



YE OLDE SHORT RANGE BATTLE PRACTICE

—:—
By
The Gunnery Officer
—:—

In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to love. In the autumn a young man's fancy turns to football, bonfires, pumpkins, Hallowe'en ... and in the Navy, to thoughts of Short Range Battle Practice. All other forms of target practice have varied in form through the years but Short Range Battle Practice is pretty much the same as it was when Admiral Dewey was a midshipman. Every one knows that this practice is the first and most elementary gunnery exercise of the year and it has for its objective, the reorganizing of guns crews and the selecting and training of pointers for the more advanced practices of the coming gunnery year. Even though Short Range is an easy type of practice and is most elementary in character, there is no practice which means more to the men that shoot it or to the ship itself. In the first place, prize money—which is always acceptable—is at stake in this practice. In the second place qualifications for gun pointers and trainers are at stake—which means extra money on each payday for the remainder of the year if the pointer groups click. But the thing that really makes this practice stand out is that it is a test of individual skills more than any other practice of the year. Through the years, Short Range Battle Practice has come to be considered as a criterion of "just how good are you, anyway".

(Continued on Page Four)

FAMED COCOS ISLANDS IN THE NEWS AGAIN

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Recent newspaper accounts of the rescue of an adventurous couple bring back memories of the HOUSTON'S two visits to this famous little dot on the Pacific.

An American adventurer and his wife had stopped at Cocos, last April, in their cruise around the Americas in a canoe.

In May the man became ill and was unable to continue the journey.

It was not until this August that assistance arrived, a Tuna fishing schooner happening to stop by, thereby being the means of averting a tragedy at this beautiful, and historic island.

The HOUSTON anchored in Chatham Bay in her two visits there with President Roosevelt, while the recent rescue was affected in Wafer Bay on the farther side of the island.

Many members of the crew will remember the expedition which landed at Wafer Bay to inspect the scene of treasure hunting operations which a British group were there conducting.

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INFORMATION REGARDING ALLOTMENTS
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The attention of the Bureau has been invited to a corporation whose method of operation is such as to circumvent the restrictions established by the Department as to the purposes for which allotments may be registered.

In order to obtain a loan, the borrower, besides signing the usual papers, is required to enter into a contract for a \$1,000 "bond" or "savings

(Continued on Page Four)

WRESTLING TEAM TO COMPETE IN ALL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIP

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The second annual all service wrestling championship sanctioned by the Comander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet and sponsored by the San Pedro Army and Navy YMCA will be held at San Pedro YMCA September 9-10-11 & 12, commencing at 7:00 p. m. each evening.

Once more the squad meets with difficulties as the dates of the meet conflict with Short Range Battle Practice and most of the old members of the squad are in the deck force. They have battle stations for short range and cannot enter, this leaves the featherweight, lightweight and welter weight classes without entries. Anyone not having a SRBP station and desiring to enter report for practice. Previous experience is not necessary. At present the following men are representing the HOUSTON in the meet: Pratt - 155lbs, (engineers),

(Continued on Page Four)

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NAVAL NOTES AND NEWS
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Acting Secretary of the Navy, Admiral William H. Standley, announced that a new trophy designated as the Rear Admiral William A. Moffett Memorial Trophy will be awarded annually to the battleship or cruiser based aviation unit which conducts its operations throughout the year with the maximum of safety.

Harriet Virginia Kimmell, daughter of Mayor Joseph W. Kimmell of Vincennes, Indiana, christened the VINCENNES May 21 by smashing a bottle of French wine, donated by Mayor Bonvoison of Vincennes, France, across her bow.

—: 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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29 AUGUST, 1936

★.....★.....★
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S
PROBLEM

Brakeman not Robinson. Problem states that Mr. Robinson lives in Detroit and that passenger who lives in Chicago has the same name as the brakeman.

Mr. Jones not brakeman's nearest neighbor. The problem states that Mr. Jones makes \$2000 per year and that the brakeman's nearest neighbor makes three times what he does. Common sence tells us that a brakeman makes more than \$666.666. Furthermore the problem states that Mr. Jones makes exactly \$2000 and that the fireman makes exactly 1/3 the amount his nearest neighbor does. 3 does not go into 2000 an even number of times.

Therefore by elimination Mr. Smith must be nearest neighbor and must also live 1/2 way between Chicago and Detroit to be nearest.

Jones is therefore brakeman's name because Mr. Robinson lives in Detroit and Mr. Smith 1/2 way between Detroit and Chicago.

Smith not fireman because problem states he beat fireman at Billards.

Therefore since we have problem that Jones is brakeman and that Smith isn't fireman, Smith has to be the engineer.

HOUSTON'S CPO'S RECEIVE
PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS

During recent weeks three of our popular Chiefs took their exams, passing them succesfully. Through the Blue Bonnet, all hands extend their congratulations to Latour, L. K., CFC Hicks, C. M., CY. and Starkie, R. E., CMM.

The folks at home will enjoy reading the Blue Bonnet. Mail it!

ON SAILING IN TO PORTLAND

We sail to town and Hamlet
And each its best discloses.
But never are our hearts more stirred
Than by Portland—City of Roses.

The crowds come streaming to the
dock—
They seem a million massed—
To watch the sailors land their craft,
And make the hawsers fast.

And through the blistering August
Sun
We hear those millions cheer.
Their shouts come to us on the deck
In anthems loud and clear.

This was our welcome as we sailed
Into the port and met
The folks who live so happily
Upon the Willamette.

—R. W. Berg

THE PASSING OF A HOUSTON
RELIC

To many of our shipmates it was nothing more than a broken down, sea-bitten old piano, all out of tune and ready for Davy Jones' locker.

To me it was the nicest piano in the world; why—when I had the duty over the week ends I would go cruising down to No. 1 Mess Hall and play tunes and melodies that were closest to my briny heart, songs that I learned and loved back home before I came into the Navy.

It would take me back to the days when I knew nothing of General Quarters and the Navy was just something I had heard about.

Now I will miss the old relic, once a proud piano, for I watched my shipmates hoist it over the side and into the waiting arms of the Grey Ghost, there to be transported to the domain of all landlubbers and the unappreciative gaze of strangers.

How sadly I realize my shipmates and I will never be able to gather around again, and sing these old songs such as the "Music Goes Round and Round".

I wonder what will become of me now that it is gone and I have the duty this lonely week-end.

I most certainly will miss the piano and the gang who used to gather round on these occasions now but a memory.

HOUSTON BALL CLUB
WELCOMES NEW PILOT

During the past week the ball club has been out daily, preparing for the rumored "Fall-Series". To date there is no definite information as to just when this series will be run off if it is in effect at all.

Our club is anxious to prove their ability and therefore have been using every oportunity to improve themselves.

2nd. Lieut. Williamson has taken over the coaching and managing duties of the team, Lt. Moosebrugger being literally swamped at the present time with our busy gunnery schedule in the offing.

The team became a bit rusty during the 'Frisco stay, but this Southern California sunshine seems to be just the thing. All hands are once more pasting the old apple about Navy Field and the speed shown on the bases indicates our opponents in future games will have to keep a wary eye on our ace base pilferers.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

24 Third attack upon the shore defences of Tripoli by the U. S. Squadron under Commo. E. Preble, 1804.

25 U. S. Gunboat Pampanga (4 guns), Lieut. F. R. Payne, captured a banca off Biliran Island, P. I., 1900.

26 U. S. Frigate Philadelphia (36 guns), Capt. W. Bainbridge, captured the Tripolitan Corsair Mirboka (22 guns), Ibraham Lubarez, near Cape De Gatt, Spain, 1803.

27 Boat expedition unded Lieut. J. H. Ward in Charlotte Harbor, Fla., 1836.

28 Fourth attack upon Tripoli by the U. S. Squadron under Commo. E. Preble, 1804.

29 Capture of Forts Hatteras and Clark, Hatteras Inlet, N. C., by the U. S. Squadron (7 ships, 156 guns) under Commo. S. H. Stringham, 1861.

30 U. S. Frigate President (44 guns), Commo. J. Rodgers, captured the British Brig Shannon, in the Atlantic Ocean, 1813.

Folta: "I can tell the age of a chicken by the teeth."

Daly: "But a chicken hasn't any teeth."

Folta: "No, but I have."



**NOSEY
NEWS
'BOUT
EV'BODY**

Our approach to the Home port was amply taken care of by those of our shipmates who decided the land route was best from 'Frisco. Rather surprising to see the local Ranger all decked out when the sailor men were returning.

No doubt their policy is like their weather - changeable on short notice. Maybe the old fleet was missed at that.

We know quite a few Houstonites missed Long Beach, but what we can't understand is the fact that so many of our old habitudes of the "Hamburger Canyon" have suddenly changed to new haunts. Even Clymer gave up and returned on Sunday morning and he was observed guzzling coca-colas, something positively out of his line of refreshments.

The big "Dit-Da" man of the flag Hennessy tells us he can't be tempted by the beach until our arrival in 'Frisco. The lad admits it isn't the scenery which has captivated him either.

At times we hear of certain of our sipmates outdoing themselves in the hopes of becoming a temporary spotlight figure in the local news. Joe Shepherd has the right idea but the wrong technique. Don't give up Joe - you're improving.

Bunnell, a familiar figure about the Pike reports his interests suffered very little change during his absence. His ability to keep his chin up took a terrific beating in the Northland tho.

We have recently learned that Phillips, another Dit-Da lad, is seriously thinking of becoming a mess-boy. His

only requirement seems to be the need of a capable instructor. We are afraid he is beyond all help.

Pvt. (ex) Standafer reports that he and the only other Pvt. to emerge from the Army, (you know all the rest are at least Sgts.) had a great get-together upon arrival in Long Beach. Our rare specimen seems to be hold his own, whereas he used to cash in his chips long before the usual hour.

Before the week-end is out we feel sure the Gunnery Yeoman will be a dyed in the wool Benedict. The lad is making a flying trip to Yuma to get spliced. Strange how these lads can't bear to wait the three days in this state.

Harrell reports his ancient relic of depression days just won't keep up with the times. It is possible the old Henry finally refused to be given such uncouth treatment.

Reports have been seeping in that the former Queen of the penthouse is in a very bad humor, and all because he received only a few lines when he took the big leap. Just think how many of your shipmates are greatly depressed because you forgot to hand out the stogies.

That reminds us—Slough says he will not forget.

We hear "Buck" Taylor is looking for a first class "Stage-Line" sleuth. It seems these popular lengths of manila did a disappearing act while he was on leave.

The way some of our GG members are casting loose the mooring lines these days is seems sure the club is going to start a membership drive soon. Maybe they need a new President. Willie Fish should be eligible soon.

Cop: "Hey there, don't jam up traffic, Use your noodle."

Cheek: "I didn't know the car had one."

Mr. Doe: "I'll teach you to make love to my daughter."

"Goon" Jones: "I wish you would. I am not making much headway."

Have you written home this week?

**CONTRIBUTOR APPRECIATES
USE OF HIS EFFORTS**

—:—
Tacoma, Wash.
August 4, 1936.

Ensign C. J. Mackenzie
U. S. NAVY
Editor, THE BLUE BONNET
U. S. S. HOUSTON

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you ever so much for the two copies of The Blue Bonnet. It was indeed a pleasant surprise to me. The beautiful arrangement and prominent place, you have given my poem, which was dedicated to Admiral Tarrant, shall be an inspiration to me.

Enclosed please find a poem to "Blue Bonnet" and one of mine, published in the Tacoma News-Tribune, July 4th.

In thanking you again, I wish to assure you, The Blue Bonnet is a fine and very interesting publication.

Yours very sincerely,

J. H. Zegender
419 E. Gregory St.
Tacoma, Wash.

BLUE BONNET!

—:—

Your nice Blue Bonnet,
A lovely thing to see,
Your nice Blue Bonnet,
Real pleasure gave to me;
Your good Blue Bonnet,
You probably cannot wear,
So fold it nicely in three parts,
And send to someone dear

Reach for your Blue Bonnet,
and smile, smile, smile,
You'll find your name in it,
'twill be worth your while
(Maybe-e-e)

Cheer for your Blue Bonnet,
it's yours, your very own,
She'll find your name in it,
and love to have it known

—J. H. Zegender

Hula Maid: "Gee, I'm simply wild over that shipwrecked sailor".

Second Maid: "So'm I. Let's pull straws for him".

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The first American warship made of iron and using steam propulsion was the U. S. S. Michigan.

APPRECIATES COURTESY

—:—
1335 N. E. Ainsworth St.
Portland, Oregon
August 14, 1936

Commanding Officer.
U. S. S. HOUSTON
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my appreciation in thanking you for the courtesy and kindness shown my wife, children and friends by your seaman Harry R. Brown, during your visit to Portland.

Mr. Brown was kind enough to use a period of his liberty, to conduct them around on your Good Ship and explain places of interest which were open to visitors.

Yours very truly,
Larry M. Wooton.

PERSONNEL

Reenlisted on Board

Kinhartz, W. A., GM2c.
Eggerter, E., SC2c.
Cochrane, D. E., SK3c.

Received

Hatch, G. R., CQU from U. S. S. HOLLAND.

Igno, F., Matt1c., from U. S. S. HULL.

Rozelle, C. E., S2c., from U. S. S. RELIEF.

Transferred

Maghean, R. F., MM2c., to U. S. S. RELIEF.

Winig, C. A., FC3c., to Primary Fire Control School.

Glider, N. R., Y3c., to Stenography School.

Reyes, D., Matt1c., to U. S. S. HULL.

Wilburn, H. D., S1c., to 11th Naval District.

Ghormley, J., Matt2c., to Officer's Cooks and Bakers School.

Admiral Byrd took ice-boxes with him to the South Pole to keep provisions from freezing.

Luck is a good thing that always happens to those who keep trying.

Small Boy: "Daddy, what do you call a man who drives a car?"

Father: "It depends on how close he comes to me."

INFORMATION REGARDING ALLOTMENTS

(Continued From Page One)

contract," both loan and "savings contract" to be handled by a single allotment. Of the amount allotted, \$7.00 becomes a credit on the savings end of the transaction, and the remainder of the allotment goes toward paying off the loan. As an example, if an individual borrows \$300 to be paid back in 12 months, \$7.00 of this allotment being credited to the savings contract, and \$25.00 goes toward paying off the loan. Like all such loans it is discounted and he receives about \$250.00 cash. At the end of 12 months he has actually paid in \$384.00.

In most cases the men discontinue their contracts as soon as the loan is repaid, as they can see no advantage in continuing the savings end of the transaction. The contract has no cash surrender value before it has been in effect 18 months, and the cash surrender value does not equal the amount paid in until the contract has been in effect about six years. In the example drawn up above, the man, having discontinued payments at the end of 12 months, has paid \$384.00 for a loan of \$250.00 for a period of one year.

The above indicates the importance of investigating thoroughly the object of allotments in order that assurance may be had that the allotment system is being used for legitimate purposes. Furthermore, instruction of personnel should be continued as to such transactions, pointing out to them exactly what it is costing them in becoming a party to this contract.

WRESTLING TEAM TO COMPETE IN ALL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIP (Continued From Page One)

Beckwith - 165lbs, (flag), Folta - 175 lbs, (R div.), Fox - unlimited and Du-Rose - unlimited, (engineers), Juul - unlimited (flag). The number of entries in each weight is not limited.

The meet affords an excellent opportunity for members of the squad to gain experience in competitive wrestling, especially under the new rules of point wrestling. Any service man in uniform will be admitted free of charge. With the start that this meet gives us the team will shape up rapidly for the Cruiser eliminations.

SHORT RANGE BATTLE PRACTICE

(Continued From Page One)

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Sometimes an artificial enthusiasm is systematically worked up over this practice with the idea of getting everybody pepped up.

Enthusiasm is fine and most desirable but if it results in guns crews becoming tense and jittery it defeats its own aims. Short Range Battle Practice is a demonstration of the acquired or natural skills of the people in the pointing groups and loading crews. No skill can be exercised to perfection when a man is tense. If the pointers, trainers, sightsetters and loading crews have acquired their skills patiently and slowly but **thoroughly**, they will go into Short Range Practice with an assurance that comes from supreme confidence in themselves and will proceed to put all the shots "down the old ally" and take the practice in their stride. It is not necessary to hold pep meetings in order to get guns crews to accomplish this. An outfit that is well trained is "good" and knows it is "good". The Gunnery Officer has watched closely the work of all the guns crews and believes there is ample talent and skill in the guns crews of the HOUSTON to enable the ship to go out on the day of Short Range Battle Practice and shoot in a matter of fact, business-like manner which will bring in good scores, prize money and plenty of qualifications.

HUMOR

—:—
Good sailors should know: Running lights are stationary.

Jimmy-Legs is not a disease.

The anchor-watch has no jewels.

It is not safe to smoke a hawse pipe.

Barbette is not the name of a girl.

Hash marks are not German money.

A dead-light was never known to be alive.

The black-gang is composed of white men.

Sick-bay will not be found on the map.

A diving chest is not a physical defect.

An anchor ball is not a shin dig.

And two-bitts is not money.

Mail the "Blue Bonnet" home!