



Mark 3.

Tsingtao, China, 1 July, 1933.

MOD. III.

THE PASSING OF THE DESTROYER

The American type destroyer is no match for the slightly bigger and more powerful vessel, nominally of the same category, which certain great naval powers are favoring. Even our Destroyer Leaders would be heavily outclassed by the 19 French boats of which the Vauban may be named as typical. Exactly what is the role of the destroyer in the modern fleet? Submarine defense, torpedo attack, or screening. The task of screening the heavy ships of a fleet at sea is even more important than attacking the enemy ships when, and if, the opportunity offers. The value of torpedo attack at the long ranges now possible is very doubtful. The main fleets at Jutland had no difficulty in evading such attacks thru out the daylight battle.

For fleetwork, whether in protection or attack, a very smaller class of boat would be quite adequate. For "deputizing" in cruiser work a considerably larger type of boat would be eminently desirable, and in such a boat the destroyer would virtually disappear in the light cruiser.

Great interest is being taken in the new 5,450 ton British cruiser *Arethusa*, which was laid down at Chatham on January 25. Some naval authorities are critical of the new vessels specifications. She is described as the first of a class of small general utility cruisers intended to be equally useful as scouts, convoy guards, or lone sentinels on the Empire's trade routes. The *Arethusa* carries six six inch guns, four four inch guns, two multiple antiaircraft guns, and six twenty inch torpedo tubes. A seaplane is mounted on a catapult between the funnels.

France, Italy, and Japan have already taken up new designs. They have developed super-destroyers, especially France and Italy, that exceed 3,000 tons

(Continued on page 2 column 2)

Refer to No.
Nav-61-IR
P20-2(F-14)

**NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

16 May, 1933.

Bureau of Navigation Circular Letter
No. 17-33.

To: All Ships and Stations.

SUBJECT: Enlisted Personnel - Marks
in conduct and proficiency in rating.

Reference: (a) Art. D-8020, page 210,
BuNav Manual.

1. The Bureau considers that the tendency throughout the service has been to assign marks in conduct and proficiency in rating inconsistent with performance. It is believed that standards are too low and as a result men who are not examples of proficiency and good conduct are attaining benefits that are intended as rewards for high proficiency and outstanding merit.

2. The standards given in D-8020 (1), (2) and (4) should be carefully followed by Commanding Officers in assigning marks. In assigning conduct marks substantiation of the marks assigned should appear on pages 9-10, for future reference by and guidance of the Bureau. Contrary to the commonly accepted practice that any man, who has no court-martial entry nor mast report, is to be marked 4.0 in conduct, there are qualities of conduct under the heading of unreliability that merit lower marks, as shown in reference. As an example, the Bureau desires that men whose services are lost by sickness due to own misconduct or who are generally unreliable in their financial obligations be given the marks in conduct assigned in the reference article for unreliability.

ASIATIC FLEET GUNNERY DOPE

To date the following gunnery and engineering awards have been made to vessels of the Asiatic Fleet:—

Houston—Anti-aircraft Trophy, Heavy Cruiser Class.

S-39—Second prize, Long Range Battle Practice, Submarine Class.

S-37—Third prize for exceptionally creditable torpedo performance.

S-38—Third prize for exceptionally creditable torpedo performance.

Bittern—First class prize and white "E" for mining exercise.

John D. Ford—First class prize, Long Range Battle Practice.

Paul Jones Parrott and Whipple were awarded First class awards for exceptionally creditable merits in Battle Torpedo Practices "B" and "C".

Parrott - Engineering trophy and white "E", for Group.

Bulmer—Second prize and red "E", engineering.

S-36—Engineering trophy and white "E" for its Group.

HOUSTONS SCHEDULE

The operating schedule of the *Houston* will be as follows:—

Month of July base on Tsingtao, China. Depart for Chefoo about 1 August return Tsingtao 5 August.

11 August depart for Shanghai, China. 19 August transfer Command of Asiatic Fleet.

Entries on page 9-10 should read "Unreliable due to loss of time on account of sickness due to own misconduct"; or "Unreliable on account of failure to meet just obligations"; or "Failure to support or provide for dependents".

F. B. UPHAM,
Chief of Bureau