

Navy: Reports: 1939 - Mar. 1940

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
October 16, 1939

<u>Total Enlisted Strength, 16 October</u>	116,706
<u>Fleet Reservists (enlisted) on active duty . .</u>	1,069
Other Reservists " " "	15
T o t a l	<u>1,084</u>

Officers returned to duty as of 14 October:

Line Officers	151
Staff Officers	67
Warrant Officers	<u>19</u>
T O T A L	237

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, 16 Oct. - 19,650
Net gain last 24 hours - 34.

Number of Volunteer Reserves enlisted in regular
Marine Corps for current fiscal year to date - 70.

Director SOSED attended National Safety Congress meeting,
Atlantic City, to receive trophies won by Navy units
in the national competition.

Destroyer RUSSELL, acceptance trials 17 October, Newport
News, Virginia. RUSSELL is second of two, MUSTIN was
first.

Destroyers HUGHES and MUSTIN delivered and commissioned
September 21, 1939.

Following destroyers placed in full commission:

BLAKELEY, BIDDLE, DUPONT, COLE, BERNADOU and ELLIS.

2.

Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen story, Washington Times-Herald, 16 October, of alleged sabotage flying boat being built by Glenn L. Martin Co. for the Navy is without foundation, Fusaro reports. Engine failures referred to were due to minor defects, since eliminated. Real trouble is in take-off characteristics in that plane shows a porpoising tendency believe due to hull design. This characteristic was predicted by Buacro, based upon performance of model tests at National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, but Martin did not see fit to make changes.

Surgeon General, fellowship conferred on him by American College of Surgeons at Philadelphia.

Status of Dry Dock construction, 16 October, 1939:

Mare Island Dry Dock No. 3

89% complete, September 30, 1939.

Expected final completion - April 1940

Mare Island Dry Dock No. 4

Preliminary plans completed and approved.

Anticipate final plans and specifications complete and ready for advertisement by December 1st.

3.

Puget Sound Dry Dock No. 4

48% complete as of September 30, 1939.

Estimated date final completion, August 1940.

Puget Sound Dry Dock No. 5

Bids will be opened on October 16th.

Estimated work will be underway November 1939.

Estimated completion date, November 1941.

Pearl Harbor Dry Dock No. 2

Plans and specifications are complete.

Pearl Harbor Dry Dock No. 3

Anticipated plans and specifications will be completed October 23, 1939.

Both of these docks will be included in one contract, and it is estimated all plans and specifications will be ready for advertisement shortly after November 1.

Naval Medical Center, Washington. It is anticipated foundations for tower and main building will be completed prior to December 1, 1939. Tentative opening date for bids steel work superstructure of the tower, November 22.

Emergency hospital building and dispensaries at Training Stations, Norfolk, Newport, Great Lakes, and San Diego.

San Diego - Instructions issued to the Commandant, 11th Naval District, to obtain field data, prepare plans and specifications, open bids and make recommendations for award locally.

Norfolk, Newport and Great Lakes - Plans and specifications will be completed and forwarded to these three stations prior to November 1, with instructions to advertise and take bids locally.

Status of PWA-WPA Projects, combined Yards and Docks contracts, WPA labor are as follows:

- Total number of such projects - 162,
- all started subsequent to August 1, 1935.
- 16 Projects 100% complete.
- 85 Projects are between 95% and 100% complete.
- Balance of all other projects, with few exceptions are more than 75% complete.

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

October 17, 1939

<u>Total Enlisted Strength, 17 October</u>	116,882
<u>Fleet Reservists (enlisted)- on active duty</u>	1,099
<u>Other Reservists</u> " " " "	15
<u>Total</u>	1,114
Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours).....	209
Discharges	63
Net gain...	146

Officers returned to duty as of 16 October:

<u>Line Officers</u>	154
<u>Staff Officers</u>	68
<u>Warrant Officers</u>	19
<u>Total</u>	237

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>No. Allowed</u>	<u>No. Obligated</u>	<u>No. Ordered</u>
Aviation instruction	150	150	52
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Censorship	100	32	32
Miscellaneous	292	107	57
Ensigns & Lt.(jg)with fleet	200	2	1
<u>Total Officers:</u> - - -	<u>870</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>142</u>

Men

District Patrol Planes	1024	0	0
Radio Intercept.	120	51	51
Miscellaneous	1606	325	325
<u>Total Men:</u>	<u>2750</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>376</u>

Budget hearings completed on appropriations for C & R and Replacement of Naval Vessels (RNV) and

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Alteration Naval Vessels (ANV).
Budget hearings BuEng. appropriations will be held 18 October, Marine Corps, 19 October.
SOSSED reports arrangements made for docking the NORTH STAR (Byrd Expedition) at Boston. Funds being supplied by the Dept. of Interior.
SOSSED took under consideration possibilities of employment, Naval Station, Key West, in connection with possible expansion of overhaul plant facilities which might be required.

Chief of Bureau of Aeronautics, in his opinion the German air attacks on the units of the British Fleet so far have been conducted in a very amateurish manner and indicate either lack of training, inadequate equipment, or both.

Ordnance, in planning production for the 1940 building program, it has been found advisable to use commercial facilities in gun manufacture. Bids have been requested for finish machining 110 5"/38 caliber gun barrels. This is the first instance in connection with the present expanded building program, of the

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performance of this detail of small caliber gun manufacture outside of Government plants.

From CincUS. Special effort necessary to advance gunnery training and exercises Cruiser Division Seven (San Francisco, Tuscaloosa, Vincennes, Quincy) by all practicable means. Navy Day and Armistice Day visits cancelled.

From CincUS. Request all submarines making passage between ports inform me of noon position each day, submarines in Atlantic and Caribbean.

Training Stations expected to be filled up, present facilities, by 30 October. Can take 4000 per month, actually taking 3800 per month now. Total number applicants for first enlistment remaining on waiting list - 2646.

Naval Reserve. There is indication that a very limited number of radio men (Class V-3) will volunteer for assignment to active duty. In response to a directive Commandant, Washington, to procure 23 such

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no volunteers have come forward in one month. Same condition is indicated from various districts. BuNav will probably be faced with the necessity to depend upon Fleet Reservists. It may be necessary to order them back to duty whether they volunteer or not.

Concerning appointments to the Naval Reserve, strong interest continues. It is not expected qualifications will have to be lowered in any of the categories.

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Navy maintains reserve supply of fuel oil, Pearl Harbor, of 3,700,000 barrels. After investigation by BuEng. it was deemed advisable to replace this oil with oil of different characteristics more suitable for long time storage. Contract has been entered into for replacement 500,000 barrels at cost of \$209,500. A further contract is being entered into for replacement of such additional oil as will be allowed by the remaining funds, \$174,500.

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Navy Department authorizes Commandant, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, to place USS RHIND in full commission on or about 10 November, 1939.

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
19 October, 1939

Y. L. Fernald 1.

<u>Total enlisted strength, 18 October</u>	117,044
<u>Fleet Reservists</u> (enlisted) on active duty	1,133
<u>Other Reservists</u> " " " "	15
<u>Total</u>	1,148
Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours)	200
Discharges	72
Net gain	128

Marine Corps, Total enlisted strength, 17 Oct. 19,709

Status of Naval Air Base construction program:

Western Pacific Islands - Contractor's procurement, storage and transfer base established at Alameda.

Stock of materials being assembled. Equipment will be available for shipment soon. Similar distribution depot established at Pearl Harbor.

Kaneohe - Land has been acquired and permit issued for immediate occupancy. Contractor has excavator working at site, dredging to start shortly.

Midway - Dredging progressing satisfactorily. It is anticipated 120' channel 20' deep will be completed within a month to permit entrance of

barges to lagoon.

Johnston - Reconnaissance survey completed. U.S.S.

WRIGHT expected to sail from Pearl Harbor about

7 November with construction party, materials and equipment. Dredging equipment will be towed to the site shortly thereafter.

Expansion of Naval Air Station, Pearl Harbor - Plans and specifications for dredging, new Quay Wall and boat landing distributed to bidders. Good progress in preparation of plans and specifications for additional buildings.

Kodiak - Small force is on site constructing a temporary pier. Materials have nearly all been assembled for shipment to Kodiak and Sitka, from Seattle. Arrangements made for Alaskan Communication System (Army) to handle traffic along with Naval communication system.

San Juan, Puerto Rico - Officer-in-charge construction has established field office and personnel organization. Dredging contract progressing satisfactorily. Construction operations should begin in about six weeks. Award of a cost plus a fixed fee contract expected within 15 days. Investigation is being made of a

2000 acre tract opposite side of bay from Isla Grande for possible Air Base expansion and sites for magazines and ammunition storage.

Jacksonville, Florida - The transfer of approximately 1000 acres, Camp Foster site, has been effected. Data for acquisition of 2200 additional acres adjoining Camp Foster site have been received. Field office and forces being organized. Contract for dredging channel between Camp Foster site and Jacksonville advertised. Bids opened October 18th.

Norfolk, Virginia -
Quonset Point, Rhode Island - Appraisals underway for preparation specific recommendations regarding the acquisition of property both sites.

Cruiser HELENA, preliminary dock trial one engine room held 17 October.

BB 61 (IOWA), first shipment of steel received at Navy Yd. New York.

Naval Reserve, The call for officers (200 volunteers) Ensigns and Lieuts.(jg) is bringing a reasonable number of applications. Probable that quota can be filled.

Medical Officers, Five are attending research conference

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Mayo Brothers. Aviation will be stressed.

Interesting note - During the eleven years of our Naval building holiday we laid down naval vessels at the rate of 3-1/10 ships per year as compared to Japan's 14-2/10 and Great Britain's 11-2/10.

Re: Increased Wool Prices - Contract awarded to American Woolen Company, total \$217,900, at \$2.179 per yard (Flannel). Previous purchase of same material was made at price of \$1.625 per yard.

BuAero reports survey of northeast area of the U.S. has been made with a view to placing hangars of temporary construction in the Chatham, Narragansett Bay, and New York areas.

Bids were opened on following Y&D contracts 18 October:

Tongue Point, Oregon, Dredging, Air Station-	\$	80,000
Jacksonville, dredging for Naval Air Sta. -		142,000
Aircraft storehouse, Pensacola -		350,000

Bids will be opened 25 October on the following:

New Dry Dock No. 5, Navy Yard Puget Sound -	\$	1,500,000
Pearl Harbor, dredging for Navy Yard -		800,000
NAS Alameda, seaplane ramps -		150,000

Contract entered into with EDO Aircraft Corporation, for 22 landing gears and parts, amount \$172,451.50.

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

20 October, 1939

Total Enlisted Strength, 19 October 117,216

Fleet Reservists (enlisted) on active duty 1,223

Other Reservists, 15
Total 1,238

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 224

Discharges 142

Net Gain 82

Percentage Re-enlistments, Year to date (since 1 July) 77.55

Officers returned to duty, as of 19 October:

Line Officers 166

Staff Officers 67

Warrant Officers 18

Total 251

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>No. Allowed</u>	<u>No. Obligated</u>	<u>No. Ordered</u>
Aviation instruction	150	150	52
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Censorship	100	34	32
Miscellaneous	292	107	62
Ens. & Lt. (j.g.) with fleet	200	8	1
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>147</u>

Men

District Patrol Planes	1024	0	0
Radio Intercept.	120	51	51
Miscellaneous	1606	325	325
<u>Total Men</u>	<u>2750</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>376</u>

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, 19 October, 19,480

Total Enlisted (last 24 hours) 50

Marines, Authority granted to lease training area adjacent Navy Flying Field, Camp Kearney, 88,000 acres, where all weapons can be fired except anti-aircraft.

Fleet Training, recommended Navy put two machine guns on searchlight mount for remote control on one ship as a trial, experimental anti-aircraft.

Submarine SEA DRAGON, inspectors have recommended acceptance, 23 October, 1939.

NORTH STAR, Byrd Expedition, is to be dry docked at the Atlantic Works, Boston, instead of Navy Yard, Boston.

SOSED Reports, numerous inquiries have been received from labor organizations, Congressmen and others regarding a Navy Department letter to the Norfolk Navy Yard to the effect that supervisors should not actively participate in union activities in which their subordinates hold membership. Contrary to the supposition of those making such inquiries, the letter specifically states that supervisory employees may retain membership in such labor organizations but they are expected and required to cease all active participation therein of any character whatsoever.

SOSED conference discussed the following projects from the standpoint of progress and planning:

- (1) Wage determination and Board on Wages.
- (2) 1942 Budget - Estimate of the Situation... having due regard for changes in the international situation and possible expansion of the Navy and Merchant Marine, as forecast in the press from authoritative sources.
- (3) Expanding the scope of, and correlating the current survey of shipbuilding facilities and sources of machinery.
- (4) The general subject of re-opened Naval Stations and stations that may be established in the near future, with reference to civilian personnel requirements and plant facility requirements.
- (5) Further study of procurement methods with a view to standardizing contractual procedure and the procedure for review in the case of contractual disputes.

The foregoing discussions were in the nature of long-range planning projects, rather than administrative in character, and all are designed to anticipate, as far as possible, the trends of Naval activities in so far

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as the shore establishment is concerned.

Destroyer RUSSELL, last destroyer at Newport News successfully completed. Official trials 17 October, 1939.

Bids will be opened, Y & D, at the stations and yards concerned for the following projects in the near future:

Extension of Assembly Bldg., Newport, R.I.,	\$400,000
New Riggers and Laborers Shop, Charleston, S.C.	\$135,000

Bids were opened, 18 October:

Mooring facilities for USS HARTFORD,	\$ 18,000
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Bids for the following projects will be opened on 1 Nov:

Superstructure Central Office & Administration Bldg., Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.	\$450,000
Superstructure Aeronautical Engine Laboratory & Office Bldgs., Navy Yard, Phila., Pa.	\$1,000,000
Reconstruction of Pier and Wharf, Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba	\$150,000
Barracks, Messhall and Industrial Bldgs., Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.	\$375,000
Caisson for Panama Canal Locks	\$600,000

Y & D awarded 17 October contract for turret and erection shop, Brooklyn Navy Yard, - amount \$119,452

Line Selection Boards, on 22 November Senior Selection Board will convene to recommend for promotion to Rear Admiral and Captain. Tentative number to be selected, Rear Admirals 10, Captains 40.

Medicine & Surgery, Construction to be begun at San Diego, Norfolk, and Newport as soon as possible, due to increase of recruits in these areas.

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

23 October 1939

fill
Total Enlisted Strength, 21 October117,628

Fleet Reservists (enlisted) on active duty.... 1,354

Other Reservists " " " " 15

Total 1,369

Aggregate Enlistments (last 48 hours) 529

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 248

Net gain 281

Officers returned to duty as of 20 October:

Line officers167

Staff officers 67

Warrant officers 18

Total252

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement; as of 20 October 1939.

<u>Officers</u>	No <u>Allowed</u>	No. <u>Obligated</u>	No. <u>Ordered</u>
Aviation instruction	150	150	52
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Censorship	100	38	36
Miscellaneous	292	113	65
Ens. & Lt. (j.g.) with fleet	<u>200</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Total Officers:</u>	870	330	157

Men - no change since 20 October report.

