

Cal Cochrane 1

This is a story about of shipmate of mine I served on a couple subs with. He was a little, drunken, belligerent guy. He was a good sailor but he was a little bit belligerent. And he drank a lot, loud mouth, hated officers. Couldn't get along with none of them. He thought he was the only guy. And to make matters worse, the officers didn't like him either because he was always giving them a hard time. Every time he would go out and get drunk, he'd stagger down the forward torpedo room hatch and stop by the wardroom. He'd say "you assholes" and then he'd bounce off the bulkheads back and forth to get to his bunk.

He was a Third Class Sonarman, but anyway, he happened to be in charge of the small arms locker. So one night he was coming back to the boat and he came down the torpedo room hatch, fell about halfway through the hatch, cursing every breath and carrying on. Finally gets to the passageway, bouncing off the passage way back and forth all drunked up. He looks up and three officers are sitting in the wardroom. They say "Aw hell. Here he is again". He says, "screw you guys I think I'll get even with you".

So down he goes to the gun locker and pulls out a hand grenade. Screws the top off it and dumps all the gun powder out of it and puts it back together. He walks up to the wardroom door and now these damn guys, their lights grow like possums. Here he has this hand grenade in his hand and he's all drunked up and they know he's crazy. He reaches up with his finger and catches the pin and say's, "you know what? I told you I was going to get all you bastards". With that he pulls the pin out and throws the grenade on the table. All you can see are elbows and assholes scrambling to get out the door. Of course the grenade only went "pop". That's all a grenade will do with no powder.

It wasn't too long after that you here this rattling coming down the passageway. Here's this third class in chains. I guess you know what happened in the rest of the story. He had to go to Captains mast. He got lucky. The captain said, "you know what? I understand you got an argument back and forth with these couple officers. I understand you got a problem, but that was the wrong thing to do. You shouldn't have done that and you know better than that but I've got to punish you. I'm going to bust you down, take a rate away from you, and restrict you for thirty day's."

So what did he say? "That's OK Captain. you can have my stripe but that thirty days ain't going to fly because we're getting underway tomorrow for six months".

I want you to know I served aboard two boats with that guy. And his name is Ted Anthony