

From accounts of navigational failures, there seems nowadays to be a tendency to make the circumstances fit the desires rather than the possibilities. A case arose where, on a long and shaky dead reckoning, a vessel sighted white water. The master passed this off as a whale blowing, but discovered he was a bad guesser five minutes later. The truth of this matter lies in the fact that he did not want anything to disparage his dead reckoning, and it was probably quite subconscious. He did not expect shoal water, nor want it, and consequently when he saw it he refused the evidence. I suspect that to some extent the same mental attitude may apply to radar interpretations. It may be a reasonable suggestion that over-interpretation, like over-execution, results in confusion and that the meticulous study is apt to produce an unfortunate result.

Mill View,  
Outwood,  
Redhill.

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. BOLTON.

### CIRO CARIC'S TABLES

SIR,

I was particularly interested in the letter you published (Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 105) from the Rev. B. R. Keir Moillet describing the use of Professor Ciro Caric's tables. The form of these tables appears to be very similar to that of some tables I produced in 1947, which were published in Paris by Girard et Barrère, under the title of *Nouvelles Tables pour le Calcul de la Droite de Hauteur à partir du Point Estimé*.

The arguments used in these tables are similar to those mentioned by your correspondent, i.e.,  $\log \text{hav } (I - d)$ ,  $\log \text{hav } (180 - (I + d))$ ,  $\log \text{hav } P$  and  $\log \text{hav } (180 - P)$ . Their use is quick, and necessitates no sign rules, but the method differs from that described by your correspondent in that no table of addition or subtraction of logs is required.

This table is in use in numerous French ships and it occurs to me that your readers and your correspondent may be pleased to know that a table closely resembling the one described exists in France, and that it was conceived without knowing of the estimable work done by Professor Ciro Caric of Yugoslavia.

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Yours faithfully,  
P. HUGON.