

TRAWLER WITH A DANCE BAND

"We shall have music wherever we go" became the slogan of the anti-submarine trawler, H.M.S. GREENFLY, when it was discovered that there were enough peacetime musicians among her crew to form a dance-band.

With her First Lieutenant, Lieutenant A.E. West, R.N.V.R., of Hessle, Hull, as "promoter" and with well-wishers ashore coming forward with instruments, the GREENFLY became the first ship at its East coast base to possess its own orchestra.

Leading Cook George Beauchamp of London, is the drummer and leader of the band. Sax, trumpet, violin and accordion hail from the ranks of the stokers and seamen.

Originally, the band performed to amuse themselves and their shipmates, but they found a wider public ashore and dancing to their music is one of the most popular of the port amenities. For that reason the GREENFLY is always warmly welcomed back from her North Sea patrols.

Lieutenant West, who started his seafaring career as a deck-hand on a fishing trawler, once had a less manageable "orchestra" - a lustily crying ten week old baby which, with its mother, was among the survivors from a merchant ship picked up by the ship in which he was serving in the early days of the war.

The mother was too ill to attend to her child and Lieutenant West, then a leading seaman, volunteered for the job of nurse. He discovered that the baby liked warmed tinned milk and, when his ship returned to harbour several hours later, he handed over a perfectly pacified infant!

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

Picture available from P.N.A.