

NABS FORD NEWS

No. 3.

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ONE PENNY

Produced Fortnightly by and for the Ship's Company of H.M.S. "Nabsford," Brisbane, Queensland.

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EDITORIAL

School Office,
H.M.S. "Nabsford."

November 29, 1945.

Day succeeds day, the sun climbs ever higher in the blue sky of Queensland, a few more of the ship's company have left TAMY on the first stage of their long trek homeward, and another Editorial remains to be written.

Not that there is much need for an Editorial (whoever reads it, anyway?)—"Nabsford News" can now speak for itself. Contributions are coming in steadily, and with the third issue we can regard the Ship's Newspaper as well and truly launched.

Number two was quickly sold out, and the absence of comment or criticism in letters to the Editor may be taken as tacit approval rather than as mute apathy. Or is that a false assumption? Suggestions for improving "Nabsford News" will be welcomed, and articles, poems, or commentaries on camp life, like cigars at Christmas, will be most acceptable. Do not be put off if your grammar or spelling is rusty—hand in your rough ideas and our staff will polish them up for publication.

L. J. JAY.

REQUESTMAN



NOW, LOOK HERE !

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STROLLING COMMENTARY

(By "COUNT BORIS")

Barracuda 783
Jammed its hook and fell in sea;
Leading Air Mechanic Snell
Said, "There it goes—my hook as well!"
* * *

Chief says roads are very bad for motor cycling . . . Stephens' Blue-Black?

Another Chief is engaged to a Canon's daughter . . . Big shot, eh?

One N.C.O. enjoys shifting aircraft about in the wood, field, and trees . . . off the beaten tractor?

Report that high naval officer ordered salvaged oil to be used in aircraft . . . No fuel like an old fuel?

Pilots who use it say good-bye to their friends with a cheery . . . "Oil be seeing you."

There used to be an Irish P.O. who was always blowing his whistle . . . Until somebody philled the Phluter in?

Quoted in Press report: "Brisbane girls have good morals and live in single storey houses . . . So they will not "get up them stairs"?"
* * *

Air Mechanic Thomas Horne
Trode on a P.O.'s corn—
And got a lesson
In self-expression.
* * *

FAMOUS SAYINGS

Of course, I know a dural rivet. It has a D stamped on the maker's head.

(Seafire brainstorm)—Why don't you put the wheels on first and push it along for the mainplanes?

That feeler gauge is rusty, man. Clean it with some fine emery cloth.

We'll make a riveter for going round corners—like an angle drill.

Make a box with three compartments: Ferrous, non-ferrous, and other metals.
* * *

Godiva was an Aussie dame;
She must have been, of course;
Where else would woman take her all
And put it on a horse?
* * *

It is just a happy memory now, of course . . . the last Chiefs' and P.O.'s Dance at the Ritz. As our friends from U.S.A. would say, it was a very ritzy shindig. The liquor was ritzy. The dames were ritzy. The grub was bitzy and the conversation was nit-witzy.

Several P.O.s wore No. 1's with ALL the buttons sewn on. Some of the officers had pressed their bush shirts, and one "Subby" had had his hair cut.

Memorable day for J. C. (C.P.) Cave, when he actually forgot the words of a song. Perhaps

CANTEEN COMMITTEE NOTES

Very little interest appears to be taken by the majority of the Ship's Company in the efforts of the Canteen Committee, although a small body of stalwarts, headed by Lieutenant-Commander Rosenthal, R.N.V.R., has worked untiringly since its inception, and many of the camp's amenities are due to its efforts. On the departure of Lieutenant-Commander Rosenthal, the Committee lost a good President, and the thanks of the Ship's Company are due to him for his interest in the lads. At the meeting held on the 23rd November, the chair was taken by the new President, Commander Segrave, R.N., who, by his vigorous conduct of the meeting, promises to uphold the high standard already set.

The committee has always taken a great interest in the quality of the confectionery sold in the canteen, and although aware of the difficulties with regard to the staffing and supplies, general dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the cakes. The Canteen Manager, who was present, explained that he was only authorised to bake cakes and pastries according to N.A.A.F.I. recipes, but that shortly he was expecting to get additional ones suitable for hot climates. He also stated that when he obtained confectionery from outside sources there was much grumbling because it was too dear. He was asked, however, to recommence obtaining fancy cakes, and especially Swiss roll, from outside sources in order to provide a greater variety. Questioned about mineral water, other than Coca-Cola, he said that he had got some in stock, but that it was never asked for. It could not be put on show, as it had to be kept in cold storage.

