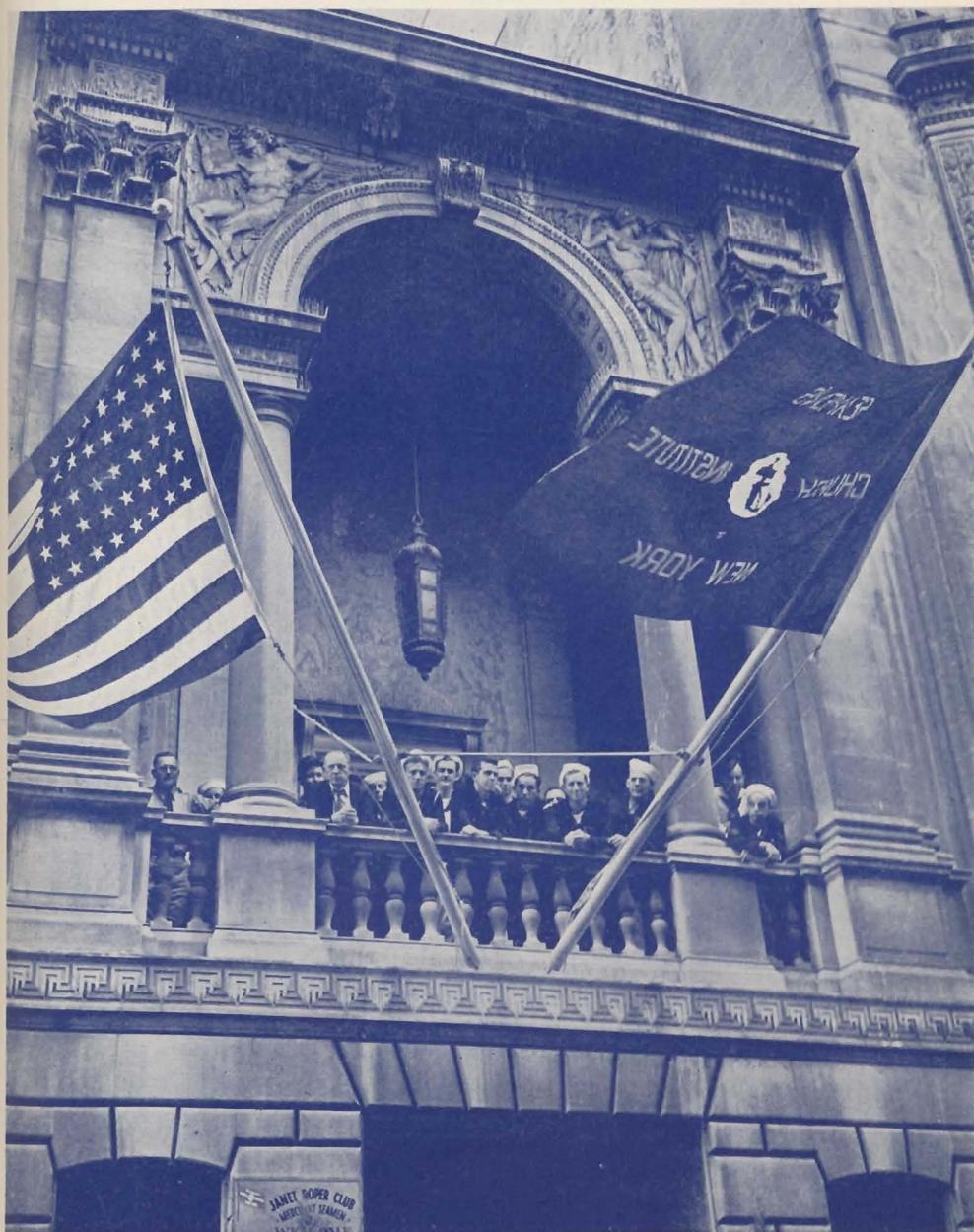


# THE LOOKOUT



JANET ROPER CLUB

"ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN OF FACILITIES FOR SEAMEN . . ."

## Sanctuary

Almighty God our Heavenly Father who hast endowed men with skill to make of the ocean a highway, bless we pray thee this Janet Roper Club, those who have generously provided it, those who may serve here and the seafarers and their families who may come to it as a home and a haven. May these rooms and garden prove an inspiration and a joy to all who enter and may they go forth with new strength for the duties which are theirs. All this we ask in the name of thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dr. Kelley's Prayer at official opening of JANET ROPER CLUB

## The LOOKOUT

VOL. XXXIV, OCTOBER, 1943

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 4, 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.

# The Lookout

VOL. XXXIV

October, 1943

No. 10

## Janet Roper Club Opens



Fred Waring Entertains

CLOUDY skies which finally cleared marked the day September 8th, when the Institute officially opened its new Club for merchant seamen and their families at 3 East 67th Street, across Fifth Avenue from Central Park. By late afternoon a reluctant sun had been coaxed out so that seamen and guests could enjoy the lovely garden of the new Club which was the art gallery of the home of the late Thomas Fortune Ryan. His grandchildren turned over the premises completely equipped and redecorated to the Institute which will operate and maintain it. Mrs. Elizabeth Draper supervised the furnishings and decorations which are in lovely shades of green, yel-

low and orange.

