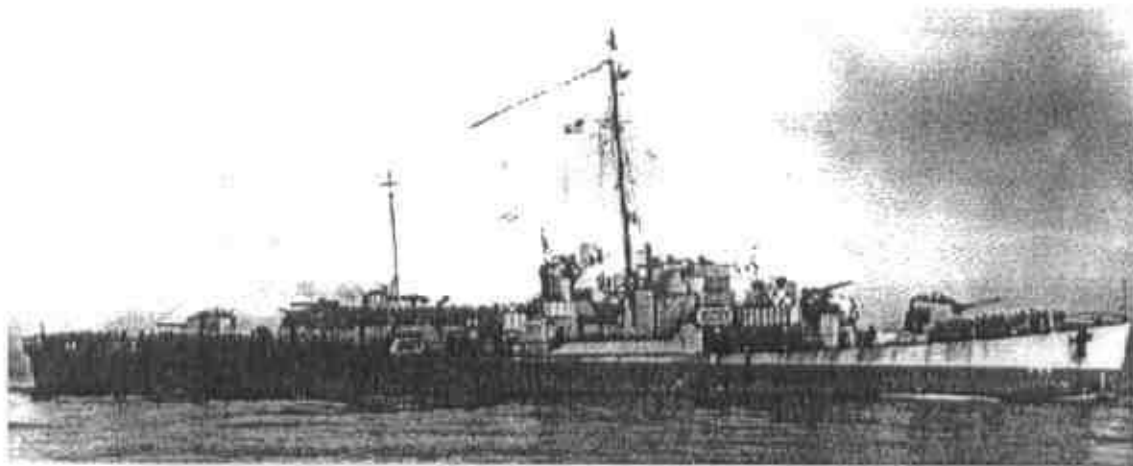


"HOLT HAPPENINGS"

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE CREW, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

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LOOKING FOR SHIPMATES

Over the years we have searched for shipmates using the Internet, telephone directories, Naval records, various and sundry associations and the Veterans Administration. The VA has been the main producer of results. The big problem in looking for shipmates is running into the Federal privacy laws which prohibit any government agency from disclosing the address of persons in their files. To get around this (and for a fee), we submit a letter to the person we are trying to locate, insert it into a blank, stamped envelope and send it to the VA. They search their files and if they have the person's address, they address the letter and forward it. If they do not have that person on file or if that person has died, they advise us.

We have sent several lists in the past and the letters were forwarded with no responses. There are many who served aboard HOLT that we seek. Among the ones we especially look for are those who served for a significant period of time (more than 3 months). Listed herein are their names and rates/ranks. If anyone has information on any of these please let Bill Morgan know.

They are: George A. Bartlett SM1/c; Henry J. Craig Y 3/c; John R. Crawford SoM 2/c; John R. Kolar MM 2/c; Edward A. Lennon BM 1/c; Charles W. Moore MM 3/c; and Hans

L. Rezac F1/c. In addition, Doris Barnes S 1/c and Arthur B. Crowl S 1/c are crew members that we once were in contact with but have dropped out of the picture in the last few years. Barnes was from Georgia and Crowl was from Staten Island, NY. Mail sent to them was returned on a couple of occasions before we dropped them from the mailing list. Any help you can provide in locating any of these former shipmates will be appreciated.

THE REUNION

Fifteen shipmates, twelve wives and eleven children comprised the group that attended the ship reunion in San Antonio. While this was the smallest group we have had, there was no lack of fun. From the first arrivals until the last goodbys, there was constant reminiscing, enjoying the trips, the food and drink and camaraderie of our shipmates and their families.

We made a bus trip to Fredericksburg, Texas to visit the birthplace of Admiral Chester Nimitz and the Museum in his honor called the "National Museum of the War in the Pacific." Fredericksburg is a small town settled by Germans in the mid 1850's. It retains much of its old country flair and the museum has some unique items on display - from a captured Japanese two-man submarine to a PT boat; from a hatch off the battleship ARIZONA to a B-25 bomber such as flew from the deck of the USS HORNET to attack Japan. Impressive sights included the Memorial Wall containing the various ship Plaques (including the USS HOLT) to the Peace Garden funded by Japanese school children. We only had a few hours there, but could easily spend a couple of days seeing all the exhibits.

We had some of the usual activities including the guessing of the number of beans in a jar. The raffle prize, a bronze 5 ½" ship's bell, was won by Roger Swift (son of Gil and Olive Swift). Sandy Oliver acquired an old sign from the effects of a former sailor which read "Dogs and Sailors Keep Off The Grass" (remember these from Norfolk?) She had it framed and donated it as a door prize which was won by Jeff Cope (son of Glenn and Helen Cope). Judy Mansur donated a neat model of an old sailing vessel (about 24" L x30"H) which was won by Jay Decker.

