

P.O. ADAMS.



The Torpedo and Anti-Submarine Instructors Association 1955

Number 14 Journal

The Official Journal of the Association founded in 1955
Headquarters — H.M.S. VERNON — Portsmouth

APRIL 1959

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Chairman	C.P.O. J. H. Riley
Vice-Chairman	P.O. A. Murkin
Secretary	C.P.O. M. Thomson
Treasurer	C.P.O. C. Firbank
Committee	P.O. F. Taylor
Committee	C.P.O. C. Paton
Editor	C.P.O. A. Fraser



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Presentation of "The T.A.S.I's Cup" to Vernon Boys Cadet Force

Chairman's Report

Dear Members,

This will be my twelfth report as your Chairman and also the last. Two years ago I assumed the Chairmanship from C.P.O. Abery and I was handed a small but flourishing organisation. The previous officials had laid a sure and solid foundation in a remarkably short space of time, in fact within a year. A membership of over half of all T.A.S.I's had been achieved and the basis of a fund had been accrued.

I have been blessed since assuming office with an enthusiastic and hard working Committee and although drafting has at times taken seemingly irreplaceable men from us there has always been an equally keen and efficient member to take his place. This I think indicates the fact that members are interested in their Association and will endorse that interest with hard work.

The financial situation is extremely favourable and I am delighted to report that we have passed our first five hundred pounds and by the A.G.M. we should have increased our investments to £500 whilst leaving ourselves a little working capital to pass on to the 1959 Committee. May I commend to all members the excellent financial advice and hard work of Petty Officer Wood during the past two years, without him and his business acumen our financial position would have been less strong.

The next Association advance has been in our Journal, two years ago, Petty Officer Hobart was, by dint of much hard work, producing a typographical Journal which same entailed much overtime, typing and a lot of good nature and co-operation from all departments of Vernon. The improved financial situation allowed us to transfer publication to shore with all the consequent improvements to be expected. Petty Officer Hobart, followed later by Petty Officer Seamons, made the most of their opportunities and a first class journal, appreciated and anticipated by all members is the result.

Membership has increased until by now we have ninety per cent of all T.A.S.I's in the fold. Honorary membership, now one year old, is steadily growing, but there is need for a concerted drive by all members to bring in T.A.S. Officers to this thriving Association.

Increased funds allowed for more and better entertainments for members and their ladies. It has been our policy over the last two years to ensure that any function which has had the Association's name tagged to it, has received maximum Committee drive and financial subsidy. Both T.A.S.I's Annual outings have been successful and both Annual Dinners. Members must bear in mind the prestige and status value of our Annual Dinner when reviewing the cost of these functions. The purpose of the Annual Dinner and Ball is to entertain the official guests and to give our own ladies and personal guests an

Secretarial Review

Ever since man was created, the world has gone forward in almost every way that one can imagine. There are of course arguments regarding this collective assumption, but of one thing there can be no argument about, naturally I am referring to the Royal Navy's most go ahead Association, and that is that we have **PROGRESSED**.

We have been in existence now for nearly four years. To some that may seem as if it is a lifetime, but in reality, it is but a very small passage of time in which so much has been done in every sphere of its many "Fingers in the Pie."

If one was to take a day completely off all other arduous tasks, and browse through the "Minute Book" of the Association, one would find many little things of interest that sometimes escape the reader of published data. It is only natural that odd points of view sometimes are swallowed up in masses of print that issue forth in published minutes; but the record is there for all to see at any time.

During the past year there have been many times when it would seem that we are the only Association in the Portsmouth Command, or even in the Navy. Employers have written to us asking for information regarding the type of person we have to send them to fill their various requirements. It has been our unfortunate position generally, that we have not had the personnel going out into the great unknown to fill the requests. But we have one proud boast, "We have never failed to send any of our members, and on many occasions First Class Rates, to a good situation." As far as one can see, this will continue to be the case for many months to come.

Having been in this office for the past eighteen months, I have seen what were at first little things, grow into items of everyday occurrence. At one time we were only thinking in terms of single Pounds Shillings and Pence, whereas nowadays if we cannot show a profit of at least five times what we were showing in the early days, we have had a bad time. It is things like this that have seen the Association as a whole grow up from the infant stage to the maturity as we stand at the present time.

I would like at this juncture to give you some data in figures to think over, it may help the member who has not seen the "Mother Fold" for some time to realise just how much we have gone forward even during the past year.

Since the last Annual General Meeting last February we have had the pleasure of despatching no fewer than three thousand four hundred Journals to members in every part of the world. This now even includes the Royal Canadian Navy. There have been six hundred and seven letters sent from all sources, replies to these have been five

hundred and twentyone. Some of course do not require a reply at all as they are purely for information to the Association. Over three hundred winners have been paid out in the various competitions that we have run. Finally I would like to put my last figure in this stage, and that is the Secretary has done over fourteen hundred miles on his bicycle round and about the area on the various business that arises from day to day. Whilst on the point of figures, the following are the numbers of Fund raising tickets that have been sold by members since the last list was included in the October issue of the Journal.

P.O. Wood	7269	C.P.O. Wilson	817
P.O. Seamons	3391	C.P.O. Thomson	549
P.O. Neal	2310	C.P.O. Caygill	784
P.O. Carter	1030	Chief Gunners Mate	1973
P.O. Houghton	1106	P.O. Lambert	735
P.O. Dibbens	493	P.O. Mooney	1006
P.O. Grace	559	P.O. Moore	377
P.O. Dant	317	P.O. Robinson	379
Mr. Coop	600	P.O. Shouls	263
P.O. Douglas	270	C.P.O. Evemy	59
C.P.O. Firbank	131	P.O. MacLeod	90

Whilst listing these names and figures, thanks must be recorded to the many sellers who help out the "Big Boys" in their numbers weekly. Without them the result would not be so plentiful. During the year there have been fourteen Committee meetings and six monthly general meetings held. Others have been arranged but have had to be cancelled at very short notice owing to the weather at the time. This is not always kind to us as many know.

But the main thing is to get these meetings known even if they do have to be cancelled. It is hoped that in future there may be a chance for many more outside members to attend these Monthly meetings, so that there may be a more general pooling of ideas; instead of it being left in the main to the Committee. We are always glad to see the unfamiliar faces of our members of the "Sea Going Fraternity" attending.

For future reference, the next General Meeting after the Annual General will be on Saturday 25th April. That date has been asked for by the Committee, but has not yet been ratified.

Finally in closing, may I as your Secretary, writing his last "Secretarial Report", thank you one and all for your patience and help-

fulness in many matters that have arisen. It has been an honour to serve you in this capacity, and I sincerely hope that my successor will continue to serve you, and have the same degree of comradeship that I have been so lucky to have.

J. A. Seamons
Hon. Secretary.



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Queer Story

It was during the closing stages of the Vernon New Year's Ball that I saw her, a lovely girl looking somewhat lost and bewildered. Oddly enough I was sure I had seen her before somewhere. She sat alone at a secluded corner table as dancing couples swept by. Dress details are not my line but the flimsy green creation flecked with gold that she wore was certainly the last word in fashion design. Her hair, a glorious chestnut colour was long in sort of plaits over her shoulder, kept in place by a tiara. If she wore make-up, it was skilfully done, for her flawless complexion needed little artificial help. But it was her eyes that drew my attention — greenish hazel — that were so really beautiful. As I looked they seemed troubled and I thought it a great pity that such a lovely creature should be alone, I asked her for a dance. She shook her head and gave a fleeting apologetic smile. Her eyes looked at the dancing couples and quickly to the door whenever anyone entered, she was obviously looking or waiting for someone, she clasped and unclasped her hands.

I sat down at the table as a St. Bernard's Waltz began and asked her if I could be of any assistance. Her husky voice seemed like a whispering breeze as she replied to my questions. Above the noise and music I could hardly hear her. Nobody seemed to be interested in our table so I sat nearer. Her home, she said, was at Deptford, where her father was a shipping office manager. No, she didn't know anyone at the dance but she had to come, just had to come. She said this in an

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almost tearful way as though she expected me to know why. When she spoke it was slowly and in a sort of gracious tone which only added to her wealth of attractions. But the lovely way she looked, she could have been speaking in outer Mongolian for all I cared, I just gazed at her, drinking in such loveliness. Auld Lang Syne was announced and she abruptly got up and whisked out of the door. A small white card fell as she did so, I picked it up and stuffed it in my pocket as I raced for the door after her. I caught up with her near the tennis courts.

"You can't leave me like this" I said.

"Please do not delay me" she whispered urgently, "I must go."

"But can't we meet again? I pleaded. "You name the time and place and I'll be there."

She appeared to consider my words. "Yes we can meet."

"Where?" I eagerly asked.

"By the Captain's House at the Main Gate at sunset tomorrow."

"Are you sure you'll be there?" I demanded.

"Yes, I'll be there" she replied. The Guildhall clock boomed out the midnight hour.

"Goodbye" she said in a breathless husky voice, tore herself away and fled into the moonlight.

As I retraced my steps into the Mess my fingers groping for my pipe, closed round a small piece of card. On it was written in neat copperplate 'Deptford 1872'. Phone number, I thought, it may come in handy later.

The next evening, as the sun went down I waited by the Captain's house. Libertymen looked at me curiously as they made there way ashore. I waited for an hour and then gave it up as a bad job. As I turned to go back into the Mess my eye caught a line on the brass plate at the base of the ship's figurehead "Ariadne" launched at Deptford 1872. Looking up I gazed straight into the replica face of my mysterious girl friend! A breeze swept along the avenue of trees and I heard distinctly, I swear it, a husky voice saying breathlessly,

"Thank you... Goodbye....."

Odd, don't you think?

Carl Hayman

Annual General Meeting

1. Vice Chairman's Address.
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Secretarial Report.
4. Additions and Alterations to the Association's Rules:—
 - (a) Proposed by P.O. Seamons. Seconded by C.P.O. Fraser. That Life Membership, and Life Honorary Membership be instituted in the Association.
 - (b) Proposed by C.P.O. Fraser. Seconded by P.O. Wood. That the office of Treasurer be no longer Honorary, but that he be a paid Official of the Association.
 - (c) Proposed by C.P.O. Thomson. Seconded by P.O. Seamons. That Rule 14, paragraph 1, sentence 2, be amended to read:—"That the Chairman, Treasurer, Editor and one Committeeman be elected at the Annual General Meeting and that the Vice-Chairman, Secretary and the second Committeeman be elected at the September meeting. Thus ensuring continuity of officers on the Committee of the Association."
 - (d) Proposed by C.P.O. Firbank. Seconded by P.O. Wood. That Rule 17 be amended to read:—"That the Funds of the Association be audited every SIX month's."
 - (e) Proposed by P.O. Wood. Seconded by C.P.O. Wilson. That the investments of the Association be made and altered at the discretion of the Committee.
 - (f) Proposed by P.O. Wood. Seconded by P.O. Feasey. That the Death Benefit be payable only for members who are fully paid up for two consecutive years with their Subscriptions.
 - (g) Proposed by C.P.O. Firbank. Seconded by P.O. Wood. That Rule 22, line 5 be amended to read:—"Monthly Expenditure for Emergency Reasons only".
5. Election of the 1959 Committee of the Association.

