

# ALL HANDS



DECEMBER 1969  
in this issue: SEAVEY



# ALL HANDS

THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL CAREER PUBLICATION

DECEMBER 1969 Nav-Pers-O NUMBER 635

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Features

Those Daring Young Men in Their Floating Machines—Parachute Trainees .....	2
The Big Jump .....	4
USS Tripoli: Pictured on Canvas .....	8
Dangerous Mission at Rung Sat .....	10
Navy Sports Worldwide: Armed Forces Join in Sports Programs at Home and Abroad .....	12
The Boilermakers: An Elite Group of Professionals .....	16
Cosson Hall: This Is a Barracks? .....	18
USS Concord: She Needs a Computer .....	20

### Departments

Letters to the Editor .....	22
Navy Cartoon Page .....	63

### Special Report: SEAVEY

Roundup on Rotation from Sea to Shore .....	29
Rating Control Gives You Personal Attention in Shore Assignments .....	34
Your Contact in Rating Control .....	35
Tour Lengths at Overseas Duty Stations .....	36
Overseas Activities Considered Shore Duty for Rotation .....	38
Sea Activities Considered Neutral Time .....	40
Table of Shore Duty Billets for All Ratings, Alphabetically by States .....	42
Tour Lengths in Continental U. S. .....	62

### Taffrail Talk .....

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• FRONT COVER: LINE NUMBER ONE—ALL HANDS staff artist Mike Tuffli created the front cover drawing, adapting it from a photo by PH1 Charles Jarvela, USN. It shows SN Ben Mullins placing a line around a bollard as a ship draws into port at Newport, R. I., Naval Base.

• AT LEFT: A SALUTE to the Apollo 12 astronauts, (from left), CDR Charles Conrad, Jr., CDR Richard F. Gordon, Jr., and CDR Alan L. Bean.



# Those Daring Young Men in Their FLOWING MACHINES



Photos in column at left: (1) Trainees don their main parachutes in preparation for qualifying jump. (2) Students practice exiting aircraft using mockup of C-117. (3) Each jumper receives two equipment checks before boarding aircraft. Above: Walker McCraw radios instructions to student attempting landing in drop zone. Below: All parachuting students learn packing process.



Photo at top: Parachuting student LTJG William Sorg holds stable position as pilot chute pulls out main canopy during practice jump. Photo above: Parachute instructor rides his canopy to drop zone.

**A**RCH IS KING! This statement is firmly fixed in the minds of instructors and students of the Naval Parachute Course I (basic Class C) at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Lakehurst, N. J.

The parachuting course was created to teach professional parachuting methods to Navy personnel attached to commands requiring a parachuting capability to perform their mission. For example underwater demolition teams, SEALS, Pararescue teams, etc.

Who is Arch? Instructor PR1 William R. Thompson of NATTC explains the term—arching the body is the most important factor in making a stable free fall descent. If the jumper remains stable while falling, the possibility of a malfunction of the parachute on opening is greatly reduced.

Classroom work takes up the first two days of the two-week course. History of the parachute, stable exit and stable free fall positions are shown and practiced on wooden mockup trainers. Principles of controlling the 35-foot, steerable canopy and how to successfully

Jump master, PR1 Walker McCraw, stands in door waiting to give instructions to student jumpers lined up for static line jump test.



execute a parachute landing fall are explained and demonstrated.

**E**ARLY IN THE MORNING before starting classes, a vigorous physical exercise period is held which includes a two-mile run. "Physical fitness plays a major role in reducing injuries and increasing alertness, and adds to the safety of parachuting," says PRC Charles S. Seymour, senior instructor and member of the Navy Parachute Team.

Saturation instruction in and repetition of safe parachuting principles during the first two days cause automatic reaction by students as to what they will do in case of a malfunction.

"Look, reach, pull, and punch!" becomes the reaction to releasing the reserve parachute in case the main canopy fails to open. PR1 Walker McCraw may ask a student what he is thinking of or "Who is king?" The answer is automatic, "Arch is king!"

On the third day, weather and aircraft availability permitting, the students (averaging 10 a class) make their first jumps. They will learn to fight against their natural instincts—jumping from high places, reversing body arch upon being hit by 100 knots of wind, and pulling up their feet when nearing the ground. For some it is their first jump. Others might have previous military or sport parachuting experience, but all will make static line jumps until they have mastered the stable exit and dummy ripcord pulls.

**T**O AID the students in canopy control and safety, one-way radio receivers are carried on the reserve parachutes. Instructions are given to aid the student in his descent and landing.

When good weather prevails, the class can make as many as six jumps a day into the 4000-foot diameter drop zone at NAS Lakehurst.

For some men parachuting comes naturally and for other men not so endowed it requires hard work and many more jumps to qualify as a naval parachutist. One thing in common to all men, even experienced jumpers with hundreds of jumps, is the case of butterflies just before the jump master says, "Go!"

To meet the physical qualifications for the school a volunteer must be able to do 25 pushups, 35 situps, and run a mile and a half in 12 minutes. These minimum requirements are increased as the course progresses.

After two weeks, 60 per cent of the class will qualify, having made five stable, five-second delay, free fall jumps. The other 40 per cent will have dropped out, realizing that "Arch" wasn't their king!

—Story and photos by  
PHC B. M. Andersen, USN.



Major Tran Van Vinh, Commandant of the Vietnamese Airborne Training School, pins jump wings on LTJG Jerry Fletcher during graduation ceremonies at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Below: Students fall earthward during training jump.

# The BIG JUMP

*The preceding account tells part of the story of parachute training at Naval Technical and Training Center, Lakehurst, N. J. Now, ALL HANDS presents an "I-was-there" account by a Navyman who actually went through a parachute training program culminating in a series of jumps in Vietnam. Navy Lieutenant (jg) Jerry Fletcher relates his experience as a jump trainee with the Vietnamese Army's Airborne Division.*

**T**HE WORDS were strange to me, the sound unfamiliar to my ears—but I could almost understand the meaning as I listened to the Chief of Staff of the Vietnamese Army Airborne Division present the challenge to the new class.

I wondered if any of the others standing there felt as I did—proud to have made it through two days of physical tests and still be able to stand for the opening day kickoff.

The first day had been easy—I spent most of the morning filling out forms. Major Tran Van Vinh, Commandant of the School, assigned me to Master Sergeant Nguyen Van Kinh, an experienced instructor

who spoke good English. There were 286 others in the class, officers and men of the Vietnamese forces.

The very first item of business was physical fitness tests—a blur of running, pullups, situps, knee bends, rope climbs, running, running.

Was I tired! After a thorough examination by the doctor to see if we were all physically fit, Sergeant Kinh dismissed us with instructions to report at 0600 the next morning.

When I arrived at the training area the next morning, many of the trainees were already boarding trucks. I spotted SGT Kinh in the bright red cap which all the instructors wore and headed his way. He issued me a field pack, helmet and carbine and loaded me aboard one of the trucks.

