

On completion of the salute the Emir inspected the saluting battery and was much impressed by the modern .303 Lee Enfield but the Officer-in-charge had great difficulty in persuading the Emir's bodyguard that when arms were presented they were not expected to take one each. The Emir, having re-embarked in the carriage, proceeded at a fast pace past the chapel to his quarters: ..

The Emir seemed very impressed by the arrangements made for his comfort, it being noticed that he was much taken by the third from the left of the rear row of the "Dancing Girls," a charming if somewhat forward young lady from Benbow Division.

The furnishings left nothing to be desired and were complete in every detail including the most valuable and in fact essential article, without which, no self-respecting Emir would dream of travelling.

After inspecting his quarters and listening with obvious interest to a few minutes of children's hour, the Emir and party seated themselves around a sumptuous repast. It was obvious from the blowing of fingers, scorched eyebrows and



An informal picture of the Emir riding his camel.

flushed faces, that cooks had taken great pains in the preparation, over an open fire, of the hot dishes that were served. Several of the Young Gentlemen present were invited to dine with the Emir and one was overjoyed to be presented with the sheep's eyes, which he dutifully ate. It was with deep regret that he had to leave the party a few seconds later after apologising to the Emir and explaining that he was required to provide an urgent relief.

Evening was now approaching, and so it became necessary to conclude the day's activity. The following signal was received after the Emir had departed:—

"GANGES from ADMIRALTY."

The Emir Ali Bin Gash was most impressed by his visit to "Ganges." As a token of his appreciation he has presented his camel to the Gymnasium Staff. He also made the following statement with reference to the excellent meal you provided. Quote "BURP" Unquote. Well done, "Ganges."

Pets and Mascots

Many, varied and strange are the pets and mascots kept by the ship's company of H.M. ships.

Dogs, cats (who said rats?), monkeys, parrots, goats, little fat pigs, long legged squids and even blooming stoats.

All these and many more have been shipped quietly aboard to be nursed and kept by their respective owner. Sometimes with the Commanding Officer's approval, mostly without.

The "Mostly without Brigade" spend a hectic life moving their respective pets ahead of the "Rounds" officer and keeping them out of sight of the Quarter-deck. But they get caught after a while and their pet is dismissed the ship at the next port of call.

Often, however, the pet has won the affection of all on board and by universal approval is given new freedom under the heading of the ship's mascot.

I once saw an old sailmaker slip on board with a bull frog clutched protectingly to his very hairy chest, and this went down to keep company with his aquarium and tortoises in the sailmaker's shop. This particular rating used to keep a tree-rat as a pet and it used to live in his great ginger beard with its lead attached to his overall pocket.

The habit of making small replicas of hammocks complete with dews and lashings was not uncommon -before the war. This was the normal sleeping accommodation supplied by the owner to his pet cat and/or even kittens. You can visualise the scene, an old tar swinging away in his own hammock, whilst alongside him and below, would swing four small hammocks containing Ma cat and her three offspring, each resplendent in a hammock complete with sheets and blankets tucked under their chins and sound asleep.

Is it to be wondered at then if the following clipping taken from a recent daily newspaper should cause little concern among the initiated ?

Yesterday, by airmail, an S.O.S.
arrived on my desk from the frigate
H.M.S. "Loch Craggie," c/o Fleet Mail
Office, Malta. It seems that No. 2 Mess are
worried about their aspidistra.

What should be done to keep it hefty and healthy ?
Fortunately, aspidistras or "Parlour Palms"
as they used to be called, require very

little attention.. They should be watered
regularly and kept in a well ventilated room.

But how Well Ventilated is No. 2 Mess ?

Aspidistras don't object if they are not
reotted for years, which is just as well,
for good loam, sharp sand and leaf mould must
be in short supply in the Mediterranean.

P.S.—I cannot help thinking that the Engineer's distilled water is perhaps not the very best for these plants.

A. NOMENUS.

A Guide to Civvy Street

With a view to helping those who leave the comforts of the Service for the horrors of civilian life, the following is submitted for a daily routine.

(This routine applies only to married men).