LUNCH

6. Chairman's Address.
7. Address by Captain E. A. Blundell, O.B.E., R.N.
8. Introduction of your New Chairman.

Held on Friday, 27th February, 1959 in H.M.S. Vernon.

Officials present:—

Chairman—C.P.O. Fraser
Vice-Chairman—C.P.O. Thomson
Treasurer—C.P.O. Firkbank
Secretary—P.O. Seamons
Committeeman (1)—P.O. Wood
Committeeman (2)—C.P.O. Riley

Representatives present:—

H.M.S. St. Vincent—P.O. Neal
Mr. N. Little.

Apologies were received from the following representatives who were unable to attend owing to Service commitments:—

P.O. Houghton—H.M.S. Dolphin
P.O. Carter—H.M.S. Ganges
P.O. Douglas—H.M.S. Defiance
C.P.O. Vass—H.M.S. Vanguard

Members present excluding Committee—38.

Agenda as printed.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1012 with a welcome to new members, also those who had returned from sea during the last year. It was always a pleasure to welcome old faces back and he hoped that in future their sojourn away from the mother fold would not be long.

"As most of you are aware this will be my last meeting in the chair but during the last two years it has been a pleasure to have presided over you as your Chairman on so many occasions.

I am not going to keep you very long at this stage as we have a lot on the Agenda and I know that you are anxious to get on with it so I will now pass you over to your Vice-Chairman.

Chief Petty Officer Thomson:

Mr. Chairman, Committee, Gentlemen. I have had one year as Vice-Chairman of the Association and in that time I have done my best to further the aims of the Association to the best of my ability. As I see it, the two main tasks of the Vice-Chairman, are:—

To understudy the Chairman in all aspects of Association business and in this I was fortunate enough in having as Chairman, C.P.O. Fraser, who made my task very easy indeed.

The Vice Chairman is responsible for the Social and Entertainment arrangements. But without the assistance and full co-operation of the whole of the Committee, with perhaps, special mention being

given to the Secretary, there would have been a lot more drips from the members over the Annual Dinner and Ball and the Annual Outing. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them all now.

This last year we haven't been overburdened with Social events as you will agree and there is plenty of room for improvement. But two things must be borne in mind:—

Any arrangements for Social events which the Committee make will come to nothing unless they have your support. By that I don't just mean your consent to run a Social but your presence is absolutely necessary for its success.

Last year the Committee (and I think, rightly so) set itself the target of £600 for this A.G.M. That was a capital gain of £300. Whether we were successful or not we will have to wait till our Hon. Treasurer has had his say. But with this money-making taking priority we had to watch expenses continuously and, I'm afraid to the detriment of entertainment. However, the Hon. Treasurer has a ghost of a smile on his face which could mean that the future Committee will not be so handicapped.

I would like to see our Annual events increased from two to three. There is a demand among members for A Summer Ball, for instance, although on reflection it's no skylark "shaking a hoof" at the height of summer in a Doeskin suit; so maybe it would be better making it a Flannel dance. This should serve two purposes:— It would compensate the wives and girl friends for being barred from our Annual Outing and it would also take the termites away from I.T.V.

Finally, remember that the prosperity of the Association depends entirely on the keenness of its members not only in attending Social functions but in their desire to stand for office. That way we can be assured of a long and prosperous life.

We have found that it is not worth running an employment bureau as such because there has been an excess number of jobs per member available to take them up. Very often when a job comes into the office it has to be referred to an Honorary Member or a Non-Member. Once only during the past year we had occasion to refuse an ex-member because after being treated extremely well by the Association he back slid on his subscriptions for 1957 and 1958. When he went outside he wrote to us asking if we could put him on to a job. He was then asked to pay his outstanding subscriptions and all assistance would be given him. We have heard nothing further from him.

I will take this opportunity to remind you all of the need to inform the Association Office at least SIX months before your date for discharge so that the Secretary has plenty of time to look out for a job for you and also apply for your E.T.U. card, if desired.

For my successor's information the Annual Outing is on the 17th June, this date is not confirmed yet but I should say it will be around

that time and he will need your co-operation at an early date to make the necessary arrangements.

Thank you Chairman and Gentlemen.

Chairman:

Thank you Mr. Vice Chairman. Are there any questions for the Vice Chairman?

P.O. Wood asked why the employment bureau was going to be allowed to lax.

The Chairman asked the Secretary to give full details.

Secretary:

Mr. Chairman, P.O. Wood, Gentlemen. The employment Bureau is not being allowed to lax in any way. The point in question is that at the moment we have far too many jobs in hand for the number of applicants. This it seems will be the case until approximately 1961. So, instead of putting the Association to a financial liability of nearly £50 we are carrying on as we have been doing until the dire need

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arises for the employment booklet. Lt.-Cdr. Coxwell is still going ahead to write this booklet for us and it will be ready when we require it.

C.P.O. Abery.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, Gentlemen. Willingness to serve can thrash out any back biting. Word was passed to me that if I stood for Chairman again 4 members would resign. I would rather resign myself than have this happen. I am furthering this point so that members can realise that this Association has its quota of members who will always pick on points.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman:

Full tribute has and will be paid to previous Committee with an Association of over 200 members there will always be drips.

I am convinced that everybody does their very best for the Association in their own way. The present Committee have at many times disagreed with one another, but the outcome was always for the good and benefit of all.

Once again I publicly thank you and your Committee of 1956 for the wonderful way in which you laid the foundation for our present success.

Are there any more questions for the Vice-Chairman?

There being no more questions the Chairman moved to item two on the Agenda, which was the Treasurer's report.

C.P.O. Firbank:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Gentlemen. Before I give you my report I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Chief Petty Officer Wilson for the efficient way in which he kept his books, and the way in which he turned over to me. (This was seconded by P.O. Elgie and carried unanimously).

I was present for the majority of the audit, which was carried out in January. It made me realise that the amount of work that has to be put in is far in excess of what I previously thought.

Up to and including this morning we have a cash balance of £606, this, as you will see, is the target that was set by the Committee for this year. We have no outstanding bills, but our outstanding creditors are £18, most of this being due by advertisers.

That is all I have to tell you, the yearly audit sheet is shown on the board, and no doubt most of you have seen it.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen.

Petty Officer Wood gave full details to the members on the investments that the Association have to substantiate the Treasurer's remarks.

can be worked out by the Committee.

C.P.O. Fraser. I endorse the previous remarks of P.O. Seamons and can see that in the future this will lead to an even greater liaison between member and ex-member as it is now.

I will now throw this motion open to discussion by the floor.

P.O. Inglis. Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen. I am very strongly in favour of this motion. As most of you are aware I was outside 5 years and I can honestly say it is amazing how much one misses the comradeship and news of old pals. I feel this proposition is a wonderful way to keep this train up if only by means of the Journal this will help no end. No matter what the nominal sum the Committee may decide I will be one of the first to accept Life Membership.

P.O. Wood. I fully endorse the remarks by the previous speaker and know myself it is very nice to keep in contact. If only from the financial side the capital sum that would amount, even if it be £4, would be accruing interest. And that is a good idea.

P.O. Mann. This is a good idea. As most of you know I shall be going back to my home country, Canada, very shortly and I also would very much like to take advantage of this opportunity before I left these shores.

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C.P.O. Davis.

I heartily endorse all the previous remarks. When I went outside I missed the service so much I came back (laughter). Even last year as I was walking along having only just rejoined Vernon, Captain Blundell asked me if I was a member. Cannily, I had as it so happened just joined. Furthering this proposition, I was in Feltham last year and feeling thirsty decided to have a drop of the brew in the nearest Local. Imagine my surprise when I found myself in the middle of a group of R.M.O.C.A. members who were thirsting for knowledge of the old R.M. This is a big thing and I would like to see it passed also when members go out into the great unknown, by their retaining membership they can help from the employment point of view.

Mr. Little.

Being the only civilian representative present at this meeting I could say a lot, but, all I will waste your time by saying is how much in favour of this proposition I am.

There being no more points of view on the subject the Chairman put the motion to the vote.

For—75.

Against—0.

Motion carried.

Following on the Chairman told the meeting that the first Honorary Life Member of the Association with their consent would be Captain E. A. Blundell, O.B.E., R.N., who was being presented, again with your consent with his memento when he made his address after Lunch. Voting for this motion was 34 For, 0 Against. Motion carried.

It was further proposed by C.P.O. Keeler and seconded by P.O. Elgie that the Last Captain of Osprey, Captain Mayo, also be granted full Honorary Life Membership. Voting For—34, Against—0. Motion carried.

The Chairman then moved to the next item on the agenda which was as follows:—

(B) Proposed by C.P.O. Fraser, Seconded by P.O. Wood that the Office of Treasurer of the Association be no longer Honorary but that he receive an Honorarium for his services.

This was discussed at great length with various points of view being put forward by the proposer, seconder and Treasurer himself. Finally, an amendment was put forward that whilst in principle this motion be passed the effect of same upon the income tax side be investigated and the result made known at the next monthly General Meeting. The result of this motion and amendment was that there were For—56, Against—2. Motion carried.

The Chairman then moved to Item 4(C) on the Agenda which was, proposed by Chief Petty Officer Thomson, seconded by P.O. Seamons that Rule 14, paragraph 1, sentence 2 be amended to read:— "That the Chairman, Treasurer, Editor and one Committeeman be elected at the Annual General Meeting; and that the Vice Chairman, Secretary

and second Committeeman be elected at the September meeting. Thus ensuring continuity of Officers on the Committee of the Association."

C.P.O. Thomson.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen this in my opinion would be a very good thing all round. It will not split the Committee too much and will ensure that there is at least half the Committee that know what has been going on during the last six months.

If the Secretary was elected with the remainder of the Committee he would find that he would have far too much suddenly slung at him before he really got acquainted with his task. September is during the quieter period and an ideal time for the change of Secretary to be made.

P.O. Seamons.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, I cannot add to the previous speakers remarks but only endorse them.

C.P.O. Abery.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, Would the office of Editor be of Committee standing or otherwise?

C.P.O. Thomson.

I foresaw this and my idea was as there are at the moment 6 on the Committee there could be a split vote, but by increasing the Committee, (by adding the Editor) to 7 the Chairman could always give his casting vote.

