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SLIPSTREAM



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

No. 28

AUGUST, 1959.

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SLIPSTREAM

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

No. 28

AUGUST, 1959.

EDITOR - - - - - Lt. Cdr. Harvey
SUB EDITOR - - - - - Lt. Cdr. Miller
SPORTS EDITOR - - - - - Lt. Cdr. Hanna
ART EDITOR - - - - - P.O. Edward
BUSINESS MANAGER - - - - - Sub. Lt. Hall

TEN YEARS and eleven Admiral's Inspections ago, Albatross was a deserted wilderness of rusted iron huts and mud roads. Today it is a vital and, within the limits of its tin shack architecture, smart establishment. Furthermore, it now occupies a highly important place in the life of the district. About three hundred naval families live locally and a further four hundred bachelors rarely leave the place except for an infrequent "run" to Sydney. At a conservative estimate, these people have a spending potential of £8,000 a week and a great deal of this is spent in and around Nowra. Over a hundred civilians are directly employed by the Air Station and a good many more owe their livelihood indirectly to the existence of Albatross. In short, a fair slice of the local population is economically dependent on Albatross and Albatross in its turn is dependent on the Nowra district for accommodation, entertainment, sport and other amenities.

Despite this interdependence and the length of time Albatross has been established here, it is undeniable that sections of both the Air Station and of Nowra are still wary of one another, if not downright suspicious. There are no good reasons for this; on the contrary there is every reason why the two should practically be blood brothers, and the sooner we can break down the remaining barriers between us, the better for all concerned.

EDITOR.

Station Personality No. 28

● LIEUT. CDR. KENT



FORTY years ago this month, Boy Apprentice Kent joined the Engine Room Artificer apprentice training establishment H.M.S. Fisgard at Portsmouth. After qualifying, and being awarded the Admiralty prize for workmanship for his class, he joined the coal fired battleship H.M.S. Ajax, in the Mediterranean. He later transferred to the battleship Emperor of India and after two years in the Med. returned to U.K.

He married before returning to the Med. and was able to establish a home at Malta for the two years during which he served in the battle cruiser Queen Elizabeth. He obtained his boiler room certificate in battleships on the 'shovel, the devil and the slice.'

As a "pressed volunteer" he next spent three years as an ERA III in L class submarines and was very pleased to escape from submarines to join HMNZS Diomedé and during this commission he experienced the Napier earthquake and was present at the opening of the Sydney harbour bridge. Of this latter occasion his only comment is "what a day."

From 1933 to 1935 our personality spent what he claims to be the most interesting period of his career — two years as Chief ERA of a China station Gunboat based at Canton.

The period immediately prior to the war saw Chief ERA Kent standing by the destroyer Jupiter being built at the Clyde, but after seeing her built from the keelplate up he obtained his commission as a Warrant Engineer and immediately volunteered for the rapidly expanding Fleet Air Arm. He was three times refused permission to train as a Pilot and found himself doing AE duties at Ford with 750 Squadron flying Blackburn Sharks.

Heavy German bombing made Ford untenable and the squadron was shifted to Piarco in Trinidad. Our personality next found himself at the Grumman Aircraft factory, Long Island, where he familiarised the RN maintenance crews who were being trained to service fifty Grumman Geese fitted out for flying classroom training of Observers. During this time he took up flying and on his return to Trinidad obtained his pilot's licence under the Empire Training Scheme.

Returning to the U.K. in 1943 Warrant Aircraft Officer Kent was appointed to the Apprentice Training Establishment at Newcastle-under-Lyme. Whilst here he took up gliding with a nearby R.A.F. unit and later became the ATC Gliding Instructor.

In 1945 he joined the light fleet carrier Perseus as OIC workshops, this carrier being fitted out as an aircraft repair ship for the Fleet Train. The war came to an end before the Fleet Train was fully organised and Commissioned Aircraft Officer Kent returned to the U.K. to the Aircraft

LOCAL INDUSTRIES

No. 4 — Nowra Fishermen's Co-op.

The Co-op. was formed in 1947 by local fishermen of the Kiama-Ulladulla area to simplify marketing of their catches. Prior to this, each fisherman had to make his own arrangements for ice, fish crates and transport to market. Shareholders now number about 100 fishermen.

The fishermen deliver their catches to the Co-op. where approximately one quarter of the intake is cleaned and filleted for local consumption and the remainder is packed in crushed ice and railed to the Sydney fish market, about 1½ million pounds weight of fish being handled yearly. The 500 tons of ice required to safeguard these consignments is bought locally in blocks and crushed at the Co-op.

All types of fish are handled, but estuary fish such as mullet and blackfish are the most common. Last year quantities of tuna were caught locally and it is hoped that this year the tuna catch will again be successful. The tuna is canned at the Eden and Narooma canneries. Small quantities of school shark have been handled, but although of the highest quality, it has not the appeal to the Sydney fish consumer that this type of fish enjoys in Melbourne, where it has long been recognised that this clean-feeding fish is not to be scorned. Prawns are always much sought after but weather conditions play a big part in the catching of these fish. The prawns are plentiful only after heavy rains, when mud is washed down the rivers and settles at the mouths of the estuaries. The prawns then collect in large numbers to feed off this accumulation of mud.

The Co-op. assists fishermen with finance to purchase fishing tackle, and in some instances with the purchase of boats and engines. Most boats are fitted with two-way radio, with the headquarters at the Co-op. and this equipment has proved most valuable. It enables accurate and on-the-spot reporting of large schools of fish; it gives the Co-op. ample warning of transport requirements to handle the incoming catch and is invaluable as a safety measure.

Prices of fish sold through the kiosk are based on the Sydney market prices determined at 0930 each day. The prices are a compromise between the desire to satisfy both the fishermen and their customers — if the price is too high the customer buys direct from Sydney and if it is too low the fishermen are vocal in their complaints of mis-management!

The eight employees at the Co-op. are well trained in the flood drill which has been developed to reduce damage during the frequent floods. All portable gear is removed and all electric motors are readily removable, the holding down bolts being kept well greased with spanners close to hand.

We are pleased to acknowledge the assistance afforded by the acting manager of the Co-op., but almost hesitate to mention that his name is Mr. Whiting.

Station Personality Continued

Apprentice Training Establishment at Arbroath. Whilst here he continued his gliding activities and in 1948 went to Switzerland with the British International Gliding Team as their maintenance engineer.

In 1948 our personality volunteered for loan service with the R.A.N. and travelled to Australia in the Kanimbla to set up SAME at Albatross. He later transferred to the R.A.N. from which he retires early next year, his first plan on retiring being to tour Australia in his caravan.

AIRCREW RATION SCANDAL

Hungry Aviators Plan Protest March

Some months ago we published in these columns an exposure of the Black Lolly racket and, as a result, hundreds of grateful aviators have had the prized black lolly in their Flying Rations restored to them. This cause celebre however, pales into insignificance before a fresh scandal which Slipstream's investigator has uncovered and which is now fearlessly laid bare.

