

## GRIPPO

<i>Places Visited</i>	<i>Distance Steamed Monthly</i>	
	<i>Arrive</i>	<i>Depart</i>
	1936	1936
Bermuda	11th August	15th August
Colon	21st August	25th August
Buenaventura	27th August	31st August
Guayaquil	2nd September	9th September
Talara	10th September	14th September
Paita	14th September	17th September
Chimbote	18th September	24th September
Callao	25th September	3rd October
Iquique	5th October	12th October
Antofagasta	15th October	20th October
Coquimbo	22nd October	27th October
Valparaiso	28th October	16th November
Juan Fernandez	17th November	20th November
Valparaiso	21st November	21st November
Puerto Corral	23rd November	1st December
Puerto Montt	2nd December	14th December
Magallanes	21st December	28th December
Port Stanley	30th December	8th January (1937)
	1937	1937
South Georgia	11th January	16th January
South Shetlands	18th January	18th January
Falkland Islands	20th January	21st January
Buenos Aires	25th January	1st February
Mar del Plata	2nd February	8th February
Montevideo	9th February	14th February
Rio de Janeiro	18th February	24th February
Ceara	1st March	3rd March
Barbados	9th March	22nd March
Tortola	24th March	27th March
Bermuda	30th March	6th May
Trinidad	10th May	13th May

*Proposed Last Cruise*

Bermuda		11th June	
Nassau	14th June	21st June	
Havana	23rd June	30th June	
Kingston, Jamaica	3rd July	13th July	June and July 7,055 (Estimated)

## TABLE OF DISTANCES STEAMED

<i>Places Visited</i>	<i>Distance Steamed Monthly</i>	
	<i>Arrive</i>	<i>Depart</i>
	1937	1937
Barbados	17th July	23rd July
Trinidad (Pointe-à-Pierre)	24th July	24th July
Portsmouth	6th August	
TOTAL DISTANCE—61,217 miles.		

## V. CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY

### THE NIGHT BEFORE

*Herald.* Ahoy there. What ship is that and where are you bound?

*Captain.* His Britannic Majesty's Cruiser *Ajax* from Bermuda, bound for South American Ports. Who are you?

*Herald.* I am the Herald of his Oceanic Majesty, King Neptune, and I wish to come on board.

*Captain.* I will stop the ship. (*To O.O.W.*) Stop Both. (*Pause.*) (*To Herald.*) My engines are stopped.

(*Fanfare from behind screen. Herald appears and bows to the bridge.*)

*Captain.* By what right do you challenge us upon the High Seas.

*Herald.* By command of my Royal Master, Lord of the Ocean.

*Captain.* I crave His Majesty's pardon, and request permission to enter His Equatorial Domain.

*Herald.* Royal Neptune bids you welcome, together with your crew

But will demand the homage which is due.  
For he decrees that all who cross the Line  
Must first be shaved and then baptized in brine;  
Save those who having passed this way before  
And in accordance with our Ancient Law,  
Have shared in our time-honoured Mysteries  
And been presented with The Freedom of the Seas.  
Are you prepared to swear to our Recorder  
That everybody's papers are in order?

*Captain.* Nay, Sir Herald, this I cannot do  
For there are Novices among our crew.  
Yet everyone is keen to play his part  
When good King Neptune gives the word to start.

*Herald.* 'Tis well. His Majesty commands  
That you will cause a muster of all hands,  
To greet Him and his Court from down below  
To-morrow at O-nine-double-o.

At that hour with his Queen Exquisite  
My Lord and Master comes to pay his visit,  
Attended by his Bears and retinue,  
To see that every Novice has his due.

*Chief of Police.* Avast. Belay, and likewise stop the bus.  
Thus far you seem to have forgotten us  
King Neptune's Maritime Constabulary,  
Of whom we warn all persons to be wary.  
My satellites and I will search the ship  
To see that no one gives our bears the slip.  
All papers will be subject to close scrutiny,  
And woe to him unwise enough to mutiny.

*Herald.* Silence, Bears. And now hear one and all,  
At nine to-morrow we shall pay our call,  
And so we leave you with this greeting,  
Farewell! To our next merry meeting.

### FINIS

*The next day.*

0845. Clear lower deck. Everybody aft. Officers athwartships, immediately abaft "Y" turret. Captain and Commander in front.

0900. Procession starts from starboard waist. R.M. Band and Buglers on "X" gun-deck. When the head of the procession reaches the quarter-deck, Buglers sound the "Still." Band begins a Processional March and continues until Court is assembled in position.

*Captain.* (*Bowing to Neptune.*) Our humble Duty, Sire, may we with one accord

Welcome you and your lovely Queen on board.  
 May I crave pardon for my gallant crew  
 For being nearly twelve months overdue  
 In making our appearance at your Court,  
 To pay respectful homage as we ought;  
 But we have been preoccupied of late  
 With certain little businesses of State,  
 Which took us to a much more hostile region  
 Where we enlisted in the "Foreign Legion."  
 That work completed, we are back again  
 Seeking once more to enter your Domain,  
 So bid your Bears "Lay On," you'll find us tough,  
 And damned be he who first cries, "Hold, enough."