Stand-easy refreshment arrangements were again criticised, and the Canteen Manager was informed that one van was totally inadequate. In his reply, he stated that the trailer had been out of commission, but that it was now repaired.

Everyone will be interested in the decision to give vouchers to the value of 10s., to be spent in the canteen, and there was much discussion as to who should receive them and how they were to be distributed. It was decided that the easiest method of distribution was to hand them out with the next pay if they could be printed in time, and that everyone in the ship should participate, irrespective of their length of service in H.M.S. "Nabsford," as, although some may not have contributed as much to our own ship's fund as others through purchases in the canteen, they will have done so in previous ships. In addition to this voucher, each member of the Ship's Company sick in hospital at Christmas is to be given

he was worried about some of the wolves in ship's clothing.

All our P.O.s returned to base. They always return to base. In fact, they get baser and baser. It even affected the band. They tell me that the little fellow with the big fiddle is double bass . . .

THE ADVENTURES OF ALBERT

There's a famous station called "Tamy,"
Renowned for its planes and its fun,
And 'twere there that their lordships sent Albert,
To learn "how it ought to be done."

A grand little mechanic was Albert,
In his overalls he looked so swell;
In fact, he was too good to be true, like,
With his cap flat aback there as well.

Now Albert didn't go much on t' neighbours,
Nor his bunk, **NOR** his quarters so small;
In fact, he was damned nearly stifled—
'Twas nothing to laff at at all.

So, seeking for further adventure,
He decided his quarters to leave,
So he upped and was over the fencing—
And he tore a great hole in his sleeve.

Now there's a big Jaunty called Robert,
With his shirt all undone down his chest,
And he stood in a somnolent posture,
Not giving a damn for his rest.

Our Albert had heard about Jauntys,
'How they was ferocious and wild,
And seeing this 'un standing so quiet like,
It didn't seem right to the child.

a £1 note. Commander Segrave stated that he had received a stock of free cigarettes, which he would also cause to be distributed amongst these men.

In spite of the large amounts of money already distributed, there is likely to be a substantial balance in the Ship's Fund when the ship pays off. Various suggestions have been made as to its disposal, and when the time comes concrete proposals will be required as to whether it should be given to naval charities or to local charities in small recognition of the hospitality we have received. Let your representative know what you think about this.

The foregoing mentions only a few of the many topics discussed, but the minutes of the meetings are always displayed on the canteen notice board and in the Information Room. Each decision taken means hard work for the committee, who are doing it for you. That there is lack of interest is proved by the fact that there are still no representatives for the H.Q. Miscellaneous, Tanks-Fabric, Components, Factory Miscellaneous, and Engine Installation Sections, and in several instances meetings have had to be adjourned through lack of sufficient attendance. Get to know your representative, and if you have a suggestion or a "drip" that can be dealt with by the Canteen Committee let him know. Proposals are handed in to the Secretary, Lieutenant Pater-son, R.N.V.R., or to me at the Pay Office, Section 4, by the representatives 48 hours before a meeting, in order that the agenda may be prepared, so don't leave everything until the last minute.

A. W. MITCHELL, Ldg. Wtr.

So up went our Albert, quite silent,
Nor of fear did he show a mere speck,
And he hit our wonderful Jaunty
Such a sock—it damn near broke his neck.

The Jaunty seized 'old of our Albert,
And gave him a kind of a roll,
Seized him by his pants and his shoulders,
And carried him off to t' brigg-hole.

An airman (?) who'd seen the occurrence,
And didn't know what to do next,
Said: "Wilt split him from Don to Beersheba"?
Replied Jaunty: "Aye, for I'm reet vexed."

The O.O.D. had to be sent for;
He took out his pen right away,
Saying, "Coom on now, what's all t' trouble—
Get cracking—can't wait here all day."

The Jaunty explained Albert's misdoings,
Describing the attack, how it went;
He told of his picking up Albert,
And proved it by showing the rent.

The O.O.D. thought it'd be best
To refer t' case to someone high up,
And sent our poor Albert wi' t' Jaunty
To spend that night in our lock-up.

