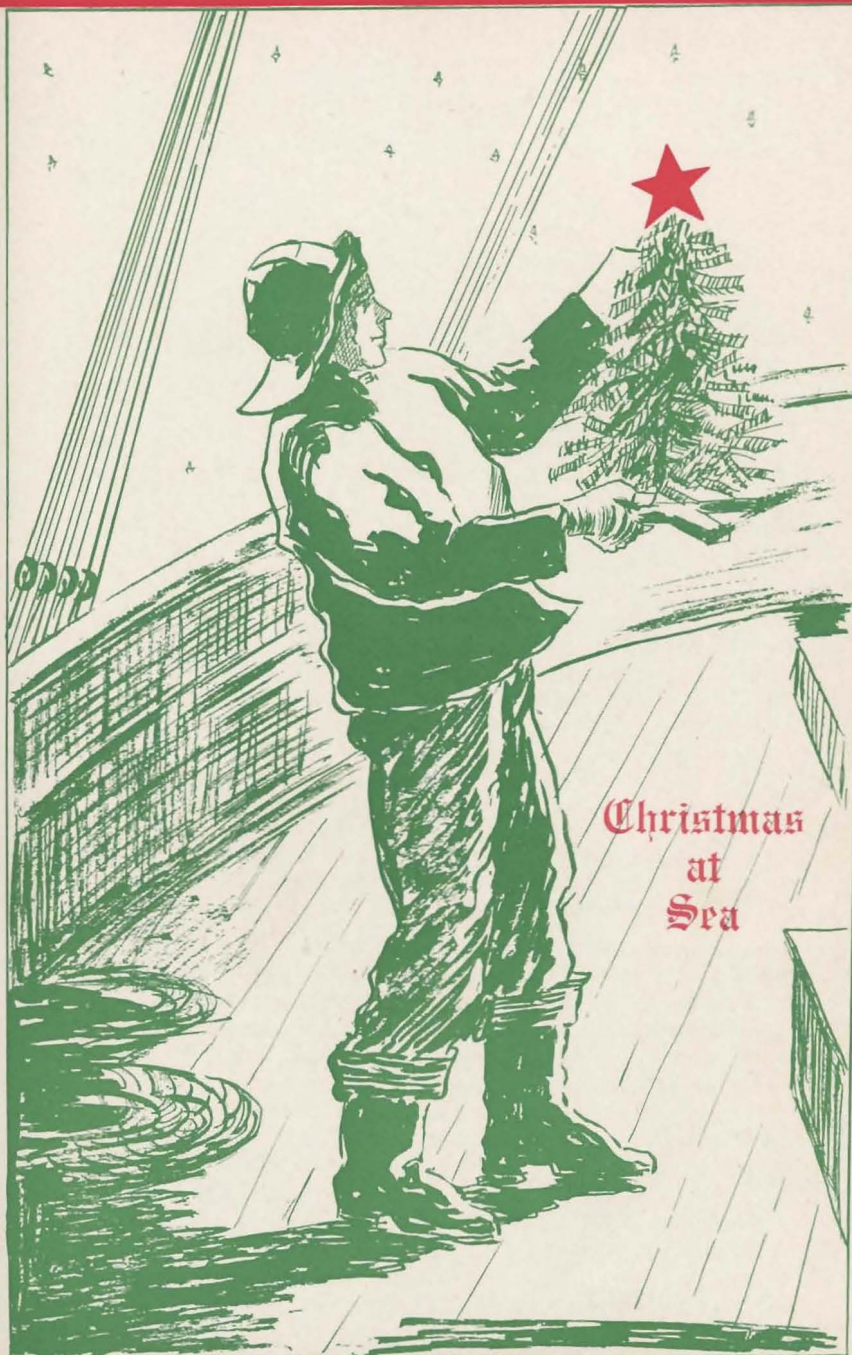


The LOOKOUT



Christmas
at
Sea

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE
OF NEW YORK

VOL. XXXIII

DEC. 1942

Sanctuary

O God, keep our hearts sound, our lives pure, our thinking straight and our spirits humble, that we may be true interpreters of Thy life to our fellow men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The music for the above prayer was written by Franklin Webb, a member of the Choir of the Church of the Ascension, New York City, shortly before he left to enter the Merchant Marine. His ship was torpedoed in August and he is listed as missing.

The LOOKOUT

VOL. XXXIII, DECEMBER, 1942

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

by the

SEAMEN'S CHURCH
INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK

CLARENCE G. MICHALIS
President

THOMAS ROBERTS
Secretary and Treasurer

REV. HAROLD H. KELLEY, D.D.
Director

MARJORIE DENT CANDEE, Editor

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SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE
OF NEW YORK

25 SOUTH ST., NEW YORK, N. Y.

Telephone BOwling Green 9-2710

LEGACIES TO THE INSTITUTE

You are asked to remember this Institute in your will, that it may properly carry on its important work for seamen. While it is advisable to consult your lawyer as to the drawing of your will, we submit nevertheless the following as a clause that may be used:

I give and bequeath to "Seamen's Church Institute of New York," incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, located at 25 South Street, New York City, the sum of _____

Dollars.