**T**HE SUN was just beginning to show its rays over the horizon as the trucks headed out. The sergeant came back to where I was sitting to explain the object of the next test—to cover eight kilometers as quickly as possible. It was permissible to walk some to catch your breath, but most of the route must be covered by running since we were to be timed and graded.



Soaking wet with sweat, rivulets running down my back, I struggled across the finish line, my breath coming in hot, hoarse gasps.

After a 30-minute rest we were informed that a one-mile speed run, still in full gear, was next. I didn't even think I could get up, but somehow I managed to finish that mile.

My training really began in earnest the next day as we started learning how to fall. This important lesson was drilled into us over and over. We practiced hitting the ground until everyone's knees and hips were a mass of bruises.

To test how well we had learned to fall, we swung off a 10-foot platform on a trapeze. On command we would let go of the trapeze and hit the ground, falling and rolling.

After this and other training was completed and we had learned how to put on the parachute harness, we graduated to the 34-foot tower. Cables run from the tower to the ground. You ride down on a pulley attached to the risers of the parachute harness. This training simulates exiting the aircraft and the feel of the chute opening.

It's not the easiest thing in the world to stand at the top of that tower and jump off into space, but we repeated it until it became almost automatic to stand in the doorway and jump.

Repetition was the order of the day for the first two weeks.

**F**INALLY the training routine had come to an end. This morning we are to jump.

The sun rose over the horizon as we gathered at the

airfield. The parachutes being issued from the trucks are new, not at all like the old ones we used in the ground training.

Great care is taken to see that everyone is harnessed and adjusted properly. Then the waiting begins. Two C-119s of the Vietnamese Air Force are taking us up to jump. They will have to make several trips to get us all.

Our turn! Time to board the plane. Thank goodness the training has been so thorough that everything comes automatically, because I'm scared! No matter how you describe that feeling, I'm scared.

As soon as the plane is in the air one of the old, tough instructors stands up and begins singing and clapping his hands. The troops join in. Although I don't understand the words, I join in the clapping. At least it's something to do.

The instructor stands and motions. Time to stand up. Stand up, hook up—we've done this lots of times before in a mock aircraft. The first man stands in the open door, grasping the edges in a very tight grip. I'm fourth in line. We all edge forward.

Green light! Go! Go! Everyone is yelling! The first man disappears as we all rush headlong toward the door. No time for hesitation.

Suddenly I'm in the door—and jump! 1000—2000—got to remember to count—don't know if it's out loud or not—but count 3000—4000—the harness tightens as the chute opens.

**T**HE SIGHT, as I look upward, is just a big circle of nylon, but still one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen.

I start to look around as I seem to be just hanging



Vietnamese instructor checks the parachute rigging of LTJG Jerry Fletcher prior to jump from 34-foot training tower. Above: Fletcher is the first American to complete Vietnamese airborne training.

in the air. Everything's O.K. The silence is overpowering. I'm floating above the earth. I yell with exhilaration and get a reply from two of the men floating near me.

Near the ground I remember the endless hours of practice in falling and assume the proper position.

Hit the ground! I guess my grin is as big as those of all the others I see gathering up their chutes. At least that's the way I feel.

With chutes gathered on our backs, we all jog back to the trucks. The chant of "Nhay Du Co Gang!" has never been more enthusiastic. Its translation, "Airborne All the Way!" really has meaning for us now.

Four more days; four more jumps; and then graduation.

I was just as proud as any of the young men around me that Wednesday afternoon as the Commandant of the School pinned jump wings on me. But what else did I get from the training, other than being the first U. S. naval officer to graduate from the school?

I developed a much greater understanding and appreciation of the Vietnamese people. I was invited to their parties. I tried to learn their language and had many laughs at the stumbling mistakes I made. Their feeling towards me was one of friendship and of eager helpfulness as we became better acquainted.

And my feeling? Well, it's that they're great guys. I have great pride in having graduated from their school and confidence that I received excellent training.

Going from no knowledge about parachuting to being a qualified Vietnamese paratrooper leaves me with one comment: The Vietnamese Airborne—just great!

—LTJG Jerry Fletcher, USN.



LTJG Fletcher helps fellow trainee during air-borne school. Below: Student at the Vietnamese Airborne School floats earthward.



Students land in drop zone during qualifying jump, at left. Below: Master Sgt. Nguyen Van Kinh, Vietnamese Airborne instructor, talks with LTJG Fletcher during training exercise.





# TRIPOLI on CANVAS

SEAMAN LARRY MOORE brought back more than memories of his tour of duty aboard *uss Tripoli* (LPH 10) in Vietnam. *Tripoli* recently returned to San Diego, the ship's home port, following a nine-month deployment in Vietnam.

The ship had a double role during those nine months, performing her primary mission as amphibious assault ship and doubling as an afloat medical facility. Moore was intrigued by the variety of activities which took place aboard the busy ship, and began sketching various scenes.

The LPH is designed to carry Marines to a point offshore and then to shuttle them over the beach in helicopters launched from her helicopter deck. Many phases of this role of *Tripoli* were sketched by Seaman Moore and forwarded to ALL HANDS.

**I**N ADDITION, the seaman-artist turned his attentions to the medevac operations aboard the ship. Scenes



of inbound helicopters, stretcher-bearers and corpsmen rushing to their stations, combined with scenes of medical care capabilities of *Tripoli*'s 250-bed hospital facility, gave Moore another source of artistic subject matter.

Shortly after his transfer to *Tripoli*, Moore's pencil sketches of helicopter operations, amphibious assaults and general glimpses of life aboard the ship became a popular subject of crewmembers' discussions. The seaman's artistry began appearing in *Tripoli* publications such as the ship's daily newspaper, familygrams and the cruise book.

The many sketches by Seaman Larry Moore record the history of *Tripoli*'s Vietnam deployment. They portray a job completed, and one of which all *Tripoli* crewmembers can be proud. Sketches appearing on these pages are a sample of Seaman Moore's work.





USS *Rupertus* (DD 851) furnished gunfire support.

## RUNG SAT— *Dangerous Mission*

**S**EVERAL YEARS AGO, Commander C. J. Wages, Jr., a student at the Naval War College in Newport, R. I., wrote a thesis on riverine warfare tactics in the Republic of Vietnam.

CDR Wages now is on his second tour of Vietnam duty as commander of the U. S. Navy Rung Sat river patrol groups and special advisor to the Vietnamese military commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone.

This has been one of the important tactical commands in the Vietnam combat zone.

Rung Sat has a reputation for being a dangerous

location for the unwary, providing numerous hiding areas for guerrilla fighters. Comprised of a maze of rivers, canals and marshes, its land formations are barely above sea level.

The only navigable river for seagoing ships through the Rung Sat is the Long Tau, which follows a narrow zigzag from Saigon to the sea.

During recent months, some supplies moved into South Vietnam have taken this route.

As might be expected, the Viet Cong have been aware of this. Hidden in the marshland and jungle growths along the river, the VC have launched frequent attacks on the allied shipping. Elsewhere in the Rung Sat, the VC have attempted to seize strategic village outposts.

