

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE awards four prizes each term to the best all round boys in H.M.S. "Ganges." Prizes consist of books dealing with Naval History. Prize-winners for the Christmas term are:

First	Forsey, D.	Class 253
Second	Rankin, R.	Class 232
Third	Barber, IL	Class 140
Fourth	Novelli, R.	Class 54

THE SCHOOL CUP, which is awarded to the Class gaining the highest average mark in the Eighth Week Examination, has been won by 240A.

EDUCATION TEST 2. This Admiralty examination is held on three occasions during the year, and successful candidates can obtain accelerated promotion to the rating of Ordinary Seaman. The test is normally taken after boys have been drafted, and the conditions under which it can be taken in. Training Establishments are that the candidates should be over 17 years of age, should have completed their training, and should be ready for sea. At the July examination, 10 boys from "Ganges" were eligible for this examination, and all passed.

As usual, there are a number of changes in the School staff to record. Instructor Lieutenant N. Davies, B.SC., to R.N. College, Greenwich, for a course; Instructor Lieutenant D. C. Mitchell, to Royal Marine Barracks, Stonehouse; Instructor Lieutenant H. H. Glenn, to H.M.S. "Defiance"; and Instructor Lieutenant-Commander J. Dennis, B.SC., to Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham, are the departures. We wish them all success in their new appointments. In their places we welcome Instructor Lieutenant A. M. McGregor, B.A. from H.M.S. "Vernon," Instructor Lieutenant G. D. Foster from Royal Marines, Chatham, Instructor Lieutenant J. K. Hewitt, M.A., from H.M.S. "Montclare," Instructor Lieutenant W. A. Matt and Instructor Lieutenant-Commander P. F. Kingswood from H.M.S. "St. Angelo," Malta, and Instructor Lieutenant G. Tilzey from H.M.S. "Vernon."

Boys' Library

Summer Term

Total number of books in Library	3,497
Fiction ...	2,160
Non-fiction	1,337
Total number of books issued	3,397
Average withdrawals per day	61.8
for May	47.9
June	64.6
July	75.7
August	31.3
Total number of boys joining	635
Average of books per boy	5.34
Books lost	5
New purchases	58
Books withdrawn for replacement	19
Books added from H.M.S. "Bruce"	115

Christmas Message

To all readers, greetings in the old words:—

*Aye, and there be merry, cast sorrows away
For Jesus our Saviour was born on this day.*

Christmas is something to be merry about—the pledge that beyond the earthly wastes of wrath and sorrows, there is God, who so loves the world that he gave his Son to it, born of Mary, to make us his sons, too.

A merry and blessed Christmas to you all .

—————
L. COULSHAW,
Chaplain of the Fleet.

Church Notes

Chaplains: The Reverend D. A. R. Keen, M.A., F.S.A.
The Reverend A. R. Thornley, M.A.
The Reverend G. Knight, M.A.



"Harvest Festival in St. George's Chapel."

This photograph is of the Church as decorated for the Harvest Festival. It was such a fine one that we wanted to have a permanent record of it and thought that the readers of the "Shotley Magazine" would like to have a copy also.

This term has been quiet in the sense that we have not had many events "out of routine" in the Church world. We have, however, had a visit from the Venerable Leonard Coulshaw, Chaplain of the Fleet and a former Senior Chaplain of "Ganges," who preached to us on the last Sunday of the Christian year.

Once again we would like to thank our organist and his assistants, and the ladies who decorate the Church with flowers and who attend to the washing and repair of the Church linen. We are very grateful.

As we go to press, we are preparing for the Christmas Carol Service and the holy time of Christmas, and the Chaplains would all like to say to you all—A very happy and blessed Christmas.

D. A. R. KEEN (Chaplain).

A Christmas Message

I am very glad to have this opportunity of sending a word of greeting to you and all your loved ones. Whether you are ashore or afloat, may the coming Christmas be a time of happiness and goodwill. It will indeed be a merry Christmas if we give to Christ the hospitality of our hearts. That night in Bethlehem there "was no room for Him in the inn," nor in any home, hut happy are we if we can say this Christmas

"O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee."

