



THE PAY OFFICE

Receiving, disbursing and accounting for government money keeps four of our good shipmates busy every day. Shipboard accountancy differs in almost every respect from commercial accounting. The government has spent years perfecting the present system of bookkeeping and and accountancy.

Keeping the accounts of the officers and crew of a vessel is quite a task. During the past quarter (1 Oct. to 31 Dec.) 966 accounts were handled on this vessel alone. The ship's complement during this period was 659, but changes in pay accounts were necessary with 113 men being rated, 35 men discharged and transferred to FNR. Of this last number 16 re-enlisted, \$106. extra compensation was given making the total cash disbursement for the quarter \$124,938.64. This amount was disbursed under 3800 different payments.

During the quarter we received 243 new men aboard and transferred 262. In small stores approximately 500 issues were made amounting to \$2846.43. Allotments, always a big item in the service, keeps the entire section on their toes, with the total value of the allotments on this vessel \$28,475.83 divided among 474 different allotments. During the quarter 94 new allotments were registered, 27 were stopped and 61 expired.

In addition to handling the pay accounts paying public vouchers, that is, paying civilian contractors for supplies bought from them and used on board, this task requires two men's

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**U.S.S. SMITH TO BE LAUNCHED
FEBRUARY 20**

At 10:30 Thursday, 20 February, the U.S.S. SMITH will be launched from the ways at the Mare Island Navy Yard. The SMITH is one of the sixteen 15,00 ton destroyers built under the allotment for naval construction out of NRA funds.

The ship is named in memory of Lieut. Joseph Bryant Smith, U. S. N. Smith commanded the U. S. S. Congress when that ship was sunk by the Confederate Ram, Merrimac, at Hampton Roads, Virginia, March 8, 1862.

Mrs. Yancy S. Williams has been appointed official sponsor for the ship.

From the earliest days of sea borne craft, launching ceremonies have been performed to initiate the ship to the sea. There is a record of christening ceremonies of the date 2100 B. C. At different places and at different times these ceremonies have taken various forms and had various significances. In Tahiti it was once the custom to shed human blood at launching ceremonies. The Chinese for centuries have had very elaborate ceremony.

Wine was used in rituals of the early days. Later, the Romans used water as a token of purification in the solemn priestly blessing. Christian ceremonies, as in pagan ceremonies, used wine as the sacrament and water as the token of purification.

Launching ceremonies have always had a religious significance. In the Middle Ages, ships were always named after saints; shrines were placed

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SHIP'S DANCE A SUCCESS

Enjoyable Affair

The Ship's Dance, our second since arrival in the yard, was, in the opinion of all who attended, a very enjoyable affair.

Even though the weather man failed us again, a gay and colorful crowd of over 400 were in attendance.

The orchestra, one of the best ever procured for a HOUSTON Dance, were at their best, rendering a fine assortment of the latest dance hits, keeping dance lovers' programs well filled. Once again the popularity of the punch was 100 percent, while the regular bar received a good patronage from these who preferred beer as a refreshment.

The Dance Committee's successful effort toward this pleasing affair is genuinely appreciated by all. Once again the good ship HOUSTON and her snappy crew may feel proud in having staged an affair that will long be remembered as an enjoyable occasion, not only for themselves, but their many friends as well.

COMMITTEE

Lt. Comdr. Arnold, Lt.(jg) Schanze, Ch. Mach. Gallagher, LaTour, CFC, Herrick, CWT, O'Brien, BM1c, Yelverton, Ye01c, Vizard, Phm1c. Crego, EM2c., Sivak, SK3c, Freeman, GM3c, Smith, Cox, McMurphy, SM3c. Kennedy, Sea1c, and Schrumm, Sea1c.

Wade, Bmkr2c, and Osborne, Ye03c. were the volunteer patrol.

—: 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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FEBRUARY 1, 1936

★ ★ ★
"THEN AND NOW"

When I was in high school
I achieved but little fame
Many people there in school
Hardly knew my name.

Then I was graduated
And started in life quite boldly
And everyone for work I asked
Said "nothing" in manner coldly.

Finally I saw that sign
That seemed to fairly shriek
For me to join the Navy
And at foreign lands to peek.

I joined the Navy and
To the training station I was sent.
After four long months,
At last, to sea, I went.

