

Thackston, John B.

Friends Meet And Exchange Service Yarns

AUG 24 1943

Two pals who had not seen each other since they entered the nation's armed forces spent the week-end exchanging stories about their experiences.

They are Pfc. John B. Thackston, 22-year-old Marine, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Frank Thackston, 919 Center Street, Bethlehem, and Sic Harlan Romig with the Navy in Boston, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Romig, 1423 Center Street, Bethlehem.

Thackston was employed as a time-keeper on the job of constructing the Naval Training Station at Bainbridge, Md., when he enlisted in November last year. He played baseball at Liberty High School here before graduating in 1939. He continued in baseball while employed at the Bethlehem Steel plant here. Baseball called him away from the steel company, and he was playing with Lancaster when he got the job in Maryland.

When he completed his basic training, after entering the Marines December 11 last year, he stayed on at Parris Island, S. C., scene of his training, to play baseball. He was first string catcher there. In many games, the Leatherneck, former Bethlehem Junior American Legion team catcher, received for "Boots" Poffenberger, former big league twirler in the Marines.

A few weeks ago, Thackston was transferred to a military police unit. About a week later he was sent to Quantico, Va., for field artillery training. Quantico is where he is stationed now.

Seaman first class Romig who attended Liberty High School when he enlisted January 28 this year was employed by Brown's Laundry, Allentown, before entering the service. He is married to the former Sophie Struss, Northampton. They have one child, one-year old Linda, a daughter.

A member of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Northampton, Harlan, known to his intimates as "Scotty," recently graduated from the Navy's radio and drum and bugle corps school in Indianapolis, Ind. He played baseball with the Navy team there and was given a prize for making the longest hit there.

Romig has completed his preliminary and advanced training and is ready for combat action. In addition to his ball-playing with the Navy, he played and coached base-

ball with the Bethlehem Junior Legion team before entering the service.

A party was given for the boys last Saturday night when Romig's brother, Charles, also in the Navy, was home on a 24-hour leave granted him to see his brother. Charles, too, is a radio man. His station is on a battleship.

Thackston, a member of the Pro-Cathedral Episcopal Church of The Nativity here, left for his station early Sunday afternoon. To train for PT boat work, Romig left Monday for a Navy station in Boston.

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