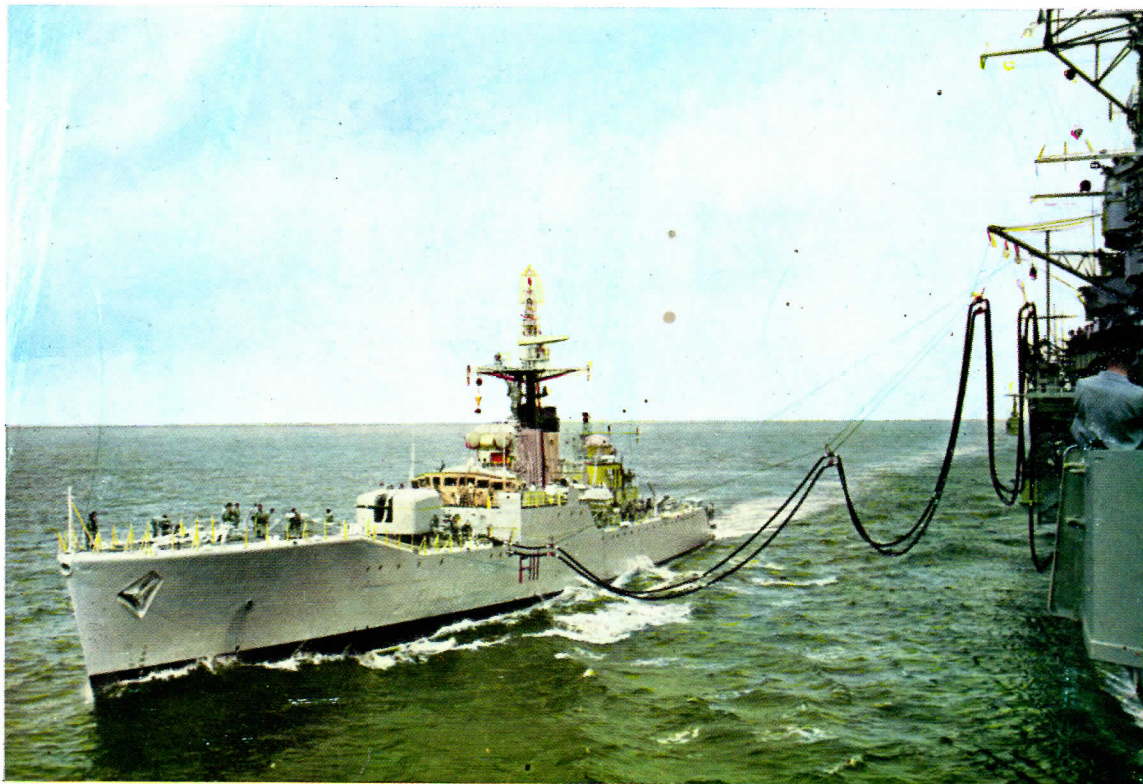


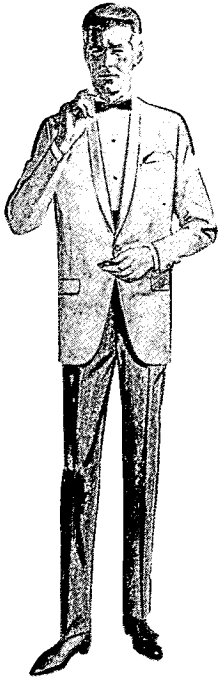
H.M.N.Z.S. OTAGO



1967-68 COMMISSION

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Chang Kee



NAVAL TAILOR

FROM SHANGHAI

100 CANTON ROAD.

KOWLOON

HONG KONG

R.N.Z.N. CONTRACTOR



NAVAL UNIFORMS

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GUARANTEED TO FIT

SHIP'S MAGAZINE OF HMNZS OTAGO

COMMISSION OF 1967-68

1944



BY: John O'Connell ROSS,
Companion of the Bath,
Commander of the Most
Excellent Order of the
British Empire, Chief
of the Naval Staff and
First Naval Member of
the New Zealand Naval
Board.

TO: RICHARD THOMAS HALE, O.B.E.,
Captain, Royal New Zealand Navy,
At Auckland.

WARRANT TO COMMISSION A VESSEL IN
HER MAJESTY'S NEW ZEALAND FLEET

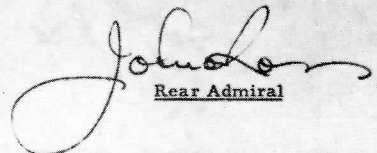
The New Zealand Naval Board have directed that Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship OTAGO is to be commissioned on Friday, the twenty fourth day of November, 1967, or as soon afterwards as circumstances permit, for service in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

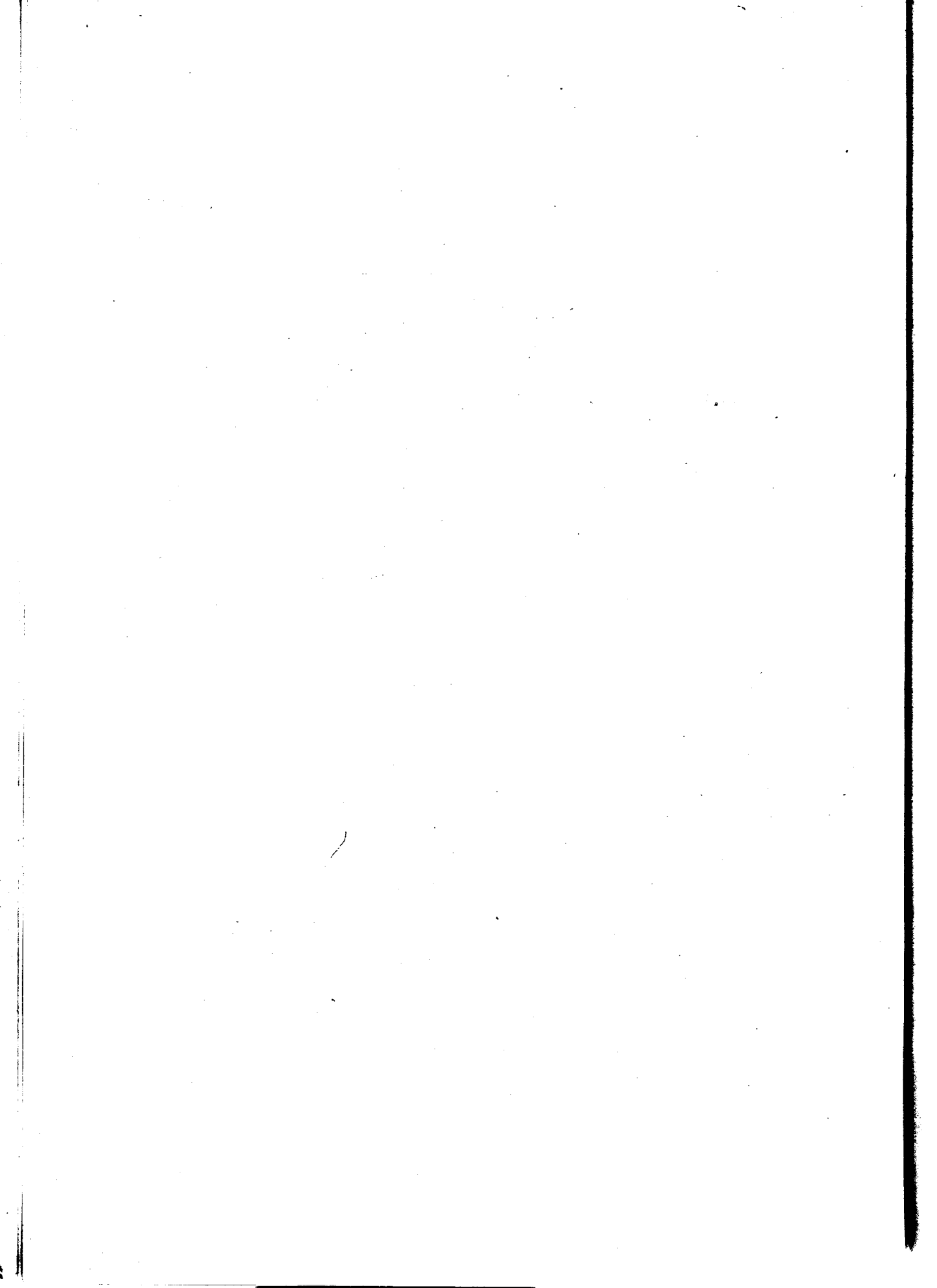
You are hereby directed that on that day, you are to repair on board that ship, now lying in the Port of Auckland, and to commission her for service as a unit of the Royal New Zealand Navy, reporting when you are in all respects ready for sea.

You are to bring immediately to the notice of the New Zealand Naval Board any reason you may have which gives you cause for dissatisfaction with the general state of the ship or any matter relating to the welfare of her Company.

May God's blessing be upon the Ship, and her Company entrusted to your Command.

Given under my hand at WELLINGTON,
on the twenty ninth day of September,
nineteen hundred and sixty seven.


Rear Admiral



Foreword



The following pages are an extremely brief account of many of the activities and interests which have occupied OTAGO and the men who have served aboard her during the 1967-68 Commission. A complete account is impossible — short of a major publication, quite beyond our pockets and running into several hundred pages; it is hoped, however, that this magazine will serve to remind all in OTAGO of an extremely satisfying commission containing a wealth and variety of experience for both initiates and 'old hands' alike. It will also serve to inform those who have, with devotion and sacrifice, waited for us at home, of where we have been and what we have done.

In many ways, this commission has been different from many others spent in South East Asia. During 1967, OTAGO underwent a major refit in H.M.N.Z. Dockyard — a refit more extensive than any of our ships has had carried out in New Zealand before. In consequence, the ship we have served in was recommissioned in November and came into our hands as if new. We have had all the problems, difficulties and satisfactions of starting from scratch and welding men, materials and the ship itself, into an efficient whole, ready for all and any emergency which might arrive. The task has not been easy — time and the elements seemed so often against us — but the satisfactions obtained upon the achievement of our various goals have undoubtedly been reflected in the pride and solidarity of everyone aboard. Each man, to his credit, has ably and industriously upheld the past, present and ever-growing reputation of New Zealanders from Australia to Hawaii, from Singapore to Bangkok. New Zealand has a fine name in the Pacific basin and I say, with confidence, that this ship and all aboard her, have added measurably to that name.

Our tasks have been numerous and various. We have steamed and exercised with the ships of our British and American friends in a mutual endeavour to build up and maintain the existing umbrella of defence which extends across the Pacific; we have acted as ambassadors of goodwill to Japan, Thailand and Korea. If sometimes this has meant the inconvenience of dodging typhoons and long, hard days at sea, then there has been ample compensation in the appreciation shown us by our many good friends. I firmly believed that OTAGO in its present commission has served New Zealand and the nations of the Pacific well. I extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone aboard and wish you all a very happy home-coming and Christmas — You have been a grand Company.

RICHARD T. HALE, O.B.E.,
Captain, R.N.Z.N.,
Commanding Officer.

