

U. S. S. HOUSTON
Flagship of the World

Moored to Pico Landing.
Long Beach, Calif.
30 February, 1945.

Working Division - Bartenders in training (1st and 2nd teams).

Crew's Duty Section - None.

0900 Reveille. Awaken officer of the deck. M.A.A.'s awaken gently. give out portions of cold tomato juice or beer, as desired.

0930 Turn to. String all Boatswain's mates to yardarms. Detail new boatswain's mates for day.

0945 Send empty beer bottles to dock. Use crane.

1000 Reveille for working party that blew up the Second National Bank last night. Take inventory of blackjacks and machine guns.

1015 Mast report. Keelhaul "Bud" Adams who dropped \$1.50 of last night's swag.

1030 Instructions at table No. 5 in new end over end system of poker playing.

1100 Paymaster will leave ship with \$10,000,000.00 to bail out men caught in First National Bank holdup. Place men on report for improper performance of duty.

1200 Pipe dinner. Dutch lunch will be served at bar No. 2 for those desiring such.

1215 Hang the Commissary Steward.
(Continued on Page 2)

YOUR BOXING SQUAD

On Friday, 21 October, Harris won a neat bout from a good lad at Wilmington Bowl. Martin beat Bob Sterling, giving such a good show that it was rematched for the following Friday evening—another decisive win for our boy Martin. The bout Hodges vs Frietas was called due to Major's sickness, a postponement being effected until Nov. 4, when they meet at the Wilmington Bowl. Bob Sterling was, incidentally, Martin's first left-handed opponent.

On October 28 Holton fought Wayne Penn. It was a clean KO on Penn's part. It is wished that the ship's company realize Holton fought his best fight so far. He won each round up to the one fatal punch which laid him low. Arsenault, the trainer, says, "Holton out-fought and out-boxed his man up to the one fatal punch. All credit to Wayne Penn. Any mistake in that bout was my own." Buddy Adams fought a rematch with the boy he beat at the Olympic Stadium, Julius Barney. Bud lost a very unpopular decision, he seemed to take every round.

Monday, October 31 at Santa Ana, Martin lost the best fight of his life to Fernie Backa, 1937 Examiner Golden Gloves Welter Champ in the main event. Also our old standby, Aligo, fought a middle-weight, Sammy Walker, winning every round. What a man, 30 years old, going up one class in weight to show up and decisively beat a young and fresh opponent.

Amateur bouts after this Friday, when Hodge meets Frietas, will be
(Continued on page 4)

SUBMARINE QUALIFICATION TEST

WHAT IS A SUBMARINE?

A submarine is a length of sewer pipe sawed off to suit and fitted with various and sundry gadgets for making war. The Bureau of Navigation and civilians call them submarines; the Navy calls them pig boats and the guys what serves on them call them D-X-21-Oo and So's.

WHO DO SUBMARINES MAKE WAR ON?

They sneak up on an unsuspecting ship and fire a torpedo into her like an Indian ambushing a stage coach. Most submarine men are born in the after battery rooms of submarines in New London, Conn.; that's why they call them New London Indians.

WHAT DOES A SUBMARINE LOOK LIKE?

On the outside it looks like a very big five cent cigar only smells much worse (inside). It has two steel masts which run up and down except when they are needed and then the engineers lay it on the electricians and the electricians blame it on the engineers.

There is also a little pea-shooter which in peace time is used for leaning on and resting purposes by the clean dungaree league (deck force) while the engineers are down below slaving away on their rock crushers.

And then there is a little bridge which looks like a Roman Chariot with the wheels knocked off and about fifteen square feet of air conditioned deck space.

(Continued on Page 2)

--: THE BLUE BONNET :--

A weekly publication of the ship's company of the U.S.S. Houston, Captain G. N. Barker, U.S.N., Commanding and Commander C. A. Bailey, U.S.N., Executive Officer.

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NAVY RELIEF SOCIETY

The Navy Relief Society is an organization supported by the personnel of the Naval Service for the purpose of rendering assistance to dependents wife, children, etc. - through loans in cases of sickness, hospitalization and emergencies over which a man has no control.

It is NOT a loan association for general loans - it cannot pay old debts - it cannot handle transportation, except for short hauls in case of "life and death".

But for illness of every type, the Society through its branch auxiliaries makes hundreds of loans annually which amount to thousands of dollars. Through the reduced rates the Society secures at hospitals, alone, it has saved Navy Personnel thousands of dollars. Large totals are spent monthly in the support and care of the widows and orphans of men who have served in the Navy at some time. The larger part of the annual expenditure is in pensions for this purpose.

