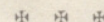


# WASP Runs Canteen at Athens



An ensign from the WASP who went to offer help to a ship charged with directing the Fleet Canteen at the Athens USO wound up being Officer-in-Charge, chief mess cook and bottle washer for some 1500 Navymen daily while the WASP and about 25 other Sixth Fleet ships were anchored at Piraeus.

It all started when the WASP directed establishment of the Fleet Canteen at the Rhodes USO.

The WASP -- which is always prepared for such matters -- just anticipated that the ship would be in charge of the Fleet Canteen when at Athens the following week.

ENS M. E. Dixon, SC, USN, who was nominated as the prospective O-in-C of the branch mess at Athens, made advance preparations with Charles Helbig, USO director there.

Meanwhile, a message from Commander Service Force, Sixth Fleet, directed the destroyer tender SHENANDOAH to establish the Fleet Canteen at Athens.

The first day in port at Athens, Ensign Dixon, being a good Samaritan, went to the SHENANDOAH to brief her supply officer on the plans the WASP had made for the Fleet Canteen at Athens.

The SHENANDOAH suggested the WASP go through with the plans, since the carrier already was prepared for the Canteen. A message to Sixth Fleet with this suggestion was approved.

CDR J. L. Whitcomb, SC, USN, the WASP's Supply Officer, then originated a message to the SHENANDOAH to say that "one young ensign is readily available for visit by friends the next 10 days."



ENSIGN M. E. DIXON CHATS WITH CHARLES HELBIG OF ATHENS USO  
Mr. Dixon was Officer-in-Charge for the Fleet Canteen.

Ensign Dixon's friends were more than 7500 Navymen -- about 1500 for each of the five days he was O-in-C at the Fleet Canteen.

In appreciation of the WASP's direction of the Canteen, the SHENANDOAH baked a cake for Ensign Dixon. The Commanding Officer of the SHENANDOAH, CAPT J. W. Koenig, USN, sent a note to CAPT Utter, asking him to "deliver this health and comfort to Ensign Dixon. This is to help make his sojourn a bit shorter."

CDR Barnett, Executive Officer, presented the cake to Ensign Dixon, pointing out his pleasure over the WASP's "young ensigns who assume

command and are prepared for all occasions."

A note was attached to the cake. It read: "Four walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage... Semper Paratus."

Inside the cake was a hacksaw. Ensign Dixon sent the following thank-you to the SHENANDOAH:

"Thanks to you for the cake. Prison walls I did break.

Off to the USO, Athens, I did flee,

There for the next five days as C-in-C."

The Navymen who visited the Athens USO seemed to enjoy their  
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CAPTAIN H. T. UTTER  
Commanding Officer  
COMMANDER M. E. BARNETT  
Executive Officer

Public Information Officer  
LTJG T. THOMTE  
Asst. Public Information Officer  
LTJG W. E. BIRKENBUEL

Editors  
R. L. HAWKINS, SN

H. W. LARSON, SN  
D. D. GRIFFIN, SN

Production Department  
B. T. McCULLOUGH LI1

J. W. RUDEGEAIR, SN  
R. A. QUATTRONE, SN  
R. M. J. LAPLUME, SN  
R. R. BOLLENS, SN  
J. D. PARKER, SN  
H. ROEBKE, SN

The "Stinger" is published monthly by and for personnel aboard the USS WASP CV-18 in compliance with NAVEXOS P-35, and SECNAV letter 49-50 at no expense to the government. The paper is for free distribution and may be mailed home. This Paper receives the services of Armed Forces Press Service AFPS. Statements in this paper are not to be considered as official those of the U.S. Navy. Pictures, unless otherwise credited, are official U.S. Navy photographs

## 25 Midshipmen Come Aboard for One Month

Twenty-five midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, began a one-month training tour on the WASP while the ship was anchored at Athens on June 20.

During their stay on the WASP the midshipmen will be indoctrinated in two important phases of today's Navy: naval aviation and the operation of a large combatant ship. They will be given duties, privileges and training similar to that

of junior officers newly reported on board.

The midshipmen left Norfolk, Virginia, in early June to be transported to the Mediterranean where they met the WASP. They will stay on board the WASP until late July when they will join U.S. ships at Malta to continue their summer training before returning to the Naval Academy for their final year of study.