and the other R.N., C.Y.S. E. S. Green, R.N., will probably be remembered by any ex-V.A.(Q)B.P.F. Communications Staff as the Chief Yeoman at Albert Park, Melbourne, during the war. Ch. Yeoman J. Nisbet, R.N.V.R., joined the R.N.V.R. 24th June, 1921, and is the senior Ch. Yeoman R.N.V.R. carrying out instructional duties. Ch. Yeoman J. Newstead,

R.N.V.R., is a new arrival, having recently joined the R.N.V.R. after demobilisation from the R.N. The remainder of the V/S Division is three Leading Sigs. and three Ord. Sigs.; we hope, however, to increase this strength shortly. One L/Sig. and two Ord. Sigs. are at present on course at Devonport and Ch. Yeoman Newstead is away in H.M.S. *Montrose* on a minesweeping exercise.

No. 6 DISTRICT, SCOTLAND

Three training centres are now in full operation at Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh, the latter having recently moved from Claverhouse to Granton Hotel. It is hoped that Aberdeen will be in operation by the end of June.

Regular Tuesday evening exercises are carried out with our affiliated ship *Vengeance*, and these exercises have proved to be of good value, at least at our end.

READING, WRITING AND WOODWORK

It should be generally known that at *Mercury*, in addition to a very good Recreational Library of approximately 1,000 books, there is an excellent Reference Library of about 400 books. The E.V.T.O. is always pleased to lend books from this library for a limited duration, and he cannot understand why the Ship's Company is too shy to use it!

For those who are due for pension (or have passed the pension date through no fault of their own!) and at lower priority, for those who are due to "take their twelve," E.V.T. courses in a variety of subjects are offered. These courses are intended to help the applicants to fit themselves for civilian life. The E.V.T.O. gives all the help he can to those who may be temporarily spared from their jobs.

For the more academically minded, and for courses which readily lend themselves to treatment by correspondence, the scheme of Forces Correspondence Courses give very valuable help at a very cheap rate indeed for those who desire to make use of it. There is, for example, one rating in *Mercury* who has enjoyed immensely taking a course in Art by this means, and many people saw his handiwork in the Handicrafts Exhibition held on Sports Day.

A new attempt has been made to run a Music Circle on Thursday evenings when gramophone records, mostly of classical music, are played for the benefit of those who enjoy them.

The primary aim of these notes, however, is to give some publicity to the new facilities for both handicrafts instruction and recreation (woodwork, modelmaking and leatherwork) provided since the beginning of the year in the Handicrafts Hut. If the interest is forthcoming, soft-toy-making and dress-

making may well be added.

The new tool unit which arrived from the Dockyard during the months of January, February and March has transformed Hut A, West Camp, into a hive of activity, much enhanced by quantities of shavings, a Hobbies fretwork machine, and "Mercury Favourites." Thanks due to C.Y.S. Oxley for his untiring efforts and his devotion to the newly formed Hobbies Club, and to Joiner Pymont for his able instruction.

An exhibition of Handicrafts was housed in the Rest Tent on Sports Day, and it is hoped that it will encourage many others to join the Hobbies Club to show that what Jack (and Jill) can do, Tom, Dick and Harry (and Mary, if need be) can do, too.

G. F. W.



MEDITERRANEAN COMMENTARY

Early in the New Year we said good-bye to Lt. Cdr. Sommerville when C.S.1 hauled down his flag, and Admiral Grantham combined the duties of F.O.(Air) and C.S.1 under the title of F.O. Second-in-Command Med. Fleet. Lt. Cdr. Bray, S.C.O., and Flag Lieut. to F.O.(Air) then found himself wearing about six hats and had a gay old time until he was relieved by Lt. Franklin, F.C.A., Home Fleet, who changed sides in the middle of the Combined Fleet exercises and took over the duties of Flag Lieutenant to F.O.2.M.F.

The Med. Fleet cruisers and destroyers were sent West from Gib. in the course of these exercises and spent an uncomfortable two or three days in the unfamiliar Atlantic, after which they decided that the Home Fleet could keep it.

During Exercise "Straits One" the cruisers represented merchant ships and wore the Red Ensign. The correct procedure was adhered to and the Ensign dipped to the smallest frigate. When called by light, however, s.s. *Gambia* only answered calls in commercial procedure and thus had very little to do until this fact was borne in upon the Communicators of the rest of the Fleet.

The weather at Gib. was not at all up to expectations and had a noticeable effect on signal traffic. As more and more of the Combined Fleet events were postponed or changed the Communication staffs had a hard job to keep the fleets up to date on what was happening.

Shortly after arriving back in Malta after this cruise, *Gambia* was lucky enough to be offered a month or so down the Red Sea, being relieved by *Euryalus*, who we hope to see back in Malta before long. Meanwhile the remainder of the fleet is about to sail on the first summer cruise which takes us to Venice, Trieste and a variety of Greek and Italian ports, ending up at Marmarice for the Regatta.

Early in May, C.-in-C., Turkish Navy, visited Malta with a number of destroyers, frigates and submarines, and more recently C.-in-C., Italian Navy, spent several days here with ten ships and took part in various A/S exercises.

At the same time a large scale chart exercise—"Shipshape Two"—took place at Lascaris and involved members of the British, French, Italian, and U.S. Navies. This was largely a Communicators benefit, and quite a comprehensive communication set-up was required. Altogether some eight (C) officers and seventy ratings of the four navies took part in the combined organisation which was highly successful and considerably improved our knowledge of each other's affairs. Other recent visitors have been Dutch, Greek and Egyptian warships, so L.C.W. has a very international flavour.

New arrivals in Malta M.S.O. include Yeo. Coverdale, P.O.Tel. Lamb, Tels. Tandy and Middleton and O/Tel. Morris, while those who have left to

conquer other fields include P.O.Tels. Cox and Pendry, Yeo. Cotterill, L/Sigs. Izzard and Allison (the latter regrettably invalidated from the station) and Sig. Carr. Impending departures include C.Y.S. Jennings (called "Jumbo" because of his long memory by those of us who have tried to obtain an issue of pencils out of watch), Yeomen Stew and Robinson, P.O.Tels. Howe and Leigh (special draft order by the Leydene Sports Officer?), P.O. Tel. Pole and a host of others. They have all done extremely well and we wish them the best of luck in the future.

We have also said good-bye to Lieut. Miller, the F.C.A., who has been given command of an M.L. which is reputed to be as fast as its C.O.'s morse.

We seem to have acquired two new members of the staff recently, according to recent letters received; one addressed to the "Commissioned Electrical Officer (V/S)" and the other to the "Branch Master, Lascaris W/T."

Educational tours continue. Most of the staff have now visited the Simonds-Farson-Cisk brewery where they were amazed at what could be done with a few hops in the copper "skips" of Malta (shades of Percy Hancock). Little things lead to big hangovers and a certain amount of pay and leave stoppages have been heard of.

A fair amount of football has been played though only a couple of matches by the M.S.O. team. Mostly our chaps have been playing in the Camarata barracks inter-Part. The knock-out competition was won by the "Old and Bold" which included such stalwarts as C.P.O.Tel. Squires, P.O.Tels. Howe and Cox and Yeomen Robinson and Stew. It is of interest that the M.S.O. were soundly beaten by *Messina*, 8-1. Mr. Brown, S.C.C.O., is going to take up goalkeeping seriously, it is understood.

Camarata hockey team astounded the critics by a splendid display in Section B of the Garrison league. After a shaky start when they were well beaten by the eventual services champions, R.A.F. Safi, they settled down and finished only three points behind the leaders at the end of the season. Their victories included one over the Royal Engineers, hitherto unbeaten for two seasons. Captained by Mr. Herbert-Gustar, the Camarata team included O/Tel. Tawton, L/Tels. Biles and Fleming, P.O.Tel. Leigh, Sig. Avenall and Mr. Whiffin, S.C.C.O., who had the honour of playing in goal for the Med. Fleet on several occasions. A challenge match for a crate of beer against the reluctant-to-accept, star-studded C.-in-C. Med.'s staff team, resulted in a two-all draw and so the beer was shared.

The face of the Secret Room has changed even more than that of Britain in the famous *Punch* series. Third Officer Eunson has recently returned to U.K. and will be greatly missed by us all. Her place has been taken by Third Officer Chalkly, who has herself been relieved by Third Officer Lawder.

There has been the usual atmosphere of romance with the weddings of Chiefs Austerberry and Downard, and the engagements of P.O. Wren Stewart and Leading Wren Brooks.

H.M.S. "EURYALUS"

The only change in the administrative section of the staff since our last contribution to the COMMUNICATOR has been the coming of C.Y.S. Coles in place of C.Y.S. Dykes.

This report was originally intended to cover the Christmas and New Year festivities, but unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, no records are available of this period, and personal recollections are, to put it mildly, rather indistinct.

On 2nd January the ship sailed on a ten-day cruise of the Greek Islands, during the course of which the Cross-Country championships were held at Port Drepano. This inter-Part contest resulted in a very narrow victory for us over the Royal Marines, due mainly to good packing and tactics. Outstanding individual performers were O/Tel. Trafford, O/Sig. Freke and L/Tel. Wallace, who finished sixth, seventh, and ninth respectively.

Upon our return to Malta our staff was increased by the arrival of a "Coder Educational." This is apparently a new branch created for some strange reason by "Their Lords." Despite constant insults from all sides and a few shocking "howlers" on first coming aboard, he has settled very well into that den of iniquity—the "sparkers'" mess.

During this period at Malta, L/Tel. Wallace was honoured by being selected as regular reserve for the very successful Med. Fleet Rugby XV, and was unfortunate not to play on several occasions when games were cancelled.

Again on the sporting side, our Whaler's crew, Mr. Sambourne, A/Yeo. Holdsworth, L/Sig. Ryrie, L/Tel. Davies, L/Tel. Wallace and O/Tel. Aire, narrowly lost to our old rivals the Royal Marines in an attempt to wrest the Challenge Cup from them.

On 10th February the ship embarked on the Spring Cruise and exercises with the British Home and U.S. Sixth Fleets, and this period is noteworthy mainly for neglected hammocks and lashings of "Kai and Oggies," together with some really vicious "runs" in the North African ports.

We had been looking forward to a welcome rest when we eventually returned to Malta, but it was not to be, as owing to the Persian oilfields dispute, we were ordered to proceed to Bahrein as soon as we were able. The tedium of the voyage was relieved by a few days' stay at Aqaba with the Lancashire Fusiliers. As in the case of the Christmas period these few days are also a little indistinct, but definitely hectic while they lasted and a good time was had by all. The voice waves had to be manned continuously by "Scousers" as nobody else could get very far with the "Lads from Lancashire," but the well-stocked canteen ashore more than compensated for all difficulties.

