

THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 12, Issue 1

June 2002

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



Special Points of Interest

- *If you weren't able to attend the Purdy reunion this year, you can still read about it in the cover story and on page six.*
- *Eighteen new names appear in the WELCOME MAT on page three. You probably will recognize someone.*
- *Alvin Barnes shares his close call with the USS Indianapolis on page four. It's great reading!*
- *A poem by Bob Harrison is on page five. We appreciate him sharing his talent with us.*
- *See who attended the 2002 reunion. The list of attendees is on page six.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again shipmates and all you Purdy ladies. Our 12th annual reunion is now history, but, in my opinion, it was one of the best. Must thank ML&RS for the excellent job they did for us once again. Both tours were great, and the Friday and Saturday evening meals and entertainment were outstanding. Those of you who were at the '92 Norfolk reunion will remember the two lady entertainers called "Take Two." Now, ten years later, they entertained us again, and were just as good, if not better than they were in '92. (Harold Cadie will attest to that, as will Frank Ironside

and I after we were asked to go on stage with them.) Saturday's tour of the base included a tour aboard the USS Peterson (DD-969), and we were the first group allowed aboard any Norfolk ship since 9-11. We can all thank Bob Espeseth for this privilege. Prior to the reunion, Bob made a few calls to the "Right" people and arranged this tour. The crew members on the Peterson were most courteous and helpful, and treated us "Old Salts" with great respect. If they are any reflection of our "New Navy", then I would be honored to be able to serve with any of those young Sailors. The turn-

out for this reunion was very good, and, even though many regulars couldn't attend, I was very happy to see many first-timers. Hope all of you regulars and first-timers will set aside time next April for our Mobile, AL reunion.

During the reunion some items were donated to the Purdy archives. I want to sincerely thank both Robert Grose and Morris Plummer for their donations of two Purdy commissioning pennants. The one from Bob Grose is slightly tattered and probably flew over Purdy in '45 or '46, but is still beautiful, and in Bob's

(Continued on page 2)

words, "I feel that it is a symbol of a fine ship and the fine crew who manned her." Also must thank Tom Travis for the donation of two Purdy World Cruise books from '52 and '53. I can assure you that I will take good care of these and all other archive items in my possession, and display them at future reunions. One more person I must mention is Capt. Horace Holley who was Purdy skipper '59-61, and our Association Prez before me. I want to thank him for the beautiful framed picture of the Purdy he presented to me at our banquet. It is now proudly displayed in my office.

At our Saturday afternoon business meeting, both I and Jim Meechan were asked to stay on as your association Pres. and Sec/Treas. Thanks, Jim, for your dedication and for staying on as our Sec/Treas. Want also to thank our VP Andy Lamora for his dedication and the fine job he did for the association the last few years. Sorry to say though, that due to personal problems he can no longer continue on as our VP, and he asked that I seek out a volunteer to replace him. Glad to report though, that William Dow took the challenge, and volunteered to take over as our new association VP. Thanks, Bill and Andy.

As our new VP, Bill will be handling the sales of our 3" embroidered ship's patches, and the Purdy license-plate frames. The patches cost \$5 plus \$1 shipping, and the plate frames cost \$3 plus \$2 shipping. You can order these items by making your check out to William Dow and sending to: 1246 Corbin Ave., New Britain, CT 06053. You can also call him at 860-225-5991.

Also must remind you computer geeks to check out our Purdy web-site at <http://www.destroyers.org/uss-purdy>. Association member Morris Plummer has put forth much time and effort in setting up this web-site, and he reported at the business meeting that it is doing quite well. Thanks, Morris.

Lastly, and once again, I must

bring up our association's annual \$5.00 dues. Without the dues income, we could not keep this Purdy Report coming to you, and if we don't have this newsletter, we don't have a reunion. Those of you who have not yet paid your dues, can send a check for one or more years (donations also gladly accepted) made out to the Purdy Association, and mail it to Sec/Treas. James Meechan, 145 Laura Dr, Gahanna, OH 43230. ML&RS is currently printing and mailing over 800 newsletters for us, and only about 1/3 of those members on the mailing list have paid their dues. Sorry I have to do this, but to keep our association solvent, I'm going to ask Sec/Treas Meechan to purge the mailing list of all those who have not sent in their dues as of the end of Oct. '02. Sorry to take such a drastic step, but it is a necessary one to keep our association afloat. Those of you with computers can also save the association copying and postage costs by requesting the ML&RS to e-mail you the Purdy Report instead of sending you a paper copy via snail-mail.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing many of you next April in Mobile.

