

Bulwark's Second Commission—SPORTS



B.I.A. Match, 1957

Cricket

OUR SEASON OPENED with a net practice on Saturday, 1st February, 1958. Fortunately it was so warm there was never any danger of the small band of enthusiasts suffering from strains or pulled muscles—the venue was Queen's Royal College, Trinidad.

This was certainly different from the previous season, when our cricket had been against Service and civilian teams in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. How came we to miss Scotland ?

Season 1957 had finished on a "high" note when we played the British Insurance Association at New Beckenham, a match of many happy memories.

To return to the sunshine of the West Indies. We were beaten in Trinidad, Bequia and Jamaica, but each game was a delight, against opponents so obviously playing to enjoy themselves.

On leaving the West Indies we had a break until arriving in the Far East, where matches were played in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Highlights of the season were the match against Queen's Royal College, where we played well enough but were soundly thrashed, and the two social matches against the R.A., Blakat Matang, Singapore, where the cricket was light-hearted and the "thrashing" came later ! Players had also the opportunity to watch the Test Matches between West Indies and Pakistan, in Trinidad and Jamaica.

Mombasa exceeded expectations, and matches were played against the Sports Club (who surely have one of the most delightful grounds we visited) and against the Goan Institute. Hospitality was indeed first class. We won all our matches, and our regrets at leaving were many and real.

What can be said of Aden ? Amidst the heat and sand, to play cricket was indeed a labour. However, matches were played against the R.A.F. and B.P. at Little Aden.

The future is a little brighter, and our next fray with bat and ball will be on the verdant grass of England in 1959.

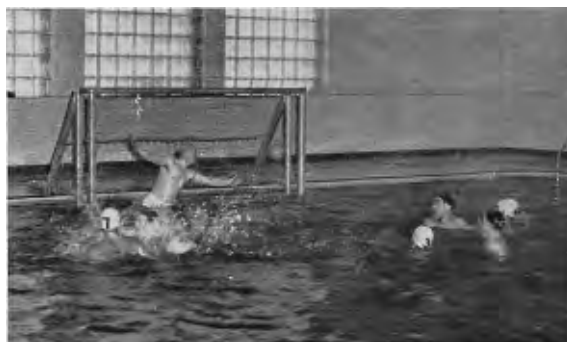
How soon before we are again victims of R.S.P. Sadly, cricket has not been well supported in this ship, and my very grateful thanks are due to the few whose support I could rely on at all times. May you score many hundreds and get "hat-tricks" galore in the seasons to come.

B. G. B.

Swimming and Water Polo

WATER POLO started on arrival in the West Indies with a series of friendly matches and swimming galas in Trinidad and Kingston. Somewhat naturally we were easily beaten, but our courteous opponents were pleased to inject local strength into our team and we had some most enjoyable matches.

At Bermuda we beat *Maidstone* and *Ceylon*, and only lost by a narrow margin to a local side. We played two games against R.C.N.A.S. *Shearwater* at Halifax in their magnificent new swimming pool, and won them both.



Water Polo—v. R.C.N.A.S. "Shearwater"

Then followed a long gap until the "Ocean Link" games at Singapore. We beat *Terror* in the first round, but lost easily to an exceptionally good side from H.M.N.Z.S. *Royalist*, the eventual winners. In the swimming gala we came fourth.

At Manila, in the second "Ocean Link" meeting, we were soundly beaten by the Philippine Navy water polo team, but beat *Newfoundland* in the swimming competition to come fifth.

We held our swimming gala in the Dockyard pool at Hong Kong, which 845 Squadron won, with 80 i a fairly close second. This was followed by the Colony Championships in which we finished second. A very good effort.

Sub-Lieutenant Winslow, winner of the free-style event, and Lieutenant Lucas achieved good individual results. *Bulwark* came second in the medley relay. In the water polo competition we beat *Modeste* 3-2, but were later defeated by *Tamar*.

On our return to Singapore we lost to a representative side from the Swimming Club.

At Aden we had our first opportunity to play regularly, and out of eight matches played we won five.

Apart from inter-ship games, where we have certainly held our own, all our matches have been played against strong clubs who practise all the year round. These games have all been good fun, and we were in no way discouraged by the scores.



