

LT. COMDR. ROBERTS RELIEVES AS 1ST LIEUTENANT

Lt. Comdr. Kelly Goes To Staff Duty

Last Wednesday, 4 October, Lieut. Comdr. D.W. Roberts of the Naval Academy Class of 1921 relieved Lieut. Comdr. T.J. Kelly as First Lieutenant and Damage Control Officer.

Lieut. Comdr. Kelly left Thursday for his new duty as Damage Control Officer on the staff of Commander Cruisers Battle Force, marking the end of his highly successful year and a half of service in the Houston. He was almost entirely responsible for this ship's standing one last year among the cruisers in Damage Control.

Plank-owner's recall when Lieut. Comdr. Roberts served on the Houston in Asiatic waters as Fleet Intelligence Officer on the staff of Admiral Taylor.

As a junior officer he spent three years in Japan studying Japanese and three years in Washington, D.C. studying international law. This educational background made him especially qualified for duty as Assistant Naval Attache in Tokio 1931 - 32, Asiatic Fleet Intelligence Officer 1932 - 35 and Officer of Naval Intelligence in the Far Eastern Division at Washington, D.C. 1935 - 38. Just before coming to the Houston he served on the Trenton on the staff of Squadron 40-T in the Mediterranean.

DEBRI LEAVES SHIP

After serving over nine years on the USS Houston, Thomas H. Debri, Yeoman 1c, left the ship for new duties in connection with re-commissioning destroyers and light mine-layers in San Diego, California.

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CREW WINS WARMUP RACE

Best Astoria By 10 Lengths

In an early pre-season race of about 7/8 of a mile, the Houston rowing crew defeated the Astoria by at least ten boat lengths. Over the entire course the Ramblers steadily drew away from their opponents, until at the finish they were leading by a runaway margin. It looks good for the coxswain of a Houston crew to once more get the well known ducking. It is an age old custom that the coxswain of the winning crew gets thrown in by his oarsmen.

By the way, Bishop, coxswain of the crew said it was the best bath he's had in quite some time.



Although the team showed fine prospects for the coming year, they still have a few faults to overcome. The rowing beat will have to be stepped up a little faster to win in fleet competition and a smoother stroke developed.

With the able coaching of Chief Boatswain Mate Proimos, the squad should develop into one of the most formidable crews in the fleet.

Oarsmen and Coxswain
 Bishop, F Div., coxswain; Hanson, C.H., 3rd Div., stroke S; Miller, F Div., stroke P; Veselka, M Div., No.3; Nies, 3rd Div., No. 4; Dillon, 4th Div., No. 5; Hayes, 1st Div., No. 6; Smestad, 1st Div., No. 7; Valiere, 3rd Div., No. 8; Hanson, R-L., 4th Div., No. 9; Young, S Div., No. 10.

Men who are working with the squad but did not row in the race: Spencer, 1st Div.; Ranger, 2nd Div.; Stone, 3rd Div.

HOUSTON OFFICER AIDS SEARCH ON MT. BAKER

Mountain Climbing His Hobby

Seattle papers last week paid a tribute to one of the Houston's new ensigns, Gustav A. Smeja, who with Chet Ullin of Seattle climbed Mt. Baker and searched for bodies which are still buried in the disastrous avalanche of July 22nd. Reaching Colman Glacier an hour before sunrise on September 24th, the two mountaineers were almost driven back by the great number of crevasses, the danger of avalanches, new snow and cold winds. Probably no one has climbed Mt. Baker so late in the season. They continued on, however, reached the summit and descended into the avalanche area, searching there until late afternoon when the cracking ice and treacherous snow became too much even for them.

Although Ensign Smeja has read about mountaineering for years, his first real climb was Mt. Rainier (14,400 ft.) about two months ago. Your Blue Bonnet reporter was also able to learn that "The lure of climbing is not in 'conquering' the mountain, but rather in being permitted to reach the summit and to look out hundreds of miles and to realize that the scene is probably unchanged from ten thousand years ago. It is an awe inspiring timelessness. You meet some wonderful characters. Your life depends on the good sense, alertness and ability of the fellow at the other end of the rope. During the climb and the long hours on the trail one invariably exchanges views on life."