❧ Editorial ❧

The magazine of H.M.N.Z.S. OTAGO has been designed as a small reminder of the various activities and excitements which have occupied you all over the last twelve months. As always, its production has involved the efforts of very many of the Ship's Company and the inevitable shortage of time which makes the final product always less than that which we would desire. Nevertheless, I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to those who have made this publication possible; without them there would have been no magazine. L/S Pettis has gone to immense trouble to produce the bulk of our sports' pages, L/S Parkhurst has given the editorial staff a generous supply of suitable (and not so printable) cartoons and has always been an unstinting source of enthusiasm, P.O. Wtr. Maynell is the man who has been responsible for ensuring that the numerous statistics and the nominal list bear some reasonable relationship to reality! There are others, too numerous to mention — but who likewise, have my thanks and the thanks of all aboard.

There is no denying that magazines such as this are a luxury — an extra — but, on the other hand, it is a luxury each and every one of you deserves because you have earned the right to look back with pride on all you have done. It provides, in addition, a means of telling your friends what you have been doing with your life and where you have been. Personally, I would like to dedicate this small booklet to our families at home. It is their silent support of our efforts and patient devotion during long, and sometimes painful, separation, which upholds us all at those times when we most need it. Our wives, families and sweet-hearts may not be members of the service to which we belong, but through their sacrifice they are all undoubtedly contributing to the defence of New Zealand in a way which is unheralded and unsung. Without their quiet and usually unpublicised presence in the background, I doubt that this or any navy, could perform its functions with such efficiency and success as has been manifest during the last twelve months. Ladies, you may not have been physically part of OTAGO's Ship's Company, but in the minds and hearts of each and everyone of us, you have travelled every mile that we have been wherever we have gone. As editor of this magazine, and on behalf of my shipmates, I thank you for your support and wish you all the best in the future.

A.I.H. PATERSON,
Editor.

THE MAORI CONCERT PARTY

HAERE MAI!

HAERE MAI!

HAERE MAI!

The 1968 'Tribe' of Otago's much-travelled and extremely popular Maori Concert Party was first formed in early February under the guidance of L.S.G. T. Cassidy. Since that time its enthusiasm and energy ashore and afloat has made it close to famous from Hawaii to Bangkok, from Hong Kong to Japan, and its remarkable vigour has virtually worn out the ship's existing set of pio-pio. All in Otago are proud of everything the Concert Party's Maori and Maori-Pakeha have done to put their ship and New Zealand into the minds of the people of the Pacific. Well Done! But more seriously — what has really counted, has been the endless hours of unstinting devotion to practice and more practice which has been manifest not just on the day of the performance but day by day and week by week throughout the entire commission. This generosity in the investment of leisure time is what has made the Maori Concert Party what it is — the best source of publicity and good-will that Otago has. May other ships on the Far East Station enjoy the privilege of carrying a Concert Party of equal devotion and enthusiasm.

THE CONCERT PARTY

<i>Patron</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Captain R.T. Hale, O.B.E.
<i>Officers-in-charge</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lt. G. Elder, Ensign P.M. Pokai.
<i>Leaders</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ensign P.M. Pokai, P.O. C. Kauta, A.B. L. Wallace, L.S. J. Donnelly, L.S.G. T. Cassidy.
<i>Compere</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L. Sea. G. Pettis.
<i>Baggage Boys</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	O/Sea. Mitchell, Ord(W) C. Burr.

PERFORMERS

A.B. M. Abraham	North Auckland	Nga Puhi
M.E. W. Brown	Bay of Islands	Nga Puhi
O.S. R. Broughton	Taranaki	Nga Raru
L.S.G. T. Cassidy	Hokianga	Nga Puhi
A.B. P. Cunningham	Hawkes Bay	Ngati Kahungunu
L.S. J. Donnelly	Gisborne	Ngati Porou
L.S. S. Draper	Hawkes Bay	Ngati Pakeha
A.B. A. Edmonds	Bay of Islands	Nga Puhi
A.B. C. Fletcher	Kaitaia	Nga Puhi
O.S. J. Hinaki	Gisborne	Ngati Porou
O.S. G. Griffiths	Gisborne	Ngati Pakeha
L.S. R. Golding	Auckland	Ngati Pakeha
ORD(W) H. Hawke	Rotorua	Arawa
A.B. R. Kake	Whangarei	Nga Puhi
P.O. C. Kauta,	Opotiki	Ngaitai
ASG. R. Kenyon	Wellington	Ngati Poneke
ME1. S. Lang	Dargaville	Nga Puhi
WM1. W. Mitchell	Maketu	Arawa
P.O. P. O'Leary	Otago	Ngati Pakeha
L.S. P. O'Reilly	Auckland	Ngati Pakeha
Ens. P. Pokai	Gisborne	Ngati Porou
O.S. W. Palmer	Whangarei	Nga Puhi
L.S. G. Pettis	Wanganui	Ngati Pakeha
A.B. D. Pittams	Auckland	Ngati Pakeha
L.S.G. F. Saunders	Bay of Islands	Ngati Pakeha
LME S. Sorrenson	Rotorua	Arawa
A.B. A. Tingle	Auckland	Ngati Pakeha
A.B. H. Te Wheoro	Tauranga	Arawa
O.S. F. Thompson	Wanganui	Ngati Hiini
A.B. L. Wallace	Taranaki	Ngati Tuwharetoa

NEW MEMBER

Ngati Pakeha

Kaikohe

A.B. B. Guthrie

CONCERT PARTY NOTES: 'Don't grieve that the earth is covered with water
... the ocean's surface shall be rough ...'

Ancient Maori Chant.

Shortly after the ship's leaving New Zealand for Pearl Harbour, the Concert Party began practising everyday and, by the time we had come under the American 'influence', had reached a sufficiently high standard of performance to be able to put on twelve shows during the eight weeks spent in the Hawaiian area. This was no mean achievement for such a short period of preparation, as everybody who has ever attempted to master a Maori dance must know only too well. The performances in Hawaii which are most deserving of mention are: 'The Challenge' which was made to Rear Admiral J. O'C. Ross on his arrival in Pearl Harbor, and the Kodak Pacific Cultural Show at Waikiki Beach where the Concert Party performed before a capacity crowd of some three-and-a-half thousand tourists.

As in the past, the Concert Party was extremely well-looked-after in Hawaii by such old friends as: Linda and Solo, John Kamanu and Jack Keene-But. In appreciation of the overwhelming hospitality offered, The Concert Party gave a number of performances in the private homes of some of its many hosts. About this time The Party suffered the heavy blow of having L.S.G. Cassidy return to New Zealand, but was fortunate in having P.O. Kautu undertake the task of Leader.

The pattern of activities established in Hawaii was continued in the Far East with numerous performances for Television, Radio, Orphanages and Cocktail Parties both ashore and afloat. In Bangkok the pace quickened and we undertook no less than six shows in five days! Here again we were well looked after, and made to feel at home by a New Zealand family, Mel and Georgina Taylor who, on the last night of a wonderful stay, opened their home to the Ship's Company; nor will any member of the Party easily forget the audience-response of the Bangkok Australian and New Zealand Society.

In Hong Kong, the Concert Party performed for the truly international audience of the World Rehabilitation Organisation and met an outstanding ovation, but perhaps the most pleasurable performances were those given for the underprivileged children of the orphanages in Inchon, Korea. Here also, at the request of Otago wives, we presented the children with clothes and woollens sewn and knitted by our women-folk back home.

In presenting over thirty different shows during the commission, Otago's Maori Concert Party has made a major contribution towards international goodwill and understanding, extended New Zealand's image, and brought the Royal New Zealand Navy a well-earned publicity that would be almost impossible of attainment by any other means.



H.M.N.Z.S. OTAGO 1967/68 — TRAVEL NOTES

'Enjoy the wonders and the mysteries of the East! Travel luxuriously in one of the spacious and ample super-suites, specifically designed for your comfort and enjoyment . . .'

Advertisement.

'Much have I travelled in the Realms of gold,
And many good and stately kingdoms seen —
Far places I know I could never have been
Had OTAGO neither been forged nor rolled . . .'

(After — long after) John Keats.

AUCKLAND.

Following the ship's formal re-commissioning on 24th November, 1967, at Devonport, Otago commenced her sea-going activities with acceptance trials in the Hauraki Gulf. These trials lasted from Monday 27th November until 13th December and were something of a start-stop arrangement which served both to get us acquainted with our ship and to correct any defects which occurred. Throughout this time, a high note of expectation filled the Mess decks as the Ship's Company began the slow task of regaining its sea-legs. Although whaling is not officially a Naval objective, it was during this period that our screws inadvertently made contact with one of these denizen of the deep — providing us with an item of conversation and the whale with a mighty sore back! In the same period we encountered our first taste of bad weather when the ship ran into a thirty-knot Sou' Wester.

WAITANGI.

On Saturday 3rd February, we left Auckland wearing the Flag of the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral J.O.'C. Ross, C.B., C.B.E., who travelled with us to Waitangi which we reached the next day, and where we rendezvoused with H.M.N.Z.S. Inverell and H.M.N.Z.S. Kiama. After strenuous rehearsing, Otago's Guard had the honour of being the first to perform at a Waitangi celebration under the critical lens of a National television hook-up. We were also honoured while at Waitangi by having a visit from His Excellency, Sir Arthur Porrit and Lady Porrit, who both commented most favourably upon the fine appearance of the ship and the enthusiasm of its Company.

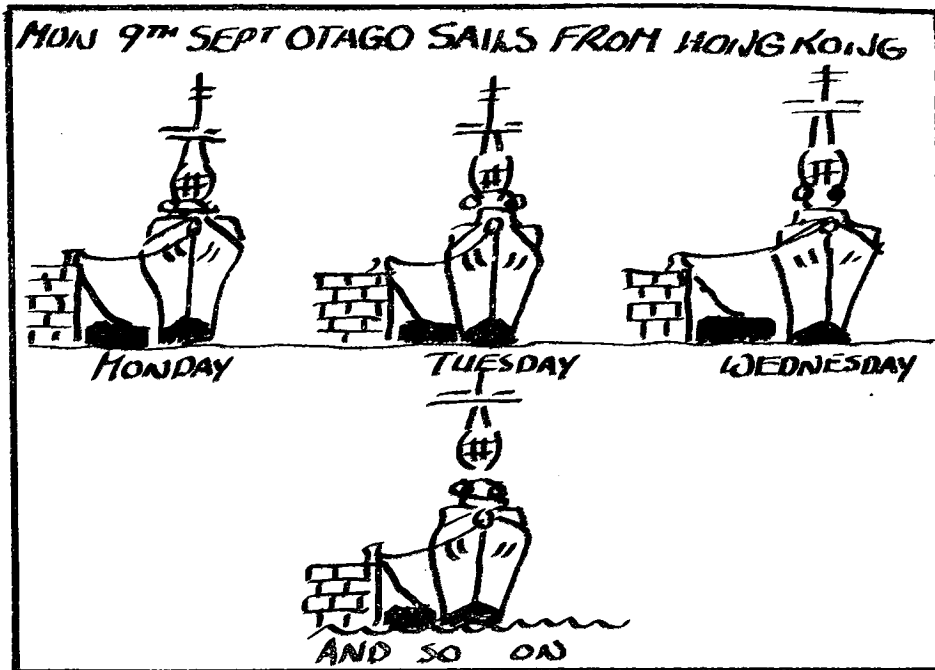
AUSTRALIAN INTERLUDE

From Waitangi we sailed for Sydney which we reached on Sunday 11th February after a Tasman crossing devoted to scientific research under the guidance of Dr. Kibblewhite. During the remainder of the month, most of our time was taken up by strenuous mental exercises at H.M.A.S. Watson, and somewhat equally strenuous (but non-intellectual) runs ashore. From Sydney, carrying with us fond recollections of Harry's Cafe no-longer-de wheels, we ran down to Jervis Bay for further trials, carrying out exercises with TRUMP on the way. There was a quick return visit to Sydney for fuel and, after dodging an assortment of yachts and other small craft, we sailed for Auckland and a little somewhat unexpected leave.