Larry DiPasquale
President, Purdy Association

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'Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To'

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PURDY REPORT is the official publication of the USS PURDY DD-734 Association. It is published quarterly in June, September, December, and March *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the newsletter by sending their contributions to the Association Treasurer.

The Purdy Report is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

HOW ABOUT A JOKE!

The Canadians have agreed to help the US with the war on terrorism. They have pledged two of their newest ships, 600 crack troops and six of their newest jet fighters.

Now the problem.

After figuring the US exchange rate—we ended up with:

A canoe, two mounties, and a flying squirrel!!!!

WELCOME MAT



The USS PURDY Family proudly welcomes the following recently located shipmates. We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

*Frank Renner (1963-65) RD2
7708 Normandy Dr
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054*

*Robert Shields GM3
241 Falcon Ave
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-6003*

*Charles Magee, Sr
(1944-46) PO 3/c Deck Div
405 West Maple Ave
Merchantville, NJ 08109
856-665-2949*

*LCDR John Thorndyke USN (Ret)
(1950-52) Lt(jg) Gunnery Officer
5209 Singer Rd
Las Cruces, NM 88005-5566
505-524-0896
j457648t@earthlink.net*

*Daniel McGeary
347 Heathcliffe Rd
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006*

*Frank Davies (1954-55) SN (GM)
92 Hayden Ave
Tiverton, RI 02878
401-624-1377*

*Mack Buckner (1970-73) SK3
5605 South Ash Ct
Broken Arrow, OK 74011
918-451-5038*

*Richard Kain
452 Clearwater Lake Dr
Polk City, FL 33868*

*Anthony Meyer
(1960-62) E3 Sick Bay
12 20th Ave*

*Isle of Palms, SC 29451
843-886-8147
imtony11@hotmail.com*

*Ralph Russell (1969-71) STG3
3312 Tobacco Rd
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-244-3960
radiatoralph@bellsouth.net*

*Alec Wall (1958-60) QM3 Nav.
91 Ash Swamp Rd
Scarboro, ME 04074
207-883-5910*

*Andrew Lindner
PO Box 323
Gillett, WI 54124*

*Leamond Jefferson
686 Kelly Mill Rd
Elgin, SC 29045
Wulvz13@aol.com*

*James Lee (1956-58) MM2
906 Garden Grove
Yukon, OH 73099
405-354-0335*

*James Turner
(1962-64) 1st Lt 2nd Div
7214 Blair Rd
Washington, DC 20012
JimTurner2@compuserve.com*

*SKCS A.G. Erman USN (Ret)
(1965-66) SK1
PO Box 1051
Ash Fork, AZ 86320
928-637-2714
gerryerman@aol.com*

*CSCS Ralph Shook USN (Ret)
(1961-63) CSC
6901 Old Mill Rd
Norfolk, VA 23518
757-855-9584*

*SHCM Ralph Stevenson
USN (Ret) (1969-70) SH1
4616 Princess Ann Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
800-255-6683
ralphrelo1@aol.com*

TAPS



We regret to announce the PURDY REPORT was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. The entire crew extends the hand of sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased.

*Glenn Spigelmyer
Died May 2000*

*John Doherty
Died 1975*

*Roland Gauthier
Date of death unknown*

*John Kane
Died October 11, 2000*

Anyone who knows of, or becomes aware of, the death of a shipmate, please notify the editor so that shipmate can be recognized in the newsletter and his name added to the Honor Roll.

CHECK OUT THE PURDY WEB SITE

We want everyone to be aware of the Purdy web site that was created and is being maintained by Morris Plummer. The address is <http://www.destroyers.org/uss-purdy>. A Chat Line has been added for you to exchange ideas and memories with other Purdy shipmates. If you need to contact Morris Plummer, his e-mail address is: maplummer@express56.com.

