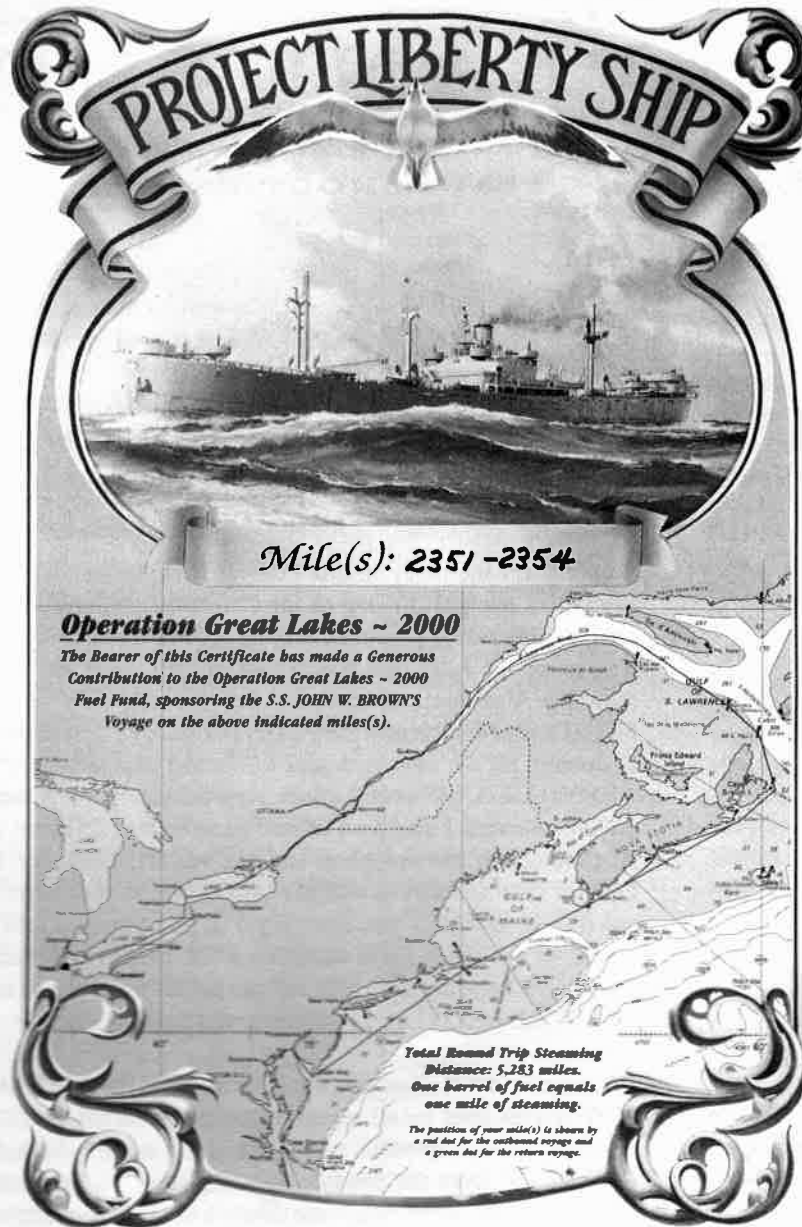


JAN./FEB./MAR. 2000

THE P O I N T E R



PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP

OPERATION GREAT LAKES ~ 2000

PICTURED ABOVE IS A CERTIFICATE OF GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE OPERATION GREAT LAKES ~ 2000 FUEL FUND, SPONSORING THE S.S. JOHN W. BROWN'S VOYAGE ON THE ABOVE INDICATED MILE(S). MILES 2351~2354: ARRIVING AT TOLEDO, OHIO FOR RIVETS "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"

Officers for 2000

Charles A. Lloyd, Chairman & Sec.-Treas.
115 Wall Creek Drive
Rolesville, N.C. 27571
1-919-570-0909

Hosts for National Reunion 2000

Bob and Dot Ober
7115 Dunn Road
Cincinnati, OH 45230
1-513-231-3181

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ATTENTION

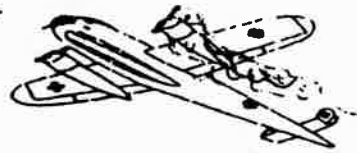
You know where you are.
You know where we are.
We know where we are.
But we don't always know where you are
Please notify us when you move.

Non-Profit Organization
Tax Exempt No. 74-2316668

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

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"



Dear Survivors of Year 1999:

Year 2000

We had been in the habit of saying-"**THERE GOES ANOTHER YEAR**"!. Now we can say- "**THERE GOES A CENTURY**"!! Let's all try to put as many years on **2000** as we can!!

So sorry for the delay in this POINTER. Like you, I got caught up in all of the Holiday Festivities, such as; finding all the Christmas decorations "lost" in moving and finding them after buying more, shopping, driving around looking for a place to park at the MALL, Etc. You name it!! I did take time to read all the cards and letters you sent and answered most requests. Also, sent out to all the "NEW OL'SALTS" an Armed Guard Packet of some old POINTERS, Membership cards, bumper stickers and about 15 sheets of information. Plus!! Endorsing all the donations sent to me and depositing the same. Thanks to you, the "USN ARMED GUARD" is still afloat. Approximately 1475 sent me donations in 1999 and they are documented. I may have missed no more than 25 more. Many of you sent in a donation to Al Colella, our last years host and that was accounted for. For all of you who donate to Bob Ober in 1999 and 2000 will have a "O" behind your name on your address label in case you see it there to signify you contributed. If you cannot afford to give, please DO NOT!! If you would let me know, I will still place a "O" behind your name anyway. Many of you are burdened with huge doctor's bills and can not afford give one cent. We've made it this far and "WE WILL DELIVER" as our motto was in WW II.

I'd appreciate it if all of you would write down the "NEW ARMED GUARD ADDRESS", NOW!! This goes for all organizations that send me their newsletters, Etc. This would really help the Postal Services plus I'd get the mail 3 days earlier. I received many "NEW OL'SALTS" from the newspapers you placed the Reunion Notice from the last POINTER. Also, from the VFW magazine, They had the old address but the new Armed Guard telephone number. Anyway, we had located # 16,795 by December 31, 1999. Tom Bowerman still continues to locate many through the website. (see page 3-Sept/Oct/Nov POINTER for his address) I hope Tom is right by saying my computer will not "CRASH" at MIDNIGHT, January 1, 2000 as I am typing this ahead of printing POINTER just in case he is wrong. I will back up this letter before hand to be on the safe side.

I received a printout from THE DRAWBRIDGE INN before Christmas of those who had made their reservation early and it helps us prepare for the reunion. You can be sure you have a room by making your reservation now. You can always cancel out if you have to but it is hard to get a room when they fill up. You heah!!

cont. on page 2

Branson, Mo. has many calendar dates set aside for Veterans in the Year 2000. If you are in their area, they welcome you. They would be happy to send you a brochure. You may want to stop over before or after the National Reunion if driving that way. See complimentary insert on how to contact them.

The **S.S. JOHN W. BROWN CRUISE** to the Great Lakes is on schedule according to Captain Brian Hope and Martin Vallee. I hope to have an itinerary of hotels at each city she will dock at for our meeting place and who to contact in the next POINTER. I want to **"THANK ALL OF YOU"** who bought the barrels of oil, calendars or just donated to this cause, in the past, and in the future. This will be a great event for the U.S.N. ARMED GUARD and THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS of WW II. I hope to get a writeup to the United Press in hopes they will print it if Brian has not done so already.
(SEE APOLOGY ELSEWHERE IN THIS POINTER)

I have new bumpers stickers with change of new address and telephone number on it and hope to have decals by the time you get this. Many have asked for and received their's already. We find many of the new "OL'SALTS" with these and they are for the asking. There is no use in sending if not wanted. Many write to say-"WHEN I RETURNED TO THE CAR, THIS GUY WAS STANDING THERE—"! Both parties are thankful he had found another of the crew.

I decided to enter all the meetings and Mini-Reunions I have listed in the computer since it is the first of the year and for those who may not have recieved a PAST POINTER with them in it, would have them and can attend. PLEASE CONTACT your area host to be doubly sure that I am correct! To all of you, I would like to a Healthy and Happy New Year 2000.

Bob Ober says that he would like to see all of you at the National Reunion and hopes to have his personal letter to you in the next POINTER and to remind you that May Reunion CUTOFF date is one month prior to **May 21-25, 2000 calloyd**

Dear Crew:

NO!! The computer did not "CRASH". THE World did not blow up!! The planes did not fall from the sky; nor, did any of the dreadful things people predicted was going to happen, happen!! So we woke up to a bright sunny day or a beautiful cloudy day and some of you looked out and saw the beautiful snow. We received a sprinkle of snow on Christmas Eve and to us, it was as wonderful sight as we don't see snow on Christmas many times in a lifetime. It was gone in an hour. I have a rusty snow shovel I have been trying to send to Gerald Greaves in R.I. if he would send me a sharp lawn mower blade!!

