

Volume II.

San Pedro, Cal., August 17, 1935.

Number XXXII

**REAR ADMIRAL ST. CLAIR SMITH
COMMAND OF BATTLE
DIVISION THREE**

Monday afternoon at 1432 Rear Admiral St. Clair Smith assumed command of Bat Div Three on board his flagship, the Idaho. He relieved Admiral Murfin who will in turn relieve Admiral Upham as C in C Asiatic.

THE POST OFFICE

During recent weeks a large number of the crew have received mail, stamped, requesting them to inform correspondents of their correct address. We must all realize that the division letter or number is a genuine necessity, as much so as the ship's name. Many times members of the crew have received their morning mail in the afternoon, due, entirely to the fact that the mail orderly had to check many letters with the division mark omitted. In time to come our new mail orderly will become more familiar with the names and corresponding divisions, but we can all greatly assist in quicker distribution of mail by informing correspondents of our full address.

Another little incident, happening to most of us occasionally is this: In mailing an unusually weighty letter, and who doesn't have one once in a while, with all the interesting events, cruises, and even heart troubles, we should have said letter or letters weighed, assuring ourselves of immediate mailing.

PERSONNEL

NEW "E" DIVISION OFFICER

Saturday, 10 August, Lt. McCallum reported on board for duty. Lt. McCallum was assigned to the Engineering Department as "E" Division Officer. He is a member of the Naval Academy class of '24. Before coming to the HOUSTON, he had duty in Washington, D. C. with the Naval Intelligence Service. We welcome Mr. McCallum aboard and hope he has an enjoyable tour of duty.

HOUSTON ASSIGNED NEW AVIATOR

According to a recent dispatch received on board, we learn that Lt(jg) S. P. Weller has been assigned to the HOUSTON unit of VS-TEN-S for duty. It is expected that he will report aboard within the next week. This will fill the HOUSTON'S quota of aviators.

UP THE LADDER

Rainey, G. W. S1c. to RM3c. Congrats and cigars are in order.

TRANSFERS

Durham, B.S., F1c. to Naval Hospital, San Diego.

Sukow, E. C. S1c to Stenographer's School, San Diego.

RECEIPTS.

Hicks, C. M., CY. from N.A.S. Pensacola, Fla.

Osborne, W. H., Yeo. 3., from U.S.S. Worden.

Continued on page four

**CAPTAIN WOODSON AND FAMILY
SAIL FOR ORIENT**

Monday morning Captain Woodson and his family sailed from San Pedro on the President liner President Johnston for the Orient. Upon arriving on the Asiatic Station he will become Chief of Staff on Admiral Murfin's staff.

As the president Johnston stood out of the channel our old Skipper stood on the upper deck and waved a last farewell to our aviators returning from San Diego.

CHANGES IN ATHLETIC COMPETITION UNITS in THE U.S. FLEET

To offer the benefits of athletics to the largest possible number of men for the year 1935-36, the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet has seen fit to change the present arbitrary and illogical division of Units.

According to the new schedule, the Fleet will be divided into the following Units:

BATTLESHIP UNIT—

Consisting of all battleships, Saratoga, and Lexington. Administered by Commander Battleships, Battle Force.

HEAVY CRUISER UNIT—

Consisting of all Heavy cruisers, Vestal, Medusa, Argonne, and Relief. Administered by Commander Cruisers, Scouting Force.

LIGHT CRUISER UNIT—

Continued on page two

—: 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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August 17, 1935.

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PEP TALK

Conditions now are excellent. No matter how long you wait, you'll never have a better chance to advance yourself. There is a shortage of personnel in the upper brackets, which will soon be filled by ambitious men.

The opening of advancements is the Navy way of saying, "We are giving you your chance". Why not take advantage of your time to really make something out of yourself?

Up for a rate signifies more than just the desire. It means good hard work on your own time and loss of liberty to some extent. Study has never hurt anyone yet. The educational course which you are required to take for advancement will not be forced on you by your Division Officer. He'll speak of it, yes, and urge to sign up for one, but he cannot make you take it. If you really want a course, no one is more willing to help you than your Junior Division Officer. See him about it.

Just getting a course in isn't enough. Although, there are going to be more openings within the next year than there has been since the war, there is going to be plenty of competition for each and every rate. The man who is best prepared has a decided advantage over the man who just has a course in. With approximately six hundred openings a quarter the man who "puts out" will be justly rewarded.

A settlement in the Fiji Is, is called "Ba", situated on the river "Ba".

Boost HOUSTON Athletics!

