

The Richard Russell Conger, a Navy photographer who specialized in underwater and cold-weather photography died OCT 9, 2003 of complications from Colon Cancer at his home in Ijamsville, MD. He was 82.

Conger, who born in Detroit, enlisted in the Navy in 1938. He was one of five people chosen to learn cinematography from the staff who made the "March of Time" newsreels, an experiment to see if non-Navy training would be useful for the military. On his nights off, he worked at Life magazine to learn still photography.

Assigned to aerial mapping, he photographed many Pacific Islands and Japan during World War two.

In 1946, he went to the Antarctic, where he would travel three more times.

In 1947, Conger and a Commander found the Mount Erebus hut that was abandoned in 1910 by Polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. Congers photographs showed that the hut was just as it was when Shackletons team had left it.

A Glacier was named for Conger in 1948, according to the policy at the U.S. Board of Geographic Names of honoring those who have advanced hydrographic and geodetic work. The Glacier flows to Antarctica's Knox Coast, five miles east of Glenzer Glacier.

Conger also made amphibious-warfare training films. He developed underwater motion picture photography to make training films for demolition teams.

In 1949 and 1950, he was lent to the 20th Century Fox studio to shoot underwater sequences for the 1951 movie "The Frogmen" starring Richard Widmark.

He was sent to the Arctic in the early 1950's to shoot photos for maps. In 1963 he took the first combat photo team into Vietnam.

He retired in 1969 as a Lieutenant after 28 years of service.

Among his awards was the Air Medal.

His wife of 55 years, Eleanor M. Conger, died in 1998.