And so on to Bahrein, where we lie at the moment. It is already very hot, and there is no shortage of work for us, but there are compensations in the form of a very nice swimming-pool and canteen at Juffair. There has been a considerable amount of sport here, mainly of the aquatic variety. An inter-Part gala was held towards the end of May, and although as a division we failed to repeat last year's success, we did quite well to finish third behind the Engine Room Chiefs and P.Os., and the Royal Marines. We have so far, however, maintained our supremacy at water-polo under the captaincy of the Chief Tel., a very solid right-back. At cricket the story is, up to now, a melancholy one, but the S.C.O. has now promised to take the team in hand and the C.C.O. is to be one of the umpires of the next match, so we have yet a chance to save our faces and gain a long-awaited victory.

Roll on Malta and a nice, quiet, out-of-the-way wall. J. W.

H.M.S. "OSIRIS"

(R.N.H.Q., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F. 17)

Since our last contribution there have been numerous changes, but as always there are the "stanchions" who can remember that terrible sand-storm the year before last and mildly suggest to newcomers that their knees need a little browning.

In April we were visited by the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, who inspected the Ship's Company and the ratings' quarters. A gathering of the Ship's Company is an infrequent event here, so it aroused the interest and speculation of our "hosts in khaki." Also, Lady Edelsten and Mrs. Campbell visited the Wrennery.

A four-day visit by the Senior W.R.N.S. Officer.



"Guess what? P/R!!"

Mediterranean, caused excitement in the Wrennery. First Officer Harris inspected the quarters and walked round the various offices where Wrens were at work, and also watched various off-duty pastimes. The W.R.N.S. have had their quarters redecorated and various amenities added. They now feel that they compare favourably in attractiveness and comfort to any Wrennery at home.

There have been several weddings this year, with a few more to come. The last was a truly naval affair when Wren Tel. Dot Wall and Petty Officer Dickie Barton were married. The Navy turned out in full force, and all attended the Church Service and reception, kindly given by the Commanding Officer, Cdr. G. D. Ram. We hasten to add that the duty watches were unable to attend! Truly a memorable occasion, even for the duty watch.

In the sporting world the Wrens have been most active. They took part in the inter-Services Women's Netball matches and also in the Athletics. Although they lost to the W.R.A.C. and W.R.A.F., they gave a good account of themselves and the afternoons were enjoyed by all. The ratings have not done so well in this sphere, due mostly to the small numbers here, but the cricket season has just commenced and we hope to wield a bat if nothing else. This month we have our H.M.S. *Osiris* tennis competition for the Poland Trophy. Not Wimbledon standard, we admit, but very hotly contested and great fun for all. Other off-duty pastimes for the season are sailing and swimming, the weather always being on our side.

Although buried deep in "khakiest" Africa, we do see something of sea-going ships, and we do not mean oranges. We were able to wave the *Theseus* on her way home after her outstanding performance in the Far East.

Finally, the Wrens' doggie mascot, Peter Pan, has been rated Acting Chief and has just moved into tropical rig, having been relieved of his coat.

Our good wishes to all ex-*Osiris* personnel, particularly Communicators.

THIRD DESTROYER FLOTILLA

All four ships of the 3rd D.F., *Saintes*, *Armada*, *Vigo* and *Gravelines*, are now nearing the end of their first two years in the Med., and for those of us remaining who commissioned the Flotilla in U.K. way back in 1949, the grey shores of England hold considerably more attraction than we would then have believed possible.

On arrival in Malta we soon found that life in the Med. was hard work as well as hard play, a fact sometimes overlooked by our brethren in less sunny climes, who are apt to believe that a commission in the Mediterranean Fleet consists of a two-year pleasure cruise under sun-drenched skies! A detailed account of the Flotilla's activities during the past two years would take up too much space and so we

will just describe a few of the highlights of the commission.

Most of us agree that the visit to Istanbul as a Flotilla last summer tops the list, where the Golden City feted us for five glorious days and nights. It is hoped that the current rumour that the dose is to be repeated this year will prove to be true. We must also mention our "entente" with the South of France, which has been most "cordiale" and originates from the numerous occasions on which 3rd D.F. ships have visited French ports whilst on S.A.R. duties during the flights of T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh to and from Malta. These duties are almost entirely a communications commitment, and it is a never failing thrill when the Royal Viking comes up on the air for the first time, and later one sees it pass serenely overhead in its glistening silver. Many of us have a very soft spot for Marseilles, and Nice has its supporters, too. Those who know the former will be interested to hear that during the visit there this spring no fewer than three destroyers, seven submarines, and an L.S.T. were all berthed in the Vieux Port, a record number of warships in the small, crowded basin, and quite an occasion for the city.

Turning to more serious matters, there was the seven days A/S exercise "Straits One" during the Spring Cruise, 1951, followed by the Combined Fleets' meeting at Gibraltar, where every year the impossible is achieved by completing the fullest imaginable programme of inter-fleet matches, reunions and runs ashore, and still finding time to meet one's friends from the other Fleet. Mention must also be made of our chasing of *Glory* which culminated in *Gravelines* eventually chasing her out to the Far East as far as Singapore, a far cry for a Med. Fleet ship. Nor must we forget to place on record our associations with Aqaba, that hot spot at the top of the Red Sea, where frontiers of four nations terminate at the head of the Gulf.

During its first commission the Flotilla has been commanded by two Signal Officers, Captain L. G. Durlacher, who transferred as Captain (D) 3 from *Troubridge* to *Saintes* when the "Battles" arrived on the station, and his relief in July, 1950, Captain P. Dawnay. Another old hand in the 3rd D.F. to transfer from the V's was the Flotilla Communications Officer, Lieutenant Morton, whose superabundant energy is still remembered with awe. He was relieved by Lieutenant Pakenham in April, 1950. The Flotilla C.C.O. is Mr. Cadman of the R.N.Z.N. whose predecessor was Mr. Clark. Other personalities are Chief Yeoman Muspratt, now serving his 23rd year, and C.P.O.Tel. Cooper, both of *Saintes*, and C.P.O. Tel. Thomas of *Armada*, who joined a few months back from Lascaris.

Finally, we wish the best of luck to all who have left the "Third" and thank them for their letters. Any that have not been answered yet—well, don't give up all hope, one day we really will get down to them!

“ORCHIDS TO AN O.D.”

OR

“Seeing is Believing”

(With apologies to “Sunday Pic.”)

We are sending our orchids for this quarter to a young Bunting who, without malice aforethought, and with great zeal and devotion to duty, *did* duly distribute, for the signatures of the great and mighty gold-laced leaders of the different departments that go to make an efficient ship, a receipt note received from Malta M.S.O. appertaining to the receipt of Malta General Messages and having received all signatures thereon did duly and conscientiously log the aforementioned receipt note.

Having done same the beaming smile upon his homely countenance did convey to one and all that in his youthful heart there was great joy at having accomplished this formidable task.

Do we pity this poor innocent or do we present him with Orchids for a very fine effort?

J. F.,

Loch Craggie.

(See page 60).

FROM A BRITISH MAN OF WAR
TO THE EDITOR OF THE COMMUNICATOR,
SIGNAL SCHOOL.
(URGENT MESSAGE.)

V.1. IS TO RETAIN THIS AND ACT ON IT AND HE IS TO PASS IT TO W.1. and T.1. FOR INFORMATION. DIRECTOR OF THE SIGNAL DIVISION, ADMIRALTY AND DEVONPORT SIGNAL SCHOOL HAVE THEIR OWN COPIES.

COMMUNICATOR PRESS RELEASE.

THIS IS TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT GLORY WORKING UNDER C.T.G.95.11, HAS BEEN DOING. AS SOON AS WE WORKED UP WE PROCEEDED TO THE WEST COAST OF KOREA WHERE WE BECAME C.T.E.95.11 WITH FOUR DESTROYERS UNDER OUR ORDERS.

OUR DAILY AIR TASK USUALLY KEEPS US BUSY FROM 0645 TO 1945 DURING WHICH TIME WE MAINTAIN IN THE AIR—TWO AIRCRAFT ON COMBAT AIR PATROL OVER THE TASK ELEMENT.

ONE ANTI-SUBMARINE AIRCRAFT ON A/S PATROL.

FOUR OR EIGHT AIRCRAFT ON AIR RECONNAISSANCE OR CLOSE AIR SUPPORT OF THE ARMY ASHORE.

FROM THE AMERICA & WEST INDIES SQUADRON

H.M.S. *Sparrow*, the last of the full-commission A. and W.I. squadron, returned home to refit and recommission in March. At the present time the squadron consists of *Superb*, *Bigbury Bay* and *Snipe*, all being Home Fleet ships detached for duty on the A. and W.I. station. The dockyard at Bermuda closed down at the end of March and the squadron is now in the process of discovering exactly what problems are involved in operating for a whole year without dockyard backing.

So far as communications are concerned, the principal commitment is the fixed service with Whitehall which successfully ties up the main transmitters of the flagship for 365 consecutive days.

The squadron spent the first three months of this year in West Indian and South American waters. After a visit to the U.S. Naval Operating Base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba where a full week's exercises were carried out, ships dispersed for their respective cruises. *Superb* completed the full circle of South America, down the east coast, through the Magellan Straits and up the west coast. *Bigbury Bay* cruised the east coast, including the Amazon, as far as Manaos. *Sparrow* cruised the west coast before returning to Bermuda and U.K. *Snipe*, newly-arrived, spent two months in the West Indian islands, during which time she helped to restore order in Grenada.

All ships found their cruises to be, as our friends in the U.S.N. would describe it, both “choice” and “rugged” duty, but it is remarkable how much punishment (and *vin du pays*) the human frame can absorb when one is convinced of the justice of the cause for which one is fighting! Well, you are getting meat from the Argentine now, aren't you?

The reassembly of the squadron at Bermuda between cruises is no rest for anyone. Regattas, athletic and swimming sports, rifle meetings, cricket matches, and concert parties follow in quick succession, and the communicators take their share in each event. In between times we keep our professional hands in with daily exercises, and examinations for Signalman and Telegraphist are held two or three times during the year.

The summer cruise, preceded by another exercise period at Guantanamo Bay, is likely to take *Superb* and *Snipe* to the east coast of U.S.A. and Canada where we will crusade for a favourable revaluation of sterling. *Bigbury Bay*, as hurricane guardship, will be in the West Indies. We are looking forward eagerly to these cruises, and in *Superb* and *Bigbury Bay* we also anticipate with pleasure our return home in the autumn.

The Communicators of the A. and W.I. station send greetings and best wishes to Communicators everywhere. Hasta la vista!

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATION

We are now well and truly into winter and much akin to "Blighty." April was notable for its amount of rain. Many long standing records were broken. Outdoor games often had to be cancelled. It was also notable for its cold prior to the changing of rigs, from white to blues.