- 0600. Call wife under nourishment. (Alarm clock having been previously set).
- 0601. Wife under nourishment fall in, change junior hand's nap* and provide squeegee and broom. Call remainder of family. (Stand fast Father).
- 0615.. Family to cocoa and wash. One hand detailed to provide bedside cup for Father.
- 0620. Out pipes.
- 0630. Family fall in. Air bedding, scrub and wash decks, broom to be used gently to avoid waking Father.
- 0700. Wife to the galley.
- 0730. Family to breakfast. One hand detailed to provide bedside breakfast for Father. Mother to ensure that hands are cleaned in the rig of the day.
- 0755. Out pipes. Cooks and sweepers clear up dining hall and kitchen.
- 0800. Family fall in. Pram's crew provide pram at gate. Provision party fall in. One hand from this party collect paper and deliver to Father in bed.
- 0815. Hammock stowers fall in and make up beds. (Negative Father's). Remainder carry on work as detailed (Not to make noise).
- 0900. Call Father gently.
- 0915. Call Father again (if Father ex Chief Yeoman report "Captain wants log," this will ensure that Father rises).
- 1000. Opening time: Car alongside with Father's oppo.
- 1001. Car carry on to local. Lie off and wait.
- 1020. Stand easy, carry on smoking. Wife to remain in the vicinity of work.
- 1030. Out pipes. Pram expected alongside. Provision party to stow provisions in store.
- 1050. Pram's crew carry on, junior hand in charge.
- 1100. Up spirits. Duty hand to local to obtain key of spirit room. Packet of sandwiches to be taken for sustenance of Father and oppo.
- 1130. Afternoon watchmen to lunch. Key to spirit room to be returned to Father by Duty Hand.
- 1200. Family to lunch if Father, is ready.
- 1230. Family to lunch if Father is ready.
- 1300. Family to lunch if Father is ready.
- 1400. Pram's crew man wheelbarrow to collect Father and oppo.
- 1415. Family to lunch Negative Father.
- 1445. Cooks and sweepers clear up dining room and kitchen. Noise now no objection.
- 1500. Mother to neighbour for sympathy.
- 1530. Duty Hands provide key to spirit locker for gin for Mother and sympathetic neighbours.
- 1600. More gin, more sympathy.
- 1602. Family to tea. (Negative father and mother).
- 1700. Duty hand to neighbour's with tea and aspirins.
- 1749. Signal to be sent to oppo. and car, fenders to be placed on curbstone as requisite. Duty watch required for berthing.
- 1750. Opening time in ten minutes.
- 1755. Opening time in five minutes.
- 1800. Opening time.
- 1801: Away car (Duty watch stand clear) Mother crammed in dickey seat.

- 1830. Junior hand muster for bath, senior hand taking charge. 1900. Family to supper, negative mother and father. 1930. Hands to pictures in cheap seats. (Senior hand to provide peanuts during tense moments).
- 2145. One hand to local returning with supper and beer. (Saloon to be avoided).
- 2200. Closing time.
- 2210. Embark in car, Zig-Zag number 15. Duty hand to proceed ahead and divert traffic.
- 2214. Duty watch place extra fenders on curb, remove garden gate, path to be cleared of all obstructions.
- 2215. Car alongside, duty watch disembark passengers and pacify neighbours.
- 2220. Father, Mother and oppo. to supper. Cold meat, pies and beer to be provided. Spare hammock to be slung for oppo.
- 2240. Duty hands required to assist oppo. into hammock.
- 2250. Night boat's crew place spitkids in correct places.
- 2300. Pipe down.

What Kind of Boy Are You ?

Have you primitive urges ? Have you a moral code ? Answer the following questions and then turn to page 64

1. Have you ever experienced the desire to strangle a Leading Boy with your bare hands ? (A—Yes; B—No).
2. Would you approve of the stocks as a method of punishment in "Ganges" ? (A—Yes; B—No).
3. Your "mate" stands in the way between you and success. Would you dispose of him by
 - A—Fair means, or
 - B—Foul ?
4. If you were torturing your P.O., would you A—Pull his hair out one at a time, or B—Burn it .all off at one go ?
5. If you. were bullying a "Nozzer," would you
 - A—Tie him up, or B—Let him fight back ?
6. If you found a very "green" boy eating ship's biscuit, would you A—Say nothing, B—Send him to the Dental Block ?
7. If found in default, would you . A—Plead innocence, or B—Blame your best friend ?
8. Would you remove the gold fillings from your D.O.'s teeth ? (A—Yes; B—No).
9. If the Captain trod on your toe, would you A—Say nothing, or B—Apologise ?
10. Do you shave more than five times a day ? (A—No; B—Yes.)

DRAKE

Divisional Notes.

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant P. R. D. Kimm, R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Commissioned Gunner E. R. Monaghan, R.N.

