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OFFICER PERSONNEL

CHANGES IN NAVAL ACADEMY CURRICULUM.

Rather extensive changes in the curriculum of the Naval Academy are gradually being put into force and will become entirely effective with the academic year 1933-34.

Boards of Visitors to the Naval Academy for several years have pronounced the curriculum as being too narrowly technical and not including enough cultural subjects, such as History, Literature, Economics, Government, etc. It has been noted, too, that the engineering colleges of highest reputations were showing a marked tendency to broaden their curricula and spend more of the time on non-technical and cultural subjects. The reason behind such movement seemed to be a realization that high executive positions were tending to be filled by other than engineers; and that the reason lay in the fact that such individuals showed better and broader leadership qualities than did the more narrowly educated technicians. This study also developed the fact that the Naval Academy in its effort to keep step with technical developments had overloaded its course with factual and applied engineering to some consequent sacrifice of the very fundamentals in engineering.

Rather than attempting a revision made by an outside commission, the Academic Board itself decided to undertake the full study and investigation and attempt to meet the problem. The study became far more extensive than was foreseen, led into a great number of collateral lines, and became a work of considerable magnitude. The Academy's recommendations are briefly as follows:

As measured by classroom work only, the broad lines of the old and the new curricula are approximately shown by the following:

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Old Curriculum</u>	<u>New Curriculum</u>
Cultural	21.6%	31.6%
Mathematics and Sciences, pure and applied	33.6%	31.2%
Professional	44.8%	37.2%

Since, as under the old curriculum, the drill periods and the summer terms ashore and afloat are almost wholly devoted to professional subjects, the percentage of time and effort put on the latter rises to something over sixty percent of the total. But nevertheless the strictly cultural education, which is handled only in classroom, will be increased by one-half its former time.

The following tables show respectively the assignment of classroom periods as at present and under the new curriculum. The figures correspond to what are generally known as "semester hours"; being the classroom periods per week per term for the various subjects,

with the corresponding amount of time devoted to study.

Present Assignment of Time, Academic Year 1931-1932.

DEPARTMENTS	Fourth		Third		Second		First		SUMMARY
	Class		Class		Class		Class		
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	
	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	
Seamanship					$\frac{1}{2}$	3	3	3	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Ord. & Gun.						3	3	3	9
Navigation					3	3	2	2	10
Engineering	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	23
Mathematics	5	6	5	5	5				26
Chem., Phys. and Elec.	2	2	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3	3	3	3	23
Eng. & Hist.	3	3	3	3				2	14
Languages	3	3	2	2	1	1	2		14
Economics & Govt.									0
Hygiene	1								1
Total	16	16	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	16	16	16	$129\frac{1}{2}$

Tentative Assignment of Time - New Curriculum.

DEPARTMENTS	Fourth		Third		Second		First		SUMMARY
	Class		Class		Class		Class		
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	
	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	
Seamanship							3	2	5
Ord. & Gun.						3	3	3	9
Navigation					4	4			8
Engineering	2	2	3	4	3	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	2	$21\frac{1}{2}$
Mathematics	6	6	5	5					22
Chem., Phys. and Elec.	2	2	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3	2	2	$21\frac{1}{2}$
Eng. & Hist.	3	3	3	2		2	3	3	19
Languages	3	3	2	2	2	2			14
Economics & Govt.					4		2	3	9
Hygiene								1	1
Total	16	16	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	16	16	130

It is first to be noted that Departments of Seamanship and Navigation are to be merged and that the classroom time for the combined subjects will be reduced by one-third. In practice, however, there will be no reduction in the ground covered because of closer articulation of work on those subjects in summer term and in drill periods. International Law is dropped from the curriculum to be henceforth considered a postgraduate subject. The Military Law and Naval Regulations, the Mooring Board work and the course in Leadership are

transferred to other departments. No change whatever is being made in classroom work in the Department of Ordnance and Gunnery.

A considerable reduction is made in the semester hours of the course in Mathematics, and said course will be completed in two years. There will be slight reductions in "Engineering Mathematics", Algebra, Calculus and Mechanics. A considerable portion of the semester hours saved will, however, result from elimination of review in Spherical Trigonometry which has to be in effect incident to the sequences in the old curriculum and in the fact that the few midshipmen who come to the Academy without having studied Solid Geometry will be called upon to make it up during Fourth Class summer.

The two Engineering Departments, each of which formerly had courses totaling twenty-three semester hours, are decreased by one and one-half hours. The Department of Engineering and Aeronautics is adding to its courses in Engineering Materials and Processes and in Thermodynamics; two subjects in which fundamentals in engineering had not been treated with sufficient thoroughness. There is also being added more on Stability of Ships and Damage Control, which will replace some of the former course of Naval Architecture and Warship Construction. The courses in Engines, Turbines, Auxiliary Machinery, Boilers and Internal Combustion Engines will be considerably curtailed.

