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No. 51

JULY, 1961.

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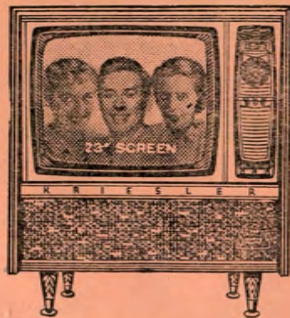
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The Journal of H.M.A.S. Albatross

No. 51

JULY, 1961.

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FEATURES

Around the Station Page 3

Battle of the Night Page 11

Upper Air Sounding Page 16

Chaplains' Corner Page 18

Sporting Notes Page 33

EDITORIAL

MOST OF US having come back refreshed from mid-Winter leave, and with the recent departure of the M.A.G., are now settling down to a fairly normal routine with only AJASS exercises looming up on the horizon. However, awaiting us on arrival was the splendid news of the continuing modernisation of the R.A.N. as announced by the Minister of Defence.

The promise of two guided missile destroyers of the "Charles F. Adams" class to be delivered from the United States in 1965/66, a large order of "Westland Wessex Mk 31 Choppers for H.M.A.S. Melbourne in 1963, Sea-cat missiles for the new Type 12 Frigates, Parramatta, Yarra, Stuart and Derwent, the conversion of H.M.A.S. Sydney to a fast transport, the promise of a modern flotilla of six Ton class minesweepers from the U.K., the building of a new survey vessel by the Newcastle State Dockyard, the return of the Tide Austral to the R.A.N., and the continued use of the R.N.'s more modern T class submarines based on Sydney to give our anti-submarine defences effective training have given a real morale boost to all.

Already thoughts have turned to standing by certain ships, "plum" drafts that occur very rarely, and much wishful thinking is now taking place.

The half year ahead will be a busy one with Admirals' Inspection not far off, the return of the M.A.G. in September, the continuation of flying training and the Air Day to be held in October. But with the days starting to get longer, the promise of Spring, the hopes of perhaps joining Melbourne for its next Far East cruise and the decided shot in the arm from the aforementioned news, all add up to a good start to the half year.

Our Cover

THE WESTLAND WESSEX

Announced as part of the re-equipment of the R.A.N. the Westland Wessex is similar to the Sikorsky S 58, or H.S.S. I, to give it its U.S. Navy designation. The performance of the Wessex is superior to the H.S.S. I by virtue of the greater power available from its powerplant — the Napier Gazelle shaft-turbine.

The Wessex is primarily used for anti-submarine duties, and is capable of carrying both strike weapons and the detection equipment.

Its additional roles of search and rescue, freight carrying, casualty evacuation, communications and training, increase its potentials in support of army operations.

The dimensions of the Wessex by comparison with the Gannet will give some idea of its size; (and its handling difficulties perhaps).

WESSEX		GANNET	
Rotor diameter	56 feet.	Wingspan	54 feet.
Length	65 feet.	Length	44 feet.
Height	15 feet.	Height	14 feet.

However, when rotors and the tail portion of the Wessex are folded it scales down to a length of 38 feet.

It has been rumoured that Mr. Duncan Sandys has gone into hiding at R.A.N.A.S. following the chilly reception he received at Canberra when he discussed Britain's proposed entry into the European Common Market.

We are in a position to state that this rumour is entirely false. The man in the grey suit with the black Homburg is NOT Mr. Sandys.

Around The Station

(A CONDUCTED TOUR)



On 2nd October Albatross will be open to the public. The following is our idea of the type of commentary a guide might make as he leads a conducted tour around the station.

"Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to H.M.A.S. Albatross, historic home of the Fleet Air Arm.

"As we approach the main gate you will notice on your left a Sea Fury. This is the R.A.N.'s latest front-line aircraft, and the present complement of two is expected to increase with the boom in Air Displays — No, madam, I'm afraid we have no spare ones. Yes, I'm sure it would look nice outside your front gate.

"The long, low building on your left there is the Guard House. The officer sitting inside reading the paper is called the Officer of the Watch, so called because he is capable of reading and keeping watch out the window at the same time. You will notice how he has just dropped the paper and picked up the phone as that Naval car approaches the gate.

"The small cubicles at the end of the building are serviced apartments reserved for those on a light diet of vegetables and water. They are serviced by the "Crushers," so called because it is their job to mash the vegetables.

"The large group of brick buildings that we are now passing is the Joint Anti Submarine School, and you will agree it is some joint. The staff at this school have every facility at their disposal to amuse themselves. The tall building on the left is their Games Hall, the one on the right their Cinema, and there is an imitation Destroyer Operations Room at the back, so that the Air Force chaps can play sailors. Oh really, sir? I beg your pardon, A Group Captain, were you?

"The tin buildings we are now passing are the accommodation blocks. These are only temporary buildings and there is an old Naval tradition that they will one day be replaced by permanent ones.

"We now come to the Canteen Block. This is divided into two sections, the Wet and the Dry, so called because if a man spends too long in the Wet he can go nextdoor and dry off. — Yes, sir, certainly. If you don't wish to go any further. We'll pick you up on the way out.

"On your right now is the swimming — I mean DITCHING, pool. This pool was constructed so that aircrew could practice escape from a simulated sinking aircraft. In the odd moments when aircrew are not busy doing this, people are allowed to swim in the pool. — Does anyone own that little boy floating face down?

"We are now approaching the Motor Transport Compound, the hub of all transport activities. This large fleet of vehicles is directed by the M.T. Officer, whom you might call the hub-cap of this section. Opposite is the Fuel Installation. — No, sir, I don't think they could really fill your cigarette lighter for you. They only have high octane fuel or kerosene, and I expect your lighter runs on low octane, doesn't it?

"On our left now is the Power House. This is sometimes known as the Administration Block, and houses the Captain's and Commander's offices. Here executive control of the Station is exercised. The Commander holds daily conferences with ratings of all branches, to ensure the smooth running of all departments. Ratings with particularly bright ideas are allowed to submit these to the Captain weekly.

"We now pass the Photographic Section, and there — Wait for it! —

there — No pushing please, madam! — there ahead of us is the New Control Tower! — the pride of the Air Department! — Air-conditioned, all-electric, wall-to-wall carpets, with splendid views or the airfields and hangar areas. It is inhabited by privileged members of the Air Department who are fortunate enough to be able to watch Air Displays all day every day — and most nights too. The king of this castle is Commander (Air), feared by recalcitrant aircrew because he is liable to descend from his second-floor lair and gobble them up.

"We are now standing in the Air Traffic Control Room, where confusion is reduced to smooth-running chaos. As you will agree, the view is magnificent. Laid out before you is the whole Air Station, its runways, hangars, and lines of warlike aircraft. None of this is cheap of course, but no doubt you are proud that, as taxpayers, each of you owns a little part of it all. — Madam! What are you doing with that carpet? — Please, sir! Those binoculars! — I know I said you owned part of it, but — Little boy! Give me back that verey pistol! — Please, madam! Sir! — Help!"

THE CREATION OF WOMAN

A LEGEND FROM THE SANSKRIT

"In the beginning, when Twastri came to the creation of woman, he found that he had exhausted all his materials in the making of man and that no solid elements were left.

In this dilemma, after profound meditation, he did as follows:

He took the rotundity of the moon, and the craves of creepers, and the clinging of the tendrils, and the trembling of the grass, and the slenderness or reeds, and the bloom of flowers, and the lightness of leaves, and the tapering of the elephant's trunk, and the glances of the deer, and the clustering of rows of bees, and the joyous gait of sunbeams, and the weeping of the clouds, and the fickleness of the winds, and the timidity of the hare, and the vanity of the peacock, and the softness of the parrot's bosom, and the hardness of the adamant, and the sweetness of honey, and the cruelty of the tiger, and the warm glow of the fire, and the coldness of snow, and the chattering of jays, and the cooing of the kokila, and the hypocrisy of the crane, and the fidelity of the chakramaka, and compounding them together, he made the woman and gave her to man.

But after one week, man came to him and said:

"Lord, this creature you have given me makes my life miserable. She chatters incessantly and teases me beyond endurance, never leaving me alone; and she requires constante attention, and takes all my time up, and cries about nothing and is always idle; and so I have come to give her back again, as I cannot live with her."

So Twastri said: "Very well." And took her back again.

Then after one week, man came to him again and said:

"Lord, I find that my life is very lonely since I gave you back that creature. I remember how she used to dance and sing to me and look at me out of the corner of her eye, and play with me, and cling to me; and her laughter was music, and she was beautiful to look at and soft to touch; so give her back to me."

