

THE **P** O I N T E R

UNITED STATES NAVAL ARMED GUARD CENTER

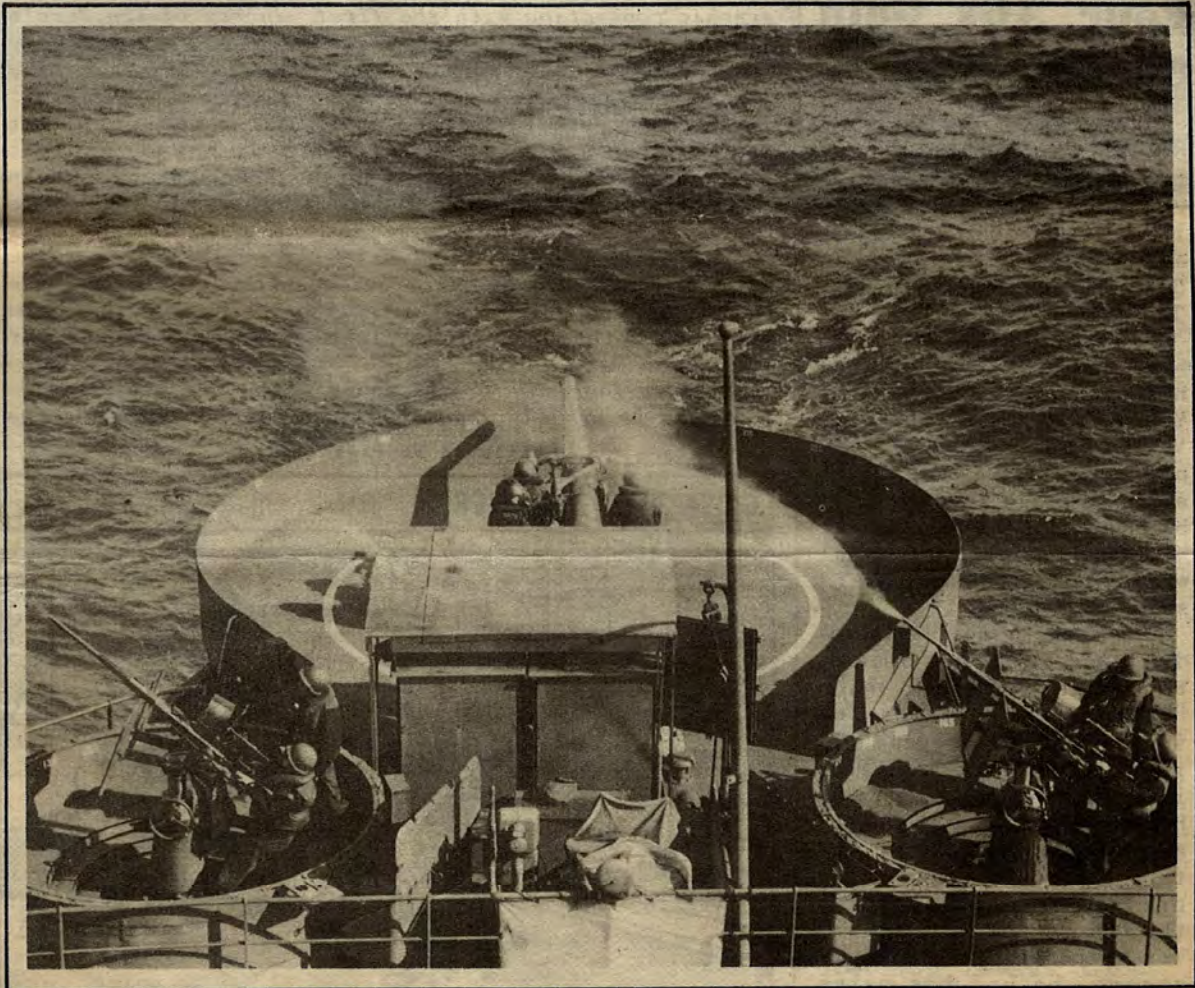
Jan. 21, 1944

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

12 PAGES

RIBBON AUTHORIZED FOR COMMENDEES

Story on Page 3



ARMED GUARDS OPEN FIRE. The constantly-mounting toll of Axis sky raiders shot down and submarines destroyed in this war is a credit to the deadly effectiveness of AG gun crews. AGs are seen above at battle stations on a large merchant vessel as they snap through their paces in veteran fashion.

Official U.S. Navy Photo

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.

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Executive Officer

Lieut. William J. Pitt
Welfare & Recreation Officer

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Four AGs Gain Purple Heart

Four Armed Guards, one of whom is the veteran of two sinkings in successive voyages, were the recipients of Purple Heart Medals at Captain's Inspection on Main deck last Saturday, Jan. 15.

First of the group to have the medal pinned upon his uniform by Comdr. J.M. Young, Executive Officer, Verlyn G. Van Blaricom, Cox, of Boyceville, Wisc., was aboard a cargo ship attacked by enemy raiders last summer when he suffered shrapnel wounds in his shoulder, side and back.

