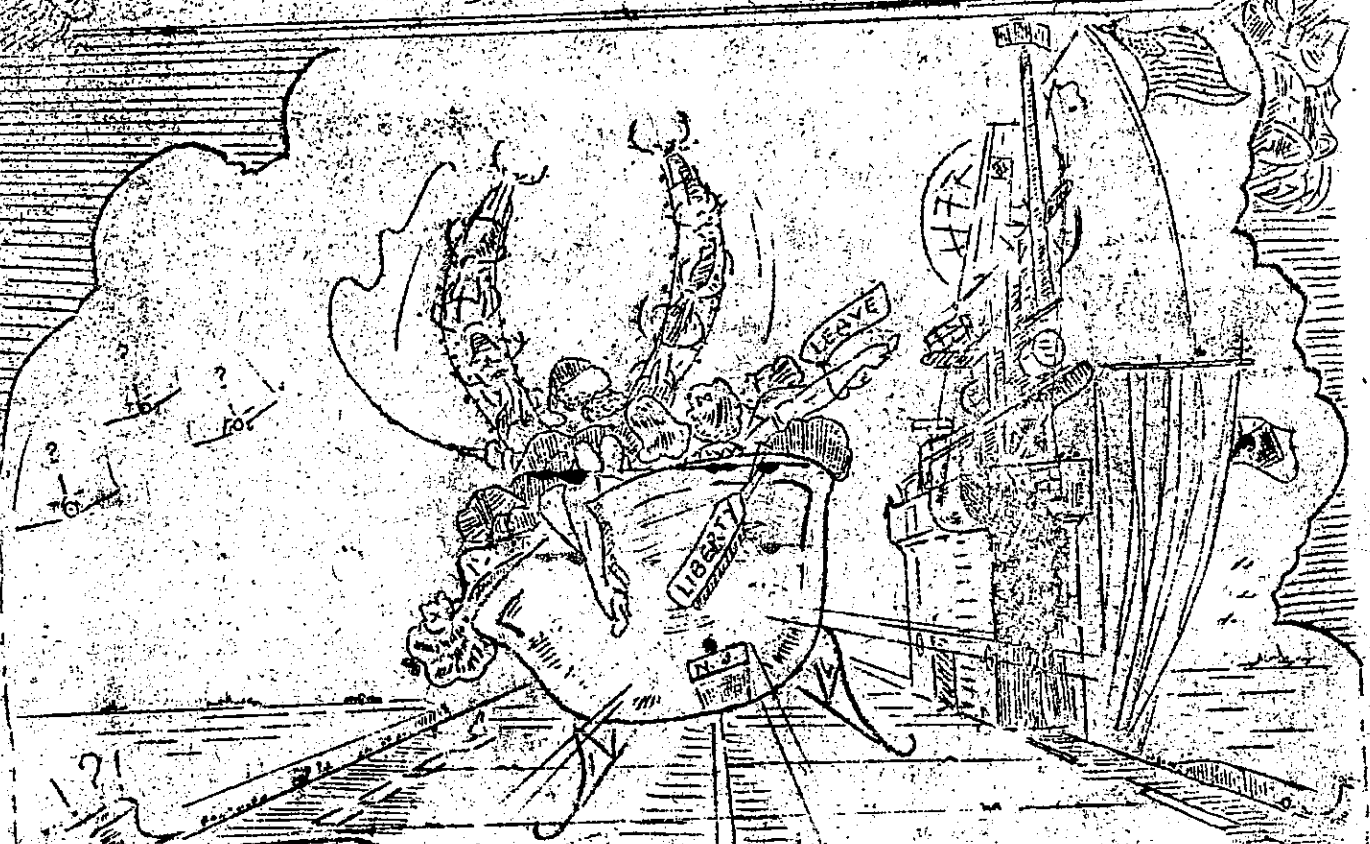
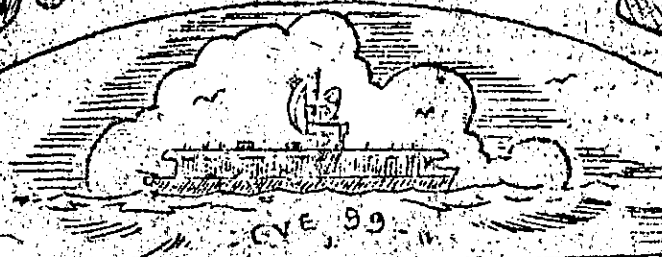


ISLAND ITSELF



CHRISTMAS '45

Last Ships. Newspaper.

