

Seamen's Divisional Notes

This has been a busy term and far from dull. The highlight was of course the Commander-in-Chief's inspection for which everyone put up a good show.

We have during the term become Passive Defence conscious and not the least interesting sight on Wednesday forenoons has been the Martian rig-out of the Seamen Monitors and Decontamination Parties. P.D. Teams have worked well and are to be congratulated, in particular those whose duty it was to man the portable wireless sets and speak in a language foreign to the average sailor: "How are you receiving me? Over!" Roll on next term and let's have some more. Who knows? You may be one of the lucky ones chosen to be lowered from a top window in a Neil Robinson Stretcher!

The Gymnasium has seen a large number of faces normally only appearing there on cinema nights. It is amazing what manly torsos emerge from underneath those watchcoats. Strangely enough most people seem to enjoy their gallop



Passive Defence.

around but it is unlikely that many will be selected for the rope climbing display at the Royal Tournament.

Swimming, too, has been an innovation this term and the Division were invited to jump in for a free swim. Once in, it was difficult to get some chaps out. Nov we have only four backward kickers in the Division and steps are being taken to rectify that little matter.

1952 looks like being a year of note. It is hoped that we will see the opening of the C.M.G. This should do away with Offal Bin Sentries and breakfasts can be eaten once again. Added to this the Married Quarters Estate should be in full swing.

Since September we have said Goodbye to A.B.s R. Smith, Greenley and Jenner, and welcome into the fold Ldg. Sea. C. R. Smith, A.B.s Sharley, Evans and Mann.

It now remains for me to wish a happy Christmas to you all and prosperity throughout 1952. Have a good leave and don't be late for work.

L.E.

Royal Marine Notes

At times I wonder if the powers that be mis-named the office opposite to the Sisters' Quarters, and I expect at any time an amendment to be passed round to this effect — "Delete Royal Marines Office and insert Holding Company Office," as the work that has been carried out since the last issue of this magazine has largely been dealing with drafts to and from.

No fewer than 44 ranks have departed from this Establishment and 39 ranks have joined and that, I think, for a Detachment of this size (65) is certainly a record.

Varied are the occupations of all those who have gone, but special mention must be made to one.

After serving faithfully for two years and ten months, Marine Olander has been returned to civilian life. We wish him every success in his new life and hope that he already has learnt the drill for saluting with a bowler hat.

Apart from a perpetual headache, in trying to fill three holes with one man, this term has been much the same as any other, but, in addition to routine drills on the parade, a new kind of drill is showing itself in the Establishment. That known in abbreviation as P.A.D. and that, to us older members, needs no explanation. But we are trying to overcome one difficulty: that of trying to convince Sam that we do not wear our respirators either to scare him or for his amusement.

The highlight of the Royal Corps this term has been the Annual Inspection of the Detachment by Colonel K. Hunt, O.B.E., R.M., who brought with him Captain Maclean, R.M. to devote his attention to the Band.

A very favourable report was received regarding all subjects appertaining to the duties of a Royal Marine. So once more "the few" are keeping their end up as part of an efficient Corps.

On the sports field the Detachment and Band have been out in strength, but although the spirit was there, success, I am afraid, has deserted us. Even the Supply and Secretariat division, crawling out from behind their typewriters and ledgers, left us standing on the soccer field wondering what hit us. But we can boast in having three of our members playing for "Ganges" first team, and conspicuous between the sticks has been the "Yellow peril" in the form of Sergeant Hotchkiss—and what a form! !

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas, with plenty of N.C.O.s (nuts, cake and oranges) and with all the best for the New Year, I must now return to my desk as I think there is yet another drafting order waiting to be dealt with.

F.B.J.H.IVI.

We Raise Our Jolly Awnings to:—

- (1) The boy when asked what he had on his feet ?
Replied: "Toes, Sir."
- (2) The boy when asked if he was born in a field ?
Replied: "Yes, Sir, Fallowfield."
- (3) The boy who thought the Sergeant Major was a Royal Marine R.P.O.
- (4) The boy who called the Master-at-Arms the "
Gentleman from the Guard House."
N. R. Mc.G.S.

