



THE FALCON

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This publication is issued under the authority of Lt. Col. K. C. B. Corbett, C.D., Commanding Officer of The 48th Highlanders of Canada. The contents of this publication have been edited and approved by Hon./Capt. R. K. Cameron, Padre of The 48th Highlanders of Canada.

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## Christmas 1958:

For that number of years (1958) Christendom has celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. In Him God came into human history to reveal Himself and to show men the way of redemption. The modes of celebration have changed over the years but the original and essential meaning and significance of the blessed event has remained the same.

The Santa Claus legend coming to us through the Dutch people has enhanced Christmas for both young and old. Children especially know the joy and happiness of Christmas and it is a time which never can be dissociated from them.

Every year people talk of the scandalous merchandising which marks this holiday and how it detracts from the real meaning of it. Certainly it is a costly time but who would want austerity? The real value of giving and receiving gifts is in the sentiment associated with them. They need not be expensive. And when we give and receive we should be reminded of God's great gift in Christ which should be received in faith and deep gratitude.

We wish every man and his family in the Regiment and the Old Comrades Association a very very happy Christmas.

## SERGEANTS' MESS

After a lapse of a few "Falcons" we have suddenly come to life. Not that we have been inactive. We are never inactive.

We are almost into another New Year which reminds us that over the past twelve months there have been many highlights. New Year's Day, 1958, as always was traditionally ours, with its customs, chief of which is the brief service at the Regimental Memorial in Queen's Park, and the visit to Col. K. R. Marshall's home.

The winter and spring months were helped along by many social events. The Regimental Ball in April, Ladies Night every month, Inter-Mess shooting and dart competition, (who won is of little consequence) and the winning of the Mackenzie Trophy in competition with the Officers of the Regiment. It was never quite clear who "footed the bill". Nevertheless it was good fun and fostered the "esprit de corps" that is most necessary for the serious side of Army training and discipline.

We now come to the Troop that took place in Varsity Stadium at the end of May. It is now history, and also evidence that when called upon, our training as senior N.C.O's of the Regiment prevails, and brings out the best in us.

Immediately following the Troop preparations were made for Summer Camp, and despite the fact Camp dates were set for early June instead of late June, as has been our custom, a very good number of the Sgts. Mess were able to go to Ipperwash Camp, and be guests of the 1st Battalion R.C.R. I do not use the word "guest" loosely, because the Sgts. Mess of the R.C.R. did all they could to make us feel at home. A compliment we hope to repay in the near future.

The training was of the best, and latest and we feel all ranks benefitted by it.

Since our return from Camp we have been most active. A post Camp dinner was held with our ladies as guests, and the same evening a visit to a local theatre to see "South Pacific". This of course is bribery on our part, but some of the ladies are wondering whether it is whitewashing or brainwashing.

Week-end have been full, the Regimental Church Parade, Winona Ranges, Support Coy to Meaford with members from other Companies, Armistice Day Church Parade, the Club Armistice Day Dinner, the Oshawa week-end training, the visit by 60 members of the Argyles from Hamilton, the inter-mess shoot and darts with the Toronto Scottish Sgts. (we lost) and, of course, our Annual Mess Dinner held on Nov. 1st. The foregoing is not in chronological order, but is further

evidence of an active Mess, and prompts the remark or observation that you either have to be active or die a natural death,----unheard of in the 48th Highlanders.

Our Annual Mess Dinner mentioned earlier was a success, due to the efforts of all active members who participated. About 130 sat down to dinner. The head table guests included, Lt. Col. Corbett, Major Haldenby, Brig. Haldenby, Col. Paul Stirling (Guest Speaker), Mayor Nathan Phillips, Lt. Col. Klenavik, 1st Batt. R.C.R., Major Richards of the 1st Batt. R.C.R. was also present, but sat with the "other ranks".

The list was a "whose who" in Anybody's social register.

This would not be complete without telling of the addition to our ranks of four new L/Sgt., namely Fowlston, Elair, Calverly and Boggis, also, the promotion of W.O. 2 Saunders from rank of Sgt.

