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He did not come on deck the next day, that of the prodigious, the very moving great-gun exercise; nor did he appear for the small-arms exercise in which he had trained some of the Marines. From time to time he turned into the wardroom to pick up a newspaper when almost nobody was there. His appearance never altered from its perpetually mottled sweating complexion, yet he frequently changed his uniform, blaming his servant for any slip.

Some days of quite untypical S[outh] African weather slowed the squadron ~~and~~ ~~possible~~ and it ~~was~~ [may] well have been during the conversation