Mr. Fred Waring, popular band leader, led his Pennsylvanians in singing his "Song for the Unsung" dedicated to the Merchant Marine, and "Heave Ho", the song composed by Lieut. (jg) Jack Lawrence of the U. S. Maritime Training Service. Miss Janet Winter sang the National Anthem and Miss Donna Day and the Honey Bees of Mr. Waring's Glee Club entertained the seamen and visitors for half an hour. Mr. Clarence G. Michalis, President of the Institute's Board of Managers, presided, welcomed the guests and thanked the family responsible for the Club.

The Club contains a spacious liv-



Mrs. Janet Roper's Granddaughters Were Guests at the Club

ing room, where a piano, book shelves, comfortable sofas and chairs are arranged; also a writing room on a small balcony above. A stone stairway leads to the garden below. On the main floor is a snack bar, and a huge kitchen with an enormous coal range and ice box, sufficient to serve a good hundred hungry sailors with hot or cold refreshments.

In sending greetings to the official opening of the Club Admiral Land said: "I am glad to see another link added to the chain of facilities which is gradually giving our valiant merchant seamen the recognition and care they deserve."

The younger seamen were particularly delighted with the ping pong table set out in the garden and the peach trees ripe with fruit (which quickly disappeared!) (History may cite this as the first picking of "peaches" on Fifth Avenue by sailors, from a tree!). The older seamen enjoyed games of quoits and strolling along the paths, inspecting Michel's (the caretaker's) Victory vegetable garden and the

fish pool. All of the men were fascinated by "Co-Co" the parrot, and his seagoing chatter.

The new Club has been named the "JANET ROPER CLUB" in honor of the Institute's House Mother whose death last April 5th was mourned by seafarers all over the world. She had been a friend to merchant seamen for 54 years, and the naming of the Club is particularly appropriate since she became the symbol to merchant seamen of home and family, for she had reunited thousands of seamen with their families. The Club differs from other Canteens for merchant seamen in that it offers hospitality to both seamen and their families and welcomes the girl friends, wives, mothers and other relatives of seamen. It is open daily from 2 to 11 P.M. and there are dances on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 to 11 P.M. with popular orchestras. On other evenings there is singing around the piano, dancing to victrola records and the radio, and on cool nights, toasting marshmallows in the huge

open fireplaces.

In good weather, the seamen are attracted to Central Park, with an entrance just across from the Club. Rowing (the seafarer's proverbial pastime) walking, visiting the zoo, bicycling and horseback riding are other attractions.

Many women have offered their services as volunteers at the Club and at present there is a waiting list. Young women from churches, clubs, insurance offices, etc. who have been coming regularly as hostesses to the Institute's large dances held in the Auditorium for the Maritime Service trainees were given the first opportunity to volunteer at the dances at the Janet Roper Club. Interviews may be arranged with Mrs. Shirley Wessel, Club supervisor, afternoons (REgent 7-3903.) Those who can play musical instruments, sing, play bridge, or have other talents as entertainers are especially welcome.

Because of the limited accommodations at the Club it is not possible to invite large groups to inspect

it, but contributors who are interested in visiting it may do so by writing to Dr. Harold H. Kelley, 25 South Street for a special guest card.

To the sponsors:

I remember a quotation from my school days, "A Thing of beauty is a joy forever."

This home so graciously set up for we men of the Merchant Marine by the Seamen's Institute and its sponsors is really a thing of beauty and to me it will be a joy forever knowing that someone thinks of us.

A fitting tribute to Mrs. Janet Roper, a friend to all seamen and one of the grandest women I've ever known or expect to know.

