



Quartermasters

The bridge, command post of the ship, under the supervision of the Navigator, is manned by an elite group of men known as Quartermasters. The Quartermasters, also called "big wheels" by virtue of the insignia displayed on their rating badges, are mainly responsible for the navigation of the ship.

These duties entail the maintenance of navigational charts, publications and equipment, and winding of the ship's chronometer. In addition, they maintain the official ship's log, stand quarterdeck watches, and are involved in a sounding program to accurately chart the oceans' depths.

The Coast Guard includes the duties of signalman in the quartermaster rating. Accordingly, the Quartermasters are responsible for three visual means of communication — flag hoist, semaphore and blinking light. All these duties combined make the Quartermaster indispensable aboard ship.

Neilson and Quidley practicing semaphore.



QM

Front Row: SN A. Ettenger, SN D. Quidley, QM3 D. Bliley, QM3 W. Auchey;
Back Row: QM3 H. Andrews, LTJG S. Winslow, QMCP A. Jorgensen, QM3 J. Neilson. Not Pictured: QM1 S. Day



Much time is spent practicing signaling with the flashing light.



Bliley taking a sun line with a sextant.

