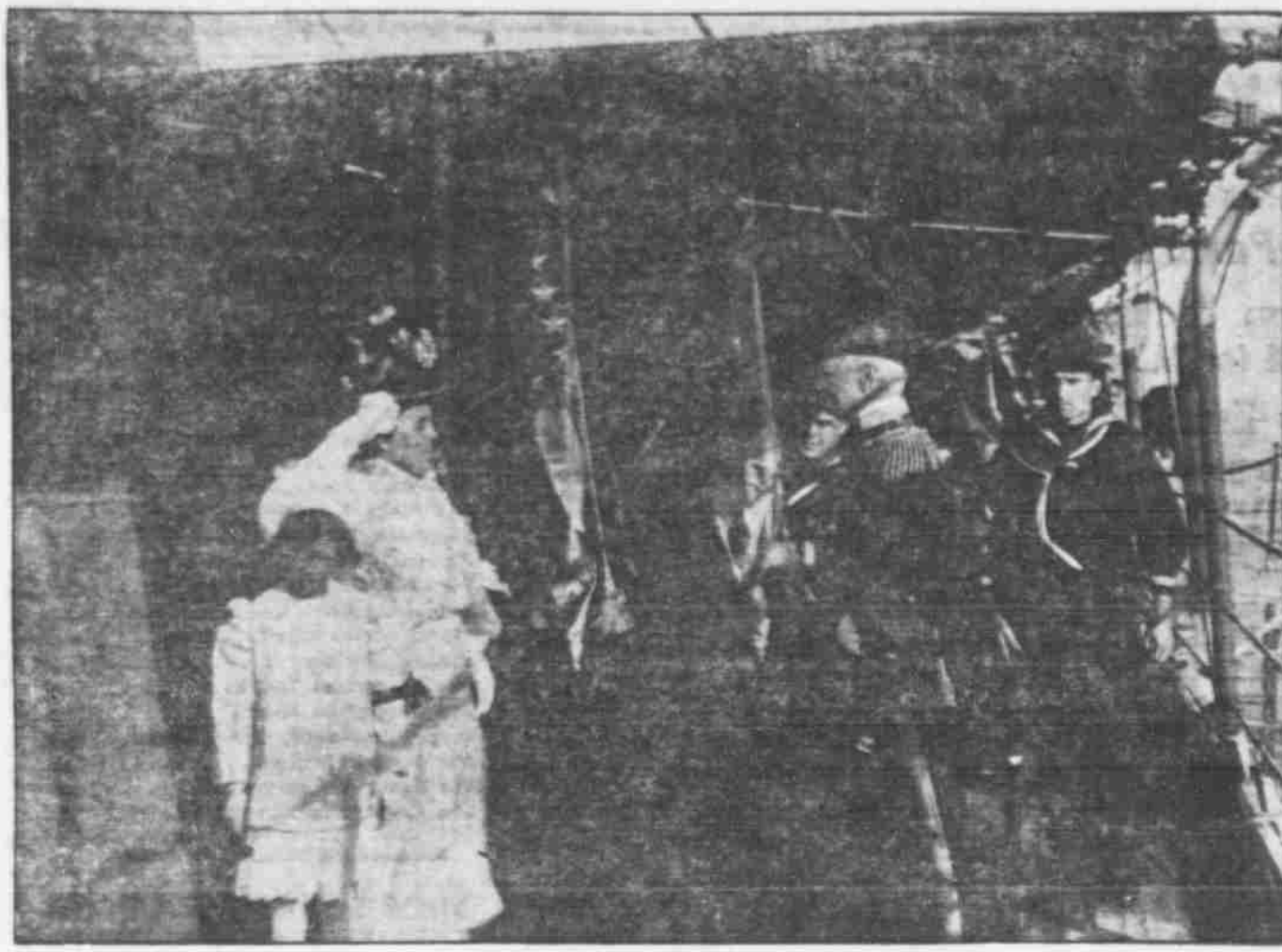


When the Nebraskans Gave a Silver Service to Their Great Battleship



MRS. SHELDON PRESENTING THE COLORS TO THE NEBRASKA

