

We were submerged in the Mediterranean and there were close in contacts. Sanitary tank #2, the solids tank, was full. The head had been secured for over four hours. You go to flush the commode and you could look in and see the contents of the tank. Nothing would go down, it was that full.

We're patrolling normally at trim angle of a half degree down bubble. So we finally got into a safe area and the contacts went away and we were going to blow sanitariums. The Auxileryman of the watch, Second Class, goes down. The heads are secured, they got the signs on "head secured - blowing sanitary". He goes over and pressurizes the tank. A First Class IC Electrician comes in. He just woke up and is half-asleep. He goes over to the head, he is going to take a leak. And there is a sign on the door - don't flush, don't open the ball valve, the tank is pressurized, blowing sanitariums. He goes into a tirade, "I've been on submarines for sixteen years, I know the whole routine I know better than open the BALL VALVE opening it all the way and takes off. Didn't even close it.

The Auxileryman is over at the blow station. So he has to come halfway across the compartment to go shut the valve. Meantime, he gets covered head to foot in all this debris. It's hanging off the wire runs and pipes. Now he got personal problems, he's blowing sanitariums. This first class comes back in to the compartment and gets in the shower. Shower drains are closed because they drain into the same tank. He takes a five minute shower, overflows the four inch coming between the head and the after battery compartment. By the time he comes out of the shower the water is 1 inch from overflowing into the battery compartment.

The Auxileryman finishes blowing sanitary and goes up to control. Everyone is laughing at him. Here he is, everything is hanging all over him. The Chief of the Boat was the Diving Officer. The Cob says, "what happened?" So he told him. He said there was water all over the head and the water was about to overflow into the battery compartment. COB got a relief and went down there, got on the phone and requested a one-degree up angle. Once they got that done they were able to drain the water out of it. He goes in and yanks this first class out by his beard and says, "you get back there and clean that, I want to be able to eat off the deck in that head when your done. You don't go anywhere, you don't stand any watches, you go in and scrub that head top to bottom."

Two weeks later, same Second Class Auxileryman is in there blowing sanitariums. The First class has got to go bad, he can't hold it any longer. He goes and pops the valve by himself - again.