When the vessel was abandoned, Van Blaricom struggled to a life raft upon which he endured his pains for six days before rescue arrived and he underwent medical treatment. The Coxswain had embarked upon this voyage immediately after returning from a sinking the previous winter in which the tanker he was aboard was torpedoed. In that instance, he and his mates were saved after they had spent one hour in a life boat.

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Chow For Thought

The award probably closest to AGs is the Purple Heart which has had a most interesting history. It probably is the oldest award and was personally arranged for by General Washington whose profile appears on the medal. Originally a purple ribbon in the shape of a heart, it was attached to the uniform of a non-commissioned officer for particular gallantry. It is said that the color came from the color of gun mounts used during the Revolution. Whether or not this is true, it is a fact that one original purple heart was discovered in an old New Hampshire barn on what seemed to be steel grey silk. Whether or not the color was accidentally changed is unknown.

AGs will be interested to know that the decoration so many of them wear was very close to General Washington in that he awarded it to only three Connecticut men who had satisfactorily performed difficult feats which he had personally assigned them. Usually they were sea borne Commando-type raids behind the lines, near Brooklyn. So AGs have not only a heroic claim but a naval and geographic connection with the first winners of the Purple Heart. Another interesting fact is that very recently some ranks of officers have been made eligible for this, the most attractive appearing decoration.

AGs have a real concern for their own future in that many of them are eligible for the award who may not get it through their own carelessness. When a man has been injured in an action with the enemy he can win the Purple Heart. His injury and the action must be entered in his health record. Many AGs, anxious to get home on leave after a long trip, avoid or evade getting the entry made because they think 'a lotta red tape' will hold them from home and Mother, or Night Clubbing with 'Bubbles', or even plain Mary.

This is foolish, for the award is for men who earn it. AGs earn it bravely, and should remember that after the

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GUS THE GUNNER

by BOB CLARK



Swastikas Chalked On Ship For Planes Downed By AGs

Six Nazi swastikas have been chalked up on the stack of a Liberty ship which docked recently at an East coast port, each representing a Nazi plane downed by her Armed Guard gun crew.

Credit for destroying the six planes was given the AG crew by the vessel's skipper, who ordered the swastikas painted on the stack. The AGs were conservative, having claimed only two assists in shooting down German planes.

The ship's first engagement came while she was lying off Gela in the Mediterranean. A German plane came out of the sun to machine gun her stern. Several hits were scored on the plane by the ship's anti-aircraft battery and it

Ribbon Authorized For Commendees

'WELL DONE'

The outstanding results attained in the Pearl Harbor Day War Bond program by the personnel of the Third Naval District were lauded by Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy, in a recent communication to Rear Admiral E.J. Marquart, Commandant of the District.

The text of the Secretary's message was passed on to AGs last week by Admiral Marquart, with the latter's comment: 'Well Done.'

crashed in flames on a beach three miles away.

Only half an hour later another German plane dived in to attack. Again witnesses credited the AG crew with shooting down an attacking plane.

Armed Guards who receive letters of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy may now wear a ribbon in recognition of that honor. To be known as the Commendation Ribbon, this award was authorized last week in a communication from the Secretary of the Department.

The ribbon will take precedence in the relative standing of Naval awards next after the ribbon representing the Air Medal. Among honors that may be earned by AGs in the performance of their normal duties, the Commendation Ribbon will follow the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and immediately precede the Purple Heart. There will be no medal associated with this new honor.

The decoration may also be worn by those receiving letters from The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet, The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and The Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet. The communication makes no reference to letters of commendation received from the Chief of Naval Personnel.

All personnel who have received such commendations in the past for acts of heroism or services performed between December 6, 1941 and the present are entitled to this insignia of honor. A second and each succeeding letter received by an individual will be represented by a bronze star on the ribbon.