The arrival of Santa Claus on Dec. 14th will almost close another year. Plans have already been made for his Annual visit, and Sgt. Howey Martin had better polish up his "Ho-ho-ho-ho"!

Our Hogmonay Party arrangements have been made, and the success of that party, or any party, as always, remains with the members.

This brings us to "Auld Lang Syne" and start of another year.

#### "A" COY BLETHERS

Here we are coming to the end of another year and a busy one it has been for all of us, what with Sunday parades, week-end shooting and schemes. We hope to keep up having these schemes in the Spring of the year as we learn more outdoors in the way of field-craft than we'll ever learn sitting on our rears down here in the Armouries. Well, as far as recruiting goes we are doing alright but it could be better so don't forget to ask your friends over the holiday season to come down and see what is going on and perhaps they'll take an interest in the Regiment, but remember one thing that it is quality and not quantity we want in the 48th. We wish to take this opportunity to welcome Pte. Archibald, Pte. Samuck, Pte. Crutcher and Pte. Saldov into the company. Our attendance has been very good this year, we accomplished something that hasn't been done for a few years. We had one hundred per cent turnout on a Friday night parade this Fall let's keep it up chaps. Right now there are five courses going on in the Regiment they are: Recruit, Basic, Advanced, Trades Training and Aid to the Civil Power, you have been allotted to your own course so come down and take advantage of this training programme. Well, I guess this is all the news for now, so I'll close by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year on behalf of the officers and others behind the desk.

#### "B" COY NEWS

This summary of news and notes should make up for 'B' Coy's absence in the last issue of "The Falcon". Last July, "B" Coy sent eleven men on a six week Jr. N.C.O. course at Wolseley Barracks, London, Ontario (Home of the R.C.R.) The eleven men being, Pte's Dix, Keeling, Davis, Langcaster, Jackson, Shields, Sainsbury, Steel, Tomlin, Vesboja and Wellman. The course was varied and interesting. Everything from "Aid to the Civil Power" to "Aid to the Civil Power" It is interesting to note that all candidates successfully passed the course with some of the finest recommendations handed out, except for one exception, Pte. Davis' tender age was discovered and he was sent to Camp Ipperwash as a cadet. His stalwart humour was sadly missed by all.

Also in July the second Student Militia Recruit Course was started with Lt. Pearce (now of Support Coy) and Cpl. (now L/Sgt.) Blair on the instructing staff. Capt. Keeling was again C.O. of the course. Able assistance was also forth coming from W.O. I Wigmore.

Pte's Bertatti, Mancel and Price were three 'B' Coy men on the course. During the summer Cpl. "Tiny Jr." Shaw took off on a three month hike around Great Britain, Paris (?), Germany, Scandinavian and back to Paris !!!(?) September brought a number of changes in personnel. Lt. MacFarlane came to the company as 2 I/C replacing Lt. Pearce. Lt. Brown left us to return to "A" Coy. From "C" Coy came A/CSM Saunders. Most hearty congratulations to him from "B" Coy, for his recent promotion. Congratulations, also to L/Sgt. Blair who finally has his third stripe up and to four new L/Cpls, Brain, Keeling, Langcaster and Sainsbury. A few men are slowly coming into the company. Two new regular attenders are Pte's Patterson and Stenaff.

Oh! and a word to those in the Regiment who doubt the most capable abilities of "B" Coy. A few weeks ago a "B" Coy man said, "Quality not Quantity".

With the start of fall training "B" Coy took on the Recruit Cadre, while the other companies looked after "Basic" and "Advance Training", "Aid to the Civil Power" and "Special Courses".

Oct. 25/26 was the "Oshawa Week-end". "B" Coy was well represented (the only sober coy there). A case of beer was presented as a most adequate reward for Sgt. "Garcia" Martin's gallant performance of getting in and out of a gunner's hatch of a Sherman tank. We too have "esprit de corps".

The Company was again well represented at the Remembrance Service at Queen's Park and the "Guard of Honour" at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Pte. Tomlin was on the Regimental team which attended the O.R.A. Shoot at Camp Borden.