We owe a great debt of thanks to Mr. Timms, C.C.O., for the magnificent work he has put in, first of all for collecting the necessary data for this Magazine from the South Atlantic Station and then for keeping it going, despite his many interests. Mr. Timms left us late this month, and the good wishes of all who served with him will follow him on his voyage to England and his future appointments.

Unfortunately, Lt. Webber will also leave us shortly. The success of W/T Stations in work and in all forms of sport is, as we all know, largely due to his enthusiasm and encouragement. We would like to wish him a very happy future appointment.

Our further and heartiest congratulations go to the F.C.O. and Mrs. Barrow on the birth of a son on the first of March. We regret that our youngest "sprog" will not be able to complete a course at the S.T.C. We understand that he has already shown a desire to be entered for his weight in the next Fleet boxing championship.

We have had to say good-bye to C.R.E. Smith of Cape South, and C.R.E. Moyle of Cape East. We welcome R. E. Robins to Cape South and C.R.E. Oliver to Cape East.

A type of craft seldom seen in our waters is a submarine, therefore it was with added interest that we welcomed H.M.S. *Sturdy* to the South Atlantic Station for an all-too-short visit. She has afforded invaluable experience to our Squadron, to the rapidly growing South African Naval Force, and to the South African Air Force.

May we again remind readers of THE COMMUNICATOR on the South Atlantic Station that items, queries and even problems would be much appreciated by other readers of these columns. We can utilise ideas and suggestions, and possibly learn.

It is with deepest regret that we inform our fellow-Communicators, and particularly those of the Devonport Division, of the death of Ordinary Signaller John Allen Williams, of H.M.S. *Bermuda*, who died suddenly last May in the Wynberg Military Hospital. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

M.S.O. SIMONSTOWN

Life has settled down in the "Aviary," and so we thought it would be nice for other Communicators to know who we are who work in this "L'il old log cabin on the piles." There's Yeo. Lewington ('nough said), Ldg.Sigs. Roy "Smokestack" Bonard, "Pony" Moore and "Moggy" Miles, and our newest arrival

from Austere Festivalised Britain, Tony Dawkins, also Sig. Neville Millward, and Tels. "Twinkle" Stallard and "Fingers" Cade.

We are forming a nucleus of the mechanised but unthought of Signal Brigade. The recent mechanical deathtrap is Wally Cade's 350 c.c. 1946 Enfield (affectionately known as the "Bike"). Yeo's car (up for sale) graces a piece of ground outside his Pondokkie at Fish Hoek, whilst Baron Von Bonard's attractive Standard graces the roads. Stallard has a contraption which would fit the bill of a motor bike if motor bikes looked like the contraption he's got. Then there's a bicycle with one pedal which Wally Cade also owns and uses, a small matter of not having a license preventing him using the motor bike for long periods.

Item. Overhead on the TBS: "This is MSO. You have just passed us two signals with the same Date time group." "I know," came the reply, "they were originated at the same time."

Item. A person entered with a signal, gave it to one of our Bods, and said, "Send this please." After the person had gone, Bod said, "He's a bit old to be a Middy!" "That wasn't a Middy," said Ldg. Hand of Watch, "that was the Padre."

Final item.

"UNCERTAIN THOUGHTS OF A LOCAL ACTING TEMPORARY UNPAID VS3(Q)."

(With apologies to Bill Shakespeare.)

To pass, or not to pass—that is the position.

Whether 'tis better to stay and swot,

Or visit the "George" and by boozing, funk it.

To swot, to pass—To pass, perchance to be made?

'Struth, there's a laugh with a waiting list of two score long,

And yet—I fear I could were that it not for yon "Bos'n."

Not one question could I answer aye when he was my destructor.

Mayhap a drink or two will soften the emotions and compassions of such as he.

Alack! Alas! the wherewithal to imbibe has been squandered.

I can but throw myself upon his mercy,

While a sickly grin slides o'er my foolish face.

" 'Tis said a booster up of low marks thou art!"

I might remark,

And he reply, "Hush! know ye keep it dark."

ACK RORTY.

SIMONSTOWN W/T STATIONS

Slangkop

Our greatest immediate change is the departure shortly of our C.P.O.Tel. Gordon Wearmouth, who is about to be relieved by C.P.O.Tel. Walker. In

saying good-bye to Wearmouth we pay sincere tribute to his outstanding success as Chief of the Station. We wish him a happy reunion and leave with his family, and all good fortune in his future. He has most certainly earned it, and leaves Slangkop a better station than he found it.

In the sporting world, Tel. Hanlon has done well to win the S.A. Station R.N. open (Novices) welter-weight (heavy) championship and has now been picked to represent the S.A. Squadron at Durban in July. After seeing him box, we realise that it is not his left foot he transmits morse with.

P.O.Tel. Piercy and Tel. White have played in the R.N. Soccer team, and Tel. J. Smith in the R.N. Rugby side, so altogether we feel we have added our fair contribution.

Cape East

Cape East have also just bid farewell to C.R.E. Moyle, who, together with the delightful Doris, has departed for cooler climes. They also will be sadly missed from their many activities towards making a lovely if somewhat dull spot into a happy, lively station, whose social evenings were events not to be missed. We welcome C.R.E. Oliver as the new Chief, though we are sorry to say he has succumbed to tick bite fever before sufficient ticks bit him to immunity.

Cape East were recently sadly bereaved at the loss of "Daisy" the cow. She unfortunately gave birth without informing the Duty Senior Rating and therefore did not receive the skilled, free national health attention she was entitled to. Poor Daisy had to be despatched to a better world. However, she did not go without creating quite a stir. The Native Boy, who prepared her last resting place, whilst digging the hole came across what he thought to be a rather tough-looking tree root; using his pick-axe with great strength and skill, he severed the "root" at one blow and immediately severed all transmitters from Slangkop control cable. Poor Daisy, it is a good job she could not hear what the Slangkop Chief said about the advantages of cremation.

Cape South

Cape South have at last got their fire hearth and we hear they are now growing chestnut trees in the hope of serving roasted chestnuts with their beer.

One misguided wit labelled their piggery the "Wardroom." He little thought what the effect of the uplifting (?) was going to produce on one of its four-legged inmates, which appears to have decided to become an upper yardman, for it struts around the station like a failed C.W. candidate, entering the lounge and taking the best seat by the fire, etc., as a matter of course. It just shows what environment can do.

S.T.C. KLAVER

Pending the outcome of bringing into force the "Lower Grade" system and the uncertainty of the S.A. Naval Forces whether to continue to use the S.T.C. for the training of their personnel, we have been placed in a category of "to be or not to be" since the last issue.

We are very sad to say *au revoir* to Mr. Timms, C.C.O., and would like to thank him for his whole-hearted support. He sailed for the U.K. in May, but not before reducing, by one, a certain hotel manager's stock of an obnoxious coloured weed per medium of a bonfire which he and Mrs. Timms carried around the room in a manner which would have done any Olympic Torch carrier the grace of credit. We all extend very best wishes to Mr. Timms for a happy leave and a most congenial appointment, and to Mrs. Timms go our wishes for the very best of luck.

Yeo.Sigs. Glendinning was most regretfully recalled home for compassionate reasons. Yeo.Sigs. Elliott filled the breach, then became one of the backroom boys in the F.C.O.'s office.

Thus far, two courses have been held, with excellent results. Since the "look round" by high officials of the South African Navy and Army, it is anticipated that more and bigger classes will be held. However, as afore stated, much remains in the balance.

As usual, Communication personnel have shone in games as well as in work, and we are proud of the fact that six bods from the S.T.C. have been selected to play for Fleet sides: Ldg.Tel. Nash and Tel. Marshall for soccer, P.O.Tel. Bromage for rugby, and C.Y.S. Whitehouse and Ldg.Tel. Coxon for cricket.

We take the opportunity of congratulating the following:

1. Ldg.Sig. Carter of H.M.S. *Nereide* for winning the tennis championship.
2. Yeo.Sigs. Lewington of the M.S.O. for being runner-up in the tennis championship.
3. Tel. Hanlon of Slangkop W/T Station for winning his weight in the open Boxing Championship.
4. H.M.S. *Mercury* in winning the "Navy Cup."



5. To "Bill" Smith of Slangkop we extend "LD" for altering the S.A. census figures by an increase of one male.

H.M.S. "BERMUDA"

In this second contribution to our Magazine, on the glorious first of June, we send greetings from the South Atlantic Station.

Carrying on from our last contribution, we sailed on a short East Coast cruise and a very good time was had by all. The people of East London, Port Elizabeth and Durban took the new Flagship to their hearts, and we were overwhelmed by their hospitality. In return we put on a show of marching, beating the retreat, etc.; our show of marching manoeuvres, musical semaphore, and commentary by the F.C.O. (Lt. Cdr. Barrow) was extremely popular with the large crowds that turned out to see it at East London. We have nothing but praise for C.Y.S. Allen and his "merry men" (including six Ord. Tels.) not only for the grand show they put on, but also for the spirit that made them give up their leave at a very hospitable town in order to put it on.

We were all very glad to have the "Lady in White" welcome us to Durban and to sing us out again when we left. Here's hoping the contacts made will result in us finding the winner of the July Handicap, when we return there in a few weeks' time.

We have been alongside at "Snoeky" since our return and have been indulging in an orgy of sport and, for the last month, an orgy of getting ready for Admiral's inspection.

Since his return from Klaver, Tel. Marshall has been playing regularly for the Fleet 1st XI, and is considered quite the best footballer on the station. Talking about S.T.C. Klaver, heartiest congratulations to Ldg. Tel. (Local) Coxon and Tel. Marshall who passed for Ldg. Tel. Marshall turned out to be a real "dark horse."

Today P.O.Tel. Bromage and Yeo. Glendinning returned to us (Ldg. Tel. Nash came back a while ago, and we would have had our full complement on board had we not loaned Ldg. Tels. Edwards and Casson. Ord. Tels. Daelman and Rigley, and Ord. Sig. Brooks to the *Actaeon*, and Ord. Sig. Greenslade to *Nereide* for the East Coast cruise.

Yesterday we had Admiral's inspection, and according to his signal he was very pleased with us. With the inspection behind us, we now embark on a week-end of "getting over it," with a C. and P.O.'s dance at the Blue Moon Hotel, Wolves v. Western Province, and a Ship's Company dance at the Muzenberg Pavilion, not to mention the fact that our watch starts fourteen days' leave. No wonder smiling faces are in evidence. Before closing, we might mention that in a water-polo match at Salisbury Island we beat the Springboks 8-2, and Tel. Daelman scoring 7 goals with immaculate accuracy.

