

THE POINTER

UNITED STATES NAVAL ARMED GUARD CENTER

JAN. 7, 1944

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

12 PAGES

AGs ENJOY GAY XMAS

Story on Page 3



AG VALIANTS are presented with gifts by their Commanding Officer, Comdr. William J. Cookley, as Christmas Eve approaches. Gifts were donated by the Women's Victory League. The men (left to right) and the decorations they wear are Paul S. Birsch, Y3c, Purple Heart; Louis De Gennaro, Pfr3c, Navy and Marine Corps Medal; Edward J. Whelan, GM3c, Purple Heart; Edward L. Burns, SIC, Purple Heart, and Ward L. Gemmer, BM2c, Silver Star.

THE POINTER

Published every other Friday by the Welfare and Recreation Office of the United States Naval Armed Guard Center, 52nd Street and 1st Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

Comdr. William J. Coakley
Commanding Officer

Comdr. J. M. Young
Executive Officer

Lieut. William J. Pitt
Welfare & Recreation Officer

Lieut. Bernard H. Klivans
Ass't. W. & R. Officer

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Oscar Frey, Y3c.....Printer

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AGC CITED FOR DEC. 7 WAR BOND PURCHASES

For its outstanding War Bond sales on Pearl Harbor Day, the Armed Guard Center was recently presented with a certificate of recognition from the Commandant of the Third Naval District, Rear Admiral E. J. Marquart. AGC sold \$19,312.50 in bonds.

The Third Naval District led all districts in the continental United States in total sales.

AGs In Raft Aided By Porpoises

Two AGs, adrift for 44 days last summer following the torpedoing of their merchantman, credit two friendly porpoises with probably saving their lives.

The men, Edgar A. Weihe, S1c, Louisville, Ky., and Lonnie Whitis, S1c, Eubank, Ky., were aboard a large life raft when, on their 28th day afloat, they sighted a herd of six whales forming a line and rushing at them.

Two porpoises appeared about that time, the survivors explained, and engaged the whales in fierce combat before driving them off.

Chow For Thought

The AGC changed in '43. More and larger buildings, tremendous increase in personnel, new services for men, many more medals, commendations and promotions all indicate that the AGC has reached a position of strength and power.

More personally, each AG has seen success climb aboard in spite of the loss of many of our mates. Gradually we have pushed ahead of the enemy until this New Year gives fine hope for further and decisive victory.

This hope brings serious need for thinking with it. Each man should spend a little time before this first month ends thinking about his part and planning how his own living, day to day, can be changed a bit to improve himself and the AG.

The Armed Guard has always been a cocky, proud, hard driving outfit that hasn't had, doesn't need, and wouldn't take fancy, glamour-like publicity. We started out unknown ... our dead fought for the right of the rest of us to carry on their ideals of doing a tough, little-known hard job, day to day.

No news reels or ship christenings are available to AGs. Nothing other than pushing on through monotonously dull days or through the hottest of hot fights or through the act of swimming to a raft -- if lucky.

Well, that's what made America, you fellows of the AGC might well remember - when you're thinking of home or of a short forbidden beer when the ship shoves.

So carry on the way the others who made America did. Day to day, mate, day to day...not being 'a goody goody' tomorrow but being a U. S. Man today.

-Lieut. William J. Pitt

GUS THE GUNNER

By BOB CLARK



'You have 12 hours shore leave, so try to stay out of trouble!'

ED BURNS CROWNED PLACID'S WINTER KING

Amidst colorful pageantry, Edward L. Burns, Sic, of Philadelphia, was crowned King of Winter at the annual coronation ceremonies at Lake Placid, N.Y., on New Year's Night.

An AG who was torpedoed in action in the Mediterranean, Burns, wearer of the Purple Heart, was the first member of the armed forces ever to be designated for this honor at the unstate winter playground. Ed Gardner, who portrays 'Archie' in Duffy's Tavern, the popular radio show, reigned a year ago.

Crowned as Queen to rule with Burns was lovely Joan Alexander, talented radio actress currently starring in the CBS serial, 'Bright Horizon.'

Burns and Miss Alexander were presented to the on-lookers at the Olympic Arena by Dorothy Goos, nationally renowned figure skater who was runner-up for the American championship last winter. Miss Goos and Hildegarde Balsain, junior national figure skating titlist, highlighted an ice show that followed the coronation

Holiday Gay Period Aboard Station



Queen and King of Winter, Joan Alexander and Ed Burns.

program. During the ceremony, Burns related his experiences when his vessel was attacked by enemy aircraft.