*Neptune.* Well spoken, *Ajax*, I give you hearty greetings.  
 For many moons I've waited for this meeting.  
 Upon this Day of days do I renew  
 Old friendships, and make friendships new.  
 Since you sped Eastward at your King's behest  
 I've watched you with the keenest interest.  
 In all your journeyings in Eastern waters,  
 In all your dalliyings with Egypt's daughters,  
 In all your games, from the day you beat the *Hood*,  
 I've seen you—knew you to be good.  
 And though 'tis true you never won a pot  
 From all that fleet, they chose you to be yacht,  
 For no less person than the C.-in-C.,  
 Oh *Queen Eliz'beth* what a blow to thee.  
 You made firm friends with Officers and Ranks  
 Of t' gallant Twentieth, the Fusiliers from Lancs;  
 While everywhere you've been, when you departed  
 Someone, somewhere, has been left broken-hearted.  
 And now you're back once more upon this Station  
 In work and play keep up your reputation,  
 So, when you meet your Admiral and the rest,  
 You'll impress upon them who is really "Best."

*(Bears growl noisily.)*

*Neptune.* Silence, ye Bears, forgive the dreadful pun,

I know you're anxious for *your* little fun.  
*(To Ship's Company.)* But ere we start upon our Royal sport,  
 Methinks I'll introduce you to my Court.  
 First, me behold. Neptune am I, the Mighty,  
 And then my Queen, the peerless Amphitrite.  
 Now mark ye well my famous Chief of Police  
 Who'll never countenance a breach of Peace.  
 The Motto of his Force is "Get your Man"  
 And 'tis their boast they carry out their plan.  
 Nor rank nor size can cause them to desist  
 In arresting any persons who resist.  
 These will they carry by the shortest path  
 Before my Court of Justice, then—the Bath!  
 But meet my Doctor, who, with tasty pills  
 Will keep you fit and cure you of all ills:  
 And then our Barbers, who, with soap and brush,  
 Will leave your skin just like a maiden's blush.  
*(To Amphitrite.)* Speaking of mermaids, where are our girls  
 to-day?

*Amphitrite.* I know the *Ajax*, so bade them stay away.  
 These fellows here, their fame has travelled far,  
 And Neppy dear, you know what sailors are.  
 There is a chance, too, that the pretty dears  
 Might give the younger element ideas.

*Neptune.* Ah well, my dear, no doubt you're quite correct,  
 In all we do we should be circumspect,  
 And this is not the time nor yet the place  
 To be distracted by a pretty face.  
*(To Ship's Company.)* My introductions are not yet complete,  
 My bodyguard are hungry for their meat.

*(Bears growl noisily.)*

Then when the preliminaries are braved  
 And every trembling Novice has been shaved,  
 We pass them from our famous Rocking Chairs  
 To the tender mercies of our Bears.

*(Bears growl.)*

Who everlasting seeking for a meal  
Will do their task with energy and zeal.  
So, when our Ancient Mysteries you've learned  
And by your grit and courage you have earned  
Our approbation, then it shall us please,  
To confer on you "The Freedom of the Seas."

*(Fanfare of Trumpets.)*

But other matters we would now attend,  
Bring Captain Thomson, an old and trusted friend.

*(Herald brings Captain Thomson before Neptune. Announces :  
Captain Colin Sinclair Thomson, Royal Navy.)*

*(Shaking hands as Captain bows.)* Captain Thomson, I am very  
glad

To meet you at my Court again, my lad.  
Indeed, I'm proud to clasp you by the hand  
And compliment you on a very fine command,  
But in addition to my greetings warm  
I have a pleasant duty to perform,  
This being the twelfth time you've crossed my border,  
I now invest you with this Ancient Order.

*(Presents Captain with "The Order of the Trident.")*

*Herald.* Commander John Edmund Sissmore, Royal Navy.

*Neptune.* A Commander's thankless task, what'ere his plans  
Is usually to carry someone's cans ;  
But I appreciate your heart of gold,  
Disclosed when yards of flannel are unrolled,  
So, in return for all your deeds untold,  
I give you just another can to hold.

*(Presents Commander with "The Order of the Periodical Can.")*

*Herald.* Commander (E) John Frederick Ward Tamplin,  
Royal Navy.

*Neptune.* The normal duties of a Chief I find  
Are of a very wide and diverse kind ;  
Steam, water, oil, electric power supply  
And catapults to help those men who fly ;  
But in addition, sir, I find you are  
Addicted to the Cine-Camera,  
And so to show you how it pleases me  
I invest you with the Cine (E).

*(Presents Commander (E) with "The Order of the Cine (E).")*

*Herald.* Paymaster-Commander B. H. Bowen, Royal Navy.

*Neptune.* Fish is fish and "pi" is "pi," and ne'er the twain  
shall meet.

