



OFFICER PERSONNEL

Lieutenant (jg) D. A. Harris, U. S. N., has just received orders detaching him in June from the U.S.S. HOUSTON. He is being ordered to the U.S.S. CHAUMONT for duty.

Ensign Joseph W. Williams, Jr. U. S. N., has received orders to take his examinations for promotion to Lieutenant (Junior Grade).

Second Lieutenant Henry B. Cain, Jr., U.S.M.C., was ordered to the Fleet Machine Gun School on board the U. S. S. UTAH for temporary duty under instruction. The school convened on 3 February.

TRAINING

In order to stimulate divisional competitive training and to influence men who are ambitious and deserving to prepare themselves for the next higher rating, the Educational Department has decided to publish statistics from time to time which will show the relative standing of Divisions, as a whole, in percentage attainment.

The data given in this article is the number of men in each division who have completed training courses and whose training officers have submitted the results of their examination to the Navigator, during the week. It is obvious that some divisions will have more untrained men in their division than others and, therefore, the relative standing of those divisions will appear to be higher than other divisions but, it is planned to develop a system which will show the number

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KNOW YOUR NAVY

Vessels of the United States and Asiatic fleets are nearly 20 per cent undermanned.

During 1935 it has been possible to man vessels to only 81 percent of their enlisted war complement. There has been a gradual upbuilding of the enlisted personnel of the Navy since 1933, but it has not kept pace with the needs of the Fleet. While the situation has improved somewhat during the current fiscal year it is still far from satisfactory. Reduction of allowances of larger combatant ships below 85 percent of complement is dangerous to the national defense.

In the year just closed an average enlisted strength of 85,510 was maintained. To approach the 85 percent of complement, a total of 86,615 enlisted men would have been necessary. For the fiscal year 1936, an average enlisted strength of 86,000 has been appropriated for.

Studies indicate that 7941 line officers are necessary to fully man the treaty Navy now authorized and building. It has been further determined that 7021 line officers, supplemented by aviation cadets, are necessary to man essential battle stations on Navy vessels if these ships are to be maintained in readiness for war. There is now pending before the 74th Congress a bill that increases the authorized strength of the Navy from 5499 to 6531. This increase is not adequate but it is a definite step in the right direction. Further increase in the line officer strength is imperative.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCEMENT TO CPO DESIRED BY BUREAU

Must Reach Bureau Not Later Than 1 April, 1936.

Recently the Bureau of Navigation sent out a circular letter, authorizing Commanders of certain forces, Base-For included, to recommend eligible first class petty officers for advancement to Chief Petty Officer.

Even though a small number of ratings are included in this quota, it is another reminder to our eligible Houstonites to be always on the alert for the big opportunity.

Opportunity is knocking at the door of our studious and ambitious shipmates quite frequently these days.

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PERSONNEL

Received

Yarbrough, P. E., GM1c, from U.S. S. NITRO.

Morgan, W. C., MM2c, from R.S., San Francisco, California.

The following Sea2c. were received from the U.S.S. NITRO:

Gustafson, J. A., Green, E. F., Gordon, J. E., Gryckiewicz, J., Grzmocinski, R. W., Goddard, J. D., Gilmore, W. J., Garrett, C. M., Hayward, J. V., Haynes, G. T., Hayes, Q. P., Haupt, S., and Hanna, G. E.

Transfers

Kaspar, J. V., CBM (PA), to R.S., Washington, D. C.

Nelson, M., CWT., to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, California.

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—: 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 8, 1936

★ ★ ★
"PATIENCE"

The heart which boldly faces death
Upon the Battlefield, and dares
Cannon and Bayonet, faints beneath
The needle-point of frets and cares.
The stoutest hearts they do dismay--
The tiny stings of every day.

And even Saints of holy fame,
Whose souls by faith have overcome,
Who wore amid the cruel flame
The molten crown of martyrdom
Bore not without complaint away
The petty pains of every day.

Ah! More than Martyr's Aureole,
And more than hero's heart of fire
We need the humble strength of soul
Which daily toils and ills require.
Sweet patience, grant us, if you may,
An added grace for every day.

W. H. Osborne, Y3c.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations for advancement in rating will be held the first part of this week. Seamen will probably be examined Tuesday, Engineers Monday and Gunner's Mates and Fire Contro-men either Monday or Tuesday.

