



The HELMSMAN



Vol. 2, No. 3

USS CANOPUS AS-34

MAY 1966

New CPOs Initiated

On 23 April fourteen boot chiefs were initiated into the distinguished rate of Chief Petty Officer. They are R. M. Beach, SKC; L. A. Cavarretta, CSC; G. J. Drury, SKC; M. A. Frechette, BMC; G. R. Fuller, SFC; W. A. Grant, SFC; C. R. Martin, CSC; E. B. Ryder, ENC; D. R. Runyon, MMC; R. L. Smith, ENC; J. A. Snead, Jr, SFC; R. E. Sullivan, SFC; A. R. Winnett, SFC; and J. Williams, CSC.



The boot chiefs were carried by bus to the base CPO club at 1330, carrying out written orders issued by Captain Barrett. Upon arrival they quickly changed into the uniform prescribed by their department chiefs. Needless to say, they looked like anything but chief petty officers.

The festive proceedings were gavelled to order by the honorable Judge, Chief Snow. Members of the honorable Jury were Senior Chiefs Bailey and Smallwood, and Chief Lloyd. The honorable Sheriff, Chief Casart, and his deputy, Chief Anglin, preserved public decorum.

The Commanding Officer headed the list of invited guests. They all were

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Mermaid Visits Canopus

NorVa....(CANOPUS NEWS)...

Miss Diahn Williams, television model and screen star, visited the CANOPUS on 25 April during her East Coast sales promotional publicity tour.

The young starlette not only ate dinner with the crew and took a tour of the ship, but posed for the crew as the Groom and Clean mermaid. The crew was very enthusiastic, and cameras flashed and whirred for over an hour. Several of the men had the fortunate experience of posing with her for momentous pictures.

After the shapely 36-22-35 redhead had eaten a main course of rabbit in the crew's mess, she toured the ship, and was more than surprised at the size of it. She commented that the ship's decor was "lovely" and "cute" in such areas as the Letter Writing Room, the Ladies' Powder Room, and the general mess.

While touring the ship, returning to the main deck after seeing the Pilot house, Lt. Surprenant demonstrated the "proper" way to slide down the ladders. To the mermaid it looked like fun, she had to try. "Oh, I want to do it!" she cried. And she did...just like an ol' Salt!

Diahn, who graduated from the University of Miami, at the age of 19, has been self-supporting since the age of 16. She has won over 28 beauty contests, but sold most of the prizes that she received. "After all," she said, "no one can wear 17 wrist watches!"

Upon making a valedictory speech at the U. Of M., she took off for New with high hopes for a career modeling. She applied for a job with Eileen Ford, the world's number one modeling



Starlette Diahn Williams at the helm.

agency, but was turned down. She was too fat. But over the following weekend, she caught a case of ptomaine poisoning and lost 12 pounds.

On the following morning, she again applied at the same agency, and was promptly accepted. After this start, she became one of the most sought after models in the business. She has modeled in such magazines as MADEMOISELLE, VOGUE, and GLAMOUR.

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COMMAND COLUMN

Capt. John M. Barrett



As most everyone is aware, CANOPUS is undergoing a series of inspections to determine our readiness and capability both to operate and run the ship efficiently and safely and to repair and maintain Polaris submarines. We continue to meet the requirements of these inspections in a timely manner that is adding to our reputation as a smart efficient crew. I would like to take this opportunity to report in more detail what has transpired and what is ahead of us.

During the last week of our Post Shakedown Availability at Charleston Naval Shipyard two inspections in two very important areas were conducted. Both of these were preliminary assists by Commander Submarine Squadron Eighteen and Commander Submarine Flotilla Six to examine our preparedness to meet the requirements of final inspections to be conducted by Admiral Rickover's staff and COMSUBLANT's staff in May.

The first of these was a preliminary Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection (NWA) for which we must be certified before we can handle the nuclear weapons used with our Polaris missiles and MK 45 torpedoes. The Weapons Repair Department had worked hard and long to prepare for this inspection and did a fine job. In my estimation and in that of the inspecting group we have the momentum in training and detailed administration necessary to meet the exacting requirements of the Final NWA scheduled for 24-27 May. I have every confidence that we will gain our certification at that time. The second inspection was

conducted to determine the readiness of our Radiological Control Division to meet the requirements of their final inspection in May. It was the opinion of the Flotilla Board that we have an excellent group who should do very well in their 17 May inspection.

