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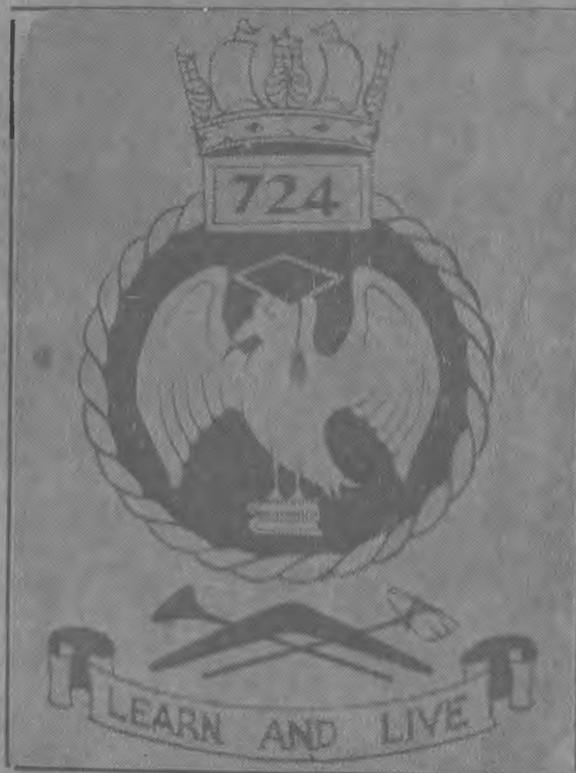
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SLIPSTREAM



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

No. 9

JANUARY, 1958

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“SLIPSTREAM”

The Journal of H.M.A.S. “Albatross”

No. 9

JANUARY, 1958

EDITOR: Lt. Cdr. Harvey.

SUB. EDITOR: Sub. Lt. Hockley.

SPORTS EDITOR: Sub. Lt. Sheridan.

ART EDITOR: P.O. Edward.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Sub.Lt. Hall.

No one will be deceived by the credit title at the head of this page; Lieutenant Commander Harvey (D.S.) has been translated to high office in Melbourne. He has been responsible for SLIPSTREAM'S sturdy development and for its present high standard and his departure is a severe loss. We send him our thanks and every good wish. It is comforting to feel we have such a staunch ally brooding over our affairs at Head Office.

Assuming the editorship is a heavy responsibility for which we feel scarcely adequate. However SLIPSTREAM'S policy remains unaltered; that is, it is YOUR magazine and it stands or falls by your support. We should welcome more Letters to the Editor, more snippets for Around the Station, and, or course, articles and stories of all types. Censorship of opinion is no part of the Editor's duty. If your contribution is up to the required standard and is not libellous or downright offensive it will be printed.

The New Year brings the puckish and energetic Sub-Lieutenant Hall to our staff as Business Manager. We welcome him thankfully.

Happy and increasingly prosperous 1958 to all.

EDITOR.

724 SQUADRON



724 Squadron first formed in 1945 as an R.N. Communications Squadron, but was disbanded the following year. With Lieutenant Commander L. A. Robinson, R.A.N., as Commanding Officer, the Squadron reformed at Nowra on 1st June, 1955.

This marked a new era in the R.A.N. as one duty of the Squadron was to train pilots to operational flying standard, a task not previously undertaken by the R.A.N. Conversions to jet aircraft were also carried out with the recently acquired Vampire Trainers.

O.F.S. training continued until October, 1956, during which time 4 courses passed through the Squadron. When this task was relinquished, the Squadron assumed control of "H" Flight of Helicopters. In addition, Gannet Conversions were also a 724 commitment.

In November, 1956, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Station and handled the controls of a Sycamore for the first time when he was flown by "H" Flight to Jervis Bay.

February 18, 1957, saw the advent of Centralised Maintenance, and the "Choppers" left the Squadron, leaving at one stage only two instructors, Lieutenant Commander P. R. Dalosso, R.N., in command, and 3 ratings to handle the continuing commitments of Gannet and Jet Conversion. By this date, 6035 hours in 9 aircraft types had been flown by the Squadron.

724 continued with conversions until 5th August, 1957, when the "All Weather Fighter School became part of the Squadron, now commanded by Lieutenant Commander A. G. Cordell, R.A.N.

Gannet training was taken over by 725 Squadron when it formed on 13th January, 1958.

Now we have only Vampires (with bang seats), Sea Venoms, and the greenest lawn on the Station.



Station Personality

No. 9

N.A.M. EGOROFF

N.A.M. Egoroff was born in Harbin in Northern Manchuria in August, 1935. His father, Nikoly Egoroff was an electrical engineer in charge of a large commercial refrigerating plant in Harbin, while his mother occupied her time with sculpture and art.

The Egoroff family was of Russian nationality and our personality was educated at St. Nicholas College in Harbin, where only the Russian language was spoken.

The Sino Japanese war was in progress when our personality first saw the light of day and the family were no strangers to hardship. Following the Sino Japanese war, the country became the battleground for the Russians and Japanese and no sooner had they settled their differences than Manchuria, and Harbin in particular, became the centre of fierce fighting between the Chinese Nationalists and their Communist adversaries.

All this turmoil and bloodshed had a drastic effect on the country's economy. Food was scarce and Egoroff's parents had great difficulty in providing for their young family. So difficult did life become in Harbin that the family moved to Hilar, a small town 40 miles from the Russian border.

Following the capitulation of the Japanese, the Russians occupied Manchuria and ordered (among other things), the destruction of all school books and a complete turn over to Communist education with the accent on physical fitness.

In 1938 Egoroff's grand-parents had migrated to Australia and taken up farming at Landsbrough just out of Brisbane. The war had prevented the rest of the Egoroff family following, but in 1951 they finally left Manchuria and settled in Brisbane. Our personality spent 12 months at Central Practising School learning English and then went to Queensland Agricultural High School and College, just out of Toowoomba where he passed his "junior". After leaving school, he took a job in a Burns Philp office in Brisbane, where he was employed as a clerk for just over a year.

In May, 1955, George Egoroff joined the R.A.N. as a Recruit Naval Airman and after six month's training at H.M.A.S. "Cerberus", he was drafted to H.M.A.S. "Albatross", where he now works on Firefly No. 271.

