

Bad Storms, a Pitching Gunboat Make Training Cruise Interesting For Young Birmingham Reservist

BY JACK DUNN

Even at this late date, almost a week after my return home can give no concrete answer to the frequent query: "Did you have a nice time?" The "time" I had was certainly instructive, and even amusing, to a point, but still can't decide whether my voyage as a Naval Reservist was truly enjoyable or not.

The Ninth and Tenth Divisions left Detroit late in the evening of Saturday, Aug. 18. They took a special train to Chicago, where they arrived the next morning in a dreary drizzle. They were taken to the Naval Armory for their three-block ride, each of four saloons, and to the tune of 50 cents. This was the first, but not the last time that the crew of the U. S. S. Birmingham, victimized by unscrupulous tradesmen who labored under the impression that sailors are always in the money. If they knew how wrong they were they would feel ashamed of themselves.

Four times during that watch I paid tribute to Neptune, and each time I was accompanied by one of the officers on watch. Invariably we arose simultaneously, saluted each other, and the enforced democracy of our fitness was gone with the wind. In spite of the nation we (met that—We) served there is no democracy in the navy. We Recover!

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Fine Old Ships

Arriving at the Naval Armory, we found the Dubuque, our ship, with the Wilmetts, flagship of the U. S. Navy's Great Lakes fleet. This fleet consists of five obsolescent and/or obsolete gunboats, whose active service is past, but whose lives go on training Naval Reservists in areas adjacent to the Great Lakes. The fleet consists of the Dubuque with headquarters at the Wilmetts, the Wilmetts, Flagship, Wilmington, Sacramento, and Paducah. As soon as we had gotten settled aboard the Dubuque, we were permitted to hold a church party, which provided an excellent excuse for sight-seeing, which we did not take up on account of the eternal rain. Since church was within walking distance, we walked rather than trust our pocket-books again to the rapacious saloon men. On our way back to the ship our way was barred by the Fraternal Order of Eagle's pack. Each chapter of that organization had a different, and more beautiful uniform than the last, and the poor gods felt very plain, indeed, in their ordinary whites.

Almost as soon as we cast off, we were conscious of a nasty chop in the waters of Lake Michigan, which soon turned into a full gale. The ship began to pitch violently, and so did the sailors. For the next two days the U. S. S. Dubuque was a shambles. I remained on the boat deck, the main deck was flooded by waves which glistened even the Dubuque's high "clipper" bow, and the lower two decks were a charnel house of violently sick and dying (they hoped) sailors. Thanks to my Sea Scouting, the mad de mer didn't catch up with me at once, and I stood about 24 hours straight, on watch. The cooks were sick, too, however, and even my relatively sturdy stomach rejected their pitiful efforts at making decent food. As a result, I filled up on candy and pop at the canteen, which was the worst thing I could have done, and I should have known better. Anyway, it all came up the next watch.

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Hunting Queen Ready for Season



Regina de Boer, above, 44 this year, is hunting queen for the 1940 hunting season. Here's how she appears in foppy hunting hat.

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Final approval of the North-lawn sewer and water improvement project was given Monday night by the City Commission.

No one was present to protest, although David H. MacAdam had registered opposition previously. Ralph C. Barrow, an early dissenter, withdrew his objection. City Manager D. C. Egbert said Alex Glatly was present this week and laid to give approval.

Because the street fronts the city limit near the Birmingham Golf Club property, all the cost must fall on the property owners on the north. However, a resolution will be passed providing that should the south side ever come into the city and use the improvements, the assessments this area would pay would be refunded to the owners on the other side of the street.

The water will cost an estimated \$4,534.65, which the city share will be \$1,584.64, and the sewer, \$6,986.57, of which the city's share will be \$2,270.39, according to estimates. If WPA labor is used, the total will be less.

Because the Harmon avenue sewer project is still occupying the DPW's attention, it is not likely that the Northlawn project will be started for two months.

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Couple Celebrates 25th Wedded Year

Last Saturday, the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Ira McDonald, as well as the birthday of Mr. McDonald, family, friends and relatives gathered at their home on Ivy Beaver road to fetter the couple. Dinner was served at seven. Out of town guests came from Saginaw, Ionia, Detroit, Pontiac, Highland Park and Royal Oak.