Upon departing Charleston we commenced a four day inspection by the Board of Inspection and Survey to determine the major deficiencies that must be corrected before CANOPUS can be accepted for restricted service and to identify all the minor deficiencies that must be corrected before the ship is accepted for unrestricted service (one year from date of INSURV Trails). Although the Board reported only two major items to be corrected before we start refitting Polaris submarines I believe there are seven and intend to see that they are corrected prior to 24 June.

As I write this column we are undergoing an inspection of our Supply Department by COMSUBLANT which I anticipate will result in a high evaluation. The last major inspection required is the Arrival Administrative Inspection scheduled for 4-6 May as soon as we return to Charleston. This is an important inspection because it will be the first time that our operating boss (COMSUBRON Eighteen) and his staff will conduct an official evaluation of our capability to run a smart, efficient ship and to refit submarines. For this inspection I would like to stress cleanliness and appearance of the ship and each individual both throughout the inspection and for the personnel inspection on the final day. Preparation for this inspection will be our principal effort between now and then.

Insofar as our schedule is concerned all are aware that we are working on submarines of Squadron Six with our primary effort on SCORPION (SSN 589) and REDFIN (SS 272). The Repair Department is getting its first organized work-out and is doing its expected fine job. CANOPUS will depart Norfolk at dawn on Monday, 2 May to arrive in Charleston late on 3 May after conducting approximately four hours of antenna trials just prior to Pier Lima at the Naval Station. Between then and late June we will be involved in a major effort to load submarine spare parts and equipment, conducting the aforementioned inspections and generally preparing our

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CROSS - currents

By Chaplain Bey G. Grunder

Honesty is a virtue always in great demand and short supply. Most marital problems that separate husbands and wives could be resolved by pure honesty on both sides. Honesty in self-evaluation is the start of a satisfying life. Few men stop their skating, drifting, and cheating long enough to honestly seek answers to questions like: "Who am I?", "What am I doing here?" and "Where am I going?" In the providence of our Creator, those who honestly seek - honestly find.

Honesty always passes inspection. Dishonesty, despite temporary

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The Helmsman

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And God's is the hand that guides our ship as it sails the vastness of indigo blue.

His is the hand that holds our lives and determines the fate of me and you.

If He would wish the Tempest to rage and tear apart our ship, He need but ask and so shall it be: our vessel of steel would sink beneath (ot the depths of the dark cold sea.

We men of ships are aware in our hearts what infinitesimal creatures we be.

We are closer to God, as we feel His strength, and are aware of the smallness of our own.

W. Benson, S-1 Division

(Cont'd from page 2)

Dishonesty is like the Butcher who had a lady customer for a chicken. The only chicken he had wasn't large enough, so she asked him for a larger one. He shuffled around, put the same chicken back on the scales and added an extra pound with his thumb.

"This one large enough, lady?" he asked.

"Oh, that's fine," she said, "I'll take both of them!"...Life is like that.

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selves for the move to the Cooper River site in late June.

In my last column I stated that the dependents' cruise would be on 1 May. This has been changed to 10 June because I am visiting our final deployment site from 8-12 May in an attempt to obtain a favorable ruling on some of the housing and entry approval requirements.

In closing I would like to comment on safety and the need for all hands to 'think safety'. Again I am pleased to report that we have had no traffic fatalities or serious injuries during the past month. Don't YOU be the next one. We did have a serious injury to one of our Deck Department men caused by the lack of elementary safety precautions and I continue to observe unsafe practices as I travel around the ship. Good health is, unfortunately, never appreciated until it is lost and accidents don't always happen to the other guy.



Diahn dines with the CANOPUS crew

(Cont'd from page 1)

Her stage career consists of making such films as THE ROARING TWENTIES, THE FLOWER DRUM SONG, FIORELLO, STUDENT PRINCE, and the part of a reporter in DAMN YANKEES.

Her television career consists of the series, HARRY'S GIRLS, which involved some six months of filming in France. While in France, she made the movie, CHAIR de POULE. Soon after she appeared on the TONIGHT SHOW, and has made appearances over 20 times with J. Carson.

(Cont'd from page 1)

promptly fined two dollars for failing to wear CPO collar devices. The C. O. objected strenuously and was fined two additional dollars for contempt of the honorable Court.