N.A. Egoroff is keen on Aeronautical Engineering and is doing a course with the Sydney Technical College. His sporting interests are limited to gymnastics and weight lifting, and, unlike most Naval Airmen, he is not keen on going to sea as this would interfere with his studies.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR,

Owing to the fact that I have been ill for the past few weeks, I have had to send my five-year-old son to the Village Store on messages and he's been away up to one-and-a-half hours. I made enquiries and found that he spent all but 5 minutes of that time waiting to be served.

The apathetic atmosphere behind the counter in the Store is driving the customers back to Nowra. Anyway the prices are too high to attract thrifty shoppers.

— "WINGEING WINNIE".

(SEE PAGE 33—Ed.)

THEY'RE RACING

On Fridays

all the traffic cops
fair lick their chops
all through Shoalhavenshire.

At 3.15

they hear the roars
as out of "Albatross" there pours
more victims than they could desire.

Led by Chiefs in Holdens new,
Bombs, jalopies mill and stew,
Boring, passing, heads right down,
Racing to get to Sydney town.

A ticket a minute

for exceeding the limit
is the average policeman's haul.

And as for the fines

for crossing the lines
they're more than I care to recall.

But underterred and undismayed,
Cars are repaired and fines are paid;
Summer sunshine, winter rain,
Next Friday they'll be off again.

— HOGPEN MASH.

Letters to an Administrative Authority

No. 5 Our Rats By Monty

Officer in Charge,
Maintenance Party,
R.A.N.A.S. BOMBINJERRY.

THE FLAG OFFICER IN CHARGE,
SOUTH COAST.

R.A.N.A.S. BOMBINJERRY — RAT WEEK

The following report on the participation by R.A.N.A.S. Bombinjerry in National Rat Week is submitted in accordance with South Coast Temporary Memorandum S.C. 195/6/58.

2. As an inducement to their active co-operation ratings were offered a turn of leave out of watch for every three dead rats they produced to the M.A.A. However, this concession was withdrawn when it was found that N/A. Fergus McHaggis, whose de-facto wife is the sister of the Bombinjerry official rat-catcher, was selling rat carcasses for ten shillings each and then buying them back from the M.A.A. at two shillings per head for re-sale to his clients. It is believed that this is the first time in Naval annals that dead rats have been regarded as legal tender.

3. Following the exposure of the machinations of N/A. McHaggis, a vigorous anti-rat drive was launched. The complete failure of this drive led to the surprising and gratifying conclusion that there was no rats in the area. As one rating was heard to remark: "After all, sailors HAVE to live here but rats don't!" However, despite this minor handicap it was decided that practice in rat extermination was most desirable and the First Lieutenant was instructed to procure three dozen assorted live rats from Bombinjerry.

These were released in a wired enclosure on the Station and the following methods of rat destruction were then demonstrated:—

- (a) Cats.
- (b) Dogs.
- (c) Shooting.
- (d) Traps.
- (e) Poison.

4. In pursuance of this policy 72 cats, i.e., two per rat, were captured in the vicinity of the Main Galley and liberated in the rat compound, where upon five promptly went to sleep, four evinced a strong desire to play with the rats and the remainder fled.

5. Method (b) was then demonstrated, six dogs from the Station pack being turned loose in the compound. Three dogs immediately fainted and the remainder, attacked fiercely by the irate rats, leaped the fence and disappeared over the horizon. This method of clearing the Station of stray dogs would appear to be most effective.

Only the G.I.'s dog, which was on a leash, remained in the area under loud protest.

6. Lieutenant Muzzle, the Ordnance Officer, then proceeded to demonstrate method (c), using a .22 calibre rifle. His first three shots unfortunately missed the rats but punctured a passing petrol tanker, while the fourth shot hit the G.I.'s dog.

By this time the rats, maddened with fear, had found a hole in the wire and escaped in the direction of the Victualling Store, beneath which they took refuge.

7. Opportunity was now taken to demonstrate methods (d) and (e) with the result that the First Lieutenant and three cats were caught in traps and the Station Billy Goat was rushed to hospital suffering from the effects of over indulgence in "Rat-sack". Both the First Lieutenant and the Billy Goat are progressing satisfactorily. There is no evidence that the rats were affected by either traps or poison and these methods of destruction are not recommended.

8. Although the results of the operation were somewhat disappointing there is no doubt that considerable knowledge was gained by all concerned and that this will be of benefit to the Service in the future.

9. Approval is requested to hire a professional rat-catcher to exterminate rats which are now assuming plague proportions in the Victualling Store.

O. T. SNORKER
Lieut. Commander.

ADMIRAL CRESWELL

The R.A.N.C., Jervis Bay, has been named H.M.A.S. "CRESWELL" after Vice Admiral Sir William Creswell, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., aptly called the father of the R.A.N.

William Creswell was born in Gibraltar in 1852 and served in the R.N. for 13 years, retiring as a Lieutenant. In 1885, he joined the South Australian Navy and subsequently became, in succession, Naval Commandant of South Australia, Queensland and Victoria. In 1901, Creswell advocated the formation of a Commonwealth Naval Force and it was largely due to his persistence that the R.A.N. was created. He was at first appointed Naval Officer Commanding, Commonwealth Naval Force, then Director, C.N.F., Director Naval Board of Administration and, finally, the R.A.N.'s first First Naval Member.

A leader should never become involved with trifles: he should fly in the heights like an eagle; not burrow in the depths like a mole.

— Admiral Doenitz.



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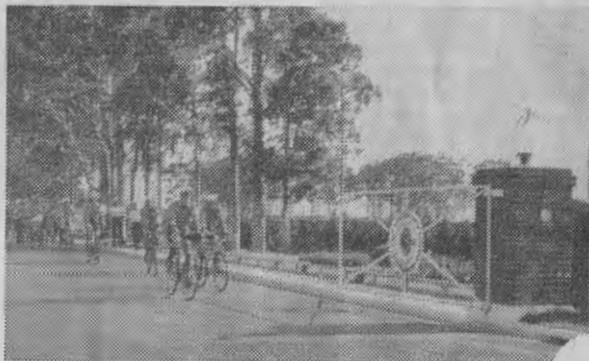


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AROUND THE STATION



L/A. BLAIR leads the Push Bike Derby on the homeward run.

