



**TO REDUCE OFFICERS
PER SHIP**

According to the New York Times, Commissioned Officers of the navy will be reallocated and redistributed in the fleet to provide fewer of them on ships, as a means of meeting the requirements of manning the new ships which are being placed in commission under the building program.

Details of the plan were announced after it had been formulated by Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews, chief of the Bureau of Navigation.

"Admiral Andrews," the Navy Department said, "has made a drastic cut in the number of officers allowed to the various types of ships. The number of line officers assigned to shore billets has been cut correspondingly. Battleships, for instance, which had an allowance a few years ago of as high as over sixty officers have now been reduced to the figure of forty-eight, with further reductions in prospect for the fiscal year 1938.

"The solution of the present situation in the opinion of Chief of the Bu-

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ENSIGN KUEHL NEW C. W. O.

This past Thursday, Ensign Kuehl reported aboard for duty as Communication Watch Officer on the Scouting Force Staff. Mr. Kuehl who came from the NORTHAMPTON where he has had duty for the past two years will relieve Lt. (jg) G. O. Hobbs. Mr. Hobb's tour of duty as C. W. O. expires the end of this month. The "Blue Bonnet", in behalf of the Staff and ship's company welcomes Ensign Kuehl aboard and wishes him a pleasant tour of duty.

WELL DONE

Again the HOUSTON came through and received a hard earned WELL DONE. The fine manner in which every man took hold and did his part in handling the ammunition Thursday makes one proud to say that he is from the HOUSTON.

The Captain of the tug handling the ammunition lighter said that the HOUSTON detailed the ammunition in a most expeditious manner. The Executive Officer said that he had never seen a crew turn to in a finer spirit than that shown Thursday and the ship's officers had nothing but praise to offer, WELL DONE men.

**PROPOSED NAVY RESERVE
LEGISLATION**

The Bureau of Navigation has drawn up a tentative bill to cover the reorganization of the U. S. Naval Reserve. This bill is based on the decision that the peace time Navy should be composed of three components as follows: Regular Navy, (active and retired), The Fleet Reserve and the Naval Reserve.

The Fleet Reserve will be composed of officers and men of the regular Navy transferred to this class and ex-Navy enlisted men now in civil life.

The Naval Reserve will be composed of three branches: Organized Naval Reserve, the Volunteer Naval Reserve and the Merchant Marine Naval Reserve.

The purpose of this bill is to provide a better coordination between the regular and the reserve compon-

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SAN FRANCISCO

We arrive at the famous Cliff House and Seal Rocks, where many seals and sea lions are to be seen basking in the sun; they are protected by the Fishing and Game Laws. Adjoining is Sutro Baths, the finest establishment of its kind in the world, and Sutro Heights, at one time the private residence of the late Mayor Adolph Sutro. At the opposite end of Cliff Walk is Ocean Beach Amusement Zone which is on a small scale, a replica of Coney Island in New York City.

Farther on is the end of Golden Gate Park where lies the Gjoa (pronounced as Yoah), the stout Norwegian sloop in which Captain Ronald Amundsen, with a crew of six men, discovered the North-western passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Also to be seen here are the Dutch Windmills which furnish the water for the Lakes

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ALL NAVY FOOTBALL TEAM

According to the "Mokulele", paper of the U. S. Fleet Air Base, Pearl Harbor, T. H., an All Navy Football team is to be organized in Hawaii. This team is to be coached by Ensign Gordon Chung-Hoon, former Naval Academy football star. It will be managed by Lieutenant Lyons of the Minecraft Staff.

It has been several years since there has been such a team. However, there has always been much interest shown in football in the islands. The Hawaiians themselves are great football enthusiasts. Each season several U. S. teams visit the island to play the University of Hawaii.

—: 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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15 AUGUST, 1936

★-----★-----★
 NAVY MOTHERS' CLUB

That splendid organization, known as the Navy Mothers' Club of America and founded in 1930, has just held its third annual convention in Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Nellie Evans of Portland, Oregon, was chosen as National Commander succeeding Mrs. Emma Jones, who founded the first club in Harlingen, Texas. From this nucleus a national organization was started in 1933 which today numbers over thirty separate clubs with almost 600 active members. At the speed the movement is progressing it would not surprise us if this is increased to over fifty clubs with over 1000 members before the next convention opens, June 17, 1937, in Los Angeles, California.

