

APRIL 1990

DECEMBER, 1989

# THE POINTER

UNITED STATES NAVAL ARMED GUARD CENTER

16 Pages

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Dec. 24, 1943



PHOTO 1

The name of this LIBERTY SHIP is unknown and this picture was taken by Clarence F. Korker Sp(P)3c, 403 Main St., Ridgefield, Ct. 06877, 1-253-438-2453. Clarence was the Photographer at the Brooklyn Armed Guard Center, 1st Ave, 52nd St., Brooklyn, NY, which has since been demolished in 1984; the site is now a Sanitation building and a Plaque was placed there in 1988 in memory of the 144,970 Armed Guard who served, and especially to the 1810 who made the supreme sacrifice, entombed forever in the depths of the water that engulfed their ships in World War II alongside of the 8765 merchant seamen who also made the same sacrifice as they delivered men and vital war supplies across enemy infested waters, and whose battlefronts began as they left the safety of their home port. Two such ships have survived the years. These LIBERTY SHIPS are the SS. JOHN H. BROWN at Pier 1 Baltimore, Maryland and the S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN at Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA. Both have been declared "HISTORICAL SHIPS" and accept visitors year round. Your financial support to keep these ships afloat is highly encouraged. Donations to the Brown can be made to: JOHN W. BROWN LIBERTY SHIP, P.O. Box 8, Long Green, MD. 21092, 301-558-0646, and SS. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN LIBERTY SHIP, Ft. Mason Center, Bldg. A, San Francisco, Ca. 94123, 415-441-3101. THEY NEED YOUR HELP NOW!!!

Black and white prints of the photographs featured in this issue may be ordered by writing to Clarence F. Korker. Cost is \$8.00 per print.

## THE POINTER

Published every other Friday by the Welfare and Recreation Office of the United States Naval Armed Guard Center, 22d Street and First Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Windsor 9-4700, Extension 109.

COMDR. WILLIAM J. COAKLEY  
Commanding Officer

COMDR. J. M. YOUNG  
Executive Officer

LT. COMDR. EDWARD T. KING  
Welfare and Recreation Officer

Anthony T. Mannarino, Y2c.....Editor

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Mary L. Freeman, S1c  
Clarence Korker, Sp(P)3c

LA. (Jg) Ruth C. Andrew...Advisory Editor

## Commandant Orders Curfew Observance

Strict compliance with "both the letter and the spirit" of the midnight curfew by naval personnel of the Third Naval District has been ordered by Rear Admiral Monroe Kelley, district commandant. In a recent letter addressed to all activities within the district, Admiral Kelly said:

"Strict compliance with both the letter and the spirit of the recent directive of the War Manpower Commission regarding the closing at midnight of all bars, places of amusement, etc., is enjoined upon all naval personnel within this command.

"All evening entertainments initiated or managed by naval personnel within the Third Naval District will be terminated in sufficient time to permit prompt clearing of the premises at midnight. No requests for special exceptions to the closing hour will be entertained.

"All personnel attached to this command are expected to set an example by promptly leaving public places of entertainment at or before the closing hour."

## Station Handbooks Now Available

Need dental care? a quick swim? a good book? consolation? Armed Guard station handbooks, listing complete information on all of these things, are now available at the Welfare and Recreation office on the main deck behind the steam tables, for the aid of all station personnel. They may be had for the asking.

## Gunners Down Several Jap Planes; 18 Survive Aerial Torpedo Attack

Eighteen Naval Armed Guard survivors of a merchant ship sinking, now home on leave after a stormy and spectacular tour of duty in the Philippines, stopped long enough at AGC, Treasure Island, to relate the official version of the sinking of their Liberty troop ship in the bay off Mindoro in January, according to word received from 3d Naval District Headquarters last week.

The ship's travels were long and varied and it touched many ports in the Pacific, with many types of cargoes and passengers. Her defense by Armed Guard aboard is the every-day story of the Armed Guard—each man doing his job to the best of his ability and sticking to his post to the last.

Several attacks by Japanese planes, a rough-and-tumble encounter with an enemy naval task force, and finally her sinking after being struck by an aerial torpedo loosed by a lone Japanese plane—these are the highlights of the ship's final days.

There was the time, late in December at Leyte, when three two-engined Jap bombers came in at low level for an attack. The ship's starboard guns opened fire and two of the enemy aircraft were downed. The third fled.

Then, on a morning in December, two Zeros came in at water level between the columns of a convoy. The Liberty ship and her sister ships opened fire and the enemy pilots waved and went on. Later, at Mindoro, in the afternoon of the same day, thirty Jap planes came in for the attack. Nine got through and the rest turned back. The nine closed in for the attack on the convoy. There were three twin-engined bombers and nine Zeros. They attacked the convoy's escort first. The Liberty ship and other ships opened fire and one Jap aircraft blew up in mid-air. Two others fell into the sea. The ship's gunners downed that little mid-air job. The remainder "got to hell out of there," one Armed Guard gunner from the ship said.

While anchored with other ships off Mindoro, a Japanese task force drew up to try to recapture the island. A furious naval bombardment was loosed upon the port,



Malcolm L. Piskin, S1c, Queens, N. Y., one of the survivors of the Liberty ship sinking—now home on leave.

and shells dropped everywhere around the ship. Once her guns exchanged shells with a Jap cruiser. The Armed Guard fellows like to tell that one.

The attack was repulsed, the Jap fleet departed, and the troop ship moved over to a sister ship which had caught fire during the shelling. With the help of the assisting crew, the fire was brought under control.

Then came the ship's last struggle.

She had no cargo or troops aboard as she lay anchored at Mindoro. Without much warning, a lone enemy plane came in on her port side, flying at low level. It loosed its deadly aerial torpedo, which plunged into a hatch and exploded. The ship's tanks caught fire. In 45 minutes the fire was brought under control, but the torpedo had done its job. The ship was doomed, and the crew and naval gunners were told to abandon ship. Another chapter in the colorful history of the Naval Armed Guard was concluded.

# THE POINTER

## Officers for 1989

Charles A. Lloyd, Chairman & Secretary  
5712 Partridge Lane  
Raleigh, N.C. 27609  
1 (919) 876-5537

Bob and Pedgy Grossman  
1990 Reunion Host  
10333 S. Campbell Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60655  
1 (312) 779-6289

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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



DEAR ARMED GUARD SHIPMATES, LADIES AND FRIENDS:

April 1, 1990

Hope all is well and you are gearing up to attend the 9th National Armed Guard Veterans Reunion in Chicago. Bob and Pedgy Grossman and many others have worked for two years now to make this another GREAT EVENT with the shipmates and their wonderful ladies. The "CONGRESS HOTEL" and the itinerary is set! You, attending this, will make it complete. You gotta be somewhere. BRING YOUR OWN "GRITS"

Corrections from the last "POINTER" is as follows: Page 2-last paragraph should read BRUCE COX. Page 11-Picture is of a 3"50 with Ted Vogel standing HIGH from New Smyrna Beach, Fla. and William "Bill" Faust from E. Brunswick, N.J. on the right. One of the "NEW OL'SALTS" wrote and wanted to know if this were the same men that manned the guns in WW II. Only thing I can say is- "they may not look the same but they enjoyed every minute of it." Many of those located since then have gone by to drink coffee in the "MESSHALL". Our hats are off to all those who had a part in saving the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN and to the ones who have worked so faithful in restoring her. I feel that the 1810 who were killed in our Armed Guard Unit are as proud as I was as we went aboard her the first time at the Congressional Hearing while still in New York. New York's loss was Baltimore's gain. She is docked at "Pier 1". On Feb.20, 1990, Brian Hope called to say that EIGHT-20MMs guns used in the movie "WAR AND REMEMBRANCE" and returned to Crane, Indiana arsenal had been acquired and were now onboard the "BROWN". Our thanks goes out to Rear Admiral Richard Bouman, Ret. USCG for assisting in getting the O.K. for them. Brian also stressed the need for more donations, so, if you can give a little or a lot, it is needed and well used. (NO WATERSLIDES or JAGUARS)

The California earthquake spoiled KOV TV documentary taping of the Port Chicago California Memorial explosion site at Concord. It was re-scheduled and taped on December 6, 1989 and BRUCE COX (one of the 11 Armed Guard survivors) and I flew out to take part. It is to be shown on Educational TV and I "DO NOT" have the dates at this printing, so I hope you see it. Some of it will be shown at the Chicago Reunion. Gordon Koller and Floyce Waits (survivors) were there, too. My advice to all with VIDEO CAMERAS, fasten all metal on the flag pole that bangs against it when the wind blows. It was wonderful to be there. Carl Winder was the host on December 7, 1989 as the Armed Guard and Merchant Crew met aboard the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien to Honor those killed at Pearl Harbor on Dec.7, 1941. She is docked at Ft. Mason Center, Bldg. A, San Francisco, Ca. 94123 1-415-441-3101.

The Volume III Armed Guard History Book has been closed out as of February 10, and is now being processed for publication and be approximately October before

they can be delivered. Our intent was to close out Dec. 31, 1989, but it was not possible for Susan McDonald and I to meet, and then fate took it's turn as we located Clarence Korker, 403 Main St., Ridgefield, Ct. 06877 who was the OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER of the ORIGINAL "POINTER" at the Armed Guard Center, 1st Ave. 52nd St. Brooklyn, NY. I called him immediately and Korker volunteered and sent many pictures of the Center, inside and out. As you look through this "POINTER", you will have to agree that these pictures were worth waiting for. Clarence, you're to be commended for your willingness to provide these, so all that went through that EAST COAST Processing Center can see it again in it's old form!

