

and slacked off a little after leading 11-5, and allowed the Garrison to put over a dropped goal and a penalty to force a last minute draw. Freeman scored twice and again Traynor did his stuff from a line out, going over close to the corner flag. A moral victory?

Our next fixture, against Northoaks, was as expected — fairly easy going, but they have improved a lot from last season, and may well cause us trouble next year.

R.A.F., Feltwell, our chief R.A.F. rivals, gave us a good game at Thetford. We were expecting considerable opposition and were pleasantly surprised to end up 16 points against a single penalty goal. We were beaten more often than not in the tight by a heavy pack — but held our own in the loose and were certainly superior behind. Freeman scored from one of his characteristic runs from our own twenty-five in the first half, and went over again early in the second half after a quick heel in front of the posts. Traynor followed up with his speciality from a close line out to put on another three points, and we finished up with a lovely try from Watkins — who followed up a kick ahead with Foster, caught the rebound from the full back and bustled through with an open field ahead of him.

We then ended our run of good luck in a very scrappy game against Felixstowe, which we ought to have won. White went off with a lacerated thigh and was followed soon after by Watkins, with a damaged rib. Richards was badly harassed by lively wing forwards and our weakened pack were unable to give him the support he needed. We ended up with the feeling that, had we been able to get the ball out, we should not have had much difficulty in wiping out our opponents' lead of five points.

We suffered a further defeat away at Norwich, at the hands of the Thursday XV. With Watkins and Commins absent, we found ourselves up against our heaviest opponents yet, and although the forwards played well — it was very much a forward battle in thick and heavy mud - again we were just not able to give our three-quarters quite enough of the ball.

Norwich City College were a very much lighter team and we had little difficulty in forcing a 12-3 win. Richards was unlucky enough to stop a kick in the face which broke his nose, and Noakes unfortunately strained his back.

Our next opponents, Sudbury and Halstead, went down 13-14 in a close-fought rough and tumble game in which Parry scored both our tries and Forster kicked two penalty goals.

As we go to press, we look forward to our match against Ipswich R.F.C. Unfortunately it is on the day after the Wardroom Dance — the result should be most interesting.

We can honestly say that, throughout the season, we have had no passengers—our first line strength has always been prepared to turn out for the main matches—and we have had plenty of able substitutes for "week-end-itis" and sickness. So many of the side deserve mentions for their sound play this term that we can safely say no more other than to thank Forster for his able captaincy and consistent example.

The teams have normally been selected from the following:— Lt.-Cdr. Forster, Inst.-Lt. Rowland, Inst.-Lt. Taylor, Cpl. Spong, IA. Hamon, Inst.-Lt. Freeman, Lt. Wilson, Cd. Bos'n White, Inst.-Lt. Parry, Lt.(S) Ewens, Inst.-Lt. Richards, Ldg. Writer Commins, Lt.-Cdr. Paterson, R.P.O. Scott, S.B.A. Watkins, Lt.-Cdr. Wilson, Lt.-Cdr. Askwith, Vine. Noakes, Cpl. Putterill, Inst.-Lt. Robertson, Inst.-Lt. Foster, Ldg. Sea. Traynor, Inst.-Lt. Grey, Sen. Cd. Bos'n Powell, Inst.-Lt. Nix, S.B.A. Baxter, P.O. Williams, P.O. Hardy, Lt. Smith.

Boys' 1st XI. Hockey Team

AUTUMN, 1950

Considerable time was spent at the beginning of the season in trying to form an adequate -1st XI. Boys' hockey team comparable with the team of the previous year. As usual, there was difficulty in finding a half back line with sufficient experience to hold the team together. The centre-half position was temporarily filled by Boy Heys (a member of last year's team), whilst the right and left-half positions were continually changing hands. The situation was finally rectified when Boys Mealing and Neville held their places.

Considerable success was forthcoming in the early stages of the season when, for five consecutive matches, the boys were unbeaten.

In a practice match against the Establishment the boys played with great speed and determination, and the prospects for the "St. Vincent" match (at home) looked very promising. Unfortunately, after putting up such a good show in the trial against the Establishment, the boys lost to "St. Vincent," 3-2.



"Ganges" v. "St. Vincent."

At the approach of the Inter-Divisional Hockey Competition, there was an amazing growth of enthusiasm and, from previously unknown quarters, talent seemed to spring forth. Radical changes were made in the team, but there was insufficient time for them to learn to play together before the next "St. Vincent" match. Again we lost 4-2.