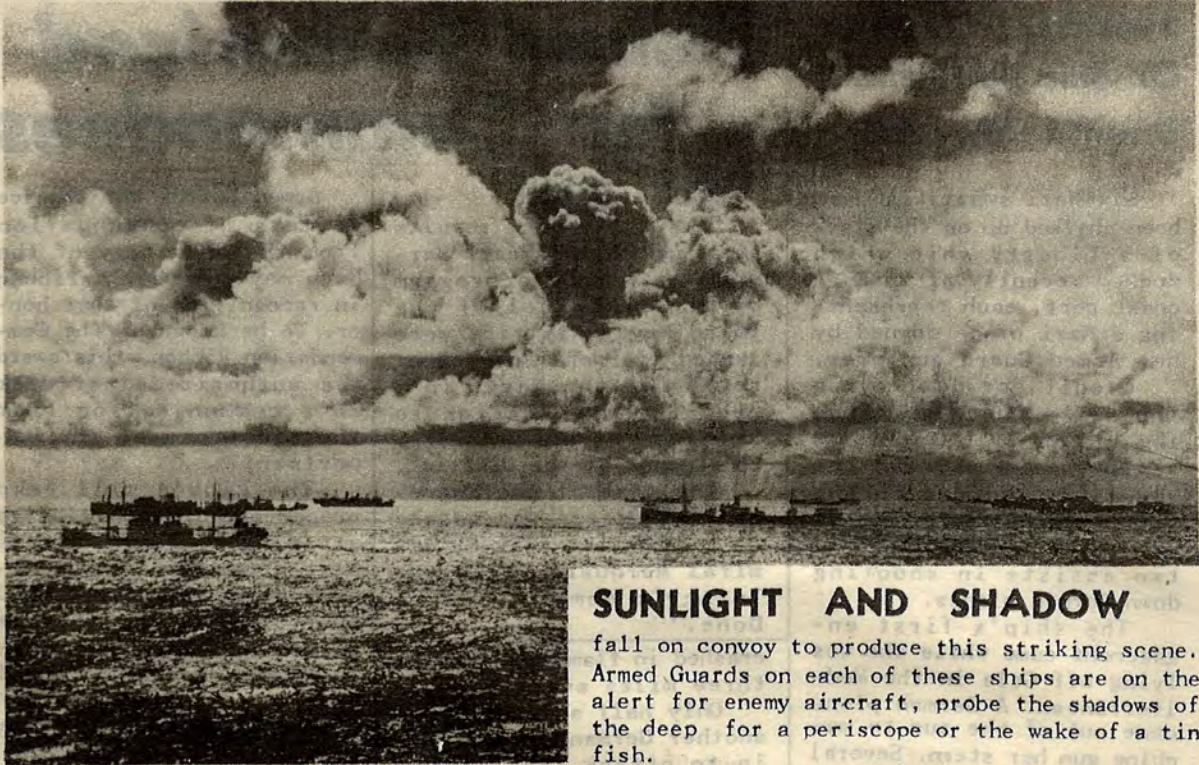
Myrtle green in color, with a thin, white stripe inset 1/8-inch from each edge, the decoration will be standard size Navy Service Ribbon, 1 3/8 inches wide by 1/2 inch long.

The Commendation Rib-

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Lieut. Clement W. Young, the newly-appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Armed Guard. Lieut. Young, formerly Operations Officer, replaced Lt. Comdr. Chesley M. Hardison who left AGC for duty with the Fleet. Lieut. Thomas H. Kerlin has succeeded Lieut. Young as Operations Officer.

