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SLIPSTREAM



The Journal of H.M.A.S. "Albatross"

No 3

JULY, 1957

Price 6d.

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"SLIPSTREAM"

The Journal of H.M.A.S. "Albatross"

No. 3

JULY, 1957

EDITOR:

Inst. Lt. Cdr. Comfort.

SUB. EDITOR:

Sub. Lt. Sheridan.

ART EDITOR:

L.A.M. Heron.

An Apology

To those who were unable to obtain a copy of the May issue of "Slipstream". Five hundred copies arrived at "Albatross" at 1100 of the day of publication. By 1300 there was one copy left — for the file. This response has encouraged us to print 700 copies of this issue.

An Appreciation

To the advertisers who have supported "Slipstream" and made possible this and previous issues. Readers, your support of our advertisers is our best "Thank you".

Literary Prize

For this issue has been awarded to Sub. Lt. G. Hockley for his story which is printed in this issue. Congratulations! Entries for the award for the next issue are now being received.

— EDITOR.

805 SQUADRON CREST

805 Squadron's crest had its origin in the Squadron's participation in the Middle East operations, the crest being based on a design submitted by Leading Aircraft Fitter Wyatt in June, 1941. It is pointed out that the Squadron's motto — "Over Sea and Sand" is i-quoted — the unenlightened confusing it with that of the "Bootnecks".

The Squadron, consisting of twelve Fairey Fulmars, formed at Abukir, Egypt, in November 1940, under the command of Lt. Cdr. Black, R.N. Australian representatives were Lt. A. Ramsay, R.N.V.R., and Aircraft Mechanic (O) J. F. McCaffrey (who was later to be captured at the fall of Crete). After work up and deck landing practice in "Eagle" and "Illustrious", the Squadron took part in the air defence of Alexandria.

In February, 1941 the Squadron was moved to Maleme, Crete, some of the Fulmars being replaced by Brewster Buffaloes. The main task was fighter protection of the island although strikes and convoy patrols provided some variety.

By May, when Greece fell, the Squadron pilots were flying out of Greece, in whatever aircraft were serviceable. When the final attack on Crete commenced on May 15th, after days of continuous strafing by German aircraft, only three Hurricanes were able to take to the air. These aircraft, flown by 805 pilots accounted for one JU 87 and three ME 109's — one Hurricane landed safely.

This saw the end of air operations from Crete (though the eventual escape of many of the Squadron is an epic in itself) and within ten days the ragged remnants of the Squadron were reforming with Brewster Buffaloes at Dekheila. (This Egyptian airfield was revisited in angry mood by Naval aircraft during the Suez operations of November last.)

By the middle of June a small detachment was available at Mersa Matru for coastal protection and the remainder were sharing in the defence of Alexandria. A fortnight later the Buffaloes were grounded — yes, it happened even in those days — and Grumman Martlets were produced to replace them. Within three weeks, the Squadron was again in the picture, this time providing patrols, from the airfield at Maaten Baagush, over the Fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Then in August, 1942, the Squadron was sent to Kenya and its Desert Campaign came to a close — but only after the C.O. and his No. 2. had shot down two SM 79's, whilst on the last sortie.

Station Personality No. 3

Commander D. K. L. Learmount, D.S.C. and Bar, R.N.

Joining the Royal Navy as a Cadet in 1938, Cdr. Learmount saw the beginning of the war as a Midshipman in H.M.S. "Cumberland". Soon she was to witness the death throes of the "Graf Spee".

While engaged in the attack on Dakar in the following year, "Cumberland" sustained a direct hit which damaged the main steam line. Midshipman Learmount was awarded the D.S.C. for rescuing personnel from a magazine compartment into which super heated steam was escaping. Thus the first year of hostilities which was, for many, a period of waiting, was for Cdr. Learmount a period of earnest activity.

His first contact with Australia was made when the "Cumberland" escorted the first Australian troop convoy from South Africa to the United Kingdom. This was the beginning of an association with Australia, which has since been renewed many times.

1942 saw the formation of the first Landing Craft Assault Flotillas in the Mediterranean. Cdr. Learmount served with these for the next two years and took part in the landings on North Africa and Sicily and commando raids in Italy and the Adriatic.

Cdr. Learmount recalls three lively months when, with 80 other crew members, he lived in the open landing craft. They formed headquarters for Yugoslav guerilla activities. The countryside provided food for earnest scavengers who then beached the boats for cooking as required.

As First Lieutenant of the "Queenborough" he served with the British Pacific Fleet and the United States 6th Fleet, and saw action off Formosa and Okinawa. However, V.J. day saw him back in England struggling with the "Long Nav." course. This was put to the test in 1946 for as navigator of "Swan" he was then engaged on mine-sweeping in the Barrier Reef and off New Guinea.

Cdr. Learmount spent 1950 and 1951 in Navy Office as Director of the Operations Division and before joining "Albatross" had appointments in "Gambia" and the Navigation and Direction School.

His own words leave no doubt about his feelings on returning to Australia: "You will see that although I have served for some five years with your Navy, I have had no service in the Fleet Air Arm. It was, then, with considerable pleasure that I received my appointment to the R.A.N. Fleet Air Arm. My pleasure is partly selfish because I have now joined that elite membership of the hub, around which the Navy of the present and the future revolve."

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"HOW IT STARTED"

Until 1858 the history of Australian Rules is somewhat vague, but Gaelic football obviously formed the basis of today's game. Gaelic football is the only other major game to pair the opponents and dispense with the offside rule. The early teams invariably played for a barrel of beer as the stake, and resisted strongly the attempts to introduce rules.

In 1858 the first organised game was played between Scotch College and Melbourne Grammar School. There were only two rules — the distance between goal posts was to be 440 yards and each team had to field a minimum of 40 players. There was no referee.

In the same year the Melbourne Football Club was formed. Six years later the Geelong, Carlton, South Melbourne and Richmond clubs were organised and the first Sydney team, University, took the field. A set of rules and a referee to enforce them, were introduced later. Prior to this time, the rival captains decided any disputes and awarded free kicks.

The Victorian Football Association was formed in 1879 and the first interstate game was played between Victoria and South Australia in that year. 1896 saw the formation of Australia's largest sporting organization, the Victorian Football League. The original clubs were Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Melbourne, Fitzroy and St. Melbourne. The game continued to prosper and draw larger crowds until, by 1928, Carlton and Richmond in an ordinary mid-season game drew 66,831 spectators.

Well remembered personal achievements of the thirties include those of Bob Pratt of South Melbourne who kicked 150 goals in one season, and Hadyn Buntton of Fitzroy who, in 1935, won the Brownlow Medal for the best and fairest player, for the third time.