* * * *

A distinctly “morning afterish” air seemed to pervade the Station for the first few days after return from leave, indicating that everyone had had a really colossal time over Christmas. Nowra's bracing air and a few 40 degree temperature changes seem to have dispelled the lethargy, however, and the Station is its old bustling self again.

Sub. Lieutenant Lemon wishes to send the usual New Year's Greetings to absent friends.

* * * *

It's nice to have the eager, shining faces of the M.A.G. with us and only wish their stay were longer. If they leave any more Venoms out in the sun, maybe it will be.

* * * *

The Commander is taking a suspiciously close interest in the forthcoming Athletics (see Sporting Notes) and has even been rash enough to make certain predictions regarding the Veterans' Race. Knowledgeable track men, however, refuse to be impressed. They have their eye on the Officer in Charge M.R.S., whose handicap, they calculate, makes it necessary for him only to fall flat on his face to win.

The new Flag officer in Charge, East Australian Area, Rear Admiral D. H. Harries, C.B.E., intends to visit the Station in the second week in March. Date not yet confirmed but we can expect him around that time.

* * * *

The ghost who tolled the bell on New Year's Eve was not the one who hoisted the bicycle up the mast. It is understood that the Safety Equipment Officer, who was Officer of the Watch on that memorable night, is almost better and will even accept a small shandy on special occasions.

* * * *

Chief Writer Creighton's new rig, natty sports coat, pearl grey slacks and uniform cap, is being submitted to F.O.I.C. for approval.

* * * *

Was it the leprachauns who visited the Air Radar and Wireless Sections during the leave period? The new street name is, in any case, a distinct improvement.

* * * *

Apparently the Pussers had another wing ding in the White Ensign Club just before Christmas. One or two of the new S.A.s moaned about the short supply of caviar but otherwise it seems to have been a howling success. How do these people afford it?

* * * *

There is a buzz around the M.T. Compound that the doctors in Sydney remove tonsils better than those in Melbourne. How about it, Max?

* * * *

We'd like to congratulate the Cooks, L.E.M. Durant and C.P.O. Patch and his men for the delightful food and the efficient manner in which it was served at the Kid's Christmas party. Also a big pat on the back for dear old "Santa", who was to be seen busily kissing the ladies—lucky old lucky.

* * * *

Everyone was glad to see the Retard Party get away to a well-earned rest after their strenuous time over the leave period. We learn that some sagacious characters have started smacking in requests for the 1958 session already.

* * * *

The Canteen Manager wishes to remind his customers that there are only 275 more shopping days to Christmas.

"CAPITAL CITIES CRUISE"

The following extracts, taken from the diary of an unknown sailor, recently unearthed, (the diary, not the sailor), throw an interesting light on some aspects of life at sea:

4th OCTOBER:

At 11 o'clock this morning I sat on the jetty at Jervis Bay, amidst a great confusion of baggage and suchlike, and watched the ship that was to be our home for the next few months, sail into the Bay and anchor. This was, for me, a great moment—the beginning of my first cruise in a warship. It did my heart good to see my shipmates' faces light up as they saw her appear round Point Perpendicular. One Old Salt poignantly expressed what we were all feeling when he said, (using a term of endearment common to men of the sea), "Here comes the old tin — now." A Chief Petty Officer was so moved by the spirit of the moment that, giving me a friendly clout over the ear as I sat on a bollard admiring the scene, he invited me to join the others in loading our gear onto the lighter. Thus began the first day of what was to be a memorable cruise.

16th OCTOBER:

After a very pleasant five-day stay in Sydney we set sail this morning towards the South. I was fortunate enough to be granted a personal interview with the Commander soon after we sailed, at which he questioned me closely on the details of my stay ashore, and seemed most interested in the fact that I had so enjoyed myself that I had had no time in the entire five days to return to the ship and collect my mail. At the conclusion of the interview he told me that I need not apply for leave for the next eight days. I realized from that that he intended me to rest and save my strength for the forthcoming visit of the ship to Adelaide, and I was deeply touched by such solicitude.

28th OCTOBER:

The hospitality of the people of Adelaide has been impressive, and it was only with difficulty that I managed to tear myself away this morning. When I arrived at the wharf the ship had sailed and was disappearing in the distance. The Water Police kindly took me out to her in a fast launch, and as I reached the top of the Jacob's Ladder that was lowered for me, the Master at Arms himself was there to greet me. A little later, after briefly welcoming me back aboard, the Commander passed me on to the Captain, who also told me not to bother find some extra jobs to keep me amused in the dog watches for applying for leave for a while, and in addition promised to the next few days. I understood this as an expression of his trust in me, and realized that the Commander, who has for some reason obviously taken a liking to me, must have given me a recommendation.

11th NOVEMBER:

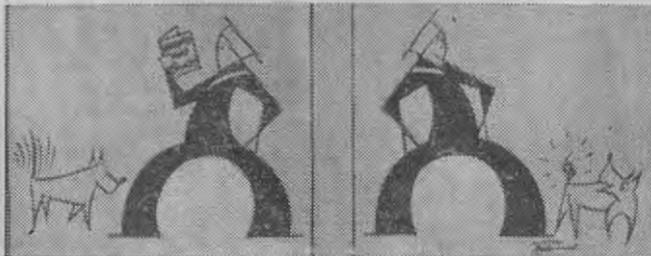
After the extra work I had been doing for the Captain, I decided to take it easy when we called at Melbourne. I had recently won the Tombola on board, and so could afford to book in at the Hotel Australia for ten days. The last day there I decided to have a farewell party and sent a note to the ship inviting the Commander. He unfortunately couldn't come himself, but sent a shore Patrol to provide me with transport back to the ship. The man's generosity overwhelms me.

29th NOVEMBER:

The ship is at present in Brisbane, but I don't feel like going ashore. Since leaving Melbourne they have given me a cell to live in. I think the reason for this is that the cells are much cooler than the messdeck, which tends to get a bit stuffy in this hot weather. I am getting plenty of sleep, and every now and then they send the Corporal of the Gangway down to see if there is anything I want. Life is pleasant.

