



USS Henry W. Tucker DD/R 875

Greetings Shipmates:

It's been much too long since our last newsletter. We hope everyone is having a great summer. After a very hot June here in New England, July and August have been a bit cooler and drier. We have definitely enjoyed it.

We have information regarding the reunion next year. See "Reunion News" below.

We have had many new additions to the association since the last newsletter. People are finding the website and contacting us. All have expressed a lot of enthusiasm at discovering there is a website and there are reunions.

Unfortunately, there have been additions to the Memorial List as well. Later in this newsletter, we'll list as many of the new members and Memorial List additions as we can. If you don't see your name, please forgive the omission. Just let us know and we'll add your name to the next newsletter.

For those of you who ordered photos at the reunion and didn't receive them, we apologize. Apparently the company wasn't as reputable as

Reunion News

Errol Samuelson and his able bodied assistant, George Red Boy have been busy visiting hotels in the San Diego area.

The reunion will be held at the Hanalei Hotel. The conference rate is \$99.00 per night, single or double occupancy. This is in line with hotel prices in San Diego. The dates will be No-

we'd been led to believe. The few who did receive photos, got less than perfect quality. If we hire a photographer for San Diego, we'll get references!

If there is anything you would like to put in the newsletters, please send it along to us and we will add it. This is your association and your newsletter. It's our way to keep people informed with what we're up to.

We spent the week of July 4 in Virginia. We visited the Mariners Museum in Newport News and saw the anchor, propeller and shaft of the Monitor. It is an excellent museum. We also visited Jamestown Settlement, the earliest permanent settlement in the New World. We went to the new National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. It is awesome. Even though it was 90 degrees that day, we had goosebumps. Virginia would be a good place for a future reunion. Pat and I will be retiring to Virginia in a few years and are looking into the possibility of hosting one somewhere in Virginia after we've moved there.

Fair winds and smooth sailing

Bill Siler

ember 7-10, 2002. I believe the conference rate will be in effect for people who wish to come in early or stay after the reunion is over.

They will hold 100 rooms, but will be able to increase that number if need be.

We hope to have most of you there.

Memorial List

A sad, but inevitable part of any reunion group is the fact that our shipmates pass away, some of them far too soon.

Philip J. Shedd (SN, 62-64) passed away January 27, 1999. He was a good friend of ours and we were sorry to hear of his passing. We've been in contact with his sister and brother, who informed us that he died in his sleep of a heart related ailment.

Joseph Paradiso (FN, 62-?) passed away, January 16, 1995. Bob Miller grew up on the same street (different parts of Chicago) as Joe. Pat had obtained a copy of the application for his Social Security card and found the address. Bob is attempting to locate next of kin.

Pat found Joe and Phil listed in the Social Security Death Index on the Internet and followed up with some searches for next of kin for Phil.

We also found a Robert Guilbo. Bob Guilbo was

aboard in the early 60's. If anyone has information on whether or not he is deceased, please let us know.

We found a couple more in obituary listings on the Internet. Both were probably plankowners. Rev. Everett Bevins, 74, of Wise, VA passed away April 7, 2001, and Carroll J. Clayton, Jr. of West Virginia passed away March 17, 2001.

We learned from Brook Smith of the passing of his grandfather, William C. Miller, Jr., RDM3/C, 45-46.

Full Memorial List is on website:

<http://www.geocities.com/hwtucker2000>

If anyone has information on the deaths of shipmates, please let us know.

New Members

We are happy to say that the ship's muster list is growing steadily (around 500). Many are finding us through the website. The total list is over 2,500 so we have a way to go yet.

Additions:

Neal Bailey, TM3, 71-72
 Lee Barbour, LTJG, 50-52
 Eugene Benschoter, MM3, 60-62
 James S. Berg, FP2, 55-56
 Richard Berlier, MM3, 67-70
 Edward A. Boltrucz, FCSN, 50-51
 Mark Brooks, 71-72
 Allan R. Burke, SM3, 65-66
 Terry Carbaugh, GMG2, 70's
 Donald Duane Carey, BT2, 60-62
 Robert J. Christensen, EN2, 54-55
 Peter F. Coste, ENS, 72-73
 John Daniel, ENS—LTjg, 69-71
 Eric R. Ernst, ENS, 65-67
 Holland Dickey, FN, 52-55
 Jim Dowling, FTG3, 65-68
 Rob Faulkner, RM2, 60-62
 Don Fern, RM1, 44-46
 Fred Fewin, FTC, 49-53
 Robert Funseth, BTFN, 68-69

