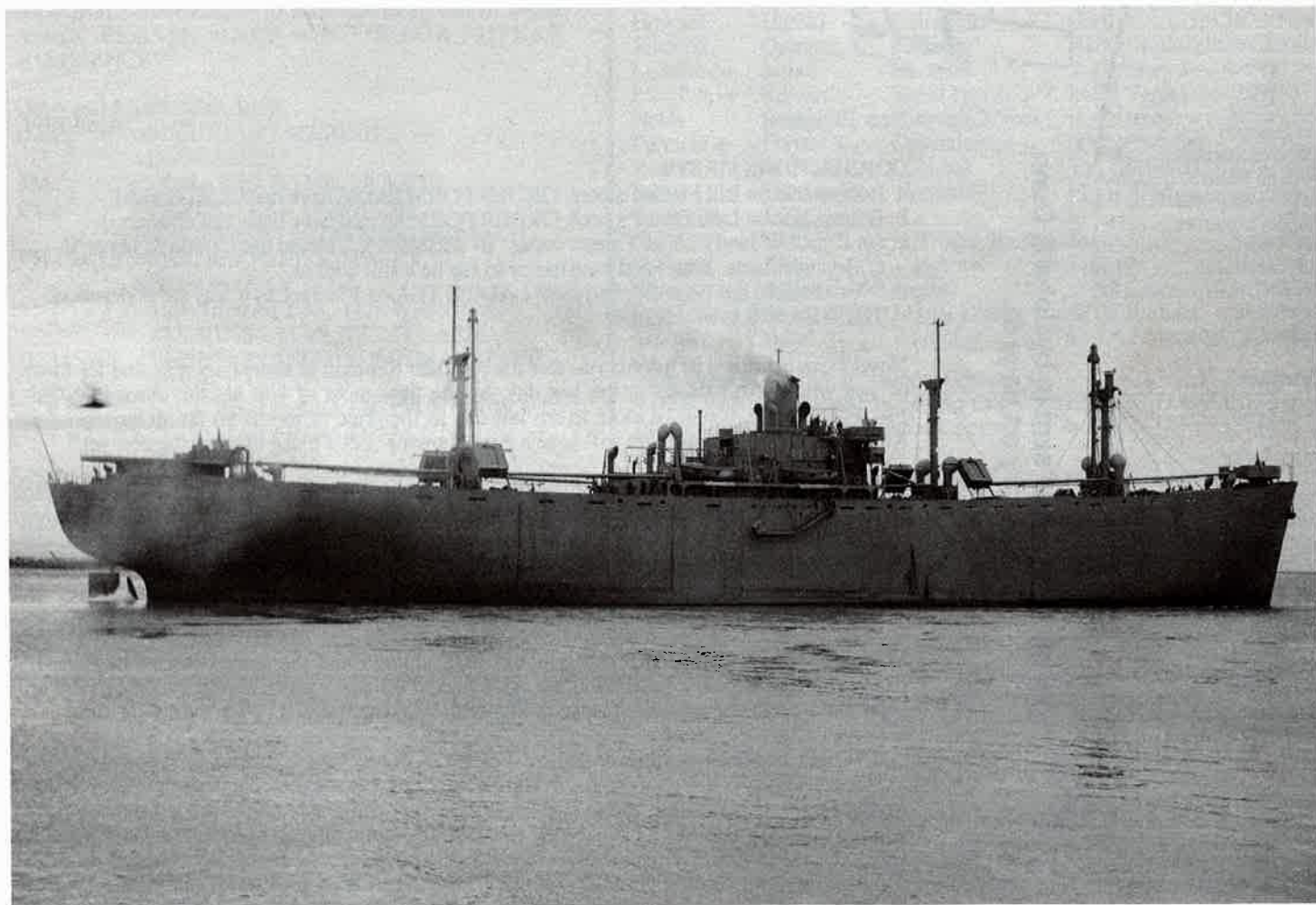


APR./MAY/JUNE, 1998

THE INTER

S.S. ROBERT E. PEARY **Built in World Record Time**



Keel to Delivery: 7 Days, 14 Hours, 23 Minutes
Built at the Richmond Shipyard Number Two, Richmond, California
Keel Laid 12:01 am, Nov. 8, 1942 Launched 3:27 pm, Nov. 12, 1942
(See letter, page 8, and more photos on pages 9-10)

***Dedicated to the Richmond Shipyard, the workers,
and the men who sailed on their ships.***

Officers for 1997-78

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5712 Partridge Lane
Raleigh, N.C. 27609
1-919-876-5537*

Joseph and Jeanne Benedict, 1998 Hosts
8220 Quinn Circle
Bloomington, MN 55437-1228
1-612-835-1380

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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

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**

THE POINTER

THE PLANE SHOOTER

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

USN Armed Guard World War II Veterans

"PLAIN SHOOTING FOR PLANE SHOOTERS"

Dear Everyone:

April 1998

CORRECTIONS FIRST!!

- a: Bottom line on Bill McGee's book ORDER FORM should have been \$38.00 each!
- b: Bottom line on Lyle Dupra's book ORDER FORM should have been \$24.45 each.
- c: On Page 3 of Jan/Feb/Mar Pointer under "IN MEMORY," Please mark through James E. O'Bryant's name. James and I are happy to say he's still with us.
- d: (Not a Lunch) has been dropped from LADIES TEA on Itinerary as it was not understood THE TEA WILL BE HELD!!

Now! I can get down to inform you that the National Reunion is almost upon us and for those of you who put off things to the last day, by the time most of you get this through NON-PROFIT mailing, it will be close to the last day as the price of rooms go up 30 days prior to Reunion date. It looks as if we will have a great showing. Let's make this one the best yet!!

Thank you Widows who have informed me that you are still interested in the crew and wish to remain on the mailing list. Many of you will get letters from the three ships and the Navy Memorial asking for donations, etc. If you can not give anything, DO NOT feel that you are obligated and DON'T.

Tom Bowerman has the Armed Guard on INTERNET: <http://www.armed-guard.com> and on E-Mail: bowerman@armed-guard.com and he has all our latest ARMED GUARD and MERCHANT MARINE BOOKS and VIDEOS entered and the sales of these items have increased. This is just wonderful as we have picked up many more names and they have all been sent a packet of material. Thanks Tom. Keep 'em coming!!

Zed Merrill has been awarded the TELLY AWARD for a second time for his Video "THE WINTER WINDS of HELL." We are reaching out each day telling our story of the Armed Guard and what they did in WW II. We are very fortunate to have located someone like Zed to make this possible. I get in NEW OL'SALTS all the time from men who have seen his ad in the American Legion, VFW, etc. Zed has informed me that he hopes to start documenting and filming ARMED GUARD and MERCHANT SEAMEN WORLD WAR POWs for another Video so all of you POWs write your story giving every detail that comes to your mind on where you were born, when you entered service and why; the ships you were on and when taken prisoner and the treatment you received; what you did when rescued or freed and your return home and the effect it has had on your life. Only you can tell like it was.

I have placed over 900 names on "HOLD" and they will not be getting the POINTER until they contact me. If you have a friend in town who was on the mailing list and he is not getting mail, have him contact me. For the Widows who have not informed me to "KEEP you ON THE MAILING LIST," (KOML) I will have to put you on "HOLD" after this mailing. If you notify me to KOML later, it is easy to put you back on. Example: MRS JOHN DOE, Address, Zip: HOLD-00000.

Photo on front cover sent in by John F. Dunn.
(see story on page 6)

Approximately 475 of you have donated in 1998 as of April 14th. This does not include those who donated to the Bloomington, Mn drawing nor the leftovers from 1997. Bank Account was \$25,500.00 before this POINTER. Thanks to those who have donated to help pay the expenses. We'll stay AFLOAT AND SURVIVE!!

The S.S. JOHN W. BROWN will cruise down to Historic Charleston, S.C. and will be there on August 12-17, 1998 and the sailing date is the 15th. The cost is \$100.00 each to sail, which includes doughnuts and coffee upon boarding and lunch plus entertainment and "FLYBYS" of enemy planes as the Armed Guard open fire. If you can not afford it, do come walk the decks and look over the ship on the 12, 13, 16 and 17th. It is very doubtful it will be in that area again in the near future. After all, we won't be able to climb the gangplank many more years. Get the other sailing dates and sailing tickets for the ships by writing them directly.

On the printouts of shipmates that are sent to you are some SYMBOLS that I have to help me keep tab of some things. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!!

(R) + and * =RUSSIA RUN
 (MM) =MERCHANT MARINE
 * =DECEASED
 8M =DONATED TO MN TICKETS
 ODs: =OTHER YEAR DONATED
 (Most times this will be under Misc. 2
 PH =EARNED PURPLE HEART
 P =PRISONER OF WAR
 ^ =MOVED-LEFT NO FORWARDING
 ADDRESS- MAY BE DECEASED
 /12345678 =YEAR DONATED (SOME MAY HAVE
 MORE THAN ONE)
 HOLD-ZIP =MAIL RETURNED AND PUT ON HOLD
 TIL I HEAR FROM THEM.
 EX-(HOLD-0000)
 (HON) =HONORARY=INTERESTED PERSONS I
 CAN TELL FROM CREW.
 KIA =KILLED IN ACTION.
 MOSTLY SHOWS UP ON SHIP LIST.