Whatever the action, CDR Wages and others have found the opportunity to test their knowledge of riverine warfare. Because of tactical coordination between U. S. and Republic of Vietnam forces, the VC have had limited success in the Rung Sat.

**E**ARLY LAST JULY, for example, *USS Rupertus* (DD 851) pulled into Song Nga Bay for gunfire support duty. Minutes after she dropped anchor, a heli-





Vietnamese Navy Commander Nguyen Tan, Commander C. J. Wages, Jr., and Commander L. W. Freeman discuss tactics.



Commanders Freeman and Wages reminisce aboard USS *Rupertus*. In the distance is the Rung Sat Special Zone.

copter landed Commander Nguyen Tan, RVN, military chief of the Rung Sat Special Zone, and CDR Wages, whom you've already met.

CDRs Tan and Wages briefed the destroyer officers on the tactical situation and explained the Rung Sat geography and strategic importance.

The visitors then spent several hours with the *Rupertus* commanding officer, Commander L. W. Freeman, Jr. (who, coincidentally, was a classmate of CDR Wages at the War College), discussing how they might best combine their forces.

In general, Vietnamese under CDR Tan's command would comb the Rung Sat, select targets, and request gunfire support from *Rupertus*.

Later, just such a mission began to take shape when intelligence trickled into the Vietnamese military outpost at Can Gio, 35 miles southeast of Saigon: The VC were moving and an enemy base camp was suspected near Can Gio.

The district military chief at the small outpost plotted where *Rupertus*' guns should be trained to hit the enemy fortifications.

**T**HIS INFORMATION was passed to U. S. military advisors in Can Gio, and then on to CDR Tan at his tactical operations center in Nah Be, some 30 miles to the north.

CDR Tan approved the request for gunfire support, and CDR Wages radioed his old classmate, CDR Freeman, the information on where and when to level the destroyer's 5-inch/38 caliber guns.

That night, *Rupertus* fired into the VC base camp.

The next morning, a group of patrol boats moving inland near the VC base drew heavy fire. A second naval group that CDR Wages had inserted into the operation also drew fire, as did gunship helicopters cruising in low over the area.

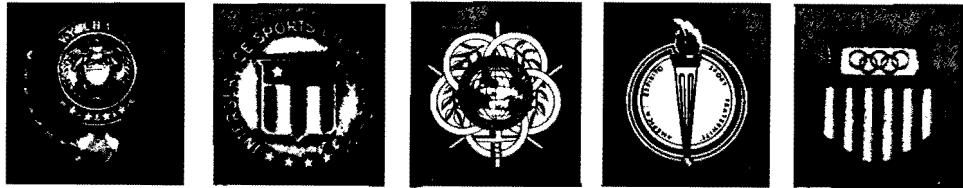
*Rupertus* was called upon for more gunfire support which she provided, and seven secondary explosions were seen, probably from hits on VC ammunition caches.

CDRs Tan, Wages and Freeman believed the VC ammo otherwise would have been used against the Vietnamese village at Can Gio.

—LTG Donald P. Welch, USNR.

Vietnamese patrol and Navy copter hunt out the enemy.





# Navy Sports WORLDWIDE

THE SPORTS BUFF outside the Navy will recognize the names of Bernie Wrightson and Mike Barrett as those of Gold Medalists in the 1968 Olympic Games. He may also know Al Robinson and Larry Hough won Silver Medals.

But what is not generally known (either in or out of the sea service) is that all four of these champs in sports were members of the U. S. Navy at the time they were training, qualifying for the Olympic teams and representing their country in Mexico City.

As a matter of fact, the American public is generally completely unaware of the contributions of military athletes to America's success in the Olympics and the other great international sports competitions.

In addition to the four Navy medalists, four other Navy athletes and 42 from the other three services represented the USA in Mexico City. Our military athletes won, as individuals or team members, a total of 12 Olympic medals, or 11 per cent of the 107 medals won by U. S. men and women. In the process, they broke two world records and two Olympic records.

In addition to these Olympians, hundreds of other

military athletes have bolstered America's national teams competing in the Pan American Games, world championships, international sports competitions and the 15 to 18 annual championships sponsored by the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM), in English, the International Military Sports Council.

For those who wonder how a military athlete can find time to train and qualify for our national and international teams and still pull his weight in his unit, this is the rationale for the military sports program and the policy on participation in international competition.

- First, World War I and World War II demonstrated that sports is one of the most effective means for developing strength, agility, endurance, teamwork, self-confidence and the will to win—attributes vital to the military profession.

- Second, in 1951 the Congress established into law the policy that no outstanding athlete should be denied the opportunity to train for and participate in the Olympic and Pan American Games and other international sports competitions, simply because he is in

the armed forces. Subsequently, the Department of Defense formalized this policy in a regulation which permits qualified individuals to volunteer to train for and participate in international competition.

**W**HILE MANY athletes were stars before they entered the armed forces, others were polished and honed to international caliber while in service. And a few who had never competed before entering the service were developed by service coaches into Olympics and world champions.

The military services conduct a worldwide sports program to promote physical fitness and morale among our troops.

From these broad-based programs there emerge a number of better than average athletes. Consequently, there have been established three levels of competition. Any man can compete at the unit level and he has the opportunity to progress to higher levels of competition. This system gives each serviceman an opportunity to participate in an organized sport of his choosing at a level where he is qualified to compete.

**T**HE CHAIN of progression starts at the unit level and goes on up to the service championships. For the outstanding athletes discovered at this level, there are five higher levels of sports competition available:

- Interservice championships
- International military sports championships organized by the 40-member-nation Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM)
- Pan American games
- Olympic games.
- International tours of sports squads organized by sports governing bodies and/or the Department of State.

The more common sports in which the armed forces is represented on higher levels of competition include half of those found on the annual interservice sports calendar. The planned 1970 schedule is:

EVENT	HOST	DATES
Basketball	Navy	9 - 13 March
Boxing	Army	20 - 24 April
Wrestling	Air Force	27 April - 1 May
Volleyball	Navy	20 - 24 April
Bowling (M&W)	Marines	18 - 22 May
Troch	Army	15 - 19 June
Tennis	Air Force	3 - 7 August
Golf	Navy	10 - 14 August
Softball	Marines	24 - 29 August



Teams from 16 nations participate in CISM opening ceremony.



USA plays Greece in CISM basketball, left. Right: Survival raft race is part of naval competition.



Navyman lunges during Olympic fencing competition. Below: Yeoman Richard Pettigrew, left, competes in interservice competition.





Before becoming a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps team, the athlete has progressed through the various levels of competition. Up to the time he was selected for his service squad he trained and competed, for the most part, during his free time, concurrently performing his regular military duties. But during the time he is with his All-Service squad, the athlete may be placed in concentrated training for a short period of time.

**D**URING THE Interservice Championships the best competitors from the four All-Service teams, in some sports, are selected to compose an armed forces team. After a short period of concentrated training, this team may represent the U. S. Armed Forces in national championships, the Conseil International du Sport Militaire championships and U. S. Olympic and Pan American Games trials. In other sports, outstanding individual athletes may progress through the same levels of competition.