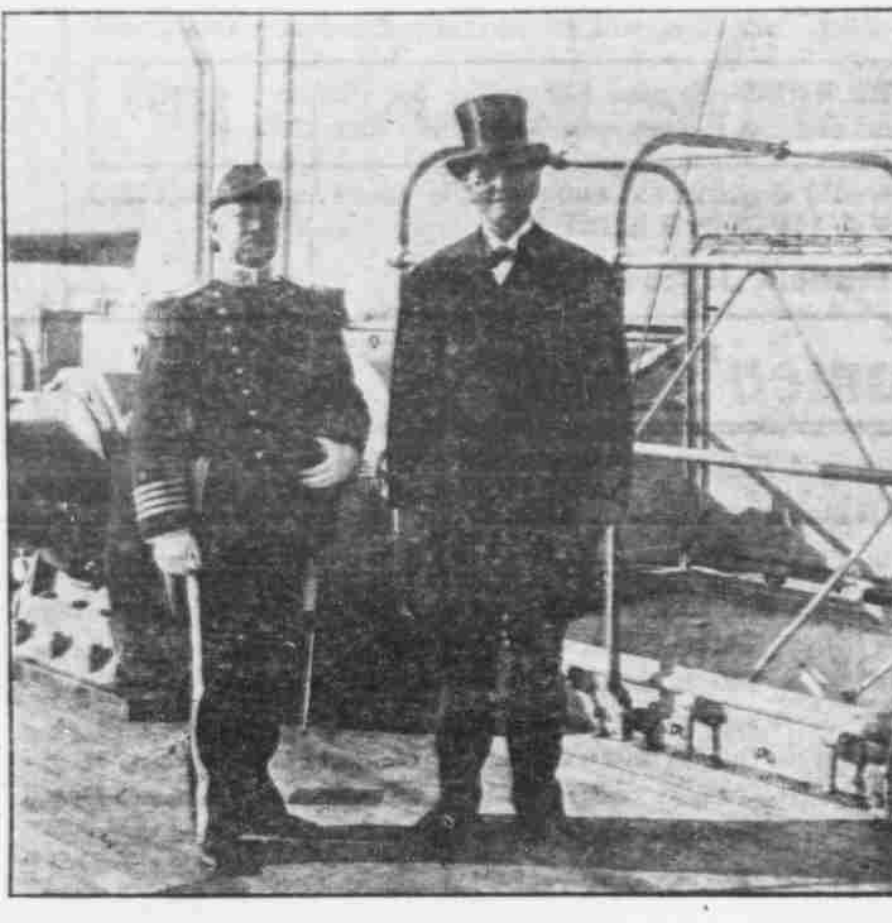


MRS. ISABEL GRIMES RICHEY.



GOVERNOR SHELDON AND SOME OF THE NEBRASKANS ON THE FORWARD DECK OF THE NEBRASKA.

