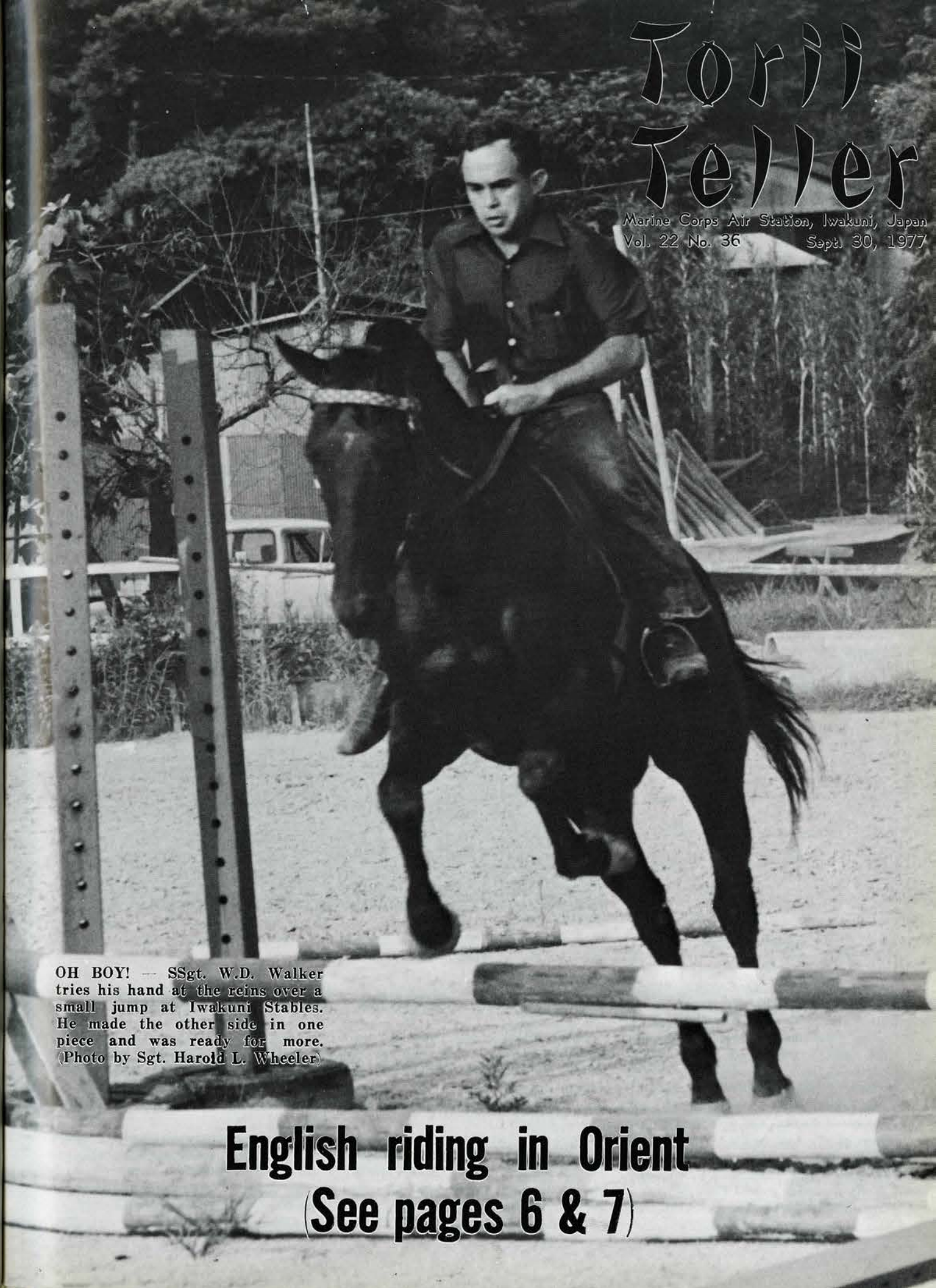


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OH BOY! — SSgt. W.D. Walker tries his hand at the reins over a small jump at Iwakuni Stables. He made the other side in one piece and was ready for more. (Photo by Sgt. Harold L. Wheeler)

English riding in Orient
(See pages 6 & 7)

Japan goes western via horse

Story and photos by Sgt. Harold L. Wheeler

Horseback riding in Japan? To many Americans the idea fits the picture about as well as a samurai warrior in the shoot out at the O.K. Corral.

When most Americans think of horseback riding they think of cowboys riding across the open plains, the crash of the starting gates at a race track or even the prancing horses of a parade.

To the native of Japan, horses are not a common sight. What little contact they might have is limited to TV, movies and zoos or possibly at a horse race or show. In the past Japanese had a bit more contact with horses, because of their use in military transportation and agriculture.