God bless you all.

O. ROEBUCK, *Senior Chaplain,
Church of Scotland and Free Churches.*

Church of Scotland and Free Churches' Notes

Chaplain: The Rev. A. A. Orrock, B.D.

Throughout the term that is now moving towards its close, our Church life has been well maintained. Services and Classes have proceeded steadily. There has been no lack of volunteers for the choir, and the Fellowship has made a promising beginning.

We have to thank our visiting preachers, The Reverend Owen Roebuck, K.H.Ch., O.B.E., our Senior Chaplain, and also the Reverend G. Langley. They are always appreciated.

Reference must be made to the retirement of Mr. John Evans, of the Training Office. From the start of our history here as a department, Mr. Evans has been the right hand man of all the Church of Scotland and Free Churches' chaplains, as a friend, counsellor and organist. None of our chaplains has ever appealed to him, in vain. We are glad to know that though he is leaving "active service," he is not leaving Shotley, and he will not be leaving Church or Chapel. That same friendship, counsel and talent for organ playing will be at the call of the chaplain who has the privilege to serve here.

Now it is my turn to say Goodbye. After twelve years in the Royal Navy, of which the past four have been in "Ganges," I am turning my steps towards civilian life. They have been extremely happy years. I trust that old contacts will not be forgotten and that if you ever find yourself West of Glasgow and near Dumbarton or the Reserve Fleet in the Gareloch, you will not hesitate to make yourself known at the Manse, Cardross.

I owe many people thanks—to my organist, Mrs. Rook, who has played faithfully throughout these years and has kept the Sanctuary supplied with flowers week by week—to Instructor Lieutenant Culver, who has been as good as an unpaid colleague, and who at any time, and at any notice, would step in to fill some breach, quite apart from carrying on our Church work on his own initiative—and, above all, to You who represent the generations of "Ganges" boys who have passed through for training during the years 1947-50. May God bless you, and may Goodness and Mercy follow you all your days.

A.A.O.

A Christmas Message

At Christmas, the season of gift-giving, when our hearts are so overflowing with good-will that we sometimes go to extremes in our generosity, we should not forget the central Figure around whom the whole festivity should radiate.

Look into your hearts then, and resolve, whatever the cost, to do your Christmas shopping for Christ. Resolutely pluck out the ugliest vice disfiguring your soul to lay it at the Crib of your Infant King. It may be anger, or impurity, or intemperance. Whatever it is, let the conquering of this pet sin be your gold and frankincense and myrrh.

W. H. D. SHEPHERD,
Senior R.C. Chaplain, R.N.

Roman Catholic Notes

Dear Fathers and Mothers,

Should His Majesty the King visit his ship, "Ganges," it is quite possible that some boy would write home that week and cheerfully say that nothing of importance had happened. To keep you informed, I will touch upon the chief events that have happened this term, especially from our own point of view.

On the first of November, Our Holy Father, the Pope, in his capacity as infallible head of the Universal Church, proclaimed: "That the Immaculate Mother of God, for ever the Virgin Mary, was assumed, when the course of earthly life ended, into heavenly glory in spirit and body." Here in our Chapel, we surrounded the statue of Our Blessed Lady with gold and white chrysanthemums, to show our love and reverence for the Mother of God. Every day the boys say part of the Rosary, to ask the Queen of Heaven to bring peace to this "world without peace."

H.M.S. "Ganges" is too far distant from London, otherwise we would have been present at Wembley Football Stadium for the Mass, on the first Sunday of October, in thanksgiving for the Restoration of the Hierarchy.

On Remembrance Sunday we remembered Our Dead, in order to pray for them and to honour them. Requiem Mass was said for them. Meanwhile, on this day, three of our boys, from the party who had danced the Sailors' Hornpipe for their Majesties, were invited to represent the Royal Navy at the Requiem Mass for Our Dead, at Westminster Cathedral.

