

HOCKEY

We have played 51 matches

We beat: -

HMNZS ROYALIST who had never played before.

HMS TERROR Supply and Secretariat, who were all wearing glasses.

HMNZS TARANAKI who were just being tactful.

HMS TERROR Schoolboys.

Levuka Ladies

Lautoka Ladies

HMS MANXMAN

HMS DIANA

The Captain is being promoted to Commander.

The Manager has resigned.

Nough said.

JUDO

After a bit of a struggle we managed to form a small judo club onboard and despite a number of setbacks survived the commission. Before writing more I would like here to thank PO Ca "Rocky" Sworder for all his efforts in obtaining our initial set of mats.

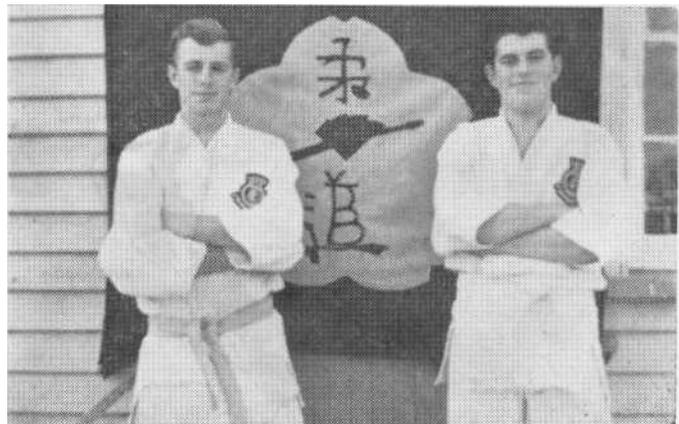
Our training venue was the flight deck, helicopter permitting, and at first attendance was high, most of the lads being new to the sport and not knowing what it involves (it's not as simple as James Bond makes it seem). However the number soon dwindled leaving just the keen few, which really was an advantage as it's easier and faster to teach a small class. Progress was made and before long we had some good judoka onboard all raring to fight on a proper tatami (mat) in a shoreside dojo (club) although the top ambition seemed to be to topple the might "Toffy" Everton (this has since been done).

Our chance came when at the invitation of the president of the New Zealand Judo Federation, Mr. Jack Fielding, we visited the Can-am-Ju in Christchurch. Leaving the ship at Picton we had a good trip down arriving eager to try our judo on some new opponents and see if what we had learned really worked. Our hosts didn't disappoint us and mustered no less than 15 black belts, including two New Zealand Champions, for us to fight. In this we gave a good account of ourselves despite the higher grades, many of whom ended up on the canvas. Leaving Christchurch after four days hard practice our next port of call was Wellington where once again we were well received by the local club, the Lower Hutt Judo Club. Here we were invited and did take part in a judo demonstration at the local fete, we all enjoyed this and enjoyed even more the instruction and hospitality at the dojo afterwards. Auckland was our last visit in New Zealand, here we practised at H.M.N.Z.S. Philomel Judo Club and although the standard wasn't as high as the previous clubs it was enjoyable and for once we took on the role of instructors. Our tour of New Zealand was very successful and I would like to mention the efforts and progress made by Stan Vincett 3rd. Kyu and Terry Davies 5th. Kyu who with more practice will be always executing the throw and really breaking the fall. To the others as the great Teizo Kawamura said, "A dan grade has never been won by sitting and wishing".

J. H.



HOSS



STAN

TAFF

WATER-POLO

Without a doubt the `A' had the finest side that any small ship and many big ships could boast of, in the Far East, this commission. In fact, only Carriers and Shore Bases could give them a decent game and all complements under 600 were one way traffic to the "Ajax Hot Shots". Only FORTH and TRIUMPH beat her, the latter being revenged twofold, whilst the former, with her four navy players, beating us 6 - 5 in a dubious result. ALBION, ARK ROYAL, and EAGLE went the same as TERROR, Royal Marines, and countless small ships down! Even the might of MULL OF KINTYRE plus her flotillas did not worry the A'.

The team had a nucleus of good players M. (E)

Rog' Cragg was skipper and he and A/B Taff Davies with their hard swimming and chasing enabled Inter-Service player L/Meth. Rex Camm to get a glut of goals. A gift on loan from DEVONSHIRE, C.Y. Baz' Doan was a clever and useful link man, adding class to the attack. In defence R.E.A. Toff Everton with his Twenty Stone, smothered effectively all "sitters". The celestial twins M.(E) Dickie Harpour and R.O. Spud Murphy did sterling work at full back, whilst a special mention must go to E.M. Nobby Clarke in goal, never having played before he began giving some fine performances. To R.O. Brian Cunliffe and R.E.M. Zub Waspe our "Subs", a vote of thanks for some spirited efforts.

