

THE CHAPLAIN

The Ship's Chaplain cares for the morale of the men in general and for their religious life in particular.

He conducts divine services at least every Sunday. During those moments the smoking lamp is respectfully extinguished and the church pennant flies above the ship's ensign. When conditions warrant, services are held topside with the sky as a canopy for the altar.

The Chaplain is welcomed in the officers' wardroom as well as in any of the crew's quarters. He is confidant, confessor, advisor. The sympathy club is associated with every Chaplain wherever American Forces gather and most men joke about the T.S. card. Yet, as all admit, there is a particular need for someone to remove worry from a troubled mind. It always helps to have someone share your misery and the Chaplain not only answers this need but many times gets a receding hairline for his worries.

The men look to the Chaplain "to go to bat for them" and, in this expectation, confer upon him his most difficult role. He is the last resort for a man hoping to gain a special favor, and his haring average will depend mainly on how well his persuasive talents work on the Executive Officer.

As aids in his recreational work, a collateral duty, the Chaplain draws on the Red Cross, the USO and the local welfare organizations. From these he gathers athletic equipment, arranges theatricals, plans tours, conducts socials. Such activities mean much to the morale of the American youth whom the Chaplain proudly serves.



The library was always a popular place



The chaplain celebrates Mass