In the world of sport—indeed it is a world, for the boys can muster twenty-two soccer teams and the same number of rugger, hockey, basketball and water polo teams, as well as sail on the river—there have been many gallant contests. One mishap occurred in the Field Gun Crews' Competition, but no one was really seriously hurt.

We come home, Tuesday, 19th December, 1950 for fourteen days' leave.

May I wish all the boys and their families a Holy and Happy Christmas, and may the Divine Child remind us all of our destiny in life—to be brothers and sisters of Himself!

Yours truly,
FATHER DOUGHERTY.

Regulating Staff Notes

Commissioned Master-at-Arms: R. W. H. Rye, B.E.M., R.N.
 Master-at-Arms: H. F. Verran.



REGULATING STAFF-NOVEMBER, 1950.

Back Row — R.P.O. J. Scott, R.P.O. D. Grown, A/R.P.O. E. Abbott, L/Ptmn. A. Strike, R.P.O. R. H. Gooding, R.P.O. F. Mayo.
 Second Row — R.P.O. G. Charlton, R.P.O. A. Scoot, R.P.O. J. M. Flood, R.P.O. R. H. Green, R.P.O. S. J. Rutter, R.P.O. W. S. Smith.
 Front Row — R.P.O. W. B. Robson, R.P.O. P. W. Abbott, Cd. M.A.A. R. W. H. Rye, B.E.M., R.N., Cmdr. F. B. Baker, D.S.C., M.A.A. H. F. Verran, R.P.O. T. A. Joughin, R.P.O. B. J. Halliday.

For the "Regulators" the term has been one with no outstanding incidents, but nevertheless it has passed with the usual rapidity of "Ganges" terms.

In staff there has been only one change and that right at the beginning of the term, when R.P.O. Stow left us to join H.M.S. "Swiftsure," in which ship we wish him a happy commission. He was relieved by R.P.O. G. Charlton, who, after a short spell of W/K duties on the Annexe Gate, came over to the Main Establishment to assist with the boys' leave. We hope his stay with us will be an enjoyable one.

In the Establishment Soccer and Hockey competitions the "Miscellaneous" team, in which the Reg. Staff is well represented, came through with rather mixed results: it would appear that we are better with a stick in our hand, and a hard ball, than punting the leather "pill" around.

Results to date are as follows:—

		<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Goals for</i>	<i>Goals against</i>
Hockey	...	4	3	1	19	9
Soccer	...	4	1	3	6	13

In addition to the above, we had Soccer matches with three of the Boys' Divisions, Rodney, Exmouth and Drake, the last mentioned being the only Division to show us the way to goals.

Two of our members were hoping to be out trying their luck in "civvy street" during the course of the term, but have been retained on account of the present Emergency — they have, however, as a consolation for this, earned(?) and been awarded a third good conduct badge.

Social activities have been confined to visits to some of the hotels (pubs) in the area, when members of the Guard House Mess and some of their wives, etc., and augmented by a few members of other branches, have made tracks to the "Dog and Pheasant" at East Mersea, managed by an Ex-M.A.A. of "Ganges," the "Swan" at Alderton, and the "Crown" at Cattawade, where is an Ex-C.P.O., P.T.I., also late of "Ganges." All of these visits were much enjoyed by the whole party.

The Master-at-Arms, after three years as Ship's Company dance secretary, has been presented with a very nice silver plated tankard in appreciation of his services. This will no doubt take his mind back to the R.N. and "Ganges" when he has his evening pint after leaving the Service. Rumour has it, too, that he is a past master at the game of skittles, which can often be seen in progress on the billiard table in the Guard House Mess.

The talent scout for the pantomime looks into strange places for his cast --so lo and behold we find in our midst a — discovery! — a "Crusher" who can act(?) — but the verdict must wait till we have seen the pantomime.

