



## THE BUSY BEE

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The BUSY BEE is published by and for the personnel of the U.S.S. Briareus, AR-12, at no cost to the government. The paper is printed in the AR12 Print Shop.

### THE EDITOR SEZ -

Only a couple of men aboard submitted articles from their division. All help is needed. We are still in need of men to report the news of their divisions. Anyone interested contact the Editor in compartment A-403-2.

Write up a story on your shop. Names make news. Submit the article along with pictures. It was once said that "a picture is better than 10,000 words." Upon request, we can furnish the 'shutter bug' for pictures. Notify the staff if picture is requested.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

## PAY BILL (con't)

for Officers without dependents - no increase; with one or two dependents, \$10 a month increase; with three or more dependents, \$20 more a month.

4. Quarters for enlisted men not furnished housing by the Navy will increase to \$51. This also applies to men in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd pay grades with one dependent (SR, SA, and SW).

For the enlisted men in the 1, 2, and 3rd pay grades with two dependents, and enlisted men in the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th pay grade with one dependent, will receive an increase to \$60 per month. Enlisted men with more than two dependents in all grades will receive \$100 per month.

This bill is yet to be kicked around by the Joint conference and here it is expected to reach an agreement. Then, again it is to be sent through the House and the Senate for approval. It is expected that the Combat Pay will be retained in the final bill.

The only thing that most men can do better than anyone else is read their own handwriting.

GIVE TO THE RED CROSS

## Ship's Store News

As well as the complete stock of candy, tobacco products and toilet articles, did you know that your Ship's Store also carries a nice supply of gifts suitable for any occasion?

The stock includes men and ladies watches selling from \$25 to \$75. The \$70 is a nice ladies watch that would cost you \$175 on the beach. It's a beauty as well as a bargain.

Costume Jewelry is another gift item carried in stock. Prices range from \$2 to \$12, and include 2 or 3 piece sets (necklace, bracelet and earrings) in pearl, rhinestone, rubies, etc. "Chocolates?" Sure 1 lb. boxes and 2 lb., heart shaped boxes. These are swell Mother's Day gifts.

Display space is limited in the Store, many items are carried but kept on the shelves. The price list is a good index of the stock though, and it will pay to check it often.

Remember - all the profits collected from the Ship's Store go to your own Recreation Rmd. So a purchase at the store is an investment in your own Recreation.

## SHIP'S PARTY (con't)

Who will be eligible to attend the dance? The two liberty sections only. (Very sorry duty section, but you will be remembered in the next party; which will be held later in the summer.) Also I'm sure there will be men who would like to stand by for a friend if he has liberty and not interested in doing the shuffle.

As for the guests you wish to bring along; Shipmates you can bring the wife or girlfriend, but you'll have to leave the "boy friends" for a later date. The reason for this is we hope to have a very successful dance and party, but if to many male guests are present it might be a Stalemate for all. As for these dashing young Sailors here on the Briareus who have girl friends back in Kalamazoo, West Bend, and other far away places, try to get a date for this dance. You will spend a very enjoyable evening. (She won't mind at all, just for the Navy).

The Fleet Recreation Park is located on the port side of Hampton Boulevard, as leaving the Main Gate at the Naval Base. The Fleet Park is directly across from the CE Piers. The uniform will be

prescribed by the Commanding Officer, before liberty call prior to the evening dance, but no civilian clothes will be permitted.

The hall will be decorated by a Corps of experienced men from the USS Briareus, with all the trimmings in the highest. We are expecting a crowd of about 450 people to attend (the more the merrier). Just to give you a brief idea of what you might expect at the dance. The ship has been permitted to spend around one thousand dollars on the party. In any Club you might visit today and the high cost of everything, it would be lucky to get out the door tipping the waiter or hat check girl.

With the cooperation of all hands in making this a successful and remembered ship's party, you are sure of having a wonderful time.

With the following committee (picked by a volunteering finger), there is still a great need of men who have had experience in this type of work. It anyone is interested in helping out in preparing the ship's Council for enlisted Welfare and Recreation committee;

W.G. Leary, LCDR, USN  
J.G. Carpenter, LTJG, USN  
E.S. Bassett, CHELEC, USN  
R.P. Graham, PACT, USN