SQUALUS, DIESEL ENGINES suffered no appreciable

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damage after four months on the bottom. Builders say engines were found in good condition to run. Engines, however, will be taken down piece by piece, minutely inspected and reassembled.

U.S.S. DALLAS, assigned Middle Atlantic Patrol, 22 October.

U.S.S. HOPKINS, departed Newport for Patrol Service East of Nantucket, 21 October.

British M.V. GEORGIC, arrived New York armed with 1-6" and 1-3" antiaircraft guns. Has on board 51-6" cordite charges, 20-6" CPG shells, 20-6" H.E. shells, 393 H. A. Shells and charges. Also 6 practice shots for 6" guns.

CHEROKEE, last of three fleet tugs under construction at Staten Island plant of Bethlehem Steel Company, launching date set 10 November 1939.

Commander Mine Division Five (BRESE, GAMBLE, MONTGOMERY, and RAMSAY) reports departure of these four vessels recently recommissioned at San Diego, ready for active service except for ammunition, motor boats and sea chests for sound gear to be installed at Mare Island.

Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida.

Y & D reports first active contract was awarded for this station 19 October as follows:

Contract for dredging and filling awarded to Standard Dredging Corp., New York City, comprising the following work:

- Dredging channel, beach and seaplane area, (Estimate 1,860,000 cu. yds. at \$.0454) -- \$70,824.00
 - Dredging the turning basin, (Estimate 2,800,000 cu. yds. at \$.1092) -- \$273,000.00
- (This material to be used to fill low areas).

Contract also includes hydraulic disposal of muck over areas to be filled prior to deposit of fill material.

Total estimated cost of the contract included last above mentioned item \$438,894.00, work to be completed within 210 calendar days.

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Doctor Vannevar Bush, President of the Carnegie Institute of Washington, was elected Chairman. Mr. George J. Mead was elected Vice Chairman. Mr. Mead was connected with Pratt and Whitney.

Experimental Ship Stabilization research project,
 Destroyer HAMILTON assigned for the test installation
 which is being made ready with the assistance of the
 National Academy of Sciences. At the Material Laboratory,
 Navy Yard, New York, a proposed system of controls and
 synchronization was observed. Experimental ventilation
 fan, previously reported, is found to be working much
 quieter in operation than on previous inspection two
 weeks ago.

Editorials from various parts of the country con-
 tinue to evince much interest in a two ocean navy and are
 generally favorable to such a plan.

Columbus, Ohio (Dispatch)--"Construction of a second
 American Fleet is a common sense defense suggestion
 which, while need not be rushed into hastily, merits
 careful study and most serious consideration."

Charleston, S.C. (The Post)--"The need of the United
 States for adequate naval protection on both its
 Atlantic and Pacific coasts becomes daily more
 obvious."

Houston, Texas (The Post)--"We need a bigger and
 better navy, one to patrol both sides and with
 unquestionability to vanquish any potential foe."

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
24 October 1939

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File

<u>Total Enlisted Strength, 23 October</u>	117,843
<u>Fleet Reservists</u> (enlisted) on active duty	1,388
<u>Other Reservists</u> " " "	15
<u>Total</u>	1,403
Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours)	241
Aggregate Discharges (" " "	60
<u>Net gain</u>	181

Officers returned to duty as of 24 October:

Line Officers	179
Staff Officers	68
Warrant Officers ...	18
<u>Total</u>	265

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement; as of 21 October 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>No. Allowed</u>	<u>No. Obligated</u>	<u>No. Ordered.</u>
Aviation instruction	150	150	52
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Censorship	100	38	36
Miscellaneous	292	113	65
Ensigns and Lt.(jg)			
with Fleet	200	33	6
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>334</u>	<u>159</u>

Men - no change since 20 October report.

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, 23 October 1939-

19,968.

Net Gain, (last 24 hours) - 82.

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for patrol craft, with a view to considering patrol craft program in addition to the Experimental M.T.B.

program. These discussions still in preliminary stage.

Machine Tool and War Plans Section investigating in

conjunction with the Maintenance Section of combined

Bureaus the question of maintenance facilities in Puerto

Rico for the possible use of surface patrol craft.

U.S.S. BENSON - will be launched, 15 November, Quincy,

Massachusetts.

U.S.S. GUAM relieved U.S.S. LUZON as station ship,

Shanghai, 19 October 1939.

Naval Hospital Corps School, Norfolk, Va. - Because

of shortage of corpsmen and increase of patients in

hospitals it has been necessary to shorten the course of

instruction 2 weeks (ordinary course 10 weeks), so that

personnel may become available in Norfolk and Philadelphia

hospitals.

Contract award, Bureau Y&D for Aircraft Storehouse,

Naval Air Station, Pensacola - amount \$221,149, Time -

180 calendar days.

Chief of Bureau of Aeronautics, Rear Admiral Towers

will deliver an address, subject Naval Aviation, in Atlanta, Ga., on Navy Day.

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
October 25, 1939

File

<u>Total Enlisted Strength, 24 October</u>	117,969
<u>Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty</u>	1,439
<u>Other Reservists</u> " " " "	17
<u>Total</u>	1,455
<u>Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours)</u>	181
<u>Aggregate Discharges</u> " " " "	107
<u>Net gain</u>	74

Officers returned to duty as of 25 October:

Line Officers	190
Staff Officers	69
Warrant officers	18
<u>Total</u>	277

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 23 October 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>No. Allowed</u>	<u>No. Obligated</u>	<u>No. Ordered.</u>
Aviation instruction	150	150	52
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	38	38
Miscellaneous	292	113	66
Ensigns and Lt.(j.g.)			
with Fleet	200	36	8
<u>Total officers</u>	870	337	164

Men - no change since 20 October 1939, report.

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, 23 Oct. - 20,062

Net gain (last 24 hours) - 94

2.

Marine Corps, 2 officers and 53 men will be assigned to

Navy Yard, Key West when it is opened 1 November.

1 Officer and 25 men will sail for Kodiak, Alaska,

8 January, 1940.

U.S.S. GILMER, reported for duty Atlantic Squadron.

CinC Asiatic Fleet plans to sail for the Philippines in the AUGUSTA 20 November leaving Commander Yangtze Patrol in charge of Shanghai and Northern Situation.

Submarine SEADRAGON, placed in commission 23 October 1939

at Submarine Base, New London.

Conference CNO's Office on modernization of LEXINGTON

and SARATOGA 24 October. Blister on one side of each

ship would probably add about 1'foot higher water line

which would be compensated for by increased weight

additional engineering features. Pending advices from

Puget Sound Navy Yard it is expected to do this work

1 ship at a time, first ship January 1941. Originally

thought it would take 11 months, each ship, now it is

hoped working double shift to complete each ship in

6 months. Addition of blisters to LEXINGTON and SARATOGA

will add to their stability.

Patrol Duty, actually assigned from Philadelphia:

3.

BROOKS, DALLAS, HATFIELD, KANE and GILMER.

USS OMAHA, will assume patrol duty Caribbean, temporary assignment, Atlantic Squadron.

Destroyer Division 18, (BENHAM, DAVIS, ELLET, JOUETT) which have been operating Grand Banks Patrol under Opnev, detached and assigned temporary duty Atlantic Squadron, remaining on same patrol duty.

Defense against torpedo explosion, conferences have been held Bureau C&R with shipbuilders' representatives relative to minor alterations to be made on battleships under construction, the desirability of which has been indicated by recent half-scale caisson model test at Norfolk. Necessary arrangements have been made.

Letter from Naval Mission, Brazil, dated 25 September, 1939, notifies CNO of the intention of Brazilian Government to construct in Brazil 6 destroyers to replace 6 which were under construction for Brazil in England and confiscated; material and machinery to be bought in U.S. amount of credit allowed by England for sums already paid by Brazil is understood to have been transferred to U.S. to finance purchases. Chief of Mission recommends that all possible assistance be rendered Brazilian representatives to make

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project a success.

Weight of top structures for light cruisers and de-
stroyers, There has been considerable effort along these
lines to reduce without sacrifice of strength and durability.
Various types of structures have been used but have not
proven fully satisfactory in service. High temperature
tests were made at Philadelphia of three types, newly de-
veloped, which include all steel, steel and aluminum and
all aluminum, to determine strength and resistance to load
when heated. Aluminum structure showed satisfactory results.
Later explosive shells will be fired into the test
structures to determine their behavior under such impact.

Inspector of Naval Material, Pittsburgh District,
reports that the strike which was called at the plant of
the Federal Mogul Corporation, Detroit, on 29 August 1939,
was settled 11 October 1939, and shipment and manufacturing
started at that time. Plant is now operating normally.

Naval Station, Key West to be reopened 1 November 1939
with Chief of Staff in charge. Commandant, 6th Naval Dist.
to retain existing command.

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

1.

26 October 1939

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Total Enlisted Strength, 25 October 118,118

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty 1,472

Other Reservists " " " " 23

Total 1,495

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 210

Aggregate Discharges 101

Net gain 109

Officers returned to duty as of 26 October:

Line Officers 193

Staff Officers 70

Warrant Officers 19

Total 282

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality

enforcement, as of 26 October 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>No. Allowed</u>	<u>No. Obligated</u>	<u>No. Ordered.</u>
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Aviation instruction 150 150 53

District Patrol Planes 128 0 0

Office, Naval Intelligence 100 38 38

Miscellaneous 292 124 68

Ensigns and Lt.(j.g.) with

Fleet 200 77 40

Total Officers 870 389 199

Men - no change since 20. October report.

Resident Inspector of Naval Material, an office has

been established at the Plant of the Hayes Industries, Inc., Jackson, Michigan.

2. Task Patrol Groups, Additional ships have been

assigned as follows:

New England Patrol, Boston based, U.S.S. HATFIELD

Newport based, U.S.S. KANE and BROOKS

Middle Atlantic Patrol, Charleston based -

U.S.S. DALLAS

Key West Patrol, U.S.S. BARRY, GILMER and FOX.

From Cincus, When ready about 30 October U.S.S. BREESE

and RAMSAY report Commandant 13th Naval District, USS

GAMBLE and MONTGOMERY to Commander, 12th Naval District.

This division assigned Minbat for insofar as U.S.

Fleet is concerned.

U.S.S. OMAHA, request received opnav to hold OMAHA

at Balboa until 8 November as target ship for battle

torpedo practice.

Aviation, reported from Rear Admiral Pickens, Comdr.

Cruiser Division 7, Atlantic Squadron to Chief of Buero

that Patrol Plane Squadron Fifty-one is established com-

fortably in a camp on Isle Grande and the patrol opera-

tions in the Caribbean area are going very smoothly.

Buero reports, Captain M.A. Mitscher, Assistant Chief

represented Buero at a meeting of the Air Transport

Association, New York City, on 24 October.

3. Executive Committee, Federal Interdepartmental

Safety Council, elected Captain C.W. Fisher (CC), as

Chairman. Commander Carney attended session as alter-

nate from Navy Department. Budget matters relative to

appropriations for Safety Engineering were discussed.

Function of the council is to express opinion as to mer-

it of general projects but justification for requests for

appropriations is a matter for the departments and

Independent offices to handle.

BuY&D, Status of project for construction of Naval A

Station, Tongue Point, Oregon

Authorization - \$1,500,000 /

Total obligations to date - \$133,694.

Contract awarded for bulkhead and pier - \$86,194.

Contract advertised for dredging, clearing and

filling. Bids to be opened 30 October, 13th

Naval District Headquarters - Estimated cost

\$200,000.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the

preparation of plans and specifications.

BuY&D, Status of expansion construction program, Nav

Air Station, Pensacola:

Authorization - \$5,850,000 /

4. Total obligations to date, including land acquisitions, field and Bureau personnel, material purchases, contracts, etc. - \$1,387,486.00 /

Status of property acquisition for base and auxiliary fields:

- Felton Farms (base field) - 867 acres - estimated cost - \$26,000
- Tarkill Field (auxiliary) - 640 acres - estimated cost - \$3,865
- Spencer Field (auxiliary) - 640 acres - estimated cost - \$6,000
- Site No. 7- 240 acres - estimated cost - \$3200.
- Site No. 4a - 160 acres " " - \$1500

Appraisals are now well underway for 9 additional auxiliary fields. It is estimated that appraisals, negotiation and condemnation proceedings can be completed and title obtained by the U.S. for all fields within the next three months.

Contracts awarded to date:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Completion Due</u>
Runways, Chev. Field	\$129,000	Dec. 24, 1939
Hangar, Chev. Field	116,850	Feb. 24, 1940
Officers Apts	115,916	Feb. 20, 1940
Boiler	33,784	Mar. 17, 1940
Turbo Alternator	50,000	May 18, 1940
Condenser	8,195	Mar. 17, 1940
Circulating Loops	76,620	
Three Hangars	327,000	
Aircraft Storehouse	221,142	

2.
BuY&D Naval Air Station, Pensacola, contracts adver-

tised, plans and specifications issued to bidders:

Est. Cost Bids Opened

Gatehouse, Barracks, Mess

Hall and Industrial Bldg., \$250,000 Nov. 1.

Runways, Taxiways and Drain-
age for New Field

350,000 Nov. 15

BuY&D, award of Public Works contracts, 27 October 1939:

Extension Assembly Bldg. N.T.S., Newport, R.I. -

\$ 390,750 - Time 180 days.

Navy Yard Charleston, S.C., Laborers and Riggers Shop,

\$84,500 - Times 150 days.

Navy Yard, Mare Island, Calif., Paint Shop, -

\$170,700 - Time 270 days.

Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif., Seaplane Ramp,

\$162,500 - Time 180 days.

USS RUSSELL, delivery 3 November 1939, at Newport News,
Va.

Coast Guard, Washington - Following received from

Cape May Group. Motorship Apohaqui located by plane

4 miles east of Ocean City, New Jersey, in suspicious

circumstances. For thorough investigation she will be

brought to Cape May.

USS DALLAS, will depart for Patrol duty morning of Oct.

27th.

USS WYOMING, when in all respects ready for sea will

get underway 30 October and proceed San Juan. When at

South latitude 25° she will report to Commander

Caribbean Patrol for duty as base ship and connection

3.

of Logistic support to aircraft and light forces

basing on San Juan.

From Submarine CACHALOT, successful full power run hel

this date.

From Fourth Marines, Shanghai, digest Thursday Press

Reuters, Chungking peace rumors again reported by Mr.

Chu Chia Hua, Secretary General Central Kuomintang.

Reports of Soviet demands on China ridiculed by Mr. Chu.

Rumors circulated by Japanese. No peace for China

unless Japanese withdraw troops from China.

Chungking - 50 Japanese bombers carry out widespread

raiding activities over Szechwan. Chengtu raid fails

due to bad weather. Chungking population spends 6 hrs.

in dugouts. China said to be building new air fleet

with Soviet aid.

NAVY DAY 1939

The most significant Navy Day since its inception

in 1922 is in progress. According to press reports

from all over the country it is being greeted with

enthusiasm. Press Relations, Navy Department, report

greater interest in Navy Day than ever before, from

4.
volume of correspondence handled and number of re-
quests from all over the country for speakers. Officers
were speaking in various parts of the United States.