I had a list of things to tell you and now I can't find the list. Do you ever have that problem? *calloyd*

— In Memory —

Deceased shipmates since Jan./Feb./Mar., 1997 POINTER

Andrews	Nicholas R.	Santa Clara	Ca	Margaret	12/8/97
Ankrum	Marvin R.	Marshalltown	Ia	Marlys	2/11/98
Bryda	Edward J.	Swansea	RI	Collette	1998
Capece	Eugene F.	Warwick	RI	Dorothy	2/11/98
Clark	Harold W.	Cranston	RI	Ruth	2/7/98
Cooley	Warren E.	Port Washington	NY	Alice	?
Creathers	James E.	Quincy	WV	Juanita	1/12/98
Danford	Marion M.	Hampstead	NC	Pauline	3/18/98
Earner+	Leo J.	Henderson	Nv	Jeanette	2/19/98
Glaub	Paul A.	St. Louis	Mo	Amelia	4/20/97
Goode +++	George	Milwaukie	Or	Darlene	4/4/98
Gorman	Paul E.	Sanduskey	Oh	Patricia	2/9/98
Guldseth	Howard S.	Thompson Falls	Ut	Jeannette	9/27/97
Hazard	Harold C.	Cortland	Ky	Mary	2/5/98
Hoff	Don F.	Ketchikan	Ak	Tillie	2/12/98
Honeycutt	Walter	Oneida	Tn	Margaret	2/1/98
Howard	Harold	Columbus	Ga	*	2/21/98
Johnson	Quinton L.	Paramus	NJ	Virginia	3/19/98
La Monica	James	Harwich	Ma	Mary J	4/97
Langlois++	Edward	South Portland	Me	Vivian	2/7/98
Nehls	Russell C.	Kingston Mines	Il	Irene	3/15/97
Parmela +	Forrest K.	Canandaigua	NY	*Marian	3/9/98
Roark	William C	Lubbock	Tx	Mildred	3/18/98
Rush	Thomas E.	Springhill	Fl	Joan	4/2/98
Schleicher	Melvin A.				7/19/96
Shank	Walter C.	St. Claire Shores	MI	June	2-19-97
Shelton	Elbert	Vancleave	MS	*	4/19/98
Shreve	Alfred	Joplin	Mo	Grace	5/31/97
Williamson	James R.	Myrtle Beach	SC	Barbara	4/4/98
Wootten	Edsel	Laurel	De	Emma	3/9/97

+Interment at Arlington National Cemetery

++ Ed was instrumental in getting the S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN to Portland, Me after its historic return to the NORMANDY 50th Anniversary.

+++George Goode was the Skipper of the Portland, Or. Crew. George did an excellent job getting the crew in Portland together.

SPECIAL NOTICE: It is with pleasure to announce that James E. O'Bryant was erroneously listed in the "IN MEMORY" column of the Jan/Feb/Mar., '98 "POINTER" as deceased. My apology is extended to he and Eva. *calloyd*

“A WINNING TEAM”

**The Merchant Marine & The Naval Armed Guard
By Bob Galati (author of "Gunner's Mate")**

"A WINNING TEAM" is a collection of true adventures compiled from veterans of both branches of the service. You will read actual stories of the Japanese atrocities as told by the men who survived them. You will learn why we lost over 400 ships to German U-boats on our Eastern Seaboard before that shipping lane was given protection. An absorbing work which includes over 70 action photos, you will also find the book is easier to read as it has been set in a larger, easy to read typeface.

Price: \$14.95 postage paid. To order, send check or money order to: Bob Galati, 6366 S. Waterton Dr., Tucson, AZ 85746. Published by Innovatia Press.

ORDER FORM

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Number of Books _____ at \$14.95 each Total \$ _____

“WE DELIVERED”

**The U.S. Navy Armed Guard of WWII
By Lyle E. Dupra**

"WE DELIVERED" (ISBN 0-89745-212-7) is a well documented tribute to the U.S. Navy Armed Guard in which he served and to the U.S. Merchant Seamen who navigated and ran the ships. It contains 160 pages, softbound, published in 1997 by SUNFLOWER PRESS. It is a book that is hard to put down. I recommend it highly. *(calloyd)*

Price: \$24.45 postage paid. To order, send check or money order to: Lyle E. Dupra, 31 Cedarview, Fairport, NY 14450-8971, (716) 425-2432 (Or to: Sunflower Press, 1531 Yuma, P.O. Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505, (913) 539-1888, Fax (913) 539-2233, and they will accept MC/VISA - Orders: 800-258-1232).

ORDER FORM

Name _____
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 Number of Books _____ at \$24.45 each Total \$ _____

★ ★ ★ ★ REUNIONS ★ ★ ★ ★

"REGIONAL, MINI-REUNIONS AND GET-TOGETHERS"

Support these local meetings while you're able.

OOOPS!! COLUMN!! BEFORE I FORGET IT AGAIN!!

UNDER REUNIONS, BE SURE TO PAY ATTENTION TO:

"AND IF MAKING RESERVATIONS, BE SURE TO SAY 'ARMED GUARD.'"

"SPECIAL NOTICE" !! NOW HEAR THIS!!! Y'ALL!! Rudy and Ellie Kozak, our "SHIP'S STORE" personnel in charge of orders for caps, jackets, etc. "NEW ADDRESS" will be 721 N. Leavitt Ave., Orange City, Fl. 32763, 904-774-2774 as of May 16th, 1998. The OLD ADDRESS ORDER BLANKS will be forwarded to his new address for one (1) year so that is no problem but if you would put his new address label on your envelope when ordering, it would speed up the process.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA REUNION SEPT. 1-6, 1998 hosted by the **ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**, in conjunction with the Canadian Merchant Navy. The Canadian Navy will re-dedicate a flag-pole/yardarm at Pleasant Park overlooking the Bedford Basin. At the same time, a Memorial will be dedicated to those shipmates who lost their lives on the North Russia Convoys. Contact: Bill Ryan, 705 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne, Fl 32901-1929 if interested for latest update on the affair. The Canadian shipmates have made arrangements with the DELTA BARRINGTON HOTEL, 1875 Barrington St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3L6, Tel. 902-429-7410, Fax 902-420-6524.

I regret that I can not place individual ships, such as; ALL BBs, DEs, DDs, etc. but I do get the Headquarters group in like DESA, LST, Tugs, etc.

ON FRIDAY MAY 22, 1998, there will be a **MARITIME DAY CELEBRATION** at **CHICAGO'S NAVY PIER** at 11:00 A.M. on the far East end of the pier where a plaque had been previously dedicated to the Armed Guard and the Merchant Marine Veterans of WW II. A free luncheon will be served by the Midwest Chapter of the AMMVWWII following the Ceremony and all Armed Guard have been encouraged to attend. Contact: Midwest Chapter of AMMV, P.O. Box 32234, Chicago 60629, 773-436-8231, or Armed Guard John Neven, 3514 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, Il 60634, 773-725-2186 for more information. Y'all take part in this historic occasion, YOU HEAR!!

The **IL/WI "ON THE BORDER CREW"** will meet Tuesday May 5, 1998 at I-94 and Hwy-11 strictly at NOON SHARP!! Their first meeting there was a great success!! The Hosts again will be Jay and Jane Wildfong, 13211 Durand Ave., Sturtevant, Wi., 53177, 414-886-2966. Also, contact them for meetings in the future.

FARRAGUT, IDAHO WW II NAVAL TRAINING CENTER will hold their 12th Annual Reunion at the Farragut State Park, Athol, Id, Sept. 11-13, 1998. Contact: Bud and Ruby Warren, 1420 Madison, Astoria, Or 97103, 503-325-9620, 9AM - 4PM PST ONLY!! Many Armed Guard WW II Veterans took their BOOTS there. (P.S. by CALLOYD: It looks as if you should hold one of the reunions in the dead of the Winter so they can really feel "AT HOME"!! Yuk! Yuk!!) Sure wish someone in the BAINBRIDGE, MD. area would look into a Memorial there honoring all the "SKINT HEADS" who were trained there as L.D. and I were. Wish I was able to run the grinder now!!

LST ASSOCIATION will hold their Sept. 2-8, 1998 National Reunion at the HYATT REGENCY on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. CONTACT: Mike and Linda Gunjak, 64 Ponderosa Dr., Oregon, Oh. 43616, 800-228-5870. They publish a GREAT PAPER!!

TEXAS SAN ANTONIO CREW: CONTACT: Dan Mock, 8810 Silent Oaks, San Antonio, Tx. 78250-6267 for their next breakfast at the GOLDEN CORRAL, NW Outer Loop, San Antonio, Tx on June 13. Meeting place undecided for Sept. 19 and Dec. 12, 1998.

CONNECTICUT CREW MEETS AT THE GROTON INN in Groton, Ct. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:45 A.M. Contact: Joseph Silvia, 82 Anthony Rd., N. Stonington, Ct. 06359, 860-599-2697; or Lew Tew, 4 Glenwood Ct., Gales Ferry, Ct. 06335.

AP TRANSPORT CREW REUNION: CONTACT: Chuck Ulrich, 35 Oak Ln., New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11040, 516-747-7426 (6/4-7/98- Norfolk, Va. Area).