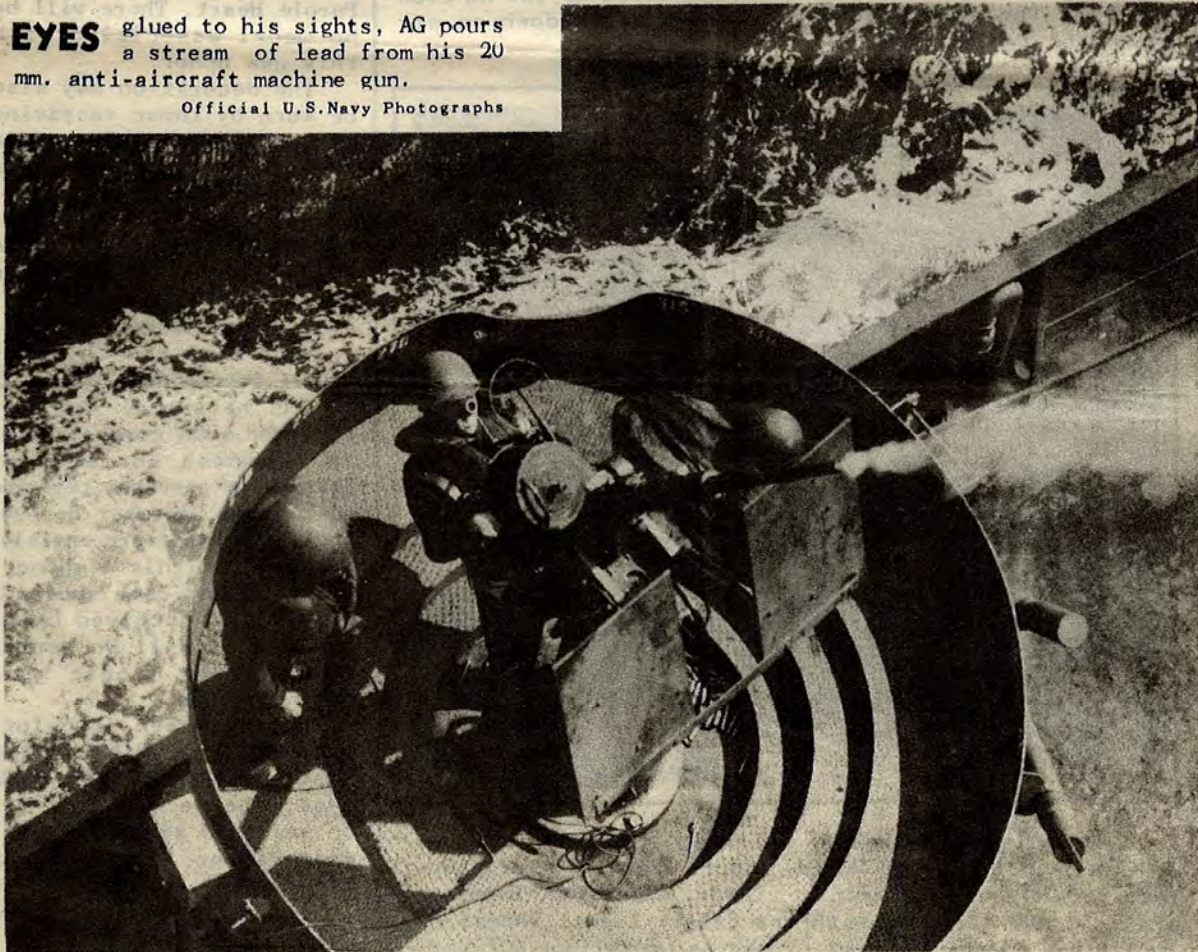


SUNLIGHT AND SHADOW

fall on convoy to produce this striking scene. Armed Guards on each of these ships are on the alert for enemy aircraft, probe the shadows of the deep for a periscope or the wake of a tin fish.

EYES glued to his sights, AG pours a stream of lead from his 20 mm. anti-aircraft machine gun.

Official U.S.Navy Photographs



Santos, Brazilian Seaport, Cordial To Visiting Armed Guards

Rivaling friendly American towns and cities for genial hospitality to members of the armed forces is the port of Santos, Brazil, according to tales from homecoming AGs whose ships put in at the South American city.

An organization identified as the War Emergency Committee, manned principally by resident Americans and British, is the local agency catering to service men and AGs apparently are the favorite sons of these people, to judge by the fine receptions accorded them.

Every week the committee invites members of Armed Guard crews to the Santos Athletic Club, a large and beautiful country club where the men are afforded the opportunity to play baseball on a huge, grassy field surrounded by palm trees, tropical plants and flowers. Tennis and other activities, too, are available. Following an afternoon of pleasure in sports and a cooling shower, dinner is served in the luxurious clubhouse.

Swimming is another diversion provided the bluejackets at the beautiful beaches of Santos. The committee also arranges trips from the seaport to Sao Paulo once during the week and every weekend. Buses carrying from 50 to 100 men, travel the picturesque, switch-back mountain road that joins the two cities, 2,500 feet above in the Brazilian highlands.

At Sao Paulo, dinners, dances, barbecues, athletic contests, movies and many other diversions are available to the holidaying AGs. An honored guest at most of these parties is the American Consul-General.



'Jo' Got Its Name Back In The '70s

Plowing through the North Atlantic or even the broad reaches of the Pacific, coffee has long been the favorite 'on duty' brew of the Navy. In fact, out of appreciation for the drink, our bluejackets have renamed it 'jo'. How this name originated is something of a mystery. Perhaps the following explanation unravels the riddle:

In the 1870s, coffee was known as 'Jorum' along the Mississippi. It was so named after Mark Jorum who brewed it strong and drank three gallons a day.

Possibly it can be traced back to some obscure sailor from the Delta country who joined the Fleet and added it to the picturesque slang of the men of the sea.

98% Of AGs Insured

National service life insurance is carried by 98% of the men of the Armed Guard Center, an unusually high record that occasioned a recent letter from the Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts to Comdr. William J. Coakley, Commanding Officer, citing the excellent results obtained at AGC in the insurance program.

Lend An Ear:

'Lend a hand' in sea-going parlance, is a request for help. 'Bear a hand' is a direct order.

AG Meets Brother In Convoy

Two brothers, Michael and John Cornele of Middletown, O., who had not seen each other in four years, met recently at sea when their respective ships chanced to fall into the same convoy plowing its way through the Mediterranean.

Michael, BM1c, has been with the Navy for a number of years, serving with the Atlantic Fleet while John, Slc, who joined after Pearl Harbor is an Armed Guard.

Although Michael was unaware of his brother's present duty, John knew the name of Michael's ship and became mildly excited when he learned Mike's warship was with the convoy of which his vessel was a part.

John was able to persuade the Commanding Officer to put his signalmen to work communicating with Mike's ship and a happy reunion was effected, the men devoting several hours together.

Finds Watch In Dump

Lawrence J. Gillett, Slc, doing a tour of special duty on the garbage detail last week, discovered a wrist watch in the garbage dump in the midst of his chores. Cleaning up the timepiece, he turned it in to the Executive Office, where it now awaits the loser.

Request Denied

No. 1

The following telegram received at the Leave Office requesting an extension of leave made no headway whatsoever:

'Sir: No one sick, no one dying, everything fine at home. Still have some money left. How about five more days to spend it?'