Most people are aware of the existence of the Consolidated Orders and Regulations, available today, it is true, only in the older second hand bookshops, but still the principle set of orders by which the R.A.N. is governed. Article 425 of this venerable publication reads as follows — and we reproduce it in its entirety.

452. EMERGENCY RATIONS FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM H.M.A. SQUADRON. — All aircraft operating from H.M.A. Ships are to be supplied with the following Emergency Ration for each person carried:—

Pork and beans, in ½ lb. or ¼ lb. tins	1 lb.
Preserved beef, in ½ lb. or ¼ lb. tins	1 lb.
Biscuits (currant luncheon), in 4 oz. pkts	16 oz.
Tea	2 oz.
Sugar, in lever-tight tins	4 oz.
Chocolate, in 4 oz. packets, wrapped in grease-proof paper and sealed so as to be air-tight	8 oz.
Acid Drops, in 4 oz. pkts.	8 oz.
Sodium bisulphate tablets, in tins	4 No.

(Water bottles of aluminium are best suited for using these tablets).

Water (irrespective of the filled water bottle carried by each person for his own use)	2 Galls.
Tin opener	1 No.
Measure, ½ pint	1 No.
Matches, safety, enclosed in tin	2 boxes
R.A.A.F Form E/E 85 (flying rations — scales and directions	1 copy

One "Tommy Cooker" (i.e. "canned heat" or other approved compound) per rations shall be carried in each plane.

2. The ration, except the drinking water, for which special containers are supplied, shall be packed in Army mess tins — dismantled pattern — requirements of which are to be obtained from R.A.A.F. sources.

3. The above ration contains food and drinking water for one person for two days. It is for emergency use only and shall not be broached except under orders of the senior member present."

Despite the most searching enquiries, Slipstream was unable to discover a single aviator who had been supplied with these rations either in H.M.A.S. Albatross or in H.M.A.S. Melbourne. One aged aeronaut, found dozing in his chair in the A.J.A.S.S. building snorted, "Rations — never heard of them. Used to carry a couple of bottles of nerve-steadier in the old Seagull y'know, but water and so on — Good God no. The old Groupy'd never have allowed it."

Extending his enquiries to the Supply Department our man met, as might be expected, studied comprehension and evasive replies. The Victualling Section knew nothing about emergency rations but said it sounded like another fiddle these bloody birdies were always getting up to and

anyway Acid Drops weren't on General Mess. The Galley staff appeared to think some complaint was being made about the cooking and adopted a belligerent attitude — a knife appeared here and there. Retiring hastily to the Naval Stores our investigator became involved in a long discussion about the Tommy Cooker. The Stores Chief was at first under the impression that this was a member of his staff, but after further explanation stated definitely that it was a Machinery Spares item. The Supply Officer himself could not be contacted, but a spokesman from his office stated, "No complaints about the food ever reach the Supply Officer — his staff see to that."

Aircrew, swift to scent this flagrant deprivation of their rights, are in a dangerous mood. Heated protest meetings are in progress in the crew rooms and dice are being thrown to decide who will be their first victim. The apparent restriction in paragraph 3 of the order does not deter them. As Acting Sub. Lieutenant Bunter put it, "Well, I'm the senior bloke in my kite and as far as I'm concerned it's an emergency every time I get airborne."

It is clear that aviators, the flower of our youth, are being sent into the air inadequately equipped despite regulations to the contrary. How many of these gallant young men are due to perish of starvation on some lonely shore for want of a pound of Pork and Beans?

How many face the agonies of blood poisoning for lack of a sodium bisulphate tablet slipped into the beer?

Even worse, where are the mountains of Biscuits (currant luncheon), the truck loads of Acid Drops and the warehouses full of Mess Tins (dismounted pattern) which are presumably written off every time an aircraft flies? Is it true that the Supply Officer's wombat lives on a diet of Preserved Beef and Matches, Safety?

Vast profits may be being made at the expense of our young fighting men and Slipstream will not rest until the whole sinister scandal is unfolded.

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THE BIG SLEEP

THE S.O.S.P. (Senior Officers' Study Period, Senior Officers' Siesta Period, Senior Officers' Social Period, call it what you will) has departed from the Station. The instructors at A.J.A.S.S. are looking happy and are back again at their S.O.S.P. (Staff Officers — call it what you will).

The first indication to the staff that a S.O.S.P. was arriving was a signal from Singapore saying that a R.A.F. Freighter had left on 1st July for Nowra with a Group Captain for a high powered anti submarine course. From this it was correctly assessed that the course would commence in the last week of the month. Information on who else was attending was delayed but finally the lass from the back bar of the P.O.W. returned from sick leave and together with information received from the Ex-Servicemen's Club it was possible to draw up a list of officers attending.

The next step was to find somewhere for this galaxy of talent to live. As befitted their rank (Captains, Group Captains and above) it was decided that they must have the best and the most luxurious. However, due to the distance of Stirling block from A.J.A.S.S. this was not possible and they were moved into the Wardroom. Although not disgruntled with this accommodation they were far from grunted.

With accommodation organised and a lecture theatre available all that remained was to draw up a programme of lectures. The staff was summoned to appear at 0900 on Monday to exchange ideas on the subject. At 0910 the conference closed for lack of a quorum and reassembled at 1100. At 1105 it closed for lack of ideas, the only constructive one having been vetoed as the Commander never allows it to open before 1145.

Eventually an edict was issued that all lectures were to be brought up to date and completely re-written. This announcement caused a wave of enthusiasm (pronounced nausea — Ed.) to sweep through the staff, who removed the cobwebs from their filing cabinets and dis-interred their notes.

The re-write process was long and tedious, lunch hours were reduced to conform to the rest of the station and the old policy of short hours and long cups of tea vanished. Some of the Huskisson natives even came in on Fridays although it is understood that the Air Force officers will probably get time off in lieu for this.

On the air side new projects were examined and discussed as the modernisation of lectures continued. Clearance was received from Canberra to mention the sonobuoy to those who were cleared for Top Secret and arrangements were made to send a photo of one to the School. Turbo props were thought to be unsuitable for aircraft and whilst the monoplane was regarded as being a temporary measure it was agreed that the Gannet would never replace the aircraft.

The surface side also had its problems. Could a frigate with a steel quarter deck ever hope to be as efficient as one with teak? — was it fair to attack a submarine at 0755 when it surfaced for colours? — who is this fellow A.S. Dick and surely sound waves couldn't be expected to travel through water.

Eventually lectures were ready and the staff stood by to receive the distinguished students. Some came by car and some by air and one arrived so early that he upset the staff. As a lesson to the others he was sent off to divisions.

The freighter finally made its appearance and its approach was such that the pilot put the fear of God into more people in five minutes than Billy Graham could in five years.

At last the course started and at long last is finished. In between was

Continued on Page 10

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Around The Station



★ The Naval Social Worker, Miss Lindsay Thompson, assisted by Lieutenant Orr, jumps nimbly from a helicopter after a bit of welfare work.

