

The Coast Guard Overseas

The Campbell Guards American Interests in Portugal

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THE City of Lisbon, Portugal, has a population of approximately 800,000, but due to the excess amount of refugees pouring in from all over, it would be hard to determine just how many there are at present.

There are two sections of Lisbon, the old and the new. The old is the part left intact after the earthquake. Streets are very narrow, and the houses are constructed of adobe and heavy stone masonry. There is an old castle and fort overlooking the harbor, which is very interesting and which many of the boys have visited and photographed.



Shastany

The new section of Lisbon is somewhat modernized, with a sprinkling here and there of the old architecture. Cars here are a luxury for the poorer class. The taxis are all the small type, English Austin, and French makes, and do they go around these small streets and narrow thoroughfares! They make a New York taxi driver look like a piker.

The native women carry all their burdens on the head, and they can trot along the cobblestone streets with around two hundred pounds weight. It certainly is a marvelous way to train. Some of our American boxers should take note of these methods to toughen their legs.

"THE MUSIC GOES ROUND"

The theatres show American and Portuguese pictures. They start around nine at night, and there is intermission about every four reels, so if the show isn't too long you manage to get out around one a. m. in the morning. The night clubs open around eleven and close at four. The orchestras are fairly good. Every other set is an American dance. But the music is slightly out of date, such as "The Music Goes Round and Round," and other old numbers.

Routine aboard ship is about the same as in port at home, but always ready to get underway on short notice. We are standing port and starboard watches. Each watch had a full day excursion trip by bus to take in the sights around Lisbon. We saw many historical sights, such as castles, cathedrals, beautiful gardens, and also the place where the bull fights are held, but the bull-fighting season is closed until early Spring. Many aboard are looking forward to seeing them.

We carry on routine drills daily along with the upkeep of the ship. Every Tues-

day and Thursday, if weather permits, we have a soft-ball game between two of the six divisions aboard. Prior to the Christmas holidays we had boat races between the divisions. Ensign Miller, coxswain, and Jesse Shonts, stroke oar, were the stars. Many will remember Jesse with the old Coast Guard Bears football team. Well, he is still in the groove.

LONELY HOLIDAYS

Our holidays were just another day to us. The Commissary Officer, Lieutenant Couser (j.g.), and CCStd Isaacson outdid themselves to give us swell dinners, and thanks to them—and with the help of Ensign Earl—for giving us a little bright spot at Christmas time, for many had sad expressions on their faces and thoughtful looks, remembering the loved ones back in the States. Everyone is asking, "When are we going back?" That's what we would all like, to see good old American soil—and our families.

Mail service here has been terrible. Though the American Export Lines are giving us better service than the Atlantic Clippers, due to the bad weather they have been getting in mid-Atlantic. Our mail is anywhere from a month to a month and a half late getting to us.

The *Tuscaloosa* was in for a short stay, and was anchored astern of us. It seemed odd to see another American vessel, and the main avenue of Libertarde with 400 sailors ashore looked like Riverside Drive. We were all sorry to see them go. I understand that we are the only man-o-war (I mean American) in this section of Europe.

We all hope they give us a running start if anything happens. There are none of us who would care to repeat the case of the naval vessel *Scorpion*, which was interned at Constantinople during the last war, for by the time we got back to the good old U. S. A. we would be ready for straight jackets.

"OH. GEE!"

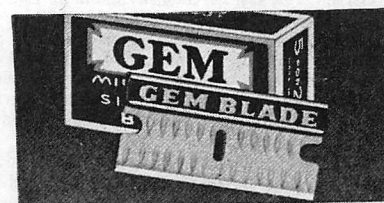


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