

Dr. Wright Is Promoted To Rank of Full Commander

The president of the Valparaiso, Ind., Chamber of Commerce would do well to make Comdr. Jesse Gordon Wright, senior medical officer aboard ship, one of his chief aides. For Comdr. Wright has spent fifteen and a half years in the Navy, seeing the world and telling the people about Valparaiso.

At the same time Dr. Wright has advanced in rank from that of Lt. (jg) in 1927 to Comdr. as of Oct. 20 of last week. He says that the first seven years were the hardest simply because he was a lieutenant (jg) for that period of time. Came June, 1934, and advancement to rank of full lieutenant, and from that point things have moved more rapidly.

Valparaiso is a mid-west town of some 10,000 inhabitants. It is the home of Valparaiso University, and Comdr. Wright compares it favorably with Chapel Hill or vice versa. His father taught math in Valparaiso, and Dr. Wright attended school there from



Commander Wright

1921 to 1923. Then he transferred to Indiana University where he received his BS in 1925, and his MD in 1927. That brings us up to his Navy career.

Why he joined the Navy he doesn't know. He musingly says that upon graduation from Indiana he took the Navy medical examination, passed it, and that's all there was to it. He immediately reported to the Naval Hospital in Boston as a lieutenant (jg).

After a short stay in Boston came the first of several cruises. It was on the *USS Oglala*, flagship of the mine squadron. Summers were spent in New England around Gloucester, New London, and Boston, and winters in the West Indies. Comdr. Wright spent his spare time fishing and participating in other extra-curricular activities typical of these two areas.

Returning to shore in August, 1930, Dr. Wright did post graduate work at the Naval Medical Center in Washington. Eight months later he was on his way to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola. In the meantime, he married a hometown girl. Dr. and Mrs. Wright and one child compose the present family.

During his 15 months at Pensacola, Dr. Wright qualified as a flight surgeon. Then he was on the move again, this time to the Great Lakes Naval Station at Chicago. Why, he doesn't know, but in May, 1933, the Navy closed the Great Lakes Station, lock, stock, and barrel.

Ordered to Norfolk he awaited the completion of the *USS Ranger*, the first ship that was built as a carrier. He was on the *Ranger* until 1936, dur-

ing which time he became a full lieutenant.

From the *Ranger* he was ordered to the Aircraft Squadron, Fleet Marine Force which was based at Quantico, Va. The squadron traveled any place air stations were available. "Many of the men in that force are the same ones who have done such heroic work at Wake Island, Midway, and the Guadalcanal Zone," Dr. Wright proudly admits.

Comdr. Wright's most interesting duty was with Patrol Wing Number Four. This consisted of five squadrons of patrol planes, and two tenders. They were based in Seattle, and travelled all up and down the Alaskan coast. Any spare time found Dr. Wright fishing for trout and hunting for bear. There were no tall bear stories in the offering during the interview, but Comdr. Wright stated that he could catch more trout than he could carry in an hour, and that anything under 23 inches would be thrown back in the stream.

In September, 1940, Dr. Wright was transferred to the staff of the commander cruisers scouting force on the flagship *USS Chicago*. Honolulu was the base, the Fiji Islands and New Zealand were visited, but most of the time was spent in Australia.

In February, 1941, four cruisers and a destroyer squadron of the scouting force left for an undisclosed destination, thought to be Singapore. They ended up in Australia, and received a never to be forgotten reception. "The Australian people thought we had come to replace their fleet which had gone on active duty," stated Dr. Wright. "We didn't know but what they were right. Anyway, when we arrived Parliament recessed, schools were dismissed, and we were treated like kings. They carried us on their shoulders, and we all signed about a million autographs."

Prior to reporting to Chapel Hill in April of this year, Dr. Wright was senior medical officer at the Naval Air Station at Anacostia, D. C.

Pre-Flight cadets, officers and enlisted men know the tremendous work and responsibility that rests on Comdr. Wright and his staff. To keep 1500 cadets, 400 officers and enlisted men in top physical condition is no easy task. To aid him there are eight doctors, three dentists, two nurses, a psychologist, physiologist, and a number of enlisted men.

Comdr. Wright has over 900 hours in the air, and he is well qualified to comment on the Pre-Flight program. "When I first reported to Chapel Hill I came with an open mind, and was undecided as to its worth. Since I have seen the program in operation, I am confident that it will play a major part in the final victory. The program is a credit to the Navy and Naval aviation."