LESLIE GOLDINGER,  
*Able Seaman*



Photo by Marie Higginson

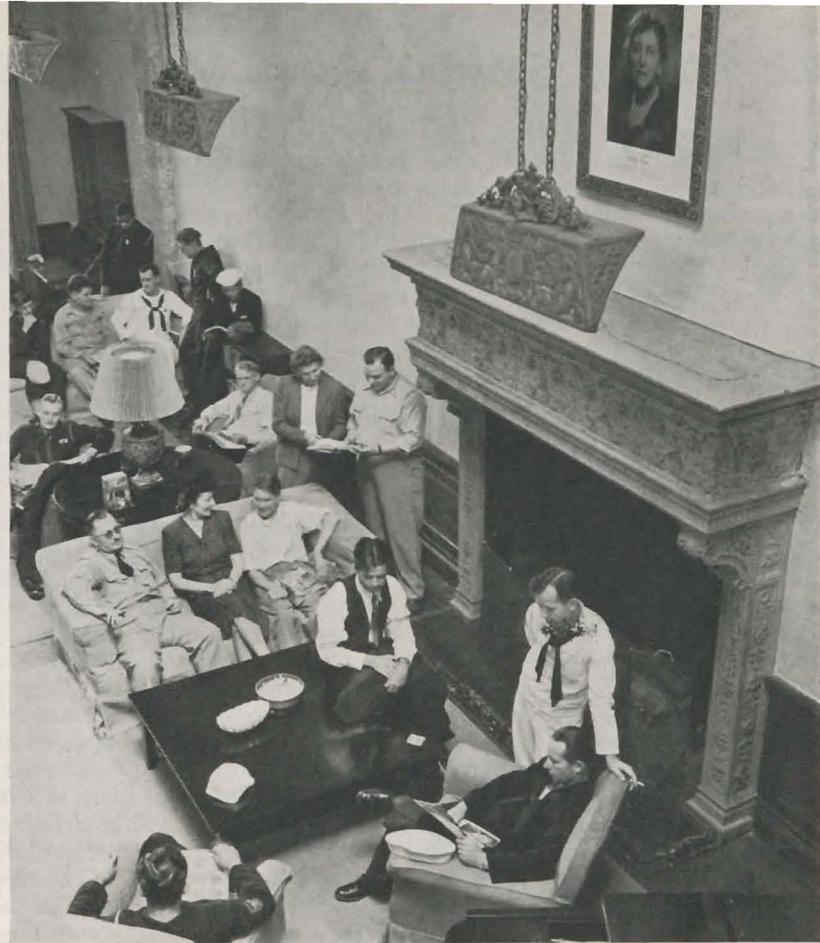
Powder Room of Club



Stairway from Main Lounge of Club



Miss Janet Winter, Volunteer Hostess, in the Club Kitchen



Main Lounge, Janet Roper Club, 3 East 67th Street

WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 3, 1943

As Administrator of the War Shipping Administration, I wish to send The Seamen's Church Institute of New York my best wishes for the opening of the Janet Roper Club for merchant seamen. If this club serves the Merchant Marine as graciously, as sincerely and as effectively as Janet Roper did during her 54 years of work among seamen, it will be making an invaluable and much-needed contribution.

Those of us who are interested in the welfare of the Merchant Marine know that our efforts to provide recreation, housing, and medical care for our offices and seamen are very slight when compared with the effort these men are making in their job of supplying our armed forces and those of our Allies with the materials of war. I am glad to see another link added to the chain of facilities which is gradually giving our valiant merchant seamen the recognition and care they deserve.

(Admiral) E. S. Land  
Administrator

## The Missing Seamen's Bureau Carries on

AFTER the death of Mrs. Janet Roper, supervisor of the Institute's Missing Seamen's Bureau, many people wrote or telephoned to ask if a successor had been appointed to continue Mrs. Roper's work of reuniting seamen with their families. Our answer is, no one can take the place of Mother Roper in the affections of the seamen, but her work is definitely carried on, just as she had organized it and by her own assistants, with Mrs. Shirley Wessel as Supervisor.

Following are a few recent "cases" with happy endings.

**Seaman Charles S.** came into the office in answer to the Post Office notice that a relative was inquiring for him. It turned out to be his cousin, who had found Charles' ship discharge papers (he had left them when last he visited the cousin) and since Charles was waiting around trying to get duplicate papers he was grateful and relieved to get them so that he could ship out immediately.

**Seaman James H.**'s name has been on the Institute's Missing Seamen's Bulletin since 1927. His mother had written to Mrs. Roper inquiring as to his whereabouts. Year after year the mother wrote, hoping that some time her boy would be found. One August day, in 1943, a tall, dark-haired man walked into the Missing Seamen's office and said, "I happened to be waiting for the elevator and glanced at the Missing Seamen's Bulletin. I was surprised to find my name there. Who is inquiring for me?" After establishing his identity, he commented: "I went to see my mother in 1938, but when I got there neighbors told me that she and my sister had moved away and left no forwarding address." "You may see your mother if you will take the 3rd Ave. L up to 67th Street," said Mrs. Wessel. "Here is her address. She will be delighted to see you. If by any chance she is not there, inquire of the landlord. And please come back and let me know what luck you had." The next morning James returned, jubilant, and overjoyed to report that he had found his mother and sister and both were well. He will stay with them until his ship sails.

**Seaman Tom Flynn** came to the Missing Seamen's office to inquire about his name appearing on the Bulletin. Tom was the sixth Tom Flynn to inquire. He was the right one; his wife had moved and was trying to reach him.

**Chief Mate Ray J.** recently finished his officers' training at New London and is now in command of a freighter. The Institute had received word that his father in St. Louis was gravely ill and wanted to see his son. On seeing his name posted, Ray had come to the Missing Seamen's office, learned the news and took a train immediately to see his father. In recent years, he admitted, he had been a poor letter-writer, and he was chagrined to think that he had almost missed getting the message.

MISSING SEAMEN'S BULLETIN BOARD

New York Times Photo

So the Missing Seamen's Bureau carries on. Since January 1st of this year up to September 1st, 221 seamen have been located.

Following are several letters with happy endings:

My dear Mrs. Wessel:

Thanks, *tremendously*, for the very real kindness you folks have done for me in locating my friend, George S—. Just saying "thanks" cannot convey my gratitude.

I was so happy when I received your letter last week, saying you had located him—the next day, a letter came from him—and I spent a very happy weekend in New York, with George and his wife—Mrs. S— said she never saw two "regular" fellows so fond of each other and just loved it. We talked till almost day-break on Sunday morning and started in again when we arose for the day.

At any rate, I wish sometime soon that I might do as great a favor for you—I have many friends, but George somehow, has always been closer to me than any of them. And I'm so glad you were able to bring us together—

Once more, thanks, a million times.

My sincere regards,

Truly,

B. B.

Supervisor, Missing Seamen's Bureau  
Seamen's Church Institute of New York  
25 South Street

New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Wessel:

Pvt. S— has asked me to express to you his sincere thanks for sending to us the address of his brother.

I also wish you to know that I personally, am greatly indebted for your kindness.

W. E. B.

1st Lt., Signal Corps

August 24, 1943

My dear Mrs. S:

Your son, Fred W., called at this

office this morning having just returned from a long trip at sea. He seemed happy and very busy since he was already making plans to ship out again.

