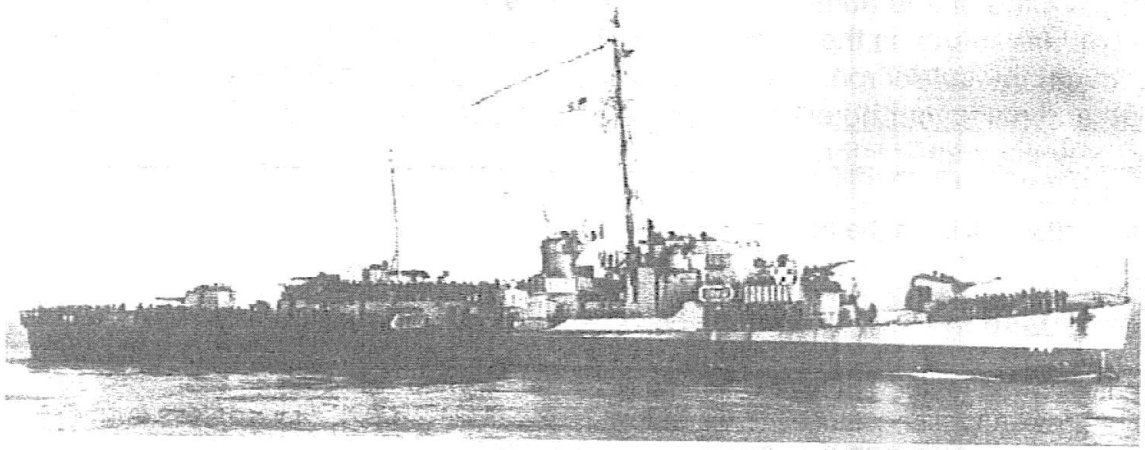
"HOLT HAPPENINGS"

A Periodic Newsletter For And About the Crew And Their Families

Vol XV; No. 2 April 2005



THE 2006 REUNION

We are using **MILITARY REUNION PLANNERS** to handle arrangements for the 2006 reunion. These folks enjoy a good reputation in their field and make all the arrangements for us. In the next Newsletter, we will attach final tour and banquet reservation forms complete with instructions. For now, we ask that you concentrate on the hotel reservations. We had initially planned on staying in Annapolis, however, the hotel situation was not right for our group. The hotels we would have liked to use were way too expensive and the ones that were affordable could not accommodate our needs. Thus we have booked our reunion for **APRIL 27 THRU MAY 1, 2006** at the [redacted] in Arlington, Virginia. The room rate is [redacted] per night. The dates we are using are for arrival on Thursday, April 27th with departure on Monday, May 1st 2006. The special rate is good for one day prior to the reunion and one day after the reunion. If you wish to stay longer than this, ask the hotel for the rate when you make your reservation. We will have reduced rate parking of [redacted] per day. Tours are planned for Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th. One day will consist of a tour of the U. S. Navy Memorial where we will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony honoring our deceased shipmates. We will also tour the World War II Memorial and other interesting sites. The other day will be a tour of the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

We will have an informal arrival dinner on Thursday, April 27th with our closing banquet on Sunday, April 30th. Sunday is a day with no planned activities except for a photo shoot late in the afternoon prior to our closing banquet. Tour sign-up and dinner sign-up forms will be in the next newsletter.

We have reserved a small bloc of rooms at the [redacted]. You are strongly urged to make your reservations now, using a credit card or sending a check for one night's deposit. Their address is [redacted] **Arlington, VA** [redacted] and the phone number is [redacted]. Be sure to mention you are attending the USS HOLT (DE 706) reunion when making reservations in order to get the correct room rate. If you remotely think you will attend the reunion, go ahead and make your hotel reservation **NOW** so we can keep the room bloc. If need be, you can cancel later.

More information will be in the next newsletter.

IN MEMORIUM

We recently learned of the death of a shipmate, **Harvey Cohen.** He passed away on 6 November 2004. Our condolences to his widow, Mrs. Estelle Cohen. Her address is [redacted]

While preparing this newsletter, we received a call from Chris DeAngelis informing us that **Bob DeAngelis** passed away on 23 April. He was in the hospital for some medical problem and died peacefully in his sleep. Our sympathies go to his son, Chris, and daughter, Paula, whom many of you will recall meeting at the 1994 HOLT reunion in King of Prussia, PA. They were gracious hosts during that reunion.

