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NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NO-MAR

2 January 1924.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN NO. 37.

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THE BUREAU REQUESTS THAT THIS BULLETIN BE GIVEN FREE CIRCULATION AMONG OFFICERS AND THAT ITEMS OF INTEREST BE FURNISHED TO THE EDITORIAL PERSONNEL. THIS BULLETIN IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY BE DESTROYED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER. CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT WILL BE APPRECIATED.

1. AN ANALYSIS OF DESERTIONS, 1923-1924.

The following tables show the actual number of the gross desertions during the fiscal year 1923 and the first four months of 1924, arranged by classes of vessels and various types of shore activities, and compared to the average total complement in each case.

An analysis of the figures for ships shows that the greatest percentage of desertions occurred on the largest ships, the battleships, and the smallest percentage on the smaller ships, the submarines.

A comparison of activities ashore and afloat show that the percentage of desertions in each case is almost the same.

A comparison of desertions on ships in home waters and in foreign stations shows that the percentage of desertions on foreign stations is much lower than that on home stations.

In the use of the attached table it should be noted that for the purpose of comparing the percentages of 1923 and 1924 those for the latter year should be multiplied by three.

FLEETS HOME DUTY.

FISCAL YEAR 1923

FOUR MONTHS 1924

Kind of vessel	No.	Deser- tions.	Av. No. on board	Per- centage	Kind of vessel	No.	De- sertions	Av. no. on Bd.	Per- centage
Battle ships	19	2535	21301	11.9	Battle ships	19	1347	20739	6.49
De- stroyers	93	504	8445	5.89	De- stroyers	65	312	8257	3.77
Cruisers	8	126	1891	6.76	Cruisers	9	166	2767	6.07

TABLE : FLEETS HOME DUTY.
(continued from 1st. page.)

Kind of vessel.	No.	De- : sections:	Av.No.on: board	Per- centage:	Kind of vessel	No.	De- : sections:	Av.No. on Bd.:	Per- centage.
Sub-marines	63	38	1961	1.93	Sub-marines	74	21	1789	1.17
Auxil-iaries	88	573	10735	5.34	Auxil-iaries	99	295	11440	2.57
Trans-ports	21	302	4950	6.10	Trans-ports	21	187	4975	3.76
TOTAL	292	4078	49283	8.27	TOTAL	287	2330	49967	4.66

<u>FLEETS FOREIGN DUTY.</u>									
De-	No.	De- : sections:	Av.No.on: board	Per- centage:	Des-	No.	De- : sections:	Av.No. on Bd.:	Per- centage.
stroyers	25	3	2535	.11	troyers	25	1	2535	.39
Cruisers	16	244	4198	5.81	Cruisers	14	61	3891	1.69
Sub-marines	10	1	344	.29	Sub-marines	10	-	344	
Auxil-iaries	9	1	667	.15	Auxil-iaries	9	-	667	
TOTAL	60	349	7744	3.21	TOTAL	58	62	7437	.84

Battle ships	19	2533	21301	11.9	Battle ships	19	1347	20379	6.49
De-stroyers	118	507	10980	4.62	De-stroyers	90	313	10792	2.90
Cruisers	24	372	6089	6.11	Cruisers	23	229	6658	3.44
Sub-marines	73	39	2305	1.69	Sub-marines	84	21	2133	1.00
Auxil-iaries	97	574	11402	5.03	Auxil-iaries	108	295	12107	2.44
Trans-ports	21	302	4950	6.10	Trans-ports	21	187	4975	3.76
TOTAL	352	4327	57027	7.59	TOTAL	345	2392	57404	4.17