TROPIC NIGHTS AND DAZE

On leaving New Zealand, as many of us remember only too well, we were unfortunate enough to encounter a storm which insisted upon following us as far as Raoul Island in the Kermadec Group, where it gave us up and headed for the country we had just left behind. During the remainder of the run north, the elements treated us more leniently and we reached Pago-pago quite recovered from our earlier, debilitating experience. Our visit to Samoa was a refuelling stop and lasted no more than a few hours; on Saturday 30th March we crossed the equator — or so the Navigator, assured us — and on 4th April, reached Hawaii to the welcome sound of plaintive polynesian song and the sight of an undulating party of mu-mu clad 'Wahines'. We had arrived! The fabled land of AL-O-HA and Hula lay before us! Work came first, and soon we were locked in deadly conflict with fire-fighting exercises at which all aboard learned to 'Get-up-go-get-it!' The following seven weeks were a weird and wonderful mixture of deadly-serious exercises ashore and afloat, sports, P.X. runs, Wai-kiki runs, E.M. Club runs, home runs, duty and non-duty runs. During this period we received a visit from the Chief of Naval Staff who stopped off on his way to the 'Mainland',

and our Maori Concert Party began those exciting and savage performances which have helped to establish good relations wherever the ship has travelled. We remember Hawaii for many



things: Diamond Head, violent volcanoes we didn't get the time to look at, Schlitz, 'Maitais', The Fleet Training Group, sports and more sports, but particularly for the friendliness, courtesy, and entertainment offered by our host ship, U.S.S. Benjamin Stoddert, her Captain, Officers and Men.



WE SAW THE SEA

On 30th May, with many regrets, we said goodbye to our many friends in Hawaii and set off for Singapore — some twenty days away. The weather was perfect all the way — and that was considerable compensation because there is an awful lot of water between Hawaii

and Singapore! Our stops included Midway Island, where the venturesome managed to entertain themselves with swimming and a brief walk of inspection and confrontation with 'Gooney birds'. At Guam, we stayed long enough to renew our acquaintance with Schlitz and Bourbon, carry out a little socialising, and make a few hurried purchases at the P.X. At Labuan, Borneo, we paused only long enough to take a deep breath before plunging on our merry way. One of the highlights (low-light if you prefer) was an opera performed at sea for the entertainment and dubious edification of all hands. We also indulged ourselves with informal evening meals on the upper deck under the balmy (!) tropic skies — ah! Music, food, wine! (Was there something missing?) And let us not forget Gunnery practice. There was a spot of pistol-shooting, if you remember, and a floating tank which required an enormous number of rounds from many guns before it would take the final plunge.

SINGAPORE SIGHTS

We reached this famous island on the morning of 20th June and celebrated our arrival by replacing the White Ensign of the Royal Navy with one carrying the Southern Cross. (We anticipated the latter ceremony by splicing the main brace on the previous day.) Having now steamed a total distance of 242,028.02 miles, we began our 'rabbit' runs, duty runs, banyan runs and exercises with as much fervour and enthusiasm as New Zealand ships have done in the past. Old and new hands alike paid their respects to the Tiger Balm Gardens, Change Alley, and various clubs, hostels, and sports fields which have long been used by the ships of the R.N.Z.N. During this period, there was also much serious work to do, and the Ship's Company both worked and played hard, bringing much credit to the good name the R.N.Z.N. has on the Far East Station.

THAIS AND SILKS

On Monday 15th July, Otago, in company with H.M.S. Defender and H.M.S. Puma, reached Bangkok. This visit proved an exciting and interesting experience during which Otago's Sports Teams and the Maori Concert Party gained a considerable amount of favourable and free publicity in the local papers. Many of the Ship's Company took the opportunity such unusual and picturesque places as the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Sukhothai (an ancient city destroyed by the Burmese), the Grand Palace, Snake Farm, working elephants and the Thai Silk Factory. A particular feature of Bangkok was the over-whelming hospitality afforded us by New Zealanders living there. All were delighted to see us and we did our best to demonstrate our appreciation of their efforts on our behalf. After this pleasant interlude, we were soon embroiled in further exercises at sea and a return to Singapore for maintenance.

HONKERS

Our next port of call was Hong Kong which we did not reach without experiencing some rough weather as we were involved in a little game of hide-and-seek with Typhoon Bess. We were delighted to find in due course, that Hong Kong had not been blown away and soon made and renewed acquaintanceship with Kowloon, the Peak, the Floating Restaurant at Aberdeen and a host of other rich and varied attractions. During this visit we suffered (see cartoon feature) considerable uncertainty as to the length of our stay — a circumstance which was repeated in September — for typhoons were always impending, threatening, or about to arrive. None did — fortunately.

JAPAN

Sasebo was a delightful stop-over with an enthusiastic welcome from Japanese and Americans alike. Everybody relaxed in accordance with the convivial atmosphere of a goodwill visit. This stay was brief, enjoyable and enlivened by interesting sights and 'rabbit' runs. We regret we couldn't have stayed longer.

KOREA

From Japan we moved on to Chinhae in South Korea. Once more the visit was brief but the welcome received was outstanding — perhaps the most enthusiastic of the entire commission. Many of us took advantage of local tours arranged by courtesy of the R.O.K. Navy, and we were particularly impressed by the optimistic enthusiasm of each and every Korean in the future of this country which has known war and hardship for so many years. Because the Korean President — President Park — was visiting New Zealand at the same time as we were in Korea, Chinhae, Inchon and Seoul showed a generous display of New Zealand flags and a remarkable awareness of our homeland. The entire country seems to be conscious of New Zealand's contribution to the defence of the Republic of Korea in the 1950-53 period.

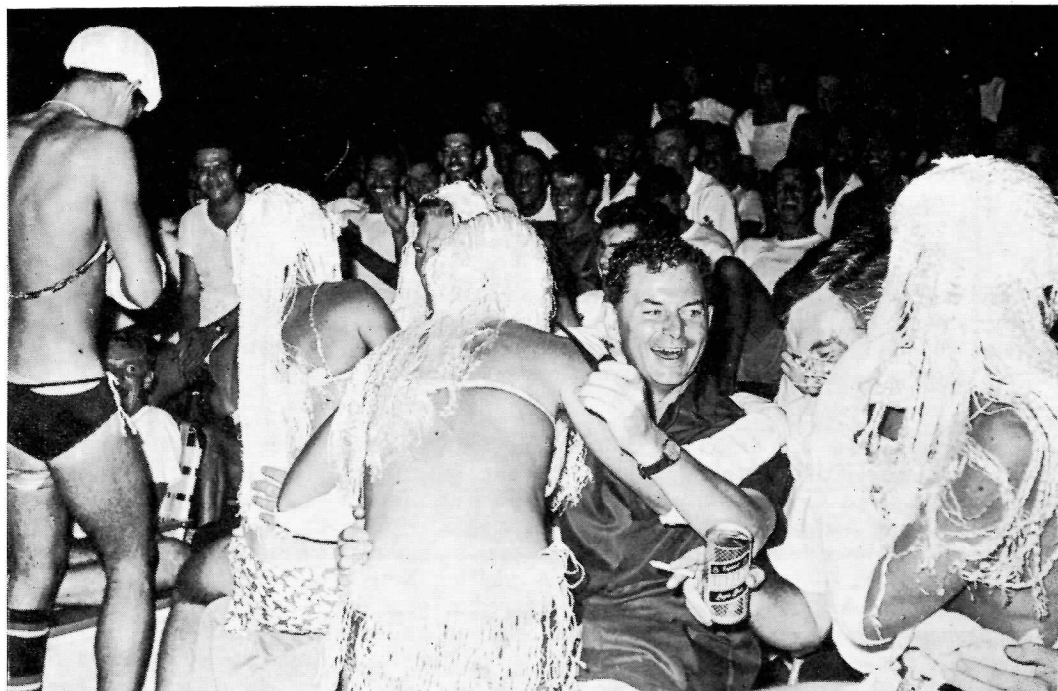
From Inchon, no less than five bus tours took many of us as far as Panmunjom and the demilitarized zone. Here a well-needed meal, a little liquid refreshment and a lecture upon the truce-talks dead-lock, were provided. Best buys in Korea: semi-precious stones and Kimshi jars, hand-carved stone and wood-work, brasses. We faced our return trip to Hong Kong and Singapore with misgiving. Those tortuous typhoons were somewhere south-east of us but they must have heard we were coming for we reached Hong Kong with a minimum amount of discomfit and then found ourselves tied up . . . alongside . . . tied up . . . by some indescribable peculiarity of the ship's internals.

AND AFTERWARDS

We are now undergoing (at the time of writing) a singular Singapore experience known as D.E.D. It presents us with the uncomfortable and unfamiliar circumstance of temporary separation from the familiarity and comforts of our sea-going home; but we know it cannot last forever, that somewhere there are places called, 'The Solomon Islands', 'Fiji' and 'New Zealand'. See you for Christmas!

ISLANDS

Looking for islands breaking the surf
where rain seldom falls, storms never blow,
trees softly tumble the sun to the earth,
we sweep the horizon and eagerly search
for cloud-piercers, moon-rakers.....
but islands which seem to offer the most,
give the worst. Long days,
cool nights are cursed — their languor
turns bitter as salt — though palm-trees fringe
the coral beach, fin and cunning
tooth patrol the sudden deeps.....
we stumble through sand, hopefully seek
where waves fall quietly each over each,
rock becomes stones, stones become dust,
what water offers but no one can touch.
We wander along the edge of the beach
looking at clouds far out of reach,
rest in the shade and talk about
rivers and islands, oceans and bays
while hands turn to pebbles, eyes to the sun.



Bubble Brain Big Bonec BLUE Robinson™

What the hells that Muldoon!!!

Beggared if I know Patrick
lets pull over and have a look.

Excuse me whats that !!!

Obuiously you fellas havent heard
of me. Im Dicer Daw (Ains),
"BUBBLE BRAIN BIG BONEC BLUE"
and this here is my bed,

Chain Controlled Propellor Driven,
Developing 2 HP, and able to
reach 5 knots going down.

What about going up?

See that rope on the end?