So a week or so later in t' morning,
The case was reviewed in full glare,
Of officers, Jaunty and P.O.s,
And what-have-you from everywhere.

The judge he then gave his opinion,
That "really no one was to blame,
And that in such similar circumstances
He'd probably have done just the same."

At that Jaunty turns proper blazing,
And "Thank you so kindly," says he;
"Spend m' time chasing bastards who sock me,
And who get medals for doing it? NOT ME!"

NABS FORD NOTABILITIES

No. 3: PETTY OFFICER BAKER (Mail Office)

When fellows are stationed a long way from home the question of mail assumes a position of great importance, and the Mail Office is to the establishment what the market place was to the medieval village—a focal point for the receipt and dissemination of news from the outside world. And when the Unit comprises nearly 2000 officers and ratings, with constant changes of personnel owing to drafts, releases, etc., the collection and distribution of mail is one big headache, as Petty Officer Baker admitted when we interviewed him.

P.O. Baker joined the Navy as a boy, and has now been in the Service over 7 years. From 1940 to 1943 he was aboard the "Nubian" in Mediterranean waters, a ship which was dive-bombed and hit during the Crete affair. "Nabsford" is his third commission since the outbreak of war.

There are six able seamen working under P.O. Baker in the Mail Office, and each week well

over 10,000 letters, parcels, and registered items are collected from the Camp and despatched to U.K. via the B.F.M.O. But it is the incoming mail which causes more work. On the average one bag of letters arrives each day, and every letter has to be sorted by hand. Those bearing the number of the rating's hut and mess are classified according to messes, whilst all the others are put into alphabetical pigeon-holes. These are then checked with a book giving the names (arranged alphabetically), and messes of all ratings in the establishment, and thus the letters are sorted. What a pity there are so many Smiths in the Navy!

Occasionally a letter arrives with an address which defeats the elaborate machinery of sorting and delivery. One turned up recently for "The Englishman who caught the last tram for Rocklea," and although the letter was posted up in public, no one claimed it, and it went back to the sender. After all, the girl might have obtained his name, if nothing else, before she wished him good-night; a lot of fellows catch the last tram out of town.

The recent drafting to U.K. of 500 ratings has given the Mail Office staff a nasty "hang-over" in the shape of mail for those ratings which is still coming in and which has to be redirected—a slow laborious job.

P.O. Baker has always been keen on sport and athletics. He did a lot of swimming during his three years in the Med., and missed getting the Standard Medal by one second. He is now a frequent visitor to the Acacia Pool at Sunnybank. Cricket fans know of his prowess in that direction, too. He knocked up 51 runs against 1315 Flight, a few weeks ago, and recently took 5 wickets for 4 runs in the match against 5.T.M.O., 4 of those wickets falling in four consecutive balls.

He spent his leave at Palm Beach, about 20 miles out of Sydney, where he had a wonderful time as the guest of the late Australian Consul to Chile. Memories of that leave produced a happy look on the face of Petty Officer Baker as he returned to his work. It takes "all sorts" to make a world—and a Mail Office!

TAMY TATTLE

(Wherein you may find "Careless Talk" but no "Vital Secrets")

One of the leading lights of the Ship's Concert Party, Stoker J. E. Sharman, was married to Miss Doris Chewie, of the Grange, Brisbane, at St. Andrew's Church, South Brisbane, on Saturday, 17th November. Naval Airman Ford sang "I'll Walk Beside You" at the ceremony, which was attended by many Nabsfordians. The reception was held at Prince's Restaurant, in town.

We extend our best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Sharman, and offer our congratulations.

* * *

One-act Drama.

Rating staggers into Sick Bay and hangs grimly to the treatment table, moaning, "I am complaining of my leg."

S.B.A.: "O.K., mate, just sit down outside and wait for the doctor to come."

Patient: "But I can't walk!"

S.B.A.: "You can CRAWL, can't you?"

* * *

The Belle Vue Hotel is noted in the Naval Guide to Brisbane as being suitable for officers, but M.S.R.2, being a slap-happy mob with democratic views, held a dance there on November 14. It contrived to get a "squadron atmosphere" very quickly and a good time was had by all—even the teetotaler.

* * *

The recent Press statement by C. in C. B.P.F. regarding the return to U.K. of the Royal Navy prompted a couple of Continuous Service chaps to cut out the article and give it free of charge to the Main Reg. Office. But they added a rider to it, and "thanked the H.O.s for their assistance during the war years."

