

Five Dead In Abandoned Adventure Ship

SANTOS CASANI IS DEMOBILISED 'Dancing? No Longer Interested'

LIEUT.-COLONEL Santos Casani, whose dancing feet made a fortune from Mayfair ballrooms before the war, has been demobilised from the Army. And, at 49, he means to spend the rest of his working life for the welfare of the British Tommy. He has done with dancing.

There is another Casani behind the immaculate white-tied, tail-coated dancer, once so well known in the ballrooms of Britain.

He is the Casani who went through 27 operations to his face after crashing in France as a Royal Flying Corps pilot in the 1914-18 war, the man in his forties who joined the Army in 1941.

Colonel Casani, monocled, told a reporter in a West End restaurant: "After Lord Munster had made his report in 1944 on bad camp conditions in India, to my surprise I was selected as the best man available in the United Kingdom to advise the Welfare General of India and the four Army commanders.

Justified

"I flew to every camp in India and Burma and investigated the troops' complaints.

"I found many of them were justified. Conditions were often appalling. As a result of my report conditions at every camp were improved.

"Now I am hoping to get a post which will enable me to carry on with my work on their behalf in occupied Europe."

"But what about dancing?" I said.

Colonel Casani answered: "I am no longer interested in dancing.

"As a South African and ex-Serviceman, Britain gave me a very good pre-war innings of 18 years in the entertainment world."

PENAL SERVITUDE FOR MURDER

Cairo Court of Assizes has sentenced a man to 12 years penal servitude for killing another man with whom he was gambling.

The accused lost money during the game and, stabbed the other man, causing his death.

A SHIP of adventure, in which a group of men and a woman sailed from London recently to start a new life in "the most beautiful place in the world," was abandoned 300 miles off Land's End last week—with the loss of five lives.

The ship, a converted landing-craft called Fama-gusta, of 454 tons, was to have started for them a cargo service to carry anything, from vegetables to lorries, round the islands of the Aegean.

Leader of the expedition, 37-year-old ex-Commando William Cecil-Lowe, formerly of City-way, Rochester, Kent, and his pretty young wife were two of those lost.

Two of the others are friends who had helped them plan the expedition.

The Missing

The five missing are: Mr. and Mrs. Cecil-Lowe; James Hunter, aged 28, who served under Cecil-Lowe during the war, of Latham-road, Twickenham;

A young man named Abbott, of Wilson's-road, (Hammersmith); and

Nicola Brincat, a Maltese cook, of Thorold-road, Chatham.

The other 11 on board, all of whom are safe, are: Capt. Gardner, South Town-road, Great Yarmouth; Mr. Swenson, chief officer, The Avenue, Moordown, Bournemouth; Samuel Bearman, second mate, Slater-road, Rainham, Kent; his brother, Michael Bearman, chief engineer, Princes-street, Rochester; A.J. Robinson (partner with Lowe), King Edward-road, Coventry; Ronald Crump, Sunningdale Park, Berks; Harold Bramley, Silverdale-road, Tunbridge Wells; David Jones, South Yardley, Birmingham; J.E. Watson, Sturdee-avenue, Gillingham; Mr. Harding, address unknown; Alexander Pepperall, Union-street, Chatham.

SOS Radio

The survivors were picked up from the sea by the London steamer Empire Plover. On board, a fight was waged for the life of Pepperall, who has a broken leg and severe internal injuries.

The Fama-gusta was five days out of Rochester when Land's End radio picked up an "urgency signal saying she was listing and asking for immediate help.

A few miles away the Empire Plover picked up the message and radioed: "She has just come into sight."

Then, after wirelessness that the situation was "grim", and that she was trying to take the Fama-gusta in tow, came the news that the "adventure ship" had been abandoned.

The voyage had been inspired by three men — Cecil-Lowe, Robinson and Hunter — who "fell in love with the Eastern Mediterranean during the war."

"New Life"

They gathered around them a group of young men, some of whom hoped also to find a new life in Cyprus, where the Fama-gusta was bound.

The leaders spoke of Cyprus "the most beautiful place in the world, where the islands in wonderful colours rise out of the blue sea."

For weeks they worked at converting the Fama-gusta from a former tank-landing craft.

Their aim was to start a shipping line, to be called the Neptune Shipping and Trading Co., to carry cargo in the Mediterranean. Their families were to have joined them.

Cecil Lowe, an ex-engineer — during the war he became the first Army sergeant to take a ship to sea — was the leader of the party.

James Hunter, a partner, is unmarried, his parents live at St. Osyth, Essex. He served during the war running supplies up and down the Italian coast.