Here's looking forward to the East Coast cruise and our exercises with our French friends from Madagascar. We send best regards to all Communicators everywhere.

P.S. to ex-Bermudians: "S" buzzer line is now working.

H.M.S. "ACTAEON"

H.M.S. *Actaeon* saw a change in command in the appointment of Captain T. D. Ross, R.N., and the departure of Commander The Viscount Kelburn, R.N., preceding the West Coast cruise.

Portuguese, French and British Cameroons figured largely in our itinerary, besides a visit to the major port of Lagos, with the unexpected and most interesting 80-mile voyage up the river Congo to Boma and Matadi. This proved to be a feat of navigation in itself. Body fatigue and humidity was something to be reckoned with, as we discovered in the upper reaches of the river. It was a welcome change when we arrived at the Portuguese Isle of Sao Thome, on the equator, to be royally treated ashore by our close Allies. A banquet was given and sight-seeing parties were conducted through cocoa, coffee and banana plantations. These trips were enjoyed by all.

The W/T staff coped successfully with unknown factors in commercial traffic, and passed through ship-shore occasionally utilising Colombo W/T as a very co-operative relay to Simonstown.

A C-in-C.'s inspection was passed over with much credit to the ship. This meant a thorough delving into various "cabooches" and places unknown on the ship.

Our immediate concern now is an impending cruise to Durban, during which the Communications staff will likely be strained to its utmost in all the vagaries of communications, joining in exercises with the S.A.N.F., an "up-and-coming" independent Naval Force, the F.S. *Gazelle* and H.M.S. *Sturdy*. The latter will remain with us and will then be diverted to the East Indies to continue her duties. In company with us will be H.M. Ships *Bermuda* and *Nereide*.

Completing six weeks of what we anticipate will be strenuous exercises, our cruise will extend to the north of Madagascar, familiar of old, the Isle of Nosi Be, almost reaching the limits of our station at Macombique in Portuguese East Africa.

On our return journey home to Simonstown, via Mossel Bay and Nysna, we do hope not to produce too many "groggy" ratings when we strike the Cape rollers, and that our capacity for wines and similar native concoctions will stand the test.

We leave on a final note from the Communication Staff, who now have P.O.Tel. Norman from H.M.S. *Nereide* as "Pots," replacing P.O.Tel. Ellison who enjoyed the respect of the W/T staff. We hope he has successfully re-adapted himself to the U.K. way of living.

ROUND THE HOME ESTABLISHMENTS

AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE SIGNAL SCHOOL

(Formerly Combined Operations Signal School)

No, we are not really so aggressive a party as the name suggests, it is just that we have another new name to bring us into line with the general standardisation of terms, etc., which is consequent upon present world trend.

We welcome with pleasure the increasing number of personnel now passing through our school, and we are sure that the time is well spent, which will prove of great value to those who may in the future be faced with Amphibious Warfare Communication problems.

We have had numerous courses with us for varying periods during the last quarter, among them the last long (C) course, and we have a Naval Wireless Instructors (Q), and three joint operators courses in progress at the moment.

H.M.S. *Meon*, our new Landing Ship Headquarters (and a real one at that), has now joined us. We earnestly hope she will become a permanent feature of the school, thus providing greater scope for training and the practical application of our doctrines.

Exercise "Runaground" was controlled by L.C.H. 243, and was a demonstration of an assault landing upon enemy held beaches. The craft taking part were manned by A.W.S.S. and A.S.R.M., with a demonstration battalion from the Army school of infantry as the storm troops. The first day was rather rough on the Army due to the weather, but the following two days went off in perfect weather conditions.

Exercise "Red Dagger" was our first try out for the new H.Q. Ship, and the task of planning, directing and executing this amphibious operation was admirably carried out by the Volunteer Reserve forces. Most of the communication personnel were provided by the R.N.V.R., and the Landing Craft Headquarters was entirely manned by them. The exercise consisted of the embarkation, passage in convoy and an assault upon an enemy beach, and everything went well, despite the weather.

Exercise "Silver Strand" is our next large scale exercise, and planning for this is now in an advanced stage. At the moment we are engaged in cushioning a strong detachment of Communicators from all services in Amphibious Warfare signals for this exercise.

Three U.S. Naval Commanders and the Deputy Director Indian Signals have visited us to study our technique, and were much impressed with our Dummy H.Q. Ship, *Bulolo*.

A moderately good start has been made at cricket; we have not really got going with the inter-Part games yet, but our centre team has won three games

and lost two. One of our victims was Bideford, who were beaten by five wickets. The team itself shows great promise, and with a little more practise, should be one of the strongest sides in the district.

The centre soccer team playing in the North Devon Junior league finished fifth in the league table after leading the table for the best part of the season, whilst our "B" team, like Atlas of old, contented themselves by holding up the Kingsley league throughout the season.

Baseball has become a very popular game here, and although we only play more or less scratch matches in which more effort than skill is normally shown, it is thoroughly enjoyed by those taking part.

F.A.N.A.

H.M.S. "CONDOR"

Hello to everybody from sunny Arbroath! After several months of heavy weather and light duties a more welcome switch has recently taken place. We are now enjoying light weather and heavier duties. The latter has been occasioned by the change-over from contact to all-weather airfield. As a result there has been quite an expansion of staff: we now have sixteen employed on general Air Communication duties, nine on Telephone Switchboard duties and eleven in the M.S.O., which serves both *Condor* and R.A.R.A. About the time we took over the all-weather commitment we were still in an ice-bound age, and the ski-ing was in progress. Now, however, we have given up winter sports (though sometimes we wonder why!) and most of the staff is to be found sailing up the Tay, in all classes of boat. Tennis and squash have their adherents, and swimming is very popular, but not in the river, as one upset boat's crew will willingly testify. The recent influx of the 17th C.A.G. from *Indomitable* was a very pleasant interlude, and the number of ratings who took the opportunity of brushing up their crypto during their stay here was most gratifying, especially to the Wrens, who appreciated a change of atmosphere. Most of the drafts were incoming, but one notable exception was that of Leading Wren Tel. Cortvriend, she has joined the Wrens' O.C.T.U. at Greenwich. Though gone she is not forgotten, and all who knew her wish her the best of luck, now and in the future.

T. S.

R.N.S.S. DEVONPORT

Since our last literary contribution to the COMMUNICATOR, Commander (C) Kennett has assumed command of R.N. Camp, Vicarage Road, which incorporates the Devonport Signal School. Other changes in staff have been the arrival of Instructor Lieutenant A. E. Curtis (M1), Mr. Aitken (V1) to relieve Mr. Stokes, and Mr. Brookes (W1) to relieve

Mr. Annis, who has left for Leydene to convert. May we, in passing, welcome the newcomers and bid the departed with all good wishes.

The Communications Training programme continues according to the old proverbial plan, "Some for all and all for some," which enables the Camp routines to be worked, and instructions to be imparted, on a fifty-fifty basis.

The leading Sigs. and Leading Tels. Q courses just completed bear out the previous advice in self-instruction prior to the course. It was easy to see who had carried out a little regular preparation for the course, and those who had depended on the few weeks in it to get up to the standard required. How pleasant to start a promotion course with the confidence that much of it you know or are acquainted with, thus having time to ponder on those subjects which may be difficult to each individual.

For the information of the more junior chaps, the S.T.M.'s give an invaluable guide to the knowledge required in each subject. So wherever you may be serving, ask Chiefy to let you have a "gander" at it occasionally.

We have prospered in the sporting world and our successes are:

- (1) Winning the Commodore's Soccer Cup.
- (2) Runners-up in the Devonport Football League.
- (3) Reaching the final of the U.S. Hockey League Championship. (Final not played.)

At the Plymouth Command Rifle meeting, R.N. Camp, Vicarage Road, scooped three out of a possible nine individual prizes, just failing in the semi-final for the Team revolver. Individual prize winners were: Commander Kennett, First individual revolver (Class A).

Lieutenant Arrow, Second individual Class A deliberate (Rifle).

C.Y.S. Morris, Third individual revolver (Class A).

In the .22 Competition in the R.N.B., Devonport, Sig. Vasey obtained the highest individual score for men under twenty-two years of age, and in the open individual shoot C.Y.S. Morris was second.

It has been a vile, wet winter down the West Country (yes, again), but as Whitsun Navy Days dawned we had a complete change, and the occasion was marked with rising temperature and Mediterranean skies. The R.N.S.S. ran the usual Greetings Card Organisation, and although attendances were lower than in previous years, the number of messages handled did not drop. One dear old soul, a veteran of Rorkes Drift (Boer War), wrote a message of 120 words with the aid of a Signaller, destined to an address in British Columbia, but tore it up when it was explained to him that we could not cable it (not for a tanner, anyhow). After smoking five of our cigarettes he departed, promising to come next year, but by that time even our little Greetings Card Organisation might be nationalised, subsidised or even atomised, and maybe we can then accommodate

him.

A few weeks ago there arrived in Plymouth a mammoth circus. To boost same, and as a treat for the school children, the proprietors staged a route march for the fourteen elephants from the railway station to the circus site. This seemed to open up great possibilities for the Signal School gardening party, and a move was afoot to get the powers that be to organise the march to enable animals to have a ten-minute stand-easy outside the camp gates. It fell through, but the gardens are showing up well after the couple of warm weeks and it looks as if Mother Nature does not require any assistance.

On concluding, best wishes to fellow Communicators, wherever you may be. Good luck.

C. K.

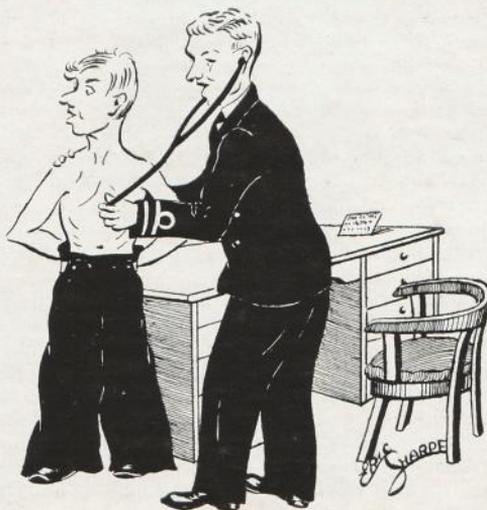
R.N.A.S. FORD

There have been few changes at R.N.A.S. Ford since our last entry in the COMMUNICATOR, but we are at long last enjoying the hot dry weather that we wished for.

This sudden change of weather has made life a lot more pleasant for Telegraphists off watch, as many happy hours may be spent on the nearby beach; we hope the weather will continue to be kind to us.

Several of our "stanchions" have departed for sea drafts, we wish them good luck and a speedy return home. The S.C.O. has temporarily left us for liaison duties with the N.A.T.O. Headquarters in Paris.