David Gammon, MM3, 71-73
 Joe Grant, SN, 71-72
 Robert E. Griffin, GMG3, 66-68
 Eugene M. Hall, LCDR, 72-73
 Mike Henry, MMFN, 71-72
 Warren C. Ihrke, FTC, 49-52
 Doug Jernigan, STG2, 64-68
 Ronald Kessler, ETSA, 57
 Tommy Key, BT3, 71-73
 Chris Kidwell, MM2, 67-69
 Bruce Kimmis, SO2, 58-60
 William Krueger, SM2, 70
 Chuck LaBrache, BTFN, 68-69
 John C. Melone, ET2, 59-62
 Donald L. Moore, S1/c, 48-52 (or 52)
 Bill Munz, ETN2, 68-71
 Ken Myers, EM3, 72
 Paul C. "Chris" Nelson, CDR, 71-72
 Gerald Oden, STG2, 65-67
 Steve Peterson, EN3, 67-68
 William Reardon, GMG3, 70-73
 Charlie Robertson, EM3, 60-62
 C.W. Robinson, BT3, 52-54
 Robert M. Ross, CDR, 53-56
 Kenneth Sargent, FA (A Div.) 57

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New Members

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Ken Schwagel, MM3, 68-70
 Charles T. Sica, ETR2, 68-70
 Fred Smith, SH2, 61-66
 Somers, Scott, LTJG, 69-70
 Michael Stenerson, STG3, 69-73
 Robert Stevens, RD2, 53-54
 Richard C. Straube, BMSN, 72-73
 Vincent Stucko, FTG2, 65-68
 Jim Teske, GMG2, 68-72
 G. Kendall Van Sant, WWII
 James C. Waite, EN3/HT3, 71-73
 Hugh Wease, GM3, 50-53
 Charles Wegman, LTJG, 70-72
 Harold Wynn, S1/c, 44-46

Changes

Email Address changes:

Larry Fahey: larryfahey@qwest.net

Eugene Harris: Eharr13@msn.com

Harlan Lippincott:

harlan.lippincott@worldnet.att.net

Leo "Dale" Leaser: dale.leaser@verizon.net

John Tarsney: johnj5@mindspring.com

Crew Information

Crew information can be found on the Auxiliary website: <http://www.geocities.com/hwtucker2000>

There is a crew list, a "missing" crew list, and a memorial list. The crew list has email links if the shipmate has email. If the name is underlined, it indicates an email link. Just click on the name and you will generate an email message. If you wish to contact someone whose name doesn't have an email link, send an email to Pat (psiler@adelphia.net) and she will send you the person's address and phone number.

If anyone would like to get in touch with someone on the list. Please contact us.

Crew Lists :

If you would like a copy of the crew list (with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses) for the years you served, please email Pat (psiler@adelphia.net) or call us at 508-888-3049 and we'll send you a list.

Bob Miller has been a fantastic help finding people. He's been taking a break while working on his home, but has begun work again locating people.

If you have any changes or want to add information, please let us know. Even though we've only listed email address changes here, we'd like address and phone number changes as well, so we can update the main crew list. Let us know if we should include address/phone changes in the newsletters. As we did last time, we'll have a copy of the full crew list at the reunion. Also Bob Miller and Pat will both have laptops with us so they can do lookups and make changes on the spot.

If you see a name on the "missing" crew list and you know how to contact the person, please let us know.

The Auxiliary site also contains newsletters, so if you haven't seen the first several newsletters, you will find them there.

Of course, be sure to visit the main website at: <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/7401>. Terry Williams has put together an excellent site with photos, stories, etc.

Items of Interest

The following information was taken from the "Scuttlebutt", the official newsletter of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA). We thought some might find it useful.

Form DD214: Those needing to obtain duplicate copies of their DD214 can do so by writing to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave., St. Luis, MO 63132, Attn: US Navy. Requests normally take four to six months to process. Provide your full name, rate/rank, Social Security Number, dates of service and date of birth when requesting a new copy. *(Do not wait! If anything happens to you, your spouse may not be able to receive benefits without Form DD214!)*

Reporting a Retiree's Death: To report the death of a Navy retiree, contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Casualty Assistance Branch at: 1-800-269-4517 or 1-216-522-6680/81. If a Retired Activities Office (ROA) is nearby, they can provide valuable assistance. Check with nearby Naval Facilities or Naval Reserve Training Centers for location of the nearest ROA.