Regulating Staff Notes

Once more another leave period is nearly upon us and the backroom Boys are hard at it getting things ready for the great day "18th December."

The Local Leave has been a great success, 1,267 Boys landed and to date we are able to report "NIL" absentees.

There has only been one change in the Staff this term, Mr. Rye, Commissioned Master-at-Arms, B.E.M., R.N., has left to take up a new appointment in H.M.S. "Philomel, Auckland, New Zealand. He left England for his new appointment on the 30th November, we wish him 'bon voyage' and a happy commission. We welcome as his relief, Mr. N. R. Smith, Commissioned Master-at-Arms, R.N.

Next term there will be a change in the "Boys leave and trains section," R. P.O. Crouch will relieve R.P.O. Brown, who has applied for a job with the
 • "British Railways."

SPORT.

	<i>Played.</i>		<i>Goals</i>					
			<i>Won.</i>	<i>Drawn.</i>	<i>Lost.</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Points.</i>
FOOTBALL	4	3	0	1	19	6	6	
HOCKEY	4	1	1	2	3	9	3	

R.P.O.s Abbott and Scott have represented the Establishment at Hockey; R.P.O. Abbott was selected for a trial match with the Nore Command but owing to an unfortunate injury whilst playing for the Establishment was unable to attend.

Sick Quarters Notes

During -the Winter term there have been quite a number of movements amongst the staff at R.N. Sick Quarters, S.B.C.P.O. McWalters joined us from "Pembroke" where he had been called up for his 18 months' service. At first it was uncertain whom he was to relieve, but eventually S.B.C.P.O. Howard went back to R.N. Barracks and has since joined R.N. Hospital, Chatham, on the Staff. We have recently been joined by S.B.P.O. Preece who has just completed a commission on H.M.S. "Owen." L.S.B.A. Thomas was rated up to S.B.P.O. and flitted off back to H.M.S. "Ceres." His motor-bike must have worn a groove between R.N. Sick Quarters and the Sick Bay, H.M.S. "Ceres."

Amongst the junior staff, S.B.A. Cole has gone to H.M.S. "Tamar" and S.B. A-Harriet volunteered for R.M. Commandos and to his surprise was drafted to Bickleigh. The latter's only trouble was that he proceeded on week-end leave and on arrival at Dover Station found the telegraph boy waiting for him, and so it was about turn and back to "Ganges." A number of National Service S.B. Staff completed their period of service and are now back in civilian life. Among the new arrivals are S.B.A.s Meads, George, Milburn, Adcock, Stevens and two new dental S.B.A.s, Brough and Gaston.

The Soccer side has been going ahead quite well and we hope to see even more success in the future.

Leave is the topic of conversation at the moment, so we wish you all a happy leave and all the compliments of the season.

H.J.B.



This term has been marked by a number of visits from some very distinguished and senior officers, and the departure of some of our own senior ratings who have played leading parts in Divisional activities.

Towards the end of last term we were honoured by a visit to the Establishment from the Fourth Sea Lord, Vice-Admiral the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, who visited various sections of our department and met many of our Chief Petty Officers. Early this term came the Commander-in-Chief's Inspection and inspection of the Supply and Secretariat Department by the Command Supply Officer, Rear Admiral(S) Mack, who was making his first visit to H.M.S. "Ganges" in this capacity.

Commissioned Stores Officer MacDowell and Commissioned Cookery Officer White both left us this term. Mr. White's absence from the varied sporting activities in which he was interested will be felt. In their places we welcome Commissioned Cookery Officer Fitchett and Commissioned Stores Officer Hellett, who, as these notes are being prepared, are already immersed in the planning of Christmas fare for those of us who unfortunately will find ourselves still at Shotley on December 25th.

