

of that tremendous fact breaks in upon our hearts and minds we do not know the meaning of the Christian faith. Until we personally have encountered the living, reigning Christ we know nothing of the Christian way of life.

While Easter will be the climax of our worship together this term, we must not ignore what has gone before. Early in the term we received a visit from the Reverend Leslie E. Cooke, B.A., B.D., D.D., Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, who was accompanied by the Reverend O. Roebuck, O.B.E., Q.H.Ch., R.N., Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland and Free Churches, Admiralty. This was Dr. Cooke's first taste of the Royal Navy and he was most impressed by all that he saw in his tour of the Establishment. At Church on the Sunday, Dr. Cooke preached a simple yet inspiring sermon which challenged us to be proud of our faith in God and to stand up for that faith through thick and thin.

At our Confirmation Service in February at Alan Road Methodist Church, Ipswich, a larger number of boys than ever before made public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and were admitted to full membership of the Church. We are deeply grateful to the minister and congregation of Alan Road for their generous hospitality and unflinching kindness to us every term on the occasion of our Confirmation Service. They indeed make it "a day to be remembered" by our boys.

Our Choir has taken on a new lease of life this term and the revived interest has made it possible for them to sing on their own for the first time for many terms. Their first effort was most successful and they are to sing a little Easter piece at our Easter Service. It is hoped that something more ambitious may be attempted next term.

Many of our boys have departed from our midst this term, including several of our "stalwarts." We wish them all God-speed and every success in their Naval career.

A. SCOTT CURRIE.



Admiral Sir Arthur Power, G.C.B., K.C.B. C.B., C.B.E., C.V.O. Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, inspecting the "Ganges" teams at "St. Vincent." \_

# School Notes

If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
 With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
 Yours is the earth and everything that's in it,  
 And, which is more, -----

No prize is offered for completing the last line. Any Boy who has read the words on the walls of the gymnasium will know that Kipling brought his poem to an end with the statement, "You'll be a man, my son." Others have thought of different endings for these four lines, notably the harassed schoolboy who finished up with, "You'll get your homework done!" Whatever ending you may, think of to fit your case, it is true to say that a Boy under training in H.M.S."Ganges" who wishes to make a success of his chosen career, must fill every minute of his time here with sixty seconds' worth of hard work done, whether it be at Seamanship, Gunnery, Communications, Physical Training or School.

School is put last on this list because there is little doubt that, in the minds of many Boys here, it is of least importance. Life teaches us, however, that many things which we, in our youth and inexperience, place last have a habit of becoming of first importance as the years go by. This proves itself again and again in the Navy, for who has not heard a man, struggling late in life to qualify educationally for higher rating or rank, ruefully say, "If only I'd 'dug out' when I was in the Training Service .....!,,

Any Boy who makes full use of his time and opportunities in "Ganges" will find himself well equipped to tackle the courses and examinations which he will be called upon to take during his time in the Royal Navy, but the Boy who wastes his time here will join the large army of those who have said and still say, "If only .....!,,

During the term the following Classes have passed out. The average marks obtained by each Class and the winners of the Class prizes are shown, in the cases where the results have been received:—

## ADVANCED CLASSES.

### *Class Average*

| <i>Class</i> | <i>%</i>                  | <i>Prize Winner</i>  | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 167          | 59.9                      | Moore, M. R.         | 87.0              |
| 168          | 63.9                      | MacGilchrist, D. O.. | 81.6              |
| 169          | 50.4                      | Pope, A. F.          | 69.8              |
| 290A         | 59.2                      | Brown, W. C.         | 83.2              |
| 170          |                           |                      |                   |
| 171          | Results not yet received. |                      |                   |
| 300A         |                           |                      |                   |
| 310A         |                           |                      |                   |

