

LIFE IN OUR NAVY

It Is Not All Drill and Drudgery For the Enlisted Man.

THE WAY HE SPENDS HIS TIME

Story of a Day's Routine, With Its Duties, Work and Recreation, From Reveille in the Morning Until Taps Are Sounded in the Evening.

"All the world loves the sailor," but how few know and understand him! The American people have very little knowledge of the bluejackets who man the United States navy, their professional zeal and enthusiasm, their pride in the service and their unswerving devotion to flag and country.

"Our brave men of the sea," says Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the United States navy, "should be better known to the American people. All the people of this great republic should be made thoroughly acquainted with the human element of the navy, not merely to popularize it, for the navy is popular in a vague, impersonal manner, but to have our citizens know more of what the navy really means to the men who compose it."

At 5:30 a. m. the buglers sound the reveille, accompanied by a chorus of boatwain's pipes with the added admonition, "Up all hammocks!" "Shake a leg!" etc. The cooks are astir making coffee, and the mess attendants are busy. Then, after a short smoke, comes "Scrub and wash clothes!"

Then all hands clean ship. After the ship is cleaned breakfast is served, and the bluejacket is usually ready for it. Potatoes, ham and eggs, bread, butter and coffee constitute a simple breakfast menu, changed each day.

After breakfast comes an hour for smoking and for relaxation, to don the uniform of the day and get ready for inspection at 9:30.

From that time until the dinner hour 11:30, the time is spent at drill, and after dinner more drill. There are big gun drills, boat drills (with both oars and sails, signaling, small arms practice, collision drill, fire quarters, abandon ship, clearing ship for action and at night searchlight drills. These drills are interspersed with special duty, such as coaling ship or landing parties, and lectures by division officers or others on timely professional topics.

Rarely are the men engaged upon the same task two days in succession, so the sailor's life has little chance to become monotonous.

At 4 p. m., "eight bells," is a period of "knock off all work." Pipes again are lighted, or the race-boat-crew has manned the cutter and is taking a pull through the fleet. The baseball team or football squad goes ashore for daily practice; the bugle sounds swimming call, and hundreds of men are soon in the water, with a dinghy crew standing by to aid a tired swimmer or a beginner.

Books of fiction or of travel are drawn from the crew's library, which throughout the ship may be found men studying for the annual examination for appointment to the Naval Academy, older men studying for a warrant and classes in academic studies. Others play checkers, chess or cards.

The canteen, or ship's store, is liberally patronized. Tobacco, candy, sweetmeats, writing paper, toilet articles and other useful articles are kept on sale.

After supper, at 8, the bluejacket's time is his own. There is a concert by the ship's band, often a few reels of movies. Occasionally there is a smoker or an invitation from another ship to attend a minstrel show or a program of boxing and wrestling bouts. Unless there is some special event taps are sounded at 10, and the sailor's day is over, except those on watch.

An account of the sailor's life would be incomplete without mentioning the mascots. The most common pets are goats, bulldogs, cats, monkeys and parrots. But many ships have bears, pigs and strange tropical animals from Cuba and Mexico, and some battleships have even carried kangaroos from Australia.—Newark Star-Eagle.

Hard Biting.
The shipwrecked sailor sat disconsolate on a lonely raft in the middle of the trackless ocean. In his hands he held the last remnants of a pair of shoes. "Though reduced to the lowest extremities and completely surrounded by water," he croaked hoarsely, "I can still take to my heels." With these words he made his semi-weekly meal and spent the remainder of the afternoon picking the nails out of his teeth.—Chicago News.

Records in Massachusetts.
Thanks to its complete system of birth records, begun in 1639 and improved repeatedly since then, Massachusetts knows and can verify the age of every person born in the state. All births are registered within forty-eight hours and other data added within fifteen days.—Detroit Free Press.

A Nice Girl.
"I am visiting alma mater," wrote a girl to her chum.
"I have never met Alma," the chum wrote back, "but if she's a friend of yours she's a friend of mine. I'm sure she's an awfully nice girl."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Childhood has no forebodings; but, then, it is soothed by no memories of outlived sorrow.—George Eliot.

RANGE FINDING IN THE AIR

Artillery "Spotters" Undergo an Intense Nervous Strain.