POINTER PEEKS Into Ship's Library



NAVY'S educational books are much in demand. AG rows study book for advancement to boatswain mate first class.



HUGE supply of the latest and most popular magazines, as well as daily papers from New York and other parts of the country, are available to the AGs. This section of the library is rarely unoccupied.



READING AT SEA is a leisure time practice provided for every AG. Attractive titles are carefully selected for gun crew bundles, which also include numbers of magazines and study books, too. Mates attached to outgoing crews are seen in above photos preparing to leave library with their bundles.



GENERAL view of popular corner where AGs are seen in selecting some light fiction. At right, Miss Martin is seen in selecting some light fiction.



Y'S educational books are much in demand. AG borrows study book for advancement to boatswain's first class.



IN CHARGE of the library is Miss Marjorie H. Martin, seen checking reports with the three members of her staff, (left to right) Leslie J. Foster, Richard deTreville and Tommy Gaudin.



HUGE supply of the latest and most popular magazines, as well as daily newspapers from New York and other parts of the country, absorb AGs. This section of the room is rarely unoccupied.



GENERAL view of popular corner where AGs relax. At right, Miss Martin lends mate a hand in selecting some light fiction.

FLAGS *in* FLASHES

by DON MAZER, S1.

Chuck Venable, who drew a flat-top for his Fleet assignment, once turned down a transfer to Naval Aviation claiming he couldn't surrender in a plane... Fran Burianek, when asked how he always makes the head of the chow line, confessed he slips through the Bosn's legs... Skater's Waltz: A rescue party equipped with cushions accompanied Tommy Gamblin on his first ice skating excursion last week... Rewarded with a good night kiss, Herb Karnoski thanked his lovely young date. 'That's quite all right,' she chirped, 'The pressure was all mine.'... Married Bliss: George Williamson requires two liberty cards to have a night off. One from the station and another from the little woman... And Warren Castline, boasting how considerate his wife is, confides that each time she heaves the rolling pin she shouts, 'TIMBERRRR!'

When asked what kind of stitches he wanted, Larry Chand-lee, recuperating from an apendectomy at St. Albans, retorted: 'Forget the needle, Doc, just rivet 'er up.'... With everybody rarin' to go South on leave, Les McCarty racked his ditty bag and went to visit his folks at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Brrr!... Back in civilian life Ted Grotevant ran a Reducing Salon. One day he received a testimonial from the husband of a client. It read: Dear Sir: Before my wife started taking Slimola she weighed 240 lbs. Now, after two weeks, she's down to 90 lbs. coffin and all... That fresh whiff of salt air 'round here belongs to Ed (Nails) Dearing, new division P.O... Now that the cold weather has clamped down on his exercises, CRM 'Oklahoma' Otis does his daily rope twirling stint down in Chief's Quarters.

Station Scuttlebutt: When an elderly visitor, wrestling with the King's English at the main gangway, murdered a word, CPO-of-the-watch Frank Shirvis replied diplomatically by putting the emphasis on the wrong syllable, to... Caught admiring a stack of snapshots Bob Turley confided her name was Marion... Around the Barber Pole: Sporting a two-day growth after a rugged but successful weekend, Sal LoCurto looked Jack Schwartz in the eye and quipped: 'I see you cut yourself shaving this morning.'... And having made Ylc, Archer Clark Buroff has now raised a mustache in keeping with the dignity of his new rating.. While back in civilian days, Station Barber Dangenzi had this sign in his window: Charlie's Clip Joint - Come Here and be Trimmed.

Mystery Dept: Did Stan Saplin ever get a second date with Imogen Carpenter, the Ziegfeld gal?... Pleased by Red Evans' treatment, this column has decided to call him Doctor Kildaire. Corpsmen in Sick Bay please note... That familiar voice over the air the other night was that of Bob Shetter trimming his Army opponent on the Blind Date radio program. When last seen, Big Bob had pocketed a tidy cash prize and was on his way to the Stork Club with his gorgeous blind date - with everything on the house... Breaking out a new one, Tom Allegretti tells of the moron lumberjack who quit his job because he couldn't see the point in first chopping 'em down, then chopping 'em up... and so ashore at 2200!

Chow For Thought

Continued from Page Two

war, when they really will want to have it, the decoration will be difficult if not impossible to obtain, if they do not declare their injury on return from sea, or shortly after the action in which they were made eligible.

Equally foolish is the neglect to have entered in the health record, injuries, however slight. Particularly among survivors and those AGs who have had 'rugged action' is there an understandable willingness not to boast about small injuries, when a fellow is rightfully thankful about being able to walk or run to his home, after a battle.

But, men, 'Chow For Thought' wouldn't be doing much if it didn't get some thinking done on these important things that seem too little. No one (just in case you don't think we know we're trying to sneak in a little pep-talk preaching) -- no, no one will admit at 19 (which is the age of most of our readers) that anything happening to him now can be important when, let's say, he's all of 23.

-Lieut. William J. Pitt

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.