I explained to him your anxiety to get in touch with him and he promised to write you. However, if you are anxious to get a message to him I understand that he calls for his mail regularly here at 25 South Street and that you will be able to contact him by writing him in care of this address.

We are very happy to send you this good news.

Sincerely yours,  
Shirley Wessel, Supervisor  
Missing Seamen Bureau

SW:ls

August 24, 1943

My dear Miss S:

Your father, Fred S—, came to this office this morning. He seemed very happy since he had just called at the Post Office and received your letter. I told him how anxious you were to receive a picture and also to hear from him regularly. He actually promised to get all dressed up and have his picture taken for you and said he would write to you.

He seemed to be a very nice person and is keeping terribly busy doing his part in the war effort. If your father does not write as regularly as you feel that he should it is not because he forgets but because many of the trips are very long and it is not possible to write often while at sea.

I am sure this good news will make you very happy. Continue to write your father here as he informs me that he regularly calls here for his mail.

Sincerely yours,  
Shirley Wessel

## MACARTHUR GIVES HIGH PRAISE TO MERCHANT MARINE SERVICE

By Lt. (j.g.) John A. MacAuley

ALLIED HQ. IN THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC, Aug. 23 (Delayed).

"They have brought us our lifeblood," says Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific.

This is the General's way of acknowledging the debt the Allied fighting men in this area owe to the United States Merchant Marine.

And they have paid for it with some of their own," he continues.

"I saw them bombed off Corregidor and more recently I have seen the same thing happen in ports in this area. When it was humanly possible, when their ships were not blown out from under

them by bombs or torpedoes, they have delivered their cargoes to us who needed them so badly.

"In outward appearance, perhaps, they are not impressive, if their variety of garb is compared with the uniforms of other services. But they have maintained the flow of supplies to this area so vital to a war. In war it is performance which counts.

"We can use more men like them down here. If more are needed in the Merchant Marine, more men should join their ranks. It is a service of which the United States and any American can be justly proud."

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## Tribute to Merchant Marine from Army

Protestant soldiers at an Evacuation Hospital somewhere in North Africa under the leadership of Chaplain Robert W. Woodroffe, Jr., voted to take up a collection at each church service and have sent their gift to the Institute "because merchant seamen are contributing tremendously to the war effort and because the Seamen's Church Institute cuts across denominational lines." The men sent a total of \$276.00.

In announcing the gift, Dr. Kelley, Director of the Institute, said: "This gift expresses tangibly the gratitude of soldiers who have been safely transported to their combat areas by merchant seamen. The war will mean much more to these soldiers because of their generous thought for others in another branch of service—the Merchant Marine."

Chaplain Woodroffe, formerly assistant to the Rev. G. P. T. Sargent, D.D., Rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Park Avenue at 50th Street, New York

City, wrote:

"On Sundays our men sit on the slope of a little hill. The altar is set up below, and from their places the men look across a valley ten miles wide to a range of hills on the other side. It makes a very impressive reredos for our Communion service. In our services here I had made it a practice not to take up an offering. Then it occurred to me that the religious education of these men was not complete without the habit of giving financial support to the work of the Church. I have therefore been raising a fund with the Seamen's Church Institute as the object. It has a broad enough basis in its work of ministering to different faiths and different nationalities to appeal to all Protestants. Also, since our two boat rides we appreciate the work of the merchant seamen and know in part what the seamen have to put up with . . . Please accept this gift for your work and keep 'em sailing."

## A Red Letter Day

Thursday, August 26th, was a Red Letter Day at the Institute, the generous gift of Mrs. A. M. Cottrell, Jr., who also arranged for a birthday party in the Seamen's Lounge. Seamen's eyes lighted up on seeing the huge chocolate cakes with the white candles. One of the men, just returned from the Caribbean area, remarked: "I haven't been to a birthday party since I was a kid." And he took a huge bite of the cake and pronounced it delicious. An American seaman arrived, and between sips of coffee and bites of cakes he told how he had married a girl in Curacao and was arranging to bring her to the United States and he asked the Institute hostess to help him find a suitable apartment and to help him buy some nice furniture for his bride. A young Texan sailor

drawled, on seeing the tables with the flowers and festive decorations: "Golly, this makes me think of home!" One elderly Danish engineer examined the flowers and said wistfully: "Those asters are so pretty. I used to grow asters in my garden in Copenhagen before the Nazis came." Two young seamen trainees from the Maritime Schools licked the gooey chocolate from their fingers and eyed the cakes longingly until one of our volunteers gave them a "second helping" which they told her they enjoyed even more than the first. Another volunteer took a picture of a group of seamen around the table. An Australian seaman inquired "Whose birthday is it today?" And when the hostess replied "It's everybody's birthday", he commented, "That's wonderful. Tomorrow is really



Photo by Marie Higginson

mine, and I expect to be aboard my ship, so do you mind if I consider this as my birthday party? It will be the first one I've had since before the war."

The Institute has 21 on its Red Letter Day Calendar (but needs many more), the generous gifts of friends who guarantee the operation of all the Institute's welfare and free services and facilities for 24 hours. This costs \$273.97 and it pays for the maintenance of the Social Service Desk, Seamen's Funds Bureau, Clinics, Conrad Library, Chapel, Missing Seamen's Bureau, Entertainment Bureau, Apprentices' Room, Seamen's Lounge parties, Information Desk, Credit Bureau and Sloppe Chest. A Red Letter Day may be selected as a tribute to some dear friend or relative, or to mark an anniversary.

