

Zeitschrift: Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle
Band: 34 (1966)
Heft: 4

Artikel: Suffering from the disease
Autor: Marriot, P.B.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-568559>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 09.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

He left the town quickly and stopped only when he arrived at the bench. He had to rest, it was very warm and the hill seemed steeper than before. With bitter irony he talked to himself: Nothing has changed? Everything has changed. There was the bench, there in the valley lay the town—he barely saw it. A town—there are thousands of little towns—this one meant nothing, nothing anymore, nor did the bench. He rose and strode into the forest—toward his company.

Suffering from the Disease

An interesting letter to *Time And Tide*, London, March 3d, 1966, reprinted without comment.

DISCIPLINE AND HOMOSEXUALITY

From Captain P B Marriot, DSO, DSC, Royal Navy (retired)

Sir: 'Tenax' has been brave to query legalised homosexuality. May I comment on a particularly important aspect on which little is ever publicly expressed and on which, it seems to me, very few people indeed are qualified to speak?

In practice, in the vast majority of cases, homosexuality is associated with other crimes and is both a symptom and a cause of a demoralised society. For nearly 20 years I served in submarines where the uninformed might expect homosexuality to flourish. That it does not in fact do so is because the morale and discipline of a submarine crew is of an exceptionally high standard, and for no other reason. To the best of my belief, there was no single instance of homosexual practice in any one of the large number of submarines I was lucky enough to serve in.

More recently, I was the executive officer of a large modern carrier with a total ship's company of about 1,600 men. If there is any place where curious things are likely to occur, it is in these large overcrowded ships often kept at sea for prolonged periods. They do, occasionally, but in view of the extraordinary statistics which are sometimes quoted in other contexts, to a remarkably small extent.

In a ship's company of this size there will inevitably be a few genuine pathological oddities, perhaps half-a-dozen. There will be, however, a far larger proportion of border-line cases who depend entirely on the good influence of their officers and stronger messmates for their survival. For these, too, the protection which the law gives them is a vital factor.

From time to time homosexual outbreaks can be expected. There are those who genuinely suffer from the disease, but these are few. There are those who carry it; but mostly the thing is contagious and one man can infect a whole mess, particularly of young men perhaps lacking in character but in no sense homosexual by nature.

Homosexual practices are almost invariably associated with other disciplinary offences and low morale in a particular quarter. It is indeed a fact that the proportion of men who are sent to detention quarters for other offences but who are found to have dabbled in homosexual practices at some time or another, is very high and of these the proportion of genuine queers, who cannot be redeemed by ordinary disciplinary measures, is minute.

For eighteen months I also commanded the naval element of our Nuclear Trials at Christmas Island. Here we had at one time over 5,000 men cooped-up on a desert island for periods of up to a year. Here was a great hazard indeed and we were all very much aware of it. As a result of this experience. I would have no hesitation in saying that good discipline, fully supported by the law, is the only answer.

Toward the end of this period there was indeed, as in the long run was inevitable, a serious outbreak of disgraceful practices involving almost twenty men of all services and centring around two genuine physiological oddities. Their Lordships of the Admiralty have very rightly always taken a particularly serious view of such conduct because of its extremely adverse effect on morale; but in enforcing this in the service they have never, for one moment, lost sight of the need for Christian compassion.

In this particular case, I myself wrote formally to the Admiralty in mitigation of the crimes in view of the exceptional circumstances under which the men were forced to live. It was subsequently made clear to me that my views were taken very carefully into account.

Those who so irresponsibly advocate repeal of the law because of a few hard cases, little seem to understand the irreparable harm which may be done to those who are not strong enough to stand without protection, which the law at present affords them and which, in my experience, is invariably administered with commonsense and Christian compassion.

This may seem a far cry from South Africa; but Mr Humphry Berkeley, who has now introduced his iniquitous Bill, is also one of the leaders in the campaign against South Africa. This is no coincidence. I regard both activities as part of a Left-wing attack on morale.

P B MARRIOTT

Britain and South Africa Forum, Fleet Street, London, EC4

INCLUDE FORCES IN HOMOSEXUAL BILL

Letter to The Times, London, February 15th, 1966 from their political correspondent

An attempt to delete the part of the Sexual Offences Bill that retains existing penalties for homosexual conduct in the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force is being made by Mr. Mawby, Conservative member for Totnes, and other opponents of the Bill.

Mr. Mawby, who tabled an amendment yesterday to remove the key subsection, said: «If it is right to make it legal for civilians to indulge in homosexual activities—which I dispute—there is no reason why the concession should not extend to military forces.»

It was argued, he said, that the law had to be preserved in its present state for the three Services to maintain good order and discipline. «If this is necessary» Mr. Mawby said, «then similar provisions must be retained for the control of other disciplined forces such as the police, the prison service, the fire service and, in the interests of security, for certain sections of the Civil Service.»

In committee, Mr. Mawby will claim that the sponsors of the Bill, by putting in the proviso covering the Armed Forces, are admitting that the relaxation in the law which they propose will be prejudicial to good order and discipline and, possibly, to state security.

KERKSTAAT 366

bei der Utrechtschestraat

Einsel- und Doppelzimmer
Uebernachtung mit Frühstück
Alle Zimmer fliessend Wasser

Hotel „Flora“

AMSTERDAM-C.

Telefon Nr. 23 76 23

Single and Doublereoms
with breakfast
All rooms running water

Directie: Mevr. ANNIE WALDEN

CANNES - FRANCE

Hôtel P.L.M.**

3, Rue Hoche

Propriétaires : Jean et Charly
ex-Casanova

English spoken — Man spricht Deutsch

TUSCULUM

die exclusive Bar im Zentrum von Hamburg

Täglich ab 19 Uhr geöffnet

Hamburg 1, Kreuzweg 6 - Telefon 24 26 07

ISOLA-CLUB BASEL

Gerbergässlein 14 (im Stadtzentrum)

geöffnet jeden Mittwoch von 20.30—24.00

jeden Samstag von 20.00—01.00

Thé-Dansants, 16.00—22.00 Uhr: 17. und 24. April

DER GEDIEGENE TREFFPUNKT IN BASEL

EMMI'S BIER—BAR

Der Treffpunkt mit der besonderen Note

10 Minuten südlich vom Hauptbahnhof

85 Nürnberg
Wiesenstrasse 42
Telefon 447682

Geöffnet täglich v. 19.00—01.00 Uhr
Samstags bis 02.00 Uhr
Dienstags geschlossen