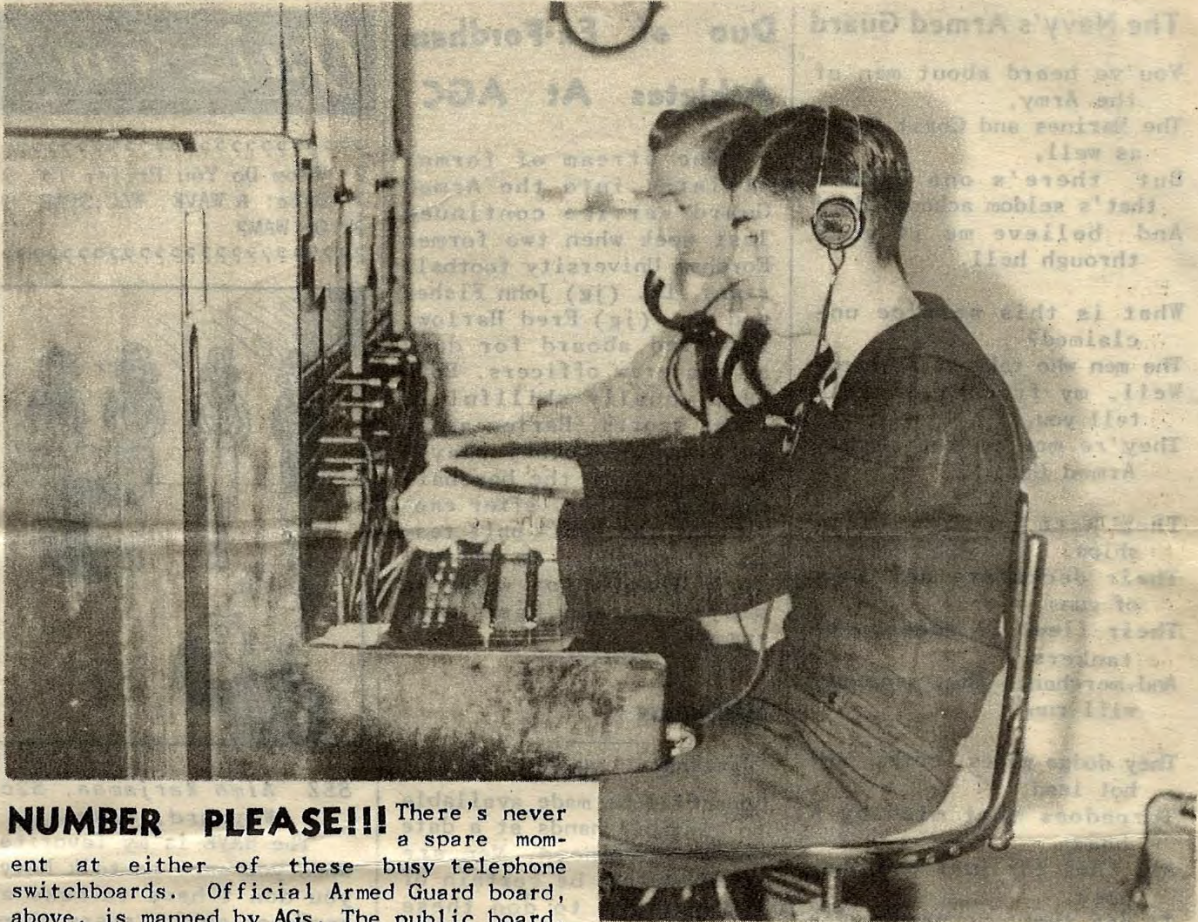
PROTESTANT

Sunday at 0945, Drill Floor, Main Deck.