CRICKET

The cricketers in AJAX have had a very lean time as regards matches compared to other sports.

With the season being so short and most of the best weather being while we were keeping the peace between the Indonesians and Malaysians, much valuable time was lost. We had one unsuccessful game in Hong Kong last year and this year played 4 games with only one victory to show for our days in the sun achieved while our stars were absent on leave.

Results of this years games

- v Chichester - Ajax 57 Chichester 58 for 4. (a good recovery, since we had lost 4 wickets for no runs at one stage).
- v Vampire - Vampire 107, Ajax 36. No comment.
- v Devonshire at Hong Kong, Devonshire 93, Ajax 56.
- v Terror S & S - our `A' XI won by 5 wickets - S & S 42 Ajax `A' XI 44 for 5.

SQUASH

We have been very fortunate in having a large number of squash players in the ship this commission, and quite a few more who have taken up the game. It is good to see that it is catching on amongst the ships companies in the Far East as it is an ideal game for seagoers who manage to get into harbour. It keeps them fit, it can be played on the spur of the moment (if you can get a court) during the day or night, and is never cancelled by a tropical downpour. If you can run and have a reasonable eye for a ball, why not try it?

Our squash league during the refit attracted ten players, and P.O. Gladders emerged as the outright champion. A very talented player with unlimited sources of energy, he has played regularly

for the Navy and has been our star No. 1 in all the ship's matches. In these we have had a record of success having lost only once, to H.M.N.Z.S. Philomel, out of ten matches played. The Captain has always been a very strong player at No. 2 with Lt./Cdr. Lake, Lt. Duke and O.A. Seward making up the team. Earlier in the commission Lt./Cdr. Fisher, a regular and enthusiastic player, and Lt. Dangerfield also played in the team.

The senior rates by themselves can field a team. Not only is this something of an achievement in itself, but they have also won all four of their matches, Mech. Hull and Mech. Camm have been regular players, and also C.O.A. Tuckey and P.O.M. (E) Gordon before they left.

TENNIS

Although there are not many good players on board, we had 15 entries for the ship's knock-out competition. Lt./Cdr. Hickson was the winner after some very steady and skilful play. R.E.M. Cheeseborough was the other finalist and he could be a really good player with practice.

Apart from many friendly games, several matches have been played. Notable among these

was the Sportex win, and a gallant attempt to win the Fleet Competition during Millsport. The team eventually lost to ARK ROYAL in the semi-final after a long and gruelling game in the hot sun. The Captain has always been a key member of the team, and makes a formidable doubles partnership with either Lt./Cdr. Hickson or that other stylish player Lt. Duke.

J.F.L.

SPORTS ROUND UP



Front Row: R.O. Edwards REM Cheesborough LM (E) McLennan Captain Tait L/S Kay LSA Davies RO Kinggett.
Back Row: P.O.M(E) Dunn O.A. Seward A.B. Miller Lt Martindale LRem Muir Mech High P.O. Gladders.

Without doubt a colourful and successful commission on the sporting front. Eighteen months in which we played almost everyone at almost every thing. Ajax has been a strong soccer ship, able to turn out three or four good sides at any time - many good inter-part games were played, the bulk of them by the Forecastle who, to their credit could always put a side out at short notice. One result which produced red faces aft was when the "old mens" Chiefs and P.O.'s team gave a seven none hiding to the juniors division. During the middle of July trial soccer games were arranged in an effort to sort out eleven players worthy of playing under the name AJAX. Those early days were despairing ones as it seemed with what there was available AJAX would be very much an also ran in inter-ship competition. How differently things have turned out, with no ship of equal complement being able to hold us and ALBION and DEVONSHIRE also falling to the "minnows". Terror floodlights have been the venue for most of the games and the Small Ships Cup seemed for almost six months from October 1965 - March 1966 to have a permanent home onboard the mighty 'A'. To offset a complete success story we had our bad patches too - notably when presenting the Cup to