12th DECEMBER:

I left my cell yesterday, and today we arrived at Jervis Bay to disembark. As I was about to go over the side into the boat I noticed the Commander standing nearby. A lump rose in my throat as I remembered all I owed him. Impulsively I stepped over and shook him warmly by the hand and, with my voice trembling with gratitude, thanked him for all he had done for me. As I went down the ladder I caught a last glimpse of him standing there, and could see that he was equally overcome by the moment. His face had gone a deep purple and he appeared to be choking with emotion. Then I was in the boat and heading shorewards for a fortnight's well-earned leave.



Around the Village . . .



MRS. FLINTOFF serves a customer in the Village Canteen.



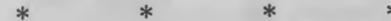
The Yacht that was being raffled in the Village shop, was won by Master R. Fennessy; as no one guessed the right name, which was Snow Cloud, the winning ticket was drawn from a hat. This raffle was in conjunction with the Village Fete.



The children's breaking-up party was a great success. The senior pupils of the school presented a play in which the acting was outstanding for ones so young. The juniors did "Miming" and also a singing game which was most enjoyable. The entertainment was rounded off by folk dancing and community singing.

Ice cream and sweets were donated by the P. and C. Many thanks to the P. and C. for this kind gesture.

It was amazing the way the children had decorated the school for the occasion; the children of the school are a credit to you, Mr. Fraser.



Congratulations to the following Mums and Dads:— Boys to Mrs. Mumford and Mrs. Edward; and Girls to Mrs. B. Terry, Mrs. Haines, Mrs. A. Clarke, Mrs. Currie and Mrs. Larson.

It seems that the weaker sex has it over the men this time.



The "Albatross" Brownies would like to thank all those people in the Village who contributed to the Fall's Creek Orphanage Carol singing appeal. The donation was greatly appreciated in that it helped to buy the children some new clothes.

The general election that was to be held on Tuesday, 14th January was cancelled due to insufficient support; it will now be held on the first Tuesday in February. The next meeting will be held in the Kindergarten in conjunction with a film night. All are welcome.

* * * *

N/A. Trinder has opened up a photography business in the Village, so if you want a good photograph of your children or family, contact N/A. Trinder on Ext. 264 or at 26 Bedford Street.

Prices are:— 10" x 12"—10/-; 10" x 8"—8/-; 6" x 8"—6/-; 6" x 4"—4/-; Postcard—1/6. (Prices approved by the Commander).

* * * *

The Nowra Pre-School Kindergarten will open in February in the Nowra R.S.L. Hall. Toys of all types, old or new, are badly needed. Contact Commander (E) or Sub. Lt. Hall (Fire Office).

"INDISPENSIBLE"

Sometime, when you're feeling important,
Sometime, when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime, when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room.

Sometime, when you feel that your going,
Would leave an unfiliable hole,
Just following this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it, up to the wrist;
Pull it out, and the hole that's remaining,
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter,
You can stir up the water galore,
But stop, and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example,
Is do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember—
There's NO INDISPENSIBLE MAN.

(Contributed by GEORGE STEVENSON, Inspecting Officer, Naval Stores).



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Prop. Happy Hawkins,
Ex - R.A.N.

Cars of Distinction



Most people will have seen this stately old Rolls around the Station with the lean figure of its owner, A/P.O.A.M. Robert Willis, at the wheel. A 1923 model, the car was imported from England in that year and has had five owners since, being bought by the present owner in 1955 from Mr. George Sevenoaks, of Crow's Nest. In 1937 an Australian built body was fitted, but the chassis and engine are pure 1923 except for a new set of piston rings fitted six years ago. How many Holden owners will be able to say the same in 1992?

We were recently privileged to inspect this fine machine and can endorse P.O. Willis's contention that she runs like an Omega watch and almost as quietly. The 20 h.p. engine achieves a cruising speed of 45-50 m.p.h. and can reach 60. Petrol consumption is a very fair 22 m.p.g. The dignified body can accommodate two Chiefs or four Naval Airmen and the capacious boot could carry a week's beer for either set of passengers. The only drawback is that rear wheel brakes only are fitted and pulling up is apt to be a lengthy business. Drivers espying this veteran in their rear mirrors are advised therefore to give early (and respectful) warning of their intentions.

Details for the technically minded are:—

Bore 3½"

Stroke 4½"

Compression Ratio 2.3 to 1

3 speed crash gear box

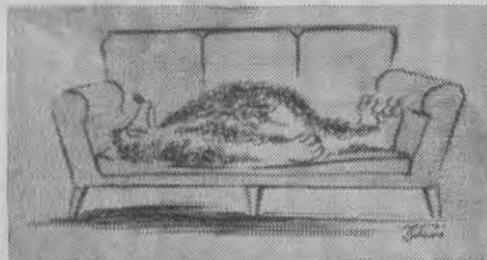
Overhead valves side push rod operated

All aluminium engine except block and head.

All in all, a first class specimen in spotless order and a credit, we are certain, to the Rolls Royce Owners' Club of which P.O. Willis is one of the many distinguished members.

Is your car interesting, distinguished or just ancient? If so, tell the Editor.

DON'T OVERCORRECT



Once upon a time there lived a bear who was a famous drinker. Every evening after work he would go down to the pub and spend many hours drinking with his cronies. He would then reel home, knock over the hatstand, put his elbows through the windows and finally collapse on the sofa. His wife would get very angry and his children were exceedingly frightened.

One day, the bear saw the error of his ways and decided to give up drink. He became a famous teetotaler and to prove how fit his abstinence had made him would turn somersaults and cartwheels in the hall, knocking over the hatstand, putting his elbows through the windows and, finally, exhausted by all the exercise, he would fall asleep on the sofa. His wife was extremely annoyed and his children terrified.

Moral: You might just as well fall flat on your face as lean too far over backwards.

— JAMES THURBER.

DUTY WEEKEND

Worries and troubles just never cease,
Don't seem to be able to get any peace,
Kids is on holidays, wife is crook,
Mans gotta do every job in the book,
Trying to look after everyone's wishes,
Cooking the meals and washing the dishes.
Up nights with the kids, never getting to bed,
It just about makes a bloke wish he were dead,
I'm beginning to think that me cobber was right,
When he said to me only the other night,
"Marriage is fine my boy, but never fear,
There'll come a time when, I'll bet you right here,
You'll sigh with relief and thank the Good Lord,
When you're duty and spending a week-end on board."

