

NEW ORDERS TO OFFICERS

Lieutenant Commander R. E. Keating, Gunnery Officer, has received his orders to report to Commander Battle Ships, Battle Force, as Flag Secretary. Mr. Keating will be relieved 9 April by Lieutenant Commander Strother and on the 10th of April he will report for his new job.

SHIFT IN OFFICERS

Ensign R. S. Burdick has received orders to be detached from the Houston and to report to Com Sco For as a Communication Watch Officer. Before being detached, Mr. Burdick will be relieved as Signal Officer and Movie Officer by Ensign F.L. Barrows.

Monday, 1 March, Ensign R. W. Meyers reported aboard for duty. Before coming to the Houston Mr. Meyers had duty on the New York. He was assigned to the Engineering Department as "B" Division Officer.

One March there was a shift in assignment of officers. Lt.(jg) McDonald relieved Lieutenant F. P. Williams as Third Division Officer. Mr. Williams went to the Engineering Department as "E" Division Officer.

Ensign C. J. Mackenzie relieved Ensign R. S. Burdick as Ship's Secretary.

ROWING AND SAILING RACES

The announcement of activities for the remainder of this athletic year was made last week and all the contests in which the Houston is yet to participate are aquatic ones. The first enlistment race will be run on March 19 as previously planned with separate contests for both ten and

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PERSONNEL

Received on board.

Mallette, E. T., Sea2c from the NTS, San Diego, Calif., Mullane, C. L. CWT(PA), from the USS New York, Russ, J. T., WT2c, from the USS Chaumont, Smith, W. C., PhM3c, from the USS Chaumont, Phillips, P. L., Sea1c from the USS Relief, Paglinawan, R., MAtt1c, from the USS Chaumont, Mora, L., MAtt1c, from the USS Chaumont, Waters, G. L., MAtt 3c, from the USS Utah, and from NTS, San Diego, Calif.; Biedeback, R. L., SEA2c, Coito, H. J., AS; Harvey, D. J., AS; Hector, L. H., AS; Kane, R. F., AS; Manley, I. H., AS; Sequestri, P. L., AS; Whitehead, W. A., AS; Woestenburg, P. L., AS; Wolf, F. H., AS.

Transfers.

Law, W. C., CWT(AA) to USS New York, Fisher, R. W., Sea1c to NAS, Norfolk, Va. and ultimate assignment to USS Yorktown, Costello, M. V., Sea 1c to NAS, Norfolk, Va. and ultimate assignment to USS Yorktown, Schuler, M. T., Sea2c to Submarine School, New London, Conn., Remley, D. W., Sea1c to Submarine School, New London, Conn., Hardin, J. C., Sea1c to Submarine School, New London, Conn., McGovern, J., CBM(PA) to R/S, Norfolk, Va. ultimate assignment to USS Enterprize, Dembach, R. J., EM1c, to USS Relief, Watts, H. F., Sea2c, to USS Relief, Liebergott, A., Mus2c to USS Relief, Scheve, W. R., SC3c to USS Relief for duty, Woolf, L., BM2c to Eleventh Naval Dist., Garcia, F. O., Sea1c to USS Argonne; and to NAS, Norfolk, Va. and ultimate assignment to USS Yorktown, Kinhardt, W. A., GM2c, Lee, J. A.,

WRESTLING AND BOXING SEMI-FINAL RESULTS

The following are the results of the Wrestling and Boxing Fleet Semi-Finals. These matches were held in two meets, one in San Diego and the other in Long Beach, Saturday evening, 27 February.

Results elimination series San Pedro, Longbeach Area: Wrestling, 118 pounds, Bonyea (Pensacola) defeated Tack, D. C. (Cincinnati) by fall; 126 pounds, Walgren (New York) defeated Jarvis (Portland) by fall; 135 pounds, Speir (Melville) defeated Jaréd (Fox) by fall; 145 pounds, Jenkins (Nevada) defeated Werner (Dobbin) by fall; 155 pounds, Cahow (Nevada) defeated Middleton (Pruitt) by fall; 165 pounds, Gordon (Concord) defeated Matonik (Pruitt) by decision 175 pounds, Fisher (Nevada) defeated Jasonis (Indianapolis) by fall; Heavyweight, Schell (McCormick) defeated Boorish (Melville) by fall.

