## THE SPUN YARN



NAVAL R. O. T. C. UNIVERSITY of TEXAS APRIL, 1942 MARK II, MOD. 4 SPUN YARN

DEFOCIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

NAVAL R. D. T. C. UNIT

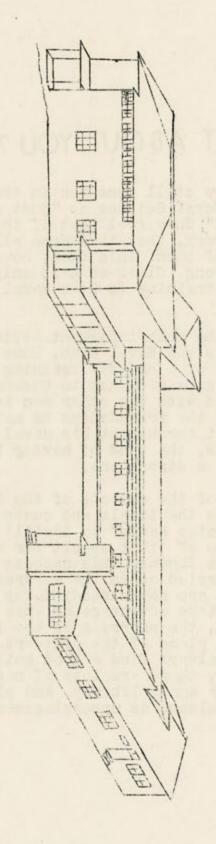
UNIV. DE TEXAS

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MARKIII APR 1942 MOD.4

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NAVAL R.O.T.C. BUILDING

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

There are still some men in the Unit who look on Naval Science as "just another course." They feel that if they do their class work, they have done all that is expected of them. This idea, however, is completely wrong. Class work is only one part of your training to be a Naval Officer.

One of the most important activities of the Unit is the Naval Club. Here the social aspect of a cadet's training is accented. He gets a chance to become better acquainted with the other men in the Unit. Many of the friendships he makes here will last throughout his naval career; in the service, the bond of having been classmates is a strong one.

Another of the objects of the Club is to "promote the ideals and customs of the United States Navy," to instill within the cadet some of that spirit for which the Navy is so famous. This process is also being carried on in the wardroom at all times; if you are not already doing so, come up and take advantage of this room. On board ship, the wardroom is the informal gathering place of the officers. In ours you can always find a good bull-session going on, there are lots of magazines, and there is a small library. And plebes are just as welcome as upperclassmen.

Eventually there will be probably enough extra activities in connection with the Unit for every man to participate in at least one. At present we have the athletic teams and the Spun Yarn, and as soon as our new building with its rifle range is finished, there will be the rifle team. There has also been talk of forming several special interest or hobby clubs. One such was a radio club, which of course the war caused to be pushed into the background. If you have any ideas, speak up!

With regard to athletics, many of the cadets are playing for their fraternities, which is understandable; but there is no excuse for playing on house, dorm, or other team, when our own is in great need of men. This shows a lack of interest in the Navy, and that interest is just as important to the ROTC cadet as passing ordnance or navigation.

As to the <u>Spun Yarn</u>, we are proud to say that our list of contributors is far larger than that of almost any other Unit; paper. However, we can always use more, and remember, you don't have to belong to the Staff to contribute either.

So to anyone in the Unit, it isn't bad advive to take some more interest in your Naval ROTC and its activities. You will find that it pays.

Recently elected to Phi Beta Kappa, honor scholastic fraternity, was E. M. Deterly, 4c. Congratulations, fellow:

## ARE YOU A FIFTH COLUMNIST?

It is the acknowledged policy of the Nazis to divide and conquer. Propaganda is the instrument of division, and . to date its sharp edge has been felt by almost all of the Nazi overrun nations. France was a nation divided by the rumors spread by Nazi sympathizers within the mass of the French people. France was easily crushed. They also succeeded in separating the French from their British allies. By preventing a united front, Germany was able to strike one side and then the other. All this was accomplished by the systematic distribution of rumors and lies bearing the stamp "Made in Germany."

With ever increasing intensity, Hitler and his bloody henchmen, Mussolini and Hirohito, have been attempting to create a fundamental breach between groups of Americans and between the American nation and her hard fighting allies. We Americans are told that "the British will fight the war to the last American." On the other hand, the British hear that already President Roosevelt is formulating plans for the absorption of the British colonial holdings. These are but two examples of a widespread rumor program carried on by the axis nations in an attempt to divide us and prevent us from reaching our goal: the destruction of military gangsterism.

