

**THE NEW "PUNCH"  
LIBRARY, VOL. VII: MR.  
PUNCH AND THE SERVICES**

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The New "Punch" Library, Vol. VII: Mr. Punch and the services by J. A. Hammerton

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**J. A. HAMMERTON**

**THE NEW "PUNCH"  
LIBRARY, VOL. VII: MR.  
PUNCH AND THE SERVICES**



The New PUNCH Library

Edited by J. A. HAMMERTON

PRESENTING the cream of national humour contributed to "Punch" by our leading comic draughtsmen and humorous writers from the year 1900 to the present day

*VOLUME VII*

MR. PUNCH AND THE SERVICES



Simple Old Lady (to Coast-watcher). "Ah! captured at Jutland, I presume."

*Frontis., Vol. VII.*

# MR. PUNCH AND THE SERVICES

With 232 Illustrations  
& Frontispiece in Colours



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THE PROPRIETORS OF "PUNCH"

LONDON  
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## THE NEW "PUNCH" LIBRARY

TWENTY VOLUMES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Mr. Punch's Cavalcade :<br>A Revue of Thirty Years | 11. Mr. Punch Goes Motoring            |
| 2. Mr. Punch in Mayfair                               | 12. Mr. Punch's Country Manners        |
| 3. Mr. Punch in the Family Circle                     | 13. Mr. Punch in Holiday Mood          |
| 4. Mr. Punch After Dinner                             | 14. Mr. Punch on the Links             |
| 5. Mr. Punch's Children's Hour                        | 15. Mr. Punch in London Town           |
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| 9. Mr. Punch's Theatricals                            | 19. Round the Year with<br>Mr. Punch   |
| 10. Mr. Punch in Scotland                             | 20. Mr. Punch in War Time              |

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ALTHOUGH ANOTHER VOLUME OF THE LIBRARY IS DEVOTED to Mr. Punch's experiences when war raged in the world, and he "joined up for the duration," it seemed well that one of the twenty should chronicle the peace-time activities and genialities of our sailors (including those of the merchant marine), our soldiers and airmen.

Early in his search for such items among Mr. Punch's store the Editor realized that his difficulty would be, not to gather a sufficiency of pictures and letterpress of the right, light brand, but to decide what should be omitted from a book that would need strong elastic covers if it were to hold all he would have wished to include. He has at least done his best to gather here only such contributions as he deems specially worth-while; mainly items that have a real bearing on the lives of men trained for the arts of war, but which are also of interest to all whose ways are those of peace.

Unit by unit, the Services would seem to be blessed with a real sense of humour, and the artists and authors whose job it has been to express that humour for the entertainment of Mr. Punch's patrons must have had a truly joyous task. Many of them have themselves been Service men, if only temporarily, and the persons or scenes they describe, according to the medium of their art, are, in the well-worn phrase, true to life. They have lived in the dug-out, the rest-billet, the camp, or the battleship, or they have sailed the seas in ocean tramps, and while doing so used their powers of observation to excellent purpose, as our pages prove.

MR. Punch divides his affection and admiration equally among the Services, and is as skilled and jovial a guide to the quarter-deck or the lower-deck as to the staff head-quarters or the quarters of men in barracks. The shipboard incidents included for our entertainment might justly claim "star" positions in the programme, for they have about them the very freshness and tang of sea-breezes, and in describing them the men who serve Mr. Punch at their writing-desks have been every whit as adroit as those who spend their working hours at their easels or drawing-boards. A special word might be said, however, for the art of Mr. Charles Grave as represented in this volume. Examples of his art appear in other sections of the Library, but it is never more telling in point or upheld by a keener humour of draughtsmanship than when applied to the men who go down to the sea in ships. Neither the Navy nor the Merchant Marine has ever had a better interpreter of its humorous side. Mr. Raven-Hill, who stands next to Mr. Grave in the number of his sketches chosen for this volume, is rather more attracted by military than by naval subjects. Both, at his hands, are endowed with the genuine qualities of humorous observation. In common with Mr. Grave's, his drawings have a humorous quality of line which makes an immediate appeal to one's risible faculty before the joke has been read.

AS the reader turns the pages of this book he, or she, will share in the workaday life of all ranks and ratings and realize anew Mr. Punch's genius for finding the bright spots and burnishing them till they shine again. As a master of satirical wit the famous little hunchback is no respecter of persons, and the general and the admiral are just as fair game for him as the rawest recruit or the greenest of ship's boys. Ashore or afloat, we are in tonic company, however, and if we learn something about the troubles and minor tribulations which come to most of our potential defenders, we learn too that, almost to a man, these defenders are as good-naturedly philosophical in peace as in war. Anyhow, Mr. Punch's merry men know how to turn a trouble into a triumph of humour, and how to endow the blustering sergeant or the ironical petty-officer with some compensating quality that makes him a positive joy.

IT should perhaps be said that, while this volume has by its very nature a special interest for members of His Majesty's Forces, former and future members, and what are legally styled "the families or dependents of such," it is intended for a much wider circle—a circle to which no age or other limit can be put, but which certainly contains within it thousands and thousands of a younger generation than that which saw the Services at work when the gods of battle were disastrously busy.

Here we see our soldiers and sailors going about their affairs, or the affairs of their comrades or shipmates, when the worst aspect of Service life is having to obey orders at personally inconvenient times. But fun can be extracted from that, and Punch, who is unofficially an admiral and a general and an air-marshal in addition to being a "Mr.," does not in the least care from what quarter fun comes, so long as it does come and its quality is good.

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