* * *
Seems like yesterday since the callouses on your hands healed after the last inspection, doesn't it? Well, it's on again. If all goes according to plan about 45 acres of painting will be done (roughly the same area as 30 full size football pitches) and 30 odd acres of deck polished. We can't arrive at reliable figures for gardens dug and lawns mowed, but you know as well as we do that it's an awful lot. Is it all in a good cause? We think so.

* * *
S.T.B. — you think it stands for Still The Best, do you? Most people in Albatross are certain it means Sooner The Better.

* * *
725 Squadron Officers' car park boasts nine in number Volkswagens. Could be that they have been forced to buy this rugged vehicle to enable them to use the car park in wet weather.

The inclement weather does not seem to have deterred our V.I.P.s. Both the Minister of the Navy and the Second Naval Member braved the westerlies recently and voted their visits well worth while.

* * *

The Commander's leg is no long a subject for jest. One break is bad enough, but to sustain another fracture before the first is healed is the cruellest twist of fate. We hope to see him flinging his crutches on the fire very soon and will celebrate the event with a large (but careful) party.

* * *

A recent draft in is one, Willie the Wombat, a fine young beast rescued from his dead mother by Commanedr (S) and now thriving, like the rest of us on General Mess victuals.

* * *

A man to be reckoned with is Cook (Sleepy) Willis. Spying a large grey rat on the bulkhead, this dead-eyed character flung a Knife, Cooks', 8 inch, straight through its neck and pinned it to the wall. Regulars at the Laminex Room will be glad to hear that the Rodent Squad flushed out the rest of the rat family and the Galley is certified vermin free.

* * *

Regarding the recent news about the resumption of Boys' training in the R.A.N., we learn that there is one product of the original R.A.N. Boys' Training Ship at Albatross. This is the Victualling Officer, Lieutenant Coote, who was trained in the Tingra, a three masted clipper ship moored in Rose Bay, in 1926-27. Lieutenant Coote is one of the few ex-Boys (R.A.N.) still serving.

* * *

The Tubby Subby stoutly denies that he is organising a Musical and Games evening in aid of the Albatross Rugby League Club.

* * *

Talk around the crewrooms these days centres almost entirely on bowler hats and submarines. Despite this pessimism engendered by vague statements in the Press, we believe that Albatross will be here for a long time yet, and anyone who likes to get a jump ahead by preparing for the 1960 Inspection will not find his work wasted.

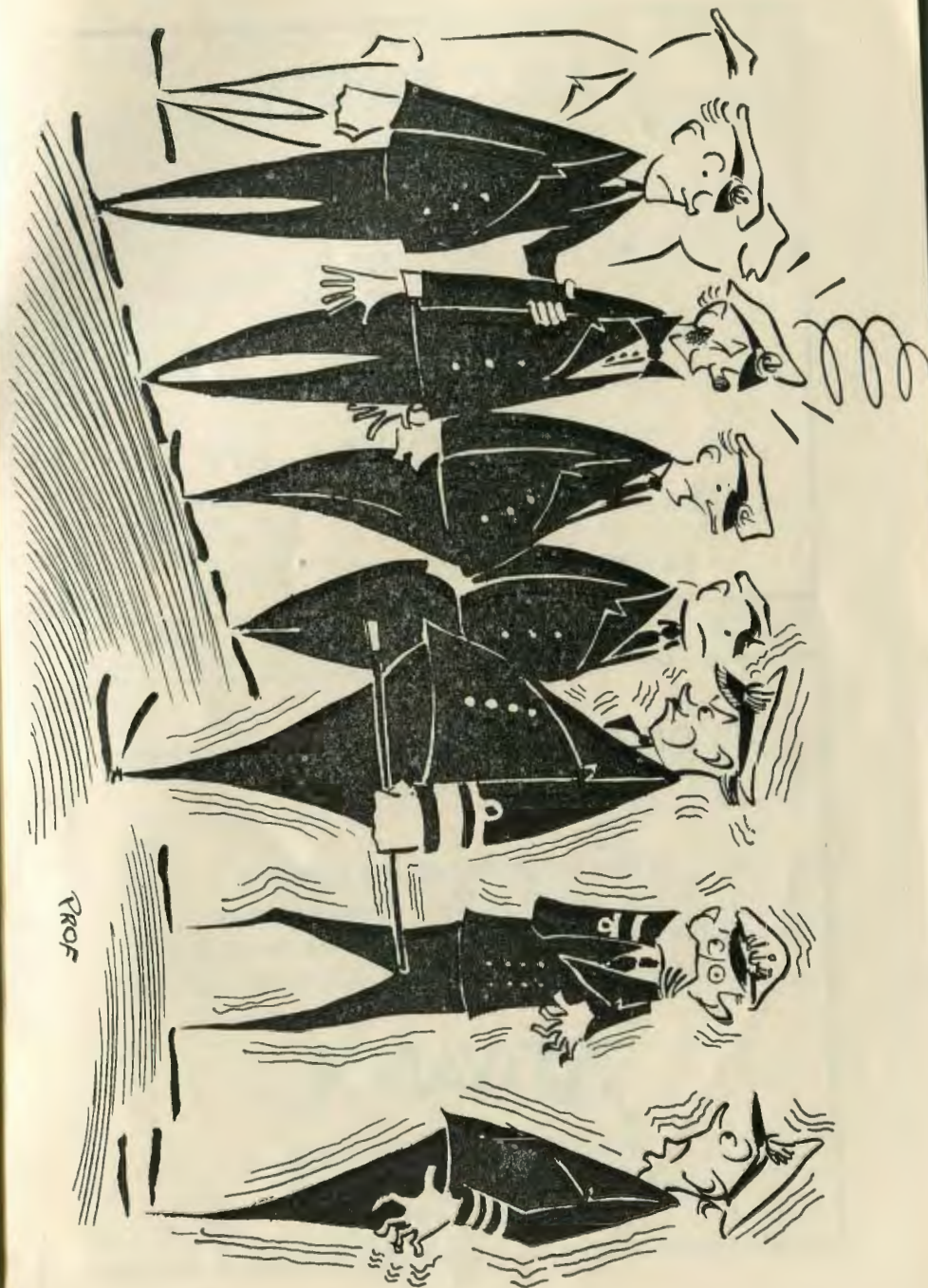
THE BIG SLEEP — Continued from Page 7

a series of lectures and demonstrations, that is, one of the staff gave a lecture and then one of the students demonstrated by a couple of quick questions how little the lecturer knew about his subject.

The opening lecture by the Directors was a 30 minute review of anti-submarine warfare and the history of convoy operations. As the first recorded convoy was conducted by the Phoenicians the subject was rather large. One student complained that when he bent down to pick up a pencil he completely missed the battle of the Atlantic.