I've traveled many places since
And now I see quite clearly
That this is the place for men
Where friends are friends sincerely.

He does well who does his job
The best that he can
For he deserves honors as great
As are due any great man.

My name is far from famous
Yet I fell quite sure
That I have found a place
Where praises are sincere.

And so to the Navy
I relinquish all claim
For having made a man of me
In spirits, morals, and name.

CLIPPER FLIGHTS

Clipper flights carrying mail only will be made to Phillipine Islands Via Hawaii and Guam February 9 and 19.

RATES: Hawaii—.25, Guam—.50, Phillipine Islands—.75 for each half ounce and each additional half ounce thereof.

MAIL THE BLUE BONNET HOME

BASKETBALL

Houston Hoopmen Lose League Tilt
In Big Upset

Displaying a decided reversal of form our basketeers took one on the chin last Saturday night at the hands of the U. S. S. EVANS five.

Going on the court fresh from an outstanding victory two nights previous, over the highly touted Apprentices, this game was labeled in the bag for our boys.

The destroyer five realized they had a tough assignment, therefore took to the court with a determined defense and offense which completely took our overconfident five off their guard.

The result was disastrous to say the least.

Our usual strong defense simply wilted while the offense was so ragged that our sharpshooters could do no better than 12 points in each half.

In the early part of the second half our five displayed a little of their smooth team work running up a six point lead with only eight minutes left to play.

At this stage the EVANS tightened their defense and during the last few minutes of the game while our boys were held scoreless they piled up enough points to take the game 31 to 24.

HOUSTON FIVE LOSES SECOND
LEAGUE TILT

Starting the game with a speed resembling their former smooth team work, our five jumped into a five point lead in the first few minutes of the game.

It looked like a HOUSTON nite on the courts, but the Marines settled down and brought their long range guns into action and soon overcame our slender lead.

Our boys fought hard to maintain their early lead but were unable to hold down the long shot artists of the Leathernecks. The half found the Marines resting easily with a 19 to 11 lead.

The early part of the second half found the Marines piling up a comfortable lead which was never threatened although in the closing moments of the game the HOUSTON five did

tighten up their defense considerably and working smoothly managed to sink several buckets using some snappy floor play to get in a scoring position.

The final score was: HOUSTON-27, Marines 43.

PISTOL TEAM NOTES

As we go to press our Pistol Team is out on the Mare Island range, participating in a match with the Vallejo Rifle and Revolver Club. Actual starting time was 0930.

During the past week our team has been on the range quite regularly, with the result that a slight change in the starting lineup of our team is in effect.

This match being fired today is fired under Standard American Pistol Course rules.

A six man team, five high scores to count, is being used.

The HOUSTON team: Ens. Burdick ChGun. Condit, Arminger, Pfc., Whaley, EM3c., Faby, Pvt., and Chop, Mus.

Withey, Sgt. and Hyndman, F2c. are alternates.

MORE PROMOTIONS
IN THE OFFING

Maybe you've noticed it too. During the past week the Executive Officer's Office force has been busily engaged compiling the multiples for a great number of the crew, preparatory to submitting this vessel's eligible list for promotion to ComCruScoFor.

Nearly every grade in all ratings has been included in this quarter's quota which is in keeping with the predictions made during recent months.

Therefore all Houstonites who have been wise and have completed the required training courses in their respective ratings, shall soon realize the full benefit of their individual effort.

Although definite word has not been received just how many rates are to be assigned the good ship HOUSTON, nor when the exams will be held, we feel sure the HOUSTON will receive her share of all rates so go to it, Houstonites and make that new rate or add another chevron.

Our best wishes and may the stogies be plentiful.



NOSEY NEWS

by
EV' BODY

Another week has passed and once again your favorite (?) column (yuh don't say) has been generously supplied with copy, some humorous, some otherwise.

The burning question this week seems to be: Is there a twenty day extension, or is there not? If so, does it mean China? Sorta far fetched, ship-mates, but nevertheless the cause of many sleepless nights for eligible GG club members.

We doubt whether Kleugel and Stafford are as interested in mirrors as they profess to be, but you may hear a very interesting tale if you will only urge them to talk? ? ? ?