Artillery observation is one of the most important branches of air service. So indispensable is the airman in connection with modern artillery that a noted authority recently stated that if one side had airplanes while the other had none the world war would have been over in six months.

Pilots and observers work in conjunction with a battery. They arrange beforehand with the general staff just where that battery is to operate. If they are ordered to seek out an enemy battery that may be lodged at the end of a wood or in some concealed position the pilot maneuvers about under the instructions of the observer until the battery is spotted, whereupon its position is signaled back by means of a wireless set to the battery commander.

After notifying the battery to open fire the observer hangs over the position at a height of, say, 6,000 feet, to avoid the trajectory of the shells passing beneath his machine, and as the shells burst near the position under fire the observer notifies his battery how short or how far ahead or how much to either side the shells are falling. The observer then orders the pilot to proceed over the next position, and the operation is repeated. When the work is completed the airman is ordered to return by means of signals in the form of canvas strips placed on the ground.

All the while the observer is directing artillery fire his machine is being subjected to intense bombardment by anti-aircraft guns, which are firing shrapnel shells by the hundreds. Flying fragments of shrapnel are all about the airman—beneath them, all around them and above them. For three hours at times the airman must endure this intense bombardment, and there is no telling at what moment the tail of the machine or some other vital part may be blown away or when the machine may become wrapped in flames. The work is most dangerous and nerve racking, and most of the pilots stutter after going through this ordeal. Some have been known to be unable to screw a nut or a bolt, due to nervous ailment.—Scientific American.

PERIL OF LIGHTNING.
Rules That Will Help You Avoid It During a Thunderstorm.

If you are out of doors in a very severe electrical storm the Electrical Experimenter offers the following rules for your protection:

1. Keep away from wire fences. They may carry a dangerous electrical charge long distances. Cattle in pastures are frequently killed from the neglect of farmers to ground the wire of the fence.
2. Keep away from hedges, ponds and streams.
3. Keep away from isolated trees. Oak trees are frequently struck; beech are seldom struck. It is safe in a dense forest.
4. Keep away from herds of cattle and crowds of people.
5. Do not hold an umbrella over you. It is safer to sit or lie down in an open field than to stand.
6. Drivers should dismount and not stay close to their horses.
7. Do not work with any large metal tool or implement.
8. If you are indoors:

1. Keep away from the stove and chimney. The hot gases from the chimney may conduct the lightning to and down the chimney.
2. Do not take a position between two bodies of metal, as the stove and water pipe, for example. An exception to being near metals is the case of an iron bed. One of the safest places is on a mattress in an iron bed, provided you do not touch the metal. The metal surrounding you makes a safe cage which will prevent the lightning from reaching a person inside.
3. Do not stand on a wet floor nor draw water from the well or faucet.
4. Do not stand directly under a chandelier, near a radiator nor on a register.
5. Do not use the telephone.

"Blind Alley Jobs."
Vocations that lead boys nowhere in particular are in Canada called "blind alley jobs," and the name is a fitting one. The inspector of the Ottawa public schools points out in a recent report that 83 per cent of boys leaving those institutions gravitate toward positions that require little skill and offer little hope of advancement. A similar discovery might be made in any large city of the Dominion or in any considerable community of the United States, where vocational training is not receiving serious attention.—Christian Science Monitor.

Velvet.
Velvet was developed and originated in China. Thence velvet making was introduced into India and in the fourteenth century into Italy, where that sort of fabric especially appeared and where the art of velvet making reached its height. It is said that velvet was first inspired by fur and that it was in order to make a silken fabric on the same order as the fur that man first set his wits about to invent this.

Encouraging Outlook.
"Well, old man, how are you getting along with your poultry raising? Making expenses?"
"Not yet, but my hens have taken to eating their own eggs, so I hope that they will soon become self-supporting."—Boston Transcript.

Similar Sport.
"We have nothing like the terrible bullfights in Spain."
"What's the matter with the awful bullfights in Wall street?"—Exchange.

Needed Repairs.
"Do you have running water in your new home?"
"Well, we do whenever it rains."—Baltimore American.

The First of all gospels is that a lie cannot endure forever.—Carlyle.

Placing Himself.
"Let me see," said the editor to a new acquisition, a graduate of the college of journalism. "I hardly know what to put you at."
"Until you decide," replied the man. "I'll sit down and write a few leading editorials."—Life.