CHANGES IN ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE UNITS, U.S.FLEET

Consisting of all Light Cruisers, Ranger, Langley, Wright, Whitney, Dobbins, Melville, Altair, and Holland. Administered by Commander Cruisers, Battle Force.

DESTROYER UNIT—

Consisting of all Destroyers. Administered by Senior Commander Destroyers.

SUBMARINE UNIT—

Consisting of all Submarines and Bushnell. Administered by Commander Submarine Force or Officer designated by him.

Except for boxing or wrestling, official contests and eliminations will be carried only to the point of determining the champion of the Unit. There will be no U.S.Fleet champions except in boxing and wrestling.

Every effort will be made to determine U.S.Fleet champions in boxing and wrestling. To this end, Unit Champions in those sports are to be determined by 1st of February, 1936, at which time plans will be made for the final elimination and championship bouts between Unit and Champions.

In contests other than boxing and wrestling, should the champion team or individual of one Unit desire to challenge the champion team or individual of another Unit, such contest will be allowed, but will receive no official recognition or reward. Such contests, if mutually desired, will be arranged for and governed by the Unit Commanders concerned; or, if desirable, by the Commanding Officers concerned. However, when preparing for such contests, the practice of detaching, either temporarily or permanently, the athletes from their ships and assembling them as a squad upon another ship will not be permitted.

LEWIS: "Honey, I'd go through anything for you".

SAN DIEGO LOVE LIGHT: "Okay, Boats, lets start with your bankroll".

There is a river in the Netherlands named "Y".

Send in your "Blue Bonnet" contribs!

EXHAUST PIPE



This week all the planes are being used for everything from "Aloha" to freight along with their routine purpose.

Now that the planes have also started advertising for a "Funny Paper" Syndicate everyone wants to know why we have turned them into a billboard. It's a long story but here goes.

Several months ago, while flying between this ship and North Island the planes ran onto a large cigar-shaped object in the fog. They were about to attack it, thinking it was an enemy Zep. When one of the planes flying close, found it to be one of our own Submarines. Upon returning to the ship Hollingsworth and Readette wanted to put in for diving money. Some wise person figured we were doing a lot of semi Submarine work out there in the fog and immediately the squadron adapted the "Lame Duck" Ensignia. This rare bit of art and color matching can be found just aft of the gas tank on each side of the fusilage and contrary to various belief, is not put on there to scare evil spirits away but to show our Plane captain's ability in all vocations.

Speaking of plane captains, No.12 and Pemberton have a "New Papa". He is none other than the name sake of this column or Walter James Gregg to you.

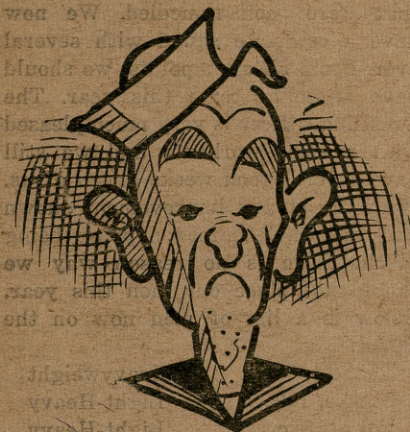
Each nite finds him offering a prayer to the Gods of Vibration, Revolutions and Sure start. To date, Puckett has withheld all his secrets for quick starting from Gregg and we wouldn't be surprised to see some money change hands to get him to withhold them from everyone.

With the leaving of McCarrol he left a "List of Regards" to everyone and wishes to thank the division many times for the remembrance in the form of a solid silver cigarette case.

Did you ever see it so hot in California that Rattlesnakes were dying of the heat and Lizards couldn't get enough water? If not, call personally and you will get the dope on one place that is hotter than —

NOSEY NEWS

by
EV' BODY



It is rather surprising to note how well behaved the boys are, and only one week in the home port.

