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He clanked mechanically up and down the
beat, paying no attention when we first
made signs at the gangway and then went
on board. Perhaps, like that of the sentries
we saw at Murmansk during the war, his
job was to stop people coming off, not
going on.

"Tovarich!" Schoolie smiled at the
officer of the watch—sparking off an ex-
plosion of passionate dialogue that only
the appearance of the civilian interpreter
smothered. Bald, hatless and intensely
serious, as before, he listened to the expla-
nation of our visit.

"Story?" He looked suspiciously from
one to the other. "What story do you
wish?"

SIR ALEXANDER NEWBOULT

Sir Alexander Newbould, K.B.E.,
C.M.G., M.C., who died yesterday at his
home in Cornwall, at the age of 68, had
a distinguished career in the Malayan
Civil Service beginning just after the end
of the First World War and culminating
in the chief secretaryship of the Federa-
tion of Malaya which he held from the
resumption of civil government after the
defeat of Japan until his retirement.

He was Under Secretary to the Govern-
ment in the former Federated Malay States
during the period between 1939 and the
end of the following year when unreality
vanished and the Japanese onslaught fell
upon the peninsula. As Senior Liaison
Officer between the Malayan governments
and the United Kingdom Resident Minister
in Singapore, he was on duty with Mr.
Duff Cooper outside the peninsula when
Singapore was captured. He was thus able
to return to Malaya as one of the most
senior members of the British military
administration in 1945 after the Japanese
surrender.

He was one of the principal people upon
whom fell the heavy task of rehabilitation
and in addition he was engaged in the pro-
tracted and difficult negotiations which led
to the setting up of the Federation of
Malaya. In these matters he showed him-
self to be an able and efficient administra-
tor with the capacity for dealing with an
unprecedented mass of work.

He will be remembered for what he did
in these very difficult years and above all for
the manner in which he assumed the even
heavier responsibility of the High Com-
missionership when Sir Edward Gent was
tragically killed in the summer of 1948. At
this moment the communist insurrection
had burst upon Malaya at a time when the
country had barely recovered from the
effects of the Japanese conquest.

Newbould had to assume the task of rally-
ing the country and of leading it at a time
of crisis, when resources were dangerously
stretched, the new police force hardly
trained, and there was a minimum of mili-
tary force to cope with a very dangerous
situation. He carried out this task well and
was seen in many out of the way places,
rallying the administration and encouraging
planters. This was the culmination of his
career, his heaviest task, and for the way in
which he discharged it he will be remem-
bered as one of the foremost administrators
in the great colonial service.

Schoolie from the jetty.

Even from there, one could see the
interpreter's raised eyebrows wrinkling his
bald skull.

"The captain has given his word", he
said coldly.

Tomorrow came, and the next day, and
the day on which the Russians hauled down
their colours and marched to the railway
station to start their journey home. We
hadn't got our story. We never got it.
Neither Schoolie nor I bothered to go over
and drop a hint. When you are running a
ship's magazine it is usually less trouble to
write the whole thing yourself, than to
persuade others to contribute.

SCHEME TO NOTIFY MALFORMATIONS

FROM OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

General practitioners have received
from the chief medical officer of the
Ministry of Health a letter informing
them of a scheme, which came into force
on January 1, for the notification of
congenital abnormalities.

The scheme is voluntary but the chief
medical officer expresses the hope that it
will be supported by all doctors as a means
of providing early information of causal
factors of congenital malformation. He
reminds practitioners that "following the
thalidomide tragedy it was generally felt
that there should be a national notification
of congenital abnormalities so that any in-
crease in these conditions might be noted
as early as possible".

The scheme will be widely welcomed as
a valuable means of helping to cope with
a problem which involves a high infant
mortality rate and is responsible for much
ill health, disability, and parental distress.

SHELLEY MEMORIAL IN HAMPSTEAD

The first step towards establishing a
permanent memorial to the poet Shelley
has been taken by Hampstead council. It
has accepted a bequest of rare and valuable
furniture, paintings, and china which
belonged to Shelley and members of his
family, together with £100 to help display
them.

They are to go on show in the entrance
hall of the council's branch library next
to Keats House, Keats Grove. The council
hopes that eventually the new combined
borough of Hampstead, St. Pancras and
Holborn will be able to provide a per-
manent home for the Shelley heirlooms.

The bequest was originally made to the
Keats-Shelley Memorial Association by
Mrs. Freda Shelley, widow of Major
George Shelley, a direct descendant of John
Shelley, the poet's brother. Faced with
the problem of finding somewhere to
exhibit the relics, the association offered
them on loan to the council. It has added
to the bequest numerous Shelley manu-
scripts and documents of its own.

REGIMENT'S NEW COLONEL