

GAN AN POST

6 JUNE, 1963

EDITION NO. 22

EDITORIAL

Following the publication of the letter from C.C. in last week's edition the Gan island Post is pleased to publish the following letter from the Commanding Officer.

" I wish to thank C.C. for his very sensible letter in last week's "Post", and to say I largely agree with his sentiments. We would have embarked on such a trading scheme before now had there not been a complete ban on trade with the Maldivians. The reasons for this ban are numerous, but regrettably I am not permitted to make a public statement on the matter.

However, C.C. has only confirmed the fact that a lot of trading in shells is taking place, and that many of the locals are charging exorbitant prices. Consequently, I had already decided to control the sale of shells, model boats, sword sticks etc., and only last week I informed Mr. Afif Didi of my intentions. He has fully agreed to co-operate and I hope shortly to make an announcement on the subject.

The sale of these goods will be controlled by the P.S.I. shop and any profit made will be shared between the P.S.I. and the Maldivian Welfare Fund. In the meantime I would advise everyone to refrain from making any further local purchases."

P.G.H.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K. NEWS

Resignation of War Minister

The resignation of Mr. John Profumo who has been Secretary of State for War since 1960, was announced from Westminster yesterday. The resignation has been brought about by his association with the London "model" Christine Keeler who is at present involved in a case with a West Indian "Lucky" Gordon.

In May Mr. Profumo denied that there had been any impropriety in his relations with Miss Keeler but another of her "friends" - a Dr. Stephen Ward - had disclosed certain facts to the Home Secretary which indicated that this was untrue.

Although a Russian Naval Attache's name has been mentioned in connexion with the affair so far there have been no allegations of any breach of security.

But with the Vassall case still in people's minds, the whole business is not going to enhance the Government's somewhat tarnished reputation.

WORLD NEWS

Teheran

The Persian capital has been put under martial law following the riots which have occurred during the last two days. The riots which ostensibly started against the Shah's proposed land reforms and the emancipation of women quickly developed into a large scale rising against the Government.

In a Parliament, ringed with troops and tanks, the Prime Minister has blamed the organisation and financing of the rising on an unnamed foreign power which is using reactionary elements in Persia as a means of causing the downfall of the present regime and so removing the lynch-pin of the Central Treaty Organisation.

Rome

Cardinals of the R.C. Church held the first of a series of meetings in Rome on Wednesday to prepare for the selection of a new Pope following the death of Pope John at the weekend. The actual conclave would begin on June 19 when the Cardinals will be locked up in the Vatican until they provide the name of the new Head of the R.C. Church.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Guardroom,
Friday, 31st May 1963.

Dear Sir,

I feel I must comment on your Editorial of 30th May, which was provocative but ill-informed. Having arrived here recently after three years at the R.A.F. Police District in London, I can speak with some experience of dealing with the 'Great Unwahshed Brigade'.

First, let me make one point clear. The telephone lines which matter at certain H.Q.'s can never be blocked by outside calls, as they do not connect to the lines concerned.

Very few of the demonstration held at R.A.F. Stations ever make the national headlines and even less involve as many people as attended at Marham. Very rarely are Airmen used to augment the Civil and R.A.F. Police on duty. When they are used their purpose is to form a last line of defence. The first line of defence is naturally the Civil Police, who are more suited and qualified to deal with demonstrations by Civilians.

The R.A.F. is an adult service and, therefore, a few jeers and catcalls should only amuse the Airmen inside the fence rather than annoy them.

Primarily, England is a Democracy and it is probably for that reason that large numbers of violent hairy Airmen are not set at large on a small number of rather fragile - looking youths. The time for the Editor to start worrying is when dhonies approach Gan with the familiar bearded-ones aboard carrying their banners — "Y-Fronts prevent fall-out". We could always bombard them with sticky buns from the Mess.

Yours
The Guardroom Moony
R.G.C.