The enemy has acheived only a few local successes; his main drive has been stopped in its tracks. Stories which make violent discriminations against racial, industrial, or religious groups are all attempts to break our unified front. One crime, a mortal one, can rob us of the victory upon which our lines depend. This crime is the acceptance and circulation of such Axis inspired rumors. Take action against any story or person whose existence results in a weakening of our unity and therefore our purpose;

### UNIT MARCHES AT RELAYS

The Unit made its second appearance before the public recently when it acted as guard of honor for the sweetheart of U. T. at the Texas Relays. As Colonel Hurt's band struck up Anchors Aweigh," the battalion marched onto the north end of the Memorial Stadium in full dress, with white gloves swinging in unison. On the field, the battalion was inspected by the sweetheart who was escorted by Captain Underwood. Following this, the two-hundred-odd cadets stood at rigid attention while the band played the national anthem and the Eyes of Texas.

After this, all hands went to the seats; and most of them remained to see the Relays. It is hoped that everyone enjoyed our parade.

## -AND THE V-7'S

With "Rember Pearl Harbor" ringing in their ears, over seventy boys from the University of Texas have volunteered for naval service under the V-7 program. After four months of intensive training at one of the three Reserve Midshipman Schools they will be commissioned as Ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve. These men will serve as deck or engineering officers.

In order to help these fellows along, the officers of the R.O.T.C. Unit organized Naval Science 302. It is a course of a very general nature to better acquaint the V-7's with the Navy, its background, functions, and organization. Many of them are also taking Applied Math 306K under Dr. Prouse, which deals with spherical trigonomety and celestial navigation.

Captain Underwood is giving lectures on the organization of the Navy and its ships, Lieutenant Commander Martin covers such subjects as Naval History and ord-nance, Lieutenant Commander Friedell takes up Seamanship, and Lieutenant Knowles has a series of lectures on navigation and instruments. At various points, other subjects of interest are brought into the curriculum.

The course has been of great help to all of the men who are taking it. To most of them, the Navy had always been a vague group of fighting ships that sailed the seas and flew our flag. They all know now the important role that it has played in the past and will play in the future. They all realize what a vital asset a strong navy is to so great a nation as ours.

When these men enter their training, they will be better prepared for it.
When they take their place on our battle-wagons, they will be ready to fight and will know why they are fighting. The words of John Paul Jones will be in their hearts to drive them on to final victory; "I have not yet begun to fight!"

by H. G. Chandler Jr.

AS, V-7, USNR.

Patriotic Citizen during the war addressing a cowhand: See here, young man, why aren't you at the front?

Cowhand: Wal, I reckon it's mostly because this here cow ain't any different from any other cow.

W. N. B.

lst draftee: What did the little rabbit say as he ran out of the forest fire? 2nd same: Hooray, I've been defurred.

## A SAGA OF THE SEA

As the liberty boat landed, our hero nimbly jumped ashore and rapidly consulted his Bowditch. Running through tables 43 and 44, he quickly looked in his H. O. 214, took a fast squint at the sun, and strode up the beach. Gone for the day were his worries as an NROTC cadet aboard YP 6 7/8. His was to be a day of relaxation.

Soon he was in the very heart of Corpus Christi. Smartly saluting two flying cadets, he turned his immediate attention to calculating the weight of a rum soaked 16" shell -- he did this often, although the shell did not always enter into his calculations.

Suddenly a piercing scream rent the air. Whipping out a small area plotting sheet, our hero was soon on the scene of the scream. Yanking the door of the "Green Bottle" off its hinges, he rushed to the manager; it took but one glance to tell that the whole place was in a complete chaos.

"This requires immediate action," thought cur hero to himself. With no loss of action he threw out his Red Azimuth Tables and at once began to correct for parallax. Then, with chin set, he looked the manager straight in the eye.

