

Navy's Strange People

Among the strange people in the Navy are Radiomen. A Radioman is a person either going on watch or coming off. Contrary to popular belief, radiomen are not crazy. A radioman has two brains, one perfectly normal brain which is destroyed in the process of learning radio, another in a state of turmoil and used proficiently in his rating, this brain being filled with dots and dashes are procedure signs.



Radiomen are like ground hogs, they seldom see the sun, coming up topside only on Saturday mornings at the special request of their commanding officer. If the sun is shining and a radioman see's his shadow he goes below and everyone knows there will be six more days without inspection.

Sitting at his typewriter, a radioman receives an endless story of the world flowing through his ears, unable to get out, because both ears are stopped by earphones, so the stuff flows out through his fingers and is given to the ships press, news message and orders to officers.

When conversing with a radioman do not try to point your story by asking him if he remembers the message to "Garcia," because he will jump up and scream, what's the number of it??? Who sent it??? If it's lost it didn't come in on my watch.

Radiomen live on black coffee and canned dog's all through the long mid-watches. They sit and dit and dah, so tired of it all, wondering why they ever chose radio as a rate???

Girls who fall for radiomen will find that they are courted with considerable sparking and many love messages in morse code. After they are married they will receive much broadcasting, both loud and long.

Radiomen are found on all ships and stations in the Navy and are quite harmless if left alone, occasionally fed and aired and given annually thirty days leave.

From W8MTC Mike Serotko's material he loaned me. I was a Coast Guard Radioman and it is all true, well most of it! (Note; as all things change eventually, the rate "Radioman" was abolished and since that is changed I do not care to investigate it. Sparks will forever remain "Sparks")