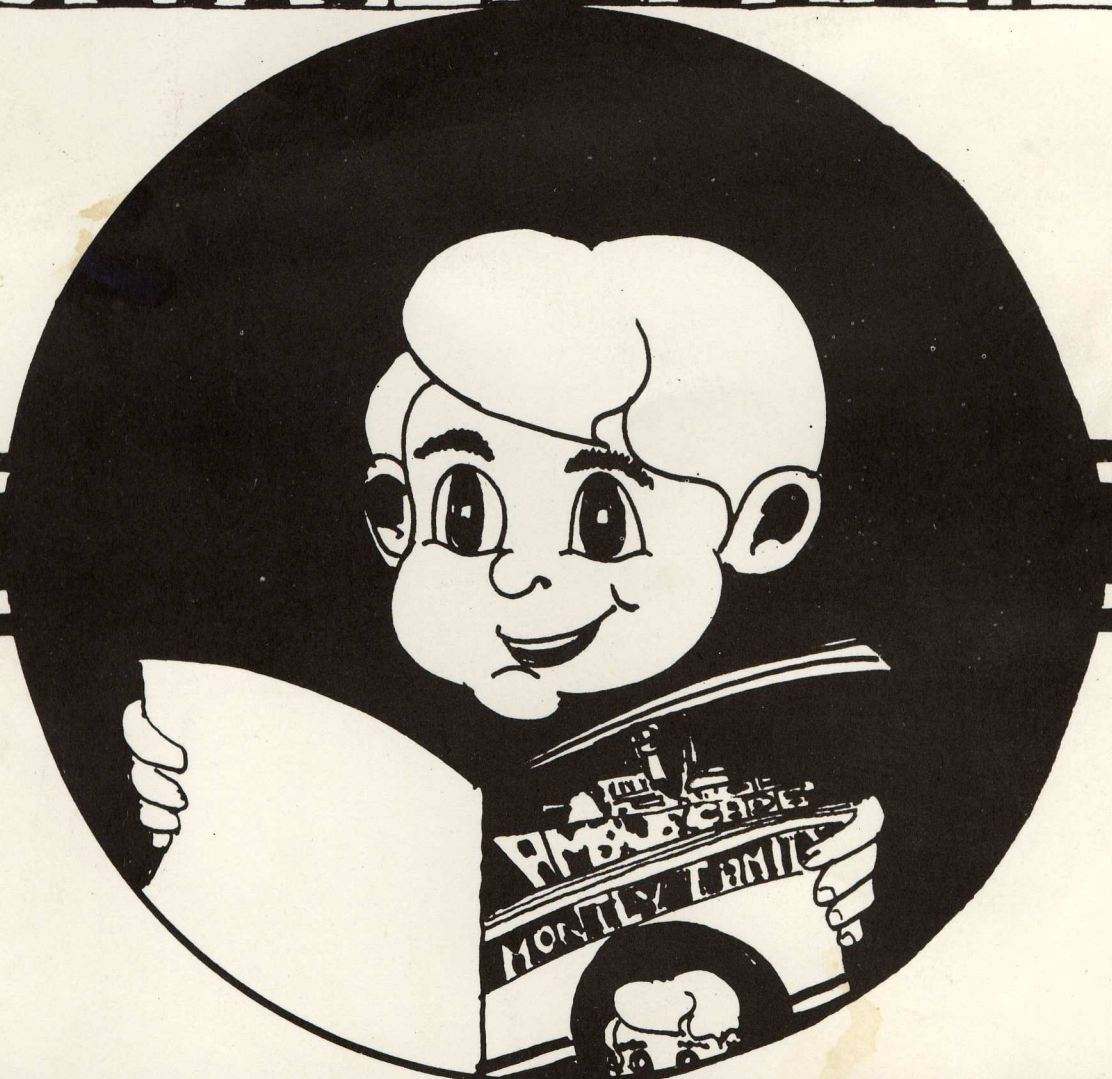


AMBUSCADE

MONTHLY-FAMILY



NEWSLETTER.