P.O. Wood.

I feel that this is only hacking the rules about. There is no need to change the existing rule, in fact even to make a number of new rules every year. This is useless, and I don't believe that September is the right time to appoint a new Secretary. All the previous remarks do not add up to anything.

C.P.O. Riley.

This proposal was made by the Vice Chairman and Secretary who are well able to do their job. Who then better than they to know the best time to make these changes. No, Gentlemen, in all due respect to the previous speaker this proposal must stand as printed.

C.P.O. Thomson.

I have chosen September as the time because business is slackest then. The Annual Dinner is arranged and the Secretary has 5 months before the Audit and the next A.G.M.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and forwarded his opinion that enough had been said on the subject. He then put the proposal to the vote. Result: For—51. Against—8. Motion carried.

The Chairman then moved to the next item on the Agenda, which was 4(D). Proposed by C.P.O. Firbank, seconded by P.O. Wood that

Rule 17 be amended to read that the funds of the Association be audited every six months.

The proposer and seconder spoke very briefly on this subject which fully explained itself. On being put to the vote the result was For—67. Against—1. Motion carried.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting for Lunch, calling members to present themselves at 1315.

At 1315 some members who attended the morning session were unable to attend owing to service commitments, and the meeting was called to order with 28 members being present. During the next half an hour 6 more members arrived.

The Chairman moved to Item 4(E) on the Agenda which was proposed by P.O. Wood seconded by C.P.O. Wilson, that the investments of the Association be made and altered at the discretion of the Committee.

P.O. Wood.

This speaks for itself. We cannot afford to wait a year or even a month before we change our investments if the market so deems it necessary. The current price of our holdings are watched very closely.

C.P.O. Keeler.

Who is going to advise the Committee if our financial genius is not in Vernon?

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Chairman.

We always ask the advice of our Bank Manager before altering our Investments, this has proved a very sound policy and we are able to give ourselves a better chance of making good investments.

Mr. Little.

The problem is that this is going on for a number of years. We ought to think more deeply before giving the Committee full power to alter at their discretion.

C.P.O. Thomson.

All the Committee keep an eagle eye on the daily price of our shares. If we took the line that we sold when they were up in price or sold when they were down then we should nearly always lose. This is a long term investment policy and our interim dividends come in every 6 months as clear profit. So there is no point Gentlemen of the Committee using these shares as a switch back. The Chairman decided that there had been enough discussion on this subject a lot of which was not relevant and at this point put the motion to the vote. Result For—26, Against—27.

P.O. Cuddell asked the Secretary how these numbers were arrived at as there were abstentions on the floor.

The Secretary pointed out that in the case where a point of procedure was in question the Abstentions counted as "No's".

P.O. Feasey asked for a recount. Result of which was For—35, Against—24. Motion carried.

P.O. Keeler asked if a book could be bought on procedure.

The Secretary was instructed by the Chairman to obtain this publication.

The Chairman then moved to Item 5 on the Agenda which was the election of the 1959 Committee. He explained that the reason for doing this was that the Captain would like to know who the 1959 Committee were before he arrived to give his address. The results of the ballot for the new Committee are as follows:—

Chairman — C.P.O. Riley — For—58, Against—7.

Vice-Chairman — P.O. Murkin — For—62, Spoilt—3.

Secretary — P.O. Wood — For—8.

— P.O. Bradley — For—1.

— P.O. Seamons — For 45, Spoilt 11.

Editor — C.P.O. Fraser — For—44, Spoilt—10.

Committeemen — P.O. Taylor — For—64, Spoilt—4.

— C.P.O. Paton — For—64, Spoilt—4.

Lt.-Cdr. Coxwell then took the result of the ballot to the Captain for his perusal.

The Chairman now returned to the Agenda and the next proposal, 4(f) proposed by P.O. Wood, seconded by P.O. Feasey that the death benefit be payable only for members who are fully paid up for two consecutive years with their subscription. This not to include T.A.S. I's just qualified and who joined straight away.

P.O. Wood.

This proposal is directed against the members who lose sight of things whilst they are away, and yet when they return pay their 10/- and according to the rule at the moment are in full benefit.

P.O. Feasey.

I concur with all P.O. Wood has said and would like to point out the requirements of the Rule 8.

People have said that this is niggardly but this is unfair. This is directed to safeguard the majority of the members who pay up on time.

C.P.O. Davis.

There seems to me to be a bigger chance of dying while serving abroad therefore it seems to me that a member in his own interest would pay up his full dues and subscriptions in advance.

P.O. Spindloe.

In all due respect to the previous speakers I suggest Mr. Chairman that we take the proposal as it stands. The Chairman then put the motion to the vote. Result for 36, Against 18, motion carried.

The Chairman then moved to Item 4(g) which was that Rule 22 line 5 be amended to read monthly expenditure for emergency reasons only. This was proposed by C.P.O. Firbank, seconded by P.O. Wood.

C.P.O. Firbank.

The reason why I bring this forward is because it was pointed out to me one day why not use the £20 for Social Outings. This should never be.

P.O. Wood.

I think all can see the wisdom of this and it will stop any unscrupulous committee from spending £20 on anything they so desired.

Emergency is a good thing as was proved once before in the case of one of our members in hardship. This is the only way I can ever see an emergency arising. This was now put to the vote the result being For 54, Against 0.

Item 4(h) was withdrawn from the Agenda on the request of the proposer and seconder.

At this point Captain E. A. Blundell, O.B.E., R.N. arrived to address the Meeting accompanied by Training Commander, Lt.-Cdr. Training Lt.-Cdr. Wilson and Lt.-Cdr. Coxwell.

The Chairman then moved to Item 6 on the Agenda which was his address.

The Chairman.

Captain Blundell, Sirs, and Gentlemen. This is my second and last time of addressing the Annual General Meeting as your Chairman. I can only hope that you will continue to give the loyal support to your new Chairman to the same degree as you have given to me.

We have been lucky in that we have had a Captain and Senior Officers in this Establishment who have helped us in every venture that we have undertaken, I will go further and say that if it were not for them and their loyal support we should not be as strong as we are today.

On taking over two years ago I was lucky to have with me a Committee who were not only hard working but extremely loyal; this has been the case during the two years of my Chairmanship. I could say quite a lot, but a lot has been said prior to this address and I have no wish to repeat it. It is therefore gentlemen with great pleasure that I ask Captain Blundell, your patron to address you.

Captain Blundell.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen. I would like to say first of all how encouraging it has been to see the growth of the Association during the last two years, it so happens that in all this time Chief Petty Officer Fraser and I have coincided. And I must say how I have admired the way he has built the Association to what it is today. I know one of the aims is to build up the status and prestige of the T.A.S.I. in the Royal Navy.

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Members I.N.T.A.

Navy. I assure you that this has been done. T.A.S.I. was always a mouthful and for some time we were virtually unknown outside Vernon. Now they all know us everywhere. I have watched members grow and funds become more stable and have read with relish your Journals as they have been published. This is a very well run publication.

I have been asked to your Dinners and on behalf of Mrs. Blundell and myself would like to thank you for your hospitality. The Dinners get better every time. The chance to meet old faces gives me the greatest of pleasure. Your dinners help to keep old friends in touch. That feature is most important.

I am very grateful for the certificate of Honorary Life Membership that you have so kindly bestowed upon me this day; but I would like to tell you that I had intended to ask for Officer membership as I do most assuredly want to come back again and meet old friends. My position in Vernon is not such that it is a job that can be left with a clean slate for my successor. Things linger on but I do think that we have made very good progress during the last two years. More especially regarding the accommodation for Chief Petty Officer and Petty Officers.

Training programme has gone well throughout a very awkward period. The re-housing of the various sections has gone without a hitch and when I look back and think of the top floor of Warrior block two years ago I think I can look back and view my achievements with pride and rightly so.

We very nearly lost Osprey, but with the programme in the future it looks very much as if Osprey will move back. The way things are going we shall not lose at all in the long run.

We can look at Vernon and see reasonable progress. But there is still a lot to do, but again there's not a lot to be done, and one realises that one must be patient even if things are not quite progressing as fast as we would like them.

The future of the T.A.S. Branch is assured, and the way ahead is very much clearer. Although I am leaving Vernon next week I shall watch progress of all sides with very great interest. But even though I am leaving I most sincerely hope that if anyone meets me in the future you will stop me and renew acquaintance.

Again I thank you very much indeed for your Life Honorary Membership and for all you have done for Mrs. Blundell and myself.

Captain Blundell withdrew from the meeting with the other officers at this point being applauded until he had left the meeting and was out of sight.

The Chairman then moved to Item 8 on the Agenda which was the new Chairmans address and called upon C.P.O. Riley to address the meeting in his capacity as the new Chairman.

C.P.O. Riley.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen. It is with very mixed feelings that I address you as your new Chairman, feelings generated in us all when an honour is conferred upon us. That of being voted Chairman of this Association is an honour there can be no doubt and for it I thank you all most sincerely.

I trust that your confidence has not been misplaced and that I am able to fulfil the duties so capably carried out by my predecessors. Chief Petty Officer Fraser must indeed feel a proud man when he views the Association today for it is largely through his efforts that we are now so firmly on our feet supported by members and holding a prestige which many older and larger associations than ours view with envy. He together with the guidance and wisdom of P.O. Wood has created a financial stability undreamed of in so short a time and our standing with other Service associations has been furthered on many social occasions. Association investments will be considered and studied constantly and our knowledge will improve. I assure you that the Treasurer will keep a constant contact with our Bank manager and also gain knowledge from other sources. It is not however intended to make changes willy nilly.

At this point also I would like to thank C.P.O. Fraser for all his past services and thank also Petty Officer Wood, Chief Petty Officer Thomson and Chief Petty Officer Wilson for their unstinted efforts on behalf of the Association.

To our newly formed Committee I ask them to extend to me the loyalty, support and accord which is so necessary to maintain such an organisation as this and bear with me in my faults, between us we can and will give the Association that which it so richly deserves and rightly expects.

To all members both here and those absent in the cause of duty (and of pleasure) in all parts of the globe I would say, it is through you that the Association makes its name and from you that our whole organisation springs.

No longer is it the time when your representatives should come from the older element - look amongst yourselves for the younger up and coming members to represent you when new elections are required for committee members. Keep in mind also the Association Journal, remember it needs constant feeding, letters, articles, facts and figures, all are of interest to our supporters and to our CRITICS (we have many) and a good Journal can become the T.A.S.I.'s letter from home and looked forward to with as much anticipation.

