

# THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 12, Issue 3

December 2002

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



### Special Points of Interest

- *Larry DiPasquale has some very important news for you in his message. Be sure to look closely at your mailing label of this newsletter!*
- *Page three contains the names of over sixty newly located shipmates. There has to be one you remember!*
- *MAIL CALL begins on page three and has some great letters about important incidents in the Purdy's history. Check them out and see if you remember any of them.*
- *You'll enjoy the "Navy Hot-Rod Race" on page six.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again all you Purdy-men and ladies. By now, I know you received your Mobile Reunion registration package, and I know some are questioning the reason for only one day of touring instead of the usual two. I will explain. After the last few reunions, several of you suggested that we have an open day Saturday instead of the hectic full day of a tour until 2 or 3 PM, then the business meeting at 4, and then our banquet at 6. I decided to talk to Larry at ML&RS to see if there was some way to solve this problem, and he told me that quite a few of the other reunion groups he

works for also didn't care for the full schedules, and were cutting down to one day of touring. I then decided that we should try the new agenda with one day of tours at the Mobile Reunion. So, if you aren't happy with this package, don't blame ML&RS. It was my decision and I will be happy to discuss this at our business meeting. My feelings are that we will have a much more relaxed Saturday. With the 9 AM business meeting out of the way by 10 or 10:30 AM, we will have most of the day left to explore on our own, then return to the hotel in time to get ready for the banquet. But, for you la-

dies who want to tour on Saturday, a really nice Ladies Only tour is available. I'm not sure how long this tour lasts, but I know you will be back in plenty of time to prepare for the banquet. To be honest, I like this agenda, and know that Mobile will be a great reunion. Sure hope you agree, and are planning to attend.

Vice Prez Bill Dow will have 3" embroidered ship's patches and Purdy license-plate frames for sale at the reunion. If you can't wait until then, or if you can't attend the reunion, you can order some of these "HOT" items by calling Bill at 860-225-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

5991, or you can write him at: 1246 Corbin Ave, New Britain, CT 06053. Bill tells me that he is looking into embroidered Purdy ball-caps. If he can get a sample of the ball-cap in time for the reunion, he will take orders from those who want them. We sell these items at slightly over our cost, and the profits are used to support our dues to help defray the cost of our Purdy Report.

Lastly, the unpleasant but necessary subject of dues. In the last Purdy Report I said that I would have Sec/Treas. Jim Meechan purge our mailing list of all members who have not paid dues as of Oct. 31, 2002. The figures he gave me are very disappointing. Out of over 900 names on the mailing list, only slightly over 300 have paid dues during the last two years. This Purdy Report costs us over \$400.00 each quarter for publishing, printing, copying and postage. That adds up to almost \$1,700.00 yearly. The math is not in our favor if only 300 members are paying \$5.00 a year dues, therefore, we can't continue sending this newsletter to non-paying members. If your mailing label has a "YES" marked on it, that indicates that you have paid dues during the last two years. If there is **no** "YES" on your mailing label, **this will be the last Purdy Report you will receive** unless you send in your dues immediately and have your name reinstated on our mailing list. You can pay **your annual dues of \$5.00**, or you can pay in advance for as many years as you like by sending a check made out to "Purdy Association" to Sec/Treas. James Meechan, 145 Laura Dr, Gahanna, OH 43230. Jim will then reinstate your name on our mailing list, and send you a membership card which will indicate the year or years you paid dues for. If you have paid your dues in the last two years, and your mailing label is not marked with a "YES", write Jim or call him at 614-475-6748, and he will gladly make any corrections.

I'm truly sorry to need to take such stern measures, but without dues we can't afford this Purdy Report, and without this Purdy Report, our Reunions will be history.

Hope to see many of you folks at our 13th Annual Reunion in Mobile. I hope all of you had a real nice Thanksgiving, and I want to wish all of you a truly happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

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: [mplummer@att.net](mailto:mplummer@att.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.

## NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

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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.

## USS PURDY REUNION

**MARCH 27-30, 2003**  
**MOBILE, AL**

**ADAM'S MARK HOTEL**

## 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. Due to the large number of new names, space will not allow us to print the addresses, but if you recognize an old buddy and would like to have his address, just let us know and we will send it to you. (We do not have complete addresses for all of these names. If your name is listed and you know we do not have your address, please send it to ML&RS at our address on page two. )