For those of you who are making reservations for the National Reunion and staying at the DRAWBRIDGE INN,
cont. on page 3

~ In Memory ~

1999/2000

Angstadt	Daniel	S.	Westchester	Il	Emily	12/13/99
Arace	Walter		Kissimmee	Fl		7/98
Arrington	Wayne	H.	Yazoo City	Ms	Lena	6/21/99
Baeuerlin	R.	C.	Columbus	Ms	Sara Lou	4/7/99
Banfield	Harold	W.	Conneaut	Oh	Lucille	9/28/99
Bartlett	Harold	J.	Dow	Il	Hope	11/3/99
Baxer (MM)	Leonard		New Britain	Ct		99
Borges	Edward	R.	Bristol	Ri	Theresa	99
Braddock	Robert	A.	Hilton Head	SC	Peggy	10/19/99
Bragiel	Joseph	B.	Hammond	In		10/24/99
Brickey	Herb	F.	Hesperia	Mi	Evelyn	5/11/99
Brown (MM)+	Robert	M.	St. Augustine	Fl		8/7/99
Brewer	Walter		Oxford	Ms	Mollie	9/26/99
Brunemeier	Arthur	P.	Loveland	Co	Ida May	9/15/99
Burroughs	John	W.	Miamisburg	Oh	Jeanett	11/11/99
Carson	Harold	E.	Plainview	Ny	Helen	11/7/99
DeBey	Harlan		Phillipsburg	Ks		10/20/99
Deblass	John	V.	Hazelton	Pa	*	12/30/99
Domek	Julian		Addison	Il	Emilie	9/11/99
Dycus	Max	R.	Jacksonville	Fl	Myrtle	12/5/99
Ekstrom	C.	V.	Tilton	NH	June	10/26/99
Garlick	Timothy	J.	Willow Grove	Pa	Audrey	12/7/99
Gayer	Lester	F.	Little Rock	Ar	Helen	11/7/98
Golobic	Eugene	R.	San Bruno	Ca	Rose	11/22/99
Hall	Harold	J.	Dow	Il	Hope	11/3/99
Hallissy	John	P.	Murrell's Inlet	SC	Catherine	8/3/98
Hannan	Ray	G.	Newark	Ny	Rita	3/24/99
Hicks	Richard	E.	Orange	Tx		11/16/99
Hitchens	William	T.	Logansport	In	Alberta	10/99
Holsapple	Clifford		Lake George	Ny	Joan	11/18/99
Jenkins	Gordon		Ventura	Ca	Mary	12/29/99
Kelley	Robert	F.	Riverside	Ca	Ann	
Kreidler	Carl	O.	San Lorenzo	Ca	Betty	1/9/00
Kulig	Stanley	J.	Chicopee	Ma	Eleanor	11/25/99
LaVaque	Robert	C.	Thousand Island	Ny	Dorie	7/23/99
Liverman	Lee	A.	Las Vegas	Nv	Leanora	6/99
Lockwood	Harold	L.	Humboldt	Ia	-	8/5/99
Mayhill ++	Roger	G.	Knightstown	In		1997
Morris	Wallace	J.	Round Rock	Tx	Dorothy	99
Nolan	William	F.	Springhill	Fl		12/5/99
Now	Estral	D.	Celina	Oh	Mary Cathy	99
Paulhamus	John	L.	Bloomsburg	Pa	Evelyn	7/22/99
Preston	Charles	R.	Litchfield	Mn	Ethel	11/2/99
Reid	John	H.	Painesville	Oh	Martha	10/7/99
Rocky	Everett	D.	Fort Ogden	Fl	Evelyn	1997
Sargent	George	E.	Corvallis	Or	Doris	12/19/99
Schave	Clarence	G.	Reynolds	Il	Evelyn	99
Sheppard	Edward	O.	Dennysville	Me		6/21/99
Sims	Van	E.	Stockbridge	Ga	Althea	10/31/99
Stewart	Ross	A.	Deland	Fl	Harrietta	9/7/98
Stratton	John	W.	Logansport	In	Bonnie	11/99
Taylor	Lewis	L.	Westmoreland	Ks	Marie	11/7/99
Templeton	Jerry		Austin	Tx	Margaret	12/13/99
Thompson	Edward	F.	Fort Plain	Ny	Helen	11/99
Williams	William	B.	Brick	Nj	Catherine	10/15/99
Wood	Victor	J.	Traverse City	Mi	Joyce	10/11/99

+97 YEARS YOUNG. He was Captain charter boat "NANCY" for 20 years
++ Lt (JG) on S.S. JOHN PAGE at Leyte Gulf and brother of Thomas Mayhill

you need to make a Sunday May 21, 2000 through the night of the 24th to have enough hotel room dates. We will be leaving after our May 25th, morning breakfast and you would not need the night of the 25th unless you are staying over for extra days to see the area after the reunion.

I will have an up-to-date S.S.JOHN W.BROWN CRUISE ITINERARY hopefully in the next POINTER with meeting places at different cities and who to contact. All of the cruise tickets are to be purchased through and with Money Order or CHECK to "PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP CRUISE" Box 25846, Baltimore, Md., 21224. (1-410-558-0164) Call or contact them if you have any questions on prices. To cruise from one of the PORTS-of-CALL will cost \$115.00 per person but I hope to get a reduced rate for the World War II Armed Guard and Merchant Marine Veterans and their family. I do know that if you are a PAID-UP PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP member, you can go on board the ship at no cost to you to see the ship, the guns, chow hall and the focsle. You will even get the chance to run up and down the ladders to see if you are in as good a shape as you once were. Of course, if you try out the chowline, you may be just as good!!

Tom Bowerman sent me a Video of a training film from the company "TRADITIONS MILITARY VIDEO" 1-800-277-1977 www.military videos.com evidently obtained from the Archives in Washington, D.C. and it sells for \$24.95 which includes tax and shipping (ITS) and brings back a few memories. For California residents, the cost is \$26.00 (ITS). When ordering, let them know that you are Armed Guard and one dollar will be donated back to the Armed Guard. They also have a COAST GUARD tape of WW II you may want to order. Always mention-ARMED GUARD. Allow at least three (3) weeks for delivery. If you like it as I did and recommended by Tom Bowerman, you may want to order an extra one or two and give to the library or high school in your hometown.

~ARTICLE TAKEN FROM THE NORTH WEST INDEPENDENT~

Seabee moves to its new home



Photographs courtesy of: Ralph R. Williams, North Kingstown, R.I.

By Charles St. Martin
Independent Staff Writer

NORTH KINGSTOWN — From a distance, the truck coming down Davisville Road Saturday morning looked like it had wings on it. As it came into view though, one could see that it was the famous Seabee statue, on the move for the last time from a warehouse to its new resting place behind the Economic Development Corp. administration building.

Freshly painted and repaired, the statue was carefully moved to become the center piece of what retired Seabees hope will be a new museum to celebrate the history of the Naval Construction Battalion

Center at Quonset and Seabee units nationwide.

Seabee veteran workers prepared the Seabee's new perch with the pouring last week of a wide concrete pad. A flat bed truck with the statue and an old World War II-era pontoon - a large hollow steel cube that was lashed to others to create temporary floating bridges - was then driven slowly to the site. Another vehicle with a crane was then brought in, and the workers began the delicate process of moving the 40-year-old statue.

Construction crews from Local 57 Training, an apprenticeship

program of the International Union of Operating Engineers, handled the move. After the pontoon was put in position, workers attached the crane to large straps slung under the bee's belly. They then lifted the 3,352-pound statue and placed it delicately on the pontoon, where Seabees quickly welded it into place.

"It's a beautiful sight," said Seabee veteran Carl Passarelli as he clicked off picture after picture of the bee suspended in mid-air.

The Seabees have worked on the statue since the winter, welding new pieces of metal into places,

sandblasting the statue and painting it, with the help of Frank lafrate, the person who originally designed the Seabee insignia in the early 40s.

The veterans, who are called the Seabees of Island-X1, are having a jamboree on June 26, a gathering of Seabees from all over New England.

★ ★ ★ ★ REUNIONS ★ ★ ★ ★

"REGIONAL, MINI-REUNIONS AND GET-TOGETHERS, MEMORIALS, ETC." SUPPORT THESE LOCAL MEETINGS-WHILE YOU'RE ABLE.

 WHEN CONTACTING HOTELS FOR NATIONAL OR MINI-REUNIONS, LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE USN ARMED GUARD WWII, OR; THAT YOU'RE ATTENDING OUR REUNION.

Also, check with the Skippers who host meeting prior to meeting as the date, place and time could change overnight.

Our Armed Guard Chaplain, Lyle Kyle, 2821 180th St. NE Arlington Wa. 98233 asks all of you to write to your Senators and Congresspersons to help Senator Patty Murphy when she presents her Naval Armed Guard Resolution to Congress.

NATIONAL ASSOC. OF FLEET TUG SAILORS 11TH ANNUAL REUNION WILL BE HELD 10/4-8/2000 in SAN DIEGO, Ca. Contact: Geo. W. Kingston, 1611 Woodbridge Cir E., Foley, Al. 36535 334-943-7823.

The "JEAN DELONG HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER OF AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINES VETERANS" will be erecting a Memorial to all who served in the M.M. and A.G. in WW II. It will be located in Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorials in Northern Westchester County, N.Y. and is scheduled to be unveiled on May, 22, 2000, National Maritime Day and will consist of two benches, a six foot black granite stone set on a fifteen foot diameter paved brick circle enclosed by a two foot high stone wall with inscription denoting both groups. If you care to donate or learn more about the Memorial, Contact: Albert M. Antaki, AMMV Box 284, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570 914-769-3539.

(Make checks to "AAMV MONUMENT FUND")

 ~OOOPS!!! COLUMN!!!~

IWO JIMA VETERANS NATIONAL REUNION WILL BE HELD 2/21-

26/00 AT the Holiday Inn and Suites, Wichita Falls, TX. Contact: Cy Young, Chairman PO Box 1657, Bowie, Tx. 76230 940-845-3261.

Cleveland, Ohio Area!! William Joyce, 4307 W 197th St., Cleveland, Oh. 44135 216-267-7312 HAS A GROUP TOGETHER. He will be working with Martin Vallee when the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN visits Cleveland next year. *The Armed Guard has been allotted only 300 cruise tickets on 1st come basis.*

GOOD READING "SAILOR'S JOURNEY INTO WAR" by ROBERT E. MAHER and CAPT. JAMES E. WISE. \$30. from THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS, PO BOX 5190, KENT, OH 44242-0001 (shell@kent.edu)

The USS MIDWAY, decommissioned 4/11/92, is scheduled to be permanently docked at the Navy Pier 11-A in San Diego, Ca. by the Fall of year 2000 Contact: San Diego Aircraft Museum, 1355 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA. Ca 92101. 619-702-7700 <http://www.midway.org> for more info.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND STATES!! New Hampshire/Maine/Vermont holds a luncheon at KEENE, NH. Contact: Irving Dickerman, 36 West Shore Dr., Andover, N.H. 03216 603-735-5630 or; Bob Norling, 6 Tow Path Ln., Concord, N.H. 03311-6913 603-224-4927. They have been very successful with their meetings.

NEWBURGH, N.Y. MERCHANT MARINE and U.S. ARMED GUARD VETERANS MEET ON THE 4TH Tuesday of each month at the "YOUNGEST BROTHERS RESTAURANT in Newburgh, N.Y. "ALL VETERANS ARE WELCOMED!!" Contact: AT M. Antaki, Box 284, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570 914-769-3539.

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK CHAPTER FORMED!! Contact: Joseph McKenna, 1508 Shannon Way, Melville, N.Y. 11747 516-425-4965 or James Pellegrino, 527 Livingston St. Westbury, N.Y. 11590 516-997-5585.