## GENERAL COURSE

### *CLASSES. Class Average*

| <i>Class.</i> | <i>%</i> | <i>Prize Winner.</i> | <i>Percentage.</i> |
|---------------|----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 92            | 65.9     | Johnstone, A. R.     | 82.3               |
| 93            | 55.1     | Scott, W.            | 75.3               |
| 94            | 51.8     | Meadows, C.          | 72.3               |
| 95            | 72.4     | Bardsley, A.         | 82.7               |
| 96            | 65.8     | Hardy, J. H.         | 75.7               |
| 97            | 53.6     | Burns, R.            | 73.3               |
| 98            | 45.1     | Fullard, P. R.       | 60.3               |

|      |                           |               |      |
|------|---------------------------|---------------|------|
| 290B | 63.8                      | Lobban, W.    | 79.6 |
| 300B | 60.9                      | Bishop, K. W. | 75.7 |
| 1    |                           |               |      |
| 2    |                           |               |      |
| 3    | Results not yet received. |               |      |
| 4    |                           |               |      |
| 310B |                           |               |      |

### PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE

The prizes awarded each term by the Royal Society of St. George to the best all-round Boys in H.M.S. "Ganges" were won this term by:—

|                |            |                    |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|
| Smy, T.        | 1st Prize. | Rodney, 158 Class. |
| Jones, E.      | 2nd Prize. | Drake, 263 Class.  |
| Guthrie, J. H. | 3rd Prize. | Blake, 160 Class.  |
| Reedman, J. L. | 4th Prize. | Drake, 263 Class.  |

### SCHOOL CUP.

The School Cup for this term has been awarded to Communications Class 360B (Drake and Collingwood Divisions) with an average in the 8th week examination of 72.5%.

Since the Magazine was last published there have been many changes in the School Staff. Instructor Captain F. C. Sobey, M.A. left us on February 27th, to take up his appointment as Command Instructor Officer, The Nore. He has been relieved by Instructor Captain J. L. Rees, M.B.E., who, until recently, was serving in the Education Department, Admiralty. In addition, Instructor Lieutenants R. H. Parry and D. J. Lennon have gone to the Training Squadron and Instructor Lieutenant R. J. Keyworth has joined H.M.S. "Ocean." To take their places we have Instructor Lieutenant D. Smith and Instructor Sub-Lieutenants D. R. Baker, K. C. Lewis and A. G. Chadwick.

To those who have left we wish every success in their new spheres and to those who have joined us we extend a warm welcome.

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## River and Seamanship Notes

The main events of the term have been the Style and Racing Cutter Competitions, which took place in the weeks commencing 17th March and 24th March respectively, after a 2-week practice period. The first 10 boats in the Style Cutter qualified for the Racing Cutter. Each pair of Seaman Classes and the senior pair of Communications Classes in each Division entered a crew. To spread the term's excitements among as many boys as possible, members of Divisional 1st and 2nd Rugger and Hockey teams were not eligible to pull.

In the Style Cutter Competition there were 26 crews, spread over three consecutive afternoons. The weather was calm each day with little tide, though a thick fog descended during the last afternoon, and the later competitors had difficulty in finding the two Judges' boats. Rodney 9/12 Class (L/Sea. Drake) won narrowly from Hawke 170/3 (P.O. Hardy), with Rodney 178/179 (P.O. Norton) and Benbow 171/4 (P.O. Garnham) not far behind. The general standard showed an improvement on last term. The Communications Classes held their own with the Seamen. Rodney produced the best Divisional average with Collingwood second

and Hawke third. Of the first 10 crews (who qualified for the Racing Cutter) 3 were Rodney, 3 Collingwood and 2 Anson.

The Cutter race was pulled down-stream with a strong ebb tide and a light northerly breeze across the course. Unfortunately it was bitterly cold, and there was a shower of sleet as the tow went up to the start. The distance over the ground was 7½ cables but much less through the water owing to the tide. The boats got away to a good start, and with everyone steering a straight course there were no incidents. The race was close, Rodney 9/12 Classes (L/Sea. Drake) dead-heating with Rodney 322/333 Classes (P.O. Tel. Ashton-Jones) in 1st place, Rodney 178/179 (P.O. Norton) being third. The Divisional order (worked out on aggregate) was Rodney, Collingwood, Hawke, Benbow. Rodney are to be congratulated on making such a clean sweep of both competitions.