During the last few months we have lost no less than 4 Chief and 2 Petty Officers. The first to go was C.P.O. Cook(S) Knight who had done so much to hold the Main Galley together! We wish him the best of luck in H.M.S. "Superb." He was followed by Stores, C.P.O.(V) Sullivan from the Victualling Office, who has gone to H.M.S. "Tyne," C.P.O. Steward Saffin who is now at Chatham awaiting release from the Service, and last, but by no means least, Stores C.P.O. (S) "Whacker" Payne. Of the Petty Officers we have lost P.O. Cook(S) Sutton, and P.O. Cook(S) Phillips is due to go at any moment (who said what price the poultry farm?) We shall feel the loss of these Divisional stalwarts keenly and we wish them the best of luck in their next situation. Similarly we extend a hearty welcome to those whose shoes they are now to fill.

The fortnight visits of Reserve Officers started last term, have continued and we have made many friends and learnt much from them. We hope that they

enjoyed themselves as we did having them here. We still remember with pleasure the visits of Lieutenant Commanders(S) Perkins and Potter, Lieutenants(S) Terrill, Rogers and Dewey and Sub. Lieutenant(S) Martin last term, whilst the visits of Lieutenant Commanders(S) Wickham, Cunningham and Foort this term are still fresh in our minds. It seems fitting that at the time of going to press we are expecting Captain (S) Cole, R.N.R., who will complete the term with us.

The opening of the Central Mess and Galley building, and of the first houses of the Married Quarters appear to be in sight. We hope that all the pots and pans and furniture will be there on the opening day.

Our successes in Examinations both Educational and Professional have been encouraging. L.S.A.(V) Robinson and Ldg. Writer Perry both passed the Professional examination last term and we congratulate them and Ldg. Cook(S) Ellis on being rated Petty Officer. Congratulations also to S.A.(V) Sadler who was alone in passing the newly inaugurated examination for Leading rate, and the



Boys' Clothing Issue.

following on passing E.T.I: — Cooks (0) Baker and Howe, Steward Darker, Cooks (S) Elliott and Reid, and S.A.(V)'s Short and Perkins.

The increasing numbers of boys in the Establishment has kept all departments busy and will, it is hoped, result in further additions to swell our ranks. Already we have been joined by a number of Royal Fleet Reservists some of whom have strengthened Mr. Dempsey's staff in the Naval Stores whilst others have augmented the Cook staff. We hope they will enjoy their stay in "Ganges."

C.P.O. Writer Durrant has added yet another extraneous duty to an already long list and has now assumed the title of "Ganges" "Star Reporter." We hope to feature in the Christmas and future editions of this interesting magazine of H.M. S. "Ceres."

Our achievements in the sporting NI, orld have, we can say with all modesty, been good. In addition to fielding a team in the seasonal sporting events reported

in succeeding paragraphs, there has suddenly been a great desire amongst our backward swimmers to pass their swimming test and others have gone to P.T. instead of Divisions!

SOCCER.

The placings in the Inter-Part League were extremely close and resulted in our defeat for "Top of the Table" by the Petty Officers. We both lost only one game during the term but unfortunately they beat us on goal average.

Nevertheless our League XI and those who have so ably filled the gaps, are to be heartily congratulated on their fine performance.

Of the teams we defeated, notably the Wardroom and Royal Marines, enthusiasm and the will to win carried us through (as indeed it nearly did against the Petty Officers themselves, to whom we lost 5-4 after a most exciting game) just as much as the good football served up, for we can hardly boast to being much superior in the finer arts of the game than our worthy opponents.

We have played one of our two annual games with our opposite numbers in the Reserve Fleet. This game was played on our opponents' ground in very blustery conditions, and a 3-3 draw was a satisfactory result. We are looking forward to our return match with them on the 4th December.

A friendly with the Submarine "Thule" resulted in a 5-4 victory for us.

It is not right to single out anyone for special mention, but we do, however, consider ourselves fortunate in having Petty Officer Writer Perry and Steward Dickie to play for us and it is fitting that these two players have been selected to represent the Establishment regularly during the season.

We have missed the services of Leading Cook(S) Munro, who left us at the beginning of the season and L.S.A.(V) Emmerick who has been unfortunate in having a long spell in the Sick Bay with a knee injury.

RUGGER.

It has not been possible to raise a XV from the Division, but we have not been without our representatives in the Establishment side. Leading Writer Commins, S.A.(V) Sadler and S.A.(V) Short have all played during the season.

HOCKEY.

