

## BATTLE OF THE SEXES

07-22-2013 BY HARRY ZIRKELBACH

*In my Bomb and Mine Disposal training of WWII, instructors urged constant caution, reminding all, some situations were so dangerous that they could only be approached with trepidation and utmost cautious - your life was in peril.  
Still, action was outlined for those moments.*

*These organizations became two separate schools, Bomb Disposal, Mine Disposal . The differed only slightly. The Mine Disposal school included everything on the Bomb School training, plus elaborate training on Underwater Mines of all nations, and deep sea diving.*

*Recruiting was specific. Are you afraid to die? Are you inquisitive? Do you have questions?*

*Negative replies on the first question was a red flag. The men who became these sailors tended love and cherish life, to be unusually inquisitive, conversationalists, humorous  
and just plain nice guy, sometimes stogy.*

*There were no cases where anyone was allowed to walk away. from rending safe any peril involving explosives. Instead, tread with caution, seek advice, know the acceptable, keep a low profile, credit those helpful.*

*Now in my sixth year with the Writers Group, such a mine field has strewn thrown before the group.*

*Am I avoiding the topic? Somewhat. in the mid 1940s initial recruits tended to be older., mature, married. Their example helped bring me to this table today. Now older, mature, married, and certainly wise enough to avoid plunging headlong into the dangers  
that can lie in wading onto this challenging conversation without caution.*

*To begin, if this hour is a continuation of the multi-century “battle of the sexes”, I have no contribution Today there are six women in my immediate life and I am still learning to avoid heedless trespassing. And thankfully the males in our family are extended the same respect bordering on understanding.  
Flags of surrender are not needed.*

*So in conclusion,  
I hope your side wins.  
Let me know if chocolate helps.*

*I could tell you of some then in the Navy who fought this battle night and day,  
on land at every port they entered,  
but I suspect you should be bored with their exploits.*

*For final training, both schools were in Washington D.C. throughout WWII.  
Instruction was intense. Free time was limited to Saturday afternoon to Sunday  
night. For some those hours were more vigorous than the other 5 12 days of tedious  
training.*

*Because for those years, Washington D.C. had nine women for every male. Can you  
guess how much trouble it is to have (9) girl friend every weekend? Yes some  
succeeded. It was the uniform, partly. And the unbelievable intensity of those so  
dedicated.*