Committeemen for Ship's  
Dance and Party;  
Entertainment Committee;  
Barrett, L. BMC, USN  
Battie, D.R., BMC, USN  
Doer Frize;  
Keppin, R.H., RM1, USN  
Interior Decorating;  
Quinn, H.J., QM1, USN  
Refreshment and Food;  
Thiel, W.H., CSC, USN  
Publicity;  
Simpson, O.J., LI2, USN  
Enlisted Welfare and Recreation Committee;  
Chairman; Battie, D.R.  
First Division;  
Andes, J.T., BMC, USN  
Second Division;  
Amment, J.O., GWC, USN  
Third Division;  
Quinn, H.T., QM1, USN  
Fourth Division;  
Zeller, W.J., YN2, USN  
Fifth Division;  
Keppin, R.H., RM1, USN  
Sixth Division;  
Wolff, H.L., MGC, USN  
Seventh Division;  
Eight Division;  
McCollum, PM1, USN  
Ninth Division;  
Ray, H.V., BM1, USN  
Tenth Division;  
Simpson, O.J., LI2, USN  
Eleventh Division;  
Yuhase, E.A., SK3, USN  
Twelfth Division;  
Peterman, L.H., RM3, USN  
Thirteenth Division;  
Shealy, K.L., DT2, USN  
X Division;  
Barrett, L., BMC, USN

Men of the USS Boxer  
gave 2,377 pints of blood  
on a recent drive. BLOOD  
is a weapon, GIVE TODAY.

## NOW I'LL TELL ONE

A model T Ford was parked alongside the highway. Along came a man in a new Cadillac. He stopped to ask the farmer if he could help.

"Yes sir," replied the farmer. "I'm out of gas and it's about three miles to the station."

So the man tied onto the Ford and began pulling him. After a few minutes he had forgotten about his tow and took off down the highway at 80 miles per.

The Cadillac passed a cop and away the officer went. After a few miles of this chase the officer gave up and radioed ahead to another officer.

"Say I've been chasing a man in a new Cadillac and he is going over a 100. And another thing Mike. You probably won't believe this, but there is a man behind that Cadillac in a model T, blowing his horn like hell trying to pass."



"Try whistling 'Anchors Aweigh.'"

## THE RETURN

Three friends were sitting around a bar, Each one smoking a black cigar, Each one guzzling down a beer, Each one's eyes were filled with fear, Each one decided to go to war, To keep the Japs from his back door, But each, by some unearkly chance, Had joined a different fighting branch.

The Marine roused himself on wobbly feet. His eyes were filled with such conceit. "When this war is over we'll meet again And I'll tell real stories of fighting men." The soldier smiled: "You guys will learn When you hear from me on my return." The sailor didn't say a word And looked as though he hadn't heard: "I'll neither brag nor boast, my men, Until I'm sure I'm back again."

The war was over and they were back Drinking beer in the same old shack. The marine with ribbons on his chest Rose to his feet before the rest: "I saw action in the

Far East And shot Japs out of trees, Downed them like a bunch of fleas, Now best that, doggie, if you please." The dogface rose with a great big smile And laughed at the big marine a while: "Friends, I really saw the fight In England, Italy, and the Reich; Yes, I killed Nazis to my delight."

The sailor didn't say a word And looked as if he hadn't heard, Then he hit the bar with an awful bruise, Said: "I was in Norfolk and Newport News." The Marine jumped up and the doggie to, "Brother we owe the drinks to you!" For they each had heard and knew so well, There sat a man returned from H—.

## G I V E T O

## THE RED CROSS



"... dramatics, always dramatics..."

## HISTORY OF THE USS BRIAREUS

For their part in the repair and overhaul of the man-of-war, the USS BRIAREUS, received a commendation for work performed beyond ordinary capacity, and a group of the repairmen were honored with individual awards of commendation notation in their service records. Some of these key men in the repair crews, officers and men, worked without stopping for 72 hours to finish jobs on schedule.

In early November an ammunition ship, the MOUNT HOOD, blew up, disrupting the work of the Port. The BRIAREUS was seven miles away and suffered no damage from the explosion. However three men on the R-12 LCM boat crew, detailed to the MOUNT HOOD for delivery of ammunition to various ships disappeared in the disaster. The BRIAREUS assisted in the repair of YMSIS extensively damaged by fragments from the explosion. This proved to be a new experience in repair of wooden hulls.

During December and January, the work consisted mainly of battle damage to large ships; transports, carriers, battleships and cruisers with a generous sprinkling of destroyers and escort craft. In Feb. came a demand for rapid and extensive readying

of the amphibious craft for the actual landings in the imminent invasion of the forward islands to the north. The work of the BRIAREUS on LST's at Santo was extensive. Almost overnight the "Busy 'B'" grew port and starboard yards consisting of L S T decks extending out on both sides for several hundred yards. Twenty three LST's were handled between 9th and 18th of Feb. When the ship left for Guadalcanal and Purvis Bay in order to be nearer the staging area, the LST's were to be repaired and readied in Purvis Bay, only twenty miles from Guadalcanal where troop loading would take place. The USS BRIAREUS arrived in the Florida Harbor Island on 21st Feb. in company with the USS SIERRA AD-8 and remained there repairing LST's. The number ready for sea ran well above fifty on the 15th of March. From there the "Busy 'B'" traveled southward again to her old station at Espiritu Santo to effect repairs of a force of transports and cargo vessels.