Rear Admiral Yarnell addressed the Navy Council of
Illinois, Chicago. At New Orleans, Rear Admiral King
delivered an address while at Atlanta, Ga. Rear Admiral

Towers spoke on Naval Aviation. It is significant that
the latter stressed the importance of aviation, but
only in a subordinate capacity to the fleet as a whole.

In Washington, Commander Carney and Major George F.

Unmacht, U.S.A. delivered addresses at the John Paul

Jones Memorial. There was more interest than ever be-

fore in Philadelphia where a parade larger than the one

a year ago was held. San Francisco as usual led in inter-

est with its Navy Week of many significant affairs.

The National press generally expressed the opinion that

the great interest in Navy Day was due to press comments

all over the country on a two ocean or a two fleet navy,

and the fact that Americans realized more than ever

before the importance of the Navy as the first line of

defense in protection of the Monroe Doctrine.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

30 October 1939

*Personal
Naval File*

Total Enlisted Strength, 28 October 118,682.

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty 1,584

Other Reservists " " " " 58

Total - 1,642

Aggregate Enlistments (last 48 hours) 285

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 103

Net Gain 182

Officers returned to duty as of 30 October 1939:

Line officers 203

Staff officers 71

Warrant officers 19

Total 293

Recruiting Activities for week ending 27 October:

No. of applicants accepted for first enlistment - 1122

No. of first enlistments 472

No. of reenlistments (continuous service) 40

No. of reenlistments (broken service) 102

Total number applicants for first enlistments

remaining on waiting list 3,076

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality en-

-forcement, as of 28 October 1939:

Officers	Number Allowed	Number Obligated	Number Ordered.
Aviation instruction	150	150	56
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	38	38
Miscellaneous	292	125	72
Ensigns and Lieuts (jg) with Fleet	200	83	47
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>213</u>

dry dock No. 5 at the Navy Yard, and a combination of the Macco Gun

2. (Naval Reservists to duty, continued)

Men -	Number Allowed	Number Obligated	Number Ordered.
Dist. Patrol Planes	1024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	51	51
Miscellaneous	1606	329	329
Total men	2750	380	380

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, 28 October - 20,178

Percentage reenlistments October to date - 80.10

Number of volunteers (class three) enlisted for current fiscal year - 98

Number of broken enlistments (appointed to old rank) - 370

Seaplane Tenders BARNEGAT and BISCAYNE, keels was laid at Puget Sound Navy Yard 27 October.

S&A reports Department of Labor All Commodity Wholesale

Price Index for 21 October was 79.4., compared with 78.9 of October 14. High for the year, 79.5 occurred weeks of September 23 and September 30.

Bureau of Ordnance. Awards are being made to commercial manufacturers for 5"/38 caliber gun mounts. These mounts are for use on ships of the 1940 building program and constitute the first instance in which such mounts will be manufactured in other than Government plants.

Bureau of Yards and Docks, the following contract awards were made as of 28 October 1939:

Dry dock No. 5 at the Navy Yard, Puget Sound awarded to a combination of the Macco Con-

struction Co. and the Case Construction Co. Inc., Clearwater, Calif. for \$1,956,900. (1)

Contract time 720 days. (2)

Dredging of Ford Island channel at Pearl Harbor T.H. to the Standard Dredging Corporation, New York City, based upon unit prices for different classes of material at a total overall estimated cost for the contract of approximately \$600,000.

Contract time is based upon an estimated yardage per day.

Opnav. It is desired that SEFULGA, TIPPECANOE, RAPIDAN (all oilers), YUKON (store ship), and SPICA (cargo ship) be completed and ready for sea by 1 Feb. 1940, and the four AVP (Seaplane Tenders, small) by 1 March 1940.

Priority II destroyers, Commandants of Navy Yards, Mars Island, Norfolk, and New York will recommend to CNO by despatch the proposed date of commissioning for each vessel when known.

SEFULGA, TIPPECANOE, RAPIDAN, YUKON and SPICA

should be altered and equipped with the following

4.

(recommendations to Opnav):

- (1) 2-50 caliber machine guns.
- (2) Modern radio equipment (delivery not expected prior to March 1st, 1940.)
- (3) Full allowance of boats.
- (4) Paravane gear.
- (5) Gyro equipment.

- - - - -

It is now contemplated assigning a two months navy yard availability for all vessels recommissioned during 6 to 12 months period after recommissioning.

CLEMSON, GOLDSBOROUGH, HULBERT, WM. B. PRESTON,
to be recommissioned and converted to AVP (Seaplane Tenders). Priority for this work assigned at Navy Yards immediately after work on recommissioned destroyers. It is desired vessels be completed as soon as possible.

Naval Units, Grand Banks Patrol, may now be withdrawn that area, effect urgent and essential repairs, to Boston yard, then reassigned other patrol stations, preferably Gulf Area and Coast Line. Coast Guard vessels are continuing Grand Banks Patrol. DAVIS, JOUETT, ELLET, and BENHAM will be assigned to Western Gulf Patrol.

2.

WASHINGTON DEPT OF TREASURY

CONFIDENTIAL

Bureau of Ordnance. No bids were received from commercial manufacturers for finish machining of the 110 5"/38 caliber gun barrels for the 1940 building program, which it had been planned to obtain from private industry. This is the first instance during the present building program that no response has been received to a proposal for ordnance work within the capacity of private industry. By changing plans and rearrangement of current work, these gun barrels can be finish machined at the Naval Gun Factory.

SOSED reports, rough water tests of PT-9 were again deferred, due to clearing weather (30 October 1939).

The Sub-Committee of the Interdepartmental Committee on Mechanics Training to study the proposed plan submitted by the War Department met on 30 October, Lt. Comdr. W.V. Hamilton presiding, in the absence of Captain Fisher.

Opanav. President Peru requests assistance search Barncley Crow Plane carrying Galline Brothers departed New York 1345, 29 October non-stop flight destined Lima carrying twenty-eight hours fuel equipped only radio

3.

receiver. Unconfirmed position report over Miami 2310, 29 October. Announced route Miami, Colon, Talara, Lima. Desire immediate initiation search along route and suggest RANGER be used along route in Western Caribbean particularly Central American Coast Line. (This message addressed priority to COMATRON, COMSEPERON, COMSIX, COMFIFTEEN).

Bureau of Yards and Docks. Status of program for construction of temporary wooden frame dispensary buildings at Training Stations and war buildings of Hospitals:

Newport, R.I.

Training Station: 1 H-type ward building to be fitted out for dispensary.

Hospital: 2 H-type ward buildings of 120 bed total capacity.

Estimated date of opening bids - November 16.

Estimated date of completion of contract - Jan. 25.

Norfolk, Va.

Training Station: 1 H-type ward building to be fitted out as dispensary.

4.

Hospital: 3 H-type ward buildings of 180 bed total capacity.

Estimated date of opening bids - Nov. 15.

Estimated date of completion of contract - Jan. 30.

San Diego, California.

Training Station: 1 H-type building to be fitted out as dispensary.

Hospital: 3 H-type ward buildings of 180 bed total capacity.

Estimated date of opening bids - Nov. 28.

Estimated date of completion of contract - Feb. 10.

Great Lakes, Ill.

Training Station: 1 Special type building with 2 story head house for dispensary and dental accommodations with two single story ward wings of 60 bed total capacity.

Estimated date of opening bids - Nov. 16.

Estimated date of completion of contract - Jan. 20.

All of the above structures are to be standard type wooden frame, single story, with the exception of the building at the Training Station, Great Lakes.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
1 November 1939

File
Personal
Confidential

Total Enlisted Strength, 31 October 119,033

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty 1,624

Other Reservists (") " " " 61

Total 1,685

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 216

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 86

Net gain 130

Officers returned to duty as of 1 November 1939:

Line officers 204

Staff officers 72

Warrant officers 19

Total 295

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality

enforcement, as of 31 October 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	73
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	39
Miscellaneous	292	141	73
Ensigns and Lieuts. (jg) with			
Fleet	<u>200</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Total officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>238</u>

Men

District Patrol Planes 1,024 0 0

Radio Intercept 120 52 52

Miscellaneous 1,606 329 329

Total men 2,750 381 381

2.
Training Center for Merchant Marine Officers in the Third Naval District. Receiving Ship SEATTLE is to be placed in immediate operation for this training subject to availability of funds. Benefits to the Navy primarily in the indoctrination of Merchant Marine licensed personnel in all duties connection with convoy. Generous cooperation with the Maritime Commission. Bunav will consider enrollment for training of eligible Merchant Marine Officers employed on Maritime Commission ships operating under charter to such private U.S. operators as agree to furlough their officers with pay for that purpose. Instruction to be left to discretion of Commanding Officer SEATTLE including gunnery (surface and aircraft), anti-submarine and anti-aircraft tactics, also mine defense. First class not to exceed 20 members proposed to commence 4 December 1939. Only Merchant Marine Reserve officers, U.S. Naval Reserve, Deck and Engineering should be ordered to this training duty. Damage control communications, gas defense procedure, and Navy Regulations will be part of the curriculum. Three commissioned officers and three chief petty officers are estimated for school personnel. Course of in-

struction 8 weeks. (Not for Press Release) 3.
Bu. Medicine and Surgery, Bunav is ordering ten naval reserve medical officers to Naval Aircraft Station, Pensacola, to report 21 November for 2 months' course instruction to qualify as Aviation Medical Examiners. It is contemplated ordering additional reserve medical officers to this course in near future. Selection will be made from those successfully completing course for further course leading to designation of flight surgeon. Incident to neutrality and enforcement program 7 flight surgeons (at least) will be filled from among those satisfactorily completing this course. Such needs at present are 3 Pensacola, 1 San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1 Key West, 1 Philadelphia Navy Yard, 1 Cape May, N.J. Naval Academy, to date 21 retired officers have been ordered to Annapolis relieving officers for duty at sea. Bu. Operations, SQUALUS is being ordered decommissioned. Bu. S&A. Bids opened today on 200 class VOS airplanes. Bu. Aero, Chief of Bureau conferred yesterday with officers Pratt and Whitney Engine Corp. on maximum capacity of plant when expanded and plant's ability to meet naval aviation needs for Pratt and Whitney engines. Results of conference were reassuring.

4.

S.S. COULMORE, evidently torpedoed off New England coast, 450 miles, no trace as navy planes, Coast Guard, and patrol destroyers reached destination of attack at long. 62-31 W., lat. 40-20 N. CAMPBELL, BIBB, ROPER assisting search with Newport VP's.

U.S.S. STACK, commissioned, authorized Norfolk Navy Yard, 20 November. U.S.S. PATOKA, commission authorized Commandant Puget Sound, Nov. 10th. USS RUSSELL to be commissioned 3 November, Navy Yard Norfolk.

Bu Medicine and Surgery, through District Commandants is building up Naval Reserve specialists in Psychiatry, X-ray, Orthopedic, and other branches.

Bu Yards and Docks, Status of project for construction Naval Air Station, Tongue Point, Oregon: Second active contract this station authorized November 1st for dredging, clearing and filling. Amount \$158,276. Time of completion 180 days.

Bids for the following large projects are being opened today: Guantanamo - Reconstruction of pier "A" and construction of wharf. Estimated cost \$150,000.

Panama Canal - Caisson for Canal locks. Estimated cost \$500,000.

Naval Air Station, Pensacola - Barracks, mess hall, industrial building, etc. Estimated cost - \$375,000.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
2 November 1939

Yale
Journal

Total Enlisted Strength, 1 November 119,194

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty. 1,651

Other Reservists (Enlisted) " " " 69

Total 1,720

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 220

Aggregate Discharges (last 24 hours) 94

Net Gain 126

Officers returned to duty as of 2 November 1939:

Line officers 211

Staff officers 72

Warrant officers 19

Total 302

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 1 November 1939: -

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	73
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	39
Miscellaneous	292	142	84
Ensigns and Lieutenants (jg) with fleet	200	200	58
<u>Total officers</u> ..	870	531	254

<u>Men</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
District Patrol Planes	1,024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	52	52
Miscellaneous	1,606	329	329
<u>Total men</u>	2,750	381	381

2.

Marine Corps, total enlisted strength, 1 Nov.-20,320

Marine Corps, total officers (including warrants)- 1421.

U.S.S. TRIPPE, commissioned Boston 1 November.

S.S. SOUTHERN CROSS, will be taken over from Mari-

time Commission and converted for transport duty, over-
haul preceding service at Navy Yard or private yard.

SOUTHERN CROSS, sister ship of "PRESIDENT" ships, 13,788
gross tons, 535 feet long, 72 feet beam, built July 1922.

Conversion incident to increased forces to be transported
in the Pacific. Her speed is 18 knots.

U.S.S. ROWAN, Norfolk Navy Yard reports completion
as of 31 October, 1939.

U.S.S. GLEAVES, (DD423) launching set for 9 December.

Special Warning, German Government, announces that

the danger zone indicated at the Southern outlet, Baltic
Sea, area A (refers to the mined areas in the Western
part of the Baltic Sea), amended as follows: New terminal
points S.E. boundary line are Lat.55-04 N., Long.12-34 E.
in place of Lat. 55-04.9 N., Long 12-29 E. and Lat.55-14 N
Long. 13 E. in place of Lat. 55-16.5 N., Long. 12-58.2 E.

Bu M&S, plans formulating a reserve group in con-
nection with Aviation medicine. Senior officer this

3.

detail already nominated. Review of important aviation
problems will be made as well as more pressing immediate
problems. It is hoped this group will lay a good founda-
tion for research establishment in the new Medical Center
now being erected. Stratosphere flying, oxygen and helium
supply, matter of fatigue, and age limits for continued
duties as pilot will be studied. Such research will lead
into the fields of biological and physiological chemistry.

SOSED representative, Commander Carney, witnessed
rough water trials of PT-9 off New London. SOSED re-
presentative attended CNO's conference concerning
proposed expansion of the Navy.

Inspector of Navy Material, Pittsburgh District, re-
ported that strike at the plant of the DeVilbiss Co.
Toledo, O. which was called on 15 September 1939 was
settled on 4 October 1939. Plant resumed operations
5 October.

Italian Battleship VITTORIO VENETO, according to
press reports attained a speed of 30 knots today in tests
held Adriatic Sea. VENETO is new 35,000 ton battleship.

Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas - Investigation
was started 27 October to determine topographic and

4.

and Hydrographic survey requirements at this site. Arrangements are being made to have this work undertaken at once by contract for subsequent acquisition of property and preparation of plans and specifications.

Bu Y&D, status of contract awards since 1 July 1939:

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of Contracts</u>	<u>Amount of awards.</u>
July 1 to		
Sept. 30	129	\$40,185,623.39
October	51	15,320,261.42
Total to date	180	\$55,505,884.81

The awards during October include the award of the cost-plus-fixed-fee contract to the Arundel Corporation and Consolidated Engineering Co. Inc. both of Baltimore, for the Naval Air Station at San Juan, Puerto Rico, at an estimated cost of \$8,330,000.

The total contract awards for the fiscal year 1939 were \$45,223,180. It is to be noted that the total above listed awards amount to \$10,282,705 more for the first four months of the current fiscal year than for the entire fiscal year of 1939, which in itself was approximately three times the amount of contract awards during any previous year since 1918.