"You haven't got a cold beer, have you?" he demanded, a mizzenmast in each hand. "Has there been a murder here?" he asked as he rolled up his trousers to avoid the two feet of blood on the floor. "Where did that scream come from?"

"From the back booth."

Quickly our hero rushed back, stopping only long enough for a quick Burma Brushless Shave. At the back table, his eyes took in all. A young lady had fainted. Standing over her was burly Marine.

"See here, what have you done?" demanded our hero as he read two chapters in his <u>Bluejacket's Manual</u>.

"All I did was to offer to pay the bill," replied the burly Marine.

"Gad!" gasped our hero, and snatched the young maiden from the booth. Once on the cool, refreshing streets of Corpus, the maid came to.

"Let me introduce myself," she offored as she shook the beer bottles from her golden locks. She was really a nice girl as you shall see, but you know what evil company will do.

"I'm Miss Hiwater. My first name is Helen."

"I'm very glad to know you," said our hero, computing the size of the spars necessary to carry out a given bower anchor. "I've often heard my shipmates speak of Helen Hiwater. Shall we go down to the water front?"

It was not hard to find an empty bench. Most of the people did not seem to care for the Chlorpicrin hovering about the city during an air attack. But our hero was a typical cadet; he could cope with Helen Hiwater. As the all-clear signal sounded, our hero paused long enough to empty a 12" shell from his pocket, and rushed away. Helen was infuriated.

"What's the matter?" asked a shore patrolman who happened to be washed up ashore at the moment.

"That fresh sailor," Helen explained, "he told me I was a heavenly body, and tried to transit my lower limb."

DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE PLOTTING A FIX?
ARE YOU ABOUT TO LOSE YOUR STRIPES?
IS NAVIGATION DRIVING YOU CRAZY?

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## JOIN THE ARMY AIRCORPS

SEE LT. COMDR. MARTIN.....ROOM 303

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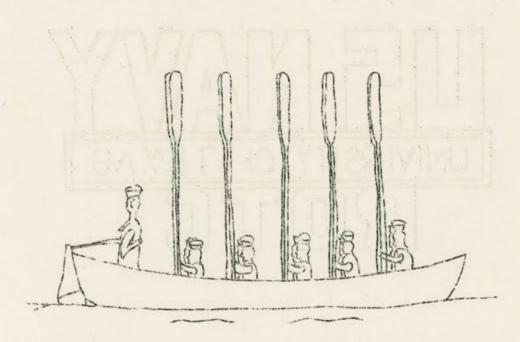
## ATTENTION, SAILORS

It's here at last -- well, every-thing but the sails.

For months now, the Unit has been waiting for the gear for our whaleboat out on Lake Austin. Sure enough, the oars, anchor, rowlocks, and two life preservers, arrived this week.

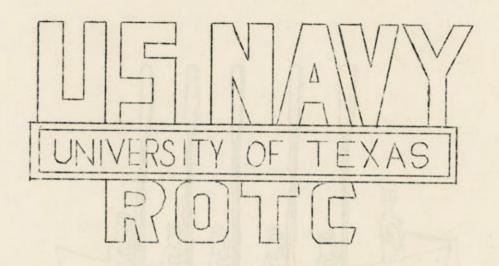
Since there are no sails, it is believed that Lt. Knowles is going to design some for CBM Moulis to make.

New for some salt air in our lungs and spray in our faces---off Lake Austin of course.



### NEW STICKER

FELLOWS: Our Unit now has something by which it can easily be identified - a sticker. Several designs were submitted to Captain Underwood by plebes Baird, Lowe, Underwood, and Kolp, in order that he might make the final selection. The design picked is shown below. This sticker will give the Unit wide publicity and readily identify any of our cadets. They will be on sale in a few weeks at Hemphill's Bookstore.



## MITCHELL DOES IT AGAIN

Speaking on the subject, "Latin America Can Supply It," Clifton Mitchell upper-classman and Polc, won first place in the National Extempore Discussion Contest district finals March 26.

