



Volume III

Long Beach, Calif., 12 December, 1936

Number XLVIII

DATE OF FLAG SHIFT UNKNOWN

The date when Vice Admiral Tarrant will shift his flag back to his regularly assigned flagship, the INDIANAPOLIS, is not known. The decision will rest with the Admiral when he returns from Washington where he is now serving in connection with the Selection Board.

However, your correspondent is of the opinion that the shift will not be made until the later part of February. During the Third Quarter, the INDIANAPOLIS is going to have to fire the greater part of her gunnery practices which the other cruisers have already completed. Furthermore, she is scheduled for an overhaul period alongside the tender during this period. Therefore considering the fact that the Admiral will undoubtedly want to be in close contact with the Fleet landing Exercise No. 3, I believe that we can be safe in assuming that the Flag will remain on the HOUSTON the greater part of the next two months.

CHIEF GUNNER CONDIT TO BE TRANSFERRED

Recently Chief Gunner W. F. Condit received dispatch orders transferring him to the Navy Yard, Bremerton, for a tour of shore duty. It is expected that Mr. Condit will be detached about the 28th. of December. Mr. Condit will be a loss to the ship. Aside from the efficient manner in which he has performed his professional duties, he has given untiringly of his personal time to develop our rifle and pistol teams.

FORMATION OF "HOUSTON" NAMING COMMITTEE

On Sunday, October 18, 1936 there appeared in the Houston Chronicle as part of the history of "The Port of Houston" by Col. Thomas H. Ball, an interesting account of the naming, launching and visit of the "Houston" to Houston, Texas. It is believed that the part of this history pertaining to the Houston will be of interest to the readers of the Blue Bonnet. We are therefore running as a series of articles those parts of "The Port of Houston" exactly as written by Col. Ball. We take pleasure in presenting the first of the series in this issue.

HOUSTON

When congress authorized construction of eight treaty cruisers of large tonnage and great speed, after two had been named Pensacola and Salt Lake City, some 80 cities applied to have one of the remaining six named in their honor.

William A. Bernrider, secretary to Mayor Holcombe, was an active member of the Navy League of the United States, and while the mayor

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DAMAGE CONTROL PRACTICE A SUCCESS

Recently the Chief Observer's report of the HOUSTON'S Damage Control Practice was received aboard. In this report a very favorable comment was made as to the efficient and orderly manner in which the Houston handled all casualties and as to the completeness in marking and setting of the various conditions of readiness. Although, a complete comparasion of

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THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Excellent progress has been made during the past week towards perfecting plans for the Christmas Party.

The Finance Committees made their reports indicating a generous response from nearly all divisions. The funds collected have been allocated, part to decorations and part to gifts, for the division parties.

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Campbell visited the homes of the 30 needy children as a final check and submitted a list of these guests. The children have been allocated by name to the various divisions. The enlisted men's children are assigned, of course, to the divisions to which their respective fathers are attached.

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OFFICERS TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL

Monday morning Chief Mach. J. Gallager and Mach. H. T. Meyer were transferred to the Naval Hospital, San Diego, for treatment. Upon being discharged from the hospital, Mr. McCrary will be assigned to shore duty at Pearl Harbor, T. H.

LT. (JG) WILLIAMS DETACHED

This past Saturday Lt. (jg) J. W. Williams was detached and left the ship. Before reporting for six months instruction at the Submarine School, New London, Conn., 5 January, 1937, Mr. Williams plans on visiting in San Francisco, at his home in Indiana and in Washington, D. C. On the way east he will pick up a new auto at the factory. The Blue Bonnet wishes him a happy cruise in his new assignment.

—: THE BLUE BONNET :—

A weekly publication, published by the ship's company of the U. S. S. HOUSTON, Captain G. E. Baker, U. S. N., Commanding and Commander P. K. Robottom, U. S. N., Executive Officer.

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12 DECEMBER, 1936

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THIRD QUARTER EMPLOYMENT
SCHEDULE

January—

- 1 — 3. Miscellaneous, at anchor, San Pedro.
- 4 — 10. Gunnery, base on San Clemente and San Pedro.
- 11 — 17. Gunnery, base on San Clemente and San Pedro.
- 18 — 19. Miscellaneous, at anchor, San Pedro.
- 20 — 22. Tactics, Fleet.
- 23 — 24. Miscellaneous, at anchor, San Pedro.
- 25 — 31. Upkeep, at anchor, San Pedro. Aviation Unit at F. A. D., San Diego for training Fleet Landing Exercise No. 3.

