

# THE POINTER

## Officers for 1987-88

Charles A. Lloyd, Chairman & Secretary  
5712 Partridge Lane  
Raleigh, N.C. 27609  
1 (919) 876-5557

Madelyn Rigg, Co-Chairwoman  
1989 Reunion Hostess  
1623 S.W. 166th  
Seattle, Wa. 98166  
1 (206) 242-9293

Lonnie D. Lloyd, Treasurer  
4832 North Hills Drive  
Raleigh, N.C. 27612

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## ATTENTION

You know where you are.  
You know where we are.  
We know where we are.  
But we don't always know where you are.  
Please notify us when you move.

Non-Profit Organization  
Tax Exempt No. 74-2316668

# THE PLANE SHOOTER

Our Motto: "We aim To Deliver" and "We Did"

USN Armed Guard World War II Veterans

"PLAIN SHOOTING FOR PLANE SHOOTERS"



Hi Y'ALL!! (Southern for everybody):

August 5, 1988

Our many thanks to Richard and Peggy Langenderfer and all of the Ohio Crew for a wonderful 1988 Armed Guard National Reunion in Toledo, Ohio. It was great to see the crew together again and meet the many friends that have been made by everyone over the past seven years, for some, 46 years ago. For those who could not be with us for any reasons, our thoughts were with you and maybe next year will be so you can join in for another "GIT-TO-GETHER" in the "GREAT NORTH-WEST" in Seattle, Washington. It may be that you can join in one of the "MINI-STATE REUNIONS" that are being held in many cities throughout our great land.

It was brought up at the Reunion AGAIN to start charging dues and was AGAIN voted down overwhelmingly and I am thankful for I don't have time to issue a receipt and keep all the records that are involved. We have operated so far on "VOLUNTARY DONATIONS" and we have one of the most successful and dedicated Veteran's Group around and I don't see any use in taking on any more "PRESSURE" than I already have. We voted at our "FIRST" June, 1982 Winchester, Ky. Reunion that there would be "NO ASSESSMENT OF DUES" and it has worked fine so far. You know whether you can afford to send in a donation to buy the stamps, materials and pay the printer. Yes, these things costs money and you have come across in the nick of time with your donations to cover the costs. I can assure you that a check from you will be deposited in the Armed Guard Account # 301-183839 and accounted for. I would like to thank those of you that have supported the costs so far, so that all can be reached with a message that we are "SURVIVORS" and still "SURVIVING"!! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND I'LL TRY TO DO THE SAME!!!

GOOD NEWS!!! The "U.S.N. ARMED GUARD PLAQUE" that was dedicated at Little Creek, Virginia (NORFOLK) on October 15, 1986, to all the 144,970 Armed Guards who served in World War II, has finally been erected at the LST Museum site. The LST Museum has been official closed and will be moved off base, to be decided on later. Our Plaque will remain, alongside of the LST Memorial Monument, some guns and the flagpole with OLD GLORY flying high. I would like to thank Ralph Womeldorf of Virginia Beach, Va. for taking the Plaque to have the correction of the spelling of "PADUCAH" made and it refinished. And to Karen Parkinson, PAO at the Naval Amphib Base, Norfolk, Va., we say "THANKS" for her devoted time in having the labor furnished and photos of the finished product.

Work has begun on the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN and it is reported in the drydock at Norfolk, Virginia being readied for it's voyage home in Baltimore, Maryland. It is the HOME OF HER BIRTH AND "BERTH". The GRAND OLD LADY will be 46 years old September 7, 1988 and a "Re-Dedication Ceremony" is set for the 5th. Please call and let them know if you are attending. (SEE SHIP FORM) Through

(continued on page 2)

Officers - Gunners - Signalmen - Radiomen - Medics - Waves - Boatswains - Coxswains - Ship's Company - Radarmen





hard work and contributions of everyone, she will be saved from being a fishing reef. To Mike Gillen, S. S. John W. Brown, Project Coordinator and Brian Hope, Asst. to the Maryland Pilot's Association and on the Baltimore Project Committee, I express my deepest thanks for a job well done. They keep me updated on it's progress.

I would like to set the record straight on the misprinting of the "Project LIBERTY SHIP FLYER" that has been sent out to many of you stating: "MERCHANT MARINE MEMORIAL". This was brought to my attention by Madelyn Knapp and she had already called their office and Andrea Taylor, Ship's Agent immediately called me to assure me that it was a "LIBERTY SHIP MEMORIAL" only, and that the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN will honor the MEN and WOMEN of the American Industry who built the great fleet of over 2700 Liberty Ships and to the MERCHANT MARINE and NAVY ARMED GUARD who sailed and protected them across all the Oceans of the World, carrying troops, food and ammunition, not only ours, but those of our Allies. It was not anyone's intent to specify it as a Merchant Marine Memorial, and in behalf of the U.S.N. Armed Guard, I accepted their apology.

It is my hope that I can, along with more of the Armed Guard Crew, be aboard the S.S. John W. Brown with the Merchant Marines as she is towed home from the drydocks at Norfolk, Virginia, to Baltimore, Maryland. This will be "HISTORY" before you read this but you can rest assured that 144,940 Armed Guard will be on my mind. It is my hope that as many of you that can attend will be there on September 5, 1988 for the RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY and if not then, stop by to look her over and maybe just pitch in and help chip some paint. They need help.

Armed Guards, Alex Lombardi, Ted Heumann of NJ, Andy Knapp and Andrew Corn of Maryland have been active, along with their wives in attending meetings on the affair of the "BROWN PROJECT". It has been suggested that donations to PROJECT S.S. JOHN W. BROWN be made so our Armed Guard Crew will be recognized as a GROUP DONATION and be made through Andy and Madelyn Knapp, 8045 Windingwood Rd., Apt. 11, Glenburnie, Md. 21061, Tel. (301) 969-8409 and make donation checks out to the: "PROJECT S.S. JOHN W. BROWN" and FOR: (or MEMO) "USNAG DONATION". They will make a "LUMP SUM" check out every so often and keep records of the same. I DO NOT HAVE THE TIME!! Membership Application Form is entirely different in that you will donate directly to them and receive the "Project Newsletter" plus other bulletins all along. You also get a chance to subscribe to "SEA HISTORY" for an additional \$10. which is a bargain in itself. (See flyer)

VOLUME III — ARMED GUARD WW II HISTORY BOOK has been held up and put on wait and see. Susan McDonald, Sales Rep. for Taylor Publishing Company has been told to hold off until the company can recover most of their investment from Volume II. This is "YOUR BOOK", not mine. We have 1000 copies of "Volume One" printed with 703 taking part. About 50 are left as of today and they will be absorbed easily by new "Ol' Salts" and can be ordered from return address at \$48 each. Only 375 of you took part in the Volume II "PICTORIAL BOOK" at printing time but approx. 500 of the 1000 printed have been sold and Susan and I will sell them as time goes on. We will have to sell 250 of these to get an O.K. to start on Volume III. These books are \$29.95 each and send check or money order to "U.S.N. Armed Guard Book II, 109 Northwood Dr., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514". We will need "800 PREPAID ORDERS" to have a good Vol. III book. We have 5400 on the mailing list so, get the 350 words, a picture, (THEN AND NOW) ready and WAIT. We will start as soon as possible. All of the profits from the books goes into the Armed Guard Account for operating expenses only.

