

EDUCATION

Navy Science Cruisers

Ninety-one science-minded high school boys study science afloat, sailing with the U. S. Navy for four days on Atlantic course.

See Front Cover

► THE DREAMS of millions of American youths came true for 91 science-minded high school boys selected as the first Navy Science Cruisers to sail with the Navy for four days, studying science afloat in Uncle Sam's fleet. The unique cruise that packed excitement with education was sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, aided by Science Clubs of America, administered by Science Service.

A group of the science cruisers is shown by the 16-inch guns of the USS Washington on the front cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

Chosen by local scientific organizations for their interest and ability as young scientists, cruisers from New York, Pittsburgh, Providence and Philadelphia flew to Washington in Navy planes to join a group from Washington, Sunday, Sept. 29.

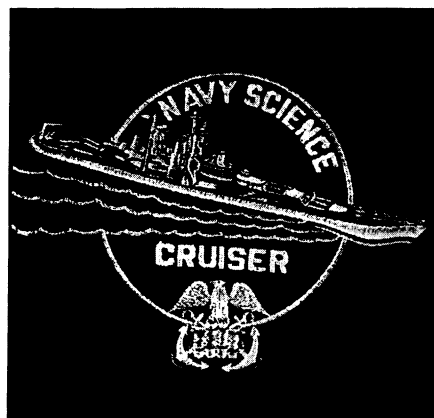
Traveling to Annapolis by bus, the boys took small boats out to the USS Randolph, historic aircraft carrier that served as Admiral Mitscher's flagship when he commanded the famed Task

Force 58 in the Pacific during World War II.

Navy specialists took the boys on tours of the ship, explaining details of the multiple scientific applications that make a modern fighting ship, but the big thrill for the cruisers came Monday morning as the ship ploughed out 100 miles into the Atlantic off Cape Henry. As the giant floating air terminal steamed into the wind, eight of her aircraft took off to start a two-hour air show that included qualifying landings for some of the pilots and was climaxed by a mock attack on the ship by fighters and bombers.

After the USS Randolph docked at Yorktown, Va., the boys went ashore Tuesday morning to mix history with their science on tours of historic Yorktown and colonial Williamsburg. That afternoon it was "back to sea" aboard LCI's, Landing Craft Infantry, that took the cruisers out into Chesapeake Bay to board battleships. The party was divided; one group sailed on the USS Washington and the other on the USS North Carolina.

Cruising up the Atlantic Coast to New York, the young sailors got their first



BADGE—This brassard was worn by the high school students that sailed as Navy Science Cruisers

taste of gunfire as the big battleships fired some of their batteries. At night, signal pyrotechnics were mixed with tracer fire from the guns as searchlights played against the clouds.

Landing in New York Thursday morning, the boys went to Floyd Bennett Naval Air Station to board planes that took them to their home cities.

After nearly five days in the Navy, the cruisers admitted that they had been thrilled by the planes and guns, but most of them had found other interests too. Young engineers had learned about the giant turbines that power the Navy's capital ships. High in the superstructures, they had seen the electronic equipment that brought victory in battle and

(See next page)



SHIPBOARD SCIENCE—Navy Science Cruisers inspecting steering equipment in the wheelhouse of the USS Washington at sea.

MEDICINE

Iron-Binding Compound Is Found in Human Blood

► DISCOVERY of an iron-binding component in human blood may lead to new treatments for some kinds of anemias and to new attacks upon some diseases like dysentery.

Following up finding of a protein in white of egg that has an affinity for iron, Dr. Arthur L. Schade and Leona Caroline of the Overly Biochemical Research Foundation, New York City, report the presence in human plasma of a similar substance.

In a communication to *Science* (Oct. 11), they suggest that this substance regulates the absorption of iron from the food tract as well as the transport of iron by the blood throughout the body.

Science News Letter, October 19, 1946