On the front and inside of this "POINTER" is printed in honor of Clarence F. Korker, Photographer, Stanley Saplin of New York, the "ORIGINAL" Editor and to Leonard Mersky of Centerville, Ma. who was the "ORIGINAL" Art Editor. Mersky had been located a long time ago and Korker was "turned in" by Stan Mancini. In behalf of the Armed Guard crew, we would like to welcome you back onboard. This also goes for all the crew. Working together, the computer number is over the 7200 mark. How many more can we find??? That is up to all to keep on searching. From Jan. 1 til March 16, 1990, approx. 180 of you donated enough to cover the cost of this "POINTER" Mailout. I hope that it will continue at that pace. Your donations keeps us afloat!!! MAKE IT OUT TO: "USN ARMED GUARD WWII VETERANS."

Back in the first months of 1986, Herb Norch called for a great "BULLSESSION" and in our conversation he told me he had a friend, JUSTIN GLEICHHAUF, who was a writer and I asked Herb to see if he'd write a story on the Armed Guard if I'd send him some of the information I had on the Armed Guard. Justin took a giant step forward and did a story for the "AMERICAN LEGION" magazine in the April edition of 1986. Over 1400 of the crew answered immediately and some 500 since that time. I called to say "THANKS" to Justin several times and one day I asked him to write a book on the "ARMED GUARD" and if he would write it, I'd furnish the material to start with, and others would write stories, I was sure. I also invited him to come and visit me and he accepted the challenge for he had spent some time in Raleigh, N.C. just before the war and he had some personal friends that he would like to see while he was here. Justin spent five days with us and we accomplished the impossible. He read and took notes while I ran off fifteen copies each of the alphabetical crew and ship's listings plus 15 of the ZIPCODE list of names for the Kansas City, Mo. 1987 National Reunion. I ran off copies of other items of interest and gave him an extra copy all along. Justin has now accomplished the goal that we set out to do. He has completed his book on the U.S.N. Armed Guard, and almost lost his eyesight in doing it. It is now in the printing stage and the Naval Institute has informed me that they would place it on the market in April. They were going to print 1500 copies and I told them the Armed Guard crew would probably buy that many and I think they will publish 3000 copies total now. These books will go all over the world and into Archives and Libraries. If you buy the book and like it, please let Justin know that we appreciate his devoted work of our WORLD WAR I AND II-UNSUNG SAILORS!!

When you get a crew of "YANKIES" down South for a "PIG-PICKING AND GRITS", you have a great time and that's what we did!! Alex and Edith Lombardi and 12 more came down by AIRRAK TRAIN. Just a fantastic weekend. Clarence and Gerry Korker, the Chief Armed Guard Photographer at the Brooklyn AGC drove by on their way to Felsmere, Fl. and brought down wonderful pictures of the AGC, inside and out. We all ate breakfast at "BRIFFINS" and Oker Thomas and Ed Joy (former shipmates and now-neighbors) brought the pig from Oker's farm and their wives came also. After breakfast, we met at the Raleigh Fireman's Club Site and made it an all day Armed Guard affair. Hilda's brother, Duke Perry, cooked the pig. Hilary and Dot Makowski, 202 Wedgewood Dr., Carnegie, Pa. 15106 came by on their way home and joined in. Hilary assists Jack Cross in hosting their Luncheon Meetings at the Greentree Marriott Inn in Pittsburgh, Pa. Their advance dates are April 21, May 19, and June 16, 1990. You are invited to attend. Y'ALL COME BACK!!

Hilda and I took "LIBERTY" and headed for Deland, Florida "RESTCAMP!!" We both should have stayed there a week I guess since they have a nice hospital on the old RESTCAMP SITE. But we took a few pictures and stopped by to say HELLO to Ted and Cathy Vogel at nearby New Smyrna Beach and ended up spending the night and caught up with ARMED GUARD TALK!!! We drove to Lakeland, Fl. to attend the Luncheon there and approximately 180 people had a great time. It was great to see so many new and old friends we have made. It was hosted by Rudy and Ellie Kosak of New Fort Richey, Fl. Thanks to Leo Gullage for picking the pretty Palm Country Club as the meeting site. Was great to see all of you. You now have 424 Armed Guard located in the beautiful State of Florida.

Joseph Lafferty of San Francisco, one of our WORLD WAR "ONE" "SURVIVORS", will attend the Chicago Reunion this year, and I hope that all of you attending will go by to speak to him. This will be his "FIRST ARMED GUARD REUNION" and I sure hope I can attend one when I am 93! We may have other WW I Veterans there, too. Just located C. Eugene Mallard, 300 West Dudley St., Burgaw, N.C. 28425 who served on the USS NEBRASKA (BB-3), USS CRAWEN (DD-70) S.S. CITY OF ATLANTA and the S.S. BRINDILLA. He still attends all the American Legion State Conventions.

He was located by Eugene Clark from Burgaw at their meeting. Also, from Burgaw, is "Doc" Williams who received the "GALLANT SHIP CITATION BAR" while serving on the S.S. VIRGINIA DARE in PQ-18 in September of 1942 to Murmansk, Russia. His ship survived the run, but his luck ran out on the S.S. EXECUTIVE when it was sunk on 3/15/43. I mention this for Ian A. Millar, writer of wonderful WW II stories had a 5-page writeup on "DOC" and the S.S. VIRGINIA DARE in the March, 1990 issue of "THE MEDAL COLLECTOR". Thanks Ian for a wonderful story and the great publicity you give to the Armed Guard. Ian's father served in the Merchant Marines during WW II, Korea and was on his way to Viet Nam aboard a ship loaded with ammunition when he died of natural causes.

This may be the last "POINTER" before the 1990 Chicago Reunion so please keep it for future references. If you know of an Armed Guard, see if he receives the "POINTER". If you change address, let me know as soon as possible. Attend the Mini-Reunions in your area but come to the Nationals, where the fun is! We hope to see you in Chicago. You'll be glad you went!! You earned this LIBERTY. cal

#### IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED SHIPMATES

Addington	J.	R.	Tulsa	Ok	Hilda	1/907
Barbette	Albert		Egg Harbor	NJ	?	11/89
Bartosewicz	Roy	S.	Swoyersville	Pa	Florence	11/12/89
Brannon	Leon	Watts	Morris	Al		1975
Broderick	Gerald		Hoboken	NJ	Carrolla	7/12/88
Brush	Raymond	Stephen	Boca Raton	Fl	Florence	??/??
Buholtz	Clayton	J.	Edgewater	Fl	Kathleen	9/4/89
Burges	Nelson	Wesley	San Antonio	Tx	-	1/90
Cady	George	"Mike"	Pleasant Valley	NY	Ruth K.	2/27/90
Chandler	Gregg	Capt.	San Diego	Ca	#	1/7/90
Crawford	Thomas	W.	San Antonio	Tx		12/15/89
Dalton	Steve		Chapin	SC	Margaret	1/90
Efrid	Edward	L.	Salisbury	NC	IKIA!!	4/3/42
Freer	Gordon	H.	Freemont	WV	Edna	11/14/89
Jenkins	Hartford		Bestrop	Tx		12/12/89
Johnson	Robert	E.	Narragansett	Ri	?	11/22/89
Klotzer	Ed	(Dutch)	Winlock	Ca	Ethel	12/02/89
Kretschmar	Harold	Ray	Cleveland	Ok	Betty	12/89?
Lojek	Bruno		Bentleyville	Pa	?	11/89?
Long	Jackson	L. #1	##	In		
Lyons	Elza		Huntington	WV	Bertha	1/18/90
O'Leary	Thomas	F.	W. Palm Beach	Fl	Leona	1987
Peeler	William	Grant	Salisbury	NC	?	7/89
Rosen	Louis		Orangeburg	SC	Kathryn	12/89
Rundia	Stephen		Egg Harbor	NJ	?	11/89
Shelby	Charles	Pete	Indianapolis	In	?	74
Thomas	Donald		DeWitt	Ia	Marie	4/85
Wileot	King	A.	Sarasota	Fl	Florence	11/3/89
Wilson	Howard	"Hunk"	Danville	Il		1980

#7 sent in by shipmate Bob Sherlock-Pontiac, Mi.

#### IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED SHIPMATES, MATES

Conner	Betty	Ina	Il	Howard	11/23/89
Countryman	Evelyn	Salinas	Ca	Wayne K.	1/28/90
Doyle	Lucille	Mewahitchka	Fl	David M.	1/15/90
Fisher	Jacqueline	Sacramento	Ca	Calvin	1/19/90
Sieffert	Catherine	Leesburg	Fl	Herman	7/20/89
Woblers	Mary	Kansas City	Mo.	Albert F.	7/15/89

IKIA in the sinking of the S.S. OTHO 4/3/42 off Cape Henry, Virginia.

*A Long Overdue Tribute to Naval Armed Guardsmen Who Served on Liberty Ships and Other Merchant Vessels in WWII*

#### Unsung Sailors: The Naval Armed Guard in World War II

By Justin F. Gleichauf

Publication date: April 1990  
480 pages, 28 photographs,  
Annotated Bibliography, Index  
6 1/2 x 9" ISBN: 0-8921-776-4  
List Price: \$32.95.

- The never-before-told story of a critical service
- An absorbing narrative history
- Based on interviews and correspondence with former guardsmen
- The product of five years of research

\*\*\* A SPECIAL NOTICE \*\*\*

CAN YOU ASSIST THE U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WITH A DONATION?

Many have written, or called me, to put into the "POINTER" a suggested donation for the crew to give. Many of you have given beyond the "CALL OF DUTY" and you know who you are. Many write after a few years and said-"I just keep putting it off". Luckily, we have survived with less than 5 per cent out of approx. 6900 on the mailing list. I still will not ask for money. I leave it up to you. I will only place a few lines and let you be the judge of what you can contribute.

CALLOYD

\*-----CUT HERE-----\*[[[[[ ]]]]]\*-----CUT HERE---\*

CIRCLE ONE OF THESE BELOW AND RETURN :

I will donate: Zero \$1. \$5. \$10. \$15. \$20. \$25 \$\_\_\_\_\_ each year if at all possible. I am under no obligation to give should I change my mind.

