



THE VOICE OF THE YARD

YARD'S TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD STAFF—Standing, left, Mrs. Agnes Threatt, Chief operator, and right, Gertrude Yopp, assistant chief operator. In order of the numbers on a telephone dial are 1—Lunnie Register; 2—Lucille Larkins; 3—Valeta Huntley; 4—Leona Eubanks; 5—Laura Shomaker; 6—Mae King; 7—Gay Walker; 8—Christine Grant; 9—Sarah Goodwin, and 10—Mildred Jarrett.

Telephone Staff Fills Vital Role In Shipbuilding

Twelve Expert Women Win 'Voice Of The Yard' Title

Stop and think a moment of what efficient telephone service means to smooth shipbuilding and you'll readily realize that the fine job being done by our switchboard staff is one of the most important in the yard.

Operating the largest and busiest PBX board in any industrial plant in eastern North Carolina, the twelve women handle approximately 20,000 calls daily. Whether they be cross-country or cross-yard connections, they are put through with a minimum of delay and bother. The result is that little time is lost on communications and the staff is making a real contribution to faster shipbuilding.

The growth of the switchboard parallels the growth of the yard.

Early in June, 1941, the first board was installed, a one-position type with Mrs. Agnes Threatt, today the Chief operator, the only operator. In September, the rapid enlargement of the company required more telephone facilities and another position was added. The two-position board proved inadequate

for the great flow of calls and on July 2, 1942, the communication system was improved greatly by the addition of a larger switchboard and ten new operators. The present board is capable of handling 350 connections, either yard, local or long distance calls, at one time, and the manner in which it is operated is a source of pride to all familiar with communications here.

When December 7, 1941, burst upon us it was realized that the switchboard, by which is meant the personnel operating the switchboard, would be the nerve center of any war alarm that was sent out. This fact was recognized when war-time plant protection arrangements were made. During the several surprise blackouts, one or two of which were genuine emergencies, our switchboard operators not only carried out the duties assigned them, but frequently those not required to report to the shipyard, came in "just in case" and either took positions on the board or stood by to serve.

The expert and efficient operators are Mrs. Threatt, Gertrude Yopp, assistant chief operator; Lunnie Register, Leona Eubanks, Valeta Huntley, Mae King, Laura Shomaker, Gay Walker, Sarah Goodwin, Christine Grant and Misses Lucille Larkins and Mildred Jarrett.

Working in eight-hour shifts and "on the job" every minute of the hour, each of these wo-

B. L. Britt Saves Fellow Employee In Fire Accident

Suffers Severe Burns In Ripping Clothes From C. E. Key

Quick action by B. L. Britt, 70653, of the Fitters, recently saved one of his fellow workers from serious injury or death.

Voluntarily and with little regard for his personal safety, he stopped C. E. Key, 72139, a burner whose clothes had become ignited, tore the flaming garments from him and assisted in removing him from an innerbottom. In doing so, Britt's hands, arms and other parts of his body were severely burned.

The incident occurred on October 8, at 10:25 a. m., in the innerbottom, port side, aft of bulkhead No. 14, hull 96.

Key had gone to the location to do some work for a fitter. During the operation, a shower of sparks caused his shirt, made of flannelette material, to catch on fire. The material was burning very rapidly and Key cut off his torch and tried to extinguish

men is as important on the production front as the telephone operator of an artillery unit on the fighting front. They have rightfully earned the title "The Voice of the Yard."

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

That one hears very little about the recent trip to New York made by Kenney Neill, Gaither Kennell, Dick Hitchens and W. C. Kelly? Could Teddy Bears or Gertrude have any bearing on their silence?

That you can always depend on the N. C. Shipbuilding Co. employees to do their part and more for any worthy drive? Whether its Bonds, Red Cross, Community Chest or what have you, our boys and girls are in there pitching.

The recent addition to the Welding office in the Foreman's building? Mr. R. B. Tibbs is the new Chief clerk and we

the fire himself. Meantime, he was moving from the access to the innerbottom. Britt was nearby and, seeing that Key was on fire, halted him, removed the burning clothes and helped get him out of the innerbottom despite the serious burns he had suffered in making the rescue.

According to Fred A. Kean, Jr., foreman of the Fitters, Britt is a very reliable and capable employee. This is the first time that he has been involved in an injury since he was first employed in the yard about a year and a half ago. He has been highly commended for his quick action in saving Key from serious injury or death.

understand he is doing a good job.

The fine spirit of cooperation that prevails over our entire yard? It's this work-together spirit and the know-how that has won us a front seat in the shipyard industry.

This issue's contribution by Marsha Dean? Marsha has had quite a bit of experience in the newspaper field. In 1932, she was Editor of "Hi-Life," Greensboro High School paper.

The triumphant look Bill

or the Anglesmiths is carrying around these days? Not only was it a nine-pound boy that came to his house on October 9 but also a matter of \$5 collected from Paul Harrison who was foolish enough to bet him it would be a girl. Never bet with a man who knows what he is talking about, Paul.

A certain departmental personnel supervisor speaking to girls in the Cafeteria at lunch time? This man really knows the ladies and is popular with them all.

Who likes to hum those "McDowell County Blues" in the Police department?

Difference between a lady welder on the job and when she is dressed up fit to kill?

Who hasn't been perturbed over the round-the-clock playing of "They Took the Stars Out of Heaven"?