## ULITHI

On the first day of April 1945, when Okinawa began, the Briareus set out from Santo for Manus with the YR-47, an float- ing machine shop, in tow

on 2nd April the second dispatch changed the destination to Ulithi in the Carolines. Bucking fairly high winds, the barge parted her towing cable and authority was received from ComServSqd SoFac to put into Guadalcanal to secure better towing material. The ship arrived there the 6 of April and departed the next day after high rainy winds. At one time, the "Busy 'B'" and her tow remained on the same land bearing between Guadalcanal and Savo Island for thirty minutes under fire. After a slow trip the long haul to Ulithi was completed and the BRIAREUS reported to Com Serv Sqr Ten for duty.

Amphibious craft were again the major item on the availability lists. A representative from Administration Com FhibPac took up quarters on the ship in order to regulate the flow of LST's. Here the "Busy 'B'" became the repair ship for the Amphibious Fleet and accomplished repairs and made ready for sea 180 LST's and LCM's during April and May. The last month of Ulithi saw a slackening of Amphibious work. Only thirty LST's appeared on the board; the main work turned to transports, carriers, destroyers and oilers, mostly

(Continued  
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## HISTORY Con'd

battle damage from Okinawa and storm damage from lower coast of Japan.

Orders to Okinawa were in the offering for several weeks in June but were finally ordered cancelled and on the 2nd of July the Briareus left Ulithi for Leyte.

### LEYTE -

Without incident the voyage from Ulithi to Leyte was accomplished and the Briareus reported to duty on the fifth of July to ComServSqr Ten and later was reassigned to ComServDiv 101. The work was originally intended as pre-staging readiness for the invasion of the Japanese mainland and the work during July was mainly on transports and amphibious craft.

With surrender rumors current in early August, the type of work changed to repairing of mine sweeping craft. After V-J Day all work was confined to mine craft and voyage repairs for ships returning to the states. On 11 August Captail C.T. Corbin, USN, turned the ship over to Commander Charles Wilkes, USN.

Complete records from the time the ship was commissioned to the end of August 1945 show a

total of 830 ships repaired, not including 127 various shore units served. The total number of jobs completed was 10,324.

The ship left Leyte on 14 September and arrived at Buckner Bay, Okinawa on the 10th in the wake of a typhoon. Twice within two weeks the Briareus had to get underway to avoid other typhoons, one of which hit directly at Buckner Bay causing extensive damage.

On 1 September, 1945 the following dispatch was received from Admiral Smith. "The Commander of Service Sqr Ten has frequently noted the shipshape appearance of the USS Briareus. It is an indication of good morale and efficiency."

### RECOMMISSIONING

After being layed up in Moth Balls for over six years, the USS Briareus AR-12, again was called to duty. Immediately men began to report aboard from all parts of the Navy from ashore and afloat.

With the biggest part of the recommissioning crew aboard at present, they have seen the great change in the Briareus since their first look at it in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, Virginia.

After a few weeks of a lot of sweat and sore muscles, the ship was

finally cleared of all preservatives and rust. With the banging of chipping hammers and the splashing of paint, the ship began to receive its new look.

On September 22, 1951 after which Commandeur Monroue and the recommissioning crew had undertaken one of the hardest tasks in the Navy, the USS Briareus AR-12 Moored Starboard side to, Pier 4, Berth 29, Norfolk Naval Ship Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia, and at about 1200 the Officers and Crew assembled for the Re commissioning Ceremony. Captain J. C. Landstreet, USN, ordered the USS Briareus placed in commission in the United States Navy as a Repair Ship under the prospective Command of Captain W. J. O'Brien, USN. Captain O'Brien read his orders and assumed command. At which time ordered the first watch to Lt. E.M. Chanik, USN. The USS Briareus was ready for sea again with its newly organized crew.

After a short shake-down cruise, the ship pulled into the Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia to load supplies and provisions. On the 19th of November the Briareus weighed anchor and set sail for Boston, Mass.