Note that the words "OF NEW YORK" are a part of our title.

It is to the generosity of numerous donors and testators that the Institute owes its present position, and for their benefactions their memory will ever be cherished by all friends of the seamen.

Merry Christmas to Lookout Readers

The Lookout

Vol. XXXIII

December, 1942

No. 12

The Role of the Volunteer in War-Time

THE Institute has always been fortunate in having a number of volunteers, both men and women, who were willing to give of their time and talents, as well as money, in befriending merchant seamen. Long before the war loyal friends helped in a variety of ways: a 103 year old lady knitted socks faithfully; one volunteer at the Institute has never missed a single day of the three days she volunteers each week, and she has kept this up for six years! Members of Associations under the Central Council

and of various church auxiliaries have packed ditty bags each Christmas; have provided hundreds of sweaters and other knitted garments. Mr. Gerald A. Bramwell, a member of the Institute's Board of Managers is on duty at the Information Desk regularly; Mrs. Diego Suarez serves daily at the Social Service Desk; Mrs. Alphonse de Rothschild helps at the Hotel Desk, and others devote several days each week to activities of the Welfare Department.

THIS ISSUE

of "THE LOOKOUT" is dedicated to the Volunteers and Contributors whose gifts of time, talent, skill and money make possible the extensive services to Merchant Seamen of all Nations provided at the Seamen's Church Institute of New York. Founded in 1834 by a group of volunteers, earnest young men who early recognized the rugged services of merchant seamen and wished to pay tribute to their courage by protecting them from exploitation when ashore—the Institute has expanded through the years to become the largest shore home in the world for active merchant seamen of all nationalities — and men and women in all walks of life have associated themselves with its services and activities, in behalf of the sturdy men who are essential in peace to our commerce and in war to our Victory — the men who "carry the cargoes" and keep the ships sailing.

Nevertheless, after Pearl Harbor, and after the many sinkings of merchant ships along the Atlantic seaboard by enemy submarines, it was only natural that the Institute should find new friends offering their services as volunteers, eager to do their bit to show the brave men of the merchant marine that the general public recognizes their courage and their devotion to duty.

One of the first places where new volunteers offered to help was in the Seamen's Lounge with its attractive new furnishings. Mrs. Oliver

Iselin and a group of women have been very loyal in entertaining the seamen, serving refreshments each afternoon, playing checkers and cards with the men, and extending them a friendly welcome. This has helped to make the Lounge a cozier place, more personal, and more like a home, and the seamen have expressed their appreciation.

Another group of volunteers have helped by providing entertainment and young women to dance with the seamen on special dance nights in the

Auditorium, supplementing the long-established dances and parties in the Apprentices' Room. In the special club rooms here for the British, Belgian and Dutch seamen, volunteers of these nationalities have been most faithful in giving their services. Volunteers in the Clinics are most helpful — one young woman, a nurse, gives her services each Tuesday evening in the foot clinic, and forty dentists volunteer one day a month in the dental clinic to care for British seamen.

To draw its many volunteer workers into a closer unit, and to give them some recognition for their contribution of time and effort, the Institute now awards lapel pins to those who have passed a probation equivalent to a month's service within the building. The pins are the Institute's seal in white and blue enamel, gold plated surmounted by the word "Volunteer".

Each volunteer who wishes to work at the Institute is asked to fill out a questionnaire, giving two references, stating his or her special skills or abilities so that it may be determined where he or she is best

qualified to serve. A set of Rules for Volunteers must also be read, and the volunteer must agree to abide by the same regulations to which the regular employees of the Institute adhere — promptness, reliability in keeping schedules, and keeping thoroughly informed on all Institute programs and referring to the proper Department Managers questions of policy and procedures.



Volunteers of St. Phillip's Auxiliary knit many sweaters for Merchant Seamen



Volunteers entertain in the Seamen's Lounge

Journal-American Photo

Central Council of Associations

By Mrs. Grafton Burke, Secretary

Images and/or text cannot be shown due to copyright restrictions.

N. Y. Times Photo

Central Council Volunteers fill Christmas boxes for Seamen.