As a philanthropic organization, the Society is "of the Navy, by the Navy, and for the Navy", being organized in 1904, with a working capital secured from receipts taken in at an Army-Navy Football Game. It is "for the Navy" in that the benefits it affords are for Navy personnel exclusively. It is "by the Navy" because it depends altogether upon the Navy for support and continual work.

In two recent years the Society Headquarters paid out \$94,143.23 to 574 families. For the education of 22 children it expended nearly \$5,000. During the same period the branch auxiliaries gave out over \$17,000 to aid those in distress.

SUBMARINE QUALIFICATION TEST

AND THE INSIDE IS LIKE WHAT?

Like nothing you've never seen before. I mean that it would make one of Rube Goldbergs inventions look like a safety pin. It is divided into a number of compartments, more or less, and with a lot of gadgets and things that stick in the air overhead where it is impossible to keep from banging yourself silly when you walk around.

DESCRIBE A DIVE.

A very peculiar horn blows twice, somebody bangs a hatch and a lot of guys run around opening some things and closing others and pretty soon a guage shows deep enough. Then the Captain looks around thru a thing called a periscope and through which you can look over the goons when alongside a dock, without showing yourself. And after awhile he says D-ZI-it they zigged the wrong way. Then you reverse the order of events and come up.

WHY DO ALL SUBMARINE MEN HAVE THAT DOGGED LOOK?

Well those tall boys, most of them Texans, which are kinda looped any way, they hammer all their brains out (if they ever had any) against the protuberances on the overhead of which I spoke of before. The short boys, they get all fog bound and pressure happy on account of everyone knows that all the hot stale air goes to the bottom and submarines always have plenty of it down in it all the time.

WHAT MAKES THE AIR BAD IN A SUBMARINE?

Well it seems to be a combination of galley fumes, battery gasses and B. O.

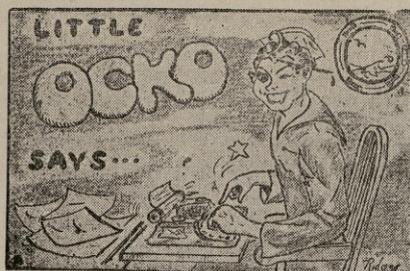
HOW BAD DOES IT GET?

So bad that after the engines are started after a long dive you have to take a suction through the boat very carefully on account of the engines will stall. There have been times when the air was so thick that a putty knife had to be used to free the ventilating blowers. After breathing this air all day you have to become accustomed to fresh air by easy stages cause fresh air will make you sick to the stomach if the change is too rapid.

(Continued on Page 4)

FLAGSHIP OF THE WORLD
(Continued from Page 1)

- 1230 Receive 1,000 cases of beer on board. Use both cranes if needed. Make proper tests for quality and quantity.
- 1245 Send rooting party ashore for Deforge who will fight a pistol duel with Chick. Tar and feather the winner.
- 1300 Detail working party to throw all cleaning gear over the side.
- 1400 Receive new 100 proof distilling plant aboard to replace ship's evaporators.
- 1415 Start operation of new distilling plant. MM Cromwell test as to quantity, PhM Rushworth test as to quality.
1430. School call. CGM Weaver to give information and instruction in latest method of using nitroglycerin.
- 1500 Liberty for all hands able to walk or crawl to gangway.
- 1530 Bring CWT Mullane before ship's tribunal to investigate disappearance of keg of rum from aging storeroom.
- 1600 Strong-arm squad blackjack all those lying in ship's waterways. Throw these men over the side.
- 1700 Pipe down tables for card players. Paymaster pay all hands needing cash for poker games.
- 1720 Pipe supper. Belay supper due to indisposition of cooks and poker games.
- 1930 Movie call. Do not throw butts indiscriminately as Sgt. Bereuffy was seriously burned during last night's movie.
- 2000 Give Officer of the Deck the rubber hammer test, using blackjack as proxy. Follow with test on quartermasters.
- 2200 All leave requests will be considered at this time.
- 2300 Muster working party for holding up Second National Bank. Shipfitter Dotterer instruct men in their duties.
- 2330 See that distiller is running full speed. Darken ship.
- 2400 Take off rat guards. Allow the ship's rats to go ashore. Liberty for all watch standers.