* * *

New coinage in circulation.

We mentioned in our first issue that anyone who stays long enough in "Nabsford" becomes "TAMYNATED." Now they say that the food provided in Canteen and Cafeteria prompts a study of the "inner man" which is called ANATAMY.

* * *

Which R.A.F. sergeant recently appeared before his officer with a bow of ribbon in his hair? And whose face was very red when at a 21st birthday party he found that his forfeit was a proposal?

Could it be our Alice?

* * *

A draft arrived at T.A.M.Y. recently with what appeared to be a toilet roll, but which turned out to be the "Draft Note and Tobacco Permit," neatly ruled, etc. Has a drive for economy in paper been started in N.S.W.?

* * *

Who was it who asked for three application forms for U.K. Food Parcels—one for his wife and two for his sweethearts?

* * *

The Editor will be pleased to receive authentic news of births, marriages, or any other adversities affecting members of the Ship's Company, suitable for inclusion in "Tamy Tattle."

TROOPSHIP SUNDAY

We sailed on the sea where the dolphins play,
Where the sun soon burns the white skin brown.
And the bows of our ship went up, up, down,
And the voice of the Church said:

"Let us pray."

On our beds we sat, a game to play,
By the throw of a dice. "Take back those reds,
Yellow and blue, I'll have your heads!"
And the voice of Youth said:

"Play whilst you may."

We kept a watch through the silent night;
Like a sea-queen's sprite the foam whipped by;
The Southern Cross, for its Calvary, sky,
And the voice of the Sea said:

"An hour before light."

Bodies like corpse through the long night lay
On the shadowy decks, where the moonbeams play,
'Till in tannoy jargon, metallic, would say
The voice of Authority:

"Rise, it is day."

The sabbath over, arise from your bed,
Pull on your socks and scratch your head;
It's another day, so stretch and bend,
And the voice within:

"Will it never end?"
E. L. ADAMS.

FROM THE SHELVES OF THE SHIP'S LIBRARY

The two books chosen for this week's review are "Gaudy Night," by Dorothy L. Sayers, and "Jim Maitland" by "Sapper."

"GAUDY NIGHT."

This is one of the series featuring Harriet Vane and Lord Peter Wimsey. Readers of Dorothy Sayers may recall that Lord Peter met Harriet Vane in a book called "Strong Poison." This is the third in the series, and concerns a poison pen writer at Oxford University.

The attempts of Harriet to foil the malicious person serve only to lead her into further trouble. until at last she sends for Lord Peter, who—need it be said—manages to solve the mystery. This is a typical Sayers book, full of tense excitement and delightful dialogue, wherein, by the by, Harriet and Lord Peter become engaged.

Strongly recommended for the lover of detective fiction.

"JIM MAITLAND."

This is one of Sapper's best efforts. It deals with the adventures of a soldier of fortune, Jim Maitland, as related by his friend, Dick Leyton. It is packed with action, adventure, and even fantastic happenings, but I guarantee that once you start this book you will not put it down until you have followed Jim Maitland's career to the end. It is written with all the zest that Sapper and only he can put into a light novel of action and romance. "THE BOOKWORM."

PROFESSOR ALLBULL REPLIES !

Dear Readers,

I spend most of my time these days trying to fathom the divers problems affecting men of the sea. (That's a deep one for you.) It would appear

PROFESSOR



ALL-BULL

that matelots' troubles increase in proportion to the square of the distance away from home. Or is it that in the Service advice can be asked so much more easily than in Civvy Street? But don't let Pusser routine get too firm a grip on you. Take warning from the one badge Killick who, after release, put in a request to his Divisional officer (the missus) to speak to the D.C.O. (his mother-in-law). He wanted leave out of watch, as his club night had been changed from Friday to Wednesday, and he couldn't get a sub. to look after the baby. The D.C.O. refused his request and gave him a bottle . . .

Here are replies to some of this week's queries:

Dear Professor Allbull,

For some time I have been very friendly with a girl in Brisbane. We don't meet very often, but on each occasion she has borrowed a couple of pounds off me and then disappeared for weeks on end, without giving me an explanation or my money back. What should I do about it?

"Supply Assistant."

Dear "Supply Assistant,"

You should approach this problem carefully and with tact. It is clearly a "touch-and-go" affair.