So Twastri gave her back again.

Then, after only three days, came man again to him and said:

"Lord, I know not how it is; but after all, I have come to the conclusion that she is more of a trouble than a pleasure to me; so please take her back again."

But Twastri said: "Out with you, be off! I will have no more of this, you must manage how you can."

Then said man: "But I cannot live with her!"

And Twastri replied: "Neither can you live without her."

And he turned his back on man and went on with his work. Then said man: "What is to be done? For I cannot live either with her or without her?"

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MY CAREER AS A CRICKETER

Test fever in its most virulent form has smitten us once again, and none of us seems to be immune. Nomatter how sorry a spectacle we may have presented on the old school playing fields, we still cluster round the radio, criticising the players in tones of ponderous infallibility, safe in the knowledge that we will never be called upon to put our theories into practice.

My own cricket career was brief, and with one exception, inglorious. At school, I detested the game, but being a long gawky youth I somehow scraped in as eleventh man of the Second Eleven, mainly I think, because I looked too tall to be playing in the Thirds.

Anyone who has batted regularly as a pressed eleventh man will agree that it is an unenviable position to play in. If the opposing team was strong, I was usually called upon to make some sort of a last ditch stand, and more than likely made a mess of it. If they were weak, I would watch joyfully as our batsmen plastered their bowlers all over the field. Surely, I would think, even I may knock up a few runs here, and I would begin almost to look forward to strapping on the pads. Then our captain would declare with eight wickets down.

Bowling, as far as I was concerned was definitely out. I am one of the few bowlers I know of who has despatched a ball direct to Cover Point without the benefit of any intervening batsman. As for fielding, all I could do was hope that nothing came my way, or call "Yours!" to the teammate nearest me.

So the long summers dragged on, the only relief to my suffering being the knowledge that when I reached the age of sixteen I could transfer to the Boat Club. And then, towards the end of my fifteenth summer, came my brief moment of glory.

The First Eleven were to play their last match of the season against an old school rival. A week before the game, calamity struck, as an outbreak of chicken pox laid low half the school, including many of the First and Second Elevens. There was a frantic reshuffle of teams and I found myself kicked upstairs to the Firsts, once again as eleventh man.

The day, as I had feared it would, proved fine. We lost the toss, and were sent in to field. I found myself at Square Leg, chatting to the umpire, the Reverend Gripper. (The Reverend, our school chaplain, was commonly known as "The Crab." This was partly a synonym for his surname, partly due to his unusual sideways gait).

The Crab and I were still talking as the opening batsman came out and the bowler walked back for his first delivery. Suddenly I heard a loud crack and looked up. Six feet away, at eye level, and hurtling straight towards me, was the ball. Horrified, I closed my eyes and flung my hands up in self-defence. The spectators erupted in a burst of applause, and I found myself with the ball still clutched between my stinging palms.

"Magnificent catch!" murmured the Crab. "First ball of the game. And he was their captain too!"

There was no holding me for the rest of their innings. I dominated the field. Not another ball came my way, but you should have seen me! How I followed every ball, my keen hawk eyes watching every move. The condescending way I applauded when anyone else took a humble catch. The piercing look with which I summed up each new batsman — I was a gem of a fieldsman!

They were soon all out, and while our openers went in to bat I mingled with the spectators, (mostly strangers), and collected congratulations with an air of nonchalance. Somehow I managed to give the impression that to me it had been just another catch.

But all this time our batsmen were being whittled down. I watched with mounting anxiety as the wickets fell, and I prayed that my new-found reputation would not have to be put to the proof. But eventually

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the ninth wicket collapsed, and I was faced with a familiar situation — last man in, and two runs to win.

There was just one ball of this over left for me to face, and I decided to have a go at it, come what may. To go out and merely hang my bat in the air, in my usual sheepish fashion, would immediately show me up for what I was. But if I took a crack at it, I could at least maintain a little of my dashing illusion.

The bowler thundered down towards me, and I can honestly say that from the moment the ball left his hand I never saw it. Guessing the moment when it might be in my vicinity, I raised the bat and took an almighty swipe. There was a dull thud against my pads.

"Oh Lord," I thought, "L.B.W."

But no. The batsman at the far end was screaming at me to run, so I ran. We got two leg byes off it, and the following summer I took up rowing.

A Tribute to an Old Warrior

Little Fury, little Fury, in your dress of darkest blue,
How I wonder as I watch you, why men fly you as they do.
As your long out-moded pistons send you thrusting through the sky,
Little Fury, little Fury, won't you tell the reason why?

Little human, little human, it is easy to explain,
Why men who fly a Fury once, must fly it once again.
Though the jet may be the master, when it fills a fighting role,
The jet has just performance, while the Fury has a soul.

Little Fury, little Fury, how I welcome your reply,
Its truth is quite apparent as I watch you in the sky.
To me you never will be old, on that you may depend,
For a jet is just a weapon, while a Fury is a friend.

— W.P.

OBITUARY

The many friends of Hillangrove Regency 65th (more commonly known as "Ramsbottom") will be grieved to learn that he passed to a richly deserved rest on Friday, 14th July.

He is survived by 15 wives and an uncountable number of children. When our reporter paid a visit to his sorrowing family at their home in the Albatross High Density housing area (Telephone Airstrip 0321), many expressions of grief and mourning were heard, a few of which we quote:—

"The dear old chap always went the whole hog."

"Ramsbottom was tops."

"He never was a bore."

"Ramsbottom's eldest surviving son, Albatross Fury 4th, who is undergoing intensive training in order that he may take over the duties previously carried out by his father, was not available for comment, but it is understood that the general grief in the family has passed him by. He has been reported as saying something about "Youth must be served."

The funeral, which was carried out with all due reverence and formality, was conducted by the deceased's guide and mentor, Thomas a'Buf-fer. The most heartfelt prayers were offered by the Naval Airman mourners who assisted with the excavation of the grave. It would appear that their religious training may have been acquired overseas, as several of the words they used were quite unfamiliar to our reporter.

The personal physician to the departed reports that the cause of death was the unfavourable reaction produced by a leaden pill administered in an effort to cure a widespread and chronic arthritic condition.

R. I. P.

(Rest in Pork)

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THE BATTLE OF THE NIGHT

BY MARCH, 1941, the war in the Mediterranean had entered a new phase. The Allied successes in Somaliland and North Africa had broken the strength of Italy's armies, and had forced Germany to send help to her ally. German troops and mechanised columns massing in Italian ports and along the Greek frontiers indicated that Axis reinforcements were gathering for a new offensive. Our armies in Libya and their supply had to be diverted to Greece and Crete to meet the new German menace.

The daring attack by H.M.S. *Illustrious* on Taranto Harbour on November 11, 1940 which damaged 3 Italian battleships and a number of cruisers and destroyers, had partly neutralised their threat to Allied convoys bound for Piraeus. But the mounting strength and frequency of air attacks were to test the Navy's defences against the new weapons. The Luftwaffe had entered the Mediterranean war.

At noon on March 27 an aircraft on reconnaissance reported three Italian cruisers and a destroyer between Sicily and Crete. Cunningham with the nose and nous of a great admiral smelt something in the wind. He ordered the fleet to maintain steam at immediate notice, and throughout the afternoon preparations for sea were pressed. The Battle Fleet moved out from Alexandria in the evening dusk. *Warspite* led flying the flag of the Commander-in-Chief. Next came *Barham*. Then came the aircraft-carrier *Formidable*, carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral D. W. Boyd. Rear-Admiral in command of aircraft-carriers. Captain C. E. Morgan, R.N., brought up the rear in *Valiant*.

The battleships and *Formidable* was screened by two flotillas of destroyers, the 14th, under Captain P. J. Mack, R.N., and the 10th, under Captain H. M. L. Waller, R.A.N., one of Australia's most brilliant commanders.

Waller had already shown his mettle at Calabria. His name now was almost legendary in the Fleet. He had the daring enterprise which may look to the uninitiated like recklessness, but which actually comes from mastery. He had the Navy's gift for apt understatement. He once sent in this classic report: 'On passage, detected, hunted and sank Italian submarine.' He was now to lead his ships through a night of such adventure that the Admiralty Account calls it a 'Witches' Sabbath.' Stuart had just returned from a spell of convoy duty. In January she had been tracking backwards and forwards between Malta, Alexandria and Crete, patrolling, escorting, store-carrying. As a member of the renowned Western Desert Force, she had taken her turn in the seaward defence of the North African coast. She left the Inshore Squadron on February 22 and went on convoy duty to and from Piraeus. By the middle of March she had taken her old place as leader of the 10th Flotilla, and when the battleships left Alexandria on the 27th she was once again on the screen.