Lois Steinhauser, in cahoots with several others, pulled off a practical joke on yours truly. She had acquired a very small, black, mesh ladies thong which she planted in Bill Morgan's brief case, then had the hotel security people (actually the hotel manager) pull a surprise inspection under the guise of complaints by some unknown female guests stating that someone had stolen their personal belongings. After a couple of fake inspections on Jay Decker and Karl Nease, the security inspector asked Bill to open his brief case for an inspection. Guess I was the only one who was not in on the joke as I was completely taken aback when I reached in and pulled out the delicate unmentionables! That created a great laugh. I owe you one, Lois!!

Our hospitality room turned out to be quite adequate.....a large room with chairs, sofas,

a bar and opening out onto a large wrap around patio overlooking the city of San Antonio from the ninth floor of the hotel. There was the usual assortment of goodies to eat and drink, ship artifacts to inspect and discuss, and documents and photos to peruse.

BINNACLE LIST

The list of shipmates and spouses who are ill, recovering from surgery or stymied with some ailment is lengthy. At the risk of omitting someone, they include George Burke, Bob DeAngelis, Frank Shepherd, Russ Coates, Ralph Parks, Sue Eazer, Francis Clearo, Phil Corriher, Al DeHart, Phil Defosses, Harry Helgeson, Garnett Howard, Fred Lear, Randolph Cowart and Ginny Manville. We'll keep these shipmates and spouses in our thoughts and prayers.

Paul Pickett recently underwent knee surgery and is recovering on schedule at home. He sends his sincere thanks to all who called, or sent cards or letters.

DEBT OF GRATITUDE

A successful reunion requires the input, cooperation and work of a lot of people. Please join me in thanking Paul Pickett for his dedicated work as treasurer of our group; Judy Mansur for making the brass name plates that are attached to our "Deceased Shipmate" boards and for always providing door prizes, food items and advice which help to make the event a success; to Sandy Oliver for providing the much coveted framed sign about the "Dogs and Sailors"; to Jay Decker and John McGauley for their salesmanship expertise in selling raffle tickets; to Jerry Hightower (Paul Pickett's son-in-law) for the excellent photography. He spent many hours snapping photos during all phases of the reunion. In declining our offer to repay him for the developing and printing costs, he said....."USS HOLT crew members and families, please accept the photos, including those on a CD as a very small token of appreciation for the service and sacrifices that you made for our great nation during World War II so that generations later can enjoy the wonderful privileges of freedom." We accept and thank you, Jerry, for your thoughtfulness. Also, thanks to Al and Ann Gebauer who helped haul all the supplies from the commissary to the hotel and kept our ice replenished each day; to Barbara Boorman for the party favors for the ladies meeting and last, but certainly not least, to all the shipmates who brought the "goodies" to munch on. You all made a terrific contribution.

OTHER

Those of you with e-mail capabilities, please send you e-mail address to wjm-lgm@comcast.net During a major re-configuration of my computer, I lost all the e-mail addresses.

During the business session at the reunion, we discussed the financial status of the organization. In past years, we have sent out a dues invoice requesting your donation of \$10.00 or whatever amount you desired to help offset the expense of publishing the newsletters, looking for shipmates and other expenses. This request has only been sent to members of the crew, not to any of the wives or other relatives. The crew unanimously agreed to increase this request to \$20.00 annually and to include the relatives in the request. Included with this issue is a "Request For Dues". Your generosity, while not mandatory, will be greatly appreciated. (A lot of you paid your dues in San Antonio).

Jeff Cope has done an outstanding job of establishing the HOLT web site on the Internet. Go to www.ussholt.com and follow all the links to see the scope of his work.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The World War II Memorial officially opened on Memorial Day weekend this year. Those who have seen it are pleased with the design and scope of the coverage. The Memorial Commission which manages the memorial has established a web site where individual names may be posted with a very brief sentence describing their participation. We volunteered to enshrine the crew of the HOLT in this manner and to date, approximately 40 have been accomplished. This effort is on-going and will require one piece of data that I do not have....the hometown of the individual when he went into the Navy. To facilitate this please drop a note to Bill Morgan, 3356 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75229-2544 and list your hometown at that time. Relatives of deceased shipmates, please furnish this information also. For those that have already been listed, a copy of the listing is enclosed. If there is an error, let Bill know.

2006 REUNION

The assembled crew unanimously approved the next reunion to be held in the spring of 2006 in **ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND**. Dates to be determined (We want to avoid the crowd during graduation week at the Naval Academy).

Items of interest are always welcome. Send in your stories or other information and we will gladly include it in future editions.