February—

- 1 — 7. Upkeep, at anchor, San Pedro. Aviation unit at F. A. D. San Diego.
- 8 — 14. Services to Fleet Landing Exercise No. 3. Aviation unit to furnish services as required by exercise.
- 15. Services to Fleet Landing Exercise No. 3.
- 16 — 18. Tactics, Fleet Tactical Exercises.
- 19 — 21. Miscellaneous, at anchor San Pedro. Aviation unit furnish services required by Fleet Landing Exercise No. 3. Embark 19 February.
- 22. Miscellaneous, at anchor, San Pedro.
- 23 — 28. Gunnery, train for and fire gunnery practices.

March—

- 2 — 7. Gunnery, base at San Clemente and San Pedro.
- 8 — 14. Upkeep, at anchor, San Pedro.
- 15 — 21. Upkeep, at anchor, San Pedro. Aviation unit train for and fire IBP (fixed guns).
- 22 — 28. Gunnery, base on San Clemente and San Pedro.
- 29 — 31. Miscellaneous, at anchor, San Pedro. Prepare for Annual In-

HOUSTON GRAPPLERS TO MEET
PENSACOLA TEAM

Next Wednesday, the 16th of Dec. seven of our grapplers take on the matmen of the Pensacola, who this past Thursday evening met and defeated the Northampton's aggregation. In this match, their first of the series, the Pensacola team made a clean sweep, by winning all eight bouts. This doesn't by any means mean that they are the best in the cruisers, the Northampton outfit really failed to give first class competition. However, it must not be forgotten that the winning of last years Cruiser Iron Man was in a large extent due to their outstanding wrestling team.

This is another year, and the HOUSTON is going to make it another story. The squad had an opportunity this past Thursday to see the Pensacola in action and in addition most of them have seen action in actual cruiser competition.

Taking everything into consideration, the Pensacola is going to see plenty of competition this coming Thursday evening.

It cannot be said which has the better team but the HOUSTON grapplers can prove themselves the better by winning the match in the same manner that they beat the Chicago several weeks ago.

Our enteres are: Dugan-118, Chick 126, Hennessey-135, Arthur-145, Hardin or Pratt-155, Foltz-165, and Freeman or Fordenwalt-175.

This match will be held at the Admiral Leigh Gymnasium in San Pedro at about 1930 Thursday evening, 17 December. Keep this date in mind and go over and give the team some real support. There will probably be a special boat for the men wishing to attend this match. It will be well worth seeing.

spection.

During the Third Quarter there are three gunnery practices to be fired. These are Advance Day Battle Practice; Local Control, single turret and IBP, fixed guns (to be fired by aviation unit).

P. O: "This steak is not very tender".
SC: "What did you expect it to do—
throw it's arms around your neck
and kiss you."

EXHAUST PIPE

In behalf of the flying personnel of the Aviation Unit, I would like to (compliment?) the thoughtless (ship-mate?) who took the First Aid Kit from the airplane crash box. No doubt, he can use it to a (better?) advantage than could some luckless pilot and passenger if a plane were to crash up! We feel awe that whoever too the kit couldn't possibly be conscience stricken!

The HOUSTON planes have been at the Fleet Air Base in San Diego the past week installing new radio equipment and renewing all flying wires.

Rosenkrans, one air-minded wood butcher seems quite lost, since most of our division has been in San Diego this past week. No one for him to write about except Martin! Too bad "Porky", just when your hidden qualities as a literary genius were coming to the fore! Just think of the wealth of material you now have aboard! !

"Abe" Garrison seems to hold the whip hand over at the Olympics since "Charlie" Noble has been in San Diego.

Our iron-man of the port tower, Swenson, fell by the wayside this last week end. Didn't know that New Year was upon us, "Swede".

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SUCCESSFUL DAMAGE CONTROL
(Continued From Page One)

the scores of the other cruisers is not available, it is believed that the Houston had one of if not the high score of the year.

This is particularly gratifying because the success of this practice, which involves practically everyone on board, depends upon the completeness and intelligence with which each individual performs his particularly assigned task. It shows conclusively how well all hands of the HOUSTON are pulling together for a common cause.

The Damage Control Officer wishes to congratulate and thank every one on the fine spirit and whole-hearted cooperation exemplified by every one connected with this practice.

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MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Magazine subscriptions may be obtained through the Ships Service. For information regarding prices, see the Ships Service Officer.



NOSEY NEWS 'BOUT EV'BODY

★ ★ ★
As previously predicted, the hale and hearty crew of the mighty HOUSTON are sailing along under a full spread of sail, making the most of this respite from San Clemente etc. This past week all hands were well occupied even to the extent some of the older sea dogs had to break out the woolens. These snappy morns have helped a lot toward that new life shown by some.

A very outstanding point of light concerning this at-anchor period is the way our ship mates are becoming acquainted. Take the case of Guglietti of Bat Two. This lad could hardly believe it when he heard that Dohm, newly created CQM of the flag, has been aboard ship for several months. Another lesson in "Learn your ship and become acquainted with your shipmates".

