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BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

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OFFICER PERSONNEL

DUTY PREFERENCE IN FITNESS REPORT IMPORTANT.

The Bureau maintains complete files of the preferences for duty of officers as expressed on their fitness reports. It is routine procedure to consult these preferences prior to assignment to duty, and they are given such consideration as may be consistent with a logical variation of character of duty and type of ship.

For those officers due to go from sea to shore, or vice versa, in the summer shift, it is particularly important that the September fitness reports include latest preferences for duty as the "slate" is usually made up before the receipt of the April fitness reports in the Bureau.

NEW SUBMARINE CLASS AT NEW LONDON.

The following officers have been selected to form a class for instruction at the Submarine Base, New London, Conn., beginning this month:

Lieut. (jg) Cecil L. Blackwell
" James L. Blanchard
" Jack F. Bowling, Jr.
" Robert F. Braddy
" John O. J. Coll
" Robert L. Dunford
" Thomas H. Powers
" Milan Ebert
" Arthur K. Eble
" Roland F. Fryce
" Loring O. Shook
" Thomas M. Polverton
Ensign Stephen H. Fabruster
" Arle V. Dennett
" George Fribschmann
" Carl A. Johnson
" Oliver G. Kirk
" Harold Nielsen
" Robert J. Ramsbotham
" Thurmond A. Smith
" Augustus M. St. Angelo
" Charles O. Triebel
" George H. Wales
" Donald F. Weiss

COMMENDATIONS.

The Secretary of the Navy, on 1 July, 1931, sent a letter of commendation to Captain Edward J. Marquart, U. S. Navy, commanding U.S.S. Louisville, for the manner in which he directed the rescue of passengers from the S. S. Harvard after she had grounded near Point Arguello on 30 May, 1931.

The Secretary of the Navy, on 1 July, addressed a letter to Lieutenant J. E. Dyer, U. S. Navy, U.S.S. Lexington, commending his interest and effort in developing the design and installation of Tension Rollers for the Arresting gear brake drums on the U.S.S. Lexington.

OFFICERS ON BOARD U.S.S. CONSTITUTION.

The following-named officers are attached to the U.S.S. Constitution:

Commander Louis J. Gulliver, U.S.N., commanding.
Lieutenant Commander John H. Carson, U.S.N., executive and navigating officer.
Lieutenant Chester A. Swafford, U.S.N., watch and division officer.
Lieutenant Harry St. J. Butler, U.S.N., watch and division officer.
Lieutenant Augustus D. Clark, U.S.N., watch and division officer.
Lieutenant Benjamin O. Kilroy, (S.C), U.S.N., supply officer.
Lieutenant Harry D. Templeton, (M.C.), U.S.N., medical officer.

NEW NAVAL AVIATORS (AIRSHIP).

The following officers, who have been undergoing training at the Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N. J., have been designated as Naval Aviators (Airship) during June:

Commander Alfred T. Clay, U. S. Navy.
Commander Philip Seymour, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant Anthony L. Danis, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant Charles J. Maguire, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant (jg) Charles H. Calloway, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant (jg) George W. Campbell, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant (jg) Cyrus T. Clendening, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant (jg) John D. Reppy, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant (jg) Robert E. Sayre, U. S. Navy.
Lieutenant (jg) David W. Shafer, U. S. Navy.

ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS TO ENGINEERING DUTY ONLY.

The board to consider applications for the fiscal year 1932, (for Engineering Duty Only officers to be assigned to duty with material under the cognizance of the Bureau of Engineering), will convene approximately 12 October, 1931. All applications for assignment to Engineering Duty Only should be addressed to the Chief of Bureau of Navigation and should be forwarded at such time as to arrive in the Bureau not later than 9 October, 1931.

The approved policy provides for the annual assignment of not more than five officers. In general, the assignment will be largely confined to senior lieutenant commanders. Officers of and above the rank of lieutenant are eligible to make application for this designation and their applications will receive due consideration by the board as guided by the provisions of the approved policy indicated above.

The board will consider only those applications submitted through official channels, appended indorsements, the officers' records, and special letters from officers under whose direct supervision the applicant has served.