OPTICAL STUDENTS LEAVE SHIP

This past Friday three of the four Ensigns who were living on the HOUSTON while attending the Optical School in the Yard returned to their own ships after completing their course at the Optical School. These officers were: Ensigns Harold H. Larsen, U.S.S. LEXINGTON; Lewis Freedman, U.S.S. OKLAHOMA; and Vincent A. Sisler, Jr., U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA.

NOTICE!

The HOUSTON pistol team is firing a match today, on the Mare Island range, versus the Mare Island Rifle and Pistol Club.

BASKETBALL

Houston Hoopmen Display Great Form In Decisive Win In League Tilt.

Returning to mid-season form our basketeers chalked up their first win in the second round of the Service League, by defeating the Naval Officers last Tuesday evening, 45 to 22. Taking the Court with a determination to break the jinx which had followed them in two previous league defeats, the team played their best game of the current season.

The HOUSTON starting lineup was: Willmuth and Mustain at forwards, Adams and Jones at guard and Kennedy at center.

Cool headed and deliberate floor play were a deciding factor of the game, while the smooth and accurate passing continually found our sharpshooters in a scoring position.

Kennedy, Willmuth and Mustain worked splendidly in the front court, with Kennedy finding pay-dirt continually as he ran up an impressive total of 30 points, 13 field goals and 4 free throws. In the process of Kennedy's one man scoring rampage Willmuth and Mustain occasionally sank one, indicating they were a constant threat.

On the defense the entire squad was impregnable, Jones and Adams doing a great piece of work under the basket, while Kennedy, Willmuth and Mustain were keeping the long shot artists tied up neatly.

The half ended, HOUSTON leading 22 to 4, the starting five continuing as the second half opened.

Early in the second half Mustain wrenched a knee badly, leaving the game in favor of Stoddard who took up where "Musty" left off, doing a fine job of it too.

Midway in the second half the Officers broke loose momentarily to close the gap on the score sheet, at this time Ulrey, Freeman and Brown went in to relieve Jones, Adams and Willmuth.

This combination worked well until the final whistle, holding down the repeated scoring efforts of the Officers while they steadily increased the HOUSTON lead.

Le. (jg) Dennett, one of the two former All-American threats on the

Officers team, was dangerous throughout the game being their high point man even though he was held down to eight points.

Only the fact that our entire squad was on the alert for him, kept him from approaching Kennedy's high total.

BOWLING

Friday night, January 31, the HOUSTON bowling team had their first team match since our arrival in the yard, and, even though very little practice has been had our maple spillers gave a good account of themselves.

The match commenced at 1930 on the Farragut Alleys on Georgia St., the Junior Chamber of Commerce team being the HOUSTON opponents.

The total pin fall of both teams was on an even basis until the final frames of the third and deciding game, when two of our boys fell far below their usual average.

"Tommy" DeBri turned in the high single for the HOUSTON, a neat 175-good bowling when you are working with league wood.

Other team members of the HOUSTON participating in this match were Gilliam, CM3c, Standafer, S1c, and Kirkpatrick, S1c.

This was the last game,—Kirkpatrick, the team captain, shall appear in representing the HOUSTON because he has gone to shore duty on the East coast.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce team won the match handily with their total pin fall being 81 pins better than the HOUSTON total.

CPO RECOMMENDATIONS

Continued from page one

Below is listed the ratings and total number of recommendations desired in each rate; CBM—62, CTM—75, CTC—35, CQM—53, CCStd—59, a total of 284.

It will be noted the HOUSTON will be unable to fill very few of these recommendations due to shortage of men in these rates, nevertheless is is encouraging to the men in other ratings not included in this quota, for, who knows—their rating may be called for next!



NOSEY NEWS

by
EV' BODY

Coming down the stretch in the NYMI derby—we find the snappy HOUSTON crew holding their own, even though the elements have been the source of many exasperated comments. A careful survey of the past two months shows many improvements and a thorough overhaul of the good ship HOUSTON. Soon she will join the fleet once more to take her place as one of the neatest and smartest. The varied activities of the past week enabled ye scribe of ye snoop and scóop column to come forward once again with the usual humorous and otherwise bits of news about thins'that.

After two weeks of good behavior, the weather man just had to pick the nite of the dance to break loose again but he would have to use more than Calif. liquid sunshine to take the zip out of the HOUSTON shin-dig.

Being far more successful than at the last dance, our undercover men had to file many interesting items, but we can let you in on a few of the antics of the boys.