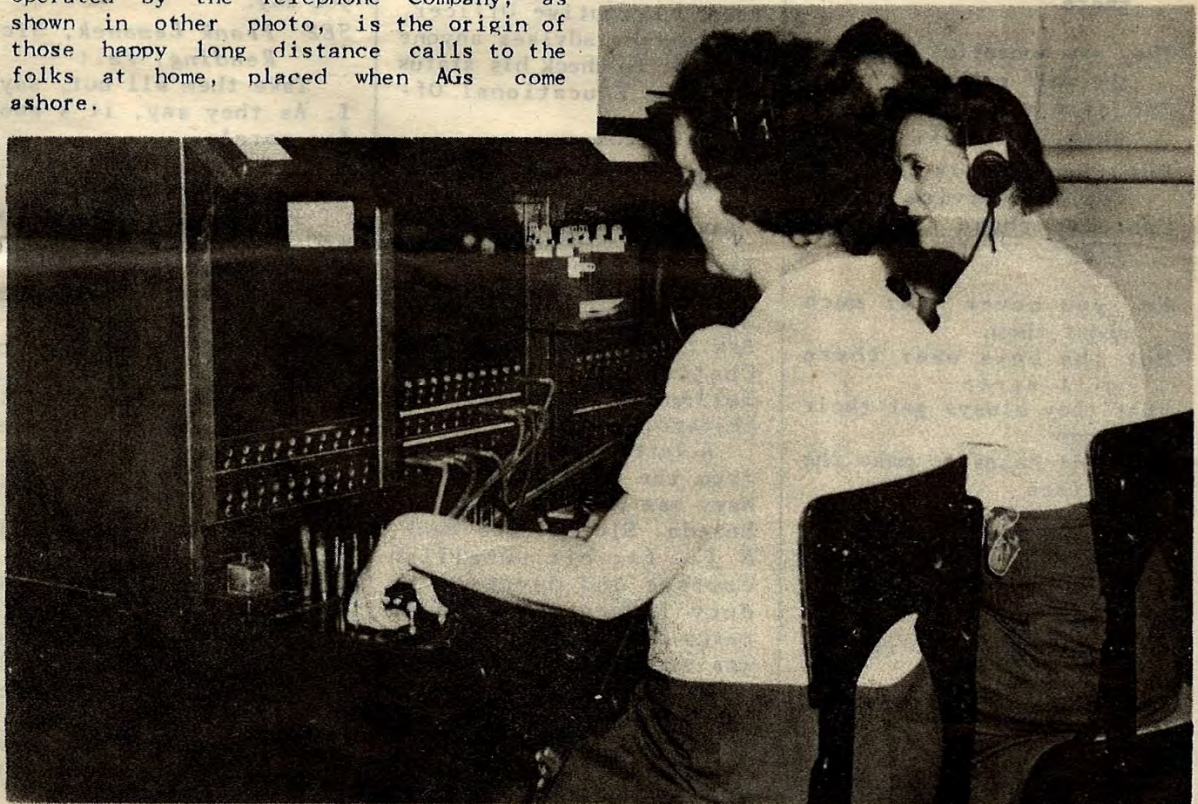
Communion Service Sunday at 1030, Chapel, Main Deck.

Wednesday Evening Service, 1900-1930, Main Deck.

Private Communion upon request at any time.



NUMBER PLEASE!!! There's never a spare moment at either of these busy telephone switchboards. Official Armed Guard board, above, is manned by AGs. The public board, operated by the Telephone Company, as shown in other photo, is the origin of those happy long distance calls to the folks at home, placed when AGs come ashore.



The Navy's Armed Guard

You've heard about men of the Army, The Marines and Coast Guard as well, But there's one branch that's seldom acknowledged And believe me it goes through hell.

What is this service un-claimed? The men who take it so hard? Well, my friends, I will tell you, They're men of the mighty Armed Guard.

They have no fine fancy ships, Their decks are not full of guns, Their fleet is made up of tankers, And merchants that scarcely will run.

They dodge mines, bombs, and hot lead, Torpedoes that miss by a hair All this for just one purpose, To see that the cargo gets there.

They are wonderful bait for the wolf packs And aircraft that attack them by night, But the gunners of this valiant service Can give those raiders a fight.

No, you never hear much about them, But the boys over there will agree That they always get their cargo Where it helps to make the world free.

That's why I toast the Armed Guard, And proud I'm one of its group, And know that all in this service Deserve a well-earned salute.

-Otto L. Leach, BM3c

Duo of Ex-Fordham Athletes At AGC

The stream of former athletes into the Armed Guard service continued last week when two former Fordham University football stars, Lt. (jg) John Fisher and Lt. (jg) Fred Harlow, reported aboard for duty as gun crew officers. Both were equally skillful in other sports, Harlow as an outstanding hockey player and Fisher on the baseball diamond. Fisher, after captaining the Rams' ball team in '32 moved on to the New York Giants for whom he played second base that summer.

Ribbons

Continued from Page Three
bons will be made available to eligible hands at a date to be announced. Men are cautioned to be certain of their right to don these insignia by Comdr. J.M. Young, Executive Officer, who further advises anyone in doubt to check his status with the Educational Of-ficer.

Purple Heart

Continued from Page Two
Others who received the Purple Heart were Allen E. Johnson, SM3c, Little Rock, Ark.; Fred Byers Jr., S1c, Chattanooga, Tenn., and Harland W. Hornung, S1c, Chicago.

A letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy was presented to John Koleda, S1c, of Red Bank, N.J., for his unselfish courage and devotion to duty in seeking wounded mates aboard a vessel that was rapidly sinking, long after the command to abandon had been given. Koleda discovered a merchant seaman on the deck and effected his rescue.

Quiz 'em!

??
? Whom Do You Prefer To ?
? Date: A WAVE, WAC, SPAR ?
? Or WAM? ?
??



SEZ Aimo Marjamaa, S2c, Maynard, Mass.:

The WAVE is my favorite. When you want to talk Navy, you don't have to make an explanation for every thing you say.

SEZ Frank Lemaneck, S1c, Reading, Pa.:

Take them all out, says I. As they say, it's good for morale.

SEZ Bruce Covert, SM3c, East Orange, N.J.:

I'll take the WAC. The WACs are easier to get along with.