Another Force under the Second-in-Command (Vice-Admiral Pridham-Wippell) included the cruisers *Orion*, *Ajax*, *Gloucester*, and the Australian cruiser *Perth* (Captain Sir Phillip Bowyer-Smith, R.N.). The cruisers were accompanied by the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla, *Ilex*, *Hasty*, *Hereward*, and the Australian destroyer *Vendetta*, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander R. Rhoades, R.A.N.

The Cruiser Squadron was ordered to proceed at full speed towards the enemy, to establish contact and maintain it until the Battle Squadron came up. The rendezvous was for next morning and south of Crete.

At dawn of the 28th an aircraft from *Formidable* reported three Italian heavy cruisers and four destroyers south of the meeting-place, and at 7.45 a.m. the Cruiser Squadron encountered them. The Australian

cruiser Perth opened fire with her six-inch armament and the enemy's answer from his much heavier guns came too close for comfort. Admiral Pridham-Wippell now had to make up by guile what he lacked in gun-power. He ordered the Squadron to turn in pretended flight. The stratagem was successful. The Italian cruisers pursued them and were lured towards the British battleships. But (perhaps suspecting the wily British) they digressed; and our cruisers once more took up the chase at full speed in an effort to keep touch. The pace proved too hot for poor old Vendetta. She developed engine trouble and had to return to port.

The chase continued until mid-morning, when one of Italy's new 35,000 ton battleships, the Vittorio Veneto, was sighted, escorted by four destroyers. She at once opened fire on the British ships from her 15-inch guns. This was an ugly situation for our light forces. It was not improved by an attack from Junkers 88's. Our ships were forced to turn into the cover of the Battle Fleet. At the distance Cunningham could not possibly catch the much faster Vittorio Veneto. He therefore sent Albacores escorted by Fulmars from Formidable to hunt the Italians with torpedoes. The Italians fled. But in mid-afternoon they were hit by several aerial torpedoes which reduced the speed of the V.V. to 15 knots.

At noon that day a patrolling Sunderland had reported a new enemy force of five cruisers steering north-west, about a hundred miles from the British ships. By then Admiral Pridham-Wippell's ships had rejoined the Battle Fleet. The Commander-in-Chief therefore ordered the cruisers to trace this second enemy force and meet it if possible before dark.

Late in the afternoon a Swordfish from Warspite reported the Vittorio Veneto travelling at reduced speed in company with three heavy and three light cruisers, screened by 11 destroyers; while somewhere to the north-west were the other two cruisers, Abruzzi and Garibaldi. The enemy were thus in considerable strength; and their ships were new and fast while many of ours were old and slow. Cunningham had to make a quick and difficult decision. He made it. He decided to bring the enemy to action that night.

At twilight planes of the Fleet Air Arm led off the attack. The Italian cruiser Pola was hit and left burning.

The sea was flat calm, the sky starlit. As night came down men in the British ships could see the sky lit by bursting shells and streaking tracer bullets. Amid these fireworks the enemy turned away and our cruisers lost contact.

At half-past eight Cunningham sent in the destroyers. The First Division, led by Captain Mack in Jervis, was followed by Captain Nicolson in Ilex and the others of the Second Division. Greyhound, Griffin, Hotspur and Havock led by Waller in Stuart, remained to screen the battleships.

All that had happened until now had been but a curtain-raiser. At half-past ten Warspite sighted, only two miles away, three enemy cruisers turning back to help the fiercely-burning Pola. They were apparently blissfully unaware of the proximity of the British ships. It was a night of surprises. Greyhound turned on her searchlight, throwing Fiume into the glare. Warspite and Valiant fired simultaneously. Fiume 'exploded in a tremendous jet of flame and debris,' hit by seven 15-inch shells. Captain Cooke opened fire from Barham on the ship leading the Italian column. She, too, burst into flame. She was not seen again.

In the meantime, Captain Morgan of Valiant had attacked the second large cruiser, Zara, and left her burning. The enemy destroyers now moved in against our battleships with torpedoes. Our column swung to starboard to avoid, at the same time sending in the screening destroyers to attack. Stuart and Havock sprang towards the burning cruisers while Greyhound and Griffin chased the enemy destroyers. From now on it was a free-for-all.

The night had become absolutely black, and ships were racing to and

fro. They were silhouetted for an instant in the glare of fires, then lost again in the darkness. It was difficult to tell friend from foe. At times they were so near each other that in the instant brilliance of fires and searchlights details were outlined with uncanny precision. One Australian officer insists that he saw an Italian standing on the quarterdeck smoking a cigar.

At eleven o'clock, Stuart found Zara stopped and burning furiously. Another ship was circling her, making signals. Waller fired all his torpedoes at both and then had to dodge another ship which came plunging out of the darkness 'apparently chasing Stuart.' Stuart fired at her as she went past. As one of Stuart's officers remarked 'When you engage one destroyer at point-blank range and nearly run into another, it's too much.' Havock carried on the chase.

Hardly had Stuart drawn breath after this incident when she almost collided with a cruiser which must have mistaken her for a friend. 'Captain Waller, who had fired all his torpedoes, did nothing to disillusion her' says the Admiralty Account, 'instead he went off soft-footed to look for his earlier victim,' which he found on fire. He fired at her again and as these salvos were followed by more explosions he 'considered her good enough to leave till morning'. He was now feeling 'somewhat alone,' having lost touch with everyone. He turned north-east and met another destroyer. He left her on fire. (Consider the simplicity of the thing: you are an old 1,600 ton destroyer, built in 1918, with 4.7 inch guns, held together by faith, hope and good works. You meet a ten-thousand ton cruiser and 'leave her on fire'.)

And now comes the most fantastic part of all that crazy night. Just before midnight Havock once again came across Pola. Pola lay stopped and apparently out of action. Some of her crew were in the water. On her upper decks others were 'bawling surrender.' Joined by Greyhound and Griffin, Havock circled the cruiser and debated what to do. They were like three puppies with a bone too big for them. Griffin voted in favour of boarding her with bayonet, cutlass and revolver. (She seems to have got her wars mixed up). The commander of Havock wanted to sink her with depth charges (he had used up all his torpedoes). The problem was solved by the arrival of the 14th and 2nd Flotillas. Jervis went alongside and took off the crew while the others picked survivors out of the water. Jervis and Nubian then stood off and sank her with torpedoes.

The Commander-in-Chief had signalled 'All ships not engaged in sinking the enemy retire to the North East.'

As dawn came and no destroyers were to be seen, he began to anticipate heavy casualties. At that moment they were sighted from the flagship 'steaming in two divisions with the slightly self-conscious precision of a peace-time review'.

A noteworthy feature of this naval occasion is the disparity of the losses suffered by the two fleets. Two Italian Forces are known to have been at sea, made up of three battleships, eleven cruisers and fourteen destroyers. The British Forces consisted of three battleships, one aircraft-carrier, four cruisers and twelve destroyers. We lost one aircraft but otherwise suffered no losses and no casualties while the enemy lost five ships, including three heavy cruisers, with one battleship badly damaged. He used no carrier aircraft and relied solely on shore-based planes for support and cover; while the British used a close-knit pattern of tactical co-operation between shore-based and carrier-borne aircraft working in conjunction with surface ships.

The Commander-in-Chief sent the following dispatch to the Admiralty: Be pleased to lay before Their Lordships the attached reports of the Battle of Matapan, 27-30 March, 1941. Five ships of the enemy fleet were sunk, burned or destroyed as per margin. Except for the loss of one aircraft in action our fleet suffered no damage or casualties.

Dining Out ?

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UNCLE GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

There is a popular belief that there is nothing like a long sea voyage to straighten out the ravelled sleeve of care and put the roses back in the old cheeks. In your Uncle's case this proved to be mistaken. True, the long days at sea were healthful, but your aged relative was so zealous in carrying out his duties as a good-will ambassador ashore, and so determined not to miss one of the many social engagements, that he is now just a quivering shadow of his former self.