The Difficulty.
"A man should take the bull by the horns," advised the sage.
"Yes," agreed the fool. "The trouble is to find a bull that will stand for it."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Expertness.
"Are you a weather expert?"
"I'm trying to be one kind. I can stand all sorts of weather without talking about it."—Exchange.

SALUTING MOUNT VERNON.

A Tribute of Respect to the Memory of Washington.

When the Mayflower, bearing the French commissioners to the United States up the Potomac to Washington, passed Mount Vernon we were told by the newspapers that the crew of the vessel were drawn up at salute and the ship's bell was tolled. Marshal Joffre was particularly touched by this ceremonial, and as the yacht passed on up the river he walked to the stern and stood silently watching the old mansion until it was hidden from view.

What the newspapers did not tell us and what many Americans do not know is that the ceremony that so impressed our distinguished visitors has been for a great many years prescribed by the naval regulations. No United States ship of war may pass Mount Vernon without paying that tribute of respect to the memory of Washington.

As the vessel approaches the beautiful old place the commander orders the bugler to "Sound to quarters." The crew, officers and men hurry to their places, the word passes to form along the side of the ship that faces Mount Vernon and to stand at attention. As the ship comes abreast of the mansion the command "Salute!" rings out. Every man raises his right hand to his cap and holds it there while the ship's bell tolls twenty-one times, once for each gun of the national salute.

"Sound the retreat!" comes the order as the last stroke of the bell trembles into silence, and the bugle sends its plaintive notes across the water to the tree clad slopes of Mount Vernon, from which the echo faithfully repeats them to the ship.

It is a charming ceremony, simple, yet indescribably moving, no matter how often one sees it.—Youth's Companion.

PATHETIC OLD AGE.
Have Pity For the Man Who Has Outlived His Usefulness.

Whenever age has stricken from a man his power of usefulness and activity there is demand for human sympathy. He may be the inmate of a home of luxury or so placed that his bodily needs and the companionship of equals and friends may be all that is to be desired, still the old man whose life work has closed and who must sit idly by and watch the sands in the hour glass run swiftly out is an object of profound consideration and should be given the veneration that his position and past deserve.

Of all human beings who through advancing years or bodily affliction have reached the limit of usefulness man is the most pitiable. His has been the work of actual accomplishment. He has depended on his strength as a great fortress and has been lavish in its use. Unlike the woman or the child or the mentally and physically afflicted during life, he has been the builder and the home maker. On his shoulders have rested the great tasks of life, the creation of a home, the support of a family and the achievement of great things in business and society.

To lay these things all aside at the behest of Time's beckoning finger and the approaching decay in mind and body is a tragic thing, however much we may glorify the peace and calm that is said to come in the sunset days of life. The old man is largely a stranger in a land made strange by the absence of many of those with whom he began the journey.—Pittsburgh Gazette Times.

Deaths From Athletic Sports.
Dr. Robert E. Coughlin of New York city, writing in the New York Medical Journal, says 943 lives were sacrificed on the fields of athletic sport in the ten years ending with, but not including, the year 1916.

Baseball leads the list with 264 fatalities," he says. "Football is second with 215, auto racing third with 128, boxing fourth with 105. Seventy-seven cyclists and fifty-four jockeys lost their lives, fifteen wrestlers perished on the mat, fourteen persons lost their lives playing golf, nine were killed at bowling and one died while playing lawn tennis."

Influence of America.
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Fighters.
Nearly all successful business men possess fighting qualities. Commodore Vanderbilt was a fighter. Harriman, Hill and Morgan were fighters. Men who aspire to do big things must have daring, must have courage, must have self confidence. They must be prepared to accept risks. They must exhibit boldness when others show timidity.—Leslie's.

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"Well, they don't think she has such a fine figure as she once had."—Pearson's Weekly.

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Aviation and War.
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DEATH IN ITS STING

Fearful Effects of the Venom of the Dreaded Fer-de-lance.

Only Instant and Heroic Treatment Can Save Life After a Stab by Its Deadly Fangs—A Battle With Its Enemy and Master, the Mongoose.

There exist a large number of venomous serpents—we have many of them in the United States—but probably no other spot in the known world has such a death dealing snake as the island of Martinique, in the Caribbean sea. This is the fer-de-lance, scientifically known as *Trigonoccephalus lanceolatus*, and it can, beyond the shadow of a doubt, lay claim to being the most deadly serpent of the earth. Its bite means death.

