

# THE POINTER

UNITED STATES NAVAL ARMED GUARD CENTER

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## ADM. MUNROE CONFERS HONORS UPON 33 AGs

Story on Page 3



**"WELL DONE,"** says Rear Admiral Munroe to Ward Gemmer during ceremonies Sept. 16 at which the Commandant presented Gemmer with the Russian Order of Patriotic War and the China Service medal. Gemmer also wears the Silver Star.

### THE POINTER

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## USS Frank Knox Is Launched At Bath, Me.

A fighting ship bearing the name of a fighting man was launched on Sept. 17 when the 2,200-ton destroyer Frank Knox, honoring the late Secretary of the Navy, slid down the ways of the Bath Iron Works at Bath, Me.

The Secretary's widow, Mrs. Annie Reid Knox, sponsored the vessel in honor of her husband, who died in office last April.

Under Secretary of the Navy Ralph Bard read a message from Secretary James Forrestal, who was unable to attend the ceremony. Mr. Forrestal said that Knox represented "all that was finest and best of American life."

Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the fleet and chief of naval operations, honored Knox in a speech, praising him "not only as a great Secretary of the Navy" but as a "living symbol of the warmth and humanity of America."

The United States Navy 2,200-ton class destroyers, of which the USS Frank Knox is one, are the largest, most powerful destroyers of any navy in the world. Although these vessels are completely equipped with the most modern detecting devices and depth charges, they are designed primarily as fighting surface ships.

## WHERE WILL YOU BE AFTER THE WAR?

HERE ?



OR HERE ?

REGISTER A  
WAR BOND  
ALLOTMENT  
TODAY!

### Awards To Three

Donald L. Boswell, Cox, Washington, D. C., was awarded the Purple Heart medal and Lieut. William B. Keyes, Port Huron, Mich., and Loren B. Conner, GM3c, Olathe, Col., received letters of commendation at Captain's inspection on the main drill field last Saturday.

Lieut. Keyes received the Commendation Ribbon with his citation, which was from the Secretary of the Navy. Conner's letter was from the Chief of Naval Personnel.

### Ship's Service Dance

A dance for the staff of Ship's Service is to be held at the Hotel Capitol in New York City this Monday evening, Oct. 3. This will be the fourth in a series of departmental dances.

### Two USO Shows Here

Two variety bills have been booked into AGC by USO-Camp Shows for the next two weeks. Performances are set for Tuesday, Oct. 3, and Tuesday, Oct. 10.

### JOHNSON'S GERMAN JEEP HOME IN OHIO

Coyle Johnson, the Armed Guard who returned to the States with a German jeep in which he promptly went for a spin up Times Square, has taken his motorized souvenir home to Richmond, O.

Johnson, a third class gunner's mate, bought the jeep from the Seabees in France for \$140 and then brought it to these shores by permission of the captain of his ship.

## 33 Receive Awards from Commandant

### List of Awards Conferred At Inspection

The complete list of medals and commendations presented by Rear Admiral William R. Munroe at inspection on the main drill field on Sept. 16:

Silver Star medal and Purple Heart medal to Everett B. Reed, CM1c, Manchester, Md.

Navy and Marine Corps medal to Joseph A. Anthony, BM1c, Colfax, La.

Purple Heart medal and letter of commendation from the Chief of Naval Personnel to William J. Della, S1c, New York City.

Purple Heart medals to Ens. Charley F. Treadaway, Amityville, N. Y.; Morris P. Booker, BM1c, Macon, Ga.; Charles L. Ebert, GM3c, Buffalo, N. Y.; Jeremiah J. Minihan Jr., GM3c, Boston, and Joseph E. Bijaczyk, S1c, Trenton, N. J.

Presidential Unit Citations to Ens. Herbert E. Cannon, Millbrae, Calif., and Percy A. Morasch, PhM1c, Portland, Ore.

