

"I have also been to his tomb where he was interned before being taken back to Paris.

"Roll on the day when we can view a similar place for this other upstart ;

"The first impression of the Island, when we landed in the heat (!) of January, was of a barren, massive rock jutting out of the sea, with very little life or vegetation on it, but on coming ashore, we were surprised to find a dusty little town nestled between two terrific mountains rising a thousand or so feet out of the sea. This we came to know as Jamestown, the only place of any size on the Island, with its delapidated old houses a couple of centuries old, its narrow roads filled with countless children running around in bare feet, poultry and dogs and its lazy inhabitants lolling in their doorways in the tropical sunshine. They waved to us as we whizzed by in a truck -- they knew our names before we landed -- it was a great day

Yours very sincerely,

R.W.White.

(The spelling is the original - Ed.)

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QUERY No.49(148/80). Commenting on this, Michael Dobbs writes:

"In a partial answer to the query about 'DAMS' which appeared in Newsletter 149, mention is made of 'Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships (DEMS)'. In recent months, following a request from the President of the Norwegian Seamen's War Veteran Club, who was trying to trace British men who served in Norwegian ships during WWII, correspondence has appeared in the 'Old Codgers' column in the 'Daily Mirror' about these DEMS.

"One writer stated that he was an ex-Army gunner and had served in two Norwegian ships; one was the s.s.SPURT, and the other the s.s.BERNHARD (the latter was fitted with 4-inch guns aft, from HMS AJAX.) It appears that the Army gunners came from Maritime Regiments of the Royal Artillery, the 5th Regiment being stationed at Shoeburyness. On their battledress blouse they wore an anchor with 'Ack Ack' in blue.

"The reason given for employing Army gunners was that the Royal Navy was losing a lot of gunners and gunlayers. One curious point is that although they had to sign on as ordinary seamen they only received Army pay. Another writer stated that his ship had one sub-lieutenant and two RN ratings, one pilot-officer and four other RAF personnel, one RA machine gunner and a full crew of Merchant Navy men. It also carried a Hawker Hurricane fighter, which was launched by means of a rocket trolley and track on the bows.

"Gunnery training was carried out on London's Embankment in HMS CHRYSANTHEMUM and PRESIDENT."

Other comments on recent topics in the Newsletter, from Michael:

BRITISH FORCES POSTAGE CONCESSION MARKINGS (Newsletter No.145)

"I have a further marking under 'Pakistan', which may consist of one or two separate handstamps: "Authorised for transmission by / Air Mail at Concession Rate" / Major, / Admin.Officer, / Army Apprentice School. / (K.O. O'Brien-Goff.). There is another handstamp on the cover, reading 'FORCES AIR MAIL'."