Civil Engineer Corps Reserve, 8 additional officers ordered to active duty Oct. making 49 officers to date.

~~Confidential~~

file per, 1.
navy
D. G. M.

Report to the Secretary
3 November 1939

<u>Total Enlisted Strength</u> , 2 November	119,358
<u>Fleet Reservists</u> (Enlisted) on active duty...	1,696
<u>Other Reservists</u> (Enlisted) on active duty . .	69
<u>Total</u>	1,765
<u>Aggregate Enlistments</u> (last 24 hours)	212
<u>Aggregate Discharges</u> (last 24 hours)	93
<u>Net Gain</u>	119

Officers returned to duty as of 3 November 1939:

Line officers	219
Staff officers	73
Warrant officers.	19
<u>Total</u>	311

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement as of 2 November 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered.</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	73
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	39
Miscellaneous	292	142	87
Ensigns & Lieutenants (jg) with fleet	200	200	70
<u>Total officers</u>	870	531	269
<u>Men</u>			
District Patrol Planes	1,024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	52	52
Miscellaneous	1,606	329	329
<u>Total men</u>	2,750	381	381

2. Percentage Reenlistments, Navy, year to date - 75.91

" " " , October - 72.06

" " " , last year - 80.91

New Attache'offices will be opened at: Stockholm, Sweden; Bangkok, Thailand; Caracas, Venezuela; Trujillo City, Dominican Republic; Batavia, Dutch East Indies (will be an assistant attaché to the attaché, The Hague). Offices will be opened as soon as officers are made available.

Special Warning No: 36 - Following note received from the German Government: "Neutral merchant ships have repeatedly attempted in the waters around France and England to evade the exercise of the right of German naval forces, granted by international law, of stoppage and search. Besides, they have repeatedly aroused suspicion of attack or unneutral acts, by improper behavior.

"The Government of the Reich therefore begs to call attention of American merchant vessels traveling into the waters mentioned to the fact that, in their own interest, and in order to prevent confusion with naval or auxiliary ships of the enemy, especially at night, they should avoid

3. any suspicious behavior, particularly change of course and use of the radio apparatus upon sighting German naval forces, zigzagging, screening lights, failing to obey a demand to stop, and the acceptance of convoy by naval forces of the powers at war with Germany.

Patrol Force as at present organized and proposed assignments when recommissioned DD's report:

New England Patrol, Captain W.S. Farber, Comdesron 41. (area 2) - HAMILTON, LEARY, HAYFIELD. All Boston based. HOPKINS, BROOKS, KANE, all Newport based. 4 VP's.

Middle Atlantic Patrol, Captain S.F. Heim, Comdesron 30 (area 3) - SCHENCK, ROPER, DECATUR, all Norfolk based. 8 VP's. DALLAS OWL, Charleston based. (3-6 VP's)

Key West Patrol, Captain A.S. Carpender, Comdesron 32, (area 5) BABBITT, CLAXTON, BADGER, BARRY, GILMER, FOX, All Key West based except GILMER, Phila. 6 VP's.

Caribbean Patrol (Area 6) OMAHA, VINCENNES (SOPA) TRUKTUN, SIMPSON, FAIRFAX, REUBEN JAMES, RANGER and RANGER squadrons, Guantanamo based. 6 VP's. Captain Bradley, Comdesron 31, BORIE, BROOME, WYOMING (base ship), all San Juan based. 12 VP's plus THRUSH.

Striking Group, SAN FRANCISCO, TUSCALOOSA, QUINCY, WICHITA, all Norfolk based.

Reserve Destroyer Group, Captain W.F. Greenman, Comdesron 10, GOFF, JACOB JONES, both Norfolk based.

Reserve Patrol Plane Group. ComPat. Wing 5, GANNET, VP planes as received, transferred and overhauled. Norfolk based.

4. Reserve Striking Group, Combatdiv 5, TEXAS, NEW YORK, ARKANSAS, all Norfolk based.

Gulf Patrol, Captain Denfeld, Comdesdiv 18, when organized.

Canal Zone, Comsperon, CHARLESTON, ERIE, TATTNALL, HUMPHREYS, SANDS (HUMPHREYS and SANDS will report about 23 November. Later to be relieved by Desdiv 62).

U.S.S. WASP, Tentative schedule: Builder's trial, 12-15 December. Official trial, 23 January to 6 February 1940. Delivery April 1940.

U.S.S. PIGEON, recently salvaged from rocks near Tsingtao, China, expected to be undocked on 9 November.

BuY&D. - The following contract awards were made 2 Nov. Gatehouse, barracks and messhall, and industrial building, NAS, Pensacola, awarded to Virginia Engineering Co. Newport News, Va. for \$283,000. Time of completion 150 days.

Panama Canal Locks, Construction and delivery of a caisson, to the Dravo Corp., Pittsburgh, awarded for \$574,800. Time of completion 365 days.

Proposed Submarine Base at Little Krum Bay, St. Thomas Virgin Islands, All survey work has been completed and

forwarded to the Department. Plans and specifications are now in course of preparation.

2.

The Chief of Bureau of Aeronautics, stated that recent reports from abroad, believed to be accurate, bring out the following interesting points in connection with Air operations:

(1) The inability of the heavy, high speed fighters to engage successfully in air combat with a low speed but more maneuverable type of fighter. The numerous reports appearing in the Press to the effect that the Curtiss P-36 fighter, being used by the French, is definitely the superior of the German Messerschmidt, appear definitely substantiated.

(2) British air operations indicate lack of training and indoctrination, Examples:

(a) Planes of a British fighter squadron shot down two of their own planes which had been delayed in taking off and were attempting to join up in the air.

(b) The recent air raid on Helgoland was conducted in two waves, thirty minutes apart. As a result of the attack of the first wave, German fighters took the air and when the second wave arrived all of its planes were shot down.

3.

Transport Plane, S&A reports contract has been made for transport plane at a total cost of \$117, 668.05 with the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Aviation Cadets, Navy Department announced lists of 94 appointed for flight training, Pensacola in the fourth class commencing October 30th, 1939, selected from Naval Reserve Aviation bases.

Destroyers as high speed mine sweepers, CNO's office reports that the practicability of recommissioning 4 destroyers as such is being considered with priority 2, 60 day boats.

U.S.S. LANG, On or about 11 November after completion of test torpedo firings at Newport will report to CINCUS for temporary duty in Atlantic Squadron in connection with neutrality patrol.

Repeal of the Arms Embargo, resulting in the cancellation of operation of ships of several lines in the North Atlantic should release a considerable number of candidates (Merchant Marine officers) for the special course at the Merchant Marine Reserve Training Center aboard the U.S.S. SEATTLE, New York. No provision has as yet been made for training these officers at sea,

4.

but it has been suggested that in future some classes might be attached to neutrality patrol ships for training in convoy duties at sea. (Not for press release)

Price Index, S&A reports the Department of Labor All Commodity Wholesale Price Index for 28 October 1939 was 79.2, as compared with 79.4 October 21st.

From U.S.S. VINCENTNES, Customs Inspector at Nippes, Haiti, reported submarines seen by many inhabitants visible 1000 yards off shore. Planes and ships searching area today.

CNO has requested Bunav to detail 2 Lieutenants (J.G.) or Ensigns, Naval Reserve, who volunteer for duty with the two patrol craft (YP) that will be transferred from the Third Naval District to the Canal Zone for duty.

Battleship TEXAS underway 7 November for gunnery tactical training and inspection of Northern Patrol (Boston, Newport, and New York).

HUMPHREYS and SANDS, both recommissioned destroyers, leaving Mare Island 13 November for temporary duty, Canal Zone.

CONFIDENTIAL

Total Officer Strength, regulars, retired and

Reserves on active duty, 11,053.

U.S.S. SQUALUS, The Navy Department announced today that the SQUALUS will be decommissioned at the Portsmouth Navy Yard on November 15, 1939, incident to the rehabilitation of that vessel for service. The SQUALUS will be recommissioned in the spring of next year and, according to present estimates, will be ready for service about July 1940.

U.S.S. DENEbola, now at Philadelphia Navy Yard to be recommissioned as a mobile tender for destroyers of patrol squadrons on duty in the West Indies. Reason all vessels of this type in use in the Pacific. From Norfolk to the Caribbean her machine shops and tools will be made available to boats. DENEbola is 423 feet long, 54 feet beam, 6,250 tons displacement (light), 10,000 tons (loaded), 20 foot mean draft. Speed developed 10.5 knots.

SWORDFISH, submarine 193, preliminary acceptance trials completed 1 November. Quick dive in 67 seconds with maximum diving angle 7 degrees. Trials otherwise satisfactory.

SOUTHERN CROSS, delivered tomorrow, November 6, for conversion to transport. Probable new name, U.S.S. WHARTON, for the second Commandant of the Marine Corps.

U.S.S. HELENA, modification of shakedown cruise, HELENA will go to New York, Norfolk, Guantanamo, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santos, Guantanamo, Norfolk, New York. En route Guantanamo to Buenos Aires the Navy Department desires that the islands of Rocas and Fernando Noronha off the Northeast coast of Brazil be approached and investigated. It is desired that the investigation determine, insofar as practicable, whether or not these islands are being used for unneutral services inimical to the interest of the Americas. Results will be reported of investigation by restricted despatch. Noon position while at sea on shakedown cruise to be reported daily

to the Chief of Naval Operations. Development Board District Craft - meeting held in connection with neutrality patrol and naval expansion program.

4.

S.S. PLATTE, now building at Sparrows Point Works Bethlehem Steel Company, Maryland, for Standard Oil Co. will be delivered to the Navy. The final trials of the PLATTE will be held late in November 1939.

VP-13, (6 planes), Pearl Harbor to Johnston Island 6 November and arrived same day. Johnston Island to Midway 7 November and arrived same day.

VP-22, Pearl Harbor to Midway 7 November and arrived same day.

VP-23, Pearl Harbor to Johnston Islands 7 November and arrived same day. VP-24, departed Pearl Harbor to Midway (6 planes) 6 November and arrived same day.

BAILEY, WELLES, WILLIAMS and MACKENZIE commissioned 6 November 1939 at Destroyer Base, San Diego, Calif.

CONCORD and MILWAUKEE aviation units, shore based San Diego 6-11 November.

Bureau of Yards and Docks, The following contract awards were made November 6th:

Pier and bulkhead, Naval Station, Guantanamo, awarded to Frederick Snare Corp. New York City for \$123,699. Time of completion 240 days.

Turret assembly building and welding bldg. at Norfolk Navy Yard awarded to Messrs. Doyle and Russell, Richmond, Va. for \$107,770. Time of completion 90 days.

SCULPIN with two engines running full speed, to determine possible effect on engine room personnel of accidental closing of this valve. Analysis of results has not been completed. Animal subjects were used. Air pressure was reduced in less than one minute from about 30 inches to less than 11 inches of mercury. Engines continued to run about one minute after closure of valve about 15 seconds at high speed. Indications are that as effect on engine room personnel would be serious, valve design must continue to include features to guard against accidental closure of valve.

Battleships NEW JERSEY and IOWA (DD 61 & 62), representatives of G'R and ENG. visited the Brooklyn Navy Yard 6 November for consultation as to means possible to be taken to improve further resistance of these ships to underwater explosion attack. Results very promising.

District Material Officers - Those recently appointed from First, Third and Fourth Naval Districts have been in the Navy Department consulting with representatives of the bureaus for indoctrination as to the duties of DMO's and scope of their activities.

Marine Corps. It is planned to send 750 officers and men to Pearl Harbor in April or May 1940. Temporary barracks will be built for housing this number. Proposals will probably be opened these barracks in December.

- U.S.S. TRIPPE - Ready for sea January 6, 1940.
- U.S.S. RUSSELL - Ready for sea November 27, 1939.

Naval Petroleum Reserves - Rear Admiral Stuart, Director, told house Interstate Commerce sub-committee that present naval oil reserves are "far from sufficient for future needs. With the prospect of material increase in tonnage of the Navy during the next few years the Navy Department has surveyed its present petroleum reserves with a view to determining their adequacy with respect to the Navy's probable future fuel oil requirements. This survey has disclosed that the petroleum contents of the lands comprising the Navy's petroleum reserves is far from sufficient. For this reason the Navy has been extremely anxious to add to its present reserves."

Ships commissioned calendar year 1939 to date are as follows:

12 Destroyers
11 Destroyer Escorts
10 Submarine Chasers
10 Patrol Minesweepers
10 Minesweepers
10 Torpedo Boat Destroyers
10 Torpedo Boats
10 Gunboats
10 Patrol Boats
10 Landing Craft
10 Landing Vehicle Tracked
10 Landing Vehicle Amphibious
10 Landing Vehicle Tracked
10 Landing Vehicle Amphibious
10 Landing Vehicle Tracked
10 Landing Vehicle Amphibious

- 4.
- Heavy Cruiser (1) - WICHITA
 - Light Cruisers (2) - ST. LOUIS and HELENA.
 - Submarines (8) - SCULPIN, SARGO, SQUALUS, SAURY, SPEARFISH, SWORDFISH, SEA RAVEN, SEA DRAGON.
 - Destroyers (15)- JOUETT, BENHAM, ELLET, LANG, ANDERSON, WILSON, SIMS, HAMMANN, STERETT, MUSTIN, MAYRANT, HUGHES, ROWAN, TRIPPE, RUSSELL
 - Oilers (2)- CIMARRON, NEOSHO.

Bu. Yards and Docks - Status of emergency construction for Marine Corps buildings, including barracks and messhalls, radio (direction finder shelters) and emergency temporary storage facilities:

Radio (Direction Finder Shelters) - \$40,000. All work has been authorized and is actively underway by Yard labor for Winter Harbor, Maine; Naval Air Station, Norfolk; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Naval Air Station, Seattle; Point St. George, Calif.; Dutch harbor, Alaska; and Tutuila, Samoa. At San Diego the work for Imperial Beach, Calif. is to be undertaken by contract, and bids will be received in the near future.

Temporary Provision Storehouse, Pearl Harbor, T.H. - \$150,000.

This work will be accomplished by contract, bids will be opened about 13 December. Contract time for completion will be 100 days.

Temporary Cold Storage Facilities, Pearl Harbor, T.H. \$330,000.

This work will be accomplished under contract, specifications for the temporary bldg. and insulation, and for equipment and installation are being prepared locally. Bids will be opened about 13 December. Contract times for completion will be 90 days for each contract, and will run concurrently (to be continued)

~~Confidential~~

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Report to the Secretary
9 November 1939

<u>Total Enlisted Strength</u> , 8 November	119,879
<u>Fleet Reservists</u> (Enlisted) on active duty, 1,933	
<u>Other Reservists</u> " " " " " " " " " " " "	71
<u>Total</u>	2,004
<u>Aggregate Enlistment</u> (last 24 hours)	59
<u>Aggregate Discharges</u> " " " " " " " " " " " "	12
<u>Net Gain</u>	47

Officers Returned to Duty, as of 9 November:

Line officers	232
Staff officers	76
Warrant officers	19
<u>Total</u>	327

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 8 November 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered.</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	74
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	39
Miscellaneous	292	148	97
Ens. & Lieuts.(jg) with fleet	200	200	81
<u>Total officers</u>	870	537	291

<u>Men</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered.</u>
Radio Intercept	120	52	52
Dist. Patrol Planes	1024	0	0
Miscellaneous	1606	332	332
<u>Total Men</u>	2750	384	384

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, 8 Nov. - 20,594.

