



Volume III

Long Beach, Calif., June 27, 1936

Number XXIV

WELCOME ABOARD VICE ADMIRAL TARRANT

ADMIRAL HEPBURN TURNS OVER COMMAND TO ADMIRAL TAR- RANT THEN RELIEVES ADMIRAL REEVES AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U. S. FLEET

Wednesday morning, aboard the HOUSTON, Vice Admiral W. T. Tarrant relieved Vice Admiral Arthur J. Hepburn as Commander Scouting Force. Shortly after nine o'clock, before the crew, Officers and visiting Flag and Commanding Officers who were paraded in the vicinity and on the well deck, Vice Admiral Hepburn read his orders relieving him of his command and directing him to assume command of the Fleet. After he had finished reading these orders, he directed his flag to be hauled down. At this time the HOUSTON fired a fifteen gun salute to him. Immediately after this salute, Vice Admiral Tarrant read his orders directing him to assume command of the Scouting Force. He then directed that his flag be hoisted and that a seventeen gun salute be fired to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.

Shortly thereafter, Admiral Hepburn left the ship in a barge which carried him to the PENNSYLVANIA where in a colorful and formal ceremony, he relieved Admiral Joseph M. Reeves as Commander in Chief.

TAKES OVER NEW COMMAND

In this ceremony on the quarter-deck of the PENNSYLVANIA which was broadcast over a national radio hook-up and attended by all the high ranking officers of the Fleet, Admiral Reeves relinquished his command that

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WELL DONE

I wish to take this opportunity to express a "WELL DONE" to all hands for their excellent attitude and hard work in preparing for Thursday's Admiral's Inspection. Every man seemed to have cooperated to his fullest extent in doing his part to put the ship in a state of material perfection.

Short handed as we were, the HOUSTON Thursday presented an excellent appearance. This splendid spirit of whole hearted cooperation is the thing that makes each and every one of us proud to say, "the HOUSTON, that's my ship".

G. E. Baker
Captain, U. S. N.
Commanding

THE STATE FLOWER OF TEXAS

From time to time, members of the crew are heard asking—"Why is the ship's paper called 'The Blue Bonnet'?"

Late in 1930, when the ship's paper was becoming a reality, a poll was held for the purpose of selecting a name for the new-born service paper.

Many and varied names were submitted. Since the HOUSTON is named after the largest city in the State of Texas, it seems only proper to select a name pertaining to that great state. With this thought in mind the selection committee selected the name of the State Flower, the "Blue Bonnet". An excellent selection since it is truly representative of the state just as the HOUSTON is the proud bearer of the name of one of her greatest cities.

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The "Blue Bonnet" in behalf of the officers and men of the HOUSTON wishes to take this opportunity to welcome aboard and wish Vice Admiral Tarrant, his Staff and the Flag Personnel, a happy cruise.

The following officers make up the Scouting Force Staff:

Capt. G. S. Bryan, Chief of Staff.
Comdr. T. K. Keleher, Force Eng. Off.
Comdr. C. H. Wright, Force Operation Officer.
Lieut-Comdr. W. H. Fechteler, Force Gunnery Officer.
Lieut-Comdr. Nicholas Vytlačil, Flag Secretary.
Lieutenant C. C. Adell, Flag Lieut.
Lieutenant E. H. Pierce, Force Communication and Radio Officer
Lieut. (jg) G. O. Hobbs, Communication Watch Officer.
Lieut. (jg) H. C. Maynard, Communication Watch Officer
Lieut. (jg) M. A. Shellabarger, Communication Watch Officer

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R. O. T. C. CRUISE

Fifteen June the University of California unit of the Naval R. O. T. C. embarked in the U. S. S. NEW YORK for a two weeks cruise. There are two of these university units on the West Coast, Washington and California; four on the East Coast, Yale, Harvard, and Georgia Tech. and one in the Middle West, Northwestern. Each year they make a two or three weeks cruise. During these cruises the students receive practical instruction in the subjects they have studied during the academic year.

—: 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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JUNE 27, 1936

★-----★
TRUE SHIPMATES
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Our sympathy for Adcock's family took a most laudible and practical turn when a movement to make voluntary contributions toward a fund for his widow met with instant and generous response.

After all hands had contributed, we were glad to find that it was possible to present Mrs. Adcock with a sizeable check. True, it was no great sum but it will help and it is good to know that it came from real shipmates as an expression of their genuine sympathy at a time when practicalities are too often forgotten.