In 1969 the Armed Forces Basketball Team, which included players from all four military services, won the National A. A. U. title. An armed forces team also won the 1969 National A. A. U. Greco-Roman Wrestling Championship. In individual competitions, military athletes also made strong showings in: boxing, track and field, tennis, modern pentathlon and rowing.

Outstanding military athletes are found in a wide range of sports. And many of them are made available each year to strengthen U. S. national teams going into international competition. To understand the broad range of sports skills possessed by military personnel, one need only check the records of the 1968 Olympics where military athletes represented the United States in: track and field, shooting, diving, basketball, boxing, equestrian, rowing, canoeing, cycling, fencing, modern pentathlon, swimming, volleyball, water polo and wrestling.

Training for these is handled on an individual basis. Athletes considered qualified for international competition may be assigned in an area where they can perform their assigned duties. They may also be authorized a concentrated training period immediately before the trials for the U. S. National Team or the actual competition. In some sports, when there are enough qualified military athletes of international caliber to justify it, the military departments establish a temporary training camp for the qualified candidates from all four of the services.

**B**UT THE BASIC military mission of each service is, of course, always of primary concern in planning the military sports programs. An athlete, regardless of his ability, cannot expect to be authorized to train full-time for athletic competition. On the other hand,

if he is qualified as mentioned above, he can be authorized adequate time to train and compete, consistent with the primary mission of the military departments and available funds.

The armed forces have supported the United States international sports effort for many years by giving qualified and deserving athletes the opportunity to become members of the United States teams. As a result, a substantial percentage of the past four U. S. Olympic teams were members of the armed forces.

Consequently, the young man who enters the armed forces need not suspend his interest in sports or give up his dream of representing his country in international competition. He will be encouraged to continue or even increase his participation. Those who feel that they are qualified need only apply for consideration for training and participation in international sports. Each application is processed and is given every consideration. The procedure to be followed by Navy personnel desiring to apply for consideration is outlined in article 806 of the *Special Services Manual*. The military services desire to place as many men as possible on the Olympic team and thus contribute to the international sports prestige of the United States and demonstrate the vigor and fitness of our troops.

The sports programs of the major universities are large. However, they fade into insignificance when compared with the worldwide sports programs con-

ducted by the four armed forces. The sports programs of the four services, from unit level to international level, each year attract thousands.

**T**HE INTERSERVICE Sports Committee is responsible for armed forces participation in interservice, national and international competitions. Running this vast worldwide program means scheduling events, setting up training camps, outfitting athletes and making travel arrangements. This four-man committee, established by joint agreement between the service secretaries, on 21 Nov 1947, includes the Chief of Special Services and/or Morale Services of the four military services. The committee is designated as the executive agent of the office of the Secretary of Defense for joint service participation in such events.

Chairmanship of the committee rotates annually among the military services, except that the service occupying the chair during the year in which the Pan American Games are scheduled will provide the chairmanship for the subsequent year to insure continuity of effort through the Olympic Games.

Captain Harvey W. Hall, Jr., USN, occupied the chair during 1969. Air Force will chair the committee during 1970, followed by the Marine Corps.

Incidentally, for all those interested, the Pan American Games are scheduled for 1971 and the Olympics in 1972.

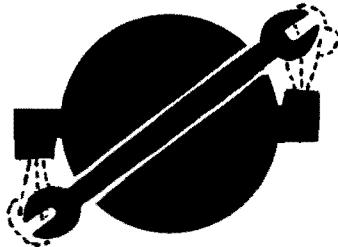


Left: U. S. Navymen hurls line during training for seamanship event in 1969 CISM meet. Above: Capt. H. W. Hall, Jr., chairman of Interservice Sports Committee, presents award for service to retiring committee member Colonel F. Don Miller. Below: Training for Navy Pentathlon.



Photo far left: Athletes from many countries participate in cross-country meet. Top left: Members of U. S. Navy Pentathlon team in 1969 CISM competition. Right: Navy gold medalist in Olympic pair with coxswain. Below: Obstacle course competition during Sea Week at Den Helder, Netherlands.





# The BOILERMAKER

**Join This Elite Group  
—With a Vital, Tough,  
Rewarding Job**



**I**F YOU'RE A BOILERMAN who enjoys repair work—and the kind of man who likes a challenge—you might consider becoming a boilermaker.

As you probably know, the BR rating begins at the PO1 level and goes up through master chief. Its personnel come exclusively from among boilermen at the 2nd class level and above.

As a BT2 or BT1, you have a choice of two career paths. If your main interest is in operating boilers, you may remain in the BT rating. But if you prefer the repair side, BR is your thing—provided you can make the grade.

The BR's job is to repair any and all kinds of steam-generating plants.

He inspects and repairs practically any part of the installations—calibrating gauges, replacing tubes, adjusting burners, rebricking firesides, and general troubleshooting. In the course of his work, he makes and tests welds in all parts of the plant. One week he may be working on a 600-pound M-Type plant; the next week, a 1200-pound D-Type; and the week after that, still another type on another ship.

He must have a thorough knowledge of blueprint reading, metallurgy, automatic boiler controls, refractories, heat exchangers, fuel oil systems, and other aspects of boiler operation and construction. And like any other petty officer, he must know how to supervise lower-rated men and how to make proper records and reports of his work.

He is assigned to a ship repair facility, a tender, or some other ship which has a repair capability. On some of the smaller ships, he may keep his hand in by performing some boiler operation as well as repair.

He receives welding school and formal training in other aspects of boiler repair. But most of his knowledge comes from experience—both as a BT and as a BR.

**T**HE IDEAL applicant for conversion to BR would have experience in operating and maintaining a wide variety of steam plants, including either 1200-psi D-Type or pressure-fired plants; great interest in the repair side of boiler work; high intelligence and mechanical aptitude; and most important, the kind of drive that welcomes a challenging job and the professional pride that won't let him rest until it's done right.

Entry into the rating is open now to qualified applicants at the BT2 and BT1 level, especially those having a reputation for steam plant operational expertise. If you're interested enough to learn what you need to know, you stand an excellent chance of being accepted.

How do you convert to BR1 from BT1?

First comes the usual procedure to request a change in rating—a letter to the Chief of Naval Personnel via your CO.

If your request is approved, you will be ordered to schools if you need them to fulfill the BR require-

ments. Usually, the course includes welding school and BT "B" School—a total of 40 weeks of training.

When you complete the schools satisfactorily, you may then take the BR1 Navywide examination (if you're otherwise qualified, of course). If your advancement multiple, including a passing score on the test, is high enough, you're a BR1.

If you're a BT2 who would like to advance to BR1, a similar request should be originated. If approved, you will be tagged with a special NEC for advancement to BR1, and enrolled in schools similarly to the BT1 converting to BR1.

**T**HE ONLY EASY PART of the process is sending the letter. The rest of it requires hard work and study—particularly the welding school, which has a well deserved reputation for toughness. Anybody who's going to be making welds that must withstand 1200 pounds of pressure per square inch had better know his stuff.



