

CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,

Sewage Treatment in H.M. Ships

Mr Allen's article (Volume 20, No. 2) on sewage treatment in Type 42 destroyers most graphically illustrates how uncomplicated this hidden art should prove to those of us who seek perforce to master it. Many interested novices like myself will also have attended a demonstration during which, with coarse delight, *Hecla's* (or *Hydra's* or *Hecate's*) Chippy stuck his fore-finger in the effluent and then sucked his thumb!

One can't help wondering though, what happens if it all clogs up? It's easy in an 'H' boat, you put it over the side like we always did: if you couldn't, perhaps Chippy would make less light of it.

For all its duplicated pumps and 'bar screens washed by the contents of the aeration tank', I would put my money on, one day, a combination of deck cloths, forks, and broken china presenting the MEO with a distasteful pile-up of untreated sewage in the *soil pipe*. While the provision of an amber warning light in the MCR might help him in this matter, perhaps he might prefer to have a bye-pass connection to direct his 'back-up' over the side!

The quaintly defined 'man-capacity' of plants in T-42 are 227, 60 and 30. It requires little imagination to picture the situation in the ship if such a blockage occurred on the large plant!

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Ship Department Comment

The combination of deck cloths, forks, and broken china envisaged by the MEO of H.M.S. *Sheffield* is thought to be a remote possibility. The discharges from the galley and the senior ratings' servery and scullery are led directly overboard. Only the midships 60-man plant takes wash-water from pantries (W.R. and C.O's), and any cutlery and china which got through the garbage disposal units would not be likely to block the 4-inch soil pipe.

Deck-cloths might well get down W.C's, but it is assumed that ship's staff do not make a habit of this and an isolated cloth should not block the soil pipe or plant.