At night social activities reached their peak and even in this sphere the staff were put to rout by the visitors who appeared to have hollow legs and blotting paper in their boots. This plus their ability to rise and shine next morning whilst the lecturers were still on instruments did little for morale.

However its all over now and the staff, apart from mess bills that look like the defence estimates, a knowledge that the carriers are ruined, permanent ulcers and the prospect of a draft to a warmer climate, have little to show for their brush with culture.



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MESS GARDENS

If perhaps your Mess and Garden are not quite up to S.T.B. standard, why not plant a dense Japanese thorn hedge around it? It is very quick growing and should be practically impenetrable by the Inspection. Even if the Admiral succeeds in getting through, it is unlikely, after he has laughingly extricated himself, that he will bother to inspect the Mess.

FISH PONDS

There are some fine fish ponds around the Station, but have you thought of making one INSIDE your Mess? Just knock out a few floorboards, throw in a tank and a few plants and you have it. Even more fun, if you put it just inside the door at the darkest end of the Mess, there is every chance during Rounds of a really good laugh which should earn you a few marks.

DIVISIONS

Those who tried wearing a BOW tie last year have written to us from Holsworthy that it created an unforgettable impression. This time we recommend suede shoes as a sure fire way of ensuring that the Admiral stops for a chat with you.

STOREROOMS

These always look deadly dull and usually render the Inspecting Officer speechless. Try and capture a Department Store atmosphere with bargain counters, display cabinets and price tags on the goods; for example a neatly printed label "30 days Detention" on a pair of Binoculars would do a lot to break down customer resistance and would impress the Inspecting Officer.

WAGGAS

Good though they are, these buildings could be further improved by a Reception Desk, a few bell hops and "Do No Disturb" signs on the door. Try and give the impression that you really care about the comfort of the guests.

HANGARS

A "Big Top" atmosphere is the thing to go for. If you have any athletic people get them to put on a high wire or trapeze act (if they are not athletic it will be even more fun). I am not sure just how this will go down with the Inspection Party, but it is certain to achieve its object of stopping them looking at the deck.

Follow the above simple hints and you may be sure that Albatross 1959 Inspection will be no ordinary one.

ACHIEVEMENT

It is less than 42 years since an officer of the Royal Naval Air Service brought his 800 lb. aircraft to rest on the forecastle of H.M.S. Furious. Since then Naval aircraft operating techniques have progressed in step with the fantastic development of aviation itself, until today the operation from carriers of aircraft of the highest weights and performances in all weather conditions are matters of everyday occurrence.

Around The Village

It has been a quiet month in the Village with the M.A.G. families settling down after the bread-winner's return. Never mind, you'll all be wearing green-stone tikis in a couple of months.

* * *
Bedford Street is looking very proud of its new paint job. The new painting programme started here and they'll get around to all of us in time.

* * *
The dog packs are becoming a nuisance again and there have been several nasty incidents. Dog owners are warned that Zip Hill is back again, so curtail Fido's freedom.

* * *
The Kindergarten has had an internal face lift thanks to a spirited bunch of amateur Picassos, led by Captain Smith. We must regretfully say goodbye to Mrs. Scott, who will be leaving us soon and thank her for her sterling work as assistant play-centre supervisor.

* * *
Villagers are warned to watch for the big announcement of the next village dance, date to be settled soon. You'll kick yourself if you miss this one.

Diary of a Social Worker

7th MARCH, 1948.

My Social Work practice provides me with a wealth of real-life drama which any writer of fiction might envy. Take the case of Mr. Digby . . .

Mr. Digby is an inveterate inventor: The Multi-Mouse-Catching Machine, the musical ironing board, the automatic hair brush — these are just a few of the products of his genius.

Unfortunately, with none of these inventions has he succeeded in hitting the market.

Somehow, Mr. Digby's mind works in too complicated a fashion. He lacks the brilliant simplicity of mind which conceived the bobby pin or the match.

This afternoon I returned from lunch to find Mr. and Mrs. Digby waiting to see me. Nothing surprising in this — they had been coming to see me at irregular intervals over the past three years. Nor was I surprised to see that Mr. Digby was clutching a large, lumpy brown-paper-covered parcel — this again was usual.

What did surprise me was the tense atmosphere of the waiting room. And then I noticed with amazement that Mr. Digby's parcel was jerking spasmodically as if it were trying to jump out of his hands.

My glance shifted to Mrs. Digby who was sitting stiffly beside her husband, pretending to ignore the convulsions of the brown-paper-covered object.

I hurried the couple through to my office, away from the curious stares of the other people waiting to see me.

Mr. Digby deposited the parcel on my desk and immediately there leapt from the brown-paper wrappings the most monstrous toy elephant I have ever seen. It stood 2 feet high, brick-red in color, with enormous pop-eyes. And every 30 seconds the elephant somersaulted head-over-heels in a kind of convulsive fit.

Mr. Digby informed me with some pride that it executed somersaults at the rate of two a minute for 30 minutes at a time. And certainly it showed no sign of stopping.

Meanwhile Mrs. Digby burst into tears: "He says that he is going to give up his job and live off the profits he makes from the elephant. But it won't work. I know it won't. Last time he started to do that we nearly starved. This time it's either the elephant or me!"

What Mrs. Digby said was true. On the occasion of each of his previous inventions, he had given up his job and walked the city trying to sell his brain-child — without success.

Mr. Digby is a well-meaning little man, and of course we settled that he should stick to Mrs. Digby and his job and try to sell the elephant in his spare time. (The wretched animal somersaulted tirelessly on my desk throughout the discussion).

And of course, Mr. Digby never did succeed in selling his elephant to the world of shop-keepers.

But has Mr. Digby retired? Not a bit of it. He is at present working on a special bread-knife which will cut and butter, a slice of bread with one masterly stroke.



N.A. Haggar engaged in one of Albatross's most popular pastimes at the present time.

FULL MARKS

Part of the last Inspection Report on the Supply Department read: "Officers are well lit and adequate."

THIS I CAN'T BELIEVE

— by Derek Bome

Budget Topics

"We want to encourage thrift," said Mr. Holt, "so you can all have a 5 per cent reduction in income tax."

So your old Uncle Derek, ever mindful of how 5 per cent builds up when you have to buy a car, frig, etc., hastened to work out the increased rebate. According to the newspapers a family man like myself with a taxable income of £750 (arrived at after deductions, numerous gifts to various organisations, and slap-happy additions) will receive no less than 27/- rebate PER YEAR! Gosh, that's 6d. a week! How thrifty can you get?

P.S. I have been, trying to contact the P.M.G. so they can take my phone back but the complaints number has been continuously engaged.

Big Fishes in Little Ponds

The Mayor of Botany and his little mayors are certainly getting it tough with the Boeings coming in and out of Mascot. There are TWO scheduled take-offs and landings by Boeings at Mascot each week. This packed schedule so upsets the aforesaid Mayor that he wants the terminal for overseas aircraft moved to the outskirts of Sydney. A better and cheaper move would be to move the Mayor and Botany to the outskirts.