1938 saw huge attendances at the finals, 290,000 fans watching the four games including 96,833 at the Grand Final when Carlton defeated Collingwood. During the war, competition was somewhat restricted, but in 1946 the game resumed, with 336,800 witnessing the last four games. With the popularity of the game on the increase in all States, the climax was reached in 1956 when 113,000 supporters crammed the Melbourne Cricket Ground to see Melbourne Club win the Olympic premiership.

That Australian Rules has grown in popularity without the stimulus of international competition, should be a warning to many Rugby and Soccer administrators, who consider international matches essential for the continued existence of their codes.

Football fans want something worthwhile for their money!

The Australian Rules motto runs — "Populi ludos Populo" — the game of the people for the people.

AROUND THE STATION

ON THE LINE



Mechanician Saunders and Leading Airmen Burns and Leisk arming a Sea Fury preparatory to an armament exercise on the Beecroft Range.

A recent visitor to the Air Station was the Dutch Naval Attache, Captain F. G. H. Van Straaten, R.N.N. Captain Van Straaten made this call on A.J.A.S.S. and R.A.N.A.S. in the course of visiting R.A.N. Shore Establishments.

I hear that Jack Hardy is starching and pressing his chef's cap in readiness for the Mid Winter Ball.

I hear that the Commander's Office has plans under way for the formation of a Sailing Club and a Debating Society.

There's a strong buzz that "Albatross" will produce a Christmas Pantomime this year.

At the time of going to press L.A. Coates, a popular contributor to previous issues of "Slipstream" is ill. Here's hoping he has a speedy recovery.

Two Neptunes of No. 11 Squadron are on the Air Station in connection with the current A.J.A.S.S. Joint Unit Course. Many of the crew members were recently engaged in the three Neptune — round the world flight. At one stop in this flight, they were accommodated in a Hollywood Hotel with T.V. in the bedrooms. Now they've come to good "Albatross" galvanised iron.

Congratulations to E.A. Wills on his success in the April H. E. T. First class passe: in four subjects and a pass in another, in the one examination, is something of an achievement.

Recently offered by the Department of Supply for public auction —

4,000 New canvas Hammocks and
10,000 Lashings.
Bunks must be here to stay.

Commander S. Sharpe who has recently taken over as Supply Officer comes to "Albatross" from the Reserve Fleet. He succeeds Commander A. Rose who left the Air Station in early June to take up an appointment in "Penguin". Sporting enthusiasts (particularly the Rugby players) will miss Commander Rose's interest and encouragement.

Congratulations to Lt. Cdr. (O) and Mrs. Griffin on the birth of a son. Lt. Cdr. Griffin will take over command of 816 Squadron early next month.

Ten Reserve Bandsmen (including a Cadet aged 15) have just completed a (for them) busy and (for us) very enjoyable fortnight's training at "Albatross". Under the baton of Bandmaster McKenzie, the band has really "got around" — music in the Main Dining Hall — in the Cinema — at Nowra High School — in the Wardroom — combined with the "Albatross" Blue Jacket Band at Divisions. For the rest of the year, playing as a group is mainly restricted to weekly training parades at "Rushcutter". We hope that the two weeks at "Albatross" have been of as much value to the Bandsmen as to us.

We record with pleasure the recent promotion of two "Albatross" officers — Captain F. W. Purves R.A.N. the Air Engineering Officer and Lt. Cmdr. T. R. McCrou R.A.N.V.R.

H.M.N.Z.S. "ROYALIST"

The "Royalist", although not as well known on the N.S.W. coast as her sister ship "Black Prince", succeeds to a fine record built over the years by New Zealand cruisers.

Laid down in 1940, "Royalist" was extensively modified in 1955 when a new bridge of rounded form, new lattice masts, and the latest types of gun direction equipment and air and surface radar were fitted. Of 5,900 tons displacement, and a main armament of 8-5.25 guns, she is a good example of modern, conventional cruiser trends.

She was formally handed over to the Royal New Zealand Navy in July, 1956, as a replacement for the well known "Bellona".

Under the command of Captain G. D. Pound, D.S.C., R.N., her present cruise started from Auckland in late May, and after an extensive work-up in Australian waters will take her to the Far East.

Her first contact with Australian forces was made while on passage to Sydney, by exercising with R.A.A.F. Neptunes in the Tasman Sea. After arrival in Sydney, teams from the ship attended the R.A.N. Gunnery School and other specialist establishments. Then began the long, hard grind of work-up in all its phases. This occupied the month of June and kept the ship in the Sydney — Jervis Bay area. Aircraft from N.A.S., Nowra played a prominent part in the successful achievement of this task.

As a culmination of this intensive training, "Royalist" departed on 3rd. July for Singapore and some months of duty in the Far East.

LATEST "GEN" FROM THE WHITE ENSIGN CLUB

By popular vote the billiard tables have been removed and you now have a choice of table tennis, carret bowls and darts. Latest buzz is that cabaret nights will be held in the ex-billiard room (complete with dancing girls).

The new Club Manager is Mr. M. Hickson. Service, plus — is his policy. Biscuits and cheese are free at the bar. Snacks now include oysters, fish slices, sausage rolls and tasty meat pies and there's a menu in the cafeteria which includes soups and plenty of tasty home cooking.

Now that the "infernal machines" are back, Basil Gray has again taken up his favourite position and last week cleared the Club's entire stock of tobacco with the winnings.

Club membership is 10/- per annum. To make it easy, you can now obtain your nomination form and pay your sub at the Commander's Office.

Rich Grey Dust

(By GORDON S. HOCKLEY)

Tropical rains had poured down over the tiny village of Nussing — Alatu for centuries.

The tropical sun had turned that rain into steam for as many centuries. The same glowering bald old mountain had frowned on the village and its inhabitants, observing few changes, except an occasional funeral pyre, a tiny black face puckered in agony or a new thatch on the roof of one of the huts.

The villagers had long ceased to eat one another or their neighbours. The influence of the kindly people with the white skins who came from strange land across the big "Soda-Water" had impressed these simple folk whose main concern now was for the comfort and well being of their young, and to maintain a dependable food supply.

Omanpari had been part of this scene, for only eighteen years, but they had been blissful years.

He had spent two of those years at a Mission School, down near the coast and had adopted many of the habits of his patient teachers. Regardless of this, however, he desired nothing more than to live with his own people at Nussing — Alatu under the shadow of the mountain.