However, he has managed to keep up his literary activities during his time at sea — mainly the re-writing of a more up-to-date version of Mother Hubbard's Book of Nursery Rhymes. Some of these verses are set down below and the influence of his travels upon his writing may be seen clearly. If any of you would like an autographed copy of this book, call at your Uncle's office and hand your applications to his new secretary, Miss Wong.

Little Bo Peep
Is a bit of a creep;
She lives in Singapore.
Leave her alone
And She'll go home,
And won't bother you any more.

Jack Spratt can eat no fat;
His messmates eat no lean;
It doesn't matter either way—
All you get on board is beans.

Humpty Dumpty lives in Manilla,
Humpty Dumpty's a real killer diller.
He puts petrol in bottles and labels it "Gin,"
And the Yellow Bar sells it at ten bob a spin.

Jack and Jill
Went up the hill,
To have a look at Hong Kong.
Jack fell down,
And broke his crown,
And saved this from being a long song.

Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner,
Drinking his Kava and rum.
Upon trying to rise,
He got a surprise
To discover his legs were quite numb.

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe,
She had so many children she didn't know what to do;
So she made them Naval Aircrew and sent them away,
And lived happily ever after on their nineteen bob a day.

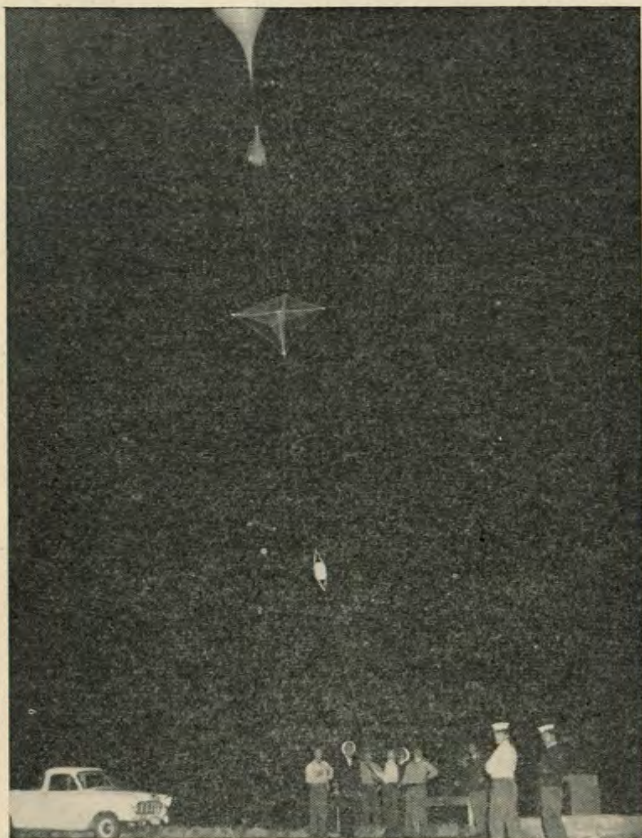
Twinkle, Twinkle, little star,
How I wonder if you are
Aware that down in Waikiki,
A glass of beer costs nine and three.

Hey diddle diddle
By a bit of a fiddle,
I've just been drafted ashore.
My little wife laughed to hear the news,
But I bet my relief is sore.

— GULLIVER.

UPPER AIR SOUNDING

RECENTLY a small paragraph appeared in the "Australia Unlimited" issue of the Sydney Morning Herald, with the accompanying photograph. It described how the R.A.N. was helping the C.S.I.R.O. Upper Atmosphere Research team to carry their equipment to very high altitudes to test the effectiveness of their instruments; perhaps an outline of what has happened so far will interest Albatross personnel, who may not even know that this work is taking place here at Nowra.



In simple terms, the aim of the tests is to carry to heights of the order of 100,000 ft. a very low frequency transistorised receiver tuned to the 5 K.c./s band (this wavelength is measured not in metres or centimetres as is our Radar, but in miles). In the same insulated compartment is a transistorised transmitter operating in the V.H.F. band, and modulated by the receiver output, so that signals from outer space may be relayed to instruments on the ground. These latter instruments consist of a very sensitive receiver and tape recorders to obtain a permanent record. As the package taken aloft will always be lost, usually over the sea at this time of the year, these complicated arrangements have to be undertaken to obtain any information at all.

The source of these signals from space is the Sun itself, which is sending to the Earth a continuous rain of cosmic rays and atomic particles.

The more powerful of these particles do reach the surface of the Earth, but fortunately by far the great majority are absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere. On the average the stream is fairly constant, but at irregular intervals, terrific nuclear explosions on the Sun send out flares thousands of miles high which can be observed through telescopes about 8½ minutes after their occurrence, such is the speed of light. Actual atomic particles bombard the Earth about 1½ to 2 days later.

The interaction of these particles with the electrified layers above the Earth's surface in the Ionosphere, produces this electromagnetic or radio signal of the low frequency previously mentioned. Naturally if the balloon can go up to 100,000 ft. (about 18 miles up) where there is very little atmospheric absorption, the signals will be much stronger than on the Earth's surface.

Later on, the apparatus will be carried much higher than the balloons can take it, by means of rockets, and later still the apparatus will be placed in a satellite, which will certainly pass through the ionosphere regularly. However, one rocket ascent costs as much as 100 balloon ascents and one satellite costs as much as 100 rockets, so that at this early stage, whilst the equipment is being proved, balloons are essential.

The facilities of N.A.S. Nowra are right for these experiments, as Nowra Hill is an excellent site for the ground receiving apparatus, the area being relatively free from radio interference after night flying ceases. The G.C.I. has all the means of tracking the balloon in bearing range and height, whilst the Met. Office have the facilities of filling the balloons and releasing them, and then visually tracking them until the G.C.I. team latch on.

So far four balloons with associated apparatus have gone up and heights of between 105,000 to 118,000 ft. have been achieved.

The last one to go up on 28th July was carried by two balloons to a height of 108,000 ft. and carried a total of about 8 lbs. of equipment. G.C.I. tracked it out to 90 miles in the winds which blew at up to 80 knots. The illustration shows the balloon which is about one twentieth of its eventual size carrying the radar reflector and the receiver transmitter.



+ The Chaplain's Corner +

An Eastern Sultan gave a jester a wand saying: "Keep this until you find a greater fool than yourself." The jester laughingly accepted the wand and flourished it on festive occasions.

One day the prince lay dying. Calling the jester to his bedside, he said: "I am going on a long journey." "Where to?" asked the jester. "I don't know," came the reply. "How long will you be gone?" asked the jester. "I shall be gone for ever," came the reply. "What provisions have you made for the trip?" asked the jester. The prince shrugged his shoulders. "None at all." "Then," said the jester, "take this," and placing the wand in his master's hands, he added: "It belongs to you."

They also run a foolish risk who fail to realise the purpose of life:—
 (1) Why they are here. (2) Where they came from, and (3) Where they are going.

On the other hand those who keep themselves reminded from day to day that the longest life here on earth is but a brief preparation for the endlessness of eternity usually lead a full and meaningful existence.

Our purpose as christians must be to follow the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ and to be made like Him: that as He died and rose again, so should we who are baptised die unto sin and rise again unto righteousness.

To help us in the keeping of our purpose the old habits of daily prayer, bible reading, worship of God on Sundays, and community service, are vitally necessary. They will help us to think wisely, speak rightly, resolve bravely, act kindly, and live purely.

CHAPLAIN J. TRAINER, R.A.N.

CHRIST'S FIRST DISCIPLES

Our Lord left the desert where He had spent forty days and nights fasting. There He prepared Himself for His public life. He came to the country about Jordon. John the Baptist saw Him, and said to the multitude that surrounded him: "Behold the 'Lamb of God.' Behold Him who taketh away the sins of the world." John continued to tell them that this was the One he had told them about, and whose Way he had been preparing. Two of John's disciples when they heard that the "Lamb of God" was present they left John and followed Jesus. Jesus turning, spoke to them: "What seek thou?" They asked Him: "Master, where dwellest Thou?" He said: "Come and see!" They came, and saw where He abode, and they remained with Him all that day. These first two disciples were John and Andrew. Andrew had a brother who wished to see the Redeemer. His name was Simon. When Jesus met Simon He looked at him and said: "Thou art Simon the son of Jona; thou shalt be called Cephas (which means the same as Peter)."

Our Lord invited Philip to follow Him. Philip had a friend — Nathanael. He was a God-fearing man. Philip told him: "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'" But Nathanael said to him: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip answered: "Come and see."