Corny Corner

Hans and Fritz were two enthusiastic mountaineers, who finally decided to take their poor old mother with them on one of their mountain climbing expeditions.

In order to allay mother's fears they put her in the middle at the start of the climb. Off they set, Hans leading mother, who in turn was leading Fritz. Each was joined by a piece of rope.

Everything was going climbingly until mother's rope slipped and down she went into the ravine below.

Fritz's comment?

Look Hans! No mum!

Wedding Bells

Everyone, including myself, is going to be pleased and relieved when Big Red marries that lass from Orange on November 7.

The Underdog

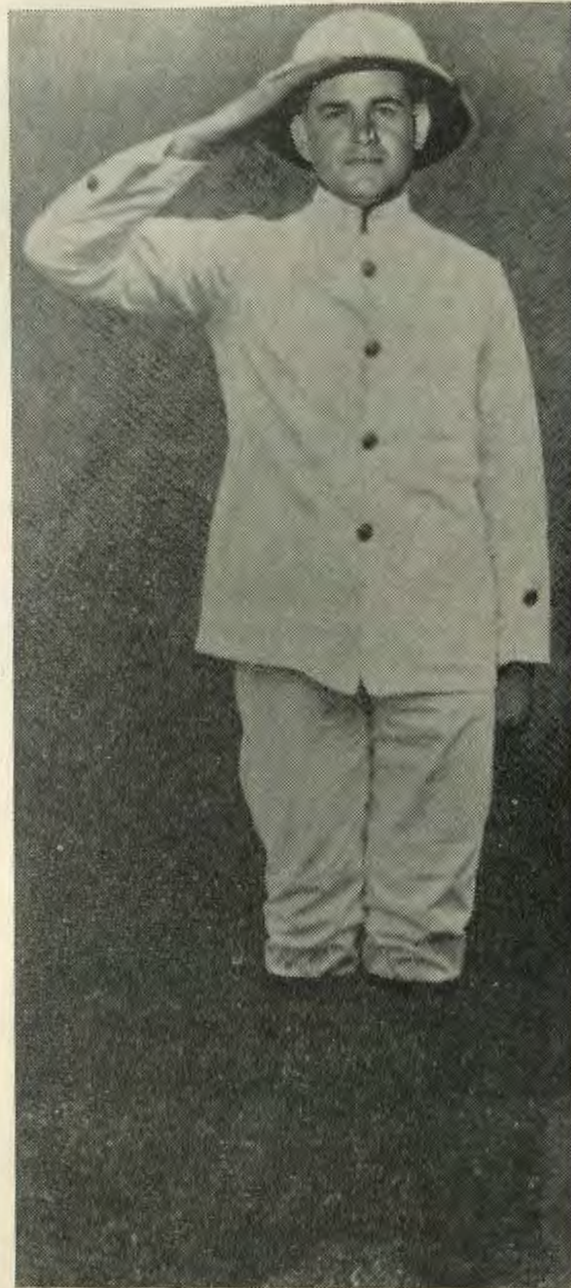
I am certainly not entering into the Stewart murder case, but isn't it a terrific boost to know that an aboriginal has the services of the best Q.C.'s in the land, at no charge.

Sport

What a great spectator game Rugby League must be — 2½ per cent of Sydney's population watched the grand final between Manly and St. George. A greater percentage in Melbourne watched ONE club game on the same Saturday.

Punters, I have given up hope of Magaris starting in Melbourne. I suggest you stick to Lord Gavin and Webster in Melbourne and Gold Stakes and Travel Boy in Sydney, for their Spring engagements.

All our condolences to Biggles the Glider Pilot — one good break deserves another.



The Chief G.I., mindful of the Inspection and the approaching summer season, shows the correct method of executing that useful manoeuvre, Front Salute with Sun Helmet.



Pusser's Page

COOKS (S)

Congratulations to "Bluey" Harris and "Bluey" Fullerton on their advancement. There is no doubt that "Bluey" Harris will be a large addition to the Petty Officers' Mess.

Even with the new and strange appearing on the menu, the Chefs are holding their own. If you can name it, we can cook it.

Hear tell a certain Leading Cook is turning sour. Too many lemons, Mac?

WRITERS

If the members of 805 squadron desire any assistance in translating a certain Naval Airman soon to join their numbers, direct your enquiries to any Writer of Captain's Office. It took them six months to understand his brogue.

No doubt C.P.O. Wtr. Creighton was pleased to see his relief arrive. We take this opportunity to wish him well in his new environment and also to welcome C.P.O. Wtr. Webb to this establishment.

Understand Cdr. (S) has enlisted a new recruit. Suggest it be categorised as Recruit Ck. (S) Winnie Wombat or perhaps he is going to keep it as a mascot for this air station.

As have all members of this establishment, the writers, too, have become semi-skilled tradesmen-painters.

W.R. STWDS AND COOKS (O)

Congratulations to Stwd. Jan Erwich on taking the big step into matrimony.

We say farewell to P/O. Stwd. "Doover" on his departure for the "big ship" and it is a sad blow indeed to all those from whom he had bled smokes on account of the fact that he has won 1,000 of the best in the recent W/E. Club raffle and he is no longer with us to pass them around.

"Boner of the Month Dept." The steward who was detailed to set the tables for the afternoon SERIALS meals for the "Birdies" recent around the clock exercise — result — a varied display of the better known "Kelloggs" varieies.

Cook (O) Stewart recovering from football injuries, including water on the knee — the latter not being caused by the Wardroom soup boiling over.

S.A. (S)

It is understood that the new Victualling Officer has a habit of leaving the keys in his safe. He'll need to discontinue this habit if he does not want "Stoppage of Safe."

The spies are in once again at Naval Stores and Nobby has been heard muttering to himself, "Who brung Fergus?"

"Dingy" Bell looks a bit lean and hungry since his incarceration but will no doubt pick up rapidly with the more balanced diet of Flying Helmets and Bush Knives, etc.

S.A. Reid is taking the journey of no return to the altar in early September and our hearty congratulations are extended. Most other men would require 14 days leave but he reckons a week is ample.

Congratulations also to our new Stores P.O., Hughes, and to L.S.A.s Morgan and Glazier. It is expected that Stocktaking Reports will be greatly minimised as a result.

With reference to remarks regarding the Main Stores Office in July's Slipstream, someone has drawn attention to the following statement by Parkinson, the author of "Parkinson's Law":—

"A perfection of planned layout is achieved only by institutions on the point of collapse. Perfection of planning is a symptom of decay. During a period of exciting discovery or progress there is no time to plan the perfect headquarters. The time for that comes later when all the important work is done. Perfection, we know, is finality; and finality is death."

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Human Nature and the Ten Commandments

Nobody has ever claimed that it is easy to observe the Ten Commandments. History itself shows that there are always people who have difficulty with the Decalogue. This fact, however, often gives rise to the false impression that Divine Law is beyond the capabilities of human nature, and so man has an excuse for making little or no effort at maintaining proper moral standards.