INDIANA CREW'S new Skipper, Forrest Spencer, 910 W. Melbourne Ave., Logansport, In. 46947-3345, 219-753-7066 is assisted by John Stratton, 627 Grove St., Logansport, In. 46947-4910. They meet at Al's, on Hwys. 29 and 435 on the last Saturday of each month at 11:00 A.M.

ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN AREA Contact: John Neven, 3514 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, Il 773-725-2186 for their 1998 Mini-Reunion as to date, time and place.

The "**HALL of FAME CHAPTER**" of the **WW II MERCHANT SEAMEN** in the Canton and Rootstown, OHIO Area meets at BACHELLI'S ITALIAN VILLA and STEAK HOUSE, 2016 Whipple Ave., Canton, Oh. on the "LAST TUESDAY" of the month at 10 A.M. and they would like to get more Armed Guard to meet with them. OK!! This is your chance to join in with more "UNSUNG HEROES" and talk about the tall waves and the strong winds and have a great time. We have 6 Merchant Seamen who join us regularly each meeting and enjoy them. Contact: Robert Hahn, 3771 Tallmadge Rd., Rootstown, Oh. 44272, 216-325-9657.

LSM-LSMR NATIONAL ASSOC. 10TH REUNION will be held Sept. 2-6, 1998 at the HYATT-REGENCY NEW ORLEANS, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, La. 70113. Contact: Richard Schatz-Pres., 66 Summer St., Greenfield, Ma. 01301, 413-774-2397.

WEST VIRGINIA CREW: Forrest Flanagan, P.O. Box 119, Craigsville, WV 26205, (304) 742-3160; Murrey Shuff (MM), 106 Kinzer St., Beckley, WV. 25801, 304-252-6995; and Paul Bennett, Rt. 2, Box 29, Jane Lew, WV 23678 are trying to get the area together for another meeting. They held one last Spring and were very successful. Y'all contact them for future date and information.

HOFFMAN ISLAND RADIO ASSOC. Contact: John J. Murray, 122 Wyndale, San Antonio, Tx 78209-2348, 210-826-4687; or Bill Yerger, 607-776-4965.

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS Armed Guard area meets at McDonalds in Fairview Hgts. on the 2nd Saturday of each month 9:30-11:00. Contact: Skipper Theodore Kawula, 3232 Carlson Ave., Granite City, Il. 62040, 618-876-2241. A.G. and M.M. "GET-TO-GETHER." They have over 80 members now. Kawula also informs me that the S.S. Samuel Parker Chapter of AMMV meet the 4th Monday of each month at the Seafarer's Hall, 4581 Gravois Ave, St. Louis, Mo. 63123 at 10 A.M. ARMED GUARD WELCOMED TO ATTEND.

SACRAMENTO, CA. AREA ARMED GUARD CREW, 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.

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA AREA MEETS THE 2ND TUESDAY of the month at THE BARN Restaurant, 14982 Red Hills Ave., Tustin, Ca. for

11:30 LUNCH! Contact: Walter Davis, 2604 N. Tustin Ave. #F, Santa Ana, Ca. 92705, 714-997-7119; or Curtis Mellin, 3173 Bern Dr., Laguna Beach, Ca. 92651, 714-494-6603.

CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA AREA with ZIP CODES 90265 through 93483 will be starting up a "CENTRAL COAST GROUP" with William "BILL" McGee, 1187 Coast Village Rd, #1401, Santa Barbara Ca. 93108-2794, (805) 969-5970 as Skipper. Anyone else who would like to take part are welcomed.

ALABAMA CREW: Contact Gene Pugh, 3131 Hale Dr., Huntsville, Al. 35805, 205-533-6049 for meeting at the Golden Corral, 3117 Lorna Rd., Hoover, Al.

GEORGIA CHAPTER Skipper Bill Burton, 251 Cardigan Cir., Lilburn, Ga. 30247, 770-381-5395 and the Ga. Crew meet at SHONEY'S, Exit 38, Lilburn at 11 AM "FIRST MONDAY." BILL SAYS FOR YOU YANKEES TO STOP BY ON YOUR WAY NORTH AND SOUTH.

PBY CATALINA INTERNATIONAL ASSOC. 10TH REUNION. CONTACT: Jas. Thompson, 1510 Kabel Dr., New Orleans, La. 70131, 504-392-1227. Howard Johnson Hotel, 15 Motel Circle, NE, ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87123, 1-800-877-4852, Sept 30-Oct. 4, 1998. (BALLOON FESTIVAL on Oct. 3rd-Approx. 1000 balloons take off.)

ROCHESTER, N.Y. AREA ARMED GUARD and **MERCHANT SEAMEN** 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."

IOWA CREW meets the 2nd Wednesday, 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.

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. GREAT "YANKEE" CREW.

NEBRASKA AREA Host, Moe Carlton, 2425 FOLKWAY BLVD #321, Lincoln, Ne. 68521, 402-438-9321 holds an 11:00 LUNCHEON on the FIRST MONDAY of each month at FARABEES RESTAURANT, 58TH and OLD CHANEY ROAD.

WILKES-BARRE, PA. AREA Host Delbert Lennon, P.O. Box 772, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703, 717-467-2161 hosts a 4th Saturday of each month meeting at the MARK II RESTAURANT, 1020 Wilkes Barre Township Blvd., Wilkes Barre Pa.

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 area at the "HOSS'S STEAK HOUSE" in Hummelstown, Pa. at 1:00 P.M.

KEYSTONE MM CHAPTER invites all ARMED GUARD to their meetings. Contact: Geo. K. Bathie, 580 Melissa Ln., State College, Pa. 16803-1221, Phone/Fax 814-237-0329 on the 4th Sat. of each month at a 12 NOON LUNCHEON at the "DAYS INN MOTEL," ALTOONA, PA.

WESTERN N.C. AREA meets at the "MILLS RIVER RESTUARANT," 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.

WILMINGTON, N.C. Armed Guard holds a 1ST WEDNESDAY monthly meeting at 9:30 A.M. at 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.

PHILADELPHIA-DELAWARE VALLEY PA. Area Armed Guard holds an 11:30 A.M.-2nd WEDNESDAY MONTHLY MEETING at the AMERICAN LEGION, Falls TWP Post #834, Fallsington, PA. 19054, 215-295-9858 at 11:30 A.M. HOSTS: Al and Norma Farrara 45 Upper Hill Top Rd., Yardley, PA. 19067, 215-493-9134.

SOUTHWEST OHIO AREA: Bob and Dot Ober, 7115 Dunn Rd. Cincinnati, Ohio 45230, 513-231-3181 Host an 11:30 Luncheon on the "2ND MONDAY every other month" at "TOMMY'S BUFFET" 10784 Reading Rd., Eavendale, Oh.

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER OF M.M. VETERANS OF EASTERN OHIO meet the 3rd Thurs. of each mo. at "THE OLD COUNTRY BUFFET" at "THE SHOPS at BOARDMAN'S PARK," 387 Boardman-Poland Rd., Boardman, Oh. at 11:30 AM. Contact Howard Brown, 2023 Thalia Ave., Youngstown, Oh, 330-783-0996. Armed Guard are encouraged to meet together.

DEMS - CONTACT: DOUG SEPHTON, RCNA-DEMS, 203 Anne St., North Barrie Ontario, Canada L4N 4T4 for info on the "ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL ASSOCIATION" 1998 Reunion.

GREATER PORTLAND, OR. Armed Guard meet with the Oregon Chapter AMMV every 3rd Monday, 11:30 A.M. at "OLD COUNTRY BUFFET," 13500 SW PACIFIC (99W) TIGARD MARKET PL., TIGARD, OR. George Goode, Area Skipper, 4017 S.E. Aldercrest Rd., Milwaukie, Oregon 97222-6161, 503-659-1925 passed away 4/4/98 and will be missed by the crew. My understanding is they will continue to meet as above and temporary contact will be Robert and Doris Bramley, 15015 NE # 51, Sacramento, Portland, Or 97230, 503-255-7919. He can advise as to new Skipper.

The "NORTH-WEST PASSAGE," "OR-WA-ID-MT-AK" holds a LUNCHEON at 1400 Hours on the 3rd WED. at BELL'S RESTAURANT, 8501 Fifth Ave NE, North Seattle, Wa. 1 mile South of Northgate Mall. Contact: Bob Heitzinger, 9227 169th Pl. NE, Redmond, Wa. 98052, 425-861-9706; or James Davies, 4231 134th St., Bellevue, Wa. 98006, 425-641-9293. All are invited to come join in for a great time.

OLYMPIA, WA. AREA, Contact: Billie and Richard Kohse, 2304 Lister Rd., NE Olympia, Wa. 98506-3616, 360-456-1946; or Don and Pearl Werner, 18605 N.E. 219th St., Battleground, Wa. 98604, 360-687-3630.

UTAH ARMED GUARD CONTACT Charles Gray, 1316 N 2900 W., VERNAL, UT 84078 to see if they're still holding meetings.

LANSING, MICH. AREA holds a "3RD" WEDNESDAY of the ODD MONTHS meeting at the "CORAL GABLES RESTAURANT," 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, Mi., 517-337-1311. Hosts are Carl Mescher, 508 Wayland, East Lansing, Mi. 48823, 517-332-1027; or Martin Vallee, P.O. Box 809, Flint, Mi. 48501, 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. Kentucky will also be the host for the 1998 Mi/Oh/In/Ky Mini-Reunion in Louisville, Oct. 11-14.