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, He said: "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile." Nathanael asked in surprise: "Whence knowest Thou me?" Jesus answered and said to him: "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee."

Nathanael filled with wonder cried out "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God: Thou art the King of Israel." Jesus spoke to him: "Because I said

to thee: 'I saw thee under the fig tree,' thou believest; greater things than those shalt thou see. Amen, Amen, I say unto you, you shall see the heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

In this story, taken from the Gospel, we see that John tells us that Our Lord will give Himself in sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. When we say the sins of the whole world we mean the sins of all mankind. It includes all OUR sins. St. John also tells us that Our Lord suffered innocently and patiently as foretold by the Prophet Isaias. In this sacrifice of Jesus Christ all other sacrifices find their fulfilment. Finally John tells us about the Divinity of Christ. "I give testimony that this is the Son of God." John had heard the voice which spoke from Heaven, when Jesus was baptised.

In this passage we have been considering, Our Lord manifests that He is God. In His dealings with Nathanael He shows clearly that He knew hidden and distant things. He also allows Nathanael to make the profession of Faith — "Thou art the Son of God" — pass without protest.

These Disciples rejoiced that they had found the Redeemer. Do you rejoice that you are a Christian? Do you show your happiness by living the life of a Christian?

CHAPLAIN L. J. BRESLAN, R.A.N.



"Hardly used, belonged to a Met. chap who only turned it on to get the weather forecast."

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"LIFE GETS TEDIOUS DON'T IT"

The sun comes up and the sun goes down,
Ships watches keep coming round and round,
I just gets up and I hear pipe down,
Life gets tedious —don't it.

My chins be-whiskered but I don't care,
I ain't figuring on going nowhere,
Subbie. tells me to cut my hair,
But that's just wasted effort.

Water in the shower's getting lower and
lower,
Won't have no fresh for a month or more,
But I've heard it said and it's true I'm
sure,
Salt water's good for the complexion.

The mess deck leaks and the tables lean,
I'm gettin to know what rugged means,
Eggs went off so we're livin' on beans,
Just can't depend on nothin'.

Cockroaches be sittin in my drawer,
Just don't know what they do it for,
I chase them out and kill a score,
But they're back again come sunup.

Hands to dinner on the dot,
I'm calculatin' whether to eat or not,
Then the wheel goes over and I lose the
lot,
Gets real aggravatin' sometimes.

I open a scuttle and the sea comes in,
Close that scuttle and I'm swettin' agin,
They say it's a terrific service I'm in.
Must be physco I reckon.

Folks just all complain and moan,
Their spirits are lower than the Asdic
dome,
Seems they get a hankering to go home,
Their wives are gettin' lonesome.

Grief and misery pains and woes,
Chooks, stoppage, so it goes,
How stick it Heaven only knows,
Life gets tedious, don't it?



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IS YOUR FI-HI? — No. 3

LAST MONTH we discussed the human ear. We had the decibal and the phon defined, and were introduced to distortion in the form of SCALE distortion. This month we will go further into the realm of distorting factors.

The main types of distortion of which we must be aware are, Attenuation Distortion, — This is characterised by a lack of constancy of the output for a constant input at different frequencies. If this is to be avoided we must maintain our frequency response from 20-20,000 cps within one or two decibals of the flat characteristic. This is rather easy in a modern amplifier, but the pickup has to be a first class product to approach these parameters, and at the other end of the chain very few loud speakers have ever been made that can approach within 5 db of this goal. However, the effect of this distortion is rather innocuous, and most of its degrading influence can be nullified by judicious use of the filters and controls of the preamplifier stage.

Phase Distortion, Ringing and Amplitude Distortion are ever present but, in the main, unheard of as far as the makers' specifications of Pick-ups, Amplifiers and Speakers are concerned. We can say that if the equipment is good, and is used sensibly within its limits, then we can ignore these three (Can't do much then once the design is laid down, anyhow).

The main two of the distortion bunch are those produced by non-linearity of the system, namely, Harmonic and Intermodulation Distortion and these afflict the Pickup, Amplifier and Speaker all. We learnt last month that any musical note is made up of a fundamental plus some related overtones or upper partials, called harmonics. Now our reproducing system goes one better and adds some more harmonics to these for free. However, this changes the character of the note played, and as such, is a distorting factor, albeit a not very pleasant one. For example, we play a violin's open G-string at 196 cps, and most of the sound power is contained originally in the third harmonic at 588cps, but our system adds, say, a powerful fifth harmonic at 980 cps, thus causing the whole sound to be edgy and inclined to shrillness. This is harmonic distortion at its worst, and the higher the order (7th is higher than 3rd etc.) the smaller is the percentage power required to create discord.

Intermodulation Distortion is really a result of harmonic distortion but it is usually considered much more serious. It can be described as the formation of new frequencies when two or more frequencies are passed through a non-linear system. These spurious frequencies are known as sum-and-difference or combination frequencies, and as they are not harmoniously related to the original tones, they are nearly always musically discordant. There is no definite relationship between the two forms of distortion, although obviously, if the harmonic distortion is high then the intermodulation distortion will be high also. For the average well designed amplifier the proportion is usually about 1:3.8 up to the rated power, with the ratio increasing as the amplifier approached overload. Intermodulation formation should be readily seen by imagining a loud speaker being fed with two different frequencies, say 1,000cps and 100cps. Now the cone is trying to vibrate at exactly 1,000 times per sec. to produce the 1,000cps note and at the same time at exactly 100 times per sec. for the 100cps note. If either does this by breaking up, with parts of it vibrating at each frequency, or the entire cone vibrating at 1,000cps as it pistons at 100cps. Either way there are, in effect, parts of the cone that do not know quite which speed to go, and end up going at either 900cps or 1100cps, depending on which foot they were caught. We have now got four frequencies coming out for two going in, but worse is still to come. These four now modulate each other, and we get sum-and-difference values of all four, i.e. 100, 800, 900, 1,000, 1,100, 1,200, 1,900, 2,100 cps. These eight now modulate each other forming ———.

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Objectively, inter modulation distortion is easily discernible as a general fuzziness of the music, if present in small quantities say, below 2 per cent, and can still be detected as low as .4 per cent. Above 5 per cent it can destroy all the finer subtleties of the music being reproduced. A good Pickup and speaker work on about 1 1/2 to 2 per cent I.M. distortion while a good amplifier produces about .5 per cent I.M. and lower at full rated power (the average radiogram works on about 20 per cent I.M. distortion!).

Transient Distortion is the next one we look at. This is tied up with Ringing, previously mentioned. Transients are sounds of short duration which pull a lot of power in a very small time interval, actually micro-seconds, such as those made by cymbals, piano, or other percussive instruments. Pickups require highly compliant stylus suspensions and tips of very small mass (one milligram or less) to trace them accurately, or indeed, at all.

Amplifiers must have their full power output available at the higher frequencies and must be free from peaks and supersonic oscillations which will cause "Ringing," and any low-pass filters must be very carefully designed. Speakers must have large high-gauss magnets and low-mass rigid cones. Transient distortion is characterised by an overall lack of attack and sharpness and a "wobbly effect to the music when a sound starts sharply or ends abruptly.

Hum and Noise although not strictly distortions do satisfy the distortion definition of things we would like to do without. Hum consists chiefly of 50cps and 100cps sound and is due to inefficiency shielded pickups, earth loops, poor smoothing of the power supply, pick-up from the valve heater supply or radiations from the mains transformer. The noise part comes from dirty records, worn styli, valve hiss, and noisy carbon resistors. An amplifier with a rating of H and N 90db below full output will be inaudible even close to the speaker with everything turned up, but a figure of 60db. is about the low limit of high fidelity application.

Wow and Flutter is a distortion that makes itself heard as a rhythmic change of the pitch of the music. Below about 10cps it is called Wow and above 10cps it is called Flutter. It is mechanical in origin and emanates from the record player or the tape transport mechanism. A figure of .2 per cent is good but first class gear will have its instantaneous speed variations down to .1 per cent.

Last but not least is Rumble. This is caused by minute vibrations of the turntable caused, in turn, by insufficient isolation, or decoupling, of the drive motor. The Pickup does not differentiate between vibrations from the record groove and those from the turntable, so we get the lot amplified. This creates a loud background rumble at about 30cps. A transcription turntable as used in Hi Fi reproduction should be completely free from this bugbear.

Next month we shall start to get into the meat of the matter by discussing just what the specifications of a good preamplifier and amplifier should be with regard to commercial articles presently available.