ISLAND ITEMS

DECEMBER '45
 EDITOR.....D.J. DAWSON
 ARTIST.....F.A. MCCORRY
 FEATURES.....D.T. SMITH
 SPORTS.....G.L. JOHNS
 PUBLISHER.....R.B. BORTEL

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U.S.S. ADMIRALTY ISLANDS

Escort Carrier 99

Capt. E.H. Eldredge Commanding

Omdr. J.E. Whitener Exec. Officer

The Skipper Says

The Captain desires to take this opportunity to express his Christmas greetings to the crew of the USS Admiralty Islands and to the passengers we are taking home. Christmas and New Years Day this year will find us once more at sea but in all our hearts we can have a feeling of gratification that in this year of Peace we can look forward to a definite status of security. During the year 1946 many of you will return to your homes and families while others will remain in the service. To all of you I extend my best wishes for a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Points Drop Again

It has happened, the Navy is getting on the ball. Points are taking another drop towards the bottom. All hands know the particulars, five minutes after the momentous news came through the radio shack it was all over the ship. The Navy still has a long way to go before it will catch up with the Army but at last the speedup of separation has been started.

To the many men who will leave this time for their homes and previous life we bid a happy farewell. We who are left behind await the day, the hour, and the minute when we can join you.

Christmas 1945

This Christmas 1945 is the greatest Christmas of our lives. This December 25 will not only be remembered in the future years as one spent at sea somewhere between Guam and San Francisco on a non graceful OVE. There is a deep warmth to Christmas even out here. There is the warmth of memory. We look back and see other Christmas seasons and we remember the little things once taken for granted and sometimes even considered silly. The hanging of stockings, the gathering and distribution of presents, the tree, the flash and glory of downtown displays.

We hear coming out of the past the sound of voices raised singing the old carols for an even older Christmas. Songs that now stir up fond thoughts. We can not express in words the depth and goodness of Christmas. Each man has his own picture from his storehouse of life, his memory. To describe is futile.

Today we are again gathered under conditions which serve to mock our sense of Yuletide beauty. Yet we are thinking far more pleasant thoughts than last year or the year before. For this year the war is no more, on board are over a thousand traveling the last miles of their last cruise. We look forward into a world, though scarred and bleeding, nevertheless, a world in which PEACE is not just a noble experiment. Our future in direct contrast to the Christmas of the last years is filled with the hope of youth. We now see the end of one road and the beginning of a broad hiway of life. We are thankful for this PEACE and this new vista of life. This Christmas 1945 is the greatest Christmas in our lives. ed.

Our Thanks

Our thanks to these men for the time and labor they have given in publication of the ISLAND ITEMS.

F.J. GALLAGER	A. LIPSHAW
A.J. FROST	S.B. VROOMAN
J. STOLLENMAIR	J.R. MESIC
R.J. POGUE	R.M. DETMERS
A.A. GAGNE	

Special mention for G.G. MILLER who assigned the Christmas menu. He has previously worked in commercial art for several periodicals in the N.Y.C. area. Intends to re-enter this field when he leaves the Navy.

Hospitality Afloat

According to the opinion of the passengers the Broad A as a transport seems to be doing fairly well. Mingling among them our roving reporter heard various comments about the ship which rate this lumbering mass of welded steel pretty high. Of course it isn't a luxury liner but when compared with other types of transport she is OK.

One large bos'n beamed a smile and said his only complaint was the water situation. He realized, however, that the ship's water supply was never designed for such a large number of men.

Contrary to the caustic opinion of the crew concerning the chow all the passengers agreed that it was some of the best they have had since leaving the states. One man remarked that our chow lines were the shortest he had seen in two years.

An obvious salt, flexing his muscles on the flight deck, answered our request

New Exec Expected

Assigned as new Executive Officer aboard the Admiralty Islands, Commander Richard G. Jack, who will replace plank owner Commander J. E. Whitener, is expected to board us when we reach San Francisco.

Comdr. Whitener's replacement has had a great deal of experience as a flight officer connected with a flag. He received his initial training at Annapolis, graduating in 1935.

Before his assignment to his next duty at Anacostia, Washington, D.C., our present Exec expects to receive thirty days leave, the first in a good many months. Comdr. Whitener's orders state that his next duty will involve flying, possibly in the status of Operations Officer. The Commander is looking forward to being "freed from his desk."