The "Queen of the Penthouse" Westerfield had a scare early this week, but since he came through in one piece and still a member of the ships company he has broken down and confessed those "sea-sick green" scivvies are part of his civvies. The lad must be forgetful at times.

Wonder what became of those cups and saucers in the Elec. shop? Only a few weeks ago you could enjoy your afternoon mud ala shore side style. Si Pierce, Major Domo of the layout refuses to comment on the situation.

Cochran, man of many aliases in the "S" Division now blossoms fourth with a brand new title, this time "Flossie". No doubt this lad possesses a charm we know little of.

It seems our hard bitten sons of Texas are hardest hit by this recent

spell of chilly weather. Dainwood of the second probably got that way from those cute "Pantie-Wanties" he cavorts about in.

Someone should cheer this sailor-man. Sinclair is the victim of his own halucinations. Says he is going to face the cruel outside and he is so young and inexperienced - just a mere youth, you know. . . .

Could the absence of the greater part of the fleet the greater part of the week have had anything to do with those unusually large liberty parties this past week?

Burwell says there must be some mistake concerning those 01:30 love calls he has been receiving.

"Tug-Boat" Anne cast off all moorings last Wednesday, much to the surprise of all hands. Didn't he promise to remain out of circulation until at least December 31? He swears someone changed the dates on the calendar in the brig. We think he went over to investigate the arrival of his silk pajamas for the holiday leave.??

During recent weeks Baker of the print shop has been trying out the new gas eater with his shipmates as passengers, but not so this past week. He has even progressed to the stage where he now has several feminine chauffeurs available.

A big change has been reported in the case of Schrumm, former 1st Lt's office handy man. First the lad moved to the Execs office and now he has a change of heart on the beach. Seems as though the Native Daughter turned the trick in a few short weeks. Something very unusual in the case of this stalwart son of Iowa.

goal line. Elwood, Adams, Jasinski, and Rhea all showed up well.

The Chicago's attack was caried largely by one man, Rogers, and their CHEERING SECTION. Speaking of Cheering sections, the team is really primed to take the Medusa gang today why not go out and give them a little support. The game is to be played at the Holy Hi Gym., Long Beach, at 1500.

Boost HOUSTON Athletics!

OSCAR'S OPUS NO. 10

SHALLAK (Da Qvack)

Ve gat a Qvack named Doc Shallack
Whu likes tu pull our teet'
Down in his lair he gat a shair
Vit straps for hands and feet,
Instead of drill so he can fill
He radder use da tong,
Tu tal da trut' tu fill da toot'
It take tu bloomin' long.

He kill da pain vit Novakane
Vich he skol sqvrt from gun,
He arch his beck and pull like heck
And laff like he have fun,
He yank da toot' out by da root
And leave a awful gap,
Den yaw skol sval and hurt like hal
And spoil my Svedish map.

And den he say, "Ay take X-ray
And maybe find some more."
Den Ay say "NO! Ay gat tu GO!"
Vile Ay yump tru da door,
He laff vit glee, and yell at me,
"Ay bet yu skol come back;
Ven tings go rong yu can't gat 'long
Vitout Old Doc Shallack!"

HOUSTON BASKETEERS LOSE TO CHICAGO

Thursday evening the Houston Basketeers suffered defeat at the hands of the Chicago Quintet by a score of 24-16. This was a particularly hard defeat to take for the reason that throughout the game the Houston outfit outplayed their opponents. At the end of the half the Houston led by a score of 8-6. At the end of the third quarter they led by an even greater margin of 15-10. However, during the closing minutes of play, the Chicago gang looped in five long ones from the middle of the floor. These coupled with two well executed scoring plays close in under the basket made the final score, Chicago 24, Houston 16.

The Houston's biggest weakness lay in their lack of defense against long shots. In close under their own goal the defense was much better. The passing attack on the offensive throughout the game was good.

There were no real outstanding stars on our team, every one played a heads-up cooperative game. Phillips was high scorer with six points. Henderson, Brown, Chmura, and Saunders all got the range while Clarkston and Hateimer sank two more from the

"S" DIVISION NOTES

It seems that the St'b watch rather invaded and took over one of the local beer emporiums this past week end, where Sivak for the first time met his nemesis, in the form of the prattling barmaid; she had a quick and better answer for his every one. Coch-rane (the Snake) tried to hypnotize Springer (he never spills a drop) but to no avail as the former still had a bit of the Frisco Fog in his eyes. Slough, new rating badge and all, was for short time the target of all hands, but much to their disgust, the talkative barmaid, having noted the sweet smile and innocent ways, (it seems they all do) played Pochantas and came dashing to his aid. One "furriner" from the Thirsty Third was there but he was so badly outclassed as to almost pass unnoticed. What your correspondent will never understand, is; why did Phillips, after all of Steve's fast talk, decide to leave so suddenly?