NO report of the work of volunteers would be complete without one from the Central Council of Associations. Organized in 1923, it is the outgrowth of the Seamen's Benefit Society which was established in 1890 to help the Institute by raising funds, knitting sweaters and sewing garments, and of which Miss Augusta de Peyster is the present Director. It was under her leadership that funds were raised to build and maintain the Apprentices' Room on the fourth floor of the Institute. The Central Council, of which Mrs. Stacy Sears is Chairman, has two types of membership: individuals who knit, sew, fill Christmas boxes, etc. (there are about 1,400 of these good friends) and Associations of women with a total membership of about 700. The eleven Associations and their Chair-

men are as follows: Hudson River, (Dobbs Ferry and vicinity) N. Y. Chairman — Mrs. Henry Bliss; Staten Island, Mrs. Medad Stone; Riverside, Mrs. Charles Craig; Elizabeth, N. J., Mrs. Davis Turnbull; SOS Crew, Mrs. Henry Rowley; South Shore, Mrs. Donald Weinert; Brooklyn, Mrs. Courtney Yenni; Nutley, N. J., Mrs. Arnot Quinby; Upper Montclair, N. J. Blue Anchor Society, Mrs. H. G. Morpurgo; Four Square Knitters, Mrs. Thomas Dobson, Staten Island; Boosters, Mrs. William Bunce, N. Y. Assisting Mrs. Sears as executive officers are Mrs. A. R. Mansfield, first vice-chairman; Mrs. Medad Stone, and Mrs. Harold H. Kelley, honorary member.

Among the groups of knitters are all ages, an eleven year old girl, Florence Jackson, and a 95-year old

lady. They help to make the contents of the "Bon Voyage" packages. To each seaman sailing for his first trip (the youthful graduates of the U. S. Maritime Training Service who stay at the Institute while awaiting assignment to new merchant ships), the Central Council gives a package containing a sweater, two pairs of socks, a neck muff, mittens and a cap or helmet. Several hundred of these packages have been given out during the past three months.

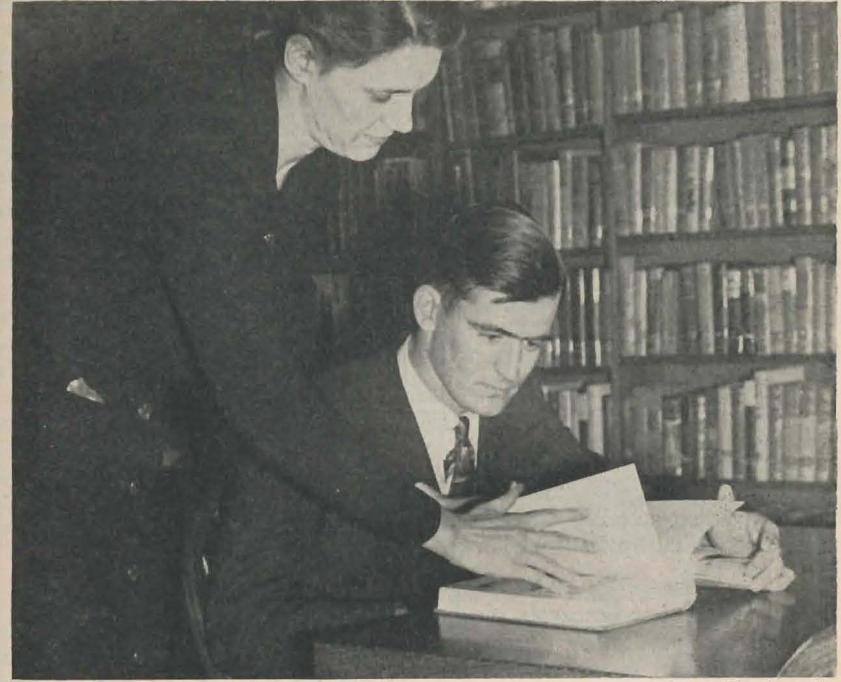
In addition to the Association members, there are other organizations and groups working for merchant seamen through the Central Council, including the following: Women's Organization of the American Merchant Marine, USO Special Committee, Christian Science War Relief Shipping Depot, Navy League of the U. S., Girl Scout Mariners, American Women's Voluntary Services, Cosmopolitan Club, N. Y. State Bureau of Services for the Blind, staff of the New York Clearing House, and others. About 60 Women's Auxiliaries of churches of all denominations throughout the United States are knitting, sewing

and filling Christmas boxes for merchant seamen, to be distributed through the Institute. Among individuals who have formed groups for knitting and sewing are Mrs. William Beach of Great Neck, who, with her neighbors are filling 200 boxes; Mrs. J. H. Tomb and her group who are filling comfort bags and knitting; Mrs. Douglas Bomeisler and her friends in Greenwich, Conn. have brought to the Institute magazines, books, victrolas, records, radios and apples.

One of the most active church auxiliaries in behalf of the Institute is at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, New York City. Mrs. Bedell H. Harned is Chairman of the Surgical Dressings Committee which has made and contributed in 1942 to the Institute's Clinics a total of 26,500 surgical bandages. About fifty women meeting on Tuesdays each week are very faithful and skillful in making the various types of bandages. The fund for this great amount of dressings, the largest made by any church engaging in this work, is raised by the Women's Auxiliary.

Volunteers in the Library

By Anne W. Conrow, Librarian



Marie Higginson Photo

A volunteer in the Conrad Library helps Seaman Raymond Bendig use a reference book.