Their first meeting was great.

THE FARRAGUT, IDAHO WW II Naval Training Center at the Farragut State Park, Athol, Id Contact: Gene and Lorraine Cooper, 1248 SW Crossway Ct. Port Orchard, Wa 98367 360-876-4470 for year 2000 reunion (tel. calls-9AM-4PM PS Time ONLY.)

LST ASSOCIATION-CONTACT: Mike and Linda Gunjak, 64 Ponderosa Dr. Oregon, Oh. 43616 800-228-5870 for Reunions and membership. Their Convention will be held August 30 til Sept. 4, 2000 at the Adam's Mark in Buffalo, N.Y. They have a wonderful newspaper.

Texas Hosts are: John Shirley 4128 N. SUMMERCREST LOOP, ROUNDROCK, TX. 78681 512-671-3464 and Dan Mock 8810 Silent Oaks, San Antonio, Tx. 78250-6267 210-681-21200 are the hosts for the March 2-4, 2000 Mini-Reunion to be held at THE SUNDAY HOUSE HOTEL in Fredericksburg, Tx.

The Mi/In/Ky/Oh Armed Guard Mini-Reunion will be held IN Windsor, Canada while S.S. JOHN W. BROWN Visits there. CONTACT: Martin Vallee, PO BOX 809, Flint, Mi. 48501 810-235-3530. I will have more on this in future POINTER. (cal)

NOTICE Y'ALL-CHANGE OF MEETING AND DAY!! "EVEN MONTH!!" SOUTHWEST OHIO HOSTS Bob and Dot Ober 7115 Dunn Rd Cincinnati, Ohio 45230 513-231-5865 holds a 11:30 Luncheon on THE "3RD WEDNESDAY EVERY "EVEN" MONTH" AT "TOMMY'S BUFFET" 10784 READING RD., EAVENDALE, Oh. ALSO, PLEASE USE OBER'S ARMED GUARD TEL.# above UNTIL JUNE 1, 2000 then his number will be his private number again

DEMS—CONTACT: DOUG SEPH-TON, RCNA-DEMS, 203 ANNE ST. North Barrie' Ontario, Canada L4N 4T4 FOR INFO ON THE "ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL ASSOCIATION" for their May 2000 reunion. *Cont. page 5*

Lansing, Mich. Area holds a "3RD" WEDNESDAY of the ODD MONTHS 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. Vallee WILL HOST THE: MI/OH/IN/KY Mini-Reunion in 2000 in WINDSOR, CANADA.

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!! NOTICE CARLTON'S NEW ADDRESS BELOW: Oklahoma Crew contact RALPH McNALLY P.O. Box 423 Skiatook, Okla.(918) 396-2693, or; Jim and Edith Carlton PO BOX 604 DRUMWRIGHT, Ok. 74030 on their meetings at "DENNEY'S RESTAURANT" 8104 E.68TH ST. TULSA, OK.

NOTICE: MORRISON'S HAS BEEN CHANGED TO PICCADILLY

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 "THE PICCADILLY CAFE" 2949 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, Va. on the "2ND SAT.

BAINBRIDGE, MARYLAND BOOTS!!CONTACT: Paul L.Fleming, 2927 Duncan Rd., Wilmington, De.19808-2379 for dates on Year 2000 Reunion dates.

PLEASE NOTICE CHANGE IN TUCSON, ARIZONA The Tucson, Az. Area has new hosts in Richard C.and Betty Hudnall, 11088 Charnwood Ct., Sun City, Az. 85351-1519 623-977-3596, E-mail BJand RC@aol.com replacing William and Marion Howard, 3737 W MARWOOD CT., Tucson, Az. 85741-2069 520-572-4671 who has done a great deed in getting their Arizona crew together. They will still meet on the 2ND THURSDAY of each Mo. at 10:30 AM at the VILLAGE INN, 6251 N.ORECLE RD. TUCSON, Az. 85704. Bill Howard reports that their LAUGHLIN, NV. Mini-Reunion was a great success.

BELOW ARE ARMED GUARD CONTACTS ON THE THREE SHIPS!

JACK RHODES, 3143 Cotter Rd., Millers, Md. 21102 410-343-0369 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:

Mrs. 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.

We still meet at "GRIFFIN'S RESTAURANT", IN THE QUILT ROOM, on the "FIRST" (1st) Saturday of the month at 7:30-10:30 A.M. Take I-440 around to the NORTH SIDE and take EXIT 10 NORTH, to 4500 Wake Forest Rd.; on to 1604 N. Market Dr. See sign on the right. It's behind the Red Lobster.

PATROL CRAFTS SAILORS ASSOC-(PSCA)

Contact: Mark Matyas, 11610 Paso Robles Ave., Granada Hills, Ca. 91344-2552. 818-363-2917. www/theweb outlet.com/pcsa, OR; Robert H.Lister 10546 Ferncliff D., Baton Rouge, La 70815 504-272-2886 www.theweboutlet.com/pesa about their April 28-30, 2000 National Reunion at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Mobile,Al. (Includes all classes of PCs, SCs, PGs, PGMs, PYs, YPs, PEs, and PFs.

U.S.N.CRUISER SAILORS ASSOC.

2000 National Reunion CONTACT: John Amicone, 588 Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester, Ma. 02124 617-436-7202. for info.

Please refer back to older POINTERS for meetings in your area if not listed. IF I HAVE LEFT OFF ANY ANY MEET-

ING, LET ME KNOW NOW! SAVE THIS POINTER BECAUSE I WILL NOT INSERT ANOTHER MEETING NOTICE UNTIL CHANGES ARE MADE AND THEN IT MAY BE A MONTH BEFORE YOU KNOW.

calloyd

"Together again, after 54 Years"



Photograph and article by:
Irving Dickerman
36 W. Shore Dr.
Andover, NH 03216
603-735-5630

Carson Able, right of Saluda S.C. and Irving Dickerman left of Andover, N.H. served together as U.S. Navy gunners on the liberty ship S.S. Charles Bullfinch in 1944 during World War II. (left photo) After a mission to Murmansk, Russia, the ship returned to Baltimore where the two men were assigned to different ships and did not see one another again until (1998) 54 years later. The two men had a reunion aboard the S.S. John Brown that was temporarily docked at Charleston S.C.

SERMON NOTES... LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

My friend, Charlie Carpenter, sent this jewel for all of us to enjoy:

"An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and back together again.

"The boy asked his father, 'what is this, Father?' The father (never having seen an elevator) responded, 'Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life. I don't know what it is.'

"While the boy and his father were watching wide-eyed, an old lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room.

"The walls closed and the boy and his father watched small circles of lights with numbers above the walls light up. They continued to watch the circles light up in the reverse direction. The walls opened up again and a beautiful 24-year-old woman stepped out.

"The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son, 'Go get your mother.'"



"Memorial Stone" which was dedicated at the "Royal Navy" Association Club, at Liverpool, Marseyside, Northern England, to all "D"E"M"S" Gunners who paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives and will never return to their loved ones as we did. We salute each & every one. Ray Gardner

Lost the below letter in piles of other things I misplaced in moving. It should have been in the Sept/Oct/Nov 1999 POINTER along with crew of the S.S.FERDINAND GAGNON and I owe James Hynan and apology for misspelling of his name on the outside cover. We found another of his crew since the letter was written. He is Thomas Butler who plans to join them at the Drawbridge Inn in Ky. calloyd

Charles Lloyd, Chairman
7/9/99

It has been suggested that I forward the photo of the 5 Armed Guard members who served on the same ship, the S.S.FERDINAND GAGNON in 1944. The story about the men which follows is my idea which depicts how they looked 55 years ago and how they looked at the Las Vegas, Nevada national reunion. Our picture of the entire crew was taken by the official photographer at the Brooklyn Armed Guard Center just before we were to catch a train to Portland, Maine to board a brand new Liberty Ship still in the shipyard. Four of the men in the Las Vegas photo was barely 18 years old and I was a few years older.

We had many exciting experiences during our nine months together, but the story I would like to tell is not a war story but takes a different tack. It follows the theme

of a wonderful book written by commentator Tom Brokaw, entitled "THE GREATEST GENERATION." It has been on the best sellers list for several weeks. Our shipmates, and our great Armed Guard supporter, Marty McConnell, presented me a copy and I found it fascinating. To borrow some of Brokaw's words, "Many, many men and women came of age during the GREAT DEPRESSION and the SECOND WORLD WAR. They went on to build modern America—men and women whose everyday lives of duty, known, and achievement gave us the world we have today."

One member of the GREATEST GENERATION is Marty McConnell. After his discharge from the U.S. Navy Armed Guard, he entered the New York University under the G.I. Bill of Rights program and after finding a job with an insurance company, he transferred to it's night school. The name of the company was STEWART SMITH. It began to merge with other insurance companies and Marty grew with the company. In 1966, he became President of the New York office, In 1973, the Smith became a "holding company" and Marty became Chairman of the Board. As I recall, it represented many airlines and had offices in Chicago, London, etc. Marty is still active in the insurance business but still finds time to play golf, both, in New York and Florida. He attends all the reunions since located.

Al "FLAGS" Yelles was barely 18 years old when he was assigned to our ship as "Signalman Striker." He was the "baby" of the crew and took a lot of teasing from the "OL'SALTS" who promised to make a "man of him" on his first night ashore but Roy Fitkin the senior "FLAGS" took him under his wings and protected him from those "bad" places. They are still great friends after all those years. After leaving the ship, Al spent some time a a Victory Ship, which returned our military personnel from Italy, and then, from Japan.

Al was discharged and went back home to Allentown, Pennsylvania. The next day, he registered for a job with some Federal Agency created to help find jobs for returning veterans. He was sent to Mack Truck Company and given a job on the assembly line. He liked the job, his low workers and the work conditions. His superiors like him and offered him jobs in other departments but he declined to leave the line. When he retired in 1987, he was the top man in the Assembly Department of the Mack Truck and his signature was required before the product was delivered to a dealer.