Burns, who celebrated his 21st birthday the day following the coronation, is captain of the AGC basketball team.

Lake Placid was the site of the Winter Olympic Games in 1932.

With face completely renovated, the main deck, passageways and offices at the Armed Guard Center presented a striking and refreshing appearance for the recently concluded holiday season.

Transformed from its usual trim, matter-of-fact Naval garb, the station represented a Yuletide wonderland of garlands, greenery and twinkling lights. From the 35-foot tree, gaily sparkling the main deck, to the dwarflike evergreens spotted here and there, the spirit of Christmas prevailed throughout.

Reproduction of a convoy, brilliantly illuminated by blinking lights, spread across the front of the balcony, flanked by the replicas of two large guns whose flashing 'fire' lent a realistic touch. A winter scene decoration complementing a large church window provided the setting on a two-level stage which was the focal point for all events. The displays were designed by Lt. B.N. Klivans and executed by Robert J. Clark, SMic.

Special events celebrating Christmas included full church services, the organ renditions of Miss Gladys Goodding, a table tennis exhibition by Miss Jini O'Connor, the USO champion and a Christmas play staged by Hiram Sherman. Following the sounding of Big Ben chimes as Christmas Day arrived, Midnight Mass was said. An equally impressive program was presented for the New Year's celebration.

A smoker and entertainment, a Dutch Lunch and two feature movies highlighted the New Year's Eve program. 'Destination Tokyo' was shown on the holiday.

LT. COMDR. HARDISON LEAVES FOR FLEET

Following twenty-five months of service as Officer in-Charge of the Armed Guard, Lt. Comdr. Chesley M. Hardison, was detached from the AGC as of Dec. 30 and has reported for duty as gunnery officer aboard a battleship.

A regular Navy officer who was commissioned an Ensign upon his graduation from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1927, Comdr. Hardison had served eleven years at sea prior to his assignment to the Armed Guard.

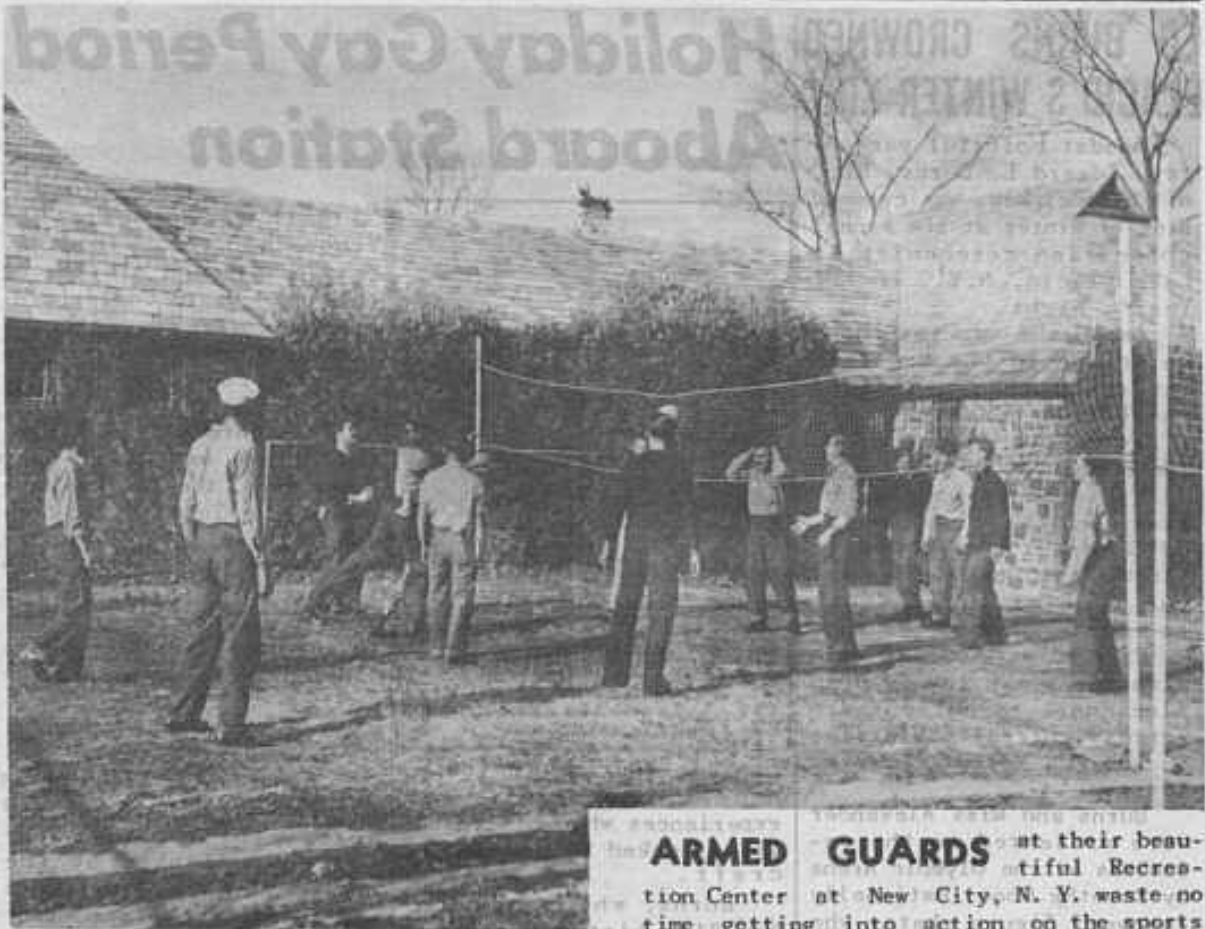
Station officers tendered a farewell dinner to the Commander shortly before