Firebrick is laid at expansion joint.



Superheater screen tubes are worked on.



Cleaning diffuser on air register inside boiler.



The superheater bank is inspected.

Not everyone who begins the schools will make it. Only a man of considerable dedication and desire can succeed. But for the man who does, the BR specialty offers good prospects for service—and excellent job opportunities when he retires. The Navy needs qualified boilermakers, and so do civilian yards.

Advancement opportunities for BRs in recent years have been comparable to those for BTs. However, in the recent August exams, among personnel competing for advancement from first class to chief, 100 per cent of those in the BR1 rating who passed the exam were advanced to Chief Boilermaker. Among those in the BT1 rating, the percentage of those passing the exam who were advanced to Chief Boilerman was 13.5 per cent.

BRs normally can expect faster sea-to-shore rotation than BTs. In the Seavey segments in 1969, the required sea duty for rotation to shore for BRCs and BR1s was around two years less than that for their BT counterparts.

Think it over. If you like repair work, there may be a place for you in an elite group of highly skilled professionals—the boilermakers.

Repairman slides into firebox.



# This Is a Barracks?

IT'S HERE: the super barracks. If you want to call it that.

Built at a cost of more than \$3 million, Cosson Hall, an ultramodern, hotel-like living quarters for enlisted men, has been officially dedicated at Treasure Island.

Rear Admiral Leo B. McCuddin, USN, Commandant of the Twelfth Naval District, in dedicating the new building, called it a "magnificent living quarters for coming generations of bright, young Navymen."

The new enlisted quarters is named for an enlisted man, Radarman 1st Class Wilbur L. Cosson, USN. His sister, Mrs. Lawrence Gilbert, came to San Francisco from Salt Lake City for the dedication, and assisted in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Cosson Hall is constructed on a special foundation. Wooden pilings, driven into the sandy ground, displace the soil and densify the earth. The system, called "soil densification," was developed after build-

ings, constructed on land similar to that on Treasure Island, collapsed when the ground liquefied during an earthquake in Japan.

The super barracks, which can house 1536 men, is a four-storied, cartwheel-shaped building. Sixteen rooms are located on each floor of the six wings. Each room has carpeting, drapes, individual beds, wardrobes, and two writing desks. As we said, like a hotel.

A TV room and lounge are located on each floor, plus laundry facilities consisting of washers, dryers and ironing boards which can be used by the building's occupants at no cost. Resting benches are conveniently located at various points around the completely landscaped structure.

On the main floor are a central billeting office and large guest lounge.

Of the four floors, the first three will be for seamen and below (E-3 to E-1). The top floor will be

The main entrance to Cosson Hall at Treasure Island.





Landscape feature is in center of spiral ramp.



Spiral ramp winds from floor to floor.

for chief petty officers (E-7 to E-9). On the other floors, four men will be assigned per room.

Cosson Hall was scheduled to be occupied by Naval Schools Command personnel exclusively, sometime in mid-November.

It is estimated that a second, similar barracks will be completed about mid-April 1970.

During the dedication, RADM McCuddin spoke of the man for whom the new building is named. Petty Officer Cosson, who was killed in action against the enemy on 7 July while serving as the patrol officer on a river patrol boat in the Republic of Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" and the Navy Commendation Medal.

"Petty Officer Cosson had that extra something that none of us really know if we have it or not," said the admiral. "I suggest that you who are about to have the privilege of occupying Cosson Hall think about Petty Officer Cosson, and hope that his actions inspire you to give that little extra when the going gets rough."

The second building to house enlisted personnel, now under construction, will be named Sage Hall after three Navy brothers who lost their lives at sea.

—Story and Photos by JO1 Tom Chance, USN.

Cosson Hall has the latest in modern washroom fixtures.



Radarman 1st Class  
Wilbur L. Cosson, USN

Beds and wardrobes are featured in the rooms.



# USS Concord —

## Navy Installed a Computer To Keep Track of Her Cargo

**S**HE CARRIES ENOUGH flour to bake one and a half million loaves of bread, enough coffee to brew two million cups, 20,000 gallons of milk, and frozen beef equivalent to 200 cattle.

That doesn't count the office supplies, spare parts and clothing. But it may give an idea of the size of the job performed by *USS Concord* (AFS 5)—and other combat store ships—supplying the needs of fighting ships at sea.

To do the job, *Concord* has a computer installation to keep track of the 35,000 items in its five cargo holds; a landing platform for helicopters; and a high-line which automatically keeps the line taut no matter how much the ships roll and yaw.

In her final underway tests before deploying to the Mediterranean recently, *Concord* showed what she can do. And she can do a great deal.

With *USS Canisteo* (AO 99), she tested underway replenishment procedures using the probe-fueling system and the ram-tension highline, which automatically compensates for slack or stress on the line. Helicopters practiced vertical replenishment with touch-and-go landings on board.

*Concord* was to relieve *USS Sylvania* (AFS 2) in the Med. *Sylvania* was the first AFS to join the Atlantic Fleet Service Force.

The first combat store ship, *Mars* (AFS 1), was commissioned in 1963. Eventually, the AFS is scheduled to replace three other types of cargo ships: the store ship (AF), general stores issue ship (AKS), and aviation supply ship (AVS).

Other combat store ships now in commission are *Niagara Falls* (AFS 3), *White Plains* (AFS 4) and *San Diego* (AFS 6).



Visual bearings are taken as *USS Concord* maneuvers during sea trials. **RIGHT:** The automatic tensioning device of the new combat store ship is tested.





Vertical replenishment control officer LTJG W. R. Barnhart talks to pilot of inbound copter. BELOW: Quarter-masters, Chief Marvin C. Lay and Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter J. Lumia, plot course.



Captain Louis J. Collister, skipper of the new AFS, watches radarscope on the bridge. BELOW: Helicopter practices touch-and-go landings during Concord's sea tests.



# Letters to the Editor



## Pay Designation Unnecessary

Sir: Why couldn't it be written into the regs that a man could designate any portion he desires of his unallotted pay to be deposited for him in the 10 per cent Savings Deposit Program in case he is missing?

This action could go into effect when a man enters a status covered by the Missing Persons Act, such as becoming a prisoner of war. His desires could be expressed in section 8b of the Record of Emergency Data. —YN2 S. O. Schroeder, USN.

• Great idea. As a matter of fact, it's in the regs already.

In the case you mention, it isn't necessary to designate what is to be done with unallotted pay. When a Navy member with no dependents enters missing or captured status, all of his unallotted pay is automatically deposited in the savings program. In the case of men with dependents, if they did not designate 100 per cent to be paid to their next of kin, the undesignated portion of their pay is deposited in the savings program.—Ed.

## Mate

Sir: Can you tell me anything about the rate or rank of "Mate" that was carried in the old Navy about 1918?

I believe mates wore gold binoculars on their sleeves and rated between a CPO and a warrant officer. I remember seeing one on the old receiving ship in Boston in 1920.—CWO-2 G. B., USN (Retired)

• Your memory serves you well. Mates were ranked between petty officers and warrant officers.