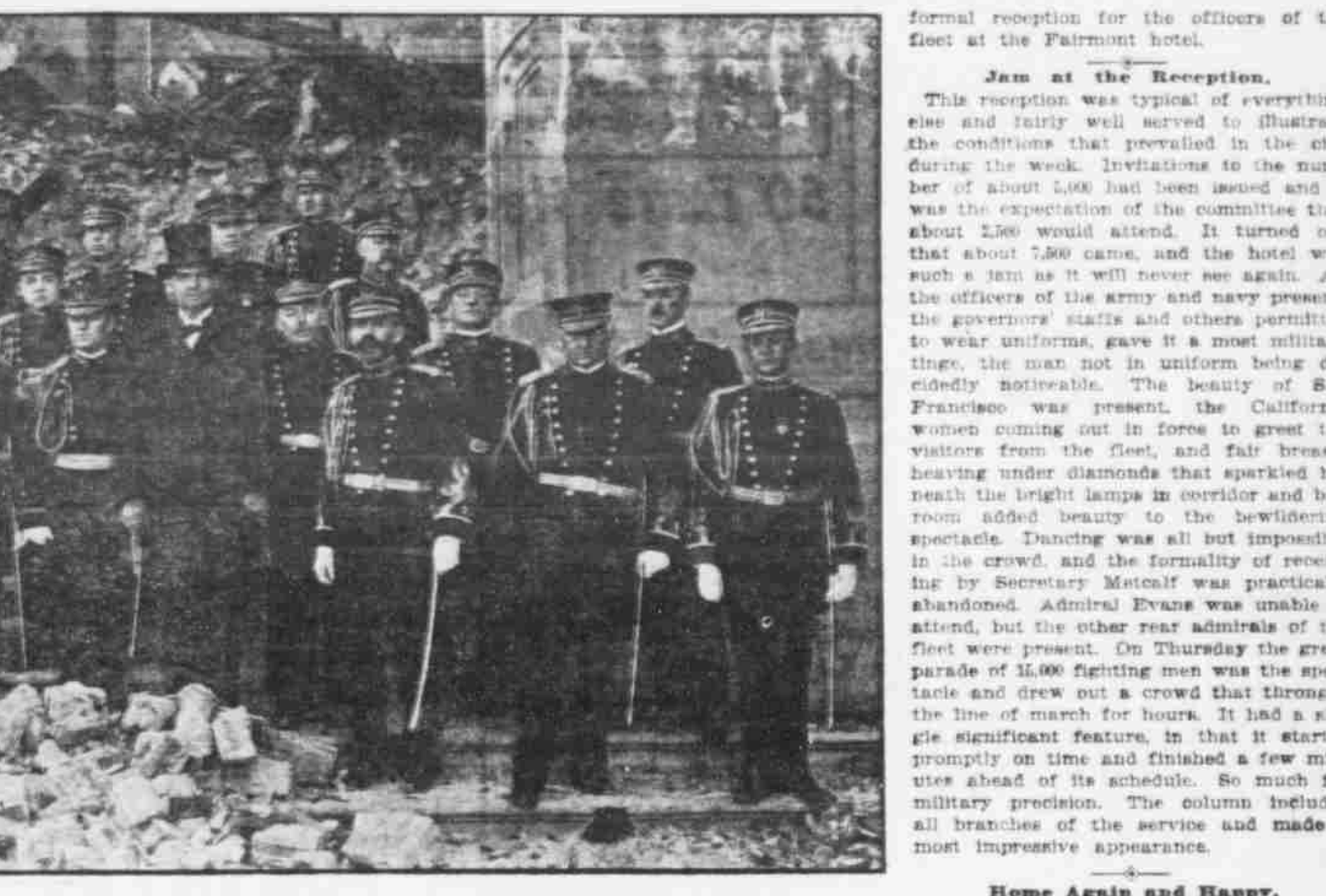
PRESENTING a silver service to a battleship lacks something in the spectacular elements that attend a launching, and perhaps some of the poetry that is suggested by the laying of the keel. Yet, when the ceremony is set in the proper surroundings, with a background of sea and sky and history crowded with legends such as San Francisco bay presents, and with the mightiest sea-fighting vessel ever assembled in our harbor in the state, the affair becomes sufficiently impressive to cause even upon the most prosaic of minds, to the individual with a kind word from Captain Nicholas, and then Governor Sheldon voiced the sentiments of all Nebraskans in his address to the officers and men of the Nebraska. It was not a long speech, nor an especially eloquent one. Rather it was simple and earnest, and in its very simplicity it carried with it more directly the expressions of the state's citizenship of good will for the gallant vessel and its company than the most flowery rhetoric might. Governor Sheldon told Captain Nicholson and his associates of the interest the people of the interior hold in the fortunes of those who go down to the sea in the ships of war, and especially of the interest the people of Nebraska have in the splendid vessel that bears the name of the state. "Nebraska is essentially a state of home lovers," said the governor. "People who have built an empire out of the wilderness, and who love their homes, and own them, too. But the heart of these home-loving people goes out to the men who are engaged in the great work of protecting, not only their homes, but the peace of the world by their readiness to defend the one and punish violation of the other." The silver service, purchased by the money set aside by the legislature, represents not individual contributions, but the contributions of all the citizens of the state, and is therefore the more worthy of the gift to the vessel. Along with it is sent the heartiest of good-will and the most warm and earnest of good will.



GOVERNOR SHELDON AND CAPTAIN NICHOLSON ON THE QUARTERDECK OF THE NEBRASKA.



GOVERNOR SHELDON AND HIS STAFF AT THE CITY HALL, SAN FRANCISCO.



Formal reception for the officers of the fleet at the Fairmont hotel.

Jan at the Reception.