NEW FLAG COMMANDS

Tuesday, 23 June, Battle Ship Divisions One, Two and Three received new commanders. Tuesday morning Rear Admiral Claud C. Block relieved Rear Admiral George Pettingill as Commander BatDivTwo aboard the U.S.S. ARIZONA.

In the afternoon, aboard the U. S. S. TEXAS, Rear Admiral Manley H. Simons took command of BatDivOne. That same afternoon at 4 o'clock, Rear Admiral Joseph K. Taussig relieved Rear Admiral Arthur St. Clair Smith as Commander BatDivThree. Rear Admiral Taussig will fly his two star flag from the U. S. S. IDAHO.

In addition to these changes of Flag commands Tuesday, Captain C. B. Mayo succeeded Captain Robert L. Ghromley as Commanding Officer of the U. S. S. NEVADA. Captain Ghromley later in the week became Fleet Operations Officer on the Staff of Admiral Hepburn

Friday, 19 June, Rear Admiral Fenner relieved Rear Admiral Thomas E. Hart as Commander Cruisers Scouting Force. Rear Admiral Hart will go to Washington as a member of the General Board.

BASEBALL

Call For Candidates Shall Be Issued Soon.

Although starting late this season, due to ship's movements etc., the HOUSTON prospects for a fine ball club are now underway.

Any day now the call for candidates will be sent out, to be exact, as soon as the new equipment arrives.

It is known that the HOUSTON has baseball enthusiasts and with a majority of the members of former teams still with us, hopes for a fast nine are bright.

With so many new men in the crew we must have plenty of unknown material so when the call is issued be sure to be on hand.

Lt. Moosebrugger and Ensign Barrows will pilot the HOUSTON nine this year. This, combined with hearty cooperation from all hands should see the HOUSTON breaking into the Cruiser baseball spotlight.

FLOATING POWER PLANT

In 1928 the USS LEXINGTON, one of the two large aircraft carriers of the Navy, supplied the city of Tacoma, Washington, with light and power for over a month, while the local power system was out of commission. The Lexington uses electricity to propel the ship, and merely diverted the power from the generators to the lines ashore. The ship had previously broken the record for the run to the Hawian Islands set by the Navy cruiser, "OMAHA".

NEW MARINE CAPTAIN

Marine Headquarters recently announced that Edmund Lowe, who was "Sergeant Quirt" of "What Price Glory" is now a Captain in the Marine Corps Reserve. Now that our friend Lowe, alias "Sergeant Quirt" has his commission he may be able to speak a little more freely about his superior officer, Capt. Flagg, tough Leatherneck of rough campaigning days. "Our Navy"

Doctor: "What you need is an electric bath."

Patient: "Nothing doing, doc—I had an uncle drown that way up at Sing Sing."

OFFICER PERSONNEL

During a recent leave on the East Coast Ensign Presler married Miss Katherine Lippert of Washington, D. C. Mr. Presler, who is a Communication Watch Officer on Admiral Tarrant's Staff and his bride are making their home in Long Beach.

During this past week two new officers, Lieut-Comdr. L. E. Clifford and 2nd. Lieut. Herbert H. Williamson, USMC, reported aboard for duty. Mr. Clifford relieved Commander Ingraham as First Lieutenant and Damage Control Officer. Mr. Williamson will take the place of Mr. Cain who was recently detached, as the Marine Junior Officer.

It is expected that some time over the week end three new Ensigns, recent graduates of the Naval Academy, will report aboard for duty. Two of these Ensigns and Lt. Williamson will attend Gunnery School which commences this coming Monday.

This past week announcement was received of the marriage of Helen Louise Corley to Ensign W. C. Murphy. The ceremony was solomized thirteen June at Saint Mary's Church at Denville, New Jersey.

The couple, after a short honeymoon, will make their home in Pensacola, Florida where Ensign Murphy is stationed as a student aviator. For the past two years Ensign Murphy has had duty in various departments of the ship. For the past year, until being detached, he was a Gunnery Observer of the HOUSTON unit of VS-10-S.

WELCOME ABOARD ADMIRAL TARRANT AND STAFF

(Continued From Page One)

Ensign L. S. Presler, Communication Watch Officer.
Captain J. B. Pollard (MC), Force Medical Officer
Captain J. H. Knapp (SC), Force Paymaster
Lieut-Comdr. F. E. Haeberle (CC), Force Construction Officer
Lt-Col. S. A. Woods, jr., USMC, Force Marine Officer
Ch. Pay Clerk B. A. Fairchild, Asst. to Force Paymaster



**NOSEY
NEWS
by
EV' BODY**

Seems as though some of the lads on this here 'Battle-Boat' did not take much stock in previous warnings. After all—Long Beach and environs are easily kept under the watchful eye of ye undercover-men.