Last but not least we congratulate Pte. Bill Byer for being one of the first men in the company to become a married man.

"Remember Quality not Quantity".

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A lady went to buy a drinking trough for her dog. The shopkeeper asked her if she would like one with the inscription, "For the Dog".

"It isn't necessary," she replied, "My husband never drinks water, and the dog can't read."

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A Moscow censor berated an American correspondent for writing that, during a Soviet parade, the American ambassador "stood within a stone's throw of Stalin."

"What do you mean by this outrageous insult?" the censor stormed. The correspondent finally managed to interrupt the tirade to explain the American idiom.

"So?" said the censor. "In that case we change it this way: 'The American ambassador stood near Stalin. He threw no stones!'"

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When the old Blucher palace in Berlin was converted into a U.S. Embassy, architects included a "powder room" for visiting ladies. Recently Gestapo agents marched into the Embassy with a copy of the architect's plan, accused the Embassy of storing munitions and demanded to see the room. They were obediently shown to the ladies' W.C.

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## "CHARLIE" CHATTER

Since the last issue of The Falcon, "C" Coy, under it's new Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s has shaken down well. The deadwood has been shorn from the company roll, and the 31 all ranks which now comprise the total strength are a hard-working nucleus who can be depended on to do a job. Turnout on all schemes has been from good to excellent, and in spite of a rainy week-end at Wynona Ranges, morale has never been higher.

During the fall, a large part of the work has fallen on the two Platoon Sgts., especially since the departure of O/C Brady. Sgt. MacLeary and Sgt. Fowlston have carried out their increased responsibilities in an exemplary manner, and in addition have devoted a considerable portion of their time and talent to the Basic Training Course. Congratulations for a job well-done!

Administratively the Coy has never been in a better position, and we have only one "non-effective" on our rolls. To a large extent this has been the work of the 2 I/C, Captain Binnie, who has been ably assisted by Cpl. Moye in this important phase of one work. O/C McVittie is handling the administration and training of both platoons, and his efforts too are deserving of high praise.

In competition "C" Coy has again led the Regiment. The Baseball Team, with the fine pitching of Pte. Butler, managed to win comfortably over "Baker" Company in an inter-company baseball game, and the Rifle Team, won the Al Turner Team Trophy at Wynona Ranges. This is probably the best team the Company has ever fielded, and congratulations are extended to the members - Sgt. Fowlston, Cpl. Tonks, Cpl. Moye, Cpl. Snow, and L/Cpl. Rands.

## #7 PLATOON

Since the last "Falcon" the members of #7 Platoon have become acquainted with the new Pl. Sgt. and Officer and great things have been accomplished.

There was a terrific rise in spirit when "C" Coy plastered "B" Coy in a ball game and this victory was due in no small measure to the efficient playing of #7 Platoon players.

There was an excellent turnout for the Oshawa scheme by 7 platoon which dazzled the others in the Regiment with their footwork. After the return from that place the men cried "MORE".

("More what.....K.P.? - Editor's note)

Members of the platoon have worked hard, and some have played hard, but the end result is a group of trained soldiers who have to take a back seat to no one. We want to keep up the tradition that "No matter what the weather (and we've really had that this Fall!) we'll all win together" (and we've done that too!) Also glad to report that Pte. "Moneybags" Stringer has finally agreed to the amount he is to be paid, but he assures us he will REALLY be watching the next pay!

## #8 PLATOON

Since the last issue of the Falcon #8 Platoon has progressed very well, Our recruits have made a great effort to become trained soldiers, which meant various week-ends at Winona and Oshawa during very inclement weather (but which did not discourage anyone) and one great test of marching down University Ave. during the Armistice Parade. Scarlets got wet but spirits did not even get damp! The turnouts on parade during the fall training were good and #8 Platoon made a very good showing on the guard of honour for His Excellency, the Lt. Governor. We lost O/C Brady during the fall owing to business and we shall miss him and hope

he will come and see us at the social functions. O/C McVittie got the responsibility of the two Platoons to look after and is doing a good job of it. Anyone who has ever tried to run two Platoons knows what this can mean.