A sailing race has taken place every Saturday so far, which is something of an achievement in an Easter term. The first was a practice race and the remainder counted for both the Divisional Sailing Cup and the Enright Trophy. Two races had to be abandoned, one for lack of wind and one because of a sudden fog. Until mid-term, when he was drafted, Boy Sadler (Collingwood) was the outstanding coxswain, as befitted the holder of the Enright Trophy. Since his departure, Boy Godden (Benbow) and Boy Vaughan (Blake) have been outstanding, and the former looks like winning this term's Enright Trophy. Others who have sailed consistently well have been P.O. Boy Topliss (Anson) and Boy Hamill (Blake). The result of the Divisional Competition is still open, but, with only one race to go, Collingwood have a lead of 13 points over Anson and do not look like being caught. Benbow and Blake lie 3rd and 4th.

C.R.B.

## Seamen's Divisional Notes

We come to the end of yet another term with leave only a matter of days hence. There has been no major incident to report that would made the period under review linger in the memory. For an East Anglian winter it has been surprisingly mild for which we are all duly thankful. Thoughts once again turn to gardening and it is nice to see the early spring flowers and trees in bud.

The addition of a television set in the Ship's Company Library has proved a welcome attraction. During the term it has been necessary to take up goods and chattels and move to a new Mess due to a general re-organisation of accommodation. The Division have quickly settled down in their new quarters. Kit musters go on apace and the appearance of the seamen at Divisions each week is of a good standard. Swimming has taken up a considerable amount of spare time in a number of cases. We are now down to a total of only three "backward kickers" and it is hoped that these individuals will have passed the test by leave day.

There are many new faces among us and we welcome the new arrivals, P.O.s Maddock and Broadway, L/Sea. Smith and A.B.s Barklam, Strowger, Powell, Friend, Brunt and Page. In return let us say goodbye and good luck to P.O.s Brooks, Thompstone and A.B.s Taylor, A. H., Taylor, A. J., Hepton, Foxley, Hope, Cooper, O' Dell, Kelly (Time Expired), McNeil (Invalided), Catton, Sliney and Howard (since returned as a Vote 4B industrial employee).

Finally, on behalf of the Divisional Management, let me wish you a pleasant and restful leave. Come back refreshed, for although we can look forward to many enjoyable occasions, next term is a long and busy one.

L.E.

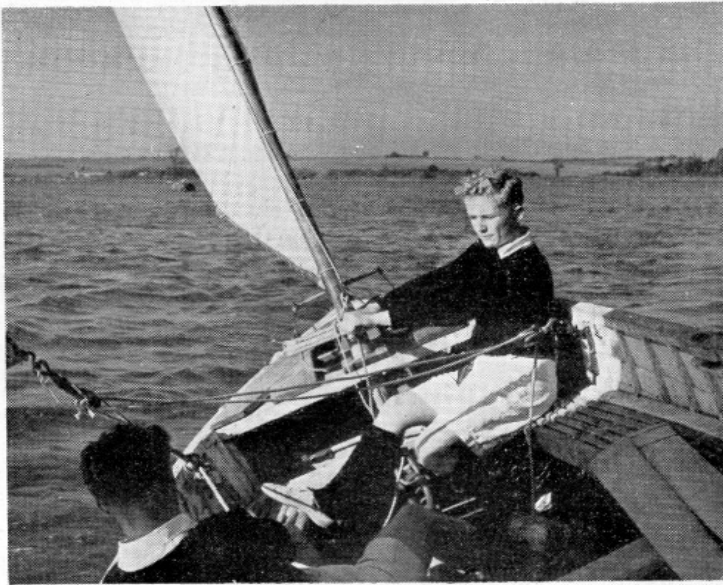
# "Ganges" Abroad

The following is a clipping sent to Captain (S) Sowman from a correspondent in Northern Rhodesia. The clipping is from the "Central African Post."