(While thanking R.G.C. for his letter I should like to make two points clear. First that it is an aim of this newsheet to try and get airmen thinking and talking about things outside their immediate environment and second, on a point of fact regarding the blockage of the "Secret" telephone lines, I used as my source the Manchester Guardian Weekly which stated that "40 telephone lines to Military Intelligence had been blocked for eight hours". Whether these were the only lines available, of course, was not disclosed but they were ex-directory lines and as such shows that the obstructors had classified information at their disposal.

Ed.)

A.R.S.F.
Tuesday 4th June, 1963.

Sir,

On Tuesday evening I visited the inaugural meeting of the Music Club. I have no interest in Classical Music, but went along with an open mind. During the evening "Carmen Jones" was played. I can only say I was shocked. This record was an insult, both to the gentleman who wrote the book, and to the composer of the opera. It even insulted "pop" singers as the people who listen to this music are the very people who run down the pop. fans. Yet if a pop. singer produced such trash with so little talent he would be an idol no longer. Why, even Dud's infamous P and P sing a lyric with intelligible words, in tune. From the compere's introduction it seems the story has been twisted in very possible way, so why not go all the way and give it a new title to kill the pain a little? It seems our high-brow friends are really ruthless music murderers like the rest of us. I missed "Fingal's Cave!" maybe that was still as the composer wrote it. At least I now have a higher appreciation of Radio Gan.

Yours etc.,

A.J. Coon.

(I am sure the committee of "Music at Eight" would welcome any constructive suggestions which J/T Coon might have regarding future programmes

Ed.)

Station Signals,
Tuesday 4th June, 1963.

Sir,

For once it seems that Gan has not been forgotten and we would like to thank the authorities concerned in U.K. for sending us the film of the F.A. Cup Final before we were able to read reports in the newspapers. Also we would like to show our appreciation to the Manager and staff of Gan Astra for their expeditious handling of the film on its arrival at Gan. Well done Astra Staff!

Duggie & Jock

(If the correspondent signing himself "Fyfe-Robertson will care to forward his name consideration may be given to his letter.

Ed.)

This week instead of the usual personality profile of an individual we are spotlighting ~~No. 1 Field Squadron who are supplying the present R.A.F. Regiment Detachment here.~~

Although the R.A.F. Regiment was not founded until February 1942 the parent Squadron of the present detachment of "Rock Apes" -- No. 1 Field Squadron -- has a much longer history dating back to the Armoured Car Company of the R.A.F. which came into being in February 1921.

The Company was formed for service in Northern Iraq for which the R.A.F. was responsible and saw action against both the kurds and tribesmen led by Sheikh Mohammed in the 1920s.

In 1928 it became No. 1 Armoured Car Squadron and stayed in Mesopotamia until 1939 seeing additional action in 1936 in Palestine during the Arab Revolt. For its work in that part of the world the Squadron was awarded two Battle Honours and its crest -- the motif of which is a Chaldean war chariot. In this the Squadron is distinguished from all others in the Regiment which simply have a common crest of crossed rifles.

In 1939 the Squadron moved to Egypt and with the entry of Italy into the war the Squadron undertook long range reconnaissance and ~~escort~~ duties in the Libyan desert for which it was awarded a further battle honour. In 1942 it became No. 1 Field Squadron only the R.A.F. Regiment and after the war its role changed and it was sent to Germany as No. 1 L.A.A. Squadron where it stayed for two years.

In 1957 it reverted to its original role of a Field Squadron and was posted to El Adem for desert rescue duties by which time it had been presented with its Squadron Colour. 1961 brought the Squadron history upto date when they were sent to Butterworth for Internal Security duties and in connexion with this a detachment of the Squadron have served in Labuan.

PADRE'S COLUMN

Our age seems to be one of throwing over restraints. Why shouldn't a man practise homosexuality? Why shouldn't 'teenagers' have intercourse with who they like and when they like? Why shouldn't we have obscene words published or swear on T.V.? Why should certain literature be banned? Get rid of the Fuddy-Duddies. Let's do what we like.