Make check or Money Order out to: " U.S.N.ARMED GUARD WW II VETERANS "  
(cash is deposited under your name, as some of you have done before)

Send Donations to and make Payable to: U.S.Navy Armed Guard WW II Veterans  
5712 Partridge Lane  
Raleigh, N.C. 27609-4126

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Birth \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_ BOX # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*Tel.( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

I have contributed in the past [yes] [no]

\* Please designate whether Street, Avenue, Circle, Terrace, etc.

\*\* [ ] I have had an Zip Code change

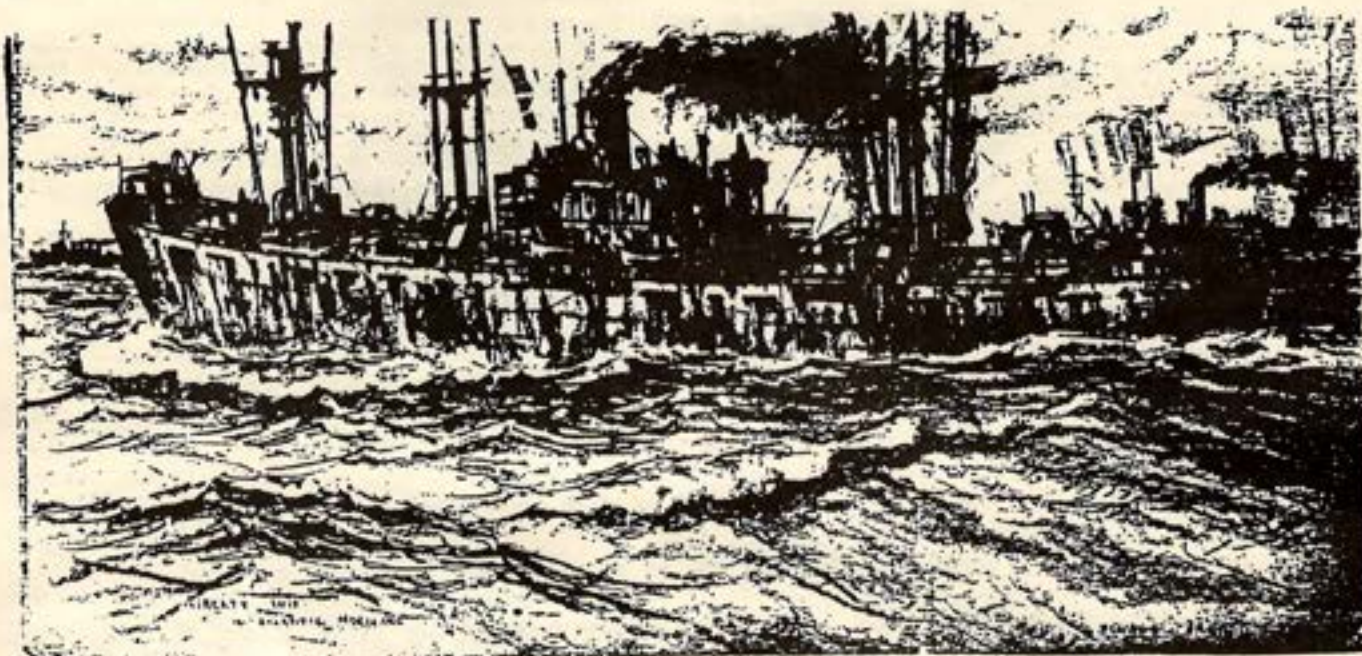
\*\*\* [ ] I have had an Area Code change

My Service Number is: \_\_\_\_\_ Injured in Service? \_\_\_\_\_

I served on the following ships, include Fleet ships: (give approx. Dates)

	SHIP	DATE ON	DATE OFF	SUNK?
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ARMED GUARD EXPERIENCES AS TO WHERE YOU SAILED TO, ACTION YOU WERE IN OR ANYTHING OF HISTORICAL VALUE. HISTORIANS WANT TO KNOW MORE OF THE ARMED GUARD DUTY AND SACRIFICES. ONLY YOU CAN TELL IT, "FOR YOU WERE THERE!!" THE USN ARMED GUARD WW I AND WW II IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED ONLY BY THE ARMED GUARD, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. THE COST PRINTING, LABELING AND POSTAGE NOW IS APPROX. \$4200. TO APPROX. 6900 AS OF 3/28/90. THE NUMBER GROWS!! PLEASE NOTIFY AHEAD OF TIME IF YOU MOVE PERMANANTLY OR TEMPORARY TO CUT COSTS.



# PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP

P.O. Box 8 • Long Green, MD 21092



"Earth will not see such ships as those again"

January 25, 1990

Charles, at Andy and Madeline Knepp's suggestion, the enclosed commemorative coin order slip is enclosed with our request to have this information entered into your exceptionally fine 'Pointer' armed guard newspaper.

It would I'm sure, give our sales a tremendous boost — and would be of interest to everyone.

Thanks again for your dedication to all of the great ship-mates of a great era.

Sincerely yours,  
J.H. 'Bud' Smith  
4701 Mawani Road  
Baltimore, Md 21206

## PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP

We have designed a handsome commemorative coin and it will be struck from the old copper degaussing cable removed from the Liberty Ship JOHN W. BROWN. The coin has a 3/4 head view of the ship underway. On the reverse side is a dedication to the men and women who built, sailed, and defended the Liberty Ship fleet during WW-II. This coin is being sold at the pre-struck price of \$6.50 per coin. After this offer the price for this 1-oz copper coin will be \$8.50. Get your order in now to beat the increase and support the restoration effort.

YES, please send me \_\_\_\_\_ coin(s) at \$6.50, (\$.50 each for postage and handling) when they are struck.

Here is my check or money order made out to PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP, INC., P.O. BOX 8, Long Green, Maryland 21092

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



PHOTO #2  
Movie Star Carol Landis promoting the march of dimes at the Armed Guard Center, 1st Ave.-52nd St., Brooklyn, NY.



PHOTO #3  
U.S.N. Armed Guard firing a Salute on Memorial Day 1945.



PHOTO #4  
U.S.N. Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, NY showing Main Deck being swabbed down which served as the Mess Hall a few minutes earlier.



PHOTO #5  
"Red" Barber, world known sports announcer on left, Comdr. J. M. Young, center guy on right unknown.



PHOTO #6  
Swim Meet August 25, 1944 demonstrating hard hat diving gear. Sailors are unknown.



PHOTO #7  
View of the harbor from the Brooklyn, NY U.S.N. Armed Guard Center. Notice the gun mountings on the ship and also troopship further out in the harbor as it's being moved along by tugboat.



PHOTO #8  
U.S.N. Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, NY showing the Mess Hall, Chow Line, Band Stand, Movie Screen.



PHOTO #9  
U.S.N. Armed Guard WW II are shown marching behind their band in New York on Navy Day October 27, 1945.



PHOTO #10  
Lookout on the bridge inside the Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, NY, March 6, 1945. Picture is dedicated to all the signalmen of WW II.

# "REUNIONS-GET-TO-GETHERS"

## California Get-togethers:

April 8, 1990 Cal and Jackie Fisher, 8047 Westboro Way, Sacramento will host a Brunch in town. Information, call 916-682-8009.

May 6, 1990 Mike and Alice Coz, 1927 Bardo La., Visalia, Ca. 93277 209-734-9673 will host their annual PICNIC at Pioneer Park. Call them for info.

June 3, 1990 Dick and Lydia O'Neil 316 Marnell Ave., Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062 will be host a "BRUNCH" at Coconut Grove at the Boardwalk. Call them for info.

July 14, 1990 "Brunch" and Memorial services will be at the Concord Weapons Station. Carl and Thelma Winder 1734 Pilgrim Ave, Mountain View, Ca. 94040 will be the hosts.

Oct. 12-14, 1990 is FLEET WEEK and another sailing of the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien as last year and the hosts will be Carl and Thelma Winder and the Hotel is the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness and Geary. San Francisco if all goes well. The O'Brien, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco 94123 1-415-441-3101 will have their regular sailing May 30, 1990. Contact them if interested!!! The "O'BRIEN" also sails May 27-28, 1990. Call the ship for more info if interested and for any of their other sailings. A donation to her is what helps keep her "AFLOAT"!!!

Pittsburgh, Pa. crews meet for a 3rd Saturday 12 NOON Luncheon meeting at the Greentree Marriott Inn in Pittsburgh. Contact Jack Gross, 119 Lycoming Drive., Coraopolis, Pa. 15108 412-264-8058. Everyone welcomed.

New York Crew Member Robert Wilcox, 1661-155 Old County Rd., Riverhead, N.Y. 11901 1-516-369-0765 is planning meetings with those in his area. Contact him.

The R.C.N.A.-O.E.M.S. 36th Annual Reunion will be held MAY 18-21, 1990 Montreal, Quebec. Contact Doug Septon, Box 512, Richmond Hill, Ontario Canada L4C 4Y8 for an application form. As I understand it, there will be an "INTERNATIONAL NAVY REUNION" August-September in the PACIFIC NORTHWEST on August 15th at Calgary and will be at different places and will be in Seattle, Wa. USA--Sept. 5-9, 1990. It may be that some of you would like to participate and represent the Crew of the U.S.N. ARMED GUARD. SOUNDS LIKE FUN!!!

The "American Merchant Marine Veterans" "National Reunion" will be held at the "OPRYLAND HOTEL", 2902 Opryland Dr., Nashville, TN. 37214 615-871-6442 on MAY 25-29, 1990. For more info, contact: AMMAMTII, Gulfstream Chapter, 2 West Dixie Hwy, Suite 200, Dania, FL. 33004. HELP THEM FIND THEIR SHIPMATES, TOO!!!

