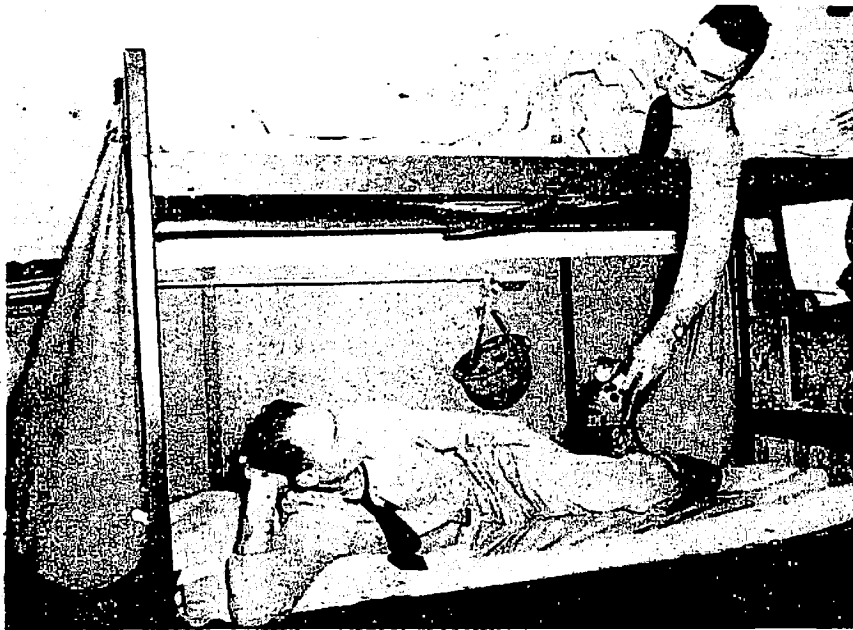


Bunkmates Of First War In Same Barracks Six Weeks Before Recognizing Each Other



W. A. Whalen, CSF, in the upper, and G. Y. Cunningham, CBM, are serving together again. They were bunkmates on a destroyer during the first world war. Now, they live in the same barracks at Peary. (Official U. S. Navy Photo)

Although they were bunkmates for two years on a destroyer during the first world war, two CPOs lived in the same barracks at Peary for six weeks before they recognized each other.

The dawn came when W. A. Whalen, CSF, noticed a hashmark on the arm of G. Y. Cunningham, CBM, and asked him upon what ship he served.

And, as it turned out, they'd been shipmates on the USS Fanning, said to be one of only two American warships to be officially credited with sinking an enemy submarine in the last war. Both men were aboard at the time.

At 1610 on a foggy, drizzly afternoon in 1917, the USS Fanning sighted a peri-

scope. It was a German submarine, the U-58, At 1638, just 28 minutes later, the U-Boat sank. The Fanning had forced her with well-directed depth charges and men raked her with fire.

Chiefs Whalen and Cunningham blamed their failure to recognize each other on time and loss of weight. They didn't see each other between wars.

The men are bunking in Barracks 101, Area D3-4. Chief Whalen, who is 49 and from Ossining, N. Y., has been pushing boots. He is awaiting assignment. Chief Cunningham, 45, and a resident of Black Oak, Ark., is a member of Ship's Company crew.

Oil's Well That Ends Well

From Seabee News Service

A scarcity of coal suitable for forge work and an abundance of fuel oil made an oil burning forge very desirable to the machinists of the 44th.

Working exclusively with scrap material, with the exception of fire-brick, the Seabees devised a forge that will develop sufficient heat to melt cast iron. It can be used as a foundry furnace for small castings as well.

Jap Prisoners On Island "X"

Run Own Laundry Service

Six Japanese prisoners on the Island "X" where Edward M. Hudson, CSK, spent nine months have borrowed a page from the "Can Do" book of the Seabees.

They have established their own laundry service. And they have a steady stream of customers who pay a set sum for each particular item washed. Washing gear on this particular is

Pair Awarded Navy, Marine Corps Medals

From Seabee News Service

Two Seabees, William C. Hartgrove, CM3c, and Robert H. Folstadt, MM1c of the 46th Battalion, have been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal by Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth, USN, Deputy Commander of the South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force, for their heroism following a dive-bombing raid by Japanese aircraft at an advanced base.

Even while enemy planes were still in sight, the two Seabees plunged into the sea and swam from the beach to a burning landing craft to rescue a badly wounded man clinging to a rope from its side.

Upon returning to the beach, Hartgrove and Folstadt commandeered a lighter which was rigged with a fire pump, and returned to the blazing barge. While Folstadt manned the pumps, Hartgrove made his way forward through the flames to jettison live ammunition from the turrets and also assist in the transfer of two badly injured men from the landing craft to a small boat.

The temporary citation which accompanied the Medals paid tribute to the Seabees "courageous initiative" which was maintained with utter disregard for their personal safety and was in keeping with the "highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Spiders, Ants Bunk In

Foxhole With Marine

Things are not as lonesome as one might suppose while sitting out a bombing raid in a Island "X" foxhole, according to Marine Lieutenant G. W. Sarbacher who reported the following company one night:

"With me were two land crabs, a dozen spiders, one centipede, an eight inch praying mantis and five million red ants."

All-Service Family

Melvin C. Smith, CM1c of the 118th is head of an all-star military family, according to the "Pillar News," battalion paper.

His two sons are in the Army. His wife is a WAC.

Step Up V-Mail Delivery Speed

Recent improvements effected in Navy V-Mail service have cut delivery time from Peary to foreign ports.

Following are the times taken by V-Mail to reach various areas abroad, according to Peary's postal officer, Lieut. (jg) J. J. Covert, USNR:

England, six days; Alaska, eight; Africa, 10; Central Pacific and Samoa, 12; South and Southwest Pacific, 16; and Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia, 18 days.

V-Mail's advantage is that it takes up less than two per cent of the space and weight of regular mail. Thus, valuable cargo space is saved and foreign mail channels kept relatively clear.

For example, 20 bags of first-class mail weighing about 1,000 pounds, containing 34,000 letters, become a roll of film weighing only 12 pounds when V-Mail