To quote the 1913 "Navy Regulations," "Mates are rated, by authority of the Secretary of the Navy, from seamen and ordinary seamen who have enlisted in the naval service for not less than two years. Mates have no

This section is open to unofficial communications from within the naval service on matters of general interest. However, it is not intended to conflict in any way with Navy Regulations regarding the forwarding of official mail through channels, nor is it to substitute for the policy of obtaining information from local commands in all possible instances. Do not send postage or return envelopes. Sign full name and address. Address letter to Editor, ALL HANDS, Pers G15, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Dept., Washington, D.C. 20370.

relative rank, but they shall take precedence of all petty officers, non-commissioned officers of the Marine Corps, and enlisted men, and in their own grade according to the dates of their appointment."

They wore an insignia depicting small gold binoculars on their sleeves, small end upward.—Ed.



**FIRST SHIP**—Porthole of destroyer USS Porterfield (DD 682) frames RADM Robert L. Baughan, Jr., Commander of Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla Nine, as he visits the DD that was his first ship to command.

## Going By the Book

Sir: What does the book in the personnelman rating badge represent? I have asked several PNs and have yet to receive an official answer. Can you help?—PN3 J. S. M., USN

• We couldn't find any official word in our files. We asked the Uniform Board for help, but their research didn't turn up anything either.

So we'll pass along their educated guess: The book represents the many personnel texts and manuals for which PNs are primarily responsible. That sounds reasonable to us.

When the PN rating and many others were established in the overhaul of the rating structure in 1948, BuPers set these criteria for the new specialty marks:

— The marks must be symbolic of the rating so that they will remain representative of the rating even though changes might be made in duties or equipment in the future.

— They must be simple and easy to embroider.

— When embroidered, they must look well in the limited space on the rating badge.

The book-and-quill met these requirements, whatever it means specifically.—Ed.

## Returning the Salute

Sir: We were told in a lecture that the OOD on the brow salutes a man twice when the man comes aboard ship — once in return for the man's salute to the colors and once for his salute to the OOD.

Some of us think that the OOD doesn't return the salute to the colors. Who's right?—SM1 J. H. M., USN.

• According to Article 2108 of "Navy Regs," the OOD returns both salutes. We and the Military Training people in BuPers assume that means he salutes twice when a man comes

aboard and twice when he goes ashore.

Here's what the regulations say:

"Each person in the naval service, upon coming on board a ship of the Navy, shall salute the national ensign if it is flying. He shall stop on reaching the upper platform of the accommodation ladder, or the shipboard end of the brow, face the national ensign, and render the salute, after which he shall salute the officer of the deck. On leaving the ship, he shall render the salutes in inverse order. The officer of the deck shall return both salutes in each case."—Ed.

## Naval Communicator

SIR: I was recently notified of my selection for appointment to W-1 Naval Communicator (757X). A few questions have occurred to me for which I have been unable to get satisfactory answers.

1. Has a sleeve and shoulderboard insignia been prescribed for the new designator? If so, when and where may I obtain it?

2. Is there a general job description or billet description for the new designator? If so, can you tell me where I may find it?

3. How is seniority determined among those with the same date of rank? By scores on the OSB? By arbitrary assignment of lineal number? By previous enlisted rank held?

If the insignia has not yet been decided on, I think the Radiomen appointed as Naval Communicators should retain "sparks" as their distinguishing device. As for the ETs, why not let them stick with their electrons? I'm proud of my "sparks" and would like to retain them. —RMC W. F. B., USN.

• You'll be pleased to know that you will be keeping your sparks.

The distinguishing device for the new Naval Communicator specialty is the same lightning-bolt design as that of the Electronics Technician category. The ET warrant officers will continue to wear this device, of course; there's no sense in making them change all their uniforms.

Therefore, you may buy the sleeve and shoulder marks at any Navy



SHOPPING—USS Sacramento (AOE 1) transfers fuel and supplies by high-line and hose to Hancock (CVA 19) as Sea Knight copter makes delivery.

uniform shop. They'll already be in stock for the Electronics Technicians.

To answer your second question, qualifications are now being compiled for the new specialty. As soon as they're firmed up, they will be included in a change to the "Manual

of Qualifications for Warrant Officers" (NavPers 18455A).

Here's how seniority is determined: The board that selects warrant officers places the selectees in an order of preference for appointment within the designator for which they are selected. Percentile scores are determined for each selectee based on his relative standing within his designator. Then all selectees are merged into a single precedence list in accordance with their percentile score. —Ed.

## Have You Ever Been To the Aleutians?

If you were in the Aleutian Islands in 1942, 1953 or 1964, and have photographs of certain events occurring during those years, the History Division can use your help.

The Director of Naval History is searching for photographs of:

- A 10-man U. S. Navy weather detachment captured on Kiska Island in 1942.

- Visits to the island of Attu by a Japanese delegation in 1953 and again in 1964.

If you have photographs of these events, and don't mind sharing them with the Navy's historical files, send the photos to:

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller, USN (Ret), Director of Naval History, Main Navy Bldg., Rm. 1204, Washington, D. C. 20360.

The History Division will make copies of the photos and return them to you.

## Which Uniform to Wear When

SIR: I would appreciate information on which uniform to wear when entering or leaving port, going to an exchange or for line handling.

I believe BuPers issued an instruction on the subject but I haven't been able to locate it. As I remember, the instruction's provisions would save a lot of wear and tear on whites if observed by the entire Navy.—R. J. K., ENS, USNR.

• The Naval Uniform Board has no knowledge of a BuPers instruction on this subject. The commandant of the naval district or senior officer present has the prerogative of specifying what you should wear when entering or leaving port, line handling, or visiting the Navy Exchange. Article 1111 of "U. S. Navy Uniform Regulations" is one pertinent reference.—Ed.

## Letters to the Editor

### **Equitable Advancement**

Sir: I wrote to you last year about E-8 and E-9 testing for LDOs and warrant officers and you replied in the January 1969 issue.

Since my previous letter, a new BuPersNote 1418 dated 18 Dec 1968 has been issued. By and large, the requirements for my situation have remained the same; I continue to take exception to the provisions of the notice.

I have served 17 years. I was a chief petty officer when I accepted my commission six years ago. I still believe I should be allowed to take the examination for permanent master chief, bypassing the requirement for two years' service as a senior chief. This program was not available for me to be rated as a senior chief earlier, so it was impossible for me to advance to that permanent grade until now.

The intent of the ruling was to enable temporary LDOs and warrant officers to progress at the same rate as their contemporaries. Some of my contemporaries are already senior chiefs; based on my past promotions, I believe I would at least have reached that point and would now be competing for master chief. I certainly feel that I could handle an E-9 billet should I be placed in that position.

In personnel matters, the Bureau bends over backwards, perhaps too

far at times, some would say. This time they did not go far enough.—LT E. C. O., usn.

• After looking over the notice and consulting with the cognizant people in BuPers, we believe they've done very well by you.