The radio operator, James Watson, was a back-room boy on radio during the war. His wife worked in London.

NEW IRAQI CABINET CHOSEN

Baghdad, Sunday.

EL-Sayed Saleh Gabr is new Prime Minister of Iraq and his cabinet has been provisionally selected as follows:

Saleh Gabr (President of the Senate) Prime Minister and Minister of Interior;

Youssef Ghoneima (former Minister and Senator) Minister of Finance;

Shaker el-Wady (Defence Minister in last Cabinet) Minister of Defence;

Abdul Ilah Hafez (Minister of Supplies in last Cabinet) Minister of Supplies;

Dr. Dia el-Din Gaafar (Deputy) Minister of Public Works and Communications;

Tewfik Wahby (former Minister) Minister of Education;

Gamil Abdul Wahab (Minister of Social Affairs in last Cabinet) Minister of Social Affairs;

Gamil Baban (former Minister) Minister of Justice.

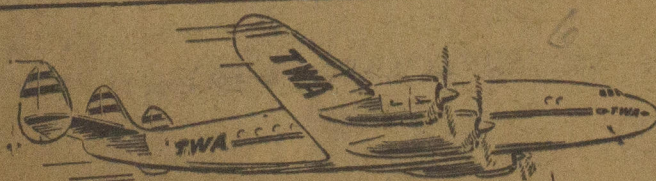
It is believed Noury el-Said will be elected new President of the Iraqi Senate in succession to Saleh Gabr. — ANA.

Malayan Census To Be Taken

Arrangements are being completed for an all-Malayan 1947 population census to be taken, beginning in April and continuing till late September.

In 1931, the population of Malaya was approximately four and a half million, and in 1941 five and a half.

It is estimated that Malaya's present population will exceed 6,000,000. — R.



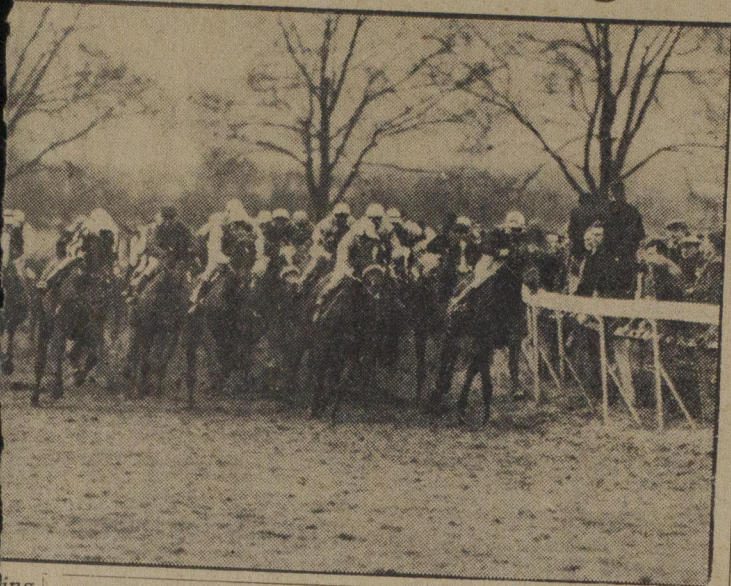
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SPORTS SECTION

Of The Lincoln Brigade Invitation To All M. East Cyclists



THE "Crusaders Cycling Club" of Palestine are promoting a 50-kilometer Massed Start Race which will be held on Sunday April 6th.

The course will be over seven laps of the perimeter track and run-ways of RAF Station Aqir, and an invitation is extended to all Clubs in the Middle East to participate.

Big Affair

Judging from the number of entries already received, the event is expected to be a big affair, and it is hoped that every Club will be represented. Entrance Forms may be obtained from LAC Nash, Hut 59, No. 160 MU., RAF., MEF. The Entrance Fee is 15 Piastres, and accommodation for competitors can be arranged on the Unit.

R.U Suspend G. Parsons

Capt. Walter Rees, secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union has announced that G. Parsons of Newport has been suspended by the match committee, pending information by the General committee.

Parsons was picked to play for Wales last Saturday week against France in Paris, but did not make the trip.

Parsons made the following statement at his home in Aber-tillery:

"I am writing to Capt. Walter Rees asking him for an interview when I will explain the whole circumstances. I am sure that when he hears me, he will agree that there are no real grounds for suspending me."

FRENCHMEN WIN TWO MORE TENNIS TITLES

WITH Sunday's play on the centre court of the Alexandria Sporting Club, the 1947 Tennis Championships of Alexandria were successfully brought to a close.