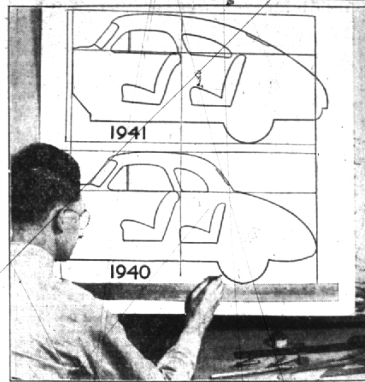
Officers of the ship were the petty officers, and especially the Chief Petty Officers, of whom were highly trained specialists in their separate fields. The "Chiefs" do not wear the gold braid that entitles them to a salute, but they are more highly thought of than most officers. Secure in the knowledge that none of the officers read The Eccentric, I venture to say that only four of them made a favorable enough impression on me to make me remember their names, besides Captain Broadhead and Lieutenant Hamberger, the regular Navy's instructor-observer. They were Lieutenant-Commander Hine, the Executive Officer; Lieutenant-Commander Jacobson, the Navigator; Lieutenant Wagner, our section commander, and Ensign Unsworth, our division's gunnery officer. Ensign Unsworth is the exception that proves the rule that Reserve Ensigns rate with messmen as the lowest form of Naval life. By and large, however, the Chiefs were the losers. As Napoleon put it: "Give me a good sergeant and I will find you a thousand generals."

Food Was Excellent

After the first two days the food was excellent. Only the chronic complainers could find anything to kick about, and eternally hungry as I am, kicking was the last thing in my mind. I gained fifteen pounds in somewhat less than two weeks. There was meat three times a day, and the average dinner included meat, two vegetables, fruit, coffee, bread, butter and extras. They don't starve me at home, either.

I enjoyed the food, I enjoyed the sleep, and the work was doubtless very healthful. Also I made several new friends and a score of new acquaintances. I am learning to take orders with more equanimity than ever before. I am acclimating my country in my spare time. I am glad I have joined the Naval Reserve. I wonder how the Naval Reserve feels about it?

Tear-Drop Styling for '41 Cars



AN ARTIST puts the finishing touches on a drawing designed to show the added room and improved seating arrangement made possible by the aerodynamic form of the "sedan" bodies by Fisher featuring Ford's new models for 1941. Comparison is made in the sketch between the sedan and a 1940 sport coupe. The new "unlisted" turret top body carries out in its most modern form the application of the "tear-drop" design in motor car manufacture.

Gen. Ford Describes Opportunities in Medical Soldiering

Exceptional opportunities for advancement are open to recruits in the Medical Department of the U. S. Regular Army, it was pointed out today by Lt. Gen. Stanley work, Army, minor surgery, 10th Army, and other interesting subjects.

The liberal authorization of non-commissioned officer grades and specialist ratings makes the opportunities for promotion with attendant increases in pay, exceptionally good in the Medical Department," said Gen. Ford. "Approximately one man in every five in the Medical Department is a non-commissioned officer. Privates, first class, account for another 25 per cent of the total strength.

Technical training is provided in dental and medical laboratory aid and other interesting subjects.

Industrial research has made it possible to turn salt into road surfacing materials and also into fertilizer.

Check Furnaces Now, Chief Advises

Defective heating equipment is one of Birmingham's greatest fire causes, according to Fire Chief Vernon W. Griffin. He urges all residents to have their furnaces and equipment checked before the onslaught of cold weather.

Here are some other cold weather pointers:

- Keep ashes from furnaces and fireplaces in metal containers and away from wooden partitions.
- Never put ashes in wooden or cardboard boxes as ashes have been known to hold fire for 72 hours after taken from furnaces and fireplaces.
- Never use kerosene, gasoline or oil to start or quicken fires.
- Keep combustible boxes and papers at least 5 feet from furnace and smoke pipes.
- Never lay paper on wood or paper or hang it on a wooden partition after it has been used on a fire.
- When smoke pipes or chimneys burning out close all doors and draught checks on furnace and stoves.
- Never put smoke pipes through partitions without a metal air bushing space at each end.
- Watch for over-heated furnaces, stoves, and fireplaces an exceptionally cold days.

Model Plane Club Meeting Tonight

The Birmingham Model Aeronautics Club will hold its first meeting of the year at 7:30 tonight at the Community House. Its present members extend a welcome to all local boys in high school and junior high school who wish to attend.

In a meet held last Saturday at Wyandotte, Bob Allen and Bob Wolfston, of the Birmingham group, won high honors. Bob Allen won 1st place in the class B gas model contest. He also ranked 3rd in the class A rating. Bob Wolfston finished 4th in the class B group.

Army Needs 600 Civilian Medical Men

The expansion of the Army creates a need for about 600 civilian medical officers in various grades for temporary and part-time service. The duties of full-time officers will be to act as doctors of medicine in active practice in hospitals, in dispensaries, and in the field. The duty of part-time officers will be to report for sick call at a fixed hour each day and to be subject to emergency call at all times.

Information concerning these positions may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners at any of its second-class post offices, or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C. If you are urged to apply at once.

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*According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, a super motor which travels with a series of explosions like the shock waves of a great projectile is called a "FIREBALL."



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