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!!

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 BETTY ANN'S RESTAURANT, 4401 SO. MEMORIAL DR., TULSA, OK.

TOPEKA, KS. AREA ARMED GUARD AND MERCHANT MARINE meet on the "FIRST THURSDAY" of each month at 8:30 A.M. at "TEVIS RESTAURANT," 821 SW 6TH with DON GLEASON, 2405 NW Cross St., Topeka, Ks. 66606-2401, 785-234-6087; and Dean Vining, 1026 SW Cambridge St., Topeka, Ks. 66604-1716, 785-273-1247 as hosts. The Gleasons will host the "MID-WEST" REGIONAL REUNION at the "HOLIDAY INN WEST" in TOPEKA, KS. on Sept. 18-20, 1998. (SEE Y'ALL THERE!! CAL)

The **WICHITA, KS AREA MERCHANT MARINES WW II** Veterans CONTACT: Glen Trimble, 1725 Woodrow Ct., Wichita, Ks. 67203. Wilfred Bergkamp, 530 Homestead, Colwich, Ks 67030 is the Armed Guard Coordinator.

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.

UPPER PA. AREA meets at PLATZ'S RESTAURANT, 101 Harry Rd., Lehigh, Pa. 18235, 610-258-3056 on the 4th TUES. in June, Aug. and Oct. of 1998 at NOON. CONTACT: Bea and Clint Barr, 2340 3rd St., Easton, Pa. 18042-6064, 610-258-3056. They have a great time!!

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. Hosts: William and Irene Yansick, 80 Charlton Ave., Lodi, N.J. 07644, 201-473-6640.

PITTSBURGH, PA. CREW meet 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 they're assisted by: Sam Pitittieri, 413-592-1854; Louis Carr, 413-783-5904; and Geo. Hurley, 413-593-3286.

COLORADO CREW: FIRST (1st) TUESDAY MONTHLY LUNCHEON (11:30 A.M.) at the COUNTRY BUFFET,

7475 Park Meadow Dr. (C-470 and Quebec St.), LITTLETON, CO. 80226, 303-988-5583. (Suburbs of Denver.) Contact Ed Jones, 616 S. Carr St., Lakewood, Co. 80226, 303-988-5583. Sez-If passing through,-JOIN IN!!

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 "WATERVLIT ARSENAL OFFICER'S CLUB," WATERVLIT, N.Y.

FULTON, N.Y. AREA: The Armed Guard and Merchant Marine meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Golden Corral. Time: 11 A.M. and all are welcomed. Contact: Arlene and Bill Sullivan, 104 Meadowbrook Cir., Fulton, N.Y. 13089.

S.C. CREW CONTACT: Jeff and Mabel Haselden, 120 Richardson Blvd., Lugoff, S.C. 29078, (803) 438-1491 for their meetings. Join them in the sailing of the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN on Aug. 15, 1998.

RICHMOND, VA. Crew's Hosts are Wayte and Feran Huffer (MM), 3102 Aqua Ct., Richmond, Va. 23230-1902, 804-262-6710. They meet at 12:30 PM for LUNCHEON at MORRISON'S Cafe, 7035 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. on the "2ND SAT."

NORFOLK, VA. Contact: Reginald Dolliver, 3820 Amberly Forest Pl., Virginia Beach, Va. 23456, 804-471-6397 for their meetings on the LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at the OLD COUNTRY BUFFET, 1952 Laskin Rd., Virginia Beach, Va. at "HILLTOP REGENCY SHOPPING PLAZA."

ROANOKE, VA. AREA meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at SHONEY'S Restaurant on Route 419 (3865 Electric Rd. just past Tanglewood Area) Roanoke, Va. at 11:30 A.M. with hosts Ralph and Myra Swillinger, 734 Estates Rd. SE, Roanoke, Va. 24014, 540-427-1927.

DESTROYER ESCORT ASSOCIATION, INC., PO BOX 469, ALLENHURST, NJ 07711, 908-531-5899, Fax 908-531-7724. James R. Mitchell (Acting Exec. Administrator).

George Milk, 3136 St. James St. NE, Port Charlotte, FL 33952, 813 627-6759 area meets at the Golden Corral - **PUNTA GORDA, FL.** on the 3rd Tues. at 1:30 P.M. When vacationing, join in with these Florida Crews. Many do!!

MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER: CONTACT: Jack and Corinne Renaud, 839 So. Success Ave., Lakeland, FL 33801, 941-688-1312 assisted by: Sam and Dolly Morris, 2055 S. Floral Ave., Lot 221, Bartow, FL. 33830, 941-533-4891.

NEW PORT RICHEY FL. AREA FULLTIME HOST: Harold Ceaser, 8621 Vixen Ln., Port Richey, FL 34668, 813-863-1367 meet on "THE 3RD WEDNESDAY" for LUNCH at "KALLEY K's" Restaurant on Hwy. 19 in New Port Richey. Ceaser takes over as Skipper in place of Rudy Kozak who has moved. Thanks Rudy and Ellie for getting these "SNOWBIRDS" organized.

SPRINGHILL, FLORIDA AREA- Contact: William T. Young, 4206 Parkhurst La., Springhill, FL 34608, 904-683-9333. For a breakfast on the "SECOND" Saturday 10 AM at the 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, holds a meeting on the "2ND SUNDAY" at 1 P.M. at the AMERICAN LEGION HALL on Sanford Ave., Sanford, FL.

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 STEAKHOUSE," 7000 E. Main St., Mesa on the "FIRST THURSDAY" of the month at 11 A.M. Arizona Mini-Reunion will be held in LAUGHLIN, AZ in 1998.

The **TUCSON, AZ. AREA** hosts are William and Marion Howard, 4056 N. Tuttle Ave., Tucson, Az. 85705, 602-887-8703 for the 2ND THURSDAY of each Mo. meeting at 10:30 AM at the VILLAGE INN, 6251 N. ORECLE RD., TUCSON, Az. 85704, 602-297-2180. The Arizona Mini-Reunion will be held Oct. 20-22, 1998 at Laughlin, Az.

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 contact James Colamarino, 2904 168th S.E., Bellevue Wa. 98008, (206) 746-6984. All Armed Guard are WELCOMED!! A GREAT CREW!!

CONTACT: LCI NATIONAL ASSOC. EDITOR ROBERT KIRSCH, 643 Gallery Rd., Evans City, PA. 16033, 412-538-8151 for reunion data.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF USS LCS(L) 1 THRU 130 CONTACT "JEFF"

JEFFERS, PO Box 9087, Waukegan, IL 60079, 847-360-0560, FAX- 847-623-7450 FOR AUGUST 12-15, 1998 REUNION at the Sheraton Tara Hotel, Framington, MA.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION-SAN DIEGO plans to meet "EVERY TWO MONTHS" at the "BAYVIEW CLUB", MCRD, San Diego, Ca. Hosts are: Howard Wooten, 772 E. Vista Way #B, Vista, Ca. 92084, (619) 724-7871; and George Kost, 3609 Belle Bonnie Brae, Bonita, Ca. 92084, (619) 267-5797.

Hugh F. Foresman, 7315 Lynch Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472-4469, 707-823-6028, is getting the **SANTA ROSA, CA** area Armed Guard and Merchant Seamen together once a month. Contact Hugh for more info.

BELOW ARE ARMED GUARD CONTACTS ON THE THREE SHIPS! PLEASE CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL SHIPS FOR SAILING DATES.

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. Ship's address is: S.S. JOHN W. BROWN, P.O. Box 25846, Highlandtown Sta., Baltimore, Md. 21224-0846, 410-558-0646.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. AREA CONTACT: Carl Kreidler, 15852 Via Eduardo St., San Lorenzo, Ca. 94580, 510-317-9600 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 32). Ship's address is: S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN, Ft. Mason Center, Bldg-A, San Francisco, Ca. 94123-1302, 415-441-3101.

On the **S.S. LANE VICTORY**, Contact Joe Piccolini, 9724 Paseo De Oro, Cypress, Ca. 90630, 714-952-2656 for info. The ship's address is: S.S. LANE VICTORY, 839 S. BEACON ST., PIER 94, SAN

PEDRO, CA. 90733, 310-519-9545.

WICHITA FALLS, TX CREW MEETS AT "GRANDY'S" FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 8 A.M. CONTACT: Jack Sims, 5111 Bahama Dr., Wichita Falls, Tx., 76310-3101, 817-691-7393

TEXAS MERCHANT MARINE meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at LUBY's Cafeteria, 2233 W. North Loop, Austin Tx., 11 A.M. Contact Chas. Smith, 404 North Water St., Burnett, Tx 78611-2451, 512-756-9853. All Armed Guard and Merchant Seamen are welcomed at the Ol'Corral!! Contact: Bob Thompson, 6300 Hillcroft, Ste. 260, Houston, Tx. 77081, 713-665-1276, Fax-713-270-8531 for that area.

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 "TAL-LY'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.

STATESVILLE N.C. AREA meets the 1ST TUESDAY - 8 A.M. at SHONEY'S "SIGNAL HILL MALL." CONTACT: K.E. Watt, 2967 Wilksboro Hwy., Statesville, N.C. 28667-9242, Tel 910-876-0650. Sez, "ALL Y'ALL COME ON."