So try to keep them separate and give the lads a treat ;  
And trusting that in future, to do this you will try  
I invest you with "The Most Exalted Order of Fish Pi."

*(Presents Paymaster-Commander with "The Order of Fish Pi," with  
"Roll Collar.")*

*Herald.* Major E. J. O. Ellison, Royal Marines.

*Neptune.* The rumour that has just been going round  
Says, very shortly you'll be Homeward bound ;  
And though, before, an unkind fate delayed yer  
I'll do the best I can for you, dear Major.  
This little ship comes from your faithful Corps  
Who wish you many happy days in store.

*(Presents Major Ellison with "The Blue Funneller.")*

*Herald.* Flight-Lieutenant John Dalzell Stead.

*Neptune.* Often when I'm sleeping in my bed  
I'm roused by hideous noises overhead,  
And as 'tis you who causes me to rise  
To see a strange contraption in the skies,  
To make your takings off less difficult,  
I present to you this little Catapult.

*(Presents Flight-Lieutenant Stead with "The Order of the Catapult.")*

*Herald.* Petty Officer Harrison.

*Neptune.* By boasts of divers things, both real and feigned,  
A certain reputation you have gained,  
For when a story-teller's yarn is done  
You usually cap it with a bigger one;  
Instead of giving you the "Outsize Crumpet"  
I shall bestow on you this little Trumpet.

*Herald.* Able Seaman Parrett.

*Neptune.* From the time this strange old World began  
I've always loved the hearty trencherman.  
A man to whom his food is such a joy,  
He'll go the second time round the buoy.  
Good men like you are few upon this Planet  
So please accept "The Order of the Gannet."

(Presents A.B. Parrett with "The Order of the Hungry Gannet.")

*Herald.* Shipwright Pilcher.

*Neptune.* As Lord of all the Seas, upon my throne  
I have to lend an ear to many a moan;  
Invariably the answer that I give,  
"To err is human—'tis noble to forgive,"  
So gaze on this, you'll find it well worth while,  
The Order of the Everlasting Smile.

*Herald.* O Mighty Neptune, the Ocean's rightful Lord,  
This ends the list of those you would reward;  
The Court must to the Bath; each at his Station  
All ready to perform Initiation.

*Neptune.* From here then, to the Bath, where I will wait  
To give a welcome to each candidate  
Unless he misbehave; in that event,  
Severe but just will be his punishment.  
And when my Court and I have done our task  
A favour, Captain Thomson, I would ask,  
That to your merry crew you will extend,  
To-day, the privilege of a "Make and Mend."

(*Fanfare of Trumpets.*)

FINIS.

H.M.S. *Ajax*

In Position Lat. 00-00 North  
Long. 80-35 West.

WARRANT NUMBER 3.

Whereas it has been represented to me by a Competent Member of King Neptune's Maritime Police, that *H. STRUDWICK*, Leading Seaman:

CLASS FOR CONDUCT . . . IRREGULAR  
CHARACTER ASSESSED TO DATE . . . BOLD AND BAD  
CLASS FOR LEAVE . . . ALWAYS OVER THE SIDE—  
*DID* Act in a manner to the prejudice and good order and Oceanic discipline in that he did attempt to disguise himself with a view to evading His Majesty's bodyguard, by removing from his face his natural chin covering of seaweed.

I hereby adjudge him to be *GUILTY* and sentence him to BE REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO ANY UNDERSEA CABARET FEATURING SHRIMPS AND NYMPHS—TO BE LATHERED IN PINK AND TO BE STEEPED IN BRINE UNTIL HE IS BLUE.

Before awarding the foregoing Punishment, I did NOT investigate the matter, and heard NO evidence in support of the Charge, Nor what the accused had to offer in his defence, but I consider the Charge to be substantiated against him. Taking into consideration that this is the *SECOND* Offence registered against him in the Conduct Book, I adjudge him to be punished as afore stated.

Given under my hand on board H.M.S. *Ajax*, at the Equator on the First Day of September 1936.

(Signed) E. J. DALE.

(Chief of Police and Maritime Judge.)

LIST OF CHARACTERS.

*Neptune* . . . . . S.P.O. Diment  
*Amphitrite* . . . . . A.B. Dunning  
*Herald* . . . . . Mr. E. H. H. Rampling, Warrant  
Engineer  
*Chief of Police* . . . . . P.O. Dale  
*Doctor* . . . . . Lieutenant-Commander Lambert