Congratulations to Boys Mills (capt.), Mealing, Webster and Evans, who played throughout the season with such zest and initiative that they have been invaluable to the team. They well deserve their colours.

We offer our most sincere thanks to Captain (S.) and Rev. R. Thornley for their good work and keen interest in all our activities.

IAN D. HACON, Instr.-Lieut.
Boys' Hockey Secretary.

Establishment Hockey

We were able to muster more than forty players for the trials at the beginning of this term, and it soon became apparent that the various secretaries' chief worry would be to give all these players enough games to keep them fit and satisfied. It was much too late to arrange a comprehensive 2nd XI. fixture list: even if this had been possible it would not have been practicable, for civilian teams usually play on Saturdays only, when we are not able to field two elevens. However, "India Rubber Bill" and his minions arranged a very successful league, so that some of us complained of "too much hockey"—a rare confession! The Royal Marines XI., showing great determination, and sometimes skill too, won the keenly contested competition.

The Establishment XI. started off in great form, though Reserve Fleet deservedly beat us 4-1. We continued to win game after game against the local works' and R.A.F. sides, and even avenged our Reserve Fleet defeat. Abbot and I lumbered up and down the right wing telling ourselves that the team was much better than last year; Dick Thornley took advantage of the new rule and kept his size elevens firmly in the path of the ball; Guns put the ball into the net—as one day he must on the law of probability; and Brooks developed his fancy aerial play. At this stage the score stood as follows:—

<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Goals for</i>	<i>Goals against</i>
13	12	1	0	51	13

Then we met Ipswich. They raised a scratch team, for they do not usually play on Wednesdays. Two of their players were heavily engaged by a bus en route so they fielded only nine men. Admittedly five of them had played for Suffolk at one time or another, but with their quick passing and resolute tackling, they might as well have been internationals for all we could do. Griggs, in goal, must have saved half-a-dozen for each he conceded—and he let seven through!

This unnerved us, and we lost to Crusaders and R.A.F. Honington in quick succession. However, we seem to have picked up again now, and our record to date is:—

<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Goals for</i>	<i>Goals against</i>
22	16	5	0	73	31

Second XI. matches were played on Wednesdays, whenever opponents could be found—an arrangement which usually involved H.M.S. "Bleasdale." Record of results to *date*:—

<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Goals for</i>	<i>Goals against</i>
9	5	2	2	19	6

We are sorry to learn that Capt. (S) Johnson, who has so willingly and skilfully umpired most of our fixtures, is to leave us early next term. We wish him every happiness, and hope he will continue to blow the whistle for his local side.

C.P.O. Reed suffered a most unfortunate accident when keeping goal for the Chief and P.O.'s side, and he was not able to blow his whistle for some weeks. Happily the same did not apply to the wetting of it!

Instr.-Lieuts. Dane and Mellors, Mr. Habgood and L.S.A. Clarke have also assisted us by umpiring—often at very short notice—and we are much indebted to them in this respect. C.P.O. Writer Durrant has attended an Army course on umpiring, at which lectures on the rules and their interpretation were delivered all day and every day *for a week*. Durrant tells me he is just beginning to realise how little he knows about the game!

Like every other team, we are on the lookout for new talent—especially inside forwards and halves — and we shall be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like a trial.

This account would not be complete without reference to the ground staff, who have improved the match surface immeasurably during the term. The pitches have always been marked out with precision and accuracy. In the too, A.B.s James and Avis have seen that the balls were painted, and not once have we been issued with dirty gear. I can assure them that their services are much appreciated by the players.

K. HARPER, *Hon. Sec.*

P.T. Notes

The annual P.T. competition will take place at the end of next term, and it is interesting to note that none of the Divisional Physical Trainers have taken part in this competition before. With all starting on level terms, it is to be hoped that the competition will be as closely contested as last year's, when Rodney beat Exmouth by 1 point in 1,300 and, in view of the display parties which will almost certainly be required during the summer, it is also hoped that the individual standards will be as high.

If you are interested, and wish to take part in the competition, now is the time to let your Divisional physical trainer know, so that you can start training at the beginning of next term.

It is mainly from those who take part in the P.T. competition that we pick our display teams, so if you are keen to represent "Ganges" at the various festivals, fetes, tattoos, etc., make certain you are included in your Divisional team, where you will get the necessary instruction and experience.