Well at the end is a little

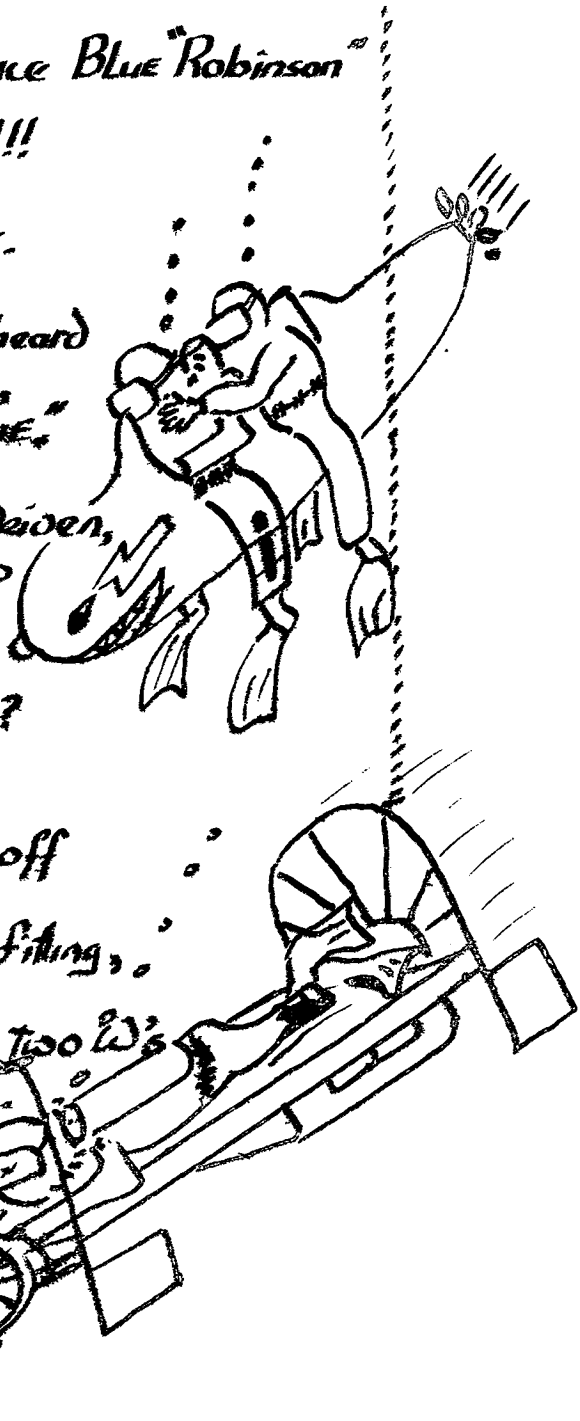
fat G.I. to haul me in.

Why dont you just climb off
and let it float up?

I cant it's a permanent fitting,

and even if I could

I wouldnt not with the two W's
and Jock Grant around.



THE DIVERS

by L/Sea. O.S. Draper

*'He was such a curious lover of shells
and the hallucinations of water
that he could never return out of the sea
without first havnig to settle a mermaid's bill.'*

A.R.D. Fairburn

As is usual at the beginning of the commission, our diving didn't exactly begin with a bang. However, what was lacking in experience was more than compensated for by enthusiasm. While the ship was in dry dock at Auckland, the divers on board obtained first-hand knowledge of the numerous intakes, outlets, projections and recesses that cover the ship's bottom. This dry-land, preliminary familiarization proved of great advantage when searches were carried out later in the commission.

Probably the most fascinating exercise carried out by the divers aboard Otago, was the free ascents which were practised in the diving tower at Pearl Harbour. From a depth of fifty feet, and without the aid of breathing apparatus, each man accomplished a surface ascent which gave him confidence and assurance against the unhappy mischance of his having to 'ditch' his gear while underwater. A similar tower in New Zealand would be a great asset to the Diving School.

Another highlight was a bottom search carried out on the tanker, H.M.S. Regent (20,000 tons), during which the following remark made by P.O. Robinson was noted: 'It's just like Queen Street, minus the lights!' This gives readers a fairly accurate idea of what it is like to search a hull of that size. Never-the-less, given another such opportunity, Otago's divers would be into the water like the veritable dolphins they undoubtedly are.

But diving has its dangers and there are moments when even our intrepid warriors look at the water askance! In Guam, one of the locals casually remarked prior to a diving exercise, 'I don't want to scare you guys, but there were seven submarine-sized sharks out there yesterday.' In consequence, the Diving Instructor had to drag out his whip before any of our stalwarts were game to face the dangers of the deep. The laugh was on us, however, as it transpired later that the local had no intention of mentioning these fictitious monsters of the sea, except for the purpose of scaring us all out of our suits — which, of course, he didn't! (Not much!)

With D.E.D. looming up at the time of going to press, various exercises are planned for the purpose of broadening our diving experience plus removing some of that avoidupois which members of the team have inadvertantly acquired while in Japan and South Korea. To date, each member has had on the average, some eighteen hours of practical diving experience and now, after the patient (and sometimes not-so-patient) encouragement of Petty Officer Robinson, we can all say with confidence that we are proud of the well-organised team and the great confidence each man has in himself and his fellow team-members.

DIVERS:

Lt. Cdr. Bourke, Lt. Douglas, Ens. Mitchell, Ens. Pokai, Ens. George P.O. Robinson
P.O. Mullins, P.O. O'Leary, L/S. Draper, L/S. O'Reilly, L/S. Donnelly, M.E.1
Brown, E.M. Marshall, A.B. Bruce.

OPERATION SLUG PIE

by Sinclair Lewis Parkhurst.

'Operation-wise' (to quote our American friends) this was our first major exercise consequent to our joining the Far East Fleet. It all began bright and early one Saturday morning in Bangkok, when it dawned on us that the one-for-the-road we had knocked back the night before, had been too much for us. Here we were, all hung over, irritable, even wishing for death when we slipped the buoy and, in company with DEFENDER (carrying the Big Boss, 'F.O.2'), and that diesel monstrosity PUMA, we sailed from the Venice of the East, forgetting all the blandishments and pleasures of the shore, earnestly endeavouring to concentrate on the ordeal to come.

The busiest man on board was undoubtedly that genius of the Sick Bay, 'Dr. Paul', ably assisted by the terror of the kick-it-with-your-head brigade — 'Trigger' who is reputed to have said, 'That will teach you to visit the Railway Hilton.'

Sunday being a day of rest, we anchored off Pulau Redang, an island on the east coast of Malaysia, for a few hours of coconut stealing and swimming — but all good things come to an end and sooner, rather than later, we were off south to our rendezvous position with the rest of the Fleet.

Wouldn't you know it! With the exercise only a few hours old, one of the Kipper sardine cans was in trouble. Smashex! The fearless firemen somehow got us up to twenty-seven knots without blowing soot all over the uppers. A miracle, no less! The R.N.'ers were soon far astern and it seemed temporarily that we were Johnny-on-the-spot with the Buffer and some of the Watch on Deck making a swift job of rigging the Dan Buoy. It was a day of miracles — nothing went seriously wrong — or did it? Slug Pie being off to a good start, the rest of the exercise was spent in the usual way even though this phase could be paraphrased by a quotation from 'The Scarlet Pimpernel':

'They seek them here,
They seek them there,
They seek those damn subs
everywhere.'

Of course 'Guns' had to get into the act as well. It sounded at times as if he were practising with the secondary armament for a musical role in the 1812 Overture! And then a certain white-haired old gentleman was having the time of his life until his favourite toy broke down — and that took some of the spice out of his life. Having only a spectator's role from then on, he was frequently seen standing in a corner muttering to himself and attempting to chew an entirely imaginary moustache.

The Exec' and the Buffer must have developed ulcers after all those R.A.s—especially Night-fuelling — and heavy jackstays at one in the morning. Certainly this kind of thing is not to be recommended for those with weak stomachs.

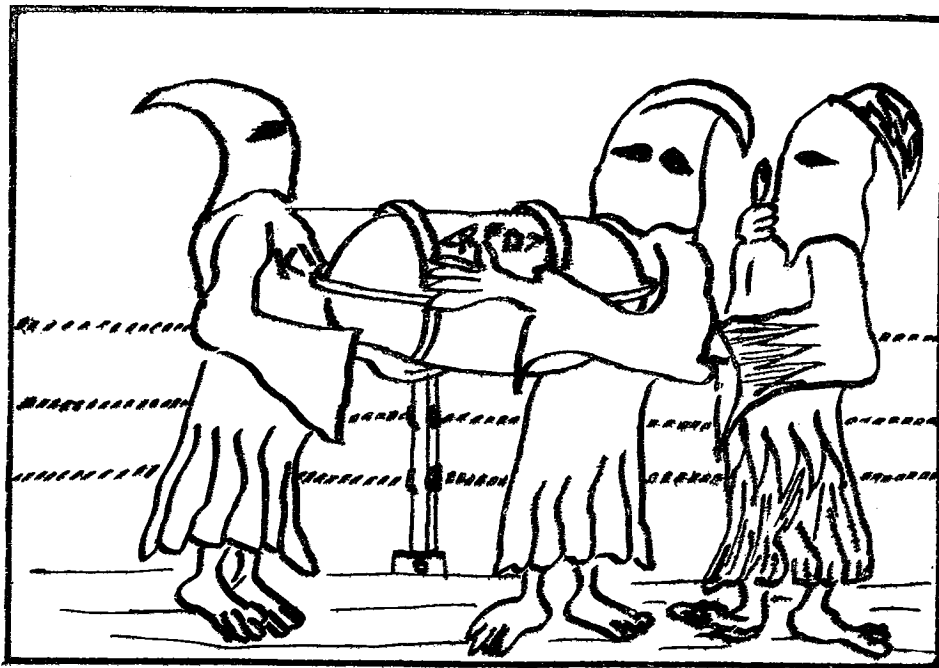
Our two R.F.A.s, TIDEFLOW and REGENT, were the mainstays of the exercise and (deservedly) the primary targets. REGENT's chopper on the other hand, was undoubtedly the most popular sight in the area as it applied itself to the task of delivering all that lovely mail from home, not to mention its landing all the ink-spotted out-pourings of OTAGO's Romeos. REGENT also made herself popular on the last weekend by setting up a bar on the beach at Pulau Tioman and selling Tigers (the canned variety) at what has been rumoured to be an outrageous profit. Certain members of the Buntings' and Sparkers' Unions must have certainly enjoyed those Tigers, or else why the black eyes etc? Unfortunately this is getting ahead of myself, so back to the grind.

The second weekend was spent at Babi Besar in magnificent isolation. Although not too many of the crew could have been taking their little yellow pills, there were still a few libertymen even if they could be counted on the fingers of one hand. The first night, prominent amongst those who did go ashore was 'The Kid', who disported himself amongst the waves with all the elegance of a broken-backed whale — but apparently he enjoyed himself. The Sunday saw 'Clubs' leading the first Fifteen ashore for a morning run while in the afternoon, quite a few liberty men went ashore including that Kiwi Chokey 'Bill', from the Radar world.

Monday took us back to sea. This week was to be 'Guns' great occasion with the loosing off of all the taxpayers' hard-won loot in the form of our yearly missile firings. Happy faces abounded — especially 'Fiery Fred's' — the G.I. We actually shot down a P.T.A. Later on in the week, we entered that wonderful (in the life of all Staff Officers) Two Watch system. We transited an area full of sardine cans (Kipper variety) and met those little brown gents in their fast patrol boats (Malayan Navy Types — we hoped.). The blue orchids made their usual contribution — out after breakfast, home for tea. Only one more torture had to be endured: Operation Awkward. Red and his little band of amphibians did all the necessary things divers do on these occasions. The highlight consisted of the little children on the uppers with their rifles and blanks. It turned out to be better than Guy Fawkes' night — it certainly had all the ingredients — bangers, flares, and all types of weird flashes. At last the time came. We steamed up the Johore Strait arriving, as we had started, early in the morning. At least those Staff Wallas are consistent sometimes.

