

Thursday, October 16, 1941

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 511

The following three Naval items are issued by Naval Affairs for such use as the Press may wish to make of them.

THREE SEA STORIES

From Petty Officer to Padre

A Methodist parson who volunteered for the Navy at the time of the Dunkirk evacuation, has just become a naval chaplain after serving as a rating for more than a year.

He is the Reverend Norman Burns, formerly of the Manchester Mission.

For the past year Mr. Burns has been a Petty Officer in charge of a motor boat on patrol duty in the Thames estuary.

In this time he acquired experience which he considers will be invaluable to him as a chaplain at a naval base on the South coast, where he is now posted.

"Rescued" an Onion

An incident off the East Coast has won the nickname of "Onion" for a rating in one of the patrolling naval trawlers.

The trawler, explained the Commanding Officer, had gone to the assistance of the crew of a ship which sank off the coast. Among the cargo of this ship had been a consignment of onions. While one of the ratings of the trawler was hauling a sailor of the sunken ship out of the water, he suddenly saw an onion floating by. The rating relaxed his grip long enough to grab the precious onion, and then, reaching out again, dragged the merchant sailor to safety.

Dog goes to own "Action Station"

The best known mascot at a naval base on the East Coast is a dog which always goes to its own self-appointed "action station" when the alarm is sounded.

This dog is the mascot of an armed trawler on escort duty. It recently gave birth to a litter of ten puppies during an air raid while the ship was in port.

When the alarm bells ring at sea, this dog immediately leaves the pups and joins the crew in a rush to action stations. The dog races up to the bridge and crouches down beside the Commanding Officer. It remains there throughout the action and only returns to the puppies when the action is over or guns' crews are told to fall out.

Naval Affairs.

M.o.I. 1.

SIERRA LEONE SAVINGS WEEK

The Sierra Leone "Victory Savings Week", from September 27 to October 3, resulted in a saving of £15,840. Colonial Office Press Section.

M.o.I. 2.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS CARDS FOR
BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNEES

The Postmaster General announces that the general censorship regulations concerning the despatch of Christmas and New Year greetings cards to places abroad will be relaxed this year. Greetings cards may be posted by members of the public to British prisoners of war and internees in enemy and enemy-occupied countries, and to British prisoners of war in neutral countries. They must bear no writing other than the name and address of the sender and addressee. They must not be enclosed with letters but must be sent in separate covers which should be addressed in the usual way for Prisoners of War and internees. No postage is payable unless they are sent by air mail.

To give the greetings cards sent post free the best chance of delivery by Christmas they should be posted within the next few days.

A further announcements will be made later about the posting date for cards sent by air mail. General Post Office

M.o.I. 3.