LONG BEACH

Our longest stop on the deployment was in Long Beach, California, where we stayed from 20 July to 17 August, Long Beach is a suburb of Los Angeles, so we were in easy reach of Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Racquel Welch. On the way to Long Beach we had a water shortage onboard, and here I'll hand you over to 3E Mess (Seamen's mess) diary edited by L/S Rab Butler assisted by L/S Dave Roberts — We went into pirate rig. For some like Buck Taylor, this meant a three piece suit for Ops room duties, to outdo the Jimmy (Uncle Tom) our much loved and much moaned about 1st Lieutenant. L/S Mick Dutson, the heap of the mess went to the other extreme and appeared in a see-through hat and poncho. On the way past Acapulco we dropped off Tony Willey, to fly home to his family. His wife had been taken ill ill and we all had a collection for flowers which we hear were very nice. If you read this newsletter *Jacqueline*, thank you for the appreciation card, and we hope you are well again.

At Long Beach most of the mess split up into groups. One group, (Dave Tipple, Mutley Hogarth, Bungy Edwards and Lofty Bidmead) went to the Grand Canyon and then on to Death Valley, (the lowest and hottest place on earth) and Las Vegas. Others stayed in the Long Beach area and got tanned by the pool, but AB Millar (the head) never got brown because he spent most of his time in the dark (there were no lights in any of the Bars).

Smiley Miley got a ticket from the local Police and got fined by a Justice of the Peace. She did ask him if he wanted the new fine or the old one, so he settled for the old 25 dollars. Thank you 3E mess.

Almost the whole crew took leave of some kind in Long Beach and we all enjoyed the rest. A lot of wives came out to visit for a fortnight and they all enjoyed the Californian sun too. But all good things come to an end and on 17 August we sailed for a huge American exercise called Fleetex. We were the goodies again and were playing off the Island of Vancouver defending it from a communist takeover. We don't know if we won and we won't for at least a year, because it takes that long for the results to be analysed. Then it was back south again for a visit to San Diego.



SOPHISTICATED
← PIRATE

SAN DIEGO

San Diego was a pleasant change from Long Beach as the Ship was berthed at the bottom of Broadway in the City centre. Very much a City of the sea the harbour in a marine playground catering for every type of water born activity from fishing to sailing.

Our stay was originally planned for only 4 days but, due to a defect on one of the main engines clutch we remained a further 10 days resulting in as missing the trip to Esquimalt, this did however allow us to get better acquainted with San Diego.

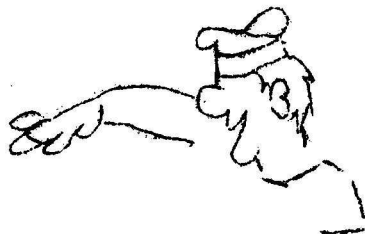
Only about 14 miles from Mexico most of the Ships company managed to get down to Tijuana, as the many sombreros that are in evidence throughout the Ship now. Another attraction was Balboa Park which apart from it's Sports Arenas, museums and art gallery boast one of the worlds most famous zoos. Sea World was also a popular spot where we saw Killer Whales, Seals, Walruses and Dolphin performing. A lot of rabbits were brought at San Diego Old Town. This is the original Mexican city of San Diego which was preserved and is now purely a tourist attraction containing shops, restaurants and museums containing old Mexican relics,



All in all San Diego proved to be an enjoyable and unexpectedly long visit which all members of the Ships company except perhaps the engineers who had to work long hours to get the ship seaworthy for our trip to Canada.

From San Diego we sailed up north to Vancouver. We managed to catch with the rest of the group for the last few days of a major Canadian exercise called Marcot, and then sailed into Vancouver for a 4 day visit before crossing over to the island of Vancouver where we stayed for a further 4 days in a little logging town called Nanaimo. Vancouver and Nanaimo both provided good sport and outdoor activities. One group led by Andy Anderson, went on a combined climbing, canoeing and walking expedition which they all enjoyed. Nanaimo again offered white water canoeing, lumberjacking and walks, but the most popular attraction was Salmon Fishing. Again I quote from 3E mess diary, some of the mess caught nice Salmon, but Mutley Hogarth spent the whole day watching the water, except on one occasion when he pulled in a small one that looked like an overgrown goldfish - but to him, being the smallest member of the mess, it looked like a Whale.

While at Nanaimo we were suprised one morning by the arrival of a highland pipe band from the Princess Mary's Canadian Scottish Regiment in full regalia early on Sunday morning. The band promptly marched on board brushing aside the rather startled gangway staff and started playing their bag pipes on the Flight Deck. It made a rather original Call the Hands. The Scottish connection was a further heightened by the Ship winning the throwing of the sophisticated Scottish sausage competition. The sophisticated Scottish sausage is a poor man's version of tossing the kaber, except that it takes place in a pub. The object thrown is sausage shaped, soft and wrapped in tartan. Rumour has it that the sophisticated Scottish sausage now resides permanently in AMBUSCADE but this cannot be confirmed.