his departure.

Lieut. Clement W. Young, Operations Officer, has been designated to succeed Comdr. Hardison as Officer-in-Charge of the Armed Guard.

Meets Father Overseas

AG Philip Hubbell, recently returned from a voyage to Murmansk with a gun crew took leave while in that port to visit the City of Moscow. While there, he chanced to run into an American gentleman whose title was Field Director for the American Red Cross in the Soviet Union. It was Hubbell's father.



ARMED GUARDS at their beautiful Recreation Center at New City, N. Y. waste no time getting into action on the sports front. Activities depicted here plus numerous other outdoor pastimes provide much fresh air fun.



AIDS PENNY SHORTAGE

One service man not too busy to help out a civilian problem is AG Alexander Z. Wolk, EM3c, of Boston. Reading of a serious shortage in pennies, Wolk promptly turned in a bankful of 500 one-cent pieces to the Welfare and Recreation Office. The coins were sent on to a bank to be placed into circulation.

Base Pay Rates

The base pay of sailors increases 5 per cent after each three-year period of service up to a maximum increase of 50 per cent. While on sea duty or overseas service, they get a 20 per cent increase in base pay. Parachutists get \$50 a month extra. Men on submarine duty or under flight orders get a 50 per cent increase in pay.

Pea Coat Gained Name From Pilot Cloth

The short coat or jacket worn by Navy men was originally made of Pilot cloth material similar to Melton cloth, and was named for the initial letter of the word. Thus it was first spelled P-jacket, not P-e-a jacket.

Seaman A Deacon

Willard E. Thomas, S1c, of Scranton, Pa., member of an AG gun crew, doubles as ship's chaplain every Sunday at sea. Thomas was formerly a deacon and chorister at his Baptist church at home.

CSK MULLIGAN IN TOWN

Wilbur Mulligan, CSK, who was detached from AGC last summer for overseas duty, returned to New York last week.

V-12 FILING CLOSES

Application for assignment to the Navy College Training Program, V-12 closed this week, with the recommendations of the AG board scheduled to be sent to the Chief of Personnel by mid-January. Those gaining approval from Washington will be assigned to college commencing Mar. 1.

An increase in the quota allowed AGC will make it possible for as many as 100 men from the station to qualify for the program.

Advanced to Chief

Joe Cudlin of the Legal Office was advanced to Chief Yeoman as of Jan. 1. At AGC for more than 18 months, Cudlin formerly was attached to the Personnel Office.

Uncle and Nephew: Both 18



Pete Cramer, (left) S1c, 18, and William Stanfield, S1c, 18, both of Marshall, Mo. Pete and Bill are uncle and nephew who joined the Navy together in January 1943. After serving their boot training together at Great Lakes, they came to AGC. They shipped out in different gun crews, Uncle Pete making two trips while nephew Bill was on a round-the-world voyage. They returned at the same time, met again aboard the station last week.