Tax Refund

All enlisted personnel who paid an income tax during the war can get a refund under the nation's new tax law. Service pay is now exempt and this includes allowance for rent, subsistence and muster ing out pay.

Tax on income before entering the service may be spread out over 12 payments at three month intervals. Men discharged before 1 December 1945 must make the first of their 12 payments by 15 May 1946. If the discharge is after 1 December 1945 the first payment isn't due until 15 June 1947. Servicemen must file an income tax return within 5½ months of their return from overseas.

for his opinion by stating he had been on many transports in his time and that this was a palace beside an APA. He said, "On them things ya get two small meals a day and have to eat them standing up."

The space, fresh air, and good racks were rated as excellent by two returning high point men. As a sideline they were asked if many men were shipping over out on the islands. They answered that a large number of men, mostly low point personnel, were making the big step.

One man commended the officer and crew of the ship for their good will and obvious effort to make things easier. Though this is a heck of a way to spend the holidays he believed they could be made a great deal worse by non-cooperation.

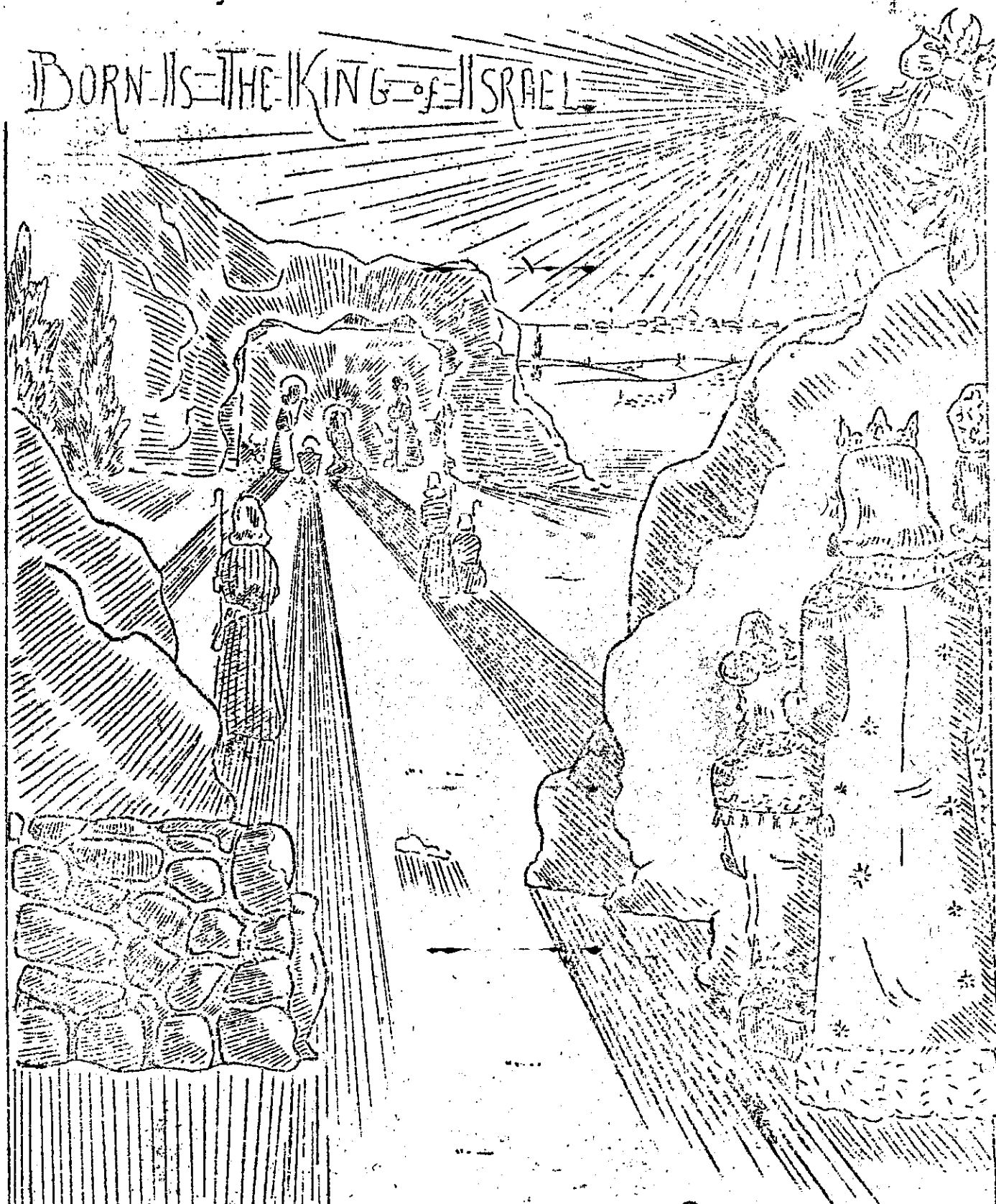
Most of the passengers are going back for discharge though there is a liberal sprinkling of re-enlistments. All are just biding their time until the Golden Gate swings open and they are STATESIDE!