Kind of: Vessel :	No. :	De- : sertions:	Av.No. : : on board:	Per- : centage:	Kind of: Vessel :	No. :	De- : sertions:	Av.No. : : on Bd. :	Per- : centage
Tr. Stns.	5	1097	9555	11.5	Tr. Stns.	5	756	9854	7.67
Rec. Ships	11	408	2933	13.91	Rec. Ships	11	189	2949	6.40
Navy Yards	5	12	1940	.62	Navy Yards	5	6	1903	.31
Hos- pitals	16	171	3139	5.47	Hos- pitals	16	118	3333	3.54
Air Stns.	6	21	2162	.97	Air Stns.	6	30	2162	1.38
Rectg. Stns.	39	46	630	7.31	Rectg. Sta	39	20	675	2.96
All Others	34	132	5793	2.28	All others	34	71	6895	1.03
TOTAL	116	1887	26132	7.22	TOTAL	116	1190	27771	4.32

2. AN ANALYSIS OF DESERTIONS BY RATINGS.

An analysis of the total desertions occurring during the period of 1 July 1922 to 30 November 1923 shows that less than 12% of the total desertions occur among the enlisted men in the Navy who have responsibilities, that is, the petty officer class. The following table shows the percentage of desertions in the ranks indicated:

<u>RATING</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DESERTIONS.</u>
Chief Petty Officer	0.37
P.O., first class	3.19
P.O., second class	3.87
P.O., third class	4.22
Non-rated men, first class	10.84
Non-rated men, second class	48.34
Non rated men, third class	27.23
Messmen	1.94

3. OFFICER PERSONNEL - RETIREMENTS FOR AGE IN GRADE.

The following table shows the probable number of retirements for age in grade that will occur within the next three years under existing legislation.

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>1926</u>
Rear Admirals	4	2	1
Captains	0	5	12
Commanders	0	3	2
Lieut. Comdrs.	3	2	13

4. MISCELLANEOUS.

The Naval Sub-Committee of the Appropriations Committee of the House began its hearings on Naval Appropriation Bill on December 17th. The statement of the Bureau of Navigation with the exception of the Naval Observatory and the Hydrographic Office was completed on December 29th. This Bureau strongly recommended that the enlisted strength of the Navy be maintained at 86,000 men and that sufficient money be appropriated for in "Pay of the Navy" to provide for a proper number of petty officers in the higher ratings for that number of men.

The Bureau further recommended that the number of appointments to the Naval Academy be increased from 3 for each Congressman and Senator, as specified in the Appropriation Bill last year to 4 for each Congressman and Senator.

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15 Jan., 1924.

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1. PROMOTION OF RESERVE OFFICERS: It is expected that the examinations of officers of Classes 1 and 2 eligible for promotion will be held in the near future. Officers will be allowed sixty days in which to take the examination. The examination of officers of Class 5 will be sent out as soon as questions have been prepared. The Commandants of all Districts have been directed to establish Examining Boards for the marking of examinations and Supervisory Boards for conducting examinations where the examinations cannot be conducted before the regular Boards. All staff officers' examinations will be conducted before Supervisory Boards and examinations marked by Statutory Boards in Washington.

The officers who pass the prescribed examination will be eligible for promotion from the dates of commission of their running mates, provided they have had the required amount of sea service prior to the date of the running mates date of commission. The sea service requirement for promotion of Classes 1 and 2 are as follows:

Lieutenant (jg)	- 2 months
Lieutenant	- 4 months
Lt. Commanders	- 6 months

Active service will be considered in lieu of sea service for staff officers. Aviators are required to have 30 hours in the air for promotion to Lieutenant (jg), 60 hours for promotion to Lieutenant and 90 hours for promotion to Lieutenant Commander, in addition to two years service in grade.

Officers who fail to pass the written professional examination will be reexamined upon application, and if they pass will take precedence

from date found qualified.

Officers who fail but do not desire to take a second examination will be confirmed in the rank for which found qualified by the Statutory Board. For example: -

A confirmed Ensign whose running mate is a Lieutenant Commander will take the examination for Lieutenant Commander. If he fails for Lieutenant Commander and is recommended for promotion to Lieutenant (jg) by the Statutory Board, he will be confirmed as a Lieutenant (jg). If he is not recommended for promotion by the Statutory Board for any rank above Ensign, he will not be promoted.

