

**THE DECK AND BOAT
BOOK OF THE
UNITED STATES NAVY.
NAVY DEPARTMENT 1914**

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The deck and boat book of the United States Navy. Navy Department 1914 by Navy Department

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

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UNITED STATES NAVY.
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The
Deck and Boat Book

of the
United States Navy

NAVY DEPARTMENT
1914

Reprinted July, 1916, with all changes incorporated

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NAVY DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., January 20, 1914.

1. The Deck and Boat Book, United States Navy, 1914, is issued for the use of the Navy. The instructions contained herein supersede all others of a similar nature and shall be strictly observed. No changes shall be made without the approval of the Navy Department; but suggestions regarding changes or improvements shall be made, and any errors discovered shall be reported at once to the Navy Department.

2. Deck and Boat Books shall be issued for use on the ship's bridge. No boat expedition shall ever be without a Deck and Boat Book for each boat and the means of making signals. As far as practicable all boats away from their ships on any duty where signal communication may be desirable shall have a copy. Coxswains as well as signalmen shall be thoroughly instructed in its contents.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS,
Secretary of the Navy.

Corrected in accordance with changes in Conventional Signals, effective January 1, 1916.

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INTRODUCTION.

1. The Deck and Boat Book contains: Instructions in matters pertaining to boats and boat exercises; rules of the road; United States buoyage system; instructions for making United States Navy signals; international, distress, storm, and Life-Saving Service signals; instructions for dressing ship and for passing in review; deck signals; boat signals.

2. The "deck signals" which shall be so termed for convenience, are nonconfidential general signals reproduced in the Deck and Boat Book for convenient use upon the signal bridge to facilitate smart work in sending and answering, and for the use of Naval Militia and Auxiliary vessels to which the General Signal Book is not supplied.

3. The "boat signals," which shall be so termed for convenience, are provided for intercommunication between ships and boats, and under some conditions with stations and parties on shore. Many of them, especially the (magnetic) compass signals and some of those under "Speed" and "Miscellaneous," are well adapted to communication with tugs and auxiliaries and should be used for that purpose. Supplemented by the deck signals, they form a suitable and fairly complete code for such vessels, which may also be useful for other ships at times. Boat signals should not be made to a vessel where there can be any danger of their being misunderstood as being addressed to her boats. See articles 55-58. As divisions, squadrons, or a fleet will never be called and signaled to by boat signals under conditions of uncertainty as to whether the signal is intended for those units or for a flotilla of boats, no confusion can arise from their calls.

4. Boat signals are divided into three classes, as follows:

- (a) Boat-drill signals.
- (b) Target-practice signals.
- (c) Miscellaneous signals.

5. Boat-drill signals have been reduced in scope from those of previous signal books. In the fleets of the present day the handling of boats by signals has of necessity been reduced to simple exercises under oars and sail and the movements necessary to handle a number of ship flotillas (generally in tow of power-propelled boats) in making or preparing for landings. These signals are arranged under the subheadings "Formation and order," "Primary movements," "Compass signals," "Evolutions from column," "Evolutions from column of ship or division flotillas," "Evolutions from line," "Evolutions from line of ship or division flotillas," "Speed," "Distance and interval," "Guide,"

"Exercise under sail or oars," "Exercise with landing force." The evolutions as signaled are all performed by the oblique or direct method; rectangular evolutions, if desired, can be performed by the necessary individual signals for each movement.

6. **Target-practice signals** will cover all general situations of gun and torpedo target practice. Special temporary codes may still be necessary to meet the requirements of special phases of firing and will be provided in the special instructions governing such firings. These signals are arranged alphabetically. All that apply to torpedo practices are grouped under "Torpedo."

7. **Miscellaneous signals** comprise all boat signals not included in classes (a) and (b) of article 4. They are arranged alphabetically, including references to the subdivisions of (a) and (b).

8. It should be borne in mind that boats are in general not well adapted to the use of flag signals and therefore that the semaphore and wigwag systems should be used when practicable for transmitting boat signals. The megaphone may also frequently be of convenient use in flag boats in place of visual signals.

9. In general the rules for signaling prescribed in the Introduction to the Signal Books hold where practicable in making deck and boat signals. The rules are reproduced in this book so far as needed, with some modifications which apply only to the use of this book; among these the following will be observed: Ship flotilla flag boats repeat signals unless otherwise directed, but other boats and all vessels using only the Deck and Boat Book acknowledge by showing the answering pennant, boats using a hand pennant; the compass signals indicate magnetic courses and bearings; night signals to boats are answered by a hand lantern or torch or Very's red star.