John Paul Trotier also took advantage of the G.I. Bill after leaving the Armed Guard and entered St. Michael's College in Vermont. After graduating, he went
cont. page 7

to work for Sears Roebuck Company and sold appliances for a few years. His superiors recognized his sales ability and offered him the opportunity of going into the insurance business as a representative of ALL STATE Insurance, which is owned by Sears. He grabbed the chance and became a success at it. John Paul is probably the only Armed Guard Veteran who also races dog teams across the Vermont snow. I am sure it helped his insurance business. All of us has visited John Paul's home and his kennel compound and it is something to see. Mart McConnell and I, plus our wives were given rides and it was a thrill that you will never forget. In warmer weather, the dogs pull a chariot on wheels to keep them in shape. He is well known in Vermont and the politicians look to help for his support. He serves on many public committees. He would be a great candidate for a public office.

Roy "FLAGS" Fitkin of Ottawa Lake, Michigan was also Armed Guard and was called back into the Korean "CONFLICT". When released in 1952, he returned to the family farm and ultimately took over its operation. Roy concentrated on growing vegetables and flowers. His tomatoes are grown in the winter in an ultra large greenhouse heated with coal. On severe cold winter nights, he slept there to maintain the proper temperature and remedy any malfunctions in the furnace. In the spring and summer, he grew and sold bedding plants, as well as potted plants of all kinds, both, wholesale and retail.

I am sure there are many other members of the Navy Armed GUARD who would be classified as contributors to the "GREATEST GENERATION" and it would be wonderful to know of their accomplishments. However, these four men I have just described deserved recognition, too. During their earlier years of their youth, I acted as as their DOCTOR, CLERGYMAN, FATHER CONFESSOR, DISCIPLINARIAN, CONFIDANT, ETC. and I have cherished them as friends for over fifty-four years.

Sincerely,
James F.Hynan, LCDR (Ret) Att'y at Law,(Ret) 6600 W.Maple St. Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. 847-966-1696 (Fax) 847-966-1988.

What a wonderful Officer/Crew relationship you have with some GREAT, WONDERFUL AMERICANS. I regret that I can not print all the many letters received of what each Armed Guard has accomplished and contributed over the years to make us qualify for the "GREATEST GENERATION". The whole world owes a debt of gratitude to the men and women of that era from all the Allied countries, and our enemies of all wars should be proud that *(we did not do to them what they would have done to us if they had succeeded in conquering us. It's frightening).*

Lt(jg) Hynan also served on the S.S.LIEBRE 4/43-12/43 S.S.STONEY POINT, 1/44-8/44 and the Gagnon 9/44-4/45. SEE Y'ALL IN KENTUCKY. cal

Dear C.A.:

Best wishes to you and Mrs.Lloyd and Ann and I are pleased to be going into the 3rd Millennium with you great folks. God bless you. Joe and Ann Katusa 525 Old Waynesburg Rd., Carmichaels, Pa. 15320 724-966-5802

Thanks Katusa for short, but meanly note. Yes, we had a lot of wonderful people watching the clock as she counted down the last few minutes of the last Century to bring in a New Year along with the New Century. I know the T.V. and many of the newspapers were disappointed that the world did not blow up or airplanes fall out of the sky. They had nothing but good things to report from it's Y2K "scare" entrance. I hope they stay disappointed. calloyd

Dear Friends and Shipmates

Hello there!! I trust this letter will find you in good health and the family, too. I often think of you and of the lads of the "Armed Guard Association" you keep going so well. I wish you all the luck in the world. I am sure all of the members think you do a good job too by the letters you print in the "POINTER" and at the reunions, you can meet again with so many wonderful guys and really "SWING THE LAMP"(which in the U.K.means you can have a good old "CHINWAG" and make friends forever.

Many, many thanks for the "POINTERS"

you so kindly send me and when finished, I pass them on to others of the British D.E.M.S. Association to read of your events, etc., so it does travel around quite a bit as you can see, we are so grateful. May your association live for many more years, to reminisce the bygone days we spent at sea during World War Two, in the face of the common enemy. Kind remembrances to you and to all your members of the gallant "ARMED GUARD" gun crews, we wish you well from from the D.E.M.S. gunners.

Sincerely, Ron J.Gardner,
96 Dunch Ln.,Melksham,Wiltshire,
SN12 8DX ENGLAND U.K.

(See Photo "Memorial Stone" on page 6)

Ron was on board the L.S.I.(Landing Ship Infantry) S.S.MECKLENBURG in the middle of the English Channel when the Germans surrendered and they were transporting the wounded and liberated forces from Europe to Great Britain for medical attention and rest. I am sure crews such as these saved many a life and they, too, were among the "GREATEST GENERATION". cal

Dear U.S.N. Armed Guard Crew,
Families and Friends: YEAR 2000

As many of you already know, or; will know, the S.S.JOHN W. BROWN will cruise to the Great Lakes in May of Year 2000. She will go in drydock there for new rivets in Toledo, Ohio. After leaving there and visits to other Port-of Calls, she will return by the way of POINT JUDITH, Rhode Island and will rendezvous with the Block Island Ferry over the S.S. BLACK POINT which was sunk 5/5/45, killing our Chairman C.A.Lloyd's brother, L. Whitson Lloyd and 11 Merchantmen. Our plans are to have the two scuba divers who have placed a stainless steel marker in the past, dive down again with T.V. cameras on and it will be shown topside as they place another wreath on the Coal Collier in memory of those killed and also to those whose lives were never the same again. On August 23, 2000 at approximately 9 A.M., the Block Island Ferry will leave the dock with those who desire to go out for the Ceremony. There is no charge for the boat for Armed Guard and Merchant Marine or their families. The first signing on gets to catch the Ferry!! (FIRST SIGN

ON-FIRST SERVE BASIS)

We will have one BIG PROBLEM!! Hotels in that area near the water is expensive at that time of year. You may want to stay way inland and drive there. You are to make your own plans for a place to stay. I will continue to look for a place with a reasonable rate and decent, and will advise in a future POINTER. If any of you want to send me a self-addressed-stamped-envelope to keep you informed, do so. We hope to have a FAREWELL DINNER if enough of you let me know by July 4, 2000 or sooner if you plan to attend. If we get enough interested, you must have your dinner tickets of \$25. each paid by August 1, 2000. "NEW OL' SALTS" located after that date will be considered. Thanking you in advance,

Gerry Greaves, Skipper of the Rhode Island and Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of U.S.N. Armed Guard WW II Veterans, 143 E Killingly Rd., Foster. RI 02825-1314 Phone- 401-647-2212 E-Mail: CONST9@AOL.COM

Hi Charley:
10/4/99

Last Saturday, I went to the Bainbridge, Maryland "BOOT CAMP" Reunion. I met Paul Fleming and gave him a copy of alpha, zip code and ship list which became a "HIT" as everyone wanted to see it. There were about 300 men in two hotels which were a few blocks apart. There were a number of Armed Guard there and when they saw my A.G. cap, they introduced themselves The USNTC of Bainbridge WW II Veterans plan on a year 2000 Reunion about the same time of year and many visit the S.S.JOHN W.BROWN frequently. Will keep you informed. Dot and I will host the National Reunion in 2001 if things can be worked out as it will be the EAST COAST time to be the host as long as it is in Washington, D.C., Baltimore or Annapolis, Md. or Norfolk, Va. God Bless,

Neal Vermillion, 8286 Mary Lee Ln., Laurel, Md. 20723-1171 301-776-6734

Dear Charles:

The Royal Canadian Naval Association

regrets that our R.C.N.A.'s is in conflict with your May 21-25,2000 National Reunion as ours will be May 19-22, 2000 at Digby, Nova Scotia. In case some of your crew can not attend your National Reunion and will be in the Digby area and would like to attend, we would be more than happy for them to attend. Have them contact me. Happy Holidays.

Doug Sephton, 203 Anne St. N., Barrie, Ont. L4N 4T4 CANADA

(P.S) From their NEWSLETTER: An inexperienced real estate salesman asked his boss if he could refund the deposit to an angry customer who had discovered that the lot he had bought was under water. "WHAT KIND OF SALESMAN ARE YOU?" the boss scolded. "GET OUT THERE AND SELL HIM A BOAT."

Dear Cal:
12/12/99

Just a few lines to say THANKs for the "POINTER. It's a great newsletter and puts the Armed Guard on the map. You made a comment in your opening letter in the Sept/Oct/Nov edition about all joining the DINOSAURS within the next 25 years. Well Cal, you of course could be correct, but remember this, the dinosaurs have been extinct for some 60 million years yet we still make films and write books about them. Who Knew???

I am still researching material concerning the Atlantic and Russian Convoys so if any of your readers would like to send their stories to me, I would be most grateful. Good health to all and best wishes for the coming Mille. God Bless all of you. Respectfully yours,

Terry Govier, 17, Russett Grove, Scarborough, YO12 6HS England

Terry, we'll never be as old as the dinosaurs for we're already 60 million years behind. I would be happy if this living generation would be taught for the next 25 years what all the Allied Forces went through during WW II. For those of you who was in the Convoys to Europe and Russia should set down and leave

something for the next generation on how cold you were, how scared you were, how bad you wanted to see land again, from a Liberty ship or one of their life boats you may have been in after being sunk. Terry, they have the address. CAL

Dear C.A.:

The Armed Guard Gun Crew and Crew of the S.S.JOHN W.BROWN asked me to drop you a line and say "MERRY CHRISTMAS" and a "HAPPY NEW YEAR" to you and your Family and all the others. The Aft gun crew quarters have finally been restored and they look great!! We have redesigned the center part of the Armed Guard Museum and it will be finished by the time we go to the Great Lakes.

In your next "POINTER", please tell all of our GREAT LAKES AREA ARMED GUARD and MERCHANT CREW to make sure that their JOHN BROWN membership cards are in order and up-to-date. These cards allows a "FREE VISITS and TOURS" of the ship. It "DOES NOT" offer FREE SAILING CRUISES, THOUGH!! More on the prices later. We're looking forward to seeing all of you on the "BROWN", on the "LAKES".

Joe Colgan, A.G.-JWB, 20 Hingham Ln., Berlin, Md., 21811 410-208-2656

Dear Charles Lloyd,
10/23/99

I first learned of the Armed Guard organization when I picked up some "back issues" of the POINTER on board the Liberty Ship S.S.JOHN W. Brown on their September cruise. I've enclosed a copy of a novel I've written about the early days of WW II of young Canadians flying catapult Hurricanes from coal fired British Merchant ships. If you find it worthy, let other know. It contains 278 pages at a cost of \$10.95 which includes shipping and handling. Thanks,

Ross Fisher, 1291 Foxcroft Dr., Aurora, Il. 60506.

cont. page 9

It is a Novel and if you like Novels, I think you would enjoy it. cal

Dear Lloyd:

I remember seeing in Ripley's "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" about Basil Izzi and his 83 days on a raft so I took a chance and wrote to them and sure enough, they located it and "BELIEVE IT OR NOT", Lisa McCalla, Assistant Archivist, sent me a copy enclosed with the following wording, "Enclosed please find a copy of the cartoon and the Associated research about your friend and shipmate, "IZZY".Enjoy it.)"