Boxing—118 pounds, Missa (New York) defeated Olien (Northampton)
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FLAG TO REMAIN ABOARD

In last week's issue of the Blue Bonnet it was stated that on 11 March ComScoFor would shift his flag to the Indianapolis and that ComCruScoFor would shift his flag from the Chicago to the Houston. Because of the absence of the Indianapolis, ComScoFor will keep his flag on the Houston and on 11 March ComCruScoFor will shift his flag to the USS Astoria.

EM3c, Dullaghan, J. C., F1c, Rock R. F., F2c.

Honorably Discharged.

Ashcraft, S. W., Sea1c, USN.

—: 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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6 MARCH, 1937.

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 PEP TALK

The past athletic record of the HOUSTON has been far from bright. In the various issues of this paper much has been written trying to work up a more favorable attitude and much time has been expended in trying to develop winning teams.

There are a number of reasons why we have not been able to have these winning teams; i.e., operating schedules, independent duty that has kept us away from port for long periods of time, lack of adequate coaching staffs; but, the biggest reason has been LACK OF COOPERATION. The ship as a whole has not gotten behind her teams in the manner in which she should. In some cases men have been intimidated into refraining from going out for a team by being assigned extra watches, given unpleasant details, etc.

Athletics are the same everywhere. Most colleges give athletes scholarships; however they are required to keep up in their studies at all times. They are not required to stand higher but must be above average, so must Navy athletes do their duty and stand watches when in the duty section.

In a recent memorandum published by the Executive Officer, which refers to the "Organization and Ship's Regulations" just published; wherein it states that working parties, anchor and security watches will be men detailed from the working or duty section. Unless intelligent supervision is exercised, they are in a position to make it extremely unpleasant for the candidates for athletic teams by detailing them to more than their share of watches, working parties, etc. Such an attitude will NOT be tolerated. It is not necessary to pamper athletes, for they are men and above the average when it comes to being a good clean all around sport.

The United States Navy has visited every port in the world and has always conducted itself in such a manner that the local authorities as well as high ranking officers of the various nations have commented on it. Invariably they have stated that the high standard of the American Navy has been due to the excellent spirit and cooperation in athletics.

Athletics in the Scouting Force is as much a part of our schedule as is Engineering, Gunnery, and Communication. Regular games are scheduled and all ships are expected and required to participate. Now, we do not necessarily want the HOUSTON to be known solely as an athletic ship; but, we don't want her to be on the bottom of the list as she has been in in these past three years.

The excellent records made in Engineering, Gunnery, and Communication in the past show not only what can be done with wholehearted cooperation, but that we do have the material. There is no reason why we cannot put the HOUSTON on the Athletic Map.

Now is the time, let all start today to build up that excellent spirit of good fellowship that is required for athletics.

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by knockout; 126 pounds, Long (Nevada) defeated Barry (Detroit) by decision, 135 pounds, Gibbons (Colorado) defeated Koch (Dale) by knockout; 147 pounds, Sieun (Argonne) defeated Matthews (Detroit) by decision; 160 pounds, Nero (Richmond) defeated Isenburg (Perry) by decision; 175 pounds, Powell (Minneapolis) defeated Choate (New York) by decision; Heavyweight, Duke (Astoria) defeated Young (Sicard) by decision.

NEW RATING

Bureau of Navigation Circular Letter no. 39-36, established the rate of Metalsmith first and second class. Rates of all blacksmiths and copper-smiths will be changed to metalsmiths and the former rates abolished. Requirements for qualification for this new rating are given in the Bureau of Navigation Manual.

Don't forget to mail the Blue Bonnet to the folks at home!

GUS'S WEEKLY LETTER

Dear Sal:

Sure lazy these days. Feels like spring may be a creepin' among us in the midst of old man winter's busy season. 'Pears like she's reliev'in' tha watch a mite early. May be a good idea to trot out a smatterin' o' sassafras and set it a steepin'.

Never will forget tha time Ma was a trifle late on tha tea. Broke out with a swarm of boils. I dinna know wether I was a walkin' demonstration o' great goose pimples or doin' a mass swellin' for a medicine show.