Ensign Smeja looks forward to Mt. Whitney in California and Mauna Loa in Hawaii. Meanwhile the members of his watch section earnestly hope for his continued safety.

—: THE BLUE BONNET :—

HAPPY CRUISES

Published every two weeks by the ship's company of the USS HOUSTON, Commander A.R. Early, U.S.N., Commanding.

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Remarks From the Sidelines Regarding Ship-board Athletics

There is an age-old practice, which to some extent has begun to die out; that is for leading petty officers in the divisions to bear down especially on athletes.

The most extraordinary part of it is that some of these petty officers themselves were athletes of some renown in their younger days.

Most any athletic event takes more energy and work than any detail that a man would probably have had to perform had he stayed aboard.

What I am trying to impress is that most athletes are perfectly willing to work out on their own time, as do the race-boat crew, in the morning watch, the boxing squad at 1700 to 1900 and the basketball team, 1645 to 2030. All an athlete wants is the same consideration as the rest of the division.

It doesn't seem that athletes should always be singled out for undesirable details such as mess cooking, watches during workouts, escort duty and fire watches. Why not give them an earlier watch or a later one so as not to conflict with their team's practice?

This is no warning nor is it meant to be; just an interested spectator's views.

It is expected that each division will contribute its share of men to athletics. The Third Division is especially to be complimented on its cooperation. Five men on the Race-boat crew, seven men out for basketball; they had three men on the ship's baseball team, and are well represented in wrestling and swimming.

—A Member of the Crew.

If you want justice, be fair with your shipmates.

If you want to preserve your self respect, keep your conscience clean.

Best wishes go with Lieutenant Commander T.J. Kelly for his new duty on the staff of the Commander Cruisers Battle Force. Bon Voyage!

The Blue Bonnet extends a hearty welcome to his relief, Lieutenant Commander D. W. Roberts, who has served before in the Houston, when the ship was in Asiatic waters, as a member of the staff of Commander-in-Chief, Asiatic Fleet.

Speaking for the ship, farewell and good luck to Lt. (jg) H. von A. Burkart, who will be leaving soon for Philadelphia. He has received dispatch orders to report by 16 October for duty in the U.S.S. Tarbell, an old type destroyer.

Welcome back to Ens. F.B. Weiler, who has just completed the short course in Optical School at Mare Island, Calif.

NEW BLUEJACKET

The sailor in Uncle Sam's Fleet used to be a knarled and shaggy person who could lay out on an ice-coated yard in a howling winter gale, spit dead to windard, and lick any three waterfront tavern keepers single handed.

He was rough and he was tough, and his officers ruled him with brutal hands of iron because they knew that, if they didn't, he was apt to pitch them bodily out of the cabin windows.

This oldtimer has gone of to oblivion with the square-rigged sailing ships that were his home, and the modern generation of sailors is as unlike him as the aircraft carrier Saratoga is unlike Old Ironsides. And in this difference there is a great deal more than a mere loss in picturesqueness.

An order went out the other day from the Bureau of Navigation, in Washington, announcing that, due to the shortage of officers, a great many battle stations on the fighting ships traditionally filled by commissioned officers hereafter would be taken by enlisted men.

The intelligence and competence of the enlisted personnel of the Navy, remarked the order, is higher today than it has ever been before in the history of the Navy, and it is confidently felt that utilization of chief petty officers and other petty officers

will permit the Navy to carry on without reduction in efficiency.

All this would seem to leave the modern sailor about three laps ahead of the fabulous old-timer.

Now the old-timer was just as good a man of the colorful traditions of the sea say he was. He could reef and furl, knot and splice, pull his weight in a small boat and take his 50 lashes with the cat without a whimper.

But he could no more have filled one of the battle stations, traditionally reserved for commissioned officers than he could have jumped over the moon.