FOR more than six years we have had the help of a volunteer worker who sets a high standard of efficiency. Mrs. F. Hazard was in a Statistical Department and Library at a financial house for years so she knows the importance of schedules and regularly assigned responsibilities. She has never missed an appointment in six and one-half years and has come to the rescue often when pressure of work or illness has made it necessary to call on her.

Last summer when the librarians were looking ahead, trying to make plans for an expanded program to meet increased needs brought about by the war, Miss Roberta Herriott, librarian of the Chase Bank came to us with an idea which had been brewing in her mind for some time. She and several other special librarians from the Wall Street District were anxious to give some evening

time to war work of a constructive nature. They had made inquiries but they felt that somewhere there should be a place where their specialized training and experience would count for something.

In the early autumn we worked out a program which is now functioning splendidly. The group met here for tea one afternoon, the Director spoke to them about the work of the Institute as a whole and the Librarian outlined the work of the Conrad Library. It was agreed that each volunteer would train one of her assistants to act as an alternate if necessary, and that the group would be self-sustaining. Appointments are kept meticulously and we leave the library with the knowledge that the evening hours are being handled by experts and the seamen are profiting by an extra two hours in which to read and study.



Photo by Marie Higginson

Surgical Dressings Committee of St. Bartholomew's Church Works for the Institute.

Victory Clubbers

Even school children are taking an active interest in the Merchant Marine, through the Institute. The Young America Victory Club is a new organization, sponsored by the "Young America Magazine" which is composed of boys and girls in junior high school throughout the United States who are busily filling Christmas boxes and ditty bags for our seamen. Requests for boxes to fill have come from 656 schools, and to date 2,000 boxes have been sent out to be filled and returned in time for Christmas. Every seaman who sleeps at the Institute on Christmas Eve will find one of these boxes filled and wrapped in gay paper awaiting him when he retires, about 1,600 in all. Seamen in marine hospitals will also receive Christmas boxes, distributed by Institute chaplains.

Here are a few excerpts from letters which the Victory Club children have tucked inside the boxes. They should bring smiles to the seamen receiving the gifts.

"Hi, sailor: I hope you like the comfort bag. You see, I'm the gal who got the girls in our class going on the idea but before I knew it, the boys wiggled their way into it too. If you ever get time to write me a list of sailors slang and then

make another list of the translation—it is a subject of one of our studies in class. One thing I wonder about always is, why don't you guys ever get seasick, or do you? So long, sailor, and 'Thumbs up!'"

NORMA

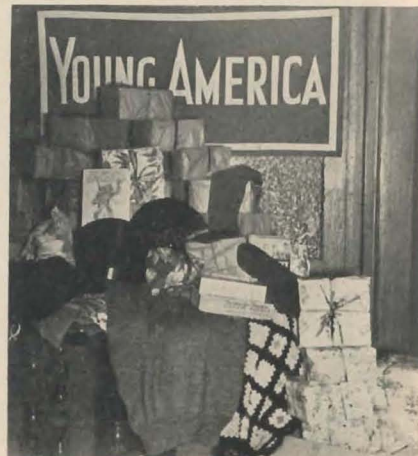
"This comfort bag was prepared by the 6B class of Washington School, who have become members of the Victory Club. Each member of the class brought some money with which we bought all of the articles except the razor. That was given by the father of one of the boys. We thought that pretty generous of him, with razors so scarce and so hard to get now. One of the girls made the bag and our sponsor sewed on the V for Victory. We are very proud to be able to help the Merchant Marine."

MARTHA

"Dear Sailor: I am just writing to tell you what we did to get the money for the bag. Each of us gave the money we got for selling papers and scrap that we collected. We were glad to do so because we know it is hard for you to get things like that. You, sir, are fighting for freedom and for millions like me. We are buying War stamps to help lick the Japs. Good luck." GEORGE



Boys from Curtis House, Meriden, Conn. Sent Christmas Boxes to the Institute.



Christmas Boxes Arrive at the Institute.



Marie Higginson Photo

One of the volunteer hostesses serving coffee* in the Institute's Apprentices' Room.

Coffee Time

Time for Singing



Marie Higginson Photo

A volunteer entertains a group of young seamen around the piano.

*To be continued as long as rationing permits.

"KEEPING WATCH" By Rev. Roy Magoun*

WE read in that story which will never grow old that, on the first Christmas Eve, there were shepherds watching over their flocks by night.

We cannot help but think this Christmas Eve of the millions who will be keeping watch by night. In a very real sense they are shepherds too for the business of a shepherd is to protect and take care of the sheep. Many of these shepherds of nineteen hundred and forty-two will keep watch from the masthead and the bridge on seas that are near and seas that are far. Still more of these shepherds will be soldiers keeping watch along battle-lines, in the jungle, in the desert, from hill and from mountain-tops. Others will keep watch high up in the air, close to the stars.

Through the watches of that Holy Night that we shall soon celebrate,

Christmas Goes To Sea

I saw a fishing boat steer by,
Blunt-prowed beneath the winter sky,

As Christmas dusk was falling.
The hull was crusted dark with spray,

The waters all about spread gray,
And sea gulls followed calling.

