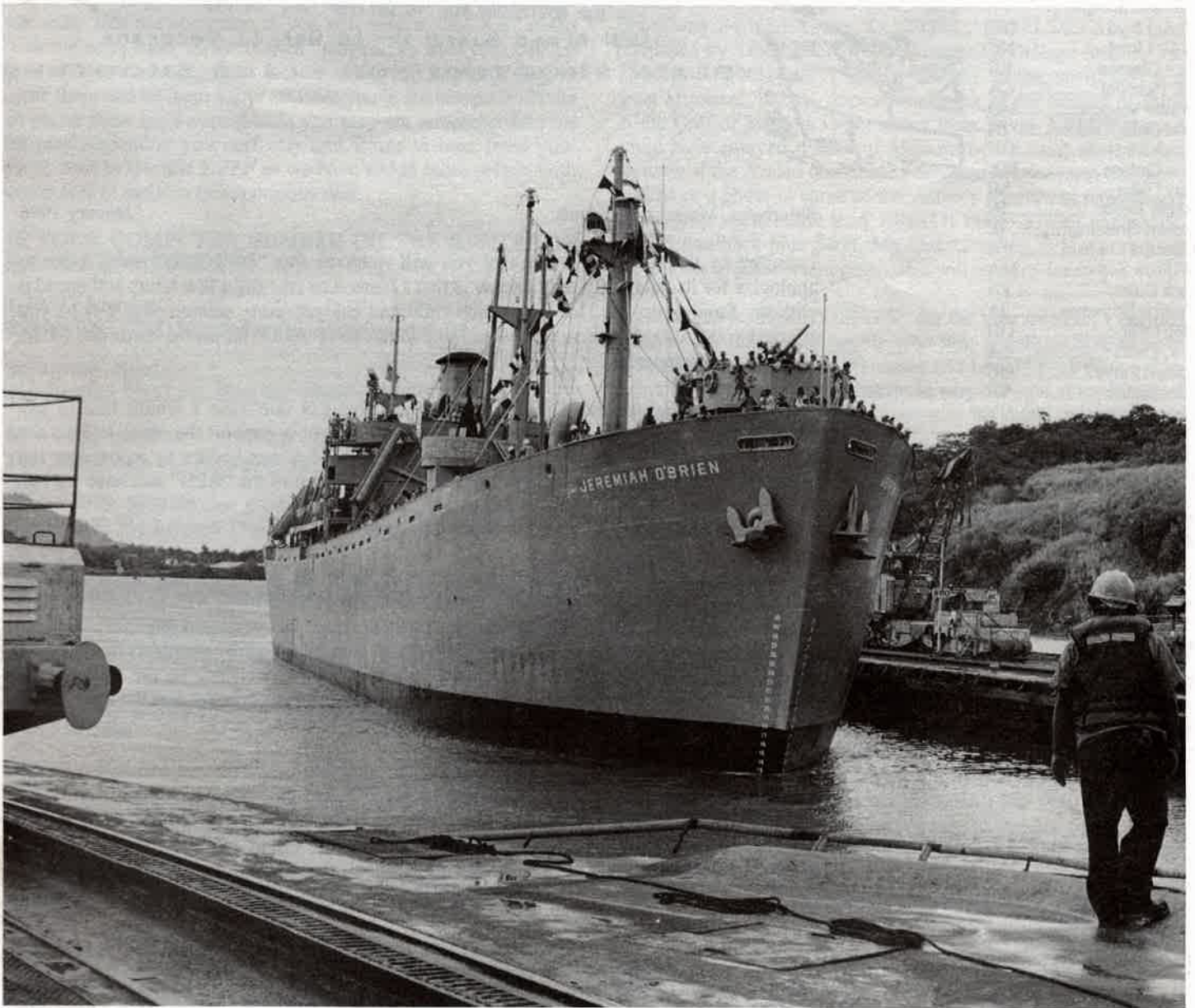


JAN./FEB., 1996

THE POINTER

HEADING FOR HOME



The historical "LIBERTY SHIP", the S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN is shown sailing the Panama Canal in 1995 as she heads for her home port in San Francisco, California USA after taking part in the 50TH ANNIVERSAR of NORMANDY. The "LADY" is one of the last two famous designated HISTORICAL LIBERTY SHIPS left of the 2710 built during WW II. The other, the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN is docked at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. We also have a third ship designated as Historical, the S.S. LANE VICTORY in San Pedro. Photo sent in by Captain Joe Chamberlain, U.S.Navy Armed Guard of WW II who piloted her through the Canal. *(see letter on page 13)*

Officers for 1996

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

Al and Wanda Colella
149 El Dorado Drive
St. Peters, MO 63376
1-314-278-1665

Lonnie D. Lloyd, Treasurer

Board of Directors

C. A. Lloyd NC
L. D. Lloyd NC
Don Gleason KS
Joe Piccolini CA
Walter Magalis MD
Pete DeLa Cruz IN
Ralph McNally OK
Len Carlson MN
Ray Didur MI
Ralph Jacobs IN
Robert Grossman IL
Clarence Durham VA
William Sache MA
Jack Cross PA
Francis Brummer IA
Bob Ober OH
J. F. Carter LA
Robert Floyd SC
Ken Niebuhr WI
Henry Carrington NY

Trustees

C. A. Lloyd NC
L. D. Lloyd NC
James C. Blaylock TX
Alex Lombardi NJ
Carl Shade OH
James Sterling MD
Al Colella MO
Jay Wildfong IL
Richard Kohse WA
Jerry Groucher NV
Elmer Vincent LA

Chaplains

Lyle Kell WA
Robert Aldrich NV

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 POINTER

AND THE PLANE SHOOTER

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

USN Armed Guard World War II Veterans

"PLAIN SHOOTING FOR PLANE SHOOTERS"



Shipmates, Mates, and Friends:

January 1996

I can tell by the letters from you that you will welcome this "POINTER" and I'd like to apologize for its delay. My only excuse is that I wanted to take off a few hours and spend it with my family over the Holidays which I did and enjoyed every minute of it. I hope you enjoyed yours also. At this time, I would like to thank "Y'ALL" for all the cards and letters sent. You're wonderful.

My "pappy" always said, "Give credit where credit is due"! So I would like to say "THANKS" to all of you who have contributed in the past to support the cause to keep the "POINTER" coming to you and the expenses incurred. I would like to report that the ARMED GUARD has survived another year and we are out of the "RED" and have enough to pay for this "POINTER" with approx. \$3,000. surplus which will be used on the next mailout and expenses.

In the JUNE/JULY "POINTER" was an Order Form for those wanting items. It gave: RUDY KOZAK, 4950 Dory Drive, New Port Richey, Fl. 34652, 813-847-4038 as the "SHIP'S STORE CLERK." If you want any of these items, just write and send the check and items ordered directly to him. He and Ellie have taken a lot off of my shoulders and they are ready to fill the orders. The Armed Guard Jackets are going well but we are losing about \$4.00 each now as the cost has increased so send \$40.00 from now on and the extra \$1.00 will help towards extra postage and hidden expenses of Rudy's.

I thought the "YANKEES" would "HOG" all the snow but we finally got us 3 inches on 6th and 7th of January. I bet those areas that received 3 feet or more will be glad to see the ground again!! I talked to Bill Howard in Arizona at the time and he said that he was from UPSTATE MICHIGAN until about 8 years ago and one day he tied a snow shovel to the front of his car and headed South until he stopped to get gas and someone asked him- "WHAT IS THAT AWFUL LOOKING THING?!!!" So he looked for a house and has been there ever since!!

I have entered a name at Computer Number 13460 and still have approx. 11,500 at the mailing of this "POINTER." Many of the "NEW OL'SALTS" have asked whether their wives could attend the reunions. The answer to all is "YES" as the wives are the ones who encourage their husbands to attend. The families and friends are also welcomed. The widows and their orphans are welcomed too. This is "FAMILY" oriented and we welcome all. BE SURE TO LET THE HOTEL KNOW YOU ARE SIGNING ON FOR THE U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD REUNION. For you that are handicapped, we will do all we can to assist you in any way possible.

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

***Remember, I can't move as fast as I did when I was in my twenties!
When you call, let the phone ring so I can get to it! cal**

Our yearly National Reunion Photographer, Larry French of "REUNION MEMORIES," P.O. Box 161939, Altamonte Springs, Fl. 32716-1939, 1-407-862-2311 will be with us again at St. Louis and I hope more of you will purchase this KEEPSAKE BOOK for \$12.00. Photos will be taken at the reunion and those of you who can not attend, and would like to have your picture and address included, send a WALLET SIZE photo of you, or you and your lady, to enter along with the \$12.00. The photos are processed and the book will be sent to you around "Thanksgiving." The more people who take part, the larger the book and more for the money.

We have located many shipmates for some of you. If you have not had a PRINTOUT within the last 8 months, please send a SELF-ADDRESSED-STAMPED-ENVELOPE as I will indicate below. For all the "NEW OL'SALTS" who send in their ships to me so I can enter into the computer, if you will send a "S.A.S.E" along with the completed "SHIP FORM" that comes with your packet, you will get those shipmates located so far and it is your duty to write them and let them know we have you in the computer. Write or phone these guys even though you may not remember him for he may remember you perfectly and wants to hear from you. Now, read below and KEEP as we have added more people with computers to assist in this enormous task.

IF YOUR COMPUTER NUMBER ON THE RIGHT TOP SIDE OF COMPUTER IS:

1-3000 - Send to:

Ralph Lucas, 1220 Hawthorne Rd., Hanahan, S.C. 39406

3000-5000 - Send to:

Phil Bradley, 2207 Fox Hunt Dr., Monroe, N.C. 28110

5000-7000 - Send to:

Tom Bowerman, 814 Springdale Ave., Anniston, Al. 36201

7000-10,000 - Send to:

Roy Sentell, 311 Laverne Dr., Warner Robins, Ga. 31088

10,000-12,000 - Send to:

Ernest Cochran, 12775 Titus Rd., Dresden, Oh. 43821-9709

12,000-upward - Send to:

Bob Ober 7115, Dunn Rd., Cincinnati, Oh. 45230-4112

They are there to help you. We don't have too many more years to search for 'em.

The NOV/DEC 1995 "POINTER", Page 2 2nd column tell you what to do to find the "LOST" shipmate by the CD-ROM. It's up to you. We have found many but I am sure we could find many more. For those who was located by the CD-ROM, you have a "cd" behind your name. If I missed putting it there, notify me as I would like to keep tab and this is my way of knowing.

The "SEA CLASSICS" January 1996, Vol. 1 magazine carried Part One "THE O'BRIEN'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO NORMANDY" by Walter Jaffee. Well documented, Walt. You can obtain a single back copy for \$6.50 each. Yearly subscriptions (12 issues) cost \$29.95 and are worth much more to anyone who sailed the seas. To order, send check to: Subscription Dept., Challenge Publications, Inc., 7950 Deering Ave., Canoga Park, Ca., 91304-5003. Allow up to 12 weeks for delivery of first issue. The Jan. 1996 issue also lists all NAVAL and MARITIME MUSEUMS of North America.

Bob Galati has another book, "A WINNING TEAM - IN PEACE

AND WAR" of the U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD and the U.S. MERCHANT MARINES during WW II by the INNOVATI PRESS. It contains 187 pages of true stories and pictures of the crew. Price: \$12.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. Send check or money order to: Bob Galati, 6366 S. Waterton Dr., Tucson Az. 85746. This is Galati's second paperback book on the Armed Guard.

Bill Perdue, Armed Guard of 2624 Fairway Ct., Lake Wales, Fl. 33853, 941-676-5673 has his first book, "FOX-UNCLE-CHARLEY", which is written in the form of fiction of his ship and crew of the S.S. William P. Frye. Some of the words should have been censored, or other words used in their place. PRICE: \$15.00 INCLUDES SHIPPING.

"TORPEDOS IN THE GULF" by Melanie Wiggins, 8111 Broadway #4, Galveston, Tx. 77551, (409) 740-3205 and published by Texas A&M Press, Drawer-C, College Station, Tx. 77843, 1-800-826-9811 (ISBN Lib.No. O-89096-627-3) is a great historical, factual, documented book of the sinking of ships in the Gulf of Mexico. Order direct from Texas A&M. I guess I could have enjoyed it more if Melanie would have shown some pictures of the Armed Guard and Merchant Marine crew that were injured or a photo of some of the victim's families in mourning. I still highly recommend it. A MUST!! Price: \$14.95 paperback, \$29.50 hardback plus S&H. My understanding is if you request the author, Melanie's autograph, this will be done free.