What some people fail to recognize is that, even without the assistance of Divine revelation which comes with the Scriptures, human nature has seen for itself the fundamental need for a moral code. So you find that many uncivilized tribes had drawn such codes up for themselves, and when you look into them you see that in many respects they are remarkably similar to the Ten Commandments. Remembering that such tribes drew up these laws without any assistance from the Scriptures or human nature which finds it hard to keep the Ten Commandments also understands clearly enough the necessity of a moral code. Even more than that, the code which human nature would draw up if left to itself would not differ greatly from that given to man by God himself.

The most recent example of this point comes in a report from New Guinea, where the old men of Kanaman — twelve miles to the north of Madang — said they already knew most of the Ten Commandments when they first heard them from missionaries in 1905. They listed their ancient tribal laws, and though the wording is different the meaning is the same. This report from New Guinea is recent, but it has long been known that the laws of ancient tribes in South America and Africa contained a great deal of what is found in the Commandments.

Human nature might find it difficult to keep the Ten Commandments, but in its saner moments human nature realizes that they are indispensable.

F. LYONS.

Mission to Russia and China

(By Chaplain J. A. Willson R.A.N.)

On 25th June a group of Australian Church leaders left Australia to visit the Churches of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and China. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen fraternal relationships between the Churches of Australia and those of the countries visited, and the delegation was appointed by the highest courts of their representative Churches.

The party reports that it was received everywhere with a warm and spontaneous welcome, not only by church leaders and congregations, but by the general public.

RUSSIA

In Moscow and Leningrad many churches of the Russian Orthodox Church were visited and also Baptist Churches. Whether the services were held on the Sunday or week-days they were invariably crowded beyond the capacity of the buildings used. There was no doubt about the intensity of the spiritual devotion of the congregations. People of middle-age and over predominated, but there were young people and even soldiers in the congregations. There appeared to be no restraint upon freedom of worship. The delegation was given to understand that a group of

20 believers or more could register as a congregation and receive permission to hold services. There are already 20,000 congregations and 2000 trainees for the priesthood in the Orthodox Church and a total membership of 540,000 and adherents numbering 3,000,000 in the churches of the Baptist Union. The only restriction as far as the Church was concerned was in the State Schools where religious instruction is not allowed. Atheism is taught in all Russian Schools.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In Czechoslovakia there appeared to be a vigorous church life in the rural areas where there are numerous churches well cared for and well attended. Young people expressed a sense of privilege in being able to serve the Church in the modern Socialist State, and felt the challenge to demonstrate the value of Christian citizenship in the new order.

CHINA

In China the position must be assessed against the background of recent history involving the termination of the relationship of Western missions with the Church in China. Churchmen in China, however, have noticed a new interest in Christianity since it ceased to be identified with the west and had to be self-supporting and self-propagating.

CHURCH, STATE AND PEOPLE

In all three countries visited there was evidence of the Church's appreciation of the efforts of the State to improve the lot of the common man. There seems to be genuine conviction upon the part of Christian people that it is possible to be a believing and practising Christian in a Communist State. It is inevitable, of course, that in a society organised upon the basis of Marxian philosophy, a person of Christian conviction must experience some disadvantage. This however, is accepted cheerfully as the price to be paid for the privilege of maintaining a Christian witness. It is nevertheless possible for a Christian to attain to high position in the life of the State.



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Sporting Notes

SOCCER

The season is fast coming to a close with our main objective regrettably not achieved. This was the Shower's Trophy which left our hands to Penguin, who, with a full team of submariners beat Albatross 1-0 in the final.

There can be no misgivings about the loss, because if all opportunities had been taken, the score would have been nearer 5-3 in our favour. Albatross had the greater percentage of midfield play but the forward line of five individuals just did not, after the first 20 minutes look like scoring the vital goal. This may, by some, be considered an unfair criticism, but when the final score of 1-0 is remembered that was just the difference between the two forward lines.

The whole team will do well to remember that goals come from the feet and head, and the spoken word never puts the ball in the net. Individual performances were very similar with perhaps Captain Len Bolden setting the good example we have been so used to seeing this season.

As this is being written we wish Len Bolden, "Darkie" Cole, Brian Sargesson, Pat Cummusky, Jim Shergold, "Whacker" Payne, Billie Williams and Jack Spratt, all success in the Navy team for the Inter-Service soccer. It is a good performance to have eight players in the Navy training squad (particularly as there was no Albatross selector on the selection committee).

The return of the Navy players see Albatross about to embark on the semi-finals of the Inter-Service league. As the league stood at the time of writing the first semi-final should have been between Albatross and School of Military Engineering and the other between Watson and either R.A.A.F. Richmond or Penguin. In this competition the Grand Final winner plays the opposite number in the Liverpool zone contest for ultimate honours which, dare it be mentioned, it is hoped will come to Albatross.

The first semi-final of the inter part saw Electrical defeat Executive 4-0 whilst 725 put it over Air Department by 3 goals to 1 in the other semi-final. Conflicting reports are to hand as to why the respective teams lost and they could not be printed in this journal but if the appearance of the league table is any guide, it would appear that Air Department were hard done by to lose their game. Executive now play 725 in the final, the winners of which challenge Electrical for the championship.

HOCKEY

Since the last edition of "Slipstream" the Club has improved its position on the premiership table and with 4 matches to be played the team has a 5 point lead from Bulli with St. Michaels, Wollongong Rangers and A.I. & S. in that order.

The team is still dogged by injuries and the latest is P.O. Blair who has a fractured bone in the wrist. In the matches played this last month we defeated Rangers 3 goals to 2 and the following week saw the team at home beat St. Michael's 4 goals to 1. The match against Bulli was played a fortnight ago and on a hard fast ground saw the Station team run out easy victors by 5 goals to 0.

EA Brown who is the Club delegate, reported that Cups would be given to the minor premiers as well as the winners of the Grand Final so going into the last round we seem well in line for at least one Cup.

It has also been mentioned that Wollongong would like to play the Grand Final at Albatross as it appears doubtful that they will be able to retain use of the grounds until that date.

AUSTRALIAN RULES

Albatross again had an easy victory in the mid-week competition by easily subduing Penguin-Kuttatubul at Erskinville oval with the final scores being 21 goals, 27 points to 3 points.

Star of the day was Len Fisher, who kicked some beautiful snap goals after scrounging the balls from the pack.

A former Naval Star "Bertie Bertram" made a comeback in the forward pocket and still showed that he could teach the young fellers a thing or two.

Goalkickers — Beardsley 11, Mason 4, Fisher 2, Bertram 2.

The first semi-final in the mid-week competition will be played at Albatross on 1st September.

The Navy twice defeated the Army in the annual Inter-Service matches, the first game at Trumper Park being witnessed by a crowd of 5,000 fans. The game was said to be one of the best Australian Rules games seen in Sydney for many years, and was in aid of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Childrens' Institution, and is to be played annually for the W. White shield.

