

TARS DOWN UNDER

Easter week in Australia, the outstanding hospitality of Australians to naval personnel of a sister member of the Commonwealth and a personal farewell salute from the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency Field Marshal Sir William Slim, are happy memories for the ship's company of HMCS Ontario.

The Ontario's Australian call was made at Sydney in the course of a 10-week training cruise to the South Pacific with 50 senior term cadets of HMCS Venture, the junior officer training establishment at Esquimalt, B.C.

There was something for everybody during the Sydney visit. Organized activities included luncheons, receptions, tours, radio interviews, TV appearances, dances and sports. There were even a wedding and a baptism on board for ex-Canadians now living in Australia.

On the Ontario's arrival, April 1, the commanding officer, Captain J.C. Littler, made formal calls on the Canadian High Commissioner to Australia, the Governor of New South Wales, the Governor General and the Premier of New South Wales. That night, a reception was held on board with 200 guests attending, including Sir Owen Dixon, president of the Australian-Canadian Association, who journeyed from Melbourne for the occasion.

On the second night, the Premier of New South Wales held a reception for the Ontario, followed by an informal dance sponsored by the Victoria League. In addition, a luncheon was held on board by Captain Littler for leading Sydney citizens, and the Canadian High Commissioner held a dinner in Captain Littler's honor at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

Free public transportation was made available to all the Canadian service personnel in uniform during the week of their stay. Most theatres and the Royal Easter Show, largest agricultural exhibition in the world, also were free to the visitors.

A 100-mile tour of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains for 100 of the Ontario's men was sponsored by the New South Wales Government. Daily tours of Sydney in private cars were provided. The Royal Australian Navy also arranged entertainment for both officers and

men, and two informal parties were held by the diplomatic debutantes and the Red Cross Society.

There was considerable activity on board the cruiser as well. Children and parents of the Australian-Canadian League from Sydney toured the ship and Chaplain Horatio Todd, of Ottawa and Victoria, the ship's Protestant chaplain, performed a wedding and a baptism on board for former Canadians now living in Australia.

The Venture cadets spent a busy round of activity during the visit, and over the Easter weekend the majority were guests in Australian homes. Fifteen spent the weekend at Palm Beach Surf Club. Other activities included tours of the city and a visit to the Blue Mountains.

For the young members of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps in the Ontario a full week of entertainment was arranged by the Sydney Branch of the Navy League of Australia. One afternoon the cadets were driven down the coast to Woolgang where they visited the local sea cadet corps. Other activities included a boat trip around Sydney harbor, films of Australia and a visit to a koala bear sanctuary. On Easter Sunday all sea cadets were entertained in the homes of Australian sea cadets.

In the field of sports, the Ontario's athletes were active, though not too successful.

The results were: Soccer - Ontario 1, Royal Australian Navy 2; Basketball - Ontario 21, Sydney YMCA 62; Golf - Ontario lost by a 40-point margin to the RAN; Tennis - Ontario lost to HMAS Sydney; Rugger - Venture cadets and staff 6, RAN 8.

The final notable event for the Ontario occurred on her departure when an unprecedented honor was paid the ship by Field Marshal Slim. Attired in full dress uniform, His Excellency took up position on the pier of his Sydney residence, Admiralty House, so that the Canadian cruiser was able to pay the appropriate respects as she sailed past.

The last sight of Sir William was of him waving his field marshal's baton in farewell.

POLYMER PROSPERS

Mr. Howard Green, Acting Minister of Defence Production, has disclosed that Polymer Corporation Limited earned a net income of \$6,823,000 in 1957 from its synthetic rubber plant in Sarnia, Ontario. Polymer's operations were at a high level with sales and other income reaching \$74,615,000, an increase of 4 per cent over 1956.

Capital expenditures of \$6,598,000 in 1957 provided additional rubber producing capacity, including a new latex plant designed for a

complete range of products. A \$7,000,000 programme was in progress at the year-end for further production growth, expanded research and development facilities, and maintenance of operating efficiencies and product quality.

New records in production and sales were achieved in 1957, despite some falling off in Canadian rubber consumption during the second half of the year. A strong feature was the continued increase in overseas sales, sustaining Polymer's position as an important Canadian exporter.