MANXMAN 0 - 1 after spending 80 % of the game in their half and going out of the China Shield 1 - 3 to TERROR when the boob of the commission let them off in the first five minutes when a penalty sailed wide which should have given us the lead and perhaps the ticket to the final. Such is soccer but Mr. Martindale's Merry Men have put AJAX on the sporting map and whether it's good or bad, people are talking about us and that's what counts. It must be said that Lieutenant Martindale, although his team selecting has often caused comment, has done a good job and has probably obtained more subs for duty soccer players than they got themselves. With the leaving of the old first phase, team changes were, necessary, whilst the new set up has yet to prove itself in Cup competition, a chance to settle in whilst on the Fiji - New Zealand cruise was taken and at the time of writing AJAX will end as she started - holding the Small Ships Cup. Our congratulations go to A. B. Miller who was selected to play in the Inter Services matches but missed the honour by being indisposed. Before ending the soccer side of the round up special mention must be made of those stalwarts who never commanded a regular 1st. XI place, but would always make one at the

last moment if someone dropped out, George Potts, Nobby Halls, Taff Thomas and George Legg come readily to mind but there are others too and they contributed in no small way to the soccer scene. So to the referees, without the likes of John Fish and Bob Leftus there would be no inter-part soccer, and with that no ships level games.

Both the Rugby and Hockey took rather a back seat in view of the aforesaid but still managed to play many games and enjoy them all. Success didn't come very often but, if you're a Hockey player, with games against sides like the Lautoka Ladies, who wants to win anyway. Congratulations to Lieutenant Commander Wood who represented the Navy in the Inter Services competition versus the R.A.F.

The Rugby results were a bit disappointing but in the after match beer drinking competitions in the Armada Club AJAX more than held their own. Another fine record by the oval ball exponents which deserves mention is their ability to lose twice as much gear in half as much time as anyone else. This takes effort and reached a glorious peak when they left three balls in successive games on the Armada Roof Garden. Highlight of the season was reaching the final of the Millspout Plate Seven, losing to a very fine TARANAKI side.

More success has come AJAX way in the Squash and Boxing world. At Squash we had a 100 record at both Ship and lower deck level until PHILOMEL beat us 3-2 in Auckland. The courts in Terror have been almost monopolised while the ship was in Singapore by AJAX players and it augurs well for the future to see this sport becoming more popular.

In the world of Boxing a combined AJAX - LINCOLN team represented the 24th. Escort Squadron and won the 1965 Novices Championship beating the favourites ARK ROYAL by 4 clear points. A first class effort this as some of the lads had never boxed before in their lives. Suc-

cess on this occasion must be credited to 'Jock' Gordon who taught the youngsters so much. It was with regret that he left us in August - our regret, not his!! Jock and Kenny Ferns both won the Open Class Championships and went on to represent the Navy in the Inter Service Championship.

The Water Polo team produced some remarkable results and annihilated any ship of equal size and complement, it's fair to say that the side would have done justice to a cruiser and more than held their own against ARK ROYAL and FORTH. Our congratulations to Rex Camm who played at Navy and Inter Service level and along with 'Toffee' Everton helped along the rest of the team during the early settling down period.

Back onboard, three Deck Hockey competitions have been run and all proved very popular. Everyone enjoyed them except Doc in the Bay who found himself halfway through the next commissions allowance of bandages!!! In addition we had two Tug - o - War competitions and a Deck Tennis competition which all attracted good entries.

A Squadron Sportex was run in Terror in October 1965 and was rather spoilt by BARROSA having to withdraw at the last minute owing to Operational commitments. AJAX finally came out on top of a three horse race after playing LINCOLN and ZEST at nine different sports. As I write this another Sportex is in the offing this time with seven ships competing so we await keenly the results which we hope will keep AJAX at the top.

In conclusion this epistle may I say that a great deal of fun has been had on the sports field be it winning or losing and a lot of it has been due to the support of the lads who have turned up to "chuck up" the sides. Can there be more loyal supporters than Charlie Poole, Keith Rustage and 'Commander' Dowsett?. Everyone played a part and it now remains for the 3rd. commission to keep AJAX at the top, the groundwork has been done, the rest should be easy.



EVEN IF HE IS THE 'JIMMY', YET ONLY SUPPOSED TER' RAISE ONE FINGER!

A LOOK IN ON THE SEAP GAMES

The Third in line of the South East Asia Peninsula Games were held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaya from 14th to 21st December 1965. The previous Games were held at Bangkok in 1959 and at Rangoon in 1961. The main object of these Games were for strengthening relationships and also to give athletes in the area an opportunity to improve their standards prior to competing in the Asian Games and later on for the Olympic Games.

