

Three Lived 16 Days in Sunken Ship, Navy Says

Washington - (UPI) - The date was Dec. 8, 1941. The place, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The setting was deep inside the sunken battleship USS West Virginia.

Three men were trapped in a compartment, untouched by the bombs and fire that ravaged the vessel and sent it to the floor of the harbor in the sneak Japanese attack the previous day.

The sailors were spending the second of what was to be 16 days of a fruitless struggle to live. They breathed from an air bubble in the sealed storeroom. They fed on emergency rations. They tapped a freshwater tank for drink.

Checkmarks on Calendar
What they thought, what they hoped, was buried with them in the familiar surroundings where they had lived and worked until the surprise attack. The only chronicle of their final days before suffocation was a calendar - a checkmark on each date from Dec. 7 to 23.

The Navy removed the secrecy stamp Wednesday from two pages of a nine-page document dated June 15, 1942, which described the recovery of 70 bodies from the ill-fated West Virginia during salvage operations.

"Three bodies were found on the lower shelf of storeroom A-111 clad in blues and jerseys," the document said. "The emergency rations at this station had been consumed." The men had removed a manhole cover leading to freshwater tanks below the storeroom.

"Several" bodies were found stretched on top of steampipes in an area that was "probably within the air bubble existing in that flooded space," the report continued. Some of the men had lived for considerable periods but finally died from lack of oxygen.

Veteran officers could not recall any other verified instance in which men lived as long as 16 days in a sunken ship. How long men may have lived in the battleship Utah, also sunk at Pearl Harbor, never has been determined.

Two officers and 103 enlisted men died aboard the West Virginia. The Navy declined to identify the three sailors who lived in the air bubble.

Air Force Works On Satellite

Washington - (UPI) - The Air Force said today it is developing a long-distance communications satellite 100 times as effective as the 10-story Echo I launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Air Force announcement, released at the annual meeting of the American Rocket Society, brought to three the number of U.S. agencies now committed to space communications work.

Until today it had been understood that the Army was the only military service trying, along with NASA, to develop communications satellites.

Congressional space committees already had indicated they might look into possible duplication of effort by the military and civilian agencies to establish world wide telephone and television networks in space.

Two private companies - American Telephone and Telegraph and Hughes Aircraft - also have announced they intend to have commercial communication satellites ready for launching within a year.

Girl Testifies In Idaho Trial

Gooding, Idaho - (UPI) - Sheriff Keith Anderson was scheduled to testify today in the first degree murder trial of 22-year-old Roger Hall of Crescent City, Calif.

Hall is charged with the gunshot death of Dr. John Hunt, a Portland, Ore., plant pathologist, who was killed in the desert near Bliss in August of 1959.

Mary Katherine Hampton, 18, of Sandy Hook, Ky., and convicted murderer Emmett Spencer, also of Sandy Hook, also were charged with Hunt's death. Charges were later dismissed against Miss Hampton when she agreed to be a witness for the state.

Wednesday Miss Hampton was on the stand. At one point she said she hid her face and was unable to see the gun that killed Hunt.

However, she later said she saw who was holding the gun and actually saw Spencer, who is awaiting execution in Florida for murdering two persons, fire the weapon.



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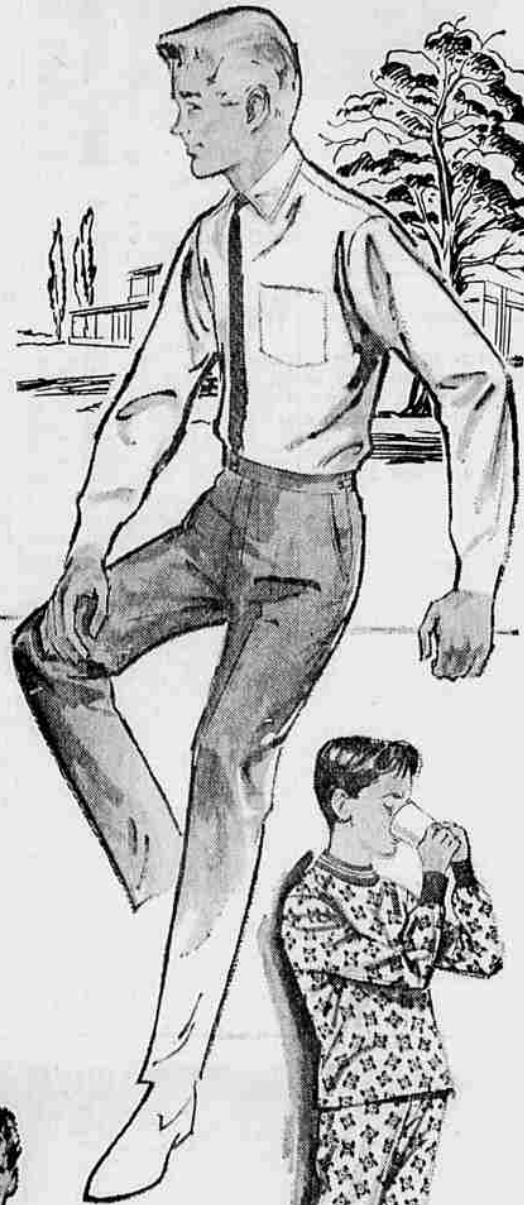
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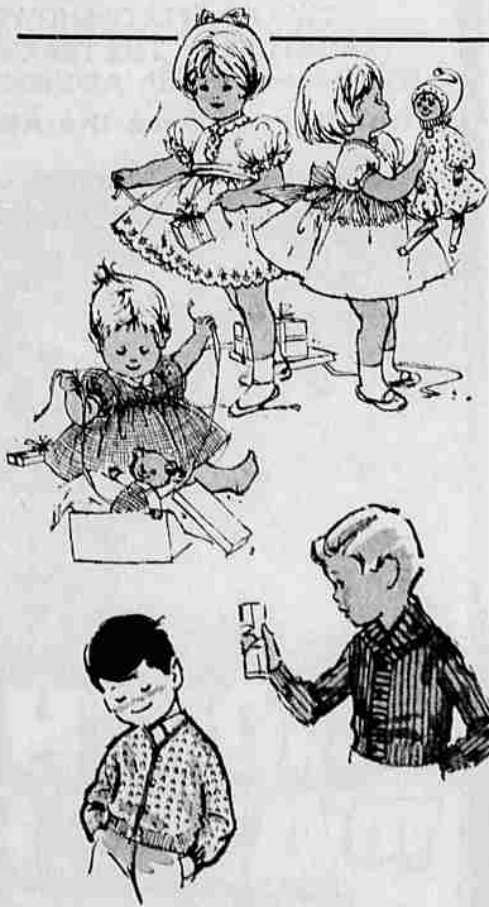
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