There are eight distinct varieties, the most common being a dark gray and black speckled, which coloring enables it to conceal itself easily among rocks and stumps of trees. Another variety is a clear, bright yellow, and when hidden in the freshly cut cane it can scarcely be distinguished from the stalks. It also may be a dark yellow or coal black with a yellow belly.

This is not a large snake, rarely exceeding five feet in length and in circumference approximately the size of a child's arm. To repeat, the bite means almost certain death and should not the service of a physician, or peasant, as the natives call him, be obtained within a very short time the venom does its deadly work—the flesh grows cold, softens, becomes pulpy, changes in color, quickly begins to spot, and a great chilliness creeps through the blood. This lasts only a few minutes, possibly half an hour—then death.

If the victim be fortunate enough to get a physician upon the scene post haste and no artery or vein has been pierced there is hope—just a faint hope. But even if life be saved the danger is not entirely removed, for in many cases necrosis of the tissues follows—the flesh corrupts and falls from the bones, and the body molds as does a tree.

There is, however, a heroic method of treatment often brought into use by the Martiniquais. It is the immediate amputation of the leg or arm if the bite happens to be in either. Even this has to be done at once and before the venom circulates through the system. There are to be seen today upon the island many natives with limbs missing, and in the majority of cases it is the result of having the machete, or cane knife, applied after an experience with a fer-de-lance.

The fer-de-lance is a fighter, and no domestic animal, with the exception of the cat, has any chance in a battle with this serpent. The cat, however, in about nine cases out of ten will come out of the fight with flying colors because of the fact that it is apparently quite as quick in movement and at the same time uses what might be termed ring generalship.

There is but one animal other than the cat that successfully wages war against the fer-de-lance. It is the mongoose (ichneumon), imported from India a number of years ago for the sole purpose of getting rid of the snakes in Martinique.

Of the weasel family and looking very much like those creatures, this little fellow is absolutely fearless so far as reptiles are concerned and will just as readily attack one five feet in length as one a foot long.

From the mongoose the fer-de-lance will flee, but if cornered will put up a great fight, using every trick at its command, a useless sort of contest, however, for within a short time it will be stretched out lifeless.

A battle between these two natural enemies is well worth witnessing. It is never a limited fight, but to a finish always, and probably the snakes by this time have come to understand that when they enter such a combat it is with the odds greatly against them.

The mongoose is quite as clever a ring general as the cat and uses that gift to advantage. Strategy more than strength is its asset and if the snake sees no avenue of escape it prepares for battle in a more leisurely manner. It takes about one minute for them to get fully prepared. There is no trifling, however.

The mongoose circles about the reptile, always at a safe distance and "drawing fire" by moving closer and closer, to dart out its head and then quickly jumping out of harm's way. It torments in every possible manner, causing the snake to change position time and time again without ever reaching the objective point. At last, seeing its opponent at some particular disadvantage, the mongoose springs forward quick as a bolt of lightning, catches the serpent firmly with the teeth behind the triangular head, a shake, possibly two or more—and in less time than it takes to tell it the fer-de-lance is dead, its vertebrae severed.—Los Angeles Times.

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CLEVERNESS OF A THIEF.

He Made the Job a Thorough One While He Was About It.

The retail store is often the recipient of unreasonable demands for adjustment of one sort or another, but the following incident related by a man in the business seems to be a high light in the picture.

In this case the theft of a package of dress goods and silks was made from a delivery wagon by a crook, whose procedure indicated an experienced hand in department store methods. He immediately took the package, which had been purchased C. O. D., to the customer who had bought the goods and was paid the \$12 called for by them. The dress fabrics had been bought for the purpose of making a suit, and the customer asked the pseudo delivery man to take the package around to her dressmaker, whose shop was only a few blocks away. She paid him a quarter for doing this, and he skipped around to the dressmaker.

Here was, where he began to show real cleverness. The story he told the dressmaker upon turning the package over to her was that her customer had paid \$10 on the goods and wanted her to make up the difference, which was \$2, and put it on the bill for the suit. This account seemed perfectly plausible to the dressmaker, who promptly paid out the \$2, knowing that the goods were worth a good deal more. The thief was then "just \$14.25 to the good—\$12 as the original payment, 25 cents as a tip and \$2 that the dressmaker paid."

