



BOATSWAINSMATES

Chip, paint, wash down, soogie, pipe chow, and rig those fenders—all familiar terms to members of the deck department. Charged with a variety of duties, they maintain the appearance of the hull and super-structure, operate small boats, as well as handle all lines and rigging.

At sea the BM's day consists of washdown of the main deck at 0600, painting the deckhouse at 0800, operating the small boat at 1000, standing a watch at 1200 and rigging lines for UNREP at 1600.

In port, keeping "the white one" white is an arduous task in itself. You are apt to find Quillen or Ready over the side any time day or night touching up nicks, scrapes and rust spots.

Sometimes we forget the price of having our ship praised as the best looking WHEC in the fleet. Next time you say to yourself "the ship looks good", it is probably because the deck seamen were working while you were on liberty.