"DI" SPARKS" Bob Mitchell, WQCSL, 403 E. Redwood Ave. Pleasantville NJ 08232 (609) 641-4460 SEIZES the "SPARKS, FLAGS, GUNNERS" SEMI-ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC RADIO OFFICERS luncheon will be held at the GORDON RESTAURANT, FORKED RIVER, N.J. on APRIL 5, 1990 and ALL WHO SAILED ARE INVITED. CALL BEFORE 8 pm.

Elmer and Doris Vincent 20181 Chandler St., Covington, La. 70433 (504) 893-2502 will host a Mini-Reunion in Kenner, La. 4/5-8/1990 at the "TRAVEL LODGE HOTEL", 2240 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Kenner, La. 70062 504-469-7341. Contact them for more details. We hope to hold the "NATIONAL REUNION" in NEW ORLEANS in 1993.

Milan and Dolly LaMarche 2170 Lakeshore Dr. Sagle, Idaho 83860 1-(208)263-4271 will be hosts for a MINI-REUNION Sept. 11-13, 1990 at the Edgewater Resort Inn 56 Bridge St. Sandpoint, Idaho 83864. Tel-1-(800)1-635-2534. This was site is so centrally located whereby Armed Guard from States of Wash., Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and our Canadian Friends across the border can come and join in. Of course, all are welcomed from Florida, Maine, Alaska, HI-wa-ye!! And all the other States between. Just let them know, Y'ALL. Pretty country, I'm sure.

Farragut Naval Training Station Reunion will be held Farragut State Park, Athol Idaho 9/8-10/90. Contact: Bill Cunnutte, 8587 Ridge Rd. Dittmer, Mo. 63023.

Michigan-Indiana-Ohio "TRI-STATE REUNION" will be held AUG/10-11/1990 at the "DAVIS INN" 901 Rose Hill Rd. Jackson, Mo. 1-94-Exit 141 with Ray Didur, P.O. Box 282, Cement City, Mich. 49233-0282 1-(517) 592-6941 as host. Please note the HOTEL location has been changed from the previous mailing sent to you.

LST Association Reunion will be held at the Clarion Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. on Sept. 26-30, 1990. Contact: Mike and Linda Gunjak, P.O. Box 167438, Toledo, Oh. 43616-7438 1-800-229-5870. They publish the LST "SCUTTLEBUTT" paper. We have over 130 listed of Armed Crews who were transferred over to LSTs. They have a great paper. Mike was nominated as President of the Assoc. this year and Linda is the Secretary.

The DESTROYER ESCORT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL REUNION will be held AUG. 26--SEPT. 2, 1990 at the OMNI HOTEL 101 W. FAYETTE St, Baltimore, Md. Contact: Don Glaser DESA ASSOC., P.O. Box 480085, Orlando Fla. 32868-0085. 407-877-7671. He can give you DEs and DOs "individual" ship reunions throughout the year. You may also want to check with your local DAV, American Legion, VFW, AMVET, or other groups and search their "REUNION NOTICE" column in their monthly magazines. I regret that we can not put each individual BB, DE, DO, LST, etc. in the "POINTER".

Patrol Crafts Sailors Assoc. will hold their 3rd Annual Reunion May 3-5, 1990 at the Riverfront Holiday Inn, St. Louis, Mo. Write: Joe Kelliher, PO Box 232, Cambridge, NY, 12816-0232 for more information. This outfit includes all small crafts, such as; PCs, SCs, Tuqs, etc.

Tenn., Ky., Ala., and Miss. "GET-TO-GETHER" will be hosted by Walter and Jewell Myers 926 Curdwood Lane, Nashville, Tenn. 37216 1-(615)-228-5693 at the Ramada Inn, Spence Rd.-Airport on Sept. 27-29, 1990. Will be apicking and grinning day.

Port Charlotte, Fla. Area Crew will meet the 2nd Friday of month at 7 pm at the First Federal Bank, Virginia and Taylor Rd, Punta Gorda, FL. and for more info, Contact: George Milk, 449 St. James St., Port Charlotte, FL. 33952 813-627-6759. George welcomes anyone to attend the meeting to talk "ARMED GUARD".

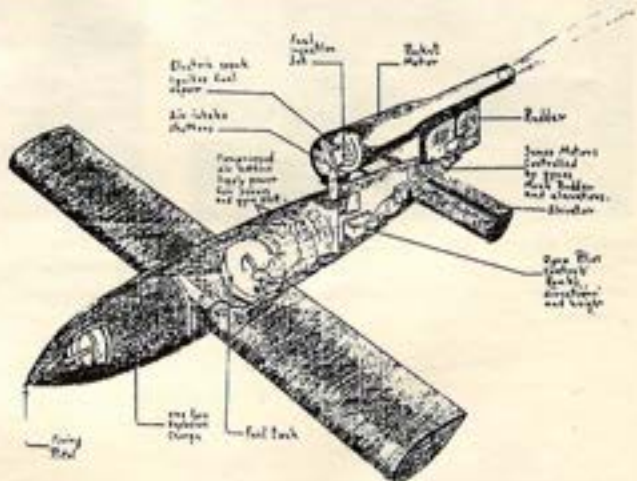
Virginia Crew Linwood Taylor, 7212 Alycia Av., Richmond, Va. 23228 804-266-2303 hosts a 1 p.m. luncheon at Morrison's Cafe, W. Broad St, Richmond every 2nd Sat. Robert Burrill, 5320 Brockie St., Va. Beach, Va. 23464 804-679-4608 hosts one at Morrison's, Virginia Beach, Va. on the "4th Sat." 1 p.m. and contact them.

The CCC "boys" are in search for those who served. If you are, or know of one of this ELITE CREW, contact: CCC Alumni, PO Box 16429 St. Louis, Mo. 63125-0429.

U.S. Submarine Veterans of WW II will hold their 36th Nat. Convention 9/5-9/1990 at the Hyatt-Orlando in Kissimmee, FL. on US 192E, Oct 1-4 Exit 25.

THE BURNA STAR ASSOCIATION is in hopes of organizing a North American Chapter. Contact: Mr. "Bill" P. Houpt, 1662 East Street Rd., Glen Mills, Pa. 19342

New Jersey-North East Regional Reunion with hosts Alex and Edith Lombardi, 14 Brookfield Rd. Montclair, NJ 07043 1-(201)-746-6361 will be held back at the Holiday Inn, Livingston, NJ Sept/20-25/1990. HIS BROTHER'S BAND WILL PLAY!!!



# "SPECIAL SHIPMATES LISTING NOTICE"

I am putting this in the "POINTER" separately from my normal letter due to the enormous time involved by me of things that "HAS TO BE DONE"!! It is necessary for you to send for shipmates through RALPH LUCAS who has volunteered to assist in our endeavor to find you shipmates. YOUR ARE TO STILL SEND ALL NAMES OF THE CREW YOU FIND AND ALL SHIPS BACK TO THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE "POINTER" for me to put into the main computer. I, in turn, will do a complete backup of all names and ships weekly and send to Lucas. You send to him for shipmates located. If you have any question, please call me 1-(919)-876-5537. PLEASE SAVE THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCES!!

SEND TO:

Ralph Lucas  
1220 Hawthorne Rd.  
Hanahan, S.C. 29406

\*\*\*\*\*CUT HERE\*\*\*\*\*CUT HERE\*\*\*\*\*CUT HERE\*\*\*\*\*  
Dear Ralph Lucas, DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the shipmates listed from my ships.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ BOX \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Ralph, in case I may be wrong on my ship dates, here they are again.

[ Y- N ] THESE ARE KNOWN ACCURATE DATES.

[ Y- N ] THESE ARE APPROXIMATELY DATES.

Ship 1.	Date On	Date Off
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

MY COMPUTER NUMBER on my MAILING LABEL IS: \_\_\_\_\_

Thanking you in advance, I understand from the National that there is no fee.

\*\*\*From Mack Paynter, 2371 E. 41st, Lorain, Ohio. 44055-2838 216-277-6365 comes the following:

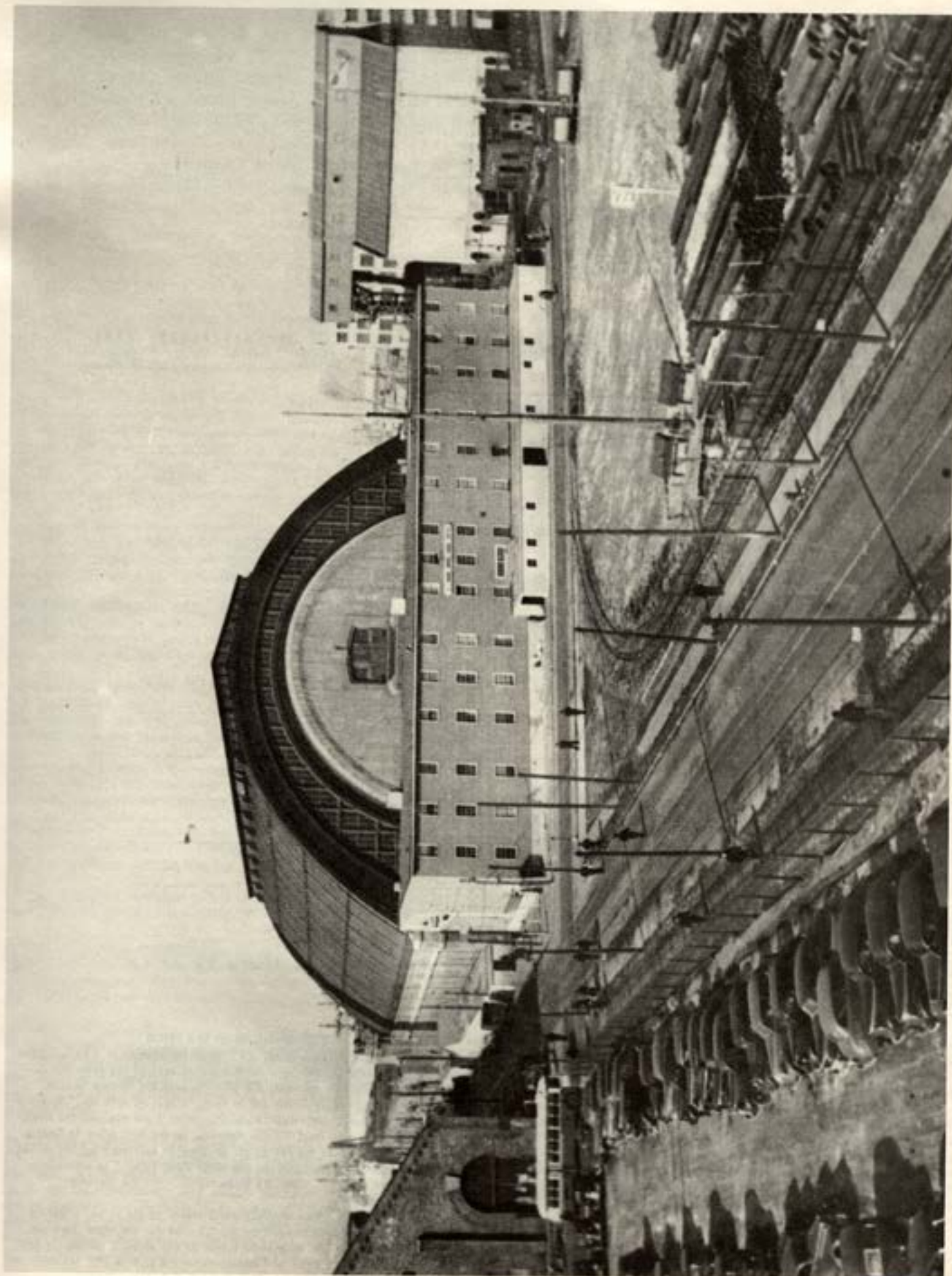
Dear Charles, while riding around this morning, I had another Armed Guard who saw my cap. His name is enclosed. I also have 2 BIG ARMED GUARD bumperstickers on my RV. I was driving along I-70-between Wheeling, West Virginia & Columbus, Ohio when over my C-B radio came a: "HOW LONG WERE YOU IN THE ARMED GUARD?"!! I replied: "3 years" and I asked him if he was in the Armed Guard and he said that his dad was in it. I asked him where his dad was and he answered-" In the Ground". His dad's name was Jackson L. Long. Then the 18 wheeler was long gone! NO STATE-NO SHIPS-NO ADDRESS!!! The truck had an Indiana plate on it. I don't know whether you can use the information or not.- Mack Paynter

Mack, Thanks for the message. And to the son who was driving the 18 wheeler. I hope someone of our crew will remember your dad and should anyone in Indiana ever run across you, maybe he can tell you something of what your dad did as a member of the Armed Guard. He could have been the one to save his ship. CAL

## A LETTER OF DEDICATION TO A FRIEND

Dear C.A., Just a couple lines to let you know of the passing of Mike Cady, one of our crew. Mike made the Baltimore Reunion and it will be his last. The day before he died, he said to me, "Jim, I'm going to make the Chicago Reunion." I told him that I was going by AMTRAK and he said, "I will go with you." He was a good man in our community and respected by all. After I got him into the ARMED GUARD GROUP, he made all almost all the reunions. He and Ruth drove to Seattle although his doctor advised him not to go. He drove to Baltimore and was in bad health then. He was very dedicated the the ARMED GUARD CREW. I am enclosing a check in Memory of Mike. Your Old Shipmate, Jim Sheridan

Thanks Jim for remembering your shipmate and a friend to all of us. I spent a lot of hours in his presence at reunions and his love for the Armed Guard was shown by just talking to him. He will be missed by all of us. I personally got to know him as he was Fire Chief of Pleasant Valley, N.Y. from 1957 til 1980 and I retired from the Raleigh, N.C. Fire Dept. C.A. Lloyd



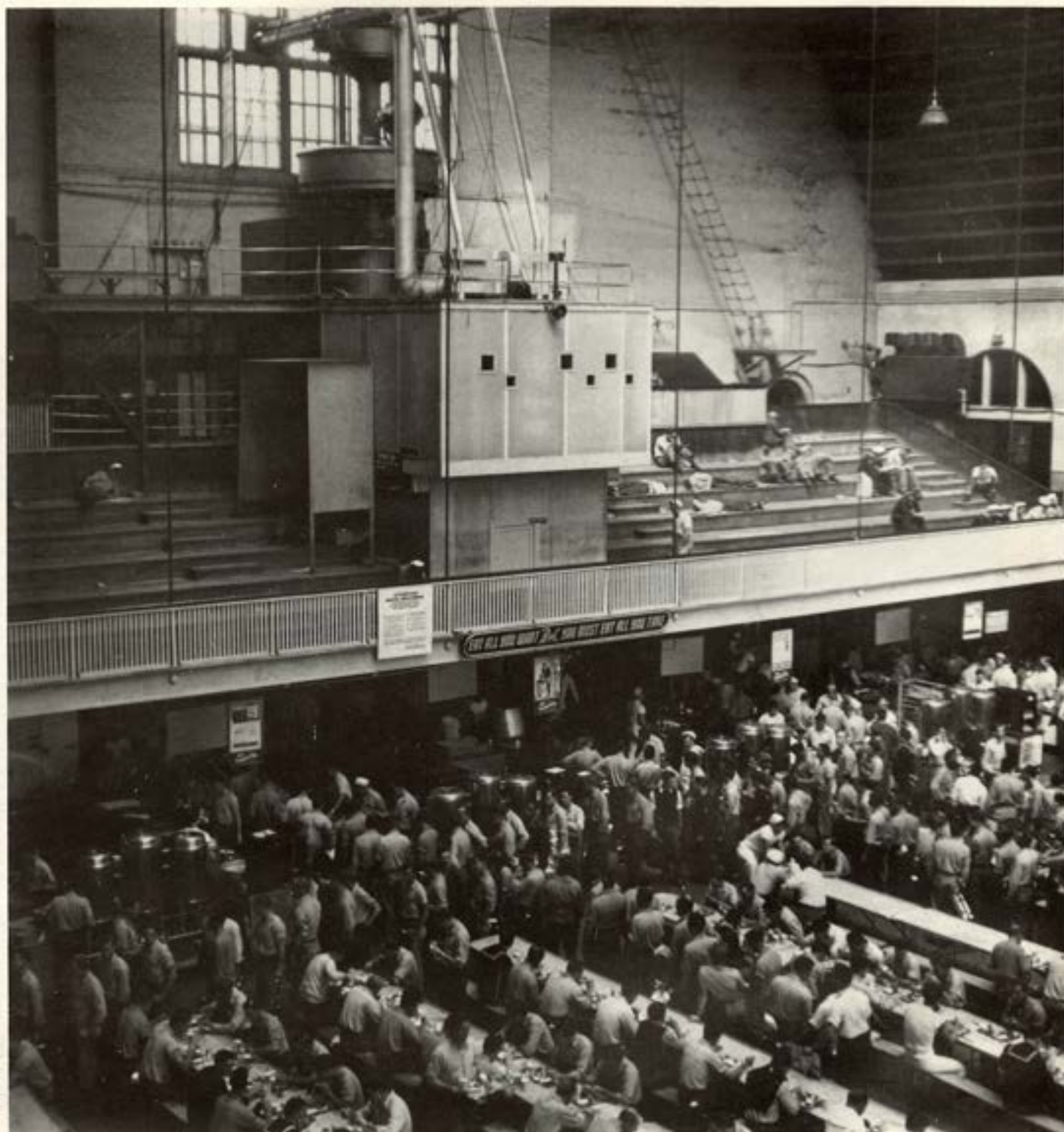
U.S.N. Armed Guard Center at 1st Ave. 52nd St., Brooklyn, NY, winter of 1944. Over 80,000 of the 144,970 were processed through this Center. The Center was under the Command of Commander William J. Coakley, originally from Brooklyn, until the war was almost over. Photo by C.F. Korker.

PHOTO 11



PHOTO 12

USS Newton docked at the Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, NY, during WWII. She served as a Brig and sleeping quarters for Armed Guard Crew. Notice the sailor's gear laid out on the pier. Photo by C.F. Korker.



U.S.N. Armed Guard Center Main Deck Mess Hall, 1945. Photo by C.F. Korker.



PHOTO #14

Movie star Carol Landis collecting dimes from the U.S.N. Armed Guard Crew at AGC Brooklyn, NY on the main deck of the Mess Hall.



PHOTO #15

U.S.N. Armed Guard Chow Hall at the Brooklyn, NY Center 3/13/45 showing the benches on top of the eating tables and four lonely ship's company writing to the folks back home.



PHOTO #16

"THE POINTER" office in March 1945 unless someone turned the calendar. Tony Mannarino, shown sitting. Clarence Korker Ph 3c standing with tie. Others are unknown.



PHOTO #17

"Red" Barber, left, talking to Comdr. Edward T. King, Welfare and Recreation Officer at the Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, NY.



PHOTO #18

Comdr. William J. Coakley, Commanding Officer of the Brooklyn, NY Armed Guard Center during WW II.



PHOTO #19

Wave Lt. Bernice Ahlgren, right, reads an Armed Guard booklet with an unknown Wave in 1945.



PHOTO #20

Movie star Carol Landis shows her shoes as she steps up on the bandstand at the U.S.N. Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, NY in promoting the March of Dimes drive in January, 1945.



PHOTO #21

Famous Entertainer Woody Herman and his band at the U.S.N. Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, NY during one of his CBS "Old Gold Show" programs in 1945. Let me know if you were there.