— C.J.

Don't blame me if the following figures are inaccurate, but its a strong buzz.

The population of the U.S.A. is given as 160 million but there are 62 million over the age of 65, leaving 98 million to do the work. People under 21 total 54 million, which leaves 44 million to do the work. But there are 31 million employed by the Government and the armed forces, leaving 13 million to do the work. Deduct 12,926,000, the number in hospitals, asylums and so forth, and that leaves 74,000 to do the work. But 62,000 of these are tramps or others who will not work, so that leaves 12,000 to do the work. Now it may interest you to know that there are 11,998 people in jail in the States, so that leaves just TWO people to run the U.S.A.!

DID YOU MISS OUT

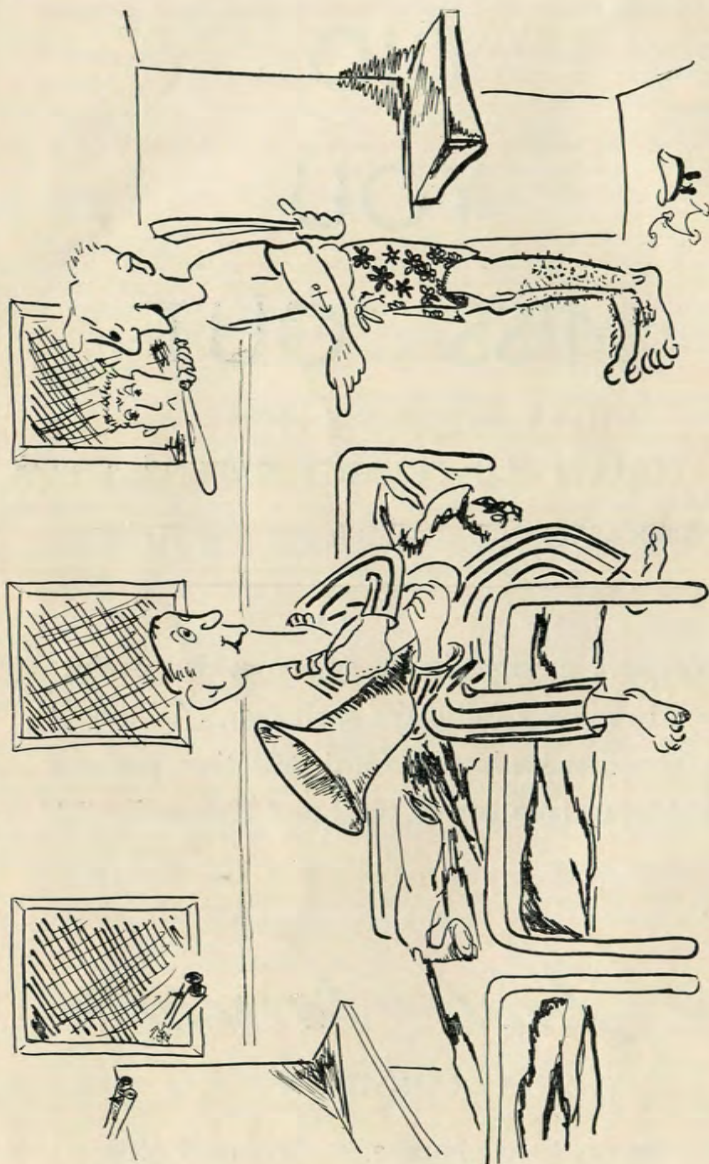
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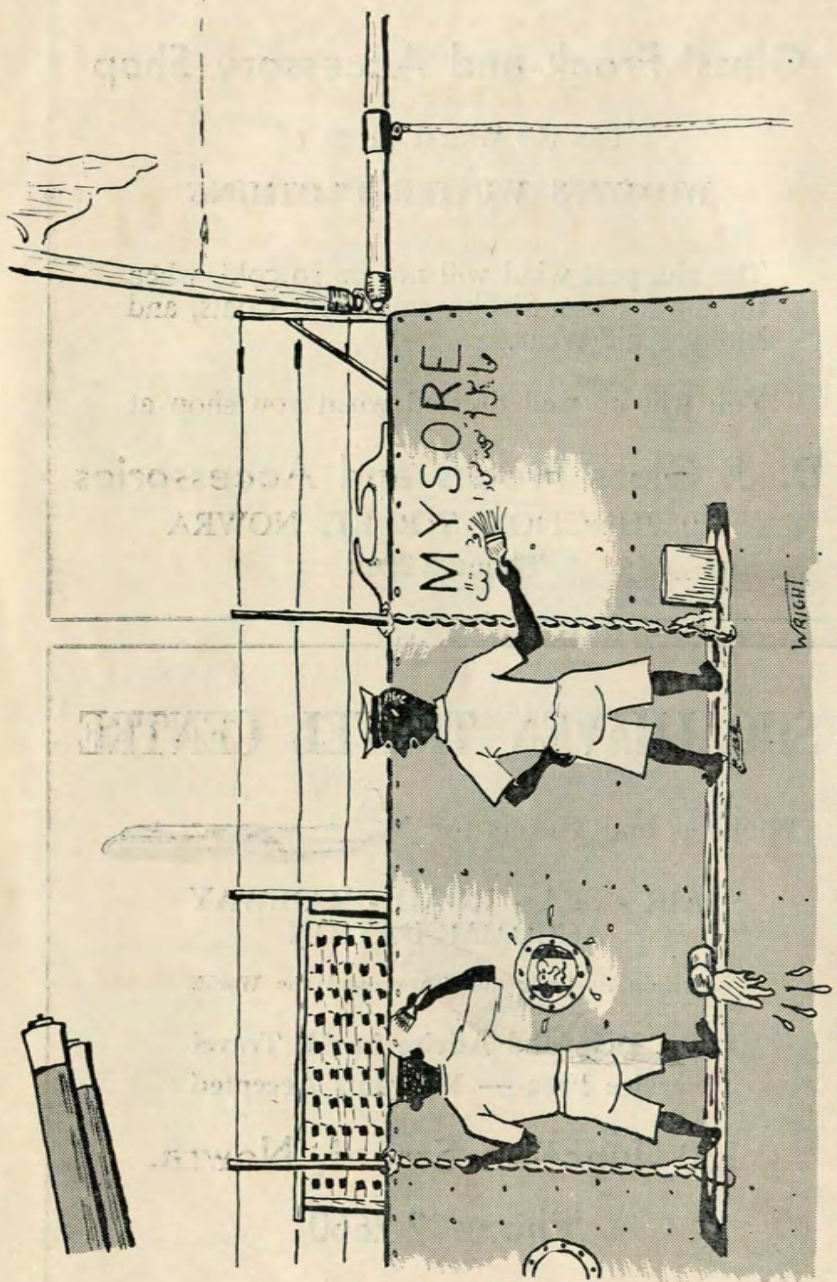
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SCRATCH'S CORNER



Dear Mr. Scratch,

I am a 12 year man due to leave the Service in 3 months time. I have been a Petty Officer since my ninth year in the R.A.N. How much can I expect to receive at the end of my 12 year engagement, not counting my Governor General's?

(b) If I sign on to complete 15 years, how much could I then expect to receive?

(c) How long would I have to do in the Service before I receive a pension and not a lump sum?

(d) How is (a) and (b) estimated?

ANXIOUS.

Dear Anxious,

The actual amount varies upon a number of factors such as your age of entry, your age at each advancement and the time spent in each rate. However, to give you an approximate figure, I would say £700 more or less. (b) You should get £700 approximately, plus a return of contributions for the additional 3 years. (c) Time for pension commences from the age of 20 years, and one must serve 20 years to be eligible for a pension so no person would be eligible for a pension until he reached the age of 40 years. (d) Return of all contributions paid, plus 1½ times this, or a gratuity calculated at £30 p.a. to 14th December, 1959, whichever is the greater. For the time after 1959, return of contribution plus £50 per year.

SCRATCH.

Dear Mr. Scratch,

I am a Naval Airman who was involved in an accident whilst on duty that may mean my discharge from the service on medical grounds. Could you answer the following for me please?

(a) If invalidated from the service, do I receive a BFC pension or just a lump sum, bearing in mind that I have been informed that I will be entitled to Commonwealth Employees Compensation as the accident occurred in the course of my duties.

(b) If I am totally incapacitated for work and invalidated how do I then benefit from BFC?

(c) By receiving BFC would I lose any entitlement to Social Services that a civilian incapacitated for work would be entitled to receive?