With the establishment of the Janet Roper Club, the Institute assumes the responsibility of operating and maintaining this attractive recreation club for seamen and their families at 3 East 67th. For the sum of \$30.00 you can be an "Angel" and underwrite for one day the operation of this Club where dances and entertainment

are held. Or, if you wish to guarantee the operation of BOTH "25 South Street" and the Janet Roper Club, the total cost is \$303.97.

Such a gift is a practical way of paying tribute to the one in whose honor you name and select the Day.

Checks should be sent to the SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK.

### MERCHANT SEAMAN WINS "SILVER STAR" DECORATION

The first merchant seaman to receive the U. S. Army's Silver Star decoration for bravery is Chief Officer Walter A. Equils, 32 years old of Washington, D. C. On September 3rd, Commander Winchester Noyes, U.S.N., now attached to the Maritime Commission and Col. T. L. Crystal, commanding officer of Fort Jay, Governor's Island, made the presentation to Mr. Equils. He was decorated for saving his ship during a bombing attack on Tripoli harbor on the night of March 19th of this year.

Mr. Equils' vessel was moored alongside an ammunition ship that was struck by bombs and burst into flames. Without a moment's delay he cut his mooring lines, hoisted one anchor and dragged the other. He had succeeded in putting about 2,000 feet between the two ships when the stricken vessel exploded. A few minutes delay in cutting loose might have resulted in the loss of his ship and crew, as his ship was also carrying ammunition and gasoline.

## Comfort Bags for Merchant Seamen

The 6-A class at the Belmont Avenue School, Dover, N. J. are all active members of the "Victory Club", sponsored by "Young America" Magazine which co-operates with the Institute in filling Christmas boxes and comfort bags for the Merchant Marine. Requests for boxes to fill have come from schools all over the country, and the children are using their ingenuity in raising money to purchase the items to be enclosed. Some groups have sold scrap; some have done odd chores for families and neighbors. The Eagle Chapter in the Middleton, Mass., school puts on concerts and plays for clubs and fraternal groups and so obtains funds. Over 5,000 Honor Cards have been given out to individual pupils, making them "JUNIOR SHIP-MATES."

The Institute hopes to fill 7,000 Christmas boxes this year and distribute them to seamen on board ships, in Marine hospitals, and at the Institute. Requests for empty boxes (size 8" by 8" by 4") should be addressed to Mrs. Grafton Burke, secretary, Central Council, 25 South Street, New York 4, N. Y. In general each box contains the following items (about \$3.00 total value): billfold, belt, fountain pen, pencil, notepaper, envelopes, playing cards, automatic lighter, safety razor and blades, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, tie, soapbox, soap, gum, (hard candy), cigarettes or tobacco or pipe. Contents of box should be written on a slip and attached to the outside.

These boxes will be a welcome and joyful Christmas gift for our American and Allied merchant seamen who are doing their jobs so modestly and so heroically.



Helping to fill Comfort Bags for Merchant Seamen.

## Books Needed

Right now we are urgently in need of good books—current books of fiction, biography, etc. We also need "pocket-books", copies of the classics printed in readable 25 cent editions. We are distributing, through our Conrad Library, to seamen and to ships on an average of 500 books a week. This means that our supply of current books is constantly being depleted.

Seamen read widely, they are interested in keeping up with current affairs and they follow the reviews and ask for the latest books. It hurts us not to be able to provide them with reading material of a quality equal to their requests. Perhaps readers will make it a practice of mailing whatever recent books they have read and enjoyed, to Miss Anne Conrow, The Conrad Library, Seamen's Church Institute of New York, 25 South Street, New York 4, N. Y.

ELLERMAN'S WILSON LINE,  
LIMITED

S.S. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday  
Aug. 21st, 1943

Dear Miss Conrow:

Please excuse me taking this liberty in writing to you, but I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of myself and Staff, for your kindness in sending us the parcel of Books.

As you are aware a good book acts as a tonic in these strenuous times, through which we are passing, and I feel sure we shall enjoy reading them, and shall always remember you while doing so.

So, please accept my very best thanks.

Trusting you are enjoying the best of Health,

Yours very sincerely,  
J. Raddings  
Chief Engineer

U. S. Maritime Service Training Station  
Hoffman Island, Staten Island, N. Y.  
19 August, 1943

Dear Miss Conrow:

We wish to acknowledge receipt and wish to extend our thanks for your gift books. We also wish to say that although they were put on the shelves only today they have already seen "active service" and we feel that you would be adequately compensated for your generosity if you could witness their popularity.

Thanks again,  
Station Librarian  
U. S. M. S. T. S.

## Merchant Seamen Buy War Bonds

The Ship Visiting Division of the Institute which sends representatives to merchant ships and covers the pay-offs of crews in New York harbor sponsored a special War Bond Party during the Third War Loan Drive on September 23rd. The party was given at the recently opened Janet Roper Club, 3 East 67th Street. Miss Madeleine Carroll, radio and screen star, was in charge of the sale of War Bonds and Stamps.