Since this is the first "POINTER" for the year of 1996, I decided to count the number of people who sent donations here to keep things afloat. I counted 1890 names and I could have been off by 1-3 per cent. This does not list those who donated at the National Reunion, from Mini-Reunion groups, or the raffle. Each person's name, amount, date, check or M.O. number, City, State and Zip Code is recorded. If you donated in 1995 and don't have a 5 behind your name on the label of this "POINTER", I failed to enter it. Just let me know the date and check number and I will see if I received it. As long as 1890 more give this year to cover all expenses, you will get the "POINTER." You have been great and hopefully, things will go well this year. On behalf of all— THANKS!! I have approx. 200 "POINTERS" here that were returned due to no forwarding address. Some are from different ones. If you have a local known Armed Guard you can call, you may want to check and see if he's still getting a copy or had missed one. Too many of you who I never hear from and I do not have your ships, etc., this may be your last "POINTER" as I don't know if you receive it or not and we have no other choice. If a post card is not worth letting me know, you must not be interested. It is that simple. I hope we don't lose you. If you have a list of Armed Guard and aren't sure if they're listed on the computer, and receiving a POINTER, contact me so I can check!

Two more things I want to tell you before going to the printers. The Hotel Rate in St. Louis is \$70.00 plus tax. Get your reservations in NOW!! It sure helps the Hotel and Al Colella do a better job. 2ND Thing!! Total in Armed Guard Bank Account as of 1/10/95, \$12,200. Now, to use about \$7,000 for 14,000 POINTERS which I hope you enjoy. C.ALLOYD

BEFORE I FORGET IT! BOOK ON PBYS! ALEUTIAN ISLAND AREA. "THOSE NAVY GUYS AND THEIR PBYS" by Elmer Freeman. Kedging Publishing Co., 1124 West 8th Ave. Spokane, Wa. 99204 (509) 838-3282 \$18.95 plus \$2.00 shipping.

★ ★ ★ ★ REUNIONS ★ ★ ★ ★

"REGIONAL, MINI-REUNIONS AND GET-TOGETHERS"

Support these local meetings while you're able.

OOOPS!! COLUMN!!

NOT "OOOPS" BUT DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE OUT!!

Charles J. Christ, Box 10037 Station 1, Houma, La. 70363-0037, (504) 872-2843 has informed me that he is writing a full length documentary on "U-BOAT" activities in the GULF of MEXICO and asks that all who served on ships there to write him of your experiences, your stay and training in the area, etc.

One hundred "AUSTRALIANS" will be coming to the **MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS NATIONAL REUNION** to be held in Las Vegas, May 19-22, 1996 as guests of the AMMV Desert Mariners Chapter of Phoenix, Arizona. A contingent of Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans (DEMS) will also be attending. Contact: Bill Erin, 1442 Rawhide Rd., Boulder City, NV 89005-3114 702-293-7438 for more info. Maybe, they can come over to St. Louis and attend 2 days with us????

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS area meets at McDonalds in Fairview Hgts. on the 2nd Saturday of each month 9:30-11:00. This is a **NEW CREW** and the Skipper is: Theodore Kawula, 3232 Carlson Ave., Granite City, Il. 62040. It is also a joint Armed Guard and Merchant Seamen "GET-TO-GETHER."

SACRAMENTO, CA. Area Armed Guard, Wives, and Friends: 10:00 A.M.- 3rd Thursday at **BRADSHAW RESTAURANT**, Hwy. 50 at Bradshaw Exit. Welcome Hosts are: Bill and Doris Welch, 6048 Holstein Way, Sac., Ca. 95822-2955, 916-428-4681 and Peewee and Charlotte Hunter, 916-354-0623. Come and enjoy!!

ORANGE CO., CALIFORNIA Area Contact: Walter Davis, 2604 No. Tustin Ave. #F, Santa Ana, Ca. 92705, 714-997-7119; or, Curtis Mellin, 3173 Bern Dr., Laguna Beach, Ca. 92651, 714-494-6603.

ALABAMA CREW has elected Gene Pugh, 3131 Hale Dr., Huntsville, Al. 35805, 205-533-6049 as their Chairman and Tom Toughey as Sec-Treas. and will meet at the Golden Corral, 3117 Lorna Rd., Hoover, Al. until further notice. Tentative dates for '96 are: 2/13, 5/14, 8/13 and 11/12/96

INDIANA CREW meets each month on the last Saturday at 11:00 A.M. at **LOUIE'S** Restaurant located on U.S. 24 West and Wilkerson St. intersection, Logansport, In. 46947. Hosts are Forrest and Annabelle Spencer, 219-753-7066.

GEORGIA CHAPTER Skipper Bill Burton, 251 Cardigan Cir., Lilburn, Ga. 30247, 770-381-5395 informs me that the Ga. Crew will meet at **SHONEY'S**, Exit 38, Lilburn. 11 AM "FIRST MONDAY" of MARCH, JUNE, SEPT. and DEC.

PBY CATALINA INTERNATIONAL ASSOC. will hold their reunion SEPT. 11-15, 1996 in **MINNEAPOLIS, MN.** For details, contact: James Thompson, 1510 Kabel Dr., New Orleans, La. 70131, 504-392-1227

NOTICE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE!! "ROCHESTER, N.Y. AREA" ARMED GUARD AND MERCHANTMEN of WW II contact John and Mary Shevlin, 37 Winfield Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14622-2212, 716-467-2057. A LUNCH meeting is held at 11:00 A.M. on the "2ND" Tuesday at the "Old Country Buffet" Culver-Ridge Plaza East Ridge Rd., "IRONDEQUOIT, NY." Vincent Daddazio, 100 Dunn Tower Dr. #1 A-404, Rochester, NY 14606, 716-429-6653 assists John. They will be the hosts for the **NORTH-EAST MINI-REUNION** in Rochester, N.Y. Oct. 10-13, 1996.

IOWA CREW meet the 2nd Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. at the

"VALLEY WEST INN," 3535 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa, off I-235. Arnie and Mary Latare, 601 34th St. W, Des Moines, Ia. 50265, 515-225-1084 are the hosts. They've got it together for you!

BROOKLYN, N.Y. AREA: CONTACT MIKE MOLINARI, 1422 East 54th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234, 718-444-8449. They meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at King's Plaza Diner, 4124 Ave. 'U' between Hendrickson and Coleman at 10 A.M.

NEBRASKA Host, Moe Carlton, 6601 Benton St., Lincoln, Ne. 68507, 402-466-1058 reports that they've **CHANGED TO AN 11:00 LUNCHEON** on the 1ST MONDAY of each month at **FARABEES RESTAURANT** on 58TH and OLD CHANEY ROAD. **ALSO!!** Nebraska will host their **NE-KS-MO-OK MINI-REUNION** SEPT. 20-21, 1996 at the Best Western Airport Inn, 1-800-528-1234. CONTACT CARLTON FOR MORE INFO.

WILKES-BARRE, PA. AREA Host Delbert Lennon, P.O. Box 772, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703, reports that his meetings will be the 4th Saturday of each month at the **MARK II RESTAURANT**, 1020 Wilkes Barre Pa. Township Blvd., W-B, Pa. Lennon's telephone # is 717-467-2161, weekdays only.

Hosts Alvin and Thelma Kemble, 8150 Chamber Hill Rd., **HARRISBURG, PA.**, 17111, 717-566-8728 announce they hold their "FIRST THURSDAY" of each month meeting for their locality at the "HOSS'S STEAK HOUSE" in Hummelstown, Pa. at 1:00 P.M. **NOTICE TIME CHANGE!**

WESTERN N.C. AREA meets at the "MILLS RIVER RESTAURANT", MILL'S RIVER, N.C. on the "4TH THURSDAY" of each month. "LUNCHEON" starts at 11:30 AM. Contact: Crayton Hall, PO Box 39, 88 Wilkie Way, Fletcher, N.C. 28732, 704-684-4588.

ILL-WISC. John and Phyllis Neven, 3514 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, Il. 60634, 312-725-2186 inform me that Virgil C. Meeks, (wife-Isabel) 6119 W. Park Hill Ave., Milwaukee Wi., 53213, 414-258-0305 will be their **NEW SKIPPER** for 1996. They still hold a **NOON** meeting at **THE OLD COUNTRY CAFE** in Madison for the Il/Wi crew, with Ken and Jackie Niebuhr, 820 Brandie Rd., Madison, Wi. 53714 as Hosts. They will hold their 1996 Mini-Reunion 1st weekend in October with Joe Esposito, Joliet, Il. and Mike Pavilich, Matteson, Il. as their Hosts. More on this next time!! Nevens reports that the 1995 mini-reunion was a great success with 103 in attendance. Keep up the great work!!

WILMINGTON, N.C. Armed Guard hold a 1ST WEDNESDAY monthly meeting 9:30 A.M., **WHITEY'S** Restaurant, 4501 Market St., Wilmington. Host is George W. Cameron, 611 Middle Sound Rd. Lot 16, Wilmington, N.C. 28405, 910-686-4193. They will try to get the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN to Wilmington for the Azalea Festival 4/10-13/96.

SOUTHWEST OHIO HOSTS Bob and Dot Ober, 7115 Dunn Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45230, 513-231-3181 and Clyde and Marion Gutzwiller, 9799 Mt. Nebo Road., North Bend, Oh. 45052, 513-941-3072 hold an 11:30 Luncheon Buffet on the 2ND SAT. "EVERY OTHER MONTH" starting in Feb. 1996, at **COBBLEWOOD PLAZA**, 1097 Smiley Ave, Cincinnati, Oh., Exit 39 off I-275. "NOTICE CHANGE"!

DEMS — CONTACT: DOUG SEPHTON, RCNA-DEMS, 203 Anne St. North, Barrie, Ontario, CN L4N 4T4. ARMED GUARD AND MERCHANT CREWS ARE WELCOMED to attend functions. Just maybe some of the DEMS can join us in St. Louis!!

The **PORTLAND-MILWAUKIE, OREGON** ARMED GUARD MEETS WITH THE M.M. CHAPTER at the **ELKS CLUB**. Contact: George Goode, 4017 S.E. Aldercrest Rd. Milwaukie, Oregon 97222, 503-659-1925.

The "NORTH-WEST PASSAGE", "AK-OR-WA-ID" holds a luncheon at 1400 hours on the 3RD WEDNESDAY at the BELL'S RESTAURANT, 8501 Fifth Ave. N.E., North Seattle, WA., 1 mile south of Northgate Mall. Contact: Bob Heitzinger, 9227 169th Place NE, Redmond, Wa. 98052, 206-524-3100; Or, Billie and Richard Kohse, 2304 Lister Rd., N.E. Olympia, Wa. 98506-3616, 360-456-1946; or, Don and Pearl Werner, 18605 N.E. 219th St., Battleground, Wa. 98604, 206-687-3630. SEZ -"DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE LADIES." The NORTHWEST CREW will hold their Regional Reunion at the "SILVERDALE ON THE BAY," 3073 N.W. Bucklin Hill Rd., Silverdale, Wa. 98383 on April 10-12, 1996. Contact the above. (Y'ALL HAVE A GREAT TIME!!!)

WYOMING Armed Guard Skipper for 1996 is Charles Gray, P.O. Box 673, Vernal, Utah 84078, 801-789-0831

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA Area Host Harold Forbes had to relinquish his duty due to health problems. Do we have any other volunteers?? **PLEASE ADVISE.**

LANSING, MICH. Area holds a "2nd" Wednesday of the odd months at the CORAL GABLES RESTAURANT, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, Mi. 517-337-1311. Host is Carl Mescher, 508 Wayland, East Lansing, Mi. 48823, 517-332-1027; or, Martin Vallee, 1412 Brookwood, Flint, Mi. 48503, 810-235-3530.

KENTUCKY CREW contact Joe and Earlene Foreman, P.O. Box 99303, Jeffersontown, Ky. 40269, 502-267-4576; or James and Norma Close, 4036 Preston Hwy., Louisville, Ky 40223, 502-366-8966 as they are the Hosts for a "3rd Thursday" 9:30 BREAKFAST at SHONEY'S RESTAURANT at Shelby and Eastern Parkway.

The "RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER" of Armed Guard Veterans have a "LUNCHEON MEETING" on the 1st Wed. of every month at Noon at Bickfords in Warwick, R.I. Gerry and Lena Greaves, 143 E. Killingly Road, Foster, RI 02825, 401-647-2212 are your hosts!!

DELAWARE VALLEY PA. Area Armed Guard HAS STARTED HOLDING AN 11:30 AM 2ND WEDNESDAY MONTHLY MEETING at the American Legion, Falls TWP Post #834, Fallsington, PA. 19054, 215-295-9858. HOSTS: Al and Norma Farrara, 45 Upper Hill Top Rd., Yardley, PA. 19067, 215-493-9134. A WONDERFUL CREW!!



Delaware Valley, PA crew poses at their Oct. 1995 meeting. Photo sent in by Al Farrara of Yardley, PA.

OKLAHOMA Crew contact RALPH McNALLY, P.O. Box 423, Skiatook, Okla. (918) 396-2693, or; Jim Carlton, 519 E. 6th St., Bristow, Ok. 74010, 918-367-6764 on their meetings at PERRY'S CAFE, Highway 169-76th St. N. Owasso, Ok.

TOPEKA, KANSAS. Area meets on the "FIRST THURSDAY" of each month at 8:30 A.M. at the TOPEKA PLAZA INN with DON GLEASON, 2405 N.W. Cross, Topeka, Ks. 66606, 913-234-6087 and Dean Vining, 913-273-1247 as hosts.

The **WICHITA, KS Area Merchant Marines** WW II Veterans will hold their 6th Annual Reunion there and will unveil their NEW WW

II MEMORIAL which will include a Plaque with Armed Guard info on a 7' pylon with their 5' anchor mounted on top. They would like for any Armed Guard who can, come and join them. CONTACT: Glen Trimble, 1725 Woodrow Ct., Wichita, Ks. 67203.

The **MO-KAN CREW** will meet on the 3RD TUESDAY of each month and the location is: D.A.V. Chapter #2, 8787 Old Santa Fe Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64138, near the intersection of 87th St. and Blue Ridge Blvd. at 11:00 A.M. with Stan DeFoe, 4308 South Osage Ave., Independence, Mo. 64055-4645, 816-373-5890 and Bill Sears, 8505 NE 56th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64119, 816-453-2179 as hosts. All are welcomed!!

The **UPPER PA.** will hold their meetings at PLATZ'S RESTAURANT, 101 Harrit Rd., Lehighon Pa. 18235, 610-377-1819 come Spring. Contact: Clint Barr, 2340 Third St., Easton, Pa. 18042, 610-258-3056. This crew is gaining in numbers and having lots of fun!!

LITTLE FERRY, N.J. AREA meets on the 1ST TUESDAY of EACH MONTH, for an 11:30 AM luncheon at TRACEY'S RESTAURANT, #4 Bergen Pike, Little Ferry, NJ 07643. Host for this area will be William and Irene Yansick, 80 Charlton Ave., Lodi, N.J. 07644, 201-473-6640.

PITTSBURGH, PA. crew meets on the "3rd Sat." for a Noon Luncheon at the Greentree Marriott. CONTACT: Hilary Makowski, 202 Wedgewood Crt., Carnegie, Pa. 15106, (412) 429-8510.

CHICOPEE-LUDLOW, MA. HOSTS Tom and Priscilla Dufresne, 289 Munsing St., Ludlow, Ma. 01056, 413-583-8580 hold a "2ND SUNDAY" 9 A.M. BREAKFAST at the MOOSE LODGE #1849, 244 FULLER RD., CHICOPEE, MA. and are assisted by Roger Fournier, Springfield, Ma. 413-543-3766; Sam Pitittieri, 413-592-1854 and Louis Carr, 413-783-5904.

COLORADO CREW: EVERYONE is invited to attend our FIRST TUESDAY of the month LUNCHEON at the EMBASSY SUITES, 4444 Havana St., (I-70 and Havana) Denver, Co. 80226, 303-988-5583. Contact Ed Jones, 616 S. Carr St., Lakewood, Co. 80226, 303-988-5583. Their next Mini-Reunion will be in Cheyenne, Wy. 6/7-8/96. Ed says he'll also us see in St. Louis, Mo. BRING 'em all!

ALBANY, N.Y. AREA HOSTS, Henry and Joyce Carrangi, 11 Bullard Ave. Queensbury, N.Y. 12804, 518-793-0326 and crew meet at 12 NOON, "4TH" THURSDAY of each month at the "WATER-VLIET ARSENAL OFFICER'S CLUB," Watervliet, N.Y. They have a great crew, too!!

S.C. CREW CONTACT: Jeff and Mabel Haselden, 120 Richardson Blvd., Lugoff, S.C. 29078, (803) 438-1491.

RICHMOND, VA. Crew meets at 12:30 PM for LUNCHEON at MORRISON'S Cafe, 7035 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. on the 2ND SAT. Hosts are Clarence and Helen Durham, 4813 Lowells Rd., Richmond, Va. 23224, 804-233-6023. Their crew donation was received and deposited.

In **NORFOLK, VA. SKIPPER CHANGE!!** Contact: Reginald Dolliver, 3820 Amberly Forest Pl., Virginia Beach, Va. 23456, 804-471-6397 has relieved Ralph Womeldorf as Skipper. Ralph has done a wonderful job in keeping the Norfolk, Va. crew together. Thanks Ralph for doing a great job and our thanks to you, Dolliver, for keeping the crew together. They will continue to meet on the Last Saturday of the month at the "Old Country Buffett," 1952 Laskin Rd., Virginia Beach, Va. at "Hilltop Regency Shopping Plaza."

ROANOKE, VA. Area will SKIP their meeting on the 2nd Friday of each month at the ROANOKER Restaurant, 2522 Colonial Ave. Roanoke, Va. at 11:30 A.M. until MARCH 8, 1996. Contact: Bill Miller, 157 Houston Ave., Roanoke, Va. 24012, 703-362-0576.

DESTROYER ESCORT ASSOC. will hold their National Reunion Sept. 2-6, 1996 in RENO, NV. Contact: DESA, 352 W. Story Rd., Ocoee, Fl. 34761.

George Milk, 449 St. James St., Port Charlotte 33952, 813-627-6759 area meets at Golden Corral - **PUNTA GORDA, FL.** on 3rd Tues. at 1:30 P.M. When vacationing, join in with these Florida Crews.

Rudy and Ellie Kozak, 4950 Dory Dr., **NEW PORT RICHEY FL.** 34652, (813)-847-4038 still hold meetings in area.

Jack and Corinne Renaud, 839 S. Success Ave., Lakeland, Fl. 33801, 941-688-1312 get the **LAKELAND, FL. CREW** together with the help of Harold Ceaser, 8621 Vixen Dr., Port Richey, Fl. 34668, 313-863-1367. "SUNNY? FLORIDA".

SPRINGHILL, FLORIDA Area- Contact: William T. Young, 4206 Parkhurst La., Springhill, Fl. 34608, 904-683-9333. They will hold a breakfast on the "SECOND" Saturday of each month, 10 AM at: EVERGREEN WOODS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY.

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL area meets on a "LAST FRIDAY" in the month at JOHNNY'S CORNER FAMILY RESTAURANT, 7180 U.S. #1, Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34952, 407-878-2686 with HOST DICK JARMAN, 1461 Merion Ct. SE, Port St. Lucie, FL. 34952, 407-335-3716. THEY WELCOME all "Y'ALL"!

SANFORD, FL. AREA: FRED AND MARGARET FONTAINE, 2537 Mohawk Dr., Sanford FL. 32773, 407-323-7410 hold a meeting on the 2ND SUNDAY at 1 P.M. at the AMERICAN LEGION HALL on Sanford Ave., Sanford, Fl.

NOTICE CHANGES IN MEETING, DATES AND TIME IN ARIZONA!! MESA, ARIZONA HOSTS are Clarence and Marilyn Halpny, 1180 S. Starr St., Apache Junction, Az. 85219, 602-983-5212. They meet at the "RED MOUNTAIN STEAK-HOUSE" in Mesa on the "FIRST THURSDAY" of the month at 11 A.M. Also assisting is: Adele Traficano, 108 N. Greenfield Road, Apt-2117, Mesa, Az. 85205, 602-396-6233.

The **TUCSON, AZ.** Area hosts are William and Marion Howard, 4056 N. Tuttle St., Tucson, Az. 85705, 602-887-8703 for the "Last Friday" of each Mo. meeting at 11 AM at the Village Inn, 6251 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, Az. 85704, 602-297-2180. They did a great job on the Bullhead City Mini-Reunion everyone "SEZ".

PBY CATALINA INTERNATIONAL ASSOC. CONTACT: James Thompson, 1510 Kabel Dr., New Orleans, La. 70131-3632, 504-392-1227.

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER OF M.M. VETERANS should contact James Colamarino, 2904 168th S.E., Bellevue Wa. 98008, (206) 746-6984. Armed Guard are WELCOMED!!

LCI NATIONAL ASSOC. CREW Host is: ROBERT KIRSCH, 643 Callery Rd., Evans City, PA. 16033, 412-538-8151. LCI NATIONAL REUNION 4/10-14/1996 in St. Louis, Mo.

Contact: Joe Piccolini, 9724 Paseo De Oro, Cypress, Ca. 90630, 213-598-8326; Charles Savonna, 8777 Coral Springs Crt G-9, Huntington Beach, Ca. 92646, 714-960-6925; or, Thom Hendrickson, 1531 S. Pomona, Apt. A-30, Fullerton, Ca. 92632 about the **LANE (V)**. They can use more help on the guns.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION - SAN DIEGO plan to meet "EVERY TWO MONTHS" at 11:00 from 1/11/1996 at the "BAYVIEW CLUB", MCRD, San Diego, Ca. Hosts are: Howard Wooten, 772 E. Vista Way #B, Vista, Ca. 92084, (619) 724-7871; Joe Zapotocky, 1846 Warmstand, Vista, Ca. 92084, (619) 724-0680; and George Kost, 3609 Belle Bonnie Brae, Bonita, Ca. 92084, (619) 267-5797. They had 44 at their first meeting. Y'all come and join in with the fun! This crew marched in the VISTA, Ca. Christmas Parade!! Robert Flick, 10950 Belqizn St., San Diego, Ca. 92126, (619) 549-4903 is looking into the possibility of starting a "SONS OF THE ARMED GUARD." I may suggest they be called: "SONS OF A GUN-NER." Flick's dad was armed guard and attended the 1st reunion in 1982. Local Merchant Seamen are encouraged to attend.

Contact: Jack Rhodes, 3143 Cotter Rd., Millers, Md. 301-343-0369 about the **S.S. JOHN W. BROWN** as to where she is berthed when going for a visit. She is probably on Clinton St., North of I-95 Tunnel.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. area contact: Carl Kreidler, 15852 Via Eduardo St., San Lorenzo, Ca. 94580, 510-351-1954 welcomes you to be a part of the "U.S.N. ARMED GUARD GUN CREW" on the **S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN.** (NOW AT PIER 52)

LSM ASSOCIATION Contact: Richard Schatz, 66 Summer St., Greenfield, Ma. 01301, on 1996 REUNION.

TEXAS MERCHANT MARINE meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at LUBY's Cafeteria, 2233 W. North Loop, Austin Tx., 11 a.m. Contact Chas. Smith, 404 N. Water St., Burnett, Tx 78611-2451, 512-756-9853. All Armed Guard and Merchant Seamen are welcomed at the Ol'Corral!!

NOTICE CHANGES BELOW!! DAKOTAS!! Verne and Evelyn Barrett, 255 Texas St. #H-226, Rapid City, S.D. 57701, 605-343-4171 have a 2ND Wednesday 8 A.M. meeting at "TALLY'S" across from the ALEX JOHNSON HOTEL in RAPID CITY, S.D.

THE LAS VEGAS AREA CREW meets on the first (1st) Tuesday of each month at the "COUNTRY INN" on SUNSET ROAD in Henderson, Nevada for 1 P.M. Lunch. Contact: Merv Yarbrough, 7920 W. Wigman Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89113, 702-361-6817 or 565-4022 All ARMED GUARD, MERCHANT MARINE and VISITORS WELCOMED!!

STATESVILLE, NC holds a "First Tuesday" meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the Shoney's in Signal Hill Mall, off I-77 on East Broad, Statesville, NC. Contact: K. E. Watt, 2967, Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28667, (910) 876-0650.

THE RALEIGH, N.C. Armed Guard meets on the FIRST (1ST) Saturday of the month at 8:00-1100 A.M. Place: "MR B'S", 3812 Western Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27608, 919-834-1170. Take I-440 around the West side of Raleigh to Western Blvd. exit. Go East towards N.C. STATE COLLEGE for 1/2 mile. It's on the left. If you're coming into Raleigh on a Friday to spend the night, give us a call and we'll get together. (CAL)

TINCAN SAILORS, INC. will hold their 16th Annual Bull Session 3/23/96. Contact Vince Diomede, 20 Admirals Row, Freehold, N.J. 07728, 908-308-0071.

PATROL CRAFTS SAILORS ASSOC. - (PSCA) will hold their National Reunion MAY 30-JUNE 1, 1996 at the SHERATON TARA HOTEL, Danvers, Ma approx 20 Mi. North of BOSTON. Contact: Joe Kelliber, 14 Hickory Hills, Southington. Ct. 06489.

U.S.N. CRUISER SAILORS ASSOC. Reunion 5/15-19, 1996 at Holiday Inn, Portsmouth, Va. Contact: Ray Snapp, 3705 Heatherwood Dr., Tipp City, Oh. 45371, 513-339-3217.

CHINA COASTERS CHAPTER AMMV WWII will hold their annual mini-reunion on March 10-13, 1996 at the Silver Club, Sparks, Nevada. Contact: Floyd "Red" Hayes, 4501 W. 141st St., Hawthorne, CA 90250, (301) 679-2107. Red invited all M.M. and A.G. WWII Veterans to attend!

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE S.S. JOHN W. BROWN TO WILMINGTON, N.C. APRIL 10-13, 1996. WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED IN FUTURE POINTERS.

MISS ANY MORE? LET ME KNOW. Please send me any correction as to time or date changes too!! IT IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN CORRECT MY ERRORS. (cal)

— *In Memory* —

DEPARTED SHIPMATES SINCE NOV./DEC. POINTER

Alford	Robert S.	Lakeland	Fl		10/24/95
Anderson	Alfred C.	Ft. Montgomery	Ny	Marian	6/8/95
Armstrong	Carl J.	Sandusky	Oh	June	6/8/95
Bartsch	Harry	Lincoln Park	Nj	Rosemary	10/24/95
Berlin	Charles F.	Toledo	Oh	Kathleen	9/4/95
Blowers	Lornie	Manistique	Mi	Betty	5/8/95
Burtchell	Warray W.	Temple	Tx	Lavera	9/24/95
Callahan	Robert				2/947
Erickson	Carl E.	Calabash	Nc	Jearlene	10/23/95
Ernst	Thomas L.	Fort Laramie	Oh	Anna	12/13/95
Gilmore	Walter H.	Christianburg	Va	Ellen	8/6/95
Hanks	Max E.	New Port Richey	Fl		4/95
Heinig	Orrin J.	Berlin	Nj	Gladys	12/3/95
Henderson	Earl N.	Ft. Myers	Fl		10/23/95
Kilgore	William	St. Petersburg	Fl	Mary Ellen	4/1/95
Ledbetter	George D.	Birmingham	Al	Thelma	10/7/95
Logsdon	William	Davenport	Fl	Elizabeth	8/95
Manley	Revel	Cherry Valley	Ca	Helen	8/10/95
Martin	John H.	Wickenburg	Az	*	7/95
McDowell	Maurice H.	Oklahoma	Ok	Doris	11/30/95
Nishenko	Carl	Apollo	Pa	Helen	12/14/95
Parker	Lloyd E.	Hickory	Nc		10/17/95
Robinson	Norman	Beverly Hills	Fl		10/27/95
Roedel	Elmer H.	Allentown	Pa	Eleanor *	11/95
Rowley	Howard	Macedon	Ny	Fai	2/5/95
Schroeder	Edwin C.	Morrison	Il	Harriett	6/5/95
Settle	Charles S.	Cincinnati	Oh		12.19/95
Shufeldt	William R.	Brunswick	Me	*	10/17/95
Smith	Don	Long Point	Il	Elaine	8/27/95
Tuve	Edwin	Elysian	Mn	Marie	6/14/95
Williams	Doctor F.	Burgaw	Nc	Estella	12/4/95

Dear C.A.:

Dec. 7, 1995

Here is the Poem I promised long ago. Although you printed the "LETTER OF COMMENDATION" several years ago, I hope you'll print it again so the shipmates will know why the Poem was written. Boyd Cockrill of San Diego; Ernest Passante of Highland, N.Y.; Ferrel Carney of Nebraska and I are the only ones still living that I know of that received this letter of commendation. Sincerely, **Richard Parker, P.O. Box 771, Groveland, Ca. 95321, (209) 962-6248**

FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH

It was the thirteenth day of August,
And 'twas Friday to boot,
But about that superstition,
I never gave a hoot.

The day was grand as could be,
The sun was beaming bright,
And all went well aboard the ship,
'Till nine o'clock that night.

It was through the lengthening shadows,
That I chanced to gaze ahead,
To see a flock of "Heinies,"
In the haze of sunset red.

The gun crew manned their stations,
And the Battle soon began,
The din was most terrific,
And a fear gripped every man.

But you never would have known it,
Had you seen them do their part,
For a hate for every Nazi,
Was burning in every heart.

Well Adolph took a drubbing,
On this attempted raid,
It proved to be another,
Of the blunders that he made.

Though two ships were badly damaged,
They'll sail again tis said,
But half their planes are missing,
From our deadly hail of lead.

Well when the scrap was over,
And the Nazi limped away,
I think that I was quite convinced,
'Bout the superstitious day.

Whenever in the future,
Friday the thirteenth comes again,
I'll spend the day remembering,
The William Barry's men.

*Written by: William G. Smith, USNR
S.S. WILLIAM T. BARRY*

In reply address not the master of the letter, but Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. Refer to No. Pers-08-MPG

MM 378 17 03

NAVY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



From: Chief of Naval Personnel.
To: PARKER, Richard Rice, Coxswain, United States Navy.
Via: Commanding Officer, Advance Base Personnel Depot, San Bruno, California.
Subj: Commendation.

1. The Chief of Naval Personnel takes pleasure in commending you for your outstanding service as a member of the Armed Guard Unit aboard the SS WILLIAM T. BARRY during action against enemy aircraft while enroute to Gibraltar on 13 August 1943.
2. A report of the experience reveals that the convoy of which your ship was a part was attacked by a large formation of German bombers which approached from dead ahead, coming out of the setting sun and flying very low over the water. As they flew down the columns of ships, launching their deadly missiles, the planes were met by an accurate and vicious barrage of shellfire which completely disrupted their plan of attack. The Navy Gun Crew of the WILLIAM BARRY performed brilliantly, shooting down three of the enemy and contributing to the destruction of three others, thereby insuring the safety of their ship and the successful completion of its mission.
3. Your fearless and highly effective action in this engagement was in keeping with the best traditions of the United States Naval Service.
4. A copy of this letter has been made a part of your official record in the Bureau.

Randall Jacobs

The Sinking of the S.S. CYRUS H. McCORMICK - April 18, 1945

Around Noon, April 18, 1945, Lt. Edwards, a U.S. Security Officer and I were seated on the after bridge deck enjoying the sunshine. We casually commented on the tanker, the S.S. EMPIRE GOLD, which was directly astern of us at 102 position in the Convoy, wondering what type of fuel she was carrying. Almost immediately, a terrific explosion in her midship, took place. The Lt. and I immediately parted company, he to his quarters for his lifejacket and I to the bridge to sound general quarters. No sooner had I rang the alarm, then the EMPIRE GOLD was hit midship a second time by a torpedo, sending her up in a mass of flames. We were also hit forward between number 1 and 2 holds.

Our ship, due to the nature of our cargo which was U.S. Construction equipment, submerged rapidly. The Captain rang "ABANDON SHIP" and all hands proceeded to the lifeboats. The amazing thing about all of the foregoing is that the time which elapsed between the first explosion of the S.S. EMPIRE GOLD and our explosion was a matter of 4 minutes; 12:06 to 12:10.

Our crew was unable to properly man their guns because of the speed with which the ship was sinking. Our men first started to abandon ship at 12:10. Considerable difficulty took place in lowering the lifeboats as they were slung in on the deck because of a previous storm. Number 1 and 3 boats on the starboard side were the only ones that were serviceable. They were finally lowered over the side and loaded with personnel.

All of my time was spent on the bridge; that is, from the time of being hit, until the "ABANDON SHIP" rang. I immediately surveyed the bridge to see if any men were left, then went to the signalman's locker for my lifejacket which was not there. I then climbed to my quarters, throwing our 7x50 signalman's binoculars over my shoulder on the way. Upon arriving at my quarters, every drawer was in the middle of the floor with clothes, etc. scattered all about. I grabbed my wallet from my pants in the locker, and put on my officer's cap. On my way out, I saw my camera on the desk and as the natural impulse was that you want to take everything, I stuffed it in my pocket.

As soon as I got to the deck, I proceeded to check all Navy Personnel in the boats and found two missing. I took a quick run to port side, saw no one and returned. By that time, water was up to my ankles so I jumped for the lifeboat and I landed on top of someone and fell on my back. The ship then submerged and the suction capsized both lifeboats, throwing all into the water. Needless to say, it was a relief when we finally hit the top again, seeing other heads popping up all around. Some tried to hold onto the capsized boats,

others grabbed onto pieces of debris, others just stayed up floating through the courtesy of the lifejackets they wore.

I felt as if we were all too near where the ship had gone down, as it was sending up rubbish and whirlpools of foam and oil. I yelled to the others to swim away from the ship. Another hazard was the burning tanker, then about 500 yards away from us. It was fortunate that the wind was blowing the other way. I took off on my own, swimming away from the ship and fire. I could see, off in the distance, a life raft floating. It was necessary to avoid piles of rubbish en-route and, of course, to rest by hanging on to a piece of wood, etc. I finally reached the raft and was helped on board by two men who had reached it a few minutes before I did.

We immediately got out the oars and oarlocks in order to get away from the vicinity of the disaster. Fortunately, our raft was one of the newer box type rafts with provisions for 30 days. As it was, we were picked up about 15 minutes later by the rescue vessel, the S.S. GOTHLAND of the British Merchant Marine (DEMS). We were all cold and nauseated and felt exhausted beyond recovery but many of us had the energy to climb the cargo nets and felt refreshed after a few hours. The entire affair was one that is hard to forget and difficult to describe adequately in writing. It was unfortunate that we lost 2 Armed Guard and 4 merchant seamen. Those of us who came out of it feel lucky and thank God for our safety, which we prayed so hard for when we hit the water. Our love and devotion to our loved ones at home had much to do with our ultimate safety.

We were treated very nicely aboard the S.S. GOTHLAND. All were given a shot of morphine and a clean bunk to relax in. Although our shower was of the rag and bucket variety, it took most of the dirt off. We were given a change of clothing including a visor cap. We looked like the BOWERY in 1918. The living quarters aboard were not like the good U.S.A. quarters, but satisfactory. We arrived in Gourock, Scotland on Friday, April 20, 1945.

Mention should be made of the Memorial Services we had on board ship for our two Armed Guard shipmates, Anthony Sumski, GM3/C and Richard Carroll, S1/C. *

The focus of my comments evolved around our U.S. penny, on which is stamped "IN GOD WE TRUST." Sincerely, **Russell Urquhart, 4 Halford, Rockwall, Tx. 75087.**

I would like to add the 4 Merchant Seamen's names from Art Moore's book, "A CARELESS WORD." They are: Herbert E. Anderson, (2nd Engr); John P. Faulkner, (Messman); Demetrios Pareses, (F/W); and Alberto G. Rivera (Oiler) calloyd



20MM gun practice photos sent in by George Dehner, 1660 Roman Drive, Monroe, Mi.

3 inches of history boom out

A couple of big guns — blow-up-ships-kind-of-guns — were aimed at Edgboro landfill in East Brunswick the other day.

Before you worry — or celebrate — the guns were thoroughly incapable of inflicting any damage on landfills or other targets.

The guns belonged to the defunct Admiral Farragut Academy, and it should be no surprise they ended up at George Searle's shipyard off Schoolhouse Lane, where dead boats, including the venerable Mary Murray, go to die.



PETER GENOVESE

Passing By

ask the same question.

Namely, "What the heck is that?"

Searle now talks about turning the 60-year-old former Staten Island ferry into

a floating shopping arcade. Twenty years ago, he was talking about converting it into a restaurant, but it never happened.

But this story is not about the Mary Murray. It's about those guns, and about a chapter in our history few people know about.

"Everybody has forgotten about the Navy Armed Guard," Searle said. "During World War II, they manned the guns on merchant marine ships. They were our defenders."

Searle was among the 250,000 merchant mariners to serve during the war. He served in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific — he was in Okinawa when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima — on tankers and transport ships.

The merchant sailors depended on the Armed Guard for protection. The merchant marine moved supplies and troops, the Guard — about 145,000 strong — helped make sure most of them got there.

In his new position, Searle, who owns a scrap-metal business and several mobile-home parks, will do what he can to make sure the Armed Guard — and the merchant marine — get the recognition that has eluded them.

"You ask the average American who were the Armed Guard," he said. "They think they were guarding warehouses or something."

Searle knows better. He is president of the American Merchant Marine Veterans Association. The Cape Coral, Fla.-based or-

ganization has 63 chapters nationwide. Searle believes he may be the first East Brunswick resident to be the president of a national organization.

"I did some lobbying on a bill," he said. The 68-year-old man laughs. "I didn't know nothing about lobbying."

There are about 25 memorials or plaques around the country jointly honoring the merchant marine and Armed Guard, including one in Spotswood. Searle said that any new merchant marine memorials will also include the Armed Guard — or they won't go up. At least under his regime.

So what's with the guns? Known as 3-inch 50s, they were found on merchant ships throughout the war. Searle obtained them from the Navy, trucked them to his yard, and will move them tomorrow, with New Jersey and New York state police escorts, to their new homes — the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. and a park in Nassau County.

If you see those guns on the Turnpike tomorrow, don't worry. East Brunswick is not invading Elizabeth.

The shipyard will not be the same without them, but Searle still has his old boats, including, of course, the Mary Murray.

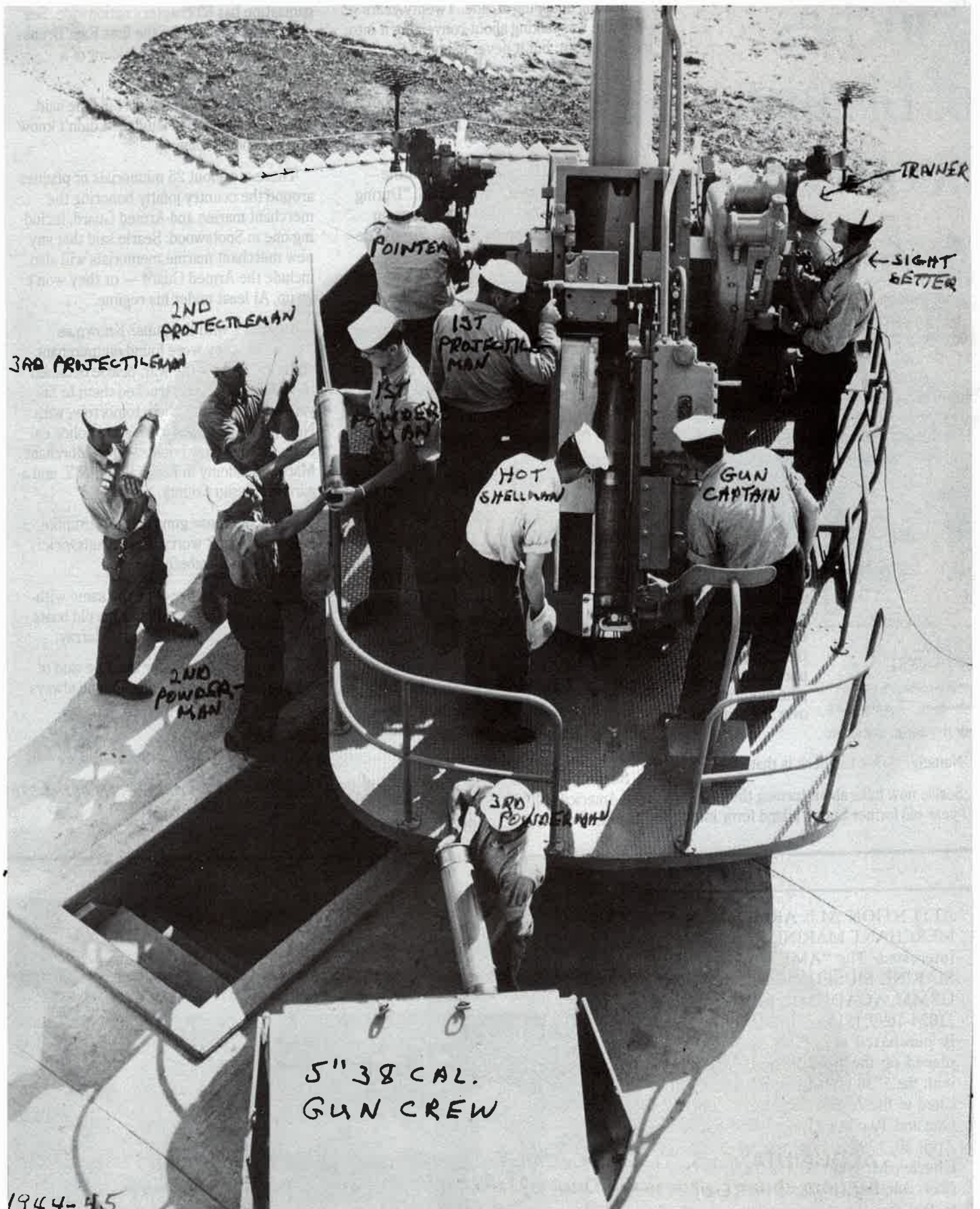
"This is a big honor for me," he said of his national office. "In your life you always look for a little sunshine."

*Sent in by: R. F. Shute
1107 Egret Ct.
Forked River, NJ 08731-5521
609-693-4909*

ATTENTION ALL ARMED GUARD AND MERCHANT MARINE SEAMEN and others interested. The "AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE MUSEUM FOUNDATION" at the USMM ACADEMY, KINGS POINT, NY 11024-1699, (516) 773-5515 or 5751 has recently purchased a 7,500lb. 3"50 gun. It will be placed on the front lawn at Wiley Hall along with the 5"38 already installed and will be dedicated to the Armed Guard Crews of World War One and Two at their next Reunion on Saturday, April 20, 1996 as notified by Executive Director Charles M. Renick, Captain, USNR/USMS (Ret). Mr. Renick also advised that they want us to feel that this Museum is an "Armed Guard Museum" also and welcomes you to be a part of the Dedication Ceremony and visit them whenever possible. Be sure to contact Mr. Renick at the address above. (cal)



This picture of Bill and Helen Jackson was taken in Victoria, Tx., on their way to the San Diego Reunion. They returned home just in time for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



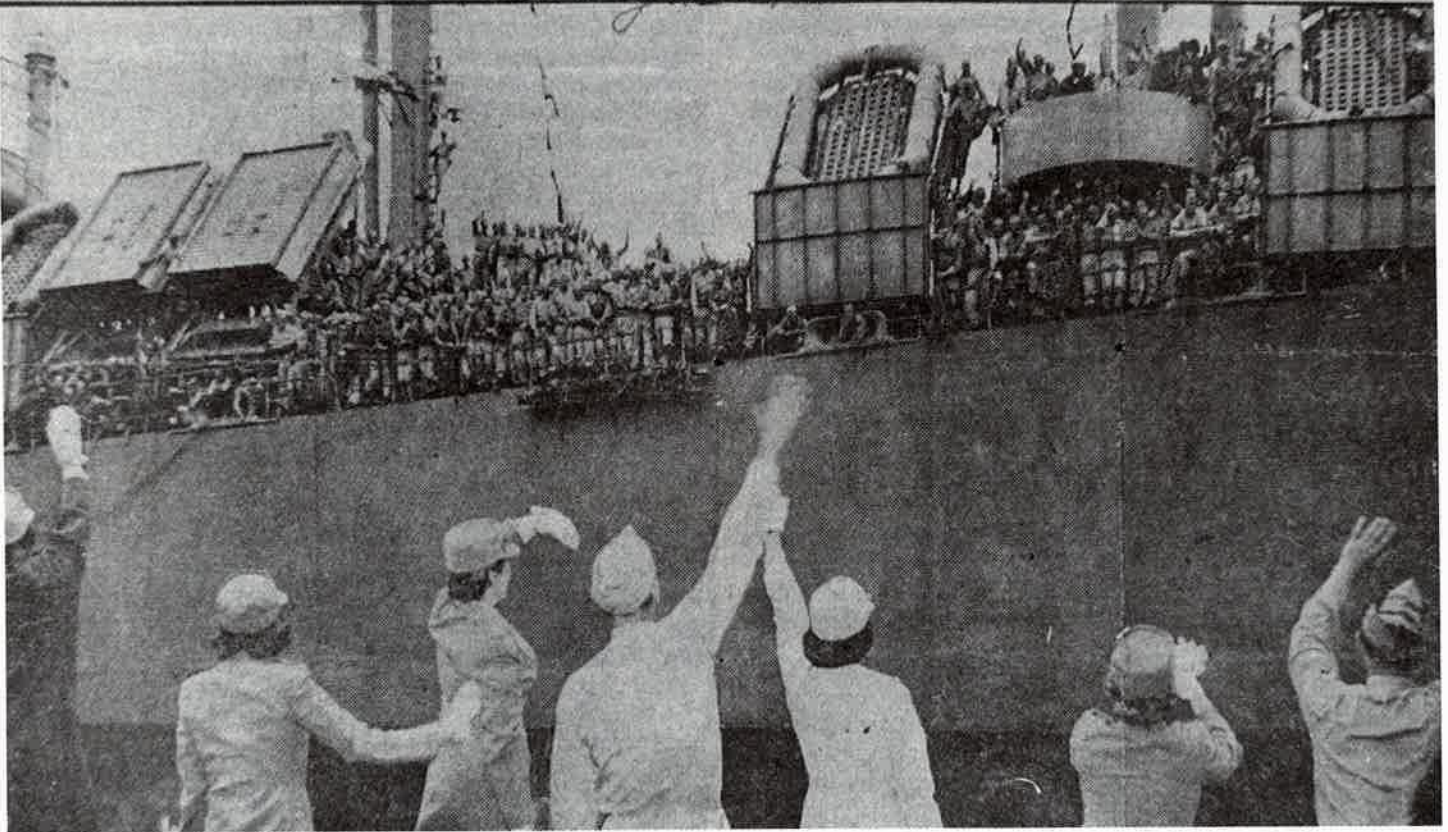
1944-45

This 5"38 caliber dual purpose gun was used for teaching. It was mounted over a pit so that students could see the parts in the stand that the gun moved on while training. Taken at U.S. Naval Armed Guard Center, New Orleans, LA. Official U.S. Navy photograph. Sent in by Clarence F. Korcker, 7 N. Mulberry Street, Fellsmere, FL 32948, (407) 571-0230

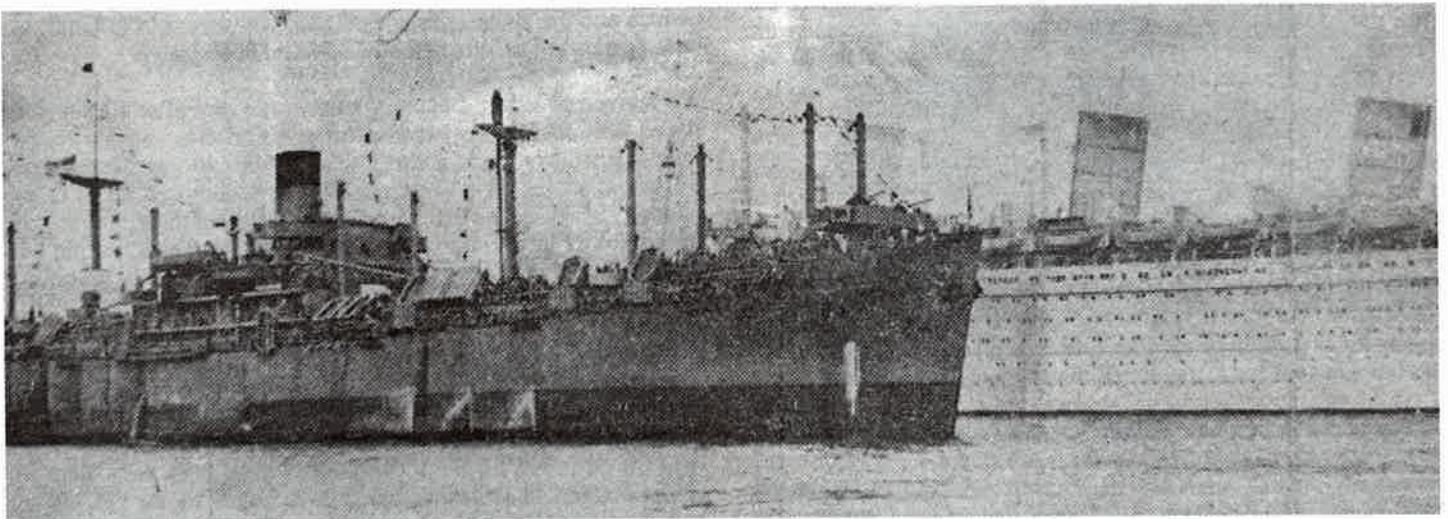
Gotham Instead of Pacific? Anytime, Pal

aug 1945

this is me



REDEPLOYMENT'S sweet to these Yanks aboard the S.S. SEA CAT docking at North River. Pacific bound when war ended, they were shunted to New York instead.



PASSING ACQUAINTANCES. The Sea Cat, (foreground), heading for the pier with 1,982 happy Army passengers aboard, passes the Queen Mary, outward bound.

Both of the above newspaper photos were sent in the David E. Brown of Clemons, Georgia.

Dear C.A. ... Charles... Cal... Ol' Salt...

LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

How great to find out, after all these years, that there's something going for the ARMED GUARD!! My wife was following a car last week and noticed the ARMED GUARD bumper sticker!! She waved the driver over and got the information from him. His name was Stan Barney who just happens to live not more than a mile from our home. He and I got together yesterday and I now have a bumper sticker on my car and this information sheet in the mail.

I am most anxious to locate some of the crew I served with on the S.S. EDWIN MARKHAM as a signalman. We were all taken off the ship at Ulithi after the war was over and shipped back to San Francisco on a troop ship. Then, it was not until last year at our 50th Wedding Anniversary that our kids presented me with a framed photo of the ship. How surprised to learn at that time that it had been broken down into scrap here in Portland, Oregon in 1965.

I am enclosing (censored) for whatever you can use it for and I will send more later. They should give you a SPECIAL MEDAL for what you are doing because it is about time the ARMED GUARD received the special recognition it deserves. When I am asked what I did in the Navy during the war and I tell them I was in the Navy Armed Guard, they think I helped guard a Navy Base or something.

Is there a video out on the history of the Armed Guard? I am a T.V. producer and have written, directed and produced a number of documentaries on the war against teen drug abuse, specials for law enforcement agencies and a good many sports programs. I also have the know-how to get these features released on TV through free public service programming. I would certainly like to donate this experience toward the effort of making the American public more aware of the incredible and little known heroic sacrifices these Navy guys went through to protect those "FLOATING COFFINS" that supplied our overseas war effort. Please let me know if there is a possibility in this area.

In the meantime, I'm looking forward to whatever you can come up with that'll match me up with some of the guys I served with. Thanks and let me know what I can do to help. **Sincerely, Zadoc Merrill, SM3/C, 4062 SW Pendleton St., Portland, Or. 97221.**

To the crew!! Maybe this is the break we have been looking for!! I have shared a lot of info with Zadoc and maybe you can be a part of this. MORE LATER! cal

Many thanks to you and others who manage the Armed Guard Association. Through it, I have been able to contact several former shipmates as a result of the lists I have received. The "POINTER" has brought back many memories, many good, a few otherwise.

The story about the sinking of the S.S. JEAN NICOLET on July 2, 1944 really was an important one for me. You see, in March, 1945 I was aboard the S.S. SIGNAL HILLS and we left San Francisco for Pearl Harbor. On Board was a fellow Armed Guard crew member named Carl Bevatori. Carl told us often about a ship he was on being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, which then surfaced. The sub crew picked up the survivors, which included Carl, and placed them on the deck and began torturing them. While doing so, he said, a plane approached and the submarine submerged. The survivors remaining on the deck of the sub with their hands tied behind them were washed into the water and some drowned.

You see, Carl's story was too horrible to believe. Many of us on the ship thought he was not playing with a "full deck." Later, as we reached port, (I don't remember just where now) Carl received a letter from his wife telling him the story of the S.S. JEAN NICOLET sinking and which was published in one of our United States magazines. Someone bought one and brought it aboard. Carl's account of the sinking and the sub's crew's action was verified by the article.

Skepticism changed at once to great respect and understanding toward Carl from that day forward. I have tried not to get too "detailed" and the "POINTER'S" article covered it well. I must add that the Japanese submarine crew's actions were barbaric.

Enclosed is a donation to help out. My wish is that 1996 will be a happy, healthful and satisfying year for all. God Bless, **John Kolesar, 136 Williams St., Springdale, Pa. 15144.**

After our nice chat by phone a few nights ago, I wanted to follow up with a letter which you thought might be interesting. As I told you, I went into the Navy a week after my 16th birthday in 1943. After 4 weeks of Boot Camp and 3 weeks of gunnery training in the Armed Guard, I was assigned to the S.S. JANE ADAMS, one of "KAISER'S COFFINS." I was a replacement for a gun crew member. I went on her one night and we sailed the next morning. We sailed all over the Pacific Ocean from June of 1943 until February of 1944. We took the 5th Marines into Tarawa and the 103rd Seabees into Eniwetok invasions.

I returned to the States and a 7 DAY LEAVE, then caught the S.S. CHALMETTE, a T-2 tanker, out of Portland, Oregon in Feb. 1944 and carried aircraft fuel all over the Pacific where needed until Oct. 1944. Then I caught the S.S. LOMA VICTORY in Nov. 1944 with supplies and carried them all over the Pacific, mainly to New Guinea and the southern islands. Then, we were sent to Ulithi to become a part of a Convoy for the invasion of Okinawa.

We arrived at White Beach, Okinawa the day after Easter and stayed there for 38 days because, to our surprise, we were carrying Marine small stores and it was low on the priority list. Sometimes, we would sit for days at a time without a boat tied up to us to remove supplies. The Jap Kamikazes visited us every night and sunk ships all around us, but didn't harm us. However, we did get credit for shooting down two enemy planes. We finally got away from there and returned to San Francisco and Treasure Island.

While waiting to be reassigned, a draft of 650 men, made up of Armed Guard and Fleet Sailors were sent to the NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT in HAWTHORNE, NEVADA in June of 1945. We were herded into an auditorium and told to "HANG OUR RATES ON THE GATES" because we had been sent there to work. We worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for the first month and the Chaplain made a complaint to Washington, D.C. about church services and they ordered our superiors to give us Sunday off. So, we went 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. They gave us LIBERTY every night from 8 P.M. until 12 midnight. Walter Winchell said in one off his newscasts that it was the only concentration camp in the world that gave its personnel 4 hours of Liberty.

When my POINTS came up in December 1945, they asked me to ship over and I laughed in their face. I got out and went all the way to Helena, Montana to reenlist to get away from Hawthorne, Nevada. The recruiter said, "Don't be surprised if they send you back to Hawthorne." I told him to get the brig ready because there was no way I was going back!! He must have told BuPers because they assigned me to a PA and that ended my ARMED GUARD SERVICE!! I would love to hear from anyone who served with me on these ships and any of the guys who went to Hawthorne with me. Sincerely, **Harrison Roberts, 505 Rose Ave., Fruitland Park, FL 34731, (352) 787-0968**

Regarding our phone call recently, I am attaching a letter from Jim Hynam, 6600 West Maple St., Morton Grove, Illinois 60053, 708-966-1696. Jim started these letters fifty years ago and has written the crew of the S.S. FERDINAND GAGNON, the S.S. STONEY POINT and the S.S. LIEBRE each Christmas ever since. I am sure all the Armed Guard would like to know of his feat. The 50-60 names at that time are now down to 17, I believe. The crew will see you in St. Louis come May. **Martin E. Connell, 2340 SW Starling Dr., Palm City, FL 34990. (letter follows below)**

Dear "MAC",
MERRY CHRISTMAS! 1945 to 1995 is 50 years of sending "SEASON'S GREETINGS" and with it comes some good news. NO INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED advising the "demise" of any of our shipmates. We did hear, however, that John Paul Trotier of the S.S. GAGNON was banged up in a car accident, suffering a few fractures, and his girl friend received a broken pelvis. (*John's doing O.K. now- cal*)

I did not attend the San Diego Reunion, but the report from those who did go, advised that it was terrific. My excuse for not going was a valid one. Rosemary and I celebrated our 50th Anniversary by taking our family of ten on a cruise to Alaska. Gorgeous scenery and beats sailing the North Atlantic.

We found another shipmate during the year, Al Yelles from the GAGNON. Welcome aboard! Al attended the San Diego Reunion and we are looking forward to seeing him and the rest of the crew in St. Louis for the 1996 get-together. (Jim)

Now Y'ALL, that's what I call dedication. Come see them together!! calloyd

Thank you for sending me a copy of the POINTER, stickers and list of shipmates. You will be pleased, I know, as a direct result, I was able to contact one of those who served on the S.S. FELIPI DE BASTROP commanded by a cousin of mine. I could not find out how I could join your group. I suppose I qualify in actual fact to join as a member of the ARMED GUARD as we had "NO NAVY" gunners on the S.S. ALCOA CADET. The Navy presented us with five antique .30 Caliber Lewis guns in Iceland as we had gone that far unarmed. We had to mount and man them ourselves until the vessel was lost while anchored off Mishuhou Point near the City of Murmansk, Russia on June 21, 1942. A German plane dropped a magnetic mine and the explosion broke the ship up and it sank in a few minutes.

The ship's complement at this time was 35 merchant crewmen. One Oiler was killed and several more were injured. I returned to the USA on the S.S. AMERICAN PRESS in the unlucky QP-13, arriving in Boston on July 30, 1942.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my admiration for the Armed Guard contingent I served with on the Liberty ship, the

S.S. JAMES MARSHALL in the Med Sea in the spring of 1943. We were under frequent attack and hit by bombs twice, with the Armed Guard taking numerous casualties. Not only were they excellent shipmates but they performed magnificently under enemy fire.

Ian Millar from Kernersville, N.C. and I have been close friends and I admire him greatly for his active role in support of wartime Merchant Seamen and know he did so much to gain them proper recognition. He tells me that you, too, supported this very just cause and for that, please accept my sincere THANKS!

I did indeed like what I saw in your POINTER MAGAZINE for it is excellent and one of the best of several veteran groups I belong to. If you ever run across any more Haskell's in collecting names, I would like to know of them as I am the family historian. Meanwhile, thanks again for your every courtesy. Trusting you and your wife and all the crew had a Joyous Christmas, I wish you all a healthy and HAPPY NEW YEAR. Yours Sincerely, **Wm. A. Haskell, Mohrengasse 11, 76359 Marxzell/Pfaffenrot, Germany. Tel-07248/5649.**

I would like to thank Haskell for such an appreciative letter. (cal)

When I attended the San Diego Reunion, a shipmate of mine planned to attend but couldn't make it. Seeing that he lived in San Francisco, my wife and I took the trip to San Francisco visiting a few places along the way. At Los Altos, Ca., I called a shipmate, Edward Sanchez, a shipmate from the S.S. ARTHUR P. DAVIS who I hadn't seen in 52 years. Ed called me at the hotel and we went all went out to dinner and during dinner, we reminisced about our days from Dec. '43 til March '44. It was a wonderful day. I thought maybe if you could put the picture of us two in the "POINTER", maybe it will entice others to come to the reunions in May. I also tried to call another shipmate, Harry Chronert from Los Altos but he did not answer. Sorry to have missed him. See "Y'ALL" in St. Louis. Thanks, **Walt Skowronski, 23 E. 24th St., Bayonne, NJ 07002, 201-823-0101.**



Ed Sanchez (L) of Los Altos, CA and Walt Skowronski (R) of Bayonne, NJ, shipmates, meet after 52 years.

The Feb./Mar. 1995 "POINTER" carried a very touching front page picture of the S.S. MARINE FOX troopship tying up at the dock in New York Harbor in August, 1945. The happy, smiling faces of the returning troops that had been POWs in German camps for God only knows how long, easily brings tears to anyone's eyes. They had beaten the odds. WHAT A JOYFUL SCENE!!

It was sent to you by Armed Guard Harold Forbes of Rochester, Minnesota. I was so touched by the picture that I wrote Forbes, thanking him for sharing it with all his Armed Guard brothers. Yes, brothers we all are.

(continued on next page)

Harold answered my letter. Now, we correspond back and forth two or three times a month. I am 70 and he is 74. Both his kidneys have failed him. He lives alone in a 10th story apartment only 2 blocks from the famous Mayo Clinic because he has to be on the dialysis machine 3 times a week. It must be rough on him but his letters never carry complaining words. I am so happy to be writing him and will continue until "whatever" happens to one of us to interrupt our correspondence. Like all of us, Harold and I love to reminisce about our Navy days in the Armed Guard and we sure do!!

So you see, the "POINTERS" are actually "INTERNETS" in a sense. They bring back so much joy to all. Harold and I thank you. Keep up the good work for you make thousands happy throughout the year. My old shipmate, Jeff Haselden from Lugoff South Carolina says, "C.A. is the most honest man in the World." You can't ask for better credentials than that. Thanks for all your efforts. **Eugene Davis, 162 Depot Hill Rd., Port Crane, N.Y. 13833, 607-723-3146.**

What can I say after getting a letter like that? I did not put this letter in for "self-praise". I put this in because they appreciate what someone had to do and I feel very fortunate that I have been given the strength to carry us this far. We have many more that we can make happy if we can all work together in locating them. Our prayers are with Harold Forbes and others in his condition and we encourage them all, to keep the spirit up to face each day the best they can. I would like to say here that I do appreciate the trust all of you have in me. (Hilda and the IRS keep me straight. cal)

Enclosed is my application with the little information I can remember. My war stories (enhanced somewhat), I tell my grandchildren. I even believe some of it myself new, of how I won the war in Europe, with many trips across the Atlantic to Liverpool and Manchester, England; Cardiff, Wales; North Africa; Sicily; Italy; Le Havre, France; and then through the Canal to Guam in the Pacific where I finished the war.

I found some old papers which reflect the names of Gunnery Officers I served under – Ens. Ray V. Thurman, Ltjg. Francis J. O'Conner, Ltjg. James R. Cobb, and Ens. Samuel Blumm. I enclose a contribution, in aid, to support your fine organization. Kindest regards, **James Wm. Hutchins, 2942 Old Norcross Rd., Tucker, GA 30084, (404) 93-4490.**



James Wm. Hutchins (far left) and a few shipmates, taken at Christmas, 1942, in Rio.

I am enclosing my yearly donation to the A.G. fund. If I ever win the lottery, it will be substantially greater - ha! Also am enclosing a picture taken recently of four Armed Guardsmen that served together from April '43 to February '44 aboard the S.S. ALCOA POINTER. They are Robert Strong, Bill Longstreet, Frank Feeley and me. I was a "skivvy waver" – the others, Gunners. Strong and I worked together on the S.S. LANE VICTORY and naturally see each other all of the time. Longstreet we see infrequently, but what makes this picture of interest is Frank Feeley – we had not seen him in 51½ years!! He lives in Gary, Indiana – a far piece from here. Strong also served on the S.S. WESTWARD HO and the S.S. MANULANI; Longstreet on the M.V. BLOEMFONTEIN; Feeley on the S.S. GEORGE DEWEY, LST's 22, 25 and 1035, while I served on the S.S. D.G. SCOFIELD AND THE S.S. FLOYD BENNETT.

We were all brought together through you and a mailing from Ernest Cochran. Feeley is new to our national organization while I was one of the earliest found. Best wishes for a fine Holiday Season and Healthy New Year from me and the A.G. crew aboard the S.S. LANE VICTORY. **Loring L. Bigelow, 386-G Avenida Castilla, Laguna Hills, CA 9253-3777.**

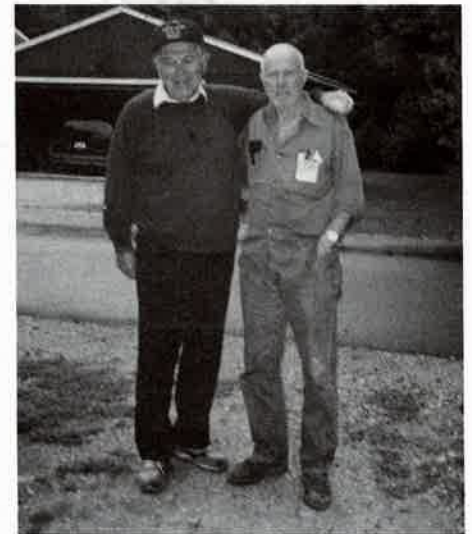
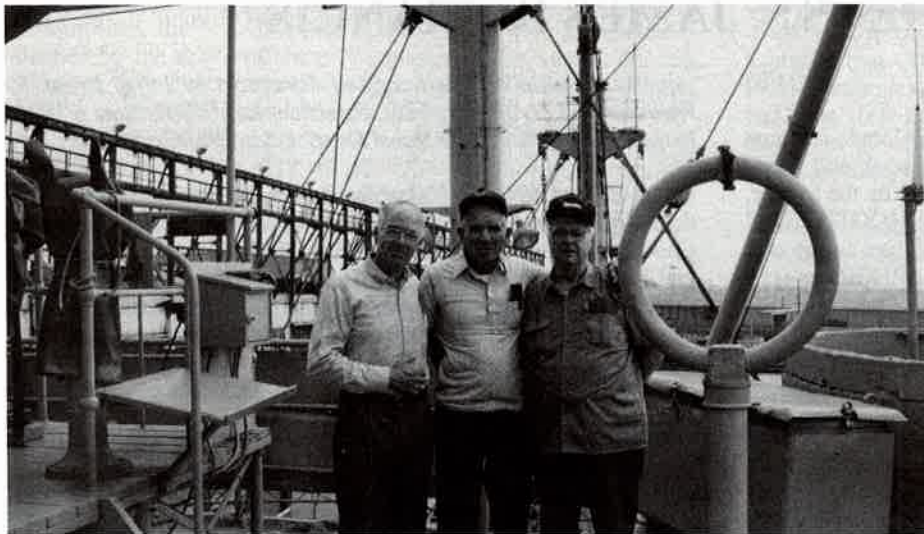


Together again! (L-R) Robert Strong, Bill Longstreet, Frank Feeley, and Loring Bigelow.

Enclosed is a picture taken of the S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN while transiting the Panama Canal during her historical voyage during the 50th anniversary of Normandy. I was assigned as the Chief Control Pilot aboard her due to my status as the most Senior Pilot in the Panama Canal but, moreover, due to the fact that I am the only Pilot here that sailed on Liberty Ships during World War II. As a matter of fact, I am the first Pilot in the Panama Canal that sailed in the Armed Guard in the war. There was only one other Pilot employed here who sailed in the war as a member of the Armed Guard besides me and it was Dave Yonce, who has retired.

Immediately after the war, I joined the Merchant Marine, attended the Maritime School, sailed on many Merchant ships, including five Libertys. Eventually, I obtained an unlimited Oceans Master License and was employed as a Pilot here in Panama in 1961. It was an extreme pleasure to take the S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN through the Canal, which brought back many wonderful and nostalgic memories. Hope this finds you and your family in good health. Sincerely, **Captain Joe W. Chamberlain, PAC 0403, P.O. Box 37301, Washington, D.C. 20013-7301.**

Thanks Joe for the wonderful historic photo and a job well done. As always, the ARMED GUARD DELIVERS!! Plus our wishes for your good health from the crew. (cal)




(top left) (L-R) Russ Buehler, Lou Zastocki and Cleo Davis meet aboard the S.S. JOHN BROWN.

(top right) Bob McCune from Amsterdam, N.Y. (L) and Robert LaBelle (R) from the S.S. ELWOOD HILLS meet after 50 years. They said they had a great time. (Notice it was a September meeting - NO SNOW!!)

(right) Texas Armed Guard dressed up in "DUNGAREES" & "WHITES" and attended VJ-DAY Parade at Fredericksburg, Tx. sponsored by the Nimitz Museum Assoc. Photo sent in by Dan Mock of San Antonio, Tx.



Through the pitch-black night, the Captain sees a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship. He sends a signal, "Change your course 50 degrees East." The light signals back: "Change yours, ten degrees West." The angered Captain sends, "I'm a Navy Captain! Change your course, Sir." "I'm a seaman, second class," comes the reply, "Change your course, Sir!" The Captain is now furious, "I'm a battleship! I'm not changing my course!" There was one last reply. "I'm a lighthouse, Sir. Your call!" (sent in by many)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
 NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO
 3455 SENN RD
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92136-5084

IN REPLY REFER TO:
 OP
 23 Oct 95

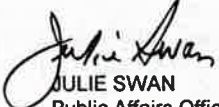
CDR George J. Kost, SC, USN, Ret.
 USN Armed Guard Veteran of WWII
 3609 Belle Bonnie Brae Road
 Bonita, CA 91902

Dear CDR Kost:

Although we were delayed in getting it matted and framed with glass protection, I am pleased to inform you that the artwork of SMC Howard Wooten, USN, Ret is on display in the Naval Surface Museum, located in the Public Affairs Office and Visitor's Center at Naval Station, San Diego.

Please pass this information to all your Armed Guard service mates. We would be most gratified if they knew and felt free to see it and other items in the museum.

I thank you for allowing us to keep this as a permanent part of our exhibits. We have many local and out-of-town visitors to the Museum who will see the fine work. The role of the Armed Guard will be represented on Naval Station, San Diego.

Sincerely,

 JULIE SWAN
 Public Affairs Officer

Dear Charles

21 November 1995

I thought you would be interested to know that through our organizational networking we are reciprocating assistance to our respective membership as well as identifying our WWII connections. Presently, the "PBX Catalina International Assoc." and "WWII Patrol Wing-4 Airdales Assoc." are responding to a request from A.G. veteran Russell Krenciprock of McDonald, OH to locate Russell's brother James Krenciprock's past WWII squadron mates. James had been PBX flying-boat "Patrol Sqdn-42" from its formation in 1941 until he died in a crash in March 1943 out from PBX base, Naval Air Station Whidbey Is., Washington, Notification to locate past squadron mates of Russell is contained in "PBX CIA" and "PatWing-4 Airdales" Newsletters. so far, "PBX CIA" has satisfied over 90% of inquiries concerning requests fro locating missing relatives and buddies regardless of status. Best Regards to you and all of the "USN Armed Guard WWII Vets." In Catalina Camradarie, Jim Morrison, Editor/Historian, "PBX Catalina International Assoc., 84 Branch Turnpike, Suite 37, Concord, NH 03301-5717.

FIRE ON THE "S.S. JAMES B. FRANCIS"

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

11/24/95

From information that I gathered at the Regional Colorado Reunion last June, I was able to obtain copies of the log book and secret book of the ship, S.S. JAMES B. FRANCIS as kept by the Master, Thomas Soreson. I also obtained a copy of the "SMOOTH LOG" as kept by the Armed Guard Officer. In your info sent to me was the story, "ANOTHER SUNDAY AT PEARL HARBOR" as published in the "PEARL HARBOR-GRAM" dated October 1986. Please note from info enclosed that the FRANCIS was at this tragedy but I boarded her afterwards in August of 1944 and spent nine months with some of them on the next voyage to the Pacific.

In October, 1944, there was another near disaster aboard the FRANCIS while I was one of the crew. I vividly remember that I thought that October 22, 1944 was going to be my last day on Earth. Thank God, it wasn't!! Following are quotes from the log:

"October 22, 1944, at 0810, fire was reported in No. 1 Hold of the S.S. JAMES B. FRANCIS. Ammunition and smoke pots and floats were stowed in the lower part of the hold. At 0815, fire hose and fire extinguishers were manned by the NAVAL ARMED GUARD. At 0820, due to the presence of a heavy, penetrating and irritating smoke, the Commanding Officer ordered gas masks to be donned and the Officer and Armed Guard proceeded into the hold. No flames were evident but smoke and fumes were intense.

"From 0820 until the arrival of fireboats at 0850, crew members of the Armed Guard Unit rotated in replacing one another in the lower hold. This continued until 1030 at which time the hold was declared to be flooded with smoke and fumes under control. Army Firemen replaced members of the Armed Guard and an official inquiry was held.

"Lt. Frank R. Williams, Lt(jg), Armed Guard Commanding Officer, reported in the log that there were no casualties and all hands were to be commended for their courage, resourcefulness and ability in handling fire fighting equipment, preventing a likely combustion of high explosive ammunition, thereby prevented the loss of the ship and many lives. At 1100, the ship was moved to Government Wharf, Tulagi and the cargo was discharged.

"Note: Recommendations for awards were filed and received Feb. 23, 1945 by the Secretary of the Navy from the Navy Board of Decorations and Medals."

Lloyd, the reasons for my obtaining these Logs and Reports is to document some of my Naval History, for I believe that some of my descendants may be interested in what we did during our service to our country. I wish some of my progenitors would have done the same for me. Thank you for your efforts, **Henry E. Ogden, 5332 S. Jellison St., Littleton, Co. 80123, (303) 933-4615**

Thank you, Ogden for sharing this informative data with the crew - to bring from darkness to light things that are recorded and about which our crew had not been aware. For those of you who overlooked the Archives address on the backside of the FORM-180 that was in the June/July 1995 "POINTER", write to: MILITARY ARCHIVE DIVISION, NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20408, giving THE CORRECT NAME OF SHIP, THE DATES ON and OFF. They will advise you of the cost involved.

I think it only appropriate to include the Log of the S.S. JAMES B. FRANCIS while it was at PEARL HARBOR on MAY 21, 1944,

reprinted from a certified copy of the report by Lt(jg) Frank R. Williams and certified by G.O. Schudlen, Lt., USNR, June 6, 1944 to the Port Director, 12th Naval District, San Francisco, Ca.:

"On 21 May 1944 at 1500 while discharging ammunition cargo at dock W-2, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the James B. Francis was endangered by fires and explosions aboard LST Naval craft anchored several hundred yards downstream and across the channel from the Francis. From 1550 to approximately 1600, five of these vessels were observed to be in flames while exploding ammunition endangered two others.

"At 1530 all fire stations aboard the Francis were manned and at 1600 the Commanding Officer requested the 158 Naval enlisted and commissioned personnel passengers to abandon ship in order that they might not be exposed to exploding shells and shrapnel. Shelters were available ashore. Two thirds of the Armed Guard personnel aboard were also ordered ashore. One third (10) of the Armed Guard Crew, all volunteers, remained aboard to assist in manning fire hoses and deck lines and to assist in moving the Francis from the danger zone. Several troop passengers remained aboard to assist in moving the ship and to take over stations abandoned by civilian crew members. All of the vessel's officers, with one exception, remained at their stations.

"At 1615, while the engines of the Francis were being warmed up, a person or persons unknown cast off the bow line without instructions from the Master. This action permitted the bow of the vessel to swing away from the dock and toward the burning Naval craft. A troop passenger, James E. Johnson, CMI/c, 375 85 92, USN, volunteered, at this time, to swim ashore with a line in order that the Francis might be swung back to the dock. This accomplished, the subject named man returned to the Francis and assisted in handling the ship's lines. However, before the bow could again be brought alongside, the stern of vessel swung into the dock, allowing the prop to make contact with the dock pilings. Damage to the prop was caused at this time.

"At 1630 powder barges moored to the starboard side of the Francis were set adrift to be picked up by small landing craft from ashore. This vessel was then placed underway and was edged backwards along the dock. Due to shells and shrapnel the stern lines to the dock were not manned and it was necessary to cut these lines on the stern. Two burning and exploding Naval craft, set free from their moorings, began to drift toward the dock and the Francis, as the vessel was moved toward the channel entrance. The Commanding Officer, at this time, ordered the fire hoses to be turned on to the hatches and exposed ready boxes. Although both magazine sprinkling systems were manned, it was not necessary to order the flood valves opened.

"At approximately 1715, one LST exploded a few hundred yards from the Francis sending incendiary shells and shrapnel onto the decks and hatches. The Commanding Officer directed that water be played about number 2 hatch in which torpedo war heads were stored. Several small blazes were extinguished aboard ship by fire control personnel. At this time tugs arrived and assisted the James B. Francis in moving from the dock.

"After entering the channel on large blaze, from incendiary phosphorous, was observed in and over number 1 hatch in which 5"38 projectiles and powder were stored. This blaze was extinguished by Armed Guard fire control personnel. All ammunition in the lower hold was well submersed as a possible means of preventing sporadic fires. A fire watch was set over all areas exposed to incendiary phosphorous.

"During the course of the fire and while endangered by exploding ammunition, the S.S. JAMES. B. FRANCIS was competently manned by the ship's officers. The master of this vessel, Thomas Sorenson, is to be commended for his highly efficient handling of the ship in a time of extreme danger. Both Armed Guard petty officer, Theodore D. Cady, GM2c, 618 11 18, USNR and Raymond Russell Lane, GM3c, 618 49 48, USNR although constantly exposed to shrapnel and shell fragments, efficiently carried out the fire control duties assigned to them by their commanding officer.

"At the time when the S.S. James B. Francis was moved from the dock, the Master of the vessel and the Commanding Officer observed that five LST vessels had been destroyed and two others were afire. At 1200, 22 May 1944 it was reported to the Commanding Officer that eight LST Naval craft had been

destroyed and that one other had been severely damaged. The actual cause of the original explosion and fire is unknown the the Commanding Officer and only rumors may be reported. While in Pearl Harbor, it was reported to the Commanding Officer that there had been 1000 known casualties. This report cannot be confirmed. However, all of the Naval craft were known to have troops and Naval personnel aboard.

"All fire damage to the S.S. JAMES B. FRANCIS is known to have been brought about by 60 and 105mm incendiary shells. Three 60mm shells and cone 105mm shell, all unexploded, were discovered and thrown overboard by the Commanding Officer. Some shrapnel and ship fragments were discovered after the fire aboard the FRANCIS."



U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD PARADE IN VISTA, CA. DURING CHRISTMAS PARADE 12/9/95.

(top left) Tommy Thompson, Odis Chancellor, Rob Cook, Howard Wooten and Mario Minervini are shown ready to start the parade.

(center left) Some Armed Guard, Joe Zapotocky, Hank Simpson, Rode Roland, Ken Begbie and Ted Geir rode the bus arranged by Hank Simpson.

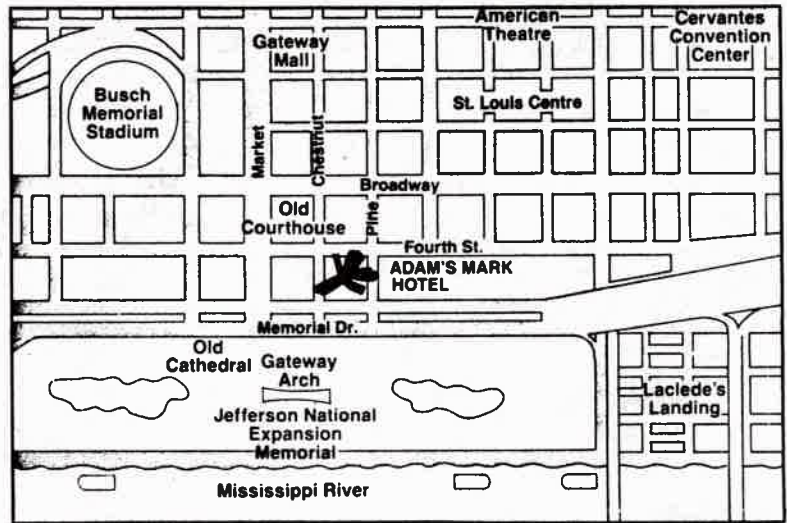
(bottom left) Tommy Thompson, Armed Guard and POW survivor from the S.S. CARLTON, sunk by German U-Boat, July 5, 1942 in convoy to Murmansk; Russia, carries the American Flag as Rob Cook and Howard Wooten carry the Armed Guard Flag. Shown also is Odis Chancellor.

(above) Standing, L-R- Odis Chancellor, Ken Begbie, Joe Zapotocky, Rode Rowland, Ted Geir, Mario Minervini. Sitting, Rob Cook, Howard Wooten, Tommy Thompson. Missing is Hank Simpson, the Photographer. Note: Ted Geir and Thompson were shipmates on the CARLTON and POWs together for 3 years in Germany. Wooten and Murphy were shipmates on the S.S. NATHAN HALE and Murphy also sailed with Hank Simpson on the S.S. BONNEVILLE.



RUSSION 40TH ANNIVERSARY MEDALS

For those who have been awarded the the 40th Anniversary Victory Medal from the Russian government, I have a few of these available in case they have been lost or if they wish an extra one. The price is \$10.00 and it includes S&H. To be fair to everyone, I would like to limit 2 per person as I have a limited supply and they are on a first come, first served basis. They can make a check or Money order out to: Ian Millar and send to Ian Millar, 1806 Bantry Trail, Kernersville, N.C. 27284-4306.



JOIN US IN ST. LOUIS!
 April 20th is the cut off date for registration.
 (one month prior to the Reunion)

Thanks for sending printouts and the two names from the S.S. MECHANICSVILLE crew, 6/44-1/45. I shall write to both. I am also sending a copy of "SEAFARERS LOG" dated Oct. 6, 1944 which describes the heroism of both the Armed Guard and Merchant Seamen and sadly, the death and injury of these valiant sailors.

It all happened as we were coming out of a raging storm in the Irish Sea and we came upon the scene off our port side of this unknown ship. I thought she had been hit and was sinking as she was so far over on her side. I could not have believed she would be saved from the ordeal. From this article, I learned she was the S.S. ROBIN SHERWOOD and I was on the S.S. CROSS KEYS. I found this article months later and learned of the details.

Years later, while working on the Philadelphia waterfront, the ROBIN SHERWOOD came sailing up the Delaware River. I was thrilled to see her, especially the "PORT SIDE"! Thanks Again, James H. Brennan, 52 Texas Blvd., Whiting, N.J. 08759 908-849-4849

S.S. John Brown in Wilmington

The S. S. John W. Brown will be at Wilmington, N.C. 4/10-15/96 for the Azalea Festival. Donations towards the \$31,000 to see that she gets there and back to Baltimore, MD can be sent to: Ed Beacham, Chairman, 5021 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403, (910) 791-3596. If you want to take the cruise on her while she is there, send \$50.00 per person to the S.S. John W. Brown, Project Liberty Ship, Box 25846, Highland Station, Baltimore, MD 21224-0846. Contact Beacham!!

Crew Battles Storm While Ship Lists At 53 Degrees

By Roman Gonzales

I remember hearing some "Old Salt" telling of a ship that "turned turtle" and how the crew such as were able to, lived for days on the bottom of the ship. Sounds funny. I mean the ship turning over. Well, what I am leading up to is this—We, the crew of the SS Robin Sherwood almost had a similar experience last February. We were enroute home, in ballast, from the United Kingdom and while the weather was rather

Capt. J. J. Delaney Dies In Jersey Marine Hospital

One of the most colorful leaders in the labor movement—President J. J. Delaney of the Masters, Mates and Pilots — has passed away. Following a prolonged illness, he died at the St. Francis Hospital in Jersey City, the town in which he was born almost 65 years ago.

Among offices he held in the union were those of president of Locals 1 and 3 in the New York harbor, vice president of the national organization and president since 1936.

Delaney not only led in battles to organize licensed men aboard ships, often against bitter opposition of the owners, but actively assisted the struggles of many other unions. He served, too, on the executive boards of the Hudson County Central Labor Council and the New Jersey State Federation of Labor.

He was a member of the Railway Labor Executives' Association and was active on association subcommittees formed to push rail labor laws, including liberalized retirement and unemployment insurance benefits. He played a prominent part, too, in movements of rail unions for higher wages.

heavy when we started, it was on Feb. 20 that the storm hit us and in the midst of it the ship failed to right herself from an unusual roll when the ballast shifted in the holds. She listed to 53 degrees. Well Sir, there was considerable shifting all around, men and equipment and everything that was loose or not permanently fastened to deck or hull, shifted, and fast.

SHIFTED COAL

As soon as it was known what had happened those who were able to get busy. The crew, licensed and unlicensed and Uncle Sam's Navy crew, went below and started shoveling coal. We used shovels, tubs, buckets, barrels, everything that was available and for the next seven days and nights it was a case of shoveling. A few tons of coal to be carried into a coal bin is not a small job, but when it comes to moving a couple of thousand tons, well, it just ain't the kind of job a Navy man or a sailor would ask for. But we forgot all about being Navy or sailor, we shoveled for our lives.

The hell of it was that the storm hung on and when it looked as if we were really getting the ballast (coal) away from the side and somewhat evened up, along would come another blast of wind and bang, the job had to be done over. For seven days and nights we shoveled coal. We ate hard boiled eggs and such

canned goods as the cook was able to get hold of. There was no chance of using the galley, the stove was all abeam.

SOME LIST

If you want an idea of what a 53 degree list is, suppose that house of yours suddenly decided to turn over on its side, but did not quite make it. It did however come within a few feet of it. You could find a whole lot more comfortable places than trying to work on the floor.

We finally succeeded in getting the ship from laying on its side, to a 37 degree angle and with that angle we finally made port on New Foundland.

Let me say this in closing, there ain't such a damn thing as animosity or ill-feeling between the Navy's gun crews and the sailors. What we did in the dark, ill-ventilated cock-eyed hold of the SS Robin Sherwood, we do all the time, that is, work together and look after each others interests.

EIGHT LOST

The sudden shift of the SS Robin Sherwood cost eight lives and two were badly injured. The brothers who gave up their lives were Adolph Sepp, Oscar Kause Clarence Adolph, Charles Burwiling, Robert Ybeng Seng, George DeJusius, Enrique Ocedo and Sanford Williams.

The injured were Manfred Keillits, Chief Cook, and myself.

**U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD WW II 15TH NATIONAL REUNION
MAY 20-24, 1996**

**ADAM'S MARK HOTEL
FOURTH AND CHESTNUT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103
314-241-7400**

TOLL FREE RESERVATION 1-800-444-2326 - TELL THEM "ARMED GUARD"

ITINERARY AND RESERVATIONS

MONDAY MAY 20TH: REGISTRATION BEGINS 9:00-5:00 P.M.
HOSPITALITY/MEMORABILIA ROOM OPEN 9:A.M. TIL 1 A.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
ON YOUR OWN AFTER REGISTERING.....VISIT THE ARCH.....SEE THE CITY

TUESDAY MAY 21 (Let's let the handicapped be FIRST)

Buffet Breakfast - 9:00 till 11:00 A.M. \$9.00 Per Person No. _____ TOTAL \$ _____
Slide Show on Armed Guard to follow by: Stan Defoe-A.G. (Ne/Mo/Ks/Ok-Chapter)
We also want to have "OPEN MIKE" too. (NON-POLITICAL)

WEDNESDAY MAY 22

8:00 A.M. GRANT'S FARM / ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY / UNION
STATION (FOR LUNCH- PRICE NOT INCLUDED) / BOTANICAL
GARDEN / OLD CATHEDRAL TOUR \$22.00 Per Person No. _____ TOTAL \$ _____

THURSDAY (MORNING) MAY 23

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 11:00
(GROUP PICTURES TO FOLLOW)
LADIES TEA 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 \$12.00 Per Person No. _____ TOTAL \$ _____

THURSDAY (EVENING) MAY 23 (GET PICTURES TAKEN EARLY FOR THE YEARBOOK)

SOCIAL HOUR - CASH BAR 6 P.M.-7 P.M.
BANQUET/DINNER \$23.00 Per Person No. _____ TOTAL \$ _____

FRIDAY MAY 24- 8 A.M.-10 A.M.

BREAKFAST (SIT DOWN) \$12.00 Per Person No. _____ TOTAL \$ _____
TOASTS-SO LONGS-SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

GRAND TOTAL PAID: \$ _____

=====

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WWII." FILL OUT AND MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM AND BRING IT AND YOUR CANCELLED CHECK FOR PROOF, IN CASE OF MIXUP!! IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD POLICY TO BRING YOUR HOTEL ROOM CONFIRMATION FORM number!!

SEND CHECKS TO:

U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WW II, AL AND WANDA COLELLA-HOSTS, 149 ELDORADO DR.,
ST. PETERS MO, 63376. AL'S ARMED GUARD TELEPHONE IS NOW 314-278-1665.

CHECK NUMBER _____ DATE PAID ____/____, 199____. HANDICAPPED? ____ YOUR LADY? ____
LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ M. ____ LADY'S NAME _____
STREET & NO _____ BOX _____ APT _____ CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____ +4 _____ TEL () _____

**MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATION AND PAY THEM FOR ROOMS.
"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, LOUIS, MEET ME AT THE BALL"**

**AHOY!!! ATTENTION!!! MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM AND SAVE THE ORIGINAL!!
IT MIGHT NOT BE PRINTED AGAIN!!**



Lone Sailor

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



**HOTEL RATE
IS
\$70.00
PLUS TAX**

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 15TH ANNUAL REUNION WILL BE HELD MAY 20-24, 1996 AT THE ADAM'S MARK HOTEL, 4TH AND CHESTNUT, ST. LOUIS, MO 63102, TELEPHONE 1-800-444-2326, LOCAL 314-241-7400, FAX 314-241-9839. THE HOSTS ARE AL AND WANDA COLELLA, 149 EL DORADO DRIVE, ST. PETERS, MO 63376, 314-278-1665. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE A "U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD WORLD WAR II VETERAN."



USN Armed Guard WW II Veterans
5712 Partridge Lane
Raleigh, N.C. 27609-4126
1-(919)-876-5537



Non Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2322
Raleigh, N.C.

Address Correction Requested

Remember Pearl Harbor!
December 7, 1941



*****5-DIGIT 21222
6720 47*
LES GATTON (MM) 4
249 TRAPPE RD
BALTIMORE MD 21222-2354

Support The USN Armed Guard
WW II Veterans Reunions
JAN./FEB., 1996