Our aims for the coming year are adequately expressed in Rule 2. "Objectsof the Association" though it is hoped that we can provide a little more Social divergence to further promote the brotherly spirit As we all know this does occasionally need slight boosting especially

T.A.S.I. ASSOCIATION (1955)

STATEMENT OF

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1958

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Expenses of Social Events				61	12	6
Expenses of Annual Dinner	190	13	8½			
Less Tickets Sold	53	10	0	137	3	8½
Bad Debts written off (1957 Annual Dinner)				2	12	6
Printing and Stationery				373	10	11
Postage				71	5	2
Sundry Expenses				3	0	7
Travelling Expenses				8	19	1
Bank Charges				1	11	6
Audit Fee				5	15	6
Written off: Typewriter				16	10	0
Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year to date				334	15	9½
				£1,016	17	3

Sick Fund for the Year to 31st December, 1958.

To Transfers to General Fund	32	10	7
Gifts	2	0	0
Balance carried forward	3	1	0
	£37	11	7

Balance Sheet 31st December, 1958.

Sundry Creditors	19	15	6
Subscriptions received in advance	9	10	0
Sick Fund	3	1	0

Income and Expenditure Account:

Balance at 1st January, 1958	160	2	5
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year to date	334	15	9½
	£527	4	8½

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1958

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Subscriptions	96	4	0			
Less Amounts Received in Advance	9	10	0			
	86	14	0			
Add Amounts due in Arrear	10	0		87	4	0
Proceeds from Auxiliary Fund Raising				654	5	6
Transfers from Sick Fund				32	10	7
Christmas Raffle				30	9	6
Advertising in Journal				190	3	4
Profit on Sale of New Zealand 6% Bonds				10	0	0
Dividends Received				3	4	4
				£1,016	17	3

Sick Fund for the Year to 31st December, 1958.

By Balance brought forward	5	0	0
Donation		1	0
Unclaimed Prize Money from Auxiliary Fund Raising		32	10
		£37	11
		7	7

Typewriter at cost	17	10	0			
Less Written off	16	10	0	1	0	0
Investments at cost						
£50 Premium Bonds	50	0	0			
£116 Imperial Chemical Inds. Ltd. Ordinary Stock	207	14	6	257	14	6
Sundry Debtors				53	16	3
Cash at Bank	129	1	6			
in Hand (Sick Fund)	3	1	0			
(H.M.S. Vernon)	81	14	9½			
(H.M.S. Vernon Postage)	11	4				
(H.M.S. Osprey)	5	4		214	13	11½
				£527	4	8½

We have examined the foregoing Account with the books, vouchers and Bank Account and certify same to be in accordance therewith.

**WARD & Co., Accountants,
11 Landport Terrace,
Portsmouth.**

The Torpedo and Anti Submarine Instructor's Association (1955)

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during the trying times of busy periods and long terms.

The addresses in the early stages of this meeting outlined a more accurate assessment of our future activities.

Finally Gentlemen, I trust that we shall go on from strength to strength holding the respect and support of our superiors and becoming the envy and aim of our juniors.

Well, Gentlemen, as there are still a few moments left I will open the floor to any other business.

P.O. Feasey.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen. In view of what happened during the vote of one of our motions this afternoon, in future could there be a separate number given for members who abstain from voting.

Chairman.

This will be done in the future.

P.O. Elgie proposed a vote of thanks for the retiring Committee which was seconded by C.P.O. Keeler. This motion was carried unanimously.

C.P.O. Firbank proposed a vote of thanks to C.P.O. Wilson for his work as Treasurer. He wished this to be recorded and sent to C.P.O. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

C.P.O. Firbank proposed a separate vote of thanks to P.O. Wood for his work during the last two years. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman on being assured that there was no other business for the Annual General Meeting of 1959 the Meeting closed at 1545.

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Sharkey the Leavebreaker

H.M.S. Atrocious, a smart destroyer of the China Fleet, had arrived at an Asiatic port for a courtesy visit. Co-incidental with her arrival came the pipe, "Clear Lower Deck for Payment" and a happy ship's company stowed their month's pay in their money belts. Within a short space of time, the first of the liberty men stemmed over the brow to sample the dubious delights in store along the waterfront of Wei Hai Poo.

In the van of the thirsty adventurers steamed Sharkey Ward, arch-skate and the bane of all regulating staff east of Suez. His No 6 suit was immaculately pressed and he gave the impression of being a typical and well-disciplined two-badge (one on temporary loan to the R.N.) Able Seaman of the Royal Navy. Sharkey and his shipmates embarked in Rickshaws and soon disappeared from sight out of the dock gates and up the narrow winding street to whatever lay in store for them. Aboard the Atrocious life settled down to make and mend routine and a quiet life until midnight when the libertymen were due back.

By midnight, the vast majority of the libertymen had returned but this still left a round dozen unaccounted for and by a singular coincidence they were all denizens of three mess. Two killicks and ten able seamen, including the unmentionable Sharkey Ward. However the duty P.O. was pleasantly surprised when eleven of his lost flock returned aboard at half past midnight, leaving Sharkey as the only prodigal still out of the fold. Ten minutes later Sharkey returned and the Atrocious was again a complete unit of the Fleet. The twelve miscreants were trundled in front of the Officer of the Day and the same answer was given by all leave-breakers. "Nuffin to say, Sir, until I sees the First Lieutenant". Each received the same retort from the Gunner, "First Lieutenant's report".

Soon all hands were turned in and peace descended on the forward messdeck, to be broken all too soon by the strident tones of the Duty Petty Officer trying out his dubious Gunnery wit on the dormant mate-lots. Within a matter of minutes, hammocks were lashed up and stowed, the tea wet and drunk and both watches fell in. Sharkey, the Gobi-Deck lockerman issued his cleaning gear and stood by for the arrival of his fellow leavebreakers. Sure enough the first soon arrived in the person of Brigham Young the Killick of the mess. "I wants a good yarn, Sharkey, that will bamboozle that hardhearted slave driver our beloved Jimmy the One". "Cock your lug-holes then Brigham, me old flower, here it comes. But, remember, I got to keep the best yarn for meself, on account of the fact that I too have to attend the assizes this morning in my accustomed role of skate first class". Brigham memorised the story given him and he was followed by Pincher Martin

the Killick rangetaker who also received a plausible yarn. Within the hour's scrub-deck period the whole of the leavebreakers had been along aft to see Sharkey, their legal advisor and had all returned forward with a good and likely excuse plus a shock when they had learned that Sharkey was dispensing his legal advice free and would not accept even a sipper for his services. Meantime Sharkey, a Mona Lisa smile on his weatherbeaten face, bimbled forward to clean for requestmen and defaulters.

Soon the pipe for Jimmy's assizes rent the morning air and Chief Petty Officer Green, who had during his career, listened to a greater catalogue of crimes than all the judges in the Old Bailey wrapped up together, reported glumly to the First Lieutenant in the Wardroom.

"No requestmen, sir, and twelve leavebreakers from last night. All three mess, practically, sir. I should throw the flippin' book at them, sir, the miserable perishers". Lieutenant the Hon. Basil Fortescue, R.N., gazed at his trusty 'swain and said, "Green, I am looking forward to this session. Of all the rogues we have in this floating detention quarters, three mess are my favourites. They can lie like no one else I know. They can look me straight in the eye and tell outrageous yarns which would make Satan himself blush with shame and go green with envy. With a bit of luck I should hear some new excuses today, and according to philosophy, he who spins a new and original yarn shall go free as the summer swallow".

Shrugging his care-worn shoulders, the Coxswain left the Wardroom and marshalled his band of criminals ready for the entry of the high priest. A sorry lot they looked except for Sharkey at the end of the line who stood wrapped in an aura of innocence and quiet confidence. The first up was Brigham Young who doffed his Glengarry and listened to the Coxswain's monotone drone out the charge, "Well Leading Seaman Young, what have you to say?". "Well, sir, I was coming back to the ship in my rickshaw and I kept telling the slant-eyed perisher to get a move on, and, so help me, sir, in that street just outside the gates, this rickshaw boy drops stone dead between his shafts. Gave me quite a turn it did, sir, and by the time I had gone and got a policeman, I was adrift." Number One transfixed the miscreant with a steely gaze and quietly said, "I am willing to accept any excuse, however improbable providing it has a touch of originality, but this miserable story, with which you have just insulted my intelligence was used by Able Seaman Ward at Shanghai last month. One day's scale, Coxswain".

Forcing back a stifled curse, the hapless Killick donned his cap, saluted and withdrew from the August presence, casting a venomous glance at the bland visage of Sharkey Ward as he passed. Pincher Martin doubled up to the chopping block, listened to the charge and immediately launched into a heart-rending story of how his rickshaw boy had been taken ill just outside the gate and had died in the arms

of he, Pincher Martin as the sole mourner. Jimmy did not even bother to question him, he merely said in quiet incisive tones. "One day's scale, Coxswain".

One by one the leavebreakers went before the Lord High Justice and each had the same pathetic story to tell of a poor, ragged and under-nourished rickshaw boy dying in the line of duty just outside the Dockyard gates. 'Jimmy the One' was more depressed than angry. "I really thought three mess could do better than this, 'swain, most unoriginal to say the least! however, let's have Able Seaman Ward up, he is the last. Perhaps he can liven up my day for me." Up doubles Sharkey at his normal shotley shuffle and doffed his cap. "Able Seaman Ward, sir, was absent over leave forty-five minutes namely from 2359 hours on 15th May, 1936 until 0044 hours on 16th May, 1936."

Jimmy eyed his most worthy adversary and said, "I suppose your wretched rickshaw boy collapsed with heart failure as well?". Sharkey gazed innocently at a point six inches above Jimmy's head and slowly replied, "Oh, no sir, I was coming back to the ship in my rickshaw and as we approached the Dockyard gates the roadway was blocked with so many overturned rickshaws and dead Chinese we couldn't get through till we had cleared the way". The First Lieutenant slammed his book, smiled and said, "Case dismissed, Coxswain, carry on".

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Chaplain's Notes

Strains of the wedding march one recent dog-watch brought the most eligible bachelor in the ship rushing out of his office in the Admin. block on to the Quarter-Deck. That "nobody-told-me" look quickly disappeared however, when he found the only occupant of the Q.D. was a "tone producer" cabinet; that, in fact, it was merely the acceptance trials of the new Chapel organ which were being held. The look of pleasure which then suffused his face has been reproduced many times since by all who have heard our Compton Electrone. It is a magnificent piece of machinery producing tones which sound far more expensive than the £1,000 which we paid for it.

Yes, that's what it cost; plus a little bit more for the extra speaker which is going to be permanently housed outside the Chapel for use at Daily prayers and on other occasions. Fortunately for us when an Amenities Fund paid off after the war they donated £500 for the provision of an organ in any new Chapel built to replace the one destroyed during the blitz. That sum was invested and even without the help of the Church's Estates Commissioners has almost doubled itself and paid the bill. We're most grateful to our unknown benefactors (readers of '45, '46 vintage please note) and to a prudent bank manager.