In this event Mitchell defeated contestants from some eleven colleges and universities in this section of the country, thus progressing to the regional meet in Kansas City, Missouri. There he will take a shot at the trip to Washington and over South America that is offered winners of the regional meets throughout the country.

Hitchell has been very active in the N.R.O.T.C. and the Naval Club. He was president of the Club through last semester and is at present National Color bearer.

The Unit congratulates Mitchell on his achievements and wishes him the best for the regional meet.

Navigator: Mr. Barnhouse, why do you have cotton stuffed in your ears?
Barnhouse: I have just determined our fix, Sir, and I can't stand the rending sound of a ship going aground.

NOTICE: For sale or rent, one copy Bowditch, no longer needed since contents are memorized; see Wm. McGinnis.

## STUDENT COUNCIL MAKES DEBUT

The newly created Student Council met recently with the purpose in mind of formulating the policy and course of action for the Council.

The discussion of the Council was headed by Lt. Comdr. Martin, and its duties were clarified. The primary purpose is to educate students in discipline and military character.

Cases that the Council has tried will be written up on special forms and filed by the recorder. If only a minor infraction occurs, the case may be held in abeyance for a certain length of time, and if the offender commits no further infraction during the specified time, the case will be dismissed.

More important infractions will be acted upon immediately, and the Council must present its decision and a full report of the case to the Captain.

Anyone in the Unit may be present at meetings of the Student Council, but none but the principals may participate in the discussion of the case.

Members are: R. J. Stevenson, cadet Lt. Comdr. and therefore president, J. N. Cowan, president of the Naval Club, C. B. Buford, T. K. Wood, and D. E. Cain, the plebe member.

### SPORTS

#### BEST ALL-AROUND ATHLETE

Albert "Bud" Guidera, cocky and efficient, has been selected as the outstanding athlete of the Maval R.O.T.C. Unit during the winter morths. He was chosen by the intramural committee and the sports staff of the Spun Yarn, because of his consistent participation and excellent work in intramural sports. A plebe, Bud has entered every athletic event in which the Unit has taken part, and was one of the stand-out players on the basketball team that went to the semi-finals.

Among others that were taken into consideration were John Cowan 3c, and Robert Neal 4c. In the next issue, the last of the year, an athlete will be picked from the spring sports, as well as the outstanding athlete of the year.

#### BASKETBALL "A"

Blockaded by a good defensive game and a splendid style of floor play, and raked by the accuracy of the big guns of the Progressive Czechs, the Naval R.O.T.C. "A" basketball contenders lost in the semi-final round of play by a score of 27-14. After having beaten Robert's Hall, the Little Campus, and A. S. M. E., and having been whipped by only one point in the first game, the Navy boys failed

consistently to hit the basket with the ball, and as a whole, never seriously threatened to get the victory. Using a foot-breaking attack, the Czechs scored crip and long shots alike from almost every part of the court to run the score to 17-12 by halftime. The Czechs slowed up somewhat in the second half, but even then the Navy scored only two more points. During the whole game, the Unit team failed to show the fight that had previously brought them victory.

The Czechs showed that they possessed plenty of manpower, and worked two smooth playing teams against a tiring group of sailors. The most obvious point in the game was that the Navy boys showed a very great lack of experience while the Czechs coordinated every move, were more accurate in their shots, and displayed a better fighting spirit. The line-up for the game was as follows:

W.	McReynolds	3c c	2 points
A .	Guidera 4c.	f	2 11
	White 3c		
J.	Cowan 3c	g	4 "
	Felker 3c		
R.	Neal 4c	g	2 11

#### WATER POLO

Answering a natural tendency to take to aqua sports, seven sailors, four upperclassmen and three plebes, have signed up to fight for the Unit in water polo, which starts April 1. Several of the boys are from last year's team, and have had some experience. All indications point toward a better team this year. Those already entered are F. Tormollan, S. White, H. F. Williams, M. Roe, R. Van der Veer, J. Kent, and J. Livingston.