THE CENTRAL AFRICA

## TRAINING FOR THE NAVY

## 6 A.M. RIVER TRIP FOR



**B**OYS between the ages of 15 and 16 are recruited from all over Great Britain to train for the Royal Navy on the shore establishment, H.M.S. Ganges, near Ipswich, Suffolk. In this picture boys of H.M.S. Ganges are shown sailing on the River Stour.

## Flooded Impass

From our District  
**C**ARRYING the wedding of a bride and her be ferried across Kafue River a the morning to ding service at

The bride w Mavis Hendrick Mr. and Mrs. of Hollywood They were t river, eighteen road and a h near the cov small boat brother-in-law Reenen

The bride Johan Corri Nkana, son P. Wolfaar Transvaal.

The bride was of wh with a hi train. S headdress and a th lace. H roses, w and ma

# Signal School Notes

VISITORS. We have had a fair number of visitors to the Signal School this term. They have included the Rev. Roebuck, Senior Church of Scotland and Free Church Chaplain, who surprised one Wireless class by transmitting part of an S.B.X. to them at a good speed and then taking down on a typewriter a message made by one of the boys. The explanation of this signal feat is that the Rev. Roebuck served for some years as a telegraphist in the R.N.

INSTRUCTORS. We have said or are saying good-bye to a number of reservists this term. They were recalled for 18 months towards the end of 1950 and have given cheerful and willing service as Instructors at Shotley. Picking up the threads of Naval life again cannot have been easy and they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have all helped to give a good start in their Naval careers to several Classes of "Ganges" boys. We wish them all the best of luck when they resume their civilian occupations.

In February we had to relinquish the invaluable services of C.Y.S. Piper who as Regulating C.Y.S. has been one of the mainstays of the Signal School for several years. He has gone to spend the last 18 months of his time in the R.N. at Kranji Wireless Station where, we understand, he will be regulating the daily life of the S.T.C. newly transferred from Hong Kong.

We welcome to the staff several new Instructors from all three port divisions. Chatham no longer has the monopoly as Portsmouth and Devonport are now required to provide between them, about a quarter of our staff of Instructors.

SPORT. Communication Boys have played their part in all "Ganges" games. We would mention, as an example, 291 Class; of 13 boys in the Class, three have represented "Ganges" at hockey, one at rugger, one at soccer and one at cross-country running; yet another is a boy coxswain. On the river, too, a cutter's crew from Rodney 322/323 Classes under P.O. Tel. Aston-Jones succeeded in tying for first place in the cutter pulling competition. We congratulate them heartily on this and wish them success in their "re-pull"-against another Rodney crew. To all other Communication boys who have represented "Ganges" in sport, we say "well done".

PRIZES. The following prizes and awards have been gained by Communication boys.

ST. GEORGE'S PRIZE (Christmas Term)-

2nd Jones, E. 263 Class.  
4th Reedman, J. L. 263 Class.

V/S AND W/T EFFICIENCY MEDALS.

261 Robinson, T.  
262 Reeder, L. N.  
263 Reedman, J. W.  
271 Short, L. T.  
272 Rae, J. B.  
281 Sadler, P.  
282 Dennis, M. R.  
283 Pagett, B. A.

The St. George's Prizes are awarded each term to the best all-round boys in "Ganges." Points are scored not only for school and technical subjects (Communications or Seamanship and Gunnery) but also for other attainments such as becoming a Badge Boy or Boy Coxswain. One of the prizes at least is always awarded to a G.C. Boy and we particularly congratulate Instructor Boy Reedman on easily winning the G.C. prize this time.

A V/S or W/T Efficiency Medal is awarded to the boy in each Class who maintains the highest standard throughout the course, judged, mainly on the results of tests and examinations..

The V/S and W/T Efficiency Competitions have been cancelled this term since, owing to the present unequal allocation of Classes to Divisions, it was impossible to work out a fair system of allocating points for the Divisional Cup. We hope to have solved this conundrum by the time next term's competitions are due.