The Capitan and crew of the Liberty ship JANET LORD ROPER were guests of honor and purchased Bonds. The ship, like the Club, was named for the late Mrs. Janet Roper who was Supervisor of the Missing Seamen's Bureau at the Institute and in seamen's work for 54 years. A large group of merchant seamen attended the rally and bought bonds. Mrs. Muriel Hardy, wife of a Merchant Marine officer, purchased \$500 worth of bonds and was given a beautiful marine painting, the gift of the artist, Wynyard Higginson, a former ship's engineer.



Madeleine Carroll Sells War Bonds To Seamen

During each War Loan drive the Institute's ship visitors have sold bonds of many thousands of dollars to merchant seamen. About 90% of the men purchasing such bonds have requested that the bonds be mailed directly to their wives, mothers, sisters, or children at home. The Institute is an issuing agent for the sale of War Bonds and also has them on sale in its Seamen's Funds Bureau and in its U. S. Post Office at 25 South Street.

## Dances for Seafarers



Apprentice seamen from Hoffman Island enjoy a dance in the Institute's Auditorium and receive "Bon voyage" packages before shipping out. This group is from Section 7, Engine Room group, and their leader, Howard Johnson, and his 31 men won an "E" for efficiency flag during inspection.

On the first Thursday of each month, the dining room at the Institute is filled at 6:45 P.M. with about 150 seamen trainees from Hoffman Island, who enjoy a dinner (compliments of the Institute) with attractive decorations and flowers "and a real table cloth!" as one trainee expressed it. "Such a relief from standing in a chow line" From Hoffman Island comes Lieut. Benny Leonard, popular morale officer, and Lieut. Deutsch, the Band leader to play for the dancing in the Auditorium after the dinner. At eight o'clock the partners arrive, and the dancing goes on until 11:15 P.M. when the whole crowd sing "Heave Ho" (the official Maritime Service song) and the Star Spangled Banner.

On the third Thursday of each month, a group of seamen trainees from Sheepshead Bay are the guests of the Institute for dinner and dancing. The seamen voice their appreciation of the "wonderful time" the Institute gives them, and when they return from sea come in to tell the staff members of their experiences. One official of the Maritime Schools said: "The Institute should be congratulated for giving these young men the opportunity to meet attractive and interesting young women—in fact,

the nicest they have had the pleasure of meeting."

The Institute's corps of partners for these dances includes members of the American Women's Voluntary Association, Red Cross, church auxiliaries and employees of insurance companies and other firms in the Wall Street area and younger members of the Institute's own staff.

### PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE Monday Evening, Nov. 29th

The Institute's Annual Fall Theatre Benefit will be held at the Martin Beck Theatre on Monday evening, November 29th. We have selected a new musical version of Mark Twain's classic "A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT." Vivian Segal and Dick Foran will sing the lead parts and RICHARD RODGERS who wrote the hit tunes for "OKLAHOMA" has written the music. Please mark this date on your social calendar.

Details regarding tickets will be mailed to you later.

## Ships News

### CANNED BLANKETS FOR UNCLE SAM'S SEAMEN

Warm and safe from dampness or other damage, blankets now are packed in special water-tight cans for the United States Maritime Commission by American Can Co. George Eckman, the designing engineer who developed the container, is shown (left) holding one of the cans while Chief Officer Allan C. Smithies, of an American merchant ship, removes one of three blankets which it contains during a shipboard examination. The blanket cans can also be used as emergency water containers.



### NAVY TO GIVE MEDALS TO MERCHANT MARINE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (INS).—

The Navy Department has announced that decorations, heretofore restricted to Naval personnel, will be awarded members of the Merchant Marine.

"In appropriate cases," an official statement said, "the Silver Star medal and the Navy and Marine Corps medal will be awarded to officers and men of the Merchant Marine serving aboard ships operating with the Navy."

As we go to press, we are happy to announce that a special Sailors' Day Service will be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Sunday, November 7th at 4 P.M. LOOKOUT readers and their friends are cordially invited.

### NEW BOOT DEvised FOR SHIPS' CREWS

This footwear to help protect men on watch on slippery decks of ships has just been announced by the United States Navy. It is now in production in the Connecticut plant of United States Rubber Co. and hundreds of pairs have already been delivered. Wide and roomy, the new boot can accommodate comfortably three pairs of heavy wool socks as well as felt insoles and felt duffle socks. Special safety features are the Sperry top-spired soles for sure grip and cleated heels for protection in climbing ladders.



Among the odd questions asked by merchant seamen of all nationalities at the Information Desk in the main lobby of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York, 25 South Street, one day recently were:

(Q.) Who was the last person to be buried in Trinity Church cemetery? (A.) Mrs. Sarah Louise Woodham, 1942, in the Woodham vault. (Q.) Are there any companies that still run sailing ships? (A.) Emory Sexton & Co., 17 Battery Place. (Q.) Where can I go to have a fish stuffed and mounted? (A.) Taxidermist, Schoepfer Studios, 1200 Broadway. (Q.) Where can I get a chart of Long Island Sound showing the reefs and shallow places, to be used by my father who is a fisherman? (A.) Negus Nautical Instruments, 90 Pearl Street. (Q.) Where is the nearest place where I can have a present engraved for my wife? (A.) Kane's Jewelers, 35 Whitehall Street. (Q.) What is the prayer used for a burial at sea? (A.) Episcopal Prayer Book, Page 337. (Q.) What or who is "Charlie Noble"? (A.) The smokestack of a ship's galley. (Q.) Where can I get the drawing of a dory? (A.) Conrad Library, third floor of the Institute. (Q.) What are the flags flying on the Institute's roof? (A.) Q K F — International Signal Flags meaning "Welcome". (Q.) Where can I sell a pair of antler horns? (A.) Try Museum of Natural History. (Q.) Where can I find a piano to try some music out? (A.) Apprentices' Room. (Q.) Where can I go ice skating? (A.) Iceland Rink, 50th St. & Eighth Ave.