Joseph Dazzo-Nv.Skipper, 7960 Nookfield Dr., Las Vegas, Nv. 89117 702-221-9124.

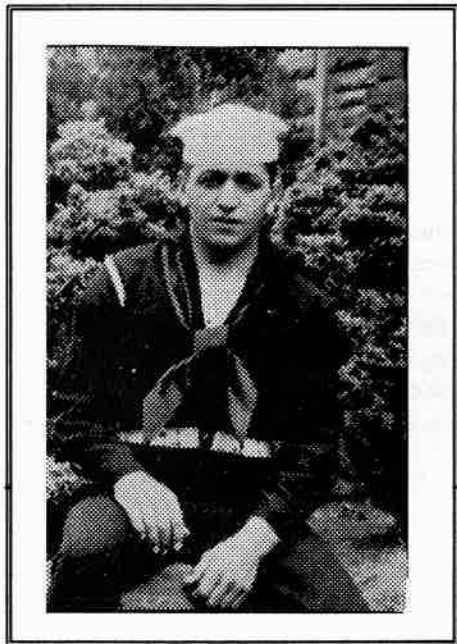
"THANKS-FOR THE MEMORIES" Dazzo. I will try to get a lot of the write-ups on the late Basil Izzi in a future POINTER for it's been a long time since I had covered the story and I am sure many never heard of it. calloyd

WELCOME HOME

TO

SEAMAN BASIL D. IZZI

OF SOUTH BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS



"EIGHTY-3 DAYS ON A RAFT"

There are many people throughout the world who have heard or read a story of Basil D. Izzi and his four friends and their grueling 83-day voyage through shark infested waters on a puny little raft named "The Shark's Pit." But the story of Basil to the folks of Barre is not just a story; it is the war dramatically transplanted from some distant spot on the world globe and dumped on our front door step. It is a story that jolts us here at home to the realization that there really is a battle raging, that there is a job to be done and that our sons and daughters are having an active part in carrying on that job and are giving an excellent account of themselves heroically, bravely and with determination. It is a story that makes us aware of the fact that everything we read is not just fiction; that there must be some truth to the stories that mothers are shot while their children look on and that children are lured to school—locked in—and then burned alive. It awakens us to the realization that we must now do our part in carrying out the job so that it can be completed as quickly and successfully as possible. We must give and give till it hurts so that all the Basils the Jimmy Maddoxes, the George Beasleys and the millions of others like them can have the guns, tanks, boats, planes, clothes and food they need to make them the best fighting force in the world. Make them feel secure in their determination to overcome any and all obstacles. Help them prove to the Axis barbarians that the American youth is not as soft as they make them appear in their newspapers.

Basil typifies the average American youth in the service of our country. He had the early life of the average American boy. Attended the local schools and church; worked in several of the local mills and enlisted in the Navy (before he was 20) when he felt his country needed him. He served his apprenticeship and finally was made a gunner on a medium-sized Dutch merchant ship.

On Tuesday, November 2, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon: "When I heard the explosion I had just finished painting the gun turret and was down in my cabin playing cards," Basil relates.

"I ran through water and wreckage to the gun. We were loaded and all set, but we couldn't see any sub. I was disappointed because it was my first trip in a Navy gun crew." Americans are usually disappointed when they can't find game when they go hunting. "The ship we were on began to sink fast and everyone started slipping over the side. I finally jumped over the stern and swam pretty fast to get out of the suction. I hung on to a bundle of bamboo sticks for a day and two nights. Then I saw a raft with

four men on it. They helped me aboard and Lieut. Maddox said, "Where have you been hiding?" I came back with, "Where have you been hiding, sir?" He was a swell guy. The others on the raft were George Beasley, another Navy gunner; Nicky Hoogendam, a 17-year old Dutch sailor, who had been torpedoed on another ship and was just a passenger, and Cornelius Van Der Slot, a 37-year old Dutch oiler."

On the 30th day afloat Basil had his 20th birthday, celebrated by the survivors singing "Happy Birthday." On the 42nd day Lieut. Maddox celebrated his 30th birthday. He wore a gold wedding ring which his wife placed on his finger when he sailed away. "He always kept looking at the ring and kissed it each night before he went to sleep." Basil relates.

"We had a two pound tin of chocolate, nine cans of milk, two dozen hard-tack crackers and ten gallons of water. We would ration out to each man one cracker in the afternoon and another in the evening, a piece of chocolate the size of your thumbnail at night and a few drops of milk to which we would add water and make a milk shake. We got two ounces of water three times a day.

"We didn't think we'd be out there long but would be picked up in a few days. We even fed some of our crackers to the birds and fish. We didn't think much about it as the hard-tack made us thirsty."

On the 19th day with the rations low they caught a 4-foot shark using their toes for bait. "We dangled our toes over the side and when the big boy made for them we lassoed him, got him aboard and banged away at him. His back was just like sandpaper, but four of us held him while my officer cut his throat.

"On the 20th day my officer saw the mast of a ship. Van waved a flag and we all shouted, but it went over the horizon one half hour later. We saw another ship the next day and waved some more but nothing happened.

"On the 24th day our water ran out entirely. It rained three days later and we managed to catch some water by making a trough out of the canvas.

"We had another meal and a good one on the 30th day, when 80 small fish like sardines swam into the space under the raft. They were afraid to go out on account of the sharks. I ate those fish, bones and all.

"Our clothes were beginning to rot by the 40th day and I made a new pair of shorts from my life jacket. Beasley lost the sight of one eye and began getting deaf about the 66th day. Then he got stomach pains. He raved about his girl and next morning we found him dead. My officer, who was a minister in private life, said a beautiful prayer and as we put

Beasley over the side he said, 'I hope I won't be the next one.'

"Lieut. Maddox went like Beasley on the 77th day. He murmured about the wife who had placed her gold wedding ring on his finger before his last voyage to sea. They buried him using the prayers he had taught them.

One day they saw a four-motor plane, but it didn't see them. They laughed, cried and prayed but couldn't sleep that night. Early next morning a plane flew overhead. Then they saw four more planes.

"We were holding Van around the knees so he could stand up," Basil said. "Suddenly he shouted he could see smoke on the horizon. Sure enough, it was a convoy with escort vessels. Suddenly a P C boat headed straight for us.

"The first thing I saw on the P C boat was an officer with a shell in his hand—in case our raft turned out to be something else. We thought we could walk but the minute we put foot on deck we found we couldn't. We hollered for good old Navy beans, but they gave me a bowl of peaches first and then the blankets were ready for us."

That is the epic story of an 83-day voyage through 2200 miles of swirling tropical waters. It is a story that Sinbad, The Sailor would be proud to hail as one of his own, but we here in Barre doubt that the great Sinbad could have survived such an ordeal. Yes, we the American Youth, may be soft but we swore to uphold President Roosevelt's speech in which he said:

"It is our intention that just and sure punishment shall be meted out to the ringleaders responsible for the organized murder of thousands of innocent persons and the commission of atrocities which have violated every tenet of the Christian faith."

Dear Charles:
12/4/99

G. A. M.

I'll tell you!! I got flap-jawed and my pacemaker took off like a 2 dollar alarm clock when I opened your packet of Armed Guard material. I was sure that I was the only remaining person on Earth who knew or cared about the Armed Guard. When I mention it to people over the years, most figured I guarded prisoners at the Navy brig, or; accompanied the paymaster. They generally would ask, "Did you ever go to sea?"

Mine was a total Navy family. My dad was WW one Navy as were all my uncles and cousins, etc. My brother was Navy in

WW II and my son did 4 years in Vietnam. The one requirement for joining the family has been,"**DID YOU SERVE IN THE NAVY**"

I went into service 10/2/42 and went directly to Farragut, Id. where they were clearing trees with bulldozers and brush, one barrack stood next to the grinder and there were no big messhall or drill hall; just a processing center. I was in Company 20. We were put right into processing recruits and for some time had only dungarees to wear. My greatest nightmare was spending the entire war there. When we had put in some regulation time and with little or no training and had returned from "BOOT LEAVE", I set out to get out of there. I happened to see a notice on the board, asking for volunteers for the Armed Guard. I rushed to the man and was told it was strictly a volunteer outfit. He said he couldn't tell me much more about it due to wartime security. "FINE BY ME" I said and my next stop was San Diego, Ca. Gunnery School, then to Treasure Island for home base during the rest of the war. I wonder if anyone remembers the USS SACRAMENTO and the chance to use our hammocks on the happy ship?!!!

I note the picture of Farragut Boot Camp in the POINTER, the happy "BOOTS" in the launch-WITH A MOTOR!! Our only brush with water Navy while in Farragut was having the CPO leading us up a path, through the trees to where a beat-up Navy lifeboat was tied. We were instructed to get in, pick up the oars and start rowing. Another item that might bring memories to some was old Jack Buck, who was head of the SP (shore patrol) at Farragut. Jack was a rancher near there and he signed over his ranch to his wife and kids and came in with us. He was old enough to be our dad, but was a real shipmate. I ran into him as an SP in San Francisco when the war had ended. He was the same old Buck. He had remarried and his wife wrote to us when he died.

I have sent off letters requesting the dates of service on the ships I served on and am waiting a reply. My previous entanglement with the Navy Heads over such things, taught me that a long wait is in store for me. So with this I will say a **HUGE THANKS** and hope the coming holidays are great for all. My ships were the **S.S.THOMAS HENDRICKS**,

RICHARD OGLESBY, RICHARD HARDING DAVIS, USAT LAURENCE PHILLIPS and the **USAT H.A.SCAN-DRETT**. I look forward to being a part of this great group.
Sincerely,

Richard E. Hansen, 2317-4th Ave. So.,
Great Falls, Montana 59405 406-453-1726.

TO ALL THE CREW!!