S & S PAGE

To give you an idea of what a Ritey establishment we run, the Caterers and Chefs have prepared some facts and figures for you and a recipe which you might like to surprise your husband with when we get home.

Each week our team of 8 cooks spend £1,750 preparing 5,600 meals. That's quite an achievement, especially when you consider that the average temperature of the galley in the tropics was 98 degrees Fahrenheit.

The shopping list for the deployment makes interesting reading too.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of sausages,
34 tons of potatoes,
36000 eggs,
28,000 pints of soup,
2,200ft of cucumber,
56,000 tomatoes,
9,480lbs of chicken,

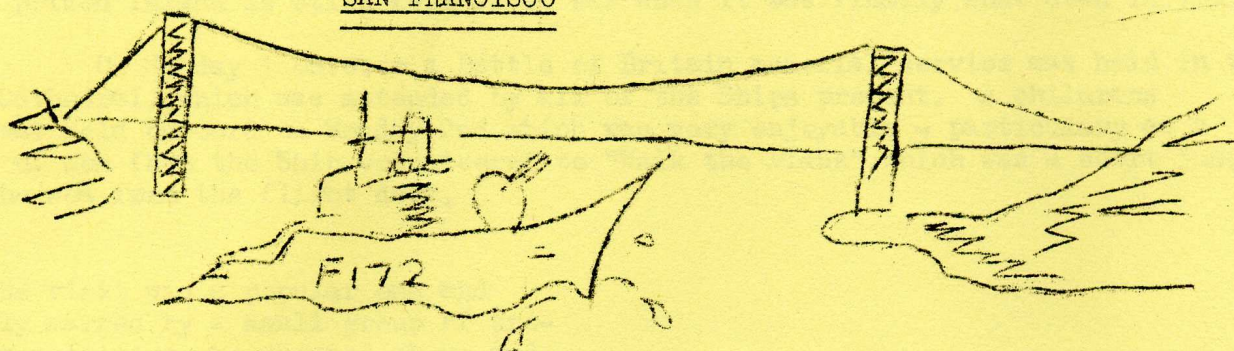
6 pots of jam (we don't seem to have had much jam),
And now here is a recipe:-

AMBUSCADE HONEY BAKED LAMB

1 Leg of Lamb (or any cut),
1 jar of pure Honey,

Place the Lamb joint in a deep roasting tray. Pour over with Honey until it is completely covered. Put boiling water (about 1 pint) into tray to mix with Honey. (This prevents tray burning). Roast at 350 degrees F at 20 minutes per pound. Baste every 20 minutes with Honey with Honey and make the gravy using stock from joint.

SAN FRANCISCO

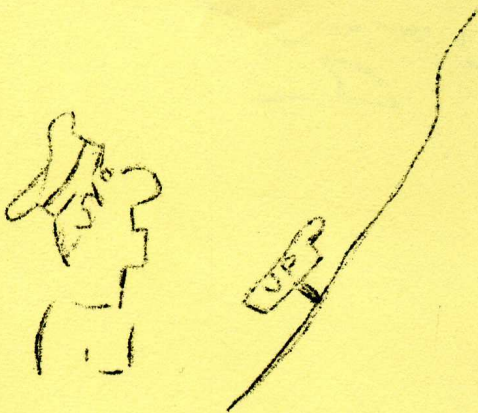


We expected to pass under the Golden Gate Bridge in thick fog, as we were informed that San Francisco spends half its life under a sea fog, however we were pleasantly surprised to find only a light haze and we could enjoy the splendour of the bay.

The bay is a busy place, Ferries, Fishing Boats and Naval craft chugging from one side to the other. The entrance is fairly narrow but once through the Golden Gate the bay opens up and is dotted with Cities. San Francisco itself is a small city; Oakland which is on the northside of the bay is much larger and is connected to the Southern side of the bay by a very long bridge carrying 8 miles of roadway.

San Francisco is a busy tourist centre in the summer, we arrived near the end of the tourist season and the evenings were getting cool, but the day remained hot. The sea fog did swirl in on a few days and was quite a pretty sight as it left the bridges suspended on a mist-bank just the tops sticking out.