 NEW SHIPMATES

We wish to welcome the following draft aboard from U. S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Broughton, Ellis Jr., AS | 1 |
| Burch, Roland Woodrow, AS | 1 |
| Budimlya, Eli, AS | 1 |
| Clarkston, Frederick, AS | 4 |
| Dalton, John Joseph, AS | 1 |
| Driskell, Donald Wilson, AS | 4 |
| Egelski, Peter, AS | 1 |
| Engle, Horace William AS | 4 |
| French, Howard Herman, AS | 1 |
| Hardesty, Robert Marshall, AS | 2 |
| Koenig, Kenneth Oliver, AS | 2 |
| McMenamin, Robert William, AS | 3 |
| Morgan, Charles Herman, AS | 3 |
| Bold, Ivan Orsey, AS | 3 |
| Rothe, Willis Bruce, AS | 4 |
| Rybinsky, Paul, AS | F |
| Schuler, Max Theodore, AS | 4 |

From U. S. Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va:—

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Evans, John Emphrey, Matt3c. | S |
| Fields, Douglas Fred, Matt3c. | S |

From Navy Yard, Washington, D. C:—

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Hackman, Milton John, RM1c | G |
|----------------------------|---|

PORTLAND PISTOL MATCHES

During our stay in Portland, our rifle and pistol team got in some good practice sessions and participated in one match. The Seattle Police Pistol Team regained some of their prestige, lost to the Navy Sharpshooters in the Journal Trophy Match, by taking the Portland match with a score of 1185. Other teams in the match placed in the following order: CruDiv 5, 1136, U. S. S. CHESTER 1131, U. S. S. HOUSTON 1123, Organized Reserves 1096, U. S. S. DETROIT 1076, Portland Police 690. ChGunner Condit and Cpl. Armingner were members of the Cru Div 5 team and were tied for high score on the team, each shooting a neat 238. A rifle match was fired with the Portland Rifle Club and this match was taken by the CruDiv 5 Rifle team by a score of 894 to 892.

A few of the matches participated in were: 82nd. Brigade Cup Match, won by CruDiv 5 team, Wimbledon Match, Rapid Fire Match and 600 yard match. The last three were rifle matches.

 "TABOGA BILL" HARPOONED

"Taboga Bill" was a well-known shark inhabiting the waters around Taboga Island, Panama, for several years. He was bountifully rationed by all ships who knew him. Upon approaching Taboga Island, men would usually keep a sharp lookout for "Taboga Bill" and renew old acquaintances.

Some time ago, a motor launch from the USS Tulsa, trolling off Taboga, saw an enormous shark asleep on the surface of the water. The boat's crew harpooned the shark, landing him after nearly an all day battle, and found that he had towed them a considerable distance from Taboga toward Perlas Islands. Upon their return to the ship, they found they had bagged "Taboga Bill." Hoisted on a boat davit, he was found to be 27 feet, 1 inch long and weighed about (estimate) 5000 pounds.

 TRY THIS ON YOUR PIANO

Sue Swisher's sharp sister sold some soft, short, surf shirts Sue sewed for sailor's short shore suits to some short, shirtless sailors seeking soft, short, surf shirts for sailors' short shore suits.—A. J. Yoder.

BRIDGES

A way back in our grandfather's day a few impractical, visionary San Franciscans cherished a preposterous dream. They even risked their reputation for sanity. Some day they declared, a bridge would span the water of their beloved bay, and they would drive their carriages and wagons north or east from San Francisco without the use of ferry boats.

The 60 or 70 year old dream is about to come true. Two bridges are under construction and early in 1937 San Francisco will no longer be water bound on three sides.

These two projects prove that it is never safe to say "It can't be done".

Something more. Since the bay is, as the scoffers said, four or five miles wide, and the Golden Gate is at least a mile across, each of these projects is bigger than any bridge ever before attempted.

Just a few years ago, many officers and men of the Battle Force took a prominent part in the ground breaking ceremonies for the Golden Gate bridge on 26 Feb. 1933.

The following comparasions will give you an idea of the size of these two bridges now under construction.

San Francisco—Oakland Bay Bridge

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Length of main structure | 22720 feet |
| Max. height of towers above water | 505 feet |
| Max. depth of piers below water | 235 feet |

The Golden Gate Bridge

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of main structure | 8940 feet |
| Height of towers above water | 746 feet |
| Depth of pier below water, approx. | 100 feet |

Firth of Forth Bridge—Scotland

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of main structure, approx. | 8300 feet |
| Height of towers above water approx. | 360 feet |
| Depth of piers below water, approx. | 80 feet |

Geo. Washington Bridge—New York

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of main structure | 5600 feet |
| Height of towers above water | 595 feet |
| Depth of pier below water | 75 feet |

Brooklyn Bridge—New York

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Main structure | 3470 feet |
| Height of towers above water | 273 feet |
| Depth of pier below water | 45 feet |

Did you know that the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge will cost more than ten dollars per person in California. Not including approaches, it is nearly three times as long as the present longest bridge in the world, The Firth of Forth Bridge in Scotland.