We cannot boast very much success in the Hockey world this term. With one or two notable exceptions there seems to be a dearth of hockey talent in the Department. Nevertheless we have always managed to field a team that has made up in endeavour what they lacked in skill. Several players, new to the game, have acquitted themselves very well. It is hoped that next term we can hold our own with the best.

A word for C.P.O. Writer Durrant here, who besides organising the teams, has himself been the backbone of the side, and has also assisted the Establishment in a playing and official capacity.

We are indebted to Commissioned Master-at-Arms Smith for umpiring all our Hockey Matches. More than once he got soaked to the skin in the process.

SHOOTING.

With the season not more than half completed our Postal Shooting team occupy a fairly respectable position in the league. The average scores of 80% show a marked improvement on those obtained last season.

SWIMMING.

Reference has already been made to our activities in this sphere. We would however offer our congratulations to Writer Painter in taking fourth place in the Inter-Services Springboard Diving Championships at Eltham in September.

Civilian News

A pleasant ceremony took place in H.M.S. "Ganges" (Civil Division) at Shotley recently, when the Officer-in-Charge of Works (Admiralty), East Anglian District and Staff said farewell to Mr. G. E. Swinyard, Technical Officer, East Anglia District. A farewell gift, subscribed to by the staff and workmen at home and abroad, took the form of a Silver Tea Service and a wallet containing Treasury Notes.

Before the Officer-in-Charge of Works made the presentation, Miss Mountford, of the Clerical Staff, presented Mrs. Swinyard with a bouquet of chrysanthemums. Mr. Simeon spoke of the esteem in which Mr. Swinyard was held, and, on behalf of the staff and workmen, wished Mr. and M. Swinyard happiness in a well earned retirement.

We should also like to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. R. J. Wheeler, Clerical Officer, who has joined the staff of O.C.W. East Anglia district from Central Registry, Admiralty, London, and also of congratulating Mr. F. C. Austin, formerly established Skilled Labourer, R.N.S.Q., on his being awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

R.G.C.B.

Wardroom. Staff Activities



When we look back on this term I am sure that bricks and mortar will loom large in our memories. Certainly we have seen plenty of both, and the Chief Cook, who has suffered much of late, merely raises an eyebrow when, on turning to, he finds that another galley wall has been demolished.

We have learnt during the last few months to appreciate the good offices of the Works and Electrical Departments, and we are grateful to them for their careful planning which has enabled us to carry on with the minimum of inconvenience. We are grateful, also, to the Heads of these hard-pressed Departments, who have always found time to listen to our suggestions, and more often than not

found the men and materials to put them into effect. A vote of thanks, too, to the workmen for their help and understanding. .

In spite of our reconstruction difficulties we have been able to cope with a number of Mess Dinners at which the United States Army Air Force and the Royal Air Force, stationed at Bentwaters, the Reserve Fleet, and the Headmaster and Staff of the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, have been entertained. These dinners have been made more easy by our being able to use the new Mess. There have, in addition, been the usual weekly Guest Night dinners and a number of " At Homes."

Towards the end of the term C.P.O. Steward Saffin left us to return to civilian life; we wish him good fortune in whatever he may do. In his place comes C.P.O. Steward Tursley, who has already shown us that he is prepared to tackle his new



responsibilities with energy and enthusiasm. Newcomers also include Ldg. Steward Baker and other Stewards and Cooks (O) who have joined since the beginning of the term. Ldg. Steward Fyfe and Ldg. Cook(0) Howe are to be congratulated on obtaining their leading rate.

The sporting activities have been centred round the football field, and three of the staff, P.O. Cook(0) Eko, Steward Dickie and Cook(0) Baker have played regularly for the Establishment, and Stewards Crowhurst, White and Keeley have played for the Supply and Secretariat team. The Wardroom Staff have the enviable record of eight wins in ten friendly games.

To Stewards Hurford and Deverson. we offer our best wishes on their recent marriages and to all we wish a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Royal Marines Band

Being a comparative newcomer to the fold, I can only report on events which have occurred during my short life here. But even these are legion, and extremely varied. Indeed I think that Mr. Churchill's famous quote regarding "Battle of Britain" pilots could equally well be applied to the R.M. Band here.