TECHNICAL NOTES. On the subject of Communication Classes the policy now is to allocate each of the Communication Classes of a recruitment to a different Division pairing them with Classes of the next recruitment. This will have the effect of putting all Instructors "in watch" with their Classes, i.e., on duty on the days their Classes are doing communication instruction in the dog watches and off duty on the days they are doing school. The present system of "doubling up" Classes in dog watches will thus disappear—a great advantage because the size of each Class is likely to increase shortly to the point where one room will not hold two Classes. This is because, starting with the first recruitment to join the R.N next term, 25% of the boys are to be trained in Communications instead of the present 20%. When the effect of this increased proportion and the 50 week course, are fully felt there will (we hope) be more V/S and Wireless Badges than ever before in "Ganges." We should like, however, to remind the more junior communicators that the award of a badge at the 25th week is by no means automatic but is only made to boys who are fully up to standard. We congratulate Blake 341 Class on being the first Communication Class for some time to obtain 100% award of badges first shot; we hope a Wireless Class will not be long in following their example.

PRACTICAL TRAINING. Now that the 50-week course and new syllabus are running smoothly we are concentrating on giving more realistic instruction in practical operating. All the senior Classes have had at least one day's sea training in a ship of the Nore Squadron. This has enabled the V/S boys to appreciate all the snags of flag hoisting with only limited space for waving bunting about and the Wireless boys to realise that operating a live ship-shore circuit from a plunging frigate is rather different from tapping a key on a "canned" circuit in a classroom. We are also re-wiring two classrooms so that we can simulate a fleet at sea in one and a shore base in the other; and we hope thereby to give practical wireless exercises a flavour, even if somewhat artificial, of real life at sea.

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HOWLERS WE HAVE HEARD.

- (i) That the best way to destroy Signal Books is to eat them.
- (ii) That Flag "M" at sea means "Disregard my Emotions."

## Gunnery Notes

Events this term were over-shadowed by the sad news on the 6th February of the sudden death of His Majesty King George VI. With the short time available for the intensive training of the Gun's Carriage Crew and Escort, the Commander-in-Chief, The Nore, sent a signal stating that, because of this, he regretted that he could call only upon the Naval Personnel in Chatham to provide such funeral parties as were required from the Nore Command. We were privileged however to send a party of 50 Boys to London to witness the Royal Funeral.

We did however carry out one important duty in connection with the Funeral. His Majesty, The King of Denmark, had elected to come to England in the Danish

M.V. "Kronprins Frederick," with Harwich as the Port of arrival. As is the custom for greeting visiting Royalty, a salute of 21 guns had to be fired and as Land-guard Fort, which includes the saluting battery for the Port of Harwich, were unable to fire the Salute on this occasion, "Ganges" were called upon to fill the breach. Using the 12-pdr. 8 cwt field gun battery, mounted at the back of the Old Fort, the Salute was fired at short notice without a hitch. We were honoured by the personal thanks of His Majesty, King Frederick, in acknowledgment of the Royal Salute.

At the time of going to press, I am busy relieving Lieutenant Commander Dannreuther, who was appointed to H.M.S. "Cumberland" and joined his ship on Thursday, 20th March. I have already seen enough to convince me that a high degree of efficiency has to be maintained, especially in the continuance of the high percentages obtained by Classes in their final gunnery examinations. I look forward to a happy and interesting commission in "Ganges," which I am sure I shall enjoy with all the co-operation and assistance enjoyed by my predecessor.

A Happy Leave to you all, and a return to a very good Queen's Birthday Review, which we are now happy to state is to take place on Thursday, 5th June.

D.H.S.

## Range Notes

The Ranges this term both for .303" and .22" shooting have been in constant use. On the .22" we have had the Nore Command Postal League, Inter-Establishment and Inter-Divisional competitions, and all these were in addition to the usual allocations of Divisional Range Days.

There has been much more than the average activity on the .303" range which has been used by the Ship's Company to a far greater degree than usual.

Results on the whole have been very satisfactory, and no fewer than 63 boys have qualified for the Admiralty Grant for 'Miniature Rifle Shooting, whilst 21 boys have qualified for Good Shooting Badges on the .303" range, scoring 80% or over.

.303" INTER-DIVISIONAL CUP.

