John Dungan Jr. History

In 2014, the Oceanographer of the Navy had Senior Enlisted Leadership from the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC) gather and create a Senior Enlisted Annual Award ($\underline{NAVADMIN}\ 240/14$). It would recognize senior enlisted in the oceanography community afloat or ashore for their leadership, performance, special accomplishments, and expertise in forecasting and analysis in the applied sciences of meteorology and oceanography in support of fleet operations.

In early 2015 I was selected as the first recipient of the John R. Dungan Award (NAVADMIN 006/15). I felt a sense of duty to find out more about John and what he accomplished during his career. I started with reading the history the Naval Weather Service Association (NWSA) and a few other websites that mentioned him, and I came across a website that contradicted the history NWSA had detailed. In the NWSA History, it stated, "Chief Quartermaster John R. Dungan USN changed his rating to Chief Aerographer while at Pensacola, and thereby became our first." The website (Command History of the NASP METOC) included an excerpt of a logbook entry that stated "On 27 June 1924, the first entry mentioning the Aerographer rating was made in the log entry:... John Dungan, Rating changed from CSM to CAEROG."

I started wondering what in the world was going on? Why did we have different information on such a critical moment in our history? So, I went to Ancestory.com and Fold3.com to look up service connected content that could clear this question up. I first came across a Muster log that mentioned a John Dungan Jr. and not a John R. Dungan. Now I had two issues, first the rating conversion and then John's actual name. I recorded all the information from all the archived historical data and compiled the differences. The only information I could find that was not making sense was the information we were going by from the NWSA. The rating at conversion and the name were incorrect.

I downloaded as many documents that I could, and I matched every detail from Service number to SSN, and then I started looking at Census data and began to compile an exact description of John Dungan Jr's life and service. I had a pretty good idea that now I could prove that he was a Chief Signalman at the time of conversion and that his name was John Dungan Jr. and not John R. Dungan as previously believed.

The earlier account of who he was and what his rating was, came about a passed down version of those who knew him and not proven with official data. His shipmates used to call him J.R. and when it came time to document him in history it was assumed he was John R. and not Junior. The records for the Pensacola office were not submitted to the Navy History Center because Command History was not required by the History Center back in 1924.

I found a document that suggested John Dungan Jr. enlisted as a signalman and was absorbed into the QM rating which served as an umbrella rate to many subratings to include Pigeons mate "QM(P)", Signalman "QM(S)" and Aerographers "QM(A)"). The Quartermaster rating had gone through considerable changes between 1920-1924 and being that they were an umbrella to many ratings it is understandable that QM would have been accepted as Dungan's source rating at the time of conversion to CAEROG. In June 1921, Signalman became a rating out of the QM umbrella and so Dungan went from QMC to CSM before attending AG A school at Pensacola, FL.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 10 1924

From:

Bureau of Navigation

To:

Commanding Officer, US Naval Air Station,

Pensacola, Fla.

Subject:

Dungan, John, Jr., CSM., 1321914, USN., Talbot, Arthur F., S2c, 3106323, USN.,

re. change of rating

Reference:

Your letter May 13 1924

of Dungan, from Chief Signalman, to Chief Aerographer, permanent appointment, and retain at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

2. You are authorized to change the rating of Talhot, from Seaman, and class to aerographer, third class, and to transfer him to the USS Langley.

W.R.Shoemaker Chief of Bureau

12,0

By direction

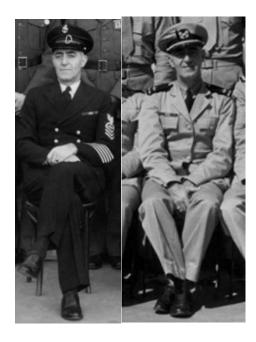
Then I stumbled on a January 1980 Aerograph and realized that on page 14 it stated, "On 27 June 1924, the first entry mentioning the Aerographer rating was made in the log: "John Dungan, Rating changed from CSM to CAEROG.". We had it right all along but somehow the information was not kept current and our history went from a well-documented one to a hear-say and the rest was history.

As a final attempt to ensure total accuracy, I ordered John Dungan Jr.'s service record and low and behold, there it was, a definitive account of what I had believed all along. A service record page that detailed all his rating changes and the ships/stations he was detailed to. Finally, John Dungan Jr., Chief Signalman was converted to become our very first Chief Aerographer and this was backed by his own service record.

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2	PENNSYLVANIA		MAR 24 1 15	Om.	10	3.9	3.7	4.0					38				
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4			JUN 30 192	COM	4D	3.9	3.2	40					3.9				
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6	THE WECEIVING STATION			2-6	1												
7	MANA THAT GOLD AND TANK		SEP 30 1921	· SA	10.	39	3.7	4.0					38				
8	THE WHITE STATION!		Dec 3/400	CSM	45	39	35	4					38				
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John was a superstar! He was the first Chief Aerographer, an enlisted pilot (Lighter than air program), in the group of first Warrant Officers, and retired after almost 40 years of service as a lieutenant Commander.



Written by AGCS Enrique Acosta Gonzalez, USN, Retired