China Service medal and Order of the Patriotic War (Russian) to Ward L. Gemmer, BM1c, New Bedford, Mass.

Commendation Ribbons and accompanying citations from the Secretary of the Navy to Albert K. Carrick, GM2c, Baltimore, Md.; Charles D. Tepin, GM3c, Ft. Wayne, Ind., and William F. Spitzer, S1c, Berwyn, Md.

Letters of commendation from the Chief of Naval Personnel to William A. Sterchi, BM2c, Oklahoma City, Okla.; John M. Karoly, SM2c, Hattiesburg, Miss.; Stephen

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### WAVES Bill Passed By House

The bill to permit assignment of WAVES beyond the continental limits of the United States, which had passed the Senate previously, last week gained the approval of the House. It is now in the White House awaiting Presidential signature.

### Gemmer Gets Russian Order and China Service Medal; 20 From One Crew Cited

The Russian Order of the Patriotic War and the China Service Medal to Ward L. Gemmer, BM1c, New Bedford, Mass., and letters of commendation to 20 members of the gun crew



Shipmates admire medals awarded to Ward Gemmer at Commandant's inspection. AG at left points to Russian Order of Patriotic War.

of the SS Pierre L'Enfant were among honors conferred by Rear Admiral William R. Munroe, commandant of the 3d Naval District, in ceremonies on the main drill field on Saturday, Sept. 16.

On the occasion of his first visit to AGC, Adm. Munroe also awarded the Silver Star medal and the Purple Heart to Everett B. Reed, CM1c, of Manchester, Md., and the Navy and Marine Corps medal to Joseph A. Anthony, BM1c, Colfax, La. Presidential Unit citations went to Ens. Herbert E. Cannon, Millbrae, Calif., and Percy A. Morasch, PhM1c, Portland, Ore.

The presentation to Gemmer was an impressive scene in which the Commandant first pinned the China Service Medal to the AG's already heavily beribboned left breast and then, because Russian honors are so worn, attached the Order of the Patriotic War to his blouse over the right breast. This was not a mere matter of pinning it on, for the red star, with a crossed bayoneted rifle and sword, and the hammer and sickle, had to be

screwed to the cloth of the garment.

Gemmer, who has the Silver Star, also wears the bronze "A" on his American Defense Service medal, an insignia that is also worn by Admiral Munroe. The "A" signifies duty with the Atlantic Fleet prior to the outbreak of war in 1941.

For repelling the assault upon the SS Pierre L'Enfant by 30 torpedo bombers and shooting down three of the attacking aircraft, 20 members of the Armed Guard gun crew received letters of commendation during the morning ceremony. Three of the number received citations from the Secretary of the Navy and accompanying Commendation Ribbons, while the remaining seventeen were presented with identical commendations from the Chief of Naval Personnel in a mass reading.

## 165 Armed Guards Promoted

The recent advancement in rating of 165 Armed Guards within the petty officer categories was revealed last week by Lieut. Cecil A. Amdur, education officer.

The promotions included that of Victor Gaya to chief boatswain's mate. Nineteen second class petty officers attained first class rank. Five of these were boatswain's mates. Others were gunner's mates, two; signalmen, ten, and radiomen, two.

Those advanced, besides Gaya, listed by their new ratings:

### BM1c

Ralph W. Berard, Leslie I. Furber, Milton C. Kay, John W. Whittington, Darling C. Woodall.

### GM1c

Roger W. Appelton, Walter G. Griffith.

### SM1c

Bernard Cohen, Rutherford E. Davis, Milton C. Freeman, John J. Haller, John O. Jackson, Edward A. Keefe, Earl M. Lott, John M. Prevost, Christopher C. Smith, John B. Thomas, Jr.

### RM1c

Donald A. Miller, Charles H. Morgan.

