



USS Henry W. Tucker DD/R 875

Have Gun Will Travel

Hello Shipmates:

It's hard to believe that the San Diego reunion has come and gone. From what we've heard from people who attended, a good time was had by all. Errol Samuelson did a terrific job planning the reunion and arranging for the hotel, catering and tours. Hotel personnel were very helpful and made our stay most enjoyable. The turnout was fantastic! We had 298 people at the banquet. We would have had 300, but Tom Bager and his wife had an auto accident returning home from the Korean War reception and were unable to return for the banquet. Fortunately, they are OK now. Tom was shaken up but we believe he is all right.

We were honored to have the widow, son and daughter of CDR Ralph "Swede" Hanson at the reunion. CDR Hanson was the commanding officer in 1960 and 1961. Also attending was Joan Mabrey, widow of Richard Mabrey, LTjg, 57-60. All live in the San Diego area and it was a pleasure to meet them all.

The only downside to the reunion was the rain on Friday and Saturday. It was the first rain in San Diego in 18 months. The locals were happy, but it dampened the city tour and the ship tour a bit. We all made the best of it. The hospitality room was full all the time. In fact, the room was really too small. We will definitely arrange for a larger room next time.

At the business meeting it was voted that the next reunion will be in November 2004 in Charleston SC. Charleston is one of our favorite cities, so we are really looking forward to that. In future newsletters, we'll include information on some of the things to see and do in Charleston, including Fort Sumter, Patriots Point (USS Yorktown, USS Laffey, a Gearing Class destroyer, a Coast Guard Cutter and a submarine), the famous Battery district and historic homes. We've decided to have the reunion run from Wednesday through Saturday night this time. Chuck Kass, Virgil Graves and Frank Colvin will be making the arrangements. None live in South Carolina, but we did see

some large grins as they contemplated making "fact finding" trips – with golf clubs. We're sure they will to a great job.

The ship raffle was a rousing success! We raised \$2,200 for the reunion fund. Mike Doran won the model. He had been at the reunion but had to return home so wasn't at the meeting when the drawing was held. Bill called him that night and he was ecstatic. The model has been delivered to his home and he is now known as Fleet Admiral Doran, Commander in Chief of his personal, one ship Navy.

After a lot of discussion at the reunion, it has been decided we should incorporate as a nonprofit organization. It will be a lot of hard work, but it has a lot of advantages. We would be eligible for special nonprofit bulk mailing rate, which would be a big savings. Donations to a non-profit are tax deductible. There has been some discussion of starting a scholarship foundation to benefit children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Tucker shipmates. As a nonprofit, we would need to elect a Board of Directors and a slate of officers. Right now, Pat and I are "it". There will also be increased recordkeeping and accounting. The group is getting so large that we need to organize. We plan to have a meeting here in June with a group of people to begin work on the process.

We've received a new shipment of baseball caps. If you signed the waiting list for a cap, please send a check for \$11 (includes postage) to us at the address on the last page. Please be sure to make the check payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund**. Unfortunately, our supplier of caps, Georgia Headwear and Apparel, has gone out of business due to foreign competition. They recommended another company and we have been in contact with them already.

We received a letter from a Dr. Jack Haberstroh of San Diego. Dr. Haberstroh has written a book, *Swabby*, which is a compilation of personal memories of 273 WWII enlisted men. We have included the letter, which includes contact information for any of our WWII shipmates or others who might be interested.

We have also located Frances Tucker Robinson, niece of Henry Warren Tucker, who lives in Florida. We hope to see her in Charleston.

We hope you all had a happy, healthy holiday season. We are now settled in for what promises to be the coldest winter in many years.

We hope to see even more of you in Charleston in 2004.

Fair Winds and Smooth Sailing

Bill Siler

Additions to the Crew List

We have several additions to the crew list. As usual, "Inspector" Bob Miller has been hard at work finding people. People are also finding us. Some found out about the reunion very late, but contacted us and attended. If any information is incorrect, please email Pat (patspugs@earthlink.net) with corrections.