— J.E.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE HOPELESS

How to show a profit and make the budget grow.

Only candidates with H.E.T. need apply. If qualified, persons must save assiduously for at least three months, at the same time keeping the right arm free from cramp. When stars and barometric pressures are studied and found favourable, venture on the expedition with the utmost secrecy and caution.

On arrival, toss a coin to see which machine is to be played. Fondle it, talk to it, encourage it. Limber the right arm by applying a few half nelsons on one self. When settling in for a night's enjoyment of the machines, it is best to set a limit of £15, after first ensuring that you have a few friends within borrowing distance.

One method of play is known as the "Vulture System". This involves nonchalantly lounging on the bar, flicking the odd dart, but always ensuring that the trained eye is in a position to study the machine in question whilst waiting for the melodious ring of the last sucker's coin. Place the left foot on the rung provided at an angle of 180 degrees—deep breath—then a gentle, even pull, carrying the arm to within an inch of the full arc, allowing it to retract slowly. If success is not gained, do not despair—try again.

Another method is the "Last Straw System". A great deal of careful manipulation is required. First ensure that the room is reasonably empty of fellow exponents of the art. (This saves unwelcome claims to any monies gleaned). Then casually approach all machines, one by one, coming the splay foot act at each machine so as to knock and raise them approximately 4½ inches from their stands thus enabling the trained and skilful eye to peer into every nook and cranny for the odd coin deposited by some inebriated performer. Jack pots have been known to result from this method. (This system is not possible if machines are bolted to the stands. Choose your club carefully and avoid disappointment).

The final dodge is known as the "Mobile Method" and this is done by the performer, usually in the early hours of the morning. Wait for the club to close, break in, whisk the machines away in a vehicle and play at your leisure, using a washer or a coin on a string. I recommend this as a sure fire recipe for success.

— ARISTOCRAT.

BINNACLE LIST

In answer to the question, "What is a Binnacle List?" in a Seamanship paper, a sailor wrote:

"Binnacles are those sharp, poisonous thing that grow on the bottom of the ship. When more of these binnacles grow on the port side of the ship than on the starboard side, it causes a list to port. This is known as a Binnacle List."



I JUST GAVE THE LEVER A BIT OF A TUG TO SEE IF
IT WAS SECURE, SIR.

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COMPLETE RANGE WALL LININGS.
BULLDOZERS FOR BLOCK CLEARING.
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— FREE DELIVERY TOWN AREA —

'Phone: Nowra 224.

— Pussers Page —

A Happy New Year to all from the Pussers. Welcome to all newcomers to the branch. We have no doubt you will uphold the high standard to which we have been accustomed.

We were a trifle peeved not to be remembered with a special present from the Ballrace Christmas Tree, but realise that the plumbers were only keeping up their tradition of forgetting the most important part of the machine.

— R.S.

S.A.(V)s:

S.O.(V) still insists that a Vauxhall's appearance is improved if it wears that concave look. It is reported that he was actually seen talking to the Tubby Subby the other day, but the text of his message is not available.

Stores P.O. Michael has just left for Darwin together with a brand spanking new wife. Do they make mosquito nets for two?

We all received a shock at the cruel twist of fate which took the wheel of L.S.A. Hood's Hillman just before Christmas. It is pleasing to hear that his courageous wife is still carrying on the Espresso Coffee business in Kinghorn Street, Nowra, and that there are high hopes that Frank will be up and about soon. Keep your chins up and we all wish you the utmost success and a speedy return to health.

S.A.(S)s:

I'm shaw yer can't win backing horses, so I suggest that the local purchase S.A. gives up any ideas he has got of including his bookmaker in his monthly accounts.

Talking of racehorses. Have you ever noticed a field of Stores ratings going hell for leather from one part of the depot to another? If so you might be surprised to know that each of these ratings has a race name (e.g. Sexual Sal, Dubious Dobson, Crim Coetzee, etc.) and are in fact racing.

COOKS (S):

Congratulations to "Slinger" Woods on his recent wedding. We wish him every success both in business and pleasure.

We've heard a buzz that even without turkey on the menu for Christmas dinner, the Ship's Company was very impressed with the food that was served up to them.

COOKS (O) & STEWARDS:

All the best to C.P.O. Cook Cattermole who has gone to swell the ranks of the Naval Dockyard Police. We hear there are so many Chiefs in the Dockyard Police that they are all spying on one another. Watch it, Chief, when you get there.

WRITERS:

Now that the New Year is with us there is still no relief from the paper war that continues to rage like a being possessed. With the ever-changing Writer staff it is difficult to assess whether wishing the newcomers welcome places a jinx on the old hands, but, casting discretion to the winds, we hail the new arrivals and say farewell to those about to depart.

Ear-to-the-Ground Department reports that there is nothing but a continued silence from the pay rise and/or fall section.

SPORTS:

Even though several of the sporting stars have gone on draft and one of them says he is too busy in Brisbane to join us just yet, we are all set to shake up the rest of the Station. All those interested in Athletics are requested to contact Lieutenant Henshaw now.

FEBRUARY SLIPSTREAM

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION:

A cash prize is offered for the best photograph submitted by 18th February. An independent panel, headed by the Photographic Officer will judge the competition. The winning entry will be published. The competition is not open to Photographic ratings.

ALBERT:

Watch out for this character.

No 480

Ball Race

Probably due to after leave "Blues" our contribution this month is rather small; however a few willing horses have tried

This last month was notable, apart from leave, for the final washup of the Fireflies, and again for the number of valuable ratings going D.E.E. Amongst these was our pet Hypnotist, L.A.M. Dick Coates. We wish them all luck and success out in that cold, hard, cruel, old world known as "Civvy Street". We keep hoping also, that some of you will think of the poor old chief who makes out the watch bill and sign on, please pretty please.

Congratulations to Commander (E) on his confirmation in rank. Well done J.L.

A sad farewell has been extended to Lt. Tony McCrossan and to S/Lt. Billy Hill, and we can assure you that its not true that they are paying off the Sprightly because of Grannies appointment.

THE "LINE"

Immediately on return from leave the M.U. was amalgamated with the Line, and it is hoped that this will be a much more satisfactory arrangement for both flying and servicing personnel. Now that the M.U. is dissolved, a few old hands still vaguely wonder if the 2 letters stood for Moving Unit, they might well have done so.