The bunk ladder is near completion for "Pee-Wee" DeForge, since so many of the boys have so generously contributed. Our ace "wood-butcher" Shaw says the latest wrinkle in mens shorts "is just too divine for words"? Oh yes. The mighty man of muscles from the laundry, "Slice-Bar" Leslie, met with a colorful reception on our recent return. We are wondering whether "Curley" Woodward, our sea-soldier laundryman has been having secret fishing practice through that port hole. We really didn't know fishing was so good here in the harbor. "Betty Boop" Demoney, we learn is our newest addition to the G. G.'s association, congrats, and please pass the cigars. 'Tis almost funny to watch the members of the crew shaving with the hunt and feel method, since the mirrors are minus in the washrooms. Our buglin' sea-soldier Chop, insists that from now on he will keep away from portholes, no matter how badly he feels he should go near one. There was a suspicious air about with GSK Johnson working so hard last Tues. eve., Pst. he had special liberty. Would someone please show that dashing "C" div. man where the washrooms are, it appears that he has used the scuttlebutt forward long enough. We notice that "Wirebrush" Robertson collected quite a mess of foliage (?) in addition to his unusually tall tales seen and heard around Alaska. "Slippery" McKee has been

telling how he used to do it in athletics (soap-box) during his youthful days. Tommy Schramm recently returned from leave a full fledged member of the Golden Grain Club. Jack Vizard, our dashing man from the lab, is contemplating the big leap on or about the 25th of the month, well that means one more cigar. On his recent cross country cruise while in the northwest, Wilburn, that dashing man from the staff gig had no idea it would cause stormy seas in his local love life, oh well that Portland beer is good too???? We are under the impression that even that leave to Blaine did not effect Felix very much as he ups and bails out for the home-country to see the local lass. Word comes to us that Zietfuss does not like to have his heart throb from Blaine called "Butter-Boots", now we wonder why, after all you are getting married to the local lass???? Amie Gamanche is also a recent member of the GG's, funny what these leaves will do.....

Ask that dashing bow hook of No.1 M. L. about his high ideals and get him to tell you the story about the policeman.

We are almost postive we have one marine on board who knows whether or not a hat will float.

Joe Bush says he may put a corn field in commission next spring himself??

Did you ever hear the one about Burgess when he was a quartermaster striker and in his prime, he once heaved the lead from bow to stern, missed the Chief Quartermaster and had to pay for the lead? Wotta' wing!

Weeks has been recently appointed official rat-catcher: "Now if he were the Pied Piper"? ? ? Johnson of the "R" is helping the local city budget, so we hear.

Extra! We notice with great sorrow that a certain stalwart boatswain's mate has all the symptoms of becoming a full fledged member of the Golden Grain Club. Until recently he has been the soul of virtue and integrity. But love hath strange ways and powers. Her first name is Shirley. I won't what strange power she possesses that she is able to lead this confirmed bachelor from the straight and narrow. We mourn our dear departed Father O'Brien.

O. T. McCarty, Ashlin and the new P.O. (O. J. Ehlo) were seen walking very blissfully on the 'Pike', what a

trio??? Another new P. O. in the Engineers force is rumored to be trying to get the dope on marcel's also in the line for one of them "Come to me" palm beach suits. Look out Mac he may come up and see you sometime. Sall', see you later.

WHO REMEMBERS?

FOUR YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

In the early part of this month, the HOUSTON was operating off Chee-foo China, exercising in torpedo runs, and aircraft training. It was during this period that the Houstonites had their first taste of China's summer heat, and our present heat wave is moderate in comparison.

During the latter part of the month we were in Shanghai, having stopped over in Tsingtao, a few days enroute. Much activity was evident for soon, the new C in C would fly his flag at the HOUSTON'S main.

Speaking of the hot climate; in Shanghai it was so hot that all hands slept on the weather decks, and the late comers were hard put to find a sleeping place, after 1600 daily.

DID YOU KNOW?

That: The name, "Old Glory", originated in 1831, when Captain Wm. Driver of Salem Mass. was presented a flag by a committee of ladies; He called it old glory.

That: The stars and stripes first circled the globe on vesels under the command of Captain Robert Gray.

That: There are 10 pennies beneath the foremast, two dimes, 3 nickles and 28 pennies beneath the mainmast of the New Orleans.

That: The term, "Life of Riley", first came into general usage in the U. S. Navy, although it originated on Broadway.

That: The first American warship built of iron and using steam was the Michigan and was built at Erie Pa., in 1842.

That: The U. S. Navy is the only Navy possessing a British Royal Standard; It was captured by Commodore Yauncey at York, Canada, and is now at the Naval Academy.

Send the BLUE BONNET home

RACEBOAT CREW RESUMES OPERATIONS

Under the able direction of Pemental, J. Cox, fourth division, the selected raceboat has resumed operations in the heretofore quiet waters of San Pedro Bay. The line-up consists of several old paddle pushers and some that are new to the game. Pemental reports the tentative line-up as follows: Starting off at the bow with the lightweights we find "Bull" Lawson of the fighting first and Laughlin of the second. At the stroke position we find Pickens, the able gun striker of the fourth, and Farquhar of the second. Occupying the rest of the seats are Kennedy, of the second, Folta and Fair of the first, McDonald, Meyers and Hoover of the fourth division.