The most outstanding sight witnessed shore-side during the past week was: John, the great Lee, Electrician Extraordinary observed toddling down the avenue devouring an ice-cream cone. To make it startling indeed, Charlie Putnam was cheering him on in the most demure manner ? ? ? ?

We are wondering if Engels of the "C" is going to give our more experienced dancers much competition. It seems he is taking lessons seriously.

It is to be supposed the reason two of our Engineering youths are wearing their dungerees ashore is because they just simply hate to soil 'em in the bilges. Yeah! Safe to say these lads do have a slight acquaintance with said bilges. ? ? ?

FLASH:— Panther Smith rescues maiden to the tune of \$10.00.

Given enough time each and every one of our famous or otherwise shipmates manage to find their way to this column. This time it seems a trio known as the "Three Musketeers" has been uncovered. "Vigorous" Vidic, "Wop" Colonna, and "Hank" Wittrock have been dishing out thrills right and left as long as they kept together but it just could not keep up. Vidic was forced to withdraw on some sort of technicality but he will tell you all about it if you ask.

The month of June, has lived up to history once again. Head of the S.S.S. is taking the bows this time. How about the stogies ? ? ? ? ?

Since Sukow has resumed operations in this area he has been meeting up with strange incidents of sorts so he relates. Just recently he discovered his "Hankie" had been maliciously discolored with water proof lip-stick. And we all know "Sookie" never uses the stuff.

Cheek and Garbs, both of the ton-sorial parlor have teamed up nicely now that they are both inclined to be interested in a certain party down the coast a ways. . . Garbs feels his youth should stand him in good stead, while Cheek is confident he has experience and technique in his favor. May the best man win ? ? !

It did not take much investigating to ascertain why our flag-wavers appear so fatigued these days. It seems our close proximity to the beach has a tiring effect on the lads. Still, there are those of the crew who seem to be in favor of this favored anchorage, especially the GG's.

Can you imagine Osborne, a dyed in the wool GG, saying he has been staying aboard too much lately. ? .?

Jack Vizard lets us know he has decided to turn over that well known leaf.

Campbell, Bugler, looked weather beaten enough without wearing that hash-mark over the gangway.

—Sayonara.

AND STILL WE SING

To feed the crew of a modern Battleship of the United States Navy, no less than 25 head of cattle, 30 sheep 25 calves, and the loins and hams of 200 hogs are required each month; other items include 86,000 pounds of fresh vegetables; 29,000 pounds of fruits; 8,700 dozen eggs and 24,000 pounds of flour.

The secret service at Washington was very anxious to get hold of a very slippery counterfeiter who was reported to be in Oklahoma. So they sent six photographs of him, taken in different positions to the local sheriff, with instructions to get busy. The sheriff got busy, and that very night he wired back: "I've identified the gang and arrested all six."

—Ex.

NEWS OF FORMER SHIPMATES

"Abie" Kall, ACOM, a staunch HOUSTON booster while with us and a medal winner for the HOUSTON in swimming is now in charge of the Aviation Ordnance gang in Pensacola, Fla., Abie is taking his Warrant exams now too.

Phillips, former Yeo3c on board is now Yeo2c and has charge of the Operations Office in Pensacola, Fla.

Lucas, former S1c on the boat deck is now AMM3c and getting along fine at Cory Field, Fla.

Kennedy, S1c, has been assigned to the Aerographers office in Pensacola and lets us know Florida sunshine is on a par with Sunny California.

Holt, S1c, has been assigned to the Log Room, Naval Air Station, Pensacola and sends word the new duty is fine.

BOATSIE O'BIE

He roams the well deck
With a wild glare in his eye
Boatsie O'Bie
That salty old guy!

From Comm to Well deck
He gaily flits
Dealing out work
Bits by bits.

When liberty call is sounded
He's right there on tap
With sleezy old blues
And a floppy flat hat.

With Admiral's Inspection
So close at hand
He knits and crochets
To the tune of the band.

All in all
He's just a number one stooge
Despite liberal applications
Of powder, lipstick and rouge.

—W. H. O.

NEW TEXAS RANGER

"Spike" Webb, boxing coach of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, has recently been honored by Governor Alfred, of Texas, with an Honorary commission in the Texas Rangers. Webb has four times been the boxing coach for the United States Olympic team.

MIRTH

—:—
She: "Now before you start this ride, I want to tell you that I don't smoke, drink or flirt. I visit no way-side inns, and I expect to be back by 10 o'clock."