WORRIED.

Dear Worried,

Pensions or lump sums vary considerably depending on the class of incapacity (as determined by the D.F.R.C. Board) and the length of service. The alternatives cover several pages in the D.F.R.B. Act 1948/59.

(b) Total incapacity brings the following pensions:

A.B. £637 P.A. Ldg. Rate £682. P.O. £773.

C.P.O. £864. S/Lt. £773. S/Lt. (s.d.) £1001.

Lieut. £1137. Lt. Cdr. £1410. Cdr. £1547.

(c) Any D.F.R.B. payments are counted towards income in any case where a Means Test operates. This covers nearly all Social Service pensions.

SCRATCH.

Dear Mr. Scratch,

If I was killed on duty, what would my wife receive in the way of BFC, and if I was killed off duty, say in a road accident whilst on long leave, would she receive the same amount?

(b) Would she receive anything from Workers' Compensation if I had been on duty?

WONDERING.

Dear Wondering,

Your Widow would receive 5/8th of the pension (if the member paid the recent increase, otherwise ½) to which you would be entitled in part (b) of "Worried's" letter, plus £52 per year for each child under sixteen. Should the Widow re-marry, her pension stops, but the children's continues.

(b) Yes, if death was fully attributable to duty.

SCRATCH.

EDITOR'S NOTE — The opinions of Scratch are completely unofficial, and therefore cannot be quoted. However, they do give an idea of a person's entitlement, and have been printed for that reason.

STATION TYPICAL No. 5



Up in the air?
Tearing you hair?
Wrecked with despair?
See "Local Affaire."

It's too much to bear,
Flat tyre and no spare!
But never a care,
See "Local Affaire."

If you've nothing to wear
"Cause your wardrobes" all bare
Then, Bah! Cest la guerre!
See "Local Affaire."

If your aim is "life debonair"
Foreign foods you're willing to dare,
Then we solemnly do declare
You'll just love "Local Affaire."

This gay musical production will be staged for three nights, August 2, 3 and 4, at the Nowra School of Arts. Box plans are at Seyffers, Jewellers, in Junction Street, and early booking is advised. The revue contains straight and musical sketches, many of which have a strong local flavour.

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Sporting Notes

ALBATROSS SQUASH CLUB

A Station Squash Club was formed on the 27th of April and so far has 24 members affiliated with the Sportsman's Club.

Two teams have entered the Nowra competition and are so far undefeated, although both have had one draw each. The standard has improved considerably since joining the competition with E.M. Loser and Surgeon-Lieutenant Barr starring for the "A" team and E.M. Clark and L.E.M. Collins for the "B" grade.

The Squash Ladder is run on a handicap basis, with regular competition on Wednesday sports afternoon. New members welcome.

It is hoped to organise social matches in the last half of the year. F.M.A.S. Creswell has already accepted a challenge and has two players, Lieutenant Mathews and Surgeon Darroch, who should give our top players a good match.

R.A.N. GLIDING ASSOCIATION

During the past six months our gliders have flown 1,381 trips for 181 hours. Our grand total to date is 13,043, for 1,352 hours. We have had a full time training programme in operation since Christmas and the number of members that have gone solo and the certificate gained, is a good indication of our increased activity. Since Christmas, the following members have gone solo: Musicians J. Widdicombe, K. O'Leary, C. Buchanan, A. Parkyn; N/A B. Jessop and C.P.O. D. Daniels.

Saturday, 15th July proved to be our best soaring day for quite some time, N/A L. Bale caught a strong thermal after releasing from a 1,500 ft. launch and wound up to 5,500 ft. in our Kookaburra. Musc. A. Parkyn was next to get away, he also went to 5,500 ft. and qualified for his C. Soaring Certificate. Our C.F.I. also did two 30 minute soaring flights in our Nymph. Instructor C.A.A. "Darkie" Hodges failed to get away as the thermal activity appeared to cease during his launches or was it the heavy night before. When the Soaring season arrives we hope to carry out cross country flying from the Air Station. Albion Park Aero Club has indicated that they have no objection to us landing in their airfield.

At present we have 20 active members, 3 Associate members, and 5 serving away from the Station. We have plans to extend our activities to Jervis Bay Airstrip, this will allow us to take in about another 20 members.

After returning from the last S.E.A.T.O. cruise, Dr. Tommy Thompson had the distinction of being the first R.A.N.G.A. member to do a fully arrested glider landing. The landing skid of the Kookaburra caught the arrester wire across 21 runway as he was finishing his landing run. The wire pulled out and the Kook. came to an abrupt stop. A novel but not recommended procedure for shortening the landing run. Full marks to Tommy for his FIRST.

ALBATROSS RIFLE CLUB

The second competition of the Rifle Club was held on the 12/7/61 with good shooting conditions prevailing, however, only eight of the club's thirty members were able to attend, and most of the shooters showed the effects of the leave period inactivity, by scoring below handicap.

Petty Officer B. Weaver scored consistently to win the trophy hands down, and after the match demonstrated the accuracy of his new rifle with five consecutive bulls.

The club eagerly awaits the acquisition of a batch of new rifles which will shoot straight.



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in at 0730 — out at 1300 — Same Day!

RUGBY LEAGUE

With half the season over and into the second round, Albatross still maintains the lead in the Group 7 reserve grade competition, a clear three points ahead of Kangaroo Valley who, although starting the season badly, now hold second place.

The only loss sustained so far, was when a patched up side went down to Albion Park, 18-10, during the leave period.

M(E) "Donkey" Daniel continues his try scoring spree, and should top the fifty mark before the semis, a remarkable effort for a centre. Congratulations on becoming a father, Tony. Always room for another supporter.

Coach, S/Lt. Morris, must have realised it takes less energy to play than to run up and down the sideline, and is back in harness, giving some fine displays of football.

R.E.M. Jim Davis still sits on the sideline nursing a persistent leg injury, but hopes to be a'right in a fortnight.

L/Wtr. Barry Clements has been playing well in the full back position and has chimed in well with the three-quarters.

All in all, the whole team has been playing well and must be strong favourites for this premiership.

BOWLS

The present inclement weather is not the ideal for playing Bowls. The members of the Albatross Bowling Club are actively taking part in the game. On Wednesday 19th, a team skippered by Surg.Lt.Cdr. Howells won their match against the Paper Mills. Lieutenant Hamilton skippered a winning four in an open competition at Bomaderry on Sunday, 16th July.

S/Lt. Dickie got some excellent advice from an article on Bowls in a Melbourne publication, to the effect that soaking his bowls in hot water for an hour before using same, he said, it gives him excellent assistance in maintaining his "grip."

The Club is looking forward to any new members — they can rest assured that they will all be put on the right track and assured they will thoroughly enjoy themselves.

This week's advice to all Bowlers — "Be Up."

ALBATROSS UNDERWATER CLUB

Since the last issue of "Slipstream" the Club's quarterly spearing contest ended, and was easily won by R.E.M. Edwards, who received a cup as winner. The next contest has started well, with a good day last outing around the south side of the Bay, with R.E.M. Edwards again in the lead. The Albatross team challenged the Creswell team on this outing, and we proved too strong for them, although we were many more in number. The points were decided on a handicap basis.

Whilst on the competition news, the club will represent Navy at the Underwater Skindiving and Fisherman's Association contest, to be held at Palm Beach, Sydney, on August 6th. As many teams will be turning out, a lot of fish are expected and maybe some records will go to the club. To conclude the day, the host club Western Suburbs, will hold a barbecue with refreshments, and talk about the ones that nearly got away.

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SOCCER NOTES

Since last appearing among the sporting pages of "Slipstream" the Soccer team has fared fairly well.

No social games have been played to date, so all we are concerned about is the Showers Trophy competition.

As predicted earlier, the teams' continuation in the Army Competition was voted out at the meeting before leave.

In the course of our last meeting on the 11th July, the club reluctantly accepted the resignation of Len Bolden as Club Captain, due to circumstances beyond his control. Consequently, Joe Trow was appointed as Len's successor by unanimous vote; although Joe accepted, as he put it, "Provisionally," I'm sure he'll do the job well.

On the 5th July, Albatross entertained Penguin in the second round of the Showers Trophy, the game ending in a 4-4 draw, everyone, no doubt, feeling the after effects of leave. Goals were missed, freak goals were scored, but luckily the boys held out, defeating Penguin by 16-4 on aggregate.