Once alongside Pier 45 the Ships Company wasted no time in getting ashore to look at the city. We were right next to the famous Fishermans Wharf which provided Seafood, good shopping areas, bars and live music, and prices were quite low too!! One of the Shopping Centres is called the Cannery which was an old fish canning plant which has been renovated, the interior gutted and filled with modern shops, restaurants, escalators and lifts. It is an ideal way to retain the old white building new shops.



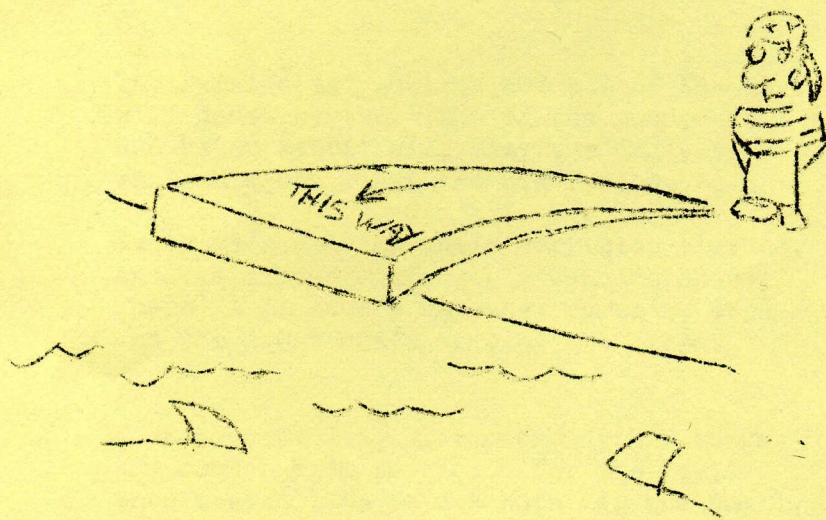
Straying a little way from the Fishermans Wharf we were astounded by the hills. The city is built on 20 hills and they are all pretty steep. The best way to avoid a strenuous walk is to hop onto a Cable Car. These are trams which are pulled along by a rope under the road, and for only 25¢ (13 pence) you can go anywhere in town. Parts of the city are clearly defined by different nationalities: there is a Chinatown, a Japan town, and an Italian Sector each providing food and crafts from their own country.

There were many museums and art galleries to visit and it was possible to watch artists painting in the street. The Wyatt Hotel was another interesting place to visit, or you go through the entrance and inside the building you suddenly realise that the massive skyscraper is hollow for the first ten floors so you are in an enormous room filled with trees and fountains, all that is missing are the jungle noises!!

Several disco's were arranged but many of the lads preferred to find their own entertainment, which wasn't difficult. Alcatraz was a popular trip too. This famous prison Island is still kept as it was when it was finally shut down in 1963.

On Sunday 1 October a Battle of Britain memorial service was held in the Grace Cathedral, which was attended by all of the Ships present. A childrens party was held onboard on Monday 2nd which was very enjoyable - particularly as a couple of men from the Ship volunteered to "Walk the Plank" which was a short jump into the sea from the flight deck.

The visit was a popular one and was only marred by a small group of pro-IRA demonstrators who shouted abuse and gave the Task Group the nickname of BRITISH DEATH FLEET. Well everyone is entitled to their own views I suppose - even if they are based on poor information. The fact was that many of the San Franciscons were embarrassed by the demonstrations and even phoned the ship to apologise for the behaviour of their fellow citizens.



What is a Naval Wife

The average Naval wife is ageless. This is due to the fact she has more chance of using night creams consistently as her husband is unlikely to be at home to object. Generally, she has a pleasing shape, and this is due to the mountains of packing she has to do every two years. On average she has three children - referred to as 'sprogs' which are sometimes parked on Mum or on some other of the species while she goes off to meet Dad. Dad is the elusive character of whom the sprogs who can talk ask, "Who is he?" or "When is he going back?".

A Naval wife can cope with any emergency. She is mechanically minded and an excellent driver. As a rule she picks up her case and presents herself on the doorstep of the Maternity Home, when the time is right, and without fuss, and without the father-to-be. Early in her married life she learns that she has to do all the little jobs around the house that he would do if he were there. She is usually tactful, though on occasions she has been known to shout at the sprogs or to demand "Where the hell have you been?" when her spouse returns late for a meal six days out of seven.