SEZ Erbol J. Dixon, GM3c, Bridgeton, N.C.:

The WAM is too disciplinary, the WAC is too true to the Army, the SPAR is out of the question. I prefer our pretty WAVES.

SEZ Roland Brewer, GM2c, Flint, Mich.:

I'm strictly Navy. I'll take the WAVE.

SEZ Gene Lasner, S1c, Newark, N.J.:

I'd make all four dates. Nothing like being social. SEZ Ralph Bennett, S1c, Dover, Del.:

I'll take a WAM every time. Such grace, such neatness, such discipline.

Cagers In Five Close Brushes

GUNNERS TROUNCED TWICE IN MET HOCKEY AS INJURIES, TRANSFERS CRIPPLE SQUAD

Riddled by injuries and the loss of puckchasers through detachments for sea duty, the AG hockey squad this week was clearing its collective head following two batterings suffered on the ice in a pair of Metropolitan Hockey League games recently.

In rapid succession, beginning with the loss of Lt. (jg) Harry Thompson three weeks ago when he suffered a broken forearm the Gunners were deprived of the services of Bob Bouché, Jimmy Devine, Eli Yale, Bob Donovan and Ens. Doug Abercrombie.

Thus stripped, the hapless Gunners moved onto the ice against the Sands Point Tigers at the Brooklyn Ice Palace on Jan. 4 to absorb an 8-2 drubbing and then stumbled into the path of the hard skating Arma Torpedoes at Madison Square Garden Jan. 16 to be brushed aside, 7 to 0. In this latter fray, AGC had the services of nine of its fifteen players.

Tallying one of the goals and gaining an assist on the other in the Sands Point meeting, Bob (Red) Rafter brought his season's point scoring total to 15 to move into sixth place in the individual scoring race. Red's mate on the first line, Bill Callahan netted the other Gunner marker.

A gap in the schedule works to the good fortune of the Gunners, who have until a week from Sunday, Jan. 30, to restrengthen their resources. An afternoon engagement with Sands Point at the Garden is booked for that date. Tickets for this game will be available in the Welfare and Recreation Office.

NINE OLD MEN MEET SUPPLY ON ALLEYS

Two of the pacemakers in the station bowling tourney will meet head-on this Monday evening when the Nine Old Men spill timber against the Supply Office keglars.

League play, which was to have concluded Feb. 14, has been extended two weeks until Feb. 28. Under this revised schedule, each team will have faced every opponent twice during the season.

The schedule for the next two weeks:

Jan. 24

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

Jan. 31

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

DISTRICT BOXING ON NEXT MONTH

The 3d Naval District's amateur boxing championships have been scheduled for Feb. 16, 17, and 24. Competition will be conducted in open and novice classes. Weights are 118, 126, 135, 147, 160, 175 and heavyweight. AGs interested in participating should see Chief Dave Monaghan in the Welfare and Recreation Office.

PETERSON HERE FEB. 16

Charles Peterson, world's fancy shot billiard champion, will give an exhibition on station Feb. 16.

Win Two, Lose Three; Five Points Widest Margin In Any Game

A string of five thrill packed basketball games, in which never more than five points separated the victor from the defeated, highlighted the resumption of Armed Guard's action on the court following the lay-off over the Christmas and New Year's weekends.

Winner over the Brooklyn Sperry five and Pier 9 of the Coast Guard, the AGs dropped heated battles to Marine Barracks, Sperry of Long Island and the District Coast Guard array, the latter a 3d Naval District tournament clash.

Marine Barracks snapped a five-game winning streak of the Gunners on Jan. 5 when they turned back the locals, 37-34, in a game that saw Ed Borio ring up 14 points in a losing cause.

AGC jumped back to the winning side of the ledger two nights later with Brooklyn Sperry the victim in a 38-33 fracas. Rod (Red) Terry's brace of goals in the closing moments clinched this encounter, as did his last minute goal on Jan. 10 when the Pier 9 quintet was narrowly beaten, 50-49.

Playing without the services of their captain, Eddie Burns, who was confined to sick bay, the AGs were topped by the Long Island Sperry team, 43-39 on Jan. 12 and by the District Coast Guard 47-44 the next night. Nat Silverberg paced the local scorers in both games with 11 and 16 points, respectively.

Solomon Makes Chief

Perry Solomon of the Galley staff was advanced to Chief Commissary Steward last week.

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CAGERS COP TWO, DROP THREE

Story on Page 11



MARCH OF DIMES campaign. AGs listen intently, above, during station rally a year ago as work of National Foundation is explained. Strong support for this cause is anticipated from AGs again this week.



JITTERBUG? Jim Moran and his mates at AG Recreation Center at New City, N. Y. traveled over to Nyack for USO party. Slim Jim and his trim partner were the best couple on the floor.



NO GOAL. AG Gunners had tough sledding in recent ice clashes when, beset by injuries, they took two sound beatings. Action above is from recent game with Sands Point Tigers.