Everyone will be able to hear for themselves that the high praise which we give to this organ is true if they will tune in to the Home Service of the B.B.C. for the Morning Service on Sunday, 31st May at 0945. Better still if some of you would come and be broadcast with it. This is not alas, an open invitation, and clearly our regular worshippers will have ticket admission to the limited space on this occasion. But we are short of some singing voices, particularly sopranos, and if members of the Association would volunteer their wives on Thursday evenings at 1930 as from the 9th April we would be most grateful for their help.

The feature of the trend in Church life which has been even more gratifying to me has been the steadily increasing attendance at Holy Communion on Wednesdays. Lent, undoubtedly, brought a number of people back to their duties and I hope that once begun they will now continue. This, by divine command, is the heart and the mainspring of the Christian Life and anybody who means business will start from here. In this connection may I remind you of the Prayer Book ruling: "Every confirmed member of the Church shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter shall be one". Holy Communion will be celebrated in Vernon at 0800 and 1000 on Easter Day.

News from Vernon

We had the honour, on Friday 6th March, to see the departure of our Captain from "Vernon". The road was manned and a piping party of C.P.O's gave him a very warm farewell. Previous to this on Tuesday, 3rd March the C.P.O's dined Captain Blundell in their Mess. We believe this is without precedence.

The Cup voted for the Boy Cadet Corps of the establishment by the Association was formally presented by Captain M. C. Giles on **Monday, 16th March. It will be competed for Annually for Divisional Seamanship.**

A young sapling is at the moment looking very firm and proper reposing in the Wardroom lawn. This was planted by Captain Blundell with all due ceremony just prior to him leaving.

Very shortly there will be a successor to "Willie" in the P.O's Mess. We wish "Buck" a happy appointment and may he reign long.

The "old Lady" is in the process of having her face lifted. Many buildings and roofs are at long last becoming watertight against the elements. It is surprising what a little paint and powder will do in one's old age.

To those who remember the Hatch service from the Bar in Actaeon Block, and waited with long tongues for it to open, will see it no more. The Bar was demolished in February and only an ugly scar now remains where it once stood.

We are sorry to hear of the retirement in the near future of Lieut.-Commander "P". After so many long years we thought "the chair" would have been presented to him. But one forgets "Naval Stores", and the long arm of the Muster List. May we wish him a very happy retirement, so richly deserved.

Congratulations to the Basket Ball Team for their getting into the Command Final. Collingwood were however a little too strong for us. Better luck next time "Drafting permitting".

Correspondence

From:—Captain M. C. Giles, D.S.O., O.B.E., G.M., R.N.,

H.M.S. Vernon, Portsmouth.

Dear Chief Petty Officer Riley,

Thank you very much for your letter inviting me to become a Patron of the T.A.S.I. Association.

Although it is many years since I last served in H.M.S. Vernon, I have of course been well acquainted with the constitution and the aims of the T.A.S.I. Association. It always seemed to me an admirable idea that an association of T.A.S.I's should have been set up, and I have noticed with pleasure that the association has gone from strength to strength ever since its inception in 1955.

Your membership comprises a very select number of highly qualified men, and at any given moment your members are distributed ashore and afloat throughout the world to an extent which is probably unrivalled in any association in any other walk of life. Thus both by their qualifications and by their wide experience, your members are undoubtedly most valuable servants of the Crown, the Country and the Commonwealth.

In the conditions of the present day, with the anti-submarine problem so much in the limelight, the position of a Petty Officer or Chief Petty Officer T.A.S. Instructor in the Royal Navy is one of very great responsibility.

I feel that it is a very real honour to have been invited to be a Patron of the T.A.S.I's Association, and I accept this invitation with pleasure and pride.

Yours sincerely,

Morgan Giles.

From: C.P.O. C. W. Bennett, H.M.S. Wessex, No. 14 Berth, Old Docks, Southampton. 20/2/59

Dear P. O. Seamons,

I thank you for the Agenda and the voting forms. I am enclosing my subscription for this year. The address for C.P.O. Bone is:

"Bramla",

Lackford Avenue,
Totton,
Southampton.

I remain,

Yours Faithfully,

C. W. Bennett.

From: C.P.O. R. Norley, H.M.S. Osprey, Portland.

Dear Allen,

Herewith the chits. I did not know if you wanted to have me contact all the T.A.S.I's in this area. As you see Neads came in as we were discussing. Curtis is sick on shore, with a slipped disc. He will be out of action for a few weeks or maybe months. He wants his name to be placed on the draft dodgers' list. I saw him on Sunday and he does look bad. He looks like an old man of eighty. He should be going into Portway Hospital today to get strapped up. Then he will be home for a while. The Osprey is becoming a mass of gear. All our lovely lecture rooms are filled with oropesas and such like. We have tubes and squids fitted in all the odd corners. I have had to increase the number of stores to hold all the gear. Neads is due to leave for Plymouth this week and they do not expect to see Portland any more. That is Malcolm. I have collected two pounds as for year's subscriptions from P.O. Curtis, P.O. Neads, P.O. Bryant and myself. Neads' receipt can be sent direct to Pellew at Plymouth. I will be around on pay day for the others. We all would like to propose a vote of thanks to Captain E. A. Blundell, O.B.E., R.N., we all realise how much he has done for the Association. Cheerio for now, all the best to all members.

Yours, Reg. Norley.

THE AJAX PRESS, ACCRINGTON

To J.A.S. we wish the best

for his gallant little pun,

his kind remarks about our team

have given us much fun.

On Stanley's ground, the game was played

the Red's mistakes were few,

but Lo' on Portsmouth's sacred turf,

they met their Waterloo.

With due respect to Stanley's team

to the Cup we bade farewell,

when Pompey held them to a draw

we knew that class would tell.

Good luck to your team J.A.S. and when they come up to Burnley, may the best team win.

F. C. Picton

From:— Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Algernon Willis.

Dear Fraser,

Lady Willis and I thank you and your Committee very much indeed for the Christmas cards, the photographs and in particular for the Vernon Book. This will always remind us of the most enjoyable evening we had at the Annual Dinner and Ball of your Association.

Wishing the Association continued success.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Algernon Willis, A.F.

From:— Fourth Sea Lord, Admiralty, London, S.W.1.

Dear Chief Petty Officer Fraser,

Thank you very much for the photographs taken at your Annual Dinner and Ball which will provide us with a delightful memento of a most enjoyable occasion. In addition I thought the photos were rather good.

I am delighted to learn that the Association's affairs have continued to progress well throughout 1958, and do trust that the splendid efforts of the Committee are fully appreciated by the members of the Association as they deserve to be. I note that there will be changes in the Committee's membership soon and agree that the introduction of new blood is always advisable but am glad that some of the old members will be on hand to continue to give sound advice.

I thought the Journal excellent and goes from strength to strength, and is not only well produced but full of interesting matter.

My wife joins me in wishing all members of the Association and particularly Mrs. Fraser and yourself a very happy Christmas and all that is best in 1959.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Coneman.

From:— Petty Officer J. C. MacLeod, H.M.S. Tiger, c/o John Brown's Clydebank, Glasgow.

Dear President,

At last I can use my type-writer in a capacity other than official. First, please convey my thanks to our indomitable Secretary, Allan Seamons, for the despatch of the Journal and Christmas card. Here, I may add, I was not the only member of Tiger's Ship's Company who found interesting reading in our Association "Log-book". The Senior Gunnery Rates looked more than a little forlorn when comparing their current Journal with ours, but were quick with their compliments.

Since I arrived here I have had the good fortune of living in excellent "digs" situated in a select residential area four miles from the centre of Glasgow and six miles from John Brown's Yard. The Tiger

has returned to her berth here after two weeks spent on Builder's Trials off "Paddy's Milestone" during which time she operated from the Ta'lo-the-Bank. She has behaved as expected from verbal accounts I have had, with minor defects which will be catered for during the next two months no doubt. Her final docking period starts this week, when my A/S Dome will be fitted. Of course, I have Demolitions and (at the moment) Diving Equipment on my slop-chit but the latter will be slipped to the Senior Diver on his arrival here. At this stage may I ask you to make discreet enquiries at "Deepwater" as to who the gentleman is so that I can give him the "gen" by letter before he leaves the sanctuary of his parent body.

In addition to the above duties, I am also President of 2 G Petty Officer's Mess consisting of 30 members and who are a mixed 'bag'. i.e., E.A.'s, O.A.'s, Shipt's., P.O.M.(E)'s, Writers, Seamen, etc. Apparently, there is an A.P.O. to the effect that segregation is a thing of the past, but I have been unable to get hold of it as we have not yet received our issue. Perhaps, after all, "Oil and water DOES mix?"

My subscription for 1959 will be forwarded in the near future, but you might point out to Allan that my initials are (J. C.) and not (N) as given in the Journal. Also, please pass on my regards to the Sub-Lieut. Section and I hope to be able to visit 'Vernon' in March, on our arrival in Pompey. I will endeavour to correspond with you at intervals during our commission, which promises to be an interesting one of, at least 2½ years. After extensive trials at Portsmouth, we sail for the Med. around Oct./Nov. but the grapevine has it that we shall visit numerous N.A.T.O. countries which, of course remains to be seen.

Now, a word about the Tiger. She was launched here in 1944 but was never completed due to cessation of hostilities. After being laid up for over eleven years, work on her was restarted, and from an original 8000 tonner of 'Tijl' class, she is now 11000 tons approx. and in a class of her own until 'Blake' and 'Lion' are completed. One striking thing about her is the modern accommodation for all concerned and recreational amenities, in the form of Television which is designed to receive foreign programmes when on station abroad. Two 16mm. cinema projectors are supplied, and dining halls have permanent wiring installed for speakers, which does away with the cable from machine to speakers, which inevitably is trod on and pulled out of it's socket by awkward Jack. The galley, bakery, laundry, etc., are all fitted with modern equipment and laid out excellently. As regards her operational abilities and fighting equipment, you will have to see for yourself; if you have a mind to pay me a visit (which you are welcome to do) at your convenience. I, obviously, cannot describe them in my correspondence.

Well Pres., that, I think, gives you an insight into things to come in the modern Navy, and I hope it is interesting reading for you and your

Committee. So until my next communique:—

"A Guld New Year Tae Ane and A'"

J. C. MacLeod, P.O. T.A.S.I.

P.S. On reading the account in the Journal about the T.A.S.I.'s Dinner and Ball I was more than a little envious of those who were fortunate to attend. Perhaps I shall catch one up yet before I take my pension. Congratulations to all concerned in the organising body.