I would like to inform all of you that Robert Hensel of Forest Lake, Minn. has informed me that he is very much alive and doing well. He came to Toledo in person for proof and he looks great. He was aboard the S.S. Robin Wentley in 6/43-5/45 and would like to find some shipmates. His name appears in the Vol. II "PICTORIAL BOOK" and May 18, 1988, "THE POINTER". WE ARE BOTH HAPPY TO MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT!!! I hope we make this same mistake, 50 years from now!!!

In checking the records, many of you have not sent in your ship's names and approx. dates on and off. In locating a "NEW RECRUIT", PLEASE!! GET: HIS FULL NAME, WIFE, STREET # AND BOX #, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE, TELE. AREA CODE AND #, PLUS HIS SHIPS AND APPROX. DATES and send to the return address of Armed Guard on the outside of the "POINTER" so I can give him a computer number and put in all information possible the first time and send his shipmates—NOW!!!

Ralph W. Lucas, Jr., 1220 Hawthorne Rd., Hanahan, S.C. 29406, 803-747-2031 should have a 20 meg computer set up identical to this one by the time you receive this and a "STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE" for a printout of your shipmates can be obtained and sent you. We have approx. 3000 or more of you who have sent in your ship's list three years ago and has never been sent a printout. I feel bad that this is the case and I want to correct this flaw in the SYSTEM. Just jot down your ships and approx. dates again in case I failed to post them!!!

The June 21-25, 1989 Armed Guard National Reunion will be held at the: RED LION HOTEL — "SEA TAC INN", 18740 Pacific Highway So., Seattle, Washington 98188, Local Tel. 206-246-8600. Other 1-800-547-8010 for reservation and POSITIVELY SURE THAT YOU LET THEM KNOW IT'S THE: U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WW II VETERANS REUNION JUNE 21-25, 1989. be sure you get a confirmation prior to reunion unless it's too late for them to send. Madelyn Rigg and Crew wants you to have a great time with no problems. One of the "HORSE RACES AT THE TRACKS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT" will be named "U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WW II" in our honor. If the horses are named "BROOKLYN, TREASURE ISLAND AND NOLA, I'd bet on all three!! I hope to be there when they open the gates.



## MINI REUNIONS

**LST ASSOCIATION 3RD NATIONAL REUNION: AUGUST 30 TIL SEPTEMBER 5, 1988 AT THE HYATT REGENCY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. CONTACT: MIKE AND LINDA GUNJAK, P.O. BOX 8769, TOLEDO, OHIO 43623, 1-800-228-5870. (DUES \$15. YEARLY)**

**DESTROYER ESCORT ASSOCIATION 13TH NATIONAL REUNION: SEPTEMBER 2-6, 1988 AT THE SHERATON HOTEL, ST. LOUIS, MO. CONTACT: DON GLASER, DESA CHAIRMAN, P.O. BOX 31572, ORLANDO, FLA. 32862, TELEPHONE 1 (305) 290-5594. DON HAD A WRITE UP IN THE NOV.-DEC. EDITION OF DESA NEWS TO LOCATE ARMED GUARDS. WE'RE STILL GETTING NEW OL 'SALTS FROM IT!! THANKS! DON. WE'RE "WORKING TOGETHER, TO BE TOGETHER".**

**Tennessee State: Walt & Jewell Meyer, 926 Curdwood Blvd., Nashville, Tn. 37216, 1-615-228-5693, October 28-30, 1988 at the Airport Quality Inn, Nashville, Tn., 1-800-228-5151. Walt says for y'all to come for a great time, you hear!!**

**Florida State: Leo and Mary Gullage, Hosts, 5709 Crafston Drive, Florida 33809, (858-1126, December 3, 1988 at the Howard Johnson, Lake Buena Vista, Disney World on Disney World properties. See enclosed form. It may sound high but it is convenient, no parking fees, etc. and a reasonable vacation for Disney World.**

**South Carolina State: William and Joan Warlick, 260 Quail Walk Trail, Chapin, S.C. 29036, (803) 345-3531 as hosts on October 29, 1988. Site to be selected soon. Charleston, S.C. or Columbia area.**

**Kansas State: Don and Henrietta Gleason, 227 North Knox, Topeka, Kansas 66606, 919-234-6087 and Carl Ossman, 921 S. Topeka, Topeka, Ks. 6612, (913) 233-6406 are the Host and Hostesses for an "OL 'SALT-Git-To-Gether" at the American Legion Post on Sept. 10, 1988.**

**Oklahoma State: Alvin Lee, Rt. 4, Box 356-A, Claremore, Ok. 74017, 918-341-8704 and his brother Joe M. Lee, 105 N.E. Anderson Way, Claremore, Ok. 74017 will be the hosts for their comrades at the V.F.W. Post at 9 A.M. on Sept. 10, 1988. Alvin and Joe are Armed Guard brothers.**

**Illinois State: Robert Grossman, Illinois Yeoman, 10333 South Campbell Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60655, 1-312-779-1102 informs me that they and the Wisconsin Crew will be joining together for a "BIG BULLSESSION" at East Townes Suites, 4801 Ann Mark Dr., Madison, Wisc. 53714, 1-608-244-2020 on Sept. 23-25, 1988 and the hosts and hostesses will be Ken and Jackie Niebuhr, 820 Brandie Rd., Madison, Wisc. 53714, 608-241-2250 and Nick and Gloria Kuzulka, 551 E. Franklin Street, Waupun, Wisc. 53963, 414-324-3367. Contact them for details.**

**Oregon-Wash. State: Billie and Dick Kohse, 2304 Lister Rd. NE, Olympia, Wa. 98506, (206) 456-1946 will be the hosts at the DAYS INN MOTEL, Clackamas, Oregon on Sept. 25-27, 1988. They will put you "PICKING APPLES!! (No Grits!!)**

**Indiana, Mich. and Ohio: Pete and Mary Dela Cruz, 5503 McFarland Rd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46227, 317-783-6567 along with Helen and Ralph Jacobs, 1400 Holloway Dr., Lafayette, Ind. 47905, (317) 474-5981 as hosts at the Ramada Inn, 501 West Washington St., Indianapolis, In. 46204 (Hiway 40), Reservations 317-635-4443, or 1-800-272-6232. The date for this occasion is Sept. 23-25, 1988. \$50 sgl., \$50 dbl.**

**Sampson Boot Camp: Contact Wm. R. Russell, 3916 Idumea Rd., Corryton, Tn. 37721, 1-615-933-0031, Sept. 9-10, 1988, Geneva, N.Y.**

