

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

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BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN NO. 63

The Bureau requests that this Bulletin be given free circulation among officers and that items of interest be published to the Enlisted Personnel. This bulletin is NOT confidential and may be destroyed at the discretion of the Commanding Officer. Constructive suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

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The following recommendation approved by the Secretary on May 7, 1925:

1. Annual Physical Examination of Officers. In order that the annual physical examination of officers required by G.O. #134, of 14 August, 1924, may be of maximum value in the conservation of officer personnel, it is recommended that the reports of annual physical examination be considered confidential for the information of the officer concerned, that one copy of the report be given to the officer concerned, the original sent to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; and that G.O. #134 be corrected accordingly.

It is further recommended that special boards for the physical examination of officers eligible for selection for promotion required by "Naval Courts and Boards", Section 1283, note 24, be ordered, if requested by the officer concerned, and that "Naval Courts and Boards" be corrected accordingly.

2. Naval Academy - Mental Examination of Candidates. The Bureau is pleased to announce that 177 candidates for midshipmen from the enlisted personnel reported for the competitive examination on 15 April 1925, and of this number 99 (only one short of the authorized annual quota of 100) passed mentally.

The quota has practically been reached and this is particularly gratifying to the Bureau at this time in view of the reduction in the number of Congressional appointees. The cooperation of the Fleet in this matter is very much appreciated. It is hoped that the full quota of 100 will be reached for the year 1926, and to this end it is desired that all those in the Service in a position to aid in bringing this about, make every effort to do so.

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3. Naval Academy - selection of candidates. In spite of the numerous and detailed instructions concerning this subject, which have been issued, it is still very apparent that there is not enough care and attention paid to this important matter by ship and station officers. Quite a few men were found to be poor officer material on account of their general character and temperament, despite the fact, that they were guiltless of any serious misconduct. This point can not be emphasized too strongly.

The Bureau of Navigation Circular Letter was read to the Division, followed by a request for volunteers. The service records of the applicants were then looked over in order to ascertain the age and previous conduct of the candidates. If this was found to be satisfactory, the men were allowed to take the preliminary examination. Some men were even urged to apply for the preparatory school, when they, themselves, were only half heartedly interested, or thought in their own minds that they could never become successful officers. Apparently, some division officers paid very little heed to their own personal opinion of the men in question, as desirable officer material.

Many men who have excellent conduct records, would never become good officers. It is believed bad policy to urge a man to try for the Naval Academy, if he, himself, does not evince a lively personal interest.

This year, thirty-seven men were sent to the Preparatory School with no record of a previous preliminary physical examination, and it was necessary to examine them at the Training Station. Thirteen of these men were found to be physically disqualified for entrance to the Naval Academy. The Bureau's instructions regarding physical examinations were disregarded in these cases.

It is recommended that more attention be paid to an applicant's education in mathematics, when selecting him for the preparatory course, than the number of years he has already attended school. Some of the worst students to come under my observation have been high school graduates who knew practically nothing of algebra or geometry.

A large number of men seem to have very little beforehand knowledge concerning what is expected of them in the Preparatory School, as well as in the Naval Academy. Some of them find the work and studies so strenuous that they voluntarily give up, stating they have no further desire to enter the Academy. These men are a total loss, and considerable time is wasted with them. Their places could be taken by men who thoroughly understand what to expect, and are willing and ambitious to do their best. It is, therefore, recommended that the fullest explanation be given all men, relative to the work required of them in the Preparatory School and Naval Academy, laying particular stress upon the advantages to be gained in spite of the hard work.

4. Rating Course for Radiomen 2c. The Bureau is forwarding to certain classes of ships copies of assignments 7-12 of the rating course for Radiomen 2c. Ships and stations not receiving copies may obtain them by request to the Bureau. This course when completed will contain twenty-four assignments.

5. Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps - administration of.
Section 22 of the Omnibus Bill creates a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The administration of this corps will become a function of the Bureau of Navigation. Bureau administration of the activity will be placed in the Training Division and the Chief of that Division will prepare to organize his division to carry on administration of the activity creating a section for the purpose when the work warrants.