The store in this case was out the \$12, which would seem to be sufficient punishment for the driver's lack of vigilance, but the customer was by no means satisfied to let the matter drop there. She wanted the store to pay back the \$2 the dressmaker had given out. This claim, of course, could not be allowed.—New York Times.

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SHUN WATER HEMLOCK.

It Is a Deadly Plant and One Not Generally Recognized.

Many deaths, both of human beings and domestic animals, are caused every year by cicutas, or water hemlock, a poisonous plant. It is the most violently poisonous of temperate region plants, yet it is not generally recognized. Learn to know it and look out for it. A warning has been issued by the specialists of the United States department of agriculture in the form of a circular from the bureau of animal industry, "Cicutas (water hemlock) as a Poisonous Plant," which describes this plant and gives remedies, though cases among domestic animals must be considered as practically hopeless so far as treatment is concerned.

Cicutas is widely distributed. Unfortunately it resembles a number of harmless plants and is not easily recognizable. It belongs to the same family as carrots and parsnips. It has a number of popular names, of which the most common is "cowbane," or "water hemlock." The plant grows in wet places and is especially common in some parts of the west along irrigating ditches. It has a thickened root stock, with roots which sometimes take the form of a group of tubers. The cicutas is most readily distinguished from plants of similar appearance growing under the same conditions by the transverse chambers in the root stock. These can be seen by making a longitudinal section.

Only the root of cicutas is poisonous. Cases of poisoning are more frequent in the spring, partly because the roots are more likely to be noticed at that time and partly because they appear to be more poisonous than later in the season. In cases of the poisoning of human beings, the necessary treatment is to give an emetic, followed by a cathartic. Some cases of opium may be given to counteract convulsions when they are violent. If free vomiting is promptly produced, the patient is likely to recover.

Perhaps there is no way to prevent some cases of poisoning of children; something might be accomplished, however, if parents and teachers would attempt to make clear to children the danger of eating strange roots.

Served Him Right.
This is the way the agent got a lesson in manners. He called at a business office and saw nobody but a post-possessing though capable appearing young woman.

"Where's the boss?" he asked abruptly.
"What is your business?" she asked politely.

"None of yours," he snapped. "I got a proposition to lay before this firm, and I want to talk to somebody about it."
"And you would rather talk to a gentleman?"

"Yes."
"Well," answered the lady, smiling sweetly, "so would I. But it seems that it's impossible for either of us to have our wish, so we'll have to make the best of it. State your business, please."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Can't Kill Languages.
One of the most effective means of prolonging the life of a hated language is to attempt to kill it, as the Germans and the Austro-Hungarians have found time to time found out. It was the effort to make all Bohemia talk German that lit the fires that revived the flames of the dying Bohemian speech, so that today it is one of the official tongues and dominates two-thirds of the country. Hungary, fighting on behalf of the Magyar speech, wrote Slav and Roumanian echoes. We found English prosper best in Canada, where English was offered to be "taken on left."—London Standard.

The Seven British Languages.
There are seven distinct languages spoken in the British Isles. In addition to English there are Welsh in Wales, Erse in Ireland, Manx in the Isle of Man—church services in Manx were discontinued there but recently—Gaelic in Scotland, French in the Channel Islands, and Cornish in Cornwall more recently than either historians or the public know.—London Globe.

Out of Date Cars.
Few people realize how many different cars are still in use whose markets have gone out of business and how many models of existing buidens that are so far obsolete that spare parts are no longer carried at the factories of their origin. The Horseless Age recently published a list of 206 orphan cars and is not entirely sure that it includes all of the tribe.

One Relief.
"What are you reading there?"
"My life insurance policy, and it gives me a frightful headache."
"Can't tell what it means, eh?"
"No, and my only consolation is that somebody else will have to settle it in the end."—Kansas City Journal.

Different.
"He used to say he loved the ground she walked on."
"Now?"
"Since her father bought a limousine she'd be insulted if he even dared to hint that she ever walked."—Detroit Free Press.

A Model Wife.
Our idea of a model wife is one who keeps her husband from making a fool of himself.—Galveston News.

Preparation is half the battle, and nothing is lost by being on one's guard.—Don Quixote.