The Naval wife moves her brood from school to school and copes with the homework (except the more difficult sums), she attends Speech Days, Parents Days and Sports Days - and is usually taken for a widow on these occasions. Measles, chicken pox and mumps always appear as soon as Dad is outside the three-mile limit. She is convinced that she could do a better job of running the Navy, but has long since given up beating her head against a brick wall in trying to do so.

When she has a few minutes to spare she has coffee with the neighbours when they discuss absent friends and present enemies. Another popular theme is what they would do if they were the Married Quarters Officer - or what they would do to him if they could.

The Naval wife is a good cook, an accomplished dressmaker and an economical genius. She is usually grossly underpaid. Though she manages to make him feel that he is the boss, he knows at heart that she rules the roost.

In short - she is indispensable to Dad, to the sprogs and to the Navy. To all unmarried 'Jacks' I give this piece of advice - only one woman in 10,000 qualifies for this position - look carefully.



THE COCK TROPHY

Prior to sailing from UK it was decided to hold a deck sports knock out competition consisting of Volleyball, Deck Hockey, Football, Brighter Cricket and Tug - o - War.

The competition was two fold with the Cock Trophy for the winners and a plate trophy for the runners up. All ships including two RFA's took part.

The first leg was held during June in the Carribean, to many cries of "Its a fix" as AMBUSCADE drew BLAKE in the first round. BLAKE arrived confident of a win particularly at Tug - o - War. However it was not to be so easy and BLAKE was returned somewhat bent, after a 4 games to one defeat. AMBUSCADE lost at Football that day.

Naturally beating BLAKE gave us a keen edge, which we intended to maintain. The tug-o-war team had firmly gained a position in the hearts of all onboard as was to be shown at later matches.

The semi finals were held in the Pacific between San Francisco and Acapulco on the 7 October (in the middle of AMBUSCADE's 5 Day Inspection). This match resulted in a White Wash for LEANDER and a good five nil win which which to approach HERMIONE in the final the following day.

The finals were against our Squadron Leader HERMIONE, who arrived in good spirit and determined to win. This spirit coupled with AMBUSCADE's determination to beat their Leader provided an excellent afternoons sport, with all teams showing a tremendous amount of skill and spirit.

Volleyball was our traditional first game which after an initial straggle we won:-

15 -- 7

15 -- 3

Deck Hockey followed and provided the best match I have seen with extra time and a sudden death goal having to decide the winner. Score:-

HERMIONE 3 AMBUSCADE 2

Football was the third match in which HERMIONE had high hopes on winning with which they claim the best football team in the squadron (still to be proved). This was an excellent game in which the players showed more spirit than many people had seen in a long while. The result a three - two win for AMBUSCADE: Scorers:

STWD GIBBO GIBSON

AP ALAN FIRTH (CAPT)

REM PETE BOWMAN

Supported by the fourth member of the team: Chick Murray MEM.

Two - One up and the crucial game. Brighter Cricket. Probably the most most amusing deck sport but played with real determination. The first five minutes of this game were even with the Chief Caterer of HERMIONE giving our team a run for their money. However determination, high spirits, training and a SNARL from the First Lieutenant began to tell and by the 10th minute we were well in the lead. The final score: 87 -- 27.....

ACAPULCO

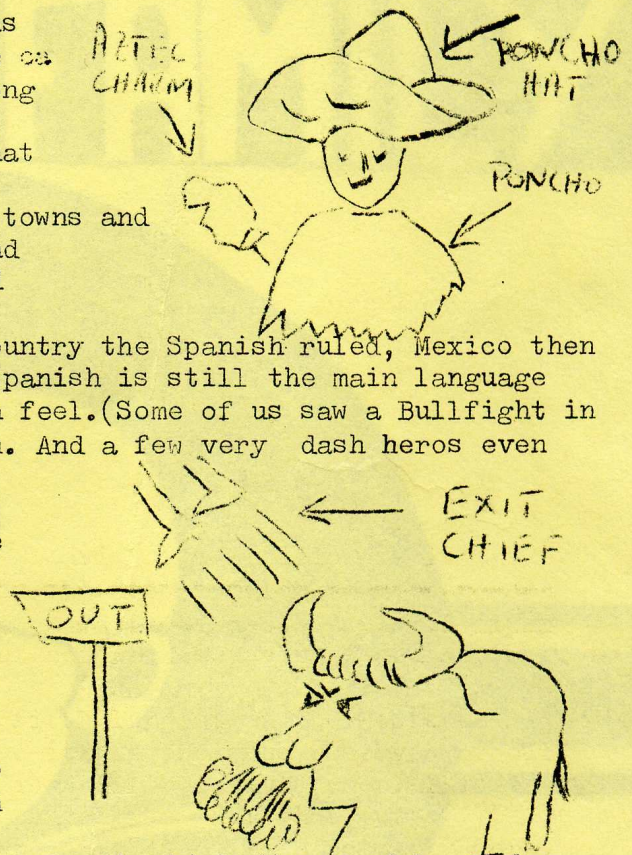
This was our last visit before leaving the Pacific and it was a very interesting place to see. Acapulco is the most popular tourist resort on the Pacific coast of Mexico, and it was made fashionable by Errol Flynn and his Hollywood crowd in the 1930's. But before discussing Acapulco, a word about Mexico.