### BM2c

Cecil E. Cheatham, George H. Clarke, Francis L. Davenport, William F. Fitzgerald, Robert F. Gatzka, John Picyk, Jr., Van Buren Taylor, Joseph V. Agrusti, Raymond H. Schmitz, Morgan H. Tornros.

### GM2c

Raymond J. Pilon, Russel E. Wren, Edward J. Hayes, Fletcher F. Hornsby, Maurice E. Touchette.

### SM2c

James P. Browder, Carl J. Cosci, Norman C. Lepczyk, Arthur Pabisz, Edward P. Somers, Morris F. Houck, Richard G. Loussee, Myron T. Woodman, Denis J. Aubin, Charles W. Hall, Richard P. Landy, Douglas J. Parrott, Oscar D. Cibbonn, Jr., Paul M. Dimock, William H. Leibe, Alvin B. Ruff, Howard L. Holle, William K. Gentry, Joseph A. McCoy, Gaston G. Sirois, John P. Wineck.

### RM2c

Meri E. Smock, William A. Muller.

### Cox

Alexander E. Orban, Thomas I. Folger, Jack B. Gallagher, Harold H. Kreiser, Douglas M. Arlington, William L. Edmonds, John P. Pucillo, Edward B. Nowakowski, Jr., Elmer W. Slater, William C. Dick, James P. Jones, Roxy R. Ambruso, Louis W. Gawie, Everett C. Johnson, Harold W. Perkins, William S. Tsantis, Jack R. Downing, Regis P. McGinley, Michael P. Taggart, John K. Bissett, Donald T. Thomas, William C. Starke, Manuel C. Ferreira, Harold J. Moore.

### GM3c

Jesse M. Tucker, Frank Stonecipher, Harry W. Jagers, Bernard W. Kuper, Dale Abbott, Carl T. Jones, William C. Douglas, Mervin L. McQuiston, William P. Chappa, Ray F. Hewitt, John D. Mahon, Raymond H. Tucker, Leonard W. Barcikowski, Joseph S. Freivolt, William J. Barton, Jack N. Critell, Narven L. Johnson, Maurice J. Barton, Martin J. Biesel, Danzel Burke,



Farewell party of the Armed Guard Yeoman Office for those departing for other duties was a howling success, to judge from reports heard at AGC the following day. Affair was staged at Hotel Capitol in New York on Sept. 19. The four smiling bluejackets seated at this table with their wives are, left to right, Will Wright, Bob Shoup, Kenny Weir and Jim Chisholm. His wife unable to attend, George (Red) Coder remains unseated, unsmiling.

John F. Logan, James T. Baker, Sr., Charles Canda, Robert H. Dunn, Walter M. Eagles, Jr., Manuel C. Falcon, Jr., David J. Smith, George T. Peckard, Edward J. Bryda, Frank Barros, William J. Breitingner, James J. Donnelly.

Kerby L. Scarberry, Leonard R. Marciniak, Hubert G. Usher, Arthur E. Benore, Raymond L. Burt, Calvin P. Tucker, Martin H. Enck, Marshall I. Robinson, Jr., Stewart W. Thomas, Spurgeon Thomley, Charles W. Meldish, James E. Newton, Elsdon M. Plant, Charles R. Appline, Franklin P. Chamberlain, Robert B. Parker, Donald E. Bagby, Joseph N. Piccirillo, Lee R. Baker, William M. Carper, Alfred Dlugosz, Frank G. Fattore, Johnnie L. Gregory, Archie M. Holmes, Johnnie P. Hutchens, Edward Mamary, John P. Pavlich, Thurston P. Staples, John E. Rowan, Robert W. Wagner, Jerome J. Wilkins.

### SM3c

Jack J. Davis, Russell S. Giong, Edward T. Towill, Jr., Amos E. Byrd, Charles E. Conrad, Thomas L. Shoemaker, Clarence B. Tepas, Louis E. Webster, James L. Koch, Saveriel F. Repoli, Fred P. Zirm, Jr., Gustave J. Ruvo, Lowell L. Tedisky, Russell D. Lindsey, Thomas J. Melella, Ronald W. Schmitt, Ora E. Stone, Jr.