Dear Professor Allbull,

I don't like my boy's profile; he is a leading seaman who has had his nose broken in three places. What would you suggest?

Clara (from Clayfield).

Dear Clara Clayfield,

Why not tell him to keep away from those places?

* * *

Dear Professor Allbull,

My wife is getting worried about our youngest child, Ernest. We have eight children, ranging from 4 to 12 years old (I am in the Regulating Branch), and Ernie is becoming a problem child. He swears like an A.B., smashes up the furniture, and terrifies the other seven kids. What advice can you give?

"R.P.O."

Dear "R.P.O.,"

The War may be over for some, but a wartime slogan still applies, with modification. IS YOUR ERNIE REALLY NECESSARY?

* * *

Dear Professor Allbull,

My husband often comes home very late. He says he has been at the club, but I have noticed that his clothes are often covered in cobwebs. To what do you attribute this?

Agatha.

Dear Agatha,

I think we can probably attribute the cobwebs to a spider.

* * *

Dear Professor Allbull,

I'm feeling chocker. I went ashore last week in my "No. Sixes" and had one over the eight. Now "Number One" has given me ten days "Number Sixteens." Can you offer any comforting words?

"N.A. One."

Dear "N.A. One,"

It is all very confusing, but if you are at "sixes and sevens," take a couple of "Number Nines" each morning. That should clear up one difficulty.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The following figures show the amount of money (in sterling) which has been deposited in and withdrawn from the P.O.S.B. in H.M.S. "Nabsford" during the last six months:

1945.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.
May	£1832 7 0	£335 7 6
June	2105 7 0	187 18 0
July	1572 3 0	284 19 4
August	1181 18 0	495 17 4
September	1848 11 0	497 4 0
October	1614 4 0	1261 4 8
Total	£10,154 10 0	£3,062 10 10

The advertisement columns of the "Times" now contain an increasing number of applications for businesses and professional posts by officers and men of the Services who have recently been demobilised and who are anxious to wear a bowler hat to the best advantage.

AROUND THE PLAYING FIELDS

(Sports Editor, L. A. F. Baxter, Mess 21B-14)

CRICKET NOTES

Tamy "A" v. 5 T.M.O., at Graceville Park

Tamy "A" won this match by an innings and 235 runs against a team which was well below its usual strength. Tamy scored 288 runs, which included 89 by S/Lt. Houghton and 68 by S/LT. Sherwell. 5T.M.O. were two players short, so two "subs." had to be fielded. They were all out for 46 in the first innings, A.B. Redfern taking 4 for 16 and A.M. Herring taking 4 for 13. They collapsed completely in the second innings, and were skittled for 7. A.F. Morris claimed 3 wickets for 3 runs, and P.O. Baker took 5 wickets for 4 runs (the last four wickets falling to consecutive balls).

Tamy "B" v 111th A.G.T. Coy. at New Farm Park

The Aussies batted first and knocked up 173 runs, Kilbride taking 4 wickets for 53 and Warmby 3 for 48.

Tamy started badly, for Darbyshire was run out in the first over without a run being scored. Four wickets were down with only 22 runs on the board, and when Best joined Whitehead our score was 63, with only three more wickets to go. But the tail wagged vigorously, Best and Whitehead putting on 40 runs before the former was out to a brilliant boundary catch. We were 124 all out, Whitehead being top scorer with 27.

The Aussies went in again, but stumps had to be drawn when they were 145 runs for 6 wickets, so we lost the match on the first innings. In the Aussies' second knock "Digger" Hitchens hit a splendid 60 not out, whilst the bowling honours for Tamy were shared by Kilbride, who took 3 for 49, and Darbyshire, who had 3 for 46.

LAWN TENNIS

Tamy v. 2nd Australian R.S.D. at Sherwood.

This proved to be a keenly fought match, with the issue in doubt until the final set.

The Tamy team consisted of three pairs, Messrs. Last and Jay, Oldroyd and Wildman, Roney and Cox, each pair playing a set against each opposing couple, making nine sets in all. In these matches the result depends on the games score, and if the games should be equal, on the sets. Thus every game is valuable, as this match proved, for when S/Lts. Oldroyd and Wildman faced Smith and Stewart in the final set, Tamy had won five sets, but were down on the games, 34 to 38. To win, therefore, we needed to take the last set without conceding more than 2 games. It couldn't be done, and after a hard struggle the Aussies won 6-4, making the final games score 44 to 38 in their favour.

