

set at 165 feet, he checked his card and found that there were only 164 feet on board. He put in for one foot of hose and he got it!

Feeding more than 1200 men in this ship is the job of the S-2 division. The setup is not much different from your own ship. But the crew of *Macon* will tell you most emphatically that she's the best feeder in either ocean.

The food is broken out of one of the five storerooms or removed from one of the six iceboxes. Meat is dressed in the butcher shop and delivered to the galley where the aroma of well-cooked food has the nasty habit of tantalizing hungry crew members as it winds its way through the vents. Food is served cafeteria-style and the menus leave nothing more to be asked. There is always plenty on hand since the ship carries a total of 300 tons of provisions. Included in this are 90 days of dry provisions and 45 days of frozen. While at sea, 180 loaves of bread are made each day in the bakery, sliced, turned over to the galley and consumed by the crew. Last year, the men in the bakery achieved their crowning success—a 400-pound ship's birthday cake.

Another division in Supply is S-5; the Steward Branch. These men prepare and serve meals for the captain, officers in the wardroom and warrant officers and are responsible for the cleanliness of the wardrooms and staterooms.

The smallest division in Supply, but perhaps the largest in the minds of the crew on the scale of economic importance, is S-4 (Disbursing) division.

In addition to paying the crew, the office provides a limited amount of tax information.

They also handle money for purchasing stamps and postal money orders for the post office and pay all public vouchers for items bought on open purchase. Paying the crew, even if it does involve handing out money at three different times on pay day (and sometimes on Sunday), is not such an arduous task. The real headache pops into disbursing before and after pay day. Each man's pay record must be corrected, checked and recorded, and a pay list typed and distributed.

The big job comes after pay day, when all stragglers have been paid. That's the time you go knocking at the door and there's no answer. You

go away mumbling to yourself, "I know they're in there. I heard someone cussin'."

They're in there. And you can believe that they are working up a sweat. Some 1200 pay chits have to be sorted, arranged in alphabetical order and the amount drawn by the individual typed on his pay record alongside the amount due. Then three men gather around. One sounds off—and pay records, pay chits and pay lists are checked against one another. This checking must come out to the dollar.

The average pay roll on *Macon* comes to a little over \$35,000. While at sea, about one-third of this amount goes back into the ship either in making out postal money orders or through one of the stores.

The responsibility for the three stores that help provide some of the comforts lies with the Ships' Service or S-3 division. These are the ship's store, soda fountain, and clothing and small stores.

On most ships and stations on pay day, one of the first places to form a long line is at the ship's store. *Macon* is no exception. It is a familiar sight to watch a man inch his way forward and then, after making his purchases, stagger away with a two-week supply of cigarettes, toilet articles and other items that help to make a sailor's life happy. There is another line leading to the clothing and small stores issue room where any of the hundreds of items of clothing can be bought to bring a seabag up to snuff.

But it's the soda fountain and the soft drink dispensers that have the

ability to draw nickels and dimes out of the sailor's pockets from one pay day to the next. In a two-and-a-half-month period aboard *Macon*, 31,000 candy bars were consumed; 11,000 seven-ounce tins of juice were purchased to help quell a growing appetite and 61,000 soft drinks came pouring out of dispensers and disappeared down the hatch. When ice cream is listed on the menu for the general mess, the two men who operate the store spend some three hours making enough ice cream to fill from 850 to 900 individual cups.

A unique system worked out by the S-3 division is the display method which is used while the ship is in foreign ports. Between meals, the tables on the mess deck are used as display cases for materials and souvenirs which are indigenous to that port. With the wares laid out in full view, the men can take a casual stroll among the tables, pick up the items they want and pay for them at the other end.

The purchases made at these stores help determine the amount of money that goes into the ship's recreation fund. Here's how it works. A specified percentage mark-up above the cost price of stock is allowed for ship's store profits. These profits are the primary source of a ship's recreation fund. But before any profits can be turned over to the commanding officer, certain deductions must be made. If the ship's store makes a profit that amounts to more than 15 per cent of its total cash sales, the amount in excess of this 15 per cent is deducted for transfer to the Ship's Store Profits, Navy, General Fund.

CLOSE TO THE HEART—Supply Department of USS *Macon* performs many tasks to make sailor's life at sea pleasant. Here, cruisermen enjoy chow time.