But to the masthead gallantly
Was lashed a little Christmas tree,

A green-armed pledge of pine.
No bright festoons or gifts it bore,

And yet those empty boughs held more
Than tinsel for a sign.

So fair a sight it was to see —
That small, seafaring Christmas tree

High amid shroud and spar.
And all night long I thought of it
Salt-drenched, wind-buffed, and lit

By Bethlehem's bright star.

From "Christmas Time"
by Rachel Field
The Macmillan Company, 1941

a multitude, which no man can number, who have especially dedicated themselves to works of mercy and healing will be watching on board ship, in camp and hospital, concentration areas and devastated countries, over the sick, the wounded, the desolate and the oppressed.

It is almost impossible to think of anyone who has not this year some special watch to stand on Christmas Eve.

May the Dear Heavenly Father who, on the first Christmas Eve, vouchsafed to the shepherds of that day a vision of the Glory of the Lord, give to all who will watch this Christmas Eve that self same vision and may that Holy Night for them be filled with the music of the Angels and may their hearts be strengthened and their faith made perfect by the knowledge that for men of good will who will glorify God in the highest, there will be peace on earth.

* Courtesy, "The Mainstay", The Seamen's Church Institute of Newport.

Send "The Lookout" As a Christmas Gift

Doubtless you have many friends to whom you wish to send a modest Christmas remembrance—something more than just a greeting card and yet not as expensive as a formal gift. Why not go over your list and decide to send "The Lookout"? The subscription price is only \$1.00. A cheery marine Christmas Card will be mailed, along with your initial gift copy, in time to reach your friends on Christmas Eve. Make Checks payable to the SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK and mail to "The Lookout" editor, 25 South Street, New York, N. Y.

Remember the Sailor on Christmas Through the Holiday Fund

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

How good that word "home" sounds! Here at the Institute which to thousands of merchant seamen is a "home away from home" and to others their only home, we like to think of this great 13-story building as "home" with a small "h". Walking through the Seamen's Lounge, Apprentices' Room, British, Belgian and Dutch Club Rooms and observing the preparations for Christmas celebrations, we think you will agree that the Institute, as large as it is, with thousands of seamen entering the building daily, still has the attractiveness and coziness and cheerfulness of a real "home."

A warm Christmas welcome awaits about 1,600 seafarers who will spend the holiday at "25 South Street." We expect to serve turkey dinner with the traditional trimmings plus cigarettes and tobacco, music and movies in the Auditorium afternoon and evening, plus a Christmas Carol service in the Chapel PLUS a hearty, friendly welcome from all the staff and volun-



Courtesy, Seamen's Bank for Savings

teers, PLUS a Christmas box and comfort bag for every one of the seamen who will sleep in the Institute on Christmas Eve, plus at least 500 boxes for seamen in the Marine Hospitals, distributed by Institute chaplains.

All of this is made possible by loyal, generous friends who send an annual gift to our HOLIDAY FUND.

Won't you, in a spirit of sharing, share your Holiday with these brave men of the Merchant Marine of the United Nations who carry essential cargoes to our Armed Forces?

Will readers of the LOOKOUT please send contributions, making checks payable to the Seamen's Church Institute of New York, and mailing to 25 South Street, New York City, marked HOLIDAY FUND.

Mrs. Janet Roper, House Mother, greets two seamen enjoying Christmas dinner at the Institute last year.



Women's Organization for the American Merchant Marine Volunteers making Christmas kits for Merchant Marine.



Photo by Marie Higginson



Photo by Marie Higginson

Central Council Members Prepare Kits

Volunteers Who Have Earned Pins For Service in the Institute

CENTRAL COUNCIL

Miss Ruth Duff
Mrs. L. Enderle
Mrs. L. Evans
Mrs. Charles Jackson
Mrs. Tom Jones
Mrs. B. B. Lanier
Mrs. Alice Cox Leopold
Mrs. B. Martin
Mrs. C. Henry Mellon
Miss Florence Moysey
Mrs. Arthur H. Orpin
Mrs. Mary Robinson
Mrs. H. W. Rowley
Mrs. Margaret M. Sawyer
Mrs. W. A. Sillars
Miss Marjorie Stillman
Mrs. Winthrop Waite

CONRAD LIBRARY

Miss Rosemary Ames
Miss Marguerite Burnett
Miss Jeanne Crombie
Miss Katharine Etz
Mrs. F. S. Hazard
Mrs. Catherine Heddon
Miss Roberta Herriott
Miss Emily Hudson
Miss Helen F. Johnson
Miss Leish L. McEwan
Miss Anne P. Mendel
Miss Lillian Scardefield
Miss Gertrude Taylor