In the opening set against the R.S.D.'s first string, Last and Jay began shakily, but recovered in time to win the set 6-5. The second set (Oldroyd and Wildman v. Burns and Lax) was another exciting tussle, with the Tamy pair winners on the eleventh game, whilst Lt. Roney and Mr. Cox also managed a narrow victory 6-5 over the same

PUZZLE CORNER

For several months a cash prize has been awarded for a weekly competition appearing in the Information Centre. From now on "Puzzle Corner" will be conducted in "Nabsford News," and each issue will contain a competition with a cash prize attached.

The rules are simple, and the Editor's decision is final. Write your answers to the following questions on a piece of paper, together with your NAME, RATING, and MESS, and put it in the Suggestion Box in the Information Centre. TEN SHILLINGS in cash will be given to the sender of the first correct entry opened.

Closing date for entries is noon, Saturday, 15th December, 1945.

1. What is a young salmon called:
A sampson; a samlet; a shrimp; a samling?
2. What is an ossicle:
A small ostrich; a small bone; a four-wheeled cycle; an old farmer?
3. Cops are found at traffic control points, but Cops are found chiefly in:
China; gaol; Egypt; Coptania?
4. An archer is one who shoots an arrow, but what is the name of the man who makes arrows (and bows)?
An arrowsmith; a fletcher; an arrowman; a blacksmith.
5. Smith, Brown, and Jones are dining at a circular table. They are (not necessarily respectively) a doctor, a clergyman, and a lawyer. Brown is on the clergyman's right, and Jones is on Smith's right. What is the name of the clergyman?

(Winner and answers will appear in our next issue.)

pair, Burns and Lax. This was a delightful set to watch, with deep, firm driving by Roney, coupled with determined retrieving on the base line by Cox.

Result: Tamy lost by 44 games to 38.

FOOTBALL NEWS

(By "Fair Play")

Unfortunately, the Inter-section League has had to be abandoned in its infancy owing to the losses caused by recent drafts. However, any teams wishing to play friendlies can be fixed up if they approach the P.T.I.

The first of this new series of friendly games was played between Store 20 and Factory Electrics (the latter a strong combination built up from the old Mag. Shop and L.R.S. teams). A fierce struggle ended fittingly in a draw 1—1.

On the following day the "store bashers" went under to the Wardroom to the tune of 2—0.

We have heard a lot about 721 Squadron. How about putting a team in the field, 721? A.M.L. Thomas (Mag. Bay) will be glad to arrange fixtures with all-comers for the Factory Electrics team.

SPORTING SNIPPETS

At Lords back in July the crowd was barracking Harris for the stonewalling tactics he was adopting against the Army. He scored twenty-five in an hour and three-quarters.

One ancient fan turned to his neighbour and complained: "They've had a Labor Government for three days and think they can barrack at Lords."

Our authority swears he wasn't joking.

* * *

Joe Hulme, Arsenal, Middlesex and England footballer and cricketer, has been released from the Police War Reserve owing to ill-health, but this ill-health apparently did not stop him playing for Windhill, the Bradford League Club, and he finished top of their batting averages. Les. Ames, who has been playing for the same club, finished second in the list.

* * *

From the U.S.A. comes the story of Tommy Klene, winner of a six-round boxing match at Hartford, Connecticut. He was carried to his corner, but not in triumph, because he was unconscious.

Joe Bossi had connected with a knock-out blow, but the bell went for the end of the contest at the count of six.

If Bossi had landed the blow four seconds earlier, he would have won, but Klene was ahead at the moment of the blow, so he won on points.

* * *

The threatened football strike by the Players' Union, whose chairman is Sammy Crooks, the Derby and England winner, has been called off. This follows a conference between the League Management Committee and representatives of the Union. After the meeting the League awarded the players another £1 per week, making a maximum of £9, with a similar increase for those players who still await demobbing.

DESPAIR AND HOPE

(1)

Darkness of cold grey night, altho' the sun is bright,

Cool breeze through leafy trees,

Strikes warm on my heart's icy loneliness,

Because where there should be a one, a wholeness,

There's but a green wood pyre: no raging fire

Love is a fire burning. Duty, the hydrant pouring

The orders of convention which surround me:

And never shall I be with thee.