Over leave a number of people acquired a number of things, new cars, old bombs and so forth. One Leading Hand "acquired" the best case of severe sunburn seen for some time around here.

Worthy of special mention is the extensive recruiting programme that was carried out over leave. Recruiting, that is, of some wives into the "behind the scenes" service. So we have some more natives, all looking happy, well fed, sleepy and extolling the virtues of married life. One of these chaps must be very blissfully happy, his memory is practically useless these days.

The Line and one or two other sections will shortly be losing some fine upstanding types of Leading Hands. They sure can take that T.T.S. punishment, and will be for the next couple of years. Sign on you.....

The senior Line engineering officer has a knack of hitting the headlines, and other things with his car. Hear tell the Nowra cab companies are equipping with ex-army tanks, they being the only suitable vehicle capable of standing up to the firm construction of Buicks.

Hear about the aircraft handler attached to one of the Line squadrons? His wife assures everybody that he's so well in with the aircrew that he was offered Lieutenant's rank on the spot. "No thanks, not today....."



ANODE TO AYES

Will he? Won't he? Yes? or No?
 Go to sea to Borneo,
 Hasn't been told, don't know a thing,
 Won't somebody give someone a ring.
 Not on the Station, not on the M.A.G.,
 Just ambling around with his kit-bag.
 Can't get a cabin, can't get a bed,
 The poor old chap's going off his head.

If you know who I mean, take note of this plea,
 And send this unfortunate back to sea.

FOR EVER AND EVER.

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SPORTING NOTES

Since the December issue, there has been little big sport (at time of going to press) and not a great deal to report therefore. The Inter Divisional Summer games programme has progressed well, and, with the exception of the Aquatics competition, which started late, should easily be completed on schedule.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO:

Albatross has got away to a good start in the Inter Ship Water Polo competition by winning its first two matches, that against the Destroyers and Frigates resulting in an easy win—10-2. The Station team has recently lost Leading Seaman Paynter from its backs but M.E. Aked has come up from the R.A.N.C. to take his place.

The Inter part Swimming Carnival, for which a handsome trophy is available, will be held about the first week in March.

CRICKET:

At the time of writing, eight I. Zingari Shield matches have been played and seven have been won. The last game against H.M.A.S. "Sydney" was won on the first innings. Scores—Albatross, 250; (McDermott 45, Silsby 54, Stevens 43, McWhinney 35); Sydney, 140; (Pine 4 for 47, McWhinney 2 for 34).

This is a competition the Station players have real confidence in, and, despite the recent loss of C.P.O. Prendergast, have a first class chance of winning.

BOXING:

Another full night's programme of professional boxing was enjoyed during December. Held in 364 Hangar, these matches between our own boxers and visitors from Sydney drew a large crowd of the Ship's Company and their families.

Results were:—

- 10 rounds: L.E.M. Smith d. A. Ritchie, K.O. 4th rd.
- 8 rounds: N.A. Collings d. A. McLeod, K.O. 6th rd.
- 8 rounds: F. Stanley d. N.A. Pengilly, K.O. 3rd rd.
- 6 rounds: N.A. Welsh d. Stwd. Clarke, K.O. 2nd rd.
- 4 rounds: R.E.M. Keech d. L.A. Ryan, K.O. 2nd rd.
- 4 rounds: N.A. Koch d. N.A. Niven, K.O. 2nd rd.
- 4 rounds: N.A. McCarthy d. L.E.M. White, K.O. 2nd rd.

GOLF:

A fine newly donated Shield for competition golf between the Air Station Club and Nowra Golf Club has been won by Albatross. The trophy is the Allan Davis Trophy, and Albatross players who were responsible for the win put up a very fine effort. Scores were indeed close, 167 points to 166. Amongst the

ALBATROSS WATER POLO TEAM



BACK ROW: E.M. Davis, L.E.M. Bushe-Jones, L.A. Thompson, C.A.F. Clarke, E.M. Barnes.

FRONT ROW: L.R.E.M. Payne, L.A. Dugdale, Chief P.T.I., L.E.M. Johnson, E.M. Hull.

SEATED: E.M. Boucher.

players who enjoyed the day were L.E.M. Kelly, R.E.M. Banks-Smith, C.A.F. Gregory, P.O. Terry, P.O. Trimble, P.O. Sneak and C.E.L. Pledge.

A recent meeting of the Nowra Golf Club Committee decided to hold a Servicemen's Golf Day on Saturday, 15th February. All "Albatross" members are eligible to play. The nominal entry fee is 25/- which covers all Green fees and refreshments. Entry forms are available, and intending players are asked to contact C.A.F. Dewhurst (Ext. 296) as soon as possible. A good programme is promised including an impressive list of trophies to be won.

ATHLETICS:

A date for your diary is Thursday, 27th February. The Albatross Annual Athletic Sports start at 1330 sharp on that day, early doors 12.30 for Mum and the kids to put the fine edge on their training and get a decent place in the ice cream queue.

All places in main events will count towards the Inter Part competition. The Welfare Committee is being approached on the subject of individual prizes and the Commander is personally selecting the award for the Veterans' race. It is also hoped that a trophy for the best individual effort will be produced.

Events are:— 100 yards; 220 yards; 440 yards; 880 yards; 1 mile; Veterans; High Jump; Long Jump; Shot; Discus; Javelin. Hammer (only in the absence of Sub. Lt. Morris) and the following relays which count heavily for points:— 4 x 100 yards; 4 x 220 yards; Medley— 2 x 220, 1 x 440, 1 x 880.

Light relief will be provided by flat races for juveniles and females, sack races, three-legged race, obstacle race and afternoon tea.

It is hoped that there will be a really first class turn out and that all Divisions will put their best spikes forward.

Start training now and avoid ruptures later.

Game Fishing Club

THIS ONE DIDN'T GET AWAY — BUT !

There is always some hard luck story when a fishing story is told and this is no exception.

On the Saturday before New Year's Eve, Chief A.A. Turner and a crew of four were out in the Game Fishing Club Boat. About noon a large shark was sighted swimming near the boat, then anchored on Middle Ground between Jervis Bay Heads.