SEAMEN'S LOUNGE

Miss Helen D. Alexander
Mrs. Gordon Auchincloss
Mrs. Edward Bozarth
Mrs. Charles S. Brown
Mrs. W. M. Chubb
Miss Lillian V. Cunningham
Mrs. Carroll Dunham, 3rd
Miss Margaret A. Gorgan
Mrs. P. Douglas Gough
Miss Gretchen Green
Mrs. Horace Holt
Mrs. Harry W. Hoskins
Mrs. Oliver Iselin
Miss P. K. Jones

Miss Florence R. Lynch
Mrs. Alfred J. Miller
Miss Katherine D. Morse
Miss Una Mouat-Biggs
Mrs. Harry P. Nusbaum
Mrs. Louis J. Othote
Miss Murla Robb
Mrs. David St. John
Mrs. William B. Scaife
Mrs. Mary Schauss
Miss Laura F. Squires
Mrs. John L. Tonnele
Mrs. June Turnbull
Mrs. James Whitaker
Mrs. Leonard Wyeth
Miss Ethel Zabriskie

CLINICS

Mrs. Charles Stratton

SOCIAL SERVICE DESK

Mrs. Eva Bothoff
Miss Caroline E. Gregory
Miss Frances H. Seeley
Mrs. Diego Suarez

"THE LOOKOUT" DESK

Mrs. Marie Higginson

APPRENTICES' ROOM

Miss Mary Grace Chute
Mrs. Harrison Corbett
Mrs. A. W. Gould
Mrs. M. P. Hardesty
Miss Evelyn Horner
Mrs. H. B. Harrison Hurd
Mrs. C. W. Lawrence
Mrs. Clifton Macon
Mrs. T. J. L. McConnell
Miss Viola McConnell
Mrs. Crosby McLean
Miss Helen Pitman
Miss Margaret Smith
Mrs. Andrew Storms
Miss Alice F. Wroe

HOTEL DESK

Mrs. Alphonse de Rothschild

INFORMATION DESK

Mr. Gerald A. Bramwell
(member of the Board)

"There Go the Ships"

"If you're searching for additional reasons for buying War Bonds, try the argument contained in Able Seaman Robert Carse's "There Go The Ships." First, says Mr. Carse, "Give us more guns and newer ships." That means War Bonds. Another thing: The merchant marine which disdains heroics is so obviously doing a job requiring the utmost in courage and endurance that it's about time we recognized these sailors for what they are—fighting men no more and no less, the equal in every way of soldiers, sailors, or marines."

Clifton Fadiman in "The New Yorker"

Warm Clothing Needed for Seamen

MERCHANT Seaman John Beidell who has survived two torpedoings on American tankers, is shown wearing a sweater made by a blind worker. Various knitted garments, to be sold in the annual sale of the New York State Commission for the Blind, are being given by purchasers to the Seamen's Church Institute of New York for distribution to merchant seamen of the United Nations. Thus, a dollar does "double duty", aiding the blind workers and providing warm knitted articles for the intrepid merchant seamen who brave the perils of mine, torpedo, bomb and winter storms to carry the precious cargoes to the fighting fronts. Beidell has been going to sea since 1918. He was in the U. S. Army in World War I. His first experience with a "tin fish" was last January. He, and his shipmates, spent 58 hours in a lifeboat off Cape Hatteras, until they were rescued. His second experience was much worse. He was severely burned and spent many months in the Marine Hospital at Staten Island as a result of the torpedo striking No. 4 tank, and the flaming oil poured over him and his companions. The third mate and an ordinary seaman were killed. Beidell was in the captain's lifeboat and when the boat caught fire from the burning oil, he helped beat out the flames with blankets. He inhaled the fumes from the gasoline and is still convalescing from his last experience of being "bumped" as merchant seamen call it. At the Institute, many survivors of torpedoed vessels receive warm clothing from the Institute's "Sloppe Chest". Various groups of women supply sweaters, socks, caps, pajamas, bathrobes, mufflers, helmets, mittens, etc. so that torpedoed or shipwrecked crews arriving at any time of day or night may be clothed.



Merchant Seaman John Beidell

We also need men's overcoats, shoes and heavy underwear for seamen to withstand wintry blasts on trips to Russia, Iceland, etc.

Unlike the Armed forces, merchant seamen are not issued clothing, but must provide their own "work gear" and outfits when they ship out. To shipwrecked and torpedoed crews, often with no clothing except makeshift garments given them by the crews of rescue ships, the Institute's "Sloppe Chest" is a godsend.

Will readers please look through their closets and send us whatever men's clothing they can spare?

Packages should be addressed to the Welfare Department, Seamen's Church Institute of New York, 25 South Street. (Bowling Green 9-2710.)

Service Flag for Seamen

THE service flag, which is customarily flown to indicate members of a household serving in the armed forces, may also be used by families of merchant seamen, Admiral Emory S. Land, War Shipping Administrator has announced. He stated that it was both fitting and proper that members of the Merchant Marine, as well as the men of the Army and Navy, should be honored by representation on service flags. He pointed out that the merchant seaman's duties expose him to almost constant danger. Engaged in transporting supplies and

equipment to the far corners of the world and also in transporting manpower of our country to the fighting fronts, the merchant seaman is subject to extraordinary peril, he added.

