THE CHESTERTOWN TRANSCRIPT

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R. H. COLLINS WRITES OF BRITISH NAVY

The following was sent by Chief Engineer Richard H. Collins of the Army Transport Corps to the Transcript. Mr. Collins formerly associated with The Transcript, has been overseas since July. Before entering the service he was Chief Clerk at the local Ration Board.

Anyone, like myself, who since boyhood, has been interested in sea stories, is familiar with the fact that sailors in any of HMS (His Majesty's Ships) Royal Navy receive their food and drink by daily rations. These rations, as issued, include so many ounces of meat, bread etc., and also includes the grog ration of a tot of rum.

It was not until recently that while on a four day trip on one of HMS that I had the opportunity to witness the issuance of the grog ration and realize that it is a very formal affair and one that is carried out strictly according to tradition.

In a prominent place on the ship, as a permanent fixture, is the mixing vat, a highly polished beautiful ly carved wooden vat. Beside the vat is the grog keg, a very decorative keg with its brass bands highly polished and so presentable that anyone would like to have it around the house full or empty.

Assembled around these important pieces of furniture is a group of men, representing the crew and the officers to see that everything is carried out according to the book. Assuming a crew of 100 men, 100 tots of the fragrant rum are poured from the keg into the vat, then, next goes 300 tots of water. At this point I was told that the issuance of the crew is mixed with three parts water making each man receive 4 tots of the mixture, which is approximately ½ pint.

The messmen representing the various mess halls line up and an officer steps up with a very important piece of paper and as each messman announces Mess No. 1, etc., the officer reads from the paper 12 men, etc. Highly polished copper measuring containers of all sizes are used to measure the 48 tots of the mixture and pour it into that particular messman's pitcher. Each measuring container is filled to running over, there is no cheating. When all of the various messes are satisfied, the little party disbands with the exception of one person. There, I stood feeling and probably looking like a kid whom Santa Claus had missed and wondering why I was ever born. Suddenly, I was rushed into a nearby office where I was presented with a cup containing a crew ration. This sudden action avoided what might have been an international situation. Following the furnishing of the crew ration, I was told that the officers and petty officers were issued their ration straight and of course, I had to try the officer's ration and so on.

I have wondered since why the crew's ration is increased in volume and lessened in strength, unless it is that they have their work to do, which further bears out the point that the crew runs the ship.

It is said, that there is no greater insult that one can inflict upon a British sailor than to knock his grog ration over. He stays mad for a whole fortnight.

The British are good sailors—they have to be in these foggy and storm bound winter waters, in order to stay alive.

The pronunciation of that word Navy over here is important. The sound of the a is the same as that heard so often in a doctor's office when the patient has a sore throat, and as the doctor says, "Say Ah."

—V—

KENNEDYVILLE

Corporal William King is spending sometime at his home.

Mr. Arthur Pinder and family and Mrs. Earl Nickerson visited relatives in Baltimore last week.

C. Y. Joseph Weer of the U.S.N., and Miss Bettie Borland of Indiana Pa., were week-end guests of Mrs. Weer and family.

The Homemakers Club entertained the Rock Hall Club on Thursday at a covered dish luncheon.

Marie Lusby is housed with a cold.

Lt. Edward Weer left on Tuesday for California where he will be stationed for some time.

Miss Dorothy Sue Johnston of near Chesapeake City is spending the week-end with her cousin Marie Weer.

—V—

Dividend Policies

Corporations were conservative in their dividend policies last year, paying out only $4,029,000,000 or 45.1 per cent of the profits. Dividends in 1943 were only slightly larger than in 1942 and were smaller than in 1941 or in 1940. They were well below the pre-depression figure of $5,944,000,000 when dividends represented 82.6 per cent of profits. As the result of paying out in dividends such a small proportion of their profits last year, corporations added $4,909,000,000 to their reserves.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The pupils of Millington High School wish to express their deepest sympathy for Mr. Lewis C. Robinson, County Superintendent, and they hope that he will soon recover.

We have received our new library books for 1944-45 and everyone was pleased with the assortment. Some of the books received were:

"There Go The Ships", by Robert Carse.

"A Mind That Found Itself" by Clifford Beers.

