



Many Changes Appear in Officer Personnel

The change of command, when Captain Francis Cogswell relieved Captain George N. Barker as commanding officer, overshadowed many more lesser changes among the ship's officers which have taken place since arrival in Long Beach less than two weeks ago.

Lt.-Comdr. Paul B. Koonce, reported aboard last week to relieve Lt.-Comdr. Robert M. Peacher as Engineer Officer. Lt.-Comdr. Peacher will go to Philadelphia as aide to the Commandant, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, while his relief comes to the Houston from duty as Senior Assistant Engineer, U.S.S. Vincennes. Captain A. V. Gerard, U.S.M.C., will leave the ship for duty with the Fleet Marine Force, San Diego, as soon as he is relieved this week by Captain J. B. Hendry, U. S. M. C., whose immediately previous assignment has been with the Fleet Marine Force.

Among the other officers who have recently reported aboard are 2nd Lt. D. C. Pollock, U. S. M. C., previously attached to the Marine Basic School, Philadelphia, and Acting Pay Clerk J. A. Lafferty, who was ordered to this ship from the U. S. S. Tennessee.

Other officers who have left the ship or who are soon to leave are Lt. Paul Foley, Jr., who will report to the U. S. S. Northampton for duty V-SC-4; Lt. (jg) W. C. Jonson, to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida as an instructor; LT. G. M. Price, to the U.S.S. Melville; 2nd Lt. J. E. Morris, U. S. M. C., to the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia; Ensign L. B. McDonald, to the U. S. S. Litchfield in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and Pay Clerk A. P. Mastio, to the Asiatic Station.

A. A. Battery Tops Good Gunnery Year

The highlights of the main battery are the "E" on Turret III, a high score Improvised Control Battle Practice, and a creditable score Night Battle Practice "A". In these latter two practices, the Houston stood two and five respectively. Of course there were but two ships to fire the I.C.B.P., but the score was sufficiently high to merit a dispatch from Comruscofor, complimenting the Portland and the Houston on their excellent scores. The main battery stood 2nd in Short Range Practice among the 17 cruisers competing. The ship stood 9th for the Practice as a whole. The Houston took third place in N.B.P. "A", both batteries combined.

The five inch battery has had an outstanding year. The battery took first place in Anti-Aircraft B.P. "D", fourth place in D.M.T.B.P., second place in N.B.P. "A", and second place in S.R.P. During the short range practice, the two marine-manned guns got "E's", i.e. Guns No. 2 and 3.

The machine gun practices are not to be forgotten. The first M.G.B.P. "H" was a low one; the ship's standing sank to No. 15. In the second "Hypo" practice the ship rose to fifth place. The machine guns took a first place in the Machine Gun Battle Practice "B".

The ship in competition with sixteen other cruisers received this highly commendatory communication from Comcrudiv 4:

"The Division Commander notes with pleasure the uniformly good performance of the anti-aircraft battery of the HOUSTON during the current gunnery year. This battery has made the highest merit among all cruisers

(Continued on Page 4.)

Houston Ranks High In Athletics

About a year ago the Houston was relatively unknown in the sports field of the cruisers. However, during the past year the Houston has come right up, standing nine in competition with eighteen cruisers. This is not a very imposing showing but it must be remembered that though we did not score points in all competition we showed up very well in many of the sports.

In basketball, boxing, and wrestling, we scored 40 points each with Hatterer and Phillips being picked for the All Scouting Force team. In boxing, Major Hodge took the fleet championship in his weight. Harris was just edged out of a fleet championship. Wrestling was again a great year, Chick winning for a second time the fleet championship. Arthur, Buttler, and Fordemwalt made a very creditable showing also aiding in the training. In swimming the Houston took 12.5 points during the competitive year, with Brown as star performer. Of twelve possible sports in which to compete, the Houston entered nine. Owing to our schedule, there was no opportunity to enter in Officer's Golf, Rifle or Pistol meets.

Coming up from bottom to more than half way providing stiff competition wherever we played, is due to the men, coaches, and officers who devoted willingly of their spare time. Comdr. C. A. Bailey and Lt.-Comdr. W. E. Tarbutton provided the backing whenever difficulties were encountered. The men, coaches, and officers in the various sports are: Capt. A. V. Gerard, U.S.M.C., in charge of basketball, was helped by Ens. D. V. Wengrovius and Av. Cad J. Morrison to make the basketball team what it

(Continued on Page 4.)