This reception was typical of everything else and fairly well served to illustrate the conditions that prevailed in the city during the week. Invitations to the number of about 1,500 had been issued and it was the expectation of the committee that about 1,500 would attend. It turned out that about 7,500 came, and the hotel was such a jam as it will never see again. All the officers of the army and navy present, the governors' staffs and others permitted to wear uniforms, gave it a most military tinge, the men not in uniform being decidedly noticeable. The beauty of San Francisco was present, the California women coming out in force to greet the visitors from the fleet, and fair breezes heaving under diamonds that sparkled beneath the bright lamps in corridor and ball room added beauty to the bewitching spectacle. Dancing was all but impossible in the crowd, and the formality of receiving by Secretary Metcalf was practically abandoned. Admiral Evans was unable to attend, but the other rear admirals of the fleet were present. On Thursday the great parade of 15,000 fighting men was the spectacle and drew out a crowd that thronged the line of march for hours. It had a single significant feature, in that it started promptly on time and finished a few minutes ahead of its schedule. So much for military precision. The column included all branches of the service and made a most impressive appearance.

Home Again and Happy.

On Friday the silver service was presented to the battleship in the afternoon, the morning having been devoted to a review by Secretary Metcalf of the assembled fleet. In this, too, Governor Sheldon was a participant. And on Saturday the Nebraskans were ready to start for home. Some extended their visit in the city, others went to the Yosemite, and still others to Portland and the northern cities of the coast. But on the Overland Limited Saturday morning came a party that was glad to turn its face towards the green fields and inviting prairies of Nebraska. No vista of mountain or canyon, no sight of sea or desert, had been enough to lure them from their allegiance to the stars they call home. And in the comfort of the Union Pacific's great train they found plenty of time to reflect on the many advantages of Nebraska. The trip home was without incident, for the Overland Limited is admittedly one of the best trains in the world, and covers its route with the regularity of passing days. From Oakland to Fort Collins along the shores of San Francisco bay, from Fort Collins to the mountains through the valley of the Sacramento, across the Sierras, under the great stretch of snowfields, down the Truckee valley into the desert of Nevada, over the great Salt Lake on a trestle bridge, up the Weber and down the Bear, through the Wasatch mountains, across the Red desert, striking Bitter creek, through the Aspen tunnel and out to the great central plateau of Wyoming, and finally into the fertile Platte valley in Nebraska, a continuous panorama of never wearying scenery charms the senses, and makes the ride as pleasant as one could wish for. And nowhere does one see anything that excites Nebraska. M.C.

Ceremony of the Day.

"Sound silence!" A sharp note on the bugle, and all was still.

Mrs. Isabel Richey of Lincoln, editor of the Woman's Department of the Twentieth Century Farmer, was introduced by Captain Nicholson, and read in a clear, strong voice the dedicatory ode. She was given a round of applause, and presented the captain with a copy of her poem.

A brief word from Captain Nicholson, and then Governor Sheldon voiced the sentiments of all Nebraskans in his address to the officers and men of the Nebraska. It was not a long speech, nor an especially eloquent one. Rather it was simple and earnest, and in its very simplicity it carried with it more directly the expressions of the state's citizenship of good will for the gallant vessel and its company than the most flowery rhetoric might. Governor Sheldon told Captain Nicholson and his associates of the interest the people of the interior hold in the fortunes of those who go down to the sea in the ships of war, and especially of the interest the people of Nebraska have in the splendid vessel that bears the name of the state. "Nebraska is essentially a state of home lovers," said the governor. "People who have built an empire out of the wilderness, and who love their homes, and own them, too. But the heart of these home-loving people goes out to the men who are engaged in the great work of protecting, not only their homes, but the peace of the world by their readiness to defend the one and punish violation of the other." The silver service, purchased by the money set aside by the legislature, represents not individual contributions, but the contributions of all the citizens of the state, and is therefore the more worthy of the gift to the vessel. Along with it is sent the heartiest of good-will and the most warm and earnest of good will.

For himself and his men Captain Nicholson spoke briefly and directly. In accepting the silver service, he acknowledged the interest of the interior of the country in the welfare of the navy, and spoke warmly of the young men who have gone from the state to serve in the navy, and to the magnificent force of blue-jackets then present in the harbor on the great fleet. These men, he said, are not only the backbone of the navy, but the hope of the country. As to the service itself, it would ever be

Bibles and Flags.