2. Bu. Yards and Docks, Marine Corps Construction (continued from yesterday):

Temporary Facilities \$1,250,000.

All work will be undertaken by contract and specifications are being prepared locally. Opening dates and contract times for completion are as indicated below:

Quantico, Va. - 1 storehouse; bids open 29 Nov.;
time of completion 60 days.

San Diego, Calif. - 10 storehouses; bids open 28 Nov.;
time of completion 90 days. Encampment for 2 battalions
(8 barracks and messhall); bids open 19 December;
time of completion 120-150 days.

Pearl Harbor, T.H. - Encampment for 1 battalion
(4 barracks and 1 messhall); bids open 22 Nov.
time of completion 90 days. 1 storehouse and 1
storage shed will be covered by subsequent contract.)

Parris Island, S.C. - Encampment for 1 battalion (4
barracks, 1 messhall, 1 storehouse, 1 storage shed
at main station and 1 barracks, 1 storehouse and 1
storage shed at Hilton Head); bids open 28 Nov.;
time of completion 100 days.

Bureau of Aeronautics, The Chief of Air Corps, Army,

3.

and the Chief of Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy, are working together closely in an effort to assure that the placing of large contracts for aircraft and aircraft engines by foreign governments will not interfere with authorized or prospective procurement by the U.S. Army and Navy. Further objective is to bring about a distribution of foreign orders among American aircraft and aircraft engine manufacturers in such a way as best to develop balanced production facilities. It is believed that the above can be accomplished.

Overage Destroyers, recommissioned and in commission (44):
BAILEY, BAINBRIDGE, BARNEY, BERNADOU, BIDDLE, BLAKELEY, BRECKINRIDGE, BROOKS, BUCHANAN, COLE, CROWNSHIELD, DALLAS, DUPONT, KILLIS, EVANS, FOX, GILMER, GREER, HALE, HATFIELD, HUMPHREYS, KANE, KING, LAWRENCE, LEA, MACKENZIE, MACLEISH, MCCORMICK, OVERTON, PHILIP, SANDS, STURTEVANT, TARBELL, TWIGGS, UPSHUR, AARON WARD, WELLES, WICKES, WILLIAMS, YARNALL, (Light Mine Layers) BRESE, GAMBLE, MONTGOMERY, and RAMSAY.

Ordered Recommissioned, but yet to be Commissioned, (25): AULICK, BANCROFT, BRANCH, CRANE, CROSSBY, EDWARDS, HARADEY, HERNDON, HUNT, KENNISON, KILTY, LAUB, MASON, MCCALLA, MCCOOK, MEADE, NOA, SATTERLEE, RODGERS, SHUBRICK, SWASEY, THATCHER, A.P. UPSHUR, W.C. WOOD, and MCLANAHAN.

Of 103 overage destroyers, 69 (above) are already recommissioned, or to be commissioned.

ComPat Wing 3, departed from Canal Zone and arrived Guantanamo, 8 November.

VP-24, departed Midway and arrived Johnston Island

8 Nov.

4.
VP-23, departed Johnston Island and arrived Midway, 8 Nov.

A Selection Board will be convened, at the Navy Department on 22 November, 1939 or as soon thereafter as practicable, to recommend 12 Captains and 52 commanders of the line of the Navy for promotion to the next higher grades. Membership of the board is as follows: President, Vice-Admiral Charles P. Snyder; Members - Vice Admiral Charles A. Blakely, Rear Admirals Pettengill, Greenslade, Freeman, Pye, Vernou, Rowcliff, Kimmell, Recorder - Comdr. Allan R. McCann. The same board (with the exception of Rear Admiral John D. Wainwright in place of Rear Admiral Greenslade and Lieut. Col. Donald Curtis, U.S.M.C. acting as recorder) will at the same time recommend 1 Brig. General of the Marine Corps for promotion to the next higher grade.

S.S. SAN JOSE, distress signals intercepted at 1000 G.M.T. last night and following at 0604 today from S.S. SAN JOSE, chased by submarine. Lat. 27-35 N. Long. 57-58 W Press Reports SAN JOSE had accommodations for 12 passengers and carried a normal crew of more than 30 men. Lloyds lists the San Jose as an oil tanker of 6,013 tons, owned by General Transatlantic Company.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

10 November 1939.

1.

Total Enlisted Strength, 9 November 119,995

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty, 2,025

Other Reservists " " " 71

Total 2,096

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 125

Aggregate Discharges " " " 101

Net Gain 24

Officers Returned to Duty, as of 10 November 1939:

Line officers 233

Staff officers 76

Warrant officers 19

Total 328

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for Neutrality

enforcement, as of 9 November:

Officers	Number Allowed	Number Obligated	Number Ordered
Aviation Instruction	150	150	74
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	39
Miscellaneous	292	150	97
Ens. & Lieuts.(jg) with fleet	200	200	81
Total officers	870	539	291

Men - no change since 9 November report.

Bureau of Yards and Docks, following contract award

was made November 9th:

Foundations and floors for Turret and Erection

shops, Building No. 18, at the Navy Yard, New York,

awarded to Mill Basin Asphalt Corporation, Brooklyn, New York, for \$189,000. Time of completion 63 calendar days.

SOSED representative returned from Key West after making survey of tools, equipment, facilities, etc.

SOSED representative inspected DENEbola at Philadelphia for purpose of looking over her machine tools, etc.

This is a precautionary measure looking to possible use of maintenance facilities in the Caribbean area.

U.S.S. HAMMANN, arrived Navy Yard, Washington, for further tests.

U.S.S. TARBELL, Philadelphia, recommissioned destroyer reported for duty Atlantic Squadron.

U.S.S. GAMBLE and MONTGOMERY, ships in collision on West Coast, reports concerning damages will come in form of letters and will be reported as soon as possible. (no casualties to personnel)

U.S.S. WHARTON, formerly the SOUTHERN CROSS, acquired from the Maritime Commission has arrived Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va. Living quarters have been found habitable for commissioning "In ordinary" as soon as personnel arrives. In connection with commissioning in the immediate future, Lt. Comdr. John J. Fallon,

D.M. (Deck Merchant Marine), U.S.N.R., the previous commanding officer for the SOUTHERN CROSS and Lieut. Commander William O.A. Russell, E.M. (Engineering Merchant Marine), U.S.N.R., previous Chief Engineer have been ordered to active duty CFO and on board when commissioned as navigating officer and engineer officer respectively. These two officers are the first Merchant Marine officers, Naval Reserve, to be ordered to active duty.

VP-24, Johnston Island to Pearl Harbor 9 November and arrived the same day. (6 planes).

VP-22, Midway to Johnston Island 9 November and arrived the same day.

VP-13, Midway to Pearl Harbor 9 November and arrived same day.

U.S.S. BARNEY, reported for duty to CINCUS and Commander Atlantic Squadron. U.S.S. YARNALL also.

TRAINING SHIP, DANMARK, from Baltimore cleared Cape Henry and headed for sea.

Captain Herman E. Fischer, has returned from London. He was on a secret mission to investigate Harbor defenses, mines, nets, etc. For the last several

4.

days, he has been conferring with various officers in the Navy Department.

CNO, It is desired by CNO that the following dates of completion and readiness for sea be adhered to if possible: YUKON(storeship), and SPICA (cargo ship), 1 Feb. 1940; SEPULGA,(oiler) and TIPPECANOE (oiler), 15 Feb. 1940; RAPIDAN(oiler), CLEMSON, GOLDSBOROUGH, HULBERT, and WILLIAM B. PRESTON (destroyers) , all by 1 March 1940.

Naval Medical Center, Press reports from all over the country, publicized Navy release, all excellent, and mentioned that nearly two miles of 6 foot wire fence costing \$26,000(estimate) would surround the property.

U.S.S. LOS ANGELES, was stricken from the Navy Register on 24 October.

U.S.S. WILKES and NICHOLSON, keels were laid at Navy Yard, Boston, on 1 November.

From 4th Marines, China, Domei News agency, Nanking, reports that 80 battles per day were fought by the Japanese in the Lower Yangtze Valley during October.

possible effect on operating personnel of accidental closing of air induction valve with main engines running. The definite conclusion is that serious injury to engine room personnel would result.

SAN JOSE, French freighter previously reported arrived Willemstad, Dutch West Indies and reported she had been pursued for an hour by an unidentified submarine about seven miles from Willemstad. Submarine

probably unable to attack because of heavy seas. SAN JOSE was armed and ready to defend itself, but had been ordered not to fire the first shot. Master said freighter escaped because of its superior speed.

Shipping fatalities, London reports neutrals have lost almost 89,000 tons of shipping since the war started. Norway believed to be the heaviest loser with nine vessels totalling 20,000 tons. Greece has lost four ships, 19,455 tons; Denmark, three ships, 12,558 tons; Sweden, seven ships, 11,110 tons; Finland, five ships, 8,746 tons; Holland, two ships, 8,387 tons; Belgium, two ships, 8,202 tons.

USS RHIND, placed in full commission, Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

USS GREER, reported to neutrality patrol, from Philadelphia, and has been assigned to Charleston.

USS LANG, reported to Comdesdiv 18, who will command Gulf Patrol.

SOSED representative, attended contract conference between ELOO and Navy representatives at the Navy Department.

Naval Reserve, Commandants of Naval Districts have been requested to nominate applicants from Naval Reserve officers who are qualified as instructors of chemistry for active duty at the Naval Academy in that capacity. The withdrawal of regular officers from the faculty at the Naval Academy makes it necessary to assign one Naval Reserve officer to that duty immediately.

Bureau of Yards & Docks, status of construction of temporary emergency buildings and facilities for Naval Aviation Patrol in neutrality enforcement:

N.R.A.B., Squantum, Mass. - Directive for this project was forwarded to Cohens on 29 October, 1939. Additional directive for inclusion of dispensary facilities in program will be forwarded within a day or two. The District proposes to handle plans and specifications, required by the directive, by District force.

4.

NAS, Chatham, Mass. - The Chief of Naval Operations has approved the elimination of the establishment of Aviation Patrol facilities at Chatham. This elimination is due to the adverse flying conditions which pertain in the Chatham area.

NAS, Quonset Point, R.I. - Directive for this project was sent to the Commanding Officer, NTS, Newport, R.I. on 31 October, 1939. Regarding the acquisition of the state-owned land at Quonset Point, a decision is expected by 13 November from the Dept. of Justice as to whether data furnished by the State and the U.S. Attorney at Providence, R.I., are sufficient to permit title to the land to be taken by the United States. Contract was awarded to Jenks and Ballou, Providence, R.I., for engineering services for the program at Quonset Point on 8 November, 1939.

N.R.A.B., Floyd Bennett Field, N.Y. - Directive for this project was forwarded to Comthree on 31 October, 1939. Negotiations for the lease of necessary land are being conducted by the Commandant in accordance with instructions from the Bureau of Aeronautics.

NAS, Cape May, N.J. - Directive for this project was forwarded to Comfour on 31 October, 1939. By letter dated 6 November, 1939, the Commandant was requested to look into the matter of renovating existing buildings at Cape May for use as storehouses instead of constructing a new storehouse, with a consequent saving. Commandant proposes to advertise for bids on the work at Cape May on or about 15 November, 1939, and open bids on 15 December, 1939, with approximately 60 calendar days contract time.

NAS, Jacksonville (Banana River), Fla. - Directive was forwarded to the Officer in Charge of Construction, NAS, Jacksonville, Fla., on 1 November, 1939. A dispensary was added to the program on 8 November 1939. The Officer in Charge of Construction has been directed by despatch to proceed with plans, specifications, advertising and opening of bids for clearing the site for the neutrality program with necessary dredging and fill. This work is being charged to "Base Facilities". The O-in-C proposes to open bids for clearing the site on 29 November 1939, with a contract time of 45 calendar days. He proposes to open bids for dredging and fill on 20 December, 1939, with a contract time of 90 days for immediate area neutrality patrol facilities.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
14 November 1939

Total Enlisted Strength, 13 November 120,336

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty, 2257

Other Reservists " " " 102
Total . . . 2359

Aggregate Enlistment (last 24 hours) 98

Aggregate Discharges " " " 70
Net gain 28

Officers Returned to Duty, as of 14 November:

Line officers . . . 237
Staff officers . . . 78
Warrant officers . . . 20
Total . . . 325

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality
enforcement, as of 13 November 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	No. Allowed	No. Obligated	No. Ordered.
Aviation Instruction	150	150	74
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	39
Miscellaneous	292	151	97
Ens. & Lieuts.(jg) with Fleet	200	200	82
<u>Total officers</u>	870	540	292

<u>Men</u>			
Dist. Patrol Planes	1,024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	52	52
Miscellaneous	1,606	332	332
<u>Total men</u>	2,750	384	384

U.S.S. PATOKA, commissioned on 10 November, Navy Yard,
Puget Sound.

Gulf Patrol, organized under Captain Denfeld, composed of JOUETT, ELLET, DAVIS (flagship), BENHAM, and LANG, all new destroyers in the Western Gulf, operating west of the 90th meridian, based at Galveston with possible secondary base at Corpus Christi. Operations to include Yucatan Channel, Florida Straits, Vera Cruz, Tampico, as well as U.S. Coast line.

Des Div 83, LAWRENCE, KING, SANDS and HUMPHREYS, underway from the West Coast to report to the Atlantic Squadron for duty.

EDO's, Selection Board met to consider five officers for Engineering Duty only from the Line.

Ambassador of Ecuador, called on the Chief of Naval Operations in connection with the cooperation of the United States and Ecuador in various naval matters.

Herbert Schiff Memorial Trophy, awarded to Patrol Squadron Eleven. This squadron received no penalties, having had no accidents of any kind during the past year. It is the first time any squadron has won the trophy twice, Squadron Eleven also winning it in 1937.

Fleet Tug 66, U.S.S. CHEROKEE launched on 10 Nov.

at Staten Island.

Commanding Officer U.S.S. SQUALUS, Lieut. Oliver F. Naquin ordered to Submarine Force, U.S. Fleet.

Bu Supplies and Accounts reports Department of Labor All Commodity Wholesale Price Index for 4 November 1939 was 79.3 compared with 79.2 October 28th. The low for this fiscal year was on 19 August, 74.6.

Status of Construction, Bureau of Yards and Docks, temporary emergency buildings and facilities for Naval Aviation Patrol in neutrality enforcement:

N.A.S. Jacksonville (Banana River) Fla.- The officer in charge of construction has made a supplemental agreement with Marsh & Saxelbye, Jacksonville, Fla. for engineering services for the personnel buildings and storehouse at Banana River. The supplemental agreement is now in the Bureau for execution.