Takarpul had been a friend of Omanpari's for as long as the boy could remember; long before he had gone away to the Mission School Takarpul had taught him to throw a spear with deadly accuracy into a charging boar. To Takarpul, Omanpari owed his knowledge of the whereabouts of the biggest and juiciest Betel Nuts and how to capture the wily possum as well as where the Black plams grew, for the best bows. When Omanpari's Mission lap laps wore out Takarpul showed him how to make real ones out of paper bark.

Omanpari also owed his knowledge of the habits of the flying foxes to wily old Takarpul. The old fellow loved the sweet white flesh — the nearest thing to fish, inhabitants of the mountains can get. He owed this and more, to the old warrior who was beyond the kindly jurisdiction of the Missionaries; the dark shadow which vanished into the jungle when a visit from a Missionary was imminent.

Omanpari was content to learn all he could from the old man and never attempted, through their friendship, to influence him. It was obvious that one day soon, Omanpari would take Takarpul's place as leader of the hunters who kept the village supplied with daily needs.

Takarpul had long begun to wilt under the more frequent attacks of malaria, and a huge ulcer on his thigh, caused by a dying boar, had undermined his vigour and laid waste his desire to venture far into the dense jungle which he knew and loved so well.

Week by week, more responsibility fell to the lot of Omanpari, and, as Takarpul slowly retired to the background of village affairs, and became one of the toothless old men who sat squabbling over some feat of the past, he did so with the knowledge that his teaching had placed the future of the village in capable, if yet inexperienced, hands.

Sankala had been avidly appraising Omanpari for several months now. Omanpari had been slow to observe the hot searching glances of Sankala, but when at last he became aware of her intense shameless interest, her eyes left him feeling naked and embarrassed.

Here was a new and different situation which at the moment he didn't feel quite capable of handling alone. It was not surprising then that Omanpari should take his secret to Takarpul, as he had done on other occasions, with matters of lesser importance. He was surprised, however, on revealing the reason for his visit to the old man, that Sankala's undisguised interest had already been observed. The shrewd old fellow had known that Sankala had matured months ago; he had observed her collecting wild cotton. He knew it was time she belonged to a man.

Three weeks later Omanpari paid for Sankala with the biggest boar that the inhabitants of Nussing—Alatu had seen for many years.

Omanpari and Sankala were considered by everyone in Nussing-Alatu to be an excellent match.

The event left no regrets in the hearts of anyone and the young man took his bride to live with him along with the friendly smiles, knowing glances and best wishes of Nussing-Alatu.

Omanpari and Sankala had been married a year now and Sankala could no longer frolic with the girls of her own age in the jungle; the violent stirring within her caused great discomfort and she knew that soon she was to become a mother.

Two weeks later, the old mountain saw again a new black face shrivelled and small but yet so young. Omanpari had a son born to him. He was proud and happy. He took the boy in his arms to Takarpul whose tired old eyes brightened with pleasure.

Two years passed during which time Bardi, for that was the name given him, grew into a fat happy little fellow. He was popular with everyone in the village.

Takarpul used that strength which he could spare to follow Bardi around the village and when he could no longer keep up with the boy he would coax him

THE SHOWERS TROPHY



N.A. Barnard and L.A.M. Bolden holding the Showers Trophy. The "Albatross" Soccer team, the present holders, will play their first match in the 1957 series later in July.

into his hut to proudly show him the tiny set of spears with which he was going to teach Bardi to be a great hunter.

The daily life of Nussing-Alatu had gone on in this manner from one decade to the next, with only the names and faces being changed by the hands of Life and Death, until one day, Bardi dashed off whooping with glee in the direction of the approaching hunters who were led by his father.

The day had been dull, and a heavy cloud hung over the old mountain. Had one known what was about to happen, one would have decided that the cloud was hiding the guilt on the face of the mountain, for it clung close to the bald rocky peak leaving only the foothills visible.

The hunters had not been very successful today; an old boar had escaped carrying in a wound in its side one of Omanpari's best and deadliest spears. The hun-

ters had just unloaded the day's catch and were discussing the dividing up of the food, when a deep rumbling froze words on speakers' lips and the inhabitants of the village stood still in silent awe.

It seemed to come from beneath them deep in the earth, and was coming nearer nearer. Yet No! It was everywhere under the cloud that hid the mountain; in the North and the South, a vibrant rumble that was quickly becoming a roar.

The gaping, frightened villagers could stand no more; the arguments over food were forgotten; they ran, ran desperately, aimlessly.

Children and mothers running, falling, crying. Calling names of those they loved. The men huddled together looking, as though for aid from every direction, not knowing whence that help might come — or if it would come. They were reduced from fearless adults to desperately frightened children, hopelessly inadequate, confronted by something terrible and unknown.

These emotions scarcely had time to register when it happened.

The top lifted off the old mountain and was flung hundreds of feet into the air and millions of tons of rock were crushed to pebbles in one blast. The shock wave flattened Nussing-Alatu and the people were prostrated before, they knew not what.

Following the wall of compressed atmosphere came a merciless deluge of red hot destruction, hot pumice that smoked where it landed hissing venomously, down among the people smashing bodies and stripping trees with diabolical efficiency. Nature had gone berserk.

When the shower of brimstone had exhausted itself a "snowstorm" of insidious grey ash began to settle over what remained of the charred broken village, enveloping the pitiful remains in a Satanic wraith. A cruel final curtain for a pathetic drama.

Nussing-Alatu ceased to exist from that moment. It's soul was there. So were the people that had lived at Nussing-Alatu. So too, was the catch made on that fateful day. They were all there under the dust that had waited perhaps a million years just for them.

The following day, the cloud had left the old mountain. A subdued mountain it was too. It no longer glowered. The tall rocky peak was gone and in its place a still smoking hole was all that was left of the bare peak that had watched Nussing-Alatu for centuries, and had waited to spread the Rich Grey Dust that would bring fertility to the jungle soil for ages to come.

PREPAREDNESS

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THE SPORTS WIFE

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All summer long, from wicket to wicket,
With family in tow we follow the cricket,
And wait as they scowl at pitch and sun,
Toss the coin, shine the ball; the game's begun!
'Keeper and batsman both have the 'bends,
From a flurry of arms the ball descends,
Unhappily the ball is hit short of the line,
For at running our cricketers rarely shine.

Then a couple of fours, and maybe a six,
And sneak-runs from balls the bat barely flicks;
At last comes a welcome long awaited treat,
A cup of tea — and something to eat!
With Summer gone, Winter's husky fellows,
Puff and blow like human bellows;
But for all their bulk and manly bluster,
They are always late for team to muster.

