

Today fellow crew members extend best wishes to two men who are celebrating their birthdays in a very quiet and unassuming manner, being entirely satisfied to spend it in the "horizontal" position, feet aft. They celebrated all night last night with most of the rest of us and from all reports there was more noise than the usual party has and a h--- of a mess for someone else to clean up if they get time. Many happy returns of the day, men. We hope next year will be less noisy.

JOHNSTON, E.W. EM 1c USN. '17  
CAMPBELL, J.A. WT 3c USNR. '18

JOHNSTON, Earl Wesley was born at Princeton, W. Va. of Swedish and Irish descent. He received his elementary schooling at Princeton while it required three high schools at Princeton, Troutville and Newport, W. Va. to receive the remainder of his educational career. We wonder why? After being graduated, he "hit the road" working at construction jobs and at his brother's tavern-tourist camp in his spare time. (I'll bet at the former the greater share of the time and from the take side of the bar). After a squabble with an aunt, he decided to forget women for a while and on June 19, '36, enlisted in the Navy at Richmond, Va. Boot training was at Norfolk followed by duty aboard the following ships: USS Taylor (DD94), USS Fairfax (DD93), USS Manley (DD74) and the USS Omaha (CL8). He was "paid off" at US Naval Hospital, Norfolk, on Sept. 20, 1940, deciding to do another hitch. Duty followed on these ships: USS Sagamore (YT) at New York (rugged duty), USS Quinn (DD433) out of Boston, USS Eberle (DD430) and then to Boston and Bath for the Mighty "A". While at Bath in that well known weak moment, he decided to marry the prettiest Southern Belle he knew. (Yes, She is getting the regular check, men). Religion: Baptist. Hobbies: Indoor broad jumping, fuzz blowing and photography. Has one brother in the Army and one in the Navy (lucky guy, ha). For the future he plans to do three more hitches before retiring to his snake ranch. His hopes for the "A" are that we get more and better "belly robbers".

CAMPBELL, Jack Arthur (Aloysius since consulting Dorothy Dix) was born at Andover, Va. of Scotch and Irish descent. He received elementary schooling at Appalachie, Va. and further education at East Stone Gap, Va. until he became very prosperous as a buyer and seller of cattle. He reached his peak in '37 when he did a cash business of \$37,000 dollars. (Mr. Hill checked it). He continued to prosper till '39 and then gave civil engineering a try. He joined the Navy on Dec. 8, 1941, a true avenger of Pearl Harbor, enlisting at Big Stone Gap, Va. (Time out for another gap). Went through boots at Norfolk going aboard the USS Ariel in Nov. '42. He remained aboard until being assigned to the Mighty "A". Religion: Methodist. Future plans are to do more cattle rustlin' in Va. Has three brothers in the Navy. He hopes that as the Navy builds more "beans" they will need water-tenders with the well grounded experience taught on the "A" (Keep yourself well oiled with water).

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If you are interested in keeping in touch with your shipmates as the years go by, the writer suggests that each man interested keep a copy of these interviews. When you will go flying around the country some day in your Abbotmobile (she flies at times), you can stop in and see that fellow who owes you that five bucks. Or have that drink out of the tall glass that you read about not so long ago.

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Perhaps you have begun to wonder who the "old folks" on the "A" really are. Bob McDermott is the grandad being born in '97, Joe Karlik in '98 and Bob Johnson and Frank Eames in 1900. We will have to wait for their theories on how to keep young. They should have quite a few followers aboard who should be interested.

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