But now to business. The first event of note was the Naval Recruiting Campaign at Colchester on September 28th. From eye-witness accounts it was well up to the usual standard expected, and was greatly appreciated by all who saw, and heard, the performance. The guard was, of course, also present, and no small credit for the success of the display rested with them also.

After that occasion things remained more or less normal for a period of about three weeks. Little did we know that in the background a storm was brewing, as yet secreted in the Bandmaster's cabin. Concert fever!

It gradually infiltrated into everyone's thoughts, and eventually we both ate and dreamed of it. "Carmen," poor girl, was dissected and practised until even she would have hardly recognized herself. However, when she was re-assembled it was a very creditable effort. We all breathed a sigh of deep relief. But no, it was not all clear yet. The soloists, both soprano and pianoforte, were contacted, the music "tailored" to their requirements. Rehearsals yes, and more rehearsals. But it was worth it.

While all this was going forward, two more crises had arrived. The magic words "Albert Hall Maze Marching" and "Ganges Fireworks" were heard. No one knew better than the boys who took part, just how many rehearsals there were for the "Maze Marching," but what is not common knowledge, is the myriad of 'phone conferences that took place with the Directors of Music of all the Guards Bands, in order that they might be able to synchronize their music with the tunes we played for rehearsals here. Yes! It was absolutely foolproof. They had the same music, would "cut" it as we did, etc., and everything was "just so." The great day dawned for the first rehearsal at the "Albert Hall" with a band of 125 guardsmen. Said the Director of Music, Brigade of Guards, to the Bandmaster "Got a baton ? No ? All right laddie, borrow mine." But the awful truth became apparent. That the Guards had the music, but it had not been selected and "cut," etc., and so the first rehearsal was completed to the strains of "Chit Chat," repeated *ad nauseam*. After about three hours' work the music was edited and the second rehearsal plus the two performances were a great and resounding success. It proves that nothing is foolproof, and how near is success to failure.

However, I appear to have digressed. The fireworks were their usual success from our point of view. The bells of the larger brass instruments appeared to have a fatal fascination for the members of the squib-throwing fraternity and there were several near misses. The community songs did not receive the support we had hoped for, but the first public performance of the Maze Marching proved to be most successful.

It only remains for me to say that the orchestral concert had the success it deserved, and the soloists, Miss Yvonne Rands and Instructor-Lieut. Colwell, provided the highlights of the evening.

Preparations for the Xmas "Panto" are now under way though as far as we are concerned they are still in the "blueprint" stage. Nevertheless, I am sure that with the co-operation of all the artists, and the rehearsals which are to come, it will be a great and expected success.

As a tailpiece. For those who doubt, it is quite true that the tune which we play to Hymn 403 ("Hold Thou my Hands") is based on a melody from "Seven Sobs of a Sorrowful Soul" — slightly adapted.

G. F. W.

Boys' Bugle Band

After the many outside performances at various fetes and flower shows last term, this term has seemed rather dull in comparison.

However, the Commander-in-Chief's inspection in October provided an extra incentive for a high standard and it was just possible to keep together a band big enough to split in two for the trooping ceremony after the march past.

A lot of Boys then went on draft and for the rest of the term the band was a reduced size—sufficient for this term but it must be increased next term to work up for next year's King's Birthday Review. Among the Boys who left were several staunch supporters of the band—Collyer (D), Matthews (D), Naylor Newland (A), all buglers—and among the drummers Jones (H), Wood (B), Waters (R), Rees (C), Wilkinson (C).

Remembrance Day services called for buglers to sound the Last Post and Reveille, not only at the services inside the Establishment, but at Shotley, Melton and Dedham Churches.

Congratulations to Groom (D), Harvey (Bw) and Miller (G) for being rated Leading Boy, and to Bland (H) and Taylor (H) for being the best buglers and earning the right to carry the silver bugles.

Gold badges for buglers and Drummers have at last arrived, and those of the band who can afford to buy them will no doubt go home on leave weighed down with gold insignia, especially drummers.

