

THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 13, Issue 1

June 2003

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



Special Points of Interest

- Our cover story has your president's recap of the Mobile reunion and a preview of next year's.
- Nine newly located shipmates are listed in *WEL-COME MAT* on page three. Make a special effort to contact them.
- *MAIL CALL*, beginning on page three, has a letter from Tom Nastos recalling a frightening time for him on the Purdy.
- The history of the USS Purdy continues on page four.
- If you want to know who attended the reunion, see page five for a list.
- Please return the survey on page six.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again Purdy guys and gals .

Another Purdy reunion is history, but I'm sure that those who attended will agree that Mobile was outstanding. ML&RS and Pat Miller once again did a superlative job for us, the Adams Mark hotel was beautiful and their service and food was far above average. We had a real nice time at the military park touring the Battleship Alabama after our memorial and wreath laying service on Alabama's fantail.

Another interesting tour many took on their own was on the LST 325 which was tied up a few blocks from the hotel.

This is the ship that was brought back from Greece by a group of retired LST Sailors about a year ago. These retirees are all in their 60's to 80's and, after seeing the condition of that ship, I must say that those Sailors have my utmost respect for the trials and tribulations they went through getting that ship across the Atlantic and back to the states. Their plans are to restore the ship so that it can be put on display as a historic ship at the Alabama military park, and believe me, they have a very challenging job ahead of them. Everyone knows

about the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, but Mobile also has Mardi Gras, and our Friday evening dinner had a Mardi Gras theme with performers in Mardi Gras costumes. Everyone received Mardi Gras beads and souvenirs, and John and Anna Mikulak were crowned Mardi Gras king and queen. At the Saturday evening banquet I had the pleasure of recognizing five first-timers to our reunion. I hope you all enjoyed the reunion, and will plan on attending future reunions. Also at the Saturday evening banquet, we were all honored to have in attendance Capt. Holley's

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

widow, Lula Holley. I'm sure that attending was a very difficult decision on her part, but we were all delighted to see her, and hope she will join us at future reunions.

My only disappointment at the reunion was the low attendance. Quite a few had to cancel at the last minute for one reason or another, and I suppose that many had concerns about flying and didn't want to drive to Mobile. Hopefully this won't be a problem at our next reunion. Most of our shipmates live in the mid-Atlantic, Northeast and north mid-west, so there shouldn't be any problems getting to Niagara Falls, NY. At our business meeting on Saturday morning, the members agreed that we should try a four day reunion to allow enough time to see all the attractions in the area, and to allow a full day and evening on the Canadian side of the falls. This may mean an increase in the cost of the reunion, but, as in the past, days and tours at the reunion will be your option. The reunion will start on Wednesday, April 28, 2004, and end on Sunday, May 2, 2004. It will be held at the Comfort Inn "The Pointe" which is one or two blocks from the falls and many of the fall's attractions on the American side. I'm counting on a large turn-out for this reunion, but be forewarned that you will need a photo I.D., and a passport or original birth certificate to get into Canada and back into the states. This came about after 9-11-01, and is understandable in these troubled times.

Vice-Prez Bill Dow has 3" embroidered ship's patches and Purdy license-plate frames available for our members. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items call or write Bill for prices. His address is: 11 Riverside Dr, Southington, CT 06489, and his phone is 860-841-4213.

This Purdy Report is the only means we have to communicate with our members, and the only way to inform members about fu-

ture reunions. How do we pay for this Report? We pay for it by collecting a \$5.00 annual dues that is due in January of each year. Members who have recently been added to our mailing list can pay their dues by sending a check made out to "Purdy Association" and send it to Sec/Treas James Meechan, 145 Laura Dr., Gahana, OH 43230-2140. If you desire to pay dues in advance for more than one year, just send Jim a check for \$5.00 per year for as many years as you want to pay for, and Jim will send you a membership card indicating the years paid. Do we accept donations to our association? You bet we do, and if you are independently wealthy, and feel like making a donation to the association, just send a check to Jim and mark it "Donation" so Jim doesn't think it is a dues payment. All donations will be recognized in the Purdy Report. I hope you all have a really nice summer, and will start planning now for our next reunion in Niagara Falls.