Pa allus said it was tha meanness a comin' out o' me, but I swung with tha idea 'twas only good old madam nature's omen o' showin' change o' season.

Spring may be a brite and cheerful time o' tha year, Sal, but tha boil part o' it was nary a Sunday School picnic to me.

Good things come to a close. One o' tha lads aboard gives out many a laugh each week by jotting out stuff in Swedish lingo. He's been givin' tha ship's rats, whale boats, fog horns, and such tha breath o' life, and they allus bewail their lot in heavy accent. Now, he's got change o' duty, and we'll nary heave in humorous vein over Oscar Opuses.

'Slike tha time our prize boar took cholera, drooped around, and did a nip up like a flap jack. Nearly broke my heart and tha sows'. 'tis sad, but one's gotta get use to a new set up.

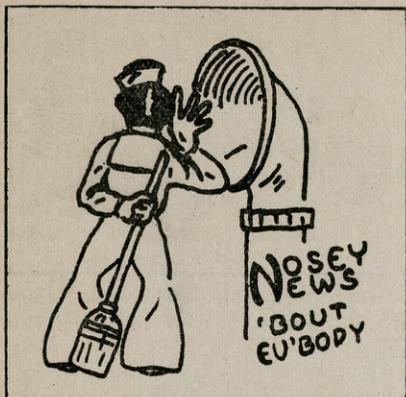
After traveling aboard some o' these other ships it certainly makes a body proud and stick out his chest like a pouter pigeon, tha way our ship is allus so clean from stem to stern. Tha decks gleam like freshly fallen snow, and the steel and brass—ah me, Sal, can't even find tha proper words.

Goes to prove a house is only a house, but a clean home is a place to park tha body and grab some victuals in proper and fittin' style.

Love,
 Gus

Boris: "With all this noise, I can hardly hear myself."

Chandu: "Don't worry, you're not missing much."



Your humble reporter has often wondered how the big-shot columnists work. After eight weeks at the helm of "Nosey News" he is convinced the answer is this: They sit down to a typewriter with scribbled notes littering the desk around them and wait for an inspiration. None comes, so they knock out something—anything, in fact—put it on the hook, then hope the creative urge will strike like lightning the next time..... It never does! Summed up: A column scribe starts without an idea and ends the same way; what happens in between is the stuff you've been reading lately, and are on the brink of wading thru again—I hope!

The Gong! ! For Adam Chatterbox:
An ardent and observant fan calls Adam to task severely for error in reporting the story of Ship's Cook Ralph Kenneth Newberry's acquisition of new name. Meek apologies.... Here's the straight of it: He received a Valentine, not a letter. It was addressed to Kenny "Caress" Newberry, and was from a best friend's Sweetheart!

Fourth Division Boasts Hero:
The phone rang and a ghostly voice said, "Find out who the Coxswain is who forgot to put the plug in his boat before going into the water." We did and in so doing discovered the sea-going counterpart of the courageous Dutch lad who saved the Netherlands by sticking his finger in the leaking dyke. Seaman Coxswain Rader saved his motor launch by the same method; tho it didn't take the Bow Hook quite so long to come to the rescue by finding the missing plug.

"If Winter Comes, Summer Can't Be Far Behind." By the same token

we can be sure the "Good Oid Summertime" is upon us. "Pop" Adkins, keeper of the A.A. Sky Control Garret, has doffed the knee-length pea-coat worn habitually since early Fall. Rain or shine, hot or cold, it's warm folds draped his ageing frame—now, tenderly laid away in mothballs, it waits for colder and happier days.

Alibi: Recently, a pair of popular Houstonites made a weekend trek to the mountains. Delayed in their scheduled return, two versions of the reason were told: Head, who dominates the Ship's Service Emporium, said, "We drove to Big Bear and hit a 'big rock.'" Finney, who barks like a Scotch terrier when "GSK" McElhanon, isn't around, explained, "We drove to Little Rock and hit a 'little bear.'" Add interpretation..... Sounds like the guy who "drank the sink and poured the bottle down the stopper."

