

THE RANKIN FILE

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



FOR THE OFFICERS
AND
BLUEJACKETS

Of The

U.S.S. RANKIN

(AKA 103)



SPONSORED BY

The Recreation And
Welfare Dept.

VOL. I. NO. I

AT SEA

22 APRIL 1945



NOTICE

Draw Your
Lawnmower
from the 1st.
Lieutenant's
Office.

EDITORIAL

Men of the Rankin - Greetings! -- Aloha! After 4 weeks of painful pregnancy, the baby is born, "THE RANK'N FILE" is on the newstand at last!

It took a long time to get started, but no wonder! First we needed a name, not any name, but the best name possible. Well, we had a contest, remember? "The name of the winner ----- will be announced tomorrow." Ouch! As soon as we paid off Fuqua, off he went. Rounding up the staff was another major problem. Getting ten or fifteen newspaper men together is tougher than getting some of the Chiefs back from liberty on time. As a matter-of-fact, two of our star reporters are still missing.

A number of us had different ideas on just what the paper should be like. One reporter suggested publishing an issue twice every year - regularly. Another wanted "Terry and the Pirates" or else! Still a third thought it would be helpful to print a small-sized pocket edition that could be conveniently carried around and read on watch. However, there were a few things that we all agreed to, and so, in true literary style, we set them down herein and proclaim to all hands that by these firm principles shall we be guided.

1. "The Rank'n File" is for YOU and YOUR pleasure.
2. We'll try to bring you the things you want most. (Sorry--no beer to-day!)
3. If possible ---- we'll have some clean fun and good humor - special features - educational and sport items - all in their proper proportion. If not ---- we'll have Rope Yarn Sunday!
4. We shall try to be an instrument of good on board the ship. Your suggestions are always welcome. Address all mail to "The Rank'n File" and post it suggestion box in mess hall.

If you enjoy the paper ---- tell the Executive Officer. We are all striking for "Newsboy 3/c."

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O'NEAL, J. A.	S1c
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LUELLER, C.	S2c
SQUIRE, L.	St3c



Thus far, the Ramblin Rankin has visited some very interesting ports: Charleston, South Carolina is an old, historically important American city; Norfolk, Virginia is probably the biggest and busiest naval activity on the Eastern seaboard; "Frisco" and its majestic bridges are known the world over - (The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is the longest suspension bridge in the world - being a total length of 43,500 feet or eight and one quarter miles.) And let's not forget that one night stand in Panama - Ah! Tropical Panama - sight of the amazing Canal - home of the "Blue Mooners" and Parakeets - land of the sweet papayas - Brother - What papayas!!!

Our next port of call is famous for its scenic beauty, majestic volcanoes and unusual plant life. -- This is the city of Hilo, on the Island of Hawaii, located on the east coast of the largest island of the Hawaiian group. Hilo, about 175 miles from Honolulu, is the second largest city in the Territory of Hawaii, the population being about 23,000. - In peace time it was a port of entry for tourists visiting the volcanoes and the numerous other points of interest on the island. From the docks the distance to town is about two miles. Transportation is available to the city.

The chief things to see are not in the town itself, but are located about the island. In former years, for a dollar per man, you could hire a car to take you to the top of Mauna Loa, the largest active, non-explosive volcano in the world. It is a beautiful trip. There can be seen the rare sandalwood forest; the Thurston lava tubes through which lava once flowed down to the sea; the Kau desert; the ruins at Hoopuloa; the active volcano Mauna Kea, the top of which is 13,784 feet above sea; the crater of Kilauea which is two miles wide and located on Mauna Loa; the rare plants which grow only near volcanoes; the famous Volcano House near which was and still is a Navy rest camp; and last but not least the crater of the largest active volcano of the non-explosive type in the world. It is possible to walk to the rim of the crater of Mauna Loa, and Kilauea where you can look into the interior of the vent. Neither of these volcanoes are explosive as is the great crater of Vesuvius in Southern Italy.

Do not fail to see these places if it is at all possible. This trip in civilian life would cost a small fortune.

YOUR HEALTH



Hilo, Hawaii, is one of the four "plague" ports of the world, where the nearly extinct disease, Bubonic plague, still exists.

During the Middle Centuries, over one-fourth of the entire population of Europe was destroyed by this dread disease, then known as the "Black Death." Whole cities were wiped out, and the few remaining stragglers would migrate to the next town, carrying the disease with them, in that way spreading it throughout England and the continent.

Long years of study proved that the disease was spread from rats to human beings by the bite of a rat-flea. When a rat dies of the disease, his fleas seek a new victim. Though not by choice, oft times of necessity, this victim is a human being, the flea apparently preferring the latter to a dead rat. Two to ten days after a person is bitten there develop chills, fever, painful glands, vomiting, and skin hemorrhages. There is no very good cure for the disease, thirty to seventy per cent of all cases being fatal. The disease has been controlled mostly by exterminating rats.