A new practice was tried for this competition. Divisions were formed into a Company of three platoons, each platoon consisting of three sections with a section leader and seven boys in each section.

Conditions were that boys should be equipped in musketry order, wearing oilskins. On a signal being seen (a Very's cartridge), sections were to run a short distance, surmount an obstacle eight feet high, climb a bank and thence into the 303" butts.

The object of the competition was to produce some realistic conditions of assault in repelling an invading force. The enemy were represented in the butts by 12 tiles which had to be shot down, each boy being allowed ten rounds.

In spite of the breathless state some of the boys arrived at the firing point (due presumably to eating too much dinner), all the tiles were shot down with the exception of two sections, within the specified time. Further to this, the excellence of the shooting was emphasised by the number of rounds remaining, some sections only requiring 16 or 17 rounds to shoot down their tiles.

Hawke Division are to be congratulated on winning this competition, praise is also due to Drake and Anson Divisions who were very close on the heels of the winners. A full synopsis of results is attached with these notes.



## .22" INTER-DIVISIONAL TROPHY.

At the time of going to press this trophy has yet to be competed for. However, some very good shooting is anticipated as the competition couples with the .303" competition. The winning section, i.e. that section that did the fastest time in the .303" shoot, will represent their Division. The competition is a straight shoot consisting of 10 rounds deliberate and 10 rounds at a snap target. It may well appear that the snap target seems disconcertingly small as compared with the usual standard type used.

It is hoped that results may yet be to hand in this edition.

## INTER-ESTABLISHMENT .22" COMPETITION.

This competition is one in which we vie with our counterpart at Portsmouth, viz.: H.M.S. "St. Vincent." We were represented by selected team of 10 boys. The competition was actually shot off on the 25th March, but at the time of going to press the result is not known as targets were sent to our opponents for marking. However rumblings from the bush telegraph in the jungle have told us that we have won, and we hope to confirm this at a later stage. Well done!!

## NORE COMMAND POSTAL LEAGUE.

This competition which carries on throughout the Winter term, was won last year by "Ganges" Instructors. We have six teams entered, two of which consist of boys.

Although it is claimed we have acquitted ourselves very well, I am afraid we shall have to return the trophy this year.

The Officers' team started off very well but have slipped back in recent weeks, and our best team (the Instructors) at present are lying fourth in the league. However, with the advent of some new Mark VIII rifles perhaps we may be able to wrest the trophy back next year from the Pay and Records Office, Royal Marines, Chatham, who look like being very worthy winners this year.

## THE BUZZARD TROPHY.

This trophy, which is awarded to the boy achieving the best all round shooting results for the term, has been won by Boy Accraman, of 22 Class, Drake Division. Congratulations.

## NORE COMMAND RIFLE MEETING (held at Sheerness).

Last year we entered a team of boys for this meeting and we came a very close second to all events taken part in appropriate to our group.

At the time of going to press, we are getting in as much practice as possible in order to send a really first class team of good shots to bring back the cups.

We are aided in our training by the Military authorities allowing us to use the Landguard Rifle Range at Felixstowe, which has a full 200 yards range and which should enable us to get adapted to the conditions liable to be met at Sheerness.

G. R.P. W.

## .303" SHOOTING COMPETITION RESULTS.

| Division        | Winning Platoon | Aggregate Time by Watch | No. of Rounds remaining out of 240 | Corrected Time | No. of Tiles out of 36 | Final Time | Winning Section to shoot for .22" Trophy |            |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|--|------------|
|                 |                 |                         |                                    |                |                        |            | Section                                  | Final Time |
| Hawke           |                 | 7.15                    | 166                                | 4.29           | 36                     | 1.29       | 7  | 0.00       |
| Drake           | 2               | 7.55                    | 159                                | 5.16           | 36                     | 2.16       | 6  | .38 secs.  |
| Anson ...       | 3               | 7.23                    | 120                                | 5.23           | 36                     | 2.23       | 8  | .37 secs.  |
| Rodney          | 2               | 8.484                   | 115                                | 6.534          | 36                     | 3.534      | 4  | .50 secs.  |
| Grenville       | 3               | 10.06½                  | 114                                | 7.37           | 36                     | 4.37       | 1  | .54 secs.  |
| Collingwood ... | 1               | 10.004                  | 127                                | 7.534          | 36                     | 4.534      | 7  | 1.27½      |
| Benbow ...      | 1               | 11.264                  | 148                                | 8.184          | 36                     | 5.184      | 9  | 1.01       |
| Blake           | 2               | 11.0                    | 79                                 | 9.41           | 36                     | 6.41       | 1st Patrol                               | 1.24       |