In Department of Electrical Engineering and Physics there will be some reduction in Direct Current Electricity and in Radio; practically no changes in Physics or Chemistry.

As applied to both the Engineering Departments; - laboratory work, given on a scale and with facilities never heretofore available, will be such that the various subjects will have far more in the way of demonstration and "practical work" than has previously been the case. The laboratory work will be done mostly during drill periods. The courses in both Engineering departments are expected to be more effective than before.

The time assigned to Modern Languages and to Hygiene is unchanged. The sequence and continuity in the language courses will be better and the courses somewhat more effective.

The time assigned to English and History is being increased from 14 to 19 hours. The extension will be - History 3 hours, Comparative Literature 2 hours.

Finally, an entirely new Department will be set up:-- Economics and Government, with 9 hours available. This Department will take over the Military Law, etc., but its main object will be Government, underlying principles, and fundamental economics.

The Academy's daily routine has been extensively revised to promote economy of time and to more closely connect the work of drill periods with that of the classroom.

ORDERS ISSUED IN ADVANCE OF DETACHMENT.

The Bureau has had occasion recently to investigate and pass judgment on a claim against an officer of the Navy, wherein he maintained and represented that receipt of orders justified the breaking of his lease, despite the fact that the orders did not become effective until four months after their receipt.

The Bureau, after years of study and planning, has been able to prepare duty slates and to issue orders well in advance. The purpose of this forehandedness has been the personal convenience of officers, permitting them to lay plans for the orders involved and all in the interest of officer morale. To presume upon this facility thus afforded by the Bureau and to employ such orders for the purpose of breaking a lease reading "upon receipt of orders detaching him from the vicinity", savors of an abuse of privilege, and abuses carried to excess lead invariably to the withdrawal of privileges, the many suffering because of the selfishness or inconsiderateness of the few.

The plea in this case, that receipt of orders constituted detachment, was far-fetched and untenable, since, as is well known, detachment becomes effective only upon endorsement to that effect by the immediate superior. Any other representation, if resorted to, constitutes a misrepresentation.

MEDAL AND COMMENDATIONS.

At the annual banquet of the National Aeronautic Association held at the Mayflower Hotel on Thursday, 18 August 1932, Lieut. Comdr. P.V.H. Weems, U.S.N., was presented with the gold medal awarded annually by the Aero Club of France for the best book on aeronautics.

The medal was unanimously awarded for the book "Air Navigation" in competition with nine other books submitted, six of which were in German and three in English. The methods described in "Air Navigation" (McGraw-Hill) have been used successfully by Harold Gatty, Colonel Lindbergh, and others.

Lieut. Comdr. A. S. Marley, Jr., U.S.N., and Lieutenant M. R. Greer, U.S.N., received letters of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for the excellent performances of the Naval Reserve Aviation Bases at Great Lakes, Ill., and Squantum, Mass., which were under their respective commands for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1932.

NEW SCHOOLS GRANTING CONCESSIONS.

The Bureau recently published to the Service (file P11-1/NCL (211) of 16 August 1932), a list of additional schools and colleges to be added to Bureau of Navigation's pamphlet entitled "Schools

and Colleges granting concessions to sons and daughters of officer and enlisted personnel, U. S. Navy, 1928".

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

COMPLETION OF TRAINING COURSES TO BE RECORDED.

The Bureau frequently receives requests for information concerning the completion of training courses in previous enlistments, tending to show that the information required by Article E-5503 of the Bureau Manual is not placed in service records, or if put in the records, is not copied into the C.S.C.'s. A great deal of correspondence on this subject and in some cases injustice to the men concerned will be eliminated if more care is exercised in this respect.

NAVAL PERSONNEL GUILTY OF RECKLESS DRIVING.

The following extract from a communication recently received from the Commander Destroyers, Battle Force, U. S. Fleet, is quoted:

"The high accident and death rate of enlisted personnel in Destroyers, Battle Force, is a matter of deep concern to the Force Commander, who is seeking effective means of reducing this drain upon naval efficiency and finances. The majority of accidents have been found, upon investigation, to be due to carelessness and recklessness on the part of naval personnel. The instant case falls under the latter category.

"It is recommended that the Bureau of Navigation direct the discharge of ----- as undesirable by reason of conviction and sentence by the Civil Authorities."

The Bureau is concerned over the number of motor vehicle accidents occurring in which enlisted men of the Navy are involved. In the instant case the enlisted man was convicted of drunken driving by the civil courts, and his discharge as undesirable, because of conviction by the civil authorities, has been authorized by the Bureau.

NEW TRAINING COURSES.

The following new Navy training courses including Progress Tests and Examination questions are announced ready for issue:

Instructions for Use in Preparation for the Rating of Chief Yeoman.

