

WANTED **—a baby** **elephant**

THE captain and crew of the Royal Navy cruiser Ceylon are looking for a baby elephant to be their ship's mascot.

The cruiser is at the Naval Base, Singapore, refitting after nearly two years in Korean waters, and her crew want to take a baby elephant back with them when they leave for the cruiser's normal base, Trincomalee, in Ceylon.

A Naval spokesman said yesterday: "Our ship's badge is an elephant, and we thought it would be a grand idea to have a real live mascot elephant."

"Some of the British regiments have mascot geese, so why shouldn't we have an elephant?"

If they get one, the Ceylon sailors have made plans to turn an ammunition locker into a stable.

"Several of the chaps have been reading up books on how to keep an elephant, and they are all very keen to get one."

"Feeding it will be difficult. We know they eat about half a ton of greenstuff a day, but the boys will all help to pay for it."

Another problem for the Ceylon's crew might be what to do with their pet when it gets too big, or they are shifted to another station.

"Do we hand it over to the director of salvage, or the director of victualling?" they asked.