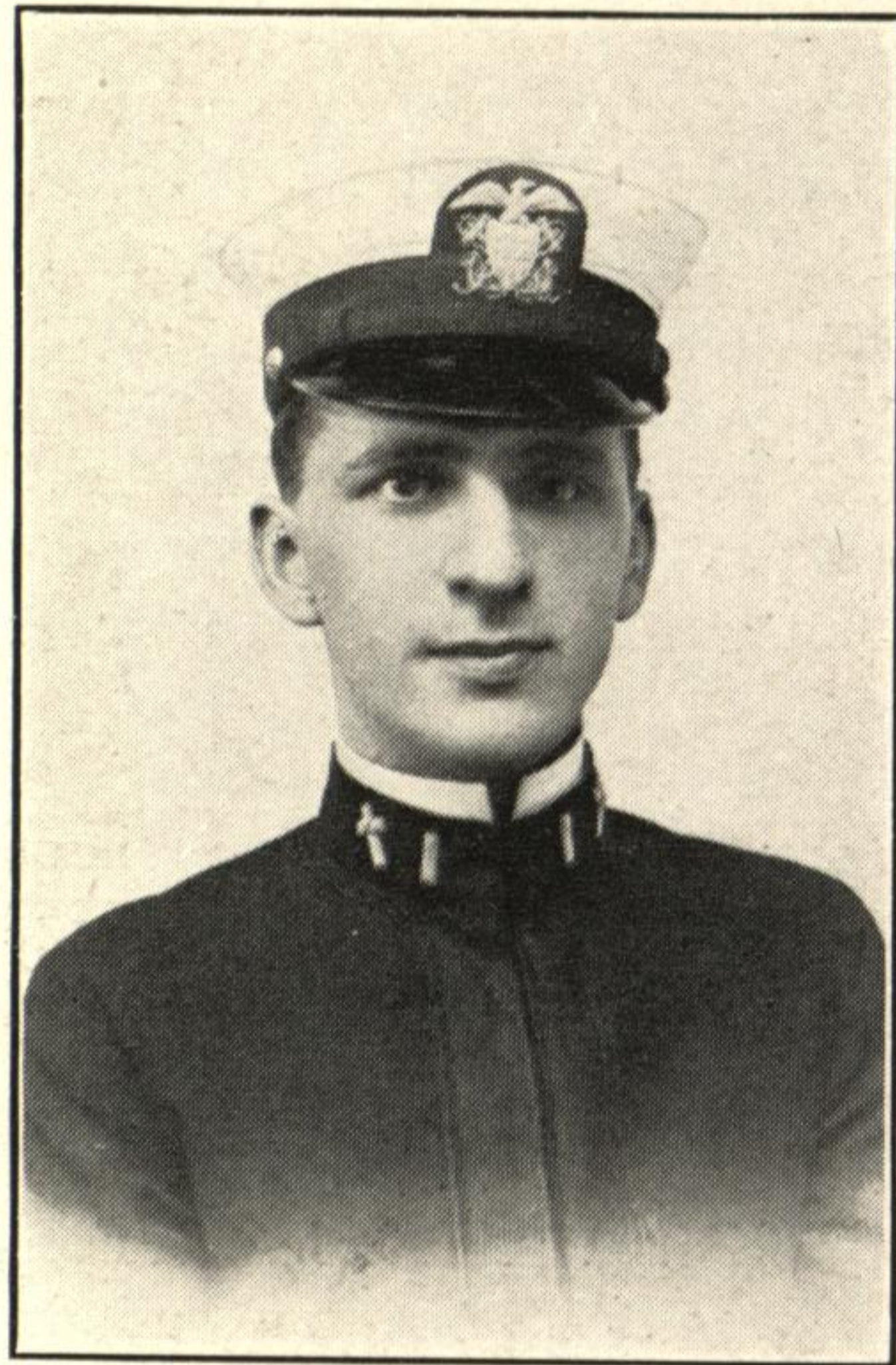


CHURCH SERVICE ABOARD SHIP



THE CHAPLAIN

Any retrospection of the war cruise of the Wyoming should emphasize the gratifying fact that on each Sunday morning when the exigencies of the service permitted Divine Service was held aboard ship at which prayers were offered for victory to the cause of the allies and for the efficiency and safety of the Wyoming and the 1700 souls of her ship's company. The secrecy and isolation of our bases prevented many visiting clergymen from conducting services but this difficulty was partly overcome by the sending of visiting church parties aboard the British and other United States ships, all of which visits were interesting and profitable to those who took advantage of the opportunity. There are a half-dozen dates that stand out in memory from the usual weekly services. The first is that of the service which was held while at sea just before the Wyoming joined the Grand Fleet. The ship had been for a week bucking through a nasty blow, making but slight headway toward its mission of very serious duty. The Thanksgiving service that was held, for it was the Sunday after Thanksgiving Day in 1917, was entered into very heartily by every man and the picture of that service remains fresh in the memory of those who attended. On Easter Sunday a Communion Service was held in connection with the regular morning service. In April, while in dry-dock at Newcastle, the Reverend H. J. Gibbs of the Mission to

Seamen at South Shields conducted a very helpful service. On Sunday, June 16th, an impressive Memorial Service was held for two deceased shipmates. Bishop Brent, Chaplain on the Staff of General Pershing, visited the ship at Scapa Flow, bringing with him a message from General Pershing to the officers and men of the Wyoming. Reverend Joseph Lindsay of Crawfordsville, Indiana, who was stationed in Edinburgh at the time, conducted services on the Sunday after Armistice Day and brought his congregation face to face with the great responsibilities which the victory had brought. Throughout the year the entire ship's company has been conscious of the high responsibility and privilege of being in the Allies' first line of defence; every duty has been performed willingly and efficiently and, what means more to the God they worshipped throughout the cruise, every man in the ship's company stood ready to do his duty bravely in the day of battle had that day come to pass.



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