It wasn't so bad on the whole because the Big Boss's roving eye didn't fall on us too often; we simulated the sinking of a few sardine cans (they wouldn't let us play for keeps), raised a few buckets of sweat keeping the Engines, the Pusser, the Jimmy and the Buffer happy. We had a few minor annoyances thrown into the pot — like power failures, sonar break-downs and engineroom panics — just to keep the maintainers happy.

Regretably, we even extended our stay in harbour by a few days instead of going back to the grindstone for 'Flyex'.



WHO'S NEXT.

GUNNERY DIVISION



When the ship recommissioned in November, 1967, three-quarters of the division was inexperienced and required the guidance of the older hands to help them shape up. The job wasn't easy, but with perseverance the end result was most creditable to everyone in the division. From January to March, however, there were several rough patches and at times Gunnery quarters became very heated and tense. This was the result of teething troubles and equipment problems which inevitably result when an entire gunnery system is taken out of the ship, stripped down, reassembled and then returned to the ship. (Motor cars require running in as well!)

The first big test came at Pearl where the credits given us by the Fleet Training Group proved to everyone aboard the team effort and determination which were the determining factors in our success. After the experience we gained under American supervision in Hawaii, we felt well prepared for our arrival with the Far East Fleet, and the surveillance of the CRITICAL EYE. In July, after an endless period of waiting, the sting of Seacat was displayed to the rest of the ship's company, which eagerly crowded the Focs'le (another Gunnery part of Ship).

The firings were an outstanding success with four shots classed as hits, while A.B. Follitt-Powell at the controls, was credited with a direct hit. The comments from the P.T.A. team were that, in their opinion, these missile firings were the best they had seen on the Far East Station. The efforts of A.B. Williams provided a major contribution to this very happy outcome.

We feel that over the past twelve months we have all learned that success in anything the Navy does, cannot be achieved without the efforts of each and everyone in the ship, and we hope that all that has been gained during this commission, may be passed on in the future and serve to benefit the whole of the Service.



IS THAT THE TEAM OR ONE MAN?



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SPORTS ROUND UP

INTRODUCTION BY THE SPORTS OFFICER:

Well, '68 has been a vintage year for Otago, and not just because the 'Old Fellas' have been at P.T!

The results which follow, speak for themselves and also for the fine effort which Garry Pettis has put into moulding the sports teams on board. Everybody has made his own unique contribution in one way or another and the spirit which has permeated each and every aspect of Otago's sporting activities, is one of which we can all feel justly proud. Enough talk — on with the story of those men who have made Otago's name in the sporting sphere.

THE FIRST FIFTEEN:

'Impossible Rugby weather,
much too much in the heat —
it's not the opposition,
but the weather we have to beat.'

Old Song.

Although the season had scarcely commenced on Otago's return from Sydney to New Zealand, preparations were made at that time to select two Rugby Fifteens to represent the ship in its forth-coming tour of Hawaii and the Far East Station. Trial matches were held at H.M.N.Z.S. Philomel and it was early evident that the Kiwi reputation was going to be ably upheld during Otago's 1968 Commission.

During the passage from Auckland to Pearl Harbour, systematic training was held on board under the watchful eye of L/S Pettis and, at our first stop for fuelling (in Pago-pago, Western Samoa) the heat was treated with contempt while the football squad demonstrated the old saying that 'only mad dogs and Kiwi sailors go out in the noon-day sun'. Even the 'old fellows' (M.A.A. Cooke, C.R.M. Tiriana, C.P.O. Hawthorne and S.C.P.O. Goldsworthy) rushed out to expend a little of their pent-up energy'. And then, on to Hawaii, where Rugby is a code-word known only to a few dedicated enthusiasts!

In fact, Otago is noted in the land of pineapples, Aloha and Hula, as one of the pioneering influences in the not-so-gentle art of Rugby. But even in Hawaii — that unlikely seat of violent exercise — the game has a following which largely confines itself to the Hawaiian Harlequins' Rugby Club.

Several games were played here by both of Otago's Fifteens — some were won, some were lost — and over-all our Rugby players demonstrated that the game is in their Kiwi blood. The Harlequins were particularly impressed, and gained a few pointers from the open running which was a feature of Otago's play.

Upon our finally reaching Singapore, training was stepped up in preparation for the numerous engagements which were to follow. Our first match here, was against a team from the Naval repair ship, H.M.S. Triumph. This game was played in wet, sticky conditions but the team gave the ball plenty of air and won by twenty-nine points to nil. Everybody in Otago was well-pleased with a display of Rugby form which was eventually to take the Big Ships' Cup from the 'Aussies' Three days later we were off to Tanglin, Headquarters of the 42nd Commandos. This game proved to be an excellent training run for the team with some good movements and some we would much prefer to forget. Otago managed to take the honours with a score of 28 to 3. After this came the Big Ships' Cup match against H.M.A.S. Vendetta. Not only Otago, but most ships on the Station took a great

interest in this match which took place in Terror. A running-commentary on this star-studded game was given by L/S Revell who, himself, has been forced into Rugby retirement on medical grounds. The keen opposition is demonstrated by the fact that right from the kick-off we were pinned back on our heels and Vendetta scored 8 points against us in as many minutes. By the middle of the second spell, however, we managed to edge our way in front and ultimately won by 14 points to 11.

Our training schedule for the next few days was rugged. As champions we were forced to defend ourselves against H.M.A.S. Parramatta. After a spirited struggle on both sides, and to the cheers of a big crowd of spectators, we succeeded in retaining the championship by winning with a score of 25 to 3. Our next game was in Bangkok, where we played against the R.B.S.C.. This was another game in which we got off to a bad start, being down by three points at half-time. In the second half the situation gradually changed and we gained another victory with a full-time score of 21 to 3.

After our stay in Bangkok a period at sea followed but we still managed to work in some football practice on Pulau Tioman, off the Malaysian peninsula. On our return to Singapore our next game, preparatory to another challenge for the Big Ships' Cup, was against H.M.S. Intrepid. This time we gained a convincing win with a score of 30 points to 0. Our next game was against the R.A.F. at Changi, our opposition being a team with an excellent reputation and a bevy of exceptionally good players. The game was closely contested but luck was with us and we gained another victory by 15 points to 12. This game had the advantage of demonstrating the necessity for loose forwards to harrass the first five eight; we also faced the menace of an extremely versatile drop-kicker.

Still at Singapore, we now faced a team from S.M.7. (Nothing to do with the man from U.N.C.L.E.) This match was again for the Big Ships' Cup. It was played at Terror in the evening on a flood-lit ground — a circumstance which temporarily set back those members of the team who had never previously played under such conditions. A large crowd gave vigorous support to both sides and, eventually we gained the upper hand by a satisfactory margin of 11 points to 6. Our final game before leaving Singapore was a return match against the 42nd Commandos. The opposition was more difficult to handle than it had been previously, but Otago succeeded in taking the honours 16 to nil.

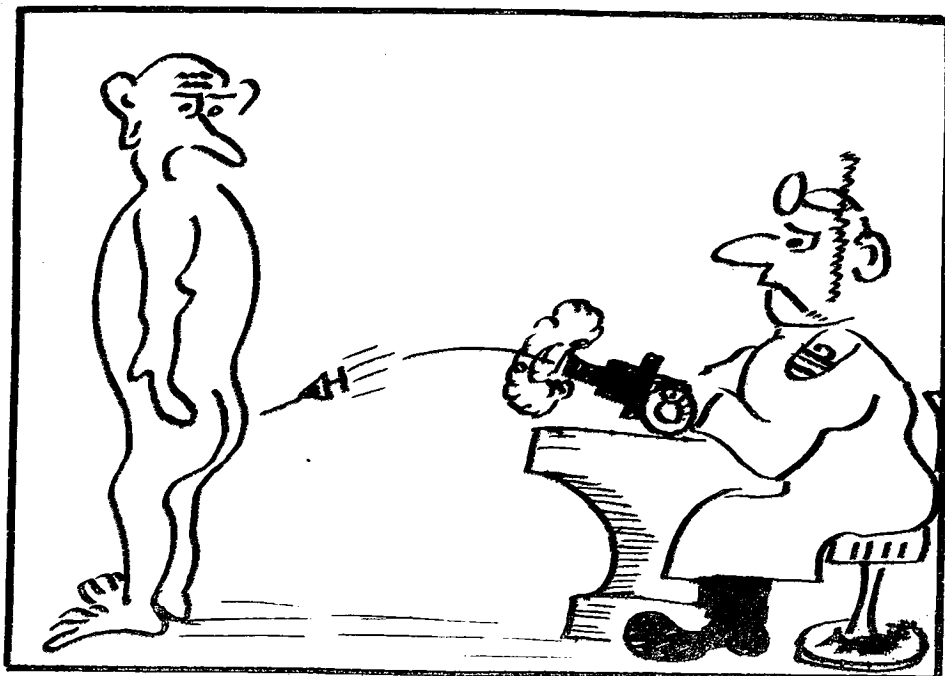
At Hong Kong where the Rugby season hadn't started, a match was arranged against the 2nd Paratroop Regiment, British Army Rugby champions for the last four years. We



were further handicapped by the fact that the paratroopers' team contained a number of Welshmen — and everybody knows what that means! This proved to be a good running game with Otago gaining the laurels over a sound, determined team by 15 to 8. In Sasebo, we played against the All Sasebo team, with some amount of trepidation. Our fears proved groundless however and we ultimately the upper hand over what had proved to be a good team from a country which is gaining in Rugby strength and could have a great future in the game.

At the time of going to press, we look forward to more Rugby before our return to New Zealand, but I would like to take the opportunity to add a few comments on some of

our players. Our Captain, L/S. Donnelly — the most experienced player — proved that he has lost none of his ball-handling magic; A.B. Tingle consistently provided a good straight back line and was always reliable and consistent in performance; L/S Coster, with luck on his side, has scored some very useful tries; P.O. Whatuira — a man usually in the thick of things where he was closely followed by M.E.A. Anderton, was always on hand to take up a loose ball; L/S. Rowe was invariably everywhere he was wanted; Ord. Palmer ably demonstrated that he has a fine future in Rugby; L/S. Pettis performed admirably in the line-outs by making sure Otago got its share of the ball — his jumping, in particular, was outstanding; last, but not least, A.B. Wallace certainly showed that he knows something about putting a ball over the bar. All players have done much to uphold the standards and traditions of New Zealand Rugby, while at the same time showing a sportsmanship of which the whole ship can feel proud.



SECOND FIFTEEN RESULTS

Matches Played: 14 Won: 5 Lost 6 Drawn: 3 Points (for): 102

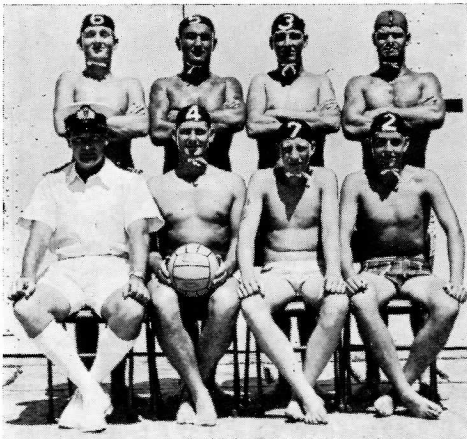
Points (against): 126.