**NOSEY
NEWS
'BOUT
EV'BODY**

'Frisco once again—but what has happened to all the appeal this old favorite city of the seafarers used to hold. 'Tis possible the good city of Portland has really won over our Native Sons more than we suspected. The echos of praiseworthy comment of that enjoyable week in the city of Roses is still heard about the decks.

This should be proof enough that Portland did something to some of the boys. McCrea of the "F" who has won fame in becoming seasick at the first turn of the screws, was on deck throughout the short trip from Portland.

After those Portland "Blondes", 'Casvnoaova' Hampton of the Flag, claims that his romance in Spokane was just a fascination. Maybe 'tis the gypsy in him?

Even Sessions of the boat deck fell by the wayside when one of those webfoot Blondes lent a pretty ear to his supplications. The President of the Golden Grain Club should be kept busy soon.

Even our wandering Lothario of the "S", Sivak admits he may decide to follow in the footsteps of McElhannon? ? ? ?

We were sure Starck, the light-haired shipfitter, would be in better humor after we noticed he had cast loose the moorings for one grand eve.

Beckwith, ye printer's devil no. 2, admits a visit to the farm territory in Oregon has done wonders for him. He says he can appreciate fresh milk now that he has been properly introduced to a beautiful member of the Bovine family. It all came about when a young dairy maid took the former city youth out to the farm.

Reports indicate Zainfeld, the lad who changes his heart affairs with every tide is deeply interested in a fair resident of Tacoma. Of course he is not the only Houstonite who withstood the Portland onslaught in favor of the Northern maids.

"Snooky-Puss" Nydegger did his best, so he relates, in trying to revive chivalry among the sea-roving gigolos. It all happened at one of those enjoyable dances. Snooky was doing the hand kissing act quite frequently, but his persistence ran out on him at the critical moment. His shipmates were too busy dancing, to notice his sincere efforts.

A new competitor has been uncovered for our old Bar-Burpin Baritones. Berg, the master of many arts, thrilled should we say nightly, much to the enjoyment of the cash customers in several beer joints. Maybe a certain Major of the air-waves could use his unusual vocal eruptions?

Of the many varied methods of making a liberty in this Navy, Acuto could probably tell of the most unusual. While in Portland he discovered a "Davit-head" liberty was very suitable to his purpose.

The head baker is silently rejoicing all because he managed to get through the Portland visit without a discolored optic. Some say the man is gradually learning the ways of the sea even though he has 17 years service???

Just how Stafford managed to forsake his Western Romances long enough to go ashore is a mystery. That rugged son of the sea only recently stated he was through with those short but sodden liberties. His seawall talks seemed to give him great pleasure though.

The mail orderly was seriously thinking of asking for a working party when he collected that load of sugar reports destined for recently departed ports in the Northwest. 'Tis said he could have actually used a squad upon picking up the mail for the ship. Many Wash. and Ore. postmarks were in evidence in that lot. Just goes to show you how fickle the hearts of men become when in strange climes.

We all rejoice with Pop Adkins in his obtaining a brand new, unused "Temperance" pledge blank. The old man of Central Station has admitted he was frankly worried over it. Says he has reached the stage where Spartan will power alone will not help him when the temptation arises.

Cooke, the "Terror" of the "G" probably has a good tale included in his store of "True Experiences" since that recent big night in Portland. We hear he went in like the 1st of March and came out like the 31st. Possibly he wonders what became of his two Dit-Da pals??

"WUXTREE"! In spite of a most successful evolution in handling the bullets etc., last Thursday PM, "Shotgun" Asher missed the first "GG" Special. It is supposed thos great No. 1 man of the club got fouled up with his Zipper bag. Something should be done about this situation.

SHIPPING AUTOMOBILES

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The prohibition against shipment of privately owned automobiles has been modified. Necessary changes will be made in the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts and duly issued to the service.

Application for shipment shall be submitted in letter form and must be accompanied by a certified copy of the latest permanent change of station orders. Application for shipment of autos of enlisted men must be approved and forwarded by their immediate Commanding Officer.

The application should give name, make and over all dimensions. These applications will be considered in the order received except that those for Guam and Guantanamo will be given a preference.

—:—

The Jewish couple took their baby to the movies, where they were warned that unless the child was quiet, they would have to take their money and leave. Half way through the feature film the wife turned to her husband and whispered:

Wife: "Vell, vot do you tink of it?"

Ikey: "Rotten."

Wife: "Yes. Pinch the baby."

—:—

The folks at home will enjoy reading the Blue Bonnet. Mail it!

TO REDUCE OFFICERS PER SHIP

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reau of Navigation lies in placing a greater degree of responsibility upon the enlisted men of the fleet. These men, many of whom are college graduates, and all of whom enjoy a high standard of intelligence and ability, will be called upon to man battle stations in the fleet that have been the traditional posts of commissioned or warrant officers."