For instance—Johnson of the blacksmith Johnson's surprised us all when he insisted on having the last word in the form of a modern version of what the modern blacksmith sings when at leisure. We are not sure just what the name of the song is.

"Who is Archie" and where is he—was the theme song of four young ladies, all earnestly searching the building for him.

One of the Marx brothers has competition in "Benny" O'Dea, at least the way he was nimbly pursuing a certain blonde would lead one to think so. And incidently—wonder why Ben-

ny failed to write the New York miss?

It is really too bad we are not in the San Pedro area for we are sure "Joe" Lima would win wide recognition as a budding tap-dancer in that amateur contest.

The Navy seems to have two likely marathon Candidates for the coming Olympics in the persons of Farquhar and "K-Boy" Brown. The lads were observed doing the mile in 11' flat in Sacramento recently.

Rumor hath it that the mighty HOUSTON will be sporting the latest style watch cap on No. 1 stack soon. A good break for the bridge and foremast says we.

Could it be said that Goette is always so stubborn when in the mood? He says so.

Adams of the 1st. must have that certain something to be doing road work at 2 AM. Good thing the lights were not all out in the local village or he would still be looking for the Navy Yard.

A certain blonde (partially bald) yeoman striker has started a new fad. He bla-blas over the phone to his passing fancy whilst perrusing the latest sugar reports from the one and only?

As we go to press we have learned why the committee badges were so scarce—Kennedy and Freeman were passing them out for kisses.

Reliable reports indicate that Enos has recently learned a few new tricks in rasslin'. How come Chiefie? ? ?

That 'Frisco bound parade last week end reminded one of a recent visit to San Diego. The only difference was—here the boys head south while there the same lads headed north.

There have been strange rumors circulating about, concerning the last of the "untouched" Old China hands, namely, Wellbourne. Our ace sleuth reports that the High Sheriff's ace sleuth spent that recent "72" in 'Frisco in the interest of Dan Cupid.

After many predictions Highstreet of the 2nd, we find has been blissfully enjoying membership to the GG club for nearly a month now. But where are the stogies Pockets? We'll beat you to the draw and extend our hearty congratulations now.

And we put the mill away for another week, wondering who will be Dingle's Valentine for the coming "Heart exchanging" event? ? ? ?

SAILING AND ROWING RACES

Cruisers' rowing races are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 11 April 1936; the sailing races to be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 13, 14, and 15 April 1936.

The HOUSTON will be in Long Beach on the dates for these events. All candidates for either racing or rowing crew should see Mr. Hilger, or Mr. Marcus immediately.

"SICK-BAY SIDELIGHTS"

"Your medicine has helped me wonderfully," wrote the grateful woman. "A month ago I could not spank the baby, and now I'm able to thrash my husband. Heaven bless you."

KRUEGER:—"No use writing me, ladies, I don't know the name of the darned stuff."

PISTOL TEAM

Houston Loses Close Match On Navy Yard Range

Last Wednesday afternoon our pistol team journeyed out to the Mare Island pistol range to fire their first match since arrival in the yard, last Saturday's match failed to materialize due to the inclement weather.

Our opponents in Wednesday's match were the CHESTER sharpshooters. Ours failed to produce their usual fine scores with the result the CHESTER left the range, the Winner.

Another match with the CHESTER is planned in the near future with the hope that our team shall return a winner. Comparative scores in our last matches show that all team members with the exception of Ch.Gunner Condit, fell far below their general average.

HOUSTON	
NAME	SCORE
Ens. Burdick	202
Ch. Gunner Condit	232
Whaley, EM3c.	204
Armiger, PFC	215
Fabic Pvt	203
Team total	1056
CHESTER	
Ens. Blenman	250
Ens. Haskins	237
Matecki, GM1c	219
Stark, GM3c.	201
Grout, Pvt.	208
Team total	1115

KNOW YOUR NAVY

Continued from page one.

The appropriation act for 1935 provided for 1923 officers, 151 commissioned warrant and warrant officers and 16,000 enlisted men in the Marine Corps. The authorized strength of the corps for 1936 provides for 1074 officers with no increase of warrant officers or enlisted men.

In the fiscal year 1935 a total of 376 ships were maintained in commission and operated at sea. These included 15 battleships, 15 heavy cruisers, 105 destroyers, 54 submarines, four aircraft carriers, four mine layers, 13 patrol vessels and 83 auxiliaries. New ships placed in commission comprised one heavy cruiser, seven destroyers, and one mobile floating drydock (the ARD-1, based at San Diego Destroyer Base).