# Royal Marine Notes

This term seems to have passed fairly peacefully for the detachment as we have had no high-ranking visitors or ceremonial parades, with the result that we have been able to do some other training besides parade work. Perhaps it has happened in order to lull us into a feeling of security before working up for Beating Retreat in the- summer. Then there are always a few things which turn up unexpectedly.

We have had our usual immense number of changes during the term. I have said good-bye to C/Sgt. Moseling before in these pages, but this time he really has gone. Some of the boys are going to be a bit surprised when they go to the Training Squadron and meet him in the "Indefat." I hope no-one will call him a three-badge R.P.O. again: we are (justifiably) a little sensitive on that point.

A 'big' loss to the detachment, and to the Establishment soccer side early in the year, was Sgt. Hotchkiss, who has gone to find out whether the sea is still there. Now 'Boy' Keeble having put up his third stripe has taken his place as Sergeant of the Guard. There has also been a change of O.C.R.M. since Capt. D. L. Roberts, R.M., is now in the chair. As Capt. Burn has gone to Chatham to join the Drafting Section of the Pay and Records Office, R.M., we are hoping that the detachment will be kept up to strength, something which has almost been achieved after nearly a year of battling with staff shortages.

As to the newcomers, C/Sgt. Jenkins, the new Sgt. Major, is a man to be wary of. He is a hypnotist besides being well built, so if you in the Pay Office or Naval Store find that he is getting more than his entitlement, you will know the reason why. Cant. Roberts has come here from the Royal Marine Commandos in Malaya. He is also a climbing expert, so, if at the Summer re-fit marks of climbing nails are found on the mast, do not say that you haven't been warned. He has very kindly contributed the article on Malaya, which he was asked to write during his foreign service leave, before coming here.

Before I go, I would like to know the answer to three questions.

Is it true that R.M.P.T.I.'s work 26 hours a day?

Have you seen two chickens in one pair of serge trousers? Can a stodge keep its head above water?

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## Petty Officers' Chatter

We have at long last managed to elbow our way into the Shotley Magazine. This has been a term of great changes. The purse strings are now held by an Aberdonian Hebrew who is doing his utmost to solve the mysteries of Television on the never-never. "Drainey" Stannard, who has left us, was last observed in the foreign-going baggage store complete with collapsible snooker table.

Our roving correspondent reports that when last seen the "Jag" was rapidly disappearing in the direction of Felixstowe at 15 miles to the gallon! However, our brace of Fords are still with us accompanied by a multifarious collection of motor cycles. (Oh lucky recipients of income tax concessions!) It is rumoured among the lower classes that the Cabaret "girls" who performed at our recent social have been offered a Windmill contract—we're never clothed!

It is noted with great pleasure that Petty Officers Gooding and Maddocks are changing their summer residence for individual chalets. We commiserate with

other 9-years plus and red plusses after the recent "Feast of the Passover." This may serve as a challenge to certain Instructors of a Division (let it be nameless) who got the *Bird*, but who nevertheless rise with it on Tuesday mornings, and prefer a primitive breakfast, i.e., from hand to mouth.

Space does not permit to dwell on the peculiar habits of our I.T. experts who doubtless prefer to hide their lights beneath bushels, but we would like to wish our chicken farmer (A.J.) every success, and offer our professional services, at a stupendous fee, to his growing concern.

*We* wish all members a very happy Easter leave and because of our sagging frames we hope that Gt. Harlings will not claim as many "clubswingers" next term as it has done this term.