There are a few people in Japan today who are doing something about this situation. These people, though small in number, want to see the sport of horseback riding increase in popularity, especially among the younger generation.

LACK OF SPACE

One of the concerned equestrians is Mr. Tetsuro Kawaguchi of Iwakuni. In his words, "Japan is about 100 years behind the U.S. when it comes to horse-related sports." One of Japan's biggest reasons for lagging in this area is the obvious lack of space, space that riding and keeping a horse requires.

On the outskirts of Iwakuni near the Kintai area, just a few minutes' drive from the Air Station, is the site of Mr. Kawaguchi's riding stables and club. A horseman for many years and long-time competitor, he once rode in the All-Japan championships and is now the owner and operator of his own stables and riding arena. The facilities are small, but they are more than adequate and a welcome sight to their users.



OVER THE TOP — A young lady takes her horse over a medium height jump with visible intense concentration. (Photo by Sgt. Jim Arribito)



EASY RIDER — Jenny Walker takes her turn in the saddle, riding her mount around the corral a couple of times to get the feel of things.

ENGLISH METHOD TAUGHT

The use of this stable differs from what most Americans expect. Unlike riding stables in the States, there are no riding trails and all riding is confined to the corral. Because there is insufficient space for Western style riding, Mr. Kawaguchi teaches the English method which involves jumping obstacles and precision riding.

When club members have had sufficient training they become eligible to compete in local horse shows of which there are six or seven in Yamaguchi Prefecture. In the past only three Americans from the Air Station have been members of the riding club and only one of the three ever competed in a show. Mr. Kawaguchi would like to have more American club members. He enjoyed working with them in the past despite cultural and language differences.

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Although there is a language barrier, the language of the horse world is universal. Some experience with horses is desirable but is not necessary. Mr. Kawaguchi has



UP, UP AND AWAY — One of the Iwakuni Horseback Riding Club's members puts his steed through its paces. Taking such a jump requires skill and practice.

seven horses that are suited to any skill level from beginner to expert. One of his mounts has chalked up winnings of more than \$7,000.

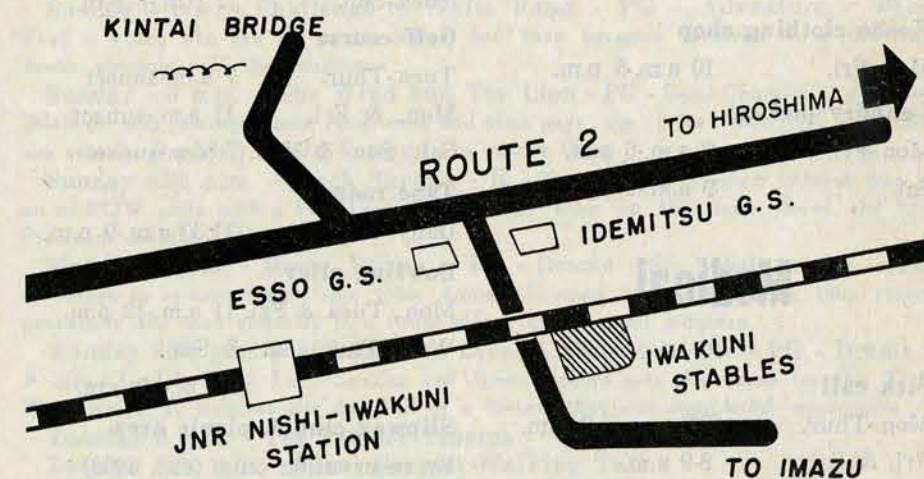


NEW SHOES — Tetsuro Kawaguchi, owner-manager of Iwakuni Horseback Riding Club and stables, gives one of his seven horses a new pair of shoes.

SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

The stables are open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to sunset. For visitors (non-club members) the riding fee is ¥1,500 for 20 minutes of riding, including instruction that is based upon the individual's ability. Anyone who is interested in becoming a club member is welcome.

In Japan, as in the States or anywhere, a hobby involving a horse is expensive, but for a devoted cavalier the cost comes second to the love of the sport.



EASY TREK — From the Air Station the Iwakuni Stables are easily reached by bicycle or on foot.

Station Rebels outlast H&GMS-17, 20-12

The H&HS Rebels met H&GMS-17 on the football field Sept. 26 and after progressing from behind to neck and neck the Rebels went on to victory with a final score of 20-12.

Rebels' Randy Beech's kick-off to H&GMS was dropped into the end zone, but was returned and finally downed on H&GMS' 18-yard line.

H&GMS was held to a no-gain for their first two downs. Gerry Morgan, threw deep into Rebel territory: Johnny Curtiss, Rebel left safety, picked it off and returned it to H&GMS' 36-yard line.