From:— C.P.O. J. Martin, N.Z. 13755, H.M.N.Z.S. Rotoliti, c/o G.P.O. London.

Dear Secretary,

Once again I enclose my contribution for the current year and take this opportunity of wishing you and all members a very happy and prosperous new year.

The 'Rotoliti' is serving with the 3rd Frigate Squadron in the Far East. We have been out this way since April last year and we are due to return to N.Z. in April. I've had the pleasure of meeting quite a few old coppers from Vernon. Namely C.P.O. Walton, who is the squadron T.A.S.I., P.O. English, who is in the base at Singapore. Stripey Miles, now serving with the Australian Navy on board H.M.A.S. Quiberon. Incidentally he tells me they are seriously considering forming their own branch of the Association so you may like to contact the T.A.S. centre at Rushcutter Sydney.

I have seen some really amusing incidents while on the station. The particular one I am thinking of is the missing 162 transducer of Cardigan Bay. Apparently after a refit the set failed to work on trials and the 'Turning and Twisting' team from Singapore finally deduced a faulty transducer. On removal of the cover plate, much to everyone's amazement, there was no transducer! Further check revealed it had been missing for some considerable time. Exhaustive enquiries finally discovered the transducer firmly screwed on the bulk head in No. 2 Naval Store!

This story I heard from C.P.O. Walton so maybe some light can be thrown on it by some other members.

All the best to you and any of the other T.A.S.I.'s of A2 class who may read this. I still have, or rather, my wife has the photo of the whole class when we qualified in 1948. Do you still run the same system of photography classes?

Yours sincerely,
"Pincher"

P.S. How much are the Association Badges? Would it be possible for you to purchase one for me later on if I send the money on to you?

From:— Julian C. Beeching, 26 Galifurd Rise, Maidenhead, Berks.
Dear Mr. Secretary,

Many thanks for the last Magazine. As you may perceive by the above address I am at home enjoying a few days leave, and having no laid down routine at it were, remembered that my subscription fell due a few days ago I am enclosing same. I have pointed out to S/Lt. Oliver the need for his Honorary Membership subscription upon several occasions and have received a definite 'yes' as a reply each time, but will try again upon my return to the ship.

After our three week stay in Londonderry (where I came across Jock Murray) we returned to Chatham after exercising (quite successfully) with H.M. Submarine Excalibur, wondering if may be an old 144 type can after all be used for type 15 work.

I would like to conclude by wishing yourself and the members of the Association a happy and prosperous new year.

Yours faithfully,

Julian C. Beeching.

(150) H.M.S. Corunna.

From:— P.O. S. E. Gladden, H.M.S. Hardy, c/o G.P.O. London.

Dear Secretary,

It has just crossed my mind that it was time for me to send this years subscriptions, so please find a cheque enclosed for same.

As you can see I am still serving on H.M.S. Hardy, which at the present time is in No. 8 Dock, H.M. Dockyard, Chatham, where she will remain until sometime in May, and then she is expected to go back to Portland joining once again with the 2nd Training Squadron.

I note with interest the progress the Association has made in the past year, also the continued improvement of the Journal, and hope things will improve for both even more in the coming year, best wishes to the Association, and my many friends in it.

Yours sincerely,

Sid Gladden.

Members Whereabouts

Assoc. No.	Name	Rating	Official No.	Where Serving
35	Avery L.	C.P.O.	P/JX 150535	Jewell
72	Allen A. J.	P.O.	P/JX 326423	Undine
133	Ashton J.	P.O.	P/JX 833241	Vernon
97	Abery G.	C.P.O.	P/JX 149727	Vernon
191	Anderson W.	C.P.O.	C/JX 139073	Saintes
199	Austin R.	C.P.O.	P/JX 890054	R.N.V.R. Hove
246	Adams J.	P.O.	P/JX 771563	Vernon
251	Andrews W.	P.O.	C/JX 838859	Vernon
10	Bennett D.	C.P.O.	C/JX 150179	R.N.V.R. Wessex
37	Bradley J.	P.O.	P/JX 142931	Vernon
50	Belcher L.	C.P.O.	P/JX 150602	St. Vincent
62	Bone D.	Mr.	Address unknown	
102	Bounds F.	C.P.O.	C/JX 767553	Agincourt
148	Bowler R.	P.O.	D/JX 517368	Vernon
150	Beeching J.	P.O.	P/JX 835607	Corunna
255	Butler M. P.	P.O.	D/JX 818051	Vernon
154	Baxendale J.	C.P.O.	D/JX 138208	Sea Eagle
176	Banks T.	P.O.	P/JX 183427	Rooke
188	Blackhurst A.	P.O.	P/JX 831565	Carysfort
209	Blizzard H.	C.P.O.	C/JX 944493	2nd T.S. Staff, Portland
224	Bailey G.	C.P.O.	P/JX 105751	Vernon
149	Brady L.	P.O.	N.Z. 13769	Black Prince
226	Bryan S.G.	P.O.	C/JX 769104	Osprey
234	Bush A. G.	P.O.	C/JX 161944	Ganges
237	Banks E.	C.P.O.	C/JX 125265	Osprey
14	Coop W.	Mr.		Southsea
51	Cooper S.	P.O.	P/JX 777938	Ulysses
95	Curtis R.	P.O.	P/JX 712325	Undaunted
122	Connor V.	P.O.	P/JX 766080	Vernon
128	Coles H.	P.O.	D/JX 160865	Vernon
136	Cheesman	P.O.	C/JX 819883	Ganges
138	Caudery S.	P.O.	C/JX 818005	Zest
144	Curtis E.	P.O.	D/JX 157040	Osprey
168	Caghill J.	C.P.O.	P/JX 716387	Vernon II
181	Chalcroft C.	Mr.		Normandy, Surrey
190	Clark W.	C.P.O.	P/JX 136752	Tyne
200	Clark R.	P.O.	C/JX 661934	R.N.B. Chatham
202	Carter D.	P.O.	C/JX 581663	Ganges
204	Carter H.	P.O.	P/JX 157930	Vernon II
213	Clemson H.	P.O.	P/JX 646772	Blackwood
214	Curtis A. W.	C.P.O.	P/JX 110997	Vernon
218	Cooke A. C.	P.O.	C/JX 836845	824 Squadron
254	Caddell M.	P.O.	P/JX 760307	Vernon

Assoc. No.	Name	Rating	Official No.	Where Serving
52	Dibbens J.	P.O.	P/JX 646341	Roebuck
67	Dennett E.	C.P.O.	P/JX 155367	Vernon
98	Daniel W.	C.P.O.	P/JX 113696	Vanguard
120	Dant R.	P.O.	C/JX 152486	Vernon
135	Duplock R.	P.O.	P/JX 150009	Mounts Bay
184	Davies H.	W.O. S.A.N.		Simonstown
240	Davies J.	C.P.O.	P/JX 129972	Vernon
244	Douglas J.	P.O.	D/JX 166675	Defiance
253	Dyke D.	P.O.	P/JX 646123	Vernon
56	Elgie F.	P.O.	P/JX 815841	Vernon
111	Evemy J.	C.P.O.	P/JX 162228	Caprice
141	Eldows G.	P.O.	P/JX 917163	Vernon
161	Elsey C.	P.O.	D/JX 857816	Centaur
15	Fraser A.	C.P.O.	P/JX 714528	Vernon
39	Firbank C.	C.P.O.	P/JX 901518	Vernon
65	Finch H. F.	C.P.O.	C/JX 134755	Vanguard
137	Fair P.	P.O.	C/JX 152845	Sheffield
159	Fernoy L.	P.O.	C/JX 660397	Zest
164	Feasey R.	P.O.	P/JX 660692	Vernon
185	Flux C. T.	C.P.O. S.A.N.		Simonstown
197	Faulkner D. A.	P.O.	P/S.A.N. 13197	Simonstown
219	Flack J.	P.O.	P/JX 163117	Vernon
66	Gauntlett E.	P.O.	P/JX 163702	Vernon
75	Gray E.	C.P.O.	C/JX 166733	Vernon
112	Gladwish W.	P.O.	P/JX 712510	Hogue
153	Gladden S. E.	P.O.	C/JX 192780	Hardy
189	Grey R.	C.P.O.	D/JX 150380	Vernon
217	Griffiths M. G.	P.O.	D/JX 177492	Vernon
220	Garty R.	C.P.O.	C/JX 130564	H.M.S. Graham Clyde
227	Grogan S. J.	P.O.	P/JX 820289	Adamant
243	Goldsmith S.	C.P.O.	P/JX 137835	Trafalgar
249	Graham J.	L/Sea.	P/JX 820062	Ganges
158	Harrop F.	Mr.		Cardiff
179	Holme N.	C.P.O.	P/JX 134159	Vernon
238	Hagues J.	P.O.	P/JX 163228	Vernon
242	Haines A.	C.P.O.	P/JX 134489	Vernon
18	Hodgen W.	C.P.O.	C/JX 159183	Reserve Fleet Chatham
19	Heaver B.	P.O.	P/JX 660994	St. Vincent
20	Hoveden A.	P.O.	P/JX 660362	Ganges
22	Hobart J.	P.O.	P/JX 900209	Bermuda
86	Harrison M.	P.O.	P/JX 160273	Cavalier
107	Hayman C.	C.P.O.	P/JX 137265	Vernon

Assoc. No.	Name	Rating	Official No.	Where Serving
115	Hagreen A.	Mr.		The Cottage, Whitehall Lane, Egham, Surrey
123	Hendy L.	P.O.	D/JX 183654	Centaur
156	Houghton C.	P.O.	P/JX 153779	Dolphin
17	Hawkins G.	C.P.O.	C/JX 130247	Vernon
259	Hunt A.	P.O.	C/JX 712684	Dolphin
109	Inglis C.	P.O.	P/JX 922821	Vernon
129	Jackson W.	C.P.O.	D/JX 149055	Vernon
53	Kinchin E.	P.O.	P/JX 754177	Battleaxe
166	Keeler H.	C.P.O.	C/JX 156342	Vernon
25	Lloyd A.	C.P.O.	P/JX 132948	Vernon
26	Little N.	Mr.		"The Grafton Arms", Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, London, N.5.
82	Leech A.	Mr.		65 Bury Crescent, Gosport.
166	Libbey P. C.	P.O.	D/JX 143309	H.M.S. Dartmouth
108	Lee A.	P.O.	P/JX 890942	Osprey
180	Langford J.	C.P.O.	C/JX 151985	R.N.V.R. London
186	Laver C.	Mr.		Gosport
206	Lightburn G.	P.O.	D/JX 180676	Dolphin
225	Lewis E.	C.P.O.	P/JX 667691	Vernon
223	Lansley S.	Mr.		Cosham
233	Lambert P.	P.O.	P/JX 646213	Vernon
41	Mitchell A.	P.O.	P/JX 815249	Torquay
48	Maltman E.	P.O.	P/JX 153379	Adamant
49	Mitchell A. A.	C.P.O.	P/JX 801670	R.N.V.R. Belfast
54	Martin E.	P.O.	D/JX 136872	Ulster
57	McCann N.	Mr.		Tunbridge Wells.
68	Mason J.	P.O.	P/JX 607600	Lagos
76	McNally J.	P.O.	D/JX 155255	Dolphin
113	Minchin H.	P.O.	P/JX 158240	Blackpool
125	McLeod J.	P.O.	P/JX 148508	Tiger
140	Mott J.	Mr.		Southampton
146	Martin J.	C.P.O.	N.Z. 13755	H.M.N.Z.S. Rototoi
160	McCall J.	P.O.	D/JX 802081	Adamant
163	Malthouse D.	P.O.	C/JX 660372	Daring
165	Marchant T.	P.O.	P/JX 660387	Osprey
167	Murkin A.	P.O.	P/JX 760227	Vernon
171	Mann D.	P.O.	C/JX 838839	Vernon
155	Moorcraft J.	P.O.	C/JX 155985	Chailey