<i>Doctor's Assistant</i> . . . . .	Musician Cook
<i>Clerk of the World</i> . . . . .	R.P.O. Warrin
<i>Assistant Clerk of the World</i>	Leading-Seaman Dollery
<i>Barbers</i> . . . . .	Chief Shipwright Neville C.P.O. Nunn
<i>Barbers' Assistants</i> . . . . .	Chief Yeoman Signals Harper C.P.O. Higham P.O. Carter A.B. Reed
<i>Court Trumpeters</i> . . . . .	Musician Marks Bugler Stagg A.B. Leary
<i>Policemen</i> . . . . .	Chief Cook Babey Sergt. Hand, R.M. Sergt. Towill, R.M. Cpl. Ambridge, R.M. Leading-Seaman Attrill Marine Howill Marine Poar Marine Grimble A.B. Chappell
<i>Bears</i> . . . . .	Surgeon-Commander Davis Paymaster-Commander B. H. Bowen Midshipman Dannreuther Chief O.A. Brittain O.A. Gouldie S.P.O. Balding S.P.O. Siggins S.P.O. Miffin Shipwright Patmore Leading-Seaman Salisbury Leading-Stoker Payne Signalman Spinks A.B. Kimber Stoker Ball Marine Smith

<i>Makers of Regalia</i> . . . . .	Plumber Fletcher (Crowns and Trident) Mr. Rampling C.E.R.A. New } Orders and E.R.A. Aylmer } Decorations E.R.A. Carleton }
<i>Painting</i> . . . . .	Painter Curtis
<i>Staging, etc.</i> . . . . . (which collapsed)	Mr. Butler (Warrant Shipwright) and Staff
<i>Court Costumiers</i> . . . . .	Cpl. Ambridge Marine Howill
<i>State Chariot</i> . . . . .	Shipwright's Staff Mr. Swales, Commissioned Gunner Sailmaker

## VI. UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS

WE have been asked to record the following two extracts from letters of appreciation received in the ship. In addition there were many kind letters sent in connection with our visits to South American countries, but these two are from British colonies where British warships are well known.

Extract of a letter from the Colonial Office, concerning *Ajax's* visits to Falkland Islands and South Georgia :

" . . . The Governor of the Falkland Islands has asked that the thanks of the Colonial Government may be conveyed to Their Lordships for the generous and immediate response to the call for assistance from the Commander of the Royal Research Ship *Discovery II*."

The Governor also pays tribute to the Captain, Officers and Ship's Company of H.M.S. *Ajax*, and states that he has never known a warship to evoke goodwill to so marked an extent on brief visits. It appears that the Officers and Ship's Company entered fully into the life of the ports of Stanley and Grytviken, and the Governor adds that the friendship and admiration of the Norwegian whalers in South Georgia were particularly marked.

Extract from a letter from H.E. the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago :

" . . . I wish to thank you for the assistance given in our Coronation ceremonies by your Officers and Ship's Company. The bearing of your contingent upon parade this morning was admirable, and I have reason to know that the presence of the Navy created a most favourable impression and was highly appreciated."

## PART VII

### SPORTS

- I GENERAL
- II FOOTBALL
- III CRICKET
- IV HOCKEY
- V WATER-POLO AND SWIMMING
- VI BOXING
- VII TUG-OF-WAR
- VIII ATHLETICS AND LONG-DISTANCE RUNNING
- IX SPRING BAYONET FENCING

## I. GENERAL

IT was realized from official reports and from those who had served on the South American Station that a great deal was expected from a cruiser in the matter of sport. Furthermore, her opponents were invariably strong and took sport very seriously. We were therefore very glad to have the opportunity during the working-up period at Malta to select and train our teams before arriving on the station. Great response was given to the call for volunteers, and we discovered much talent in the ship. The promises of such a good beginning were amply fulfilled during the Commission.

During the second Mediterranean period the ship gained the reputation of a good games ship. In association football we were unbeaten by any battleship and only twice lost to a cruiser. In hockey we did extremely well, and individuals achieved success in other fields, notably Sub-Lt. Kirkby at rugger, who played for the Navy at Alexandria. We can boast that we had more games of all sorts than any other ship on the station, though we should have liked more.

During the South American period we again played more games than any other ship of recent times, even if the results were not so good on paper. At each port we visited it was quite usual for the officers to be playing a tennis and a golf match, and the Ship's Company a 1st, 2nd and gatecrashers' XI match at the same time. The Ship's Company became very keen on tennis and it is hoped that succeeding ships will get more now that the way has been paved. Finally, I am sure that all will agree that the games played formed a very real part of the success of a visit.



## II. FOOTBALL

**D**URING this first commission of *Ajax* the ship has been very well blessed with football talent. At the outset Ldg.-Seaman (now Gunner) Webber joined us with a distinguished football record, and became Captain of the team. He was well supported by L.-S. Aldred, S.P.O. Lowther, A.B. R. L. Shaw, L.-S. Walker, Marine Robinson and Corpl. Parfitt, R.A.F., all of whom were well known in their respective depots. Amongst the younger players Boy O'Dowd had a schoolboy international trial for Scotland, and we had several members of Shotley and St. Vincent 1st XI players. As committeemen we were fortunate in having with us S.P.O. Diment, whose knowledge of South America was invaluable, A.B. Tyler, whose technical knowledge was a great help to the side, and P.O. Harrison, who was most useful, having come from a training ship. Mention must be made of the large and hard-working staff of referees, who have played an important and thankless part during the Commission. The responsibility of the referee in handling a ticklish situation in a foreign match cannot be underestimated. South Americans look to us for an example of how to play football, and any mistake on the part of the referee may have disastrous results.