All Albatross players acquitted themselves well.

We take this opportunity of congratulating Ralph Turner on winning the "Phelan Medal" for the fairest and best player in the N.S.W. Australian National Football League.

The "Phelan Medal" is the equivalent to the "Brownlow Medal" in the V.F.L. Ralph also received the Fairest and Best trophy for South Sydney Australian Football Club and a magnificent trophy that was donated by the visiting Subiaco (W.A.N.F.L.) club for being the fairest and best player to represent New South Wales against the Subiaco Club.

Congratulations are also extended to Ray Stivey for winning the Sydney Naval Fairest and Best award, and also to "Knobby" Clark, the most consistent player award for Sydney Naval, a really terrific effort.

Sydney Naval were unlucky to be beaten in the first semi-final by Western Suburbs, and have now lost all premierships hopes.

RUGBY UNION

DEMPSTER CUP — ALBATROSS v. MELBOURNE

The Melbourne team which contained quite a number of well-known players, arrived here full of confidence and determined to show that Albatross was far from invincible.

The game began on a fast note and Weller soon notched a nice penalty goal to put Melbourne in front 3-0. Albatross quickly rallied and a quick try by Winkel made it 3 all.

Play became very heated in the forwards with Melbourne determined to show that Albatross could be beaten in hard forward play. The whole Albatross pack rose to the occasion and began to take control of the game, much to Melbourne's surprise. Several nice penalties by Duncombe put the home team in front. Melbourne fought back to score again, but the Albatross back line began to function properly and the score began to mount, with Carroll playing a particularly fine game at inside centre. The final score of this rather heated game was Albatross 26, Melbourne 8.

INTER-PART

The play-off for fourth place between 724 and 725 Squadrons resulted in a good win for 725 Squadron 9 to 5. Thomas played a sparkling game for 725 being well supported by that cagey customer Ted Cox. The scores were: 725: Harkness 1 try, Cox 1 try, 1 penalty goal. For 724: Connellan 1 try, Carroll 1 goal.

The games to complete the season are: 725 v. Supply. The winner to play Electrical Dept., and the winner of this game to meet Executive in the Grand Final.

ALBATROSS HOCKEY TEAM



Back Row: Haynes, Blair, Houghagen, Kerr, Robson. Front Row: Matthews, Dundas, Zuch, Smith. Absent: Jenkins, Beale, Lieutenants Stevens and Cummiskey.

BASKETBALL

In recent weeks there has been a great interest in all spheres of the game with the culmination of both station and civilian competitions. Executive play 724 Squadron in the grand final of the Station competition and this should be a really good tussle. We are very fortunate in obtaining half of "D" Hangar from S.A.M.E. which serves nicely, since playing on the open court in the prevailing westerlies is quite hazardous.

The line-up for 725 Squadron is Lieutenants Vickers, Davidson and Carter, L/Air Clark, LEM Bush-Jones, N/A's Roberts and Pugh and EM Butler.

Executive line-up is Lt. Cmdrs. Hanna and O'Connell, C.P.O. Walker, P.O. McKenzie, N/A's Struhs and Kerrison and P.O. Thorp.

Both teams are well represented with station players and are very confident of victory. The grand final of the civilian competition resulted in a win for Spartans in the "A" grade winning 45 points to 43 and Surf 2 defeating Navy 23 to 13 in "B" grade. These results were very disappointing for both Navy teams as the "A" grade had only lost one game in the season to Surf 1, and the "B" grade had not lost a match. In summing it up, it was obvious that not one man in either squad could shoot baskets and all appeared to be having an off night. Congratulations to our opponents who deserve all credit for two good wins in the most important games.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Albatross Reserve Grade team have been successful in reaching third place in the Group 7 Competition. As there is a play off for fourth place between Kiama and Bomaderry our team will meet the winners at Ger-

ringing on Saturday next, 29th August. If successful they will then play off against Shellharbour and Jervis Bay to decide the Premiership.

Albatross First Grade team, "Wooden-spooners" this year, have won praise within the Group for their clean play and good sportsmanship. It is a source of amazement to some that this team can turn out week after week after a series of humiliating defeats. They must surely take the prize for the best losers of the season.

The Rugby League Club offers its support and extends its best wishes to the success of the newly formed Sportsmen's Club. This should provide a long felt need to the sporting community of Albatross.

TABLE TENNIS

A wide interest has been shown towards table tennis in the last month, which has been welcome. Fortunately, we now have three tables available for any one desirous of playing, these being situated one in "D" Hangar and two in the Weight Training Room. These tables are available to everyone, and bats may be drawn from the Sports Store.

Albatross still has two teams entered in the local Mid-week Competition, each team consisting of three players. They are Albatross 1, consisting of the station, and Albatross 2, consisting of Petty Officers. The Petty Officers have done extremely well in the Competitions and are now second, P.O. Willers being the star player. The Station team has not done so well however, although many of the games have been hard fought.

All interest and ideas towards the games are welcome.

PARACHUTING

A sport which has for many years been very popular overseas, particularly in Europe, has recently begun to recruit quite a large following in Australia.

At present there are four Parachute Clubs operating in Australia; one in Queensland, two in New South Wales and one in Vicetoria.

Although civilian organizations, these clubs are being run by highly qualified R.A.A.F. and Army instructors and the equipment used is serviced by expert service tradesmen who themselves jump with this gear, adequate proof of their confidence in the parachutes.

The Camden Parachute Club, situated at Camden Aerodrome about forty miles from Sydney, has two ratings from this Station currently jumping with the Club.

The Club has at present twenty five members, about half of these being from the R.A.A.F. and Army.

It is hoped that if enough Naval men could be interested in this new and exciting sport, a subsidiary branch of the Club would be formed on the South Coast.

Anyone interested is requested to contact L/Air Schmidt, M.A.G. S.E. extension 485, or L/Air Park, 724 S.E. extension 532.

Continued on Page 29.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

WESTINGHOUSE "SNOW QUEEN" ELECTRIC COOKING RANGE, thermostat controls. Very reasonable, £70, cost new £200. Lt. Cdr. Kent, ext 461.

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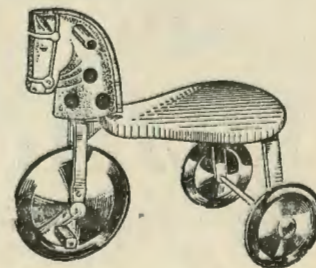
Dinkies	£2/9/9, £3/1/6, £3/11/3	Doll's Nibs Chariot	£1/17/0
Tandem Trike	£9/4/6	Express Dinky	£4/2/0
Waggon	£1/5/9	Pedal Pony	£4/0/6
Car-Car Rocker	£3/14/6	Rocket Waggon	£2/19/0
Aero Rocker	£4/1/6	Gee-Gee Rocker	£3/19/6
Carpet Sweeper	£1/0/0	Victa Rotary Mower	£2/0/6
3 Wheel Scooter	£2/9/9	Doll's High Chair	£1/1/9
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SPORTSMAN OF THE MONTH

DAVE HOSKIN

THIS MONTH we present N.A.1 D.W. Hoskin, who was born at Bondi, N.S.W. in 1935, but has spent the greater part of his life in this area.