Tradition Pays Off

(SEA).--The Navy tradition that the first enlisted man who salutes a brand new officer receives a dollar from him has proved profitable for nine seamen at the officer training school at Notre Dame. Recently when the Navy commissioned 950 ensigns there the nine enlisted men lined up outside the hall. They departed later with tired arms but \$100 each.

This tradition which started at Annapolis has spread throughout all the Naval Officer Training schools. It has been estimated that several hundred thousand dollars has changed hands this way.

BORN IS THE KING OF ISRAEL



The First Noel

MAR 16

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS THAT THERE WENT OUT A DECREE FROM CESAR AUGUSTUS, THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE TAXED. AND ALL WENT TO BE TAXED, EVERYONE INTO HIS OWN CITY. AND JOSEPH ALSO, ~~WENT UP FROM GALILEE~~, OUT OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH INTO JUDEA, UNTO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS CALLED BETHLEHEM, TO BE TAXED WITH MARY HIS ESPOUSED WIFE BEING GREAT WITH A CHILD.

AND SO IT WAS THAT, WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE ACCOMPLISHED THAT SHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED. AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRST BORN SON AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER; BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.

AND THERE WAS IN THAT SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT. AND, LO, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ABOUT THEM; AND THEY WERE SORE AFRAID. AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM,

"FEAR NOT: FOR, BEHOLD, I BRING YOU TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD. AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU: YE SHALL FIND THE BABE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, LYING IN A MANGER."

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST PRAISING GOD, AND SAYING,

"GLORY TO GOD ON THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."

AND IT CAME TO PASS, AS THE ANGELS WERE GONE AWAY FROM THEM INTO HEAVEN, THE SHEPHERDS SAID ONE TO ANOTHER,

"LET US NOW GO EVEN UNTO BETHLEHEM, AND SEE THIS THING THAT HAS COME TO PASS, WHICH THE LORD HATH MADE KNOWN TO US."

AND THEY CAME WITH HASTE AND FOUND MARY, AND JOSEPH, AND THE BABE LYING IN THE MANGER. AND WHEN THEY HAD SEEN IT, THEY MADE KNOWN ABROAD THE SAYING THAT WAS TOLD THEM CONCERNING THE CHILD. AND ALL THEY THAT HEARD IT WONDERED AT THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD THEM BY THE SHEPHERDS. BUT MARY KEPT ALL THESE THINGS, AND Pondered THEM IN HER HEART. AND THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED, GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD FOR ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY HAD HEARD AND SEEN, AS IT WAS TOLD UNTO THEM.

NOW WHEN JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA IN THE DAYS OF HEROD THE KING, BEHOLD, THERE CAME WISE MEN FROM THE EAST TO JERUSALEM, SAYING,

"WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN KING OF THE JEWS? FOR WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST, AND ARE COME TO WORSHIP HIM."

THEN HEROD, WHEN HE HAD PRIVILY CALLED THE WISE MEN, ENQUIRED OF THEM DILIGENTLY WHAT TIME THE STAR APPEARED. AND HE SENT THEM TO BETHLEHEM, AND SAID,

"GO AND SEARCH DILIGENTLY FOR THE YOUNG CHILD; AND WHEN YE HAVE FOUND HIM, BRING ME WORD AGAIN, THAT I MAY COME AND WORSHIP HIM ALSO."