The Rebels were now in control of the ball, but the H&GMS linemen gave them a 3-yard loss on the first play. Terry Cain moved the ball up to the 28 on a lateral, but an incomplete pass followed. On fourth down and eight yards to go for the first down, the Rebels again went to the air. The ball missed its mark, giving H&GMS possession on their 28-yard line.

H&GMS' went nowhere on three plays, finding themselves with a 4th and 13 situation. With nothing left to do but punt, William Pichard booted to Roger Pueblos of the Rebels who returned it from the end zone to the 20-yard line.

The Rebels were slow on the move, gaining only two yards in three plays. They now had to punt. Staying on the ground, the ball bounced in all directions until Lanny Madison downed it at mid-field for H&GMS.

H&GMS was in good field position, but on the third down, with seven seconds left in the first quarter, a H&GMS pass was intercepted at the five-yard line by Curtiss who brought it back to the Rebel's 22-yard line.

SECOND QUARTER

The first play ended with a Rebel no-gain, but a penalty on the play moved the ball up field to the 30, putting H&HS in a 3rd and 6 situation. A passing attempt on the third down was fruitless. Following the 4th down kick, H&GMS prepared for their first down at the 21-yard line. Two downs were wasted before completing a long pass to the Rebels' 33-yard line but a clipping penalty on H&GMS ended with the ball being called back. H&GMS quarterback Gerry Morgan threw a bomb to Robin Martinez only to have Rebels' Winny Pittit reroute the ball, putting H&GMS into their fourth down, needing 14 yards for a first down. The Rebels then took a punt and possession of the ball.

In the next three plays the Rebels completed one of two passes and gained 15 yards on a H&GMS tackling penalty. They were now in the fourth down with four yards needed for a first, Ron Alig completed a pass to the 34-yard line for a first down. For the second time in two plays H&GMS was hit with a tackling penalty. This moved the ball to the 19-yard line. The first down netted eight yards and on the second down the Rebels were held at the line of scrimmage. A lateral was snagged by H&GMS' John Shultz who made it to the Rebels' 13-yard line before he was stopped.

With less than four minutes left in the half H&GMS gained four yards in two plays. The third down saw H&GMS execute a perfect hand-off which netted them the first touchdown of the game. The extra point conversion failed so H&GMS prepared to kick to the Rebels with less than two minutes left in the first half.



MISJUDGED - A H&HS Rebels player misses an intended pass during a practice session. The Rebels won their second game Sept. 26 with a score of 20-12 over H&GMS-17. (Photo by Sgt. Jim Arrabito)

The kick-off was bobbled and finally downed by the Rebels on their 30-yard line. Terry Cain took a short pass to move the ball up to mid-field with 1:46 remaining on the clock.

A Rebels' lateral intended for Luther Jenkins was grabbed by H&GMS' William Pichard who ran unhampered into the end zone. With only 1:22 left on the clock H&GMS had scored their second "TD" in less than 60 seconds. For the second time the after point try was no good; the score was now 12-0 in favor of H&GMS-17.

Again the Rebels returned the H&GMS kick-off to their 30-yard line. With 1:13 on the clock, Ron Alig received a pass and moved it within 18 yards of the goal line for the Rebels. There was a penalty on the play, but the Rebels wisely declined. The next play got off to a bad start with an illegal motion penalty which backed the Rebels up to the 21-yard line. Johnny Curtiss ended H&GMS' hopes of going into halftime with the Rebels shutout by taking a pass into the end zone for the Rebels' first score of the night. Their extra point try was good which closed the gap to 12-7. H&GMS received the kick-off and moved up to their 18-yard line. With 45 seconds left in the half, a long H&GMS pass was almost intercepted by Curtiss. This moved '17 into the second down at their 16-yard line with 21 seconds left. Gerry Morgan, H&GMS quarterback, overthrew his receiver but on the third down elected to keep the ball. His fast moves and player dodging gained for H&GMS 14 yards and a first down.

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H&GMS, with a first down and only 10 seconds remaining in the first half, called time out. As play resumed, a long pass by H&GMS was completed and ran into the end zone. As the team and their supporters cheered, the officials nullified the "TD" for a flag guarding penalty. The clock ran out to end the first half with H&GMS in the lead 12-7.

Third Quarter

H&GMS kicked to the Rebels to begin the second half. The Rebels failed to do anything with the ball and turned possession back over to H&GMS at their 20-yard line. In three plays H&GMS covered 15 yards, moving the ball to the 35. Following a punt and penalty, the Rebels now controlled the ball at their 15-yard line. Their first play netted three yards. On the second play, needing only one yard for the first down, Luther Jenkins took command of the ball to gain three yards and the first down. Another five-yard gain moved the ball to the 26. A completed pass followed, putting the ball on the 38-yard line with the third down coming. A pass plus a penalty against H&GMS moved the ball to the 35 and gave the Rebels a first down. The first play went nowhere, but a pass to Jenkins gained 15 yards and put the ball on H&GMS' 20-yard line.