France took the lion's share of the honours, winning the Men's Singles and Doubles, and sharing the Women's Doubles and the Mixed Doubles.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES FINAL.

H. Cochet bt. R. Abdessalam 6/3, 2/6, 6/3, 8/6.

MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

H. Cochet and R. Abdessalam bt. Mitic and Puncce 6/1, 6/0, 6/3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Mme Bossi bt. Mlle Pannetier 5/7, 7/5, 6/2.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

Mlle Pannetier and Miss Yorke bt. Mme Bossi and Miss Venter 6/1, 6/4.

MIXED DOUBLES FINAL

P. Hughes and Mlle Pannetier bt. Mitic and Miss Yorke 6/2, 5/7, 8/6.

MEN'S PLATE FINAL

Gouzene bt. A. Sursock 6/4, 5/7, 7/5.

WOMEN'S PLATE FINAL

Miss G. Greiss bt. Mme Gouzene 6/2, 6/3.

As expected, the Men's Singles went to Cochet, who, beat his fellow countryman, R. Abdessalam, in four keenly contested sets.

Cochet broke away to win the first set at 6/3. In the second set, Abdessalam played well, leading 3/1, and then 4/2, he won the next two games and set 6/2.

After each dropped his service in the third set, Abdessalam ran into a 3/1 lead but Cochet levelled the scores at 3/3 and won the set at 6/3.

In the fourth set, Abdessalam twice won his service, and with Cochet dropping his to 15, the former led 3/0. Cochet then won his service to love, 3/1, but Abdessalam reciprocated to make it 4/1.

With Cochet winning his service after deuce was called, and Abdessalam dropping his, the score read 4/3, but when Cochet's turn came to score again, he dropped his service to love, 5/3.

Cochet levelled the scores at 5/5 and took the lead at 6/5 but dropped his service for 6/6 to be called. He then won the next two games, set at 8/6, and match.

Miss Yorke and Miss Pannetier beat Mme Bossi and Miss Venter 6/1, 6/4. Billy Yorke often considered as one of the best Women's Doubles players in the world, played well. Her partner, Miss Pannetier, drove well and often indulged in back-hand cross-court duels with Mme Bossi.

In the Mixed Doubles, Hughes and Miss Pannetier beat Mitic and Miss Yorke, 6/2, 5/7, 8/6.

The Mixed Doubles proved a very keenly contested match and resulted in a win for Hughes Pannetier who beat Mitic Yorke, Pat Hughes, proved the match-winner with his cunning court-craft. Although getting on in years, he is still a great doubles player.

After the final event, Mr. A. Bentley, Hon. Referee made a short speech introducing H.H. the Nabilla Abbas Halim who graciously presented the prizes.

League Tables

DIV III (SOUTH)

Goals

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Cardiff	31	23	4	4	77	21	30
Q.P.R.	32	19	7	6	59	29	45
Bristol C.	32	16	7	9	79	47	39
Swindon	33	15	8	10	70	59	38
Send	31	15	7	9	58	42	37
Ipswich	31	12	11	8	42	34	35
Exeter	32	14	7	11	54	49	35
Port Vale	30	13	7	10	49	42	33
Reading	32	12	8	12	73	63	32
Bournemouth	31	13	6	12	51	38	32
Bristol R.	35	13	6	16	48	61	32
Torquay	32	11	9	12	40	53	31
Brighton	33	10	10	13	42	57	30
C. Palace	32	12	6	14	39	49	30
Walsall	30	11	8	11	47	34	30
Watford	32	14	2	16	48	59	30
N'hampton	30	11	4	15	49	54	26
Notts C.	30	10	5	15	48	52	25
Aldershot	31	8	8	15	39	64	24
Mansfield	33	7	8	18	36	77	22
Leyton	29	8	6	15	37	51	22
Norwich	34	6	6	22	50	90	18

DIV III (NORTH)

Goals

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Doncaster	32	27	3	2	103	33	57
Rotherham	29	21	4	4	81	34	46
Stockport	32	19	2	11	63	36	40
Chester	30	17	5	8	68	42	39
Bradford C.	30	15	7	8	48	36	37
Tranmere	31	15	4	12	54	60	34
Rochdale	31	14	6	11	59	53	34
Wrexham	27	13	7	7	45	30	33
Grimsby	31	12	6	13	39	51	30
Hartlepool	33	11	5	17	51	60	29
Darlington	32	10	4	18	57	66	28
Gateshead	32	9	3	20	45	55	28
Cardiff	31	8	2	21	40	50	27

ARMY BOXING AT MOASCAR

ARMY Canal North District are staging a Boxing Tournament at Moascar.

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