827 Squadron have completed their work up and have departed for a short stay at Malta. They have been replaced by 826 Squadron who are commencing their training programme. We hope to see a Squadron of jet "Attackers" here in the near future. 703 Squa-



"XRI"

dron (S.T.U.) and 771 Squadron (F.R.U.) are still with us. We hope to get 1840 R.N.V.R. Squadron on the Station soon.

Communicators did achieve their ambition in the field of sport by winning the inter-Station Knock-out football competition and by finishing the season at the top of the Divisional Football League.

At present we are doing very well with a most enthusiastic Divisional Cricket Team. At the time of writing this team has won all games played and we certainly hope to finish somewhere near, if not at the top, of the Divisional Cricket League. We are also training during our leisure moments for the annual Sports Day which will be held on 27th June.

Until next edition, good luck to all Communicators everywhere, from us all at R.N.A.S. Ford.

H.M.S. "GANGES"

It is only through the unflagging persistence of the Editor that we have been able to shake off the after-effects of the year's most hectic week—and get down to the serious matter of letting fellow-Communicators know how things are going in *Ganges*. The combination of King's Birthday Review, Sports Day and Ship's Company Dance have caused the communication staff almost as much worry as the problems of converting to the new procedures and stretching out the 45-week course into a 50-week period.

To add to our complications, we have reluctantly had to say goodbye to Mr. Brooks—whose journalistic talent in the past has been put to good use in providing our contribution for these pages. We wish him the best of luck at Vicarage Road and trust that his initials appear at the foot of their paragraph.

We are also very sorry to lose Lieutenant Burnham who had to leave us for the warmer clime of Malaya very soon after shipping his second stripe.

Messrs. Reubens and Farrelly are now holding the reins at the end of the Signal School passage and are rapidly becoming acquainted with the ins and outs of boys training.

The Communicators have as usual more than held their own in the world of sport—221, 222 and 233 Classes were largely responsible for Grenville Division's 19½ point winning lead over Drake—and Boys Coles, Hodson, Trigg and Harmer distinguished themselves in individual events.

Instructor Boy Mealing is to be congratulated on winning the St. George's Prize which is awarded to the outstanding boy each term.

We are now beginning to see the fruits of the extension in the boys course from 35 to 45 weeks. Class averages are now in the fairly constant eighties—classes are reaching passing-out speed in time for several weeks' consolidation before the final examination—and less boys are being put back for poor morse results. We hope they keep the standard up when they get to sea.

On the material side, the Signal School is looking the better for a new coat of paint—and the new medium range V/S Teacher has at long last been

vacated by the electricians and shipwrights and is now ready for operation—how long the fittings will stand up to the heavy handed if well-meaning efforts of V/S classes remains to be seen!

H.M.S. "GANNET" OUR M.S.O.

In the *Gannet* signal office

All day long and half the night
There's a little band of workers
Putting up a gallant fight.

Signal Wrens, with charm and beauty
Grace the bustling, busy scene;
Capable and never slacking—
Ever diligent and keen.

Hear the teleprinters clatter,
Signals pile up, rows on rows.
Fingers ache, but what's it matter—
"Windmill"-like, we never close!

Telephones all day are ringing,
Queries, questions, "why's and where's."
"May I have eleven copies?"
"Is this signal ours or theirs?"

People come from all departments
Bringing signals all the day.
All impatient, high and mighty—
"This must go without delay."

And the *writing*!—Blobs and blotches:
(Might as well be Arabic!)
Must you use a leaky Biro?
Pen and ink is just as quick.

And I've got another grumble,
More important than you think:
If that signal's not Restricted
USE A PAD THAT ISN'T PINK!

Pity we Wren Buntin' Tossers,
Harassed and hen-pecked by all.
Slips we may make, but remember—
Though we slip, we never fall!

K. A. I.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD (see page 92)

ACROSS—1, Pulheems; 5, Baffle; 10, Dance; 11, Aldis Lamp; 12, Loin; 13, Adder; 14, Mess; 17, Pursers; 18, Fallen; 22, Seeded; 23, Vintage; 26, Easy; 28, Stout; 29, Star; 32, Star Shell; 33, Rhumb; 34, Report; 35, Syllabus.

DOWN—1, Puddle; 2, Longitude; 3, Even; 4, Meanders; 6, also; 7, Flame; 8, Exposing; 9, Odder; 15, Osier; 16, Faith; 19, Light bulb; 20, Assessor; 21, Visually; 24, Steed; 25, Tribes; 27, Sharp; 30, User; 31, Oral.

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GOING THE ROUNDS IN "MERCURY"

SPORTS DAY

21st June was truly a great day for *Mercury*: beautiful sunshine without a cloud in the sky, temperature around the 70's and a perfect arena—level, short green grass was ably marked out by our two P.T.I.'s.

At 1400 we were all ready for the start with, as a conservative estimate, about 600 ship's company, wives and kiddies bounding around. Yes, the youngsters kept us alive and their races called for a massed start. On the other hand, the veterans' race was well supported, a yard's start being given for every year of age over 35—you can imagine the remarks that were passed as ages were worked out before the start. The "Bish" cut an ecclesiastical caper when tripped up near the finishing line, but it was all very good-humoured. We all want to know who put the soot under the tarpaulin for the obstacle race, but the competitors finished up with black faces and grins as they commiserated with each other after completing the gruelling course.

The maximum lag or lead throughout the day's events was six minutes, which reflected great credit on the organising ability of our Sports Officer, Lt. Cdr. Calf. Many names could be added of those who assisted him to make our annual sports such a success; but if they were all mentioned, perhaps the drafting Commander would notice someone whose name had been missed on that "little yellow card."

The New Entries finally triumphed by winning the aggregate cup, with the Petty Officers a close second.

Captain J. G. T. Inglis, O.B.E., congratulated all the competitors who were successful, at the prize-giving, and thanked all those who took part for making this such a grand day. Mrs. Inglis kindly presented the prizes.

All was quiet on the sports field by 1830; transport had left on time, and those remaining started a little serious drinking until the Soberton Wrens, wives and sweethearts rolled up to the cinema for the "Sports Day Dance," which lasted from 2000 till

midnight.

P.S.—No 11 men had the afternoon off.

P.P.S.—The following pipes were heard on the sports field:—

1. All ratings who have not won a race—"Up Spirits."
2. All Wren ratings for voluntary instruction, muster on the Broadwalk.
3. Captain's requestmen and defaulters fall in at the Beer-bar to-night.
4. Brr . . . Blue Pencil . . . Ouch.

CHIEFS' CHATTER

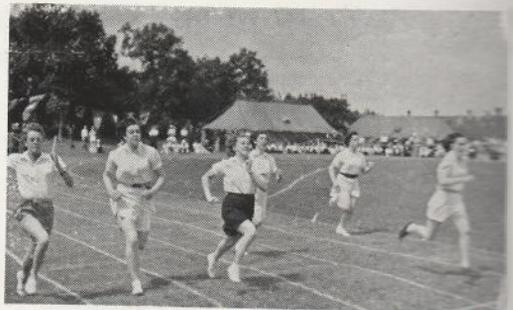
Once again it is time for us in *Mercury* to say "Hello" to our friends, both at home and overseas in another edition of the COMMUNICATOR. Your writer thought it was for the Christmas edition, but has since learnt that it is for the Summer. Such has been our weather. There are, however, definite signs that an improvement is in sight, if the popularity of the Broadwalk is anything to go by.

Since the last edition of "Chiefs' Chatter" we have had a change of President. C.P.O.Tel. Baister (a worthy lad) has been succeeded by C.Y.S. Blood. George has left us to become an R.N.V.R. instructor. We all wish him the best of luck.

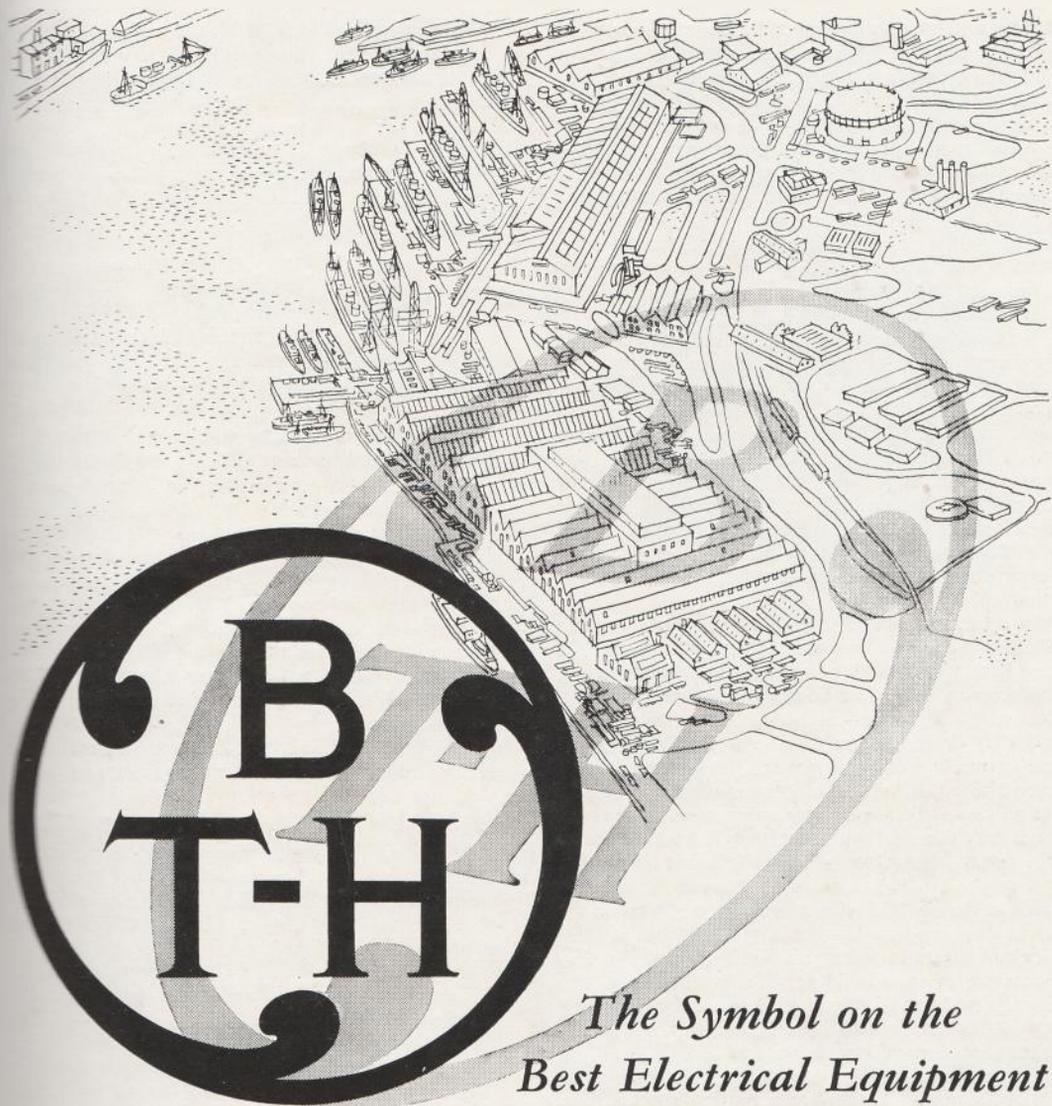
In the realm of sport the Chiefs can still give a good account of themselves despite pension pains and other ailments. We finished our soccer season with credit if not in a blaze of glory. In the seven-a-side league we won 3 and lost 3 and in the Crombie Cup knockout competition we went out in the first round to the eventual Cup winners, the Petty Officers, by the odd goal of five. Congratulations to the P.O.s.

