CREW ORGANIZATION

Put your graphing skills to the test to learn how the USS SLATER's crewmen were organized. Learn the crew departments on a warship and what jobs men had within those departments. Chart the size of each department on a graph, then discuss why some departments are so large and some are so small.

Background: For Navy ships to operate efficiently, their crews are divided into several departments based upon their jobs aboard ship. The SLATER had five departments during World War II. These departments were:

1. <u>Gunnery Department</u>: This department was responsible for the care and operation of the ship's 3" guns, the 40mm and 20mm antiaircraft guns, the Hedgehog and the depth charges. The Gunnery Department included the Gunnery Officer, 3 assistants, 14 gunner's mates, 1 torpedoman, 5 fire controlmen and 10 radarmen.

2. <u>Construction and Repair Department</u>: The C&R department was responsible for the general maintenance of the ship and its equipment. During battle, this department formed damage control parties to fix the ship. It also provided men to the Gunnery Department to serve as loaders for the ship's guns. The C&R Department included the 1st Lieutenant, 1 assistant, 5 boatswain's mates, 64 seamen, 8 coxswains, 1 shipfitter, and 1 carpenter's mate.

3. <u>Navigation Department</u>: This department was responsible for a variety of duties aboard the ship, including navigation, communication, and administration. The "N" Department also included the ship's medical personnel. The Navigation Department was led by the Communication's Officer and included 1 assistant, the Medical Officer, 5 signalmen, 9 radiomen, 6 quartermasters, 4 yeomen, 2 pharmacist's mates, 2 radio technicians and 7 sonarmen.

4. <u>Engineering Department</u>: The Engineering Department maintained and operated the ship's engines, as well as all other mechanical equipment on the ship. It included the Engineering Officer, 1 assistant, 27 motor machinist's mates, 21 electrician's mates, 2 metalsmiths, 1 molder, and 15 firemen.

5. <u>Supply Department</u>: This department was responsible for all supplies aboard ship, including food, fuel, money, spare parts, etc. It was also responsible for feeding the crew. The "S" Department was led by the Supply Officer and included 5 ship's cooks, 1 baker, 2 storekeepers, and 4 steward's mates.

Situation: As a Yeoman, it is your job to maintain the personnel records of all of the USS SLATER's crewmembers. The Executive Officer has ordered you to provide him with a graph showing the size of each of the ship's departments.

Exercise: Determine the total number of men in each of the ship's departments using the information above, and then use graph paper to make a bar graph showing the size of each department.



P.O. Box 1926 • Broadway & Quay Streets • Albany, New York • 12202 Phone 518-431-1943 • Fax 518-432-1123 • Email <u>Education@ussslater.org</u> Website www.ussslater.org