Larry DiPasquale
President, Purdy Association

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: usspurdy@sbcglobal.net

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.

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.

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be an impossible task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to re-search each article.

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.

NEWSLETTER FINAN- CIAL REPORT

Cost of this issue
\$287.91

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.

James Feith (1970-72)
309 Eckford St
Bronx, NY 11222-2307

Paul Fauteux (1970-73) BT2
sicpuppy@bellsouth.net

Joe Grinvalsky (1958-60) BTFN
grinvoes@sover.net

George Runkle (1961-64) BT2
gerunkle@webtv.net

Jacky Williams
481 Nantuckett Dr
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

James Johnson (1951-53) MM2
611 Space 19 California Way
Longview, WA 98632
360-423-2695

Marion Stuart
47 S Village Rd
Loudon, NH 03307

Charles Weyl
478 Willett Ave
Naples, FL 34108
739-593-0260
cknaples01@earthlink.net

Jose Elique
354 Harpers Ferry Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89148

CORRECTION FORM

Purdy members, please help us keep our files up-dated by sending ML&RS any recent change in address, phone number, or e-mail address. Our mailing address is on page four.

Name: _____

Change: _____

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 families and friends of the deceased.

Jack Hill
Died April 1, 2003

Newell Erickson, Jr.
Cmdr 1953-56
Died April 2003

Mrs. Adele Erickson's address is:
31 Island Way, #1208
Clearwater, FL 33767

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.

Jack G. Hill, Korean War veteran

A memorial service for Jack G. Hill, a retired employee of Bison Ford in Cheektowaga, will be held Friday in Port Charlotte, FL.

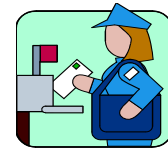
Hill, 78, formerly of the Town of Tonawanda, died Tuesday (April 1, 2003) after an unexpected illness in Port Charlotte, where he had lived for the past 12 years.

Born in Batavia, he served as a gunner's mate on the USS Purdy during the Korean War and also was a World War II veteran.

Hill worked for International Harvester before joining Bison Ford.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, the former JoAnne Foster; two sons, William G. of Salem, VA, and Randall of the Town of Tonawanda; two sisters, Virginia of Stafford and Shirley Daniels of Lady Lake, FL; and six grandchildren.

MAIL CALL



Purdy reunion attendees,

Thanks for the reunion recognition and time spent with old friends. It was a special event and way of reliving times with my husband.

Mrs. Lou Holly

Purdy Report,

I was aboard the USS Purdy from 1948-1950, and was discharged before the Korean War broke out. While aboard the ship during peacetime, we still carried out routine wartime maneuvers. My GQ station, as an electrician mate was aft in the after steering room, along with a quartermaster and a machinist mate.

During one exercise the ship was to drop depth charges and make smoke from the smoke screen generator which was in a section of the after steering room. The order was given to make smoke and all hell broke loose. There was a loud explosive sound which knocked down the two shipmates while a wall of flame came right at me and burnt my entire face and both hands. The next thing I remember I was in the ship's pharmacy being bandaged by the pharmacist mate, whose name I do not remember, but who thankfully did a great job covering my burns. Although I saw the flame coming at me, I must have moved just a bit so the flames did not burn my eyes, although my entire head and both hands were bandaged.

We were taken to Newport Naval Hospital where I was for 3 or 4 weeks in recovery. Thanks to the quick work of the Purdy's pharmacist and the work at the hospital, I completely recovered from the burns, although you see faintly where the burns ended at my neck

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

and hands. However, to this very day, every time I hear a loud bang, I instantly duck with fear.