#### HORSESHOE DOUBLES

Two teams, one made up of R. Neal and R. Stevenson, the other of A. K. Bergstrom and F. Tormollan, tossed for the Navy and went to the semi-final round of play in horseshoe doubles. Other teams were composed of A. Guidera and K. Rippel, H. F. Williams and F. Welmaker, and N. Smith and M. Ferrick. This is the second sport since the start of the second semester in which the Blue and Gold has gone to the semi-finals.

#### OTHER SPORTS THIS SEMESTER

Although they won no games, an intense interest was shown in the vollyball event; the following men participated: A. Guidera, F. Tormollan, C. B. Buford, R. Stevenson, H. F. Williams, and J. Allison.

Equally unsuccessful was the entry in table tennis singles which was composed entirely of plabes; they were A. Guidera, S. Hastings, and R. Neal.

Fite Night was one of the biggest events this semester; however, the Naval Unit had no entries that reached the finals. H. Cloward, who was matched in the 135 lb. class, developed a cold and was unable to take part at all. John Malone entered in the 155 lb. division, but was beaten by a boy who went on to the finals. Malone gave a good exhibition, and his fight was one of the closest and best in the early preliminaries.

#### COMING EVENTS

As the spring quarter is rolling in,
Navy intramural manager Harry Williams
announces that the following men are coming out for baseball: W. Burns, R. Stevenson,
R. Neal, J. Cowan, C. B. Buford, A. Guidera,
J. Allison, K. Rippel, J. Kent, T. Felker,
J. Bourdeau, and M. Ferrick.

Entries to date for the coming tennis team matches are J. Gould, J. Allison, A. Guidera, M. Ferrick, and C. Mays.

Because there have been so few men to turn out for intramural athletics, the Unit has lost many points toward the intramural trophy. However, it is still doing better than last year, when it finished with only 465 points. We already have 907 this year, which puts the Unit in seventh place.

#### VARSITY SPORTS

Though intramural events take most of the sportlight, several of the men in the Unit ar out for Varsity athletics. Most of these are plebes. Among them are Frank Bellows 4c, and Jack Polhemus 3c, who are distance runners on coach Littlefield's track team. Stuart Hastings and Tom Ramey are each bidding for an infield and outfield berth respectively on coach Price's freshman baseball club. John Cowan, President of the Naval Club, has established himself on Dr. Penick's tennis squad. Several of these boys are doing well, and it is hoped that the Unit will soon be recognized in varsity athletics.

## NOTICE V-7'S

Beginning with this issue, the <u>Spun Yarn</u> is to be given out to the V-7's as well as to the Unit's own men. They are invited to submit any contributions they have to the <u>Spun Yarn</u>. One of their members has done so in this issue, and his work is very much appreciated.

It is hoped that through the <u>Spun</u> Yarn they may come to have a somewhat greater contact with the Navy.

Congrats to the Rice Unit on the first issue of their Broadside. Its a splendid job.

It may well be remembered that, for the time being anyhow, Rice and Texas are the sole representatives of our state in putting out ROTC Officers. In a way of speaking, these two Units are brothers.

Incidentally, the faculty advisor of the <u>Broadside</u> is <u>Lt. Condr.</u> Whiteford, well and fordly remembered by all the upperclass from last year.



## THE NAVY IN THE NEWS

Complete information on day-to-day happenings in the Navy is of increasing importance to every prospective Naval Officer. Here is your summary of the month's happenings in the Navy at war.

#### The Navy at Home

Highlight of the happenings at home during the month was the appointment of Admiral Ernest J. King as Chief of Naval Operations. He had been COMINCH of the U. S. Fleet since December 20; his first act being to change CINCUS (pronounced sink-us) to the new COMINCH. Formerly Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, he should be of value in this new position.