Bill's mother, now 36, is the oldest in a family of eight, with Pete the youngest of the brood. Pete was born May 27, 1925, Bill Dec. 5, 1925. Pete held the Central Missouri Golden Gloves flyweight title in 1941, was bantamweight king in '42.

AG'S BARRACKS FLOAT

Known as the Floating Barracks of the Armed Guard, the USS Newton has been a landmark here since 1942.

Housing the Legal Office, the Brig and a large number of bunks, she fulfills a modest role in the prosecution of the war effort.

Heavy ground swells which disturb shipping in the Bay have no effect on the Newton's personnel. No cases of seasickness have yet been reported.

DIVINE SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Daily Mass at 1200, Chapel, Main Deck. Confessions heard half-hour before Mass.

Sunday Mass at 0845 and 1030, Drill Floor, Main Deck.

Confessions heard daily at 1630, Chapel, Main Deck. In emergency, Confession will be heard at any time.

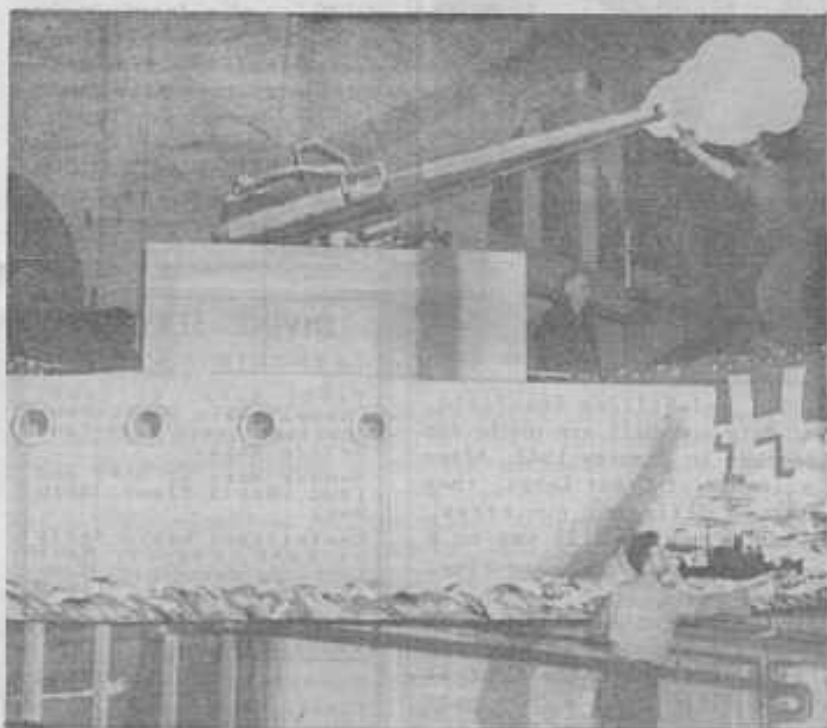
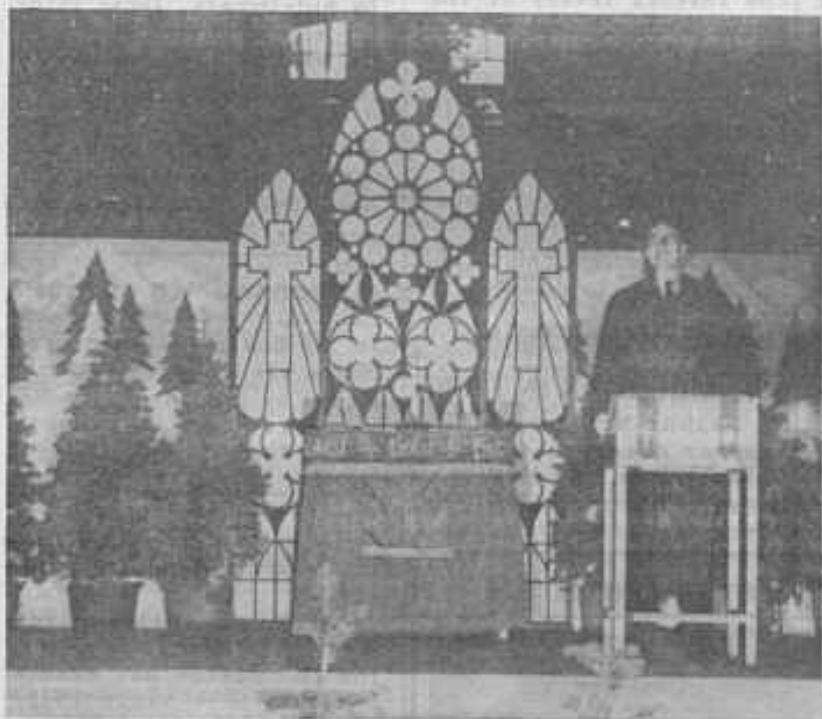
PROTESTANT

Sunday at 0945, Drill Floor, Main Deck.