CHINA COASTERS CHAPTER of AMMVWWII CONTACT: Floyd (RED) Hayes, 4501 W. 141st St., Hawthorne, Ca. 90250, 310-679-2107.

GULFPORT, MS AREA: CONTACT John and Dean Foretich, 310-44th St.,

Gulfport, Ms. 39507, 601-868-2551. They also are hosts for a 2nd Sat. meeting at the American Legion, GULFPORT.

RALEIGH, NC: We still meet at "GRIFFIN'S RESTAURANT", in the QUILT ROOM, on the "FIRST" (1st) Saturday of the month at 8:00-10:30 A.M. Take I-440 around to the NORTH SIDE and take EXIT 10 NORTH, to 4500 Wake Forest Rd.; onto 1604 N. Market Dr. See sign on the right. It's behind the Red Lobster.

TINCAN SAILORS, Contact Vince Diomede, 20 Admirals Row, Freehold, N.J. 07728, 908-308-0071. Also, contact him for other Tincan meetings.

AGC FLAGSHIP ALLIANCE (All USS AGCs, LCCs and Coast Guard WAGCs) will hold their National Reunion Sunday Oct. 18-22, 1998 at the RAMADA PLAZA RESORT, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. CONTACT: Bill Graham, 30 Belnap St., Dedam, Ma. 02026, 617-329-0473.

PATROL CRAFTS SAILORS ASSOC-(PSCA) WILL HOLD THEIR NEXT REUNION 5/14-15/98 AT VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. Contact: Joe Kelliher, 14 Hickory Hills, Southington, Ct. 06489, 860-276-8243 for Reunions. E-Mail pcsajk@luno.com

U.S.N. CRUISER SAILORS ASSOC. WILL HOLD THEIR 6TH REUNION 5/27-31, 1998 at the Holiday Inn NW, SAN ANTONIO, TX. CONTACT: Ron Maciejowski, Sec. 55 Donna Ter., Taunton, Ma. 02780, 508-824-0789

DID YOU SEND IN CORRECTIONS? Please send me any correction as to time or date changes too!! IT IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN CORRECT ERRORS. I hope that I didn't overlook any one. SEE Y"ALL IN BLOOMINGTON!! (CALLOYD)

**Dedicated to the
Gunnery Instructors
who taught us how
to "shoot straight."**

**U.S.N. Armed Guard Center
Gunnery Instructors
April 1, 1994**

(front row, center)

**Lt. Com. A. Hasler,
Ordnance Officer**

**Lt. D. E. Boeher,
Training Officer**



SERMON NOTES... LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Dear Lloyd:

4/98

In the Jan/Feb/Mar. 1998 *POINTER*, there was an article by Allen Davey of N.S.W. Australia regarding the City of Brisbane. We had many weeks at sea from the States on the S.S. JOHN S. SARGENT, plus a couple of scary challenges that were made at night; one of the incidents occurred because we did not return a blinker signal from a ship on the horizon. Suddenly, we heard a gun report and a star shell exploded over our ship. Everything turned out alright as soon as we identified our ship. Our Liberty ship docked in Brisbane in June of 1943.

I remember walking about the streets of that city and was approaching a small park, where I saw a monument. Being a history buff, I looked the statue over and being tired, I decided to rest on one of the benches. A man close to fifty years of age sat down next to me. We started a conversation as to where in the States I lived and other pleasantries. Before parting, he mentioned that he had lost a son recently while serving in the military in North Africa. I could see the sadness in his eyes, and shortly afterwards, I left.

At the time of this chance meeting, it did not mean very much to me, due to my youth, but as the months and years passed, every once in-while, I remember that Australian who had lost a son. I visualize that it could have been my father back in the States talking to another young man in uniform about me. Enclosed you will find a check to help with the expenses. Cordially, **Narold Carson, 25 Halcour Dr., Plainview, N.Y. 11803, 516-935-4269.**

Dear Sir:

3/16/98

I am trying to find the name of a Liberty Ship that I was on in the invasion of Leyte. I am not a member of the Armed Guard but what I witnessed has stayed on my mind these past fifty-three years. In fact, so much so, that I built a model of the ship but have no name to go on it.

The ship I was on was tied up at a dock in Leyte and I was a member of the 274th, 503 Post Battalion, unloading 55 MM cannon shells. It was one of many cargo ships I worked on, hence, the lack of memory. I was working 8 hours on and 8 hours off, too tired at one point to go back to our encampment! I fell asleep under the stern's 5" cannon (5" 38) on my Mae West life jacket when about sunrise, it went off!! It certainly woke me up with a bang!!!

There, among the invasion ships was a Japanese Zero, twisting and turning among the ships. The crossfire from the ships were unbelievable. It crashed into the harbor, when, lo and behold, 20 or 30 more enemy planes came into view. It was pandemonium and everything was happening so fast, I just stood transfixed at the stern rail. Suddenly, out of the melee, there came a twin engine Jap bomber heading right for our ship. I could see the pilot's face and his fur lined cap as plain as day.

What really stuck in my mind was the bravery of the gun crew on the bridge. There were three Armed Guard gunners manning the gun and

they fired for what seemed like eternity at the plane to no avail as the plane crashed directly into the gun tub and a bomb under the plane went off, lifting the the ship at least six feet out of the water. The bridge caught fire and the gunners just disappeared. Wreckage of the plane was all over the deck. I shall never forget the bravery of those three Armed Guard gunners.

If you could possibly know the name of that ship, I would appreciate letting me know. If it is of any help, a Navy ship was alongside of our ship and when we caught fire, it took off. The time was about two weeks after the invasion. Incidentally, I visited the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN berthed in Baltimore, Md. Harbor. We took a cruise in the Bay and experienced a simulated attack by a Jap Zero. It was a great show and the Armed Guard fired away at it. It sure brought back a lot of memories and was like going back into time. I hope you can come up with the ship's name so I can complete my model. Thank you for your interest and good luck. Your friend in service. **John Meyers, 506 E. Cuthbert Blvd., Westmont, N.J. 08108, 609-854-9088.**

Dear "ARMY OL'SALT"!! Many of the Armed Guard were in the area at the time. I hope someone can assist you in your endeavor. Advise me if they do. **CALLOYD**

Dear Cal:

4/7/98

So sorry it took me so long to get back to you but when you're 80 years old, you don't do things so fast. Thanks a million for the Murmansk Cap and *POINTER*. Now, everyone in town knows that I've been to Murmansk, Russia, thanks to you.

Last September, I visited a shipmate Pyle from Pennsylvania who served with me on the S.S. CARDINAL GIBBONS'S 3"50 on the bow. Had a picture taken of our 52 year old meeting and I understand why you can't put all the photos sent in to you and that's O.K. and understandable. I just wanted you to see two very happy old "Ol'Salts." I'm the tall one on the left with my hand on his shoulder. **John B. Imhoff, 1718 Mount Laurel Rd., Temple, Pa 19650.**

John, the picture was clear and if there's room in the POINTER, it'll go in. For two guys who survived the Murmansk Run and lived to be 80, your luck will run long enough to get it in. CAL

Dear C.A.

4/4/98

As a recent widow, I do want to remain on the mailing list as you expressed in the *POINTER*, KOML. The *POINTER* is always read and it is my link to the Armed Guard of which my late husband, Walter Jacques, was a member. At this moment, I am trying to get my life in order and arrive at a point when I may anticipate what is happening, rather than reacting to it.

I think of Walter every day as he was my better half and he will always be with me. He was all Navy and Armed Guard to the end. The young



Two "Ol Salts" meet again after 52 years.
(L-R: Imhoff, Pyle)

men of WW II were a brave, stalwart group. They were tempered by a long depression and they volunteered to serve their country in a far reaching lengthy war until the end. Walter was a product of his age, accepting what life handed him and asking no quarter. He was strong, steadfast and dependable. This generation of men was the backbone of our wonderful country and leaves a great legacy to be proud of and an inspiration to all who follow you. With kindest best wishes, **Jane S. Jacques, 30 Longfellow Dr., N. Kingstown, RI 02852.**

PS: When Walter was sixteen and a Junior in high school and after much pleading with his parents, they agreed that he could join the Naval Reserve. At seventeen, he completed his "boot" training at Newport, Rhode Island and he graduated from high school in his uniform on June 1, 1941.

His first ship was the Yard Tug 154 from 4/41-4/42 and on his second ship, the S.S. CITY OF ELWOOD found him in a convoy on their way to Russia. After a few days at sea, the ship was emitting sparks from her stack and they were ordered to leave the convoy and chart a new course. They sailed alone and delivered their cargo to Persia. This was a trip of one year and no one could write to their family.

When he returned home, his parents wanted a portrait of him and this is the one enclosed when he was eighteen. His next ship was the S.S. WILLIAM W. GERHARD. A priest came aboard just before the ship left to say mass and told Walter just before leaving that the ship was expendable. The GERHARD took part in the invasion of Sicily and Italy and the ship was sunk September 21, 1943 about 45 miles south of Salerno, Italy killing two Armed Guard and

injuring 6 more plus three merchant seamen. A total of 44 MM, 30 AG and 193 U.S. and British Army personnel were on board.

In the portrait, Walt wears a ring made from the metal from the Submarine, the USS SQ. This new sub sank off New Hampshire on her second shakedown cruise. Many men were lost. Others were saved by closing off a compartment and were rescued by Navy divers. Walter wore this ring all his life.