To assist us in the training of our "Hornpipe Party," Chief Petty Officer Knights, of H.M.S. "Ceres", exchanged draft with Chief Petty Officer Rogers for a period of six weeks. In this short time, C.P.O. Knights produced a really excellent display and we thank him for his valued service.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Chief Petty Officer Parrick who has taken his pension, and is now the landlord of the "Crown Inn" at Brantham, and we wish him every success in his new venture.

The new games policy of playing a Rugger and Soccer league appears to have been successful and enjoyed by all. Congratulations to Benbow on winning the Rugger and let Division Soccer, and also to Anson for winning the 2nd Division Soccer and being runners-up in the Rugger. At the time of going to press the Hockey Knock-out competition has not been decided.

Next term we play two Soccer leagues and two Hockey leagues with a Rugger knock-out competition at the end of the term.

The Swimming Proficiency competition has been running very well but the result will not be known until after this magazine has gone to press.

K.G.H.

Inter-Divisional Boxing Championships

The competition took two weeks of afternoon boxing to complete, and much could be written of the early bouts of the competition, when some outstanding examples of courage and grit were witnessed. It would be difficult to single out the few from the many who gave of their best for the honour of their Divisions.

The finals were held on the evening of Thursday, 30th November. We were disappointed to know that Captain R. C. Harry, Director of Physical Training and Sports, who was to have presented the prizes and the Boxing Trophy, was unable to attend.

The setting for the finals was, as in all our Service boxing organisations, a first-class boxing ring, with its white corners and black surrounds, illuminated by arranged lighting which, with the green and red ropes, presented a colourful atmosphere.

At the start of the finals the points for the Trophy were in a very interesting position, as follows:—

<i>Division</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Contestants (still in)</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Contestants (still in)</i>
Drake	39	2	Anson	36	3
Benbow ...	37	1	Rodney	36	1
Blake ...	36	3	Duncan	34	4

Each of the top six Divisions could become the winner and so we heard the enthusiastic spectators rendering lusty and noisy encouragement to their Messmates.

The programme included two special contests; these were included to give those boys, who had done very well in the earlier bouts, a second opportunity to show their mettle. Each bout was contested with courage and grit, and it gave satisfaction to the older school to see the sailor of to-morrow preserve and carry on the sterling qualities which have become the tradition of our Service.

On conclusion of the boxing, the ropes were quickly slipped, the prize table lifted into the ring, the contestants lined up and the stage set for the presentation of Boxing Belt, silver plaques for winners and bronze plaques for runners-up, and also two "Good Losers" medals earned by McMahan (Hawke) and Knight (Anson). The presentation was made by Rear Admiral (S) W. McBride, C.B.E., who congratulated all who took part—winners and losers—and gave a word of encouragement to the boys of the earlier rounds of the competition, who had all helped to make the competition a success.

We now look forward to the training and selection of the "Ganges" team to compete in the Inter-Establishment Championships at Deal in February next. Hard work is ahead, but we know that a first class side will be available from those who gave a true reflection of their merits during the Inter-Divisional Competition.

DETAILS OF BOUTS.

SPECIAL MIDDLE WEIGHT CONTEST. Millar (Exmouth) beat Walker (Drake). —

Though the first round opened tamely, this developed into a good bout with Millar well on top when the referee stopped it in the third round. Millar won with a bit to spare.

SPECIAL LIGHT MIDDLE CONTEST. Watkinson (Blake) beat Binch (Drake).

Watkinson was the more polished craftsman of the two, but Binch fought all the way to make a close decision in Watkinson's favour. Both boxers were congratulated by the referee.

CHAMPIONSHIP BOUTS.

MOSQUITO WEIGHT. Hopper (Blake) beat Purkiss (Grenville).

An excellent bout between two clever, well-taught lads. Hopper was the better, chiefly by reason of effective use of very telling right hand work.

FLY WEIGHT. Smith (Grenville) lost to Chapman (Duncan).

Tame and lacking in boxing skill, compared with the previous bout. In a very close finish, Chapman got the verdict.

BANTAM WEIGHT. Rowbotham (Exmouth) heat Collins (Drake).

After a cautious opening this developed into an interesting even fight between two well taught boxers. A particularly good third round swung the fight in Rowbotham's favour, in a close finish.

FEATHER WEIGHT. Walton (Duncan) beat Thomas (Anson).

Not a thrilling fight by any means. After cautions, Thomas was disqualified for using the open glove.

BIGHT WEIGHT. Jeffrey (Hawke) beat Williams (Duncan).

Jeffrey was the more aggressive throughout. A grand bout against a plucky opponent.