**California State: Carl and Thelma Winder, 1734 Pilgrim Ave., Mountain View, Ca. 94040, (415) 967-6493, Cathedral Hills Hotel, Van Ness and Geary, San Francisco, Ca. 94109, (415) 776-8200. Rates \$65 per day, \$25 Banquet Friday night. Sail the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien on the 15th, \$65 per person. Not many people get to sail out of San Francisco anymore. It was a wonderful feeling to step back into history as you look through the sights of the 5"38 and into the harness of the 20mm as you sail under the Golden Gate Bridge. It is the desire of our crew to cruise under the Brooklyn Bridge one day on the S.S. John W. Brown and tie up near the Armed Guard Center at 1st Ave. and 52nd St., Brooklyn, N.Y., to refresh a few memories of our first look at tall buildings and the Statute of Liberty. And if some can't make it, maybe I'll be around to send you the "POINTER" and let you know that our thoughts were with you and you can read of it.**

**New Jersey State and the Northeastern States: Alex and Edith Lombardi, Hosts, 14 Brookfield Rd., Montclair, N.J. 07043, (201) 746-6361, Oct. 28-30, 1988 at the Holiday Inn, 550 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Rt. 10, Livingston, N.J. 07039, 1-800-465-4329. A group bus tour to the Statute of Liberty is planned. (SEE FORM IN "POINTER"). Ted and Pat Heumann will co-host the event.**

**Thunder Bay Naval Association 35th Annual R.C.N.A. (D.E.M.S.) Reunion, P.O. Box 265, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7C 4V8, (807) 623-5022. It was great to see our D.E.M.S. friend Tom Anderson again at Toledo. He has attended since 1984. How many of the Armed Guard have that record beaten. Tom, we love Y'ALL!!!!**

**I highly encourage those of you that can attend these mini-reunions to do so for some of you cannot travel due to health and other reasons. To some of us, the prices may seem high but the hosts has to get a place to handle the people and the occasion. I do hope you understand. Many of you have asked to put your Fleet Ships reunions in the "Pointer". I do not have the space.**



Check with your local American Legion, DAV, AMVETS, VFW and other veteran's papers. Encourage other service personnel to do the same. I do not have the space.

Project Liberty Ship John W. Brown RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY, Sept. 5, 1988 at 10:30 AM (LABOR DAY). It will be held at the Maryland Port Administration Passenger Facility, Dundalk Marine Terminal, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact: Baltimore Project Committee, c/o MARSERV, Inc., 744 Dulaney Valley Court, Suite 14, Towson, Md. 21204, 1-301-583-9137. Captain Herb Groh, Ship's Pilot, 1907 Clifden Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21228, 301-747-2201 will be instrumental in work crews and invites any Armed Guard to be a part of this great and important job that has to be done by someone.

Mike Molinari, Al Lowe of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Lou Ritter has been looking into erecting a Plaque at the Sanitation Building near the Armed Guard Center at 1st Ave. and 52nd St., Brooklyn. Mike reports that Dominick Floria who works for the Sanitation Department and a Vietnam Veteran, had the foresight to save the original Armed Guard flagpole when they tore down the building. Dominick wants to dedicate it to all the veterans of all wars and a ceremony was held on July 29, 1988 at 11 A.M. on the site. I wish to thank Floria in behalf of all the Armed Guard for his duty to mankind. You may want to visit this sight someday.

Pennsylvania State: Jack and Sally Cross, 119 Lycoming Dr., Corapolis, Pa. 15108 is trying to get that area crew together.

I have been notified that H. C. Oehme, New Orleans, R. S. Davis, Keys, Ok. and Robert Harrison, Concord, Ma. (all Armed Guards) were the winners of the drawing held at the Toledo Reunion. I regret that I did not give credit to Art Moore's Book, "A CARELESS WORD" in the May "POINTER" on the S.S. Exmouth, S.S. Hasting and S.S. Jonathan Sturges. Warray Burtchell of Temple, Tx. sent in picture of 5"38 and with him behind the 20mm at Nimitz Museum. Nick Tito sent in the Graf Spee pictures and a Treasure Island Book is where I lifted the sailors as they were around their seabags waiting to ship out. And the Sonoma Mission Inn "Armed Guard Rest Camp" was sent home to Mrs. Clarence Smith in Birmingham, Al. I have 50 Smiths listed but failed to tag picture as to which one and all I go on the outside of envelope. Y'ALL LET ME KNOW!!!!

It was brought before the crew at the reunion, of the \$50,000 "BRONZE BAS" at the "LONE SAILOR MEMORIAL" in Washington, D.C., and it was voted on, that the Armed Guard "GO IT ALONE" in our quest to place Memorial to our crew there. I have my doubts as to whether it can be done but I think at this time, it would be to all involved, to stick to "PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP" and pool all our extra resources in helping to save the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN. We still have our other expenses. Approximately 90 of you out of the some 5400 has donated, since the May 18, 1988 "POINTER" was sent out, in order for you to receive this one. We made it this time and we'll do it again and again. Thanks to all who donated for this and over the years.

I urge you to write your "MEMORIES" of the Armed Guard Service and write all you will for "HISTORY". You are the ones who know the facts!! You were there. I have been contacted by a: Mark Scott, Writer/Public Relations Consultant, Post Office Box 7614, Ventura, Ca. 93006, (805) 644-5607 who is interested in obtaining stories from you who made the Murmansk, Russia run for a book. His topics he would like stories on: poor weather conditions, torpedo and aerial attacks while in convoy and at the cities. He would like personal taped interviews of you so have some facts for him if you desire. I would suggest that you not give exclusive rights to your story but to retain rights to tell who you please of your service time. He has sent me two copyrighted stories that were recorded taped. They are very good. Some words, I would put a censorship on!!

Make copies of these forms if you like if you want to save the "POINTER" for future use or "KEEPSAKE". Also, call your local newspaper to place a reunion notice in their paper. Most have a special column for this. We will continue to hold our Monthly Armed Guard meeting here at the BAR-B-QUE LODGE on #1 North so if you're passing through, come by for a visit. To the local Armed Guard Crew, let's make them welcomed by attending.

Until we meet at a Mini-Reunion or down the LINE, you stay healthy and hope Y'ALL are FINE! Watch T.V. NEWS on Sept. 5, 1988.