POINTER PEEKS

At Armed Guard's Christmas

Christmas





APPROACH of Christmas and the celebration of the holiday brought these scenes to the Armed Guard Center. Flashing guns (lower right and left) at opposite ends of balcony as end displays of a realistic convoy found their mark on large Christmas greeting card. From altar built on stage, Protestant and Catholic services (upper left and right) were conducted. General scene of main deck is seen above, while the jewelry and novelty counter (below) and other sections of the Ship's Store were as busy as any big city department store during the last days before the holiday.

Official U.S. Navy Photographs



FLAGS & FLASHES

by DON MAZER, S1.

With his arms encircling Carole Landis while helping her with her coat at the Wigwam, all Bob Shetter could say was: 'How about your autograph.' MiGawd!...Born in the Crimea and educated in Europe, basso Mendy Levkovitch speaks with an Axford accent...Liars' Club: First prize was unanimously awarded to Ed Slivinske who arrived home after ten months at sea and shook hands with his wife... Peeking over his shoulder, we saw Sparks Goldman write home as follows: Dear Pop\$: Gue\$\$ what I need mo\$t? That's right. Please \$end it a\$ \$oon a\$ po\$\$ible. Your \$ailor \$on, \$idney...Lt. Comdr. Hardison, off for duty with the Fleet, exchanged goodbyes and handclaps with Lieut. Cavanaugh and others in the Radio Shack. Best o' luck to a real Navy man...That crate of oranges everyone sailed into was a gift from Lt. (jg) Charles, who still keeps in regular touch with his old division... 'Accordion Joe' Shemroske knocked over a \$15 bill on the Blind Date program the other night but lost the date for the Stork Club to an Army man!

Curly haired Don Law stepped out of the barber chair and took one look in the mirror. 'Oh Gee, S.I.' he mourned...Patsy Introne's girl friend, a real Sweetheart of the Sea, calls the crew of our subs, the wolf packs. OWooooo!...Back from leave, Jolting Joe Boyce, the best of the West, now resumes his role as beast of the East. Just returned from eight months in hammer 'n' sickle land, Paul Bailey, Tony Piscatella and Johnny Epstein are spouting broken Russian. To satisfy you curious guys, a pack of smokes brings 100 rubles, a S.I. sweater 700 and a litre of vodka 1800 rubles. Figure it out at 5 rubles to the dollar. Go ahead...Sparks MacMahon tells of the ship's cat on his last trip. Back after seven months with only one shore liberty in Africa, pussy banged out two litters, or 18 kitten-kats in all...Material man Coleman and Marker got the last laugh on a couple of 'wise' mates when an ancient receiver, expertly repaired, tuned in 20 stations, including some from south of the border...Just in from Noratan, are SM John Bacon and Gabriel Helene. To add spice it's suggested that RM Tamplat Mustard go along when they ship out. No harm meant, mates.

Station Scuttlebutt: Herman the German, that little black cat, was so christened by Al Rust who held the ceremony under a shower. Both are doing fine...After returning from a blind date arranged by Mel Leavitt, an unidentified AG remarked: 'I've seen better heads on nickel beer'... 'Adonis' Gilbert of the Detail Office is much relieved since an unnamed friend of his got turned down on a V-7 application. Gil says 'it' would have been a 90-day blunder...Sadly admitting he gets writer's cramp whenever he has to sign his name is Gunner Len Wydrzynski...Bob Turley of the Education Office says if 'Pough' in Poughkeepsie is pronounced 'Po', why don't we spell potato 'pough-tatough'... 'Jose' Richman of the Exec's Office is studying Russian. Seen sneezing, Joe insisted he was only conjugating a difficult verb...and Bob Clark's uncle would rather do business with Japs than Americans. He's a funeral director. So sorry, please!

Camp Shows Offer Perk Up, Revue, On Main Deck Jan. 18th

Perk Up, a streamlined stage frolic, is set for a performance on the main deck stage Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 2000. The revue, boasting a capable array



Helene Denison

of talent, is one of the Victory units of USO-Camp Shows.