Water Polo Team v. R.C.N.A.S. "Shearwater"



Water Polo v. R.C.N.A.S. "Shearwater"



King's Cup Final, Bermuda

Soccer

TRIALS, at the start of our commission, were hampered by the constant changes of squadrons, and at first our success was limited. However, 1957 closed on a high note as a steady improvement earned us victory over *Eagle*, and the Aircraft-carrier Squadron King's Cup. Three further matches were played before leaving U.K., and the results were very satisfactory. The strong Royal Marines, Eastney, side was held to a draw, and *Dolphin* and *Osprey* beaten handsomely. Our next game against the *Trinidad*, was played under vastly different conditions which took a lot of getting used to, but we won 2-1.

At Kingston we defeated *Kensington* 3-1 and drew with the undefeated *Worcesters* after one of the hardest and fastest games to date. We



1st XI Soccer. Winners of the two King's Cups

also beat the 3rd Destroyer Squadron in the first round of the Home Fleet King's Cup. However, the highlight of this visit was our game against the Jamaica F.A. eleven who are due to tour the United Kingdom in 1958-59. We held them to a 2-0 defeat, but earned much praise in the local press.

We played *Ceylon* on arrival at Bermuda in the semi-final of the Home Fleet competition. Two fine goals from outside-left O.A. Thomas resulted in a 2-0 victory after a fast and exciting game. Two days later the same team met the 2nd Destroyer Squadron in the final, and although they scored first we won 4-2 and so achieved our double, the Home Fleet and Aircraft-carrier Squadron King's Cup. The following day we drew with Pembroke Juniors, the Island champions, M.E. Hayter and P.O. Durrant played for the Home Fleet against Bermuda F.A.

At Gibraltar, Sub-Lieutenant Dean, the secretary, left for U.K. and Sergeant Newell, the captain retired. Both, in their different capacities, had done much for our success and we were sorry to lose them. Lieutenant Evans took over both posts. Other changes occurred, and we were beaten by the Army garrison at Gibraltar 1-0. However, at Aden we defeated the R.A.F. 3-1. Our next match was at Singapore, where we had a fast game against the really fit *Terror* team, winning 4-3.

During "Ocean Link" we played the Philippine Navy at Manila—a surprising victory, 12-0.

At Hong Kong we defeated the cruisers *Newfoundland* and *Newcastle*, but lost to a better R.A.F.

side 5-0 at Kai Tak on one of those days that happen to the best of soccer sides.

On return to Singapore, the B.I.A. organised a game for us against the Cricket Club—a good soccer side, who beat us 5-3. Entertainment after the game was on the usual B.I.A. scale and much appreciated by all.

Our soccer at Trinco' was confined to one ship's game against *Gambia*, won 2-0 and six *Bulwark's* in the Far East Fleet representative teams.

Wonderful arrangements were made at Mombasa for soccer, and every match played was a pleasure to all. However, the standard was higher than expected and our record suffered accordingly.

The outstanding game played was against the Coastal Provinces Sporting Association which attracted a crowd of 10,000. Our 0-2 defeat did not disgrace the ship in any way.



King's Cup Final, Bermuda



The Earl of Selkirk presents the Home Fleet King's Cup

At Aden we heat the Army twice and lost to Gulab's eleven. It was not soccer weather, however, and one or two cases of heat exhaustion occurred during inter-part matches.

The second eleven have remained undefeated after matches with two Commonwealth carriers and a number of destroyers' first elevens. They have also beaten *Newfoundland*, *Newcastle*, *Gambia* and *Terror's* second elevens and hopped into the first eleven with credit when required.

There the ball lies at the moment of writing. Many thanks to our Committee who have covered many miles, as the team, with sponge, whistle and flag.

Sailing

No ACCOUNT OF THE SAILING activities in *Bulwark* would be complete without some mention of the Captain's own boat, *Fairey Fox*.

This boat was designed by Uffa Fox and built by Fairey Marine Ltd. as a prototype for one commissioned by the Duke of Edinburgh for use in the Royal Yacht. Built on the lines of a modern planing dinghy, 23 ft. long and carrying 300 sq. ft. of sail, it requires a "he-man" crew of six or seven in anything but the lightest of breezes.

Theoretically, if it could be kept upright in a force 6 breeze the boat would travel at over 20 knots. Keeping it upright, however, is quite a problem, and two of the crew are employed full time outboard, suspended on trapeze wires from the masthead. This is a wet but exhilarating pastime. Ask Petty Officer Mullinder, who has lavished much time and care on the boat.

Fairey Fox has unfortunately an expensive appetite restricted to the very best of silver spruce masts, of which it likes one approximately each quarter. In between these major catastrophes it maintains its virility on a steady diet of small brass shackles and hunks of codline.

