



Divisions, "Scotia," Ayr. C-in-C., Rosyth's, Inspection

H.M.S. SCOTIA.

It always registers an expression of surprise on the faces of friends and relations when we tell them we are stationed in Lancashire. This part of the world is usually associated with coal mines, red-brick houses and cobbled streets, which seem to have little in common with the Navy. True, it's a far cry from the sea, but, apart from the naval atmosphere and routine in the camp, sporting and recreational activities flourish.

On transferring from Ayr, the local facilities for organised games were negligible, but thanks to the Herculean efforts of the P.T. & W. staff the meadows and swamps between North and South Camps were, in spite of the rigours of last winter, converted into very reasonable playing fields, containing one hockey and three soccer pitches, where the usual keen inter-divisional battles take place. One of the soccer pitches is being adapted as a Rugby pitch which should be ready by October, so all three sports should be flourishing this winter. The fields yielded quite a good crop of hay this summer, and the efforts of officers and trainees have produced two haystacks. We do not, however, possess a tennis court or a field good enough for cricket, but a grant from the Admiralty has enabled us to use the Leigh Cricket Club ground on three days a week, and tennis fans have been entitled to make use of the tennis courts attached to the Cricket

Club, where they have joined in with the club members. We run an Inter-Divisional Cricket League in which the Officers as well as Chief and Petty Officers enter a team, while the *Scotia* first eleven has a wealth of talent, including one trainee who has played for Northamptonshire this summer.

Boxing, too, has figured in our activities, though only one contest so far has been arranged. The customary enjoyable scraps were seen. Boxing enthusiasts were fortunate to receive a visit from Peter Kane earlier this year, who gave an hour's demonstration of shadow boxing and skipping shortly before his fight in which he beat Dado Marino in a bantam-weight non-title contest at Belle Vue, Manchester.

Badminton is available, and a court is rigged in the gymnasium for all to use at their appointed times.

Athletic sports also prove popular, and a most



Marching Manoeuvres, 1947—"Scotia," Warrington

enjoyable Inter-Divisional Sports Meeting was held in June, when some very good performances were put up, including 10.8 seconds for the 100 Yards and 23 seconds for the 220. This was followed by a triangular contest between H.M.S. *Scotia*, *Gosling*, and the R.A.F., Padgate, which was won by *Scotia*.

Recreational facilities are many and varied; amongst them are the activities of the Amateur Dramatic Society in which those interested have shown a considerable amount of zeal. Three plays have been produced with great success—"The Fourth Wall" (A. A. Milne), "Springtime for Henry" (Ben Levy) and "Love in a Mist" (Kenneth Horne), and plans are going ahead for continuing the good work.

Music lovers have been able to attend concerts in Warrington given by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, under such famous conductors as John Barbirolli, and by the Hallé Orchestra, while in addition there is a weekly gramophone recital of classical music laid on by the Chaplain. For some months now we have been undertaking, at intervals, a course of lectures on music by Messrs. Dobson and Young, who became so well known to thousands by their lectures to the Forces during the war. Those who prefer the lighter form of music are also catered for, and Frankie Sinatra and the Inkspots have their fling on gramophone records on Thursday evenings.

The gymnasium comes in for a busy time each evening—on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays it does a brisk trade as a cinema, and on Fridays it becomes the local Palais de Danse when the trainees hold their weekly "hop." Here we have also been "on the air" when the music for "Saturday Bandstand" was provided by the Bickershaw Colliery Band, the singers being Frank Titterton and Norman Walker.

Local summer carnivals occasionally have called on our resources, and in the Croft Carnival procession we won second prize for our display of a model destroyer (car trailer converted) dressed overall, complete with Signalmen and even a Signal Boatswain on the bridge.

And finally, no description of our activities would be complete without mention of the band, formed out of volunteers from the trainees and ship's company, which after only four weeks' practice and with only nine men, under the able direction of a Royal Marine bandmaster, was competent to play at ceremonial marches past. Since then the number has risen to twenty, and efforts are in hand to form a dance band as well.

In short—spend your holidays at Sunny Scotia!

T. H.

R.N.S.S., COOKHAM

Since we last appeared in print, much water has passed under the bridges both ashore and afloat, and during that time only one or two things have disturbed the even tenor of our ways—most of them pleasurable.

First came the Summer Sports, which were very well attended both by our "residents" and their guests. Ample refreshments were provided and the C.P.Os. and P.Os. ran a "Garden Party" on the lawn. No casualties were reported, but it was rumoured that one or two O.Ds. were severely crushed in the rush for the ice-cream tent.