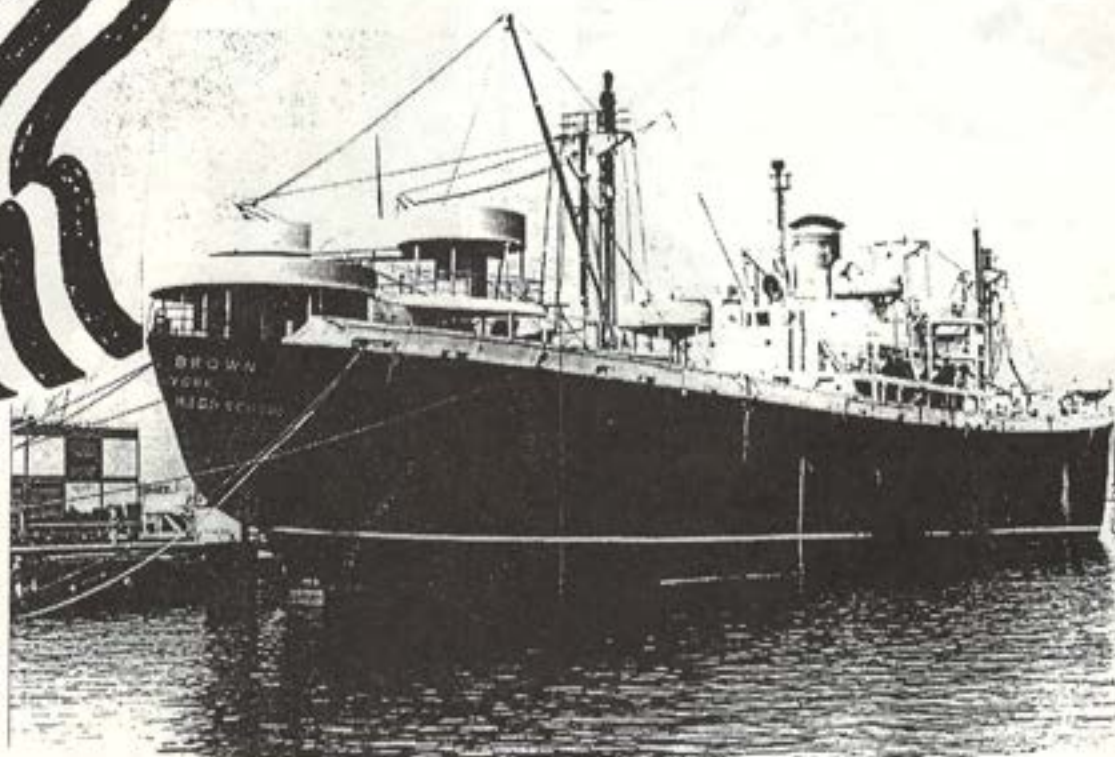
Charles A. Lloyd, Chairman  
U.S.N. Armed Guard WW II Veterans  
5712 Partridge Lane  
Raleigh, N.C. 27609 (U.S.A.)

Tel. 1-919-876-5537





# ***LIBERTY SHIP!***



## **SIGN ON NOW!**

**PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP**, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to preserving the **S.S. JOHN W. BROWN**, last surviving east coast Liberty Ship, as a living, steaming, ~~no~~censored ~~fine~~ memorial in Baltimore.

**JOHN W. BROWN** will honor the men and women of American industry who built the great fleet of over 2700 Liberty Ships and the merchant mariners and naval armed guards who sailed them across all the oceans of the world.

### **WE NEED YOU!!**

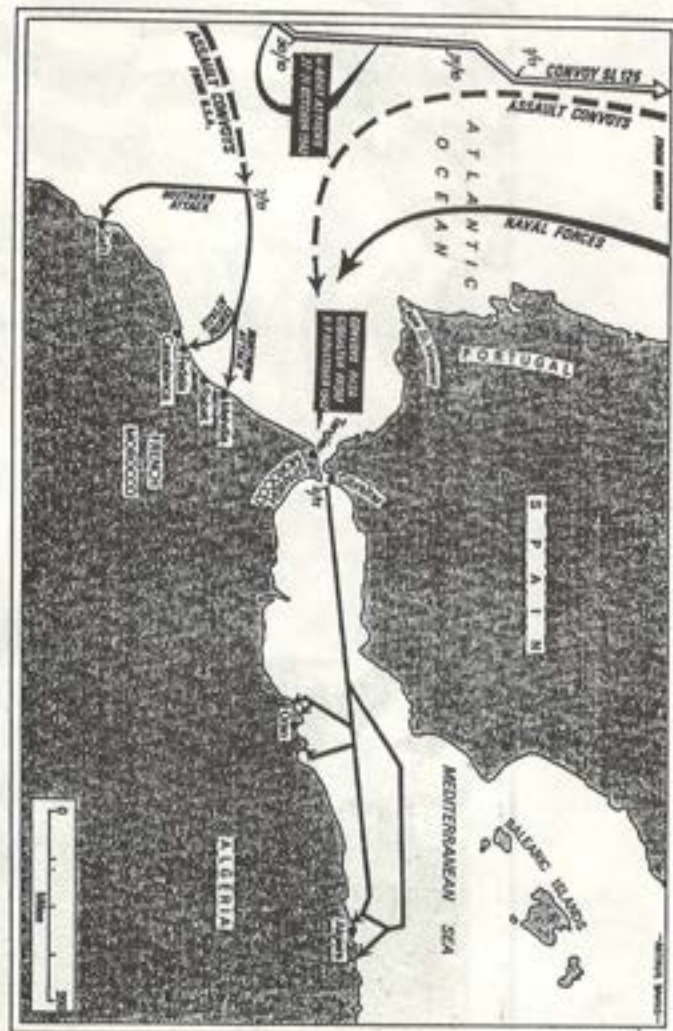
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP C/O MARVSERV, INC.**  
744 DULANEY VALLEY COURT, SUITE 14  
TOWSON, MD 21204 (301) 583-9137

PLANS ARE TO HAVE THE S.S. JOHN W. BROWN IN DOCK AT BALTIMORE, MD., SEPTEMBER 5, 1988. YOUR DONATION WILL HELP. YOU MAY WANT TO BE THERE FOR THE OCCASION. CALL: 301-583-9137 NOW.





Merchant ship losses before closing of the 'Black Gap', 1 August 1942 - 31 May 1943



Operation Torch, November 1942



William F. Snee, 51 Center St., Forty Fort, Pa. 18704 picture tells the story HE OR SNEE on the 20mm in a convoy in the Med. Sea, 1944.



### To All the Crew:

The reunion of 1988 has come and gone. Let's all give Dick and Peggy Langenderfer a big "THANK YOU" for the wonderful job they did on the 7th Armed Guard National Reunion. As time goes by, we will relive our memories of Toledo and all our good friends and shipmates we met and said farewell to until we meet at the '89 reunion in Seattle at the Red Lion Inn, SeaTac, June 21st thru 25th, 1989. Now we of the great "NORTHWEST", Washington State, will try our hand at making it just as enjoyable to you. We are about to embark on our greatest adventure in Armed Guard history. We are hosting the 8th Armed Guard National Reunion in the State of Washington, a seaport many of you shipped out or came into. Remember the great times in the Northwest? Come back — we have complete control — no more SHORE PATROL!

The reunion will be held at the Red Lion Inn, SeaTac, 18740 Pacific Highway South, on June 21st thru 25th, 1989. Toll free number is 1-800-547-8010, direct line 1-206-246-8600. BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD AND ASK FOR A CONFIRMATION. The Red Lion has 500 rooms reserved for us, Oh! yes!! guess what? All the rooms have balconies. The rate is \$60.00 a night. Also bring along your AARP card for 10% discount in the COFFEE SHOP.

Upon arriving at SeaTac Airport, and after you have claimed your luggage, the Red Lion Inn will pick you up, if you will go in the vicinity of the car rentals and use Telephone #1.

If you are driving, there will be no charge for parking at the Red Lion parking lot. Recreational vehicles can use the Red Lion's parking facilities but NOT FOR LIVING PURPOSES. Campers and motor homes can go to the KOA campground (5801 S. 212th, Kent, WA 98032 —telephone 206-872-8652) which is about 4 miles away. We would suggest you contact them as soon as possible because they fill up real fast.

Seattle is waiting for ya'll (as C.A. would say) so read the brief description of events below and be the first to register.