Now that R. V. Hill is back with us we understand he took up a new profession while among those missing. Reliable sources inform us he is now a connoisseur of "Femm's Apparell", even to silver slippers.

Those abbreviated cow-poke sandals Baugh and Marangi have been clip-clopping about in are referred to as "Rumba Taps". How ducky one must feel, cruising down the avenue in a set of 'em.

At last the 2nd. Division has a musician, whom we admit, is quite handy when it comes to tickling the ivories—not that the 2nd. has never had any music makers before. Did you ever enjoy one of those choice concerts, rendered by Dainwood during the meal hour? ? ? ?

Overheard a yard workman earnestly expressing his opinion of the ship. If his opinion is any criterion of opinion in general, our stocks must be above par in this neck-of-the-woods.

Many of the crew have found shops very accommodating in regard to little

favors for a ship with a good "rep".

Since our arrival in the yard one of our undercover men has been collecting data on the various gay-spots of the local village. This week we shall give you his impression of a few.

"Georgia" seems to be the Great-White-Way of Vallejo. The Mayflower, a magnificent place of unpretentious proportions, located about two blocks from the ferry landing, must be mentioned first since many of the crew have found answers to varied problems within the sanctum of these walls.

The North-Star and the North Pole are due for honorable mention, even though not quite so popular among Houstonites.

Those "Mah Jong" games are just rehearsal runs, just in case those China rumors turn out to be the real McCoy. Larson, a new addition to the Fire Control gang has already acquired that delicate touch so necessary to a good game.

Osborne has finally broke down and admitted he is only grouchy on certain days, just from Monday till the following Monday.

Overheard a boot say: "I just don't understand why an anchor watch is posted when we're moored." Someone laughed—it reminded the writer of several of our would-be salts who do not even know where their Division Officer's room is. This is an unbelievable fact.

It is with regret we announce that, "The Old Gray Mug" has been finally retired after nearly five years of faithful service.

What's this we hear about a certain CQM shootin' snakes on the pistol range? ? ? ?

Why is it Charlie Barker and his Peggy just can't seem to get enough time to express their views on how to properly attain a big head out of the amber fluid?

Whitey Wellbourne seemed to blush immensely when his Francis wanted to powder his dainty little nose.

And then much to our sorrow, John P. Sharp seems to have lost his ever eventful tact with the fair young damsels.

—Sayonara

Keep the "E" on the HOUSTON

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Several members of the crew have been heard to growl and lament the fact that the Blue Bonnet is seldom out on schedule before liberty starts on Saturday mornings.

There isn't too much time to be spent on the paper and if all copy isn't in before noon on Thursdays, it's a tough job to get it out.

How about gang? We like 48's too.
The Printers

PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE ON BOARD

After a lapse of over a year, developing and printing service is once more available to all hands.

The quick service and excellent quality of the work being done has already been favorably commented upon and meets with the approval of our many amateur photographers.

Having this service on board has its many advantages, the more outstanding being the reasonable rates and time saved, especially when on long cruises where the greater number of pictures are taken.

For information concerning service and prices consult Hansen in the 1st. Lt.'s. office, after working hours.

A complete price list is also published on the crew's bulletin board.

Hansen, P. A. Sea2c., is the new developer and printer, and assures us he is now equipped to handle the entire crew's photography.

Now is the time for those of you not already doing so, to commence that pictorial record of your Naval service. In years to come the pictures taken now will bring back pleasant memories of the present.

WHO REMEMBERS?

Four years ago today, Feb. 1, 1932, the HOUSTON got underway for Shanghai, China, having just received orders from Washington, D. C. to proceed under full power.

JUNIOR HOUSTONETTES

Congratulations are extended to the R. E. Bakers' and the C. T. Campbells' in the recent arrival of a daughter in the home of each.

--DOTS & DASHES--

--HOISTS & FLASHES--

"Shrimp" Terrygano, "Deacon" R. P. Campbell and Puffer have left us for a tour of duty on the U. S. S. CHICAGO, the gang wishes these shipmates a pleasant cruise on the CHI.

Jenkins returned from leave with a discolored optic; when I asked him for a statement for the press he said a ping pong ball hit him in the eye, but I'll bet maybe there was a fist around the ping pong ball. How about it, Jenkins.