PHOTO #22

Movie star Carol Landis shown promoting the March of Dimes, January, 1945. Notice the Armed Guard insignia of the Eagle clutching the German sub and the Japanese plane on the bandstand props.

Sept. 12, 1984

Company: American-South African Line, Inc. New York, NY (Farrell Lines)

Master: Olaf J. Anderson

Gross Tons: 7176

Built: May 1943 @ Baltimore, MD

Dimensions: 441' x 57' x 37'

The Liberty Ship, SS WILLIAM W. GERHARD, was torpedoed by the German submarine U-593 (Kobling) at 0830 GCT on September 21, 1943 about 45 miles south of Salerno, Italy while en route from Casablanca, French Morocco to Salerno via Malta. The ship left Malta on September 19 in a convoy. She was loaded with a general Army cargo including guns, gasoline, and ammunition stored in the holds and a deck cargo of field

artillery and mechanized equipment. Her complement consisted of 44 merchant crew, 30 Naval Armed Guard, and 193 US and British Army personnel. Two of the Armed Guard were lost, one was killed instantly and went down with the ship, and the other died on September 23 aboard HMS VITA, a hospital ship. Three crew members and 6 Armed Guard were injured and hospitalized.

At 0830 GCT, a torpedo struck on the port side at #1 hold, raising the bow out of the water and causing the ship to buckle just forward of the bridge. A large crack appeared on each side of the ship extending below the waterline, flooding Number 1 and #3 holds. The ship was taken in tow by the USS MORENO (ATF-87) at 1200 GCT, but at 1445 fire broke out in #1 hold, which was fought by the USS NARRAGANSETT (ATF-88) and the Royal Navy tug HMS WEASEL. When the towing line parted, the USS MORENO assisted in fighting the fire. After two hours, the fire was reported out of control and continued to burn throughout the night. Explosions were heard during the night and at 0840 GCT September 22, the ship broke in two. The forward section sank at once but the after section had to be sunk by gunfire from the tugs.

After the torpedo struck, the ship was abandoned in lifeboats and rafts. The Escort Commander ordered the Captain and part of his crew to return aboard the ship to determine if she was in any condition to proceed to her destination. The main engines were not damaged and could be operated, but the ship was settling more and more, and listing to starboard. The Captain ordered the men with him to stand by in the lifeboats and wait for the tugs. These men were taken back aboard the USS MORENO at 1200. Other survivors were picked up by escort vessels. All the ship's crew and Army personnel were landed at Salerno.

The U-593 (Kobling) was sunk December 13, 1943 off Constantine, Algeria by USS WAINWRIGHT (DD-419) and HMS CALPE (L-71).

Reprinted from "A Needless Sinking"

Published by the American Merchant Marine Museum at the the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY. Printed in the U.S.A. by The Knowlton & McLeary Co., Farmington, Maine 04938.



P.S. This was the first American ship to enter Salerno Bay just before dark. We fought all the way in and died up at a amir back Home Guard to land but we and the troops we had held the port till General Patton and his troops arrived the next morning about 10 O'Clock. The General came aboard ship checked our wounded and made arrangements to get them to the Hosp. Ship. He was a great General.

Ray Brown (N. 20)  
611-67-96

Hi:

I am Ray Brown. I was in the Navy from July 20th, 1942 till Dec 31, 1945. The SS William W. Gerhard was the second ship I served on. This picture is of three of the Armed Guard crew and myself. I am the one with glasses then Francis Bogganell, Clyde Christen and Tony Trialla. Walter Jacques wasn't able to make our reunion but met at Pittsburgh Pa.

I didn't know any of these fellows made it off the ship until I put a notice in the American Legion Magazine three years ago. and they saw my ad and called me. I sure was surprise to hear from them so we made plans to get together. We had a great time and our wife enjoyed our reunion too.

I would appreciate it if you could put our picture in the pointer and our name and address there could be more of the crew out there that we haven't heard yet.

The man in the picture and album are myself.

Ray D. Brown

1155 Bristow Ave.

Pittsburgh Pa. 15207

Tony Trialla

517 Agnew Ave.

Pittsburgh Pa. 15207

Francis Bogganell

1820 Sandridge Rd.

Houston, Tex. 77024

Walter Jacques

305 Longfellow Dr.

North Kingstown

Rhode Island 02852

Clyde Christen

2030 Tuscarawas Rd.

Beaver Pa. 15009

Thank You Ray



U.S.N. Armed Guard attending the taping of the TV documentary "Port Chicago". The Memorial site in Concord, California is dedicated to those killed in the explosion there on July 14, 1944. The S.S. Quinalt Victory, the S.S.E.A. Bryan, the crews and workers nearby were vaporized. Shown left to right are: Anthony Abela, S.F. Host; Gerard Duffy, 3 V.P.; Michael Mullaney, Sec.; Carl Winder, Pres.; C.A. Lloyd, Nat. Chair; Bruce Cox, Survivor; Floyce Waits, Survivor; and Gordon Koller, Survivor.



## LIBERTY SHIP SAILINGS

The SS *Jeremiah O'Brien*  
sails again for 2 cruises in  
San Francisco Bay

Sat., May 19, 1990

Sun., May 20, 1990

Passes are available for each  
day @ \$75.<sup>00</sup> per person

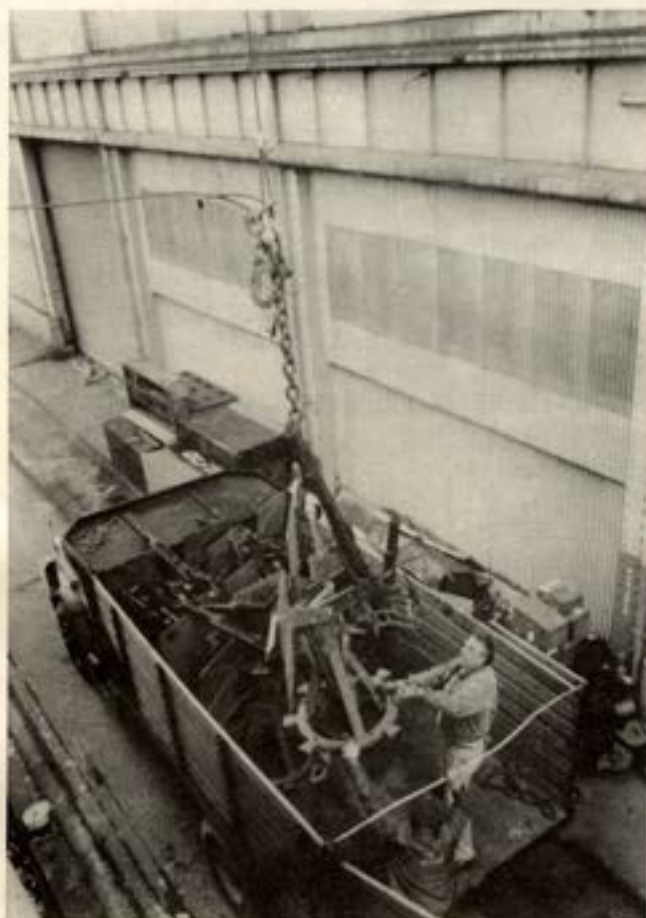
Send your check now to book  
for passage. Be sure to select day.

### SS *Jeremiah O'Brien*

Fort Mason Center, Bldg. A  
San Francisco, CA 94123-1382

For further inquiries, call  
Marci Hooper M-F 9am-4pm

(415) 441-3101



Tom Hurley and Walt Magalis guide a 20 mm mount  
out of Tom's Truck and aboard the SS John W. Brown.



The first 20 mm mount, Mark 4, Mod. 1, is swung aboard  
the John W. Brown, February 19, 1990.

ATTENTION!! ALL HANDS! "JACKETS WITH THE EAGLE DESIGN" ALL HANDS! ATTENTION!!  
"N-O-W!! HEAR THIS"

\* NOTICE!!!----- "ARMED GUARD JACKETS"-----NOTICE!!! \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

=====

I FAILED TO PUT THIS NOTICE IN THE LAST 3 "POINTERS"!! HERE IT IS-FINALLY!!! I  
DO APOLOGIZE TO THOSE WHO I HAD PROMISED. SORRY FOR DELAY, Y'ALL!! cal

=====

ORDER FROM: U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WW II VETERANS  
RICHARD AND BILLIE KOHSE  
2304 LISTER RD. NE  
OLYMPIA, WA. 98506  
1-(206)-456-1946

Richard and Billie Kohse, please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Armed Guard Jacket(s) with the  
EAGLE INSIGNA on the back. Enclosed is (check) (M.O) Number \_\_\_\_\_ for  
\$\_\_\_\_\_. which will include \$30.00 "EACH" for total cost and shipping. I  
understand that any profits will go to the 1990 and future reunions to help the  
HOSTS for any extra expenses they may incur.

MY SIZE IS:

SMALL \_\_\_\_\_ MEDIUM \_\_\_\_\_ LARGE \_\_\_\_\_ EXTRA LARGE \_\_\_\_\_

MY NAME IS: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Box # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: 1-(\_\_\_\_\_-) \_\_\_\_\_ COMPUTER # \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: "U.S.N. ARMED GUARD JACKET"

\*\*\*\*\*CUT HERE\*\*\*\*\*CUT HERE\*\*\*\*\*

ATTENTION!!!!!! " FOR ARMED GUARD SWEAT SHIRTS" ATTENTION !!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

SEND ABOVE INFORMATION AS TO SIZES, NAMES AND ADDRESSES ALONG WITH CHECK, MONEY  
ORDER FOR \$25.00 PAYABLE TO: "USNAG WW II VETERANS"

Mail to: U.S.N. Armed Guard 1990 Reunion  
C/O Bob Grossman  
10333 S. Campbell Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60655

The above prices on Jackets and Sweat Shirts include postage and shipping. Any  
profits will be to cover extra expenses incurred and they are good quality. I  
am grateful they are making these items available to you.

