



Chief Garris of Radio One at the Supervisor's Desk

COMMUNICATIONS DEPT.—No. 6 of a Series . . .

It takes a lot of trained and experienced personnel to man the Communications Department aboard a first-line combatant carrier operating in a fast carrier task force. It has been said often that "war is an affair of getting news, interpreting and acting upon it." This has been repeated so often that to communicators it has become a bromide but it is still as basically true as the day it originated. The vastness, scope and complexity of the Pacific war has proved this time and time again. Reliable, secure and rapid communications are a prime requisite in modern warfare.

Under Commander Rhodin, the BENNINGTON'S Communication Officers, are the officers and men of the sub-divisions necessary for the rapid dissemination of vital information, which may be received or transmitted in any channel from routine correspondence to the most complicated code.

K-1 is the radio division. The radio officer and the K-1 division officer are responsible for all the radio spaces, personnel, equipment and maintenance. They are responsible for the rapid handling of all radio communications, arrange for the guarding of all required frequencies, see that transmitters and receivers are kept in adjustment, keep circuit logs and files and be experts in radio procedure. The ship's daily press news is copied by the radio gang and every row and then a comic or crossword puzzle is thrown in by the Chaplain, who edits it. The daily press news is mimeographed each day and delivered to the crew before breakfast. Lieut. Johnson is K-1 division officer and Radio Electrician Leavy is radio officer. Chief Radiomen Garris, Brandin and Hagle are duty chiefs and Poggan is chief radio technician.

K-2 is the signal division. The signal officer and signalmen are responsible for all visual communications and must be proficient in procedure and operation of the different visual signal devices. Flag hoist is one of the most important methods of visual signaling and to understand it thoroughly they must be familiar with the tactical movements of ships in formations, changes of course, lines of relative bearing and types of routine reports to the flagship. And because voice radio circuits have been used so widely for tactical orders the signal personnel must be familiar with voice radio procedure. Lieut. Tolleson is the signal officer, and Lieut. Moore and Lieut. (jg) Ferguson rotate with him on bridge as signal officer and act as bridge communication supervisors. Chief signalman on the signal bridge is Brooks.

The department has charge of most of the yeoman complement on the ship. Under Ship's Secretary Lieut. Goodman, who also stands OOG watches, and Ship's Clerk Whitney the yeomen take care of all the ship's correspondence, files and routing. These officers are also responsible for the care and custody of secret matter. They have charge of the operation and personnel of the ship's print shop and post office and the mailmen and printers are part of K-3 division. Lieut. Lecky is K-3 division officer. Chief Scribes and Chief Thorne are in the Executive Officer's office, and Chief Webster in the Captain's office. Chief White, also of K-3, has charge of press material.

The Communication Office is the dispersal center for incoming traffic and the collecting center for outgoing dispatch traffic of any nature. The CMO is in charge of the Communication Office and Coding Board. Lieut. Hill, Assistant