*Curtis Henson (1944-46) GM2/c*  
*Dan Anderson (1966-69) MM2*  
*Jim Baysinger (1969-72) QM2*  
*Thomas Borio (1964-67) MM3*  
*Dave Buchanan (1965-68) BT3*  
*Richard Buggs (1952-55) GM3*  
*Robert Callahan (1969) SN*  
*Thomas Chambers (1970-72) MR3*  
*Robert DeMott (1951-52) MM3*  
*Jack Deschamps (1969-70) GM3*  
*Charles Donohue, Sr (1967) SN*  
*James Egan (1950-54) TESN*  
*Keith Elsbernd (1972-73) E2*  
*Richard Fargo (1971-73) YN3*  
*Nicolas Figueroa-Gonzalez (1956-59) MM3*  
*Kenneth Franklin (1961-63) FT2*  
*Richard Fravel (1969-72) LT*  
*Dawayne Fredrickson (1953-54) GMS*  
*Gary Galati (1971-73) MM3*  
*William Gazdik, Jr. (1967-68) MM3*  
*Charles Goza (1971-73) FN*  
*James Hadfield (1961-64) RM1*  
*Alfred Holdsworth (1944-46) GM3*  
*Wilson Holes (1958-59) SN*  
*James Humphrey (1944-46) SK2*  
*James Jackson (1962-64) LTJG*  
*Raymond Johnson (1954-57) MM1*  
*Keith Elsbernd (1972-73) E2*  
*Charles Landfried (1970-72) RD3*  
*Bart Lawless (1963-66) FTG2*  
*Paul Lecours (1960-62) EN3*  
*David Maynard (1973) CS3*  
*Jim "Mac" McCarthy (1966-70) SH2*

*Wallace "Wally" Myers (1961-63) E4*  
*Patrick Nelis (1959-61) LTJG*  
*Ron "Fig" Newton (1963-64) MMFN*  
*Joseph Pellerin (1951-54) TM2*  
*Fred Perry (1945-46) SN2*  
*Howard Platt (1946-47) Ensign*  
*John Powers (1950-51) SN*  
*William Pratt (1960-62) SN*  
*Gary Pray (1967-69) MM1*  
*Arnold Pritt (1961-64) MM2*  
*Michael Quintel (1948-51) MM3*  
*Donald Sharpe (1952-56) SN*  
*Timothy Steele (1971-73) MM3*  
*George Steggall (1969-72) QM3*  
*Gale Stombaugh (1964-65) QM3*  
*Robert Strauss (1948-51) ME3*  
*Richard Svitak (1956-58) ETNSN*  
*Max Timms (1969-71) RD3*  
*Kenneth Trauschke SOSN*  
*Jim Walker (1957) EN1*  
*Larry Walton (1965-66) MM2*  
*Robert Whipple (1944-45) CETM*  
*Thomas Wilson (1966-68) MM3*  
*Donald Zanetti (1963-67) MM2*  
*Horst Anderson (1956-59) ET3*  
*John Carlson (1958-60) SHB*  
*Clarence Hawkins (1969-71) BNSN*  
*Carl Sansome (1959-62) EMSN*

## 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.

*William Stuart (1948-49) O Div*  
*Died Sept. 24, 2002*

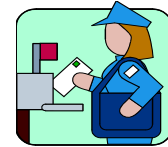
*Donald Nash (1951-55) ICFN, IC2*  
*Died Oct. 7, 2001*

*William Chase*  
*Died Aug. 3, 2002*

*Robert Partin (1950-53) BT3*  
*Died December 4, 2002*

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.

## MAIL CALL



Shipmates,

We were informed of the death of William Stuart, USS Purdy 1948-49 SN O Div, who started the Purdy reunions. The following is his obituary:

### William P. Stuart

**Loudon**—William Paulding Stuart, 75, died Sept. 24, 2002, at Concord Hospital.

He was born in Plymouth, Mass., the son of Frank E. and Grace (Cobbett) Stuart.

He was a compositor for Rumford Press for 27 years and then for the Manchester Union Leader. After his retirement he worked at Banks Chevrolet.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served on the USS Tarawa and the USS Purdy.

He was a member of the USS Tarawa Veterans Association and the USS Purdy Veterans Association. He was a lifetime member of American Legion Post 88 in Loudon.

Family members include his companion, Marion Stuart of Loudon; a nephew, Bradley L. Stuart of Loudon; and a niece, Susan Caudella of Dracut, Mass.

Dina,

In the September Purdy Report there was a letter from Kim Gassett Schiller regarding her father. Harold and I were from the same home town and served together on the Purdy. We spent considerable time both on and off the ship while in the service. After the service we saw each other regularly before Kim was born. Would you give Kim my address so she might contact me with any questions I might have about her father.

(Continued on page 4)

*(Continued from page 3)*

George Mitchell, Jr.  
13504 CR 109B-1  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
hmitchjr@cs.com

*Editor's note: We do not have Kim's address to forward this message to her, so here's hoping she reads this and will get in touch with Mr. Mitchell.*

Chief DiPasquale,

I read in the Nov-Dec issue of the DAV magazine of your reunion of the USS Purdy. I remember her as a new, classy ship with two 5 inch guns in her turrets. She was tied up along side our ship, USS Egeria, a converted LST with an "A" frame on her side. Some of our repair crew worked on your ship after she had been in action. (La Vecchiaia, an old Italian expression which means 'old age' prevents me from recalling if all this took place in the Marianas, the Philippines or Okinawa.)