Lee Dunn, RD3, 58-60
Sam Ellis, LT, 63-65
Dan Fisher, BT3, 71-72
Tom Fowler, LTjg, 62-65
John Guerre, FC3, 46-47
Marlin Hathaway, CS3, 56-57
Richard "Dick" Helm, Officer, 44-46
David R. Holman, FC3, 46-48
William C. Ivie, SN, 47-48
Landon Jordan, SN, 53-56
Joseph "Joe" Lander, MM2, 63-64
Winston F. Laurence, F1/c, 45-46
Carlo J. Mancuso, Jr., FA, 52
Henning "Mike" Nilsson, CSSN, 52-55
Claude U. Peak, Jr., SN, 52-55
Lloyd F. "Chief" Polacca, RD3, 58-60
Charles M. "Chick" Rogers, SO3, 48-51
James W. Sadler, YN2, 68-69
Phillip W. Swank, BT3, 71-72
Thomas Teal, ENS, 60-61
Leroy Trosclair, SN, 53-55

Additions to the Memorial List

Edward G. Barkas, QM3, 51-54, died February 22, 2002
Leon "Dave" Davis, BM3, 54-56
Michael Masse, ETN3, 72
Aubrey A. "Double A" "A Square" "Bud" Moore, SO3, 48-49, died December 6, 2002

Dr. & Mrs. Jack Haberstroh
15625 Avenida Alcachofa, # H
San Diego, CA 92128

January 9, 2003

Bill Siler
34 Burnside Street
Plymouth, MA 023260-1402

Dear Bill,

Some of the members of your reunion group may be interested in the following.

SWABBY is finished ! Yes, after two-and-a-half years of preparation, this book of memories from World War II *enlisted* sailors, has gone to the publisher. Heritage Books, Inc. in Bowie, Maryland has agreed to publish it. SWABBY will be available through book stores all over the country this summer !

273 WW II *enlisted* men – many are tin can sailors – contributed personal memories for the book. A total of 750 pages of wonderful personal experiences ! There are 412 then-and-now photos, 25 full-page illustrations, 14 pages of introductory material, a 4-page index, and a last minute addendum.

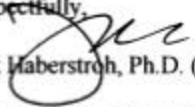
The addendum ? It announces SWABBY II ! For the thousands of WW II *enlisted* sailors who were unable to send me a personal recollection for SWABBY. The purpose is the same ... to salute the *enlisted* sailor for his contributions, his valor, and his sacrifices, in World War II.

Please ask your WW II *enlisted* membership to send me personal memories – good or bad, funny or tragic. And then-and-now photos, if they have any. I'll make copies and mail the originals back immediately. Oh, and a few sentences about themselves. What have they been doing for the past sixty years ? They may write me, or e-mail me at:

swabbyhab@juno.com

Naval histories have for the most part sadly overlooked the *enlisted* sailor in World War II. SWABBY books, by God, won't ! Thank you so very much for your help.

Respectfully,


Jack Haberstroh, Ph.D. (Tin Can Sailor # 30243)

USNR, 1944-1946, S I/C
USS Gregory (DD 802), USS Antietam (CV 36)

Contact Information

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

Baseball Caps

Baseball caps are available. They are US made, Navy Blue with the ship's name and hull number in gold. Ship profile is white.

To order, send a check for \$11.00 (covers shipping) payable to:

Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund

Send the check to the address at the left.

USS Henry W. Tucker DD/R 875 Reunion Association

Mission

The mission of the USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion Association is to bring together shipmates from the entire time the ship was in commission, 1945-1973 as the USS Henry W. Tucker (DD and DDR 875) USN and 1973-1993 as the Marcilio Dias (D25) of the Brazilian Navy.

All shipmates of all rates and ranks and their families are considered to be part of the Tucker Family and all are welcome at reunions.

The mission is also to honor those who have gone before, our deceased shipmates.