INSTRUCTORS:

C.P.O. H. Hedges, D.S.M.
C.P.O. H. White
C.P.O. H. Smith
C.P.O. G. Easman
P.O. J. Lomax

C.P.O. Tel. L. Taylor
C.P.O. Tel. J. Catterall
C.P.O. Tel. E. Holmes
P.O. Tel. B. Spriggs
Yeoman F. Hunt

L/Sea. Street, P.T.I.

The appearance of Father Christmas (looking, beneath his beard, remarkably like one of the more rotund members of the Regulating Staff) at the Divisional Dance in the middle of November, must have put the first thoughts of Christmas into the minds of quite a few "Drakes" (though I am quite sure that none of their Instructors will agree with this on grounds that nobody ever put anything into a "Drake's" mind). Anyway, today—with only a handful of "Charlies" to go—the great day is almost here.

Looking back over the term, the Division has seen a lot of new faces and said goodbye to a lot of old ones. A few days after the beginning of term, your last Divisional Officer, Lieutenant C. H. F. D'Albiac, left "Ganges" to take up his new appointment as First Lieutenant of H.M.S. "Mandate," a minesweeper of the 4th Minesweeping Flotilla. We all wish him the very best of luck in his new job. When I joined from H.M.S. "Hornet" in Gosport to relieve him, I found that there had been or were going to be several other changes afoot. For a start, owing to the change-over from the ten to the eight-Divisional system, 262 Class had just come to us from Collingwood to join their brother Class, 263. Soon afterwards, 241 Class went on draft, taking with them several valuable members of the Division. With them, too, went Yeoman Moulder who had put such a lot of work into the training of the Swimming and Water-polo teams, and who takes with him our thanks for all he has done for us. As soon as 241 moved out, 176 and 177 Classes moved in from the Annexe. This is the first occasion that A.C. Classes have been paired together since 1939. The next departures were 86 Class, who joined H.M.S. "Indefatigable" at Portland, and whose departure was closely followed by that of their opposite numbers in 163 Class who went to join H.M.S. "Enard Bay" at Rosyth. Again, many useful members of society left us when these two Classes went, including several staunch members of the soccer and water-polo teams. We were sorry, too, to lose their two Instructors, Petty Officer Norton, trainer of the hockey team till his departure, and Petty Officer Howe ("And the Best of Luck"), our Field Gun King. P.O. Norton has gone to Rodney, and P.O. Howe has gone on draft to Sheerness. They also take our thanks for all their hard work. A V/S Class, 361, joined us recently from H.M.S. "St. Vincent" and the Annexe and, between now and the end of term, we welcome three more Classes—371, 21 and 22.

The Management regrets to announce that the Drake trophy case which, at the beginning of term, was dazzling to behold with the amount of "pots" and other

silverware it contained, now presents a more normal appearance. We put this down firstly to the loss of a lot of various sports wizards, and also to a certain amount of "Ard Luck." The efforts, for instance, of the Boxing team to retain the Belt were ravaged by sickness (not to mention the fooled-you-that-time antics of the scales in the gym.) However, the team managed to pull off second place, and put up some excellent fights. (Sorry, Clubs—I mean "Bouts.") Notable among them were those won in the finals by P.O. Boys Binch and Mott. The standard of the team's boxing generally was high, and in itself repaid the efforts the team had put into training, and the work C.P.O. Hedges and L/Sea. Street had done to assist them.

In the Swimming Gala, too, all Mr. Monaghan's best laid schemes and the swimmers' training were of no avail as several disqualifications on technical points put us well out of the running. The Field Gun's Crew also had more than their



Drake Division.

fair share of grief and misery. On one occasion, the pin in the coupling between gun and limber jammed solid, losing them over half a minute's time, and another time a similar pin sheared completely. One valuable member of the crew went sick a couple of days before the Competition (and could scarcely be restrained from jumping out of bed to take his part), while another member of the crew had his hand run over by the limber in the first run but carried on in the remaining three with his hand in bandages. Although their final place was very low, the fact that they achieved the second fastest run of the competition on their last attempt and in spite of their previous discouragements is greatly to their credit.

