

Genesee News, Nov. 24, 1944

BROTHERS MEET IN S. PACIFIC DON AND CHARLES HERMAN

Don. L. Herman RT2-c and Charles T. Herman RM3-c, sons of Mrs. Nick Bielenberg, have experienced a great joy, and the pleasurable event which happens about one in a million chances is shared by relatives and the many friends of two Genesee Navy radio men. Mrs. Bielenberg shares with the readers of The Genesee News the two letters, one by each son, which were written at the time of meeting. They read as follows:

Don's Letter

"Dearest Folks: "Well, at last, for the first time in two years Brother Charles and I have met each other. Right now we are sitting side by side writing to you. I'm sure you will be as surprised as we are, and that you will also be as happy as we are. I pulled in here after dark one night and as we dropped anchor I couldn't help but wonder if he wasn't around somewhere. At the break of the following day, I was up early and searched the whole place for his ship. I couldn't find it but there were so many just alike that I wouldn't give up. So, after dark that night which was last night I called his ship on the signal light and after getting some help from other ships I finally located him, and in a few seconds we were talking to each other by blinker. He said he would be over this morning at 0630, so-Oh, yes, by the way, it was about 1130 last night when we located him.

Sure enough this morning here came a little motor boat from the direction of the light last night and it was ever a good feeling to see it pull up along side and see Chuck come over the side and aboard our ship. He came in and had breakfast with me-two eggs sunny side up and bacon. Not seeing each other for nearly two years we have a lot of things to talk about. We are both doing the same kind work so that is the McCoy.

You were right when you guessed where Charles was at in your letter, but rest at ease because everything turned out o.k. and he is back south of the equator again, even if it isn't very far south. We will both be going back up there again soon. No, Mother, I'm not on a ship. I'm in a mobile unit. We go ashore, and they call it the

'Coconut Navy.' I just asked Charles when he was to go back and he says they may not come after him until tomorrow, so if that is the case he will get to stay with me tonight. I have been passing idle time making rings out of Australian money and I gave him one with the map of Idaho filed out of a small coin and soldered on a ring that I made out of a larger coin. I thought something like that would be a nice remembrance.

One of the fellows in my outfit had a camera and film with one exposure left, so he took our picture together. Whenever we can get it developed I'll try and send you one."

Charles' Letter

"Dearest Mom and Pop: "Gosh, am I a happy lad today, or rather it started last night, when Don called my ship by blinker light and said to come and see him. We are together now, beating out these letters. I was down in my sack sleeping sound as a log when I was awakened by the signalman who said there was a guy on another ship who said he was my brother. This morning I got a small boat and came over to his ship. You know it's been almost two years since we saw each other. Well, I guess this should make you happy. Now, if Ralph (Kluss) could only happen along. I didn't ever expect to run across Don since I learned that he had gone to Australia, but here we are together.

"Well, how's everything at home? Hope you are not working too hard. And Pop, I think I'll have you come down here and build me a summer resort for our vacations after the war. But I think that I'd rather vacation right in our yard at home like we used to with some pickled pigs feet and beer. Ah, for a cold glass of something.

"Don has been showing me all his equipment he works with. It's enough to drive a guy nuts. He has a swell deal. The only thing missing is me, myself as an operator. He is on a ship now but only as a passenger. He will do his work ashore. The unit he is attached to is a mobile communications unit, which consists of ***. Don has given me a knife and a ring that he made himself. It has the state of good old Idaho shaped out perfectly for a set. Was made from some English money. There's been a considerable time elapsed from the time I started writing. Had to leave it and go back to my ship, and of course Don had to come along. I got permission of my executive

officer to stay all night with Don on his ship, so we grabbed a boat and started back, but had quite a time finding his boat because they drift around with the tide and therefore very hard to find if you don't know exactly where you left from. Well, anyway, after a little searching we managed to find it, and so now we're here finishing the peeking that we started, even if it is full of mistakes."

Second Section of Don's Letter

Don had completed his letter to his folks, but later adds:

"Well, well, surprises, one after another. I signed off but rather short because Charles' boat was here to pick him up and we wanted to send both letters in the same envelope. It seemed pretty hard to see him leave, not knowing for sure if I would get to see him again for a long while, so instead of wondering I just jumped into the boat and went with him to his ship. That was about 11 a.m. so I had dinner with him. He showed me about his ship then asked permission to come back over with me and stay all night. The permission was granted and we sit again finishing out letters. It took us quite a while to get back because we got lost out there among all the ships, but it was fun and now we are looking forward to a big evening.

Well, Charles and I have a lot of knitting to do so I'll sign off, hoping to hear from you soon."