ON THE BINNACLE LIST

The list of those who are ill or slowed down by physical ailments has changed little from the last newsletter. They include Kess Adams, Russ Coates, Al Buchnsky, Phil Corriher, Phil DeFosses, Ted Eazer, Frank Shepherd, Francis Clearo, Al Bogan, John Coward, Harry Helgeson, Bob Swartz and Abe Silver . Garnett Howard and Paul Pickett have improved. Garnett Howard is doing some touring in a motor home with his brother, who is also a retired naval chaplain. Paul Pickett is busy planning a trip with his family later this summer. Everyone appreciates your cards, letter and prayers, so keep 'em coming.

OTHER

In early spring, the Texas Wildflower, Bluebonnets, are in bloom. This photo was made last week while traveling the back roads about 100 miles southwest of Dallas. We thought it would add a little color to the newsletter. Hope you enjoy it. Just wish each of you could have seen the many colors of the wildflowers that emerge in the springtime in this area.

Photo taken April 19, 2005 at Chalk Mountain near Glen Rose, TX

A special "Thanks" to **DAVE MILLER** for supplying us with home state information on about 15 of the long list of shipmates we included in the last newsletter. This info allowed us to get these specific shipmates listed in the WW II Memorial on-line log. To date, we have listed 179 of the officers and crew in the World War II Memorial on-line log. We ask that you review the list that was part of the January 2005 newsletter and make a special effort to recall the home town or home state of any of these shipmates. Let us know and we will see that they are entered into the log. Having both the town and state would be great, however, we can list them if just the state is known.

KEEPING STATION

Bob Hoover*

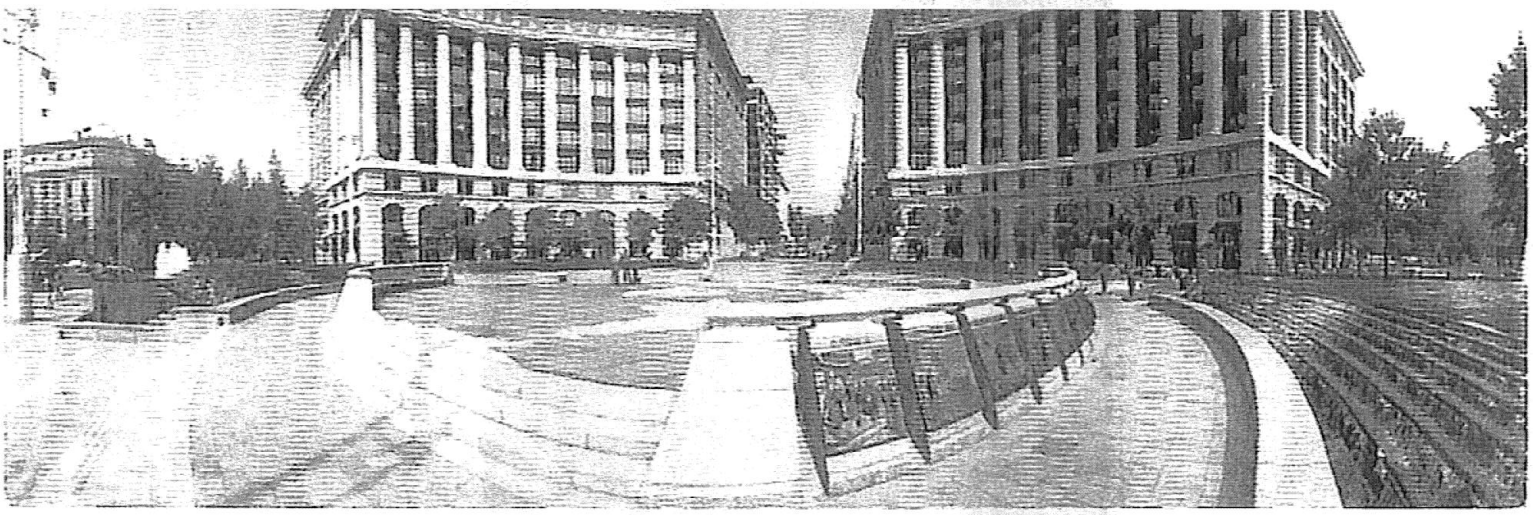
On convoy duty sometime in late 1945, the SOP of the formation was Admiral Forest Royal, aboard USS Rocky Mount (It may have been USS Mount McKinley - the passage of time clouds the memory). It was a command ship, adapted from a fleet cargo ship and equipped with what was then the state-of-the-art communications gear: Long and short range surface and air search radar, echo sounding and listening devices, etc., etc. and the mysterious "Nancy Hawks"**

Command ships were the cradle of all tactical plans for carrying out fleet strategy. Royal and his staff were very much in charge of what was going on. At 0000 on a dark night, I reported to the bridge relieving Ben Lamb as OOD. Lamb warned that the command ship was watching station-keeping on screen vessels very closely. He seemed to be relieved when we exchanged salutes and the ship was mine along with all the chicken crap that was being dished out by the Rocky Mount CIC . Bayard Stout, QM 3/c was on the wheel. He was older, relatively unflappable and the right person for the watch on that night. Didn't take long for the Rocky Mount to sound off: "Fox!, Fox! This is Lion! Please resume your station. ""Lion," of course was the Admiral. Speaking for him was some junior-rank officer with his "finger on the number" anxious to be recognized for his ardent devotion to duty.