On January 23, 1952, (Con't Page 7)

## Pull More News

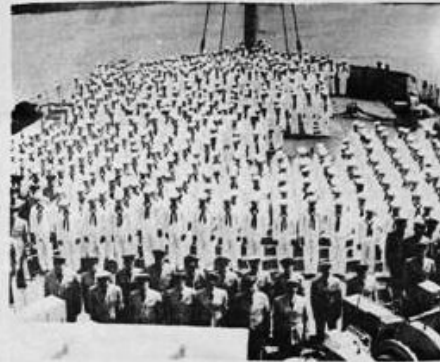
R. L. Winkelman

Dr. McKay (the new arrival to the Dental Dept.), along with Dr. Clark are doing their utmost to accommodate the crew with appointments but under the present plan of action they are only permitted to work on the crew one day a week. This may seem unfair to most of you but because of ship's along side are here for a definite period it is essential that all work be completed as soon as possible.

One hour is reserved in the mornings to accommodate all personnel who need immediate attention, (toothaches, pyorrhoes, Vincent's infection, etc.) Appointment for the one day we are permitted to work on the crew may be made at this time.

By the way, for those interested, the Medical and Dental Dept. aboard are separate Depts., under two Dept. heads. Doctor Dolan is head of Dept. for the 12th Division, while Dr. Clark is head of the 13th division.

When applying, these company's name, date and Public Liability and Property Damage covering the vehicle and the passengers in these amounts; Public Liability, \$10,000 Property Damage, \$1,000.



## HISTORY Con'd

the ship again pointed the bow toward its home port, Norfolk, Virginia. Upon arriving it immediately went into a six week training period. After a successful underway Training Cruise, the ship was ordered to its present berth and assigned to repair work on Navy Vessels. The first official work done along side was on the US S Chipola, AG-63.

Seventy enlisted men of the regular Navy have been appointed to the rank of warrant officer. This is the last group to be appointed under the current warrant officer program

### NEW NAVY BASE TAGS EFFECTIVE 16 April

Effective 16 April 1952, the Base Police at the Naval Base, Norfolk, will issue 1952 base tags for personnel who wish to be allowed to bring their automobile aboard the Naval Bases. The 1951 stickers, presently in use, will be valid until 30 May 1952.

The stickers are not to be confused with ID cards, as they only permit the vehicle and not the driver onto the reservation. Each driver must have his own personnel identification.

When applying, these eligible must present; 1952 auto registration, valid driver's license, insurance policy or proof of insurance bearing the date,

## CADMUS BRAT OUT

BRIAREUS 6 - 4

The Softball team from the AR-12 gave the AR-14 (bldg. 14) a rough time in loosing by a score of 4 to 6. The Cadmus paced the attack with a circuit clout by hard hitting center fielder, Appell, and with the excellent pitching by their star pitcher, Munoz, they cruised along smoothly for a win.

The Briareus Nine onslaught was led by slugger, Ray, who collected 3 timely bingles and scored two runs himself. Also swatting a four base

blow for the AR-12 was their own pitcher, Rowan. It came in the first inning, and kept them in the lead until the fatal ninth. He helped the cause again in the fifth inning by hitting a long single to left, but did not prove to be enough to win, because the AR 14 team came out in the last of the ninth with three consecutive singles and a walk led to 3 big runs, and this proved to be enough to clinch the win for the USS CADMUS.

Inter-divisional ball games played throughout the ship are requested to keep a score sheet and submit it to this newspaper's Sports Ed.



"Okay, Patrick Henry, but you still don't get liberty."

The Navy has opened a school for torpedomen at Coddington Point, NTC, Newport, R. I. Although it will be under the management of BuPers, the military command will be under the CO at Newport Naval Training Station.



## The Cold War (Food)

CAMP SUNSHINE.

Mr. and Mrs. Breathwaite Backus,  
Bald Buzzard Ridge,  
Mountainville,  
R. F. D. 2.

DEAR Ma and Pa: Am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Army boys working for Old Man Minch a mile. Tell them to join up quick before maybe all the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 A.M. (!) but am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell W. & E. all you do before breakfast is smooth your cut and shine some things - no hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing. You got to shave, but it is not bad in warm water.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, beef, ham steak, fried eggplant, pie and regular food. But tell W. & E. you can always sit between two city boys that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon, when you get fed.



It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much. We go on "route marches," which, the Sgt. says, are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it is not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailboxes at home. Then the city guys all get sore feet and we ride back in trucks. The country is nice, but awful flat.

The Sgt. is like a schoolteacher. He nags some. The Capt. is like the school board. Cola. and Gens. just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill W. & E. with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bull's-eye is near as big as a chipmunk and don't move. And it ain't shooting at you, like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Be sure to tell W. & E. to hurry and join before other fellows get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving son,  
(Pfc) Zax

P.S.: Speaking of shooting, enclosed is \$200 for barn roof and ma's teeth. The city boys shoot craps, but not very good.

- C. P. DONNEL, JR.