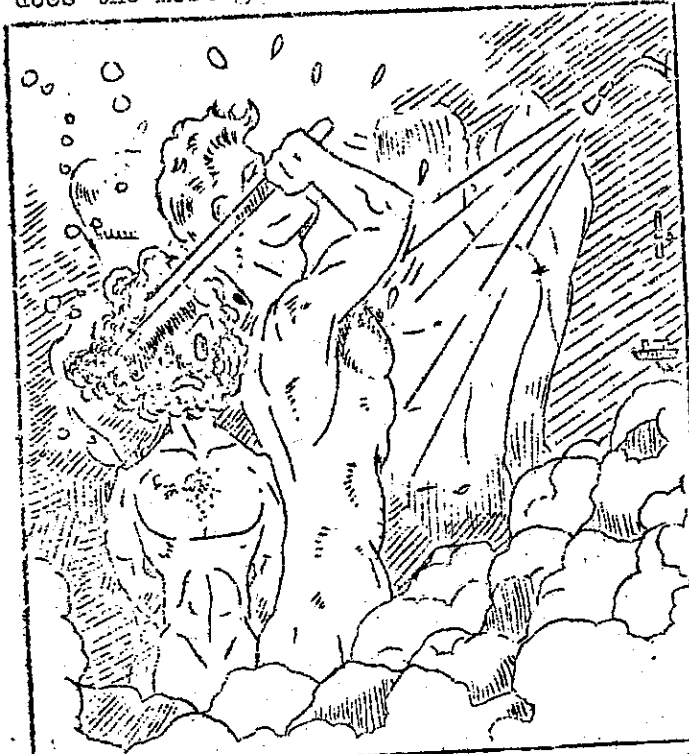
WHEN THEY HAD HEARD THE KING, THEY DEPARTED; AND, LO, THE STAR, WHICH THEY SAW IN THE EAST WENT BEFORE THEM, TILL IT CAME AND STOOD OVER WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD WAS. WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR THEY REJOICED WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY. AND WHEN THEY WERE COME INTO THE HOUSE THEY SAW THE YOUNG CHILD WITH MARY, HIS MOTHER, AND FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPED HIM; AND WHEN THEY HAD OPENED THEIR TREASURES, THEY PRESENTED UNTO HIM GIFTS; GOLD AND FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH. AND BEING WARNED OF GOD IN A DREAM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT RETURN TO HEROD, THEY DEPARTED UNTO THEIR OWN COUNTRY ANOTHER WAY.

AND WHEN THEY HAD DEPARTED, BEHOLD, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARETH TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM, SAYING, "ARISE AND TAKE THE YOUNG CHILD AND HIS MOTHER, AND FLEE INTO EGYPT, AND BE THOU THERE UNTIL I BRING THE WORD: FOR HEROD WILL SEEK THE YOUNG CHILD TO DESTROY HIM."

AND THEN HEROD, WHEN HE SAW THAT HE WAS MOCKED OF THE WISE MEN, WAS EXCEEDINGLY WROTH, AND SENT FORTH, AND SLEW ALL THE CHILDREN THAT WERE IN BETHLEHEM, AND IN ALL THE COASTS THEREOF, FROM TWO YEARS OLD AND UNDER, ACCORDING TO THE TIME WHICH HE HAD DILIGENTLY INQUIRED OF THE WISEMEN.

The Common Man Speaks

This month the ship's poll was conducted again so that the ship's personnel might be allowed to present their opinion on some phase of ship board activity. Rather than ask specific questions the method used for this issue was to approach a person and ask his general thought on the topic of the month. This month the process of news dissemination was considered. Are you satisfied with the present method involving the printed press news and the nightly news broadcasts? Which do you think does the most good and is the most essential?



"ALL THIS & SALTWATER TOO"

Navy Reduced

A few months ago the navy had at sea a tremendous power of combat and auxiliary ships which has today dropped to a mere fraction of that strength. Of 101 aircraft carriers only 18 are now in fighting trim. Only 10 out of 22 battleships and 34 out of 53 cruisers are ready for wartime sea duty.

Also, the navy is averaging more than 11,000 discharges a day and is rapidly scrapping and selling Amphib craft that is no longer needed. It is expected that the tremendous task of putting the Navy on a Peace time footing will be half completed by the middle of February. Admiral King has recognized the fact that the navy could not fight a large battle.

These were some of the questions asked. In general the present system was complemented.

C.T. THOMSON, signalman, stated that he rarely listened to the news broadcast but said he always reads the press news. He added that more information should be included in the press news.

R.H. SNIDER mailman, replied that he was in favor of both the press news and the broadcast, however he prefers the latter. He listens every night and thinks that a good job is being done.