#### AN EVENING AT THE RACETRACK —

- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation from your hotel
- Club House admission
- Reserved group seating in the Paddock Club
- A complete Prime Rib buffet dinner
- A race named in honor of your group
- Program recognition
- First-timer's kit

Paddock Club will only hold a maximum of 450. So those of you who are interested send your money in first.

#### VICTORIA, B.C. CRUISE —

Sail away for the day to charming Victoria, B.C. An enormous buffet breakfast is included. Spend the afternoon visiting the many tourist attractions. The return trip to Seattle will have a delicious buffet dinner.

#### DELUXE EMERALD CITY TOUR —

This tour of Seattle includes going to Historical Pioneer Square, the Pike Place Market, University of Washington campus and the Arboretum. We will stop at the locks which separate saltwater from freshwater.

#### TILlicum VILLAGE — SALMON DINNER —

After a short cruise you arrive at Tillicum Village on Blake Island where you will be greeted with steamed clams and nector. Then go through the all-you-can-eat buffet line of alder smoked salmon and Indian bread. Native Northwest Indian dancers will acquaint you with their ancient culture as they interpret traditional folklore through a series of costume dances.

Above are the highlights of our '89 reunion. We have tried to get events that you would enjoy while still being able to do a lot of story swapping. If there are any questions you can contact Madelen Rigg, your host, on the Armed Guard telephone 1-206-242-9293. She will be the only one to answer that telephone.

God Bless and keep all of you till we meet again in June '89.

Madelen Rigg  
1623 S.W. 166th  
Seattle, WA 98166  
1-206-242-9293

TEAR OFF HERE AND MAIL RIGHT AWAY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday, June 21, 1989. Longacre Race Track. \$29.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, June 22, 1989. Victoria, B.C. Crusise. \$60.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, June 23, 1989. A.M. Emerald City Tour. \$14.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, June 23, 1989. P.M. Indian Salmon Dinner. \$32.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, June 24, 1989. Banquet (Chicken, Seattle) \$25.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, June 25, 1989. Brunch. \$13.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your cancelled check will be your receipt. Bring it with you to uphold the fact that you have already paid. Dismissal will be right after the brunch on Sunday morning and BON VOYAGE until CHICAGO 1990!

Tear off and mail to : Madelen R. Rigg, 1623 S.W. 166th, Seattle, WA 98166, Telephone 1-206-242-9293



RESERVATION BLANK  
INDIANAPOLIS REUNION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The Indiana Mini Tri-State will be held September 23, 24, 25, 1988. The location has been changed to the RAMADA INN (Downtown), 501 West Washington St., (West and Washington Streets), Indianapolis, IN. Telephone 1-800-666-5397 or 1-317-635-4443. Room Rates \$50 Single, \$55 Double. The cut-off reservation date is September 10, 1988. When making reservations, please mention "NAVY ARMED GUARD" to receive the reduced rates. Washington Street is US 40. NOTE: Reservations are your responsibility.

Saturday, September 24, 1988. Banquet (Prime Rib) \$20.00 per person\* \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, September 24, 1988. Breakfast. \$7.50 per person\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Cost includes Tax & Gratuities

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your cancelled check will be your receipt. (This method saves on postage). Make checks payable to: WWII, USN ARMED GUARD VETERANS. On reverse side, pay to the order of account \$29-56778. Tear off and mail to Pete De La Cruz, 5503 McFarland Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46227, 317-283-6567.

**U.S. Navy Armed Guard**  
**Veterans of World War II**  
1734 Pilgrim Avenue  
Mt. View, CA. 94040

\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

SPECIAL SAILING

of

S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN

Saturday

October 15, 1988

NAVY DAY

PARADE of NAVY SHIPS

Fleet Week

Continental Breakfast

Buffet Lunch

Liquid Libations

This sailing is sponsored by the  
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For cost and more information contact

CARL J. WINDER

1734 PILGRIM AVE.

MT. VIEW, CA 94040

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Come sail, talk, and fraternize with the  
ones that manned the guns, sent S.O.S. and  
flew "Baker" from the Halyards.



FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO WRITE FOR YOUR RECORDS AND MEDALS GIVE FULL NAME, ADDRESS, ZIP, TELEPHONE AND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER..... THIS SERVICE IS FREE.

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NOMINAL FEE WRITE TO:  
THE MARINERS MUSEUM  
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA 23606



# PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP

P. O. Box 3356, Rockefeller Center Station, New York, New York 10185

DEAR ARMED GUARD VETERAN:

TELLING THE STORY OF THE ARMED GUARD AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP'S OVERALL PLAN FOR THE LIBERTY SHIP JOHN W. BROWN. THESE PLANS CALL FOR THE RESTORATION OF ARMED GUARD QUARTERS AND GUN TUBS ABOARD SHIP, AS WELL AS THE INCORPORATION OF ARMED GUARD STORY IN FORMAL EXHIBITS.

WILL YOU HELP US MAKE OUR DREAM FOR THE JOHN W. BROWN REALITY ?  
WE ANTICIPATE MOVING THE JOHN W. BROWN FROM THE JAMES RIVER RESERVE TO DRYDOCK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AFTER THAT, SHE WILL BE TOWED TO BALTIMORE, MD.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THIS GOING TO BE AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION, SO WE ARE SOUNDING "GENERAL QUARTERS!" TO SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS TO HELP SUPPORT THE PROJECT.

AS A MEMBER YOU WILL RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER LIBERTY LOG, PERIODICAL NEWS BULLETINS AND PRESS RELEASES, AS WELL THE MAGAZINE SEA HISTORY.

SO PLEASE SIGN ON NOW DURING THIS PIVOTAL TIME FOR THE PROJECT!  
WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO WALKING THE DECKS OF THE JOHN W. BROWN WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE.

PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP

DEAR SHIPMATE:

OUR ARMED GUARD COMMITTEE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT AND HAVE BEEN TO MEETINGS WITH THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP. WE FEEL THAT THIS PROJECT WILL BE A GREAT MEMORIAL TO THE ARMED GUARD AND MERCHANT SEAMEN.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THE RESTORATION OF THE ARMED GUARD QUARTERS AND GUN TUBS PLEASE CONTACT-----

ALEX LOMBARDI  
14 BROOKFIELD ROAD .....OR.....  
UP. MONTCLAIR, N.J. 07043  
201-746-6361

CAPTAIN HERB GROH  
1907 CLIFDEN RD.  
BALTIMORE, MD. 21228  
301-747-2201

LET'S ALL TRY TO MAKE THE JOHN W. BROWN INTO A MEMORIAL THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL APPRECIATE.

WE CAN ENJOY WORKING ON THE SHIP AND EACH OTHERS COMPANY WHILE DOING IT.  
IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR ITEMS FOR THE SHIP THEY WILL BE APPRECIATED.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL OR WRITE.





Photos courtesy: Karen Parkinson, PAO, USN-Little Creek, (Norfolk), Virginia. USN Photo Project Coordinator—Ralph Wolmeldorf, Virginia Beach, Va.



Photos courtesy: Ralph Wolmeldorf, 1400 Garwood Ave., Virginia Beach, Va. 23455.