Caps are available still by sending a "DONATION ONLY" of \$8.00 to our outside  
return address. They're LETTERED: U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WW II; U.S.N. ARMED GUARD  
WW II SOUTH PACIFIC; U.S.NAVY WW II MURMANSK. Also, we have the white and blue  
cap with the "ARMED GUARD EAGLE" ensigna. Lapel pins are \$3.00 with the EAGLE.  
I can not sell them due to N.C. Sales Tax Law. If you have ordered in the past  
and did not receive them, please remind me. Don't wanta leave you out. cal

## COMING TO CHICAGO !!!!!

### AIR LINES

Chicago has two Airports - O'Hare and Midway. If you are coming into Midway and not renting a car, then we suggest a Taxicab to the Congress Hotel. At this time the Cab fare is between \$18.00 and \$20.00 each way.

If you are arriving at O'Hare, it is a further distance and Cab fare is between \$20.00 and \$25.00 each way. Using CTA's Rapid Transit Train between O'Hare and Downtown is easy, quick (35 minutes) and convenient. At the Airport, follow overhead signs marked "Rapid Transit Trains to City". The Station is located under Terminal 4. This is one block from other Terminals by moving sidewalk within the Airport. Cost is \$1.00. At the gate, tell the Ticket seller you wish to go to the Congress Hotel and they will assist.

Limousine Service is available thru American Limousine Service at 1-708-920-8888. Cost - Midway to Hotel is \$30.00 plus \$5.00 each additional person and O'Hare to Hotel is \$35.00 plus \$5.00 each additional person.

### AMTRACK

Coming to Chicago, all Trains arrive and depart from Union Station in Downtown Chicago. Union Station is located at Canal and Jackson Blvd. You can either take a #1 Eastbound Bus to the Hotel for \$1.00 or a Taxicab for approximately \$5.00

### CAMPERS & R.V.'s

Windy City Beach and Camping Resort is located 23 miles from Downtown Chicago and is a good "SAM" Park. Park has full hook-up pull through Electric and Water, new Club Room, Showers and Spring Fed Lake.

Approximate cost is \$20.00 per day. Phone number is 1-708-720-0030 or 1-815-469-6516. Ask for Terri. Park is located at Route 4 - 18700 So. 80th Avenue - Mokena, Illinois 60448.

### PARKING AT HOTEL

#### AUDITORIUM GARAGE

525 So. Wabash Avenue

Located next to Congress Hotel

24 Hours - \$11.50

Parking Ticket must be validated  
at Front Desk of Hotel.

#### CITY PARKING GARAGE

553 So. State Street

Parking is located 1½ blocks West  
of Congress Hotel.

24 Hours - \$6.90

#### GRANT PARK UNDERGROUND GARAGE

Michigan Ave. and Van Buren

Located 1 Block North of Congress Hotel.

24 Hours - \$7.00

## ON TO CHICAGO IN 1990

Please feel freely to call me on the "ARMED GUARD" Tele.1-(312)-779-NAVY if you have any questions or problems. We "WILL FILL" the cruise boats on a "FIRST PAY BASIS" and if you're are late in paying, your money will be refunded. Some want to know if they can come and not partake of meals due to dietary reason. By all means come. You can join us after the meal. If you stay at an RV PARK or with a local friend, Hotel, etc. come on! YES! Your ladies and family are welcomed and so are the Armed Guard widows. YOU ARE ARMED GUARD! It is your responsibility in getting to and from the CONVENTION. You take care of your own pets!! PLEASE! DO NOT WAIT til the last minute for questions. SEE Y'ALL HERE IN CHICAGO!! RJG

U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WWII VETERANS, 9TH ANNUAL REUNION  
CONGRESS HOTEL - 520 S. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60605  
1-800/635-1666 Illinois 1-312/427-3800

ITINERY AND RESERVATIONS

Wednesday - June 6, 1990

American Sightseeing, 1-312/427-3100 right in The Congress Hotel, is handling our bus transportation and sightseeing tours. Call direct for city tours (also see Saturday) Museums, Art Institute, Planetarium, Aquarium, Zoos, Sears Tower, Hancock Building, Water Tower Place, Marshall Fields, Chicago Cubs or White Sox, Arlington Park Racetrack. Pick up information when you register. Most of above are in walking distance or local bus. Stroll North on Michigan Avenue, 2 blocks left to State Street "That Great Street".

Thursday - June 7, 1990

Daytime: Explore Chicago. Enjoy our City. Walk the Loop. Take American Sightseeing Tours. Watch the hustle. Join the crowds.

6:30-10:00 PM. Star of Chicago Dinner Cruise from Navy Pier. See our fabulous skyline.

Special menu we selected, music, entertainment.

Cruise, dinner, bus (cash bar aboard ship).

\$45.00 per person x \_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Friday - June 8, 1990

Great Lakes Tour. Early departure in comfortable air conditioned coaches on 35 mile trip to where many of us took our "Boot" Training. Bus tour of the camp is scheduled, time permitting.

Lunch in Boot Camp or Training School Mess Hall. Lot of changes from the 40's.

Plaque Dedication and impressive Recruit Graduation Ceremony.

Cocktails (Cash Bar) and Buffet Dinner at "Port of Call" Officers Club.

Tour, including lunch, dinner, bus @

\$36.00 per person x \_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Hospitality Room closed during tour.

Saturday - June 9, 1990

8:30-10:30 AM. General Business Meeting. Great Hall - 2nd floor.

12:30 - 4:30 PM. Sightseeing tour of Chicago Loop, Soldier Field, including several hours at the Museum of Science and Industry, featuring captured German Submarine U-505 (\$2.00 per, extra).

Cost per person, including bus, tour, museum

\$17.00 per person x \_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

6:00 - 7:00 PM. Cocktails (Cash Bar) before dinner.

7:00 PM Banquet - Grand Ball Room.

\$25.00 per person x \_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Sunday, June 10, 1990

8:30 - 10:30 AM. Sunday Brunch, Great Hall.

\$15.00 per person x \_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Total Amount Enclosed. Check or Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Tickets for above events will be distributed when you register.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ MATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TEL (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ SMOKER Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_ HANDICAPPED Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

CHECKS TO "U.S.N.A.G. REUNION 1990"

Mail to Bob Grossman, 10333 S. Campbell Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60655

1991 ON TO BALTIMORE

# With memorial, tiny Nebraska town ends 45 years of pain

Karen Harvey of Raleigh was telling friends that she would be spending the Memorial Day weekend in a small farming town on the Nebraska plains.

"They all felt sorry for me," she said. "And frankly I thought it would be boring. But when I returned I told them all that I took back everything I had said about small towns in the Midwest."

"It was the most unforgettable weekend of my life."

Back on Aug. 9, 1941, a reporter wrote the following words in the *Laurel (Neb.) Advocate*: "War struck close to home in Laurel Saturday. We will not soon forget."

Those were prophetic words, for the people of Laurel never did forget.

On Aug. 5, 1944, B-17 bombers were flying over Laurel on a training mission. No one knows what happened, but two of the bombers collided over the little town and crashed, killing 17 of the 18 crewmen on the two planes.

Flying as co-pilot, and at the controls of one of the two planes, was 2nd Lt. George Nelson of Goldfield, Iowa, a baby-faced young pilot with a pregnant wife waiting for him near his home base of Sioux City, Iowa. Lt. Nelson died in the crash. Five months later his son was born. His mother named him David. His last name became Harvey when his mother remarried years later, and now he is the husband of Karen Harvey.

"Laurel is one of those little forgotten towns out on



**Dennis Rogers**

The News and Observer, Raleigh, N.C.

Thursday, July 6, 1989

the plains where people live together by themselves out in the middle of Nebraska," she said. "The crash 45 years ago was the biggest thing that ever happened there, and they never got over it. Two years ago they decided to build a memorial to the men who died that day, and they started trying to find survivors of the crewmen."

The good people of Laurel were able to locate about 45 family members of the B-17 crews and on Memorial Day 1989, they gathered in Laurel.

"It was awesome," Mrs. Harvey said. "I didn't know there were still people like that around. We didn't know what to expect, but everywhere we went, strangers were coming up with kind words and shaking our hands and telling us how much they appreciated us coming."

"It was a wonderful opportunity for all of the family members. They had grieved for years, and now they could talk it all out and get it out of their systems. We went as complete strangers, but we got very close to each other."

"My mother-in-law was so young when it happened, just 19. He was her high school sweetheart, and she couldn't get over it. She never talked about it. For all those years it was locked inside her. It was like an open book that could not be closed. Each year, for 45 years, she'd go out in the cemetery and place a wreath on his grave, as if to say, 'Please remember my husband.' And here was an entire town that did remember."

"She was able to deal with it when she went to Laurel. She was able to finally close that part of her life."

The people of Laurel took kind and loving care of their honored visitors. The local women fixed breakfast. They were escorted by local people everywhere they went. The ceremonies were heartfelt and dignified. The men of the Veterans of Foreign Wars put all bought new uniform jackets for the ceremony.

"When we went into the gym for their Memorial Day service, they applauded for each family as we walked in. It made us feel wonderful."

"The family members could see that people cared, that they were not alone in their suffering. They couldn't forget what happened, but neither could the people of Laurel. We came away with the most wonderful feeling of peace. It was very sad, but it was wonderful, too. You felt yourself releasing all those emotions."

The monument is a simple but elegant stone

bearing the names of the men who died, including that of Cpl. Ben Wolf of Madison, N.C., whose sister, Sadie Dean, lives in Cary. Mrs. Dean also attended the ceremony.

Out in the farm fields, where the two planes fell and 17 men died, small crosses and flowers marked the spots where the bodies were found.

