

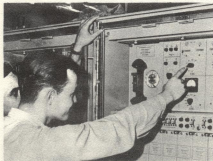
Why men leave the Navy

purpose. It is held together, not by group identification with a cause, but by force. The crowd called the Navy is a collection of individuals, not of people dedicated to a common cause. There is widespread dissent about the entire concept of the military, and the means by which a person is expected to perform in the system.

According to G. Le Bon in his work, "Psychologie des foules", (translation: "The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind", London, 1920), "...a 'group' is an obedient herd which could never live without a master. It has such a thirst for obedience that it submits instinctively to anyone who appoints himself its master."

Freud, in his book, "Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego", noted that although the group needs and desires to be led, the prospective leader must be able to make his personal qualities mesh with the group. In analyzing a leader, Freud wrote, "He must himself be held in fascination by a strong faith (in an idea) in order to awaken the group's faith; he must possess a strong and imposing will, which the group...can accept from him."

Phones working again



Lieutenant Henry E. Sutter, Benn's Electrical Officer, puts Bennington's phone service in commission on March 20 while ENCM Jack J. Carter watches. The phone service had been out of commission since the first of the year to completely modernize the central station. This is the first time aboard Benn the central station had been updated.

MOTIVATION: FORCE

The Navy is a captive crowd. The principle of force is the primary motivating factor behind a Navyman's actions. There is no common identity with a cause, and leadership is lacking. If he does not perform as expected the man then is placed on report and punished, making the incentive to work negative instead of positive.

There is internal dissent in the military system, making a common identity with a supposedly common cause nearly impossible to achieve. Consequently, a man who holds a strong, almost fanatical, belief in the military will not be able to lead the dissident crowd without alienating most of those who do not subscribe to his beliefs. As a result, men who could adjust to life in the military system become disgusted with the leadership method and opt for the civilian world.

Today's American youth is becoming more and more aware of the world as it actually is, as opposed to what they have always been told it is--or what it appears to be. It has become exceedingly difficult for young Americans to hold an almost fanatical belief in any social system, or protectorate thereof. As a result, the Navy's propaganda-like attempt to identify military service as a patriotic religion falls on its face. The attempt is superficial and cannot stand up to logical examination. In order, then, to help make the idea of Naval service appealing to a prospective Navyman, the Navy must attempt to establish an identity of being a goal in itself; i.e., an occupation, and give up the flimsy God and country concept.

If and when the Navy finally comes to regard itself as a place of systemized daily work, then the concept of leadership probably will become more economically oriented. The dedicated Navyman may not like the proposed change of leadership emphasis, but the change seems to be desirable in view of the Navy's staggering retention problem.

LIVING CONDITIONS

The Navy has been aware that personal satisfaction with one's environment is a prerequisite for happiness. The Navy is making great strides in replacing ancient

Continued on page 5