



● "I have been a fool"

LONG JOHN SILVER LOSES HIS RANK

NEWS CHRONICLE REPORTER

VISITORS to Roy Henry's inn were impressed. They saw a colourful man with heavy beard, a black eyepatch, and often with a cockatoo on his shoulder. He talked gustily of exploits as a secret agent.

His visiting cards read "Colonel Henry, O.B.E. (Ret.)." He went to a British Legion dinner wearing 11 miniature medals and ribbons. They included the M.C. and bar.

Yesterday, sipping a double Scotch and drawing on a cigar, he confessed: "I have been a fool. From now on I am Mr. Henry."

He was never a colonel, the magistrates were told at Kingsbridge. He was not entitled to wear six of those medal ribbons.

War Office records showed that he was once a lieutenant in the Royal Ulster Rifles.

I've let them down

Henry is the landlord of the Old Exeter Inn at Modbury. He admitted wearing decorations to which he had no right and was fined £10.

Henry said later: "I have let down all the village kids who called me Long John Silver."

He spoke of the days when he kept a hotel near the film studios at Shepperton, Middlesex, and said: "Harry Secombe invited me to film with him, but I was too nervous."

The villagers thought he had lost an eye in war-time

operations: "In fact, dear boy, it was injured in a car crash."

Before he left he explained why his hair reached to his shoulders. It has not been cut since August: "A bet, dear boy. Someone bet me I couldn't grow a pigtail."

Henry is 44 today. He is still a hero to his cockatoo, Captain Flint.