Charlie "Spotlight" Campbell told me this one: Friends whom he hadn't seen for months were shocked and a bit disappointed to find themselves mistaken in believing the stentorian voiced Coxswain dead. He paid a visit and was perplexed at the looks of astonishment that greeted him. No wonder! They thought he was a ghost as positive identification of a newspaper picture had been made months before. The picture's caption was: Navy Man Dies. They should have known it's impossible to kill a fellow like "Yap- Yap".

Best Story of the Week: A newcomer to the Houston stopped in front of the Blue Bonnet box and started to take the last copy. He saw the legend "Contributions" and hesitated looked around somewhat sheepishly then dug into a trousers pocket. Dropping fifteen cents thru the slot he took the paper and after reading it PUT IT BACK IN THE BOX!.....

Evidently he thought it was the only available one so he refrained from taking it along. (Notice: The generously inclined gentleman may have his "contribution" refunded by seeing Adam Chatterbox, in person.) Moral: The box shouldn't have been nearly empty and the inscription will have to be changed.

Picture: A new and many-hued drape across the CPO Pantry Serving

Room? Never saw a cup of steaming coffee hanging from draperies before..... Strange sight, this! It isn't a curtain, it's Chief Storekeeper Shepherd's broad bulk garbed in maroon pajamas that make Joseph's famous coat dull by comparison.

Have A Chuckle: Eight brawny lads intent on letter writing, scrap books, or study in the new and tastefully furnished "Writing Room". Shining, modernistic chairs; neat desks; parchment shaded lights: A cosy comfortable picture. Something's wrong with it tho..... There's a note of incongruity in this scene somewhere. It'sIt'sIt's that confounded sign in large golden blocked letters: "LADIES" And you have old Adam's word for it, folks; there wasn't a lady within a hundred miles.

It Can't Happen Here: The band played softly.... Into the Wash Room passageway a huge man came gracefully skipping. Recognizing the steps of Peter Pan's immortal dance, on-lookers tried to identify the dancer in the bad light; when his face could be seen plainly, we knew who it was: "Tex" Farquahar, Houston's favorite son, had let the breath of spring and Bandmaster Johnson's lilting music get the best of him!

Something New: The After Engine Room's Durler, is in the middle of an unique experiment. Quoting the Throttleman: "I believe it is possible for a man to sleep so much that some day he will have reached the point where he will no longer need sleep." Why he should adhere to this theory is puzzling; he's been trying unsuccessfully to prove it for years.Add note: There are several definitions of the word: Sleep. To wit: Slumber; rest; death; be motionless or inactive; be dead; spin rapidly and smoothly.... Question? Which applies to the experimenter?

Denial Refrutred: Last week there was a story about "Smiling Curtis" and the visiting feminine yachters. When asked about it he denied being said man and pointed out Beckwith as being the embarrassed one. To clear up misunderstanding: "Smiling Curtis" is none other than Lamar Curtis Palmer, of the Print Shop.

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NOSEY NEWS

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Lovemaking a la Pastry: Webb, the Baker, entertaining his girl friend by baking a swell "chocklut" cake. At least he thought so; and it was for HER! Something went wrong tho, as the "One and Only" left the ship without the cake. "Love's labor lost", sez I.

Inventive Genius: Slough—"Bouncing Benny" of the "S", is neither painter nor artist. Be that as it may, the paint must go on, so he, departing from the conventional, discovers a different way: By sticking his number 12 boot in the bucket and kicking.....well the result was perfect. He had paint on every thing, including himself! Brushes are expensive and Benny has the Small Stores Issue Room, you know; and besides, sez he, "A big flat foot helps to put it on smooth."

Seriously Speaking: Overheard Oklahoma's wandering son, Pharmacist's Mate, A. C. Gilmore, remark in his pleasant drawl, "Man! You're mighty right! I sure am glad I came to the good old Houston; she's the best ship I've ever been on, or hope to find!" Agreed And Chief Yeoman, Elliott, who pilots the Log Room, amazes us by asking, "The Blue Bonnet? Never heard of it! You don't mean to tell me that this is published every week?!!".....Were we flabbergasted!!!

Dreary Weekend: Saturday Afternoon; Recreation Room nearly deserted; Ehlo, hardbitten Watertender, sits at the piano, alone and lonely. With a far-away and melancholy expression he thumps out "The Prisoner's Song".....His inimitable one-handed technique leaves the left hand free to hold his head which is aching, or should be....Suggestion: There's another "B" Division lad who can wheedle tunes from that instrument; Why not make it a duet, with "Rad" Coster's assistance?