One of the most significant incidents of the ceremony came next—and it seemed to escape the notice of the chroniclers who were on the boat, taking notes for the heretofore published accounts of the events of that afternoon. Miss Beattie Marks of Lincoln, a most charming young woman, spoke briefly and presented a Bible to the ship through Captain Nicholson on behalf of the Christian Scientists of Lincoln. Her sweet modesty and low, gentle voice were part of the pretty picture, and the captain was most gracious in his acceptance of the unusual gift. Colonel C. E. Anderson of Crete, on behalf of the Sunday school of the First Congregational church of Lincoln, also presented a Bible, and it, too, was accepted by Captain Nicholson, who gave assurance that both would be used. And then came the most interesting part of the service. Mrs. Sheldon in earnest prayers presented to the ship a strand of colors, one of the most beautiful ever looked upon, on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Nebraska. "Our prayers are with you, that under whatever sun these banners may be unfurled they will be harbingers of peace," she said in concluding. "But should they be unfurled in battle, our prayers are with you for the safety of the men and the honor of the flag."

Commander Cochrane, executive officer of the ship, accepted the colors on behalf of the company, and promised that the flag should always have its need of respect, and never would it trail in the dust or be lowered in defeat while yet there lived a man with strength to uphold or defend

Free on the Ship.

And then the ship was turned over to the visitors. Wherever they wanted to go, the way was clear. Some went above and some below. The band played two-step and waltz music, and the quarterdeck was used for the dances. On the forward deck groups assembled and were photographed. On the bridge, and the turret, and on the barrels of the great guns outside the turret the visitors climbed, and the photographers made plans after plans of them. Down in the wardroom officers' mess room the silver service was laid out, and punch was served to all who wished, and so the afternoon drew into the evening and the shades of a California night were drawn. Then the electric lights on the ships of the fleet broke out, and added their glory to the other glories of the night, and launch after

What it Signifies.

The mere giving of a silver service is not such a great thing in itself. It is the spirit that counts, and Nebraska folks may feel certain that their pride in the great battleship, one of the finest that float today, is not less than that of Captain Nicholson and his company, and that the warmest of friendship exists for Nebraska on the Nebraska. Indeed, Commander Cochrane has promised to bring the ship to Omaha, immediately the fleet returns from its cruise around the world.

All this was not accomplished without several incidents, some of them humorous, and some of them not, but they were unpleasant. If Governor Sheldon was not surprised at the number of Nebraskans who found in San Francisco, he should have been. One hundred and twenty went with him to the coast, and at San Francisco he was joined by another score who had journeyed thither before his arrival. To these he extended an invitation to join in the ceremony. When the party reached the place on the water front where launches were to be provided to take the party off to the ship, a ride of several miles, a dense jam of folk was formed, and Governor Sheldon discovered that his party had suddenly been increased to several times the original count. The order California was being given a silver service the same afternoon, the hour being set a little earlier than the service on the Nebraska, and as a result many Californians had come to the dock to go aboard and see. When they found they could not get aboard their own vessel, they decided that a battleship would do as well, and so became for the moment Nebraskans. It was not the easiest task in the world to get the genuine Nebraskans through the crush, but it was finally accomplished, although the separation was not made completely. A good many of those who attended the exercises on the Nebraska had never been much nearer Nebraska soil than we were at that minute.

Hospitality on Board.

One of the middles on the Nebraska, Mr. Smith, was born in Omaha, but at his

Spas Days for Visitors.

The days spent in San Francisco by the Nebraskans were but the continuation of a very delightful journey. From Lincoln the party went to Denver, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, the Grand canyon of the Colorado, Los Angeles, Redlands, and other points, including Catalina island. On this latter expedition they had the experience of sea sickness, the passage being unusually rough, and consequently very trying to the "sensitive stomachs." At San Francisco Governor Sheldon received a most cordial reception, and was held unusual honors. He showed himself to be a most considerate and public-spirited host, securing for his guests on the long trip every possible attention and accommodation, and making sure that all got a fair share of his personal services. His most marked tribute in the big parade of Thursday, in which Governor Sheldon and his staff took part. All the way along the route from the coast to the other the great crowd cheered the governor of Nebraska, and at one time, when his carriage was halted in front of a grandstand, crowded with thousands of eager watchers, he stood up and called for cheers for the passing vessel, the response was wonderful, and to the cheer for his sailors was added a shout for the governor. At the formal luncheon of the week he was a distinguished guest, and was shown all attention by the citizens of San Francisco. Many warm words of praise were heard by the visiting Nebraskans on account of their governor while at the Golden Gate.