The Third Games were officially opened on the 14th December by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. A fanfare of trumpets greeted the opening, followed by the hoisting of the Flag of the SEAP Games Federation and the release of Pigeons and Balloons to the beating of Kelantan drums. The torch bearer, 21st in a line who had run from Parliament House where the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman had lit the torch, arrived and kindled the Flame that was to remain alight throughout the Games.

There were 14 sports involved, ranging from Badminton to judo, and from volley ball to Sepak Raga Jaring. The latter is Malaya's national game and is estimated to be six centuries old.

Outstanding athletes competing included Mike Jegathesan who won the 100 and 220 yards events and represented Malaysia in the Empire Games. Thailand's flyweight Chaiya Sukchinda created a world record with a lift of 270 lbs for the clean

and jerk. Also competing in the weightlifting competition was Tan Howe Liang who won a gold at Rome and also a gold in the Empire Games at Perth. Of interest to Servicemen was the performance of two athletes from the Royal Malayan Navy - K. Selvaratnam and Bujang b. Yassin. Selvaratnam had represented Malaya at the Tokyo Olympics in the 400 m hurdles. However he was not 100 % fit at the time of the Games and after hitting a hurdle dropped out of the race, but competed in the 4 x 400 m relay and helped Malaya to the Gold.

In the swimming pool the outstanding competitor was Patricia Chan who won 6 gold medals.

The closing ceremony was delayed by extra time in the football match and for the first time it looked as though rain was going to dampen the ending. However the massed bands played on undeterred by the drizzle and six motor cycles heralded the arrival of His Majesty and the Raja Permaisuri Agong for the closing ceremony. His lancers were dressed in very colourful uniform as he entered the Stadium Merdeka to be greeted by a huge cheer and the playing of Negara Ku, the National Anthem. So ended what was for me a great experience and a very colourful affair. It offered me the opportunity of meeting people from countries that I had not had the opportunity to visit and finding out their customs and ways of life.

P.J. W.D.

WEAPON ELECTRICAL SEAMEN

During the course of the Commission several bodies with Gunnery and TAS S.Q.s have been seen handling shore cables, carrying floodlighting equipment and carrying out other un-seaman like tasks. This was not a new idea of the First Lieutenant to get more hands to paint ship by lending seamen for other duties, but merely the few seamen attached to the Weapons Electrical Department doing their normal duties. Although the seamen so attached have changed from time to time, in the main it has been the following; L/Sea "Stumpy" Roper, L/Sea "Jock" Crews, A.B. "Rammers" Brown, A.B. "Bottomly" Smyth, A.B. "Fred" Fox and A.B. "Scurs" "Commander" Dowsett. Also worthy of mention is L/Sea "Rueben" Haines who didn't join the department until August '66.

L/Sea Roper officially worked on the Director although whilst in Singapore a pile of stores with two feet walking along the jetty was often seen for he also had the task of collecting stores for the Department. It has been said that the reason "Stumpy" was only a short man was that he had been weighed down by never ending stores.

L/Sea Crews was usually found passing the time of day with those strange contraptions called A/S Mortars. His other activity was acting as "King Neptune" at the numerous Children's Parties during the Cruise of the South Seas. During the cruise he decided to "shave off" - the reason why nobody knows.

ABs Brown and Smyth were always found "fiddling" with the 4.5 Turret under the strict supervision of W. Mech Smith. When not employed on this task they would be found humping stores, rigging floodlighting, pulling in power cables or perhaps just "loafing".

AB Dowsett was employed as W/E writer and could be traced by the "clacking" of a typewriter. He was also seen once painting the turret but this was an extremely isolated occurrence. When not engaged in typing such ditties as Duty Lists etc., and the 6th amended copy of W/E Cleaning Stations he could be found engaged in Confederate States business. There is no truth in the rumour that 'Ajax' will be sold or given to the Confederate States Navy.

A.B. Fox has been seen 'helping' L/Sea Crews on the Mortars and at other odd intervals has been sitting down in his mess helping to keep the morale of the ship's company high by drawing cartoons and putting same on the main notice board.

On the sporting side of things the Seamen in the Department have not been noted for any great activity in this line but have played their part in the vocal support of ship's teams. A.B. Dowsett did once play in goal for the Ship's Hockey XI but this soon ended when he got tired of picking the ball out of the back of the net. A.B. Brown did play soccer for the F.X. XI.

To sum up, not a large body of men but perhaps they did their bit in keeping the ship operational, at least they like to think they did.