We got our first chance of playing football trials at Malta in June. We secured the Empire Stadium, in spite of the fact that it was the off season, and in one long week-end managed to get 144 men ashore to play football. The hot and dusty conditions were excellent training for South America. From these trials we built a team, and challenged Slicma Wanderers—unpardonable impertinence. Before a large crowd of spectators we were soundly beaten, 9-0. A list

of the team and places is given at the end of this article. Webber played a very fine game and we learnt a great deal. We had been able to select a respectable first team, and all had had their chance of a trial.

At Trinidad, the first port of call on our station, conditions for football were bad. It was the rainy season and the heat upset most of the team. We lost to the Police and beat the island champions. At La Guaira we had our first experience of South American football. Two matches were played in the capital, and on each occasion the team had to make the 25-mile railway journey to the capital, eat a large lunch provided by the British colony, and meet a smart soccer side afterwards. The ground was a baseball pitch, half sand and half grass. It was the rainy season. The local paper was right in its cartoon depicting us as the "Kings of the Sea" against the "Kings of the Mud." On both occasions a large and distinguished audience was present, and all formalities in the shape of photographs, etc., had to be gone through. The first match we lost 6-0, but an amended side did well to draw on the second occasion against a stronger team. Press comments were very satisfactory.

During the remainder of the West Indies cruise we were very successful. The niggers could always be relied upon to put up a team, and they all enjoyed the matches. The habit of negro crowds of laughing at all mistakes was a little disconcerting. On arrival at Barbados we found King Cricket already installed, but a couple of games were played on the Savannah racecourse before our untimely return to the Mediterranean.

## MEDITERRANEAN

We kept in good training on the passage across to Gibraltar, and on arrival there we took the chance of measuring our capabilities against Naval opponents. We challenged the *Neptune*, champions of the 2nd C.S., and the result was so encouraging that we took on the mighty *Hood*, Navy Cup champions and possessors of many Naval players. It was a

tremendous match. The Admiral and Captain of the *Hood* were present to see the unknown cruiser play their team. WE WON 1-0. O'Dowd scored a clever goal, and the solid defence refused to let the enemy score. The whole team played magnificently. A very big feather in our caps.

Our destination in the Eastern Mediterranean turned out to be Haifa, where we were able to play off an inter-part competition. The grounds were plentiful but very poor—baked earth well strewn with stones. We had three tussles with the garrison regiment, the Lancashire Fusiliers. After drawing the first two we won the third after rather a poor game notable for its penalties. Through lack of effort we allowed a rather inferior *Durban* team to draw with us. However, football was the only recreation, and the games were enjoyed by all in spite of the bad grounds.

At Port Said we played and beat the *Barham*, and lost to an Egyptian team after a good game. The Stokers' Port beat the Marines in the final of the inter-part competition; Port Said also saw the birth of a new team called the "Gate Crashers," of which any junior rating in the ship could be a member. It proved a great success and has had several good fixtures.

At Alexandria we found that the only way to get football was to challenge the local clubs, as grounds were very scarce. The best pitch by far was at the Municipal Stadium, but that was very difficult to get, and instead we played several matches against the Trams, an all-Egyptian team with a grass ground, and against Gamk, an Armenian team with a sand pitch. We were not very keen on games with the former, for they were exponents of ankle-tapping, elbowing and other little tricks, but they were always keen to play and we were able to borrow their ground for matches against other teams. We were singularly successful in Service matches. Our only defeat was against *Berwick* in a hurriedly arranged match, while on Christmas Day we had a great match against the *Exeter*, which we won.

At the end of January we suffered the irreparable loss of Webber, who went home to do a Gunner's course. His

influence in the team was excellent, keeping them together and making them contented.

We were allowed to enter for the Cruiser Challenge Shield knock-out competition. We drew a bye and successively beat the *Shropshire* and the *Exeter*, after the *Sussex*, our greatest enemy, to meet the *London* in the final, a team that had no reputation. It was blowing very hard, and in the first half a very difficult sky-shot eluded Bull who was playing goal. Even Webber would not have saved it, was the verdict. We got one goal just before half-time, and an easy win was prophesied in the second half. We failed to score, and extra time was given. *London* scored again after a scuffle in the goal-mouth, and the shield slipped from our grasp.

Soon afterwards we had a spice of luck, getting A.B. Dawson, the Mediterranean Fleet goalkeeper, and Sig. Curtis from *Boreas*, and later two more acquisitions in Blacksmith Holloway and Tel. Foxlee. We left Alexandria with an even stronger team.

On arrival at Malta for the last time we first of all confounded the critics by beating the Hibernians, second champions, 4-2, and followed that by challenging our old enemies Sliema Wanderers, the Malta champions, in a match which ranks in importance with beating the *Hood*. The match was played at St. Andrew's barracks and was watched by 500 spectators. They were not disappointed. After some first-class football we drew 2-2, Holloway and Knight scoring our goals.