William Ball, 193 Willow Ave., Cornwall, N.Y. 12518 jokingly expresses his view, on the Armed Guard Site for the Plaque that was dedicated Oct. 15, 1986, just two years later. At least we can compare the size by he and the finished product and photos.



DEDICATED  
TO  
U.S.N. ARMED GUARD OF WORLD WAR II

THE ARMED GUARD OF WW II CAME INTO EXISTENCE ON APRIL 15, 1941 AS USN NAVAL RESERVES BEGAN SPECIAL GUNNERY TRAINING. ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1941, ORDERS WERE GIVEN TO TRAIN 200 OFFICERS AND 1000 MEN BY JANUARY 16, 1942. THE BASE WAS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED ON OCTOBER 15, 1941. THE FIRST CLASS OF 23 OFFICERS AND 184 MEN BEGAN TRAINING 300 YARDS EAST OF THIS POINT, KNOWN AS NAVAL SECTION BASE, WITH A STAFF OF FOUR GUNNER'S MATES. U.S.S. PADUCAH, U.S.S. DUBUQUE, AND THE U.S.S. EAGLE 19 WERE THE GUNSHIPS USED FOR TRAINING.

ARMED GUARD CREWS CONSISTED OF OFFICERS, GUNNERS, SIGNALMEN, RADIOMEN, MEDICS, WAVES AND SHIP'S COMPANY, WITH A TOTAL OF 144,970 PERSONNEL SERVING ON 6236 SHIPS. OF THESE SHIPS, 710 WERE SUNK AND MANY DAMAGED, WITH 1810 KILLED IN ACTION AND UNKNOWN INJURIES. ARMED GUARD P.O.W. TOTAL WAS 27 WITH 14 SURVIVORS. 86,198 ARMED GUARDS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE FLEET AS NEEDED ON LST, LCI, PT BOATS, SUBS AND LARGER SHIPS.

TO THE 1810 ARMED GUARDS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES, TO THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, THE ARMY AND MERCHANT CREW THAT ASSISTED US SO WELL, THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED BY THEIR SURVIVING SHIPMATES.

OUR MOTTO "WE AIM - TO DELIVER" AND WE DID!





July 17, 1988

More than 50 U.S.N. Armed Guard WW II Veterans held a ceremony at the Naval Weapons Station to honor the men who lost their lives during the Pier I explosion. On July 17, 1944, the S.S. Quinalt Victory and the S.S. E.A. Bryan were being loaded with ammunition for Guam for the war effort. at 10:20 P.M., PCT, an explosion took place which completely destroyed the two ships, the pier and claimed the lives of 320 individuals.

Carl Winder, West Coast Chairman of the Armed Guard Veterans crew, together with Weapons Station Commanding Officer, Captain L.F. Cagle and Public Affairs Officer Dan Tikalsky escorted the to the site of the disaster site for the ceremony. The Naval Weapons Station and the Navy Armed Guard have joined together to build a memorial on the site.

After the ceremony, the group was served brunch at the Officer's Club where they also viewed a documentary video and display of pictures of the explosion. Also attending was Ulysses Hamiel of Pittsburg, Penn. who was a SI/C, assigned to Ordnance Outloading Division at the time but was in the station theatre when the disaster took place.

\*\*\*                      \*\*\*                      \*\*\*                      \*\*\*                      \*\*\*  
(Below is taken from George Diller's letter as was written in Vol. I History book. George was one of the 11 Armed Guard who were on "LIBERTY" from the two ships at the time of the explosion.)

\*\*\*\*\*

There were two large explosions, close together, knocking us flat to the floor. Every Window was blown away and as we were getting back up, our thoughts were that it was our ship, the S.S.E.A Bryan that had blown up. After a period of time which seemed like forever, we finally made our way to the main gate. The roads were by then closed to everyone except emergency vehicles for danger of other explosions.

In the town of Port Chicago, there were all types of damages. A theatre wall was knocked down. Out in the bay, a tanker was sailing past, about a 1000 yards away and a 16" shell was slammed through her side, into the engine room but did not explode. Over 3.5 million pounds of high explosives had taken 350 lives and 490 were injured. Only 80 bodies were found and of these, only 30 were indentified. Thirty one Merchant Seaman, and thirteen Armed Guard Crewmen lost their lost their lives. Eleven Armed Guard on leave survived.