Meanwhile Admiral Thomas Hart who had been in command of the Allied Fleet in the Pacific returned home for a rest after a severe illness, and was immediately called into consultation by President Roosevelt. His place has been taken by the Dutch Admiral Helfrich.

Late in March first news of a new unified High Command was sent out from Washington. In Washington Navy, Army, and Air Force officers of the U.S., British, Chinese, Dutch and Australian forces are working together in the same building and rooms. It is no longer necessary for officers of the various armed forces to go through the Secretaries of War and Navy in order to work

together. All decisions are made right here and flashed to the various headquarters around the world. Action is the word!

Also in Washington, Vice-Admiral Sam M. Robinson of Texas was put in charge of the new Office Of Procurement and Material. His success in the Bureau of Ships for the past two years made hime number one choice for this important post. The sons of Texas continue to prove their worth to our Navy.

Though he is not listed as a Texan, the story of Lieut. (j.g.) William Eddy which was related in the March 23rd issue of TIME is worth repeating. Lieutenant Eddy, USN Ret., went through Annapolis and served 10 years as a submarine commander before it was discovered that he was deaf. He had read lips in order to pass his physical exams. He had the highest I.Q. ever recorded at Annopolis.

There was also a word of criticism of the Navy at home during the month. Wendell Willke struck at the Navy as being unjust to Negroes in allowing them to serve only as messman. But the Navy Department had already answered him when it announced that plans were being made to train a group of Negroes for eventual full sea duty.

#### The Navy on the War Front

Probably of more interest to all of us is the news of the Navy at war on the sea. News of the month was good and then bad; but events were sounding better by the end of March.

The Navy's biggest job in the Pacific just now has been to convoy American forces to Australian and other fronts. But its forces were still striking at the Japs. During the week of March 6th alone, U. S. undersea craft had sunk one big Jap destroyer. one large naval tanker and hit a Jap Aircraft carrier and three cruisers. And almost 3,000 miles west of Pearl Harbor, a naval force had attacked a Jap island group. The Japanese naturally claimed little damage done. Also during the week, Lt. Edward O'Hare had set a new record and become the first American Naval Ace of World War II by sending down six Jap planes in a single fight over a U.S. task force in which 16 Jap planes out of 18 were shot down.

In the battle of Java, losses were listed as follows: Japanese: One heavy cruiser sunk, 2 cruisers badly hit, 3 destroyers probably sunk, 17 transports shelled; Allied forces: fourteen naval vessels including two Dutch cruisers, the U. S. cruiser HOUSTON, and 4 U. S. destroyers. This was a very severe blow to the United Nations.

However, there was brighter news on March 18. Allied naval forces attacked Japanese sea units near New Guinea, hitting 23 Jap ships with the loss of only one plane. Sunk or probably sunk: two heavy cruisers, a light cruiser, gunboat, destroyer, and a mine sweeper in addition to transports.

And the world knows of the force of the Navy - knows that it is speeding to strike again. Before the end of April the world should have more news, as Uncle Sam prepares to strike, the yellow men wish they knew where.

## THE JAPANESE

How courteous is the Japanese,

He always says, "Excuse me, please."

He climbs into his neighbor's garden

And smiles and says, "I beg your pardon,"

He bows and grins a friendly grin

And calls his hungry family in,

He grins and bows a friendly bow,

"So sorry -- this my garden now!"

Reader's Digest

## FOR CRYING OUT LOUD



It seems as if this corner has just about run out of material. I heard enough griping around the ward room yet no one takes his points seriously enough to put them in print. What is the trouble, men? Don't you gripe in public?

Insubordinate Plebes. There have been several examples of this around the campus. Plebes when corrected should not have any cone back to make. This is especially true of remarks not about the subject in discussion. Remember, Plebes, the attitude people get of you now will stick with you through the other three years.