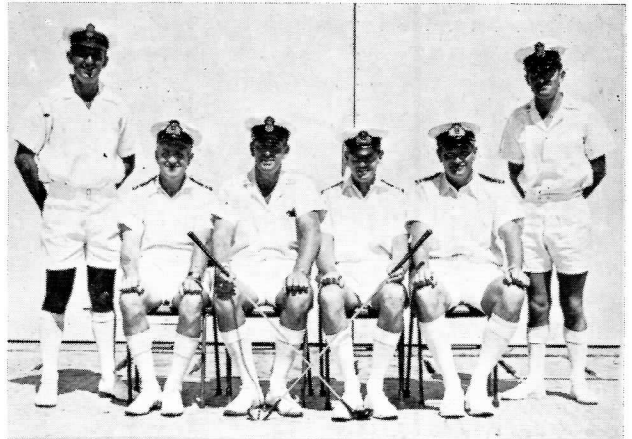
SOCCER TEAM



SECOND FIFTEEN



WATER POLO TEAM



GOLF TEAM

SOFT BALL

TEAM:

P.O.R.M. P. Young
 L/Sea. J. Donnelly
 L/Sea. R. Anderson
 L/WM. C. Armstrong
 A.R.D. H. Hawe
 A.B. J. Dodd
 O/Sea. P. LeBas
 O/Sea. T. Proctor
 A.B. T. Tewheoro
 L.M.E. I. Sorrensen
 W.M.1 N. Mitchell



THE 1968 COMMISSION RECORD:

	Games played: 7	Won: 2	Lost: 5	Drawn: 0
1.	Vs H.M.N.Z.S. Blackpool	Won	23 — 3	
2.	Vs H.M.N.Z.S. Tamaki	Lost	21 — 26	
3.	Vs H.M.N.Z.S. Blackpool	Won	21 — 19	
4.	Vs U.S.S. Stoddert	Lost	8 — 16	
5.	Vs U.S.S. El Dorado	Lost	2 — 9	
6.	Vs Sasebo Juniors	Lost	3 — 8	
7.	Vs Chinhae High School	Lost	4 — 10	
	Points for: 82		Points against: 91	

Trials and practices were held almost immediately after the ship recommissioned and, when the ship's team was finally formed, we played three games prior to sailing from New Zealand, winning two of them and losing the third as a result of particularly good batting on the part of the opposition in the final two rounds.

In Pearl Harbor we played only one game owing to the heavy 'work-up' programme that the ship underwent. However, this game which was played against U.S.S. Stoddert (which, incidentally, was our host ship) taught us a great deal about the game — especially in regard to fielding and base play.

At Singapore, the U.S.S. El Dorado provided one of the most exciting games of the commission. The venue for this 'foreign' game was H.M.S. Terror, where we were cheered on by a large crowd of enthusiastic British sailors.

Our final two games were played in Sasebo, Japan, and in Chinhae, Korea. During the former we met the local Junior team in what proved to be a hard and fast encounter. In Chinhae we played against the top High School team. Although we lost both, the team showed great sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout.

During this commission we have been fortunate to enjoy the consistently good play of 'Randy' Young, Tom Proctor and John Dodd. With a 'ton' of team spirit and the great enthusiasm of the players we feel that although we may not have done so well on points, we have gained the final victory.

GREENACRES GOLF CLUB

At the beginning of the commission, Golf got away to a good start as the result of a meeting which drew together about twenty good, not so good and merely hopeful players. Some of the hopefuls pulled out when they discovered how much it costs to play, but we nevertheless have a keen and enthusiastic collection of stick-and-ball men on the active and semi-active lists.

When we reached Pearl Harbor, it was an immediate case of ON SHORTS AND OUT CLUBS! The three handy courses — Navy-Marine, Ford Island and Hickam — saw us in action several times. Some of us took the opportunity to go and see the Navy-Marine Tournament in which the big guns were taking part, and two of us had the privilege of playing after them on the last practice day. We even had a small gallery of spectators — the stragglers? At Pearl, the Master-at-arms, C.R.M. Tiriana, C.O.A. Farrell and O.A. Oram took part in the Chiefs' Tournament. Nothing was won, but we were well-looked after!

On the way from Pearl to Singapore, we stopped off at Guam where, on the first day, a couple of our members managed to get out for a round. The second day in we were fortunate enough to have a match with players from our host ship — but only just as the transport appeared to be an ancient relic from the stone age. Ultimately we reached the course and were able to make our customary devotions to green, rough and nineteenth. Our arrival in Singapore was in time for the R.N. Golf Society's monthly meeting. Access to the course was immediately arranged and Lt. Cdr. Tobin, Lt. Douglas, M.A.A. Cooke, C.R.M. Tiriana, and C.O.A. Farrell spent an enjoyable afternoon — slightly spoilt by the weather and a reception. Since this occasion we have been constant visitors to the TERROR course and have received reinforcements in the shape of Lt. Cdr. Hopkins, Lt. Elder and Ch. El. Kirk, who have been badly bitten by the Golfing bug. It was also about this time that some of us began to drink free beer, thanks to our generous benefactor, Lt. Morrow, while one of our number appeared to be enjoying the luxury of the Singapore Island Club.

On our run North we had a game at Sasebo, Japan, but because of the strength of the hospitality were not altogether 'with it'. In Inchon, thanks to the efforts of Lt. Cdr. Collins, we managed a game at the 8th Army Golf Course. The course was good but the caddies were perhaps something else. (I wondered why C.R.M. Tiriana was hooking his ball into the trees, but then I took a good long look at his caddy, and saw why! The Club secretary couldn't have been more helpful and the people we played with were all good sports. No doubt, when we get back to TERROR, there should be again, a generous supply of refreshment from the white-haired old gen!

The following personnel have either played in matches for the ship or 'made one' when required:

M.A.A. Cooke, Lt. Cdr. Tobin, C.R.M. Tiriana, Lt. Douglas, C.O.A. Farrell, Lt. Morrow, O.A. Oram, P.O.W.M. Hawke.

Other players included: Captain Hale, Lt. Cdr. Hopkins, Lt. Elder, Ch. El. Kirk, L/Ck Hood, L/Ck Ainsworth.

With a little luck, we shall be at it again when we reach Suva and then — on to Pupuke. FORE!

SAILING

The great success in the sailing sphere was undoubtedly that obtained at Pearl, where a team from this ship was able to take the Internation Trophy from the Pearl Harbor Yacht Club. This success was all the more remarkable in that no other ship to date, has ever been able to wrest the trophy from its American holders. Admittedly the win was a narrow one with some light relief — A.S.G. Kenyon, for some reason known only to himself, insisted upon giving up the tiller occasionally, climbing the mast and leaping over-board! This activity, strange as it may seem, did much to distract the opposition and help Otago to its win. The other Cox'ns were Lt. Cdr. Paterson, Ens. Mitchell; crew members were Std. Suhr, A.B. Pittams and W.M. Phibbs. At Singapore, considerable use has been made of the R.N.Z.N. Bosun, one or two trophies collected, and it is planned to employ this boat on an excursor down-river from Kota Tinggi.

CRICKET CLUB



Otago started the commission with a strong, all-round team but, even before we had left New Zealand, had lost the nucleus of seasoned players on which could have been built a particularly outstanding team. Consequently, except for one or two games, the side never performed consistently. Two games which come automatically to mind, are those which culminated in the defeat of the Honolulu Cricket Club — something no other ship visiting Pearl Harbor, has managed to accomplish. The hospitality of the Honolulu Cricket Club was outstanding and we look forward to meeting them again. Another fine win occurred after our being down 2 for 20 against the Auckland Workingmen's Club. Chasing a total of 149, Otago rallied with a fine 3rd wicket stand between L/Std Diehl (32) and P.O. M(E) Whatuira (101 — not out) to win outright, finally declaring at three down for 202.

No batsman scored consistently during the commission but a few who do deserve mention are Lieutenant Douglas, a hard-hitting all-rounder, L/Ck Hood who played 8 innings and managed nearly always to get Otago off to a reasonably good start, and L.M. (E) Fitzgerald who at the start began as No. 11 batsman and ended up as an opening batsman showing a great improvement. His cover-drive was a delight to watch.

Bowling was our greatest attribute, as we had no less than five opening bowlers with whom to open attack. The main burden fell on P.O.M. (E) Whatuira, a Navy representative for the last six years and he, together with L/Ck Hood and R.E.M. Welch, managed to wreak havoc amongst every team we have played against, so that none scored more than 150 runs. Ch. R.E. Tiriana, on the odd occasions he played, bowled his off-spinners extremely well.

On the fielding side, it is unfortunate that catches were not recorded, but if memory serves me right, most opportunities which were offered, we accepted with considerable alacrity — and here Shpt. King was outstanding. His industry and effort in chasing the ball to the boundary, provided a salutary lesson to all players.

Over-all the team has performed satisfactorily, and with the newer players' and the team's performance as a whole improving, we should, by the end of the commission, have added a few more scalps to our collection.

CRICKET RESULTS:

Games Played:

Otago v H.M.N.Z.S. Blackpool	-	-	-	-	-	Won outright
Otago v Auckland Workingmen's Club	-	-	-	-	-	Won outright
Otago v Auckland Workingmen's Club	-	-	-	-	-	Won 1st innings
Otago v H.M.N.Z.S. Irirangi	-	-	-	-	-	Lost outright
Otago v H.M.A.S. Queensborough	-	-	-	-	-	Won outright
Otago v Honolulu Cricket Club	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 1st innings
Otago v Honolulu Cricket Club	-	-	-	-	-	Won 1st innings
Otago v Honolulu Cricket Club	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 1st innings
Otago v H.M.S. Devonshire	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 1st innings
Otago v H.M.S. Intrepid	-	-	-	-	-	Won outright
Otago v H.M.A.S. Parramatta	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 1st innings
Played:	11 games	Won:	6 games	Lost:	5 games.	

VOLLEY BALL

Strangely, the core of the Volley Ball players was drawn from the ship's Basket Ball enthusiasts! The fact that the rules of the one game sometimes became confused with those of the other is, therefore, merely incidental. In spite of this detriment, the main object — exercise and recreation — was admirably achieved. The following represents a summary of our Volley Ball activities.

TEAM MEMBERS:

L/S. Pettis, L/S. Donnelly, L/S. Golding, R.E.M. Welch, A.B. Tingle, P.O. O'Leary, Ord. Palmer, M.E.1 Brown.

RESULTS:

Otago v Queensborough	-	-	-	-	-	Won 2 — 1
Otago v Duchess	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 0 — 2
Otago v Kutabul	-	-	-	-	-	Won 2 — 1
Otago v Kutabul	-	-	-	-	-	Won 2 — 0
Otago v J.M.S.D.F.	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 1 — 2
Otago v Chinhae High School	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 1 — 2
Played:	6	Lost:	3	Won:	3	

BASKETBALL



A spirit of enthusiasm and determination throughout the commission has produced for the Basketball players, a very commendable result involving a total of thirteen games of which nine were outright wins for Otago. The most impressive of the latter was obtained against

the Fleet Champions of H.M.S. Triumph, who were defeated by a final score of 40 to 30. The most improved players were L/S Golding and L/Sea. Donnelly. Donnelly was outstanding for his defence and rebounding while Golding showed impressive skill in shooting and offensive play. Others who produced fine performances were: A.B. Tingle — a dogged player, markedly successful at softening up the opposition; P.O. O'Leary — another stalwart; Ord. Palmer; M.E.1 Brown; R.E.M. Welch; L/Sea. Pettis; all provided a solid front against opposing teams. It is to be noted that R.E.M. Welch and L/Sea. Pettis were both selected for the Navy Team, and L/Sea. Pettis played in the Combined Services tournament at Seletar.