Instructions for Use in Preparation for the Rating of Quartermaster 3c.

SWINDLING.

The Bureau has information that enlisted men are being swindled by bogus agents of tailoring establishments.

It is suggested that Commanding Officers bring this fact to the attention of the men under their command and advise them not to transact business with any firm through an agent until assured that such agent is an authorized and reliable representative.

COMMENDATIONS.

The following men received letters of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for reasons indicated:

Norman S. Pulver, 233-79-45, Gunner's Mate second class, U.S.N., William W. Adams, ~~380-17-34~~, Gunner's Mate third class, U.S.N., and Arthur D. Perkins, ~~382-53-78~~ Seaman first class, U.S.N., all serving on board U.S.S. Colorado, for the prompt action, coolness, courage, and good judgment displayed when anti-aircraft gun No. 8 exploded on 5 November 1931.

Dwight E. Maxim, 368-13-08, Seaman first class, U.S.N., Receiving Ship, San Francisco, and Stanley T. Piekos, 210-81-17, Torpedoman first class, U.S.N., Naval Training Station, Hampton Roads, for their prompt and courageous action in rescuing from drowning their commanding officer while serving on board the U.S.S. S-45.

Jancer Franklin, 261-49-46, Machinist's Mate second class, U.S.N., Clifford D. Fessenden, 238-26-94, Radioman second class, U.S.N., Robert N. Huey, 336-46-33, Fireman first class, U.S.N., and James B. Greeley, 282-95-55, Fireman third class, U.S.N., all serving on board the U.S.S. Oahu and acting as an armed guard aboard the S.S. I'Ling when that vessel sank in the Yangtze River, 25 May 1932, rendered efficient service in helping crew and passengers at the time of the disaster.

HYDROGRAPHIC

CHART OF CUBAN WATERS.

The Hydrographic Office has issued a new General Chart of Cuba officially designated as New Publication, 1932, 45th Edition, H.O. No. 2145 - "The Island of Cuba". This chart marks the completion of the survey by the Navy of the entire coast of Cuba which was begun in 1899. In addition to this general chart, the Hydrographic Office now issues 21 coastal charts and 56 harbor and plan charts of Cuba, all made from its own surveys.

NAVAL OBSERVATORY

COMPARING WATCHES AND LOW POWER SPYGLASSES.

The Naval Observatory has issued a number of comparing watches regulated to mean or sidereal time and fitted with the Observatory second-setting device. The invoice price is \$19.45. In replacing comparing watches after survey, it is suggested that vessels consider the desirability of requisitioning this second-setting comparing watch which can be used with or without the second-setting device. Vessels which have received the watch in question are requested to submit a report covering its use and the desirability of continuing the issue.

Six hundred low power spyglasses have been issued to the fleet. Reports contain two main criticisms: weakness of focussing system and small field. The small field obtained in service is caused by not holding the eye cup of the spyglass close to the eye as designed. The actual field of the new spyglass however is by shop measurements larger than that of the old type spyglasses. The Gun Factory is now manufacturing a second order of low power spyglasses modified to meet the criticisms of the forces afloat. The eye cups have been replaced with flat brass eye guards so that the spyglass can be held an appreciable distance from the eye without decreasing the field. Furthermore the focussing mechanism has been considerably strengthened as described in Bureau of Navigation circular letter No. 27-32 of 7 June 1932. In order that spyglasses now in service may be improved, new focussing keys for strengthening the focussing mechanism and the new eye guards are being shipped by the Naval Observatory to the MEDUSA, VESTAL, BLACK HAWK, MELVILLE, ALTAIR, DOBBIN, and WHITNEY. Submarine tenders, mine craft tenders and miscellaneous vessels will requisition on the Naval Observatory for the exact number of eye guards and focussing keys required.

MISCELLANEOUS

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDALS.

On 20 August 1932, the Secretary of the Navy approved the following recommendations of the Board of Awards:

That the date for the issuance of the Victory Medal be extended to include all officers and men of the U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps who entered the service subsequent to 11 November 1918, and were attached to the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia or European Russia between 12 November 1918 and 3 March 1921; also that appropriate clasps be issued with the Victory Medal to the officers and men of the U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps who entered the service subsequent to 11 November 1918, and who were attached to the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia or European Russia between 12 November 1918 and 3 March 1921.

NAVY OBSERVATORY

That any officer or enlisted man of the U. S. Navy or U. S. Marine Corps who was attached to and serving on board the U.S.S. HENDERSON during the period 7 March 1927 to 26 March 1927, both dates inclusive, is entitled to the award of the Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal.

That any officer or enlisted man of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps who was attached to and serving on board the U.S.S. HENDERSON during the periods 2 May 1927 to 2 June 1927, and 23 June 1927 to 29 June 1927, is entitled to the award of the Yangtze Service Medal.