Walter never spoke of his war years. It was only after joining the Armed Guard Association and hearing him speak with other comrades did I learn of the war and what they endured. I listened and learned - but never understood. J.S.J.

Jane, your letter is a tribute to Walter and all his shipmates. It is also a reminder to all the other ladies that they should talk with their husbands and have him write of his experiences as only he can tell it like it was. And to the widows, write down what you remember your husband said and pass it along to members of the families so their children will know. Thanks for your input. I came to know Walt from the reunions and he loved being there. CAL



Walter Jacques at age eighteen.

ON THE COVER (and center pages)

Dear C.A.

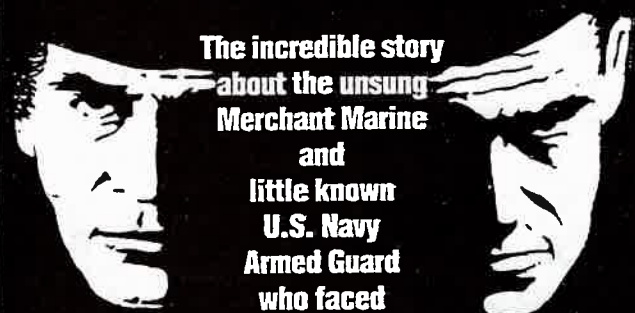
Nov. 29, 1997

Many years ago, Ms. James F. Byrnes gave me an album of photographs and it has been packed away for about 40 years. They show the building of the S.S. ROBERT E. PEARY at Richmond, CA, shipyard #2. Apparently, shipyards were in a contest to see who could build the Liberty Ship the quickest. Ms. Byrnes was selected to perform the Christening.

You will recall that she was the wife of Mr. James F. Byrnes, who served during the Roosevelt days as Chief Justice, Sec. of State, Director of War Mobilization and Governor of South Carolina. I lived only a block from their home and knew them well.

Sincerely yours, Robert D. Floyd,
Brigadier General (Ret.), Former
Armed Guardsman, 3710 Devereaux
Rd., Columbia, SC 29205.

THEY STOOD TOGETHER
and suffered one of the highest casualty
rates of World War II. Many were only 15 years old.



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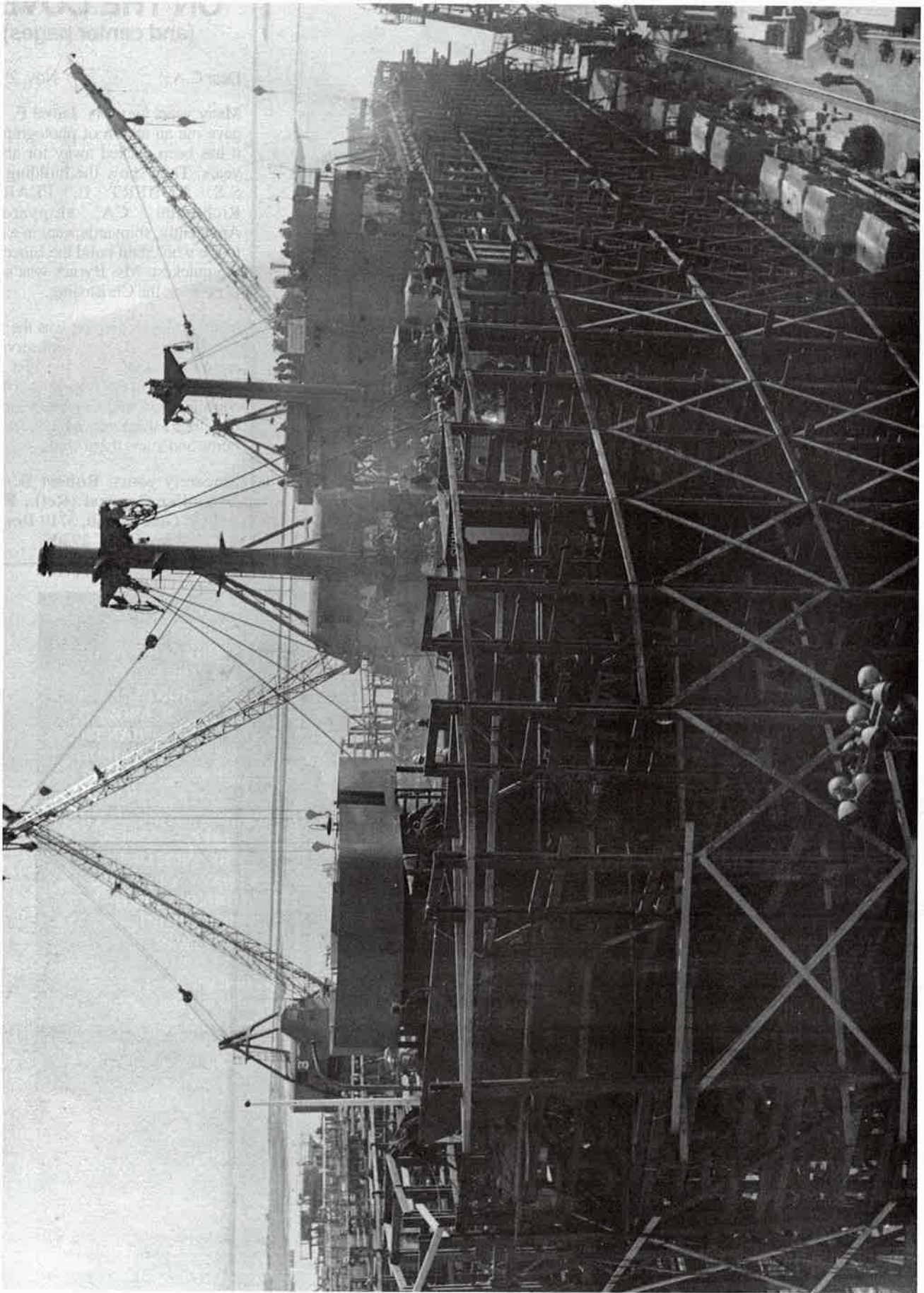
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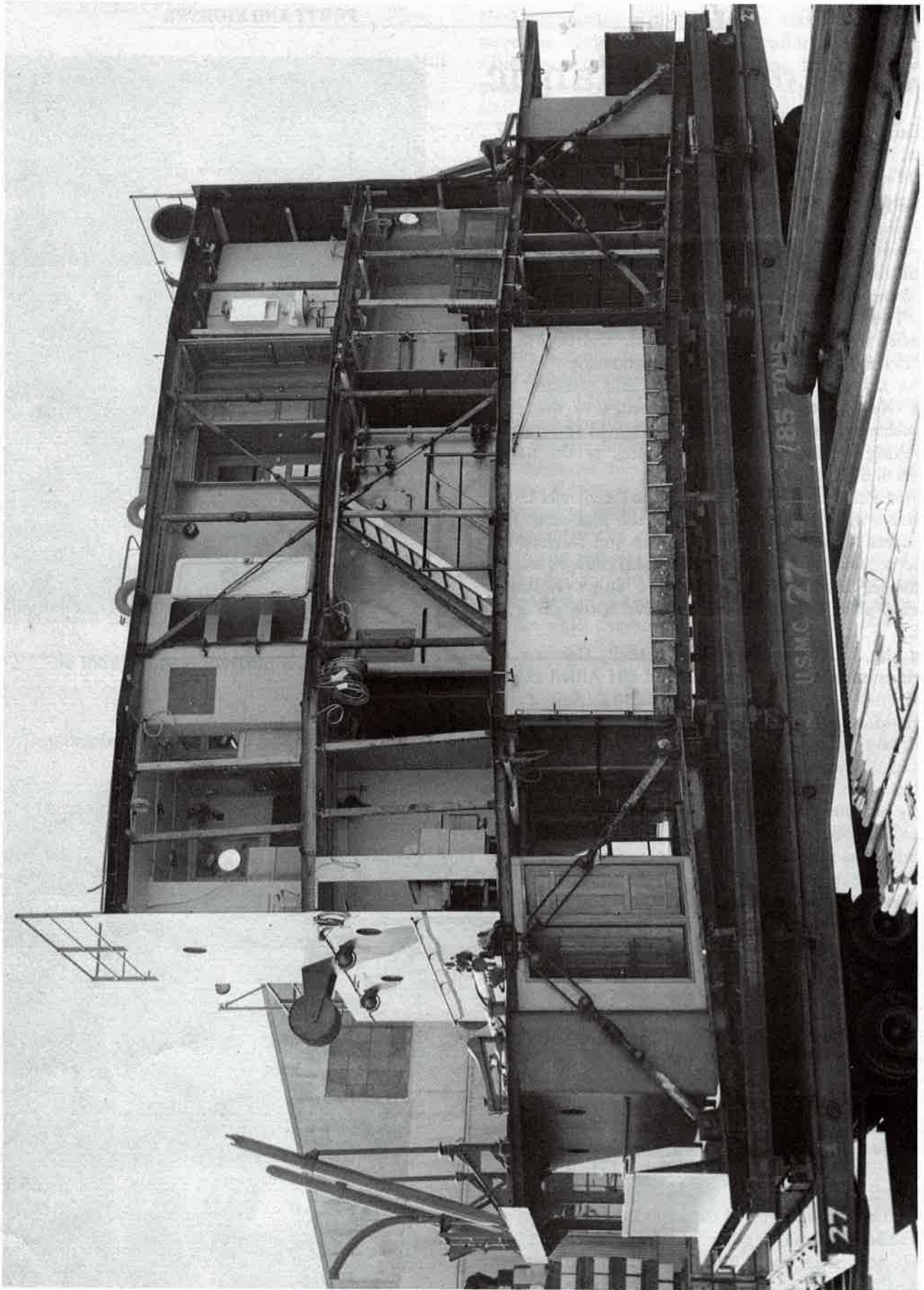
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Pre-fabricated section bound for the S.S. ROBERT S. PEARY

Battle of the Atlantic

*by Don Quesinberry,
Staff Writer*

The Battle of the Atlantic was the scene of the longest, most crucial campaign of WWII. All hopes for victory over Germany depended on England. The allied air offensive would begin from there and so would the second front. Britain depended on being supplied from the sea. The 3000 mile-long shipping lanes from North America were her lifeline. Hitler said, "Cut that lifeline and Britain will be starved into surrendering".

