



Alameda is their home port

A youth, one of tomorrow's naval fighting men, looks over the mighty Midway at her pier.

Every time the U.S.S. Midway drops anchor at Alameda, the officer of the deck gets a sore arm. He gets it returning the snappy salutes of 100 "boy bluejackets," who march up the aircraft carrier's gangway with the aplomb of veteran seafaring men.

The only things that distinguish the boys from the carrier's regular crew are the Navy League Sea Cadet insignias on their uniforms and their youthful appearance.

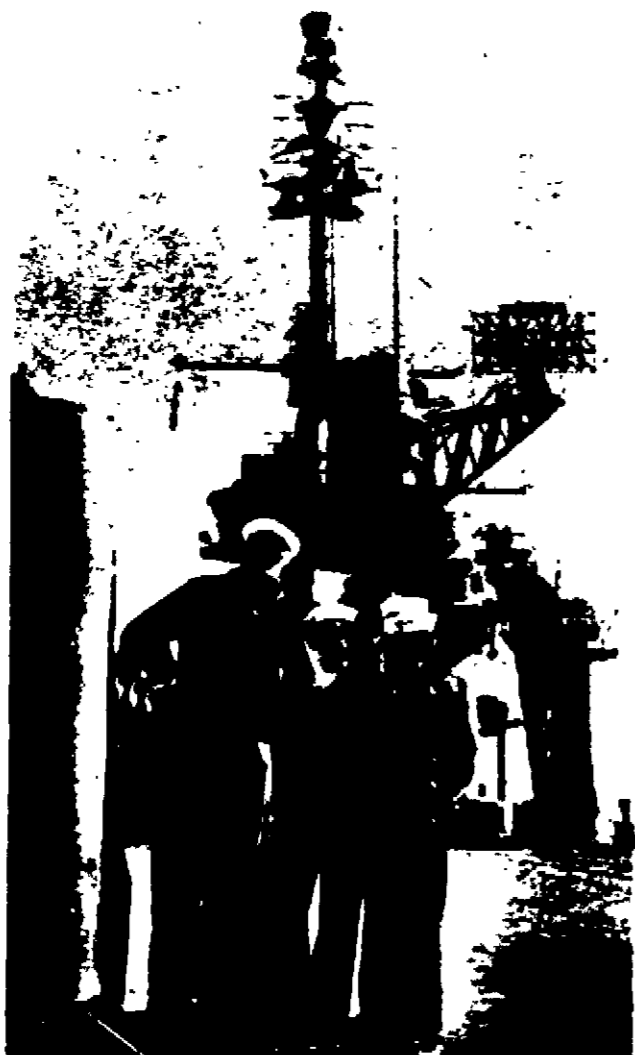
But what the cadets lack in years (the youngest is 12, the oldest 17) they make up for through strict adherence to Navy ways and Navy traditions.

Organized in the Eastbay less than a year ago, the cadets have established an esprit de corps that has caused Capt. L. E. Burke, commanding officer of the Oakland Naval Air Station, to call them "the backbone of the Navy of tomorrow."

Tomorrow's Navy



Crew member explains details of the fighting ship



An enlisted man instructing a group of cadets.

Tribune-Parade photos By LEO COHEN

The boy bluejackets are divided into two groups—the Navy League Sea Cadets for boys 12 through 14, and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets for the 14 through 17 age group.

While they are not officially connected with the Navy, they receive virtually the same training given to Naval Reservists. Their officers are members of the Navy League and their instructors are Reservists on active duty at Alameda and Oakland who volunteer their services. While the boys are under no compulsion to join the Navy when they reach an age of enlistment, most of them do.

Musters are held twice a month at Alameda Naval Air Station and after the trooping of the colors and a spit and polish inspection by regular Navy officers, they are ready to board a crash boat for seamanship training, climb aboard the Midway or



The cadets lined up on the floor of the station drill hall to salute the colors.

her sister ship, the U.S.S. Hancock, or attend class and drill.

The drills, conducted by three Marine Corps corporals who also volunteer their services, have whipped them into a crack marching unit.

In the classroom, they are indoctrinated with Naval history and traditions, ships, aircraft, seamanship, communications and subjects that range from swimming to current events.

While sea cadet programs have been in effect in Great Britain and other European nations for more than 100 years, the program here was established only three years ago. By the end of this year, the Navy League hopes to have 100 units established with more than 5,000 members.

In order to join the sea cadets the boy must be at least 4-feet-8 and have a weight of more than 85 pounds.

The weight and height standards probably have something to do with the fact that the cadets wear used uniforms, purchased from ships stores.

Cadets are advanced through the same system used by the regular Navy and a boy has to prove himself to win his stripes.

Last year six of them who achieved high ratings in their seamanship studies got a taste of life on the high seas by accompanying naval units on a six weeks' cruise to Japan aboard the USS Mann.

Capt. Charles Nelson of El Cerrito, Naval Reserve officer, is national chairman of the program for the 12th region.



They stood at attention before Capt. Charles Nelson, boss of the program.

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