

"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, Ladies Activities
Bob DeAngelis
Karl Nease
Ralph Parks

USS HOLT (DE 706)

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NEWS OF SHIPMATES

It has been a great Fall. We found three more shipmates and rediscovered two that we had lost.

Those found are: Kessler Adams (QM3/c)

James M. Burch (S1/c)

John B. McGauley (GM2/c)

We are glad to have found these long-lost shipmates and look forward to seeing them at the next reunion.

Many thanks to Clarence Olson (SK1/c) who located Al Becker (EM1/c). Al has moved from California to Oregon and his new address is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We have also re-established contact with Richard Gennantonio (RT1/c). He is still at the same address in Seminole, FL. About a year ago, Richard took an extended trip for about three months. During this time, our mail to him was returned by the post office as "undeliverable". We started a search and wrote to a large number of 'Gennantonios' in the southeast and southern part of the country. One of them was Richard's cousin who contacted him. We're glad to find these shipmates again.

Sadly, we have learned of the deaths of three shipmates and one spouse since the last newsletter in July. We had been trying to re-locate Ivy T. Ayers and in response to one of our letters was informed that he passed away in November 1994.

Cliff Cramer (S1/c - Radarman) passed away 26 July 1995. His wife called Bill Morgan with this sad news. Cliff was aboard HOLT from commissioning until November 1945 when he was sent

back to the states for discharge.

Cecil H. Meyers (EM1/c) passed away 3 November 1995 in Dallas after a lengthy illness. Bill Morgan attended the funeral. Cecil was aboard the HOLT from Pre-commissioning until August 1944 when he was transferred to sub-chaser training school in Miami. He went on to command a PC craft in the western pacific.

Our last letter to Mrs. Frank Wright (Widow of Frank Wright (Radarman 2/c) was returned with the notation "Deceased".

OTHER

Several shipmates have inquired about an award by the Dutch government for the Borneo, Netherlands East Indies, operation, in which HOLT participated in May 1945. We made a formal inquiry to the Netherlands Ministry of Defense and were advised "The Dutch Government has **not** awarded any military awards, unit citations or campaign medals to allied military or naval units who participated in the liberation of Borneo, former Netherlands Indies, in May 1945."

Harry Helgeson's son, an artist, has completed a painting of the HOLT, steaming in rough seas and taking an enemy plane under fire. We hope that Harry will have it available at the reunion, however, it is too large to take aboard a plane. If Harry drives, he will bring it, otherwise, we will have a framed photocopy (8 x 16) as a stand-in.

We have put together a poster size (27 x 36) photo of the HOLT at anchor with a map showing the ship's track from commissioning until she returned to San Francisco. The ship's photo is 22 x 27 and the map is 14 x 27. Both are mounted on a sturdy, lightweight foam board. Some lucky person will win this in a lottery at the reunion!

THE REUNION

Enclosed is the hotel reservation form. Our room rates are \$65.00 per night plus 10% tax. Please make your reservation direct with the Sheraton Hotel, 170 Lockwood Drive, Charleston, SC 29403. If you call, be sure to mention the USS HOLT REUNION to get this rate.

The hospitality room will be open Sunday, 28 April 1996 for visiting and refreshments. Monday morning, 29 April, we will board bus(es) for Patriots Point to visit the five ships that are permanent memorials - USS LAFHEY (a destroyer that took several kamikaze hits off Okinawa in mid-1945); the submarine CLAMAGORE; the only nuclear powered merchant vessel ever built, the S.S. SAVANNAH; a Coast Guard cutter and the aircraft carrier YORKTOWN, one of the few left in existence. This will be a self-guided tour once we arrive at Patriots Point, allowing you to visit the ship(s) that are of most interest to you. The tour fee of \$19.00 per person covers the admission to Patriots Point and the round-trip bus transportation from the hotel. Monday afternoon and evening are open. Tuesday, 30 April, we will board bus(es) for the ride to the pier to go aboard the tour boat for the very interesting tour around Charleston Harbor. We will leave the hotel in mid-morning, with the tour boat leaving the dock prior to noon and returning some

2 1/4 hours later. The fee breakdown is the same as stated above for the Monday tour. Tuesday afternoon and evening are open. Wednesday morning, 1 May, we will have a short business meeting, with the balance of the day open until our closing banquet which will be in the hotel at a time to be announced. (Note: We will have a complete schedule of events, with times, in your registration packet when you arrive at the hotel).

Please complete the reunion registration form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to our treasurer, Paul Pickett. We need this as soon as possible to enable us to meet our financial commitment to the hotel and tour agency. In the event you must cancel, refunds of the registration fee will be made until April 14, 1996. No refunds of tours will be made after March 28, 1996.

In addition to the camaraderie, there are excellent restaurants and many interesting sights to see and things to do in Charleston.

See you in Charleston!