Missed out completely on the Navy Day Issue of the Blue Bonnet so will try my best to make up for it this time. As I have often been accused of copying after the famous Broadway commentator, Walter Winchell, I am now going to take the liberty of giving you a few excerpts from that grand gentleman's column: "Daily Chatter from Broadway and Hollywood. . . . It is not as he has written, but a few of the observations made there are really of interest to those of us who happen to be in the U.S. Navy of today. Also a few things that are of immediate interest to us as ourselves. Here they are: "The reason the silk neckerchief (W.W. calls it a 'kerchief'.) is black is that it originally was a 'sweat rag' and black hid the dirt. Sailors used to be given a ration of watered rum, but Congress finally abolished it and substituted coffee. The U.S. Navy uses more coffee than any other military or navy organization in the world. The expression "son of a Gun" originated in the Navy. Sailors used to be permitted to keep their 'wives' aboard and the term used to refer to children born alongside the guns. A pig tattooed on a sailor's foot is supposed to be a charm against drowning. Sailors usually have an anchor tattooed on their arms to bring luck. The anchor is the sign of hope, believed to insure a safe return from the seas. A woman was responsible for the selection of "navy blue" as the color of the sailors' uniform. In 1745 King George II of England selected blue and white as the navy colors because he liked the way they looked on the Duchess of Bedford, whose riding habit was blue and white. When a navy officer attends a White House function he may check his wrap but not his cocked hat, which he must carry around in his hand all evening. The three white rows of tape on the American sailors' collar are in commemoration of Lord Nelson's three

naval victories. It is also against the rule to throw anything over the side of a battleship and is severely punishable. When the Navy Department gives its specifications for the construction of a battleship, they are so detailed they even state how many stitches to an inch are to be taken in sewing the canvas gun-cover (attention Henry Nickel, Ship's Sailmaker).

We thank you very kindly Walter Winchell, and hope you will not take us to task for the using of some things we have long wondered about but never found on definite authority. It is most likely due to the superior ability of our Broadway friend that he found these interesting facts and revealed them to us. Once again, Thank You, Mr. Winchell.

* * * *

And now to go on with our own relation of the happenings on the Rambler Ship: : : :

Change in the Master at Arms force finds C. T. Putnam, MM1c, tending the gadgets that make the Ice Machines tick, and McCarty of the B Div. wearing the badge of authority. We take this opportunity to wish the two men concerned a lot of luck in their new assignments, and hope all hands will benefit by it.

* * * *

Rumors have reached your reporter that Dutch Veselka of the Boat Deck Gang is seriously pricing the cradles in the Woolworth store in Orange, Calif. 'Tis also whispered that the details may be obtained right from a certain beauty in the city previously mentioned.

* * * *

What is this we hear about Ship's Cook Tom Mallette, who, it seems, went to call on a lady met on board Navy Day. He was met at the paternal door with a traditional shot-gun and no foolin'. That is a situation the heavy handed lad was not quite ready to cope with and so we found him back on board early Sunday A.M. That's really tough Red. . . we're so-o sorry!!

* * * *

Little Ocko is glad to offer congratulations to his friends on recent middle-aisle ceremonies. They are Edward G. St. Marie, CWT, who faces the minister in company with Miss Alice Charline Rice of Long Beach.

Bert Ellstrom, WT1c, and Miss Eula Long also are reputed to be license-holders (license to wed- Bert says it hasn't happened yet). These are both mighty fine fellows and we sure hope they will have lots of the best.

* * * *

The Contribution Box does not have any qualms about whose dope it takes. . . that sure is fine, because I have a few here I'd never have gotten otherwise. Let's look them over.

Ray Kelley, it reads, of the Signal Gang, took leave to see the One and Only in the Gateway City of the Golden Gate. All was well and a good time was enjoyed until returning in the motor launch he asked, just to be sure, what the date was. A good look at the leave paper told the lad he had returned a day ahead of time. Was he burned up? Fitting remark: "Is Zat Zoe, Kelly?" (Zoe is the one and Only. Ockos note.)

* * * *

Here is a pretty good one for the Engineers Force:

Ocko:

There are a few things the more concerned population of the Rambler Ship would like to know.

No. 1

What has happened to Maurice Partridge? It seems that on the fatal day of Oct. 22 or 23 he had a sudden urge to do things big. He donned his dress blues, went to L.A. and didn't return to the ship till the last liberty boat Monday morning. We just haven't the heart to tell you how he looked, Ocko.

Ocko says he wonders if the writer of that one means he had the look of the lovelorn or if it had something to do with some of the gin mills to be found in some sections of the City of Angels, how about it?

No. 2

Just what has happened to Nelson's Sugar Reports? It seems that they have fallen to a very low mark here recently. Since he returned from leave we notice they have dropped especially. Used to be they came regularly from the Gateway City of the West Coast. Now he doesn't get them anymore. Ocko, we wonder why. Honest, we are worried about our little boys. Can't you do something about this?

(Continued on Page 4)

LITTLE OCKO SAYS

(Continued from page 3)

Ocko says: Maybe I could and then maybe not. At any rate I am quite well informed on what happened to the above mentioned Sugar Reports but that would be telling and that is one thing I can't do. . . it is a personal secret. Thanks so much fellows. . . I'll be watching that Contribution Box and be sure to put in any dope that comes to your attention. Do not be discouraged if at some time or other something fails to be printed, for after all the paper is censored quite efficiently.