#### SOUTH AMERICA

We were all very glad to get back to South America except the football team. They have a hard time playing against different ideas of sportsmanship, and rarely get the chance of playing against British teams. Colon and Buenaventura did not produce very much opposition. At the latter match an ugly situation arose when the negro crowd did not agree with a penalty, but our referee dealt with the situation well. At Guayaquil we were called upon to play against a strong South

American team in front of a large crowd. Official recognition was given to the match, and the Governor presented a shield for the winners. Owing to a slip-up in the drill we lost, and with another fixture next day we could only produce an "A" team which did well to keep its defeat down to 5-0. We had made the mistake of underestimating South American football—their ball control is perfect, due to constant practice from earliest childhood.

At Talara we did well in beating a very strong side. The game is run there by the British Mayor, Mr. Deekes, and his word is law. At Paita we were told that they had a very weak team, so unsuspecting we put out an "A" team which got severely beaten 5-0. They provided a picturesque referee in the form of a Peruvian cavalry officer complete with boots and spurs. From Chimbote we received an invitation to play the San Jacinto sugar estate team. The visit was made the occasion for a team outing, and after a long and uncomfortable journey in lorries and a huge lunch an "A" team got beaten 2-0. Luckily most of the estate's best men were playing elsewhere or the defeat might have been worse. However, it was a good day, and everyone enjoyed the trip. At Lima the British colony arranged our football. We played their team on their very good ground in the Lima C.C. Stadium, and the manager of Pan-American Airways presented a cup for a six-a-side inter-part competition which was won by the forecastle. The British colony were also very kind in arranging transport, which would otherwise have been an expensive item.

At Iquique, our first taste of Chile, Curtis got damaged in a collision with a Chilean player. The latter had to be removed to hospital, while Curtis's ankles have never been right since. The less said about Antofagasta the better. The strain of playing South American teams proved too much for the 1st XI, and one cannot blame them. At Coquimbo the 2nd XI had a very amusing match in connection with fiesta of the Prima Vera (Spring). The "Queen" was present and wreaths and flowers were liberally dispensed. At Valparaiso the first team had a good series of matches on good grass grounds, with a very fair measure of success. At Valdivia

the 1st XI took on the pick of the town before a large crowd. The British Consul, Mr. Allen, an old Chilean international, took care that only sporting men were selected, but he had rather underestimated the ability of the local talent. The 2nd XI had a very stiff encounter down at Corral on a very small ground and did very well to lose by so little.

At Puerto Montt there was little to do ashore, so an inter-part knock-out competition was organized, using the Air Force ground 5 miles away. The Royal Marines and quarter-deck qualified for the Final. A very weak Air Force team was played just before we left—and beaten. At Magallanes the Marines won the Final of the inter-part 2-0 after a hard match. The 1st XI played the pick of the town and lost 4-1, and beat the Naval Club, one of the best local teams. Other games of interest were the 2nd XI against the English colony, which we won, and the Stokers, who lost to the S.S. *Lobos*.

The Falkland Islanders were bad at football and their ground inferior. At South Georgia we got a shock when a team of men from the whale factory and whalers beat us after a very enjoyable and boisterous game. They spend half the year in Norway with nothing to do except sport. We have the honour to have played on the most southerly ground in the world—a good line-shoot for the team.

At Buenos Aires we took the chance of beating the *York*, squadron flagship; the final score was 3-1, a game which was well supported by the Ship's Company. After that the policy of combined squadron teams was taken up, which meant that the best team was never fielded and our team lost their cohesion. The squadron team, captained by Shaw, beat the Anglo-South American Bank in the annual match for the Navy Cup. At Mar Del Plata the squadron team played the Argentine Navy, under protest from the local British colony who told fearsome tales of riots on the field. These reports appeared to be somewhat exaggerated, and it is a pity that the ship's team did not get a game. At Montevideo we allowed the *Exeter* to beat us in a scrappy game, but we realized that they were very keen on football and that we must look to our laurels. The combined team played one

or two matches. At Rio de Janeiro the squadron team were beaten by a strong team from the British Athletic Club at Nichteroy. The ship played the battleship *Minas Geraes* in a very exciting floodlit match at nine in the evening. It was played on a very good grass ground at the Club America Stadium before a crowd of about 12,000. The ball was white and smaller and lighter than the standard. Our team, at first a bit dazed, soon settled down to a very fast game. Foxlee was the first to score, the Brazilians equalizing soon afterwards. Dawson was playing a magnificent game in goal. Shortly after half-time we scored again, and thereafter the game got rough. Shaw was injured twice, and on the second time Harrison wisely ordered the offender off the field. The latter part of the match was much better, and team and referee may be congratulated on the very fine performance. The result was a draw, 2-2.

At Ceara a combined team with the *Exeter* beat a local team, while at Barbados the *Exeter* again beat us.

