

REAR ADMIRAL M. H. SIMONS



First Commanding Officer

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One of the most pleasant memories, that Rear Admiral Simons has or ever will have, is the memory of that day, March 9th, 1931, when he read his orders from the Navy Department ordering him to take command of the U. S. S. Chicago.

The Chicago, under his command, came to be known as the "E" cruiser of the U. S. Fleet, a reputation which she still holds.

This was largely due to Admiral Simons' activity in thinking of new ways to improve the appearance and performance of the ship. His efforts were rewarded with favorable comment from all quarters.

We Big Shots who have had the pleasure of serving under Rear Admiral Simons as Commanding Officer of this vessel are very proud of the fact that our first captain is now an officer of Flag rank.

COMMANDER R. F. McCONNELL



First Executive Officer

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Commander McConnell was the Chicago's first Executive Officer, and it was he who had the honor of being the first to tell the Chicago's Boatswain to call his mates and set the first watch.

Commander McConnell was relieved as Executive Officer by Commander Dessez, who proved to be a very popular Executive Officer. Commander Dessez will long be remembered for his acute interest in shoving off the liberty boats on time.

Commander McConnell is still a loyal Big Shot, as was evidenced by his radiogram to all "plank owners" on March 9th, 1934.

Commander McConnell is now on duty at Pearl Harbor, T. H. All those who served under him feel that they have a real shipmate in our genial first Executive Officer.