### RM3c

Duane C. Tecler, Edward S. Kownaski, Robert L. Kunkel.

## Seek Information From Survivors

Advanced, detailed information from shipwrecked survivors is being sought by the Physical Instructors' School of the Bainbridge (Md.) Naval Training Center in a nation-wide survey aimed at improving teaching methods, life-saving equipment and the safety of all men going to sea.

Survivors at AGC are urged to lend their assistance in this project by seeing Lieut. James S. Peace or Lieut. James H. Nerrie in the Welfare and Recreation Office from whom they may obtain prepared questionnaires which make simple the means of providing the desired information. The survey is being made with the approval of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

All information will be treated as confidential and survivors are requested to relate their experiences in full, since knowledge obtained from them could conceivably result in instruction innovations possibly saving the lives of other bluejackets. The number of swim hours, ashore and afloat, and suggestions for the improvement of existing equipment and training programs are solicited.

## Be Careful... This Can Happen To You

RHINELANDER, Wis.—Lieut. Donald Karr, home from overseas duty, burst into his parents' bedroom and yelled "Surprise!" Awakened by this outburst were a couple of strangers who had rented Karr's parents' house a week before.

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**Male Call**

by Milton Caniff, Creator of Terry and the Pirates

**Stand By To Repel Side Boys****Navy Expanding for Pacific War**

Victory over Germany will not result in any demobilization of the Navy, it was announced recently by Secretary James V. Forrestal in a statement from Washington.

"On the contrary," Mr. Forrestal said, "the Navy is expanding and will continue to expand. The Navy cannot demobilize until Japan is defeated."

Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs, chief of naval personnel, pointed out that the Navy cannot release men—except those unfit for combat—until it reaches peak strength of 3,391,000 by next July.

"The Navy has been at work on demobilization methods for the past year and has completed tentative plans to meet any contin-

gency," Mr. Forrestal added. "We have worked in close cooperation with the Army so that our present plans agree in principle with those of the War Department.

"Like the Army, the Navy, in establishing priority for severance, intends, when the time comes for demobilization, to give due consideration to the factors of length of service, service outside the continental limits, combat service and parenthood.

"Furthermore, since demobilization of the Navy must await the defeat of Japan, we will have an opportunity to observe in operation the partial demobilization of the Army and thus be able to profit by the Army's experience."

**Federal Ballots May Be Used After Oct. 1**

With the Federal war ballot available for use beginning Monday, Oct. 2, an instructional guide was issued last week to all Armed Guard voting officers by Lt. (jg) Clyde R. Spitzner, command voting supervisor.

The Federal ballot is intended only for those men who applied for State war ballots prior to Sept. 1 and who had not received them from their home states by Oct. 2.

The privilege of casting a Federal ballot is limited to residents of 20 states, inasmuch as the remaining 28 have not authorized its use. The states in which it is recognized are California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Washington.

Another provision regulating the use of the Federal ballot requires that the vote be cast outside the continental limits of the United States.

The voter is required to take an oath that he applied for a State ballot prior to Sept. 1 and had failed to receive it.

**Bond Sales High in August**

August war bond purchases by Navy personnel exceeded the 30-million-dollar mark for a total of \$34,719,265, bringing the grand total of bond sales since October 1941 to \$737,721,617. The month's total was 54 per cent higher than the August 1943 volume of \$22,547,617.

**Beauty Salon Available to Waves**

Not to be outdone by their male shipmates, the WAVES now have the feminine counterpart of the station's barber shop. The new beauty salon, on the second deck of Building A, is open from Monday to Friday each week from 1000 to 1800. Operated by Ship's Service, its facilities are available to wives of Navy men, too, as well as to all other service women. Reasonable prices are charged. Harold Craig, seen above, was assistant to John Hall, one of New York's leading beauticians, before coming to AGC to supervise the salon.