OFFICERS' ALLOWANCES AND COMPLEMENTS FOR NAVAL VESSELS.

Recent correspondence received in the Bureau indicates that there is not a clear understanding of the distinction between officers' complements and allowances.

The officer complement of a ship represents the number of officers required to man all stations. This term is now used in place of the term "war complements", which was previously used.

The officer allowance of a ship represents the number allocated the ship under the distribution of available officers. The allowance, which will vary from year to year, depending on the number of ships in the current force operating plan, the size of the graduating class from the Naval Academy and other variable factors, is revised annually and published to the service. The use of the term "Peace-time Allowance" has been discontinued.

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

FORMER NAVY MEN COMMENDED.

In a letter received from Mr. W. G. H. Finch, Secretary and Chief Engineer of the American News Corporation, it was stated that the entire personnel of the stations WRH and WAL, Carlstadt, N. J., and WAK, Tingley Park, Ill., are former Navy men and are members of the communication reserve. Mr. Finch

also says:

"My reasons for choosing ex-Navy men are as follows:

"1. Trustworthy and well disciplined.

"2. Competent, because of the thorough grounding given them by the Navy.

"3. My desire, because of my association, to carry out the Navy's preparedness mission."

Mr. Finch is, himself, a Lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve.

SEA AND SHORE DUTY - AVIATION BRANCH RATINGS.

There are more men allowed stations where duty is considered "shore duty" than there are men allowed Forces Afloat where duty is considered "sea duty", in the following aviation branch rating group: Aviation Machinist's Mate, Aviation Metalsmith, Aviation Carpenter's Mate, and Aerographer.

In view of the above it is necessary to transfer, in most cases men of the Aviation Branch, when they become eligible, to shore duty. In order to have a normal turnover in rotation of men between shore and sea duty, the following report, submitted on reverse side of Form N.Nav. 25, is required:-

Names, ratings, service numbers, date of expiration of enlistment, preference(s) for shore duty, of all men of the aviation branch, except chief petty officers, who are eligible for shore duty.

The above report is required from the following commands:

(a) Commanding Officers of aircraft carriers and tenders for men attached to those ships.
(b) Commanding Officers of squadrons attached to aircraft carriers and tenders, and fleet air bases, when based on board vessels and when based ashore.
(c) Commanding Officers of squadrons and units attached to battleships and cruisers, when based on board vessels and when based ashore, for the entire squadron or unit.

(d) Commanding Officers of vessels not mentioned above and having aviation branch ratings in authorized enlisted personnel allowance.

The above report is not required for aviation branch ratings on duty in Asiatic Fleet.

TRANSFERS TO CLASS F-2, NAVAL RESERVE.

Attention is invited to Bureau's Circular Letter 6-31 of 3 January, 1931. During the fiscal year 1931, 15,558 enlisted men received honorable discharges from the Navy. Of this number only 2,271 enrolled in Class F-2 Naval Reserve or 14.6%. The present total strength of the Class F-2 Reserve is 4,697 (31 May). It is urged that all men who are honorably discharged be instructed as to the advantages of enrolling in the Reserve Force of the Navy.

RECRUITS AT TRAINING STATIONS.

The following table shows the number of recruits under instruction at the various Training Stations under date of 13 June, 1931:

RATINGS	PLACE				
	Great Lakes	Hampton Roads	Newport R.I.	San Diego	Total
Apprentice Seaman	409	412	456	466	1343
Seamen Second Class	0	1	52	1	54
Other Ratings	1	0	2	0	3
	410	413	510	467	1400

NAVAL RESERVE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA REGENTS CONTINUE MILITARY COMPULSORY TRAINING POLICY.

Following a careful consideration of letters, petitions and resolutions from individual citizens, religious organizations and defense groups both for and against the continuation of compulsory military training for students, the Regents of the University of California announced on June 28 that none of the facts obtained seemed to warrant the changing of the policy which had been in force since the University was chartered more than fifty-three years ago.

In keeping with this decision the Regents have passed a resolution that it is the policy of the board to continue compulsory military training.