THE MAIN ARMAMENT

The ship's magazine would not be complete without a short article on the main armament. Some may dispute the guns being so described but we can certainly make ourselves felt. Ask the inhabitants of the Forward Petty Officers Mess, or better still ask the Navigating Officer how many bridge clocks he has had this commission.

Not wishing to bore anyone with statistics the measure of our activity can be deduced from the fact that the 4.5's have fired a total of 2026 rounds on 77 separate occasions. The turret has been fired in practically every conceivable role against all types of targets in many parts of the Far East Station. Apart from Singapore we have fired in such widely different places as Subic Bay, off Auckland, off Hong Kong, and very often on the high seas miles from anywhere. It is sad to think that the Port Shelter range, off Hong Kong, may never again be used for bombardment. The gradual spread of the population, and the need for more air lanes, has at last put an end to what was for years a fine practice area.

We have fired for exercise and played it for real, with long hours spent at Defence Stations in the Singapore and Malacca Straits. Fortunately we did not have to put our training to the ultimate test, but had we done so the gunnery team would not have failed the ship.

The close range weapons must not be forgotten. They have always shown consistently good aiming and an impressive output (except during O.O.W. manoeuvres during practices.) Many is the time that the Kumpit Party has had the comforting thought of a 40 mm barrel ready to support them. The close range crews have also had fun playing with our new toys - the rocket flare launchers which were fitted during the refit. They can be guaranteed to produce a good firework display, except the starboard one which persists in being temperamental !

Our big surprise of the commission came when we heard that we had won the Fleet A.A. Trophy. Looking back though, we had always achieved good steady results in visual control. After endless balloon runs and hours of aircraft tracking and electronic wizardry, the wear and tear of the refit was at last made good, and the radar came to life just in time to clinch the competition. Much credit for this must undoubtedly go to the C.A. (W)

and his team, but everybody played their part and all have a pewter tankard by which to remember it. The details of our actual results throughout the commission would come under the heading of classified information, but we have achieved an impressive total of 176 target triggered bursts. Each one of these represents a possible 'kill' on an attacking aircraft.

We have also helped to defend the convoys against air attack in Exercises GUARDRAIL, SEA IMP, and LONGHOP and finally a large combined exercise in the Coral Sea! The ship also has the dubious distinction of shooting down an aircraft with our own mail onboard.

Another gunnery activity, far from popular, has been the Internal Security platoon. Quelling a crowd of rioting Malayan sailors on the playing fields of Terror may be fun, but nobody would go groping round the Armament Depot in the middle of the night just for pleasure. The luckless infiltrator who was trodden on in the long grass by one of our patrols probably did not enjoy it either. Firing our small arms has been much more to the point, and we have had several enjoyable days on the ranges at Burma Camp, Nee Soon, Stonecutters and Whangaparao.

Our saluting guns have been fired with precision on several occasions and it is always good to find someone willing (and important enough) to receive a gun salute. It is an excellent way of letting everyone know we are coming, whether it be the friendly natives of Honiara or the civilised citizens of Auckland. Guards too have been one of our showpieces particularly that paraded for our inspection.

The Remembrance Day parade was another commitment and none of those who took part can fail to have been impressed by the simple service on the grassy slopes of the Kranji War Memorial in the early morning sun.

A good many of our original team have already left and a few will stay to show the next commission how it should be done. It only remains now to thank all members of the gunnery team, be they users or maintainers, for their splendid co-operation, and wish you all good shooting in the future.

J. F. L.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Have you ever thought why it is that a ship is always referred to as 'she'. Here are one or two reasons as to why this might be so:-

there is always a great deal of bustle around her

because there is usually a gang of men around

because she has a waist and stays

because she takes a lot of paint to keep her

good looking

because it's not the initial expense that breaks you it's the upkeep

because she is all decked out

because it takes a good man to handle her right

because she shows her topsides, hides her bottom and, when coming into port, always heads for the buoys

"AJAX UNITED"