They take the field and do the Hakka,
And shake hands with opposing marker;
Kick-off over with much backbiting,
No holds barred, they come out fighting.
The whistle blows, now for the dance,
A crablike formation of football pants;
Swaying and buckling as boot contacts shin,
And the ball escapes without going in.

Suddenly someone gets a 'ping',
"We're supposed to capture the jolly thing";
And away they rip with sprinter's spurt,
But the ball flips by as they bite the dirt!
Soon the cuddling and strangling is done,
And after much effort a try is won;
Then a half hour of whistle and scrumming
is past,

A free kick to us, we're even at last!
The half time bell thankfully rings,
The players come off like bedraggled things;
But drab and empty are Winter feats,
To the sports wife and child — there are no eats.

— A. B. A.

DEMPSTER CHALLENGE CUP TEAM

BACK ROW (L. to R.): N.A. Stace, E.M. Russell, L.A.M. Martin, E.M. Wade, C.R.E. Kirwin, P.O. El. Dunn, N.A. Kimmorley.

CENTRE ROW: L.A.M. Dugdale, L.E.M. Mosbey, N.A. Crane (V. Capt.), R.E.M. Carroll, N.A. Miller, L.A. Connellan.

FRONT ROW: N.A. Isherwood, R.E.M. Crichton (Capt.), Capt. Smith, Sub. Lt. Vance (Coach), S.A. Lewis, N.A. Nolan.



Around the Village . . .

The Manager of the Village Shop, Mr. Flintoff, reports that trading since the opening in May, has exceeded his expectations. Situated in Bedford Street in the centre of the Married Quarters, the shop is open 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

★ ★ ★ ★

A teacher from the Nowra Technical College visits the Play Centre every Thursday at 8 p.m. to give instruction in Sewing and Soft Furnishings. There is room in the class for a few more members.

★ ★ ★ ★

Ten boys are eager to start a Wolf Cub Pack, but some difficulty is being experienced in finding a Cub Master. Any one from the Air Station who could help is requested to contact Chaplain Willson.

★ ★ ★ ★

The Village Welfare Association reports that plans are being made to hold a street stall to assist in the purchase of a humidicrib for the district ambulance. This will greatly facilitate the ambulance service for infants, whose lives often depend on the help of a humidicrib in the course of being transported to hospital. Those who would like to help in this important work, are asked to contact Mrs. Smith on Extension 202.

★ ★ ★ ★

The Office-bearers of the Nowra Hill Tennis Club are —

Patron: Captain V. A. T. Smith.

Chairman: Lt. A. G. Whitton.

Secretary - Treasurer: Mrs. Shirley Davis.

Committee Members: Mrs. F. Manual, L. Air, R.

Cole, P.O. B. Burns, L.S.A. T. Mitchell.

Membership of the Club is open to all "Villagers", the annual subscription being ten shillings. Members of the committee will be pleased to give more information. Lt. Whitton, Ext. 454 or 563 (Residence) and L.S.A. Mitchell, Ext. 332 may be contacted by 'phone.

★ ★ ★ ★

We hear that our Kindergarten Teacher, newly appointed to Nowra School, was warned by her small pupils that she would have to be very careful here. Rather perplexed, the teacher asked for the reasons for this mysterious statement. "Oh, Miss, you have curly hair, and you are not married, and all the sailors love single girls with curly hair!" We welcome Miss Nelson.

LOOK!

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COMING EVENTS

WINTER BALL, Thursday, 15th August:

The 1957 Winter Ball promises to be an outstanding function. The whole of the Canteen and its facilities will be available to produce a real cabaret atmosphere. On the night, the parquet floor of the Quiet Room will be ideal for the dancers, for whom it is hoped the Eastern Area Band will provide the tempo. So make a date now for Thursday, 15th August.

WHITE ENSIGN CLUB:

July will see the first of the W. E. C. Cabaret Nights. The date was not firm on "Slipstream" going to press so watch out for further details of this event.

MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS:

McCABE CUP Inter Service Rugby Union will be played on 3rd, 10th and 17th JULY, at Victoria Barracks. It is expected that "Albatross" will have a good representation in the Navy Team which will be defending the Cup.

DEMPSTER CUP Semi-finals will be held in Sydney on 23rd and 30th JULY. On present form "Albatross" is well in the running for a place in these matches.

REAR ADMIRAL SHOWERS TROPHY. This knock-out soccer trophy will be competed for during the week commencing 6th and 8th JULY.

CINEMA:

The following are selections from the July cinema programme —

Friday, 5th: "LAS VEGAS STORY" — Jane Russell and Victor Mature.

Monday, 8th and Tuesday, 9th: "GLEN MILLER STORY" — James Stewart and June Allyson.

Monday, 22nd and Tuesday, 23rd: "RAINS OF RANCHIPUR" — Richard Burton and Lana Turner.

Monday, 29th and Tuesday, 30th: "HOUSE OF BAMBOO" — Robert Ryan, Robert Stack and Shirley Yanaguchi.

NOWRA HILL VILLAGE:

FRIDAY, 12th JULY — Dance at Nowra Hill Public School under the auspices of the Nowra Hill Welfare Association and the Parents and Citizens. Double ticket 5/-, available from L/Air R. Murrell, 15 Waterhen St., and also from the Canteen Shop.

WEDNESDAY, 17th JULY — General Meeting of the Nowra Hill Welfare Association. The business of the evening will be the election of office bearers and representatives. Nominations and business for the agenda should be handed to the Secretary, L/Air R. Murrell. A programme of documentary films will be screened during the meeting.

"ALBATROSS" GOLF CLUB

A new nine hole course is now in play at the Air Station, and although unseasonable weather has left fairways dry and hard, the grass greens are still in good condition. Par for this course is 33 (66).

From a membership of fifty the Club has elected the following Office Bearers:

PATRON: Captain V. A. Smith.

COMMITTEE: Lt. Cdr. Dallaway, C.E.L. Pledge, P.O. Cashmore, L/S.A. Moss, L.E.M. Kelly, P.O. Rankine.

HANDICAPPERS: P.O. Terry, Tel. Brown.

SECRETARY: P.O. McCulloch.

ASS. SECRETARY: C.A.F. Dewhirst.

The Club is fortunate in having experienced players in Tel. Norm Brown and L.E.M. (Ned) Kelly, who have been playing representative golf with Nowra Club, and the fact that new stars are appearing, namely, P.O. Cashmore, Lt. Pollock, C.P.O. Cumberland and Lt. Eccleston.

Those who were fortunate enough to see P.O. Jenkins in action reckon it won't be long before he is on a much lower handicap. In all, the club should be able to field a strong side, when they play Nowra Golf Club at a later date.