Turner instructed his crew to burley the shark whilst he quickly rigged a rod with a shark hook. The shark accepted the burley and was trying to eat the boat by the time Turner had thrown the mackerel-baited shark hook overboard. This was devoured forthwith and the battle was on. One hour later a 9 ft. 6½ inch Blue Pointer (Mako) Shark was secured alongside.

Now here is where the hard luck story begins. The boat returned to Huskisson where no suitable scales could be located for weighing. As a result it had to be cut in two and a rusty set of 300 lb. spring scales was used. The best weight they could muster was 410 lbs.

A couple of days later Bob Dyer arrived in Huskisson with an 8 ft. 6 inch Blue Pointer, seeking club members to witness the weighing (452 lbs.) as he was claiming an Australian Record. It was too.

Had accurate and proper scales been available for Turner's shark his fish would have beaten Bob Dyer's by quite some weight. Since then scales have been located which will do the job so that the club will not be caught again.

Hard luck for Chief Petty Officer Turner and well done for his effort. It certainly has spurred the club and himself to find bigger and better fish.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

....AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

It could be a happy year, you know, even if a mammoth prize in a lottery does not come your way, for real happiness cannot be bought with money. It would be a poor outlook for the majority of us if happiness were dependent on ease of circumstances. The happiest of men are those, whose life and service brings happiness to others, whether it be in the home or among those less privileged than ourselves. This was the secret of St. Francis of Assissi, who renounced wealth for the service of mankind. He helped many to find true happiness:—

“Lord, make me a channel of Thy peace
That where there is hatred I may bring love,
That where there is wrong
I may bring the spirit of forgiveness,
That where there is discord I may bring harmony,
That where there is error I may bring truth,
That where there is despair I may bring hope,
That where there are shadows I may bring light,
That where there is sadness I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather
To comfort— than to be comforted;
To understand— than to be understood;
To love— rather than to be loved.

For it is by giving that one receives;
It is by self-forgetting that one finds;
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven;
It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.”

Of such living Albert Schweitzer says out of his own experience: “Existence will become harder for him in every respect than it would be if he lived for himself, but at the same time it will be richer, more beautiful, and happier. It will become, instead of mere living, a real experience of life.”

A millionaire in his later years was asked by a friend, “What was the happiest time you can remember in your life?” After a little thought he replied, “A period of three weeks when I lay in a hospital in a strange city ill of typhoid fever.” His friend registered amazement. “Yes,” said the millionaire, “the answer may well surprise you. But the facts were these. There were many ill in that hospital. It was crowded and short of nurses, and we patients were a demanding and grumbling lot. But there was one nurse on our floor, who, though over-worked and tired, took our complaints with a smile, serving us as if we were royalty. She never entered my room without bringing peace and love with her. It was like being in heaven.”

Happiness will certainly be yours and mine this year, if we set our faces towards the true light, as advised in Susan Glaspell's verse:—

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
 And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness, and put your
 hand into the Hand of God,
 That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a
 known way.'
 So I went forth,
 And finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
 And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of the
 day in the lone East.

CHAPLAIN J. A. WILLSON, R.A.N.

(FATHER BRESLAN is at present on leave).

WHITE ENSIGN CLUB NEWS

At last, or should I say, already, one of the wildest dreams of our Directors has come true. The White Ensign Club is to have its boatshed and it will be on the bank of the Shoalhaven River, very close to the club. We understand that the boats will be here soon, after which things will really start moving.

Our Christmas party was a huge success with well over 450 present. However the pressure was too much for the beer system which packed up for a while but was soon rectified. Allowing such a large crowd at the bar was our greatest mistake. It was almost impossible to get through and it is regretted that there was a drought in the lounges. However we learn by our mistakes and at next year's party, which will be bigger and better than ever, we will ensure fair shares for all.

For those who go to the Pool here, we now have lockers to keep clothes, etc., These lockers are free but we must charge a deposit of 5/- on the key, repayable on return.

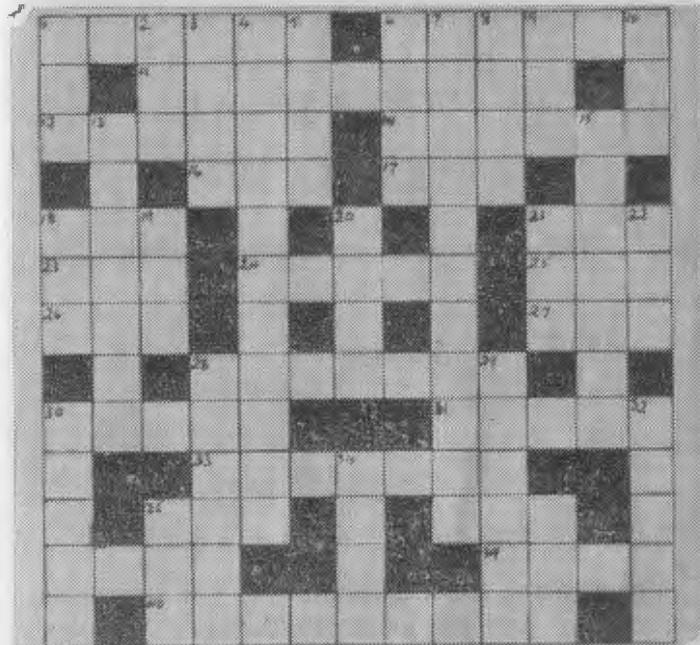
Watch the Notice Board for further news on the Boatshed.

— THE MANAGER.

CLASSIFIED ADDS

FOR SALE—1954 Renault, in exceptional mechanical and electrical condition. Owner going abroad, must sell. £350 or near offer. Sub. Lt. Allford, ext. 408.

TO LET—Second-hand Beard, recently vacated by Stores Petty Officer. Highest references required. Apply Naval and Air Stores Office.



ACROSS:

1. Exertion.
6. Large groups of fish.
11. Inhabitants of the United States.
12. To come from.
14. Bowman.
16. Golf mound.
17. To regret.
18. Liable.
21. Plant juice.
23. Female rabbit.
24. Groundwork.
25. Employ.
26. Possess.
27. Greek letter.
28. Storehouse for arms.
30. Scene of conflict.
31. Extend to.
33. Continuous sheet of cloud.
35. Solemn reverential wonder.
36. Handwritten documents (abb.).
38. Not common.
39. Hot-drying kiln.
40. Shaking involuntarily.