Keep up with what's going on with your old buddies by visiting the web site often. You might want to send Morris a thank you for all his work on the site also. I'm sure he would appreciate it.

NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Purdy newsletter is now available to download from our web site. We invite you to visit our site at www.mlrsinc.com, then click on the link on the left side of the page labeled Reunions. This will take you to a page listing the reunions we are working with this year. Scroll down until you see the name of your group, and all you have to do to download the newsletter is to click on the yellow box labeled Newsletter. You must have the Adobe viewer to see this file. If you do not, you can download it for free from the top of the reunion list page.

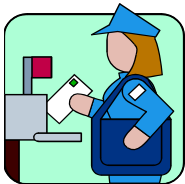
If you would like to receive an e-mail each time a new publication is available, and discontinue receiving a paper copy in the postal mail, please follow these steps:

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We will add you to the e-mail distribution list and remove you from the paper list. Please be sure to keep us notified if your e-mail address changes.

Dina Coffey, ML&RS, Inc

MAIL CALL



Dear Sirs,

This article is my eyewitness account of Summer, 1945; regarding the passing of two ships during WWII.

I'm sorry I am unable to be in attendance at this year's reunion at

Norfolk. Perhaps next year.

Thanks for all your efforts. I'm sure it will be a great event.

Regards,
 Alvin Barnes
 Purdy Duty 1945-46 & 1949
 PO Box 1891 Camarillo, CA 93011
 (or)
 55W Green Vale Dr
 Camarillo, CA 93010

The following is Mr. Barnes' story:

STRANGE VOYAGE

The mysteries of the Navy cruiser USS Indianapolis include loss at sea, court-martials and suicides. Here is the story of my involvement in her history.

In 1945 I was stationed at the Stockton Naval Barracks, awaiting transfer to shipboard duty. One morning, the roster board posted my assignment to the USS Indianapolis. I was to be part of a 12 man crew that the ship required. However, I was the thirteenth man. This was contingency arrangement so if one of the men became ill or couldn't join the crew, I would be his replacement. When we boarded that morning, I was not needed and went back on the bus to Stockton.

For days I fought disappointment because I longed for "plush" duty on a cruiser complete with springs on the bunks and tall, upright lockers. (Of all the ships in the Navy, I thought that a cruiser was the best duty.)

The Indianapolis was docked at Mare Island shipyards to be outfitted with provisions and munitions. Several of my Naval School buddies were part of that 12 man crew and I had opportunity to visit them on some liberty weekends. We had become friends during 12 weeks of school and on the long train trip from Florida to California. I stayed at my aunt's house in nearby Vallejo and walked up the gangplank to enjoy seeing them and look around that great ship. Each time I left the ship after a visit, I felt a pang of sorrow.

Soon, I was assigned my perma-

nent berth aboard the destroyer USS Purdy, DD734. This "tin can" duty was no where near the cruiser service. The cots were made of canvas lashed to steel frames and steel boxes under the cots served as "lockers."

While standing watch one day on the destroyer's afterdeck, I saw the Indianapolis sail by our San Francisco pier. Quite mystified, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Instead of sailing out under the Golden Gate Bridge, it headed for the dry-dock at Hunter's Point. A ship fully loaded with food and supplies and arms would have no reason to go to dry-dock. That was a place for empty ships needing repair or reconditioning. To solve this mystery, I went to see my friends the very next weekend. To my surprise, I was not even allowed in the gate, let alone on board ship. I wondered what was going on. I was in full dress uniform and had always been let on board previously.

Three days later, I watched the Indianapolis as it made its way out under the Oakland-Bay Bridge. It sailed out to sea, leaving me to wave a final farewell from Purdy's fantail. About 60 days later, the USS Indianapolis was at the bottom of the sea, torpedoed by Japanese submarines. Less than 800 men were rescued, the rest drowned or were eaten by sharks. My buddies did not survive. The mystery is: why was I not aboard?

Afterward, Captain Kennedy was court-martialed and drummed out of the Navy. Sometime later, he committed suicide. Recently, the Navy and Congress have apologized for the wrongful court-martial.