The Atlantic battle was a dirty, cold grueling business. Nerves were constantly on edge in the claustrophobic submarines, or aboard the naval ships zig-zag searching for the tell-tale sonar ping, or the harried status of busy searching aircraft.

After Pearl Harbor, Hitler launched a vicious U-Boat offensive against the North American seaboard. Eastern ports such as New York, Boston and Norfolk were protected with mines and nets. Coastal convoys were established, black-outs ordered, and ship's radios restricted after U-Boat Packs achieved astonishing success.

In the first seven months of 1942, German submarines sank an appalling total of 681 Allied ships at small cost to them. One convoy, SC-42 (New York to England) was hit by U-Boats off Cape Farewell, Greenland, and lost 22 out of its 63 ships before fog blew in, saving the rest from annihilation. Conventional U-Boat tactics were to attack on the surface at night, staying safely submerged all day. They called this the "Happy Time". However, as radar and aircraft became more plentiful the ratios of Nazis successes changed.

As German losses grew, the Nazis lost their best U-Boat crews and Commanders. Replacements were less expert and resolute. At about the time of the Sicily invasion, German Admiral Karl Doenitz was forced to conclude, "Heavy losses must be borne, but last month for every 10,000 tons sunk we paid for it with one of our U-Boats, losses have reached an unbearable mark".

At the Casablanca Conference it had been determined that the defeat of the U-Boats was crucial. At that moment the U-Boats were winning. During 1942 a total of 7,790,697 tons of Allied shipping had been sunk, the bulk of it by German submarines. The American shipyards had only turned out 7 million tons as replacement plus the number of Operational U-Boats had risen from 91 to 212.

The Conference decided the key to defeating the subs was to bomb the yards where they were constructed and the U-Boat pens which offered sanctuary for the craft. Secondly, light escort aircraft carriers should be con-



(Above) Survivor rescued from oil.

(Below) Survivor being helped ashore.



structed to afford convoys cover protection in the Mid Atlantic air gap.

The German losses in part may be accounted for by increased Allied participation plus the breaking of several of the German naval codes including "Enigma".

"Enigma" was a coding machine which looked much like the conventional typewriter encoding and decoding messages via a series of drums. The Germans thought it was fool proof. The British obtained a working model and were able to decipher nearly all the messages for the rest of the war. The British intercepts were called "Ultra".

Another contribution to the downfall of the mighty Third Reich submarine fleet was the new techniques of signal "Triangulation". When a submarine used its radio (German U-Boats were required to report regularly) two or more stations on shore picked up the signal from the U-Boat. Drawing a directional line from each station, the point of intersection of the lines determined exactly where the U-Boat was at the moment. Many subs found themselves under attack and sunk when Allied bombers suddenly appeared from out of nowhere.

The death of the German Submarine Service was in some part their own doing. During the war, German scientist came up with a device for their submarines which detected the approach of enemy aircraft before

they could get into striking range. This permitted the Nazi submarine to dive to safety. Germans were unaware the device also sent out a radar pulse which the Allies were able to detect. Setting radar in low frequency, aircraft simply rode the beam down to the waiting submarine.

Winston Churchill proudly reported to the House of Commons that at sea, June 1943 was the best month from every point of view we have known in the whole 46 months of the war. (Shipping losses for June were 123,825 tons the Nazis lost 17 U-Boats). For the next year the Allies killed 251 submarines or 20.91 submarines a month (one a day, excluding Saturday or Sundays).

According to Admiral Doenitz the untimely and useless depletion of German U-Boat forces resulted from Hitler's decision to use his excess submarine forces to cover the entire coast line of Norway.

The real heroes of the Battle of the Atlantic were the Merchant Marine who kept the ships sailing. The Merchant Marine suffered the most casualties in relation to the number of men of any of the U.S. services in WWII. Sinking ship survivors were often machine-gunned as they tried to swim through the viscous oil slicks, ducking to escape the searing flames or floundering about, clinging to rafts or life preservers. Still the Merchant Marine had to deliver ten tons of cargo for each person to go overseas and one and one half tons a month to supply him while there.



WHAT A PILLBOX LOOKED LIKE AFTER WE GOT THERE !



THE MESSAGE of the Chapel of Four Chaplains

P.O. Box 1943
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FAX (610) 933-3878

It was known as Torpedo Junction, the U-boat infested, icy water of the North Atlantic during World War II. On January 23, 1943, the *USAT DORCHESTER*, an old coastal steamer quickly pressed into military service, left New York Harbor bound for Greenland. The *DORCHESTER* was escorted by three Coast Guard cutters. Two patrolled the flanks; the third, the *TAMPA*, was 3000 yards out front.

Most of the men were seasick and green with nausea. The weather was bitterly cold with gale-force winds. Ice began building up on the decks, slowing the *DORCHESTER* to ten knots.

Moving among them were four Army Chaplains, a rabbi, a priest, and two ministers. Their names were George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling, and John P. Washington. The Chaplains talked with and listened to the men — soothing apprehensions, offering encouragement, sharing jokes. By their concern and their camaraderie with the men and one another, they brought solace.

On February 2, 1943, the *TAMPA*'s sonar detected the presence of a submarine; she dropped back and swept the periphery of the convoy, but failed to find the submarine's position. That evening, the *TAMPA* returned to the patrol area up front, and the other two ships followed.

The captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing, with lifejackets close at hand. They were only 150 miles from Greenland. With daylight, there would be air cover from the American base.

It was just after midnight on February 3, 1943. An enemy submarine fired a torpedo toward the *DORCHESTER*'s aging flank. The missile exploded in the boiler room, destroying the electric supply and releasing suffocating clouds of steam and ammonia gas. Many on board died instantly; some were trapped below deck. Others, jolted from their bunks, groped and stumbled their way to the decks of the stricken vessel. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard.

Overcrowded lifeboats capsized; rafts drifted away before anyone could reach them. Men clung to the rails, frozen with fear, unable to let go and plunge into the dark, churning water far below.

The testimony of survivors tells us that the sole order and the only fragment of hope in this chaos came from the Four Chaplains, who calmly guided men to their boat stations. They opened a storage locker and distributed lifejackets. Then they coaxed men, frozen with fear, over the side. Soon the supply of lifejackets was exhausted. Several survivors report watching in awe as the Four Chaplains either gave away or forced upon other young men their own lifejackets.

These four men of God had given away their only means of saving themselves in order to save others. The chaplains gathered together, and led the men around them in prayer and a hymn. They linked their arms together as the slant of the deck became severe. And just that way, with their arms linked in brotherhood and their heads bowed in prayer, they sank beneath the waves.

It was an heroic act. It was not the only heroic act aboard the *DORCHESTER*, but it was especially significant because of the identity of these four young men: two Protestants, a Catholic, and a Jew. "It was," said one witness, "the finest thing I have ever seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven."

Of the 902 officers, servicemen and civilian workers on board, 688 went to an unmarked, watery grave. Today, as it has these many years, the Chapel of Four Chaplains serves the memory of these brave men, and carries the Four Chaplains' message of interfaith cooperation and selfless service to every part of the nation.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains invites all people to participate in its programs. To find out how you can begin or increase the Chapel's visibility in your community or organization, simply contact the Chapel.

The Four Chaplains



George L. Fox, the oldest of the four, knew all about war. Lying about his age in 1917, he enlisted in the Army as a medical corps assistant. He won a Silver Star for rescuing a wounded soldier from a battlefield filled with poison gas, the Croix de Guerre for outstanding bravery in an artillery barrage, and the Purple Heart for wounds. A resident of Vermont, he was a successful accountant and family man when he heard

God's call to the ministry. Fox went back to school and later was ordained into the Methodist denomination. When war came, he once again enlisted, telling his wife, "I've got to go. I know from experience what our boys are about to face. They need me." Fox began active duty on August 8 1942, and served until that fateful morning of February 3, 1943.



Alexander D. Goode was both an outstanding athlete and scholar. Following in his father's footsteps, this young man known for his laughter and love of life, became a rabbi. While studying for his calling, he joined the National Guard and kept up an active membership. The return of the body of the Unknown Soldier had a profound effect on Goode. He attended the ceremonies, choosing to walk the thirty miles rather than drive or take a bus, because he thought it showed more respect. Goode married his childhood sweetheart and was serving a synagogue in York, Pennsylvania, when World War II broke out. He served on active duty from August 9, 1942 until February 3, 1943.