The purpose of the instruction in military science and tactics offered at the University, as set forth in the announcement of courses, is not solely to prepare for national emergencies, but is also to prepare for citizenship and to develop latent powers of leadership.

NAVAL OBSERVATORY

1932 SOLAR ECLIPSE DATA ISSUED.

The Naval Observatory has just issued a supplement on the Solar Eclipse of 31 August, 1932.

The first part of the supplement contains data on weather conditions along the path of totality which was collected during the past three years. The second part is devoted to astronomical data and charts. The Director of the Ephemeris exercised his usual painstaking care in determining the exact path of the shadow. Tables are given showing its position for every five minutes. There is also included a large scale chart of the eclipse with contours of the country over which the Moon's shadow passes. By means of this chart suitable places for viewing the eclipse may be selected a year in advance.

The path of totality, after crossing the Province of Quebec, passes over the northeastern part of Vermont; New Hampshire, except the southeastern part; the southwestern part of Maine; and the extreme eastern part of Massachusetts; and includes the cities of Portland, Maine; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Newport, Vermont; and Three Rivers, Canada.

MODERNIZATION OF NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

Within the next month, ground will be broken at the Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C., for the construction of a new clock vault in which will be housed the sidereal clocks used in time broadcasts. Bids for the construction of the vault were opened in the Navy Department on July 1, 1931, and terms of contract require that the work be completed within six months.

The new structure which will be an extension of the present Clock-house will contain two compartments with an air space of thirty inches between the two. The outer one is to be constructed of reinforced concrete and the inner one of hollow tile which will be lined with white enamel tile to get maximum light reflection. The inner compartment will be approximately thirty by eighteen feet with a ceiling height of nine feet.

The vault construction is to be located below ground and surmounted by a building for office space. A double heating system will be installed to insure a uniform temperature of 83 degrees in the vault, with a maximum variation of not more than one-half degree and it is hoped to reduce the variation to one-fourth degree.

The illumination of the inner compartment will be arranged so that each light box, reflector, etc., will be accessible from the surrounding passageway. The thermostat for temperature control and all other details of service will be placed in the surrounding air space.

The modernization plans of the Naval Observatory include the installation of three modern precision time pieces. One has already been obtained and two more will be purchased within the next two years, when funds are available. The clocks which have been used to broadcast time signals from the Observatory are approximately thirty years old.

Owing to the hundreds of requests made by visitors to the Naval Observatory to see the time clocks used for signals, and to permit the astronomers to make frequent visual inspections of the clocks, a periscope has been designed which will be constructed through the roofs of both the inner and outer compartments and will extend up into the center of the office surmounting the vault structure. By means of the periscope, it will be possible to inspect the entire interior of the inner clock vault.

NEW TELESCOPE FOR OBSERVATORY.

A telescope expected to have the greatest photographic power of any in existence, though less than half the size of the 100-inch telescope at Mount Wilson, Calif., is being built for the U. S. Naval Observatory.

With a mirror only 40 inches in diameter, it is designed to explore space to a distance of 1,500 million light years, the limit of the largest telescope's penetrating power, and in addition to do the exploring more accurately than ever before.

The new telescope is being built of Prof. G. W. Ritchey from a design made by himself and Prof. Henri Chretien of the University of Paris. It is part of the modernization plan of the Naval Observatory.

Astronomers chart the heavens by matching together photographs of sections of the sky, just as military map-makers chart enemy territory with a series of airplane photographs. The larger each section, the more accurately the stars in it can be located, because a large section shows more "fundamental stars" whose location is accurately known and which serve as landmarks from which to measure the location of other stars.

The new 40 inch telescope will photograph sky-sections in which the clear area, all of which will be accurate, is six times the diameter of the clear area in pictures that can be made with the largest telescope in existence today. Prof. Ritchey says this means 36 times as much area of the sky can be studied on one plate. As a result he expects his instrument will make possible far more accurate charting of the skies than heretofore.

Improvements in the Ritchey-Chretien telescope will make it 90 per cent efficient in photography as compared with its theoretical optical power, whereas the largest and most powerful telescopes now in use are only 10 per cent efficient in this respect.