In conclusion, preparations for the most important event in every boy's mind, "Christmas Leave," are nearing completion. As is our wont, we will be bang on the ball on the 19th — so wishing one and all a Jolly Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

R.W.H.R.

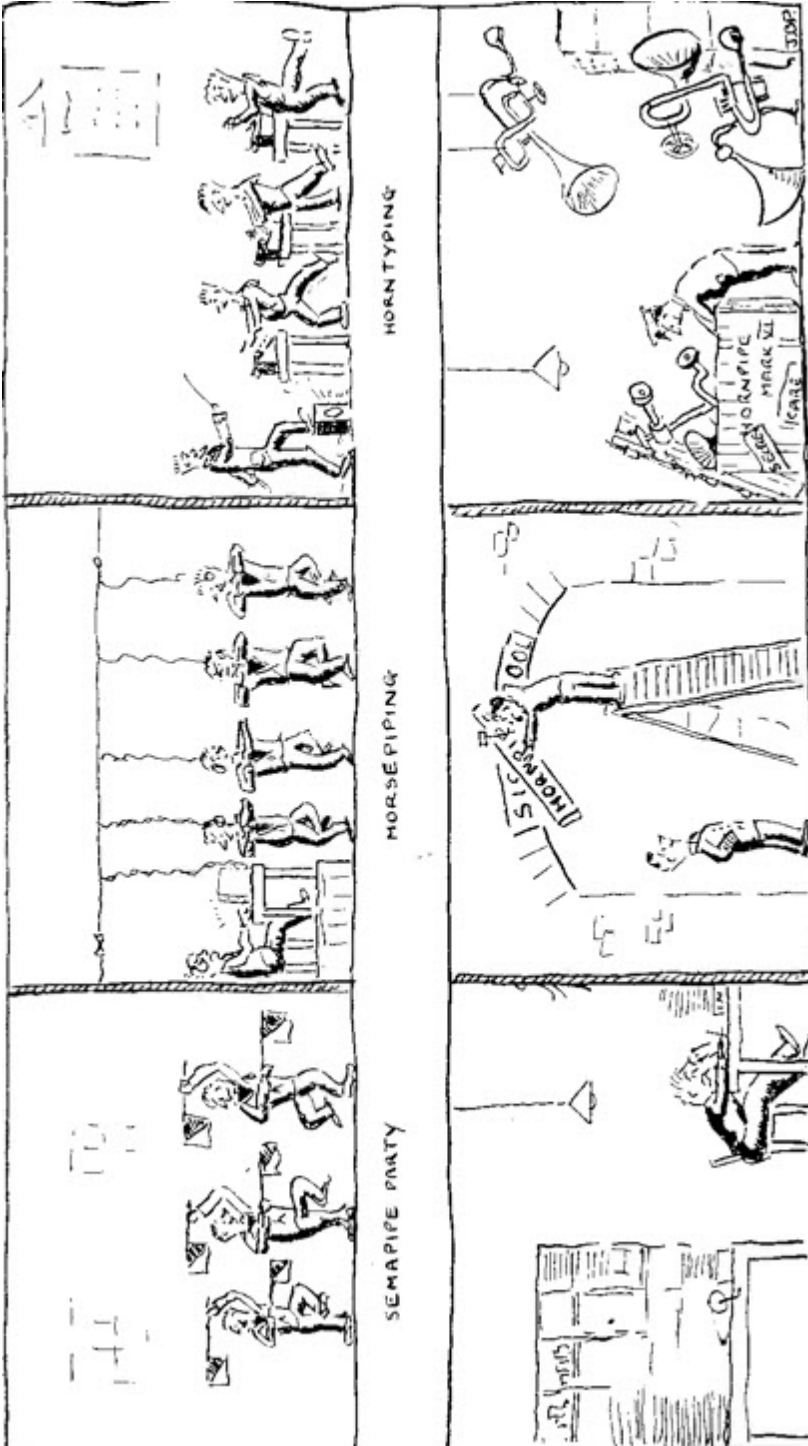
Communication Notes

WINTER TERM, 1950

Now that we have managed to find ourselves again after the dreadful fog we had, we can collect our thoughts and see what has happened since early September, when we returned from Summer leave. Outside the Signal School, the trees and gardens are not so pleasant now that winter, with its accompanying gales, has stripped the branches bare, but inside, with our longer course, new syllabus, hornpipers and, last but not least, budding "communicators," the prospect is much brighter.