PLEASE sign your FULL NAME to letters to me, as many times I discard the return envelope address to find an important letter signed—Charles-Billy, etc. Also, when a widow sends in that she has lost her mate, she should write—"TAKE ME OFF THE MAILING LIST" or "KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST" then I would know!! I have had a few widows who write that they lost their mates last year but was afraid that I might remove them from the mailing. To you, you're on as long as we can afford to send the POINTER. There are NO DUES and will be none as long as I am Chairman and send out the POINTER. If HE calls me, I don't want to be obligated, nor; would my wife, Hilda. To any of you, are you willing and able to carry on?

Save WWII legacy

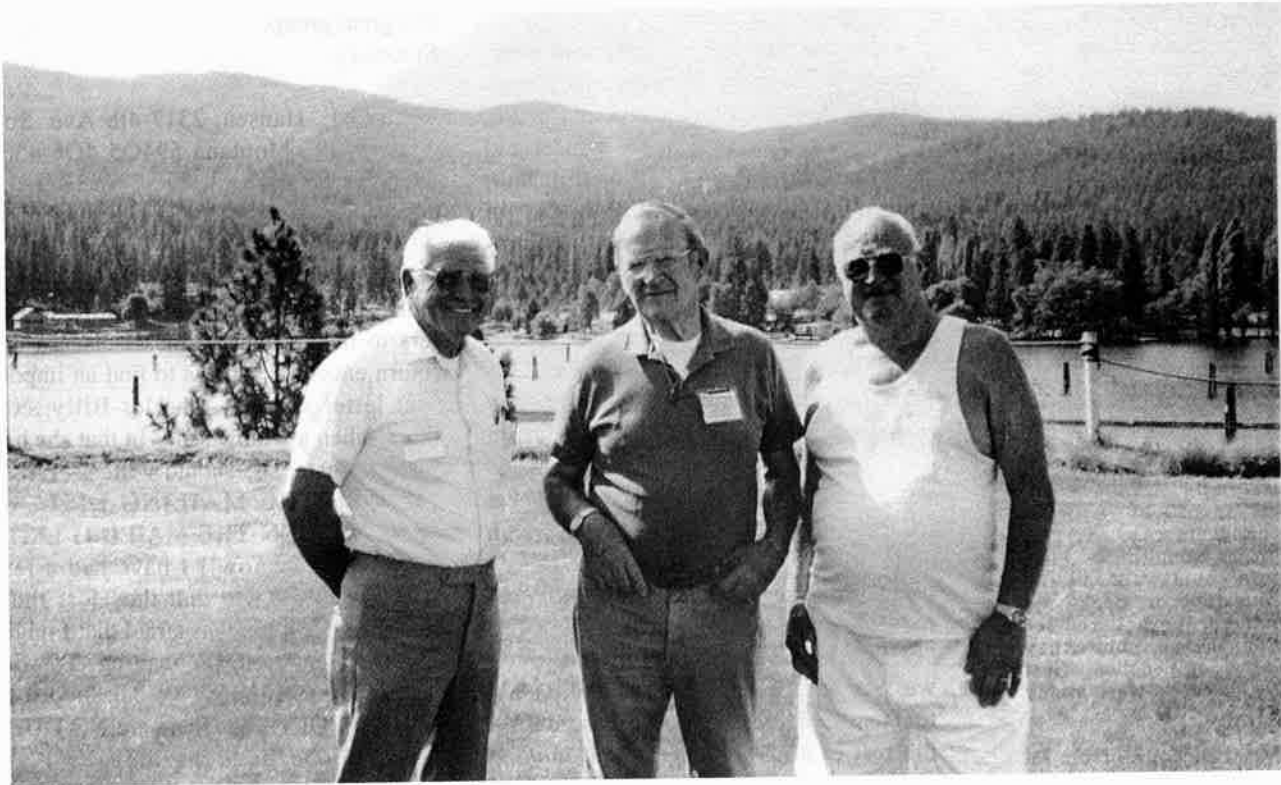
I am calling on World War II veterans, defense workers, and families to help save the personal legacy of World War II.

The experiences and paper-based memorabilia (so often discarded) of those who served in the armed forces and defense industries is a valuable part of this nation's history. The Florida State University Department of History has set up the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience to collect and preserve this physical heritage for research, teaching, and exhibition.

If you or someone you know has letters, diaries, and photographs of the period, please contact the institute at the Department of History, Florida State University; Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200 (850) 644-9033. We will be delighted to send an information packet or answer any questions concerning donation of materials to the institute and their future use.

William O. Oldson
Professor of History
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Fla.

MEMORIES & MEMORIALS



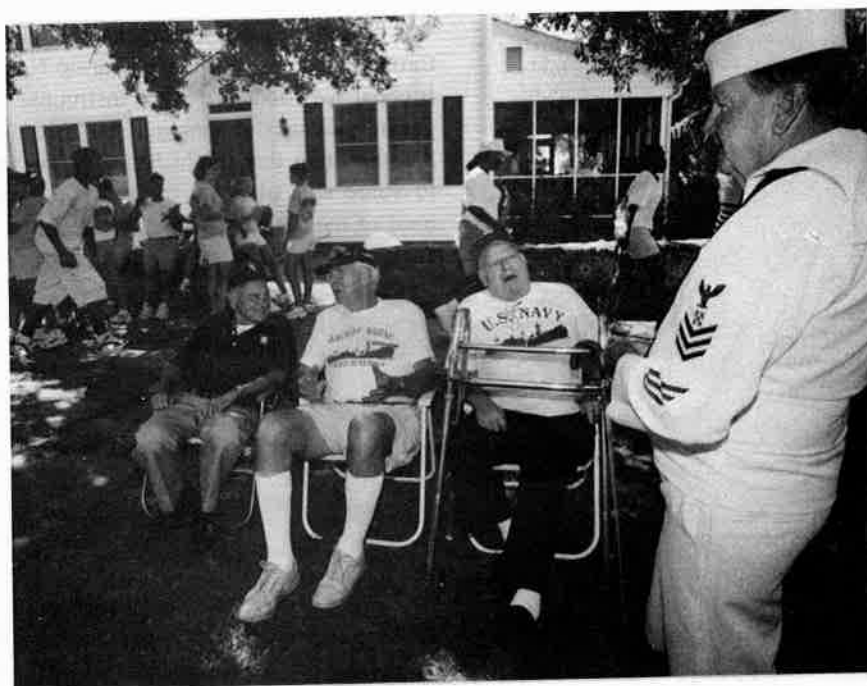
Three retired police officers at Post Falls, Idaho mini-reunion. Left to right is:
Al Eustice of Long Beach, WA - - retired from Reno, Nevada police department.
Allen Jacobs of Eugene, OR - - retired from Oregon State Hwy Patrol
Ron Gerhardt of Spokane, WA - - retired from Orange County, CA Sheriff's Dept.

**The 4th Parade in Southport,
North Carolina 7/5/99:
(from left to right)**

**George Gessell - retired cap-
tain Merchant Marines and
WWII Veteran**

**Dewey Mitchell - WWII
Veteran of the Merchant
Marines**

**Bill Buravich - WWII Veteran
of the U.S.N. Armed Guard**



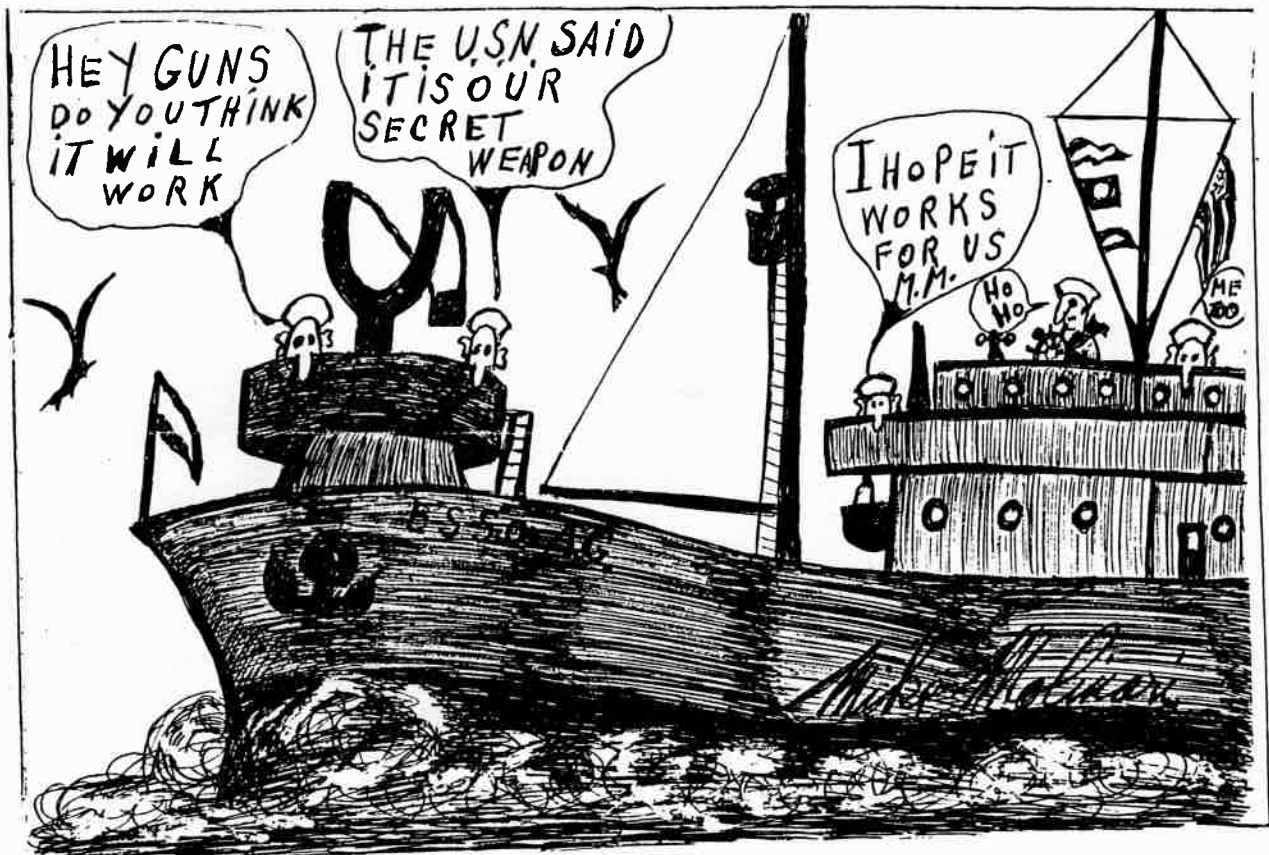
Photograph courtesy of David M. Mitchell