Certain to catch the fancy of the AG audience is Al (Daredevil) Dault, a performer who combines comedy with an acrobatic high-balancing act. The jitterbug department in Perk Up is adequately cared for by cute Deede Darnell, vocalist, who is on her first tour with Camp Shows direct from New York's night life.

Helene Denison, dancer, does a speciality while Ben McAtee does a comedy routine and acts as m.c. Others in the company are the Woodson Sisters, acrobatic tap dancers; Reed and Dean, instrumental musical act, and Al Friedman, pianist and musical conductor.

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES
WAR
BONDS
AND
STAMPS



BE

NAVY

BUY BONDS!



NEWLY assigned Senior Medical Officer, Capt. Arthur P. Morton greets two members of his staff, goes over plans of the spacious new Sick Bay. With Capt. Morton, who replaced Comdr. Gerald R. O'Brien, are (left to right) Lt. Comdr. Bernard M. Scholder and Lieut. Ernest E. Keet Jr.



AMBULANCE donated to AGC by Kings County Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary is accepted by the Commanding Officer, Mrs. Florence McInnes, Past County Chairman, presents keys to Comdr. William J. Coakley. Looking on are Mrs. Bertha Olsen of the Auxiliary, Ens. Sylvia M. Scherberger, Capt. Arthur P. Morton and Lieut. William J. Pitt.

Jini O'Connor Beats 13 AGs At Ping Pong

Meeting all comers, Jini O'Connor, the USO's female table tennis champion, captured thirteen of fifteen matches in the course of two exhibitions aboard the station on Christmas Day and again on Monday, Dec. 27.

Undefeated in her initial appearance, Miss O'Connor split a pair of games in an exhibition with S1c Jack Hoffner, who was a tournament performer in his civilian days. Visibly tired following her 21-11 setback and 21-15 triumph against Hoffner, Miss O'Connor was easy prey for Stan Porter in a final contest and fell, 21-15.

An added attraction on the Christmas Day card was a special match between Cook 'Slim' Rodriguez and Baker 'Pretty Boy' Jurgens, won after great effort by the cook, 21-16.

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Bowling Loop Fuses Heated Competition

A battle down to the wire was indicated in the heated competition for station bowling league honors when, with but seven weeks of play remaining, three teams were deadlocked for the lead with identical records of 25 games won and 14 lost. The leaders were Yeomen no.1, Ship's Service and the Nine Old Men. Supply was close behind with a 22-17 record while Disbursing no.2 followed with marks of 21-18 each.

The schedule for the next two weeks:

Jan. 10

Yeomen no.1 vs. Supply
Wardroom vs. Dabrg. no.2
Dabrg. no.3 vs. Dabrg. no.1
Ship's Service vs. Yeomen no.2
Nine Old Men vs. Yeomen no.3
Welfare vs. Post Office

Jan. 17

Nine Old Men vs. Wardroom
Ship's Service vs. Dabrg. no.1
Yeomen no.1 vs. Welfare
Yeomen no.3 vs. Supply
Post Office vs. Yeomen no.2
Dabrg. no.2 vs. Dabrg. no.3

Quiz'em!

??

WHAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS DID YOU MAKE? HAVE YOU BROKEN THEM AS YET?

??



SEZ Bob Ludlow, BN2c, Wilmington, Del.:

One thing I'm going to do is to refuse Leap Year proposals. Four years ago, I couldn't keep the dames out of my hair. Broken? I haven't had any offers so far.

SEZ Celestino Mendosa, SK2c, Philippine Islands:

I want to see my native Philippine dancers compete against Sally Rand. Otherwise, I'm through with wimmin.

SEZ Maurice Buck, SM2c, Decatur, Ill.:

I've made up my mind to keep my blood pressure down when I see the beautiful blondes strolling around New York. Whew!

SEZ Roger Wright, SM3c, Tampa, Fla.:

I'm gonna give more attention to women and less to wine. Huh? Yeah, I'll do a little singin', too.

SEZ Joe Fernandez, GM3c, Donora, Pa.:

Forget my troubles. I'm still thinkin' about how to do so. Mebbe with a blonde side kick.

SEZ Lou Lovins, GM3c, Bloomington, Ill.:

To give my loving to my sugar babe!

Mascots Chow Down!