The initiation commenced with fair and unbiased judgment of innumerable crimes committed by the boot chiefs. Unfortunately, none were able to prove their innocence and they were found guilty. Fair and unbiased punishment was swiftly meted out.

After ensuring that the Court was officially adjourned, the Captain said a few words to his chiefs, both old and new. Food and refreshments followed as the new chief petty officers accepted congratulations from all present.

WHAT IS A SAILOR?

After the security of childhood, and the insecurity of a second childhood, we find a good male called a "Sailor".



Sailors come in assorted sizes and states of sobriety. They are found everywhere. In ship's, in bars, on leave, in love and in debt. Girls love them, mothers tolerate them, and the U.S. supports them.

A Sailor is a Composite: He has the energy of a turtle, the slyness of a fox, the brains of an idiot, the stories of a sea captain, the appetite of an elephant, and the asperation of a cassinove, and when he wants something it's usually a week-end pass.

He likes girls, females, and the opposite sex. He dislikes answering letters, wearing his uniform, superior officers, the food in the Navy and getting up on time.

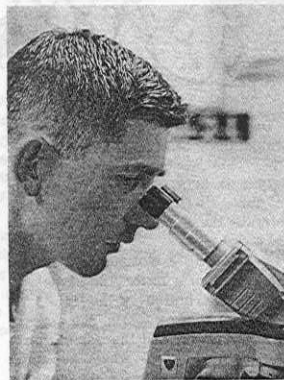
No one else gets so much fun from letters, civilian clothes, and sex magazines. Nobody else could write so little and think about so much.

Nobody excepting a Sailor can get into one pocket: a little black book, a Marilyn Monroe calendar, a letter from Dad, a deck of cards, a pair of dice, and what's left of last months pay.

A Sailor is a magical creature-You can lock him out of your heart, and take him off your mailing list-but, you can't keep him out of your mind.

Might as well give up...He's your "Long-Distance" Lover, "Your one and only", bright eyes, sweetie-pie, and a "good-for-nothing bundle of worry".

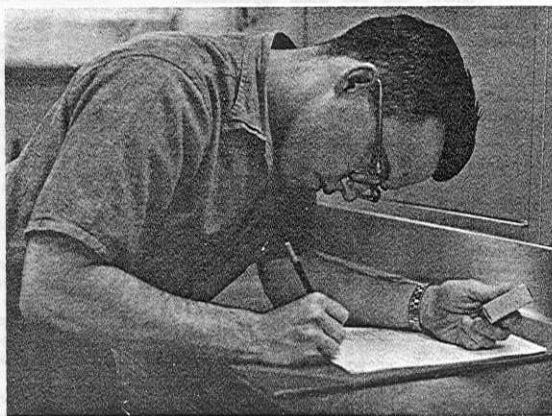
But all your shattered dreams come to end when he comes home with these two magical words....HI HONEY!



HM1 Fusco is checking blood sample through a microscope.



HM2 Shirley is removing the cast from the broken foot of HM2 Houseman.



HM2 Ostrander, the ship's pharmacist, checks the potency of drugs.

Shop of the Med

The Medical Department of the CANOPUS is a self-functioning medical Unit which is capable of treating all serious injuries and illnesses that arise to the occasion. It is staffed by two medical officers, and 11 Hospital Corpsmen who are highly skilled technicians trained in various fields of medicine.

The department consists of the following divisions: the pharmacy which compounds and dispenses of all drugs; a laboratory for testing blood specimens, and making urinary and bacteriological tests; and a X-Ray unit for making routine and special examinations.

A few of the facilities include the Treatment Room, Diet Kitchen, a 42-bed ward, Surgery Room, a Health Records Office, along with the Medical Supply Office.

The Treatment Room is a most familiar sight to CANOPUS per-

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT



the Month

ical

sonnel. An average of 30 patients are treated daily. Cases range from the "regular" customers, who get treated with the Navy's "cure-all" APC's, to emergency conditions such as broken bones, shock, cuts, and surgery.

Corpsmen not only take care of the normal duties of the department, but are always on the scene to take care of any emergency that takes place throughout the ship which might endanger the lives of the crew. Such conditions find the corpsman on duty with either one of the ships two Battle Dressing Stations or actually on the scene with the Fire or Collision Party.