Buster Bits

A severe crimp was put in the hobby of CADET ALFIO CATALFO, JR., (10th Battalion), of Dover, N. H., by the recent Navy Department order prohibiting the keeping of personal diaries by Navy personnel for the duration of the war. Catalfo has faithfully kept a daily record of his life since Jan. 1, 1934, one which now totals some 4,500 pages and over 1,000,000 words.

As used in the Navy Department order, diaries include "any private notes or memoranda of any description whatsoever, which indicates in any manner the location or activities of personnel, ships, aircraft, or equipment of the armed forces of the United States or of any nation allied with the United States in the present war."

If CADET RICHARD F. SMITH, (11th Battalion), of Columbus, Ga., encounters Japs when he takes off for battle, he should feel content that his destiny is being fulfilled. Smith started to make a career of herpetology—the study of snakes.

CADET EDWIN W. STEIN, (11th Battalion), of Jenkintown, Pa., is a doctor of Chiropraxy, having received his training at Temple University . . .

CADET SAMUEL P. FREEMAN, (11th Battalion), of Camilla, Ga., had 215 hours experience as an aircraft radio operator before enlisting in the V-5 program. A brother of Freeman's was killed in the Battle of Midway . . . A promising collegiate tennis career was interrupted when CADET HOMER W. BOGLE, (7th Battalion), of Suffern, N. Y., joined the Navy. After earning four letters in that sport in high school, Bogle went on to cop the freshman tennis tournament in his first and only year at Columbia.

Raising homing pigeons was the peacetime hobby of CADET JOHN P. McDONOUGH, (9th Battalion), of Dorchester, Mass., who was a two-letter man in football and track at Massachusetts State College . . . CADET JAMES M. MCFERRIN, JR., (11th Battalion), of Macon, Ga., has served eight months aboard a minesweeper attached to the Sixth Naval District and working out of Southport, N. C.

. . . Taking aircraft instruments apart and putting them together again will not be an entirely new experience for CADET WILLIAM G. ZANE, (7th Battalion), of New York, N. Y., when he reaches that phase of his training. He was formerly employed by the Kollsman Instrument Division of Square D Co., Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.

The junior skeet championship has been held for four consecutive years by CADET BRADFORD W. INGALLS, (11th Battalion), of Middlebury, Vt. . . . During the last presidential campaign, CADET WILLIAM B. CHURCHMAN, (8th Battalion), of Philadelphia, Pa., was employed for six months as a publicity agent for a committee seeking the election of Wendell Willkie. Churchman has also worked as a radio announcer for a 550-watt station in Bridgton, N. J., specializing in sports.

1,300,000 Men Now In Naval Services

The total strength of the naval services—the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—is now approximately 1,300,000 men, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox disclosed last week. The Secretary said the strength of the Navy was nearly 1,000,000 and there were approximately 200,000 in the Marine Corps. The regular Coast Guard, he said, now numbers about 110,000.

All three of the services, Knox stated, are being increased

A. & P. FOOD STORES

Welcomes the Cadets

GROCERIES AND FRESH MEAT

The DAIRY STORE

140 E. Franklin St.

Ice Cream

Toasted Sandwiches

Milk Shakes

Sundaes & Sodas

DURHAM DAIRY PRODUCTS

NAVY UNIFORMS

DESERVE

Good Dry Cleaning

Why not send yours to the Community Cleaners?

Here you will get—

- EXCELLENT SERVICE
- MODERATE PRICES
- BUTTONS REPLACED

COMMUNITY CLEANERS

Phone 5841

CAMPUS CAFE

Try Our

Western Steaks and Chops

WE SERVE THE VERY BEST

MAKE THOSE SNAPSHOTS TODAY

Kodaks

Movie Cameras

Fresh Film

WE LEND KODAKS

FOISTER PHOTO CO.

(Open Sunday for Your Convenience)

After "lab."...

pause and

Turn to Refreshment



Coca-Cola has a delightful taste that always pleases. Pure, wholesome, delicious,—ice-cold Coca-Cola satisfies completely. So when you pause throughout the day, make it the pause that refreshes with ice-cold Coca-Cola.

YOU TASTE ITS QUALITY

Bottled under authority of The Coca-Cola Company by Durham Coca-Cola Bottling Company