L.E.M. Dillon, P.O. McCulloch, and C.A.F. Dewhirst are studying the draw before hitting off in a recent Club stroke event.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

HOME BUILDING AND FURNISHING

The help available from the R.A.N. Relief Trust Fund for the purpose of building or buying a house, and of purchasing essential items of furniture has enabled a large number of serving personnel to solve their housing problems. Over 400 housing loans and 400 furniture loans were approved in the twelve months ending June, 1957.

Help to the extent of £300 for Housing and £150 for Furniture is available to applicants for assistance.

As an instance of what may be done by an enterprising builder is the case of one of our airmen, who started to build with no more than £30 in his pocket after acquiring a block of land. Between August and December, 1956 this rating and his wife saved enough from their combined earnings to build a temporary residence 28 x 12 feet.

This was done with the help of only £60 from the Relief Fund towards the cost of flooring materials, plumbing and electrical fittings, and also a further £35 for a second hand copper, gas stove and refrigerator. The temporary residence is partitioned into one bedroom, kitchen and separate laundry and bathroom. It is now insured for £800.

A further housing loan of £240 will be available to this man in August to enable him to proceed with the help of further savings to erect a permanent home. By doing his own labour this rating expects to save himself £1100 in the long run.

HE DWELT AMONG US

"The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"

(John 1: 14)

The word of God made flesh dwelt amongst us, like one of us. He did not shine to mortal eyes in the splendour of His divine glory; He did not wish to arouse man's admiration by a continual display of His divine attributes; but He manifested to us, in all His words and deeds, the beauty and greatness of human nature unimpaired by sin, in order to teach us how we should strive to raise our natural powers from their fallen state, and restore them to their original perfection. Our Blessed Savior gave us the example of energy and constancy in labour, of undaunted courage in the fulfilment of duty, of honesty, truth, and gratitude to our fellow-men, of genuine sympathy with the suffering and sorrowful, of true friendship, of kindness and gentleness to all, of perfect considerateness and unselfness. Divine perfection in Him did not absorb or hide human virtues and qualities, but raised them to a higher plane and brought them to light. In this respect, as in all others, the follower of Christ must follow in the footsteps of the Master.

— Chaplain L. J. Breslan, R.A.N.

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In BERRY STREET, NOWRA

Smoked Ham

(By GORDON S. HOCKLEY)

It was late Autumn and the rich smell of pusser's scran wafted on the smoke laden atmosphere.

Murgatroyd grunted a greeting to the new day and languidly shook his mud-caked hams and rashes; he made a mental calculation of his social engagements for today which would be climaxed by a special dinner in honour of his first Anniversary.

Not far away Chloe was busily attending to her mud pack which Marilyn had suggested should be good for her delicate complexion, and may even remove the bags from under her eyes; Murgatroyd grunted his disapproval of these female follies and swaggered off in search of some more odious garbage with which to emphasize his manliness.

Marilyn was scratching irritably at a roving tick which was taking liberties just under a short lo'n hop. Chloe was eyeing her reflection in a rusty pie-dish and she thought idly "if only a tattered Dyomee would find its way into the gash bucket". Silvana was attending to her make-up and she thought that the addition of a generous smear of onion gravy would improve her complexion.

As all these frantic preparations were in progress, Bert the caterer arrived to discuss the Menu with Murgatroyd. It had been an unhappy pen for the past few weeks and Murgatroyd had considered asking Bert to resign as Caterer because of the poor quality of some of the food; only the other day Chloe had complained that the razor blades in aspic had not been properly sharpened and then there was the mysterious case of Daisy who has been blowing bubbles for three days. But Murgatroyd had decided to give him another chance and tonight he would make up his mind.

After a brief interview Bert and Murgatroyd decided on the menu for tonight. Murgatroyd dismissed Bert with a grunt and settled down in a large comfortable puddle and dreamed of his numerous conquests, satisfied in his mind that the dinner would be a success. Unknown to Murgatroyd and the girls, huge clouds of angry black smoke billowed up from the nearby scrub and the flames raced on before a Westerly gale.

Soon the smoke became so dense that Murgatroyd began to cough, and visibility was reduced to a few feet; Murgatroyd's first concern was his favourite, Silvana. In despair he searched for her in the smoke. At last, dimly in the distance Murgatroyd thought he could see Silvana. He rushed to her desperately from one smoky shadow to the next but nowhere could he see Silvana.

His heart sank and his very being fretted. Everywhere the smell of frying bacon filled the air.

Unknown to Murgatroyd, Silvana and the other girls were safe and his fears were without foundation. Soon some measure of order began to prevail in Murgatroyd's domain and the fire was brought under control. At last Murgatroyd could once more turn his attention to the forthcoming dinner. After what seemed an eternity, the dinner was ready, and Murgatroyd gazed greedily through smoke-rendered eyes at the huge feast set out in the trough.

Chloe was first to take up her position at the trough. She pulled a piece of gravy sodden sweat cloth under her chin and buried her face in the custard.

Silvana was receiving more than a normal share of Murgatroyd's attention as he seated himself next to her at the trough and spread liberal heplings of steamed pudding and onion peelings over the other guests.

Daisy, not to be outdone, and feeling poorly due to a scorched ham, coughed up a sea-boot and proceeded to empty the contents which amounted to some over-baked parsnips and several empty cigarette packets into Chloe's ears.

Murgatroyd was disgusted with the behaviour of La-Lollo who insisted on sitting in the middle of his favourite stew and pouring it over herself with a fish paste tin. Dahlia and Zinnia at the other end of the trough were less fortunate as some careless cook had spilled cayenne pepper in their share of the dinner and Dahlia was sitting open-mouthed while Zinnia fanned her with an old sailor's cap, kept under the trough for such occasions.

The chomplings and squelchings were interrupted by the occasional clink of metal as the diners dropped various articles of mess gear into a bin provided.

As the dinner progressed and one course wended its way down after the other, Murgatroyd was satisfied that Bert had done a good job and he decided before the meal was ended that he would keep him on as Caterer.

Murgatroyd also decided that he would try to find the mate to the sea-boot which Daisy coughed up so that Bert would not have to lace up his boots in the middle of a bush fire again.

TENSE DRAMA

The stories of the clash of arms of War, pale beside the clashes of character that follow in its wake. Such an episode is the theme for the tense drama, "Dark Summer", to be presented by Nowra Players in the School of Arts, Nowra, on Thursday, 25th and Friday, 26th July.

