

August 12, 1918.

Dr. Thomas Crowder,  
Chief Surgeon, Pullman Company,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Doctor Crowder:

We are considering the general advisability of installing paper drinking cups in some of the vessels of the Navy in locations where the sanitary drinking fountains are insuitable.

My impression is that your company has probably had more experience with the use of these articles than any other corporation and I know your own interest in matters of Sanitation. I am venturing to ask you therefor to give us any information available as to cost, approximate number used per individual served, preferable type (having inview necessity for conservation of space) and any other data which you may deem pertinent.

Very truly yours,

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Surgeon U.S.P.H.S.  
detailed Sanitation Division,  
Bureau of H & S, Navy

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USE FOR THE SANITARY DRINKING CUP IN THE NAVY.

The common drinking cup is now almost a thing of the past in public places. Its place has been taken by the more sanitary bubbling fountain and the individual waxed paper drinking cup.

In the Navy the bubbling fountain is a standard equipment aboard all ships and its importance is thoroughly recognized by all. These fountains, or scuttle butts, as they are called, are usually installed in the different crew's quarters, the number depending upon the size of the ship in question. But no provision has been made for those men, who for various reasons are not in a position to use the scuttle butts in the crew's quarters, nor are the Officers in the various messes provided in anyway with sanitary drinking fountains or cups.

Men on watch in fire, engine, or dynamo rooms; men confined to the Sick Bay and Officers aboard ship are still compelled to use the common drinking cup unless they, at their own expense, provide the sanitary cups, which is seldom done.

It would seem impracticable to install bubbling fountains in the different Officer's mess rooms aboard ship, or in the Sick Bay, but these might be placed in the fire, engine, and dynamo rooms without much difficulty. In those parts of the ship where it is impracticable to install the drinking fountains the sanitary paper cup and holder together with ice water tanks could be readily installed and at little expense, and thus the entire ship's personnel would be protected from the dangers of the common drinking cup instead of about 80 per cent of them as it now stands.

When the U.S.S. BRIDGE was placed in commission in June 1917 a sanitary cup holder and paper cups of a well advertised brand were installed in the Ward Room at the suggestion of the Medical Officer and these met with the approval of all who used them.

Covering a period of several months the average cost of cups per Officer per day on the U.S.S. BRIDGE averaged about 1-1/4 cents, while the original cost of the holder was \$3.00; this, of course, being the retail price of these articles.

The danger of the common drinking cup is so thoroughly established and the cost of the sanitary paper cup and holder is so small that it would seem advisable to make the latter a standard equipment aboard all vessels of the Navy as the bubbling fountain now is, and to be used in those parts of the ships where it is not practicable to install the fountains.

*W. A. Sargen*  
*U.S. Surgeon, U.S.N.*