Bill Yates can be heard again these days. Now it's a razzing, "Pass the strawberries and cream". Maybe that Exposition chow was classy Bill, but we notice you dig into the good old Houston grub the same as before.

It seems McElhanon dialed 43 the other day and said, "Do you know we've got a fire down in GSK?" They must have recognized his voice for they called back five minutes later and asked if he were kidding.

RETURN OF YATES

A sailor returning from eight months leave in Texas boarded a train for Long Beach, and the USS HOU-STON. Upon entering a sleeper he tipped the hugh porter liberally to put him off at his destination.

"I'm a very hard sleeper," said the Storekeeper, and you pay no attention to my protests. Just grab me and put me off no matter what I say".

The next morning he awoke to find himself still on the train. Furious, he found the porter and began to bawl him out in language that turned the air blue.

"Ah say, Suh," replied the great porter calmly, "You-all sho' is got a bit o' tempah, but it ain't nuthin compared wid de young gen'man I put off de train."

Mail the Blue Bonnet home.

HOUSTON

(Continued From Page One)

was in Europe attending the World's Ad Club convention, Mr. Bernrider took up with Mayor Pro-Tem H. A. Halverton the matter of having a cruiser named for Houston. Together with Col. Ike Ashborn, vice president and general manager of the Chamber of Commerce, they made out a list of citizens whom they invited to meet in the Chamber of Commerce quarters. I was not invited to attend the meeting, but received a phone call to come over. Upon my arrival I found a large crowd assembled and was told by Mr. Halverton that they had decided to draft me for service as chairman of a committee to conduct a campaign to get one of the cruisers named for Houston. Complimentary references were made as to my fitness for the job because of acquaintance with officials in Washington and members of congress. From past experience I knew they were calculating upon my known weakness to accept public service carrying no perquisites except honor. I told them that due to press demands upon my time, I would not take the place unless all present and others interested would do the greater part of the necessary work; and unless the mayor gave me the services of Mr. Bernrieder to do contract work and carry on correspondence under my direction; also that I would not head the committee if it was expected to solicit funds for the purpose, or if anyone was to be paid for services. These conditions were agreed to and the following committee was selected: Thomas H. Ball, chairman; Gavin Ulmer and A. D. Simpson, vice chairman; William A. Bernrieder, executive secretary and treasurer, with Commissioner Halverton, Colonel Ashburn, Norman H. Beard, Maurice Hirsch, Roy Nichols, Lieut. E. E. Kerr, Dr. E. E. Oberholtzer, R. J. Seaman, Judge Norman Atkinson, Maj. B. A. Law, Capt. B. C. Allin, E. W. Gruendhoffer, C. B. Gillespie, D. W. Michaux, Gen. J. F. Wolters, as active members.

Mayor O. F. Holcombe was made honorary chairman, and Lieut.-Commander E. V. Iverson, U.S.N., recruiting officer, and Lieut. L. R. McDowell, U.S.N., were named ex-officio members.

(To be continued next week.)

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

(Continued From Page One)

The invitations, letters of instructions, and gift orders are in the mail. Incidentally the print shop turned out a fine job on the invitations.

A meeting of the Division Gift Committee Chairmen was held on Tuesday, and of the Division Decoration Committee Chairmen on Wednesday. Final plans of the gift committees were discussed. Some of the divisions are going to use any excess funds to make up a Christmas Basket of groceries for the homes of the needy children assigned to their respective divisions.

Christmas trees have been ordered for the ship's party and for each division's party. Each division decoration committee will plan its own tree trimmings, and other decorations.

Mr. Quackenbush has the entertainment program laid out. It will be a strictly amature performance and the talent looks surprisingly good.

Mr. Raymond is planning the well-deck decorations and stage setting. He will no doubt need some help from the division decoration committees, carpenter's gang, and electricians.

We can take care of a few more children but their names must be submitted to the Navigator immediately. Also, if any men submit names of children to attend the party now find that these children cannot attend, they are especially requested to notify the Navigator at once. It is important that we have a correct and complete list of those who are coming.

Invitations and gift orders have been mailed to the inlisted men's children from 3 to 2 years old. Invitations to the mothers are also included. Gift orders, only, have been mailed to children under three. For reasons given in a previous issue of the Blue Bonnet, we are sorry we do not feel free to ask the babies to the party this year.

If you expect an invitation or gift order for your child and fail to receive it by Monday the 14th, be sure to see Navigator on Tuesday, 15th December. This is important.

On the first of December Rear Admiral Joseph M. Reeves recent Commander-in-Chief of U. S. Fleet retired from active service having reached the statutory age of 64.