SPORTING NOTES

RUGBY UNION

Our Dempster Cup team had been "sitting pretty" with four wins in a row until thrashed 18 to 3 at Trumper Park by "Watson" the Cup holders. It seemed that the Stars of our side might be getting too much football; a Station Cup match on the Thursday, more football on the Saturday and Sunday, and lo, another Cup match on Monday! Just bad luck, you say? Nothing of the sort. The same routine happened a week later — competition football Thursday, Saturday and Sunday then defeat by the "Sydney" on the Monday. Our boys didn't have a run left in them and were too sore in body to bring down the opponent in a tackle. Even Blind Freddie could see it. The indication is that three Albatross teams will get somewhere.

It should be remembered that the Cup final is still a long way off.

Satisfactory results in two recent games at The Station have been a win over H.M.N.Z.S. Royalist and a draw with "Watson". The Kiwi ship is running an interpart competition of twelve union teams. From all that talent came the team which played in the above match. The pack was as big and powerful as any we have met but we got our share of the ball.

SOCCER

In the Illawarra Soccer League, Albatross continues to have a run of failures, though some games were so even in play that the difference has only been a goal either way. It is certain that the Station needs only a little more player-support to put it where it used to be, only a couple of seasons ago, up among the top-notch clubs.

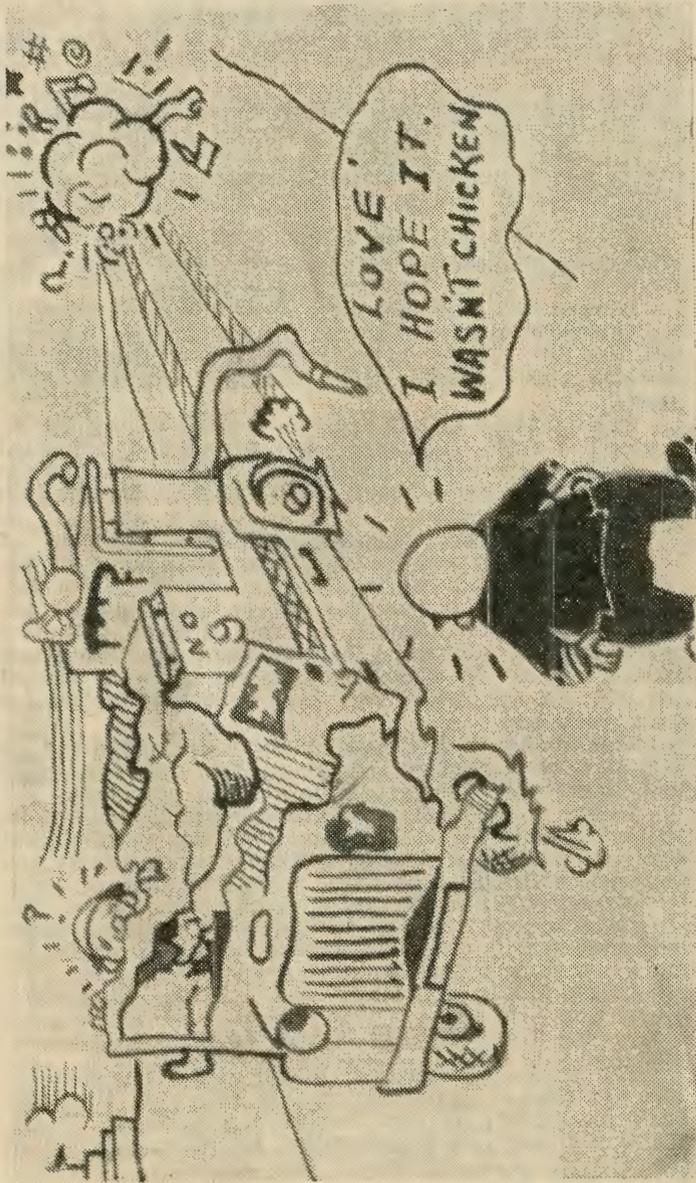
Only last month, Albatross defeated Combined Ships and Establishments, 1 goal to nil at Balmoral, and little more than a week ago defeated H.M.N.Z.S. Royalist 4 goals to 2.

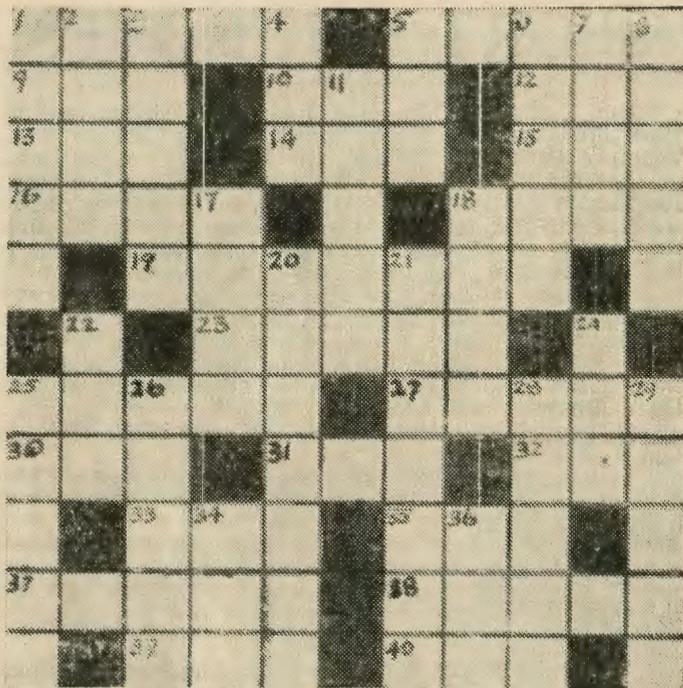
The goalkeeping of N.A. Bernard is an outstanding feature and it is noted that N.A. Bolden plays State league with Woonona. The draw for the Rear Admiral Shower's Trophy, of which Albatross is the present holder, begins in a week or two.

AUSTRALIAN RULES

The season is now well under way with many Albatross players in Sydney teams. Congratulations to N.A. R. Turner of L.T.M.U. in being selected for the N.S.W. team. N.A. Turner was judged one of the best afield in the recent Combined Sydney versus Australian Universties match.

The Albatross team played the curtain raiser to the N.S.W. versus Perth game on June 30th and upheld the





ACROSS:

1. Foundations.
5. French measure of length.
9. Poisonous African snake.
10. Past.
12. Apply friction to.
13. Glide on snow.
14. Still.
15. Brother.
16. Small island.
18. Frank.
19. Waters enclosed by coral islands.
23. Have a reciprocal effect.
25. Confident reliance.
27. Carved Indian pole.
30. Hurried.
31. Number.
32. Greek letter.
33. Prefix - three.
35. Cooking utensil.
37. Bulbous vegetable.
38. Copy.

