

Read about the boy sailor who was scared of the water!

THE BOYS OF THE BIG MAST

ANDY WILSON was one of the boys who had just joined H.M.S. Landon, the school where the Royal Navy trained its sailors. On their way to the baths, under their instructor, Chief Petty Officer Joe Hardacre, the boys passed one of the ship's features; the Big mast.



At the baths.

INTO THE CUBICLES AND CHANGE! I WANT YOU OUT HERE IN TWO MINUTES FLAT!

ANDY, I DON'T WANT TO GO IN THE BATHS, I'M SCARED OF WATER!

YOU'LL BE O.K. SAM, WE'LL WEAR LIFEBELTS!

WRAP A HANDKERCHIEF AROUND IT AND GO ACROSS TO THE SICK BAY. WILSON, FIND THAT NAIL AND REMOVE IT.

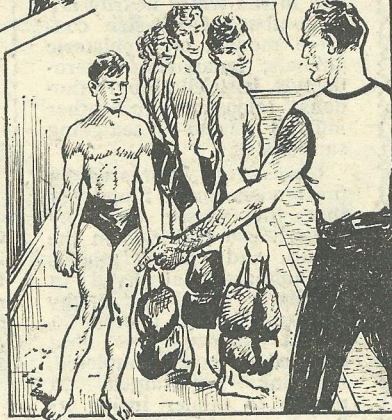
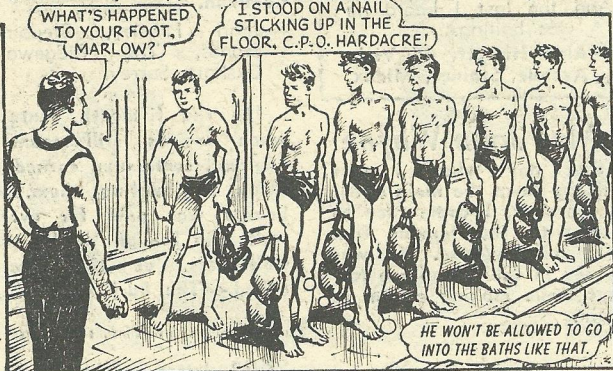
THERE'S NO NAIL HERE, DID MARLOW CUT HIS FOOT DELIBERATELY SO THAT HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO INTO THE WATER?

When the boys reappeared from the cubicles.

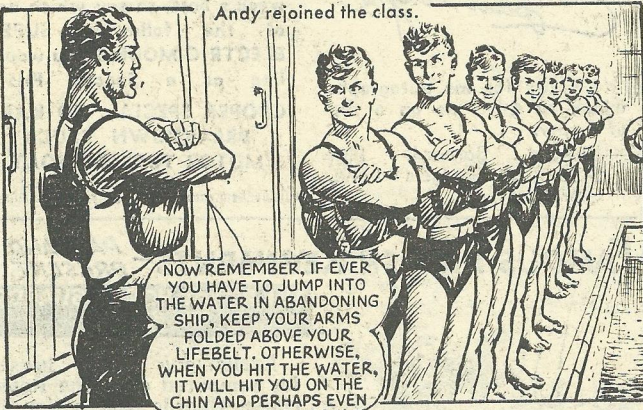
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR FOOT, MARLOW?

I STOOD ON A NAIL STICKING UP IN THE FLOOR, C.P.O. HARDACRE!

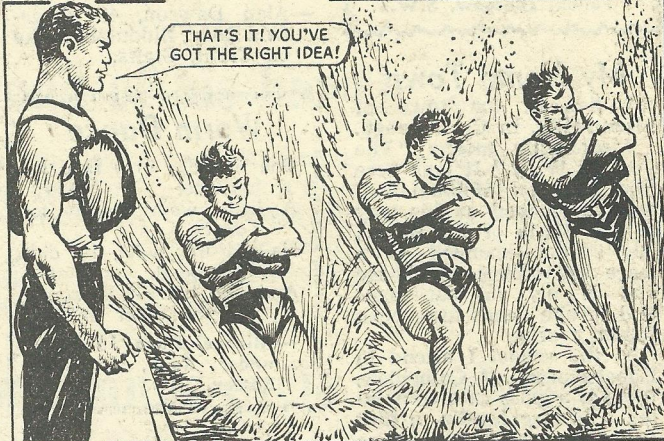
HE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO GO INTO THE BATHS LIKE THAT.



Andy rejoined the class.

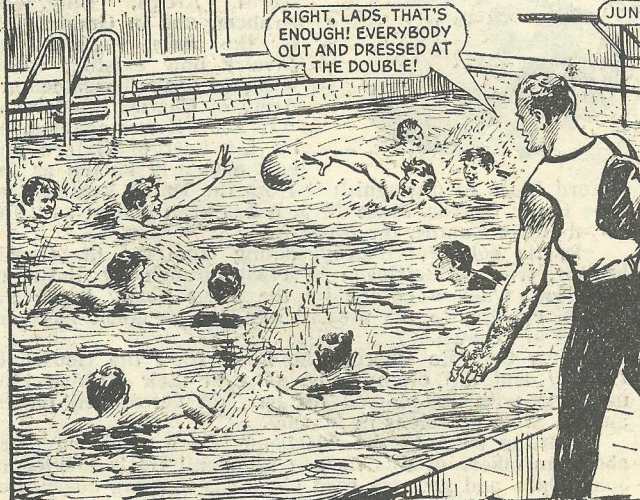


NOW REMEMBER, IF EVER YOU HAVE TO JUMP INTO THE WATER IN ABANDONING SHIP, KEEP YOUR ARMS FOLDED ABOVE YOUR LIFEBELT. OTHERWISE, WHEN YOU HIT THE WATER, IT WILL HIT YOU ON THE CHIN AND PERHAPS EVEN BREAK YOUR NECK!



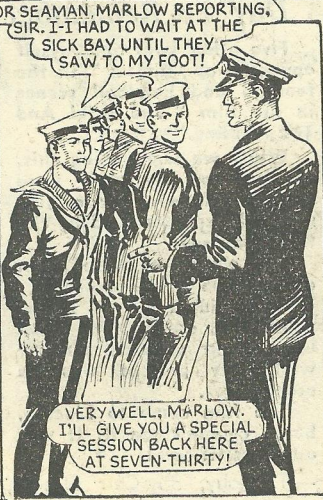
THAT'S IT! YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT IDEA!

Later.



RIGHT, LADS, THAT'S ENOUGH! EVERYBODY OUT AND DRESSED AT THE DOUBLE!

JUNIOR SEAMAN, MARLOW REPORTING, SIR, I-I HAD TO WAIT AT THE SICK BAY UNTIL THEY SAW TO MY FOOT!



VERY WELL, MARLOW, I'LL GIVE YOU A SPECIAL SESSION BACK HERE AT SEVEN-THIRTY!

Back at the billet.

STILL WORRIED ABOUT GOING INTO THE WATER, SAM? SOME OF US ARE GOING TO THE BATHS AFTER TEA. COME ALONG, IT'LL GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE!



ALL RIGHT, ANDY!