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SECOND DIVISION ISSUE

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A FEW FIRSTS

In The History of The HOUSTON

The Houston got underway for the first time on July 21, 1930 at 1330.

The first payday was June 20, 1930 at 1500.

The Houston became SOPA for the first time on June 19, 1930 at 1545.

The first Marines reported on board on June 17, 1930 at 1600.

The ship full dressed ship the first time on July 4, 1930.

The first last, and only track and field meet was held on July 16, 1930 and was won by the 5th Division.

The first planes were brought on board on July 21, 1930, and incidently one plane was so badly damaged that it had to be sent back to the air station for repairs, but since that time the Houston's record is spotless, in that respect, although we have had minor casualties that were repaired on board.

The first foreign sailors to trod the decks of the Houston were Polish, and they were of the Polish training ship ISKRA. They came on board on August 2, 1930, in Newport, R.I.

The Houston first hove in sight of foreign shores on Sept. 10, 1930 at 1049 on her shake-down cruise. The land was England.

The ships guns were fired for the first time on Nov. 5, 1930, off Key West, Fla, while the first official practice was fired off Olongapo, P.I., on March 11, 1931.

The first ship's dance was held on

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THE SECOND DIVISION

In The Sports World

The 2nd Division has always been well represented in inter-divisional, Ship and Fleet athletics.

The Houston first broke into the sports field with a snappy baseball team, with Fahey, BM2c, representing the 2nd, and since then every baseball team has found several 2nd. Div. men on it. At present Dainwood and O'Brien are with the team.

In basketball the Division has been well represented with Kennedy, Clayton and O'Brien playing, Kennedy and O'Brien both playing each year they have been on board.

In rowing the Division has stood out having from six to seven regulars in the selected crew for three years straight. Gwinn, Fabera, Sprague, Robertson, Shaunessy, Keester and Euteraspri were the ash wielders while O'Brien was trainer and coxswain. Kennedy, Taylor, M., Farquhar, Meyers, Taylor, F.B., Marshall, Hart, and Hartkopf, are a few of the present representatives.

In boxing, "Frankie" Remus, "Blackie" Boyd, "Knute" Childers, "Hank" Kennedy, and Mustain, now of the C Division, were the Division representatives. Remus is the holder of the Far East Middle and Light Heavy Weight belts.

In wrestling we had England and Robertson.

In bowling, Kirkpatrick, captain of the team and Standafer.

In Fleet sailing the Division was

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INTERESTING FACTS

About The HOUSTON

The Houston went in commission with 28 officers and 496 enlisted men, There were no Marines attached to the ship at the time and the first Marine Detachment totaling 1 officer and 36 men reported on board one hour after the commissioning ceremony. Woodward, of the laundry, was the last Marine logged on board and is still with us.

The ships complement reached her highest peak on Oct. 29, 1932, when there were 821 officers and men attached to the ship. (Flag included.)

The Houston has fired 285 salutes, a total of 4,024 guns, using over one ton of black powder. Incidentally, only three 19-gun salutes have been fired. The first salute was fired on June 21, 1930, a 13-gun salute to Rear Admiral Brumby, the Com'dt. of the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va. The greatest number of guns fired in one day was 126 on Sept. 23, 1931, at Hankow, China, 600 miles inland on the Yangtze Kiang river.

The Houston's longest uninterrupted cruise in miles and days was in the latter part of 1933, on the return trip from the Orient. The ship sailed from Yokohama, Japan on Nov. 24, arriving in San Francisco on Dec. 6, a total of 4,685 miles in 12 days. During the first year the ship steamed 29,843 miles while the greatest number of miles were steamed during 1934, a total of 36,283 miles. Since commissioning the ship has steamed

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—: THE BLUE BONNET :—

A weekly publication, published by the ship's company of the U. S. S. HOUSTON Captain W. B. Woodson, U.S.N., Commanding and Commander F. D. Manock, U.S.N., Executive Officer.

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T. B. Razlaff, Sealc.

25 May, 1935.

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WHO REMEMBERS

Four years ago this month:

The Houston was moored to the bouys in the Whangpoo River in Shanghai, China, and the crew was fast becoming used to the ways of the Orient, making acquaintances that were to last for nearly three years. The QMs were having a hard time trying to figure out the names of the Chinese and Japanese men-o-war entering port, for they had to enter the names in the log. All the good resolutions made upon departure from the States were now being fast forgotten.

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EDUCATION EXPENSIVE

A new system of handling educational courses has been evolved by our Navigators Office. Upon completion of a course, study books will be returned to the Navigator's Office for reissue, and will be charged against individuals as regular library books. All those men now having courses in their possession turn same in for reissue to others.

This new policy is necessitated by the large expense involved in procuring new courses. The Bureau of Navigation has exhausted funds for the purpose and in the future ships will be held more strictly accountable for such literature issued to them. Turn your unused courses in to Holt, that some of those waiting may get courses entered in their records before the next exams for promotion are given.

US TEXANS

By Major J.W. Thomason, USMC

The Commanding Officer of the Houston has asked me to write a piece for the "Blue Bonnet." To a person who occasionally tries to get things published, this is very flattering. It is felt that there should be more people like Captain Woodson around.

I have another special reason to be proud of an appearance in the columns of the "Blue Bonnet." I was born and raised about eighty miles from the city for which USS Houston was named. Houston is a fine city. If the civilian population there keeps on going, the way they started, the place should do credit to this ship.

The U.S. Navy is full of Texicans. There are now no less than seven Texas admirals on the active list, and they are all good admirals, as such things go. Commander Munroe is also from Texas. The Texicans have a great naval tradition. Back in the early days, when Texas was a republic, there was a Texican navy. It consisted of a brig, three sloops, and a mule named Saul, who did the heavy hauling for the shore establishment on Galveston Island.

This navy fought actions with the Mexicans, whenever it could catch them, and also with the Spanish Guardas Coastas, that smuggled rum from Cuba. It flourished until the Commodore of the navy lost the mule named Saul in a poker game with President Sam Houston. Shortly after that Texas annexed the United States, but allowed the latter to keep its maiden name. The navy was paid off and entered the Marine Corps.

This teaches us that history, after all, is a matter of opinion. But anyway, it is a fine thing to serve on a ship named HOUSTON, and an even better thing to be an idler aboard it.

The Assistant Secretary and his staff will long remember their days aboard, and will follow the career of the USS HOUSTON with an interest both personal and affectionate.

—The Marine Aide.

(Note:—Since the Editor does not come from Texas he denies any responsibility for opinions herein stated.)

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All of China hasn't as many telephones as there are in the State of Connecticut.

Golden Grain Special

On Wed, May 15, a party left the ship bound for dear old Long Beach. They were met at the foot of Broadway in San Diego by a bus which was suitably decorated. Decorations consisted of a boathook with a small arm. On one side was hanging a large bag of Golden Grain. On the other, a pair of ice tongs. It is rumored that when the bus stopped for ten minutes Asher had to be forcibly restrained from getting behind the wheel and leaving the rest behind.

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The "Big Bertha" with which Parisians became well acquainted during the World War was designed and constructed by Otto Ritter von Eberhard, a former artillery officer employed by Krupps for sometime before the outbreak of war. The task set by the German General Staff for the production of a gun of extraordinary range fell to him. The first gun, an experimental one, was never used on the Western Front. It received its trials in Meppen. A range of 50 km. was attained. This, however, did not meet requirements. So von Eberhard began the study of trajectories in rarefied air, projectile form incident thereto, gun design with large angles of elevation and their recoil systems, etc. The result was the "Beta" gun which attained a range of 100 km., at Heligoland. Those who worked with the gun had no difficulty in forming the nickname "Bertha" from the designation "Beta."

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A LOVE LETTER FROM SONGS

"Mademoiselle," "May I"? "Fool That I Am", "Let's Honeymoon Again". "Your Love", "So Nice" is like "Melody in Spring". "As Long as I Live" "I'll String Along With You". "Little Did I Dream" "That's What Makes the World Go Around", "Lovely One."

"I Think You're Wonderful" and this is "Just a Perfect Nite for Love". Lets "Live and Love Tonight" because "I'm Glad I Waited". "Stay a Little Closer to Me", The Better to Love You, My Dear". "Tell Me Whose Girl You Are" or "This is Our Last Nite Together" "Unless Your Heart is Mine".

"I Wonder Who's With You Tonight" "Without That Certain Thing." "Ending With a Kiss."



NOSEY NEWS by EV' BODY

Barker, that heartbreaker from the second cheesebox, is keeping quiet about his girl friend. He says he doesn't need any help to woo the gal. Who is the guy that says he doesn't care whether Betty Boop writes him or not as his smile and dimples slay them, so it is a cinch for him to get another. His initials are Arthur. If you must talk in your sleep, Crane, why don't you talk plain? I stayed awake half one night trying to get the dope on you for this column. It is rumored that the leading seaman from the Well Deck was never going to Frisco again. How many days leave did you get there, Pockets? That big handsome Texan from the Speedy Second standing in front of the mirror putting Vitalis on his hair??? Wallace still says he has not joined the Golden Grain Club. Won't be long now, though. What is this we hear about Boats O'Brien being rejected from the ships bowling team because his feet are too large?? That probably accounts for his playing with the little gals ballon in Mary Janes one night. Highstreet stepping high, wide and handsome in San Diego. It is rumored that Sand-gap was buying turkey sandwiches at the College Inn. The dope is out that Red Pinion is tired of his benzine buggy. And Charlie Campbell having Nydegger make the gals for him. Flash — Pawlak taking charge in Long Beach while the fleet was out. Ross, Norris and Graves, the Super-Gigolos of the fighting Second. Kennedy trying to behave himself. Oh, oh, Arthur raising another soup strainer. Is her name Ginger, Arthur???

First of all, lads, we wish to make amends, and right an error. It was

Pemental, the great silent lover, who had the sweet young thing calling him "Angel", instead of Garcia, as was previously reported. We hear that Ensey, after months of obscurity, is about to burst forth in a blaze of glory in the publication of his book, titled, "The Legless Wonder of the Yangtze." Many of the "boots" with 10, 12 and more years in were having quite a job keeping the "Steward's Stores" down at the start of this cruise. They are too numerous to mention. We wonder what there is about a certain GM3c of the 2nd that makes him so different from the others. We shall have to ask his "sugar" at the first opportunity. Lutz, the hairy-chester WT, joined the gun deck "nudisk" colony with a vengeance, only old Sol got the vengeance and Lutz was all burned out. The beer around here seems to have a kick, or rather should we say "punch" after the antics of the returning liberty party the other eve. The prize of the day goes to Turner, the fair haired 1st Div. wrestler, who tried to down a bottle of Wors-tershire Sauce in two gulps with the most disastrous results. We note that Shorty Meyers has changed his rate to Boatswain Mate 3 piece. How d'yuh get that way? Debri and Shaw are using their spare time on the cruise to perfect their signals as well as their bridge game. Maybe their gal friends will finally get some competition after all. Married life has changed Wersal (He never says a word), so that even his best friends hardly know him. "Tex" Farquhar is all upset since his first skirmish with the daughters of Nippon here. He says they have the prettiest dark eyes??? Anyone desiring instructions on how to break down and reassemble a .45 Colt, see "Zeb" Webster.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Hawaiian troupe that came aboard last Thursday evening and gave us such a wonderful exhibition of Hawaiian songs and dances. Thanks again and come back soon. Aloha!

Receipe for Navy Coffee

1 pound of coffee to two gal. of water. Boil for two hours, then drop a Marlin spike in it. If the Marlin spike sinks, the coffee isnt done.

Send the BLUE BONNET home

BELIEVE IT IF YOU CAN

Most of us in the 2nd Division have heard many stories, such as: I was in the Div. during the Big Storm off the Coast of France; weary stories of the Yangtze; when I was in Japan; or when they had the small Barber Shop; or before they installed the Ship's Ice Cream Machine.

But—

Did you know that O'Brien, BM1c has been just 26 years old for the past five years?

Did you know that "Red" Pinion, Ships Barber, has been married four times and has never been divorced; never charged with bigamy; never paid alimony; makes every liberty, and still in love?

Did you know that George, S1c, is now engaged to a woman with enough kids to man a 5" sky gun?

Did you know that Charlie Campbell, Cox., had his baby picture enlarged and his wife wouldn't let him in the house?

WHY I AM RETURNING TO THE ASIATICS

Dedicated to O'Brien by a Pal

Back to the land of Pagodas
Where the best is none too good
'Tis there I am returning
As a China sailor should.

My koibito is calling
Her charm is ever near
Tho centuries have departed
Since she tenderly bit my ear.

Ah, my slant eyed beauty
I am coming back to thee
To eat my rice and fish heads
Like a genuine Nipponee.

We'll have a little home, dear
Where the breeze driven perfumes reek
In that Chinese town of Chefoo
Upon the banks of Roses Creek.

We'll have an amma and houseboy
And a richsha coolie, too
To do the work that your hands
Never need to do.

Our forms will be kimono clad
As we'll gaze upon the sea.
The eyes of the junks alone will witness
Sweet caresses given me.

Ah, transport, hurry, hurry
My patience has reached its end
For my pockets are overflowing
With Mex. appeal to vend.

Norris (looking at blind date): No, I'm afraid you won't do."

Innocent Thing: Did I say I wouldn't.

THE SECOND DIVISION In The Sports World

represented by Fahey, Love and Smith.

In the last interdivisional rifle meet held between the deck Divisions, the 2nd came out on top, while in the last swimming meet the Division won the trophy now hanging in the living compartment.

In inter-divisional rowing, baseball, and soccer, the Division has always been among the leaders, while the first football game was won from the 3rd Division 12 to 0.

A few of the Division representatives in all-Fleet Athletics are Stand-afar with the all-ScoFor rifle and pistol team, Fahey with the all-Asiatic Baseball team, Mustain was on the CruDivScoFor boxing team, while Kennedy was among the first ten in the all-ScoFor basketball team.

Gwinn was the Division representative in the only swimming meet the ship ever took part in.

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A FEW FIRSTS

In The History of The HOUSTON

board ship at Houston, Tex., on Oct. 29, 1930.

The Landing Force was first organized and drilled on Aug. 28, 1930 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The first football game was played in Shanghai, China, during the Sino-Jap conflict. The opponents were the 2nd and 3rd Divisions, with the 2nd winning 12 to 0.

The first full power run was held enroute Southampton, England on Sept. 8, 1930.

The first fire occurred on July 3, 1930, in the foremast and the fire party was on the job in one-half minute.

The first discharge occurred on board on June 18, 1930, while the first re-enlistment on board occurred June 19, 1930. Skrounski, F., Eng2c, was the man on both occasions.

The first transfer was effected on June 17, 1930, while the first receipt of a man for duty was on June 17, 1930, a few minutes after commissioning.

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Asher: My Dad raised strawberries on his farm this year that were six inches in circumference.

Sharpe: What did he put on them? Fertilizer?

Asher: No. Cream and sugar.

INTERESTING FACTS About The HOUSTON

a total of 120,000 miles and used more than 10,000,000 gallons of oil.

The Houston has stood highest in her class in Engineering every year since commissioning, yet has never been awarded the white "E". Technicalities have always deprived our snappy engineers of this honor.

The Houston has dressed ship approximately 60 times, and at one time two of our planes flew to Paris, France, landing in the Seine River.

On the return trip from Europe, the Houston carried two stowaways, the only stowaways ever carried as far as is known.

While approaching her bouys in Shanghai China, a French Gunboat, the Francis Garnier, apparently attempting to demonstrate some snappy seamanship, came too close to our bow, getting caught in the tide and, being swept under our bow, was cut nearly in half. Luckily no one was injured.

The reason we have a one and seven eights inch wire hawser on the fantail is due to a merchant ship getting out of control on the Whangpoo River in Shanghai, causing another merchant ship moored astern of us to break loose, drift into us, crushing our port quarter, carrying away the flag staff, stb'd quarter boom, crushing the stb'd propeller guard and parting the wire hawser led to the bouy astern.

In her time the decks of the Houston have been trod by many famous, great and near-great personages. A few are listed below:

The President of the United States.
The President of the Republic of Panama.

The President of Haiti.
The President of Columbia.
The President of China.
The Datu of Mindinao.
The Secretary of War.
The Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

The Governor General of the Philippines.

The Governor General of Hawaii.
The Governor of Guam.
The Governor of the Virgin Isles.
The Governor of Porto Rico.
The Governor of the Canal Zone.
The Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

The Governor of Yokohama Prefecture, Japan.

The Chief of the US Secret Service.
Rep. Ruth Bryan Owen.

His Worship, the Mayor of Southampton, England.

The Burgomaster of Rotterdam, Holland.

American Charge d' Affairs at the Hague.

His Excellency, the Governor of Hong Kong.

The American Envoy Extraordinary, and Minister Plenipotentiary to China.

There have also been innumerable Ambassadors, Consul Generals, Consuls, Envoys, high ranking Government officials as well as high ranking officers of the military services of all nations.

There are now only 27 of the original crew serving on board and five of them are in the 2nd. Division.

It is generally an accepted fact that there are very few rich men in the crew, but collectively this ship's company is quite rich when you realize that since commissioning, members of the Houston's crew have earned \$584,903,680.00. It might be added that the 5th pay grade has earned the greatest part of this amount.

During Sept., 1931, the Houston steamed about 600 miles up the Yangtze river to assist in rescue work during one of the worst floods in history on that famous river.

The worlds record for SRBP is held by No. 3, 5" AA gun, and every gun and turret as well as the torpedo tubes, now off the ship, have held the coveted Navy "E".

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BASEBALL

During our stay in San Diego, the baseball team had one game, playing the San Diego Gas and Electric Co., on Wednesday, May 15. The game was full of action with our boys showing flashes of their former form, but eventually the effects of much liberty began to show. "Tiny" Rimmer took the mound for us and went well for about five innings before he weakened. Davis at first was full of the old fight as usual but he also weakened after a few innings, while several of the regulars were not out due to their respective duties on board. The final score was 8 to 2 with the Houston on the short end.