"Bolivar," by Emil Ludwig.

"The Song of Bernadette," by Franz Werfel.

"Seven League Boots," by Richard Halliburton.

"Thirty Second Over Tokyo," by Capt. Ted Lawson.

"Secret Cargo," by Howard Pease.

"Lord Jim," Joseph Conrad.

T-5 Earl C. Bottomley, a former student, who is now on furlough from Iceland, has been a frequent visitor at the school. We were all glad to see Clarence G. Blair, S2-c, a former student, who had a short furlough from his post at a Pacific Coast Naval base.

The pictures which were taken in November arrived Friday. All were well pleased with the results.

This week marked the beginning for hot lunches this winter. The P. T. A. ladies are serving soup from the vegetables that were canned in the fall.

As a result of the recent cold spell many of our students have had an enjoyable time skating on Higman's Pond.

Jane Rasin and Paul Dixon are making plans for an intramural ping pong tournament. This will be played off in the next few weeks.

—V—

Malarial Mosquito

The mosquito that carries malaria is the female of the species—and in her case she certainly is more deadly than the male. Moreover, this mosquito is of a special type known as the anopheles, and not only anopheles but a special kind of anopheles: The female anopheles that carries malaria sucks human blood, and the male does not. The female anopheles that carries malaria stands with her rear elevated, whereas all other mosquitoes in the United States stand parallel to the skin when they do their biting.

To The Editor . . .

The following was written by an 86 year old resident of Kent County and sent to the Editor:

There is a strange story beginning to drift through the world. It probably reached America through returning service men from the Pacific war area. They evidently heard it from natives.

It seems there is a far distant island in the deep Far East, hundreds of miles from all other land, on which two tribes dwell, who have been enemies as far back as memory runs. They had periodical pitch battles. In the midst of the last one as they were preparing to renew fighting, there was a sudden pause, the members of each tribe began looking at each other wonderingly with constantly increasing amazement; then across the intervening space they stared with equal wonder, then at each other again, then back at their enemies, then each man simultaneously threw down his weapons and with joyous cries rushed towards each other, with every friendly motion and began embracing each other with laughter and joyous cries.

Soon all were making preparations for a great feast which intermingled with dancing lasted a full day. Ever since the two tribes have been increasingly so friendly they are rapidly becoming one tribe when the first excitement had quieted down, an old man recalled he had heard his grandfather tell an old legend that had come down through the tribe for generations.

It ran to this effect, there was a spirit called the Peace Spirit which had been asleep since time began, but one day it would awake and when it did, the people in that land would at once begin to love each other and would always do so.

Its mission was to travel from land to land and as it traveled lasting peace would follow. Thus it would move through every land until all the earth was covered and all people loved each other and at last the world be at peace. Let's hope it won't be long coming.

—V—

Silver Bars

In early days the lower grades of the army had no insignia and the upper grades used silver. When insignia were given to the lower grades it seemed less confusing to continue silver in the upper grades and use gold for lower ranks.

Inexpensive Insecticides

Calcium arsenate and arsenate of lead are inexpensive insecticides effective as stomach poisons against chewing insects only. They are safe for use on potatoes; cucumbers, melons and on tomatoes until fruit forms; and on various young plants. Because they are poisonous to man they should not be used on broccoli, cauliflower or other leafy vegetables unless these are thoroughly washed before using. They are apt to injure the foliage of beans.

—V—

Portugal Recognized

The United States established its first diplomatic contact with Portugal 154 years ago, when in 1790, President Washington appointed a minister following the appointment of a Portuguese minister to the United States. The appointee was Col. David Humphreys, a native of Derby, Conn. He had been a member of General Washington's staff and for two years prior to becoming minister had lived with Washington at Mount Vernon. He had been in Paris with Jefferson as secretary of the legation there, in 1784.

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OLD KENT
"The Eastern Shore of Maryland"
by
GEORGE A. HANSON, M.A

We still have a limited supply of this famous history of Kent County and the Eastern Shore as published from the original in the Chestertown Transcript. of 1875 and 1876.

★ ★

We feel that no library is complete without this valuable book on its shelves. Set in legible type and bound in a stiff red leather binding, it is a priceless gem of History.

★ ★

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