Yes we all believe in freedom - or think we do, Doing what we like may be considered the new freedom but doing what we like is sheer license, which according to the dictionary definition is "abuse of freedom".

License will get us nowhere. It's no good planting our fingers willy-nilly up and down the piano keyboard and expecting to produce music. We shall get discord. Behind the rendering of a piano concerto by a master is the discipline of learning and practice and obeying the laws of music hours per day and year after year. It is absurd to imagine that indulging every desire will make us free when we end up slaves, no longer free to say "No" to our clamouring passions and desires.

Padre Frizzelle.

DUD WILLIAMS TALKS POPS

The Top Twenty these days is rapidly becoming like an escalator, with the same artists coming round time after time. Cliff Richard, the Shadows, Frank Ifield, Billy Fury, Elvis Presley, Brenda Lee etc. etc., their every record has scored well in the charts and this is causing Tin Pan Alley to fall into a rut.

The local scene has been as varied as usual. I heard possibly the most abominable record ever, - take heart, you Hey Paula fans - in 'Deck of Cards' by Wink (Twit) Martindale. This dreary monologue about a deck of cards, a church and a young soldier charged with heresy, often bordered on the sacrilegious and should without question be banished from these shores. It should become rapidly a burnt offering to appease the Gods and save 'popdom'. - Pray forgive this outburst but my feelings must be expressed.

That's All Folks.

D.J.D.W.

CAN TOP SIX

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Can't Get Used to Losing You | Andy Williams |
| 2. He's So Fine | The Chiffons |
| 3. In Dreams | Roy Orbison |
| 4. The Crowd | Roy Orbison |
| 5. The Minstrels of Annie St. | Turk Murphy |
| 6. Rhythm of the Rain | The Cascades |

Over on the South Side of the Island new arrivals may be intrigued by an almost sinister looking area with large "Keep-out" signs and a very efficient fence. There is however nothing frightening about the area which is merely the catchment area for the water supply of Gan. In the centre of the area are two automatic pumps which are responsible for the supply of 100,000 gallons of water needed daily for all purposes on the Island.

The plant was constructed in 1959, before that date water being obtained from numerous small wells scattered round Gan in the same way as the other islands in the Atoll still obtain their water.

Although the island is only some five feet above sea level the wells from which the water is drawn go down some 10/12 ft. into the coral and yet the water which is extracted is reasonably free from salt and the chlorination which is done automatically is merely to ensure that the water used is completely pure.

The importance of the water supply cannot be overstressed and although 80,000 gallons are held in reserve this is less than a day's supply and it is re-assuring to note that the pumps are inspected daily by engineers of the M.P.B.T. to ensure that we do not go without every-thing from showers to "stickies".

The Codiene Kid

"Overworked am I", he cried,
"My work is never done,
Twenty-four hours on I've tried,
And there from Sat to Sun".

"Coral cut and insect bite,
Sea-urchin spine and sun-burn,
Bloodshot eyes through being tight,
The whole lot makes my stomach turn".

The duty medic crawls around,
Upon his hands and knees,
He croaks "My head ain't sound,
A pep-up-pill, and quickly please".

R.D.

For Sale

Hofner Guitar complete with case
and pick-up

£10.

Contact: Chief Tech. Cooper (S.A.S.F.)
Extension 245

A part of the Milky Way is visible all night. During June a dense star cloud can be seen to the left of the Southern Cross. This cloud which appears as a large, hazy patch of light, is the central region of our Galaxy. This cloud contains some 1000 million stars, which are densely packed, the average separation being only about one light year. We, in the solar system are comparative "outsiders", being 30000 light years from the galactic centre.

P.H.

GAN GOSSIP

Premium Bond Draw

In the draw for a Premium Bond given by P.S.I. for those people having bought Bonds during April and May the winner was S.A.C. Green of M.T. Section.

