



USS HOLT (DE 706)

“HOLT HAPPENINGS”A Newsletter for and about the crew of the ship and their families.

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REUNION UPDATE - APRIL 24th - 27th

We were a little concerned that perhaps we would not be able to visit the Naval Base in Mayport, FL following the 9/11 disaster. However, we have received word from the CO of the base that the visit is still on. There are new security rules in place. Each person, man, woman, or child, entering the base must have a photo ID with them as identification will be checked upon arrival at the base. Any photo ID will suffice such as drivers license, school ID card, etc. Also, we must provide the Navy with a list of all visitors three days in advance of the tour. To do this will require that we know who is going to take the tour no later than April 15th in order to give us time to prepare the list and get it down to Mayport within the specified time.

If you have misplaced the hotel reservation envelope included with the last newsletter, we have a few left and will include one with this newsletter until the supply is exhausted. If you did not get one, just give the hotel a call at **1-904-296-2222** or **1-800-584-2842**. **Be sure to identify that you are with the USS HOLT (DE 706) Reunion Group to get the nightly rate of \$69.00.** If you prefer to mail in your registration, the Marriott Hotel's address is 4670 Salisbury Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256. In either case, you need to guarantee your room with a one night deposit plus 13% tax. American Express, Diners Club, Mastercard, Visa or Discover are acceptable. With this in mind, please do not wait until the last minute to send in your registration and hotel reservation.

Our room bloc set aside is good only until April 1st. After that date, rooms will be on a space available basis.

If you plan on arriving early, we will be setting up the hospitality room during the morning of Wednesday, April 24th and should be ready for use by noon. The hospitality room will be open from about 8:00 am each day until late evening. The Navy Base/Ship tour will be on Thursday, 4/25 and the St. Augustine tour will be Friday, 4/26. In the event some do not take a tour(s), the hospitality room will be available. Saturday, 4/27 is an open day for local, individual activity. There are many interesting places to visit in the Jacksonville area, including Jacksonville Beach and Jacksonville Landing, (a shopping and dining area along the river downtown). Our dinner will be Saturday evening at 7:00 pm, in the Marriott Hotel, with a photo session about an hour or so prior to that time.

BANQUET

We customarily dress up a little for the photo session and banquet on Saturday evening. It is not a formal thing. The men usually wear a suit or sport coat and the ladies wear dresses or pant suits.

We are planning a short program to follow dinner on Saturday, with one or perhaps two speakers. Garnett Howard made a career in the Navy following WWII. We are fortunate to have him relate some of his experiences for us. Among his many assignments, he was supply officer for MCB 6 (Mobile Construction Battalion 6), better known as Seabees. His travels took him from the Mediterranean Sea to Antarctica; from the Pacific Ocean Area to the Arctic and most all places in between.

NEWS OF SHIPMATES

We have lost contact with **I. Kenneth Bean**, the supply officer on the HOLT. Mail sent last October was returned with notation "Unable to Forward". His phone has been disconnected. Apparently, he has moved. If anyone knows his address, please let us know.

Sadly, we report the death of **Edward J. Bresette**, S/1c on 25 August 2001. Ed moved to Arizona a couple of years ago to enjoy the sunshine. He was aboard the HOLT from shortly after commissioning until December 1945 when he was transferred for discharge. We can find no record of any surviving family.

In a note from his son, we recently learned that **Francis (Jack) Tedder**, Shipfitter 3/c, passed away on 6 March 2000. On behalf of the officers and crew, we sent our condolences. Jack came aboard the HOLT late in 1945 and helped bring the ship home.

For a short time, 17 June 1944 thru 28 July 1944, we had an officer, LT **Delbert E. Jeffers**, aboard HOLT. The log reflects he came aboard for temporary duty. We can't find anything else about him. If anyone remembers him, please let Bill Morgan know.

His daughter is trying to find out more about her father. She was just 6 years old when her father died (1951) and recently she was going thru some old stuff after the death of her mother and found a notebook of her father's which says he was aboard the HOLT. She said her father recorded he was assigned in March 1944 to HOLT, which probably was the date of his orders. According to some notes found in his papers, he had a boil in his ear and spent a few days in the dispensary at NAS, Bermuda. Any help is appreciated.

There has been a lot of publicity lately on the increasing incidence of **Asbestosis** and **Mesothelioma**, both caused by the inhalation of asbestos fibers. During WW II, asbestos was used in great quantities in all sections of the ships. If you want more information on asbestos and its affect on the lungs, contact **AVAIL** (Asbestos Veterans Assistance Information League), 8000 Research Forest Blvd., Suite #220, Spring, TX 77382, Telephone 281-681-1827 or on-line at www.AVAILUSA.org.

BINNACLE LIST

The list of shipmates and their wives who are ill, recovering from illness or are incapacitated or have physical restrictions is quite lengthy. They include Russ Coates, Marshall Gebert, Harry Helgeson, George Peters, Ralph Parks, Oak Ramsey, George Reimers, Bob Schwartz, Jeri Pickett, Ginny Manville and Fred Davis. These are the ones that we know about. If there are others, please let us know. Meanwhile, lets keep these shipmates in our prayers.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Ladies, please note.

While the men are in their business meeting, the ladies will again meet for a gift swap as it was a big hit at the last reunion. Any small gift (easy to pack and carry) and costing not more than \$10.00 would be appropriate. The gift should be wrapped so no one knows who is getting what! Details will be explained at the meeting

Also, Ladies, we will again appreciate your sample of cookies, candies and other tasty delights (that are in small quantities and easy for you to bring), along with any recipes you wish to share for these. The hospitality room will have all the soft drinks and other liquid refreshments along with snacks, but your creative goodies are always appreciated.

ON THE LIGHT SIDE (Borrowed from the USS FRYBARGER Newsletter)

At a Florida nursing home, a group of seniors were sitting around talking about their ailments. "My arms have gotten so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one. "Yes, I know," said another. "My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee." "I couldn't even punch out the Chad at election time, my hands are so crippled," volunteered a third. "I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a fourth, to which several nodded weakly in agreement. "My blood pressure pills make me so dizzy," exclaimed another. "I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head. The others nodded. "Well, count your blessings," said one woman cheerfully, and thank God we can still drive!"

Stay Young, Stay Healthy and Come to the Reunion!