Naval Station, Key West, Fla.- Directive was sent to Commanding Officer, Naval Station, Key West, on Nov. 2nd 1939. Arrangements for leasing the necessary land are being made by Comseven in compliance with instructions from the Bureau of Aeronautics. The Bureau of Aeronautics has

4.

issued a project order to cover the cost of necessary modifications of Bldg. 66, Seamen's Barracks, at the Naval Station, Key West, to permit temporary occupancy by enlisted men and officers of the neutrality patrol squadron pending provision of housing facilities on the proposed air station site under this program.

Naval Station, Guantanamo, Cuba.- Directive was sent to the Commandant, Naval Station, Guantanamo, 1 November 1939. The Commandant was directed to grade the site for the proposed hangar by Yard labor. An allotment for this work will be granted as soon as an estimate is received from the station.

N.A.S. San Juan, P.R. - The directive for the work at this station was forwarded to the officer in Charge of Construction on Nov. 2, 1939. Authority was granted the O-in-C by despatch on Nov. 8, 1939, to make a contract with Robert & Co., Atlanta, for the preparation of plans and specifications for the work. Albert Kahn has been requested to expedite the design of two seaplane hangars for San Juan for the use of the neutrality patrol. The Bureau is arranging with the contractors to construct the emergency facilities at San Juan under the fee contract. On Nov. 9, 1939, the Officer in Charge of Construction was directed to add a dispensary to the emergency program.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

15 November 1939

file

Total Enlisted Strength, 14 November 120,552

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty, 2,272

Other Reservists " " " , 102
Total 2,374

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 227

Aggregate Discharges " " " 26
Net gain 201

Officers Returned to Duty, as of 15 November:

Line officers 239

Staff officers 78

Warrant officers 20

Total 337

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 14 November 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>No. Allowed</u>	<u>No. Obligated</u>	<u>No. Ordered</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	74
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	39
Miscellaneous	292	153	100
Ens. & Lieuts.(jg) with Fleet	200	200	82
<u>Total officers</u>	870	542	295

<u>Men</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>
Dist. Patrol Planes	1,024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	52	52
Miscellaneous	1,606	334	334
<u>Total men</u>	2,750	386	386

Recruiting Activities for week ending November 10th:

Number of applicants accepted for enlistment, 911.
Number of first enlistments 1186

2. Number of reenlistments within 3 months (continuous service)60
Number of reenlistments, broken service, ..76
Total reenlistments and new enlistments - 1,316

Experimental Bombing and Dropping of Depth Charges

The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance reports that

last week (Nov. 8) depth charges and bombs were dropped from a plane off the Virginia Capes in connection with experimentation that has been going on under the Experimental Desk of the Bureau of Ordnance and the Naval Ordnance Laboratory of the Naval Gun Factory for the last two years. Among these were ten 325-lb. depth charges specially designed to be dropped from catapulted planes in an attack on submerged submarines. The hydrostatic fuze functioned perfectly. The shape of the depth charge and particularly a new development of a cylindrical tail which gives a much better trajectory under water, is a marked advance over anything that is known to exist for underwater attack by a plane. The drops were made from 6000 feet to as low as 800 feet and the aviators felt from the perfect functioning of the fuzes that there was no danger in coming lower as they will have to do in order to drop the airplane depth charges on submerged submarines.

3. 3

During the same tests, four 500-lb. bombs were dropped with a delayed tail fuze that does not function on the blow on the water as most previous nose fuzes have done. With a .4 seconds delay a bomb that misses a ship will go off 30 feet under water and if close alongside will give an excellent mining effect to bombs that otherwise would have been useless. The success of these two developments by the Bureau's Experimental Section and the Ordnance Laboratory is most gratifying. The aircraft depth charge affords an important additional means of combating submarines by battleship planes whose carrying load was limited to two 325-pound depth charges. The hydrostatic fuze tested successfully in the 500-pound bombs gives a weapon for patrol planes against submerged submarines, and the .4 seconds delayed tail fuze gives a mining effect to heavy bombs that narrowly miss surface craft.

Emergency buildings for Naval Aviation Patrol in neutrality enforcement: Plans for structural steel for all hangers included in the program (Squantum, Mass.; Quonset Point, R.I.; Floyd Bennet Field, N.Y.; Cape May, N.J.; Jacksonville (Banana River) Fla.; Key West, Fla.;

4. .
Guantanamo, Cuba; and San Juan, P.R.) are scheduled to be mailed to the Bureau of Yards and Docks by Albert Kahn on 9 November 1939. Date for opening bids for furnishing and erection of steel work has been set tentatively for November 29 or December 6, depending on date of receipt of plans from Albert Kahn.

Buaero, The Chief of Bureau left Washington on 15 November for Corpus Christi, Texas, where he will join Members of the House Naval Affairs Committee for purposes of inspection. They will also inspect Naval Air Station, Pensacola. . . . Commander A.E. Montgomery, Buaero, will leave Washington on 16 November to go to Boulder Dam and join the Honorable James G. Scrugham of Nevada for inspection of the Dam area with a view to establishing a Naval Air Station or Base at the Lake. This inspection is being done at the request of Mr. Scrugham.

U.S.S. GAMBLE, collision damage to shell plating, damage bulkhead, damage to upper and lower side stringers and bilge fenders (collision with Montgomery previously reported) total estimated damage including docking \$6500. 5 days, three shifts. Engineering damage due to flooding of Engine room requires repairs including dock trial, estimated cost, \$5000, time 5 days, 3 shifts. Mare Island Yard proceeding with all work. Expect completion, 18 Nov. 1939.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
16 November 1939

Total Enlisted Strength, 15 November 120,789

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty, 2,283

Other Reservists " " " 102
Total 2,385

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 277

Aggregate Discharges " " " 51
Net Gain 226

Officers Returned to Duty, as of 16 November:

Line officers 240
Staff officers 79
Warrant officers 20
Total 339

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 15 November 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>No. Allowed</u>	<u>No. Obligated</u>	<u>No. Ordered</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	74
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	39	38
Miscellaneous	292	154	100
Ens. and Lieutenants (jg)			
with Fleet.	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>Total officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>296</u>

Men, no change since 15 November report.

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, November 15th, for 20,818. Percentage of reenlistments, Marine Corps for November, 83.17 in comparison with 68.37 for current / fiscal year.

2.

Awards for armor, Bureau of Ordnance awarded contracts for armor for battleships No. 61 and 62 (45,000 tonners), 14 November 1939, in accordance with prices bid and capabilities of meeting the required delivery dates as follows:

Bethlehem Steel Co.	7998 tons -	\$4,855,610
Carnegie Illinois Steel Corp.	5969 tons -	3,436,335
The Midvale Co.	7285 tons -	3,991,879

Comparative costs of armor per ton (not including cost of gratings which are special) on recent contracts are:

Battleships Nos. 55 and 56 --	\$579
" Nos. 57-60 . . . --	\$628 (new features in shapes, bends and sizes).
Aircraft Carrier No. 8 --	\$607 (tapered side belt requiring extensive machining)
Battleships No. 61 and 62 -	\$578

Bureau of Yards and Docks, the following contract awards have been made:

Foundations and floors for Turret and Erection Shops, Building No. 18, Navy Yard, New York, awarded to Mill Basin Asphalt Corporation, 5410 Avenue U, Brooklyn, New York for \$189,000.

Seawalls and slip for Turret and Erection Shops Building No. 18, Navy Yard New York awarded to Centaur Construction Co. of New York City for \$499,859.

Structural Steel for superstructure Central Office and Drafting Building, Washington Navy Yard awarded to Lehigh Structural Steel Co., Allentown, Pa. for \$137,400.

Elevators in the General Storehouse at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California awarded to Pacific Elevator and Equipment Company of San Francisco for \$54,256.

Arrived New York, YUKON, SPICA, CLEMSON, GOLDSBOROUGH, HULBERT, WM. B. PRESTON (to be converted to Light Aircraft Tenders) towed from Philadelphia by the tugs ALLEGHENY and SAGAMORE.

U.S.S. BENSON, launched 15 November at Quincy, Mass.

British Admiralty, said today that as usual no information would be given out as to whether the battle cruisers HOOD, RUFULSE or RENOWN were patrolling the Atlantic Ocean.

The following ships are due to be commissioned

(approx.) STACK - 20 Nov., SEALION and SEAWOLF (submarines) 27 November.

U.S.S. BRANCH and LAUB, overaged destroyers, ordered recommissioned for neutrality patrol work.

Naval Reserve, in connection with the recommissioning of numerous vessels for the Train it will be necessary to detach approximately 50 officers from Combatant vessels of the Fleet for assignment to these ships.

The vacancies thus created in combatant vessels will have

4.

to be filled by Naval Reserve officers. As a result of the dislocation of shipping lines operating in the North Atlantic re the repeal of the Arms Embargo and the establishment of war zones many officers of the Merchant Marine will probably be thrown out of employment. The Bureau of Navigation has under consideration the feasibility of a plan to order officers of the Merchant Marine Reserve of the rank of Lieutenant and below to the recommissioned vessels of the Train, in order not to withdraw regular officers of the line for this secondary duty. If placed in effect the plan would provide much needed training in naval procedure for Merchant Marine Naval Reserve officers which they have not been able to obtain due to existing limitations in appropriations. Such a plan also would result in not lowering the efficiency of combatant vessels by employment of Naval Reserve officers in these ships.

Total commissioned officers as of 1 November 1939
10,478 - (line - 6,701; Medical Corps - 891; Dental Corps - 272; Supply Corps - 574; Chaplain Corps - 94; Construction Corps - 214; Civil Engineer Corps - 126. Chief Warrant officers - 980; Warrant officers - 626.)

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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
17 November 1939

Total Enlisted Strength, 16 November 1939 . . . 120,939

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty, 2,309

Other Reservists " " " , 102

Total 2,411

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 251

Aggregate Discharges " " " 127

Net gain 124

Officers Returned to Duty, as of 17 November:

Line officers 242

Staff officers 83

Warrant officers 20

Total 345

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 16 November 1939:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered.</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	73
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	53	51
Miscellaneous	292	156	100
Ens.' & Lieuts.(jg) with Fleet	200	200	91
<u>Total officers</u>	870	559	315

Men

Dist. Patrol Planes.	1,024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	52	52
Miscellaneous	1,606	334	334
<u>Total Men</u>	2,750	386	386

U.S.S. SEPULCA, 5,375 ton oiler tied up at Mare Island Navy Yard, ordered fitted out for active duty.

Norwegian-American Liner Bergensfjord, arrived at the Brooklyn Army Base, Brooklyn, New York, today with 162 Danish seamen, said to be 4 complete crews to take over from Standard Oil Company tankers which have been transferred to Panamanian Registry. The tankers are I.C. WHITE, DEAN EMBRY, ELISHA WALKER and the STANDARD. None of the crew nor the Standard Oil representatives who met them at the pier would discuss their plans or the proposed operations of the tankers.

British Flagships of the Furnace Prince Line, in the South American trade will be placed on the New York-London run next month, it was announced. The line's vessels are the SOUTHERN PRINCE, EASTERN PRINCE, WESTERN PRINCE and NORTHERN PRINCE. They will replace American vessels barred from the North Atlantic Service and belligerent ports by the lifting of the Arms Embargo.

Enlisted Strength, Marine Corps, 16 November, 20,941 ^{3.}

<u>Marines in China:</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
U.S.S. AUGUSTA	3	67
Ashore	96	1,602
<u>Total officers and men</u>	99	1,669

Proposed Shipbuilding Program, Conference was held in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations this morning. Development of the program was expounded by all the interested parties.

Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, The 47th Annual Meeting is being held currently at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City. A number of papers are being given by Naval Officers. The committee on awards voted unanimously that Lieut. Commander H.A. Schade (Construction Corps) U.S.N. be recommended for the CAPTAIN JOSEPH H. LINNARD prize for his paper "Bending Theory of Ship Bottom Structure."

Commander Aircraft Scouting Force, Rear Admiral A.B. Cook, U.S.N. and former Chief of Bureau of Aeronautics was in Washington for several days with some members of his staff. Admiral Cook has assisted the Bureau materially with advice and consultations. He departed this morning for San Diego.

4.

Infantry Drill, The Navy Department is engaged in extensive revision of the Landing Force Manual, 1938, involving close Infantry drill. Ready for issue to the Service early in 1940, to be effective upon receipt. Radical changes are to be made in infantry drill and instruction along lines already adopted by the Army and the Marine Corps.

General Board - Rear Admirals A.W. Johnson and A.E. Watson, reported for duty in Washington with the General Board on 6 November.

U.S.S. ST. LOUIS - During trials off Rockland, Maine, ran perfectly for four hours. In reversing to full speed astern from full speed ahead, number 2 shaft came to a stop and could not move ahead or astern. H.P. Engine on shaft for some reason not yet known rubbed the impulse blading to such an extent that blades were almost welded together. Trouble is in construction by the Newport News Company. Proceeding to take turbine apart. New rotor will be made and bladed and returned to ship for reinstallation, time 2 or possibly 3 months. It is recommended to CNO that ship leave the yard and operate moderate speed on two shafts. Fault is material and not design.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
20 November 1939

1.
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Total Enlisted Strength, 18 November 1939: . . . 121,465

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty, 2385

Other Reservists " " " 183

Total . . . 2568

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) . . . 327

Aggregate Discharges " " " . . . 69

Net Gain 258

Officers Returned to Duty, as of 20 November:

Line officers . . . 244

Staff officers . . . 85

Warrants officers. . . 20

Total . . . 349

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality
enforcement, as of 18 November 1939

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered.</u>
Aviation Instruction	150	150	77
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	52	51
Miscellaneous	292	157	102
Ens. & Lieuts. (jg) with Fleet	200	200	91
<u>Total Officers</u>	870	559	321

Men, no change since 17 November report.

Recruiting Activities for week ending 17 November 1939

Number of applicants accepted for first enlistment: 842

Number of first enlistments: 1,210

2.
Number of reenlistments(3 mo.) continuous service: 41
Number of reenlistments under broken service: 83
Total enlistments 1,334

U.S.S. BEAR, Antarctic Expedition. Trials underway on 17 November. Machinery functioned satisfactorily and reports indicated that vessel was proceeding at once to load and prepare for departure.

DesDiv 60, COE, BERNADOU, ELLIS, and DUPONT expected to report for duty. Atlantic Squadron 22 November.

U.S.S. GAMELE and MONTGOMERY, ships that were in collision reported ready for duty in 12th Naval District.

U.S.S. PRAIRIE, will be launched December 9th, Camden, N.J. PRAIRIE is a destroyer tender of about 10,000 tons displacement. She is over 500 feet long, beam 75 feet, expected completion and commissioning spring of 1940.

U.S.S. SANTA INEZ and SANTA RITA, renamed BOWDITCH and WILLIAM WARD BURROWS. BOWDITCH is a miscellaneous auxiliary, BURROWS is a transport.

U.S.S. HELENA, On sea trial from New York, first run, 27 knots satisfactory with exception of minimum thrackle

trouble. ~~Ran~~ light; on account of weather did not run through steering gear tests. St. Louis had some trouble with throttles her initial run.

U.S.S. WICHITA, reported to have one of quill shafts slightly out of alignment. No vibration, will proceed on trials.