The old course of thirty-five weeks was a struggle for the average boy, especially the W/T boy. With the new course of forty-five weeks, we hope the great majority will find it well within their capabilities. We also hope that first class passes (with their subsequent reward of two months' seniority) will be more plentiful, and that the "RX" (re-examine in practical) boys will die with the old course. So keep pressing on; the backward list is getting shorter, and the overall practical averages are slowly climbing.

No doubt other articles in this magazine will describe the hornpipers' experiences at the Albert Hall before their Majesties the King and Queen. We of the Communication Branch in "Ganges" were very proud that our boys were selected, despite the interruption in instructional hours. To illustrate this, some four weeks before the display, one boy was questioned by "W.1." as to why he was adrift from



The Shape of Things to Come!"

the Signal School. He replied (donning an air of innocence): "Sir, I was picked up for a haircut whilst hornpiping, and the latter takes precedence over everything!" Well, that takes the cake, but it was fully compensated by the B.B.C. commentator who announced that they were "Communication Boys." "V.1." had a letter from a friend of his, who watched the display on the "TV" who thought the "Ganges" boys stole the show. I can only hope everyone thought the same.

Returning to Communications and the competitions this term, the VS competition, despite initial setbacks, was won by 231 Class (Yeo. Anderson, of Rodney Division). The boys were not the only ones a little perturbed at missing their tea that day; we can quote one Instructor, who said: "I don't mind the tea so much, but I shall miss Mrs. Dale's Diary on the radio."

The Senior W/T competition was won by 202 Class, Hawke Division, under C.P.O. Tel. Taylor, and the Junior W/T competition by 222 Class of Grenville Division under P.O. Tel. Hammond. With the longer course, we hope more Classes will be able to take part in this competition. This will improve the standard of accuracy and speed which, after all, are our watchwords in the Communication Branch, whether it be Morse Typing, Crypto, Semaphore, or even hand.

Our modernisation proceeds slowly. The Voice Teacher is now in regular use and is proving quite a boon in teaching voice procedure. Headsets take a lot of maintenance, but Mr. Simpson seems to keep the greater majority of them working satisfactorily.

Maybe you have noticed a lot of re-wiring taking place in Number 8 Classroom.

This is a V/S Teacher, which we hope we shall get into use next term.

Instructor Lieutenant Harper seems to produce bigger and better curves in Number 15 Classroom. I would emphasise the importance of Radio Theory to W/T boys. Some boys find this subject much beyond their comprehension at this stage of their career. This is understandable as only 35 sessions are allowed in the syllabus to each Class. Nevertheless, when your "Ganges" days are over you are progressing in the Service, and want to pass for Leading Tel. — it is then that your Radio Theory notebook, used in conjunction with the Admiralty Handbooks of W/T, will be invaluable; so absorb as much as you can and retain your notebooks.

This term changes in Instructors have been most noticeable and numerous, due to events mainly in the Far East. We do not like a change of Instructors during your course any more than you do, but when an Instructor's name rises to the top of the foreign service roster, which is kept at his Port Division, it is only fair to all the other Chief and Petty Officers that he should take his turn.

At the end of this term we shall be sorry to lose Mr. Habgood, S.C.C.O., who has been with us as "V.1." since May, 1949; so backward V/S boys beware, his successor will know the answers.

In closing, we wish both the Instructors and boys a Merry Christmas and every success in 1951. Let us return on January 2nd all ready to press on, especially 201, 202 and 203 Classes, who do their final examination in the following week.