B.W. WATSON, ship's store, the man that handles the local department store, said, "News is very essential.....a great moral booster.....couldn't get along with out regular outside news." He considers the present work being done as excellent.

E.A. KIRIELAND, O&R, answered that the only thing he could see wrong was there has not been nearly sufficient home news and too much space was devoted to the atomic bomb and other worn topics. He added that he listens every night and appreciates the labor put on the press news.

Other men contacted all agreed that a fine job is being done by the radiomen and yeomen on the press news and by the broadcasters. All of them believe that it is a necessity and should be continued.

More G.I.s

Good news for all servicemen about to be discharged was laid on the President's desk on December 21 in the form of a bill extending GI benefits.

With the President's signature all ex-servicemen who attend school under the GI Bill of Rights will receive \$65 a month if single and \$90 for those having dependents; previously the amount paid was \$50 and \$75 respectively. The loan provisions were also liberalized.

Latest on Leave Prospects

In order to dispel much of the scuttlebutt that is going wild about the ship the Exec revealed what he knew about various topics which are of vital interest to the crew. The primary point being the possibility of leave.

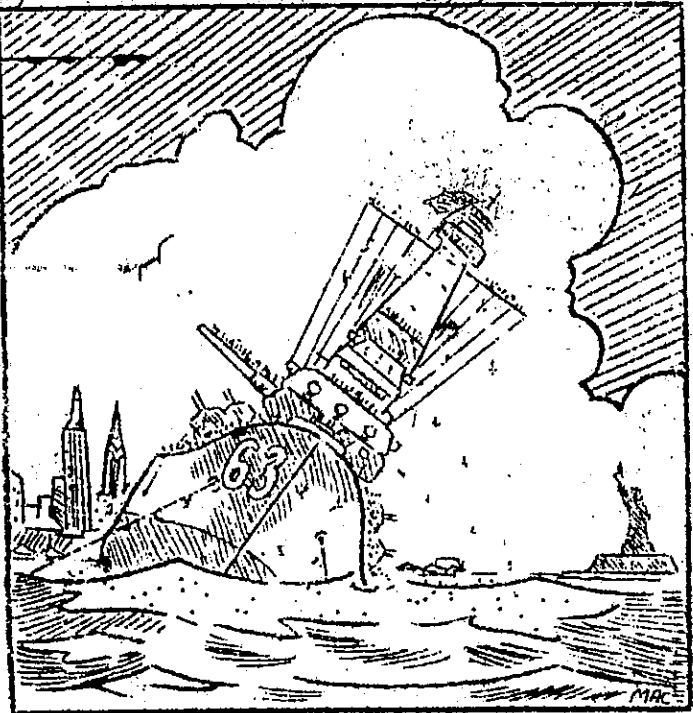
First he made it definite that nothing sure concerning a yard period is a certainty as yet. It is very possible that the ship could again proceed to sea after the essential repairs have been effected. Such activity could be completed in a few days.

Then he went on to paint the brighter possibility, mainly that of an extended yard period of 30 to 50 days with the accompanying leave. Only those men rating leave will be able to leave the ship. Precedence will be given those who have been aboard the ship since the commissioning or just following. All men who have been aboard for this period have received only small amount of leave and therefore deserve an extended time of 30 days. Consideration will be made for men now living on the East coast so that they may have the same amount of time at home as those men in the West. The ship's crew will be divided into three watches. The degree of leave you rate will determine your section.

Those who have had 30 days leave within the last three months will receive no leave so that a longer period may be granted men who have not had much leave.

He emphasized that it depends entirely upon the Commands which control this vessel's activities whether or not a yard period will be authorized. A ship does not request a yard period; it merely submits a damage report and a list of necessary repairs to the proper authority. In our case this has been done. It is hoped that a yard period will be granted. He also remarked that our routine overhaul period is due next March.

On the subject of decommissioning he simply stated that this ship is to be part of the inactive fleet. When it will be placed in such a category is unknown. It is expected that as soon as the transportation problem is eased we shall enter our post-war status.



Kids, Kids, Kids

Trouble brewed recently aboard the Mighty Mo, BB Missouri, when it anchored in New York harbor for the Navy Day celebrations. Several days of "open to the public" visiting left her with more damage than many a battle had incurred.

On a special children's day 50,000 New York youngsters created chaos on the otherwise trim ship. Despite the fact that various areas were closed off for security and safety reasons the kids ran wild throughout the ship. Some were found five decks above authorized territory while others wormed their way passed worried sailors down into the restricted engine rooms where steam valves and escape jets were maliciously turned on.