U.S.S. CONSTELLATION, Oldest ship in the Navy, quarters provided for 150 enlisted men because of needed space on account of expanded activities Naval Training Station Newport.

Cargo of Teak, for Navy reported lost on P & O ship SIRDHANA off Singapore when ship sank. Teak was destined for decking U.S.S. TENNESSEE during overhaul period beginning April 15, 1940. Estimated loss about \$22,000, which falls on contractor as it was payable by Navy only on delivery. There should be adequate time to replace lost teak before the TENNESSEE reaches Puget Sound Navy Yard. Two-thirds of necessary teak available now.

BuM&S, is planning for M day in directive of personnel situation to eliminate mental and nervous unfit by collaborating with American Psychiatrical Association,

4.
a branch of American Medical Association to formulate detailed examination study for recruits and selection of proper type. Trained medical personnel to conduct these examinations all recruiting stations. Estimated 125 doctors necessary this work. Had this been started earlier in last war Government probably would have saved much on such medical cases. It is estimated that for M-day M&S would need altogether 1500 doctors in various duties of medical profession.

Bu. Yards and Docks, Following contract awards have been made:

Extension to bachelor officers' quarters, Naval Fleet Air Base, Coco Solo, C.Z. awarded for \$51,660. Time of completion 150 calendar days.

Structural steel work for turret and erection shops Building No. 18 at the Navy Yard New York awarded Bethlehem Steel Co. for \$723,800. Time of completion 140 and 112 days respectively.

Runways, taxiways and drainage at Naval Air Station Pensacola awarded to Smith Engineering and Construction Co., Pensacola, Fla. for \$208,256. Time of completion 170 days.

Western Pacific Air Bases, U.S.S. WRIGHT which left

Pearl Harbor for Johnston Island on November 6th reports all materials for construction camp at Johnston Island have been unloaded, the camp construction is underway, and the U.S.S. WHIPPOORWILL is standing by at Johnston Island until camp is completed.

2.
of Middle Atlantic Patrol) in the GILMER.

COMDESRON 10, Captain Greenman, has taken over Command of the Reserve Destroyer Group.

Increase In Manufacturing Facilities for Rangefinders, at Rochester, N.Y. In order to increase the country's facilities for optical work and particularly to provide space in which to build and assemble the longer base rangefinders that are required for new battleships, the Bureau of Ordnance has agreed with the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, New York to let them spread half the cost of a new \$100,000 building over the cost of rangefinders, the other half to be borne by the Company. The WEST VIRGINIA's rangefinders are 33'6"; those of battleships 57 to 60 are 43' long, and those of battleships 61 to 64 are 46' long.

SOSED, has been making studies in connection with the 1942 Estimate of the Situation and the proposed increase in the Navy as it may affect matters under the cognizance of SOSED.

Western Pacific Air Bases - Contractor has established his personnel organization and completed the construction and installation of his purchasing, storage and transfer

3
offices and plants at Alameda. The plant includes office building, storage shed and handling platforms, outside storage area, track system, and transportation equipment. Over 530 tons of material and equipment have already been shipped from this point to Pearl Harbor for redistribution to the several bases.

Temporary Neutrality Patrol Air Bases - Bids for furnishing and erection of the steelwork for the hangars at all such bases will be opened on December 6th.

Emergency hospital and dispensary facilities. The Bureau of Yards and Docks has awarded the following contracts:

Ward building at the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois, awarded to Pickus Construction and Equipment Co. of Waukegan, Illinois for \$27,303. Time of completion 60 days.

Emergency hospital buildings at the Norfolk Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia, and the Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va. awarded to the Southeastern Construction Company of Charlotte, N.C. for \$147,224. Time of completion 60 days.

The Bureau of Yards and Docks has awarded a contract for the superstructure for the Aeronautical Engine Laboratory and Laboratory Office Building, Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, to Ralph S. Herzog, Philadelphia, Pa. for \$947,127. Time of completion 360 days.

4.

Structural Steelwork for extension to Machine Shop Building 42-A at the Boston Navy Yard awarded to Lehigh Structural Steel Co. of Allentown, Pa. for \$64,137. Time of completion 120 days.

Wharf at the Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, awarded to Frederick Snare Corp. of New York City for \$66,000. Time of completion 220 days.

Improvement of berths 11 and 12 at the New York Navy Yard awarded to E.W. Foley Inc. of Brooklyn, N.Y. for \$208,418. Time of completion 180 days.

Emergency hospital and dispensary facilities: Emergency hospital buildings at the Naval Training Station and Naval Hospital, Newport, R.I. awarded to the Platt Contracting Co. of Cambridge, Mass. for \$164,900.

General Motors Laboratory - A representative of the Bureau of C&R visited General Motors at Detroit on 16 November and spent the day with Dr. Kettering who was most cooperative. Considerable valuable information and general procedure was obtained concerning sound absorption for submarine engine compartments, fatigue testing of structures, instruments of precision, etc.

S&A reports that the Department of Labor All Commodity Wholesale Price Index for 11 November 1939 was 79.3. Unchanged since 4 November report.

2.

Bureau of Aeronautics, The Chief of Bureau, Rear Admiral Towers and the Congressional party which made an inspection of the Corpus Christi area arrived at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, yesterday. The Chief of Bureau is expected to arrive in Washington today. The party had been joined at Corpus Christi by the Honorable J.C. Scrugham and Commander A.E. Montgomery of the Bureau. Representative Scrugham and Commander Montgomery had conducted an inspection of the Boulder Dam lake with a view to determining its use as a seaplane operating point.

Bureau of Supplies and Accounts reports that confirmation has been received of earlier advice that SS SIRDHANA which was sunk when outward bound from Singapore, had on board a quantity of teak decking intended for deliver to the Navy Yard, Puget Sound, for overhauling the USS TENNESSEE. Advice is lacking as to the exact quantity of teak aboard this vessel. The quantity is estimated at about 40,000 to 50,000 feet. The contractor, Ichabod T. Williams & Sons, has been called upon to expedite shipment of the teak to replace that lost on board the SS SIRDHANA.

3.

Planers for armor plate work, Contracts have been awarded to the Consolidated Machine Tool Corporation, General Machinery Corporation and William Sellers & Co. Inc., for three planers, pit type, heavy duty, longitudinal and cross planing, one to each company for armor plate work in the building of battleships at the Navy Yards, Brooklyn and Philadelphia. These planers cost \$248,550.33 each. They are larger than any machines of this type which have been heretofore built. The contracts were made with each of the three machine tool builders as no one company is capable of building the three machines in one plant withing a reasonable delivery period.

U.S.S. SEALION, date set for delivery, 27 November 1939.

U.S.S. TIPPECANOE, Mare Island Navy Yard, ordered recommissioned.

U.S.S. YUKON, storeship of 4,960 tons, ordered recommissioned.

SOSED, during the past week while the Director has been on leave, Captain Baldwin has been acting Director.

Captain Atkins has been primarily occupied with the King Board (Personnel).

4.

Status of emergency temporary structures, 14th Naval

District:

Dry provision storehouse:

Estimated date of opening bids - December 6th.

Contract time for completion - 100 days

Estimated cost - \$100,000.

Cold Storage building and insulation:

Opening of bids - December 6th

Contract time of completion - 90 days

Estimated cost - \$200,000

Furnish and install cold storage machinery and equipment:

Opening of bids - December 13th

Contract time of completion - 100 days

Estimated cost - \$90,000.

Justice Department officials said they would appeal to the Supreme Court for ruling on a soldiers' reenlistment bonus question which may cost the Federal Government approximately \$14,000,000. They seek a clarification on whether failure of Congress to appropriate funds for the bonus in 1938, and a declaration in the appropriations bill that none of the funds included therein should be used for the bonus. Relieves the Federal Government of an obligation included in the 1920 Army Act. The U.S. Court of Claims sustained the \$75.00 reenlistment bonus claim. Claims Court acted four days after claim had been refused by the New York Eastern Federal District Court.

~~Confidential~~ REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
24 November 1939

Total Enlisted Strength, 22 November 1939122,259
Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty2,529
Other Reservists " " " " 210
Total 2,739
Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 259
Aggregate Discharges " " " 31
Net Gain 228

Officers returned to Duty, as of 24 November 1939:

Line officers251
Staff Officers 86
Warrant Officers 20
Total357

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement - no change since 22 November 1939 report.

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength, 22 November, 21,162.

SEALION (SS195) - The Electric Boat Co. has reported the SEALION as complete and ready for delivery on 27 November, 1939. The Bureau has recommended acceptance on that date. The contract delivery date was 1 February 1940. The SEALION design represents certain departures from previous submarines constructed by the Electric Boat Co. Also it is one of a program in which only two submarines were ordered from this company. In spite of these handicaps it has been found practicable to anticipate the delivery

2. date by two months.

Building Program - The Navy as of this date has 90 ships building in various yards. These include 6 battleships, 2 aircraft carriers, 6 light cruisers, 16 submarines, 30 destroyers, 16 auxiliaries, 5 submarine chasers, and 8 motor boats.

London Reports - British steamer, MANGALORE, 8,886 tons, reported sunk by a mine while at anchor today off the east coast. This is the 25th victim off the British Isles in one week. There is much discussion in the Navy Department as to whether ships have been sunk by floating or stationary (planted) mines, or if perhaps the Germans have not developed a magnetic mine placed at depths that cannot be reached by the ordinary mine sweeping operations, and if magnetic wooden ships might not be used for sweeping, towing steel rafts behind them. Naval authorities assured the British public today that they had means of combating "parachute" and "magnetic" mines which German flyers might have been sowing along the British coast and ship channels, even in the estuary of The Thames near London. Spokesman said that the Admiralty had not been taken by surprise and that appropriate counter measures already had been devised. It was

encouraging news to Britains who during the past two days claimed to have seen "balloon" bombs splashing into the sea from black German bombing planes, within view of the shore and who feared that Hitler's much publicized "secret weapon" had been unleashed upon them. New York Times reported that the British cruiser BELFAST was badly damaged, confirming an earlier report. She is of the SOUTHAMPTON class and was said to be in the Firth of Forth.

Shanghai, The fall of Nanning, Capital of Kwangsi province after four days of aerial and artillery bombardment which set large portions of the city ablaze, was announced by the Japanese today.

USS COLE, ELLIS and BERNADOU reported to mid-Atlantic patrol for duty.

USS HUMPHREYS and SANDS, reported for temporary duty with the Special Service Squadron in connection with neutrality patrol.

USS BLAKELY, reported for duty New England neutrality patrol.

USS RANGER, REUBEN JAMES, and FOX will visit Havana, 30 November to 3 December 1939.

4.

USS GOFF, reported having a turbine casualty and had gone to Navy Yard, Norfolk, for repairs.

Commander of the Special Service Squadron in the CHARLESTON, will visit Galapagos Islands from 7 to 12 December, and Cocos Island, 13 December, returning to Canal Zone, 14 December.

USS GUDGEON, submarine, keel laid at Navy Yard, Mare Island, 22 November.

USS BEAR, Byrd Antarctic Expedition, expected to arrive Norfolk 0900 Saturday, 25 November.

SS MANGALORE - Further report from London said that it was believed the MANGALORE was the victim of mines dropped by a German airplane during last Wednesday night's air alarm on the east coast of England. More than 200 mines were reported to have been washed ashore on the Yorkshire coast largely as a result of mine sowing by German submarines and airplanes. (U.P. report)

British losses, Germans report that Britain has lost 9 capital ships and cruisers and "numerous destroyers". Big ships sunk or put out of commission, it was said, include the COURAGEOUS, ARK ROYAL, ROYAL OAK, REPULSE, HOOD, SOUTHAMPTON, EDINBURGH and MOHAWK and the famous training ship, IRON DUKE.

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

27 November 1939

~~Confidential~~
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Total Enlisted Strength, 25 November 1939.....122,907

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty2,602

Other Reservists " " " " 238

Total 2,840

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 504

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 98

Net Gain 406

Officers returned to Duty, as of 27 November 1939:

Line officers253

Staff officers 87

Warrant officers 23

Total363

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality

enforcement, as of 24 November:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Merch. Marine NR-Afloat	100	0	0
Aviation Instruction	150	150	78
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	55	53
Miscellaneous	192	160	105
Ens. and Lieuts. (j.g.) with Fleet	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>565</u>	<u>329</u>

MEN

Dist. Patrol Planes	1,024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	54	54
Miscellaneous	<u>1,606</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>336</u>
<u>Total Men</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>390</u>

Marine Corps, Total Enlisted Strength 29 November 1939:
21,292

Recruiting Activities for week ending 24 November, 1939

Number of applicants accepted for first enlistment: 762

Number of first enlistments: 751

Number of reenlistments(3 mo.) continuous service: 45

Number of reenlistments under broken service: 60

Total enlistments: 836

BuAero reports - The Consolidated Aircraft Corp. of San Diego has been asked by the British Government to make quotation on one hundred U.S.Navy type PBX-4 twin engine flying boats. Consolidated Corporation has also been asked to make quotations on thirty of the same type for the French Government. It is understood that the Consolidated Corp. has made quotations based upon the foreign governments bearing the entire cost of necessary expansion of the plant to accomplish the work. This to be done without interference with any orders, present or future, for the U.S.Navy and Army. London reports Jean Monnet, French financial expert, was appointed on 26 November by the premiers of Britain and France as Chairman of an Allied Coordinating Committee to deal with purchases of armaments and aircraft in the U. S. and Canada.

Merchant Marine Reserve. Chief of BuNavy has been authorized to order not more than 100 officers of the

Merchant Marine Reserve of the rank of Lieutenant and below on a voluntary basis to active duty with pay and allowances for the duration of the limited emergency not to exceed one year with vessels of the auxiliary and naval transportation service. There is an indicated need at this time for approximately 65 such officers to avoid the necessity of ordering officers of the regular line from the U.S.Fleet to recommissioned vessels of the above types. This plan will accomplish the very desirable purposes of stabilizing the regular officer personnel in the junior grades for combatant vessels of the U.S.Fleet and of providing training with pay for officers of the Merchant Marine Reserve who have been thrown out of employment by repeal of the Arms Embargo. From the initial class of 20 Merchant Marine Reserve officers which commences training on the USS SEATTLE on 4 December, it is expected that those officers whose records at the school are most satisfactory will be given preference for assignment to duty as indicated above.

Reserve Junior Officers - Present indications with 94 already ordered to active duty with the Fleet after approximately one month are that perhaps a maximum of 150

4.

- only will be procured by 1 March. 200 are authorized.

USS BEAR - Sailed from Norfolk 26 November.

USS YARNALL - Floated 25 November at 2030, and towed to Norfolk. Both anchors were lost on grounding broadside to in 8 feet of water three miles west of Cape Henry. No water taken aboard. Two men washed overboard from small boat alongside when she floated are apparently not seriously injured. There were no other casualties.

USS EVANS, MAC LEISH, MCCORMICK, OVERTON, PHILIP, TWIGGS and WICKES sailed from San Diego 25 November, to join Atlantic Squadron. BUCHANAN, CROWNINSHIELD, HALE, LEA, and AARON WARD sailed 27 November. All are priority I ships recently recommissioned.