Clark V. Poling was the youngest of the Four Chaplains and the seventh generation in his family to be ordained in the Dutch Reformed Church. When war came, he was anxious to go, but not as a chaplain. "I'm not going to hide behind the church in some safe office out of the firing line," he told his father. The elder Poling replied, "Don't you know that chaplains have the highest mortality rate of all? As a chaplain you'll have the best chance in the world to be killed. You just can't carry a gun to kill anyone yourself." So Clark Poling left his pastorate in Schenectady, New York, and enlisted as a chaplain. Just before he left for active duty, Clark asked his father to pray for him - "not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty . . . never be a coward . . . and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate." Poling began active duty on June 10, 1942, and served until February 3, 1943.



John P. Washington grew up poor, scrappy, and determined in the toughest section of Newark, New Jersey. One of nine children born to an Irish immigrant family, he was blessed with a sunny disposition, a beautiful singing voice, and a love for music. He also loved a good fight, and was leader of the South Twelfth Street gang when he was called to the priesthood. He played ball with the boys of the parish, organized sports teams and, when war came along, went with his "boys" into the Army. He began active duty on May 9, 1942. His wonderful voice, raised in song and prayer to comfort those around him, could be heard until his final moments on February 3, 1943.

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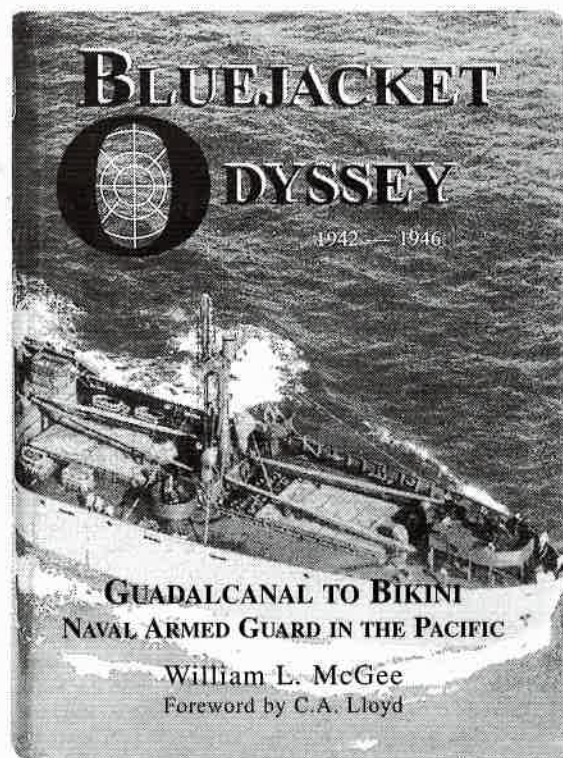
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This ad was printed in *Look* magazine during World War II.

FROM GUADALCANAL TO BIKINI

The Naval Armed Guard in World War II



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Foreword by C.A. Lloyd, Chairman, US Naval Armed Guard Veterans of WWII.

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This "Kid's Cruise" was no picnic!

From shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor to the atomic bomb testing at Bikini, Bill McGee experienced WWII in the Pacific like few others.

Author McGee, a Montana country boy, joined the U.S. Navy in 1942 on his 17th birthday. He had to agree to serve in the regular Navy until he was 21. These minority enlistments were tagged a "Kid's Cruise," probably by some salty old bosun. But McGee was no kid when his four-year hitch was over!

All aboard for the Armed Guard

He was assigned to the Naval Armed Guard, the Navy branch that protected Merchant Marine ships and their valuable cargo and crew from enemy attacks and sabotage. After gunnery training, McGee's "Kid's Cruise" threw him in the middle of air attacks at Guadalcanal and torpedoings in the South Pacific; carried him through the action in the Western Pacific; and ended in peacetime on the cruiser USS *Fall River* with the atomic bomb tests at Bikini.

Along the way, he experienced the ups and downs of Navy life: boot camp in Idaho, life (and marathon poker games) on merchant ships, duty in the Fleet, "stewed, screwed and tattooed in Tijuana" (well, almost), endless days of drills, drills and more drills, followed by moments of sheer terror.

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Tale of ship's fate no longer censored

American Legion offers posthumous tribute to Sidney man

By BRIAN E. TROMBLEY
Tri-Towns Bureau

SIDNEY

Joseph Cycon was on his way to France aboard the S.S. Leopoldville on Dec. 24, 1944, when the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine and hundreds of his Army buddies were killed. He was unable to talk about the incident because it was coded top secret by the government.

But now the story is out. Allan Andrade, a retired New York City police detective, has written a book about it based on his interviews with survivors of the ship. One of the survivors was Cycon, a Sidney resident who worked at the Bendix plant before and after World War II.

The Charles L. Jacobi Post 183 of the American Legion in Sidney will pay tribute to Cycon, who died in 1990, and his family at the post's annual birthday celebration dinner Saturday for the founding of the American Legion.

Cycon's wife, Margaret, his two daughters and granddaughter will be there as the post presents a copy of Andrade's book, "The S.S. Leopoldville Disaster," to the Sidney Historical Society.

Margaret Cycon said her husband almost never talked much about the tragic night, but when he did it was only with her and his family.

On the Christmas Eve that Cycon was headed to Cherbourg, France, aboard the Leopoldville, he and the other infantrymen tried to pass the time by singing Christmas carols, his wife said. Her husband played his harmonica for a while, but the combination of the ship's poor quality of food and swaying motion eventually got to him and he headed upward, toward the main deck of the ship, to get some air. His fellow members of the U.S. Army 66th Panther Infantry Division were still below decks.

"He was about halfway up the ladder when the torpedo hit," Margaret said. "His feeling sick probably saved his life."

Cycon attempted to help the other men get to the main deck, but many were killed by the torpedo's explosion and others drowned. The surviving men later jumped to a British ship that responded to the Leopoldville's S.O.S. call.

Margaret and the families of the others who survived, alongside the families of those who were killed, had no idea what happened. The Army decided soon after the sinking of the Leopoldville, that the disaster should be kept under wraps.

But, before the Army censored all the news going back to the States, the European Stars & Stripes newspaper wrote an account of it. Cycon cut out a portion of the article and tucked it into the finger of a pair of blue lace gloves he sent as a gift to his wife.

"It was a long time before I actually tried on the gloves," said Margaret, remembering the urging of a friend who wanted to see her with them on. "When I did try them on, I found the bit of paper tucked near the tip of one of the glove's fingers. ... That's how Joe beat the censors and let me know what happened."

The events would particularly haunt him every Christmas Eve afterward.

Margaret said each Christmas Eve after her husband returned to Sidney, he would become very quiet. Christmas carols would strike memories of when the ship sank. "It was like he could somehow hear all those voices on the ship," Margaret said.

Herbert E. Murray, commander of the Sidney American Legion post, said the trip Cycon and the rest of the 2,600 troops were on was supposed to last nine hours. Murray said the ship was torpedoed about five miles from shore and 825 men lost their lives.

"The Navy and Army tried to hush it up and every survivor was sworn to secrecy," Murray said. "Once we heard about the book, we thought it would be nice to remember Joe by giving a copy of the book to the historical society."

Charles Downin, past commander and current chaplain of the post, said he's happy to see the men who were on the ship are finally getting the recognition they deserve and he's glad the truth about the incident was uncovered by Andrade.



Margaret Cycon of Sidney shows a picture of her late husband, Joseph Cycon, a survivor of the S.S. Leopoldville who will be honored Saturday at the Sidney American Legion.

(Reprinted from the Onconta Star, 3/27/98)

Dear C.A.

4/8/98

Reporting that my Congressman says that he hopes Bill J.RES.99 will be voted on soon and that he was aware of who the Armed Guard were and what they did in WWII. I am also sending writeup on Joseph Cycon of the S.S. LEOPOLDVILLE sinking of 12/24/44. I knew him and the family. On Ol' Salt, Clyde Tiffany, 22 Loomis Dr., Sidney, NY 13838-1639.

ASBESTOSIS CLAIMS

Leonard Jaques (MM) of the "Jaques Admiralty Law Firm," Maritime Law Advocates, 1370 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, Michigan 48226-4192, and I had lunch together 4/19/98 and he informed me that it is up to you to file for your Asbestosis Claim. You can do so by calling 1-800-492-3849 for a form to fill out. I also found out that Jaques was a Merchant Seaman, joining at age 15. calloyd

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REUNION NEWS

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("Cabana Room 213" will be SHIP's STORES" run by Ellie and Rudy Kozak.)

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(On your own to look over Hotel and area, old shipmates, etc.)

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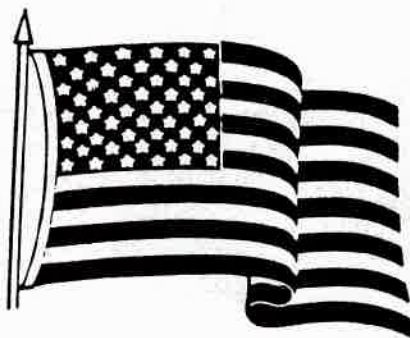
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