

# STAND by your BAGS, FLAGS

An Article About OS Division by ME. Butler QM2

## "Stand by your bags, flags"

Nearly everyone about the island has heard some signalman shout this familiar phrase. It means stand by to hoist one of the many displays of flags that are commonly seen flying at the yard-arm.

The signal gang's main job is visual communications, sending and receiving by flags and lights. The way the messages and hoists are sent distinguishes a sharp signal gang from a poor one.

It has been five years since the Navy abolished the rate of Signalman and took away our crossed flags insignia. They put us in with the navigators in the rate of Quartermaster. That meant a change for both the skivvy wavers and the buoy plotters, for now they each have to learn the other's trade in addition to their own.

Ens. E. L. Wolf and Ens. J. F. Regan are the officers in charge of O-S Division. Senior QM of the Division is Chief Smid. He, Chief J. L. Proctor and First Class Ozzie Cunningham supervise the signal bridge and make sure it runs efficiently.

Other members of our gang include three Second Class, four Thirds and a good bunch of qualified Seamen.

Signalmen have few billets on the beach and are mainly a sea-going rate. Being part of the deck divisions, too, they take pride in their good seamanship and their fancy-work throughout the Bridge. They are traditionally the lookouts for the ship, keeping an eye on everything from the far-flung horizons to the vastness of the heavens, from ships and aircraft to flying saucers.

With the modern Fleet of today, some people believe that radio and radar have taken our job away. But as long as there are



Flagmasters gather for joe in the signal shack. Clockwise, l. to r.: Chief Proctor, Warner, Butler, Hill, Kleinhomer, Cunningham, Hannon, Minneck, Sullivan and Gardiner.

tactical maneuvers, messages to be sent, radio silence to be observed and identification through recognition signals, the flagmasters are here to stay.



"I wish that laundry would quit mixing up V-4's stuff with ours."

## Chief, Sons on Ship

Three members of a Navy family are on the ship. Carl S. Bragg, BTC, and two of his stepsons, Malcolm and Douglas Fowler, are all members of the crew. The older of the two brothers, Malcolm is a Seaman and works in the Laundry. A Fireman, Douglas works in Fire Room 3.

The Chief and Malcolm came to the same ship by coincidence. They received their orders early last fall, Chief Bragg in Salem, Mass., where he was on recruiting duty, Malcolm at NAS, Lakehurst, where he worked in the Main Supply Office. Douglas was in boot camp at Bainbridge at the time. When he heard that the other two were coming to the ship, he requested it also and came aboard at Quonset Point.

The three will probably be together for the rest of the summer, but Malcolm Fowler will be leaving the Navy in the fall. He had planned to be married in October, but has moved the wedding date to June so that the entire family will be able to attend the ceremony.



Douglas (left) and Malcolm Fowler

## NAVY RELIEF DRIVE OPENS; FUNDS BENEFIT MEN ON SHIP

In emergencies, any Navy man or Marine can look to Navy Relief for help. Usually this assistance is in the form of money, either loans or outright grants.

This is not charity from the outside; the funds come from Navy men throughout the world. On this ship, Navy Relief has worked quietly, but it has been important. In Quonset Point, for example, approximately two hundred dollars were loaned from its emergency fund.

You will be asked to give to Navy Relief this week. Give generously. It helps you.