Twenty four new vessels will be under construction in 1936 as part of the program to bring the Navy up to treaty strength.

These include one aircraft carrier (the Essex) which is to replace the experimental carrier Langley; two light cruisers, 15 destroyers and six submarines. Thirty-five destroyers and 14 submarines, in addition to those already authorized and under construction, are needed to replace those vessels which are becoming overage and obsolete.

At the beginning of the 1936 fiscal year the Navy had 974 servicable airplanes on hand and 472 under construction.

Thirty-six Naval radio traffic stations and 43 radio direction finder stations are maintained by the Navy.

The total traffic handled over the naval shore radio system during the year is estimated at 127,031,726 words. Fifty-three percent of the government traffic handled was for other government departments. It is estimated that the savings on government traffic, assuming that it otherwise would have been sent over commercial lines, was \$1,561,000 for the Navy traffic and \$1,764,000 for the traffic of other government departments.

During the year the radio direction finder stations (one of which is situated at Imperial Beach on the Coronado strand) continued to render excellent

service to government and merchant shipping as well as to aircraft. About 29,000 bearings were furnished to naval vessels and 180,000 bearings to other craft.

A total of 22,576 broadcasts of time signals were sent out from Navy shore stations in the year. This was necessitated by the insistent requests of scientific users of the service, such as the coast and geodetic survey's field parties and seismic laboratories. Weather bulletins are broadcast daily from 26 naval radio stations and hydrographic bulletins from 21 stations. This is of particular value to all mariners.

In the field of scientific research the Navy also was active. Among noteworthy accomplishments were the development of facilities for the manufacture of Diesel engines; intensive steel casting research with a view to improving production of steel castings, and experimental work in connection with welding and testing base metals at sub-zero temperature.

Of the 299 deaths in the Navy from all causes, 50 were attributed to auto accidents. (Report of SerNav.)

TRAINING

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of men having completed training courses for the next higher rating and the number of untrained men in each division.

When the necessary information is collected we will then be in a position to show in tabular form the percentage rating of each division.

Every man is proud of his division and desirous of getting ahead in the Navy. The most complimentary, and surely the most successful method of getting ahead is to apply yourself and by taking pride in your daily work, be prepared for the next higher rating.

COURSES COMPLETED

DIVISION	NO. MEN
S	8
C	3
2nd.	2
E	1

FAIR VISITOR—"Oh! This is leap year and I adore Bo'sns pipes." 'ACE G.G. PERSECUTOR'—"Go on! I yam a plank owner."

HOUSTON RATING QUOTA RECEIVED

A total of 60 ratings were assigned to the HOUSTON in the most recent allotment of ratings throughout the fleet.

Sometime between Feb. 15 and Mar. 15, sixty of our shipmates shall be advanced in rating.

This shall be a happy occasion for each of them for it represents the just reward for many hours of effort and study. For others of the crew, the advancement of their shipmates always is and should be an incentive to strive to be the next.

Below is listed by rate the total allotted to the HOUSTON:

BM1c	1	SF1c	1
GM2c	1	SF2c	1
GM3c	1	SF3c	1
QM3c	1	MM1c	1
SM2c	1	F1c	2
SM3c	1	Sea1c	25
FC1c	1	F2c	13
FC2c	1	SK2c	1
EM2c	1	SK3c	1
RM2c	1	SC2c	1
		SC3c	1

PERSONNEL

Continued from page one

Hajicsisak, C. J., GM1c, to R.S., New York, and ultimate assignment to U. S. S. ERIE.

Scariano, N., GM2c, to Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D. C., and ultimate assignment to U.S.S. FLUSSER.

Seidler, C. A., MM2c, to R. S. New York, NY.

Putnam, C. T., MM2c, to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, California.

Hammers, W. R., S1c to R.S. New York, N.Y.

Kirkpatrick, R. L., S1c to U.S.S. REINA MERCEDES, Annapolis, Md.

Farley, M. P., Sea1c to R. S. New York, and ultimate assignment to U. S.S. FLUSSER.

Crayne, C. L., S1c. to Comd't, 14th Naval District., for assignment.

Phillips, C. R., F2c. to Sub School, New London, Conn.

Gould, P. R., S2c to Sub School, New London, Conn.

Taylor, M., Sea2c. to R. S. New York and ultimate assignment to U. S.S. QUINCY.