USS LAWRENCE and KING - Reported Commander Atlantic Squadron and assigned to Guantanamo.

USS ROPER - Transferred from Norfolk to Key West.

BuY&D - Following contract awards have been made:

Structural steelwork for the tower section of the Naval Medical Center, Washington, D.C., awarded to the American Bridge Co. of Baltimore, Md. for \$169,233.00. Time of completion 200 calendar days.

Preparation of Floating YFD-2 Dock for towing, at Naval Station, New Orleans, La., awarded to Todd Johnson Drydocks, Inc., New Orleans, La., for \$163,800.00 Time of completion 60 days.

~~Confidential~~
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REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

28 November 1939

Total Enlisted Strength, 27 November123,104

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty2622

Other Reservists " " " " 238

Total 2860

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 260

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 83

Net Gain 177

Officers returned to duty, as of 28 November 1939:

Line officers257

Staff officers 88

Warrant officers ... 24

Total369

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality

enforcement, as of 27 November:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Merch. Marine NR-Afloat	100	3	3
Aviation Instruction	150	150	78
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Office, Naval Intelligence	100	56	55
Miscellaneous	192	157	107
Ens. and Lieuts.(j.g.) with Fleet	200	200	95
<u>Total officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>566</u>	<u>338</u>

<u>Men</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
District Patrol Planes	1024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	54	54
Miscellaneous	1606	336	336
<u>Total men</u>	<u>2750</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>390</u>

2.

BuSocA, reports the Department of Labor All Commodity Wholesale Price Index for 18 November 1939 was 79.1 as compared with the low for this fiscal year on 19 August 1939 of 74.6. Price index down .2 since last report, 11 November.

Waukesha Motor Company, Waukesha, Wisconsin, reports shop employees struck beginning 10 November. They are constructing one experimental engine for the Bureau of Engineering.

Appropriations - The House Sub-committee on Appropriations are convening today and holding hearings on emergency and supplemental appropriations (extra man power, etc.).

USS DENESOLA - Will be overhauled in private yard due to the present shipbuilding program and lack of space in Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

USS GANNET - Arriving Key West today.

USS ELLIS and BERNADOU - Shifted from Norfolk to Charleston to replace the GREER and the UPSHUR. GREER and UPSHUR will proceed to Norfolk.

USS LEARY - Detailed to escort the submarine SAURY from Newport to Guantanamo, reporting there 4

3.

December. Guantanamo Base destroyer will escort her on to the Canal Zone. This is a safety precaution to keep the SAURY from being a target of ships operating in the Atlantic.

Engineering Duty Only - The report of the Board to Select Officers for Engineering Duty Only has been approved. The following officers were nominated: All Lieutenant Commanders, Drischler, Burris, Forsyth, Letrobe and Schreiner.

USS CHALMONT - Transport, will be under overhaul Navy Yard, Norfolk, from 4 December, 1939, to 6 February, 1940.

Sub-committee of the Naval Affairs Committee - which recently made a trip of inspection to Pensacola, New Orleans and Corpus Christi, appeared most favorably impressed with the recently completed additional facilities at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, with the further expansion now under way, and with the manner in which the station is being operated. While in New Orleans, the Committee visited the Naval Station and went aboard the floating drydock. The efforts of local civic officials and Congressman Fernandez to convince members of the undesirability of taking the drydock away did not seem

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to make much of an impression. All members of the committee seemed to regard Corpus Christi as a very suitable place for an additional aviation training station. Most, if not all, of the members appeared doubtful as to the need for such a station at this time.

Co-ordinator of Allied Aircraft Procurement in U.S
Jean Monnet, visited Washington in the autumn of 1938, and arranged the first contract for aircraft for the French government. He co-operated in every possible way with all U.S. Government departments concerned, reports Admiral Towers, Chief of Bureau of Aeronautics. The lack of co-operation in the recent past between the French and British Governments on procurement in the U.S. has been a matter of serious concern to both the Air Corps of the Army and the Bureau of Aeronautics in that it was difficult to keep track of what was going on and it appeared that the French practice of ordering large numbers of engines for installation in aircraft built in France, if continued, would develop a lopsided industry in this country. At last accounts a situation existed where the British were highly desirous of placing additional large orders for complete aircraft but were confronted with a situation where, although the aircraft manufacturers were capable of producing the aircraft, the engine manufacturers could not produce the engines in time because of the large French orders for engines alone.

It is believed that the appointment of Mr. Monnet was the result of informal conversations between the British Ambassador to Washington and the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
29 November 1939

*File
Personal*

Total Enlisted Strength, 28 November.....123,368

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty.. 2,633

Other Reservists " " " " 238

Total 2,871

Aggregate Enlistments (Last 24 hours)..... 269

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 116

Net Gain 153

Retired officers returned to duty, 29 November, 1939:

Line officers	259
Staff officers	89
Warrant officers	24
<u>Total</u>	<u>372</u>

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 28 November:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Merch. Marine	100	3	3
Aviation Inst.	150	150	78
Dist. Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	57	55
Miscellaneous	192	159	107
Ens. and Lieuts. (j.g.) with Fleet	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>336</u>

Men, No change since 28 November report.

Marine Corps, Total enlisted strength, 28 November:
21,385

British Admiralty, Announced the following regulations concerning Firth of Forth, Scotland: Until further notice anchorage or passage of all merchant vessels and small craft is absolutely prohibited in specified areas. The channel south of Inchkeith is closed. Vessels disregarding the warning as given do so at their own peril.

Lieut. F. W. Rowe, Jr. reported on 27 November as assistant to the Superintending Constructor, Stamford, Conn. Lt. Rowe is an expert on small boats and will assist Lt. Hoyt on submarine chaser PC449 and it is also intended to use him on the new construction at Bayonne, Electric Launch Company.

Nanning, China, U.P. reports Chinese are said to be withstanding the attacks of Japanese troops. Heavy fighting still going on around Nanning.

U.S.S. SACRAMENTO, decommissioned.

Chief of Naval Operations has approved the recommendations of the General Board regarding allocation of ships in various classes and recommends their findings for planning purposes and further study.

Merchant Marine, In connection with ordering Merchant Marine Reserve Officers of the rank of Lieutenant and below to auxiliary vessels and the Naval Transportation Service a careful check is being made with the Maritime Commission and the Department of Commerce in order to determine those factors of eligibility and desirability which the very limited official records of the Bureau of Navigation do not indicate. This was deemed advisable in view of the fact that in verifying the identity of applicants for the Merchant Marine Reserve from Merchant Marine Officers, the records of the F.B.I. indicated that there were several who had prison records. Careful liaison is being maintained with the Department of Commerce and the Maritime Commission with respect to deserving officers thrown out of employment by the repeal of the Arms Embargo. Their status in connection with the Maritime Commission, their ships and records on which their licenses are issued by the Department of Commerce, are carefully scrutinized.

SOSED Reports, Proposals for the proprietary purchase of 23 Scott-Paine motor boats were sent to Mr. Sutphin

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on 24 November 1939. No bids have as yet been received, but are expected any moment.

Inspector of Naval Material, Pittsburgh District,

reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, on 27 November 1939, that the employees of the Stahl Gear and Machine Company have been on strike since 12 October 1939, and that no settlement is as yet foreseen.

Emergency Construction in connection with Neutrality

Program:

MARINE CORPS FACILITIES

<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date of Bid Time of</u>	
		<u>Opening</u>	<u>Completion</u>
Storehouses	San Diego	11-28	90 or 120 days
Encampment for two Battalions	San Diego	12-12	120 or 150 days
Encampment for one Battalion	Parris Isl.	12-4	105 or 120 days
Encampment for one Battalion	Pearl Hbr.	11-29	90 days
Storehouse	Quantico	12-6	60 or 90 days

STORAGE FACILITIES

Provision Storehouse	Pearl Harbor	12-13	150 days
Cold Storage Building	Pearl Harbor	12-13	120 days
Refrigerating Machinery and Equipment for Cold Storage Building	Pearl Harbor	12-13	120 days

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
30 November 1939

File Personal

<u>Total Enlisted Strength</u> , 29 November.....	123,463
<u>Fleet Reservists (Enlisted)</u> on active duty..	2,633
<u>Other Reservists</u> " " " "	<u>238</u>
<u>Total</u>	2,871
<u>Aggregate Enlistments (Last 24 hours)</u>	307
<u>Aggregate Discharges</u> " " " "	<u>112</u>
<u>Net Gain</u>	195

Retired officers returned to duty, no change since 29 November report.

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 29 November:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Merch. Marine	100	3	3
Aviation Inst.	150	150	78
Dist. Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	57	55
Miscellaneous	192	161	110
Ens. and Lieuts. (j.g.) with Fleet	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>Total Officers</u>	870	571	339

Men

Dist. Patrol Planes	1024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	54	54
Miscellaneous	<u>1606</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>336</u>
<u>Total Men</u>	2750	390	390

Marine Corps, total enlisted strength, 29 November:
21,523

Percentage of reenlistments for November to date, 75.89.

This compares with 39.55 percent reenlistments for the last fiscal year. It is interesting to note that in the higher pay grades (Sgt. Major, 1st Sgt., etc.) reenlistments run 100 percent while in the lowest pay grade for October reenlistments ran only 26 percent. This is no doubt due to the better employment conditions existing in civilian life, and the ability of privates at the end of first enlistments being able to secure more money outside the service. The Marine Corps, however, expects to reach their full allowed complement of 25,000 enlisted personnel by February 1, 1940.

U.S.S. REUBEN JAMES, went aground eighteen miles west of Lobos Cay, off the coast of Cuba, in the Old Bahama Channel. Message received 0635 today. She was en route from Guantanamo to Key West. The RANGER and the FOX are standing by. The MONTCALM, tug from Guantanamo, will be ready to proceed at noon today. The LAPWING and GANNET have been ordered

to fuel and prepare to proceed to assist the REUBEN JAMES, bearing 268 from Lobos Cay Light.

U.S.S. PLATTE, to be delivered by the Maritime Commission to the Commandant, Navy Yard, Norfolk, and to be commissioned on 1 December 1939. The PLATTE is a new tanker.

U.S.S. GANNET and Pat Wing 53, transferred to Key West.

U.S.S. DUPONT, assigned to Middle Atlantic Patrol. She is the last of the Priority I destroyers on the East Coast to report for duty. She will be based at either Norfolk or Charleston.

Navy Department has been informed that the DANMARK, training ship, is due to arrive in Puerto Rico on or about 10 December for a visit of a few days. The DANMARK also proposes to call at Jacksonville, Florida, early in the new year. She is a full rigged ship with a small auxiliary Diesel engine.

Bureau of C. & R. Radio Direction Finder Facilities
Practically all funds under this item have been allotted and work is under way by Yard Labor with

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the exception of San Diego, where the work will be accomplished under contract. The specification for this project should open in the near future.

DD70 (Ex-CRAVEN), renamed CONWAY.

DD185 (Ex-BAGLEY), renamed DORAN.

Maritime Commission, announces that its training ship, the AMERICAN SEAMAN, will make a winter cruise with 250 apprentice seamen to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands next month.

Russo-Finnish War, Russia attacked Finland today on land, sea, and in the air, bombing Helsingfors. The Russian fleet was reported to have passed Hoagland Island headed for Helsingfors. It was later reported that this fleet had been sighted off Helsingfors.

Oslo, Norway, Two British cruisers and one damaged British submarine have put in to port near Stavanger. Warships pleaded necessity of entering a neutral port because of stress of weather damage. Later report, unconfirmed, stated that ships had been damaged in battle with German planes while convoying merchant ships.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
1 December 1939

File Personnel + conf

<u>Total Enlisted Strength</u> , 30 November.....	123,553
<u>Fleet Reservists</u> (Enlisted) on active duty..	2,674
<u>Other Reservists</u> " " " " ..	238
<u>Total</u>	2,912
<u>Aggregate Enlistments</u> (Last 24 hours).....	172
<u>Aggregate Discharges</u> " " " ..	123
<u>Net Gain</u>	49

Retired officers returned to duty as of 1 December:

Line Officers	259
Staff Officers	89
Warrant Officers	25
<u>Total</u>	373

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for neutrality enforcement, as of 30 November:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Aviation Inst.	150	150	78
Dist. Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	57	55
Miscellaneous	192	163	111
Ens. and Lieuts. (j.g.) with Fleet	200	200	98
Merchant Marine	100	3	3
<u>Total Officers</u>	870	573	345
<u>Men</u>			
Dist. Patrol Planes	1024	0	0
Radio Intercept	120	54	54
Miscellaneous	1606	337	337
<u>Total Men</u>	2750	391	391

Bureau S & A reports the Department of Labor all commodity price index for 25 November was 79.0, off .1 from the previous week.

Contract has been made with the United Aircraft Corporation, Vought-Sikorsky Division, for 100 Airplanes and 45 Landing Gears in the amount of \$2,576,677.50.

Contract has been made with Edo Aircraft Corporation for 75 sets of Landing Gears in the amount of \$493,261.25.

Naval Reserve, letters are being received from the officials of the National Association of Masters, Mates, and Pilots requesting that Merchant Marine Officers and men thrown out of employment as a result of the new neutrality law be assigned to duty with the Navy. Such letters have been acknowledged with the statement that authorization has already been granted to Commandants to proceed with the procurement of applications from the Merchant Marine Officers who are members of the Naval Reserve. Others are of course not eligible for this duty. No authorization has been granted for ordering enlisted men of the Merchant Marine Reserve to active duty with the Navy.

A total of 7 officers of the Merchant Marine Reserve have already been issued orders. U.S.S. REUBEN JAMES, was floated at eleven o'clock this morning and is able to proceed under own convoy to Charleston. She had remained on an even keel, pumping oil overboard from forward. All torpedoes had been removed. Oil was used to reduce sea and motion, wind about 22 knots. Several frames in vicinity of frame 90, Number 2 fireroom, badly buckled. Apparently no water taken aboard, sea rough and only one boiler was in use while grounded. Due to grounding, arrival at Havana of RANGER and destroyers indefinite.

U.S.S. GOLDBOROUGH, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard ordered recommissioned for Patrol Duty. Department of Commerce, reports that because of the Arms Embargo, U.S. firms exported only \$3,024,668 worth of airplanes, airplane engines, and parts during October. This sum represented a decline of 62 percent from September and 39 percent from October of last year, in airplane engines and parts.

German Mines, according to UP reports, informed sources here have received reports that British Naval Officials have recovered several of the German "mystery" mines and found them to be of an acoustic magnetic type. Mines are said to be double chambered with powerful explosives that can be detonated by the magnetic attraction of a ship's hull or by the noise of a propeller. Responsible sources said that the mines were placed deeply below the surface and that actual contact by a ship was unnecessary to explode them. They explained that the acoustic and magnetic devices set off the firing apparatus, and that the force of the explosion below the water was sufficient to wreck a ship. Mines were said to have been laid originally by submarines, but that susceptibility of their steel hulls to explosion prevents their returning to the area. Replacements are being made by aircraft on a lesser scale. Greatest depth at which one of the mines has been reported is 148 feet.

Soviet-Finnish War, Russians continued to bomb Hel-singfors, but apparently no attempt has yet been made to follow up the attack with invasion.