\*\*\*\*\*

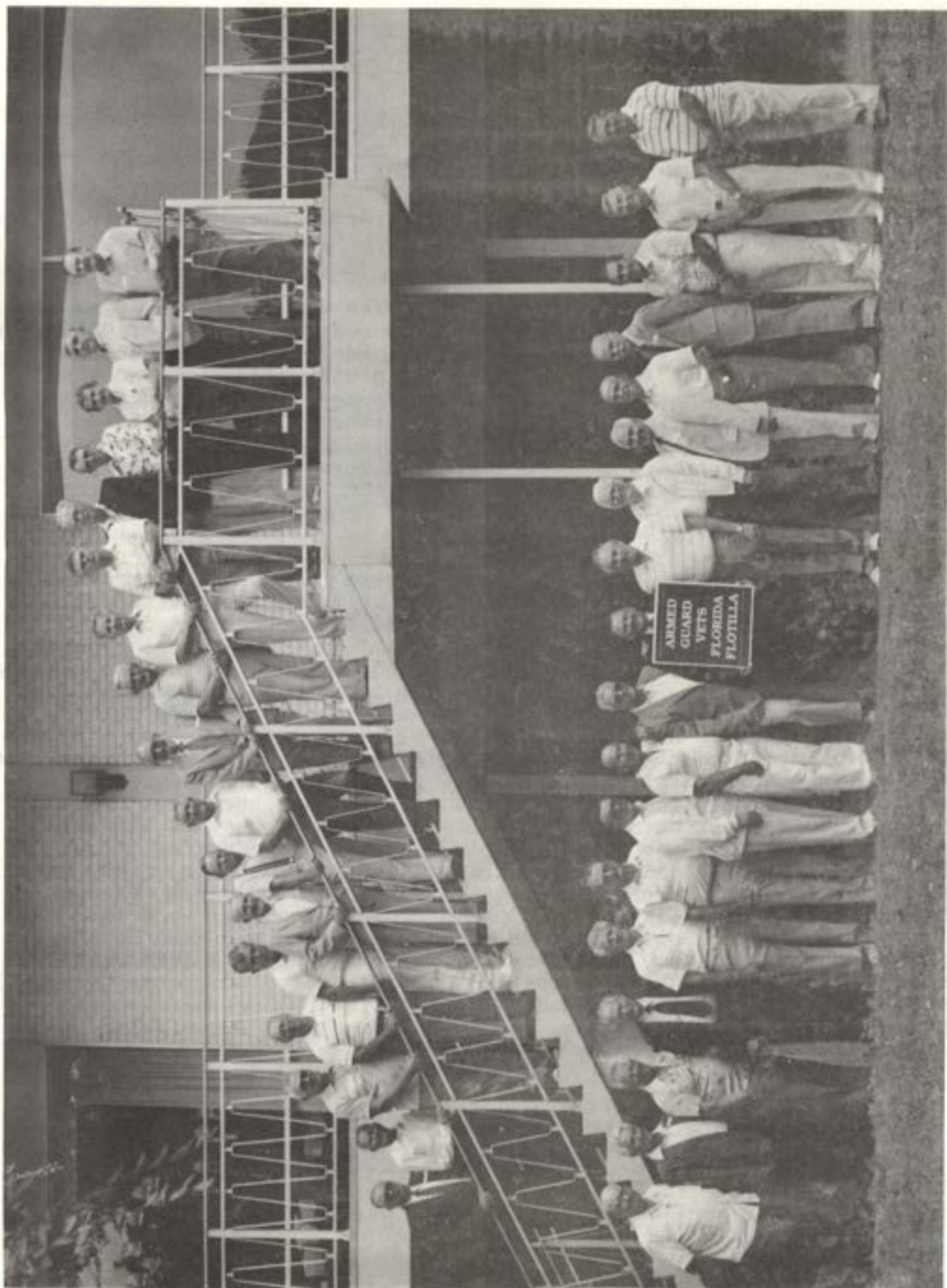


Ulysses Hamiel, Pittsburg, Penn. (far right) was a Seaman First Class assigned to Ordnance Outloading Division at the time. He was in the station theatre when the disaster took place.

Capt. Cagle emphasized the importance of the explosion not only because of its tragic consequences but also as a reminder of the importance of safety in handling explosives.







Leo Gullage, Chairman of the Fla. Flotilla, (your right of Plaque) and the Florida Crew poses for their picture and they welcome you to their December 3rd "GIT-TO-GETHER" at Disneyworld. (See enclosed Florida Reunion form)



From: Hilmer C. Schmidt, GMlc, Armed Guard Commander  
SS MARY A. LIVERMORE

To: Commanding Officer, Armed Guard Center (Pacific)

Subject: Enemy action

1. At 0742 27 May 1945 at Okinawa, a Japanese plane assumed to be a Val, approached one point off our starboard quarter a range of 800 yards, 30 degree elevation. Our stern 20 MM's opened fire scoring repeated hits. The plane swung to left running along starboard side and when approximately abeam our #5 20MM gun could be seen hitting target with rounds exploding into fuselage. The plane immediately burst into flames, veered to left and crashed into bay about 25 yards from Naval Craft #74. The estimated distance from our vessel being about 1,000 yards forward of our starboard bow. The plane was unquestionably brought down by this ship. We expended 180 rounds of 20 MM ammunition, and no casualties resulted.

2. At 0525 28 May 1945 at Okinawa, a Japanese suicide plane crashed into our ship on the starboard side of the bridge causing a terrific explosion and fire. No sooner had we placed the wounded (4 dead, 3 wounded including the Gunnery Officer) aboard an LCI when the general alarm was sounded again. The gun crew immediately took stations sending the four inch crew to fill in the stations left by the casualties. At 0710, another plane appeared over the ridge, at about 200 degrees, elevation 15 degrees headed off our stern. Numbers 4,6,8, and 9 20MM's and 3"50 opened fire at once setting up a barrage. Some 20 minutes later, another plane, presumably a Tony, came over the ridge off our port bow, but turned into the clouds after encountering heavy barrage. Presently at about 270 degrees he returned making a direct attempt at our ship. Seeing tracers from guns 2,4,6,8, and 9 entering the fuselage, the 3"50 definitely obtained a direct hit, with a fuse setting of 800 yards. Having turned over, he crashed into the bay about 400 yards off our port beam. At 0735 still another plane crossed from our port to starboard. The 3"50 put a barrage expending 4 rounds. When he crossed the bow, numbers 3 and 9 20MM's opened fire, expending a drum each. Believing to have hit him, he crashed into the water alongside two small Naval craft. The crew carried out their duties beyond the highest Naval tradition. Their courage cannot be emphasized too highly.

/s/ HILMER C. SCHMIDT, GMlc  
Armed Guard Commander



C O P Y

S.S. MARY A. LIVERMORE  
Port Okinawa

Voy. No. 5  
Date May 29, 1945

Capt. Logan Cresap  
Marine Superintendent  
Isthmian Steamship Company  
71 Broadway  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

It is with the deepest regret that we write to inform you of the death of Captain Stewart and ten other men aboard this vessel yesterday as a result of enemy action. A Japanese pilot deliberately dived his plane into the ship, apparently first touching #3 boom, then the starboard 20mm gun and then directly into the chart room and the Captain's quarters which absorbed the brunt of the explosion of the bomb carried by the plane. Shrapnel discharged miraculously missed the mates' and radio operator's rooms on the boat deck, starboard side, but on the main deck the oilers, wipers and gun crew quarters caught hell and there most of the deaths occurred. A complete list of the dead follows:

Captain James A. Stewart, Master  
Troy J. Garner, A.B.  
Robert E. Blake, O.S.  
LeRoy Derigo, Oiler  
Jack Schoener, Oiler  
Jack R. Montgomery, Wiper  
Charles W. Spencer, Wiper

Thomas J. Balish, Slc, Armed Guard  
Jerrold B. Erats, Slc, Armed Guard  
Hubert F. Lookado, Slc, Armed Guard  
Richard J. Malinowski, Slc, Armed Guard

List of those injured seriously enough to warrant being removed from the ship for hospitalization:

Henry M. Develd, 1st Officer, Severe shock, cuts, etc.  
Charles F. Isaacs, 2nd officer, skull fracture, broken ankle  
Lonnie L. Ash, Chief radio operator, eye injuries  
Leonard T. Row., Jr., A.B., broken leg, other injuries.

Ens. James Sirgany, Armed Guard Officer, shrapnel puncture  
Joseph Lockamy, Slc, back injuries.  
Edgar Mitchell, Slc, back injuries, apparently serious.





Robert Floyd, Chairman of the S.C. Flotilla, far right, shows off the first South Carolina Armed Guard Crew and their ladies to meet as a Unit and a great time was had by all attending. (See reunion form for October 22). Also attending was Ed J. Heins and 7 WW II Merchant Seamen from Charleston, S.C.



FORE AND AFT

CHOW DOWN

AHOY!!  
Y'ALL

NEW JERSEY (JOISEY) SCUTTLEBUTT REUNION  
INCLUDES ALL THE OTHER 49 STATES  
AND CANADA

AHOY!!  
YOUSE GUYS

The year went faster this year and here it is again, time for us to get all we can together for our OCTOBER 28-30, 1988 ANNUAL MINI-REUNION of NEW JERSEY. Our welcome extends to all Armed Guard and their Ladies and special friends. Now is the time to take leave for another 3 day GREAT BULLSESSION in YANKEELAND, USA.

The Hospitality room will be open on Wednesday for the early arrivals and this year, we plan a bus trip together over to the STATUE OF LIBERTY on SATURDAY for a MEMORIAL SERVICE so get your name in early. It's hard to catch up 46 years in 3 days so prepare to come early and stay late. We will operate on a first come basis will do what we can if "OVERLOADED". Our prices are right, our STATE is beautiful in the fall and the scenery on the way is too. (Alex Lombardi, Host)

\*\*\*\*\*  
PLACE!!: Holiday Inn, 550 West Mt. Pleasant Rd, (Rt-10) Livingston N.J. 07039  
Tel: 201-994-3500 BE SURE TO STATE THAT YOU'RE FOR ARMED GUARD REUNION !!!!!