WRESTLERS JOURNEY TO L.A.

On the evening of 29 November five members of the ship's wrestling team entered the A.A.U. Novice Tournament held at The Los Angeles Athletic Club. Davis, the 155 lb., PhM, was rendered Hors De Combat when he fell, breaking his foot prior to his match. The others; Bryant, Keimel, Miller, and Vassar gave good accounts of themselves but were pinned before reaching the finals.

The team is making good progress and will be right in there when the division meets start November 26.

THE POET'S CORNER

I was sleepin' in tha gutter
Wit' me uncle and me brudder
When tha rain came tumbling down.
At foist I didn't bother
Cause tha drippin' of tha water
Quenched tha thoist that suddenly I
found.

But when tha water deepened near
An' started sloppin' in each ear
I decided then tha order wuz retreat.
So I nudged me unc and brudder
An' we moved from that there gutter
An' slept through the night out in
the street.

YOUR BOXING SQUAD

(Continued from page 1.)

very few. Main cause for this is the team will be shaping up for our own division bouts. We have a good team, we have a good start, so lets get back of those boys, every one of us. They are after that division Championship so lets help them all we can.

FLOTSOM AND JETSOMfrom the
4TH DIVISION

1. What certain "gunny mate" from the A.A. Battery made a sensational speed run from Venice enroute L.B. last Monday nite, when he was rudely stopped by the local police for driving 80 in a fog bound 25 M.P.H. zone? "Pawnee" claims he had his head out the door and wasn't noticing the speed. Orchids to "Pop" Jenkins for convincing the officers that liberty expired at 0100 and that it wouldn't happen again, s'help me.

2. Heard that Zig Zag (the agitator) Dietrich was looking for a piece of paper with Wellbourn's name on it so he could float it by the quarter-deck. How about it Zig, you really wouldn't want "Headlock" to do 2 days in his favorite No. 1 cell would you?

3. John Daniel Gallery claims he's going out the end of this month—we know different Jack, that transportation money that's coming to you will be your downfall. Observed the same Gallery in a Main St. "cocktail lounge" tip the waitress \$1.75 for serving him two nickel cigars! Can't do that on the outside in these hard times.

SUBMARINE DATA

(Continued from page 2)

NOW TELL ME SOMETHING OF TORPEDOES.

A Torpedo is a tin fish driven by hot air. The air is about the same as the hot air all submarine men have a goodly supply of when telling yarns only the air in the fish is under greater pressure. It fires something like grand dad's old muzzle loader, that is to say sometimes it is very hard to say who is in greatest danger; the shooter or the shot at, which is very embarrassing to say the least.

ARE SUBMARINES FOOL PROOF?

After looking over some of the guys what serve on them we have to say that they are—almost.

DO THEY ALWAYS DIVE AND COME UP AGAIN LIKE THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO?

Well, they always dive like they are supposed to anyway. And if they don't, what the h—l. Don't Uncle Sam bet us twenty or twenty-five

4. Overheard Frank Wolf the Strolton, Calif. flash saying; I could get a basketball team from the 4th Div. that would beat the pants off the ship's team. Better take it easy Wolf, Capt. Gerard is mighty proud of his team and he might take you up on it.

5. Saw Herman Garcia, BM2c, one of the boat crane boys taking a few over the bow in San Diego. The way we understood it "Ceaser", is that there was a big reconciliation with the Mrs. Congrats. Herman?

6. Every noon hour in the 4th Div. compt. there is a wrestling, boxing, and dance tournament put on for the pleasure of the boat deck sailors by none other than those two native sons of Texas, (Jewboy Kaymeyer and Kicker Howard). All hands are invited but when entering don't stare, as the boys are still a little bashful and they might faint from stage-fright.

NUFF SAID

Watch your step next week boys and don't stray off the beaten track or you might find your name on the list of incorrables of this column.

skins a month that we won't live to collect it and ain't a lot of us been fooling him for a long time?

HOW DO SUBMARINES ACT IN ROUGH WEATHER?

Like a Mexican jumping bean with the Saint Vitus Dance. They can do every thing but loop the loop and we have to be very careful about that or all the acid will spill out of the batteries. Sometimes they roll over so far that the navigator can shoot the sun through the Kingston Valves which are six big valves to let the water in and out when we dive.

HOW WAS THE LAST SUBMARINE LOST?

The diving officer said "hard dive" and the bow plane man gave her hard rise. The ship had negative buoyancy and before they could stop her she was clear of the water. Being clear of the water she couldn't add to her ballast and when last seen was 3,000 feet high and free ballooning for Mars. . . .