There is very little left in the world, but scattered cases still exist in some seaport towns, as Hilo. Here ships must take extraordinary precautions to prevent rats from getting aboard.

Personnel would do well to stay away from all domestic animals as dogs, birds, etc. in these towns because occasionally they harbor the flea. It should be scarcely necessary to add that teasing, playing with, or otherwise handling rats, especially the large black rat (Rattus Norvegicus) should be carefully avoided.

To calm all fears that may have crept into your mind while reading this article, the possibility of contracting the disease ashore is extremely slight.

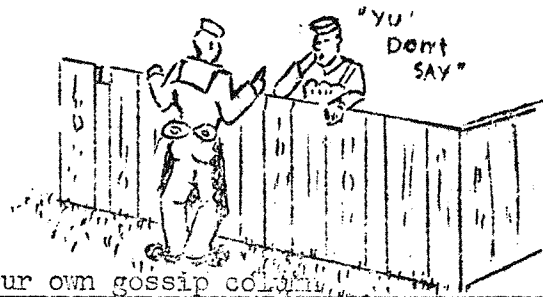
Sports Flash

ATTENTION ALL SOFTBALL PLAYERS

A softball league under the supervision of Lt.(jg) Worthington, former star outfielder with the Cincinnati Reds (and All-Fanhandle 3rd Baseman - 1918) is being organized. One team from each division will be permitted entry into the league. If your division is to small-draw on some larger group. Names must be submitted to the P.O. of your division together with the teams prospective starting lineup. Entries should be submitted to Lt. Worthington as quickly as possible. Officers and Chiefs will play with their respective divisions.

A tournament will get underway immediately. First game is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 24 April, 1400, at Yankee Field, Hilo, Hawaii.

RAMBLIN' The RAMBLIN'



Our own gossip column

Wonders never cease -- Coxwain Barber - better known as "Old Man" just returned from a five day leave spent at his ranch in Utah. It isn't so unusual for a man to go on a five day leave - but the thing that amazed us was that "Old Man" came back when the five days were up. -- P. B. O'Neal would like to be excused from drills in the morning. His G. Q. station is in the forward crow's nest and he says it beats hell out of him running up there, putting on the phones, saying "Manned and ready", running down to Abandon Ship Drill then running back up to the crow's nest just to report "Manned and ready". -- Parker GM1/c is now the leading F.O. in "O" Division since Chief Richards' transfer. With six kids of his own -- he looks like a pretty good gunner to us. -- Incidentally - does anybody know just how many Chiefs we have right now? It's tough keeping track. -- Lykins GM2/c, just off the battlewagon U.S.S. Washington is such a quiet guy, you'd never know he's been out here before pushing the Japs all over the Pacific. -- Between Strobel S1/c(GM) and Stoppel FC3/c "O" Division Officers are getting a wee bit tongue-tied. -- The tailoring training that Burnett, S2/c, got up at Newport is a great big help down in the spud locker. Ever notice the fancy stitching on those French Fries? -- Definition of the Rankin Tailor - The Little Man Who's Never There." -- Overheard in L.C. #1 - "Has anybody seen my locker? -- First prize in weeks popularity contest to C.M.A.A. Kline for being all-around jolly good fellow - "Which Nobody Can Deny." -- Chief Bowling says - "I like Rum, Women and Terbaccy when I go ashore." At your age too! Don't forget Chief - you have a date with Kline on the fantail once a day. -- We asked the Skipper what he thinks of sea duty. Said he - "In many cases it may be very interesting." How many cases Captain? -- We asked Reid S2/c the same - says he "It's OK if you don't

stand watches -- get plenty of good chow -- and a little beer." - In other words "Give Me Land-Lots of Land." Good to see that the Skipper and Reid are in complete accord. -- Reporter (on a rough day) "Will there ever be a day when the small boats, the Bosn's locker and things in general, will be squared away?" Bos'n Keihn "Not if we keep shovelling the ____ against the tide like we are today." It ain't the Kings English but you get the idea - don't you? -- The great Gaston Baggerly (no abbreviations please!) usta sing "My Hair Is Getting Shorter All the Time" -- now he sings "Time Will Tell." -- Daily thrill for all hands "The General Alarm WILL be sounded" -- You had us worried there for a minute, Mr. Tepper! -- Fritz Guerre Fl/c and Bob DeCesare S2/c had two dates apiece one fine night in Frisco. They liked the second pair best tho -- because both gals had such beautiful "pleading" eyes. Just how much pleading did they have to do boys?? -- Hasselbarth, Kahle, Goettler and a number of the other "I" Division stalwarts took such an enjoyable trip to "Playland" that they really turned to when they returned aboard. -- Sharp QM3/c is a one man -- four hour Master - of Ceremonies every time he stands a watch in the wheelhouse. Sorry but we can't print his opinion of sea duty -- tut tut tut! -- Pee Wee Machia works so hard it makes us tired just watching him. -- Comdr. Modell - "We want more stowage space - the Engineers have no room at all for spare parts -- in fact we hardly know where to stow the main engines." We've got some ideas for you there Chief. -- That's all for now Folks -- see you next week!