Arrival of the Fleet.

The arrival of the fleet was the greatest event, maybe, of the whole week for the citizens. The day was declared a holiday in San Francisco and Oakland, and to the thousands of visitors was added the thousands of residents, and no man ever would know how many people clustered around the shores of the Golden Gate that day to watch the sight. It is a wonderful amphitheater, where many millions might easily be given ample space to see, so there was no crowding, but all had a full view of one of the grandest of maritime spectacles. Shortly before 12 o'clock that day the Connecticut pushed its proud prow past the headland, and a ten-inch gun at Fort Mifflin boomed out a welcome. Then at

Queen of the sea, and daughter of a queen.

Queen of the sea, and daughter of a queen,
Who ruled a golden kingdom far away,
We come, a joyous company and gay,
To crown thee mistress of the billows green.

As Sheba came once in the olden days,
Bearing rich gifts in token of her love,
We come with treasure laden, so to prove
Ourselves as faithful—come to sing thy praise.

Silver and gold we bring, each separate urn
Inscribed, "Nebraska" in our love and pride;
May blessings rest upon thee and abide,
May every journey find a safe return.

What power lies hidden in thy throbbing breast,
What strength and swiftness are in thee concealed;
Thou art a nation's pride, a nation's shield,
The link which binds her East unto her West.

Thine hour is come, go forth upon the sea,
Thou great in needful warfare to contend,
But rather claiming all to be thy friend,
And aid unto a higher destiny.

Fill every cup and goblet to the brim
With Friendship's subtle, sweet and holy wine,
Drink to the wide world's peace—Love is divine,
The New Time touches the horizon's rim.

—ISABEL RICHEY,
Lincoln, Neb., April 20, 1908.

Presentation Ode

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Lincoln, Neb., April 20, 1908.

Roster of Officers on the Battleship Nebraska

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|---|--------------------|---|
| Captain R. F. Nicholson, U. S. N. | Commanding Officer | Midshipman J. W. Jewell, U. S. N. |
| Lieut. Commander R. E. Coontz, U. S. N. | Executive Officer | Midshipman R. L. Montgomery, U. S. N. |
| Lieutenant Harris Laning, U. S. N. | Navigator | Midshipman R. H. Smith, U. S. N. |
| Lieutenant Dudley W. Knox, U. S. N. | Ordnance Officer | Midshipman E. H. Williams, U. S. N. |
| Lieutenant Arthur Crenshaw, U. S. N. | Senior Engineer | Midshipman J. H. Ingram, U. S. N. |
| Lieutenant John Halligan, U. S. N. | | Midshipman S. F. Helm, U. S. N. |
| Lieutenant V. A. Kimberly, U. S. N. | | Midshipman N. H. White Jr., U. S. N. |
| Lieutenant John Rodgers, U. S. N. | | Surgeon T. A. Berryhill, U. S. N. |
| Ensign Arthur G. Caffee, U. S. N. | | P. A. Surgeon H. A. Dunn, U. S. A. |
| Ensign C. C. Soole Jr., U. S. N. | | Pharmacist John D. Barber, U. S. N. |
| Ensign C. D. Wickersham, U. S. N. | | First Lieutenant Fredrick Barker, U. S. M. C. |
| Ensign A. F. Carter, U. S. N. | | Chief Carpenter W. F. Hamberger, U. S. N. |
| Ensign G. A. Beall, U. S. N. | | Boatswain P. Shanahan, U. S. N. |
| Ensign C. S. Graves, U. S. N. | | Gunner H. A. Nevins, U. S. N. |
| Midshipman C. P. Page, U. S. N. | | Gunner J. H. Aigner, U. S. N. |
| | | Warrant Mach. W. W. Fuller, U. S. N. |
| | | Warrant Mach. William James, U. S. N. |
| | | Warrant Mach. Lewis A. McClure, U. S. N. |
| | | Warrant Mach. O. J. McCorkle, U. S. N. |
| | | Pay Clerk U. R. Zivnaska, U. S. N. |