After the war, I learned of the strange mission of the Indianapolis and the reason for her stop at Hunter's Point. Under the highest secrecy and security, she had been loaded with two atomic bombs. These were transported by the Indianapolis to Guam on the way to their final destinations.

Editor's note: Thanks so much to Mr. Barnes for sharing his story!

ML&RS,

I served on board the USS Purdy (DD-734), in the gunnery department as 2nd division officer and First Lieutenant, from June of 1962 to June of 1964. I earned my Commission as a regular NROTC student at Ohio State University from September 1958 to June 1962. From 1964 to 1966 I served as the first (pre and post commissioning) gunnery officer of the USS Austin (LPD-4). An interesting sidelight: our 1962 Ohio State NROTC unit received its commissions from Air Force General Curtis LeMay (http://www.af.mil/news/biographies/lemay_ce.html) 1927 OSU graduate and 1962 Commencement speaker. I left active duty in 1966 to pursue a law degree at OSU, remained in the Naval Reserve until 1968 and graduated from OSU Law School in 1969.

James S. Turner
7214 Blair Rd
Washington, DC 20012

FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

Author unknown

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.

I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over institutions of learning.

I stand guard with power in the world.

Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.

I stand for freedom.

I am confident.

I am arrogant.

I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow

banners,
My head is a little higher, My colors a little truer.

I bow to no one!
I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped—I am saluted.
I am loved—I am revered.
I am respected—and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle
of every war
for more then 200 years.

I was flown at Valley Forge,
Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Appomattox,
I was there at San Juan Hill,
the trenches of France,
in the Argonne Forest,
Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy.

Guam, Okinawa, Korea and
KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me.
I was there.
I led my troops, I was dirty, battleworn
and tired,
But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled
on the
streets of countries I have helped set
free.

It does not hurt for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn
and trampled
in the streets of my country.
And when it's done by those
Whom I've served in battle -it hurts.
But I shall overcome-for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and
stood watch over the uncharted
frontiers of space from my vantage
point on the moon.
I have borne silent witness to all of
America's finest hours.

But my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips and used
as bandages
for my wounded comrades on the battlefield,
When I am flown at half-mast to honor
my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of

a grieving parent
at the grave of their fallen son or
daughter,

I am proud.

THE OLD MAN AND THE SAILOR

*By Bob Harrison
July 22, 1997*

He was old and worn and bit forlorn
as he ambled through the park,
He spoke to me and I could see that
his eyes had lost their spark.
His gait was slow and his voice was
low as he asked to sit with me,
And I answered him with a friendly
grin, "The sittin' here is free."

He gave a smile and we talked a
while and his voice was rather weak,
But his mind was strong and it wasn't
long till he began to speak
Of yesteryears and I saw the tears
as the mem'ries flooded through
For he spoke of times and other
climes as old men often do.

He smiled at me and I could see as
he glanced at my Navy blues
That he'd earned his keep on the
briny deep and paid his share of
dues.

I asked if he would share with me
some mem'ries from his career,
He said he might if the price was
right, and the price was a can of
beer!

"I've shipped on subs and oily tubs,
on battleships and cruisers,
Ten thousand mates and I can state
not one o' them was losers.
LST's on foreign seas, from Solomons
to Leyte,
You name it, lad, I've been there,
from
Alaska down to Haiti."

"Liberty ships of paper clips, balsa
wood and glue,
I saw one break apart one time and
lose her gallant crew.
Marine Corps I took ashore on Ta-
rawa and Truk."
Oh what the Hell, for quite a spell,

I've had my share of luck."

"One thing more," he said, "before I move along,
There ain't no air that's quite as fair
as the pipe of the boatswain's song.
And the place to be is on the sea
riding a fair sea swell,
With mates like you in Navy blue
who'll follow you straight through
Hell."

"So here's to you and your Navy
crew who take our ships to sea,
You've fought and died and never
cried throughout our history.
You're heroes all and ten feet tall
and your spirits never lag,
You're the nation's best and you
never rest in defense of our coun-
try's flag!

