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“The Finest . . . Ever Seen”

While proof of the value of Pre-Flight training—in the form of fighting deeds accomplished—will not be written in the battle skies of the world until alumni of this course fly against the enemy sometime early next summer, it is worthwhile here to note the reaction of high Navy officers at initial contact with the first graduates of this school at flight bases.

After observing in primary flight training the actions of our First Battalion cadets, the officer in charge of ground training at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Memphis, Tenn., writes:

“All of us feel that we should compliment those in charge at the results which are evident in the cadets whom you sent here. Their posture, military bearing, drill and attitude in general, are the finest which we have ever seen in aviation cadets. I trust that we will be able to keep them at this same high level and send them on as fine and enthusiastic as they are now.”

In similar vein, the commanding officer of the NRAB at Peru, Ind., states: “. . . Judging from the 20 young men you transferred to us recently, you are doing a splendid job of indoctrination and training. . . . I want to reiterate that we were very favorably impressed with your men and will do our best to make good pilots of them.”

Again, from the C.O. at the Squantum, Mass., NRAB: “. . . The first batch of cadets are doing fine and everyone is favorably impressed.”



By LIEUT. ERIC H. ARENDT
Chaplain Corps, USN

The spiritual side of life is not overlooked in our Navy. It is, and always has been, the concern of the Navy Department to provide opportunity for worship whenever possible. The question that seems to be asked more frequently than any other in this regard is that which involves the opportunity for the expression of one's particular faith or denomination.

The Navy Department recognizes the three great divisions of religion which affect the American way of life—Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant. It becomes the duty and privilege of each chaplain to concern himself with the spiritual welfare of ALL, regardless of his particular faith.

Therefore, ships of the Navy to which chaplains are attached (and there is only one to each vessel) make possible an interchange with chaplains of other faiths for the Sunday morning services whenever these ships are lying at anchor or are moored. Smaller vessels, which have no chaplain are always notified of the services, and often church parties make their appearance aboard the ships in which divine services are held. When the ship

Divine Services

Catholic
Masses 0615, 1000*, 1045
Confessions, Friday, 1830-1930
*Service at Forest Theatre, weather permitting. All others Gerrard Hall.

Jewish
1000, Hillel House

General Protestant
1000, Memorial Hall

is underway, the chaplain offers a general service to which all hands are invited. A Roman Catholic chaplain follows his general service with the celebration of the Mass.

At shore stations the problem of arranging services for the three religious groups is more easily managed. If there is only one chaplain, he usually finds civilian priests, rabbis and ministers more than willing to offer their services. We are extremely fortunate here, for example, in having the interest and assistance of Father Morrissey and Father Sullivan in the ministry among our Roman Catholics and Rabbi Gitin among those of the Jewish faith. The service for the Protestant groups is not unlike that which many of you will come to know as your career in the Navy progresses. Its emphasis is *interdenominational*.

The freedom of religion granted to us under our Constitution is one of the freedoms that we not only enjoy, but are fighting to retain. And *your Navy* stands fast in upholding the religious tradition of *your Country*.

Navy Cadets, Officers and Wives

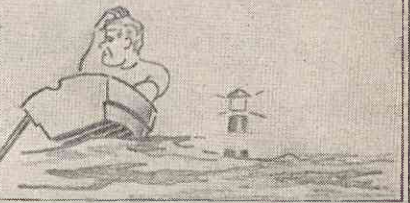
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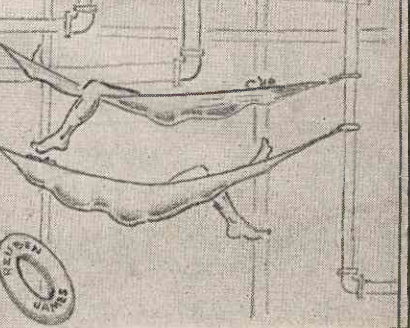
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Presenting The Executive Officer

By CADET JAMES G. BUTLER

Lt. Comdr. John P. Graff, USN (Ret.), the Executive Officer of the Navy Pre-Flight School here in Chapel Hill, was born in Sharon, Pa. The date when J. P. G., minus his brass buttons and stripes, made his entrance was Aug. 24, 1896. He later moved to Greenville, Pa., a whistle stop on the Bessemer Railroad.

In 1915 he started thinking about West Point, but since the family had a stray Congressman friend who thought the Navy Way, he headed for Annapolis. "Packy" (from Packard in J. P. G.) at this time stretched 6-2 skyward and weighed 170 pounds when he prepped at Buck Wilmers, (Naval Academy Prep School).

Kismet had it that here and at the Academy he was to have as friends many who now play important roles in this war. Among them are Capt. Mike Kernodle, of the *USS Warp*; Capt. C. D. Glover, of the *USS Saratoga*; Capt. A. K. Doyle, one of the mainsprings in the Pre-Flight program; and Comdr. Winfield Scott Cunningham, who was in command at Wake Island and is now held prisoner by the Japs.

Lt. Comdr. Graff entered the Naval Academy in June, 1916, with the first of what later became known as "large classes." He spent seven months at sea in battleships and cruisers during 1917 and 1918, and was graduated with the class of 1920 in June, 1919, the war having caused the course to be shortened to three years.

While at Annapolis he pulled No. 3 oar on the Navy's varsity crew which won the inter-collegiate championship in Philadelphia in 1919 in competition with Pennsylvania, Syracuse, and Princeton (there was no Poughkeepsie Regatta that year).

After graduation he served successively on the transport *USS Kaiserin Augusta Victoria*, the *USS Nevada*, and the *USS Reuben James*. It was while serving on the *Reuben James* that he met Comdr. O. O. "Scrappy" Kessing, who was then a lieutenant and the Executive Officer of that ship. They spent some two years and cruised more than 40,000 miles in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Adriatic, and Baltic Seas.

The ship transported hundreds of Russian refugees along the coast of Dalmatia, kept order in Northern Germany, and maintained communications between the American Relief Administration in Russia and the American Dispatch Agent in London. In October, 1923, Lt. Comdr. Graff was taken ill and left the *Reuben James* for the Naval Hospital in Philadelphia and was retired from active duty in 1924 as a lieutenant (junior grade), USN.

Back into the hectic days of civilian life, he successively worked for the Packard Motor Car Co. in Youngstown and Cleveland, O., and later in James-town, N. Y. He left the motor car business and went with the Petroleum Heat and Power Co., of Stamford, Conn.

While in civilian life, he maintained his interest in athletics and in the Navy. He was active in the Naval See LT. COMDR. GRAFF, page 4

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