We are looking forward to a very good dance on the 13th of December and wish to thank all those who have supported us in this effort, especially the members of the Old Comrades Association who purchased many tickets and Secretary Wally Moore for the publicity he gave us. As we close the fall season we look back at some jobs well done, but realize that February holds many more hard weeks of training. However, the Platoon is over the initial stages of its training, and we welcome the Troops as a new challenge and maybe meeting new and old Comrades once again.

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A woman was asked by the customs official at the landing post, "Anything to declare, madam?"

"No," she replied sweetly, "nothing."

"Then, madam," said the official, "am I to take it that the fur tail I see hanging down under your coat at the back is really your own?"

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#### 48TH HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Hi There My Friendly:

Our last general meeting for this year will be at the Club on Thursday, Dec. 11th. The business session will be short - entertainment will be terrific - food will be tops - do no disappoint us huh? We had a good turnout at our last meeting and the members elected the following to conduct the affairs of your Club for 1959:-

Prez: Jim Lawrie, Vice-Prez.: Jim Brannan, Sec.: Little Old Me, Treas.: George Lovegrove, Marshal: M. "Dick" Tracy, Exec: Dickie Boyle (120), J. Coulson, (117), Sam Leake (110), Joe McPhail (96), Ken Craig (74), Bob Nicholson (72) and Art Johnson (70).

For your information, the unsuccessful candidates received the following votes: D. Kenzie (67), B. Williams (40), C. Mitchell (34) and F. Wilstrop (30).

To the boys elected - congrats and all the best. To the boys who did not make it - keep pitch'n and better luck next time. One final word - you elected these boys - how about getting down to your Club and giving them your whole-hearted support.

NEWS ABOUT THE HOOSE - Sam Leake tells me that the following members have passed away: - William F. Berry (134), G. Hellmuth (48th), J. Robertson (92nd and 15th), F. Roberts (48th). Our sincerest condolences are extended to those so sadly bereaved.

Please note the following:-

LUCKY TURKEY SHOOT - at the Armouries on Dec. 7 (10 to 2 p.m.), Dec. 12 (8 - 10 a.m.) and Dec. 13 (10 - 2 p.m.). 30 FOWL PRIZES. Just hit the target and who knows, You may get your Christmas goose!! No charge and lots of fun.

CHRISTMAS DRAW - at the Club on Sat., Dec. 20th -- between 2.00 and 3.00 p.m. Come on in that afternoon. By the way, we would like all returns in before the draw so make it a point to send along your \$2.00 and stub.

KIDDIES XMAS TREE PARTY - Sunday, Dec. 21st at 2.00 p.m. Arrange to have the kiddies on deck for their "day". Please note - for obvious reasons - no grandchildren. We are taxed to capacity now.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY - tickets are \$10. per couple. They may be picked up by members only up to Dec. 27th. After that date, it's first come, first served, so that's it men. Make your arrangements with Dickie Boyle only as he's the boy that is looking after this "do".

The "Prez" says "Thanks" to all who took part in the Memorial Parade and a tip of the old glen to the Ladies Auxiliary for their lovely reception. BURNS SUPPER - Saturday, January 24th. More detail on that in the next bulletin.

Don't forget about "C" Coy Frolic at the Armouries on Sat., Dec. 13th.

Congrats to the boys in the Regiment. They finished 5th in the O.R.A. competitions. They were the only militia team in there and against the class they were up against they did exceptionally well.

And that just about wraps it up, except:-

Fae a' us lads to a' you lads,  
May your troubles a' be few,  
May your plates be full of turkey,  
And your glasses run with "dew",  
May you all enjoy the best of health,  
Wives, kids and sweethearts too,  
May the best things that you dream of,  
Eventually come true.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

That's Earl  
"The Sunnybrook Flash"  
Secretario.

P.S. - One hen said to the other as both were being chased down a lane by a cross-eyed rooster - "I think we had better separate before he gets the both of us".

WHO, ME SIR?

A recent visit to West Germany of Lt.-Gen. Howard D. Graham, former Canadian Army Chief of the General Staff, has provided the surprise of a lifetime for one sergeant-major who became engaged in an off-the-cuff conversation with the distinguished visitor.

The sergeant-major, WO II Ray Eberts of Lindsay, Ontario, was conducting the PPOLI Band during a luncheon for Gen. Graham at the Headquarters Officers Mess of the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, near Soest, Germany.

Gen. Graham asked to be introduced to Sergeant-Major Eberts, and after some preliminary chit-chat, the conversation developed something like this:

The General: Incidentally, Sergeant-Major, do you realize that you are improperly dressed?

Sergeant-Major: (After a quick frantic check of his person) I beg your pardon, Sir?

The General: (Pointing at the crowns on the Sergeant-Major's sleeves) You are not wearing the correct badges of rank.

The Sergeant-Major: (Faintly) Sir?

The General: You now hold the rank of WO-1. I suggest strongly that you replace your badges of rank as possible...Mr. Eberts.

The Sergeant-Major: (Swallowing hard) Yes, Sir!

The promotion announced by General Graham had been one of the best-kept secrets of the morning. A wire from Army Headquarters in Ottawa promoting the Bandsman and the Chief of the General Staff's arrival at the Brigade Headquarters had been accidentally - but perfectly timed.

"Am I sacred! Got a letter from a man saying he'd shoot me if I didn't stay away from his wife."

"Well, all you gotta do is stay away."

"Yeah, but he didn't sign his name!"

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

1. You are an acting Corporal and have been detailed with your men to clear the continuation of a newly captured trench near Pozieres, France, September 1916. Most of your party has become casualties when suddenly the enemy counter-attacks with 20 men and 2 officers. What would you do?

2. You are on Hong Kong in December of 1941. You are a C.S.M. and leading part of your company which has been divided. Through your fearless leadership your party has captured Mt. Butler at the point of the bayonet. However, the enemy's superior numbers finally make it necessary to abandon the position and you singlehandedly cover the party's withdrawal. You leave the hill and make your way to the new company position which by now is completely surrounded. Several enemy grenades land there and you pick them up and throw them back. Suddenly a grenade lands in a position where it would be impossible to pick it up and return it in time. What would you do?

ANSWERS:

1. Would you have done what Cpl. Leo Clarke of the 2nd Cdn. Infantry Battalion did? He boldly advanced against the 20 men and 2 officers, emptying his revolver into them, and also two enemy rifles he found in the trench. One of the officers attacked him with a bayonet wounding him in the leg, but Clarke shot the man dead. The enemy then ran away pursued by Corporal Clarke, who shot four more and captured a fifth. For his conspicuous bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Unfortunately he was killed a few weeks later.

2. Here is what C.S.M. John Osborn did under the same circumstances. He shouted a warning to his comrades and then this gallant Warrant Officer threw himself on the grenade which exploded killing him instantly. His self-sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of many others and for his acts of gallantry he was awarded the V.C.

Editor's Note: In the way of ordinary service and duty The Royal Navy has given the world countless examples of high courage and thrilling adventure. There can be no more engrossingly interesting and inspiring reading than the accounts of such exploits as that told reticently herewith. Let men read and know the quality of skill and courage of which free men are capable.

THE JOESSING FJORD INCIDENT

The Altmark left the Graf Spee on December 7th. Her Captain J. S. Dau was given the difficult task of trying to get back to Germany with more than three hundred British prisoners on board. As soon as Mr. Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, received news from the British officers released before the sinking of the Graf Spee in the River Plate that the Altmark was at sea with British merchant seamen as prisoners he gave a general order to the Royal Navy that this ship must be intercepted and the prisoners released. Every British ship was alerted to assist in the hunt and a complete description of the Altmark was distributed to all shipping that might encounter her. The will to seize the Altmark was there, all the resources of the Royal Navy and the merchant marine were strained to the task, but it was a considerable time before the order could be implemented.

On leaving the Graf Spee, the Altmark steamed south and made for the Antarctic Ocean. She then loitered in deserted waters for more than a fortnight and during that time news of the sinking of the Graf Spee filtered down to the British prisoners. They were having a hard time. Their rations were insufficient and they were crowded together and had little room either for exercise or normal movement. The sanitary arrangements were quite inadequate

All this may well have been inevitable, but to it was added a brutal attitude in dealing with the prisoners that could only have been a deliberate act of policy on the part of Dau. The officers were quartered in the ammunition lockers and although they tried to make themselves more comfortable by improvising bedding with rungs and ropes, issued for the purpose by the crew of the Altmark, they had to sleep rough. The seamen did not even receive this consideration and all the prisoners were kept locked up all the time except for three-quarters of an hour each morning and half an hour each night when they were allowed on deck in carefully supervised parties for some exercise. This form of life was bad enough in the proximity of the Antarctic Circle but it became intolerable when the Altmark was in the tropics.

On December 28th, a change in the tactics of the prison ship became evident. She ceased to loiter -- during the previous fortnight she had rarely reached a speed for more than three knots -- and headed north again. No doubt, Dau had come to the conclusion that by this time the hue and cry would have died down a little. She avoided other shipping with great care and, however far distant might be the signal of another ship, as soon as one was sighted Dau gave orders for the Altmark to proceed in the opposite direction. The German ship had a good turn of speed and on occasion was able to reach a speed that the prisoners estimated to be about thirty knots.

Captain Dau now had to take an enormous risk. He was getting desperately short of fuel and he made for Dakar, flying the flag of Panama, and obtained the supplies that he needed. During the period that the ship was in port the prisoners were kept locked up but nevertheless this action was that of a badly harried man. He knew not where to turn -- an attitude that was confirmed by his next action in recrossing the Atlantic and skulking around the Banks of Newfoundland. From there he proceeded along the channel between East Greenland and Iceland, where heavy seas were encountered, before turning east and making for the North coast of Norway.

By this time, the Altmark had been away from the Graf Spee for more than two months. She was spotted by a Norwegian torpedo boat, the Trygg, on February 14th, 1940, outside the Trondheimsfjord north of Frohavet.

The Norwegian Captain demanded the right of search but he was handicapped by the fact that the Altmark was now sailing under her true colours and Dau was able to claim for her belligerent status which meant that, under International Law, all that the Norwegians were entitled to ascertain was that she was the ship that she appeared to be.

While her papers were being inspected the British seamen decided to stage a demonstration. They made all the noise of which they were capable both with their lungs and with any implements they were able to lay their hands upon. First the German crew put out the lights to try to quiet them, then they drenched the seamen with fire hoses and had to turn on the steam deck winches to drown the noise. Unfortunately this spirited action met with no success. The Norwegians seemed to see nothing unusual in what was happening, or perhaps in deliberately ignoring the obvious they were determined to lean over backwards in an effort to emphasize their neutrality. At any rate, the Altmark was allowed to go.

The British seamen were not so fortunate. Dau put them on bread and water and stopped the Ship's Doctor from visiting them for twenty-four hours.

Within twenty-four hours, the situation had, however, changed again. Another Norwegian naval vessel demanded the right of inspection as they approached north of Bergen, but Dau refused to allow this. On this occasion he was merely warned about using his wireless and allowed to proceed.

Then the Altmark was spotted in Norwegian territorial waters by Gladiators of Coastal Command of the Royal Air Force and the game was up. Dearly would Dau like to have opened fire on the Gladiators with his anti-

aircraft guns but he realized that this would be too much even for the neutrally-minded Norwegians and he refrained.

As soon as the aircraft got the news of the discovery of the Altmark back to England, things began to happen. H.M.S. Interpid went after her, under the command of Commander R. C. Gordon and Dau took refuge in the Joessing Fjord from which she could not get out without passing the Intrepid which now had been joined by H.M.S. Cossack, commanded by Captain P. L. Vian.

Two Norwegian warships appeared and strongly objected to the presence of British warships, prepared for action, in Norwegian waters. Captain Vian replied to their objections by stating that he had reason to believe that the Altmark was carrying British merchant seamen as prisoners, but that he had no desire to infringe the neutrality regulations. He stated that he would be quite content if the Altmark was escorted into Bergen Harbour and properly inspected there -- provided that British observers were allowed to be present at the inspection. This offer was refused and Captain Vian had to withdraw his ship outside the territorial limit.

He did not stay there for long, however. He reported back the position to the Admiralty by wireless and received the following brief message in reply: "Admiralty to Cossack. Get the men."

Back went Vian and the Cossack into Norwegian territorial waters. The Norwegian gunboats protested but their protests were in vain. Vian renewed his offer to them that they should take the Altmark into Bergen for a proper inspection but it was again refused. The gunboats stood aside and took no further part in the action. They might not have been so unresponsive if they could have seen forward a few months to the invasion that Hitler was even then planning against Norway.

Captain Vian ordered a boarding party to be got ready under his First Officer, Commander B. T. Turner. The searchlights were turned on and just at midnight the Cossack proceeded into the Joessing Fjord. The searchlights soon picked out the Altmark and found that she was in trouble. She had run aground.

The Fjord was full of floating ice and it required considerable seamanship to get alongside the Altmark. As the Cossack drew alongside, the Altmark broke free and almost struck her. This was Commander Turner's opportunity. The fenders were down and now the grappling irons were thrown aboard the Altmark and made fast.

Over went Turner followed by the boarding party and a most remarkable engagement took place. The crew of the Altmark were unarmed and the British sailors did not use their arms. Instead a free-for-all fist fight took place. Many of the Germans conducted themselves well in this but others had no relish for that particular type of engagement. The battle resulted in a British victory.

Now Captain Dau came on the scene. With great indignation, he demanded to know from Turner what this intrusion was about. He even denied that he had any British prisoners on board but his words were belied almost as he uttered them by the action of the men from the Cossack breaking open a hatch cover and shouting:

"Any Britishers here?"

The shout that they received in reply would have wakened the dead. The task of release had begun.

The crew of the Altmark had not finished yet, however. Some of them escaped over the stern of the ship and made for the shore. Here they showed fight. They had taken their rifles with them and opened fire. The prisoners now sought their revenge. They obtained rifles from the armoury of the Cossack

and returned fire. The attempt at resistance was only a token one and soon petered out but not before two Germans had been hit and fell into the water.

The salvation of the British merchant seamen was only just in time. The Captain of the Altmark, when she ran aground, planned to blow up his ship with the prisoners battered down in the holds after his crew had escaped over the frozen fjord. Only the speedy action of Commander Turner prevented what would have been a tragedy.

Neutrality had been flagrantly infringed but Vian's orders were confined to getting the prisoners. He had no mandate to exceed that and, therefore, he was unable to take any more drastic action against the Altmark. Captain Dau was left with his ship and with those members of his crew who had not made for the shore.

The Cossack steamed for Leith and arrived there on February 17th. Never have Merchant seamen had a warmer reception than that given to the survivors from the Altmark by the people of Edinburgh. The imagination of the British people had been stirred by this action and that on the River Plate at a time when there was very little to encourage them in the progress of the war.

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An illiterate young Scotsman once applied for the position of attendant in one of Glasgow's public washrooms. There was much scratching of official heads when it was finally discovered that the upstanding young man could neither read nor write, but finally the decision went against him. They couldn't have an attendant who couldn't sign his name.

Not too much daunted the young man managed to borrow a pound and with it purchased a pushcart and went into the fruit business. A little later he had a store, and in not so long a time a chain of them. He had become a prosperous man of property.

One day when he was negotiating a loan at the bank for still further expansion the Manager was startled to discover that the note bore his mark rather than his signature. Tactfully, thinking to please an important client the manager commented on the mark.

"Such great accomplishment," he said, "with so few advantages. If only you had enjoyed the advantages of education, can you think what you might have been?"

"Think!" said the self-made man. "I know. If I'd been educated, I'd have been a lavatory attendant."

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A man slightly under the influence of alcohol entered a shop to buy a pair of shoes. He tried on a pair but complained that they hurt him.

"A little bit tight, eh?" queried the salesman.

The customer fixed him with a glassy eye. "Thash none of your businessh," he admonished.