The cricket knockout competition is now under way and we have been drawn against the Wardroom. The latter, by the way, are favourites to win the competition, but though we have no stars in the Mess there is plenty of enthusiasm. The Natives have done well with their support and some of the volunteers will be disappointed in not being chosen.

This year we are better represented in the *Mercury*



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Sports, and hope to give a good account of ourselves. Perhaps not enough entries to win the aggregate and the cup, but anything can happen.

For some weeks now the average number in the Mess has been ninety. We have had many visitors from Chatham and Devonport for courses and our list of failures can be counted on one hand. With the end of term in sight, those on course are getting a little dizzy with it all, but it is more disconcerting for those not on course. It is commonplace to overhear hot debates from Chief Yeomen on the 600 series, and for Chief Tels. to rotate the axis. What next, I wonder?

To those in foreign climes and expecting to be home by the end of the year, we hope to have the new cabin accommodation available by November. The accommodation will consist of single berths with a wash-basin in each. The minimum furnishing will be a table, chair, wardrobe, mirror and mats. All on modern lines. A sample chair has been in *Mercury* for approval and is very useful inasmuch that the back is shaped to hold a jacket, and under the padded armrests on each side is a rail to hang trousers. Power points for ironing and radio, etc., will also be fitted.

In a central part of the building is the bathroom where one can take a quick shower or lay back in a long bath and do a bit of swotting. A modern drying and ironing room is a long overdue improvement. The whole building will be centrally heated. This was only decided upon to stop the nattering as to whose turn it was to fill the scuttle. There is also a strong buzz that when the accommodation is opened the natives are going to stay onboard so as to enjoy the luxury therein. The new dining-room and lounge will come later. Our present Mess has also been improved a bit. The dining-room has been relaid with green corticine. The colour scheme was chosen no doubt to remind us of something. The front of "A" Block has been turfed and a flower garden made in the centre of each building. This is the First Lieutenant's pride and joy and is inspected by him daily at 0730 to see that all is well, not, as some think, to see that all the Chiefs are out of bed.

On the social side we have had two dances since Easter leave and both were a roaring success. The second of the two we were "at home" to the R.N.O.C.A. from Portsmouth. A return function with the latter has yet to be fixed. The H.Q. of this association is situated on the end of Pitt Street Sports Ground and the entrance is from the Commercial Road side. Later on in the term the Mess will be holding its annual summer Children's Party.

Recently we held the annual dart match, and this was won by C.Y.S. Mann who was in brilliant form. His name will therefore be added to the list of Champions on the Dart Shield.

At the moment we are in the middle of a snooker match, and your guess is as good as mine as to who will win it.

Our congratulations go to C.Y.S. F. J. Rainsbury,

whose award of the British Empire Medal was announced in the King's Birthday Honours List.

Minnie, our pet mouser, is soon to have another happy event. The babies' heads are always wetted in scrumpy (or is it a bucket of water).

In conclusion, to those of us at home we wish good weather for leave and to those on foreign commissions, God Bless and a safe return.

A. J. F.

PETTY OFFICERS' GOSSIP

This, all discredit to us, being the first contribution to THE COMMUNICATOR for some time, the ground to be covered is somewhat extensive.

PRESIDENTIAL NEWS

Yeo. H. R. Davis (Taff) completed his term as President in April and is now "enjoying" a commission in H.M.S. *Agincourt* (D4). The hard work put in by him for the betterment of the Mess was greatly appreciated by all of us who knew him so well. "Pleasant sailings, Taff." On leaving he was presented with a pint pewter mug. Yeo. Motteram as Vice-President carried out the duties of President during the period we were waiting for a President to be appointed. Our thanks to you Motts for so ably carrying out these duties on top of your Instructional Commitments.

P.O. Tel. J. Liddle has taken over office as President and is in the process of finding his feet.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

The Mess Sporting Activities have been not only extensive, but also highly successful. At the moment we hold the Decathlon Shield (co-holders with the C.P.Os.), the Tug-of-War Cup and the Crombie inter-Part Soccer Challenge Cup.

In winning the Soccer Cup we sorted out the Chiefs, the Sparkers and the favourites—New Entries—who we defeated in the final 4—0. Rear-Admiral Crombie kindly came up to watch the final and presented P.O.Tel. Liddle (Captain) with the cup.

After this Summer's Sports Meeting we hope to have even more trophies for display in the Lounge. Our Tug-of-War team at the moment averages around 16½ stone.

MISCELLANEOUS

Members joining the Mess will be pleased to find that they need no longer annoy the "canteen lunchers" whilst watching the lunch-hour cricket, as we have now installed in the Mess a T.V. with a screen 14 in. by 10 in.

We have the usual continuous stream of Communicators from all Depots passing through for Courses. At present the C.C.O.'s and W.I.'s courses are under way, with a fair representation of Mess members.

REQUIEM TO LONG COURSE "NAN"

Ten potential Long "C"'s
Came in for a course,
In how to communicate
Without using morse.

Ten potential Long "C"'s
Started off fine,
One's troubles came in piles
And then there were nine.

Nine potential Long "C"'s
Finished up in state,
One went down under,
And then there were eight.

Now eight fully blown "C"'s
Saw one drive to Devon,
No matter who he met there
—Now there are seven.

Seven fully blown "C"'s
Performed some silly tricks
To revive a nouveau father
But still there were six.

So six fully blown "C"'s
Went to a low down dive
But one lunched with an Admiral
Then there were five.

Five fully blown "C"'s
Full of l'amour,
One got caught
And that left four.

Four fully blown "C"'s
Playing on a key;
One made "X-Ray SOS"
And that left three.

Three fully blown "C"'s
With leave francais in view;
One got a Harwich sweeper
And that left two.

Two fully blown "C"'s
(Thank God its nearly done);
For one went off to Scotland
And then there was one.

Now one fully blown "C"
Was happy as can be;
Till the Commander saw him
Now he's at sea!

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V/S COMMENTARY

"A common system of signalling is being worked out for the North Atlantic Treaty countries."

Extract from a letter received from an old (sorry, I mean ex-) Commanding Officer the following day . . .

"At it again I see! Just as soon as I learnt enough about the new signal books to know when you were bouncing me, you go and change 'em—wouldn't keep your job if you didn't I suppose."

Yes, we're at it again. But this time not for the sheer, demon love of adventure, nor for the artist's desire to achieve perfection, nor even for the sake of promotion; but just for the sake of peace. Peace in the shape of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (N.A.T.O.), which organisation of Western nations—U.S.A., U.K., France, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Portugal, Italy, Iceland—has banded together in a common defence system to fight any aggressors. And as all communicators know, a common defence system must be founded on a common communication system. So for over a year now the N.A.T.O. nations have been hammering out a system of signalling which can be used between all these diverse countries as well as within the Navy of each country. This is something that has never before been achieved. We want to be able to talk to a Dutch, French or Portuguese ship just as we would to an H.M. Ship and to be able to manoeuvre and fight under common instructions. A formidable task. However, the work is now nearly over and the object of what follows is to tell you the sort of thing to expect. Firstly, please remember when you criticise the new books, as you will and should, that we have had to compromise on many things, and that no combined system can ever be as pleasing to any one nation as that nation's own system. All countries have been most co-operative and particularly the United States. You will discover this when you read the new Allied Naval Manoeuvring Instructions (*alias* C.O.F.) which is the basis of the new books.

The A.N.M.I. will present no difficulties to the C.O.F. addict, except that the spelling is American, but this is often easier to us than some of the spelling we see in exam. papers! There are very few differences between the present C.O.F. and A.N.M.I., and it is not till we get further down the Signal Book tree to the Allied Naval Signal Book that we meet the changes. A.N.S.B. replaces F.S.B. and in design and layout is almost identical. There are many detailed changes but only two new flags—Desig and Preparative pendants. Desig is as in the U.S.N. to-day; Preparative was born in unfortunate circumstances. When hoisted at colours it represents the colour of one's face and the condition of one's stomach after a successful run ashore—to wit, a yellow pendant with a green horizontal stripe. Ugh! But apart from these two new flags there will be no new colours to

learn; only a few old friends who have been transferred to new names.

You will note that there are now only three governing pendants: Preparative, Interrogative and Negative, and that they are all pendants for the sake of clarity. Affirmative is Able and Optional a group. But I must not start telling you all the detailed changes or I'd never stop. A letter will soon be coming round detailing the changes and explaining tricky points.

So much then for the A.N.M.I. and A.N.S.B. The various signal pamphlets will be rewritten to conform to the A.N.S.B. but will only be for intra-R.N. use. The Gunnery Signal Pamphlet will die. There is a new V.C.S.B. but normally we still use pendant numbers, although the PT sign and link sign have been abolished.

The new Procedure book (A.C.P. 129) must not be taken as a literal substitute for the V.S.I. as it serves a much wider purpose and this must always be remembered. It contains V/S procedure for *all services*—Army, Navy and Air Force—and therefore much of it will not normally be used by us. It is also based on the wireless procedure and certain parts will require a commonsense approach rather than a rigid adherence to the letter of the law. In order to help instructional staffs the school here is producing a pamphlet of examples to try and clarify the more obscure points.

The actual dates for the turnover to the new books is not yet known (probably late 1951—early 1952), but the changes when they come should not be anything like so difficult to absorb as the 1940 changes. In fact I think a squadron of destroyers (all flotillas are squadrons now) could go to sea on the new books within twenty-four hours of receiving them as long as they took it gently for the first day. One big point for all V/S ratings to remember—You cannot talk in P/L English on Fleet Wave or by light to a Portuguese ship, you must use a group because the only official English the other countries know is the phonetic alphabet, names of pendants and English numbers.

