

"HOLT HAPPENINGS"

A periodic newsletter for and about
the ship, its crew and their families.

REUNION COMMITTEE

Bill Morgan, Chairman

Paul Pickett, Treasurer

Judy Johnson Mansur, Ladies Activities

Bob DeAngelis

Karl Nease

Ralph Parks

USS HOLT (DE 706)

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NEWS OF SHIPMATES

Since our last newsletter we have not located any additional shipmates. We currently have tracers out on about fifty lost shipmates through the Department of Veterans Affairs and through Sal DiMilla. We met Sal during our last reunion and he has been helpful in assisting in the search for shipmates.

Sadly, we report the death of Ensign William M. McCormick. He joined us in the western pacific toward the end of our tour and stayed with the ship until about February, 1946. He passed away 23 April 1995. His obituary is enclosed. In a telephone conversation with him last fall shortly after we located him, Bill Morgan recalls that Bill McCormick was delighted that we had found him. Our sympathy to his wife, Joan.

THIS AND THAT FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

(1) We have registered Bob Hoover's "QUARTERMASTER'S HOMILY" and now have the copyright in the name of the USS HOLT ASSOCIATION. We will now be seeking to have it published in an appropriate Naval related magazine.

(2) Karl Nease is working on a wooden plaque that will list the names of our deceased shipmates. Thanks to Judy Mansur (Walter Johnson's daughter) who is having the brass plates engraved bearing the name of each shipmate, his rank/rate and his date of death. We hope to have this completed for display at the reunion.

(3) We have a few copies of the 1994 reunion photo book remaining. These are just \$13.00 including postage and make a nice memento for yourself or your children.

(4) Our Executive Officer (and later, Skipper), Burroughs B. Anderson was a shipmate of Herman Wouk (author of THE CAINE MUTINY) on board the USS ZANE (DMS 14) prior to his assignment to the HOLT. Lyle Anderson, son of B. B. says that some of the characters in THE CAINE MUTINY were patterned after some of the ZANE's crew,

(5) Harry Helgeson is awaiting your stories as part of the video tape he is putting together. So far, he has shots from the 1991 Galveston and 1994 King of Prussia reunions and a few other individuals stories, but he needs a lot more. Why not take a few minutes and record some anecdote from your WWII experiences aboard the HOLT and send them to Harry. It does not have to be a professional tape.....the more natural, the better. The idea is to record for posterity some of your sea stories, tales, funny incidents (or not so funny incidents). This could be a great project if you will participate!! Harry's address is [REDACTED] and his telephone number is [REDACTED]

(6) In May, Jim & Frances Willis (the couple who researched the naval career of William Mack Holt) dropped by for a short visit with Bill & Lois Morgan. They were on their way to their summer home in Idaho. They are delightful folks and we hope they will attend our '96 reunion in Charleston.

(7) Bob DeAngelis and Frank Shepherd have been busy this year traveling. They made a trip to Florida to see "Doc" Steinhauser and along the way visited with Abe Silver, Bud Koehler and George Burke. This junket was followed by a trip into the northern part of Quebec, Canada. On the way, they visited with "Frenchy" Cournoyer in Rhode Island and Phil Defosses in New Hampshire. No question about it, they have a great time.

WORLD WAR II AWARDS

The HOLT earned a couple of awards that you may not be aware of, particularly if you left the ship prior to its return to the U. S. in January, 1946, or if you left the ship soon after its return. The awards are THE PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL and THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION.

If you left the ship before these awards were announced, then your discharge papers will not reflect that you are entitled to them. To receive these awards (a ribbon, a medal and an 8 1/2 x 11 citation for the Philippine Liberation Medal and a ribbon made of metal only (badge) for the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, you must submit an application form (copy enclosed), a photocopy of your DD-214 and discharge (or orders to inactive duty for officers). Since many of you may not have these awards listed on your DD-214 or the reverse side of your discharge document, it will expedite the processing for you to furnish a copy of the HOLT Deck Log showing the date you reported aboard the ship and a copy of the log that lists your departure from the ship. Also, a copy of the official ship's history which states that the HOLT was awarded the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge. With all these supporting documents, the Philippine Embassy can process your request. NOTE: If you need a copy of the deck log entry, send Bill Morgan the date you reported aboard and the date you left the ship (if you remember these dates) and he will send you copies of the deck log pages. Also, he will furnish you with a copy of the official ship's history. Just let him know at [REDACTED]

If the shipmate is deceased, his surviving kin can obtain the awards using the same procedure outlined above.

1996 REUNION

The dates are **April 28 - May 1, 1996**. The hotel is the Sheraton Riverfront. Later in the fall, we will have

hotel reservation forms. The room rates are \$65 per night plus 10% tax.

Our current plans are to have a tour of Patriot's Point where the carrier YORKTOWN, the destroyer LAFFEY and other WWII ships are berthed as floating museums. We also are planning a boat tour of Charleston Harbor....from the Ashley River, through the outer harbor past Fort Sumter, then up the Cooper River to the Charleston Naval Base.

The reunion schedule is designed to be flexible... allowing lots of time to visit with your shipmates and see the many sights of old Charleston. We will have our closing dinner on Wednesday, May 1st.

There are many things to do, sights to see and restaurants to dine in....something to please everyone. So mark your calendar for April 28 - May 1, 1996.