The intent of the notice was to make equitable provisions for temporary officers such as yourself to compete with your contemporaries in the established advancement structure.

However, it wouldn't be fair to enlisted contemporaries for one individual to be jumped a grade without doing anything, while his contemporaries are required to complete courses, take the test, meet the time-in-grade requirement, and go through all the rest of the normal procedure before they can see on a star.

As a matter of fact, you do have several advantages over your contemporaries in the enlisted ranks — besides the obvious ones of status and pay. For example:

• You need not incur additional obligated service to be advanced in permanent grade — except in the unlikely event of reverting to enlisted status for active duty.

• Your only requirements for advancement are time in service, time in grade, and successful completion of the exam. Your friends who are still in the chiefs' mess must complete

the courses and practical factors, then must be screened by a selection board. They could be quotaed; you won't be.

• If you revert to enlisted status on transfer to the Fleet Reserve, you might not have to complete the test or serve any time as a senior chief to be advanced to master chief. As a lieutenant with more than five years in permanent pay grade E-7, you can be considered for a jump to E-9 as soon as you go into the Fleet Reserve. A BuPers board considers such requests on a noncompetitive basis; if the board and your CO approve your request, your advancement to master chief will be effective the day you go out on 20.

Your time-in-service and time-in-grade requirements are the same as those for an enlisted man: 11 years (three years as a chief) to go up for senior chief; and 13 years (two as senior chief) to take the test for master chief. Time served as a temporary officer is creditable, of course.

Since you have 17 years in, you have plenty of time to advance through senior chief to master chief before you transfer to the Fleet Reserve.—Ed.

### **Pro Pay Eligibility**

Sir: Aboard our ship are five career gunner's mates with NEC 0873. Two of these men, although fully qualified, are serving without proficiency pay because the ship's Manpower Authorization (OpNav 1000/2) reflects only three billets.

Is it the intent of the Bureau to limit the number of individuals to be awarded specialty pay to the actual number of billets authorized on the command's MA?—YNC G. H. L., usn.

• Yes. To be eligible for an award of proficiency pay (specialty), career petty officers must be assigned to and serving in an authorized specialty billet on the command's Manpower Authorization.

If, as you say, there are only three GM-0873 billets listed on your command's MA, then only three members with this NEC may be awarded proficiency pay. That's the ruling contained in para. 4 of BuPers Inst 1420.121.—Ed.



ON THE SIDE—Little Creek-based amphibious landing tank ship USS *Traverse County* carrying causeway on her sides heads for exercises.

## Salty Family

SIR: I thought you'd be interested in this picture of a Navy and Coast Guard family, taken when we all happened to be home together on leave.

Left to right, the Navymen are my son, ADJAA Edward A. Kriedemaker, and my nephews AME3 William C. Adamson and DC2 Leroy F. Hug. I'm the chief at the right.

I served with the Navy from 1940 to 1945. During that time I was on the commissioning crews of three ships: *uss Santee* (AO 29), on which I served until her conversion to a *uss Hall* (DD 583), from commissioning to decommissioning.

In 1960 I joined the Coast Guard Reserves—mainly because the nearest Naval Reserve outfit was 40 miles away, while the Coast Guard was only seven miles from my home. Since then, however, I have learned about the history of the Coast Guard, and I can truly say I am proud to be part of it—as I was proud to be a member of our Navy.

I've never filled a recruiter billet; but in my contact with youth activities as a member of the VFW for the past 28 years, I have recommended the sea services to a lot of boys, and many of them joined up.

This picture is an example of how I feel about the Navy, the Coast Guard, and our country. — DCC Edward J. Kriedemaker, USCGR.

• *Thank you, Chief—both for your story and for your recruiting efforts. You have a right to be proud of your family and yourself.—En.*

## Commendatory Remarks

SIR: Is it the intent of BuPers Inst. 1611.12A (Report on the Fitness of Officers, NavPers 1611/1) (2-28) to have commands hold correspondence such as letters of commendation presented locally until the time when an individual's fitness report is submitted to the Bureau?

If so, should this correspondence be submitted under separate letter of transmittal? — or, is the intent to have such items forwarded to BuPers for insertion in the service file immedi-



Chief Edward J. Kriedemaker and other salty members of his family.

ately after it is received by the individual? — D. L., LCDR, USN.

• *There's no set ruling that requires submission of commendatory material to the Bureau at the time fitness reports are submitted. Commendations and such may be forwarded at any time.*

However, since an officer's fitness report reflects his total performance, including the notation of any commendatory remarks, good administrative practice would seem to dictate holding such material until the fitness report has been drafted.

After it has served its purpose, all commendatory material relating to

officers should be forwarded to the Bureau (Pers E22) under separate letter of transmittal. — ED.

## Wearing the Sword

SIR: My command recently held a full-dress personnel inspection at which the officers, including warrant officers (W-1), wore swords.

I later talked with several of the warrant officers, and they said they had been "advised" to wear swords "to lend uniformity to the officer ranks."

It had been my understanding that swords should not be worn by W-1s. Am I wrong?—C. A. R., WO1, USN.

• No.

"Uniform Regulations," in the description of the minimum outfit prescribed for officers (article 0110), states in a footnote that the sword is "not authorized for chaplains and warrant officers, W-1."

Article 0159 requires that the sword be worn with the Full-Dress uniform by all commissioned officers on active duty, including commissioned warrant officers (CWO-2, CWO-3 and CWO-4).

Reserve officers who serve on active duty for less than six months are excepted from this requirement, as are chaplains.—ED.



Crewmen of *uss Grappler* (ARS 7) shown here manning the rail during their most recent cruise.

## Letters to the Editor

### **Practical Factors Are for Real**

SIR: I have a feeling that some men have their practical factor sheets signed off as "completed" without, in fact, actually performing all the factors involved. I wonder just how widespread this practice has become.

Care to discuss?—G. D. W.

• We could say shame on you for suggesting that your shipmates might be giving their practical factor sheets a fast shuffle. However, we won't, for two reasons: (1) Your letter (not all of which appears above) seems to be well considered, and (2) you just might, unfortunately, be right.

There is no way of knowing just how widespread any rubber stamp treatment of practical factor sheets might be. We prefer to think that if anyone does brush off his advancement quals, be they practical factors, course assignments, or whatever, he belongs to an isolated minority.

The man who really is qualified for advancement doesn't mind proving it, and this, generally, is what practical factors are all about.

But whether and how well a man performs his factors usually is decided by his division chief or division officer. You know, the one who signs,

initials or otherwise certifies to the personnel office that a given factor was performed on a given date.

If this certifier agrees to a quick checkoff to "get 'em out of the way," or because he wants to be a "good guy," it is he, not the advancement candidate, who should be viewed as the ultimate heavy.

Now for another viewpoint.

Some Navymen feel that practical factors should be done away with, and defend the position with points such as these:

"Practical factors don't mean anything."

"No one takes them seriously."

"Being able to pass the advancement exam should be enough proof that a man is qualified."