For with all his seamanship and his sturdy self-reliance, the old-time sailor was usually pretty much of a clod. The waterfront and the fore-castle were his only school, and the teachers in those institutions believed firmly that to spare the rod was to spoil the child. He was a marvelous fighter if properly led - but he had to be led.

Now look at the modern sailor. He has an education better than that of the average officer of Decatur's day. He is at home among intricate technical devices that would have had the old-timer tugging at his forelock in helpless bewilderment. At sea he is a skilled craftsman; ashore, he is a gentleman.

It's about time that we realize that the modern sailor is actually a better man than his predecessor. The Navy Department knows it, and is trusting our national defense to a reliance on the fact.

Editor's Note:—The above editorial appeared in the Centralia Daily Chronicle and Tacoma Times.

OVER THE BROW

Since the last issue of the Blue Bonnet the following men have been transferred from the ship. To those who have left for good, including a number of old-timers, we say, "So-long, shipmates." And to those away only temporarily, we'll be looking for them back.

Osborne, C.E., Sealc, Rec. Sta. Norfolk, Va.; Kunsaw, M., MM1c, USNH, PSNY; Benchoff, J.B., PhM2c, USNH, Wash., D.C.; Black, E. P., Flc, Rec. Ship, San Diego; Corrales, S., OS2c, Rec. Ship, San Diego; DeForge, A.R., SM2c, Rec. Ship, San Diego; Debri, T.H., Y1c, Rec. Ship,

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OUT OF THE OZONE

The Prowler Prowls Again

Well my hearty friends? We meet once more in my friendly column.

One often wonders what the Navy men would do if they weren't able to sing the blues once in a while. Three of the more notable songsters, namely Pop Shaw, Speed Dotterer, and Put Put Putnam just shipped over on the good ship Houston.

Has anyone heard the word passed lately for Johnny Mahl, B Div., to answer the phone in the port hangar? What a telephone bill someone must have run up!

Jimmy Maze has a pair of new initials, "B.D.", now if you don't know what they mean, don't ask me; I don't know either.

A few weeks ago an item was run in the Blue Bonnet that proved to be untrue. Joe Balicki is not a married man. This came straight from Joe himself. Sorry, fella, for the mistake.

If anyone wants to get any information on football and get in on the pool, drop around to the Ship's Service Store and see Jack Doyle Bailey.

Malcomb, Cox., 3rd Div. has been going around for four days with his chest stuck out. For further information ask him why.

Overheard an interesting conversation today. Irvin and Schnoz Hatterer watching the USS Lexington coming in and saying, "Boy, look at the competition." I wouldn't worry, you guys, you'll do alright.

Whenever all the bartenders in town start calling you by your first name, it's time to move. How about it Rose-bud Leslie?

As the dirt about everyone has been pretty well covered up lately, it seems like a good time to close this column with just a word of warning—Always beware!!

The Prowler.

ALL WIT

by Homer Halfwit

Lady: "I want to buy some oysters."

Merchant: "Large or small, madam?"

Lady: "Well, they're for a man with a size fifteen collar."

These recruit haircuts make some of our fresh-caught sailors look like their mothers had been scared by a whisk-broom!

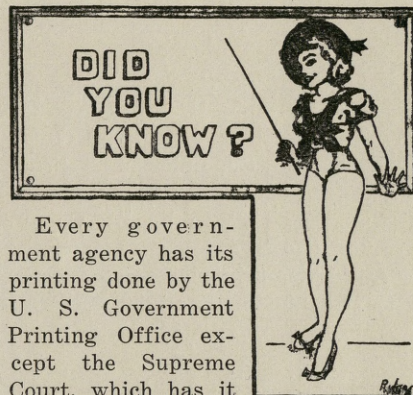
NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY

A new shipment of books has just arrived, which may be obtained at the Navigator's office. These books represent the best of their fields. Among these books is the much talked of "Grapes of Wrath," by John Steinbeck, whose style of writing has caused much comment. H.G. Wells has written another important and interesting book in which he predicts the outcome of the next war, entitled "The Holy Terror," depicting the rise and fall of a dictator.