A woman came to the Desk and said: "My baby was born with a caul on his face. Where can I sell it? I understand it's good luck for a sailor to carry one in his bag." The desk attendant answered "Sailors aren't very superstitious today. We'll put a notice on the bulletin board in the main lobby, where seamen pass 6,000 or more times daily, but don't expect a response." (P.S. There were no takers.)

A report for six months shows that a total of 17,123 inquiries were made at the desk. Two volunteers and two staff members cover the Information Desk daily. Principal inquiries from seamen are directions how to reach Times Square, Radio City, Shipping Offices and Piers, Marine Hospitals, railroad stations, bus terminals, Consulates, etc. Many inquiries are also made daily asking how to get to various sections of the Institute's 13-story building, such as the U. S. Post Office, Baggage Room, Clinics, Conrad Library, etc.

The Information Desk also distributes various guidebooks. The new booklet recently issued by the American Sea-

men's Friend Society in cooperation with the Seamen's Church Institute of New York, lists the lodgings and canteens for merchant seamen throughout the port and seamen find this guide most helpful.

## Book Reviews

### WHITE ENSIGNS

By Taffrail

(Captain Taprell Dorling D.S.O., R.N.)

G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.50

"White Ensigns" tells the story of His Majesty's armed merchant cruiser, the "Fonthill Abbey", and of the courageous men who served her as officers and crew. The writer is so realistic in his treatment of these men and their varied emotions during the long weeks and months of patrol and convoy duty, that the reader soon comes to feel he knows them personally. There are described also some of the adventures of the destroyers which are doing their part so magnificently in the war at sea. Among these there is vividly described the rescue, by the destroyer "Vexatious", of the men from the torpedoed tanker, the "St. Isabel".

Here are related the thrilling stories of the naval action at Namsos, the tremendous feat of the evacuation of Dunkirk, and many examples of the quiet heroism shown during actions against U-boats in the North Atlantic.

"White Ensigns" brings home the lasting devotion of the men who sail under Britain's flag to their country and their ships. It leaves with the reader a lasting admiration for the men of the Royal Navy and the Merchant Marine of Britain.

—I. H. H.

### UP PERISCOPE

By David Masters

N. Y. Dial Press 1943. \$2.50

To a layman, life on a submarine seems dangerous enough even in peacetime. In war the risks are, of course, incalculably greater. "UP PERISCOPE" is a record of the unbelievable danger and of the almost unbelievable heroism of British submarines. Mr. Masters tells how the "Karlsruhe" was torpedoed by the British ship "Truant", how the "Triumph" with her bow blown off by a mine, limped safely back to port; how a nameless British submarine took General Clark on his secret mission to Africa. Doubtless after the war there will be many more tales of the exploits of British submarines—released by the censors. It is doubtful, however, if there could be any stories of greater daring or courage than those told here.

—I. M. A.

Merchant seamen and officers are staying on their jobs despite weather, enemy action, or the constant strain of repeated sea duty, according to figures released recently by Marshall E. Dimock, Assistant Deputy Administrator of the War Shipping Administration.

Based on figures compiled since March 15, 1943, there has been an "absenteeism" of less than six and one half per cent of all officers and men employed by American merchant ships, the report shows. During that period more than 104,000 merchant seamen shipped from United States ports and only 6,600 of these have failed to re-ship. The majority of those who did not go back to sea after concluding a voyage were prevented from doing so because of reasons of health.

In issuing his statement, Dimock said:

"Few industries anywhere can match the marvelous record of our merchant seamen. It is one of which the unions, the companies and the War Shipping Administration can be proud. When Americans consider the risks these men take and the conditions under which they sail they will fully understand that such a low rate of attrition can only mean extreme loyalty and courage beyond the line of duty.

"With each new invasion, with each new ship off the ways, the number of men in the Merchant Marine will have to increase," continued Mr. Dimock. "The Merchant Marine has a job that grows in size every day. Sicily was double what Africa called for and the next invasion may call for even more.

"There are two ways to get the increased personnel we need, train men for the entry ratings and recruit experienced men now ashore for the qualified ratings. Both of these are necessary and both are being extensively used. These men ship again and again because they want to, not because there is any outside power forcing them to.

"The War Shipping Administration's policy in regard to draft deferments for seamen, thereby keeping the supply of manpower intact, has had the full cooperation of the War Manpower Commission and the Selective Service local boards. Without this cooperation, the Merchant Marine could not operate. Both the seamen and the local draft board officials have recognized their responsibility in keeping the Merchant Marine at its work.



Photo by Marie Higginson

Able Seaman John Gruelund at the ship's wheel and binnacle mounted on a turntable (swung to starboard) used for instruction in navigation on the Flying Bridge, Merchant Marine School, 25 South Street.

"To date 20,000 experienced seamen have been recruited by the Recruitment and Manning Organization. This is an eloquent indication of the patriotic spirit that exists among all merchant seamen. Many of these men have left good shore jobs to go back. They have become readily absorbed into the 100,000 active men who keep on the job every day."