## Off-Watch Hours Never Dull Aboard Armed Guard Vessels



An idle hour aboard ship? That's something hard to find, says Lt. Comdr. Edward T. King, welfare and recreation officer, who points out that a bluejacket who takes advantage of the many recreational facilities placed aboard his ship for the use of the Armed Guard crew will never find life dull when he's off watch.

The gear supplied each outgoing crew assembled at AGC leaves little to be desired. Tops in interest, reports Comdr. King, is the phonograph, with its supply of up-to-the-minute swing tunes. The old Navy favorite among games, Acey-Ducey, takes a battering from usage and is generally well worn when a voyage is done. Other popular items are the dart game, chess and checkers.

Athletic gear at the disposal of all Armed Guards includes heavy and light punching bags, softballs and bats, medicine balls, footballs and boxing gloves. Tobacco, cigarettes and candy, when available, are also provided.

From the library, a "gun crew bundle" is given each outgoing unit, containing an average of 50 books, at least 50 magazines, a Bible and an atlas. The supply of books is generally made up with 30 of the soft-covered Armed Services volumes and 20 titles bound in hard covers.

### New Merchant Ships

Privately owned ship yards in the United States built 1,896 merchant ships in 1943.

### Staff Dance

The Transportation Department, Detail Office and Welfare and Recreation Office combined last Monday night, Sept. 25, to attend a staff dance at the Hotel Capitol in New York City. Music was furnished by AGC's orchestra for the affair, which was attended by Comdr. J. M. Young, executive officer.

### Awards

(Continued from Page 3)

Halewich, GM3c, Quakertown, Pa.; Bruce J. Myrick, Jr., GM3c, Walter Valley, Miss.; Joseph Skratsky, GM3c, Hammond, Ind.; Richard C. Smathers, GM3c, Asheville, N. C.; Thurston F. Staples, GM3c, Goshen, Va., and Kenneth E. Gordon, RM3c, Ness City, Kan.

Also to John R. Crompton, S1c, Central Falls, R. I.; Andrew J. Green, S1c, Des Moines, Ia.; John W. Page, S1c, Washington, D. C.; Colie Robson, S1c, Hamlet, N. C.; Prentice Rowe, S1c, Manatee, Fla.; Cecil J. Saunders, S1c, Lenoir, N. C.; John J. Shue, S1c, York, Pa.; Vincent S. Stockmal, S1c, Philadelphia; Eugene J. True, S1c, So. Ozone Park, N. Y.; Theodore Vlasovetz, S1c, So. Ozone Park, N. Y., and Marlin L. Yohe, S1c, New Cumberland, Pa.

## NEWS from Elsewhere

*Items of interest from other naval activities where Armed Guard men have been stationed.*

**AG SCHOOL, GULFPORT**—Armed Guards here endured a typically hot Mississippi summer, relieved from its intensity only by the knowledge that a shipment of fans was due—any day. The fans arrived with the first autumn breezes.

**AG SCHOOL, SHELTON**—The school is the possessor of its own Armed Guard flag, recently presented by Admiral D. McD. LeBretton, commandant of the 5th Naval District.

**AGC, TREASURE ISLAND**—AGC's team is the sensation of the Treasure Island softball league. The AGs set a new scoring record recently with a 32-2 victory over the nine that set the previous high. Another high-scoring triumph for the Armed Guards was a 14-6 affair.

**AGC, NEW ORLEANS**—London citizens were not the only ones subjected to the German robot bomb attack. Murphy H. Hodges, who returned to AGC here after duty in the invasion of France, reported that his gun crew experienced an attack while in an English port.

**SAMPSON**—Capt. Harry A. Badt, center commander at Sampson since the base was established in October 1942, has been advanced to the rank of commodore. The Senate confirmed the promotion recently, after Capt. Badt had been nominated to flag rank by President Roosevelt.