During the visit the general alarm system was sounded and startled, confused sailors went to GG in the middle of New York harbor. To top it off a flustered Bos'n interrupted two small boys with crow bars trying to pry away the plaque commemorating the surrender.

The Damage Control Officer reported the huge sixteen inch guns were mutilated beyond recognition, and an army of souvenir hunters removed name plates and other items. Men of the Mighty Mo learned that the people of New York City are decidedly aggressive.

It has been decided that in the future visitors will be limited.

Christmas Day - Miscellany

For the second time the ship is away from the States for the holiday season. This year, to lessen the bleakness of such a Christmas a broad program of celebration has been planned.

On the morning of Christmas Day there will be services on the hangar dock and in the squadron ready room. At noon the traditional all out Navy chow will be served. Though minus many of the small things of a Christmas dinner under the present circumstances it will be more than welcome.

In the evening a Christmas program for all hands will convene on the hangar deck. Carols will be sung by the choir and a really varied and brightly amusing program will be given for the enjoyment of participants and audience.

The Chaplain has been the guiding spirit and hopes that all will remember this Christmas with some pleasure despite the conditions.

Records To Lend

For the eleven owners of record machines aboard ship a service has been recently started which has proved manna from heaven. Over 250 recordings are made available to these men and the many that share their listening pleasure. Simply by going to the Librarian and choosing from an itemized list these records are loaned for a period of two weeks or longer.

There is a large selection to choose from and no man need be afraid of running short. Albums of Kate Smith, Wayne King Waltzes, The Merry Widow, Tommy Dorsey, Theme Songs, Western Songs are available for the asking.

After a choice has been made the librarian fills out a chit which is presented to the owner of the particular recordings and a loan is made.

The whole activity was made possible through the cooperation of all owners of records. By being pooled in this manner a wider field of entertainment is assured.

FOR ALL HANDS WHO HAVE ABILITIES AND TALENTS, WHO CAN SING, PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, OR IN ANY WAY PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT, CONTACT THE CHAPLAIN OR STENIE.

If this were 50 years ago or more and your points were very onerous you might still be able to get out of the Navy by buying your way out. The "hush" money was discontinued by the length of service. This was legal too. It was provided for by an Act of 1893 and was discontinued in 1916.

A generation of test tube babies to guard the atomic Bomb has been suggested by the House Military Affairs Committee. The babies would be wards of the United Nations, would get the best care, education, and parents—in the world. Mothers would be given special titles, neither Miss or Mrs., and would select the prospective fathers from a long list of unidentifiable eligibles.

The Navy Department announced several days ago that information will be released soon which will enable a man to determine his date of discharge. It is planned that all point reductions up to September 1945 will be revealed.

The opportunity to find a job back home is getting tougher and tougher now that war plants and top speed production has been cut drastically. The US Employment Service revealed that the best areas for job opportunities are: Stockton, Cal.; Washington D.C.; Peoria, Ill.; St. Joseph, Mo.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah; and Richmond and Hampton Roads, Va.

The poorest chances are in San Diego, Cal.; Evansville and South Bend, Ind.; Wichita, Kan.; The State of Michigan; Buffalo and Niagara Fall, N.Y.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

It is estimated by authorities in Washington D. C. that six and one half million US servicemen will be back in civies by this Christmas. Of this number about four and one half million are ex-Army and a million ex-Navy.

Secretary of Navy Forrestal recently announced that the Navy recruiting drive, both for raw recruits and shipping over reservers, is meeting with a great deal of success.



The Rose Bowl will once again be the best game of the day. In the Pasadena Stadium powerful Alabama's Crimson tide will be pitted against the Southern California Trojans. Alabama is listed as the current favorite, one of the reasons being they are led by the All American passing expert Harry Gilmar. However Southern Cal is not to be denied their share of confidence. They have yet to taste of defeat in this Post-season classic.

The Sugar Bowl is another good game. Oklahoma A&M should have its hands full, when led by the All-American Bob Fennimore, against a suprisingly strong St. Mary's team. Herman Wedermeyer will play his usual good game on the field. This Hawaiian born All American should give the Aggies a hard time with his long passed and quick kicks.

The Orange Bowl puts once defeated Holy Cross atainst an untested Miami team. Holy Cross led by their Stan Koslowski may find it tough going all the way.

In the Cotton Bowl. Texas' once beaten Longhorns should give a strong Missouri team plenty of competition. Missouri, winners of the big Six, ended one of their best seasons with a win over Okla.

BOWL GAME BRIEFS

ROSE BOWL....SOUTHERN CAL OVER ALABAMA
SUGAR BOWL....OKLA. A&M OVER ST. MARY'S
ORANGE BOWL....HOLY CROSS OVER MIAMI
COTTON BOWL....TEXAS OVER MISSOURI
SUN BOWL.....NEW MEXICO OVER DENVER
WEST OVER EAST

MY ALL AMERICAN TEAM.....
D. FITZGER.....LE.....ARMY
B. COULTER.....LT.....ARMY
P. PEHAR.....LG.....SOUTHERN CAL.
D. SCOTT.....C.....NAVY
A. GEROMETTA.....RG.....ARMY
D. MALLBERG.....RT.....UCLA
A. ARMSTRONG.....RE.....OKLA A&M
P. PEHOS.....QB.....INDIANA
G. DAVIS.....LH.....ARMY
B. FENNIMORE.....RH.....OKLA A&M
F. BLANCHARD.....FB.....ARMY

(Ed. NoteThe prophesy herein expressed is local. Watch the press news for the true outcome.)

LOCAL SPORTS.....

This month I have a comment about a local sportsman, a star on the basketball team and steady highpoint man. Many are growing weary of hearing his name so reported each evening after a game when the newscaster comes on the air. Always he is listed as the high point man. It never fails.

Why doesn't the rest of the team get chance to come out ahead sometime. There are many excellent players such as Urquidi, Davis, Lenick, Galbreath, Tiley and others all of whom are very capable to carry through as high score men if but given the chance. Many times they are not allowed to play a game through.

True the team has won the huge majority of the games that have been played but it has been the team as a whole which has been responsible for this phenomenal success. Each man from this steady high point player to end of the list equally should share the honors and be granted equal opportunity at these honors. IN THE OPTION OF MANY A NEW DEAL IN SHIP BOARD SPORTS LEADERSHIP SHOULD BEGIN. PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT. LET'S WAIT AND SEE.

Have You Read This?

Have you ever come to the finish of a book sorry to see it end so soon; sorry that your pleasure is curtailed. Many have. In the library there is a book which has been described as the greatest novel about the sea that has ever been written. A dashing story of an English naval captain during and before the Napoleonic Wars which is crammed full of the adventure and love of that era. This novel has the advantage of being of such a length that it does not end suddenly, cutting your reading pleasure.

Captain Horatio Hornblower is the story, four books in one binding, that carries you to South America, to the Mediterranean, and to France where the Captain is made a prisoner and then escapes. It tells of his love for the sister of the Duke of Wellington and how he pursued that love sometimes a little hotly. As a sequence the library also has Commodore Hornblower which relates his adventures in the Baltic Sea. These novels have all the essentials of excellent entertainment written by that master of story telling, C.S. Forrester.

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST By BEING IN THE NAVY?

1. STRETCH WILMES ---- "MY HAIR"
2. L. M. GLASSFORD ---- "APPLEJACK"
3. "BULL FLOWERS" ----- "FREEDOM"

4. C. J. THOMAS ... "SACKTIME"
5. R. A. ROMITI "CIVILIAN SATURDAY NIGHT"

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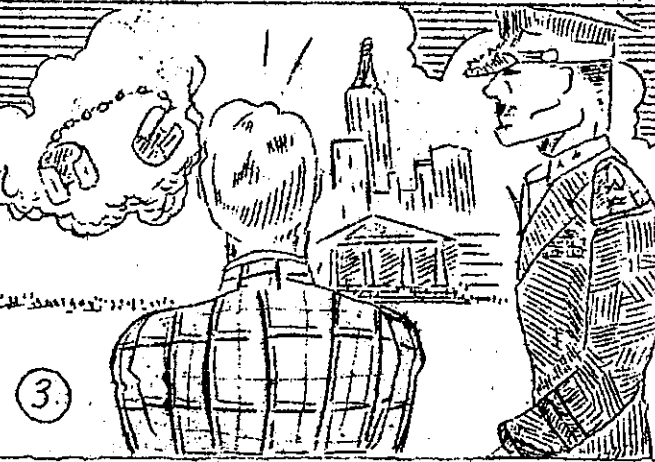
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