CUTOFF DAYS FOR MEALS IS OCTOBER 1, 1988 UNLESS NEW "OL'SALT" JUST LOCATED

ONE NIGHTS DEPOSIT IN ADVANCE FOR ROOM FOR RESERVATIONS

(Please put your number off of your check here and bring with you(\_\_\_\_\_))

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER OUT TO: "ALEX LOMBARDI". YOUR CHECK IS RECEIPT!!!!  
Send to: Alex Lombardi, 14 Brookfield Ave., Montclair, N.J. 07043 (201)-746-6361

\*CUT OFF HERE AND RETAIN ABOVE FOR YOUR RECORD! FILL OUT AND RETURN FORM BELOW\*  
1.===== CUT HERE =====

Alex, Please reserve me ( ) for Friday Dinner at \$11.00 Each Person \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Please reserve me ( ) for Saturday Continental Brkfst@ \$4.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Please reserve me ( ) Bus Trip (includes Ferry) Each \$12.50 \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Please reserve me ( ) Sat. Night Dinner with open bar \$30.Each \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Please reserve me ( ) Sunday Buffett (ANDSO LONGS) \$9. Each \$\_\_\_\_\_  
GRAND TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name First Ladies Telephone Number  
( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

Street and Box Number City State Zip  
( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

My check or Money Order is: ( ) I will arrive ( ) Leave ( )

\*\*\*\*\* CUT HERE AND RETURN BELOW TO HOTEL IN MAKING RESERVATIONS BY CHECK \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* SEND TO: \*\*\*\*\*

Holiday Inn, 550 West Mt. Pleasant Ave., (Rt-10), Livingston N.J. 07039

ATTENTION: FOR U.S.N.ARMED GUARD WW II VETERANS REUNION OCTOBER 28-30, 1988

NAMES ( ) ADDRESS ( ) BOX ( )

CITY ( ) STATE ( ) ZIP ( ) TEL. ( )

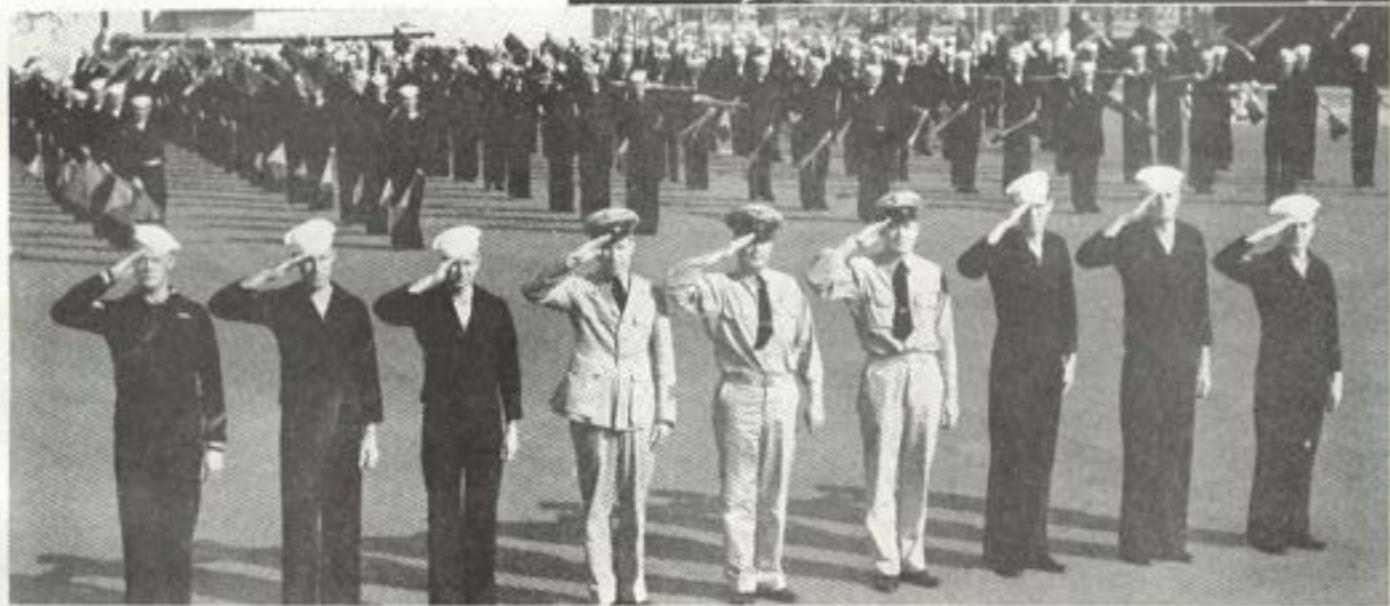
PLEASE RESERVE ME ( ) ROOM(S) AT \$49.00 PER NIGHT ( ) SINGLE ( ) DOUBLE

ENCLOSED IS CHECK NO. ( ) FOR ( ) NIGHTS (SIGN) \_\_\_\_\_





ABOVE, the Guardsmen are shown receiving First-aid instruction. At upper right a section of the Recreation Lounge and its bridge. Guardsmen love music. At right, they are seen holding a Jam-session. The last photo in this book shows the Communications Group (signalmen) at "attention." "Attention" is the watchword of the United States Navy Armed Guard, who have accepted a great responsibility. That they are upholding the finest traditions of the United States Navy is best attested by the uninterrupted flow of supplies to every battlefield of the Allied Nations.





# "Reunions" Inc.

P.O. Box 876  
Orlando, Florida 32802-0876

Dear Reunion Member:

Sorry you missed your reunion; we had a "Ball" but missed seeing you.

Reunions Inc. has been given the opportunity, by your reunion committee, to record the events. They are compiling a Memory Book of the event for you.

You may still be included in the book by sending a small picture of you or yours with the information form below to us in the enclosed envelope.

You may also order a copy of the Memory Book at this time by including your check for \$10.00 with the form.

We are sorry you missed the reunion, but we hope you will take this opportunity to be included in the Memory Book.

Sincerely;

Reunions Inc.

Mail to: "Reunions" Inc.  
P. O. Box 876  
Orlando, FL 32802-0876

Detach here:

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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Lone Sailor

U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL  
Washington, D.C.



## DEDICATION

To the Officers and Men who sailed the ships of  
World War II,  
especially to those who lost their lives, and to  
their families.

THE U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WW II VETERANS 8TH NATIONAL REUNION WILL BE HELD JUNE 21-25, 1989 AT THE RED LION "SEATAC INN", 18740 PACIFIC HIGHWAY SOUTH, SEATTLE, WA. 98188, LOCAL TELEPHONE 206-246-8600, OTHER 1-800-547-8010. PLEASE LET THEM KNOW IT'S FOR THE ARMED GUARD REUNION WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS. YOUR HOSTESS: MADELYN RIGG, 1623 S.W. 166TH, SEATTLE, WA. 98166, 1-206-242-9293.



USN Armed Guard WW II Veterans  
5712 Partridge Lane  
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