In the words of one rather wet and bedraggled trapeze artist, "Sailing in *Fairey Fox* is quite an experience." An experience which most people are eager to repeat once the bruises have subsided.

A world record is claimed for her being the first boat to sail fast enough to support a man on an aquaplane. Sharks and seawater temperature permitting, we hope to photograph someone on water skis in tow behind *Fairey Fox* before the end of the commission.

For our world cruise we embarked six R.N. dinghies, but unfortunately only five have been serviceable for the majority of the time.

The whalers have been much in demand for sailing expeditions and have sailed well over 300 miles each on these occasions, usually in trips of thirty to fifty miles.

Before recording some of our achievements in the sailing races, I would like to thank all those experienced helmsmen who have taken out crews of junior ratings to give them a taste of the cheapest and most pleasant sport that the Royal Navy provides. A special vote of thanks goes to the boat party for all the hard work they have put in.

Team Events

Bulwark v. Royal Jamaica Yacht Club.—Sailed at Kingston, Jamaica, in a wide variety of boats. We lost, I'm afraid, in a haze of planter's punches.

R.N. v. R.C.N. — Sailed at Hamilton, Bermuda. *Bulwark* provided four crews out of the team of eleven a side. The Royal Navy won handsomely, but as a temporary Fleet flagship we had an awful job to retain the trophy on board. This race was watched by the First Lord of the Admiralty and was memorable for the wonderful turn-out of the officer of the day.

Bulwark v. H.M.S. Terror v. U.S.S. Philippine Sea. Sailed from the Red House at Singapore Naval Base. *Bulwark* team was second in this triangular match which was won by the locals.



The "Fairey Fox"

Royal Navy v. Army.—Sailed from Kellet Island, the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. *Bulwark* helmsmen in two out of the three star-class yachts. We won in convincing style on a day when there was not a great deal of wind.

Inter-Commonwealth Regatta.—Sailed at Trincomalee, Ceylon, with Royal Naval teams from the Far East Station and the East Indies Station, the Pakistan Navy and the Royal Ceylon Navy. The teams finished in the order written above. The

two *Bulwark* dinghies were second and fourth. The second dinghy spent the entire race recovering from a capsiz before the start, which just goes to show what seven stripes in one boat can do.

Congratulations to the bold pirates in the second whaler who won the obstacle whaler race by a whole leg of the course. It's all done by fireworks and helicopters in a modern form of psychological warfare, I am told.

H. R. W-M.



Boxing

FOR THE 1957 Aircraft-carrier Squadron competition we found our open class boxers sick or unmatchable. However, our novices held the fort, and although unable to stand up to *Ark Royal's* galaxy of talent, we beat *Eagle* soundly. M.E. Swift won his weight.

Lieutenant McColl, the Navy veteran, joined us at Christmas and under his expert advice and tireless enthusiasm the team was rejuvenated and has since achieved a good measure of success.

Our first meeting was at Bermuda, a charity show, with talent provided by the Fleet and the Bermuda A.B.A. We produced nine and won three, Bix, Gray and Mason, with a perfectly timed right K.O. Phelps and Swift just lost through unfitness.

A very much more satisfactory and well-organised Fleet meeting took place at Halifax against the Canadian Army with an excellent card of twelve bouts. Of our three, Swift won after a cool and convincing display; Gray tired in the third round to lose a very close fight, and Mason lost to a higher class opponent.

The next meeting was a combined R.N. and R.A.N. contest against the United States Navy in the U.S.S. *Philippine Sea* at Manila. Despite different boxing customs, including the use of headguards by the Americans, the Commonwealth Navies won 6-3. R.E.M. Cayton won convincingly, refusing to allow his opponent to "mix it." Gray's opponent was disqualified. Swift used his right to such effect that his bout was stopped in the third round.



M.E. Gray v. U.S. "Philippine Sea" at Manila

Petty Officer Wolfe lost his first bout in the Hong Kong Championships; Mason and Gray won their semi-finals, and Cayton only just lost to the Army champion. A special bout was arranged for him on the final evening, which he won with a fine performance. Mason became the flyweight champion.

The tournament at Mombasa against the Coastal Provinces A.B.C. proved to be a tremendous success, our boxers winning ten of the thirteen bouts and delighting the large Naval contingent in the packed Diamond Jubilee Hall.