Spring Formal. Fellows, do we want a spring formal? There has been a lot of discussion on this point and I am here to say that if we want one we must let it be known. This leads directly to the next point.

Attendance at Club Heatings. The policies of the Maval Unit are being decided at these club meetings. We must be there to decide what social functions we want this spring. Also you are missing some of the best moving pictures ever shown to the unit. Get around to thanking

Lt. Comdr. Martin for those we have seen. They were good.

Let me reverse the policy here and throw some laurels. The Fourth Squad of the First Platoon, Second Company is really doing a good job even with all the new plebes. Good work, fellows!

Don't forget! Put your opinions in writing before the the next issue.

## CRUISE NOTES

Do you suffer from a land-locked Bow-ditch, an inactive H. O. 211, or the itch to go down to the sea?

Your troubles are over, son; your problem is solved. Pack up your white works, dungarees, sturdy scrub brush, and three or four hundred cakes of laundry soap. The 1942 NROTC summer cruise is about to begin.

Some 91 Texas shipmates will make the cruise this summer along with men from Rice, Tulane, and Oklahoma.

In answer to myriads of letters of inquiry, Elwood Cook, <u>Spun Yarn</u> editor, has constantly replied with the noncommital, "Hmph," and he will be glad to answer any further questions.

Rom Rhome: Turn in my paper, Mr. Knowles? Why I have not yet begun to write!

The Broadside

## THE NAVY BY FLETCHER PRATT

The Navy, by Fletcher Pratt is one of the best pieces of literature on the history of our Navy that we have run into lately. This book, revised in 1941, is ideal for classroom and private study. The reader gets the impression of exciting fiction. Every incider touched on lightly in a conventional history is treated exhastively here. Every character is considered with understanding and developed to the upmost. Where an ordinary naval history would mention that some captain failed to keep up a blackade, Pratt tells all the compensating reasons for the captain's actions. Instead of looking on the commander as a coward or traitor, the reader sympathizes with him.

The sea battles are described in such a manner that even the most indifferent reader can grasp the excitement of a point-blank broadside battle. Pratt refers to ships not as "the Constitution" but simply as "Constitution". This little habit of treating ships as personages lends much to the charm of the book. Especially enjoyable is the account of the war with Tripoli. The section on Stephen Decatur is one of the best parts of the book; here is told how this exceedingly young man rose from midshipman to captain.

The length of this book automatically bars it from being a standard naval text. In a course such as curs where the matter must be put as briefly as possible, this excellent book cannot be used. However, you will profit greatly from reading it, even though you have already taken your Naval history course.

Pratt is the author of several other naval books. After you have read this one you will surely become a Pratt fan.

# "P-WORKS"

During this semester, the Unit has been going to "Practical work" on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The Sophomores are having practical navigation. Here they learn to plot courses and positions by dead reckoning and celestial navigation.

Of the two freshman groups, one goes to the four inch gun, while the other is having instruction in sema-phore drill.

The most interesting part of the latter class is the comments about pretty girls passing by that can be made without their knowledge of what is being signaled.

### CLUB NEWS

Two regular meetings of the Naval Club have been held since the last issue of the Spun Yern

At the first meeting movies of the Unit in action at Corpus and on the drill field were shown. The amendments submitted at the preceding meeting were presented for final passage and were ratified. The following officers were elected:

Vice-President - C. A. Schutze Secretary - J. D. Gould Parliamentarian- Lee McGee

The members of the Social Committee were named to plan our spring activities. The chairman is Tom Lemon.

On March 13 the second meeting of the Club was held. Movies on first aid, life in Ford's Naval Training School, identification of aircraft, and the assembling of practice bombs were shown. The Social Committee reported two alternate plans:

1) a spring formal, 2) a picnic or an open house.

The February class is to be highly commended for the speed with which they drew their uniforms when it was announced that they had arrived. The upperclass and the old plebes could certainly follow their example to advantage.