The last big football event of the Commission was the West Indies Station Knock-out Competition. We entered this competition with plenty of confidence, but with the luck of the draw and general Bermuda opinion against us. We were the only cruiser to have to play two other cruisers before getting in the Final. *Apollo* and *Dragon* were both unknown quantities, but the fact that *Apollo* had given *Exeter* a close game was ominous. For the match with *Dragon* we called on Blacksmith Holloway at the last minute as centre-forward. For the first half of the game, the wind with us, football was rather scrappy, Holloway scoring one goal for us. In the second half we were all over them, and the final score was 5-0. We then met the *York*, and apprehensive of the effects of over-confidence we were only just getting the better of it in the first half. Things improved in the second half, and playing against the wind the team found their real form and won 4-1. This took us into the Final against the *Exeter*. The wind spoilt the match for the spectators, as it precluded clever ball work. We did not wait to settle down, but played as a winning team from the whistle to win 3-0 in a good clean

match. It is to be noted that the first congratulations came from the vanquished. Noteworthy performances were Aldred's penalty goals in each match, and Holloway's hat trick in the first match. We must not forget the funny party and spectators with their noble support. It was gratifying for the football team to bring back the first squadron cup which we have won this Commission, and justifies our opinion that, provided that our 11 best football players play as a team, "*Nec Quisquam Nisi Ajax.*"

#### LIST OF TEAMS IN IMPORTANT MATCHES

##### v. *Hood* at Gibraltar :

L.-S. Webber (Capt.); Shaw, Aldred, Macfarlane, Robinson, Walker, Lowther, Murphy, Wallis, O'Dowd and Knight.

##### v. *London*, Final of Cruiser Shield at Alexandria :

Bull, Shaw, Aldred, Lowther, Robinson (Capt.), Walker, Hatton, Tupper, Callow, O'Dowd and Knight.

##### v. Sliema Wanderers at Malta, July 1935 :

Dawson, Shaw, Aldred, Lowther, Robinson, Marks, Hatton, Curtis, Holloway, Foxlee and Knight.

##### In Fleet Competition at Bermuda, April 1937 :

Dawson, Shaw (Capt.), Aldred, Lowther, Robinson, Parfitt, Callow, Curtis, Holloway, O'Dowd and Knight.

Names of players who have represented the ship during the Commission in a 1st XI football match :

##### Consistently :

P.O. Aldred  
 Stoker Knight  
 S.P.O. Lowther  
 A.B. O'Dowd  
 Marine Robinson (Captain 2/'36-8/'36)  
 A.B. Shaw (Captain 8/'36-9/'37)

*More than 20 matches :*

Musn. Callow  
 Sig. Curtis  
 A.B. Dawson  
 Tel. Foxlee  
 A.B. Hatton  
 Musn. Marks  
 L.-S. Walker (now Gnr.)  
 L.-S. Webb (now Gnr.)  
 (Captain 4/35-2/36)

*Less than 10 matches :*

A.B. Bickerton  
 Stoker Draper  
 E.R.A. Falconer  
 C.P.O. Ck. Miller  
 Stoker Murphy  
 A.B. McRill  
 Stoker Parsloe  
 Marine Pearson

*More than 10 matches :*

A.B. Bull  
 Blacksmith Holloway  
 Stoker Macfarlane  
 Sergt. Parfitt  
 Boy Richardson  
 Ldg.-Stoker Tupper  
 Ldg.-Stoker Wallis

Marine Preston  
 Lieut. Rusher  
 L.-S. Sephton  
 Canteen-Asst. Tyrell  
 A.B. Walden  
 A.B. Willis  
 Stoker Woods

## FIRST PERIOD

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Played at</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Result</i>
Sliema Wanderers	Malta	Good—Hard	Lost 0-9
Police	Trinidad	Good—Grass	Lost 0-1
Casuals	Trinidad	Good—Grass	Won 4-1
Dos Caminos	Venezuela	Good—Hard	Lost 0-6
Caracas	Venezuela	Good—Hard	Draw 1-1
Grenada	Grenada	Good—Grass	Draw 1-1
Arsenal Celtic	Grenada	Good—Grass	Won 4-0
St. Lucia	St. Lucia	Swampy—Grass	Won 2-1
St. Lucia	St. Lucia	Swampy—Grass	Won 2-1
Barhados	Barbados	Good—Grass	Won 1-0