Music at Eight

The first meeting of the new Music at Eight group was held in the Church Club on Tuesday night. About a dozen members were present for the programme which included four of Mendelssohn's overtures and Carmen Jones.

Guide Dogs for the Blind

The May Draw was won by Sqn. Ldr. Shaw and often all expenses had been met a sum of £15-10-0 was collected towards the purchase of a Guide Dog.

Naval Departure

On Wednesday morning H.M.S. Duchess left the lagoon bound for Singapore. The last item in her programme at Gan was the Round the Island Medley Relay Race on Tuesday evening from the Rifle Range to the Jetty. The Relay began with a cycle race between Sqn. Ldr. Shaw and the Captain of the "Duchess". Sqn. Ldr. Shaw built up a lead which was increased on the succeeding legs by Flt. Lt. Nichols (Barrel Rolling), and Cpl. Lewis; and on the final sprint and dive into the lagoon at the end of the Marine Jetty the R.A.F. were some 200 yds. ahead of their Naval competitors.

Gan Camera Club

There will be a meeting of the Gan Camera Club on Tuesday 11th June at 1930 hrs. in the Education Section.

All members are requested to attend.

Gekko.

Staying at the Toc H ?

Little Things Mean A Lot

Of all the many afflictions common to man, loneliness is perhaps the worst.

He will certainly not die of this condition, but it is possible that it may reduce him in time to morose inefficiency in his particular Station in life.

In the conditions of working and living on Gan, although we are — it is hoped — a very happy community certain of us are lonely, and we, the staff of Sick Quarters find, that quite often, the best treatment we can offer, is a shoulder to cry on.

We have, I might say, by now very soggy shoulders indeed! However, this in itself produces a problem. Charity, we are told, begins at home, so please, gentle reader, on whose shoulders do we cry ?

D.R.S.

Church Club

Recent events at the Church Club have included a visit from the Curator of the South Kensington Science Museum, an Ascension Day supper, and the ever popular films on a Saturday night.

The Curator was on an official visit and besides the lecture in the Church Club also visited the Airmen Club. The Church Club lecture was on the subject of 'Space Flight' and proved extremely interesting for those few people present. One feels that the response to the gentleman coming 6000 miles to give us a lecture was rather weak.

The supper in the Club after Communion as Ascension Day brought back a fleeting memory of U.K. (fish and chips in paper). The film shown the same evening was about Einsteins theory of relativity and its bearing on Christian thought. It was in the series Fact and Faith and certainly provoked some sobering thoughts amongst those present. Time and Eternity are fascinating subjects for those who let their minds dwell on the universe.

Turning aside from past events we would remind everyone that they will be most welcome any time whether it be to play chess, which still flourishes on Gan despite reports to the contrary; to watch a film, attend Bible Study, or just drink coffee and talk.

M.P.

Book ahead then, because accommodation on Singapore is at a premium at this time. If you do want to book ahead the address is:

Talbot House
11 Scots Road
Singapore 9.

But please let the warden know if you can't make it, he'll keep a bed for you for quite a time but it's unfair to expect him to keep a bed vacant, and probably refusing other travellers not knowing whether in fact you are coming.

The food at Toc H is very good and extremely well served and on Friday there is usually a Chinese dish for lunch (the pretty Chinese girl there who serves it will explain, if asked what it all is and even how to eat it !). Talbot House is a bit out of town but more quiet for that and a 17A Bus stops outside the door and for 20 cents will take you to Raffles Key (near Change Alley).

Mr. Simmons, who runs Talbot House, is an ex-R.A.F. man himself and has a special regard for the lads from Gan so please don't change his opinion by unseemly behaviour.

'CUB'

ARRIVALS

We welcome the following personnel who have arrived in Gan during the past week and hope they enjoy their year in the sun:-

Sgt.	Evans	C.C.S.
Sgt.	Ware	S.A.S.F.
Cpl.	Dougall	Commcn.
S.A.C.	Jones	S.S.Q.