Local Witticism: All hands and the Washroom Keeper came up to see the "Big Broadcast of 1937". "Bobby" Robison, "B's" recently returned casualty, who was having trouble finding a place, smartercracked, "If there

were two more men on this ship, one of them would have had to miss this movie!"

Did You See: The disgruntled Pharmacist's Mate—new aboard—who brought his chair topside for the same picture at supper time and couldn't find it in the crowd until after the show was over?

GAB FROM THE GRAB BAG:

Why is Radio's Abe Gariner staying aboard from now on"???? Did the love light die....did his fan mail stop because the "Girl-Friend" went out of circulation?.....Why was Dohm, CQM so bent on digging up a few "frog skins" Was the apartment too expensive, or did she get that new outfit?.....Radio's Sanderson: "Say Max, I just brought those courses aboard that you asked for, "How To Get in The Flag" and be a Staff P. O. Ditto Mains: "*@!b&*!@*!b@! etc.Two Flag Signalmen staged a race by the "hunt and hit" method, typing the time honored "Now is the time for...." Who won Wilkie?.....Oddity: Michaeu, the blonde Dutchman of the "F", is an opera addict.....The Flight Deck's rugged Leading Seaman was romancing a damsel named Barbara. How about it, did it cool?.....Tis said that a "Canyon Queen" induced Cooper of the Flag Office to buy those "Ver milion" red skivie pants. Why? Take a blush, Ramey!!.....Henry, the "4th" Div. champion eater, says it took his Pa six years to get him in the Navy. Quote: "They got so tired of seeing my Pa at the Recruiting Station, they gave in just to be rid of his pestering."..... "Bud" Adams, stalwart Boat Cox'in, has another, and more appropriate nickname. If he doesn't keep quiet, we'll spill it..... You "Clark Gable" you!....."Jew Boy" jots down the Contract Number of his new shoes, so if lost he'll have no trouble identifying them!!!.....Johnny Allen, who can't keep his hands off the bus fare allotment, remarks, "Maybe you did have ice cream Thursday, but I had a pain in the neck!"Danny, the "Third's fighting red-head" contributed to Cab Driver's Retirement Fund by tendering a ten spot for a "short trip". Such generosity, and with beer ten cents a glass!Why couldn't "Watty" Watkins and "Four Eyes" Hubenek, of the fan-tail, say good night? Morning came



Oscar says that a Canuck friend on one of the carriers told him this one—

BATROBE

Says Senor Deek, "My batrobe reek,
I'll send her to de laundry;
She's not so hot, she's full of spot
Just lak I work in foundry,
Wen she is clean, she look dam keen
An' fill me wit emotion,
I tell you wat , she's best batrobe
On whole Passefeek Ocean."

In wan more week dis robe of Deek
Report back to her station,
She look just lak a gunny sack
Wit high school edjucation
Deek's face get rad for he get mad
Wen he look at dis batrobe
He say, "By Gar, she's shronk so far
She no would fit a microbe."

But Deek's a lad wat can't stay mad,
He say, "She's now a wescut;
I'll wear her at de time of day
Wen I eat tea and biscut,
She don' quite fit, but I tink it
Is still a dam good notion;
I tell you wat, she's bes' wescut
On whole Passefeek Ocean." —OSCAR

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twelve oared boats. A selected crew race is to be held at 1100 on Sunday, April 11, and should attract quite a crowd since any man in the Marine or Naval Services is eligible to participate, regardless of length of service.

Cruiser sailing races are to be three in number and will be held on 9, 12, and 13 April; so it will not be long before the masts will have to be pulled down from the hanger and the sails brought up from the sail locker. Any men interested in this age-old sport should see either Ensign Hilger or Chief Boatswain Meyer.

so soon and there they were with no sleep!.....The Sunday Comic's Whahooism: Definition for typewriting—"Tap talk on paper". Struck me as being funny.

You had fair warning friends; if you've come this far, thanks and an orchid for your stamina. That's all for now. So long—

Boost HOUSTON Athletics!