## COLUMBUS

O world, thou chooseth not the better part!

It is not wisdom to be only wise,  
And on the inward vision close the eyes  
But it is wisdom to believe the heart.

Columbus found a world and had no chart,

Save one that faith deciphered in the skies;

To trust the soul's invincible surmise  
Was all his science and his only art.  
Our knowledge is a torch of smoky pine  
That lights the pathway but one step ahead

Across a void of mystery and dread.  
Bid, then, the tender light of faith to shine

By which alone the mortal heart is led  
Unto the thinking of the thought divine.

—George Santayana



25 SOUTH STREET  
HOME AND  
JOURNEY'S END

The most popular rooms at the Institute, of course, are the redecorated ones on certain floors. Eventually, we hope to remodel and refurnish all of the bedroom floors. But in the meantime, seamen express appreciation of the clean, "ship-shape" condition of all the lodgings at "25 South Street." Prices run from 85c to \$1.25 for rooms and 50c for dormitory beds.

AN INSTITUTE BEDROOM

Courtesy "American Seaman—A Review"

Memorials Available at the Institute

When a memorial is selected it is marked by a bronze tablet suitably inscribed as the donor specifies. The objects listed here are available as memorials.

- Chapel Chairs, each ..... \$ 30.
- Seamen's Rooms, each ..... 300.
- Seamen's Rooms with Running Water, each ..... 750.
- Officers' Rooms, each ..... 1,000.
- Additional Clinic Rooms ..... 3,000.
- Sanctuary and Chancel ..... 3,000.
- Seamen's Endowed Rooms, each ..... 5,000.
- For those desiring to select larger memorials there are available:
- Cafeteria ..... \$15,000.
- Seamen's Reading and Game Room ..... 25,000.
- Modernizing Main Lobby ..... 50,000.
- Remodelling and Removing an Entire Floor (62 bed rooms, in Old Building) ..... 8,000.



Photo by Marie Higgins  
SEAMEN REGISTER AT THE HOTEL DESK

Marine Poetry

THE MERCHANT MARINE

By stratagems Ulysses never knew,  
With labors that would Hercules dismay,  
On oceans never tried by Jason's crew,  
These mariners pursue their constant way.

A fiercer Cyclops blinks a baleful eye  
Above the swell of many a gentle wave,  
While deadlier Harpies ride the placid sky

To swoop with avid claws upon the brave.

Then what can tempt these dauntless sailors down

To hazard it on peril-laden sea?  
Silver? But that is simpler won.

Renown?  
Why, most will live in anonymity.  
What can inspire them? This . . . the Golden Fleece

Of national triumph and their dear land's peace.

—Jerome Maher.

*New York Times*, 6/8/43

WAR HARBOR

The gray-blue ships put out to sea  
And swing and vanish, east and west,  
And each one holds eternity  
Close guarded in her iron breast.

Eternity for us who know  
These ships are liberty's own breath;  
Eternity for those who go  
With love-bought courage into death:

Eternity for those who dream  
Of children who shall never fear  
The terror of the bomber's scream  
Because these ships are sailing here.

Oh gray-blue ships with mighty men  
To watch and ward across the sea!  
How proud the waves to bear again  
Your altars of Eternity!

—Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer,

*N. Y. Herald-Tribune*

SONG OF THE TANKER

This is the song the tanker sings  
As it plows through the waning suns—  
"We don't travel on flying wings  
Or know the glory a warship brings

To those who handle her guns.  
But we ride on the breath of flaming death

As the oil pours through our dikes,  
Facing our doom in the starless gloom  
As the big torpedo strikes."

This is the story the tankers tell  
As they tackle the poisoned foam—  
"Starting our journey we know too well  
We may be facing the Port of Hell

As Charon calls us home.  
But we'll still sail through till the end is due  
And the final tale is spun.

And we'll ride the waves that may be our graves  
Till the closing fight is won."

—Grantland Rice,

*The N. Y. Sun*, Wed., July 25, 1942

THE WANDERER

I have carried tea from China  
Coffee from Singapore  
Cotton from Alabama  
Over to Genoa

I've carried grain from Aussie  
Ore from dear old Spain  
I've carried coal from Newcastle  
To York and Port of Spain

I've carried gold from Africa  
And Diamonds by the score  
I've carried oil from Persia  
Back to old England's shore

I've sailed across the seven seas  
I've seen the Southern Cross  
I've just done four hours below  
So I guess I'm due a doss

Four hours down in the stokehold black  
Shovelling the Yankee slack  
Never straightening your back  
Until the watch is o'er

The pay is small, the risk is great  
But we like men leave it to fate  
Never paying Hitler a heed  
For we are boys of the bull dog breed.

By Seaman R. William Penman

MORNING SAILING

A queen left for work this morning  
On the four o'clock shift.

I saw her moving down the Narrows  
Through sea-mist drift.  
More regal than ever when resplendent  
She came in the crowded noon

With fussing little diplomats around her  
And the bands in tune.  
A queen went seaward down the harbor,  
Stately and proud and tall

And alone in the mist-drifted morning,  
In her denim coverall.

*N. Y. Herald-Tribune* —Charles Malam



From the painting by Paul Sample  
"Life-line of Freedom —  
The Merchant Marine."

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