CR - Department

This space has been allotted to the C & R Department, free of charge. On behalf of the entire department I wish to express to the editor our full appreciation for his generosity. Ordinarily an opportunity such as this would be eagerly grasped to advertise the writer's wares. However, we are swamped with work as it is and would be deeply grateful to all hands if they would forget for a while that the C&R Department exists.

An example of the sort of thing we do is the recent berthing change that was met with such ardent enthusiasm in all quarters. The vicious rumors being spread are not true. We don't intend to change bunks and lockers every time the bedding is aired. We hope that this change will last until the next one, but we honestly feel that this new berthing arrangement has its points. It should create an incentive for division officers to go below and inspect their men's quarters. ~~Divisional esprit de corps should skyrocket. Men will now work, eat and sleep as a~~ unit. Of course we'll concede that from a damage control point of view the new arrangement is open to criticism. The Abandon Ship Bill also falls under C&R cognizance, so let's examine that aspect of our department.


As you know, men from every division, are assigned to abandon ship at each raft. It might appear more logical to have an entire division assigned to just one or two rafts, but no - damage control doctrine has it that a few men from each division and one or two officers go to each raft. The purpose? -- under this arrangement each raft will contain a nucleus crew for a miniature battleship.

Picture it. As the raft floats away from the ship, the senior officer directs the boatswain's mate to set the special sea details. The engineers prepare to light off - but their matches are wet and the closest thing to an engine is the cigarette lighter one fellow has in his pocket. The one signalman is told to hoist "HOW" requesting a pilot, but he doesn't have a halyard. He's willing to use his shoe string, but he lost his shoe as he went over the side. During all this the Carpenter's mate has been trying to find the foc'sle to join the anchor detail. The cooks are feverishly slicing the hams and opening the cans they brought with them trying to get ready for early watchstanders. They forgot to bring a crate of lettuce, so they're using seaweed leaves to pretty up the platter.

Do you get the picture? Not a detail is missed. There is no reason why this little unit can't carry on business as usual with each man advancing by leaps and bounds in his department. Why it's possibilities are infinite. A fireman first class might well be engineering officer, - a hospital apprentice might take over as senior medical officer.

If and when we carry troops, we shall assign a few to each raft also. This should make a raft a complete amphibious unit, lacking only a combat load. If the occasion arose the troops could be landed on the beach, thus an efficient fighting unit on land; at sea we have seen they would be unapproachable, and in the air --. All we need is a raft with a flight deck. C & R is working on it now.

Well, the above is just a brief and one-sided picture of C & R, the aim of which is to demonstrate the profound thought that goes into each of our activities. I could go on and tell you more, but I think I have already exhausted the generosity of our editor.. Any further information will have to be obtained from our office, located on the main deck, port side, about amidships -- just outboard of the barbed wire fence.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Rates--0.02-- per line
10¢-- per inch
It's all
yours mister!!

WANTED* -One strong man to MAKE the sunset
and the moon rise when I say they will
The Navigator

WANTED- -A magician to do card tricks between
reels at the movies. Apply W and R
officer.

WANTED- -Blueprints of the berthing plan to
help rouse out the watch on time.
Joy-Jefferson-Brustowski-Callagher

WANTED- -One good Union Laundry man!
~~Some of the boys dropped like Pinocchio's~~
famous fairy club in San Francisco. The chorus
sang- - - -

"Some say we are yellow men,
But we know we're mellow men,
And we love our fellow men,
Most every night. ----- Imagine!!

Sometimes we feel just a little bit
sorry for Ensign Roll quartered with all those
big, bad Warrants. He was a nice, clean kid
too!- - - - Mr. Damico and Mr. Murd ought to
erase the (jg) in about 2 weeks.- - - What
with movies-records-a band coming up-
newspapers-ice cream and rope yarn Sunday
the Rankin is like a floating U.S.O. All
the comforts of home. Wanna date Du Rose?

THE "RANKIN FILE" MAY NOT be mailed
home- - - - yet!!



MID -WATCHES

Here I stand, just as sleepy as can be
This ole Mid-Watch is killing me.
I try to stand my watch in a military
manner
While the Generators Hum the Star
Spangled Banner
I spend hours and hours a checkin' the
gages
While people on the outside strike for
wages.

They wake me at twelve to start a new day
Then early in the morning comes Condition
1A
It's over by noon and I head right back
I never get my back in that blamed ole
sack.
That's why I'm weary and my bones all creak
It's the gosh-darn mid-watch, week after
week.

It seems awful bad, but it's gotta be done
I'll stick to these watches till the war is
won.
She's a good old ship and worth fighting
for
But-make me a civilian right after the war!
When they pay me off I'm gonna blow the lid
But best of all, I'm gonna snore right
thru the mid. ----- Thurman C.L.H.