LIGHT WELTER. Smith (Duncan) beat Capper (Anson).

Smith, the stronger and more capable craftsman, had his opponent on the canvas three times in the first round. Capper showed commendable gameness. Referee stopped the fight in the second round.

WELTER WEIGHT. Lee (Blake) beat Morgan (Drake).

This proved to be the best bout in the programme. Two very good boxers, evenly matched, made a grand fight from first to last. Morgan had a slight advantage in reach, countered by a slight advantage in skilled ringcraft of Lee, who gained a narrow verdict. Both Boxers complimented by the referee.

LIGHT MIDDLE. Andrews (Anson) heat Stanford (Rodney).

A grand toe to toe show. Andrews was the stronger and more skilful boxer. Referee stopped the fight in the third round and congratulated Stanford on a plucky fight.

MIDDLE WEIGHT. Mott (Collingwood) beat Fleming (Grenville).

A grand fight while it lasted. Mott knocked out his opponent in the second round.

LIGHT HEAVY. Calez (Benbow) beat Keeley (Blake).

There was practically nothing between these two capable lads. Calez got the decision in a close finish.

DIVISIONAL POINTS.

Blake	Grenville
Drake	Rodney
Duncan	Hawke
Anson	Collingwood
Benbow	Exmouth

J.H.C.

Dr. W. G. Grace began to play first class cricket in 1863, and by 1900 had scored over 54,000 runs. He was equally famed as a bowler and during the same period took 2,800 wickets. His highest score was 344, and in all he amassed 126 centuries.



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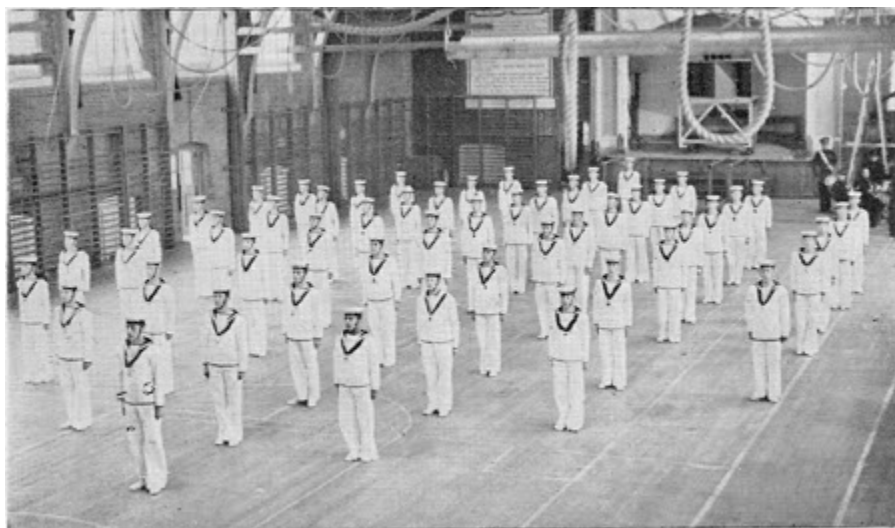
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Festival of Remembrance

At this year's British Legion Festival of Remembrance, held at the Albert Hall, before their Majesties King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth, H.M.S. "Ganges" was privileged to represent the Royal Navy, together with a Seaman's Guard from Chatham and the Band of the Royal Marines, Portsmouth.

Our contribution was the traditional Naval dance - "The Hornpipe" - and, although not a completely new departure in the way of displays for "Ganges," the Hornpipe had not been produced at Shotley for several years.

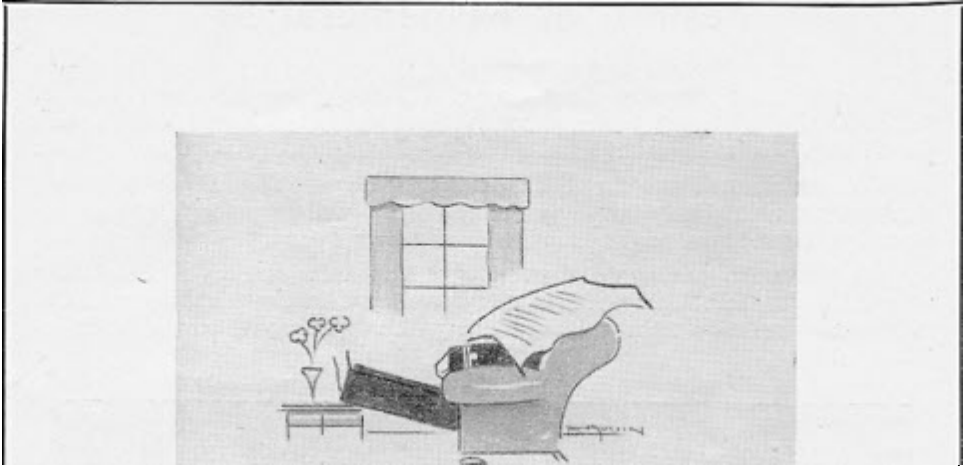
To assist us in training the team we were loaned the services of Chief Petty Officer Knights, S.P.T.I., from H.M.S. "Ceres" and, in the short time available to us — five weeks — a team was produced which, all agreed, was a credit to "Ganges."



