

U.S.S. Calcaterra Third To Burst Heating Boiler

A third Operation "Deepfreeze" picket ship has had boiler trouble while on duty in Antarctic waters. The latest victim is the U.S.S. Calcaterra, which berthed at Dunedin yesterday with a burst heating boiler.

The damaged boiler was one of two which supplied heating throughout the ship.

Both the U.S.S. Hissem and the U.S.S. Mills suffered the same trouble during picket duty.

It appears to have been anticipated this time, as a spare boiler for the Calca-

terra was sent out from the United States ahead of the ship itself.

It is believed another boiler will be shipped to New Zealand in case the U.S.S. Thomas J. Gary, which is relieving the Calcaterra on picket duty, experiences the same problem.

The new boiler for the Calcaterra will be railed from Christchurch today and the replacement is expected to be finished by the end of the week.

"The other two ships experienced trouble through having too little water in the boilers so that the heating tubes burnt out," the Calcaterra's Press officer, Lieutenant B. P. Schultz, said.

"Our problem was in the furnace part of the boiler, which just collapsed, most likely through overheating."

QUICK ACTION

Quick action by a crew member saved men from being badly burned by steam and the ship's power supply from being cut off.

"When the boiler burst steam filled the engine room, and had it not been for Boiler Tender G. Connor, who quickly shut the boiler off, the steam would have scalded men working in the room, and the condensation would have flooded the switchboard and cut all the ship's power off," Lieutenant Schultz said.

He said the ship would then have been helpless, without lights, steering or fresh water.

"We would not even have been able to cook," he said, "and it would have taken at least three days for another ship to reach us."

With the boiler out of commission, the ship was operating on only one for almost three weeks. Fortunately there was no great inconvenience to the crew, although the ship was "a little cold at times."

Lt. Spath On Duty With Navy In New Zealand

Lt. (j.g.) John P. Spath, son of Mrs. Emile Spath of 211 North Fourth Street, Danville, arrived in Dunedin, New Zealand, on Sept. 20, aboard the USS Calcaterra after completing a 11,000-mile journey which began on Aug. 16 at Newport, R.I.

The Calcaterra will operate out of Dunedin on radar picket duty in support of "Deep-Freeze" operations.

Enroute to Dunedin, Lieutenant Spath and his shipmates stopped with the Calcaterra for visits to Rodman Naval Station, Panama Canal Zone, and Lima, Peru.

Lieutenant Spath was graduated from Danville High School before entering Union College at Barbourville and was an employee of The Advocate-Messenger in its Circulation Department while a student here.

American Ship Will Be Opened To Otago Public

If the weather is suitable, the U.S.S. Calcaterra will be open for public inspection on November 6 and 7.

The ship's executive officer, Lieutenant W. Horsley, said yesterday that the ship would not be open for general inspection before then.

Next Tuesday the mobile blood unit of the Otago Regional Blood Transfusion Service will visit the ship, and it is expected that about 150 men will give blood. Already 60 men have volunteered to give blood.

During the next few days, the Calcaterra will take on 85,000 gallons of fuel for her second picket duty. She will leave Dunedin on November 9 and is due to return on December 5.

Before returning to Dunedin she will pick up six tons of spare parts at Lyttelton.