The examination for promotion is for two distinct purposes; first, to afford officers the opportunity to be promoted to those ranks and grades to which their service entitles them and, second, to establish definitely the ranks, grades and order of precedence which these officers should occupy if, and when, the Naval Reserve Bill (H.R. 3935) passes.

The proposed Naval Reserve Bill (H.R. 3935) provides for the transfer of officers of the present Naval Reserve Force to the Naval Reserve created thereby in their active or retired status at the time of transfer, for the unexpired periods of their current enrollments in the Naval Reserve Force. They may thereafter, upon application within three months of the passage of the Bill, be appointed in the Naval Reserve, during the pleasure of the President, only in the confirmed ranks and grades held in the Naval Reserve Force at the time of transfer. Therefore, officers who do not take the examination for promotion, or who fail in the examination, may only be appointed in the Naval Reserve in a rank corresponding to the confirmed rank held by them in the Naval Reserve Force at the time of the passage of this Bill.

The Comptroller General on 1 December, 1923 reversed the previous practice of the General Accounting Office and allows members of the Naval Reserve Force under orders to duty for training for fifteen days active duty pay for the period of service performed including the period of time travelling between home and place of duty and necessary travel time to return home.

The Judge Advocate General of the Navy has given as his opinion that an officer of the Naval Reserve Force is not entitled to retirement after twenty years service in accordance with the Act of 29 August, 1916 unless he shall have performed the minimum amount of service for maintaining efficiency during each enrollment in the Naval Reserve Force.

Captain Alfred Brooks Fry, USNRF, has been transferred to the retired list at his own request after more than twenty years service, effective 10 January 1924.

Captain Edward Walbridge has been disenrolled from the Naval Reserve Force and honorably discharged in accordance with the Act of 1 July, 1918 on account of having reached the age of sixty-four years. Captain Walbridge has performed honorable service in the Naval Militia, USN., National Naval Volunteers, and Naval Reserve Force since 1891. He served as an officer of the Navy during the Spanish American War and during the World War.

2. ENLISTED PERSONNEL.

QUALITY OF RECRUITS: The Bureau of Navigation has issued an order to the Recruiting Service to accept no first enlistments until personal investigation has been made of all applicants to determine their desirability. In every case references are required from former employers or school teachers. This action will reduce the number of recruits enlisted, and it is hoped to exclude at the source many cases of fraudulent enlistments and undesirables who swell the list of desertions, bad conduct and undesirable discharges.

Before any applicant can come into the Navy there will be a delay incident to investigating his references, and this delay in itself will operate to give the applicant further time to test the sincerity of his desire to enter the Navy.

The Bureau has also directed that no waivers for physical defects be submitted.

The references required from former employers include information as to the employment of the applicant, the place and date; weekly wages, or scholastic record; reason for quitting former employment, or leaving school; and general rating as to trustworthiness, general intelligence and ability and skill as to work: also as to the previous reputation in regard to intoxicating liquors or drugs, or chronic ailments, and general reputation, standing, and moral fitness.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

MOVING PICTURES. Out of fifty-two outstanding pictures of the year 1923 as listed by the "Motion Picture News", the Navy Motion Picture Exchange has purchased forty-seven. Forty-two of these are actually on hand and the remaining five are on order and will be delivered shortly. Under the present arrangements the Navy Motion Picture Exchange is able to buy all of the best pictures produced in their pre-release status. Ships' Newspapers please copy.

EDUCATION COURSES: During the two weeks December 10-22 the following educational courses were shipped from our Stock Rooms:

San Diego	2,819 assignments
Washington	19,788 "
" (Radio courses)	19,840 "
Total	41,447 assignments

This report does not include the various tests furnished, nor textbooks and keys to accompany courses.

4. HEARINGS BEFORE SUB-COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS: The hearings on the Appropriation and Omnibus Bills have been completed before the sub-committees.

On the 15th of January the Madden Bill will be taken up. This Bill provides for the reduction of appointments to the Naval Academy to 3 for each Congressman and Senator.