Think of a sum of money less than £12, with the pounds larger than the pence. Change the pence for the pounds, and then take away the second sum from the original one. In this answer substitute the pence for the pounds and add these two sums together. The answer will always be £12 18s. 11d.

Boy Moore, 148 Class.

Nelson Hall and Museum



"The Interior of Nelson Hall,"

Two interesting exhibits in the Museum are the Logs of H.M.S. "Ganges." The earlier one covers the dates from 13th October, 1826 to 1st July, 1827. Captain S. H. Inglefield was in command, and the ship was wearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Robert W. Otway, Bart., K.C.B. During this time the "Ganges" was in Rio de Janeiro, Monte Video, or at sea. This Log was presented by Lieut.-Commander A. F. Inglefield, R.N., great grandson of the "Ganges" Captain.

The later Log is of the proceedings of H.M.S. "Ganges," Captain Henry Smith, C.B., from 3rd March, 1850 to 27th January, 1852, at sea in the Mediterranean, in Malta, and home to Sheerness. This was presented by Lieutenant J. C. M. Keir, R.N.

The following extracts from these logs will be of interest. The dates indicate the Log concerned.

24th November, 1826 (Rio de Janeiro Harbour). Sailed the Brazilian Ship "Don Pedro," 74 guns, with the Brazilian Emperor on board. Sent boats to tow — fired a Royal Salute.

27th November, 1826 (In Rio Harbour). Employed clearing Transport, etc. Discharged Invalids and 2 Midshipmen into H.M.S. "Mersey" for passage to England.

28th November, 1826 (in Rio Harbour). Sailed H.M.S. "Mersey" for England. Arrived the Ship "Sarah" of London, bound to India, having put in in consequence of her crew being in a state of mutiny.

15th December, 1826 (at Sea), 1.15 p.m., observed a sail S.S.E. 1.50 p.m., lowered a boat and boarded the "Nelson," English Brig from Liverpool bound to Rio de Janeiro.

11th March, 1827 (in Rio Harbour). 6 p.m., Hoisted the Royal Standard Half Mast and Struck the colours, fired 30 Minute Guns followed by H.M. Ships "Forte" and "Heron" in succession. 7.30 p.m. Observed the French Squadron hoist the Union Jack half mast at the Main and strike their colours. French Admiral fired 30 Minute Guns upon the intelligence of the Death of H.R. Highness the Duke of York.

29th May, 1827 (in Rio Harbour). Fired a Royal Salute, also the Squadron, in commemoration of the restoration of King Charles.

September 2nd, 1850 (at Sea). Punished Jas. Young with 26 lashes and Jas. Mills with 40 for drunkenness.

October 24th, 1850 (at Sea). Punished Jno. Marra, A.B. with 24 lashes and discharged him with disgrace, and Wm. Harte for theft.

September 10th, 1851 (at Sea). Punished Ed. Roach, 2nd Class Boy with 48 lashes for-theft.

December 4th, 1851 (in Malta). Admiral Sir W. Parker, Bart., came on board to inspect the ship. Exercised at general and fire quarters.

The 72-page Catalogue of the exhibits in Nelson Hall and Museum is available to anyone who wishes to buy a copy. There are 20 full page photographs and the descriptive notes on the exhibits will be of interest to those who visit the Museum. Catalogues can be obtained from Instructor Lieutenant Jackson in the School, price one shilling.



"Mrs. Johnson creating a stir,"

Supply and Secretariat Branch

This is the first time in "Ganges" since 1931 that the Supply and Secretariat Branch has been manned by an all male staff. The last of the Wrens left us in September and we can now muster about 120 male ratings in the Branch. Someone has whispered to us that we still have a certain C.P.O. Wren Writer, noted for her tennis activities and misrepresentation in a previous issue of the Shotley Magazine!

