

Clewell, Willard S.

Willard Clewell Recalled by Navy; To Serve at Phila.

Willard S. Clewell, 419 Cherokee Street, who was retired from the United States Navy in 1922 with an average of 4.8, one of the finest records ever turned in by a chief petty officer, has been called back by the Navy for service at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

Since his retirement in 1922, Mr. Clewell had been an assistant in the mechanical engineering department under Professor Fred. V. Larkin, at Lehigh University.

On May 17, the Navy recalled him but with the Army sending soldiers to Lehigh University for training in engineering and other courses, Clewell was sent back to Lehigh for instruction in the Diesel engine course. Now that the Army has taken over Lehigh University for the training of more soldiers, Mr. Clewell was recalled to the Philadelphia Navy Yard, effective June 15.

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Mr. Clewell's career began after completing a four-year's apprentice course in the machine shops of the Bethlehem Steel Company. Four years later, in 1908, he enlisted in the Navy and during his 14 years of service on the high seas his life was full of adventure.

Mr. Clewell was first assigned to the submarine "Shark". It was the third vessel of the type that the United States owned. The "Shark" was 64 feet long and 19 feet in diameter and was nothing short of a death trap, because there were no tightwater bulkheads, or safety devices for escape invented at the time.

He was transferred from the "Shark" to E-1 and then to K-6. These submarines patrolled the Asiatic coast. In all he had traveled 200,000 miles on and under the water.

He was stationed along the China coast for four years during which period he patrolled the Chinese coast in submarines from Siberia to Borneo. He later saw active service on the battleship Pennsylvania and the new Maine.

Probably his most harrowing experience was on a torpedo boat in the Japan Sea which ran into a typhoon of such terrific velocity that everything on deck was swept off, including the masts, funnels and lifeboats. The crew luckily escaped death.

In the first World War Mr. Clewell participated in the transport service. He was on the ship Emperor, now the Homer, and sister ship of the Leviathan. The vessel made 16 trips across the Atlantic with troops and supplies. Each trip had to be made with a convoy of warships which met five miles from the coast.

When sailing from Brest, France, the troop ship Lincoln, which was two hours ahead of the Emperor, was torpedoed and sunk.

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