"The Hornpipe Party."

In high spirits the party set off for London on Thursday, 9th November, and were accommodated, during their stay, at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo. On the following day it was rehearsals with the other Service units from 10 a.m. until 6 at night, and then a spot of leave in the city lights. The rehearsals were an eye opener for all; at first there was, or at least appeared to be, complete chaos. The producer screamed, implored and begged - the assistant producer gave orders, and others gave orders—the lights came on at the wrong time and went off when still Required - the Band played the wrong music and, altogether, it looked like a Hollywood production scene with only the omission of a languorous and beautiful blonde crooning into a microphone. Slowly, however, the show was knit together and, at the final rehearsal on Saturday morning, everything went well and we were able to face the afternoon and evening performances with confidence.

The show itself starts with a parade of British Legion banners, followed by representative units of all three Services. This parade is followed by displays given by each Service, community singing and finally a religious service, at the conclusion of which thousands of poppy leaves are released from the high dome of the



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roof. It is all a colourful and most moving spectacle, and many is the tear that springs to a mother's eye as she is mindful of a son or husband lost in the cause of peace.

For their part in the performance, the "Ganges" boys were cheered to the echo by the thousands in the audience, even before they had completed their dance and, by their dress, bearing and behaviour, both at the Royal Albert Hall and whilst on leave in London, were a credit to their ship and service.

Well done the Hornpipers!

K.G.H.

Swimming Notes

There have been few outside swimming events this Term. The chief happening in the "Ganges" Bath was the meeting to decide the Nore Command Championships. "Ganges" was represented by Mitchell (Blake), in the 220 yards Free Style, and by Elliott (Collingwood) in the 100 yards Back. Both did most creditably. They were competing against men, the cream of the Command's talent.

The precautionary ban on civilian contacts was lifted just in time to enable "Ganges" to enter in the Open teams' race at the annual Swimming Festival of the Ipswich Swimming Club. Our Boys finished second out of eight competing teams, and so were able to bring away tangible mementoes of the evening. This was gratifying because every member of that team had worked with keenness, consistency and determination throughout the season.

The Inter-Divisional Aquatic Gala was held on the 24th October. All the events were Relay Races and, as no Boy was allowed to compete in more than one, each Division had therefore to produce 55 swimmers. This made it impossible for a Division to excel simply through having one or two brilliant Boys. Collingwood took the lead at the beginning through winning the first Breast Stroke Relay. They were overtaken in the second event by Rodney who held their lead most of the afternoon, until the last but one race when Grenville, who had been pressing hard, gained a 5 point advantage. However, Rodney won the two-lengths Free Style and so finished first by one point.

There were quite a number of disqualifications, with much consequent disappointment. The reasons why whole teams are disqualified for what may seem trivial infringements are not always understood. If an event is a back-stroke or breast-stroke race, it is designed as a Competition in ability to perform the stroke in question. Should a competitor use any other stroke or change from one kind of breast-stroke to another for even a yard of the course, so that he can rest or turn more easily, he is gaining an advantage to which he is not entitled. If a member of a team leaves the bathside before his predecessor has touched it; though he may apparently gain only a few inches, he may also put his team into a favourable position, which may finally result in a much greater lead. In both cases the judges must, in fairness to other teams, disqualify the offenders. It is no use arguing, "Oh, we should have Won in any case." Decisions have to be made on the basis of what actually did happen.

BREAST STROKE RELAY	(One length)	1st Race. — Collingwood.
BREAST STROKE RELAY	(One length)	2nd Race — Grenville.
FREE STYLE RELAY	(One length)	1st Race — Rodney.
FREE STYLE RELAY	(One length)	2nd Race — Grenville

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