TEAM MEMBERS:

L/Sea. Pettis, L/Sea. Donnelly, L/Sea. Golding, P.O. O'Leary, Ord. Palmer, M.E.1 Brown, R.E.M. Welch, A.B. Tingle.

RESULTS:

Otago v H.M.S. Cambrian	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 62 — 14
Otago v U.S.S. Davidson	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 50 — 58
Otago v U.S.S. Phillip	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 51 — 48
Otago v U.S.S. Carpenter	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 46 — 41
Otago v H.M.N.Z.S. Endeavour	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 63 — 10
Otago v H.M.A.S. Parramatta	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 30 — 16
Otago v H.M.S. Forth	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 55 — 4
Otago v I.S. Bangkok	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 39 — 63
Otago v H.M.S. Triumph	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 40 — 30
Otago v H.M.S. Intrepid	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 58 — 14
Otago v H.M.S. Defender	-	-	-	-	-	-	Won 50 — 20
Otago v U.S.S. Epping Forrest	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 28 — 35
Otago v J.M.S.D.F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 45 — 55

Played: 13 Won: 9 Lost: 4

WATER POLO

Water Polo was not a very strongly contested sport this commission, but a keen team usually took to the water and performed vigorously whenever opportunity presented itself. Fortunately, the over-all result included a couple of good wins which went a long way towards encouraging the players to further effort.

TEAM MEMBERS:

S.C.P.O. Goldsworthy (Captain), L/Sea. Pettis, L/Sea. Donnelly, A.B. Tingle, L/R.O. Bryce, A.R.O. Burr, Ord. Beaman, Lt. Douglas, Ord. Mitchel, P.O. Robinson.

RESULTS:

Otago v H.M.N.Z.S. Philomel	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 7 — 4
Otago v H.M.N.Z.S. Philomel	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 11 — 3
Otago v H.M.A.S. Parramatta	-	-	-	-	-	Won 0 — 10
Otago v H.M.N.Z.S. Blackpool	-	-	-	-	-	Won 5 — 8

Played: 4 Won: 2 Lost: 2

SQUASH

It is unfortunately, a fact that during the ship's visit to the Far East Station, Squash has suffered a major set-back owing to a lack of courts, excessive heat and the heavy demands of social commitments. In an effort to counteract this, all Squash players aboard held a meeting at the beginning of the year and organised a Club. The committee consisted of Gary Pettis, Murry Goldsworthy, and Pete Farrell who was elected Club Captain. Play at our first port of call was restricted as repairs were being carried out on the courts, but P.O. Robinson and P.O. Mullins managed to obtain a game using an American-type 'tyre' ball. Resulting opinions were conflicting, depending upon whether the views expressed were those of the winner or loser. During our stay in Singapore, two matches were arranged against H.M.A.S. Parramatta and H.M.A.S. Vendetta. Both resulted in wins for Otago, the teams for these matches consisting of P.O. Robinson, S.C.P.O. Goldsworthy, A.B. Wallace, Ord. Mitchel, T.C.O.A. Farrell and L.M. (E) Sorrensen. During our visit to Bangkok, a team formed of two players from Otago and four from the two R.N. ships which accompanied us, played against the Royal Bangkok Sports Club. The Commonwealth Navies' Team lost six points to nil, which was not particularly flattering from our point of view. However, the excellence of the hospitality did much to relieve our ruffled feelings and to make the visit memorable. Although no matches were possible at Hong Kong, the Club made its usual pilgrimage to Victoria Barracks' Courts for practice.



In Sasebo, the ship was tied up alongside the Fleet Gymnasium, which boasts two doubles courts. Here the game was further enhanced by the availability of a steam bath and cold showers immediately after play. Now, at the time of writing, we have returned to Singapore and hope to enjoy some serious and enthusiastic competition in regard to placings on the ship's Squash ladder. We expect that as a result, on our return to New Zealand, every player will prove at his top physical condition as a result. With the subsequent Christmas festivities in the offing, physical fitness will be imperative!

TEAM MEMBERS:

C.O.A. Farrell, S.C.P.O. Goldsworthy, P.O. Robinson, L/Sea. Pettis, Ord. Mitchell.

RESULTS:

Otago v H.M.N.Z.S. Blackpool	-	-	-	-	-	Won 9 — 6
Otago v H.M.A.S. Kutubul	-	-	-	-	-	Lost 8 — 7
Otago v H.M.A.S. Parramatta	-	-	-	-	-	Won 6 — 4
Played:	3	Won:	2	Lost:	1	

HOCKEY



As the present commission has largely been spent in the tropics, the Hockey enthusiasts have, to date, been able to get only two games in. One of these was against H.M.A.S. Vendetta and the other against COMFEF Staff. Both games were most enjoyable, in spite of the heat and lack of practice on the part of Otago's players. It is hoped that in 1969, the Hockey team will be able to obtain more games and demonstrate its enthusiasm which is, in fact, just as great as that evinced in other codes.

Results:

Otago v H.M.A.S. Vendetta	lost	3 — 6
Otago v COMFEF Staff	lost	0 — 8

Team Members: P.O. Wtr. Meynell, L/S. Parkhurst, L/S. Murdoch, L.M.E. Clayton, A.S.G. French, A.B. King, A.B. Tunnicliffe, Stwd. Cubis, Stwd. Neilson, Ord. Moratti, Ord. Arthur, Ord. Mitchell, Ord. Cutts, Ord. Beaman.

Referee: A.S.G. Kenyon.

MESSAGE FROM THE P.T.I.

In conclusion, I would like to say what a very good and very successful sporting commission this one has been. This success is not a result of the efforts of any single player, nor does it rest upon the shoulders of any one particular sport, but it has come about through the individual efforts of everyone who has participated, and through the encouragement of all those who have helped behind the scenes or simply turned out to support the ship. Some teams — as far as numerical scores go — achieved more positive results than others, but all fought hard and a great sporting spirit carried everyone with it. I have much pleasure in thanking the team Captains, Managers, Inter-part Sports Representatives, and all the players who have added their contribution to making the sport of Otago, the vigorous, exciting business it has proved to be. I wish all sportsmen, and everyone in the ship, the best both for Christmas and for future seasons ahead.

Gary Pettis

MIDDLE WATCH

On the horizon the lights of the coast,
the sea-haze merge, and broken stars
confirm our true position as the middle —
a situation no one particularly wants.
In such a time and place decisions
are apt to prove unreliable, one's deepest
hopes as profligate as vapour streams.
Because little or nothing can be done,
nobody willingly takes the middle.

Beginnings, like love, give expectations
of what is to come, ends remove
all doubts and mortifications:
the middle, in a manner of speaking, is the converse
of every theorem — the worst is here
and what will come will be no better.
One wishes the world were a platitude
that would finally disappear, that the end,
the beginning and the middle would suddenly burst
into white heat, the sun flare.

* * * *

EN PASSAGE

Unwittingly, indifferently
the ground swell, a shuffle of waves
lurch beneath a blazing sun,
contest the ship's computed way,
inflexibly hammer its metal hull —
the hull recoils while the crew
passes the time looking for signs
of landfalls no one expects to come.

The ship, the sea, the crew are
close as a man, his wife, a child,
yet the three are divided by time,
each immured by a different strife.
The ship pursues monotonous miles
while the sea, immune to the passions of life,
having no will, no habits of mind,
obeys as it must the pull of the moon . . .

but the crew has secretly hidden away
a magical cargo that's never displayed:
peacocks, bananas, coconuts, grapes,
serpents, slaves and mermaid's tails
against the impossible dark of night.

HMNZS OTAGO — 1968 COMMISSION

IN COMMAND

Captain R.T. Hale, O.B.E.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt. Cmdr. J.O'H. Tobin, RNZN.

Cmdr. C.R. Vennell, RNZN.

Lt. Cmdr. G.J. Bourke, RNZN.

Lt. Cmdr. T.M. O'Brien, RNZN.

Lt. Cmdr. G.F. Hopkins, RNZN.

Lt. Cmdr. S.F. Teagle, RNZN.

Lt. Cmdr. A.I.H. Paterson, RNZN.

Lt. D.L. Douglas, RNZN.

Lt. G.G. Elder, RNZN.

Lt. T.M. Morrow, RNZN.

Lt. J.A. Westphall, RNZN.

Lt. J.G. Peddie, RNZN.

Lt. R.J. Pierson, RNZN.

S/Lt. A.W. Bullock, RNZN.

Ens. D.J. Davidson, RNZN.

Ens. C.F. George, RNZN.

Ens. L.J. Mitchell, RNZN.

Ens. P.M. Pokai, RNZN.

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Anderson, T.F., Mech.2.

Lattimore, R.A., C/Ck.

Anderton, M.E.M., MEA.1.

Lawes, B.M., PRD.

Balmforth, J., CEA.1.

Lawrence, D.J., T/CEA

Bowden, J.B., O.A.1.

Lott, J.W., P.O.

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McBrearty, B.D., POM(E).

Clough, G., R/Mech.

MacKenzie, A., CSG.

Cooke, G.M., M.A.A.

McLeod, C.G., MEA.1.

Cooke, P.A., PORM.

Mahon, R.M., CEA.2.

Cundy, J.N., CR/Mech.

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Denny, I.J., PO/E1.

Miller, E.E., C/M(E).

Drinkwater, R.S., C/Shpt.

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Elrick, J., Mech.3.

Mutch, K.M., SPO.

Farrell, P.R., T.C./O.A.

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Oram, P.D., O.A.1.

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Pope, E.E., PO/E1.

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Te Rata, P., MPO.

Hawthorne, D.E., C.P.O.

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Jones, H., T./CPOW.M.

Whatuiria, T.J., POM(E).

Kahaki, P.V., CEA.2.

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Kauta, C.S., P.O.

Wood, R.W., P.O./Ck.

King, P.R., A/Shpt.2.

Wrather, B., P.O./Wtr.

Kinnaird, K.A., MEA.1.

Young, P.J., PORM.

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Anderson, R.T., L/Sea.

Ennis, G.A., L/Wtr.

Armstrong, J.C., L.W.M.

Fitzgerald, M.J., L.M.(E).

Borrie, W., L/Sea.

Foster, N.V., L.R.M.

Bryce, G.S., L.R.D.

Golding, R.S., L/Sea.

Clayton, G.J., L.M.(E).

Gunn, T.M., L.M.A.

Coster, G.A., L/Sea.

Guthrie, J.L., L.M.(E).

Draper, O.S., L/Sea.

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Donnelly, F., L/Sea.

Hood, M.J., L/Ck.

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McMurtrie, H., L.E.M.
Mackereth, M., L.S.A.
Mathison, I.J., L.W.M.
Mayhew, C.M., L/Ck.
Mead, R.G., L.R.M.
Murdock, J.S., L/Sea.
O'Reilly, P.J., L/Sea.
Parkhurst, R.A.S., L/Sea.
Pettis, G., L/Sea.
Pocklington, H.S., L/Sea.