All kinds of field and track events were contested. The Ladies' Egg and Spoon Race (with spuds as substitutes for eggs) proved very popular, as also did the Four-Legged Race, the four legs being provided by two ladies and one gent, all securely roped together, the gent being propelled backwards by his fair companions. But the highlight of the day came when the C.P.Os.' Tug-o'-War team beat the Borstal Boys in the final heat, this being the first time that the latter team has not won this event since the camp first opened.

The roundabouts and swings proved to be very popular with the kiddies, and also with others, judging by the size of some of the children observed on them! The most popular innovation as far as the children



Cookham Camp, Main Road



Guard approaching Saluting Dais, C-in-C's. Inspection

were concerned was undoubtedly the "Cookham Special"—ordinarily a Lister truck and trailer—which, tastefully decorated by our own camp artists with bunting, Mickey Mice, Goofies, etc., took them on a circular tour of the camp.

We are now looking forward to the Camp Dance, which, like its predecessors, is being held at Chatham Town Hall, with all the amenities laid on. Apparently a shortage of partners is expected, as a large flock of notices have appeared in the camp, exhorting one to book one's partner *now!*

If this dance proves as successful as the last one, a grand time should be had by all, so here's wishing good luck to the organising committee and more power to their arm.

We have again been honoured by a visit from C.S.S. who gave the camp a very thorough inspection, visited classes undergoing instruction, took the salute at a march past of the trainees, and who has since expressed his satisfaction at the keenness and smartness of bearing of all concerned.

People who return to us after a temporary sojourn at sea will be surprised to find that we have a *real* parade ground now, which has very few bumps that need "stamping down", thanks to the vigorous application of rollers.

On the instructional side, arrangements have been made with R.N.A.S., Ford, to place aircraft at our disposal for D/F training purposes. At the time of going to press, one exercise has been carried out, which proved to be a complete success, so that now ratings with a "bent" in that direction can have "live" practice, which it is hoped will step up the efficiency of the division as a whole.

We would like to suggest that, as a reward for successful homing, Ford lends us these aircraft for the purposes of proceeding on week-end leave. This, in our opinion, would get some really super results.

Should any of our readers be in doubt as to what Cookham Camp really looks like, they are invited to look at the accompanying illustrations, which will remove any vestige of doubt *that we really do exist.*

"COOKHAM FRY."

CLEETHORPES W/T STATION

It was as far back as 1906 that the Admiralty decided that a high-powered wireless station should be built on the East Coast for fleet and point-to-point work. The site chosen was a lonely one some three miles from the mouth of the Humber.

The station is officially named Cleethorpes, but is actually in the parish of Humberston, near the village of that name and close to the railway station of Waltham.

With the passing of time a village known as New Waltham has grown up round the wireless station, and so, locally Cleethorpes W/T has been renamed

New Waltham Wireless, and it would be almost useless, in Grimsby or Cleethorpes, to inquire the whereabouts of Cleethorpes W/T Station.

The first station would, in these days, be considered quite a modest affair with its two wooden 160-foot masts and small building housing a Type I spark transmitter; but to the "Sparker" of that generation keeping watch on the "X" wave guard, the call-sign "SZ" was a familiar and often welcome sound if only to prove that the crystal was still "on." W/T traffic from any source was scarce and one supposes the present-day operator finds it difficult to believe that the ether had to be searched to find a wireless signal of any description—but it was so!

As in all things, the passing years brought changes. The station site is no longer lonely and the "spark" gave way long ago to the "arc" which, in its turn, gave way to the "valve"; and now the "Sparker" is about to make way for the Electrician.

A huge 440-foot wooden tower was built to carry the aerials as the power of the transmitters was increased. This tower met an untimely end when it was completely gutted by fire in 1935. What could be more untimely than that this should happen on the morning the Home Fleet sailed for the Spring Cruise and thus wreck the well-laid plans for the communication exercises that were to have taken place on that and succeeding days?

The present mast plan is four lattice steel towers each 350 feet high with two smaller towers; and, scornful of anything modern, one of the original 160-foot wooden masts still stands and demands its coat of paint every year.

The total area enclosed is twenty-three acres and the whole makes a pleasing picture with its neat row of cottages, well-trimmed lawns and colourful flower beds.

P. P.



"WISH I COULD THINK OF SOMETHING TO DO."