Heard that Jew Boy Kahn loaned a certain blonde \$200 to get something out of the hock shop but it seems she disappeared out of the back door, anyway Jew Boy never saw her anymore.

Someone ought to put an "E" with two hash marks on the mirror in the C Div. compartment, after all it deserves it what with having such handsome mugs as Mustain, Kirchner, DeForge, and Lee in front of it day in and day out. Those lads all wait in line until "Casonova" Foreman has finished, then Willmuth, of course the boys are our leading shieks and are entitled to stand there for an hour or more.

Red Walters is in the lead now as a libery hound, having beat "Pop" Mains over the gangway this week by a neck.

I wonder who will take the Deacon's place reading the bible for all hands, whoever does must have a solemn voice like Campbell or it wont go over.

If any of you shipmates know of a good foo foo that will grow hair in nothing flat, see Mustain and tell him about it, it will be greatly appreciated.

The Signal Gang made out well in their V. O. test. The schooling they had for the past few weeks came in mighty handy.

See you next week.

THE PAY OFFICE

Continued from page one.

time. During this quarter 177 such public vouchers were made and paid with a total value of \$18,926.39.

Have you written home this week?

ON THE RIFLE RANGE

During the past week rifle range activities of the HOUSTON were cancelled due to other vessels occupying the range.

In last week's Blue Bonnet information was published concerning the number firing the marksman course and those qualifying.

Through an error the qualified men of the 3rd. and "F" Divisions were omitted.

Below is given the complete data on those Divisions.

3rd. Div.—8 men fired the course.

QUALIFIED

Vrooman, E. M. Sea2c.....129
Latiolias, B. J. Sea2c.....122
Oliver, J. K. Sea2c.....120
"F" Division—5 men fired the course.

QUALIFIED

Costello, M. V. Sea2c.....124
Newton, W. C. Sea2c.....126
Ziegler, C. D. Sea2c.....122

Ensign Burdick.....141
Ch. Gunner Candid.....135

HIGH SCORES TO DATE

Ens. Burdick.....141
Lt. (jg) Harris.....137
Ch. Gunner Condit.....135
Hennessey, T. W. Sea2c.....131
Myers, R. L. Sea2c.....131

Commencing Monday, 3 Feb. the rifle range parties will resume operations once more, under the supervision of Lt. (jg) A. L. Young.

U.S.S. SMITH

Continued from page one

on board. These shrines gradually were replaced by figureheads and by elaborate carved and gilded stern galleries.

It is written that Queen Victoria inaugerated the ceremony that is now used in the launching of our ships. The civil ceremony usually consists in the naming of the ship by a sponsor, at the same time breaking a bottle of champagne across her bow as she starts to slide down the ways. During the Noble Experiment water had to be substituted but, after repeal, champagne once again took its rightful place.

Send in your "Blue Bonnet" contribs!



It seems that a couple of those rugged Fleet Marine Force boys are just powder puffs after all. How about it Janner.

We wonder what the big attraction is that causes Hughes to be ashore every night till the wee hours of the morning.

RARE SIGHTS WORTH SEEING! Freheit laughing—Hynes treating the crowd—Mixe fallin down a flight of steps—Swiatkowsky making a bull's eye.

RARE SIGHTS NOT WORTH SEEING! Ryan giving minute impersonations—Howard smoking a cigar—Bolan giving a lecture—Chastain acting sane—This column being written at the last minute.

PERSONNEL

TRANSFERS

The following were transferred to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Calif: Tad, L., Bkr3c., Elder, D. A., S1c., Gaston, W. W., S1c., Michael, L. H., F1c., Turner, R. L., Sea2c.

Nielson, R. V., RM2c. to 11th Naval District.

The following were transferred to U.S.S. UTAH, Temporary duty Fleet Machine Gun School.

Ellison, G., Sea2c., Dietrich, H. R., Sea2c., Hurley, D. R., Sea2c., Loop, W. A., Sea2c.

The following have been transferred to U.S.S. CHICAGO, Temporary duty, flag, ComCruScoFor.

Peiffer, G. J. RM1c, Turegano, V.W. RM2c., Campbell, R. R., RM3c.

RECEIVED

Blackburn, E. J. Jr., F2c., from Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Calif. Lance, F. E., Sea2c., N.T.S. San Diego, Calif.

Boost HOUSTON Athletics!