Assoc. No.	Name	Rating	Official No.	Where Serving
178	McCoombe S.	P.O.	P/JX 832741	Naval Party Turkey
192	Mullane J.	P.O.	C/JX 944534	Trowbridge
194	Munday R.	P.O.	C/JX 670334	Ganges
195	Marlbrough D.	Mr.	Portland	
207	Murray G.	P.O.	C/JX 778068	Sea Eagle
232	Manders D.	P.O.	C/JX 617920	Vernon
239	Moore A.	P.O.	D/JX 150836	Defiance
241	Mc Crink L. M.	P.O.	C/JX 154431	Vernon
105	Martin F.	Mr.		Portsmouth
257	Munro G.	C.P.O.	D/JX 170232	Dolphin
114	Needs G.	P.O.	D/JX 818092	Malcolm
134	Neal W.	P.O.	P/JX 329669	St. Vincent
228	Ninnim J. A.	P.O.	D/JX 778012	Undaunted
173	Norley R.	C.P.O.	C/JX 136692	Osprey
27	Oliver A.	Mr.		Havant
101	Oswell R.	P.O.	D/JX 890711	Orwell
28	Plumridge R.	P.O.	P/JX 154225	Anello
43	Patten C.	C.P.O.	C/JX 154743	Vernon
60	Parkin W.	C.P.O.	C/JX 194596	Vernon
71	Pink F.	C.P.O.	P/JX 157936	Solebay
42	Preston A. A.	P.O.	C/JX 371868	Contest
84	Perret A.	C.P.O.	D/JX 150628	Chaser
80	Peacock A.	P.O.	P/JX 147076	Duchess
87	Parry A.	C.P.O.	D/JX 150604	Vernon
110	Phillips J.	P.O.	P/JX 145467	Osprey
145	Pearce R.	P.O.	D/JX 809931	Tyne
151	Parsons L.	C.P.O.	P/S.A.N. 20730	Simonstown
29	Riley J.H.	C.P.O.	C/JX 129409	Vernon
30	Riley F.	P.O.	C/JX 154402	Bigbury Bay
55	Rowlands C.	Mr.	Halifax, Yorks	
58	Rishman L.	P.O.	P/JX 151634	Terror
59	Reynard A.	C.P.O.	P/JX 145565	Forth
77	Rowe D.	C.P.O.	C/JX 157488	Grenville
81	Robbins D.	P.O.	C/JX 182118	Tyne
96	Robinson T.	P.O.	C/JX 722955	Vernon
162	Roche J.	P.O.	D/JX 159334	Ranpura
169	Roche C.	P.O.	C/JX 760265	Ganges
172	Russett W.	P.O.	C/JX 153996	Vernon
235	Ruffell R.	C.P.O.	P/JX 152344	Vernon
247	Roe E.	P.O.	C/JX 661282	Vernon
31	Stark P.	P.O.	D/JX 147376	Defiance

Assoc. No.	Name	Rating	Official No.	Where Serving
32	Somerfield L.	P.O.	C/JX 804379	Royal Malayan Navy
44	Sellar H. W.	P.O.	C/JX 166380	Ganges
93	Suffell B.	P.O.	D/JX 646073	Osprey
117	Stone F.	C.P.O.	D/JX 157266	R.F. Devonport
119	Spencer B.	P.O.	P/JX 660367	Vernon
139	Seamons J. A.	P.O.	P/JX 140710	Vernon
177	Shaw B.	P.O.	C/JX 767979	R.N.V.R. Hartlepool
187	Smart G.	P.O.	D/JX 149665	Cavendish
211	Squires W. H.	P.O.	D/JX 157565	Delight
231	Smith D. E.	P.O.	P/JX 171729	Sheba, Aden
245	Stewart T.	P.O.	C/JX 152448	R.F. Hartlepool
248	Spildlove R.	P.O.	P/JX 835711	Vernon
46	Thomson M.	C.P.O.	P/JX 152577	Vernon
143	Templeton T.	P.O.	D/JX 151610	Phoenicia
152	Taylor F.	P.O.	P/JX 156265	Vernon
221	Tripp T.	Mr.		Hayling Island
230	Taylor R. G.	P.O.	C/JX 863589	St. Vincent
250	Turner J.	P.O.	P/JX 795790	Vernon
33	Trenaman K.	C.P.O.	P/JX 140175	Vernon
215	Vass V.	C.P.O.	P/JX 897665	Vanguard
88	Valentine J.	P.O.	P/JX 860598	Solebay
45	Williams R.	P.O.	P/JX 150247	Phoenicia
47	Wood L.	P.O.	C/JX 893104	Vernon
94	Wilson T.	C.P.O.	C/JX 153937	R.M. Navy
99	Wild F.	P.O.	P/JX 667126	Vernon
126	Wilson R.	P.O.	P/JX 362974	Victorious
147	West E.	C.P.O.	N.Z. 13739	H.M.N.Z.S. Kaniere
196	Waterfield F.	P.O.	C/JX 641933	Crane
203	Watters J. P.	P.O.	P/JX 766053	St. Vincent
229	Wheeler E.	C.P.O.	C/JX 786696	S/M Alderney
252	West N.	P.O.	P/JX 839226	Vernon
256	Yeandle D. R.	P.O.	P/JX 646165	Vernon
258	Yorke J. C.	C.P.O.	R.C.N. Canada	

N.A.A.F.I. Record

After 44 years' sea-going service with the Royal Navy, 61-year-old James Victor Fyfe, B.E.M., Naafi Canteen Manager, stepped ashore from H.M.S. Cumberland for the last time on Thursday 29th January, 1959, having established a Naafi record for continuous service afloat.

In his pocket was a brand new wallet and £35 presented to him on behalf of the ship's company, by Captain H.G.T. Padfield, R.N., Captain of the former Trials Cruiser, H.M.S. Cumberland. He wore a gold wrist watch presented by the Ship's C.P.O's and P.O's.

Mr. Fyfe first put to sea as a Naafi Canteen assistant on board H.M.S. Aurora in 1915 at the age of 16.

"I've never taken a shore job," he said, "though I've been offered the chance many a time. The sea's in my blood and I feel I have to be on board ship. I feel out of my element anywhere else. My father was a captain in the Trinity Service and I joined up as a canteen assistant on the old H.M.S. Aurora after I had been turned down by the Navy because of poor eyesight. I have sailed round the world many times — the only countries I have not visited are Japan, China and New Zealand; I have had a good life with Naafi and the Navy and given my chance over again I'd do the same thing".

A married man with two grown up sons, Mr. Fyfe is a comparative stranger at his home in Buckham Park Road, Peveral, Plymouth. He calculated that he had never lived at home for more than three consecutive months throughout his 44 years' service. "My wife says she wonders what I'll do with myself when I finally retire," he said with a broad smile. "One thing is certain, I'll never be far from the sea".

Of his long years of sea-service, Mr. Fyfe has little to say. "I've never been ship-wrecked, shot-up or shelled", he said. "It's the life at sea I like even more than the foreign parts I've visited. In fact, I don't bother to go ashore in foreign ports unless there is something of special interest to see".

Known throughout the Royal Navy and a figure of some veneration in Naafi's Naval Canteen Service, Jim Fyfe has the reputation of being the perfect ship's canteen manager. Before joining H.M.S. Cumberland in 1956 he was canteen manager aboard H.M.S. Vanguard, the Flag Ship of the Home Fleet. Very senior Naval officers who knew Jim Fyfe as a goodhearted friend in their far-off "snotty" days, know him still as "Jim". They never failed to call on him whenever they went on board.

Jim Fyfe has reached the end of his sea career. But he will continue to look after the Royal Navy at Plymouth. A shore berth with Naafi is being found for him that will keep him in touch with the men and ships of the Royal Navy, in whose service he has spent the greater part of his life.

"Derry" Newsletter

Greetings to all from 'Derry. A pair of blank days gives me a chance to drop a long overdue newsletter, in the hope that it is in time for the Easter publication.

Since last Summer we have been rather busy. The Autumn term saw no fewer than three major courses through the school. One of them was a N.A.T.O. effort. A language barrier had to be broken down, it was a case of find an interpreter before any brief of duties within the school could be carried out. The T.A.S. officer of the Norwegian squadron was an ex pupil of East Weare Camp in 1957. He, Lieut. Anonsen, sends his regards to Lew Dover in Osprey.

Having had a brief period of recuperation in which time every part of the equipment was checked and put right where necessary, we are off again. Our A.T.H. 144 set up was just about ready for the scrap heap, but a good re-fit has got it working on top line again. A good few electric shocks were encountered during the work but the results obtained proved that they were well worth it. The A.T.H. is used quite frequently by C.P.O. Baxendale and his merry men off the 1st S.D.B. Squadron. Visiting ships to this area are asked to note that the A.T.H. is available for their use if required. A phone call to me in J.A.S.T. and it will be fixed.

The R.N.A.S. Eglinton is in the course of closing down. The T.A.S.I. there is P.O. Turner who informs me he is on his way to the Far East on the 'Belfast'. Note, a prospective member for the Association.

George Murray.

Ne Exeat (2)

Among the less popular jobs provided by pre-war Osprey was a draft to a ship in the 'Pig-bins' the Asdic ratings name for the coal pound area in Portland Dockyard.