Tom Nastos
249 Washington Place
Paramus, NJ 07652-4754
201-265-7152
nastost@prodigy.net

USS PURDY HISTORY

(Continued from March 2003)

On arrival at Okinawa, the transports proceeded to their assigned beaches and the PURDY reported for duty to Commander Task Group 51.5 (in the USS BISCAYNE). From this date until 12 April 1945, various duties were performed as an anti-submarine screen, transport retirement screen, anti-small boat screen and radar picket support ship. Logistic requirements were fulfilled from time to time in Kerama Retto and underway. On 4 April 1945, the PURDY effected the transfer of nine Okinawanian civilian prisoners from an LCI on duty close to North West shore of the island. On 5 April 1945 enemy shore battery fire from the Southwest sector of the island was encountered in the vicinity of the ship's position. While on station on the Southeast corner of the island on 6 April 1945, enemy suicide aircraft attacked several of our ships to shoreward of the PURDY and obtained a hit on the MULLANY (DD-528). The PURDY, on direction from Commander Task Group 51.5, proceeded directly to the MULLANY's aid, and through the combined efforts of both ships plus a small craft in the vicinity extensive fires aft were brought under control and the ship was saved. Further attacks were fortunately not forthcoming and the PURDY was able to come alongside the MULLANY and extinguish the fire. The

EXECUTE (AM-232) took the MULLANY in tow and the PURDY proceeded at high speed to the Kerama Retto to deliver injured personnel to a hospital transport, arriving there early 8 April 1945. Commander Destroyer Division 126 came on board the PURDY with members of his staff and hoisted his pennant that date. On 9 April 1945, while on night patrol south of Okinawa, contact was made with several small craft, which were illuminated and fired on with 40 mm guns. The results were not known until day-break, when several Japs were found in the water near the scene of action. Some were picked up by an LCI (g) and others were shot on refusing to be rescued. The PURDY proceeded to a radar picket station north of the island on 10 April 1945 and joined company with the CASSIN YOUNG (DD-793), who was then acting as the radar picket for that area. Several LCS's one LSM and the PURDY acted as support ships. On 11 April 1945 fighters from the CASSIN YOUNG's Combat Air Patrol splashed a Jap Tojo 10 miles on the port quarter of the formation.

At approximately 1330 on 12 April 1945, the PURDY, while in company with the CASSIN YOUNG, patrolling station some 60 miles from Okinawa was attacked by about 30 Japanese planes, most of which were the suicide type.

Enemy aircraft which attacked the two destroyers were part of a very large air raid which approached Okinawa on that date. This large raid split up into smaller groups of planes which attacked various light units of the fleet which were patrolling in outlying stations around the island. A total of 8 completed runs were made by suicide planes on this formation, the first two of which were directed at the CASSIN YOUNG. Other runs were turned away by the volume and accuracy of AA fire. During the first 15 minutes of the action the CASSIN YOUNG was hit and withdrew. The small craft were under attack during the period of action and two suffered damage. Friendly fighters were present during the latter part of the action and accounted for at least 10 of the

attacking suiciders. The PURDY was credited with positive destruction of 5 aircraft, probable destruction of another, and assists in the destruction of 3 additional planes. Air action lasted for a total of about 90 minutes during which the sky was filled with anti-aircraft bursts, attacking enemy planes, criss-crossing friendly fighters and splashing suiciders in a melee of violent action. The lone surviving suicider made a run on the PURDY under fire of friendly fighters and of all available weapons on the PURDY and was finally knocked down 25 yards from the ship; unfortunately, its momentum caused it to ricochet into the side. The bomb broke loose, pierced the side of the ship and exploded internally causing serious damage to vital instruments and destruction of several compartments. A total of 1 officer and 14 enlisted men were killed and an additional 25 enlisted personnel were injured. After the damage was received, casualties to essential equipment were restored sufficiently to permit the PURDY to proceed under her own power to Kerama Retto via Hagushi.

To be continued in the Sept. issue.

Editor's note: It would be great if some of you who were aboard during this time would send in your recollections of this battle. Please respond to this request to ML&RS, address below.

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*Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603*

*828-256-6008 (voice)
828-256-6559 (fax)*

*Dinamlrs@aol.com (e-mail)
mlrsnewsletter@aol.com (newsletter e-mail only)*

www.mlrsinc.com

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

GREAT TIME IN MOBILE FOR 2003 REUNION ATTENDEES

Although the "Northerners" from the USS PURDY brought their cold weather to the otherwise sunny South, the spirits were warm and lively at the 2003 reunion in Mobile, AL. On March 27-30, thirty-five former crewmembers of the USS PURDY and twenty-four of their guests descended upon Mobile for an unforgettable reunion. The Adam's Mark Hotel was the host facility for the event which included a group of new attendees who hadn't seen one another in over 50 years! What a great time for them and everyone!