Our CIC, (it was Don Garrity as I recall) answered the Admiral's call, "Fox to Lion: Wilco. Out. Meanwhile, back on the bridge with me and Bayard Stout....Stout was straining against a quartering sea to starboard, to keep the HOLT on course. The more he strained with the helm, the more he lost speed. I responded by turning on more revolutions on the engine order telegraph. But just as HOLT seemed to be regaining station, a surge in the following sea swept her beyond her assigned station and it was necessary to reduce the number of revolutions and contend with the lack of full steerageway. Finally, (as Stout recalled at the Norfolk HOLT reunion) I asked Stout to let me take the wheel and see what I could do. All the while, the bright young j.g.'s in the Rocky Mount CIC were ordering thru the TBS, "Fox!, Fox!, you will resume station immediately! Needless to say, my encounter with the quartering sea was no more effective than Stout expected it to be. I said to Stout, "Do the best you can. That's all anyone can do." I think under his breath, Stout must have muttered, "You do your job and I'll do mine!"

Ed note: * Bob Hoover was 1st lieutenant and Senior Watch Officer (after LT Jim Quinn left the ship).
**"Nancy Hawks" may have been "Nancy Hanks", at the time a secret method of communicating with signal lamps during darkness without exposing any flashing light. The infra-red light required special goggles to read the incoming signals.

Below is a recent photo of Bob & Ellen Hoover and their daughter, Faith. Faith has been most helpful via the Internet in keeping us informed of the goings on of her parents. We appreciate the interest and assistance.

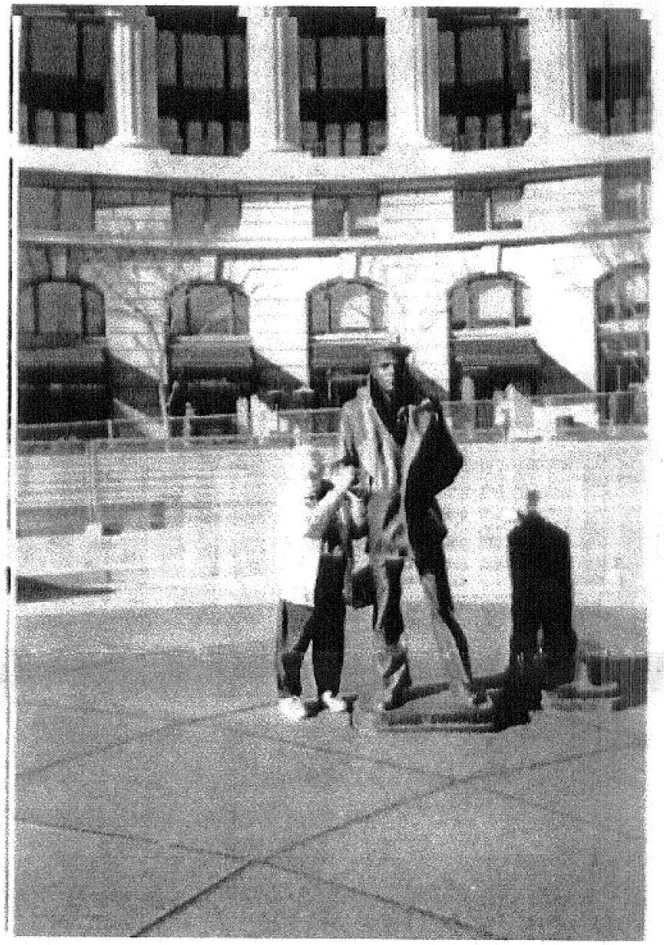


VIEW OF THE U. S. NAVY MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

QUOTES

"UNCOMMON VALOR WAS ACOMMON VIRTUE"
Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, March 17, 1945

ANY MAN WHO MAY BE ASKED IN THIS CENTURY WHAT HE DID TO MAKE HIS LIFE WORTHWHILE ....CAN RESPOND WITH A GOOD DEAL OF PRIDE AND SATISFACTION, "I SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY"
President John F. Kennedy, August 1, 1963



Edna Davis (Wife of **Fred Davis** MM 3/c, deceased) at the **Lone Sailor** statute, Navy Memorial, Washington, D. C.