One of the happiest ships was the destroyer Vidette and certainly its Captain known in messdeck circles as 'Gerald' set the pace on a theme 'work hard, play hard'. His warcry 'Oui, oui, oui ...' was a familiar roar on the sportsfield, annual dockyard race and in fact anywhere his crew was concerned. For points of exceptional notice he would award an immediate bottle of beer. Thus it was that after a twenty-fourth search for a lost torpedo in the icy wastes off Portland Bill we turned to head back to harbour as dawn broke. At that moment I accidentally glanced down the ships' side only to see a rusty form of a torpedo floating by. A minute or so later a bottle of beer arrived.

I lost track of the skipper when I left and it was only by an odd trick of fate that I found out what happened to him.

As part of the Naval force occupying Kiel, I boarded the 10,000 ton cruiser 'Hipper' and saw a discoloured plaque on one of her forward gun mountings which commemorated the loss of one of her crew whilst engaging the destroyer 'Glowworm'. Later, in the German Naval Photographic Records Section I came across a picture and report that will always stand out in my memory. I also learnt of what happened to Gerald.

April 1940 saw H.M. Destroyer Glowworm, 1345 tons, looking for a man washed overboard by heavy seas. She had lost touch with battle cruiser Renown and reduced to 10 knots as the weather worsened. Her gyro compass failed and she was steering by magnetic. Daybreak of the 8th revealed an unidentified destroyer which replied 'Swedish' to the challenge and then opened fire. A little later a second destroyer was sighted and Glowworm attacked. Her director was flooded and two men injured, two fell overboard as she manoeuvred to fight. The German destroyer broke off the action and Glowworm anticipated further enemy re-inforcements. Out of the gale heaved a great ship 'Admiral Hipper' with eight 8", twelve 4.1" and twelve 37mm. guns against Glowworm's four 4.7" and 2 pom-poms. The weather made shadowing hopeless and Glowworm clearly saw her end was near. She lurched heavily round and surged through the green seas towards the giant. 8" shells shattered her superstructure long before she could retaliate. Ablaze from stem to stern she came into range and fired two torpedoes. 'A' gun and her rangefinder was hit. Her upper-yard collapsed across the siren wires and a continuous screaming merged into the hideous background of black funnel smoke and cordite smell. A shambles, she she tries to ram. With every ounce from her failing boilers and engines she crashed into Hipper's side. Breaking away she re-opened fire. All hell broke loose and a savage hail of fire swept into the gallant destroyer.

Exactly at 1100 she capsized. The order to abandon ship had been passed. The Hipper's crew threw lines to the British sailors in the water. Glowworm's captain helped several of her crew to be rescued. Exhausted he hung onto a rope for a few seconds and then the sea claimed him. The German Vice Admiral, Helmuth Heye had concluded his report 'In my opinion the bearing of the Commanding Officer and crew of the Glowworm was excellent'. A copy of the London Gazette published the final paragraph 'Lt.Cdr. Gerald B. Roope, R.N. awarded posthumously the V.C. Sole surviving officer Lieut. Ramsay, D.S.O. and among other awards to the ratings three Conspicuous Gallantry Medals.

"Ne exeat" was never more true but to Gerald "On, On, On" was the urgent need and he went on"

Carl Hayman, C.P.O., T.A.S.I.

Football Trebles

Snowball Week No. 11. £22.

Tickets for the Weekly Football Treble are obtainable from the sellers of the Association, at the price of 1/- per ticket per week.

There is a total of £51 3s. 10d. in prize money guaranteed each week; made up in the following manner:—

Three teams scoring the highest number of goals	£20 0 0
Three teams having the highest number of goals against	£10 0 0
51 I.O.U's each at 2/6d.	£ 6 7 6
To the sellers, 2d. for each ticket sold	£12 16 4
Snowball Accumulating at £2 per week until three teams score 16 goals or more	£ 2 0 0
	£51 3 10

Result of the Winning number for Saturday, 14th February:

Highest Score:	
02 - 11 - 20	} £10 each.
11 - 13 - 20	
Highest Against:	
09 - 10 - 12	— £10

Any queries please apply to the Association Office.

J. A. Seamons, Hon. Sec.

The Nigerian Navy

The Nigerian Navy was constituted in May, 1958 when it took over a few surveying and Customs patrol vessels from the Nigeria Marine. It has now been decided to build up an Anti-Submarine and Minesweeping force and the British Government has recently made a free gift of an Algerine and an S.D.M.L. to help the Nigerian Navy to get going. It is expected that this year the Nigerian Navy will acquire:—

- 1 Algerine
- 1 S.D.M.L.
- 2 M.S.M.L.'s.

In addition 2 S.D.B's are being ordered for delivery in 18 months to 2 years. Further expansion is planned as officers and ratings can be trained to man the ships and work the equipment.

There are now 33 officers and 310 ratings, 9 of the officers and all the ratings are Nigerians. There is a training programme in progress and at present 50 Nigerian Ratings are under training at R.N. Training Schools, and it is expected that more will follow.

In Nigeria too, training is going on of new Entries. The Seaman training school "Quorra" trains not only Naval new entries but also Nigeria Merchant Seamen in elementary Seamanship. Lack of equipment, soon to be remedied, through the generosity of the U.K. Government, precludes any weapons training at the moment.

The first Nigerian cadets go to Dartmouth in May and it is hoped to build up a substantial number of junior officers in the next six years. In the meantime, however, Ex. R.N. officers are urgently required to man the ships as they come forward and to train the junior officers as they return to Nigeria. There are also openings for a few ratings ex. C.P.O. who would serve as the equivalent of Special Duties Officer.

The Director of Naval Services, Nigerian Naval Headquarters, Harbour Road, Apapa, would be glad to answer any queries from any officer or senior rating interested.

The above is published with particular reference to the last sentence of paragraph 4.

Life with the Fleet Air Arm

Briefing was over and the three man crew of "Firestone Zulu" walked across the flight-deck to where their waiting helicopter stood, and climbed aboard.

"Have you checked the winch, Chadwick?"

"Yes, sir," replied Chadwick.

"Where are the smoke-floats?"

"Behind your seat, sir".

"Good, Good! hang on to this lot whilst I strap in", and without further warning Chadwick's lap was suddenly, almost indecently filled with a collection of papers, chartboard, Dalton Computer, Douglas, pencils and dividers.

"Why the hell can't he keep this load in a Nav-bag like any other human being" thought Chadwick, trying to ease himself.

"What frequency are we on?"

"Charlie, Sir".

"What's Yankee on?"

"Echo, Sir". Doesn't he ever keep his lug-oles open at briefing. Suddenly all conversation and thoughts were interrupted by a cart-ridge explosion which brought the unwilling engine into life.

"Right" yapped the observer, above the din and rudely snatched his plotting essentials from Chadwick's lap. "Ready in the back?" a third voice, belonging to our driver, came over the inter-comm.

"All set to take-off, Boss" answered the Observer, glancing in all directions.

Chadwick's attention was centred on the chock-man who crouched over the wheel holding in position two clumsy-looking chocks, and who was getting nicely soaked by a steady downpour, which suddenly almost changed to gale force by the threshing rotor blades, as the green flag signalled permission to take off.

Firestone "Z" shuddered and vibrated in protest as the engine seemed about to burst with power, then, as if almost giving in the aircraft left the heaving deck. "At last", sighed Chad., catching a last glimpse of the soaked chock-man running clear of the rotor-blades, bent double like some cripple. He then settled back to his immediate duties which consisted of checking his A/S record sheet pencils, adjusting his pussers watch, switched on his set and waited for it to warm up. He scrutinized the horizon down the port side noting how sea conditions were improving ahead. The helicopter squadron was at present Carrier borne in order to take part in Fleet A/S exercises.

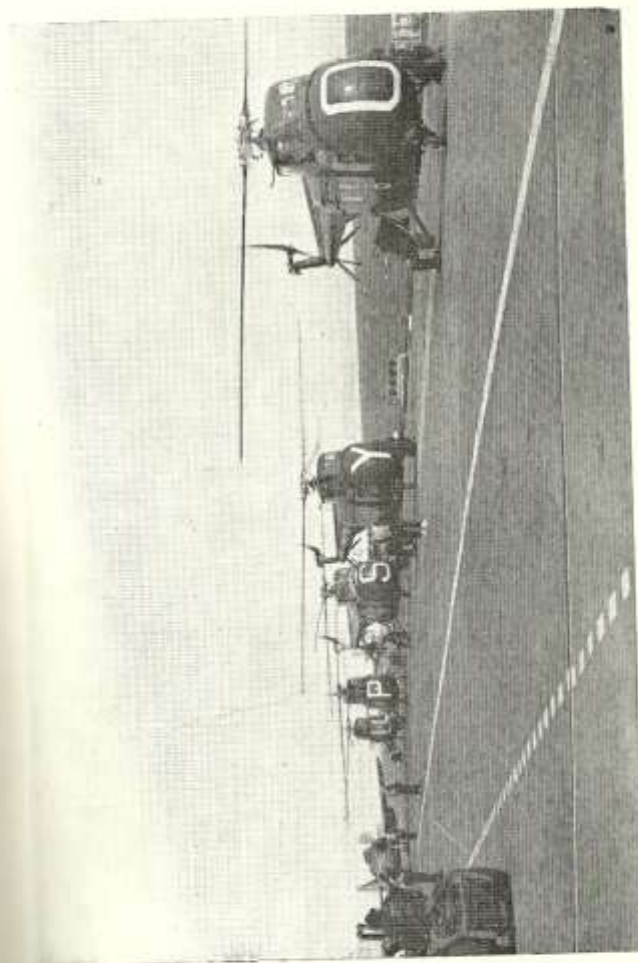
Having established communications with their consort Firestone Yankee who had taken up station close on the Port quarter, the two

"Choppers" took departure from the screens wing destroyer, estimating to be in dip position Alpha approximately ten minutes later.

"Firestone Zulu marking hover", bawled the Observer over the air to the world, making Chadwick jump, but instinctively handling the right switches for lowering his Sonar ball into the uneven sea.

This manoeuvre always seemed to have the same tense effect on Chadwick as the Chopper suddenly came to a grinding hover, nose high, he never could control his imagination at this stage, fancying the tail rotor threshing the waves and wondering what the outcome would be if in fact it did so. The sensation of relief when the driver was satisfied that he had the Chopper under control with the correct power boost. "Throw it in", came his usual lacksadaisical order, Chadwick, always liking informal but efficient orders replied "Going down", and used the correct procedure for sweeping dip Alpha for S/Ms. "No contact, raising the ball" he said, doing just that. "Firestone Zulu breaking hover" bawled the Observer to the world once more, and they proceeded to the next dip position. It was at dip position Delta that they finally classified a contact as a S/M and the Observer reported its C and Sp. back to the Carrier. They held it until the approaching S.A.U. took over to complete the kill. "Raise the ball, returning to base", came the driver's satisfied voice, as yet another detail was completed.

Fish-head



"Choppers" on H.M.S. Albion, February, 1957



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