We certainly didn't grudge Hawke an ounce of the silver in the Inter-Class Soccer Cup which they won after a Hawke and Drake team had faced each other in both of the semi-finals, one of which was won by Hawke and the other by Drake. The latter was acknowledged to be one of the most exciting games in the "Ganges" records; and, with the two teams (163/86 being the Drake representatives) repeatedly scoring equalising goals, two lots of extra time were granted. Just as

people were beginning to wonder what was going to happen when the twilight turned to darkness, and when the enthusiasm of the crowd on the touch-line had reached boiling point, Lees of 86 Class scored the goal that ended the match and won it. Silence reigned in the Divisional Office for a week after the game. Mr. Monaghan and I had both lost our voices.

We sympathise a lot with Boy-Coxswain Aldridge who won the Enwright Sailing Trophy for the Division last term, and was within an ace of doing so again this term when he broke his leg playing rugger. A really bad bit of luck.

After that tremendous list of tragedies, dry your eyes and put away your handkerchiefs because we did in fact win something after all. The first Water Polo team carried their cup off quite safely, having won every match they played. The second team too did very well, coming a close second to Hawke who took the cup away from us. The Hockey Team won their competition, and a



Divisional Swim.

large share of the credit for this goes to Boy Tedham who did some grand work in centre-half's position. We are very grateful to C.P.O. Smith for taking over the training of the team so ably where P.O. Norton had left off.

At the time of going to press, we are in the throes of the Rugby Competition and, having won the first round against Blake in a match in which both sides played their hardest all the time, we hope to be able to make a favourable report on the final outcome in the Stop Press.

A word about the Parade Efficiency Trophy. Our points today place us second, and I want to congratulate our junior Classes on their part in achieving this position. While on the subject of the Parade, Drake was at the head of it when, earlier in the Term, "Ganges" was inspected by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Cecil Harcourt, who also visited one of the Divisional Mess-Decks. We will again be at the head of the Parade when, in the near future, the Commander-in-Chief designate of the Home Fleet inspects Sunday Divisions.

A very praiseworthy result was achieved by 262 and 263 Classes in their final Technical Exams. Both Classes beat all previous records with a Class average of over 90%. A very big pat on the back to them and to their instructors.

Our junior W/T Classes 342 and 343 have, with their V/S counterpart 341, just succeeded in winning the School Cup. Well done the Sparkers.

Leaving the subject of competitions, a highlight of our term was the Divisional Dance or, as we decided to call it, the "Christmas Ball." Under the new Divisional Organisation, Benbow and Drake are the only two Divisions in their particular "Dance Union"—but in spite of that, the gyms were packed on the night of the Ball. P.O. Boy Binch was an accomplished Master of Ceremonies in an immaculate evening dress (though there is no truth in the buzz that I tried to flog it to him afterwards). The appearance of the Scots Guards piper who came from Colchester



"Santa" arrives at Drake Dance.

"Santa for the Scottish Dances was greeted with enthusiasm by the majority of dancers, with delight by the Scots among them and with horror by the Sassenachs. (Any Boy who doesn't know what a Sassenach is had better ask the Rev. Scot-Currie).

The term has been a very busy one, and for me, a new D.O., a very puzzling one on many occasions. I am very grateful to our instructors for all their co-operation and hard work, and above all to Mr. Monaghan for putting me in the picture, and for all his tireless assistance. He is leaving us at the beginning of next term, and on behalf of all of us, I wish him all health and happiness in his new job with the Reserve Fleet at Plymouth. Have a really good leave, and a Merry Christmas to you all.

P. K.

Grenville Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant Commander J. T. Gilhespy, R.N.
2nd Divisional Officer: Mr. J. N. Sewell, Commissioned Gunner, R.N.
Divisional Writer: C. Campbell.



Grenville Divisional Staff.

17 Mess 180 Class C.P.O. Tookey	P.O. Boy Norman
181 Class P.O. Pattison	Ldg. Boy Stewart
18 Mess 282 Class C.P.O. Stables	Ldg. Boy Pagett
283 Class C.P.O. Wearmouth	Ldg. Boy Henwood
321 Class C.Y.E.O.S. Spindler	Ldg. Boy Bradley
19 Mess 168 Class C.P.O. Kennett	Ldg. Boy Tookey, Ldg. Boy Milner
97 Class P.O. Sarsfield	Ldg. Boy Salbach
20 Mess Floater	Ldg. Boy McMinn
	Ldg. Boy Flower
21 Mess 15 Class P.O. Earey	P.O. Boy Moore
16 Class P.O. Rossiter	Ldg. Boy Miller, Ldg. Boy Durnford
22 Mess 5 Class P.O. Riggs	P.O. Boy Wilson
6 Class P.O. Childs	Ldg. Boy Ward, Ldg. Boy Bushnall

As the term draws to the end, the usual sifting of competition -results and racking of brains to produce my notes has arrived, so here goes.