"Give us an 'A'", is a cry that has become well known (and feared) wherever Naval Soccer is played in the Far East. Perhaps it is even known in the U.K., where rumours may have spread from personnel returning home from the "FES". It has been heard up in Hong Kong, and down in New Zealand, from the lush green of Terror No. 1 pitch to the dusty "Sandhills" of Fiji. Where and when did it all begin? Way back in July 1965, a mixed assortment of individuals joined AJAX all wondering just why our dubious talents were required in the "FES". A Soccer Team was soon born and lo and behold they beat "LINCOLN" and won the Small Ships Soccer Cup!! That however, to me, was not the real start of the "Ajax" story. The match v "DAMPIER" was the beginning of the real "Ajax" team we all came to know. In this game "Ajax" found herself 3-0 down at half-time and people were saying "Not much to worry about with this lot". To cap it all, "Ajax" were reduced to 10 men shortly after the re-start. What a difference it made, it was as if someone had "switched on" the players. In as many minutes the score was 3-3 and although we finally lost the match it discredits nobody, for if ever a team fought hard it was "Ajax" on that night. Here was a set of players with the makings of a "TEAM"!! A team that showed signs of good football and a team capable of fighting all the way.

Interest was roused in the team and in their next important match v "Euryalus", a rather large crowd off "Ajax" gathered to watch. By this time a rather "dusky" goalkeeper had joined the team and we all wondered how he would show up in this match. Well, whether the team suffered from too much 'Tiger' or whether it was the effects of the "Work-up", we shall never know, the fact remains we were beaten and well beaten to the tune of 4-0. Our new goalkeeper to his never ending shame, let one goal in between his legs. This in fairness to "Dusty" Miller, is the only time I have ever seen him make a really bad error in all the games he has played for "Ajax". Refit was here and the team had sorted itself out after the "Euryalus" game and in their next game beat S.M. 7, and won the cup. From here on they never looked back, victory after victory came our way and the "Give us an A" roar was heard everywhere. The tradition of every possible person that could attend, going and "Giving an A" got well established, so too, did the "After match socials" in the Armada Club. A certain P.O. Rocky Sworder got himself well established as the "Official Ajax Cheerleader" and one day when duty, ran round the blocks saying, "Are you Duty?", "No", "Then get down to the match"!!!

What were the highlights of this period! To me, the 3-2 victory over "DEVONSHIRE" (their finest hour?), the 7-0 smashing of our old rival "LINCOLN" when the banners were first in evidence and the 4-0 win against "RHYL". I could go on for a long time about these victories, for

surely this was the finest period of the commission for "Ajax Soccer Supporters".

Then calamity struck, we played "MANXMAN". The usual supporters were in attendance expecting an easy victory, as did the team. That was the trouble as "MANXMAN" was a far better team than anyone off "Ajax" gave them credit for. Result was that we not only lost our unbeaten record, but the team also lost much of its confidence and took quite a few games to get it back. We all knew that defeat would occur one day, but it didn't make it any less bitter when it happened. The next day, the ship wore an air of gloom and it was as if a National Disaster had struck, which to us I suppose it had.

Shaking off the gloom, we turned up again to see "Ajax" v Inshore Flotillas in the China Shield. Oh yes we won, but it was not as convincing as we would have liked. For much of the game the team suffered from a "Manxman Hangover". We finally went out of the China Shield to "Terror", 3-1. Once again, to me, the team did not "click". Perhaps if "Joe the Phyzz" had not missed that penalty in the early part of the match, it would have been different, who knows, but that is how Soccer goes.

They then sent us to sea and this proved to be a good thing, for as soon as we got back we won the cup by beating "BLACKPOOL". That was more like it!! That was what we knew the ship could produce. The team did not look back either, for from that date on we never failed to win or hold the cup whenever we played for it. It was during this time that we got ample revenge for our earlier defeat by "EURYALUS", in a glorious 4-1 victory over them. Who can fail to remember that glorious goal of Bunty Edwards scored from only just over the half-way line?

Finally came our Swan Song, the last match in which the team as it was then known played together. It was against HAMPSHIRE and a Cup Match, coupled with the old First Phaser's Farewell Run. AJAX 4 HAMPSHIRE 0 tells the story of how the team played that night. On that form, I doubt if ANY Small Ship and very few big ships could have beaten AJAX. It was at this match that we recorded our biggest ever support, for we had the new First Phase to back up the usual supporters giving us an extra 50 or so supporters. We occupied 4 benches, each one of them full up with AJAX Men, also Rocky Sworder had gathered some more supporters on the Stand side. Rocky has long since been recognised as the official AJAX Cheerleader. Before this match I heard a rating from MULL OF KINTYRE say to a HAMPSHIRE rating, "You may, if you are lucky, beat AJAX, but your supporters will never be able to shout out the AJAX supporters". He was perfectly right for it was not for nothing that we had the reputation of being the best supporters of any ship, big or small, in the Far East.