DOWN:

1. An extremity.
2. Distant.
3. Leave out.
4. To re-echo.
4. Woody perennial.
6. Mark of old injury.
7. Hare-brained.
8. On one occasion.
9. Forest tree.
10. Masculine term of respect.
13. To authorize.
15. Stretching.
18. Bother.
19. A number.
20. Small isolated area.
21. Prosecute.
22. Vegetable.
28. Reply.
29. Teaching exercise.
30. Watchful.
32. Open space of country.
34. Desert dweller.
35. Specialized skill.
37. Hang limply.

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Your Family Store — 'Phone Nowra 4

The Village Store

The Village Store has outgrown its present premises and the sooner we can complete the new building and instal a self-service system the better we, and we hope, the customers, will be pleased. The worst of the teething troubles are over and when the audit due 31st January, 1958, can be analysed, it is confidently expected that a general price review will result in reduction of prices.

At present all prices are in accordance with the New South Wales Traders' Organisation lists, namely those applicable to the metropolitan area of Sydney. Some prices charged will be in excess of those for "specials" in Nowra shops, but customers are requested to inform Mr. Flintoff, Extension 592, of any other prices which compare unfavourably with Nowra. Any complaints or suggestions to improve service should also be referred to Mr. Flintoff.

The cost of establishing the shop to date has been:—

- (1) Capital cost for fitting out store, purchase of equipment, etc. — £2264/6/11. It is estimated that fitting out the extension will cost another £600;
- (2) Held as stock for sale — between £2,000 and £3,000.

It can be understood therefore that early dramatic results should not be anticipated. Further, remember that the profits will go to benefit your own Ship's and Village Welfare Funds.

R. SHARP,
Business Manager.

METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1957 —

The month of December saw 270 points of rain recorded at the Control Tower, giving a total for 1957 of 2,323 points. The December, 1956, figure was 52 points and the total for 1956 was 6,065 points, giving a deficiency for 1957 of 3,742 points.

During December the temperature passed the century mark on three occasions. On Monday, 2nd December, the maximum reading was 106.5 degrees F. at 2 p.m. and fell to a minimum of 46.3 degrees F. at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, 3rd December. On Friday, 20th December, the mercury climbed to 106 degrees F. at 3 p.m. and again on Christmas Day it reached 106.5 degrees F. at 4 p.m. Altogether, the mercury passed the 90 degree mark on 8 occasions.

In December, 1956, the maximum temperature recorded was on the 24th, when 98 degrees F. was reached with readings above 90 degrees on only 4 days.

IT'S QUICKER AND CHEAPER

AT

**“The
VILLAGE STORE”**



SAVE ON FARES
AND SAVE ON TIME
BY DEALING WITH....

“YOUR STORE”

Gardening Notes

(BY BULL-RUSHES)

It is often asked, what would be a good shrub to plant that would flower for a long period. Here are a few suggestions:

(1) **LEPTOSPERMUM, LAMBETHI OR LAMBETH'S**

TI TREE:

The Ti Tree, once considered the ugly duckling of our natural plants, has blossomed into Australia's most popular and colourful shrub.

The transformation happened by sheer accident, the result of a fluke cross-pollination for which we have the bees to thank.

Mr. W. Lambeth, a Brighton (Vic.) nurseryman, discovered the new variety about ten years ago. He noticed that one of a crowd of new seedlings showed an outstandingly good colour; now, that single seedling numbers many hundreds of thousands.

Lambeth's Ti Tree does well in any soil, even water logged clay, and it will stand up to a dry climate. It flowers all winter, when a touch of colour is most needed.

(2) **HIBISCUS ASIA:**

An evergreen shrub 4 ft. to 10 ft. high with attractive single and double flowers, likes a warm climate but can be grown with success on the northern side of a wall or fence. They will repay a little extra care, and when once established they present no difficulty.

Suggested Species:—

Agnes Galt—Cerulean, single very large flower.

Conqueror—Buff yellow, with crimson base, single.

Dawn—Rose pink double.

Copper Queen—Single, Coppery pink.

Wilder White—The nearest approach to a pure white.

(3) **FUSCHIA:**

The Fuschia seemed to lose a little of its popularity for a period, but now, with the introduction of the beautiful new hybrids from America, it has once again become a firm favourite.

They are very showy and can be used both in the garden or trained against a wall or fence. They do best in partial shade, but are hardy anywhere.

White Cloud—The first pure white ever produced, and an all-American champion.

Meteor—A distinct variety with foliage shaded yellow and crimson.

Canary Bird—Rich plum with scarlet sepal and prettily marked leaves.

FEBRUARY PLANTING

FLOWERS—Dianthus, Freesia, Gerbera, Globe Amaranth, Linaria, Primulas, Sweet Peas (Try the new dwarf type, no trellis), Phlox, Cosmos, Marigolds, Wall Flowers, Stocks, Cinerarias.

VEGETABLES—Carrots, Dwarf Beans, Silver Beet, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Brussels Spouts, Kohl Rabi, Swede-turnips, Sweet-corn, Potatoes, Radish, Shallots.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

DOWN:
 1. End.
 2. Far.
 3. Omit.
 4. Reverbstrate.
 5. Tree.
 6. Scar.
 7. Harum Scarum.
 8. Once.
 9. Ash.
 10. Sir.
 13. Empower.
 15. Elastic.
 18. Ado.
 19. Ten.
 20. Isle.
 21. Sue.
 22. Fee.
 28. Answer.
 29. Lesson.
 30. Alert.
 32. Heath.
 34. Arab.
 35. Art.
 37. Sag.

ACROSS:
 1. Effort.
 6. Shoals.
 11. Americans.
 12. Derive.
 14. Archer.
 16. Tee.
 17. Rue.
 18. Apt.
 21. Sap.
 23. Doe.
 24. Basis.
 25. Use.
 26. Own.
 27. Eta.
 28. Arsenal.
 30. Arena.
 31. Reach.
 33. Stratus.
 35. Ave.
 36. M.S.S.
 38. Rare.
 39. Oast.
 40. Trembling.

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