He rose to leave and I believe that
he seemed to move much faster,
His eyes agleam like a laser beam
and his skin was alabaster,
He glowed at first then soon dis-
persed in a cloud of misty cotton,
A dream at most, perhaps a ghost,
but not to be forgotten!

2002 REUNION IN NORFOLK A GREAT SUCCESS!

The 2002 reunion of the USS Purdy in Norfolk was filled with reminiscing, food, sight-seeing and great entertainment. Seventy-two men and fifty-three ladies enjoyed the reunion held May 2-5 at the Norfolk Airport Hilton.

Thursday's welcome reception was the official start of the reunion. Many first time reunion goers were in attendance and were made to feel welcome by the "old-timers."

After a buffet breakfast on Friday morning, many set out on the tour to downtown Norfolk and the visit to the USS Wisconsin at Nauticus. They also enjoyed the lunch cruise on the *Spirit of Norfolk* and seeing

how Norfolk had changed since their younger days. Friday night's Virginia ham dinner was followed by the entertainment by "Take Two", two ladies who performed in the Andrew Sisters style. Harold Cadie was given a personal solo which he seemed to enjoy immensely!

Those who took part in Saturday's tour were privileged to tour the USS Peterson as well as the Norfolk Naval Base. They also got a look at the USS Cole as it was docked in Norfolk at the time. After returning to the hotel in the afternoon, the business meeting was held. Larry DiPasquale will continue as president of the association. Mobile, AL was voted on as the site for the 2003 reunion. Next came the most special time of the reunion—the banquet. There were even 5 men who arrived in uniform! This was the most of any reunion yet. Again, the entertainment was superb and everyone enjoyed the music and dancing.

Sunday morning's breakfast brought an end to the reunion with a moving memorial service honoring deceased shipmates. As good-byes were said, most were looking forward already to 2003 in Mobile. See you there.

2002 REUNION ATTENDEES

Ray Baker
Leonard Baldwin, Jr. & Therese Morin
James & Marjorie Beates
Roger & Joan Boisse
Howard & Elizabeth Bruce
Harold & Nyla Cadie
Thomas Carroll
Frank Cashman
Merwin & JoAnne Chipman
Omar Collins
Maurice & Phyllis Constant
Edward & Audrey Crawshaw
Alvin & Betty David
David & Mary Lou Davis
Dennis Davis
Richard Dickinson & Joyce Vankeuren
Larry & Karen DiPasquale
William & Janet Dow

Richard & Ruth Eckert
Robert & Mary Ann Espeseth
Robert Fuller & Gerry Le Brun
Ronald Garwood
Donald Gould
Robert & Ann Grose
Richard Hammock
Arthur Harrington
Douglas Harvey
Richard & Nancy Hausner
Horace & Lu Holley
Frank Ironside & Carol Erhardt
Donald & Joan Jernstrom
Robert Johnson
Carl Kole
Richard & Patricia Kummerl
James & Martha Lannom
Kenneth & Solveig Larsen
Charles Magee, Sr
Willard & June Martin
David McCalla
James & Mary Meechan
Anthony Meyer & Judi Walsh
Charles Meyer, Jr.
John & Anna Mikulka
Eugene & Lorraine Miller
John & Rita Mustakos
Bruce & Edith Noll
Harold & Jean Nunamacher
Robert Partin
Adolph & Phyllis Perrell
Morris & Joyce Plummer
Michael & Julia Popp
Gene & Josephine Razzi
Armando & Annette Rebeiro
Ernest & Janet Reed
John Rice
LeRoy & Beverly Roach
Richard & Susie Rockwell
Richard & Terry-Lee Sandstrom
Elwyn & Sharon Sather
Lester & Nancy Savage
Larry & Laurette Sharp
Clayton Smith
Barney & Lou Strutton
Thomas Travis
Herbert & Jean Troupe
Steve & Betty Tuzikow
Vernon & Geraldine Van Grevenhof
James Van Pelt
Alec Wall
Fred & Janet Ward
Paul & Ruth Warman
J. Maury Werth
Roger & Mary Whitehead
Frank & Arlene Wiser

TOTAL MEMBERS: 74
GUESTS: 53

GRAND TOTAL: 127