He: "You're mistaken."

She: "You mean that I do any of those things?"

He: "No, I mean about starting for this ride."

—:—
"Did you go on a honeymoon, Susabelle?"

"Ah suppose you might call it dat, ma'am. Henry done help me wid the washin's de fust week."

—:—
"How did you like Venice?"

"I only stayed a few days, 'cause the place was flooded."

—:—
"You sold me a car two weeks ago."

"Yes, sir."

"Tell me again all you said about it then. I'm getting discouraged."

—:—
Phil: "Was her father surprised when you said you wanted to marry her?"

Dill: "Was he surprised? Why the shot-gun almost fell out of his hands."

—:—
Garcia: "Could I try on that suit in the window?"

Clerk: "We'd much rather you used the dressing room."

—:—
Primos: "What do you think of the chubby little bathing girl over there?"

Moe: "She certainly packs her trunks."

—:—
Lady: "Why don't you wipe the mud off your shoes before coming in here?"

Adams: "What shoes?"

—:—
A veterinary surgeon was instructing a farmer as to a suitable method for administering medicine to a horse.

"Simply place this powder in a gas pipe about two feet long, put one end of the pipe well back in the horse's mouth and blow the powder down his throat."

Shortly thereafter the farmer came running into the veterinary's office in a distressed condition.

"What's the matter?" asked the veterinary.

"I'm dying!" cried the farmer. "The horse blew first."

A small boy leading a donkey passed a group of sailors on liberty. A couple of sailors wanted to have some fun with the lad.

"What are you holding on to your brother so tight for, sonny?" asked one of them.

"So he won't join the Navy," the youngster replied without blinking an eye.

—:—
Little Girl: "Poppa, when a man has two wives it's bigamy, isn't it?"

Poppa: "Yes dear."

Little Girl: "What is it when he has only one wife?"

Poppa: "Monotony."

—:—
"Good morning, Mrs. Kelly," said the doctor, "did you take your husband's temperature, as I told you?"

"Yes, doctor, I borrowed a barometer and placed it on his chest; it said 'very dry' so I brought him a quart o' beer and he's gone back to work."

—:—
Ants are the hardest working creatures in the world. Yet they seem to have time to attend all the picnics.

—:—
A motorist, on a very hot day, had a flat tire and though he pulled and tugged, perspired and swore, he could not remove the tire to change it. As he was swearing very elaborately, a Bishop drove along and stopped to see if he could help.

The Bishop said: "You are using strong language, my friend, but it doesn't seem to remove the tire.

"Well, I've tried every known method of removing tires, and I can't budge it," said the motorist.

"Have you tried prayer?"

"No."

"Well, try it."

The motorist prayed, took hold of the tire, and off it came.

"Well, I'll be damned," said the Bishop.

—:—
A golf professional, hired by a big department store to give golf lessons, was approached by two women. "Do you wish to learn to play golf, madam?" he asked one.

"Oh, no," she said, "it's my friend who wants to learn. I learned yesterday."

THE STATE FLOWER OF TEXAS

—:—
(Continued From Page One)

The Blue Bonnet, sometimes called "Buffalo-Clover", was selected as the flower of the State of Texas in 1901 at the regular session of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature.

This act was passed at the request of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Texas.

The "Blue Bonnet" derives its name from the bonnet-shape of its blue blossoms. It is known scientifically as the "Lupinus Texensis".

SCOFOR & CINCUS CHANGES IN COMMANDS

—:—
(Continued From Page One)

he had in the past two years so ably and efficiently fulfilled to an equally brilliant and capable officer, Admiral Hepburn.

The actual ceremony of turning over the command consisted of both Admirals reading their orders, the firing of two seventeen gun salutes, and the hauling down and the hoisting of their respective four star flags.

ROWED ASHORE

After being relieved, with tears in his eyes, the retiring commander was rowed ashore by the members of the staff that had served him so faithfully during the two years that he held the highest command of the Navy.

DIVINE SERVICES

—:—
Catholic services will be held Sunday, June 28, at 1000 on board the ARIZONA and COLORADO. Protestant services will be held on the CHESTER, IDAHO, PENNSYLVANIA, RELIEF, SARATOGA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, TUSCALOOSA, and WEST VIRGINIA at 1000.

LETTER FROM HOME

—:—
A letter from home
Is a mighty welcome sight
For it lingers on our memories
Far, far through the night

It may be just a scrap
Of news of Mom or Dad
But I'm always glad to get it
To read of luck they've had.

I wish them every happiness
Throughout the years to come
For I know their thoughts are
With me, no matter where I roam.