**GREAT LAKES**—Chee Fun Tong, a recruit here whose home now is in Chicago, received a letter from his sister earlier this month which had been mailed in April 1942. It was posted from Kwantung, China, where Tong lived until three years ago.

**SAN DIEGO**—Twelve recruits in one company at the center are veterans of previous Navy service. Three of the mates took their earlier training at San Diego, Ray Read in 1934, R. F. Brown in '36 and Ralph Conner in '37.

**Seeks Table Tennis Talent**

Chief J. A. Nykiel of the Recreation Office is seeking candidates for the station table tennis team which competes shortly in the 3d Naval District championships. Entries close on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

**YIPPEE!**



**Morale Takes Lead in Softball League**

**SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

**SCORES**

Nine Old Men 13, Baggage Room 5.  
 Nine Old Men 9, Supply 7.  
 Detail 3, AG Yeomen 2.  
 Supply 3, AG Yeomen 7.  
 Morale 6, Supply 4.  
 AG Yeomen 5, Morale 4.  
 Morale 3, Baggage Room 2.  
 Detail 8, Baggage Room 7.  
 Supply 12, Baggage Room 4.  
 Morale 8, AG Yeomen 3.

**STANDINGS**

	W.	L.	Pct.
Morale	6	3	.667
AG Yeomen	6	4	.600
Detail	6	4	.600
Supply	5	5	.500
Nine Old Men	5	5	.500
Baggage Room	1	8	.111

Treated to a five-run lead on the strength of a first-inning rally, Ray (Pop) Fansher pitched trim five-hit ball to carry the Morale ten to an 8-to-3 victory over the AG Yeomen last Tuesday and lift the victors into first place in the station summer softball league.

Two successive defeats going into the fray had left the Yeomen clinging to a half-game lead over the Morale boosters, with that lone contest to play before closing out their league schedule. Finishing in defeat sent them into a second-place tie with Detail, at 6-4 each, in the standings. Morale, with another game to play, against the Baggage Room, had to win to cop the pennant or fall into a three-way tie with the two runners-up.

The Nine Old Men closed their campaign with two wins that pulled them up to the .500 mark. After walloping the luckless Baggage Room 13-5, the Codgers took the measure of Supply, 9 to 7, for their fourth and fifth wins of the campaign.

Playoffs between the pennant-winning team and the runner-up are set for early next week, with the regular schedule expected to wind up this afternoon or tomorrow, dependent on postponements.

**Year-Round Swimming At Bizerte**

Swimming is in season all the time for those of Uncle Sam's bluejackets whose duties bring them to Bizerte, in far-off Tunisia.

As partial recompense for being thousands of miles from home, the Navy fixed up a special beach just for sailors. Shore patrolmen keep the ever-present Arabs at a safe distance as sailors relax on the white sands or swim in the blue Mediterranean.

Wide and clean, the beach, according to bluejackets, surpasses almost any stretch of ocean in the States.

Sailors have been heard to register but one complaint: there's no hot-dog stand within 6,000 miles.

From the looks of things, Ella Raines wants company at the coral. Ella plays in Tall in the Saddle. RKO prevue to be shown on the AGC screen Thursday, Oct. 5.

**Gun Crew Wins, 22-1**

Hitting like major leaguers, the gun crew of the SS John W. Powell trounced the ship's merchant crew, 22 to 1, in a recent softball game. A return meeting is carded, to be played at the vessel's next port of call.

**Swab Story**

By Ketcham



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## MORALE TEN PACES SOFTBALL

—Story on Page 11



**ACCEPTING** congratulations from Rear Admiral Munroe following award of Navy and Marine Corps medal is Joseph A. Anthony.



**TWO VALIANTS** exchange words of praise following Commandant's inspection on Sept. 16. Morris Booker, left, was awarded the Purple Heart while Everett B. Reed earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart.