

Everyone knows sailors have sea stories to tell. I would like to add to the story of the two drunk blue jackets left to stand watch over the Saki locker on the Jap Battleship INAGATO.

Before the hatch was welded shut, a lot of bottles of Saki had been liberated and hidden away. On the boat trips between the Nagato and the South Dakota, they found their way onto the South Dakota.

One way, I know of, was by a bucket let down to the boat by on a heaving line over the portside of Forecastle. The officer on the Quarter deck on the starboard side couldn't see this. Nor could anyone else unless they walked around forward of the 40mm battery gun tub on the port side of the bow.

After lights out, we would sit around inside a 40mm gun tub and pass the bottle from man to man. (Take a drink and pass it to the next man.)

We weren't always that quiet. But no one approached us. Nothing was ever said the next morning at Quarters, which was a bit odd.

The Forecastle was 1st and 2nd Division country. Sailors from other parts of the ship didn't make a habit of coming forward that much. Officers seldom ventured forward. And not in the dark.

Nothing ever came of our times. The war was over !

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1st Division 1942/1946