Mexico is a huge country, the fifth largest in the western Hemisphere. It should be very rich because it has enormous reserves of oil, corn, coffee and minerals, but infact it is still relatively poor. This is due to the fact that the population is expanding so fast that out of 75 million people, 40 million are under 17 and only 12 million actually work. The people are disorganised, emotional, colourful and lazy just like the Italians and we soon learnt that a Mexican minute can be anything up to four hours. A strong influence on Mexico has been the Indian civilization, (particulary the Aztecs) that were finally overthrown by Cortes (a Spaniard) in 1521. The remains of Aztec towns and towns and Pyramids can still be seen, and the Indian influence on Mexican arts and cults is strong.

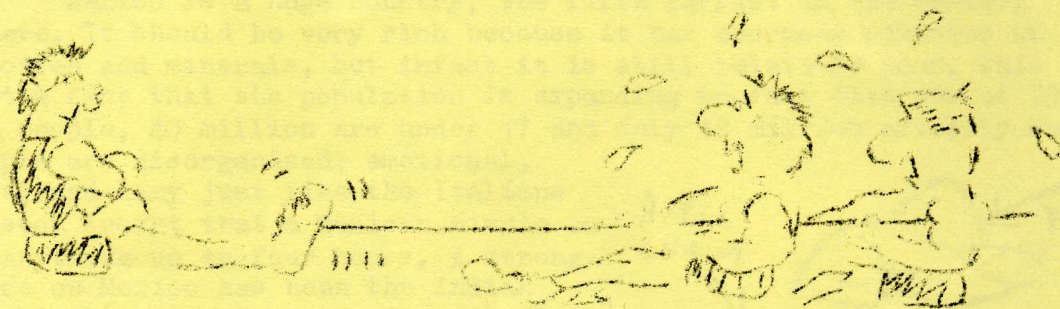
After Cortes took over the country the Spanish ruled, Mexico then finally declared independance in 1810. Spanish is still the main language and the country still has a very Spanish feel. (Some of us saw a Bullfight in Mexico City - a direct import from Spain. And a few very dash heros even tried fighting a Bull themselves. OEMN Mick Birchall was last seen leaving the ring at a most impressive speed with the Bull in hot persuit 18 inches astern). When we arrived in Acapulco we tiedrup to the only jetty. But after the second day we had to move out to anchor with the rest of the Fleet because there was a heavy swell that was breaking all our wires. All the same everybody managed to get ashore and enjoy the beaches the sun and the sights.

One of the most popular sights was the high divers of La Quebra. These lunatics spend their day hurling themselves off the cliffs 140ft into a very shallow and mucky inlet. They have to judge their dive so that when they land the waves have filled the inlet, otherwise they would hit solid rock. It was a very impressive sight.

We left Acapulco on 16th October. We're now heading for trinidad which will be our last main visit before getting back in December.



That game gave us the trophy but the Ships Company were awaiting their favorites, with supporters on the Seacat Deck looking like Romans at a Gladiator match "Where are your team" cried HERMIONE looking somewhat ragged on the rope. "On the 3" Deck" came the reply. Using the good leaders stance, Chief FLUSHER SAM POTTS PO(M) was keeping them waiting. A roar of AMBUSCADE, told HERMIONE that they did not have to wait long, as in marched our Tug-O-War Team.



Two straight pulls later we had won the Cock Trophy 4 -- 1. HERMIONE were heard to say "We thought we were winning at Tug-O-War until you started to pull". They were good opposition though and a splendid afternoon was had by all.

All that remains now is for BLAKE to present the rather splendid trophy they have made.