SCRIBA VERITA.

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## Sick Quarters Notes

Once again we find ourselves in the midst of many staff changes at R.N.S.Q. On our return from leave we received the sad news that Surg.-Cdr. Coldwell had left us and had been appointed to R.N.C. Dartmouth. Surg.-Cdr. Davies has gone to H.M.S. "Forth" and we take this opportunity of welcoming Surg.-Cdr. Walker, who some of us will remember was at R.N.S.Q. for a short period some months ago. Surg.-Lt. Harrison has also joined us this term. S.B. C.P.O. Honour has left us for R.N.H. Chatham, S.B. C.P.O. Rudd leaves us for Civvy Street and a pension. In place of these two senior ratings, we extend a warm welcome to S.B. P.O. (L) Wright and S.B. P.O. Mills, who join us from Chatham. We have also said farewell to S.B.A.'s East, Ball, Backhurst and Meads.

In the realm of sport we have played, on an average, one football match a week, our best performance being against H.M. Submarine "Tiptoe." Although we lost, some good football was played on a very muddy pitch. At one stage we thought of digging our goalkeeper, S.B. P.O. Fancourt (Black Magic Dept.) out of the goal. We were beaten in the first round of the Darts Competition this year by Mr. Josman and his boys from the guard house, and so have a different tale to tell from last year when we reached the finals. If only we had kept our mascot locked in the mess at the time of the match, we might just have scraped a victory.

It has been a busy term for us at R.N.S.Q. The receiving room has been working at full pressure and so also has the Witchdoctor's Dept., and indeed the X Ray Dept. has been so hard at work taking pictures that I'm told that at one period the work on the pulmograph machine was so great that sparks began to shoot out and burn the benevolent grey-haired gentleman in charge of the operation.

In closing, we send once again our best wishes to those who have left us, and to those who have just joined us, we wish a very happy commission.

S.B. P.O. H. Smith.

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If you want to be happy for an hour, get drunk.  
If you want to be happy for three days, get married.  
If you want to be happy for eight days, kill a pig and eat it.  
If you want to be happy for ever, make a garden.

*-Old Chinese Proverb.*



In the last Magazine we remarked on the loss of a number of our senior ratings. Little did we realise that this was merely the Drafting Office's opening gambit and that it was to be followed by the relief of such a large proportion of the Supply and Secretariat Department. The Wardroom staff and the Pay Office were the hardest hit, and the former now have more than 50% new faces this term, whilst the latter have almost as many. Nevertheless, the Wardroom Staff is well in the news. It was a very great pleasure to see Chief Petty Officer Saffin's name in the New Year Honours. His hard work and outstanding ability while in "Ganges" was the culmination of 22 years of loyal and devoted service and the award of the B.E.M. was a well deserved and fitting tribute to him and the hard-working Wardroom staff in H.M.S. "Ganges." His relief on discharge to pension at the end of last term, was followed by the departure of Senior Commissioned. Catering Officer Maundrill at the beginning of this. Many of us will miss his friendship, his inexhaustive energy and his unflinching offers of help whatever the problem or whatever the hour of day or night. We feel that our loss is "Ceres'" gain. We wish him the best of luck in his new job and we are sure he will "turn out some good ones."

Incidentally, we were interested to hear that Captain Whitfeld had recently paid a visit to H.M.S. "Ceres," and we were also pleased to welcome some of the future backbones of the Branch in the R.N. Boys' Boxing Championships which took place in "Ganges" on 6th February. Although it was gratifying to see a win for our own boys we were secretly proud to see that the "Ceres" gave such a good account of themselves.

Another loss to the Wardroom was C.P.O. Cook(0) Joyce, who has been battling with all the alterations in the Wardroom Galley for the last two years. We hope to have all the equipment installed and the last coat of paint on, in the near future, and hope that his successor, C.P.O. Cook(0) Chapman, will soon be able to settle down undisturbed by electricians, bricklayers, plasterers and others.

Whilst on the subject of galleys, reference must be made to our new, beautifully equipped galleys in the fine Central Mess and Galley building beside the main