Aside from the ship's own duties, the corpsman finds himself tending the needs of the submariners that are a part of the operating squadron. Thus, adding to their practical experiences a most valuable foundation to their education in the medical field.



Ship's doctors, Feliberty and Lowry discussing the day's work



HM2 Houseman, checking routine temperatures during sick call

MENT PERSONNEL



HM3 Velaque, has the responsibility of maintaining the health records

THE CANOPUS STORY

All reserves were drawn in for the supreme effort, and every remaining tank was thrown into the breach. Even the beaches were left unguarded in order to provide all possible reinforcements, but the task proved too great for the weakened troops. On 8 April came the news that Army forces of the eastern flank were retreating toward Mariveles harbor, destroying stores and ammunition dumps in the path of the victorious Japanese.

All hope of holding Bataan was gone, leaving us with the grim duty of destroying everything that might be of value to the Nipponese. Early in the day, the Commandant had told us that no Army or Navy forces would be evacuated to Corregidor, since that island was already overcrowded. However, at 2230 that night, he telephoned that General Wainwright had decided to accept on the island one Scout regiment and the Naval Forces at Mariveles. These fevered units were to augment the beach defenses of Corregidor, thus continuing the fight from a new set of fox holes. Unfortunately, it later developed that very few of the scouts were able to reach an embarkation point for Corregidor before the Japs cut them off.

EVACUATION BEGINS

Evacuation of the Navy forces had to be completed before dawn brought over more swarms of bombers or an advance guard of Jap tanks. Without defenses and shelters which were being destroyed, the sailors would be helpless. That wild and horrible, yet weirdly beautiful night must be imprinted forever in the memories of all who lived through its spectacular fury. For miles back on the slopes of the mountain, burning Army ammunition dumps lighted the sky with showers of rocket-like streamers, while the ground shook with heavy detonations of exploding ammunition. A severe earthquake shock felt on Corregidor was not even noticed on Bataan, which was continually vibrating with man-made earthquakes.

Roads were choked with retreating troops, often stopped for hours waiting for a dangerously near ammunition

dump to burn itself out. Around the shores of Mariveles Bay, Navy men blew up the Dewey floating drydock, which had served the Asiatic fleet for so many years, and scuttled the ships which had no part to play in defending Corregidor. The CANOPUS seemed reluctant to go, but her crew still take pride in the fact that the Japs were unable to knock her out—and she was able to back out under her own power to deep water...there she was laid to her final rest by the sailors she had served so faithfully.

As soon as the tunnels were cleared of useful supplies, their entrances were blown in by dynamite charges to prevent the Japs from using them or the equipment left behind. Just before dawn all boats had finally been loaded and the little fleet started off for Corregidor.

The last week in March brought to an end our suspicions that the Japs were committed to a starving-out policy. No doubt they would have "lost face" if they had to concede that they could only win by such waiting tactics. At any rate, a heavy and sustained offensive suddenly broke against our weary and undernourished troops.

Supplies and equipment had evidently been stocked at captured air fields, so they could now be used as bases for sustained offensive operations. It was only about a fifteen minute trip by bomber from these fields to Bataan or Corregidor, which made it possible for the Japs to keep the air filled with planes throughout the day and night. For the first time during the siege, they experimented with night "nuisance raids". The planes came in either singly or in pairs. Their pilots were usually blinded by Army searchlights so that their bombing was inaccurate, and effective only in breaking up the rest of our weary defenders.

Constant day attacks, however, took a more substantial toll. Much of the Navy's oil supplies, scattered in small caches in the underbrush around Mariveles harbor, and was touched off by searching bombs. Exposed waterpipes, telephone and power lines had to be repaired daily to maintain services. Few

of the temporary buildings, set up to provide shelter during the approaching rainy season, were untouched. Word was gotten to the Japs that CANOPUS was still an effective unit, resulting in four more attempts to destroy her, but without success.

HOSPITALS BOMBED

Corregidor, the air fields, the front lines, and supply dumps in the hills—all came in for constant harassing attacks. Even the plainly marked and defenseless hospitals were viciously bombed. The difficulties confronting any attempt to maintain supplies to the front lines can well be imagined.

With enemy planes hovering constantly overhead, the artillery, which had been a major factor in stopping previous attacks, was unable to keep up any effective fire. Showers of bombs would crash around any emplacement when its position was disclosed by the smoke and blast of discharge.