<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
10	5	3	2	15	21

## SECOND PERIOD

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Played at</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Result</i>
H.M.S. <i>Neptune</i>	Gibraltar	Good—Hard	Won 3-1
H.M.S. <i>Orion</i>	Gibraltar	Good—Hard	Won 4-0
H.M.S. <i>Hood</i>	Gibraltar	Good—Hard	Won 1-0
Lancashire Fusiliers	Haifa	Bad—Hard	Draw 1-1
Lancashire Fusiliers	Haifa	Bad—Hard	Lost 1-3
H.M.S. <i>Durban</i>	Haifa	Bad—Grass	Draw 1-1
H.M.S. <i>Barham</i>	Port Said	Good—Grass	Won 5-1
Egyptian S.C.	Port Said	Good—Grass	Lost 2-4
Ibis S.C.	Port Said	Good—Grass	Draw 1-1
H.M.S. <i>Berwick</i>	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Lost 0-1
H.M.S. <i>Revenge</i>	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Draw 0-0
Union Sportive	Alexandria	Very Good—Grass	Won 9-0
Scots Guards	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Won 1-0
H.M.S. <i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Won 5-1
Alexandria Pumping Station	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Won 3-1
H.M.S. <i>Resource</i>	Alexandria	Very Good—Grass	Won 5-1
H.M.S. <i>Exeter</i>	Alexandria	Good—Grass	Won 1-0
H.M.S. <i>Sussex</i>	Alexandria	Very Good—Grass	Draw 1-1
Greek Club	Alexandria	Good—Hard	Lost 0-2
Trams Club	Alexandria	Good—Grass	Draw 0-0
Berkshire Regiment	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Lost 1-2
Royal Marines Ashore	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Won 1-0
H.M.S. <i>Shropshire</i>	Alexandria	Good—Grass	Won 4-0
(1st Cruiser Squadron Shield)			
Greek Club	Alexandria	Good—Hard	Won 3-0
H.M.S. <i>Exeter</i>	Alexandria	Good—Grass	Won 2-1
(1st Cruiser Squadron Shield)			
Olympic F.C.	Alexandria	Good—Hard	Lost 0-5
4th Destroyer Flotilla	Alexandria	Good—Hard	Lost 1-5
6th Destroyer Flotilla	Alexandria	Good—Grass	Draw 3-3
H.M.S. <i>London</i>	Alexandria	Very Good—Grass	Lost 1-2
(Final of 1st Cruiser Squadron Shield)			(Extra Time)
Minesweepers	Alexandria	Good—Grass	Won 2-1
R.M.S. <i>Atlantis</i>	Malta	Bad—Hard	Won 3-1
Hibernians	Malta	Good—Hard	Won 2-1
Dorsetshire Regiment	Alexandria	Bad—Hard	Won 4-0
Sliema Wanderers	Malta	Good—Hard	Draw 2-2

<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
34	18	8	8	73	42

## THIRD PERIOD

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Played at</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Result</i>
International Colon	Colon	Bad—Grass	Won 6-0
Rangers	Colon	Bad—Grass	Won 5-1
Buenaventura	Buenaventura	Very Bad—Swamp	Won 2-0
North America Club	Guayaquil	Cinder—Hard— Good	Lost 1-3
Italia Club	Guayaquil	Cinder—Hard— Good	Lost 0-5
Talara Pardon	Talara	Sandy—Hard— Good	Won 3-2
Negritos Selected	Talara	Sandy—Hard— Good	Draw 2-2
English Colony, Lima	Lima	Very Good—Grass	Won 5-4
English Colony, Lima	Lima	Very Good—Grass	Won 7-3
Chilean Army	Iquique	Bad—Hard	Won 2-0
North America	Iquique	Bad—Hard	Won 2-0
The Army	Antofagasta	Good—Hard	Won 4-3
Chilean Tobacco Co.	Valparaiso	Very Good—Grass	Won 3-1
Chilean Navy	Valparaiso	Very Good—Grass	Won 4-2
Almirante Latorree	Valparaiso	Very Good—Grass	Draw 2-2
National Banks, Chile	Valparaiso	Very Good—Grass	Draw 1-1
Pick of Valdivia	Valdivia	Very Good—Grass	Lost 0-7
Air Force, Puerto Montt	Puerto Montt	Good—Grass	Won 8-0
Magallanes	Magallanes	Very Good—Grass	Lost 1-4
Naval Club	Magallanes	Very Good—Grass	Won 4-2
Falklands	Falkland Islands	Good—Grass	Won 7-0
Falklands	Falkland Islands	Good—Grass	Won 7-1
South Georgia	South Georgia	Damp—Grass	Lost 1-2
Port Stanley	Falkland Islands	Good—Grass	Won 4-0
H.M.S. York	Buenos Aires	Very Good—Grass	Won 3-1
H.M.S. Exeter	Montevideo	Very Good—Grass	Lost 3-4
Brazilian Battleship <i>Minas Geraes</i>	Rio de Janeiro (Flood-light)	Very Good—Grass	Draw 1-1
H.M.S. Exeter	Barbados	Very Good—Grass	Lost 3-4
H.M.S. Challenger	Bermuda	Small—Grass	Won 5-2
Canadian Destroyers	Bermuda	Small—Grass	Won 5-2

<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
30	19	7	4	101	59

## 8TH CRUISER SQUADRON (KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION)

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Played at</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Result</i>
H.M.S. Dragon	Bermuda	—	Won 5-0
H.M.S. York	Bermuda	—	Won 4-1
H.M.S. Exeter	Bermuda (Final)	—	Won 3-0

## FINAL TOTAL

<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
77	45	18	14	201	123