

# Navy Ends Segregation — Meaning Off-Hours, Too

By MARTHA HURSEY

NORFOLK — When the Navy got rid of segregation it didn't stop with integrating the sailors at their duties aboard the ship. But the non-biased policy extended into their off-duty hours also.

Take, for instance, the recently constructed Servicemen's Recreation Club, at Little Creek. Its doors and facilities are open at all times to both races—with no special arrangements or separate rooms either.

Tuesday night is "dance night" at the club. Colored couples wind their way among the white dancers and no one bothers to take the second look. Interspersed occupants at the dining tables also add to the salt and pepper-like pattern. Traces of blond and pressed hair under the mirrors in the powder room tell their own story.

An eye-witness reports this typical incident: A group of colored sailors and their guests were sitting in the dining hall when a blue-eyed sailor walked up to the table and without a word plunked a can of beer on the table.

"Don't mind him," the seated sailor apologized, "He's from

Brooklyn." And after the intruder had seated himself with a group of brown skinned blue-shirts not far away, the informer added, "And even the guys from Texas treat us pretty darn decent too!"

Last week when the U.S.S. Stienaker had its ship party, the captain refused to grant the colored men's request for a separate get-together. And there again all laughed in the traditional South's face as they frolicked together in one of Norfolk's leading night spots.

Are all Navy service clubs non-segregated? One of the boys explained, "They are supposed to be. Anyway, this is Virginia, and you see how things operate here."