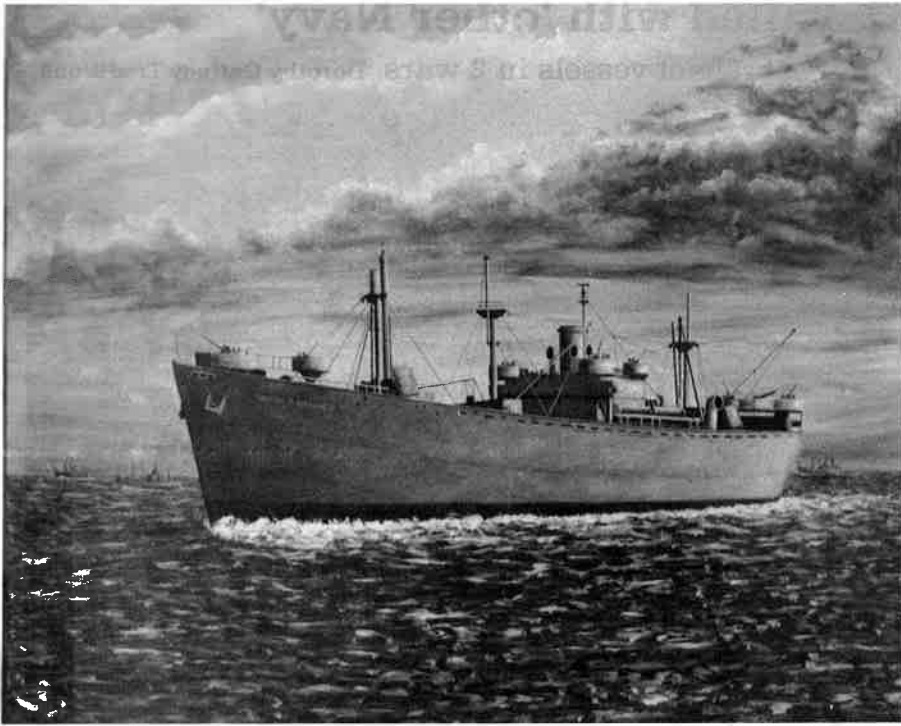
These veterans sailed with 'other Navy'

Navy Armed Guard 'AIM TO DELIVER' merchant vessels in 2 wars. Dorothy Gaffney Traditions



Sailors practice their skills on 20mm guns at an anti-aircraft gunnery school in Pacific Beach during World War II. Photo by: San Diego Historical Society Photo Collection *Traditions*, May 1995





This 30x36" Acrylic Painted by Thomas F. Neaghor, looks even better in color. Photo courtesy of: Roy Ahlgren



Photo taken on board the S.S. JOHN W. BROWN



The Armed Guard Reunion 9-25-99 at the truck stop in Jane Lew, Washington, Va. *pictured from left to right 1st row: Okey K. Watkins, Carnick Hamperian, Bob Hudson, Forest Flanagan, James May Jr. & Robert Winter / Pictured in 2nd row: John Hartman, Laymore Calow Robert Wheeler, Calvin La Motte, Paul Bennett & Donald C. Goss*

******* LATE NOTICE!! S. S. JOHN W. BROWN at ERIE, Pa. *******

Wm. "Bill" Hultgren, 5005 Zuck Rd. Lot 32, Erie, Pa 16506 814-833-7894 will be the Host for the BROWN's Visit there, July 25-27, 2000. He is in the process of obtaining a Hotel and having a dinner on July 26. The Pa. crew will get a SPECIAL mailing as soon as the itinerary is completed. There is not to be a cruise from Erie but you can socialize with your shipmates attending and go on board the ship and reminisce.

NE. KS. MO. OK.

Midwest Armed Guard Mini Reunion

September 13, 14 and 15th Lincoln, Ne.

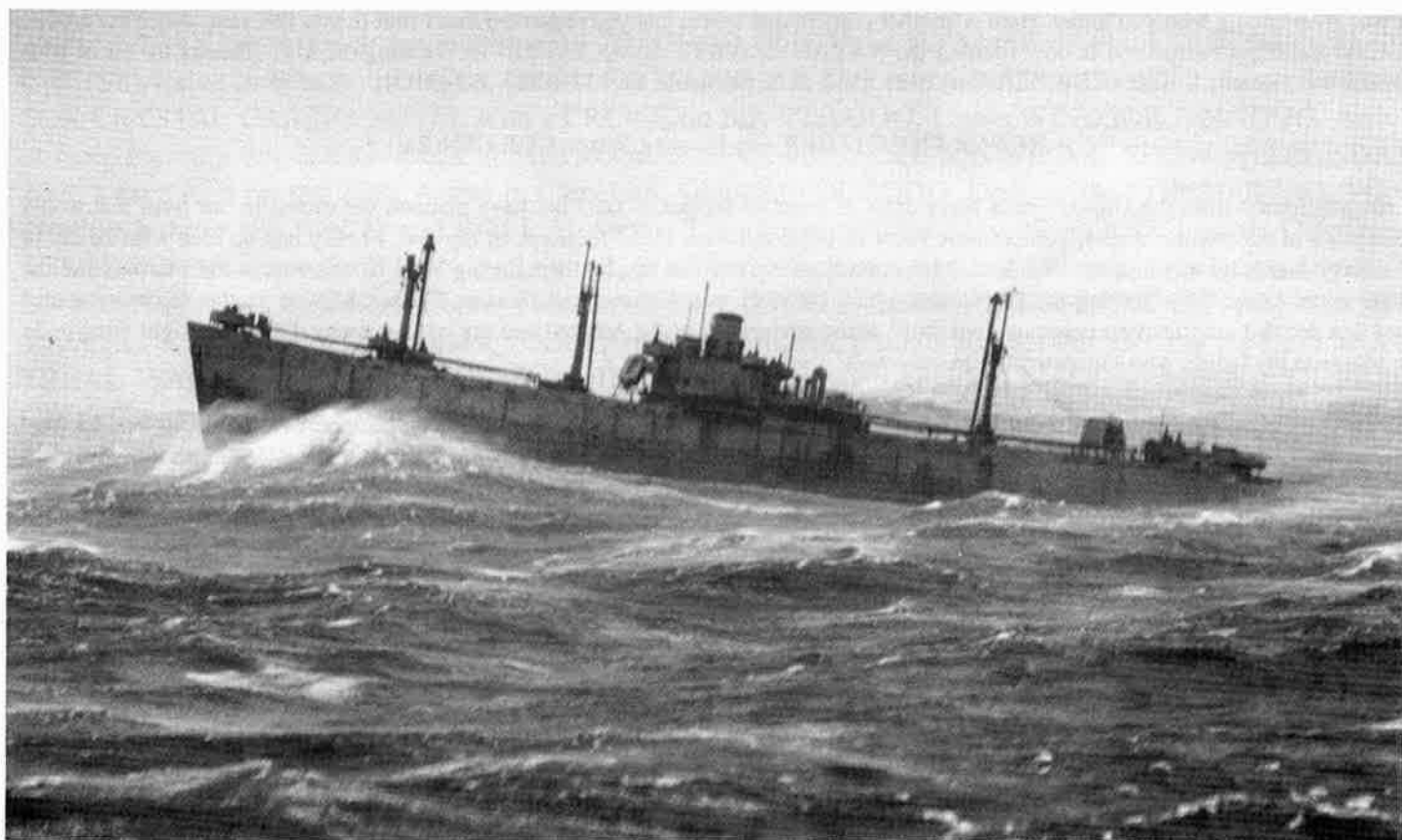
We have reserved 50 rooms at the "Inn of Lincoln." 1-800-411-3961.

Ask for U.S.N. Armed Guard rates \$40.00+tax.

Great tour and banquet planned.

Contact Moe Carlton 402-438-9321

2425 Folkways Blvd #321 Lincoln, Ne 68521



This is the classic Liberty Ship heavy weather photo, showing an unidentified Liberty plowing through rough seas in December, 1943. It is one of a sequence of shots taken from a Royal Navy escort vessel. Attempts to identify the ship have thus far failed. Liberty Ships, particularly those in ballast as this one appears to be, were notorious for their ability to roll and pitch. Photo courtesy Imperial War Museum.

AN HONORABLE MOMENT



Pictured above are Dennis L. Baker on stage, with his father Owen Baker

Dear Charles Lloyd:

11/30/99

It was great talking with you today. Here is another copy of that article that you requested that I sent to you last year. Since the article, RADM Keith has retired and is now running the NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION in Washington, D.C. Thanks for all of your great work!! Dennis L.Baker,CDR,USN(Ret) 7433 135th St.N, Seminole, Fl. 33778 727-392-0101.

~ HONOR THY FATHER by Dennis L.Baker, CDR,USN(Ret) ~

I recently retired from the United States Navy after 28 years of service. I could not have planned the events in our lives that would take place in the coming weeks. I entered the Navy in 1970 to follow in the footsteps of my dad. I really had no idea what he did in the Navy except he was a sailor who served his country along with his two brothers during WW II; one was in the Marines and the other in the Army. After serving my 28 years of which 10 years were Enlisted and 18 as an Officer, I began to plan my retirement. I had first decided not to have a ceremony but then , at the advisement of the Admiral and my wife, it seemed to be the right thing to do in tribute to my family who supported me so very well.

As the story goes, I was excited to find that my parents would travel from New York to the Naval Support Activity, Algiers, La.(formerly the U.S.Naval Station-New Orleans) to attend the event. Just prior to their trip, my dad had visited the Veterans Administration to get assistance in his medical issues. In his dealings with the V.A., he learned that there were four campaign medals that he didn't receive. During a phone conversation, he told me about the medals that the V.A. handed him. I secretly asked my Mother to bring the medals with her to the retirement.