DEPARTURES

The following personnel have left Gan during the past week to continue their service career:-

J/T.	Walsh	Abingdon
J/T.	Wilkin	Waddington
S.A.C.	Wright	Faldingworth
S.A.C.	Bailey	Waterbeach
S.A.C.	Alexander	Trimingham
L.A.C.	Tong	Abingdon

Drinkin 'n' Thinkin'

As I sat in the N.A.A.F.I.,
With 'Slops' beer in my glass,
Tork, I decided, is the curse,
Of the drinking class.

T.L.

General

With the departure of the Duchess, it is hoped that the enthusiasm which the visits of the Naval sides infect into the various sports does not die completely before the next ship appears in the Lagoon.

Although there is a tendency to become bored with playing against the same teams week in and week out, unless these games take place Gan will never be able to develop a team in any sport which can compete on favourable terms with other units in the Command.

Station Soccer

In their final match against H.M.S. Duchess first XI Gan emerged easy winners last Saturday when they beat the Naval side 3 - 0. In a match which never rose above the mediocre the only player to shine in the R.A.F. side was Slack. The Naval team, too, seemed to be below last week's standard and were unable to force any reply to the two goals by Williams and the final one by Wylie.

In the second team match against the Duchess on Tuesday the standard never rose above that which one normally gets in an inter-section tussle and although Gan won convincingly by 7 - 0 it was certainly not a match to be remembered by either side.

Gan Angling Club

The Club's fishing competition held on Whit Monday was very well supported. All available fishing points were taken up and an enjoyable morning was had by all competitors. Conditions were not in favour of the angler. High winds and a very fast running tide caused a lot of trouble. It was pleasing to note that we had quite a few new members in the competition. The prizes were won by Ch. Tech. Cooper.

To all the camera enthusiasts who took pictures of what must have been a nice sight I would like to say that if conditions from an Angling point of view are better for our next competition, come along and we hope to be able to give you some real good catches for you to "capture".

To all anglers good fishing.

Happy Landings.

Kingfish

Golf

The Gan Golf Club beat H.M.S. Duchess 2 up in a match on Tuesday.

Basketball

In a game in which they were never extended, R.A.F. Gan defeated H.M.S. Duchess by 36 points to 27. The match, with the exception of the first quarter, never reached the standards we had seen in the previous two games. It was, in fact, an extremely disappointing game.

As skipper for the first time, Humphries worked on strictly orthodox lines, playing the strongest team in the early stages, then working in his less experienced players when a good lead had been established. Unfortunately the new men did not shine and it was left to the old school of Perkins, Wheatley and a much improved Fields to secure the victory.

The fourth and final game ended on a brighter note with the R.A.F. side finishing clear winners by 41 points to 30. The result was never in dispute throughout the game and it was not until the last quarter when Gan eased off that Duchess came more into the game. 'Tiny' Fields regained much of his old confidence and had a very good game, and he was well supported by Crewe and Jenkins.

Other Results

Commcen	22	Duchess 'A'	14
Equipment	20	Duchess 'A'	22

Hockey

Whit—Monday saw the third and final match between the Station side and H.M.S. Duchess which the Naval side won by 3 goals to one. Despite being without three first team players Gan went into an early lead with a good goal by McWilliam. Unfortunately he was injured while scoring and for the rest of the game was a virtual passenger.

The game was far more open than the previous two games with the forwards working together much better and only lacking a marksman to drive their attacks home. The Naval side's raids were again the dangerous threat to the Gan goal and on two of these occasions in the first half they resulted in goals. In the second half they clinched the issue by notching up a third goal and although Gan never gave up the final whistle went without any further goals being scored.

Tennis

In the long delayed final of the Station Doubles Championship Flight Lieutenant Dyche and Pilot Officer Williams beat the C.O. and the Padre in two straight sets:

6 - 4, 6 - 4