"The American seaman," Admiral Land said, "is constantly and unselfishly struggling to preserve a free nation, and is as much a defender of Liberty as any member of the armed forces of the United States. An appropriate method of paying tribute would be to use the service flag to signify service in the Merchant Marine by members of any household or establishment."

"Torpedo Club"

FORMATION of a club for seamen of the United States Merchant Marine who have survived enemy action in line of duty was announced by the War Shipping Administration. The purpose of the club is to provide recognition by the government for men who have been torpedoed, bombed, shelled or shipwrecked in the war zones.

The exploits and achievements of these seamen in delivering their essential war cargoes despite enemy submarines, bombers and mines has become a modern epic of the new American Merchant Marine, the War Shipping Administration points out. Many of these modest heroes have been forced to take to the lifeboats time after time, but once they again reach port they invariably head for the nearest shipping office.

"You bet I'm going back to sea," has become the seamen's slogan. It is this spirit that keynotes the purpose of the club—to keep 'em sailing.

The War Shipping Administration feels that such an organization

will promote the morale of merchant seamen during the war and become a source of pride and satisfaction in the future.

The new club will have no rules, no officers, no dues, and no obligations other than to foster good fellowship and patriotic effort among merchant seamen. Membership will be optional with those eligible, and will include both officers and seamen.

As evidence of membership the WSA will provide a distinctive ribbon bar such as is worn by members of the armed forces. If the ship of a member has been lost through enemy action, a silver star will be affixed to the member's ribbon bar; an additional star being added for each engagement in which his vessel is sunk. Already there are men eligible to wear six stars.

The selection of a name for the club has not yet been made, and eligible members are invited to submit suggestions for a name to be given their own "Torpedo" club.



Dutch hostesses entertain seamen in the Netherlands Room on the third floor of the Institute. *Eriss Photo*



Young women volunteers serve tea to seamen in the British Merchant Navy Club on the second floor of the Institute.



Photo by Marie Higginson

The Institute's Chef prepares turkey dinners for 1,500

Thanksgiving Day At the Institute

GOOD news from the fighting fronts, clear evidence that America and her Allies have reached the turning point of the war, combined to emphasize the nation's war-time observance of Thanksgiving Day as a real day of thankfulness. On New York's waterfront, merchant seamen, on brief shore leave from their ships, sat down to a truly bountiful turkey dinner in the Institute's cafeteria and dining room where almost 1,500 meals were served. A bright, warm day also contributed to the general atmosphere of good cheer, and seamen who were unable to go to their own homes on this traditional home holiday, thoroughly enjoyed the program planned for them and made possible by gifts of loyal friends to the Institute's Holiday Fund.

The seamen especially like the moving pictures shown in the Auditorium. At 2:30 "Holiday Inn", starring Fred Astaire and Bing

Crosby was shown, and at 8 P.M. "Pied Piper", starring Monty Woolley, Roddy McDowall and Anne Baxter, about 750 seamen in the afternoon and 650 in the evening witnessing each film.

Many of the seamen from the British, Belgian and Dutch Clubrooms in the Institute spoke of this being their first Thanksgiving dinner. In their countries they have a Harvest Festival or similar fall holiday. They thoroughly approved of the American way of celebrating the gathering in of the harvest.

Chapel services were held in the morning, Chaplain Harkness celebrating the Holy Communion at 9:00 and preaching at 10:30 with Chaplain Kelley officiating. Many seafarers joined in traditional hymns of praise and in thanksgiving for the harvest, for progress toward victory, and for the divine protection given seamen on duty at sea.

Book Reviews

COMMANDO ATTACK

By Gordon Holman

Illustrated with photographs.
G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Because there is a tremendous appeal in the Commandos themselves, the reader is patient while Mr. Holman fumbles around with their exciting tale in "Commando Attack". What soldier wouldn't give his eye teeth to be able to work with these closely integrated units? Here a man can make his presence felt as a soldier, not as a number in a mass infantry attack but as a man who has a definite job to do so that the other Commandos can sweep through the path he has cleared for them and get to their mark of destruction of enemy key points.

Picture the split second schedule: the Royal Navy lays down its barrage of steel while the Commandos are going into shore on the invasion barges, then the R.A.F. appears, seemingly out of nowhere, and a smoke screen is laid, then they go on to bomb the enemy into resistance while the Commandos press home the attack on land. Job done, back into the boats and off for home.

There you have the secret of Commando warfare.

This type of battle always has the romantic appeal in the eyes of the public. Witness Marion, the swamp fox of our own war times and T. E. Lawrence of the Arabian Desert campaigns whose lightning attacks kept the Turks forever anxious in the last war. Highly mobile, the Commandos can go anywhere and consequently do, as Mr. Hitler is learning.

But in this story it is only when Mr. Holman wearies of philosophizing and quoting poetry and lets the story tell itself that it really begins.