This increased efficiency and power will be obtained by new types of mirrors, improved photographic plates and super-refinements of operation. In the Ritchey-Chretien type telescope, the light from the stars first falls on a large specially designed concave mirror, is reflected from that to a smaller specially designed convex mirror, and thence to the photographic plate.

These mirrors will reflect clear images of stars over the entire surface of the photographic plates instead of only near the center as is the case with photographs taken with the present largest telescopes.

The emulsion for the photographic plates to be used in the Naval Observatory telescope will be more sensitive than that now used. It will be on glass plates ground with extreme accuracy to correspond to the curvature of the field given by the new mirrors, instead of on unground glass plates as is now the practice, Ritchey explains.

Millions of individual stars in the enormous spiral nebulae as much as six million light years distant from the earth will be registered on these sensitive plates, it is expected. These spiral nebulae correspond to our own stellar system, the Milky Way. Hundreds of thousands of these stars will be invisible to the naked eye on the plates, but when brought out by enlargement and magnification will be sharper and can be more accurately measured than star-images in photographs made with methods now in use.

MISCELLANEOUS

DISTINGUISHED RIFLEMEN AND PISTOL SHOTS.

With the beginning of the new competition Small Arms year it is believed that the following list of the Distinguished Marksmen and Distinguished Pistol Shots is of interest:

Distinguished Marksmen.

Osburn, C. T.,	Commander	U.S.S. CONCORD
Wolleson, H. D.,	Lieutenant	U.S. Naval Academy
Blinn, [illegible] C.,	Lieut. (jg)	U.S.S. YARNALL
Cox, G. [illegible],	Lieut. (jg)	U.S.S. PENSACOLA
Dehl, T. O.,	Lieut. (jg)	U.S.S. COLORADO
Kramer, A. D.	Lieut. (jg)	American Embassy, Tokio.
Morgan, A. [illegible],	Lieut. (jg) (C.C.)	Navy Yard, New York
Auma, M. C.	Lieut. (jg)	U.S.S. S-23
Rawlins, E. [illegible],	Lieut. (jg)	Postgraduate School
Shepard, S. [illegible],	Lieut. (jg)	U.S.S. FULTON
Amy, [illegible] P.,	C.B.M.	U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI
Crider, M. [illegible],	Sea 1c.	U.S.S. IDAHO
Criswell, F. N.	G. M. 1c	U.S.S. [illegible] MERCEDES
Herberg, E. F.,	C.B.M.	U.S.N.R.
Knowles, C. L.,	Ex-G.M.2c	
McLain, D. J.	F.M.1c	U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA
Mosby, [illegible],	F.M.2c	U.S.S. NEVADA
Olynczak, L.,	Cox.	U.S.S. CALIFORNIA
Peterson, E. S.,	G.M.1c	U.S.S. MEMPHIS
Pruitt, [illegible]	Ex-Sea.1c	
Slemmer, F. S.,	C.G.M.	U.S.S. SARATOGA

Distinguished Pistol Shots.

Bartlett, B.	Lieutenant	U.S.S. COLE
Amy, E. P.	C.B.M.	U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI
Boring, A.	C.F.C.	U.S.S. WHITNEY
Criswell, F. N.	G.M. 1c	U.S.S. [illegible] MERCEDES
Hendricks, C. [illegible]	F.M. 3c	U.S.N.R.
Peterson, E. S.	G.M.1c	U.S.S. MEMPHIS

NEW SLIDEFILM.

A new slidefilm "Catapults" has been issued to all owners of slidefilm projectors.

This slidefilm was produced by the Bureau in collaboration with the U.S.S. CALIFORNIA and is based on the battleship type of catapult. The operation and maintenance illustrated are, however, typical for all types.

PASSPORT VISAS NOT REQUIRED FOR FOREIGNERS TRAVELING TO TSINGTAO OR OTHER CHINESE PORTS.

A member of the staff of the American Consulate General, Shanghai, China, has received an oral assurance from Mr. Hung Chi, in charge of the examination of passports locally, that no visas will be required for travel to Tsingtao and other Chinese ports unless the traveler plans to leave those ports for the interior. In the latter case a visaed passport is necessary in accordance with treaty stipulations and Chinese government regulations.