During the three years he attended the Nowra High School, Dave compiled an impressive sporting record. After winning the 100 yards and 220 yards Nowra High School Athletic Championships he also won the 100 and 220 yards titles in the Combined Illawarra Athletic Championships and in the N.S.W. Country Championships he broke the 100 yards record for sub-juniors. Our sportsman was also captain of the Illawarra Combined Schools Rugby League Team which competed in the Lennox Cup Competition.

As an equestrian Dave derived a great deal of enjoyment from competing at Agricultural Shows along the South Coast and he achieved one of his ambitions in 1950 when he was judged to be Champion Rider at the Nowra Agricultural Show.

To further his education, Dave attended the Glen Innes Agricultural College where he became vice-captain of the school and subsequently obtained his Leaving Certificate. He also managed to play Rugby League for the school "Firsts," represent the district at Rugby League and become the N.S.W. Country 100 yards Champion, clocking 10 seconds for the distance.

After leaving school Dave joined the R.A.N. in 1952 and chose to become an aircraft handler.

During the two years Dave spent on the "Melbourne" he played Union for the Ship's Team and was a member of the team which defeated Western Australia.

1958 saw our sportsman back at Albatross where he represented the R.A.N. at Athletics in the Inter-Service Sports, competing at the 100 yards and relays. He was also a member of the Albatross Team which won the Dempster Cup for Rugby Union and a representative of the Granville Rugby League Team which won the premiership in the Junior League Competition, that year.

This year Dave continues to play well and has assisted the Navy to victory in the Inter-Service Rugby Union Series.

As a diversion Dave is learning to fly with the Bankstown Aero Club and very shortly he hopes to go solo.

EXTRACT FROM THE OBSERVER SCHOOL ORDERS:—

"Quizzes and debates on Service and Technical matters are held in Parts I and II at the convenience of School Officers."

Very cosy.

SPORT AND MEDICINE

Here are two further questions and answers in our series on athletic subjects:

QUESTION: How does exercise contribute to fitness?

ANSWER. Exercise increases the rate of circulation of blood which in turn causes more efficient oxygenation of the tissues and quicker removal of waste products from them. The functioning of the nervous, digestive and excretory systems is also improved.

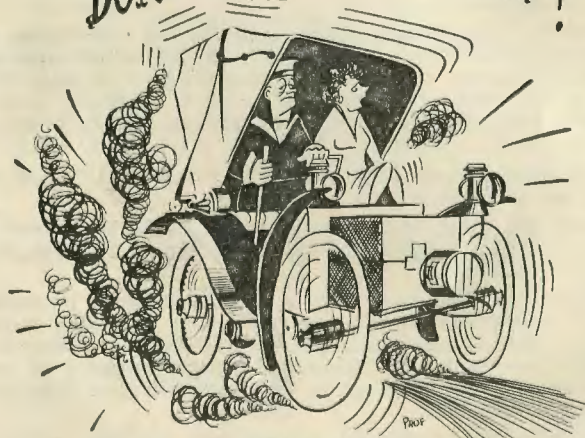
The development of strong muscles does not materially affect the state of the health, though their correct usage in maintaining good posture and their effective control over the position of the abdominal contents is of great importance.

The enjoyment to be derived from physical activity has a very beneficial psychological effect which is perhaps even more valuable than the physiological effect.

QUESTION: Is the ability of the body to develop muscular power a sign of fitness in itself?

ANSWER: It is not. Any normal person can by constant use of weights and resistance exercises develop powerful muscles. It is an inherent quality of muscle to grow more powerful provided it is exercised progressively and not overstrained.

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PUZZLE CORNER



Entries for this competition should be handed in to Lieutenant Commander Harvey, Main Stores Office, by 1200 Thursday, 3rd September. First correct solution opened will earn £1.

1. During a snooker match in the Petty Officers' Mess, a fierce argument arose over the following problem. If the cue ball were suspended in space how many red balls of exactly the same size could be placed around it so that each of them touches it?

Well, how many.....?

2. Last week the Editor and a well-known Dental Officer were driving similar type cars towards each other at the same speed on a straight stretch of road. At 4.54 p.m. they were four miles apart; at 4.59 they were 3 miles apart and at 4.58 $\frac{2}{7}$ they were 2 miles apart.

At what speed were the cars being driven.....?

3. If all boiled, red lobsters are dead and all boiled, dead lobsters are red, does it follow that all red, dead lobsters are boiled.....?

4. Solve the following division sum in which each letter represents one digit:—

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{£} & \text{s} & \text{d} \\
 \text{A} & / & \text{DA} & \text{DB} & \text{D} \\
 \hline
 & \text{C} & \text{C} & \text{A}
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

5. If the black cats and the tabby cats in Huskisson number three times the grey cats, the white cats and the grey cats two thirds the black cats, the black cats and the white cats one and a third the tabby cats; and if, further, the tabby cats outnumber the grey cats by 330, how many black cats are there in Huskisson.....?

6. Looking at the nine volumes of an encyclopedia arranged haphazardly on the two shelves of his bookcase, the professor noticed that the numbers of the volumes 6729 over 13458 were equal to $\frac{1}{2}$. He then discovered that by re-arranging and moving the books around he could make the fraction equal to $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{7}$, $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{9}$. Give the seven different arrangements discovered by the professor.

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(J. OAKLEY, Prop.)

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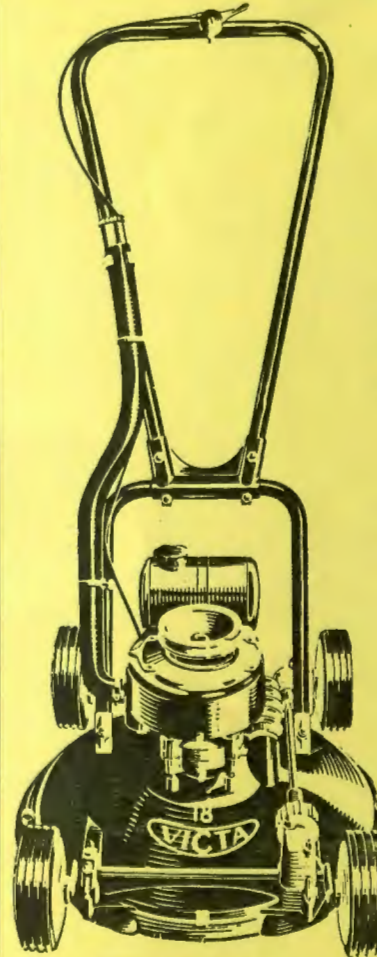
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