"Factors are unrealistic and sometimes impossible to perform. For example: 'Use radiac instruments and perform monitoring and surveying operations on surfaces exposed to chemical, biological and radioactive agents.' Beautiful. How many guys have access to the equipment and facilities for that!?"

However valid such arguments might sound, no one can logically put down practical demonstrations of proficiency in certain skill areas. For example, shouldn't a would-be yeo-

man or personnelman demonstrate that he can skillfully operate a typewriter — before he is rated and assigned office duties which require this skill?

Along this line, shouldn't any skill peculiar to any rating be performed only by those who are competent?

The pros and cons of practical factors have been argued for years. Whatever, they are with us, and unless they are modified or dropped altogether from advancement quals, the best bet is to do what the book says.

The book, in this case the "Manual of Advancement" (NavPers 15989), makes no allowance for hanky-panky. For the record:

Practical factors are skills and abilities required for advancement or change in rating which can best be demonstrated by performance.

Their importance "cannot be too strongly emphasized," as they provide an opportunity for each person actually to prove his ability in the practical aspects of his rating and his proficiency as a leader.

They indicate that a candidate "definitely can perform the required tasks."

The factors are noncompetitive and "no relative or absolute mark is assigned." Their completion "should never be cursory or hurried."

All practical factors for the next higher pay grade (or for change in rating) must be completed . . . "and completion thereof noted to the satisfaction of a responsible superior officer."

A man usually has the opportunity to qualify in practical factors before a given exam qualification deadline, but training periods should be scheduled if necessary.

An entry which certifies completion of practical factors must be made in the service record before the individual concerned may be considered eligible to take the related advancement or change in rating exam.

Practical factors are listed by rate and rating in the current "Manual of Qualifications for Advancement in Rating" (NavPers 18068). Checkoff sheets (NavPers forms 1414/1) which list factors by ratings and pay grades are available through supply channels.—Ed.

### **A Stop for a Free Coffee Break May Help to Save Your Life**

If you've never tasted "safety coffee," be sure to try some this holiday season. It will be served free in more than 10,000 restaurants located along the nation's major highways during the peak traffic hours.

Serving free coffee is part of the National Coffee Safety Stop Program, an effort to reduce the holiday death toll by getting road-weary motorists off the highways for rest breaks.

Participating restaurants will identify themselves by displaying a hexagonal sign with the message: STOP HERE . . . FREE COFFEE . . . SAFETY BREAK. They will serve during the following hours:

Christmas Eve: 1800 to 0600 Christmas Day.

Sunday, 28 December: 1800 to 0600 29 December.

New Year's Eve: 1800 to 0600 New Year's Day.

Sunday, 4 January: 1800 to 0600 5 January.

Just in case you travel a highway where free coffee is not offered, stop anyway. The price of a cup of coffee might save your life.

## YN Repair Party Leader

Sir: My congratulations to YN2 Ronald H. Waterman for qualifying as a gun mount captain, as reported in an earlier issue of ALL HANDS.

I believe I'm one of the few yeomen in the Navy who has held the billet of repair party leader.

While stationed aboard *uss Courtney* (DE 1021) from June 1966 to November 1967, I was assigned to a repair party as a hose tender. After many hours of General Quarters and training, I was assigned as leader of Repair Party 3 Aft, with eight or 10 men, including a DC2, under my supervision.

I feel that this was a considerable accomplishment for a yeoman 2nd class—YN1 Richard G. Washburn, USN.

• You are to be congratulated for taking on a heavy responsibility—and for not claiming a record. We're deluged with alleged firsts, mosts, onlys and bests; it's refreshing to receive a modest one-of-the-few.

You have the sympathy of a JO2 on our staff. On his last ship, he was suddenly promoted from phone talker to repair unit leader when the repair party officer noticed that he was the senior man in the dozen-man unit, which included a DC3. His new position lasted only a week, until a chief shipfitter was assigned to the unit; but he says it seemed much, much longer.

Probably several other men in admin ratings could recount similar experiences. We have no way of knowing how many, but they all deserve a vote of thanks.—En.

## Jim Texas No Shaggy Dog

Sir: The article "Shaggy Dogs and Other Tales" (ALL HANDS, July 1969) brought to mind an old friend named Jim Texas.

During World War I, we had a division of battleships, including *uss Texas*, on station with the British Fleet. One day while all the ships were at anchor, Admiral Beatty of Great Britain signaled the American ships that he had a young bull pup he'd be happy to give to whichever ship wanted it.

Each ship, except *Texas*, quickly

## Ship Reunions

News of reunions of ships and organizations will be carried in this column from time to time. In planning a reunion, best results will be obtained by notifying the Editor, ALL HANDS Magazine, Pers G15, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. 20370, four months in advance.

• *uss Wharton* (AP 7)—A reunion will be held in San Francisco, July 1, 2, 3. For more information, write to Roy J. Vehorn, 918 Hedrick Circle, Statesville, N. C. 28677.

• *uss Capricornus* (AKA 57)—A reunion will be held in New Orleans 25 February. For more information, write to Steven Hiss, 2361 Robin Road, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401.

• *uss Essex* (CV 9)—A reunion will be held in Louisville, Ky., on June 17, 18, 19. Contact William

Philpott, 2709 Conestoga Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40210 for details.

• *uss Biloxi* (CL 80)—A reunion will be held in New Orleans 7 March. For details, write to Tom Gary, Wildwood Plantation, R. R. #3, Greenwood, Miss. 38930.

• *uss Mobile* (CL 63)—The third reunion will be held in Burlingame, Calif., at the LeBaron Hotel on July 3, 4, 5. For further information, write to W. J. Conway, 29 Buckingham Way, San Francisco, Calif. 94132.

• *uss Hobby* (DD 610)—Crew-members who served aboard during 1942-46 and who are interested in holding a reunion, with time and place to be decided, contact Rocco P. Caruso, 3046 Arnold Ave., Horseheads, N. Y. 14845.

signaled back that it wanted the puppy. Rather than signal, *Texas* immediately dispatched a boat to pick up the pup. Such enterprise won the ship the bulldog and the crew promptly named him Jim Texas.

By the time I reported on board

six years later, Jim Texas was the king of the wardroom. I didn't rate much with Jim as a newcomer, but finally he accepted me and we became good friends.

Jim detested gunfire. During battle practice he'd retreat to the lowest double bottom. However, we tried to be considerate of his dislike for gunfire and usually made other arrangements for him when gunnery practice was in the routine. Before leaving port, we'd usually have one of our wives give Jim a billet ashore.

When it was my wife's turn to accommodate Jim, she was glad to have his company but he literally was a handful. With his powerful legs going full and by, it was all she could do to guide him by his leash, much less hold him back.

As Jim got older, he lost almost all of his teeth, but his looks were ferocious to the end.

Jim Texas has long since been on a happier, well-earned cruise where gunfire doesn't blast in his ears. But his memory lingers.—Captain L. Wainwright, *uss* (Ret.).



Jim Texas, a salty dog from *uss Texas*.

• Thanks for the story on yet another Navy mascot, and for the picture of Jim Texas wearing one of your old hats (see cut).—En.