For those arriving on Thursday, registration began at noon and continued until the 5:00 pm welcome reception. Getting reacquainted with old friends was the goal of the reception and it seemed to work very well. We have it on good faith that a group of them were almost thrown out of Charlene's Restaurant later that evening because of their rowdy behavior. The restaurants in Buffalo have already been warned and have banned that group from their premises next year! If you would like to find out just who those people were, contact one of the attendees and they will give you the scoop.

Friday was the first full day of the reunion activities. It began with breakfast and the 9:00 am tour to the USS ALABAMA. The memorial service was held on the USS ALABAMA and was led by Mr. Ed Crawshaw, Chaplain. We would like to thank Mr. Crawshaw for the excellent job he did with the memorial service. It was a very touching tribute to all former shipmates who have passed away, especially since at that time, the war in Iraq was on-going. After the memorial service the group toured the ALABAMA. The Aircraft Pavilion featured planes from every war. The USS DRUM, a WWII submarine was also on display in the park. After lunch in the Ward Room of the ALABAMA, the tour of the park continued. Heading back to the hotel in the early afternoon, the group found refreshments awaiting in the hospitality room

when they returned. This was a good time to swap stories and reminisce about all those Navy days. That's what reunions are all about. The good times continued Friday evening beginning with the 6:00 pm social hour followed by the Mardi Gras and Bayou Bash. Many people are not aware that Mobile has its own Mardi Gras celebration, but the reunion attendees will never forget that fact. The King and Queen of the Mardi Gras, John and Anna Mikulak, were crowned during the celebration. Everyone had a great time and returned to their rooms that night with a myriad of beads with which to remember the night.

Saturday was a relaxing day for the men. The only scheduled event for them was the 9:00 am business meeting. Buffalo, NY was chosen as the 2004 reunion site with May as the projected time of year. Larry DiPasquale will remain the coordinator for the group. Meanwhile, the ladies were having a ladies-only tour (a few men sneaked in also) to the famous Bellingrath Gardens and home of Coca-Cola magnate, Walter Bellingrath. The ladies enjoyed seeing the beautiful gardens and touring the mansion filled with priceless antiques. The azaleas were in full bloom, making the gardens a spectacular sight. A lunch cruise on the Fowl River aboard the "Southern Belle" gave more of a glimpse of the gorgeous scenery of the area. The group returned to the hotel in the early afternoon and had time to relax before the evening activities.

Saturday evening was the most special time at the reunion. It began with the pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session where everyone came looking their best. Then at 7:00 pm the USS PURDY banquet began. The meal was followed by recognition of Ed Crawshaw for his hard work and of the four plankowners who were present: Chuck Magee, Elbert Henson, Bob Murphy and Chester Richards. Mr. Richard Kummerl showed a film of his time aboard the

PURDY, which brought back many memories to all the men in attendance. The evening ended with more story swapping and peals of laughter over some of the outrageous antics recalled by the "old salts."

Sunday morning's private breakfast buffet was the last scheduled event for the reunion. Leaving was perhaps the hardest part of the reunion, but the thought of seeing everyone again in Buffalo next year made the parting easier. Greatly missed were some of the regulars who had to cancel: Harold & Jean Nunamacher, David Plante, James & Mary Meechan, Paul & Ruth Warman, as well as all those who have never attended. We hope everyone will make a special effort to attend next year's reunion in Buffalo and discover how great it is to reconnect with old friends.

