

ROSETO PAYS TRIBUTE TO ROMANO BROTHERS

Oct. 12 '42

Pair Reunited Three Days After Boat Is Sunk—Careers Life- long Parallels.

Roseto today a community pays tribute to Christopher Columbus. But atop of the Columbus Day activities residents of the borough join a grand old couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Romano, in giving thanks over the safety of their two grand sons, Privates Ralph and William Romano, two Marines aboard the carrier Yorktown when she was sunk by Japs on June 4.

In Bethlehem, too, there is rejoicing by a number of aunts and uncles who are arranging for a home-coming party on Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Romano, 1434 Center Street. Present too, will be the grandparents and the parents of the boys, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Romano, formerly of Roseto, but now residing in Philadelphia.

Incidentally it takes a lot to separate the Romano boys. Dive bombers and torpedo planes had to sink the Yorktown carrier to do it but they were apart only three days.

Ralph, who is 21, arrived in Philadelphia on Friday and on Saturday, William, 20, arrived at the home of his parents. On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Romano, of this city, were in Philadelphia to greet their nephews and make arrangements for the party here Saturday.

The story of the two Romano boys is one of adventure. Separated in age by only a year their lives run parallel. They've always done things together. They went to the same schools, played football together and then, when their parents moved to Philadelphia, got jobs as shipping clerks for the Pennsylvania Railroad, their father is an engineman for the same road.

The brothers enlisted the Marine Corps. February 8, 1940, and bunked together at the Navy yard until Ralph was sent to Norfolk for training. He was there six weeks and then went aboard the Yorktown—and there was Bill!

Ralph Sunday spoke of action at Midway and 'other places' but of the Yorktown fight he said:

"It was terrific, but it was our show. The old Yorktown was the finest boat afloat. It was a crying shame she went down, and when another is built you can bet we'll be aboard.

"But about that action June 4. Those dive bombers, plenty of them, came down to get us. Let me tell you I was plenty scared but we kept throwing everything we had at them. What a show!

"By two o'clock in the afternoon they had us slowed down to 15 knots and then in came the torpedo planes. They let fly and let me tell you that when you get hit by torpedoes its something.

"Orders came to abandon ship. I saw Bill go over and then dropped over myself. It was a forty-foot jump and no fun. I grabbed an empty crate and Bill on a float. That was the last I saw of him.

for a while. I was picked up by a small boat. No one had seen or heard of Bill. I felt pretty bad but guess who was waiting for me when I was transferred to a destroyer on the third day? Yep, Bill!"

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