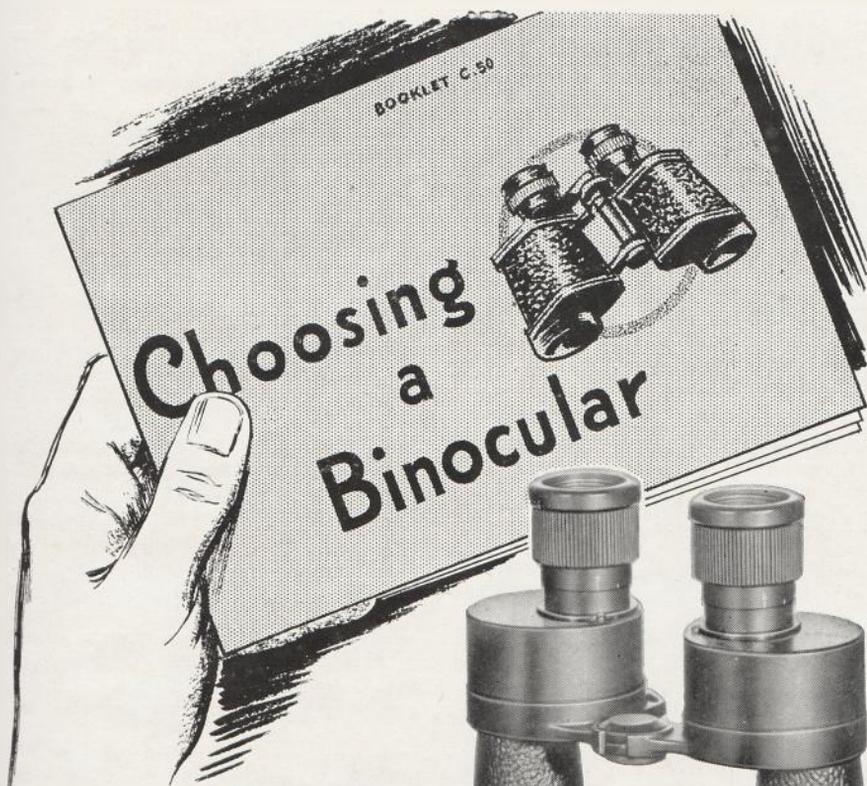
So Fox Nan is all right.

But Weigh Anchor is not.

So once again may I stress that as always and particularly when exercising with foreigners, the importance of knowing your books. Especially when, as has happened, a C.O. turns to you and says, "I want to do an 'Easy Item' as it was two books ago."

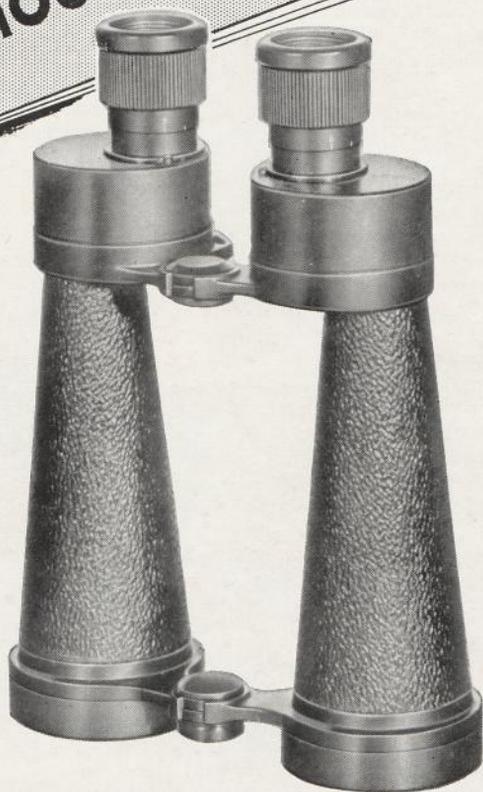
Well, that has probably left you feeling slightly shaken and winded. So, to deliver the K.O. with a left to the jaw, remember this—you aspiring (and perspiring possibly) candidates for course: You must swot up as much as you can before you come in for a course. You can find out what you are supposed to know by looking in a little blue book called the *Signal Training Manual* (S.T.M.).

And so we can say with Confucius: "The dogs may bark but the caravan moves on." The caravan being visual signalling; the dogs those sparkers and other



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low fellows who keep pretending the bow and arrow has been replaced by more modern weapons.

WIRELESS TRAINING NOTES

A considerable quantity of new books are about to descend or have just descended on the wireless world, and it would be as well to give a brief outline of what they are and how they will function.

First, procedure books A.C.P. 124 and 125 are now out in the Fleet and the readers' first reaction is that a lot has been removed compared with B.J.C.B.1. and the V.C.I.'s. But it must be remembered that the new books will be designed for all three services of a number of nations and a great deal of naval specialised procedures were left out as were the procedures whereby the Army operate tanks and the Air Force operate their transport aircraft. Further procedure A.C.P.s. will be produced for teleprinter and D/F.

Next are the signalling instructions. There will be two signalling instructions. First A.C.P. 121 which is a small combined communication instruction which has inter-service agreements and very little meat in it. This book was written at *Mercury* and is now undergoing final revision in America. Next A.C.P. 176 which is an allied naval signalling instruction which

is now with the Fleet. This book was produced quickly to meet the first N.A.T.O. exercises and will be considerably amended as more problems are ironed out. For instance, the names of the tactical wireless frequencies have yet to be finally agreed.

Next a number of books giving call signs, code words, codes and definitions will shortly be produced.

The doctrine for enemy reporting will be given in A.T.O.1, the Allied Naval Manoeuvring Instructions and the nuts and bolts of the procedure and drill in A.C.P. 176.

Next a replacement for B.R.222 is being produced and is at the printers now. It has been written at *Mercury* and has been compiled as a guide for instructors.

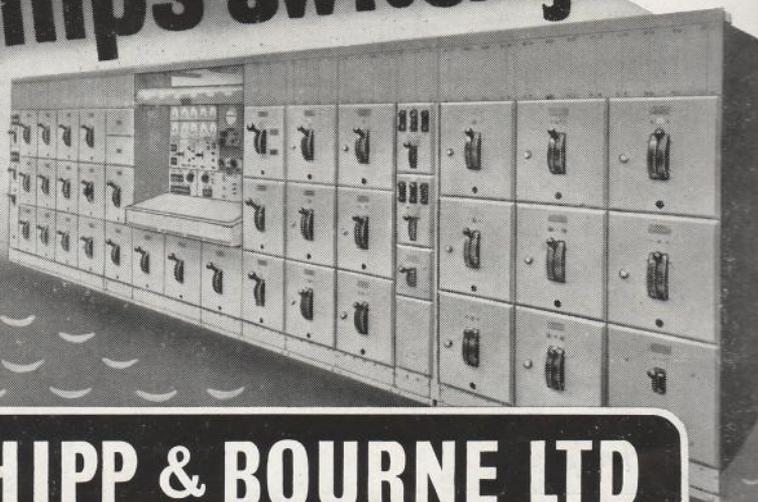
Finally the draft G.S.I. which has recently been distributed will be replaced by these N.A.T.O. books and much of it incorporated therein.

As you can imagine, candidates doing their courses are having a difficult time as everything will be in a state of changes until the end of the year, by which time we should settle down with our new books.

The recent increase in the length of P.O.Tels./Q courses has now begun to have its effect and we hope that a more efficient product will be sent to sea.

Recent changes in the wireless training staff at Leydene are considerable, and to name a few, Lieutenant Commander Knight, Lieutenant Com-

a.c. ships' switchgear...



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mander Calf, Mr. Symons and Chief P.O.Tel. Baister have left, and Lieutenant Commander O'Riordan, Lieutenant Kane, Mr. Fitzgerald and Chief P.O.Tel. Tait have joined. We wish the departing members good luck in their next jobs.

CRICKET

At the time of going to press, which is only half-way through the season, the *Mercury* cricket side has played eleven matches, two of our fixtures had to be abandoned due to weather. We have won 3, lost 4 and drawn 4, though we came very near to winning two of the drawn games.

Our batting strength lies mainly in the stoic defence of the Padre, some attractive straight-bat work by O/Tels. Smith and Knight, and some vigorous smiting by the Commander and Lieutenant Goldsmith.

In the bowling line, O/Tel. Schofield has surprised a lot of our opponents by coming down the hill very fast at Soberton, and Leading Signalmen Lisle has surprised even more batsmen by coming equally fast up the hill—these two have taken most of the wickets

so far.

The fielding and catching, wherein lie so many runs, has not been up to standard, and much practice is required before we can call ourselves efficient in this department.

We find ourselves in the semi-final of the United Services Cricket Knock-out competition, having beaten *Dolphin* and *Daedalus* fairly comfortably. Our next opponents are *Vernon*.

The inter-Part Knock-out competition is well under way, so far the Chief Petty Officers, Petty Officers, Seamen, Sparkers, and New Entries "B" teams have bitten the dust.

Soberton is still our home ground, though a score has been made on clearing the woods behind White Lodge which will eventually contain two football grounds and a cricket table. One football ground should be ready for use by Easter, 1952, but we shall have to wait some years for our own home cricket ground.

A fuller report of our cricket activities will be given in the Christmas number.

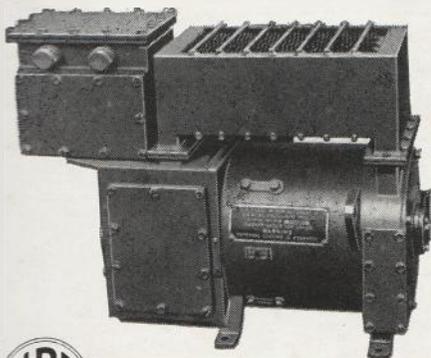
COMMUNICATIONS GAZETTE RECENT PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—Although every endeavour is made to ensure that the information in this section is correct, we ask readers not to treat it as authoritative in the strict sense, and to grant us their indulgence if occasional errors are made.)