M.E. Swift v. U.S. "Philippine Sea" at Manila

Hockey

TRIALS WERE HELD immediately after commissioning at the end of the 1956-57 season, which gave little time for the formation of a ship's team. However, a few matches were played and the team selected proved that they could hold their own against fairly strong opposition. *Albion* was beaten 8-1.



891 v. Fx. Deck Hockey Final

The new season found the ship complete with squadrons. Further trials were held at Lossiemouth and the opening matches of the season played at Rosyth. The team held their own until they met *Ark Royal* in the Aircraft-carrier Cup match and were beaten by a strong side.

At Belfast in October we lost to Short and Harlands and beat the Northumberland Fusiliers comfortably. At Rotterdam, *Bulwark* and *Maidstone* combined to field a formidable team against the very mediocre opposition of the R.A.S.C. at the Hook.

The 1958 cruise brought new faces to the ship. Trials were held at *Osprey*, and from these games the ship's first and second elevens were selected. Lieutenant Ashmore was elected first eleven captain and A.A.2 Edwards vice-captain.

At Trinidad the first eleven stormed ashore and defeated the Police, their first defeat by a visiting ship since pre-war days. The return match ended in a draw. The second eleven's success was confined to the activities following their match.

At Kingston we defeated the 3rd Destroyer Squadron in the first round of the Home Fleet competition on the rock-hard pitch to which we were gradually getting accustomed.



1st XI Hockey. Winners of the Home Fleet Challenge Bowl

The remainder of the Home Fleet Cup competition was played in Bermuda, where we defeated the 2nd Destroyer Squadron in the semi-final and *Maidstone* in the final. The following day a representative side of the Home Fleet, including six *Bulwark* players, played Bermuda H.A. eleven and lost by the odd goal after a hard battle.

At Gibraltar we drew against the Combined Services on an extremely fast pitch. A further match against the Gibraltar Hockey Association was rained off. Here the captain, Lieutenant Ashmore, left us, but fortunately others arrived from U.K. to help fill the gap.

The 1st XI beat H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* and drew with *Newfoundland* at Hong Kong. The second eleven did well to win 4-2 against *Alert*, the Far East hockey champions.

On returning to Singapore we re-played *Newfoundland* and won 4-1. During the "Jet" weekends, inter-fleet and international matches were played on very fast, hard grounds. *Bulwark* was well represented in the F.E.S. and combined Royal Navy sides, and continued to improve in speed and stick-work. Those who were lucky enough to be selected learnt a lot, and this experience should stand us in good stead at Mombasa. In particular, we were given a brilliant display by the Indian Navy team which beat the Royal Navy side 9-0. Their former Olympic centre-forward, Nandy

Singh, showed us how hockey really should be played.

Up to the time of writing the ship's teams have more than held their own during the cruise. The first eleven remains unbeaten and the second eleven has kept the flag flying on the all too few occasions on which they have been able to take the field.

Flight Lieutenant Oliver and Chief Shipwright Bunce, our long-suffering umpires, have had all the work and none of the play. They have taught us much about the rules and seen to it that we play a clean game. To them many thanks.



Challenge Bowl Final, Bermuda



H.M.S. "Bulwark"—Winners of the Far East Championships, 1958

Athletics and Cross-Country

THE SHIP'S CROSS-COUNTRY RACE at Belfast was won by Ordinary Seaman Brand with M.E. Harrington second. The Electricians won the inter-part trophy by clever team packing. A ship's team was selected who beat the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and continued to race with enthusiasm against all available opponents in preparation for the Home Fleet and Aircraft-carrier Squadron competition held simultaneously at Rosyth in November. Unfortunately we were just beaten by *Ark Royal* after a terrific struggle with *Eagle* and the remainder well behind. Ordinary Seaman Brand came second after a very fine race.

With the new year and the foreign cruise thoughts turned again to athletics. Long spells at sea saw the faithful few pounding the flight deck—accepted, but by the large majority misunderstood!

At Gibraltar we road-raced round the Rock against the other two Services, who overtook an initial lead on the long returning climb to Europe Point.

In an international navy meeting, the "Ocean Link" sports at Singapore, we topped the poll over the R.A.N., R.N.Z.N., U.S.N. and the remainder of the Royal Navy. This performance was repeated in the torrid heat of Manila. At Hong Kong, despite all counter-attractions, full trials were held and the selected team even managed some training for the Far East championships on our return to Singapore. This meeting turned into a ding-dong struggle with *Royalist* just ahead of us with only the relays to go. Here we clinched

the issue by winning both. Sub-Lieutenant McGregor's 29.2 seconds, 220 yards hurdles, and Lieutenant Green's 41 ft. 7 in. hop, step and jump were both new R.N. Singapore records.