"They promised us that every year those crosses would be there and every year they would have a service at the memorial," Mrs. Harvey said.

But one service won't be held next year. No longer will Lt. George Nelson's widow make her lonely pilgrimage to his grave on Memorial Day. Now she plans, Mrs. Harvey said, to send a donation to Little Laurel, Neb., to help maintain the memorial to her husband and his fallen comrades.

"That chapter of her life has finally ended after 45 years," Mrs. Harvey said.

"I don't know how to thank the people of Laurel for what they did for us. I left there feeling like I'd known these people all my life. It was the most extraordinary thing. My husband was born five months after his father died, and as we left, he said he felt like for the first time that he now knew him. His father had become a real person."

"How easy it would have been for Laurel to walk away from that crash and forget what happened. But, like the families, they couldn't forget it, either. That was the day the war came to Laurel."

"And we won't forget Laurel."

# Holocaust survivor hopes lessons of horror will linger

It is easier to be brave when there is no choice. But true courage is when you don't have to do it, when you could turn away and let someone else take the risks.

That is why I think Mrs. Gisella Abramson, 77, of Raleigh is perhaps the bravest person I have ever met.

With indomitable spirit, this tiny Jewish woman, who stands only 4 feet 11 1/4 inches tall, survived the Nazi Holocaust of World War II, served in the Polish underground as a teenage spy, lived through the Nazi concentration camps and came to America to tell the world that it must never happen again.

"In a few years, we'll all be gone," she said. "Will people believe that it happened when we aren't here to tell about it? Democracy is very fragile thing, and people have to understand that what happened in Europe can happen here if we allow ourselves to hate."

So she goes anywhere people



**Dennis Rogers**

will listen to her story. The story is told through tears, and she turns away from the horrifying pictures she brings, but she willingly puts herself through the torment of her memories so others can understand the hellish evil that unchecked hate can spawn.

It was good in the beginning, when she was a child living on her family farm near Przemysl, a town in southern Poland near the Russian border. It was the summer of 1939, and she was 10.

"My greatest ambition in life was to ride my father's horse, Marcia," she said. "We were happy there. There had been talk of war, but I had never felt any anti-Semitism. I didn't feel different from anyone else."

"The war started for me when my father put on his sword and uniform and rode off with the Polish cavalry to fight the German tanks. He wasn't gone very long, and when he came back he said Poland was finished."

The family moved into an apartment in town and soon, the town was overrun by Russian soldiers.

"Many of our friends began to disappear," she said. "They just weren't there any more, and no one would tell me where they were. The Russian KGB would come at night and take them to Siberia. I awoke one night to find my mother sitting by the window with our bags packed. She was waiting for the KGB to come for us."

"In June 1941, my brother Zosnek and I were put on a train to Litzk where we had an uncle. My father, who was not an affectionate man, said, 'Remember what you've been taught in this house. Remember who you are.' I never saw him again. Step by step, I was not being a child any more."

One week after reaching the safety of Litzk, the Germans arrived.

"They created a ghetto at the edge of town and moved all the Jews into shacks," she said. "All of us had to wear a yellow Star of David on our chests and a big yellow patch on our backs. There was only one water pump, and it was padlocked except for one hour a day. There was no food, no sanitation. There was typhoid and starvation everywhere."

"They brought Jews in from all over. Imagine the population of Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh crammed into an area the size of the N.C. State University campus. There were random killings every day. One day I watched a work detail coming back into the ghetto. All at once the Germans started shooting for no reason and cut half of them down."

"Each day the trains came and took people away, and every day the line at the water pump was smaller and smaller. You could hear the sound of screaming and

moaning every night. The Germans said they were relocating people to safety where they could work with honor, and they made a Jewish committee select who was to go. They forced people to write postcards back to the ghetto so people would not panic."

"We had a hole in the wall and since I was little, I was sent through the wall to bring back food. I used to take clothes that did not have the yellow stars and trade them for food, and I'd pick up twigs for firewood. I became extremely bold and did not wear the star when I was out. I had blind faith and the Germans did not think I looked Jewish. I used to look in a mirror and wonder what a Jew looked like."

Soon, there was almost no one left in the Litzk ghetto except Gisella and her uncle, a doctor who was forced to treat the Nazis. One day, after her aunt and two cousins had slipped away to hide with a friendly Christian farm family, Gisella arranged to meet her uncle to say goodbye. She was

being sent to hide with another family.

"We were to meet at a meadow on the edge of town," she said. "I heard trucks coming and hid. When they arrived, they were full of people. The Germans yelled at them to get down, and I saw a shower of yellow stars as they got off. They made the people dig trenches as they argued about how deep it ought to be. Then they lined everyone up by the trench and made them disrobe."

"There was a command to face, and they started shooting. I saw one lady holding her baby. She was smiling and kissing her baby with tears streaming down as the bullets hit her. There was screaming for awhile, and then it got quiet. Those voices have haunted me every day of my life."

"The Germans left, and I crept out. Blood was rising to the top of that pit. I was standing there looking at it when two men grabbed me."

The story continues Tuesday.

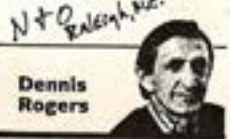
# Despite pain, survivor feels need to tell story of Holocaust

Gisella Gross Abramson was 12 when the Nazis overran her small Polish village in 1941 and herded thousands of her fellow Jews into a squalid ghetto at the edge of town. She managed to live through the starvation and disease as more and more of her Jewish neighbors and family were sent to die in the concentration camps.

In Monday's column, I described how she had just witnessed a massacre of hundreds of innocent men, women and children who were gunned down by Nazi death squads as she hid in nearby bushes.

"I was standing by the pit looking down at the bodies when two men grabbed me," she said. "I screamed, and they told me in Polish to be quiet. They put me in the back of a cart and took me to a house. They told me I was going to be part of the underground fighting the Germans."

"I was sent to live with families where German officers were staying. My job was to clean and listen to what was said and report it to



**Dennis Rogers**

my link to the underground. I'd abuse their hosts and endear myself to the German officers and then make impressions in wax of the keys they carried. If they threw out a paper, I picked it up and passed it along. I recorded the insignia they wore and reported the names of people who came to see them. I was 14 by then, but I was never really a teenager."

"My last job for the underground was with the German military government. I cleaned the office where they issued documents, and I stole a copy of everything there. I'd wipe off a desk and pick up a copy of what the underground needed."

She survived for several months as a teenage spy surrounded by Nazis day and night.

"There was a lot of loneliness,"

she said. "I knew it was not a game. I was scared and wondered if what I was doing was helping anyone."

"The SS brought me in one day to question me, and I knew it was the end. They didn't find anything on me but they suspected me so they put me on a train to the concentration camp at Majdanek. Old men, women and children were jammed on the train, and for three days it rumbled and rumbled on. People who suffocated on the train were the lucky ones. Finally, they opened the doors and we fell off. You couldn't get enough fresh air in your lungs."

"There was a long line with an SS officer at the front. As we approached him, he would point either left or right. The line to the right were the old people and the children, and they were sent off to the large buildings with chimneys. A man came down the line and told me to stand up straight and say I was 16. I did, and I was sent to the barracks. The other line went straight to the gas chambers."

"They were told they were

going to take showers. They would make them disrobe and then cram them in a large room and lock the doors. Then, if they were in a bad mood, they would play with the people. They'd let a little gas in and then stop it as the people screamed. They'd let a little more gas in until finally everyone was dead. Then they'd burn the bodies. The smell of burned flesh was always in your clothes and nostrils."

"I was in a barracks with 400 to 500 women. We had one toilet and one faucet. Every day we had to stand outside for selection. No matter how sick you were, you stood up straight because they went down the line selecting the sick to die that day."

"Sometimes they learned I spoke German and Polish, and they forced me to be a translator. They brought me into a big room and shined a light in my eyes and told me I had to be a translator. I refused, but as my eyes got adjusted to the light, I could see a group of Jews standing behind the light with Germans with guns

behind them. They would have killed them, so I became a translator."

Freedom finally came on May 9, 1945.

"They had us out digging our own graves," she said. "The SS was there and was nervous and trigger-happy. We could hear the battle, and then suddenly we heard a tremendous roar and saw a big red star on a tank. Someone yelled, 'We're free!' The next thing I knew I was in a hospital with tubes in me."

"One day a black man came in. I had never seen a black man, but he picked me up very gently and took me over to the window. He made me look out the window, and I saw an American flag. I knew that flag. And I knew I was finally free."

Gisella was only 16, but she had lived a lifetime.

"I go around telling the story because my victory over Hitler is to lead a productive life," said Mrs. Abramson, who now lives in Raleigh. "That is my revenge on him. For a long time I hated, I

didn't want to think; I didn't want to remember. The pain was unbearable. I was in a rage against Germans. But I realized that meant Hitler had won, and I had been destroyed. I was not taking advantage of my second life."

"I want to prevent atrocities like that from ever happening again. People have to believe that it happened to the Jews and it can happen again. People must believe that every human being has a right to believe in their own God in their own way."

"I love America, and I love democracy with all my heart, but how can people defend it if they don't realize it can be threatened? I have an obligation to talk about it."

"I still have that SS insignia branded on my arm. It was pure, sheer luck. The only other ones who survived in my family were an aunt and two cousins. Everyone else died."

"It still hurts, but I have to tell it. I am a witness to the crime that was committed."



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 WWI AND II VETERANS 9TH NATIONAL REUNION WILL BE HELD AT "CONGRESS HOTEL", 520 S. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605 1-312-427-3800 ON JUNE 6-10, 1990. HOSTS WILL BE ROBERT "BOB" AND "PEDGY" GROSSMAN, 10333 S. CAMPBELL AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60655 1-312-779-6289. BE SURE TO LET THE HOTEL KNOW THAT YOU ARE U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS. MAKE RESERVATION EARLY.



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