| Name | Rank | Whence | Whither |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| G. AFFLECK-GRAVES | Cdr. | Mercury | Staff of Tactical Course. |
| R. AITKEN | S.C.C.O. | Mercury | R.N.S.S., Vicarage Road |
| E. G. B. ANNIS | S.C.C.O. | R.N.S.S., Vicarage Road | Mercury |
| C. K. ANTHONY | Lt. | Solebay | Promoted Lt. Cdr. and apptd. Vulture |
| R. J. ATTRIDGE | C.C.O. | Phoebe | Mercury |
| P. J. R. d'Authreau, M.A., B.Sc. | Instr. Lt. | Mercury | Boxer |
| E. F. S. BACH, D.S.C. | Cdr. | Victory | Loch Quoich in cmd. |
| I. M. BALFOUR, M.B.E. | Cdr. | President (DSD/DNI) | Jutland in cmd. |
| E. W. J. Banks | Capt. | Victory | Superb in cmd. and Flag Capt. and Chief Staff Offr. to C.-in-C., A. and W.I. |
| H. S. BENNETT | Lt. | Mercury (Long "C" Course) | Bramble (S.C.O., Staff of Capt. M/s. 4) |
| A. E. C. BEST | S.C.C.O. | Mercury (C.C.O. Conversion Crse.) | Kenya |
| Miss J. L. P. BEVAN | 2/O W.R.N.S. | Osiris (Ce) | Mercury (Ce) as Cdr.'s Asst. |
| C. D. BONHAM-CARTER | Capt. | Mermaid in cmd. | Naval Attache, Rome. |
| C. B. Brooke | Cdr. | Illustrious | J.S.S.C. |
| P. C. BROOKER | Lt. Cdr. | Jamaica | Forth |
| T. R. Brooks | S.C.C.O. | Ganges | R.N.S.S., Vicarage Road |
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| A. C. I. BURNHAM | S.C.C.O. | Ganges, Promoted Commn. Lt. | Terror (Staff of F.O.M.A.) |
| E. CAPLIN | Commn. Lt. | Mercury | Pembroke (Staff of Capt. i/c Sheerness) |
| E. S. COBB | C.C.O. | Warrior | Highflyer as Assist. to O. i/c Ceylon West Receiving Stn. |
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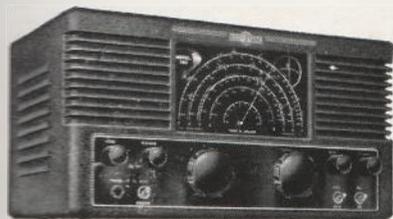


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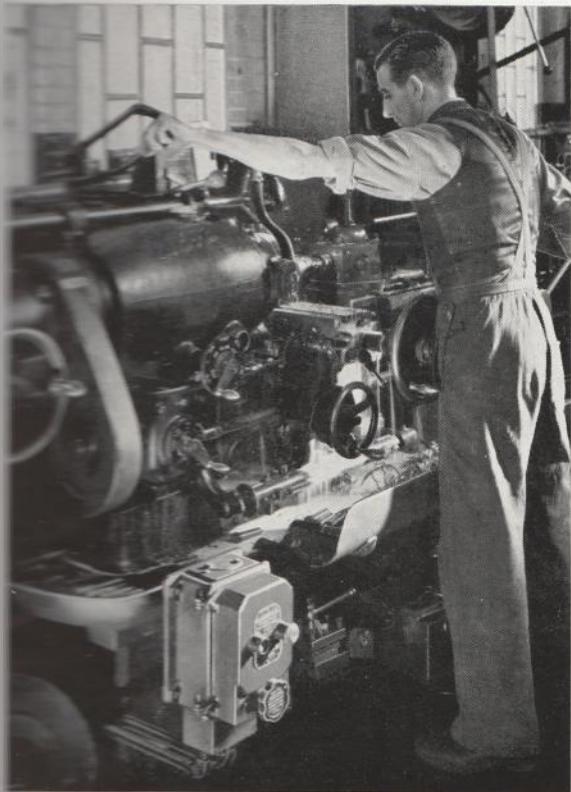


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| R. DURNFORD | Lt. | Indomitable (Staff of C-in-C., H.F.), Promoted Lt. Cdr. | Mercury |
| D. O. DYKES | Lt. Cdr. | Mercury | President (D.C.N.S.) |
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| W. FITZHERBERT | Lt. | Mercury (Long "C" Course) | Terror (Staff of C-in-C., F.E.S.) |
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| J. KANE | Lt. | Vanguard | Mercury |
| H. R. KEATE | Lt. | Mercury (Long "C" Course) | Belfast as Flag Lt. and S.(C)A. to F.O., 5th C.S. and F.O.2 i/c F.E.S.) |
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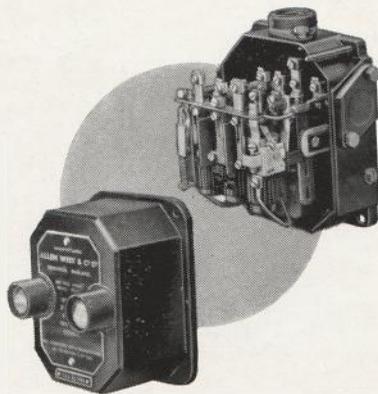


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| F. M. H. MILBURN | Lt. | Ceylon | Mercury |
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| P. H. PAGE | Lt. | Mercury II | Triumph |
| C. H. PAIN | Lt. Cdr. | R.A.N. Loan Service | Reverts to R.N. and apptd. Cumberland |
| W. F. PATERSON | Lt. Cdr. | S.C.O., Staff of C.-in-C., Plymouth | Mercury II |
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| J. R. PHILLIMORE, D.S.C. | Lt. Cdr. | N.A.S.S., Seafeld Park | Highflyer (Staff of C.-in-C., E.I. and O. i/c Ceylon West W/T Stations) |
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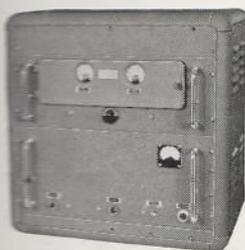
High performance, reliability and ease of control characterise this Plessey Communications Equipment, designed to meet international aeronautical requirements and fully tropicalised.



PR 51 H.F. Receiver for high quality reception of R/T M.C.W. and C.W. in the 2-20 Mc/s band. Temperature compensated R.F. and oscillator circuits with crystal control or free tuning as required. Simple to maintain as valves and all major components are readily accessible. Fitted with automatic channel indication and muting control. Local or remote control. Designed to International Aeradio Specification.

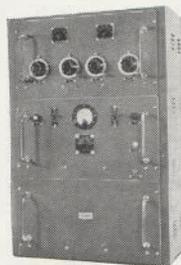


PR 71 Single channel crystal controlled V.H.F. receiver for R/T and M.C.W. in the 70-156 Mc/s band. High sensitivity and excellent stability over a wide temperature range. Local or remote control. The remote control unit incorporates a loudspeaker and provides all facilities, including automatic channel indication. Designed to International Aeradio Specification.



PT 10 12 watt V.H.F. crystal controlled transmitter covering the 116-132 Mc/s band. Designed for simple operation with band pass circuits in the R.F. unit to reduce the number of tuning controls required, and a pre-set circuit in the modulator which automatically prevents over modulation.

PT 15 50 watt V.H.F. transmitter covering the 118-132 Mc/s frequency range, but can be supplied for other frequency ranges between 70 and 184 Mc/s to order. The operational frequency is crystal controlled. Remote speech and "press to transmit" facilities over a distance of approximately 25 miles using a standard telephone pair.



PV 14 Wide band aerial amplifier enabling up to ten communication receivers to be operated from one common aerial system. Handles large signal inputs without overloading or cross-talk becoming excessive. Low noise factor. Available for 75 or 600 ohm inputs. Designed to International Aeradio Specification.

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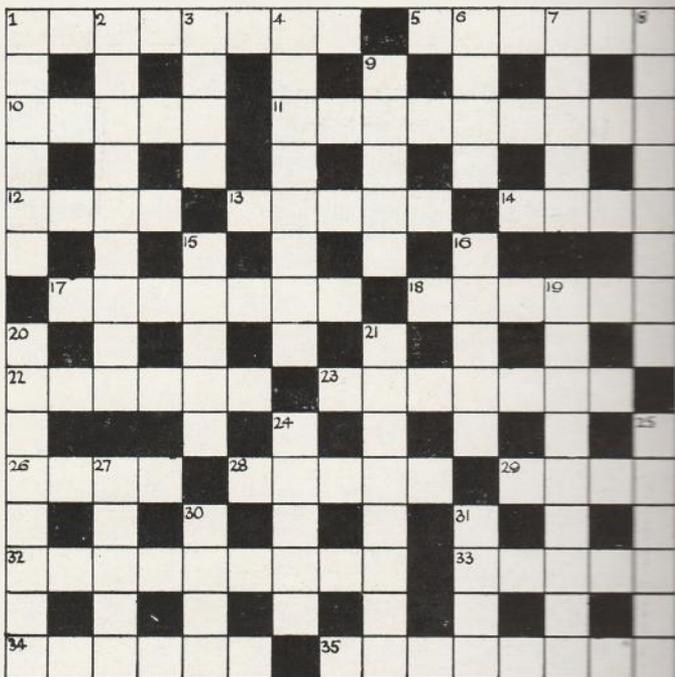
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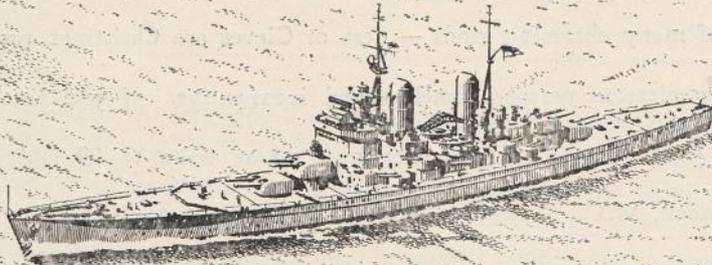
COMMUNICATIONS CROSSWORD

(See page 76 for Solution).

ACROSS.—1, Examinations to help emus (8). 5, This around a loud speaker will puzzle you (6). 10, A bun with this is plenty (5). 11, Pallid Sam makes light of it (5, 4). 12, Natives drape a cloth round it (4). 13, A snake in the Accountancy Branch? (5). 14, Communications take ages—and find living quarters (4). 17, The issue concerns them (7). 18, May describe arches and angels (6). 22, It is in a Puzsee dedication (6). 23, Tag in plant gives the port which comes from it (7). 26, Marryat's simple officer (4). 28, Drink to be fat (5). 29, The right board (4). 32, An illuminating projectile (4, 5). 33, Sounds a queer line to take (5). 34, Send word about shelter (6). 35, Sub's ally (anag.).

DOWN.—1, Dr. Foster stepped here (6). 2, The Naval College at Greenwich has no degree of this (9). 3, Six is but not seven although it contains it (4). 4, Here you can find me and erstwhile companions (8). 6, "They—serve who only stand and wait" (4). 7, An old one generally leaves us cold (5). 8, Showing (8). 9, More than curious if we replace 13's head (5). 15, Rosie makes a proper basket (5). 16, Runs second to charity (5). 19, But we don't "rays" a plant from this (5, 4). 20, Does he value female donkeys? (8). 21, After six return us before our friend (8). 24, Charger (5). 25, There were ten in the Middle East before some were lost (6). 27, Above the allotted A.F. (5). 30, Ruse that comes undone (4). 31, Otherwise little Alfred (4).





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Front view of Transmitter GNT 604, including power and M.F. packs.

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