While the ship was at Mombasa a special invitation meeting was held by the Coast Athletic Association, in which several *Bulwark* athletes took part. The standard was very high, by far the highest encountered during the cruise, and in most of the events we were placed well to the rear.

However, two of *Bulwark's* team performed very creditably. N.A. Redford was placed second in



4 x 110 Yards Relay, Manila



P.T. Games session

the discus, and N.A. Bix was second in the shot putt. In addition, a sterling display was put up by *Bulwark's* tug-of-war team, who defeated a very large brawny team of African dock workers in the final, a win that was enthusiastically acclaimed by the large crowd present.

Inter-part Competitions

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS for all the major sports were held in 1957, full use being made of the excellent facilities on our doorstep at R.N.A.Y. Sydenham, Belfast. 84.5 Squadron won the soccer in an exciting final against the Engine Room; Forecastle the hockey and cricket, and Quarter-deck the seven-a-side rugby. Previously, at Pitt Street at the end of the refit, we held an athletics meeting which the Forecastle won easily.

Since the cruise started, all inter-part competitions played ashore have been run on the "wandering" basis. 845 Squadron have to date won the rotating and Rugby trophies, the swimming gala at Hong Kong, and retained the Soccer

Shield. Forecastle held the Cricket and Hockey Cups, but have since lost them to 845 to give them a full bag.

Deck games came into their own as the weather became warmer and have continued with increasing enthusiasm whenever flying has allowed.

Deck Hockey, always a firm favourite, drew sixty-four entries for the competition, which was won after five months of mounting interest in a fine and lengthy final by the Forecastle, who beat 891 officers 3-2. Countless other games have been played, well over 100 sticks consumed and the ocean bed littered with a thick carpet of pucks.

Tug-of-war. — Restricted entries led to a short and exciting competition full of surprises in every round. The final was won by a strong team of Engine Room C.P.Os. and Petty Officers, who showed the Royal Marines superior fitness and stamina after three hard pulls.

Volley-ball. — *This* game, a favourite amongst the air world, caught on like wild-fire throughout the ship during the passage from Gibraltar to



A Tug-of-War pull-off



A Sunday afternoon at sea

Singapore, and has improved 100 per cent. thanks to the coaching of our two United States Marine Corps officers. Ships' teams were formed and matches arranged with the Philippine Navy and I.N.S. *Mysore*. With the kind co-operation of the chopper squadron a three-cornered meeting was held with *Melbourne* and the *Philippine Sea* during Exercise "Ocean Link."

Judo.—A small club was formed under the guidance of L.M.E. Somerville, who has taught over forty members. At the time of writing we aim to lay on a judo display for the Green Room Rag in Mombasa.

Fencing.—A large class of would-be "Scaramooches" gathered together in January, 1958, under the able and enthusiastic instruction of Lieutenant Berlyn. During subsequent dog watches the Quarterdeck rang to the inexpert clash of foil, sabre and épée, but by Bermuda sufficient talent had been unearthed to form a side against the local club. This match, a great success from every angle, was pleasantly completed at the bar after a *Bulwark* lead.

At Gibraltar a more serious match was arranged against the Combined Services. Lack of competition experience told against us after a close tussle and we lost 22-30. Sporadic training has continued throughout the heat of the Far East,

but we look forward to further fixtures on our return to Gibraltar.

As well as the activities mentioned above, full use has always been made of the exceptional recreational facilities afforded by a carrier whenever flying permits.

All our sports teams have managed to keep reasonably fit at sea. The perimeter of the flight deck is a good 44.0 yards ! We have also run several sessions of R.T. games on a mildly competitive basis. These games have resulted in a lot of fun and laughter.

Rugby

UP TO THE TIME OF WRITING, the ship's rugger team has not really come into its own. Our programme has prevented much practice and a proper series of trials. Drafting changes have also added to our difficulties in producing a settled fifteen.

However, -we were only just beaten by *Sheffield*, the eventual winners, in the semi-final of the Home Fleet Rugby Cup in November.

Since then we have enjoyed a number of matches around the world, though the majority of them have been lost to superior fitness and experience and playing the game in quite extraordinary temperatures.