It was scarcely a surprise when we heard reports on 6 April that the front lines were in serious trouble. Under a terrific artillery barrage, the Philippine Army troops in the center of the line had given away, and exposed the crest of Mariveles mountain to capture. Now indeed our artillery was blind, having lost the elevated observation posts which were their only means of directing the fire of their guns. Unless the lost positions could be recaptured, the whole peninsula would be exposed to Jap artillery fire.

BATAAN ESCAPE CASUALTIES

The last three boats, loaded with weary CANOPUS men, had just left the dock when the tortured earth struck back at them. The whole hillside seemed to erupt in a tremendous burst of orange flame, hurling huge boulders half a mile out into the bay, lashing the calm waters into stomy, frothing waves. Evidently, gasoline drums stored in one of the tunnels had been broken open when the entrance was dynamited, and fumes in the coked up passage had built up a gigantic charge.

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Darf's Sports

New and exciting interest is being built up every week in what is turning out to be an outstanding bowling league. The season has reached the end of the first quarter mark with Weapons taking top honors. Thus far in competition Weapons' teams have dominated three out of the top four spots in the standings.

A team that should go a long way in the remaining time is "X" Div. The fifth week of results put this team in the 16th. place, but if you notice the team's potentialities... Walt Herrick leads the team and the league with a 179 average. Behind Walt's record, comes "Big" Moose Amos, with a 'mere' 169, followed by Butch Johnson who has a 164 average. League-wise, the "X" men rank from the top to the seventh in league averages.

If these men can keep up averages like this, the team is almost assured of being one of the top five at the end of the season.

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Our three boats were squarely in the path of that deluge of destruction. Two of them were struck by massive boulders, one of them sinking instantly under an impact which sheared off the whole stem, leaving its three occupants struggling in the seething water. Fortunately they were not hurt, and were soon rescued by shipmates in the undamaged boat. The injured boat did not sink, but boulders crashing down through its canopy had killed an officer and three men. Nine other men had been wounded by the rain of heavy rocks. However, the battered boat was still able to run, so the interrupted voyage to Corregidor was resumed. Solicitous shipmates eased the suffering of the wounded as best they could, but medical aid had to wait until arrival at the "Rock" more than an hour later.

Ed. Note: The CANOPUS STORY was written by her former commanding officer, E. L. Sackett, now retired as Rear Admiral, United States Navy. The story will climax with the next edition of The Helmsman.

Sports SCENE HEARD



Seaman Darfler swings at a fast ball thrown by Peeks, SM2, as the CANOPUS Varsity softball team begins practice.

4th Week of Action

Three out of the first five place teams took four points from their opponents. Weapons division has possession of the top three places in the league standings. In first place after taking four from R-T, is W-5 which holds a perfect record of 16-0. Dropping from first to second place was W-4a, after losing two to S-5, for a record of 14-2. The W-2 team changed their name to the "Coyote's Pack", and howled up four points from R-1 for a record of 14-2.

The S-4 team gave the "leftovers" a 'hangover', after winning four to bring their record to 12-4, as they held on to fifth place.

Sliding by the "Greasers" with four, S-3 raised their record to 8-4, to show up in the top five contenders.

5th Week

'COYOTES' IN FIRST

After the fifth week of see-sawing for the first place, we find the Coyote Pack in the lead. The 'Pack' took four from S-4 and moved into first place. W-5 dropped from first to second by losing three points to R-1. Ops climbed from sixth to third place by walloping W-4a. Club 525 moved up into the top five this week by winning three out of four from the Chippers.

6th Week

SIX TEAMS HELD FIRST

Six weeks of bowling has past, and six different teams have held first place.

This will give you some idea of the competition the CANOPUS bowling league.

"X" Division's W. Herrick has high average in the league at 175. M. Amos also of "X" division has high series scratch with a 620. High series with a handicap is held by Soto-Millian of S-3 with a 656. High game scratch is held by L. Cavarretta at 244. High game with handicap is J. Lassiter at 269. W-4a has high scratch with 877, and high scratch series with 2511. High series handicap is held by Ops with 2941.

QUIZ

(AFPS Feature)

- How many one-hit games did Bob Feller pitch during his major league career?
- Who was the National League "Rookie of the Year" in 1964?

ANSWERS

1. Twelve.
2. Third-baseman Richie Allen of the Philadelphia Phillies.