Among the mysteries that are available are "Judas, Inc.," by J. Kurt Steel; "Seven Tickets to Singapore," a thrilling novel of spies and their mysterious ways by Ared White; and "Some Buried Caesar," by Rex Stout in which the famous Nero Wolfe drinks and eats to his heart's content while solving a few mysteries on the side.

While among the Westerns, there are many exciting stories of the old west by the best of the modern fiction writers with the colorful and romantic West as a background. A few of these books are: "Gun Feud," by E.B. Mann; "Gunsight Ranch," by Frank R. Adams; a novel of the northwest by Tom Gill; "Firebrand"; and many others.

There are also some amazing true stories of men whose lives have been full of adventure. One of these is "Born to Trouble," by Captain Patrick A. Meade. His style is humorous and his story moves swiftly giving the reader many delightful hours while reading his book. —E.E.



Every government agency has its printing done by the U. S. Government Printing Office except the Supreme Court, which has it done by a small private concern. Court decisions are secretly set and printed in such a way that no single typesetter or printer ever knows the contents of the decisions.

"The devil to pay and no pitch hot" was the original expression, which has been shortened to "The devil to pay." This is understood when it is known that the "Devil" was the longest and most difficult seam to pay and was found near the garboard strake. From this also comes the saying, "Between the devil and the deep blue sea." "Pay" is from the French word "poix", meaning "pitch" and hence, "pitch the seams" or "pay the seams."

In the early part of the eighteenth century, there was a compartment aboard British ships called the "wardrobe." It was used for storage of valuables and other articles taken from prizes. The officers' staterooms were nearby and when the wardrobe was empty the lieutenants met there for lounging and for meals. In time the compartment was used entirely as an officer's messroom and the name was changed to the wardroom.

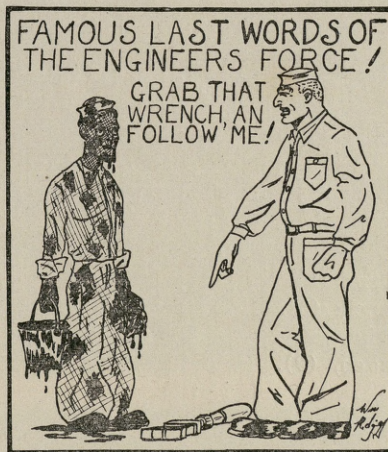
More About Over The Brow

(Continued from Page 2)

San Diego; Zerfing, H.N., RM1c, USS New Orleans; Dillon, J.E., Sea2c, Optical School, M.I.; Winegan, J.C., MM1c, Comd't 11th ND; Mott, R.C., Sealc, Rec. Sta., Wash., D.C.

Welcome aboard the Rambler Ship to these three recruits who have recently arrived: Ingram, R.F., AS, USNTS, San Diego; Knipe, P.O., AS, USNTS, San Diego; and Wilson, P.E., AS, USNTS, San Diego.

And all hands are glad to see back from the hospital: Doty, Carl WT1c and Harris, C.L., Sealc.



Every man will have a little less credit than he is entitled to.

OFFICERS RANGE HIGH IN GOLF TOURNEY

Ens. Wengrovius Wins Cup

Four Houston officers competed in the Navy Yard Championship Tournament during the week 13 - 22 September, which was won by Lt. Comdr. Dowd of the Yard. Ens. D.V. Wengrovius shot third low medal score in the Championship flight, while his net score won for him the permanent cup awarded for low net score of the tournament.

In addition to Ens. Wengrovius, Lt. (jg) J.L. Wanger and Ens. K.L. Kollmeyer qualified for the championship flight, and Ens. Smeja for the first flight. In the 72 hole playoff, Ens. Wengrovius shot rounds of 73, 75, 75, and 76, totaling 289, only 4 strokes more than the winning score. Among the 12 players of the flight Ens. Kollmeyer placed fifth with 298, while Dr. Wanger did not compete. In the first flight Ens. Smeja won fourth place.

