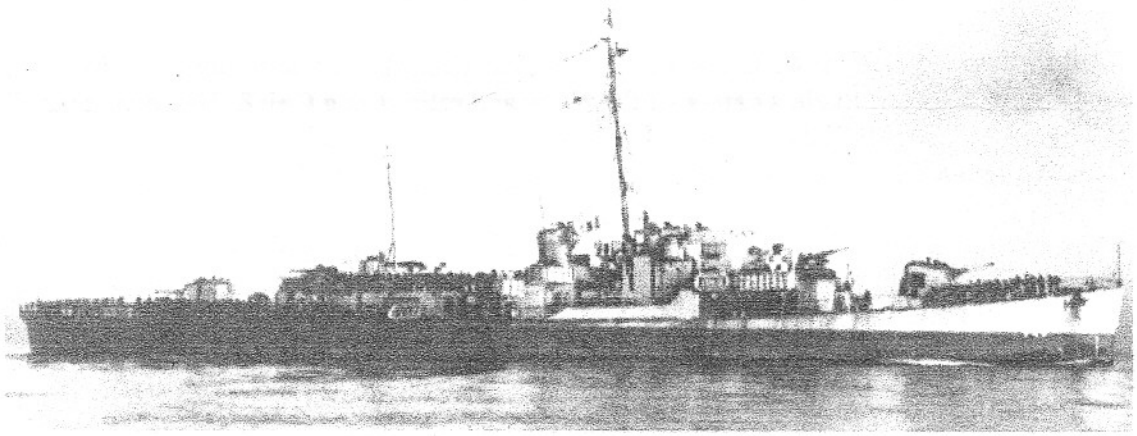
HOLT HAPPENINGS

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE CREW AND THEIR FAMILIES



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BINNACLE LIST

Shipmates known at this time to be on the binnacle list include **Ralph Parks, Frank Shepherd, Oak Ramsey** and **Harry Helgeson.** These shipmates would appreciate a card or phone call. It would help make their day. We have had no other reports of illness although there are about 20 others who cannot attend the reunion for various reasons. If you know of a sick shipmate, let us know, please. Oak Ramsey can be reached at [redacted]. Harry Helgeson's address is [redacted]. Frank Shepherd's address is [redacted]. Ralph Parks can be reached [redacted]

SHIPMATE DEATHS

Unfortunately, three of our shipmates have passed away since the last newsletter in October. **Russ Coates** died on 9 November 2005. He had been ill for quite some time, but seemed to be improving and was making plans to attend the HOLT reunion. We did not locate Russ until just

prior to the Hampton, VA reunion in 2000. He and Barbara attended and had a great time even though he was ill at the time with emphysema. Distance to succeeding reunions was too great for Russ to attend. He looked forward to making the relatively short distance from his home to Washington for the 2006 reunion.

Abe Silver died on 25 December 2005. He too, had been ill for a while with cancer. Abe and his wife, Gloria, attended the 1994 reunion in King of Prussia, PA. Following this, they moved to Florida and for various reasons never made another reunion.

Randolph Cowart died on 12 January 2006. He had been ill for a long time and had endured several strokes. Randy made a career of the Navy and retired as a Chief. He began attending the HOLT reunions in 1994 and made each of them thru 2002. In the later years, his daughter, Ramona, accompanied him as his health was beginning to worsen.

Our sincerest condolences to the families of these shipmates and 'Fair Winds' to our departed shipmates.

LOST CONTACT

Last newsletters that were sent to Tula Thornton (wife of Bill Thornton) and to Jeff Zerbe (son of Gordon Zerbe) were returned as undeliverable. If anyone knows of their current address, please let us know.

2006 REUNION

Registration for the reunion is proceeding slowly. Our deadline to release the rooms that are blocked for us is March 15th. Once the remaining block of rooms is released, the cost for a room will revert to the hotel's standard rate which is about double what we have under contract. The hotel is the [redacted] IN Arlington, VA. The phone numbers for reservations are [redacted]. Be sure to mention the USS HOLT DE (706) reunion to get the special rate of $89.95, plus tax. In case you have misplaced the earlier forms we sent, enclosed are registration forms. Note that one is to be completed and sent to Military Reunion Planners and the other to Paul Pickett. Due to age and health problems of many shipmates, this may well be our last formal reunion, so lets make it a good one by attending!

To get the best air fares, you probably should look into booking your reservation with the airlines right away. Due to escalating fuel prices, the airlines have been increasing their fares regularly. By reserving now, you may avoid higher spring fares.

OTHER

When tragedy strikes, the news media reports on it around the clock. Then, as time goes by, the stories fade from the news and we tend to put the incident behind us. So it is with the last fall hurricanes, especially "Katrina" and "Rita". Some of our own were heavily involved in one or

more of these storms. Glenn & Margaret Light (She is the daughter of LT. Hugh Smith, the HOLT's Engineering Officer) had to evacuate their home in Orange, Texas and seek shelter farther inland. This entailed more than just a drive up the highway. The logistics of such a move are mind boggling. Thankfully, they are safe and Glenn's health is better.

This scenario was repeated thousands of times as families fled the onslaught of the storms. Even today, the cleanup of the downed trees and twisted homes continues. We are not aware of any member of the "HOLT Family" who was physically harmed by these storms and for that we are grateful.

Only in America...

> **...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes and candy bars at the front!**
>
> **...do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and <u>diet coke!</u>**
>
> **...do banks leave the doors open and chain the pens to the counters!**
>
> **...do we have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering!**
>
> **...do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage!**
>
> **...do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight!**
>
> **...do we park in a driveway and drive on a parkway!**

It's good to visit with shipmates. Recently, feeling a need for a plate of fried catfish, Lois and I drove up to Shawnee, Ok, picked up Karl Nease and headed east a few miles to Karl's favorite catfish haven. After enjoying a huge helping of catfish, along with slaw, potatoes, hush puppies and coffee and catching up on each others comings and goings, we headed back home, tired, but full and happy. Good to see an old shipmate. Before she died in 2002, we would meet Karl and Helen about midway between Dallas and Shawnee at a catfish joint on the Red River a couple times a year or so and it was always an enjoyable trip.

<u>U. S. NAVY LOG</u>

The **U. S. Navy Log** is separate and apart from the **World War II Memorial Log.** In the past couple of years we have listed all our HOLT shipmates in the **World War II Memorial Log.** However, very few have been listed in the **U. S. Navy Log,** maintained by the U. S. Navy

Memorial. Just recently, the Navy Memorial has opened up the Navy Log for the listing of former Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel at no cost. Prior to now, the cost has been $25.00 for the listing plus $25.00 for a photo.

Here's what is required to be listed.

Name - Rate or Rank - Date of Birth - Place of Birth - Month and year entered Navy - Month and Year left Navy - List of major duty ships or stations - List of awards earned - small photo of person preferably in uniform. Photo cannot be returned.

Once entered in the Navy Log, the listing can be viewed on-line from anywhere or if visiting the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC, you can view the listing on their special computers. This will leave a lasting record of your Naval service for future generations to see.

We have handled a number of these in the past and would be glad to handle yours.....just furnish the info to Bill Morgan.

Remember the dates - April 27 - May 1, 2006

See you in Arlington, VA