(2)

Up my sad stair of loneliness I travel,

The hours and days are but the steps I climb

To where I know that on some higher level

The light, your smile, will with its beauty shine.

And soon we shall forget the searing torment

SMALL FRY

A medley of minor news items from Air Mail editions of "The Times" received recently.

The weather forecast for Thursday, November 1, was such as we might have expected. . . . "A trough of low pressure extending from S. Scotland across Ireland is moving very slowly S.E. and weakening. Occasional rain associated with this trough will spread into Wales and S.W. England. There will be widespread fog at first in the Midlands, S. and E. England, clearing slowly, weather becoming fair. It will be generally mild."

* * *

In L.M.S. restaurant cars, which have now in service on 40 of the principal long-distance trains for a month, 200,000 meals and 250,000 cups of tea or coffee were served.

* * *

The "Times" aeronautical correspondent, writing from Herne Bay on November 7, said:

The six-year-old world air speed record of 469.2 m.p.h., set up at Augsburg by a Messerschmitt 109 in April, 1939, was easily beaten here to-day by Group Captain H. J. Wilson, A.F.C. Flying the Gloster Meteor IV. aircraft named Britannia, powered by two Rolls-Royce Derwent V jet-propulsion engines, he covered the course at an average speed of 606.25 m.p.h.

Later in the day Mr. Eric Greenwood, flying the yellow Meteor EE455, also attempted a record, but his average speed worked out at 603 m.p.h.

Soon after a weather reconnaissance had been made, an air-sea rescue launch took up its position near the marked course and a Walrus amphibian hovered near by in case of emergency. Two Mosquitoes also flew around the course with sealed barographs to ensure that the stipulated height was not exceeded. The competing aircraft also carried sealed barographs.

Both pilots flew in their shirt sleeves because of the heat experienced in the cockpit during high speed flying. Standing on the cliffs, it was difficult to realise that the machines were travelling at about 80 per cent. the speed of sound, because of the absence of any clearly defined object in the background.

Both aircraft flashed over the three kilometre course in about eleven seconds. So great was the speed of both aircraft that the noise from their engines seemed to come from almost a mile behind them.

Group Captain Wilson said that both pilots were in the air for about 18 minutes, during which time they covered a distance of 132 miles. The engines were running at about 3600lb. thrust,

Of nights and days, our minds' and bodies' ache:
Of strong emotions, never dead, long dormant,
That twist and turn: that cannot sleep nor wake.

E. L. ADAMS.

so that they were using about 90 per cent. of the full power available. Each machine used about 250 gallons of fuel, equal to something over 1000 gallons an hour.

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Troops in home commands, including members of the women's services, now have official permission to wear civilian dress when "off duty out of barracks." The War Office order granting this privilege stipulates that plain clothing will not be worn "at organised military entertainments, including dances, whether in or out of barracks."

SICK BAY STANDING ORDERS

(By An Unknown S.B.A.)

1. Call in and see us at any time—we enjoy a chat.
2. When you call, smoke our cigarettes; we have plenty.
3. Drop your ash on the deck—don't worry, we can soon sweep up after you.
4. If we have just scrubbed out, walk about as much as possible—it spreads the dirt more easily.
5. Spit on the deck and drop orange peel around. It encourages accidents and keeps us in business.
6. If you have cut your finger, let the blood drip around the place—it makes quite a pretty pattern.
7. Make as much noise as possible (especially when the M.O. is "listening in")—he likes a jolly crowd.
8. We supply all the latest periodicals—tea is brewed at 1030 and 1430—that is the most suitable time to call.
9. Don't hurry to go away; we have "time on our hands," and we don't believe in "stand-easies" for sick berth staff.
10. Above all, your treatment card is given you for you to lose, and the times of treatment MUST be ignored if efficiency is to be maintained.
11. Come to the Sick Bay, but don't follow the treatment laid down or you may get cured and so lose your "light duty sick bay" card.
12. Probably most important of all, the telephone. We have one here, and it is available at all times for you to make calls to your girl friend, etc., or even to make sure that while having treatment your fellow men do not leave you out of the Coca-Cola issue.
13. Finally, we keep a special list ready for you, comprising all the better known osteopaths, herbalists, and clairvoyants. For a slight consideration we could even introduce you to the local witch doctor. We regret Mandrake is not available just now.