We have had to say goodbye to Bugle Sergeant Weight. As a direct result of his patient and thorough teaching, the band emerged immensely improved in all respects, new tunes were put into the repertoire, and the feat of producing a band of 92 for K.B.R. in the summer will be remembered to his credit. As a sideline he gave up many of his winter evenings to teaching boys to play the flute, and the more senior boys on course will remember the flute band that provided music

- during the inspection on band weekends.

Bugle Corporal Gifford arrives at the end of the term to take over the Sergeant's duties.

At the time Of going to press, the Band outing is about to take place. It is hoped that the Oriental Cafe will maintain the standard of "big eats" for which it is getting a name.

Have a happy Christmas and New Year, and come back after a good leave ready to make the band bigger and better than ever.

R.P.D.

Photographic Club

This term has been a very quiet one for the club since the rush to develop holiday snaps ended, and most of our work has been done with old negatives.

I think that by now our dark room technique has sufficiently improved to enable us to get the best from any negative we may have, but I would like to stress the importance of this negative in the first instance. The best photographer living could not produce an exhibition print from a bad negative, and many of us are apt to forget this all important fact.

"Ganges" is full of material for the amateur photographer, provided that he knows where to look and how to look, and this latter knowledge, together with that of composition, lighting and exposure, are so essential that I propose to spend some considerable time on them next term.

In the meantime, may I wish everyone an enjoyable and merry Christmas leave.

R. WIGGIN.

The Aeromodel Club

Every term we say it, and every term it is true—this term has been the best yet, both for attendances and number of models made. As usual we had a quiet beginning, and for the first two or three weeks only small attendances could be recorded. Then with a rush the numbers rose, and now we are getting as many as thirty-six at each meeting. At times it has been difficult to move in such a crowd, but it has been a very keen, friendly crowd, and has produced from its midst some excellent models.

At the end of last term we sent some representative models to the Nore Command Handicraft Exhibition, and Fancote won an award of merit for his display of model warships. One of the Instructors would be interested to meet the person who sat on his model aircraft on the way to this exhibition, necessitating a good deal of repair work.

Orders for models broke all records during this term, and somewhere in the region of j 50 of models were sold. Most people had only to wait a week or so between ordering and receiving their models, but a few, especially those wanting ship models, had to wait longer. But we managed to satisfy everyone eventually.

As usual, all types of models have been made, with increasing interest paid in aircraft powered by Jetex motors. Meteors, Seahawks, Attackers and Vampires have all become airborne under this form of power. In certain messes at times it appears that it is difficult to walk from one end to the other without constantly taking shelter from intense aerial traffic. Nor are one's feet safe any more, as a wave of Jetex racing cars has arrived, and many exciting races have been seen. Chief among the other types of models made this term is a beautiful diesel one made by Allan and Barnett. Allan has just finished covering the model made by Instr. Lieut. Robertson, and is developing into the man to whom all technical worries are addressed. Many other aircraft have taken shape, too many, in fact, to mention individually, but all of which are looking very nice.

In the shipping line, in spite of slower delivery, there is a good choice of modern craft and galleons to be had, and the kits are complete in all respects. Fleckner, Hughes and Attwood, among others, are all working on such vessels.

The club room still looks basically the same, but has acquired twelve more chairs and a large new notice-board. It has been visited by several senior officers during the term, all of whom were very pleased. We were honoured in that when a Central Office of Information photographer took a series of pictures of various aspects of life at "Ganges," our club was chosen to represent the handicraft facilities. As a result, the faces of two of our members may soon be seen leering at us from recruiting posters !

Now we can look back on a tremendously successful term and forward to even better ones. This is your club, run for your benefit. There are no strings or catches, and no entrance fee. Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 1930-2030, in the Old Seamanship Block. You will find plenty of magazines and people to help and advise you. Payment for models is relatively painless, as it is deducted from your credits. Even if you only want to look around, we will be glad to see you. So on our open evenings, don't stay and get chokker in your Mess, come along and join the cheerful modelling fraternity.

Inst.-Lt. A. ROBERSTON, R.N. Inst.

-Lt. R. W. TAYLOR, R.N.