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Robinson, D.C., L.M.(E).
Rowe, D.W., L/Sea.
Shultz, W.P., L/Stwd.
Smith, W.N., L.R.M.
Sorenson, G.M., L.M(E).
Theyers, W.A., L/Ck.
Wade, E.A., L.R.M.
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Wilson, D.J., L.E.M.
Wistrand, D.E., L.E.W.
Anderson, B.J., L/Ck.
Evans, D.W., A/L/Stwd.

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 Potter, D.N., A/Ck.
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 Rankin, I.W., E.M.1.
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 Reynolds, T.S., A.B.
 Ridgeway, P.G., ORD.
 Ronhi, P.A., S.A.
 Rowe, M.D., M(E)1.
 Sargent, G.W., E.M.1.
 Saunders, F.A., L.S.G.
 Saunders, J.W., M(E)1.
 Shuker, S.R., A.B.
 Skiffington, J.A., E.M.2.
 Smith, N.E., A.B.

Stark, I.M., W.M.1.
 Strong, M.G., S.A.
 Suhr, J.G., Stwd.
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 Thampson, G.R., R.M.1.
 Thompson, S.A., M(E)1.
 Tingle, A.W., A.B.
 Tunnicliffe, S.J., A.B.
 Urwin, P.F., Stwd.
 Vincent, R.F., M(E)1.
 Wallace, L.E.R., A.B.
 Walsh, T.E., M(E)1.
 Ward, A., M(E)1.
 Whibley, R.J., E.M.1.
 Williams, B.L., A.B.
 Williams, I.L., M(E)1.
 Wills, M.J., ORD.
 Wilton, K.J., ORD.
 Woodbury, P.C., A.B.
 Yalden, G.S., M(E)1.

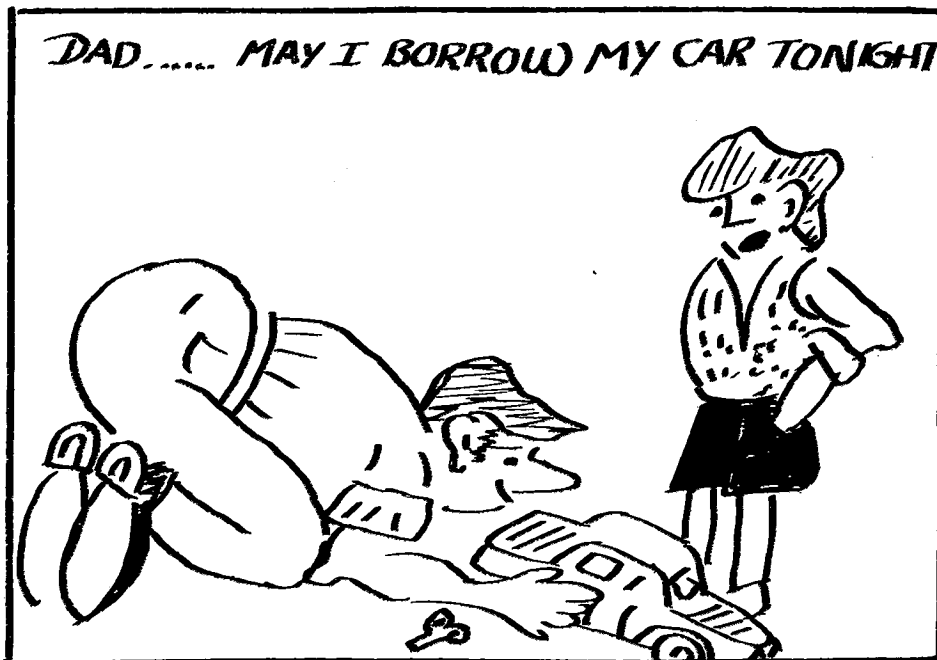
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 Lynne, E.J., P.O.
 Callander, S.C., REA/App.
 Campbell, R.L., L.E.M.
 Larsen, K.G., D.A.
 McConville, G.D., A/Ck.
 Puffett, A.F.H., C/MEA.
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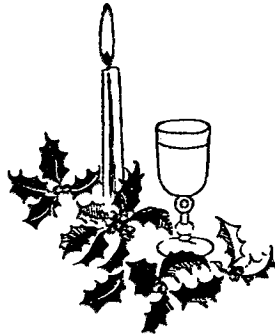
Drinkwater, G.D.J., L.M.(E).
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 Tempero, M.G., L.M.(E).
 Mua, N., O.S.G.
 Poihipi, A.R., ORD.
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A Christmas Message

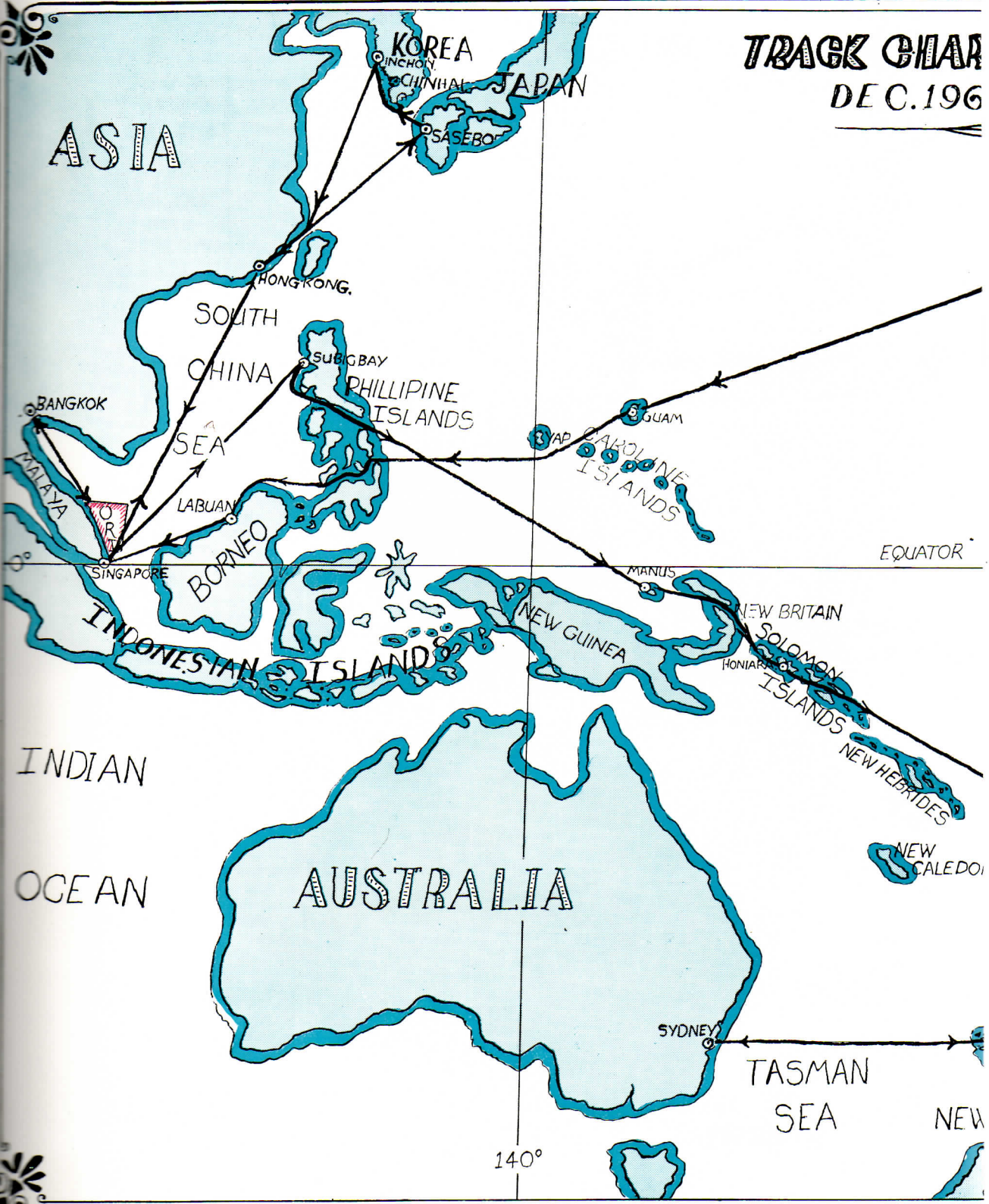
'... and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.'

May this Christmas season be a time of rejoicing for all of us in Otago, as it was for the wise men, who, in finding the child Jesus, knew in their innermost beings that God had gone before them.



TRACK CHART
DEC. 196

ASIA



INDIAN

OCEAN

AUSTRALIA

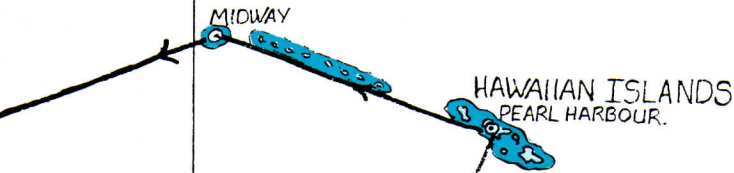
140°

TASMANN
SEA

NEW

T HANZS OTAGO

7 TO DEC 1968



PACIFIC

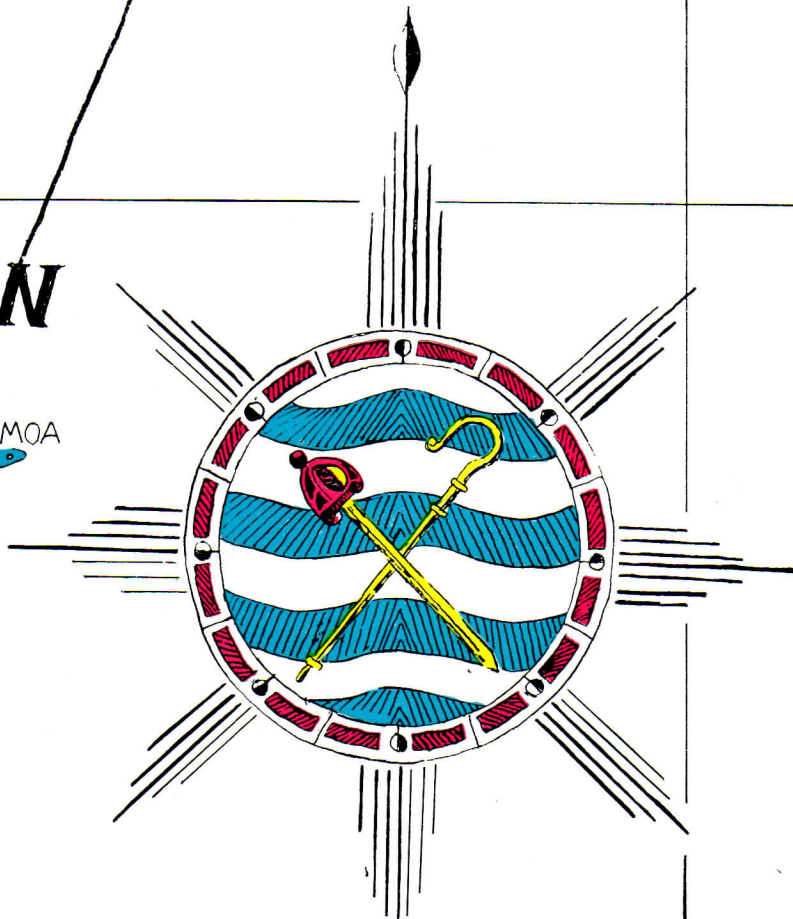
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