6. Permanent Appointments - Issue of to Chief Petty Officers.
On May 1st, the Bureau commenced the issue of permanent appointment certificates to chief petty officers. Chief petty officers already holding permanent appointments who desire certificates may request them of the Bureau.

Permanent appointments will be issued by the Bureau to petty officers first class and second class following the issue to the service of the new Bureau Manual wherein are prescribed the conditions under which such men are entitled to permanent appointments.

The following is quoted from the Bureau Manual:

"D-5111 (7) The effective date of permanent appointments will be determined by the Bureau and will be stated on the face of the appointment. When a permanent appointment is received an entry will be made in the service record of the man and the appointment will be delivered to him at quarters. The permanent appointment certificate is the property of the man, but it may be kept with his service record or C.S.C. if he so desires."

7. Changes in Bureau of Navigation Manual, Part D - (continued)
Chapter 5.

(e) Service and mark qualifications revised (See Bunav. Circular Letter No.27-25).

(f) Outlines definitely what marks are to be assigned by examining boards for advancement. This necessitated revision of form N.Nav.524.

(g) Examining boards report in case of petty officers to be forwarded to Bureau.

(h) Outlines the requirements for permanent appointment for chief petty officers and petty officers first and second class.

(i) Outlines in clearer language the procedure to reduce in rating for incompetency.

(j) The qualifications for every rating has been included and revised to meet current requirements of the service.

(1) The stenographic qualifications for Chief Yeoman and Yeoman first class have been retained.

(2) Boilermakers are no longer required to pass through the rating tender.

(k) Qualifications for divers included.

(l) Qualifications for Naval aviation pilots and balloon pilots brought up to date. The qualifying terms seaplane, ship plane, and airship have been eliminated.

(m) Qualifications for gun pointers, gun captain, gun range finder operators, etc. have been brought up to date.

(n) Qualifications for men designated as qualified for submarines have been included.

(o) Qualifications for recruit instruction and men for recruiting duty have been revised and retained; also seaman signalsmen.

8. Naval Reserve Activities. On Saturday 2 May, 1925, a public reception was held on the Boston Common to award a cup to the aviator, who, while flying from Boston, had accumulated the greatest number of hours in the air during the year ending 1 May, 1925, without injury to personnel or serious injury to material. The cup is presented yearly by the Army and Navy Club of Boston, this being the first year of its award. The cup was won by Lieutenant (jg) R.D.Thomas, USNRF., the executive officer of the Naval Reserve Air Station at Squantum, Massachusetts, who had a total of 424 hours in the air during the past year, which was more than twice as much as the nearest competitor.

The Department has approved the establishment of a single unit reserve air station at Seattle, Washington for the training of aviation pilots.

9. Hydrographic News. Interesting articles relating to the Maury U.S. Naval Oceanographic Research appeared in Beautiful America for April, Tycos-Rochester for April, Popular Mechanics for May, Geographical Review for April, Science for March, and Journal of Geology, No. 8 of 1924, Manufactures Record for October 1924, Marine Review for October 1924, Popular Science Monthly for September 1924, and Popular Radio for November 1924.

True Wind - Speed Trial. The method used on board this vessel to eliminate speed and course of ship, apparently true direction and force of the wind is a reading of Friez Anemometer is taken and reduced to the Beaufort scale; then knowing the true course and speed of the ship and the apparent force and direction of the wind, the true force and direction of the wind is obtained from table #52 Bowditch, 1925. From a report of Captain C.E.Courtney, U.S.S. CINCINNATI.

10. Motion Pictures. The Bureau of Navigation has purchased the following named features motion pictures for exhibition on Naval ships and stations taking Navy motion picture service.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STAR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STAR</u>
Spook Ranch	Hoot Gibson	The Oper. Trail	Jack Hoxie
The Sky Raider	Capt. Chas. Huggesser	Baree Son of Kazan	Anita Stewart
Friendly Enemies	Weber and Fields	Zander the Great	Marion Davies
Raffles	Houseters	Prairie Wife	Rawlinson - Devore
Sporting Venus	Blanco Sweet	Riding Thunder	Jack Hoxie
Man without a conscience	W. H. Lard Louis		