At present the crew is training in the HOUSTON'S ten oared boat. But next week a twelve oared boat is to be borrowed and future workouts will be held in it. ROWING TRUNKS will also be obtained for the crews.

All candidates for the first enlistment crew should turn **their names in** to either Pemental or Mr. Harris. This crew is to be formed next week and workouts started. Additional talent will be welcomed in the ranks of the strongbacks.

BOXING

Since returning to Long Beach only a few of the boxers have been faithfully working out. Garcia, Carter, Small, Kollmer and Hill have managed to improve some this week.

Although eliminations do not begin for some time, it is hoped that some fights can be arranged in Long Beach in order to gain experience.

PISTOL TEAM NOTES

Tomorrow, Sun., our Pistol team will have a match with the San Pedro Police team. The match will be fired on the Pistol range at Guffey's canyon, San Pedro, and is scheduled to start about 1400. This is a fine opportunity for many of the crew to witness our team in action; and several more interesting matches are on schedule in the near future.

As we go to press the official scores resulting from the matches in Seattle have not yet arrived.

PERSONNEL

A hearty welcome, and wishes for a pleasant cruise.

Nelson, M., CWT, from treatment at Naval Hospital, San Diego.

McMurphey, D. B., and Robertson J. L., S1c, from Alisex.

Raya, G., Matt3c, from temporary duty with Gunnery School.

The Blue Bonnet welcomes back these shipmates who have been temporarily detached.

REENLISTED ON BOARD

Puckett, H. F., AMM1c, and Hollingsworth, O. R., AMM2c.

DISCHARGED

Hart, W. R., S1c.

JUST A SUGGESTION?

Since the date of commissioning the HOUSTON has been actively engaged in every field of service athletics, having produced several championship teams as well as individual titleholders in their respective sports.

Yet never has a trophy or award of any sort been awarded these bearers of the HOUSTON'S hopes, to show for their efforts and prowess, with the exception of the testimonials presented to the winners of the inter-divisional track meet held in the Norfolk Navy Yard during the first few weeks after commissioning. The usual fleet medals etc., were presented, but since this ship is on the threshold of a seemingly bright athletic year it does appear as though, "If he would have something to show for his athletic endeavors, be it only a ship's letter", would bring a tremendous bearing on the concentrated efforts of all hands to do his bit toward the end we all wish to gain. With so many young men in the service, just out of school, even a letter is something to be proud of, whether awarded for outstanding ability in a certain sport, sticktoitiveness, sportsmanship, or even a just reward for at least trying. Though this be only a suggestion, it may be just what we need to give the final boost to our athletic teams.

There is a county in Oklahoma by the name of "I".

The folks at home will enjoy reading the BLUE BONNET. Mail it.

WRESTLING

This week has been a most successful one for all members of the team, aside, from several slight injuries that were soon remedied. We now have a complete squad with several over. From all standpoints, we should have a stellar team this year. The wrestling officer is very much pleased with present workouts and we still have several good weeks ahead of us. With the steady improvement shown and the wholehearted support being given, there is no reason why we should not place our men this year. Below is a list of men now on the squad:

Bennett, F1c,	Heavyweight
Starke, F3c,	Light-Heavy
Folta, S2c,	Light-Heavy
Thornton, S2c,	Middleweight
Galeshski, Pvt.	Middleweight
Pratt, F3c,	Welterweight
Hennessey, S2c,	Lightweight
Shillito, F3c,	Featherweight
Duggan, S2c,	Bantamweight

The team is under the supervision of Lieutenant Young who is assisted in coaching by Holt.

BASKETBALL

Our hopes published in a recent edition, of an early start in basketball this season, are a reality now, with Ens. Williams leading his casaba artists to the Adm. Leigh gym daily. Seven of last year's squad are out, along with about eight promising looking newcomers. At the present time, condition, form and team work are being stressed, with a sprinkling of plays being worked in. The enthusiasm and vigor displayed in light scrimmage gives much evidence of a squad to be reckoned with this year.

ATHLETIC RULE CHANGES MAKE COMPETITION KEENER

With the recent changes in Fleet Athletic Rules, the distinction of winning All-Navy honors is left to our boxers and wrestlers; but the Cruiser Championship is the goal of our combined Athletic teams, and with the appearance of several new Cruisers, the race is going to be closely contested, or we miss our guess.