

3

Not very many are liked, yet everybody has to keep on his good side because he holds the whip hand every time and you are powerless against him. For instance this fellow sells cigarettes at 4 annas a packet when you can get the same ones ashore for three annas. And what can you do? If you want cigarettes you have to pay his price, but if you are wise you buy a supply ashore next time in port. When they retire they do so with a small fortune in the bank. The ways that they can make money on the quiet are innumerable, that possibly being one of the reasons they are not liked.

This last time I got my clothes back from the dhobi I discovered that there were next to no buttons left on my shirts. One or two broken is nothing out of the ordinary but there were some shirts this time which had none left at all. However it gave me something to do for a couple of hours sewing on new ones. Fortunately those on my shorts are unbreakable - those knobby cloth ones. I seem to remember that they were used at home one time or another, but on what garment I cannot say.

I do the ~~twelve to~~ four to eight watch now instead of the twelve to four as before and it is a much better watch in many ways. I get longer uninterrupted sleep at night and if I feel like it I can have a snooze for a couple of hours in the afternoon. Probably that sounds lazy to you, but it is rather a long day from four in the morning