Start with page 102 if you want to be in on the Lofoten Islands raid! It's Christmas Day and we are enroute to "somewhere" well within the Arctic Circle priming for an attack at dawn tomorrow. Tommy guns and ammunition are checked over. Grenades are primed, knives sharpened, for tomorrow we trade in blood. Will it be theirs or ours?

The King is making his Christmas Day address. What are these dauntless young men thinking of as their ship digs in, bows deep, into the rough, icy seas? Now, it's mines dangerously close in spite of the vessel's attempts to avoid them, then it's the alarm for enemy submarines anxious to write finis to this expedition. And over the scene the compelling thought: tomorrow you must be prepared to fight for your life else it shall be taken.

The most moving story is that of the St. Nazaire raid. Here men fought against terrific odds.

—Reviewed by Seaman David Harris

"THERE GO THE SHIPS"

Illustrated by Gordon Grant
Wm. Morrow. \$2.00

Robert Carse wears no stars. He had no vengeance. He never even wore a uniform. He was just a merchant seaman, but he faced dangers equal to any faced by the heroes of Midway, and he tells a kind of horror story that Americans need to hear. In Edinburgh, close to the minefields and the Stukas, the Scottish canteens accept merchant seamen on an equal plane with members of the Navy. In American ports the Merchant seaman, without uniform, is treated as somehow second class.

Listen to what Robert Carse and his shipmates faced: When they sailed they carried a deckload of tanks and planes and in their hold, with other ammunition, 407 tons of TNT—and all they had to fight anything with was the skipper's .32-caliber revolver. In Scotland their ship was armed with eight .30-caliber guns made in 1918, and those merchant seamen who had never handled a machine gun were expected to handle these guns after a few minutes' practice on the lochs of Scotland.

Somewhere on the route to Murmansk Nazi Condor planes sighted the convoy and for nine days and nine nights hung in the sky, just out of gun range, reporting the position of the slow ships to bombers and submarines. A bomber got the ship astern; a sub torpedoed Carse's starboard neighbor. And one terrible day Heinkels, Messerschmitts, Stukas and Junker planes harassed the convoy—105 German planes in all, and they had no friendly planes to cover them. More ships went down, and a near-miss twisted the tail shaft and opened the seams of Carse's ship.

At last Russian destroyers came out to defend the convoy, and they sighted the Russian coast. But there was no peace in Murmansk; sixty-five miles from the front is Germany's ally, Finland. Carse's ship unloaded its ammunition and started upstream to discharge its general cargo when it struck a German mine. They had gone through hell to save that cargo, and it went down in sight of the goal. And the water is cold up there within the Arctic Circle. After that, for fifty-five days' waiting, the survivors suffered intermittent bombardment, and on the return trip, though Carse himself came through, he saw nine ships go down in ten minutes, when a pack of German submarines got inside the convoy.

Mr. Carse tells his story with simple, honest feeling; it leaves you intensely aware that not all the heroes of this war wear uniforms.

Reprinted from Lewis Gannett's Book Column
N. Y. Herald Tribune, Nov. 25, 1942.

Benefit Report

The net proceeds of our annual Fall Benefit (this year we had a performance of "The Skin of Our Teeth", Thornton Wilder's play), was about \$2,600. We deeply appreciate the loyal and generous response of all who supported the Benefit.



TAXES AND GIVING

A reminder — before December 31st — our Government encourages individuals to contribute to philanthropic organizations by providing for a deduction up to 15% of their net income. Otherwise, this money is subject to tax. Donors may also save paying taxes on the sale of securities where there is a profit by turning over the securities (which have appreciated in value) to welfare institutions. Contributions to the SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK are deductible on Federal and State income tax returns.

SERVICES RENDERED TO MERCHANT SEAMEN JANUARY 1 — NOVEMBER 1, 1942

368,528	Lodgings
111,136	Pieces of Baggage handled
967,049	Sales at Luncheonette and Restaurant
336,496	Sales at News Stand
39,384	Calls at Laundry, Barber and Tailor Shops
14,021	Total attendance at 569 Religious Services at Institute, U. S. Marine Hospitals and Hoffman Island
45,980	Social Service Interviews
223	Missing Seamen located
106,362	Total attendance at 287 Entertainments, such as Movies, Concerts, Lectures and Sports
10,488	Credit Loans to 4,928 individual Seamen
95,775	Magazines distributed
4,053	Pieces of Clothing and 2,083 Knitted Articles distributed
2,625	Treatments in Clinics
42,864	Visits at Apprentices' Room
1,330	Visits to Ships by Institute Representatives
7,951	Deposits of Seamen's Earnings in Banks
4,782	Jobs secured for Seamen
18,310	Attendance of Seamen Readers in Conrad Library; 8,195 Books distributed
74,564	Total Attendance of Cadets and Seamen at 1,970 Lectures in Merchant Marine School; 4,360 new students enrolled
15,275	Incoming Telephone Calls for Seamen

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