The First Phase went home and we lost the services of 3 regular 1st XI players - LM(E) McLennan, LREM Muir and R02 Edwards. For some reason none of the soccer players in the new First Phase were of the calibre of their predecessors and our team was badly weakened. Somebody in Haslemere does not like AJAX!!!

So with a reshuffled and weakened team we set out on the long awaited cruise. The soccer fortunes, as we expected were as mixed as the team was, whilst Lieutenant Martindale strove to find an effective combination with the players available. The best victory was the 2 - 1 defeat of the Pacific Area Champions at Honiara in the Solomon Islands. The biggest defeat was the 7 - 1 smashing by the Auckland Under 23 XI. In this match, in my humble opinion, the lads played well, perhaps not as well as they usually do, but as well as I have seen them play since the loss of the old players. They were simply outclassed by a team that would have given the full Royal Navy team a run for its money. Now the team is back together again as a unit, perhaps not as formidable

as before, but still good enough to "shake up" many small ship teams.

At the time of writing, we have yet to go back to Singapore and 2 months of the commission remains. We all hope that AJAX will win the Cup again before we go home, but if the lads never play another game, they will have done enough to make a name for themselves and the Ship at soccer.

Finally the Stars! In a team like AJAX it is difficult and unfair to single out any one as Star Players as they all fit into the TEAM. However, I shall always remember Edwards, Kay, Miller and Cheeseborough as perhaps the stars if stars are needed. The entire team deserve to be remembered but those four will always come most readily to mind whenever I recall the team.

I have left the statistics to those better qualified and this has merely been an attempt by one of the Supporters to give his impressions and memories of "AJAX UNITED" GIVE US AN A!!

THE COMMANDER

WE ARE GOOD KIDS WE ARE

By PIP PIPER

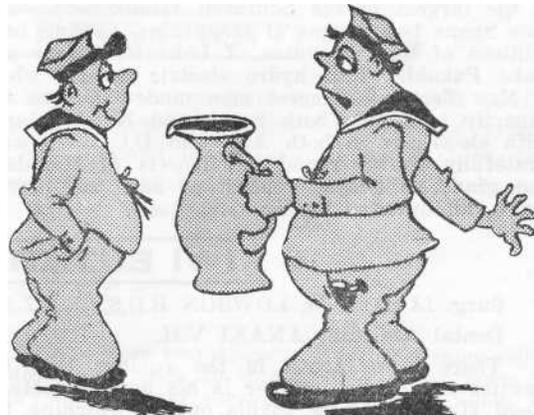
The air was electric, the crowd huge (she wasn't a small girl), it was H.M.S. Ajax SPORTS DAY. The Comms team, resplendent in their Chinky shorts and `T' shirts poured gasping out of the Pussers bus. (There wasn't much air about on account of the electricity taking up all the available space!!).

Today was the day that all our rigorous training would show its purpose. Twenty fours before, we had all been seven stone weaklings, but now after an accelerated `you know who's' course, we were all transformed into seven stone giants. We had come to do battle on the most ancient of battle fields - The Sports Arena.

To everyone's surprise, especially our own (we must remain modest at all costs - What?) we, in the course of the afternoon took most of the honours. Much to the chagrin of the healthy looking sailors and the others, they had to contend with the `also ran' title. Out of 15 prize/points carrying events, we collected seven firsts, four seconds and numerous other lower point carrying places. WE WON, AND WELL.

As you may have gathered, we are a sporty shower. The sportiness goes as far as CRS EVANS. He was the one who had the Olympian task on sports day of carrying a bucket full of water 110 yards. All was well, in fact better than well as said CRS was eating up the 110 yards at a great rate of knots. (If I may use my first cliché). But catastrophe was round the corner, and in fact it was on the corner that this gallant runner and his load met with disaster. Due to dynamics and other scientific waffle (Which I cannot go into here), the CRS fell flat on his face. With a bucket held in front of him, You might ask -

'how' ? (And quite rightly so). But I said flat on his face, and that's what I meant. Flat on his face with a pancaked bucket beneath him. You may have seen a bucket in a similar state of obstraserness, but not I might add without a steam-roller being in the vicinity. A singularly weird sight.



"SO THIS BLOKE SEZ TO ME,
WANNA BUY A DIRTY PITCHER?"

FROM OAMARU TO 'COOK'

Many will have previously written of their experiences so there seems no harm in relaying to you the trip from Oamaru to Mount Cook, with Lake Ben Moor and the Hydro Electric Dam, as undertaken by the Canteen Manager ('erby), M(E) Townsend and myself.