2003 REUNION ATTENDEES

Ray Baker, Sr.
 Leonard Baldwin, Jr. & Therese Morin
 Harold & Nyla Cadie
 Frank Cashman
 Connie & Z. L. Chancellor
 Edward & Audrey Crawshaw
 Alvin & Betty David
 Larry & Karen DiPasquale
 William & Janet Dow
 Thomas & Carol Doyle
 Robert Fuller & Gerry Le Brun
 Martin & Dolores Goetz
 Donald Gould
 Arthur Harrington
 Richard & Nancy Hausner
 Elbert & Aurelia Henson
 Lula Holley
 Frank Ironside & Carol Erhardt
 Theron Jackman
 Richard & Patricia Kummerl
 Chuck Magee
 Willard & June Martin
 John & Anna Mikulak

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- George Mitchell, Jr.
- Bob & Joan Murphy
- Morris & Joyce Plummer
- Carl & Lee Pumo
- Armando Rebeiro
- Chester & Doris Richards
- Larry Sharp
- Barney & Lou Strutton
- Steve & Betty Tuzikow
- Vernon & Gerry Van Grevenhof
- J. Maury Werth
- Robert & Javoen Wertz

Total Members: 35
Guests: 24
GRAND TOTAL: 59

BUFFALO/ NIAGARA FALLS AREA

The 2004 Reunion of the USS PURDY is being planned for the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area of New York. The dates for the reunion have been set for **Wednesday, April 28-Sunday, May 2, 2004**. The host hotel will be the **Comfort Inn "The Pointe" in Niagara Falls**.

Please read the following descriptions of some of the sites and activities in the area, and then choose which ones you would like to see on the reunion agenda. Fill out the survey at the end and mail it back to ML&RS so we can begin making the plans for next year's reunion.

ATTRACTIONS

U S/CANADIAN ADVENTURE:

The highlights of this tour include a stop at the Floral Clock, Whirlpool Overlook, Table Rock, Goat Island, Luna Island, Prospect Park, the US Observation Tower, and of course the magnificent Niagara Falls. Have lunch at the Penthouse Restaurant high above the city overlooking the falls. A ride on the Maid of the Mist is an experience you will not want to miss.

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY NAVAL & MILITARY PARK

This tour will take you to Buffalo's famous Naval Park, the largest inland park of its kind in the nation. All branches of our Armed Forces are represented in the park. In the park you can tour several museum ships—the guided missile cruiser USS LITTLE ROCK, the destroyer THE SULLIVANS, which sported the shamrock of Ireland during WWII, and the battle decorated submarine USS CROAKER. Adjacent to the park is the "walk of memorials" dedicated to Vietnam and Korean War veterans, Merchant Marines, and USMC Defense Battalions. See planes, tanks, helicopters and more. This is truly a memorable tour.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Niagara-on-the -Lake was recently voted the "Prettiest Town in Canada" and won second place for the "Prettiest Town in the World." Located at the northern end of the Niagara Parkway, the most scenic route in Ontario, the town is known not only for its beauty, but its shopping, historic sites, and world famous Niagara wineries. Take a carriage ride through Old Town, or stroll the streets in search of that one-of-a-kind gift in one of the many shops.

SENECA NIAGARA CASINO

Located within walking distance of the Comfort Inn where you will be staying, is the Seneca Niagara Casino. Although this will not be included in one of the tours, you may wish to visit it on your own at some point during the reunion.



2004 PURDY SURVEY BUFFALO/NIAGARA

Please help us plan your reunion by filling in the following survey. Return it to us promptly so we can begin plans.

Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, would you prefer an hors d'oeuvre platter ___

Or, a hamburger/hotdog or soup & sandwich type dinner ___

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings? _____

Or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday? _____

Note: At the business meeting in Mobile, there was a unanimous decision to have entertainment on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

ATTRACTIONS:

Please check the activities you would like to see on the reunion agenda:

___ U.S. /Canadian Adventure

___ Naval & Military Park

___ Niagara-on-the -Lake tour

Return survey to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603

Or Fax:
828-256-6559

Phone: 828-256-6008 or
DINAMLR@aol.com for questions.

The picture at the left shows Commander Karl Kole in Hawaii placing a wreath at the USS ARIZONA Memorial Park at Pearl Harbor. The ribbon inscription reads, "In Honor of our Fallen Brothers, USS PURDY DD734."