DOWN:

38. Overturn.
39. Limb.
40. Bishop's territory.
1. Fundamental.
2. Makes enquiry.
3. Cause to fall out.
4. State.
5. Witty or pithy saying.
6. Snares.
7. Impolite.
8. Durable black wood.
11. Italian city.
17. Corn spikes.
18. Adjoining.
20. Obtaining.
21. Sea creature.
22. Historical period.
24. Domestic animal.
26. Until.
28. Strained.
29. British Colony.
34. Fish spawn.

record of past Station teams. The team has adopted the colours of the well known Geelong team and now looks as a Rules club should. With coach Bertram keeping them hard at it the club is looking forward to quite a few more hard games this season.

RUGBY LEAGUE

The two Station teams competing in the District Rugby League on week-ends are keeping their heads above water though injuries keep whittling the teams down. The long spell of dry weather has brought many cars and hundreds of people following their teams here, and this is a good thing for the Station and it's personnel.

The A grade team after an adverse start has made its mark by three consecutive wins against Ger-ringong, Berry and Kangaroo Valley. The team has responded to the coaching of C.P.O. Kirwin and faces the rest of the season with confidence.

R.E.M. Crichton as Captain and N.A. Moalan as Vice Captain, have formed the back bone of the reserve team which has had a rather lean time, partly due to the need for A grade to draw up reserves. However at the time of going to press "Albatross" stands second in the competition table.

ATHLETICS

On Saturday, 15th June the N.S.W.A.A.A. held the 1957 Road Relay Championships at "Albatross." Dozens of cars and scores of Sydney people travelled down to the Station and witnessed the State's foremost long-distance runners in action. This event was an athletics feature seldom to be witnessed on one's own doorstep, and was fully appreciated by all Station personnel who saw it.

Two hundred athletes from Sydney, Junee, Leeton, Canberra, Wollongong, Camden and Nowra contested the events. Alan Lawrence of Botany, the Olympic 10,000 metres Bronze Medal winner, was expected to break his own record for the course, but, having recently been inoculated for his forthcoming trip to the U.S.S.R. ran below his usual form. In the Senior four by five miles championship, the results were: First — Western Suburbs A.A.C. (1 hour, 41 mins., 11 s.); Second — Botany Harriers A.A.C.; Third — Botany Harriers No. 2 Team. The "Albatross" team was placed 10th out of a total of 23 teams.

Albatross Amateur Athletic Club are commended on their successful organisation of this State event — as are also the runners of Albatross A.A.C. who took part — Mr. McCaffery, P.O. Mackie, P.O. Marratt and R.E.M. Hingston.

BASKETBALL

The Air Station has entered one team in the Illawarra Basketball Association, "A" grade competition. After playing four games for only one victory, they

are second last on the ladder, but cut of all games played they have had seventy per cent of the play. They just can't manage to score the goals required for ultimate victory. So as soon as the forwards realise this, and get a "lot" of goal throwing practice we'll see a vast improvement in our position on the ladder.

Congratulations to N.A. Struhs of "Albatross", on his selection in the Illawarra representative Team.

INTERPART COMPETITIONS

Eleven teams have entered each of the Soccer, Australian Rules, Rugby Union and Hockey competitions. The draw is arranged so that one complete round will be played — each team will play ten competition games. Then the leading teams will enter the semi-finals and so to the finals.

As the competition is only in its fifth week, the points table is hardly a fair indication of form. However, some teams will need full support from their sections, for the rest of the competition, to offset early losses of points.

TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The organisation of the Tennis Championship involves the playing off of ninety matches for the singles, and the same number for the doubles. With the second round matches well under way, players should take advantage of the favourable weather to enable the championships to be decided before "the rains come".

R.A.N. GLIDING ASSOCIATION

Anzac day marked the 4000th flight of the R.A.N. G.A. since it's inauguration on Sunday, 24th July, 1955 under the patronage of Captain P. Fanshawe O.B.E., D.S.C., R.N., (a former member and "B" Certificate holder) and under the stern guidance of our first gliding instructor Commander A. G. Goodhart D.S.C., R.N.

Lieutenant Commander P. R. Dallesso R.N., who succeeded Commander Goodhart recently, as chief flying instructor, had the privilege of flying the club's 4000th flight. This flight was completed in the club's dual trainer, which incidentally was also used for the first of the 4000 flights in July of 1955 — exactly 384 glider flying hours ago.

During the twenty one months that the club has been operating, it has trained 32 members and 9 R.A.N. Cadets up to the solo standard, thus enabling them to obtain their "A" and "B" Certificates. Also several professional power pilots have been converted to sail.

Of the above trained members, 18 have already obtained their "C" Certificate, the first advanced soaring certificate.

— J. STALKER.

O, O, O, WHAT A PLACE

At last, a flavour of aviation, a brush with calculated adventure and reasoned dash; a life alongside high spirits on the ground and precise abstraction in the air.

This, after weeks of whitewashing kerbs, nursing pigs, driving undrivable vehicles, growing grass on concrete beds — these and all the other airmen-like recreations contrived by Chief Buffers to occupy the hours between "Andsfallin" and "Secure".

Yes, I had won a draft to the Observer School. Often had I passed this noble building with envy. The very lines of the dented corrugated iron gave an air of aloofness to the place. I had a few ill-formed ideas of what went on within these forbidding walls. A few magic phrases — Polar Stereographic Computational Attachment, Celestial Brewing (Tea and Coffee) Adaptor — had set my imagination racing, and now I was about to step into this quivering new world.

"Eh, you! Can you work this machine?"

"Who, me?"

There was I, not a foot inside the School and expected to operate the involved equipment of the modern navigator.

"I've never"

"Come on. You'll do. Start with this patch he e and don't think you've finished until y u've chopped off all the paspalum heads".

As the day wore on, disillusionment took a firm hold — lawn mowers, hoses, forks, dahlias, bunches of flowers — what am I a Naval Airman or a Martin Place flower girl?

However, the next day dawned bright, and some of the malaise of yesterday left me. This time I managed to get inside the School before it was put in my hand. No, not a brew, only the old stagers got that. Worse than ever, the white-wash brush. With aching back, I was firmly attached to this wretched brush for the rest of the day.

"I might as well be back with and his pigs".