With a 3-and-1 situation, H&GMS was again penalized for tackling. This moved the ball to the 10-yard line, giving the Rebels another first down. Only 1:22 remained in the third quarter as Jenkins took a short pass to the five-yard line. The clock had now run down to 45 seconds left in the third. Rebels' quarterback Carlos Perkins placed a perfectly thrown pass to Sam Crisp in the end zone for the "TD." Although their extra point try was no good, the Rebels now led the game 13-12.

The following kick-off was received by H&GMS' Fred Williams who returned the ball to the 29-yard line for a 15-yard run back. With 15 seconds left in the third quarter, Rebels' George Minarik intercepted a H&GMS pass and returned it to within 20 yards of another touchdown. The play also put the teams into the final quarter of the game.

Fourth Quarter

During the first play of the fourth quarter the Rebels were pushed back for a loss of eight yards. The loss was nullified by a H&GMS personal foul which positioned the ball on the 10-yard line; this also gave the Rebels another first down. The next play was an incomplete pass. The second play was a good pass, but it was blown dead by the officials for a personal foul by a Rebel player. The penalty cost the Rebels 15 yards as the ball was spotted on the 25-yard line; they needed 25 yards for a touch down. Roger Pueblos then gained four yards on a pass play. Another pass play immediately followed in which Luther Jenkins gained eight yards. A balked fourth down pass attempt gave H&GMS the ball on their 13-yard line with eight minutes remaining in the game.

H&GMS' first two plays went nowhere. Their third play moved them to the 21-yard line to give them a first down.

Six minutes remained; H&GMS was still down 13 -12, and they had used up two more minutes, three downs and were still at the 21.

Needing 17 yards for a first and facing a fourth down, H&GMS felt they must take a chance and go for it. With 3:54 on the clock, quarterback Gerry Morgan kept the ball, running to the outside when he was unable to find an open receiver. He didn't get very far as the Rebels defense stopped him to take control just 19 yards from the end zone.

The first play was a quick one as Jenkins made it to the three-yard line; this was the second time Jenkins had almost made it to the end zone. The Rebels then went to their second down with 3:30 left in the game. Perkins passed high and short to Ron Alig who was in the end zone and easily picked it out of the air for the Rebels' third touchdown to make the score 19-12 in favor of the Rebels. A quick pass to Sam Crisp gave the Rebels the extra point, boosting the score to 20-12.

The heat was really on as H&GMS took the kick-off back to their 30-yard line. A Rebel blitz caught the H&GMS' quarterback before he could unload the ball. The next play did pay off as Fred Williams took a lateral from Morgan to put H&GMS on the Rebels 30-yard line, claiming a first down. An attempted "TD" pass missed its target and was almost snagged by the Rebels' Danny Lindberg. It was now second down on the 30 with time running out for H&GMS.

Their next two plays were incomplete passing attempts. With a little more than two minutes of play left, disaster struck H&GMS. It was fourth down with 13 yards for a first, and H&GMS had no choice but go for it. The quarterback went to the air with a long, high pass, but Winny Pittit (Rebels) was at the 30-yard line where the ball came down. He returned it to the Rebels' 35 with 1:45 remaining.

The Rebels moved to the 39 on their first play but were held there for the next two downs. Once again Jenkins claimed a first down as he moved the ball from the Rebels' territory to the H&GMS 30-yard line.

The Rebels began their first down with 57 seconds left. Sam Crisp took a hand-off, broke free and headed for the end zone, but lost his footing and fell, downing the ball at the five.

A penalty on the Rebels for line blocking moved the ball back to the 20-yard line. The next play gained a half-yard for the Rebels.

The game was in its last 13 seconds of play; victory was obvious for the Rebels, but the game was still played at max effort. Time allowed only one more play, and it was a super one. Rebels' quarterback Carlos Perkins caused the whole H&GMS line to shift left on a fake lateral after which he passed to Sam Crisp who was in full stride as the clock ran out. The game had ended with H&HS Rebels coming from the cellar to take a 20-12 victory over H&GMS-17.

Scores from last week's games

Sept. 19	Navy (27)	H&GMS (15)
	Logistics (29)	PMO (22)
Sept. 20	3rd FSSG (42)	Weather (18)
Sept. 21	Rebels (49)	Weather (2)
	MATCU (22)	H&MS-15 (6)
Sept. 22	H&MS-12 (45)	WES-17 (34)
Sept. 23	WES-17 (26)	H&MS-15 (0)
	MATCU (27)	H&MS-12 (24)