

Don't Quote Me!

Washington, April 7.—(U.P.)—When recent hostilities at Shanghai were most furious, with United States warships and marines near the line of fire, one of the calmest men in the navy was Lieutenant Harry Raymond Thurber.

This may not seem strange, because the lieutenant was thousands of miles distant from the Chinese city, sitting quietly at his desk in the navy department. Nevertheless, he was under fire—a bombardment of questions from a score of newspaper men demanding information from the "front."

As chief of the navy press room, "Ray" Thurber has answered questions at all hours of the day and night for three years, throughout the Sino-Japanese conflict and other first page stories—earthquakes, revolutions in Central America and insurrectionist activities in Nicaragua—he has been on the job, reading dispatches to crowds of newsmen grouped around his desk.

This week, in a tense, routine navy order, came sad news to the men who "cover the navy department. He will leave soon for the west coast, the orders said, to assume new duties as flag secretary aboard the Arizona, flagship of battleship division three of the Pacific fleet.

A native of Hoquiam, Wash., Thurber entered the naval academy at the age of 20 in 1915 and graduated four years later. His first interest in the newspaper profession came when he was made editor of the Annapolis "Log", semi-humorous academy magazine.

During the World War he was at Brest with the destroyer Wadsworth, leader of the first division of France. The Wadsworth, with Thurber on board, later was convoy for President Wilson on his trip to the peace conference in Paris, and was a station ship for the historic trans-Atlantic flight of the three navy "NC" planes.

While on the battleship New Mexico in the Pacific, Thurber won the distinction of receiving three letters of commendation from the secretary of the navy for his accuracy in marksmanship as a gunnery officer.

Newspaper work followed Thurber from Annapolis, and he edited a weekly paper for the crew of the New Mexico.

The lieutenant's only "hobbies" are his four small children, two boys and two girls. He plans to take up golf so he can play against his sons some day.

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