The third daya lso dawn bright, damn it. My urgent anticipation of three days ago had evaporated and been replaced by a dragging reluctance. As I slid by an open sty (sorry it's the pigs again) I saw enough to make even my disgruntled feelings look alert. Two figures with small wings on the arms (no, not angels) and detached Welsh expressions on their faces were launching sheets of cardboard into the air. One of these crashed at my feet and through my astonishment I reorganised a much scribbled upon outline of the N.S.W. coast.

"Grab that one, Taff! It's right out of the door. That's a ninety percenter. Can't remember one of these before".

A timorous question and the grudging reply — "Analysing air exercises — table 50 per cent, window still 80 per cent".

How I used to marvel at the bold title on the door — "Navigation Analysis".

And so the week dragged on and my eyes were opened to other secrets. Although seldom heard and less frequently seen, there WAS an O.I.C. The brews were made of REAL tea; early in 1956 an H.F. transmitter HAD emitted a signal

By Friday, I felt I had a grip on the situation. I had dodged both lawn mower and paint brush. I recognised a few of the sleeping forms dismally hunched in the padded chairs. I had even ceased to wonder at the way they drank tea without waking. All this in a week. But locking outside I saw a huddle of creatures clutching gaily decorated white bags.

I asked, actually asked, what this group was. The other School inmates looked down their noses at me but I could see they didn't know.

Shaken, I stumbled out and blurted the question at a passing form.

"Makey, learny lookers".

"But what's in those bags?"

That's what we'd all like to know".

I stood agape, with a foot on the kerb, trying to sort this out, when the O. School Tilly crunched to a stop on the rather fragile skin and bone of my right shin. A red faced driver stormed out from within the vibrating mechanism and indignantly and energetically cursed me. While my shattered shin slowly mends I have lots of time to ponder on the logic of red faced drivers and the possible contents of those little white bags.

— S. F. C.

END OF AN ERA

Those who were awake early on the last day of May saw (and heard!!!) the last group of National Service Trainees leave "Albatross". Since the first Trainees arrived, over four years ago, about 500 men have carried out three months of their training here. This, and sea time in the Training Carrier, has given them an introduction to Naval Aviation.

The men have presented a wide cross-section of Australian youth and have included many University students, at least one well established grazier, the proprietor of a flourishing and extensive trucking business and an Olympic athlete. While regretting the passing of the National Service Training era, Chief Airman Blondel was quick to remind me that the Training Office is still very much "in business". Regular recruit classes continue to be an important part of the Air Station's task.

CLASSIFIED ADDS

FOR SALE — Slazengers Meteor Tennis Racquet. Weatherproofed for tropical conditions. Nylon strung. As new. With press. £5. C.A.F. Fenn, Ext. 361.

FOR SALE — Supa-Baldex camera with coupled range-finder. 2.9 lens. Pronator SVS shutter. Lens hood. Leather case. Kobold flashlight. Practus visual exposure meter. £30. C.A.A. Hallas, Exe. 477.

FOR SALE — 1935 Studebaker Sedan. New rings, bearings, etc. Body rough. Motor perfect. Good tyres, transmission, battery. Unregistered. £75. Reason for sale — draft to sea. C.P.O. Philbrick Ext. 352 or C.P.O. Haven Ext. 550.

TO LET — Two B.R., all electric Furnished Cottages at Greenwell Point. Taylor's Waterfront, Greenwell Point 33.

WANTED — Gent's Bicycle. Contact A.M.2 Peacock, Ext. 524.

WANTED — Male Pup. Contact Lt. Cdr. Baily, Marine Section.

WANTED — Rotary Lawn Mower. Petrol driven. Nowra 696.

WANTED — Elephant suitable transport Air Station - Huskisson. Should not be more than part used. Box 1957A or 367 Hangar.

NAVAL HISTORY AND ALL THAT

Now, King Alfred, as well as being Father of the Navy was also a very great authority on etiquette, and said that ships of inferior nations were to "uncover" when they passed British men-of-war in the Channel. This was known as "Enforcing the Salute in the Narrow Seas," and it led to a lot of trouble because ships are ladies, as everybody knows, and ladies cannot raise their hats. Besides, many people thought it indelicate to expect even an inferior lady to lower her top's or let fly her sheets in the presence of a man, especially a man of war who is notoriously apt to take a ribald view of what he sees. Today, of course, ladies merely exchange curtsies, which is much less embarrassing.

OF DROUGHTS AND FLOODING RAINS

P.O. Percival has supplied the following figures from the Met. Office archives —

1957 — Rainfall at R.A.N.A.S., Jan. - June — 65 points. (At time of going to press).

1956 — Rainfall at R.A.N.A.S., Jan - June — 4,530 points.

A little simple arithmetic leads to the rather startling conclusion that so far this year, we have had only one seventieth of last year's fall.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

40. Ape.	40. See.
34. Roe.	39. Leg.
29. Malta.	38. Upset.
28. Tense.	37. Onion.
26. Until.	35. Pan.
25. Troop.	33. Tri.
24. Pet.	32. Eta.
22. Era.	31. Two.
21. Octopus.	30. Ham.
20. Getting.	27. Totem.
18. Onto.	25. Trust.
17. Ears.	23. React.
11. Genoa.	19. Lagoons.
8. Ebony.	18. Open.
7. Rude.	16. Isle.
6. Traps.	15. Ado.
5. Mot.	14. Yet.
4. Say.	13. Ski.
3. Spill.	12. Rub.
2. Asks.	10. Ago.
1. Basic.	9. Asp.
	5. Metre.
	1. Bases.

DOWN:

ACROSS:

YOUR WELFARE

Representation on the Welfare Committee by one rating from each large section enables every rating on the Air Station to voice his opinion on all proposals considered at meetings. The representatives and their whereabouts are set out below:

C.P.O.'s MESS: C.P.O. Patch, SAME Reg. Office 465 and Ch. El. Pledge, "L" Reg. Office, 417.

P.O.'s MESS: Plmr. Menzies, Ship. Shop, 227 and A. M2. Peacock, LTMU., 524.

S.A.M.(E): P.O. Wilson, SAME. Reg. Office, 465.

AIR ENGINEERING: L.A. Boyd, Fuel Installn., 374 and L.A. Coates, MRS (A)., 361.

ELECTRICAL DEPT.: L.E.M. Groome, MT Workshop, 314.

SUPPLY and SECRETARIAL: L.Ck.(O). Anderson, WR. Galley, 239.

AIR DEPT.: L.A. Leonard, Dinghy Bay, 261.

STATION DUTIES: N.A. Higgins, Bosun's. Store, 224.

L.A. Watersat MRS(A)., is assuming L.A. Coates' responsibilities while the latter is in hospital.

Phone: Nowra 1111

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