At the start of the term we were little affected by the change from ten to eight Divisions, the only outward effect being that 282/3 Classes joined from Hawke, with Chief Tel. Raven and Chief Tel. Stables. Chief Tel. Raven left after five weeks for another job, and he was relieved by Chief Tel. Wearmouth. Even then we were one of the smallest Divisions and one of the youngest, as 168/97, our senior Class otherwise, had only just started to be rated first Class. Half-way through the term 15/16 Classes joined and 180/181 joined at the end, so that from one of the smallest we will have one of the biggest Divisions. Taking this into account, it has not been surprising that we have not done as well in all competitions as we

have done previously, and in those competitions in which we have had success, the people concerned are to be congratulated. If we are to do well though, we must make a full-out effort all the time instead of spasmodic ones, and this applies especially in things like Mess rounds and marching. In the former the change to Tuesday Rounds has had little change in the results, except that we have been everywhere from second to sixth, in which position we are lying now. In the latter we started badly and have only lately started to pick up. Even now we are still bottom, though a couple of good marks may get us out of that unenviable position. No. 1 and 2 platoons can do it, and it is up to 3 and 4 to pull up their socks and follow their lead. In the other Gunnery competitions we have done well. P.O. Powers put an immense amount of energy into the Field Gun's Crew and trained a pretty good one. It was most unfortunate that he had to be drafted just before the competition, especially as the Prime Minister did not require his guard. Not only in the Field Gun training was his loss felt, but he was also one of the per-



Grenville Swimming Team.

sonalities of the Division, and we were sorry to lose him. However, back to the Field Gun. Chief Kennett took over and we were confident to do well. Benbow gave us a bit of a shock in the first round, and it was not until the third round that we managed to get into the lead. Again Benbow shocked us in the fourth run with a very good time, but despite this we felt that we could have got in first on the aggregate, but we were thwarted by a bent pin on the limber and had to be content with second place. The Gunnery world provided us with our only cup of the term, when we won the .303 competition. Chief Kennett is to be congratulated on his training, and Ldg. Boys Flower and Stewart on their shooting. The .22 team did not disgrace themselves as they came in fourth.

In the field of sport we have not had a successful term. In the Inter-Class football only 168/97 Classes got past the first round when they fell to 1/2 Classes, the eventual winners of the Junior League. From this poor start we never seemed to recover, and in the Football League we did not win a single match, though we were never really overwhelmed. There are some useful players and we should

do better next term. Harrison is to be congratulated on representing "Ganges" for most of the term and Sharman for playing in the second XI. The Hockey team looked most promising and started well in beating Rodney 4-0. However, we could not beat Anson and Drake and were third in the League. Here Wilson, Moore and Thomas have all played for "Ganges." The Rugby has yet to be played and we have hopes of doing well. We have plenty of talent but whether they can combine remains to be seen. McGirr, Kitchen, Milner and Ellis have all played for "Ganges" throughout the term, while Harvey and Vizor have played for the 2nd XV. The less said about the Basketball the better, we must do better next term.

Throughout the term hopeful pugilists have gone down to the Gym for practice, and there has been a loss of enthusiasm. We had several hopefuls, but were dogged by a certain amount of bad luck. Quite a few met their downfall in the first round to eventual winners. Bushnall put up a very fine show in winning



Grenville .303 Shooting Team.

his fight, despite breaking his thumb in the first round, and it was a pity that another promising fighter had to leave the Navy after only one fight. Others who put up good fights were Bradley, Brophy, Chapman, who was called in at the last moment, Moisey and Middleton. Ldg. Boy Stewart, Mayers and Bridger got into the finals in the senior competition and Cordon in the finals of the junior. Our final position was 4th equal with Collingwood in the senior and 6th in the junior.

In the Water Polo we had a very poor term, and won only one game. However, in the Swimming Relays we did better, though our hopes looked fairly small, and in one event we could not raise a team. However, by dint of putting all our eggs in one basket, i.e., the last two events which carried 16 points each, we pulled up from sixth position to third with Blake. There is a lot of young talent which augers well for the future, if only some of them could learn to throw a water polo ball.

On Saturday afternoons, P.O. Boy Wilson has held the fort throughout the term on the river, and has so far gained 66 points on his own, and this despite having