Having hitch hiked from Picton to Oamaru we were advised that to reach Ben Moor it would be easier to hire a car than risk a hitch-hike on near deserted roads. It was decided that this could be done so we had a chance to see a little more of Oamaru. It was a fair size town as towns go in New Zealand but we felt that some of it had not been altered since Charles Darwin came in 1835 on HMS BEAGLE, who commented on the spectacular wheat and barley mission fields around near by Waimate North.

From Oamaru to Ben Moor our first major stop, we motored by the placid waters of the Waitaki River whose appearance is very deceptive because it alone assists the dams breached across it to produce two thirds of New Zealand's power supply. Of the two dams across the Waitaki one is completed and the other is half finished. Observation posts are situated at each dam by courtesy of the New Zealand Electricity Board. At one position we were shown with the aid of a colour slide show the tasks undertaken to build a dam. The story of building a dam is impressive, and costly in lives let alone materials. Technology is the essence of the structure, moving half a mountain, constructing a bridge, only to have it dismantled once the giant earth movers and graders have arrived at the dam site by the road you have specially built so as not to inconvenience a normal road traffic.

Often with some Kamikazi driving by Erby (who insisted on driving on the wrong side of the road) we arrived at Ben Moor.

Impressive is a word far short of expressing this dam. A 360 feet high wall made of earth it is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. The dam spans two ranges of mountains, holding back millions of tons of water of Lake Ben Moor and Lake Pukaki. This hydro electric scheme which is New Zealand's largest man made lake has the capacity to supply both South and North Islands with electricity in both A.C. and D.C. We were gratefully shown round the bowels of the dam, the giant spillways, generators and the powerhouse, all dwarfed by the dam itself.

In the evening we stayed at a very comfortable hotel in the nearby community centre which has mushroomed from the Ben Moor project. Here we met up with Midshipmen Mungo and Spill. In the morning the five of us decided to go further and on to Mount Cook.

The route took us along Lake Ben Moor and then into the country side until with the Cook range always in site. Off Lake Pukaki and the Pukaki Inn, we branched off onto what seemed a mountain track to the 'Hermitage' and 'Cook'. On the way we passed the tussocks of Mackenzie Country, named after the famous sheep stealer who had his own secret pass. His dog was later tried and convicted and killed; Mackenzie himself was deported to Australia. The winding pass also took in a view of several beautiful lakes of glacial origin.

Surrounded by flood prone river beds, ancient moraines covered by subalpine scrub, stands Mt. Sefton some 10,359 feet high, and also the Footstools 9,037 feet high. These are by no means 'beg pardons' against Mt. Cook because several peaks, amongst them Sefton and Footstools have not been traversed because of their alpine difficulties. Mt. Cook itself is 12,349 feet high and unquestionably the most established amongst the whole range with the Mueller Glacier capped in snow.

At the base of Cook is the rest centre and hotel called the Hermitage. It is run by the New Zealand Hotel and Tourist Board and is magnificent among the mountains. The whole accent of the hotel is centred on mountaineering and skiing, being decorated with all the articles any of these sports would require. Unfortunately we were unable to stay and admire everything and after saying our goodbyes we grabbed a memory or two. On our way back we were able to spot some of the names of the bridges and small rivers, Whale Creek, Tombstone, Jack, Freds and whoever seemed to be there first. Glimpses of the snow capped mountains could only be got from the car but all in all everything was so very magnificent. The rivers, abundant with foxgloves fed by the icy glaziers were only a contrast to such a beautiful country.

If we had known we could have said a Maori farewell

E noho ra -
to hear the reply -
Haere ra!

L/SEA HANSON

KIWI BUTCHERS AT SEA

Surg. Lt (D) G. M. LOWSON B.D.S., R.N.Z.N.

Dental Assistant ANAKI V.H.

There is no truth in the rumour that the Dentist is a sadist neither is his assistant Maori Head Hunter greatly thrilled out of watching the suffering of others. There is great truth however in the old saying "No Brain, No Pain" so a show of fearlessness only brings contempt. We are sorry we haven't had time to treat everybody but now the feeling is mutual despite the enthusiastic assistance of the Dr. and P.O.M.A. we just haven't had time. Finally we would like to thank the Officers and Ships Company for their hospitality during our stay on HMS AJAX. THANK YOU ALL.

'DON'T WORRY, THE SHIP ROLLED!'