Admiral Andrews in a letter to the service stated in part:

"The intelligence and competence of enlisted personnel of the Navy is higher today than it has been in the history of our Navy, and it is confidently felt that the utilization of chief petty officers and other petty officers to the full in certain battle stations and for certain administrative duties is not only necessary but will permit the navy to carry on with out reduction in its efficiency.

"It is directed that all commanding officers take steps to reassign officers of their command and to train chief petty officers and petty officers to meet these new responsibilities and increased demands. Insofar as possible, permanency of detail of these enlisted men to battle stations should be maintained.

"The chief of the Bureau of Navigation believes that the present situation will be met by a clear understanding of conditions by all concerned and by thorough cooperation."

The HOUSTON under this plan will be reduced to a complement of twenty-eight commissioned officers.

DID YOU KNOW

That once in every four years, Hawaiian natives of Honolulu reap a golden harvest from the beach of Waikiki. A special tide that occurs only that often washes into the coral beds of Waikiki beach, rings, watches, bracelets, and gold pieces which bathers have lost while enjoying Hawaii's Riviera.

That the three largest motion picture houses in the world are in New York City, they are: Radio City Music Hall (5945 seats) Roxy (5920 seats) Hippodrome (5190 seats).

PAID RADIO MESSAGES

It has recently come to the attention of Commander Base Force that when delivery of messages through Fleet Radio Stations, is made, additional delivery charges have been collected from addressees. This procedure on the part of the landline companies is incorrect and fleet personnel who have occasion to use the service of Fleet Shore Radio Stations should advise addressees to refuse to pay additional delivery charges.

Whenever collections of "additional delivery charges" are attempted or paid an immediate report will be made in order that Commander of Base Force can make an investigation.

PROPOSED NAVY RESERVE LEGISLATION

(Continued From Page One)
ents by eliminating many of the discriminating provisions of the present law. It provides for retirement of Reserve Officers thereby simulating a better flow of promotion. It further provides for a definite strength and length of time to reach this strength for the Naval Reserve without the number of officers and men in the Volunteer and Merchant Marine branches. This strength is based on the estimate that the peace time Fleet Reserve and Naval Reserve should be composed of 22,555 officers and 162,000 enlisted men.

The question of Fleet Reserve retainer base pay for the men entering the Navy after the passage of the bill has not been decided. However, there is a possibility that the Department will recommend a change in Fleet retainer pay from one-half to one-third base pay for those men entering the Navy after the passage of the bill

POST OFFICE NOTES

Trans-Pacific Air Mail to the Philippines via Hawaii and Guam will leave every Wednesday until further notice. Inquire at the Post Office for rates.

Commemorative stamps now in stock:

Rhode Island Tercentenary.
Arkansas Centennial.
Oregon Territory.

NOTE: Our Navy's require 4c postage.

SAN FRANCISCO

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and irrigation in Golden Gate Park.

Civic Center is famed for the architectural beauty of its public buildings. This is a large plaza with well kept fountains and flower beds surrounded by the City Hall, Exposition Auditorium, Main Library and State Building.

At the other end of Market Street are Twin Peaks with their tunnel. This tunnel is a single bore 12,000 feet long, the longest municipal tunnel in the world devoted to rapid transit purposes, penetrating the southwestern quarters of San Francisco where charming residential districts have been developed.

Before leaving San Francisco to cross the Bay, one should visit the Presidio shore. Upon the hill and along its base is the Italian Quarter.

Fisherman's Wharf, termed "Italy Harbor", is the headquarters of the Italian fishing fleet. It is one of the spots which makes the city so diversely picturesque and so justly popular with sightseers.

Chinatown, the largest and most picturesque Chinese Quarter in America, with its Oriental bazaars, tea rooms, quaint restaurants and theaters, affords much of interest for the visitor.

Golden Gate Park, acknowledged one of the most beautiful parks in America, extends over 1,013 acres, and contains many places of interest such as: The Academy of Sciences, Steinhart Aquarium, De Young Museum and Art Gallery, Japanese Tea Gardens, Children's Playground, Conservatory, Aviary, Zoo, Stowe Lake, Huntington Falls, Strawberry Hill and the Band Concourse.

Mission Dolores, otherwise known as Mission San Francisco de Asis, is the oldest building in San Francisco. For more than one hundred and forty years, services have been held within these adobe walls; it was established by Padre Junipero Serra (of the order of Franciscan Fathers) in 1776. Many of the State's most notable personages and characters of early days rest in its adjoining cemetery, among them is Captain Arguello, the first Governor of California.

Mail the "Blue Bonnet" home!