The next match was played on the 19th July, Albatross versus The Fleet, and it proved a real thriller. Albatross, twice behind, fought back magnificently to win the match 4-3; Brian Sargeson scoring the winner in the closing minutes with a 6-yarder that nearly took the top out of the net. Spectators enjoyed some good goalkeeping by A/B Brunswick (L/A "Bomber" Brunswick's brother) of the Fleet team. He was reminiscent of a cat, making very few mistakes.

But we all felt that the Tross should have won by an avalanche missing about 6 certs.

So our position in the Showers Trophy is better than ever. Keep it up, lads!
— RANGER.

ALBATROSS GOLF CLUB NOTES

Since leave there have been no representative golf matches as the next inter-ship competition has not yet begun. It has been officially proclaimed that Albatross won the last competition for 1960-61, although we have not seen the trophy yet.

The "Happy" Hawkins trophy is nearing completion and one finalist has already been decided. S/Lt. Wilson has been successful in the lower half of the draw and will be one finalist, after some pretty tough opposition. A few surprises in the results have been evident, both "Hec" Harris and Cdr. Treloar having been at short odds in the early part of the competition, went down to P.O. Winnem and C.A.A. Gilroy respectively. Have heard that "Hec" had an off day, but Chief Gilroy, a relative newcomer to golf, really turned it on when he played the club captain, having an 87 off the stick (net 60) which, seeing that Cdr. Treloar had to give him 16 strokes, was a bit hot. He now plays Capt. Morrison in the semi-final, and the winner will meet S/Lt. Wilson in the final, to be played on July 26th.

This competition has created a lot of interest and the standard of play has been very keen. Whoever is the eventual winner will certainly have earned the trophy.

In the local Nowra Club, our golfers continue to feature well, practically every competition featuring our players in the prize list. We now have two members who have represented Nowra in pennant matches, C/R.E.L. Fischer being the latest addition to the team. In the local Club Championships, both C/R.E.L. Fischer and Cdr. Treloar have done well, Cdr. Treloar defeating C/R.E.L. Fischer in the semi-final, and now has to meet the present club champion, Geoff Williams, in the final. In the B Grade competition P.O. Fletcher got through to the semi-finals, which is quite a good effort.

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ALBATROSS HOCKEY CLUB

Our teams have just about recovered from the leave period now and are getting back to the required state of fitness. On July 5th, we sent a team to Creswell for a social match against the College, and our team won, 4 to 1.

The first competition matches after leave were played at Albatross on Saturday, 8th July, both the A and B teams playing St. Michaels' two teams. The A team won 2-1 and the B team drew 1-all. This meant that the A team was leading the comp., while the B team was one point behind A.I.S. Rovers, though unbeaten as yet.

On Saturday, 15th July, our teams played at Wenham Park in Port Kembla. The A team played Lysaghts Orbs, and were defeated 4 goals to 3. The B team played A.I.S. Ingots and defeated them 5 goals to nil.

It means that to become the Minor Premiers, the B team will have to beat Rovers in this round, or else some other team will have to beat them.

The teams are getting a bit short now, as Bill Kerr is On Board, Hugh Wells is on three weeks course at Lonsdale, Mac McGreeis at Kuttabul. Des Haynes will be going to Darwin in August, so things will be a little tight in the semi-finals and finals.

— BIG FEET.

BASKETBALL ON THE STATION

The position of both Navy's "A" and "B" grade basketball teams on the Shoalhaven ladder is such that they are assured games in the semi-finals to be played in a couple of weeks. At present the "A" grade is second on the list, with one game to catch up, and the "B" grade fourth with also one game to go.

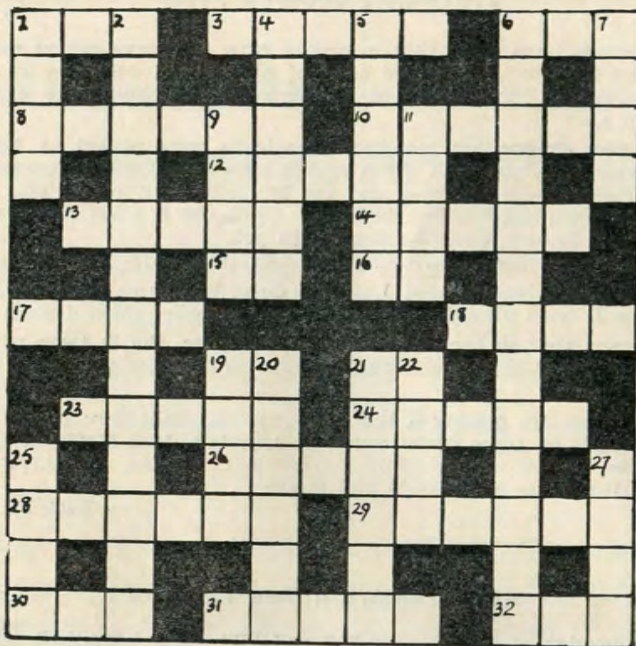
Lately both teams are playing the game the way it should be played. "Well and like Sportsmen." The only time that anything has been said against either team was last week when the captain of the "B" grade was sent off the court for arguing with the referee. In both grades each player is doing his part well, Fred Rubley has been shooting some very nice baskets for the "A" and Dixie Ford has been flying high for recoveries off the back board. The B's would be lost without forwards like Jim Da Silva and Spin Hayward; John Chetham says he is too old, but is still playing a steady game. A newcomer to the game, Jack Cevaal, is progressing more than was expected and is turning out one of the best guards in the district.

All in all, the game of basketball in the local district has improved a great deal this season.

"Who you gonna get to fill my vacancy?"
"Young man, you're not leaving any vacancy!"
"The traps on this golf course are certainly annoying aren't they?"
"Yes. Would you mind shutting yours?"



Three times after buying tickets at the movie, a man returned to the box office and asked for a new one. "What seems to be the trouble?" the girl finally asked. "That darned fool in there keeps tearing them in half!"



ACROSS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Japanese root of all evil. | 29. Infants Book? |
| 3. Fork point. | 30. Arnott a biscuit. |
| 6. Overacts but welcome at meals. | 31. Scatter about. |
| 8. Confound the enemy by signal back. | 32. May day at sea. |
| 10. Can I hear dogs usually at the moon. | |
| 11. Old European now on Middleton. | |
| 12. Just on the move. | |
| 14. A bitter eye-opener. | |
| 15. Elite shock-troops? | |
| 16. My name's not this. | |
| 17. In the distance. | |
| 18. Requests. | |
| 19. A Greek letter. | |
| 21. And fro? | |
| 23. Produced from flax. | |
| 24. Or Ivy? | |
| 26. And onions. | |
| 28. Cathedral town observes a famous street. | |

DOWN:

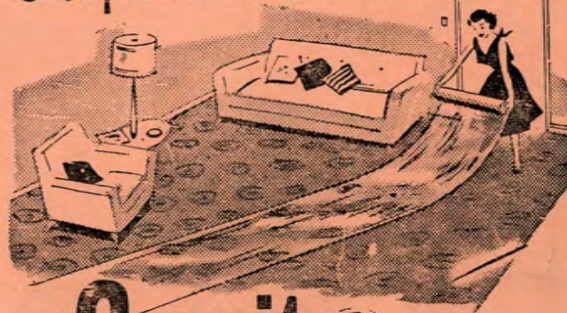
- | |
|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Am I so abominable. |
| 2. Risley's on Aces (Anagram). |
| 4. It happens again. |
| 6. Able to be married. |
| 7. The sages who brought gifts. |
| 9. This girl is an eye-ful. |
| 11. Not trumped but good enough. |
| 19. To measure. |
| 20. Not quite mutiny. |
| 21. To drink alcohol. |
| 22. Eight here, six there completes it. |
| 25. Helps to focus. |
| 27. Picadilly archer. |

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S SKELETON CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 2. Default; 7. Singe; 8. Helot; 10. Fortune; 11. Roost; 12. Nasal; 13. Bella; 15. Purple; 16. Carlos; 17. Edict; 20. Eager; 22. Cairo; 23. Ocarina; 24. Panel; 25. Sorry; 26. Elegant.
 DOWN: 1. Encouraging; 2. Deft; 3. Farce; 4. Usual; 5. Then; 6. Old Soldiers; 7. Scrap Heap; 9. Tall Story; 13. Bee; 14. Act; 18. Drape; 19. China; 21. Role; 22. Cast.

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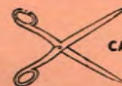
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