The last of the Wrens left us in September and in all departments the new male element settled down quickly to their new duties, though certain Stewards and at least one Officers' Cook walked around for a little while looking sad eyed and a little dejected after bidding their fond farewells to the Wrens.

It was with a note of sadness that we said goodbye to Lieutenant Commander (S) J. S. Theobald during the summer leave period, prior to the taking up of his appointment as Reserve Fleet Supply Officer, Malta. We all wish him the best of luck—already we miss his Bentley exhaust and the faithful "Rusty."

Lieutenant Commander (S) W. Richardson is now with us as D.S.O. and Divisional Officer, and in a short space of time has convinced us that the Department is the richer for his joining.

PAY OFFICE PRATTLE.

Our major task this term has been solving the mysteries of the New Pay Code instituted on 1st of September. Our staff of 4 C.P.O. Writers, 4 Ldg. Writers and 7 Writers have now— all discarded their wet towels and look a little more human.

The Boys' Sections have been kept busy during the term, particularly our Welsh friends, Writers Kerr and Pugh, who have to date discharged approximately 350 boys to various ships, while Ldg. Writer Commins and Writer King have occupied themselves in entering nearly 400 new recruits on the ledgers of "Ganges."

Weekly payment to boys during the term has entailed the paying out of over 40,000 half crowns. The majority of these coins circulate regularly between the Pay Office, boys' pockets and the ever popular N.A.A.F.I. During the same period the Ship's Company section has disposed of £21,000 over the pay table.

On 17th October, we welcomed the arrival of Commissioned Writer Officer A, R. Lane, and by the time this magazine is in print we shall have said goodbye to his predecessor, Senior Commissioned Writer Officer D. W. Martin. We all wish this Officer the very best of luck in his new appointment at R.N.B., Chatham.

None of the staff has been drafted from "Ganges" during the term, although we know one Chief Writer who anticipates the "call of the East" in the near future.

C.P.O. Writer Corahill who, among his other duties, keeps a record of all boys' valuables held in safe custody, informs us that there are about 100 wrist watches deposited in the safe.

The owner of the catapult is informed that "Pusser's" peas are as hard as ever this shooting season, and we wish him the best of luck during his Christmas shoot.

We shall be at your service at crack of dawn on 19th December, if not earlier!

NAVAL STORE NEWS.

The Main Naval Store continues to thrive under the able control of Mr. Dempsey, whose ambition it would seem is to delete the expression of "ain't got none" from naval jargon.

We would like to make it known that the difference between our two Williams is that one is "Gee" and the other "Jay," and that the former is the possessor of an extra pair of eyes!

Our congratulations to L.S.A. Goodswen on securing his Leading rate at the beginning of the term.

STEWARDS AND COOKS (O) CHATTER.

We preface our contribution with a tribute to P.O. Wren MacMillan, who was the last of the Wrens to leave us. P.O. MacMillan had, through her long association with the Wardroom Mess of "Ganges," become an almost accepted part of the Mess and was greatly missed by all the Officers and staff. She had what must have been the almost unique experience of being in charge of an all male staff for some time prior to her departure. Her capacity for hard work and her understanding of the human character, both male and female, will be remembered in the Wardroom for a long time to come.



C.P.O. Steward Saffin and C.P.O. Cook (O) Joyce, ably assisted by P.O. Steward Irwin and P.O. Cook (O) Rose have now taken over the duties of trying to meet the requirements of some 130 officers and administering a staff of 40 ratings. They are to be congratulated on the energetic and enthusiastic way they have assumed their responsibilities in "Ganges."

Our congratulations to:—

Ldg. Cook (O) Rose on being rated local Acting P.O. Cook (O).

Steward Daniels on being rated Ldg. Steward.

Steward A. Smith on being rated local Acting Ldg. Steward.

Stewards Fyfe, Parker and Kelly on passing the examination for Ldg. Steward.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES.

Football. The S. & S. team played a very good game against H.M.S. "Woolwich," which resulted in a draw 1-1. In the return match, "Woolwich"