

Gallagher Jr., Robert E.

FRIENDSHIP ON TRAIN CEMENTED IN SOLOMONS

A Bethlehem and An Allentown Youth Become Pals in Marine Corps.

A coincidental meeting on a train leaving for an induction station started a friendship between a Bethlehem man and an Allentown youth that today stands firmly cemented on the Guadalcanal battlefield.

The men, both Marines, are Robert E. Gallagher, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Gallagher, Sr., 514 Fifth Avenue, this city, and Bruce N. Bauman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nevin K. Bauman, 926 South Eighth Street, Allentown.

The Bethlehem youth, twenty-two years of age, was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company, but the attack on Pearl Harbor changed things. On December 8, 1941, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, which, it was later discovered, was the same date during which the Allentown youth, 23 years of age, enlisted. It was on the train, enroute to the training camp, that they sat in the same seat and fell to talking. They have been pals ever since. This intimate friendship has brought the families of the two boys together, also.

Robert Gallagher is a graduate of Lansford High School, class of 1937. He entered Pennsylvania Military College and put in a year there, playing center on the varsity football team. He entered West Point in the Spring of 1939 and was there a year.

His father served as chief of police of Lansford for thirteen years. Then the family moved to Kutztown where he served as chief of police for two years.

During the past two years, the local Marine's father has been a member of the Steel Company police force. Robert is the Gallagher's only son, and curiously enough, Bruce is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Bauman. Bruce, like Robert, was also doing his part for the country in pre-war times, having been employed with the Trojan Powder Company.

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