Scuttlebutt (left) and Striker, unofficial members of ship's company at the Naval Rest Center, DeLand, Fla., familiar figures to AGs who have spent pleasant days at the Southern rest camp, pause to pose for photo. At least, Scuttlebutt pauses. Striker's too busy.

Sextet Beaten In Overtime, 6-5

HOOPSTERS PREPARE FOR DISTRICT MEET

Fresh from a long lay-off during the Christmas holidays, the Armed Guard basketball team, sporting a five-game consecutive win streak, was setting its sights this week for the Third Naval District championship.

Play in the District tourney opened this week, with the AGC drawing a first round bye. The locals first move towards the crown comes next Thursday, Jan. 13 at the Navy Y against the victor of a clash between Chambers St. Barracks and Brooklyn Barracks, both Coast Guard fives.

Loss of the services last week of Irv Feigenbaum, high-scoring forward, who was detached, was a serious blow to the squad which will take its final tune-up for the championship in a game with the Pier 9, Coast Guard, forces on the Julia Richman H.S. floor, Manhattan, this Monday, Jan. 10.

Grapplers Vie Jan. 21

The District wrestling championships will be decided Jan. 21 at the West Side Y, Manhattan. Candidates interested in participating should see Chief Frank Shirvis in the Recreation Office, no later than Monday, Jan. 10.

AG Former Track Star

Another personality was added to AG's roll of sports figures last month when Ens. Philip A. Gould of Philadelphia, former captain of Princeton University's track team, reported at the station for duty. A quarter miler, Ens. Gould starred on the 1938 Tiger squad. He is now at sea with a gun crew.

DROPS GARDEN THRILLER TO JAMAICA AFTER EARLIER TRIUMPH, 3 TO 1

In an overtime thriller during which the lead changed hands five times, Armed Guard's ice sextet drooped a 6-5 decision to the Jamaica Hawks before 10,000 at Madison Square Garden last Sunday afternoon, Jan. 2, thus sac-



Bob Rafter, AG's fast-skating center, goes tumbling over Jamaica goalie after unleashing scoring shot. Action occurred in extra-period fray at Garden.

rificing an opportunity to forge into second place in the Metropolitan League pennant race.

The defeat was a bitter dose to the Gunners, coming as it did after a rather easy triumph over this same Jamaica array in a Dec. 20 dark-house clash at the Garden, 3-1, that saw Bob (Red) Rafter account for all the AG scoring on an unassisted hat trick.

Action was furious in last Sunday's meeting which saw the Gunners ahead, 2-1, at the first period buzzer, tied, 3-3, at the close of the second and then deadlocked again, 5-5, the end of the regular hostility.

George Dillingham's shot, off assists from Bill Briell and George Petrillak in 3:48 of the five-minute overtime session spelled doom to the bluejackets, who were playing with five men when the winning goal sailed into the cords as a result of a two-minute penalty doled out to Jimmy Devine.

The Hawks drew first blood with a goal in 2:15 but two fast tallies late in the initial period sent the Gunners ahead. Devine got the first by himself and Rafter and Bill Callahan

passed to Eli Yale for the other. After Jamaica knotted the count with the first of three goals by Hank Coupe in the opening of the middle period, Callahan flashed the red light on a pass from Rafter for a 3-2 margin, only to see Coupe tie up the game again near the close of the session.

Again Jamaica moved ahead on a goal in 5:09 of the third but Rafter got that one right back at 5:35 on a pass from Ens. Ray Chaisson. Less than a minute later, the Gunners had a 5-4 lead on a shot by Ens. Chaisson from Bob Donovan but Coupe evened the fray to send the pucksters into the extra period.

Ens. Harry Thompson, playing-coach, sustained a broken arm early in play and was forced to withdraw. Donovan did a fine job relieving him at defense.

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AGs SHADED BY HAWKS, 6-5, IN OVERTIME ON GARDEN ICE

Story on Page 11



GUNNER GOALIE

Larry Ross flinches as he goes yards away from cage to make brilliant stop in overtime fray with Jamaica Hawks at Madison Square Garden last Sunday. AG lost, 6-5.

COOK vs. BAKER

produces fireworks. 'Pretty Boy' Jurgens, the baker (left) and 'Slim' Rodriguez are separated by Miss Jini O'Connor, USO table tennis champion, when they get into heated argument during match at exhibition Christmas Day. Stan Saplin, referee, rushes to Miss O'Connor's aid.