Helpful Websites

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association	http://www.nera.org
Official Navy Website	http://www.navy.mil
Navy Personnel Command (PERS-622)	http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers622/rmcm.htm
Naval Reserves Online	http://www.navres.navy.mil
Naval Reservist News	http://www.navres.navy.mil/navresfor/nrm
Naval Reserves Association	http://www.navy-reserve.org
Navy Times	http://www.navytimes.com
U.S. Naval History	http://www.history.navy.mil/index.html
CPO Website (The Goat Locker)	http://www.goatlocker.org
Tin Can Sailors	http://www.destroyers.org
U.S. Navy Memorial	http://www.lonesailor.org

Reflections of a Blackshoe

Author Unknown
(sent to us by Paul Beierschmitt)

I like standing on the bridge wing at sunrise with salt spray in my face and clean ocean winds whipping in from the four quarters of the globe—the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as her engines drive her through the sea.

I like the sounds of the Navy—the piercing trill of the boatswains pipe, the syncopated clangor of the ship's bell on the quarterdeck, the harsh squawk of the IMC, and the strong language and laughter of sailors at work.

I like Navy vessels—nervous darting destroyers, plodding fleet Auxiliaries, sleek submarines and steady solid carriers.

I like the proud names of the Navy ships: Midway, Lexington, Saratoga, Coral Sea—memorials of great battles won.

I like the lean angular names of Navy “tin-cans”: Barney, Dahlgren, Mullinix, McCloy—mementos of the heroes who went before us.

I like the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the topside speakers as we pull away from the oiler after refueling at sea.

I like liberty call and the spicy scent of a foreign port.

I even like all hands working parties as my ship fills herself with the multitude of supplies both mundane and exotic which she needs to cut her ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe where there is water to float her.

I like sailors, men from all parts of the land, farms of the midwest, small towns of New England, from the cities, the mountains and the prairies, from all walks of life. I trust and depend on them as they trust and depend on me—for professional competence, for comradeship, for courage. In a word, they are “shipmates”.

I like the surge of adventure in my heart, when the word is passed: “Now station the special sea and anchor detail—all hands to quarters for leaving port,” and I like the infectious thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pier side. The work is hard and dangerous; the going rough at times; the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the ‘all for one and one for all’ philosophy of the sea is ever present.

I like the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flit across the wave tops and sunset gives way to night. I like the feel of the Navy in darkness—the masthead lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters—they cut through the dark and join with the mirror of stars overhead.

And I like drifting off to sleep lulled by the myriad noises large and small that tell me that my ship is alive and well, and that my shipmates on watch will keep me safe.

I like quiet midwatches with the aroma of strong coffee—the lifeblood of the Navy—permeating everywhere.

And I like hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze-gray shapes racing at flank speed keeps all hands on a razor edge of alertness.

I like the sudden electricity of “General Quarters, General Quarters, all hands man your battle stations,” followed by the hurried clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transforms herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful workplace to a weapon of war—ready for everything.

And I like the sight of space-age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound-powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

I like the traditions of the Navy and the men and women who made them.

I like the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones.

A sailor can find much in the Navy: comrades-in-arms, pride in self and country, mastery of the seaman's trade.

An adolescent can find adulthood.

In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods—the impossible shimmering mirror calm and the storm-tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and messdecks. Gone ashore for good they will grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon.

Remembering this, they will stand taller and say:

**“I WAS A SAILOR ONCE. I WAS PART OF THE NAVY,
AND THE NAVY WILL ALWAYS BE PART OF ME!”**

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/7401>
<http://www.geocities.com/hwtucker2000>

USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion Association

34 Burnside Street
Plymouth, MA 02360-1402

Phone: 508-888-3049
Email Bill: jwsilerbtc@adelphia.net
Email Pat: psiler@adelphia.net

H A V E G U N W I L L T R A V E L

Baseball Caps

We had baseball caps made up for the reunion in Biloxi. They were a hit and we sold out. We have since re-ordered twice! We have plenty on hand. The price is \$11 each, which includes postage.

To order, send a check or money order payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund** and send it to:

J.W. Siler, Jr.
34 Burnside Street
Plymouth, MA 02360-1402

The USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion Association was formed in 2000.

In November of 2000, the first reunion was held in Biloxi, Mississippi. There were over 100 shipmates in attendance, along with about 100 wives, sons, daughters and friends. For some of the attendees, it was the first time in over 60 years they had seen their shipmates. There were shipmates from the entire time the Tucker was in Commission (1945-1973).

It was agreed that this would be the first

of many reunions. The plan is to hold reunions every two years, in different parts of the country so that as many people as possible will have the opportunity to attend a reunion.

If anyone has interest in hosting a reunion, please let us know. We'll provide any help you might need.