TAKE ME OUT, COACH

Here is a legend inspired by the recent softball tournament. It seems that a player was at bat with two strikes on him. There were two outs, and the score was tied in the last half of the ninth. The pitcher threw one of those amazingly distracting "slow balls." The batter, expecting a fast one, swung way too early. He missed the ball on the first swing, but swatted it over the fence as he swung around the second time. Quite a finale — but the opposition claimed that he had already struck out by the time he hit the ball. The referee shoved off.

More About Deбри

(Continued from Page 1)

Deбри joined the Navy in Denver, Colorado on 1 November, 1929. He went through recruit training at USNTS at Hampton Roads, Virginia. Although graduating from a machinist's school at the Training Station, he decided to become a yeoman striker shortly after joining the Houston on November 27, 1930. He was rated Y1c on 16 August, 1937.

A short time ago, Deбри took examinations for the rank of Warrant Officer. He worked and studied hard to realize the crowning point of his Naval Career.

SPORT NEWS - - -

by Bud Adams

Basketball . . .

With an early start this year the Houston basketball team should prove itself to be one of the top notch teams in the fleet.

The team has been working four nights a week from seven until eight thirty for the past week and a half.

With a squad of approximately thirty-five men, Ensigns Warner, Wengrovius and Lt. (jg) Steinbeck, Lt. Gaden, have been drilling the team on passing and defense work.

McFadden forward and center has been looking exceptionally brilliant working in smoothly with La Barge and Haggstrom, two of last year's forward wall.

Coplin, Stanzak, Stefanek, Thompson, Talbot and Hardesty are just a few of the new faces that are showing up exceptionally well. A few preseason games will undoubtedly be scheduled before leaving the yard. This will give the coaches a chance to view the team in real competition before our regular schedule commences.



Marine Race Boat Crew . . .

The writer would like to say just a few words about a few boys who have been working very hard to develop a winning crew — our marine race boat crew.

Every afternoon will find them pulling for an hour or so. Their prowess will be tested next Thursday afternoon in an informal race with the renowned Colorado Marine crew. Good luck, gang!

Marines now pulling with the crew are:

Huskey, (1)port S. Bock, (2) stbd. S. Burns (3). Lusk (4).
Yancik (5). Spencer (6).
Bishop, (7). Phillips (8).
Kagen, (9). Mothershed (10).

Supernumeraries: Knapp, Coletta, coach and cox. Bereuffey.

Because of his ready laugh and smiling ways, Tommy will be missed here on the Rambler. Our best wishes go with him wherever he goes.

Wrestling . . .

With the wrestling team outfitted in new wrestling outfits, new equipment that has been bought this year, the squad is now working at Craven Center with the boxing team.

Many new faces are now on the squad and should be able replacements for last year's men.

Oscar Butler and Chick are back and form a good nucleus for the team to build from.

A few of the men that are now working with the wrestling team are: Chick, Harvey, Miller, Butler, Irvin, Coats, Henry, Owens, Mallet, Korich, Winters.

Everyone likes to see a winner and with this group of men the Houston should be well represented again this year. The wrestling officer, Lt. (jg) A.C. Ingels, or Butler, Cox., would like to see any new men interested in wrestling.

Boxing . . .

The Boxing team is now hard at work at Craven Center every evening at 1700.

With a wealth of material Ensign Shepherd's face has been wreathed in smiles for the past few weeks.

During the past week two likely looking new members have been added to the squad, Barbeleben, middleweight and Hartwick, a heavy who eventually with a little hard work should be able to work down to light heavy.

The squad at the present consists of Colbert, Carter, Holton, Christensen, McGarvey, Aligo, Quall, Allred, Anglin, Yancik, Barbeleben, Dalton, Herndon, Bishop, Lewdanski, Hartwick.

With the squad growing daily competition becomes very keen, which tends to make an excellent squad.

Fleet competition will commence within the next month and a half and the opening smoker should see the Houston well represented again this year with another winning team.

The squad is working every evening at 1700 and eating supper at 1900. This being made possible by the Supply Officer and Athletic Officer, Lt. Comdr. Norcross and Lt. Comdr. Maher, and is a big help to the team.