In the opening remarks of the retirement program, RADM Keith mentioned to the audience that before he could proceed with the ceremony, there was some unfinished business from World War II that needed to be done. At that time, he called Seaman 1st Class Owen Baker to the stage. It's important that you understand that my dad is a very humble man who farmed his whole life after the war. He never had the opportunity to be called before a group to be recognized. I had walked to his seat and escorted him to the stage. At that time, the Admiral and myself pinned the four medals on his chest. He turned to the audience, which consisted of approximately 150 sailors and soldiers, senior and junior personnel rose to their feet for a standing ovation. It was very emotional to see Dad receive such recognition. I NEVER would have thought as a young boy growing up on the farm in the Catskills that I would see such a gratifying performance which would bond my Dad again in one of the greatest fraternities in the world, the United States Navy. As he was applauded, he simply turned and ever so slowly bowed in appreciation of their recognition. WOW!! WHAT A MOMENT TO TREASURE FOREVER!!!!

cont. page 16

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Fairwinds Club in Algiers. As my Dad shared his many stories of the Armed Guard with those curious attendees, a young Merchant Marine Lieutenant informed us of the Armed Guard Memorial which was no more than 150 yards from our seats. The Admiral, my Dad and I proceeded to the site. I shot photos as my Dad reminisced of his service to his country. You can call it fate, dumb luck, or whatever you want but I know that we left that site better understanding the bonds of experiences such as those that are shared by elite group known as the "ARMED GUARD". My life is much richer now for being that special part of my Father's life. I personally applaud you who are the Armed Guard for your service and sacrifices to your country. Sincerely, Dennis Baker, Commander (Ret)

TICKETS, ITENARARIES, ETC.

Armed Guard Project Liberty Ship Adviser-Joe Colgan has advised me that tickets for the Great Lakes Cruises are on sale now on a first come-first served basis. You are to order directly from the ship by calling 1-410-558-0164 using CREDIT CARD, or; you can send Check or Money Order to: "VOYAGE TICKET" PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP, P.O.BOX 25846, Highlandtown Station, Baltimore, Md. 21224-0546.

The cruises will be out of:

Windsor, Canada on the \$115.00 Each person-American Money
Cleveland, Ohio on the \$115.00 Each Person_American Money
Toronto, Canada on the \$100.00 Each Person-American Money

The Itinerary for the **S.S.JOHN W> BROWN** sailing is: Leave Baltimore for Toledo, Ohio May, 2000-Arrive 5/27/00 in drydock for repairs until 7/14/2000 (Will be at the Maritime Plaza 7/14-20/2000-NO CRUISE)Arrive in Windsor, Ontario, Canada 7/20/2000 and dock at the WATERFRONT in front of WINDSOR CRYSTAL CASINO HOTEL with a CRUISE on July 22, 2000. Leave WINDSOR 7/24/2000. Arrive at Erie, Pa. July 25, 2000- Dock at METRO MACHINE PIER. OFF SHORE AIR SHOW-WEDNESDAY 26th. Leave Erie on the 27th. Arrive in Cleveland, Ohio July 28, 2000. Dock at the COMMERCIAL PIER directly behind the ROCK and ROLL Museum. The cruise will be July 29, 2000. Leaves Cleveland 7/31/2000. Arrives in Buffalo, N.Y August 1, 2000 and dock at Naval and Military Park. Leave August 3, 2000. (No cruise) Arrive at Toronto, Canada August 4, 2000 at the HARBOR FRONT CENTER. CRUISE on August 6, 2000. Leave August 7, 2000. Arrive at Montreal, Canada August 9th. Dock at the OLD MONTREAL WATERFRONT-SCIENCE & INDUSTRY PIER. Leave August 12, 2000. Arrive in QUEBEC CITY, Canada 8/13/2000 at the Chateau FRONTENAC PIER. Leave August 15, 2000 Arrive in Halifax, Nova Scotia August 21, 2000 at the NORTH AMERICAN MARITIME MUSEUM PIER. Leaves for Baltimore 8/21/2000. August 23, 2000-Tenative plans are to rendezvous off POINT JUDITH, Rhode Island with the Block Island Ferry over the site of the **S.S.BLACK POINT**, sunk 5/5/45 for a Memorial Service. The tickets had been on sale for quite some time when I learned of it on Jan.4th, 2000 and I would advise you to get tickets now to be assured of the cruise. As of to date, hotels have not been finalized to my knowledge. I will have them listed hopefully in the next POINTER. The "BROWN" crew will not be in charge of the hotels so DO NOT send the ship money for Hotels. It is up to you or Martin Vallee who was the Armed Guard Host from DAY 1 and his-committee to get the meeting places.

calloyd 1/5/2000

REMEMBER!! THE NUMBER TO CALL FOR TICKETS IS: "1-410-558-0164"



PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP

HONORARY COMMODORE Governor Parris N. Glendening HONORARY CHAIRPERSON Helen Delich Bentley

10 January 2000

Dear C.A.,

Enclosed is the ticket order form I mentioned on the phone.

Any of the Armed Guard who contributed oil money and who wish to get a discount on a cruise ticket must fill out the colored form that was sent to them - not the regular ticket order form.

By the time the Pointer gets in the mail, we will have received sufficient donations, I'm sure, to complete the 5283 miles of the voyage. We will then be working on "Port Steaming," meaning the fuel we burn in each of the ports. This is another 600 or so barrels, needed to complete the entire Fuel Fund Project and reach our goal of \$146,000. At the rate money is coming in, I'm sure that we will reach that goal soon. Our most sincere thanks to the Armed Guard all across the country.

By the way, you'll be interested to know that I checked on ticket sales for Cleveland and as of Saturday (yesterday) every single ticket we have sold went to the Armed Guard. That's about 150 tickets. These were all guys who donated money for oil and took advantage of our discount offer. Ticket sales to the Armed Guard for the Windsor cruise is also about 150.

If you push the Cleveland cruise I'm sure we will get lots more ticket sales to the Armed Guard there before we fill up.

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,



**U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD WW II 19TH NATIONAL REUNION
MAY 21-25, 2000**

ROOM RATES
SUN.-THURS. \$69.00 PLUS TAX
FREE PARKING

**THE DRAWBRIDGE INN
2477 ROYAL DR.
FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017-3599**

CHECK IN TIME: 3:00 PM
CHECK OUT TIME: 12 NOON

CUT-OFF DATE 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO REUNION

TEL:606-341-2800, or; 1-800-354-9793 FAX: 606-341-5644 www.drawbridgeinn.com
(PLEASE TELL OPERATOR YOU ARE "US NAVY ARMED GUARD WW II VETERAN")

AHOY!

Itinerary of Events:

**KILROY
WILL
BE THERE!**

Sunday May 21

Registration 9 AM until 5 PM (GET ACQUAINTED TIME, Y'ALL)
Hospitality Suites open 8 AM - 11 PM

Monday May 22

Registration 8 AM- 4 PM
Hospitality Suite ** Open 8 AM until 11 PM
Covington, Ky/Cincinnati, Oh. Bus Tour - (you are to board outside of London Hall at 9:30 AM)
UNION TERMINAL: Hot Lunch served in Losantiville Room.
(After lunch-Tour the WW II Exhibits)
Arrive back to Hotel at 2 PM \$30 Each—ITG* NO(____)/\$____
7 PM Western Bar-B-Que Buffet & ENTERTAINMENT \$25 Each —ITG* NO(____)/\$____

Tuesday May 23

Registration 8 AM - 4 PM.
Armed Guard Business Meeting 9 AM-12 Noon in York Room.
Hospitality Suites ** Open 12 Noon- 11 PM
Dinner/Cruise-(BELLE of CINCINNATI) 6 PM \$40 Per-ITG* NO(____)/\$____

Wednesday May 24

Registration 8 AM - 4 PM
Hospitality Suites ** Open 8 AM - 4 PM (And Again After DINNER until ?)
FREE DAY OFF
SOCIAL HOUR--6 until 7 PM LONDON HALL (CASH BAR)
7 PM-BANQUET DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT \$25 Each-ITG* NO(____)/\$____

Thursday May 25

8 AM "Weigh Anchor-So Long Breakfast"
Each \$15 ITG* NO(____)/\$____
Grand Totals = \$_____

*(ITG Denotes: "Includes Tax and Gratuities")

*Hospitality Suites: **STUART ROOM - (NON-SMOKING) TUDOR ROOM - (SMOKING)**

Check No. _____ Date of Check ____/____/____ Handicapped? (____) Lady? (____)

Last Name _____ First _____ Initial _____ Lady's Name _____

Street _____ Box _____ Apt# _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax.() _____ E-mail,Etc. _____

COMPLETE AND MAKE 2 COPIES of this Form, IF POSSIBLE, to keep from messing up the "POINTER". SEND 1 COPY with CHECK or MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: "U.S.N. ARMED GUARD WW II VETERANS" to: "ROBERT OBER"-2000 Host,7115 Dunn Rd.,Cincinnati, Oh, 45230. Bob's Armed Guard phone number is 513-231-5865. Make short calls. BRING YOUR COPY OF THIS FORM, YOUR CANCELED CHECK and HOTEL ROOM CONFIRMATION FORM with you in case of a MIX-UP! Some of you "LATE OL'SALTS" may not get a Reservation Number back in time, so write down the Reservation Number. MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and "IDENTIFY YOURSELF" with the U.S.N.ARMED GUARD. RATES ARE GOOD FOR 3 DAYS BEFORE and 3 days AFTER. All on a "FIRST COME BASICS"!!

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR HOTEL-APRIL 21, 2000! FOR HOTEL CANCELATIONS CONTACT HOTEL!!
CUT-OFF DATE MEALS AND TOURS-2 WEEKS PRIOR TO REUNION!! NEW OL' SALTS AFTER THAT DATE WILL BE CONSIDERED.
ANY CANCELLATIONS FOR MEALS OR TOURS HAS TO BE MADE 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO REUNION!!**

**"YOU EARNED THIS REUNION!! ATTEND ONE WHILE YOU ARE STILL ABLE"!!
ALL MERCHANT MARINE, ALLIED SHIPMATES, SPOUSES and FRIENDS WELCOMED!!**



Lone Sailor

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

DEDICATION

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

The U.S.N Armed Guard WW II Veteran's 19th National Reunion will be held at the "Drawbridge Inn and Convention Center" 2477 Royal Dr., Ft. Mitchell, KY., May 21-25 2000. Hosts are: Robert (BOB) and Dot Ober, 7115 Dunn Rd., Cincinnati, OH. 45230-4112 513-231-5865



USN Armed Guard WW II Veterans
115 Wall Creek Drive
Rolesville, N.C. 27571
1-(919)-570-0909



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Remember Pearl Harbor!
December 7, 1941



Support The USN Armed Guard
WW II Veterans Reunions
JAN./FEB./MAR. 2000