My only purpose in writing you is to express my best wishes for a large and pleasant reunion with your shipmates, to say GOD BLESS all of you and may you have many more reunions.

Joseph V. Colello, M2/c  
Life member DAV

*The following is a reply to Rob Reilly's request for information in the Sept. issue of the Purdy Report.*

Mr. Reilly:

My name is Carl B. Kole, CDR, USN (retired). I think I can give you a little information about those great Marine pilots who were flying CAPs during those hectic days at Okinawa. I was the officer of the deck when we were acting as back up for the USS Cassin Young on Radar Picket Station #1. I was on the USS Purdy (DD-734) when we went into action shooting at the KKs who were filling the sky. Very early in the battle, the Cassin

Young was hit by a KK. She left the area and high-tailed it back to Kerama Retta where repair facilities were available. Purdy fought KKs for close to 2 hours and in that period of time, our CAP was chasing and downing the KKs, diving through the flak that we were sending up. In the middle of the battle, one of the 4 plane CAPs was hit by our flak and was downed. Purdy proceeded to the spot of downing and rescued the pilot. A short time later, the last KK in the area made a run at Purdy. We splashed the plane but it hit the water and then bounced up and struck Purdy on the starboard. It was carrying a large projectile fixed to its undercarriage. The projectile penetrated Purdy's starboard side and it exploded as it exited the port side. The point of impact was about ten or fifteen feet aft of the point where the skipper and I were standing and it was about ten feet above the waterline. We lost about 20 men and one officer. In terms of the number of KKs shot down, I believe over 20 splashed, Purdy was credited with 6 positive kills. I have told this story many times. I remember the date vividly because it happened on April 12—the day FDR died and I shall always remember the guts of our CAP in their determination of getting those KKs regardless of the possible consequences. This was my first combat experience, an ex-Chief yeoman who was wearing Lt(jg) stripes. I retained my commission at the end of the war and retired as a CDR in 1964. I hope this will give you a little insight into the events of the Okinawa campaign. If I can be of further service, just give me a call. At age 85, I might forget a few things now and then, but April 12 is one date I will never forget. I can be reached at oldkingkole@aol.com. Mailing address: 32200 SW French Prairie Rd, Apt B-104, Wilsonville, OR 97070.

Carl B. Kole, Sr  
oldkingkole@aol.com

Howdy,

I got your address from DAV Mag. When you go to your reunion, if you

know or hear of anyone who collects WWII Match covers from that era's ships, (I have about 60 different), will you please give them my e-mail address? I do not have your ship, but I have carriers, cruisers, DD's and DE's, plus several others. Also a few Pre-war!! I am now an old retired Submarine Sailor—bought and collected for 25 years—now age and health shut me down, so I'm selling them. I also have several Postal Covers of submarines, being launched, commissioned or keel laid.

C.J. Garrett  
45 Harvard Terrace  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Thanks a lot,  
TEX

ML&RS,

On April 12, 1945, we were hit by an enemy plane. As the USS Purdy DD-734 was leaving the crippled ship harbor with a convoy of damaged ships. I was on the starboard side.

That night the USS Comfort Hospital Ship, which was lit up like a great city with a Red Cross in large letters on the side, was hit by an enemy plane. It hit in the medical area and several doctors and other medical workers were killed.

The Commander, who was aboard our ship, received a call from the Comfort asking what to do. His answer was, "It is against all international rules for a hospital ship to 'Black out'." But he said, "I will resend that order. Secure the ship and turn off all lights." I saw it when the lights went off.

Another hospital ship was hit that night also. It was hit in the surgery room. Doctors, nurses, and many other personnel were killed.

The Purdy left the convoy of crippled ships and came to the United States alone.

May God bless all,  
George T. Tindall

P.S. If there are anyone out there

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*(Continued from page 4)*

that was involved in this, I would love to hear from you. Phone: 352-245-6410

On April 6, 1945, I was one of the four men that fought the fire on the ship Mullany. I do not remember the other three sailors' names, but we worked together and put the fire out. Bodies of sailors were scattered on the main deck of the ship. Others sitting in the gun mounts were charred like charcoal. We picked out of the waters, some alive, others dead.

If there is anyone out there that remembers that day, I would like to hear from them.

May God bless,  
George T. Tindall

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On April 16, 1945, our ship the USS Purdy DD-734, was hit by an enemy plane. One other sailor went down into the I.C. Room and picked up the mates that were killed, wrapped them in canvas and sent them up to the main deck. We had to leave two men down there as one was on a pile of hot metal and the other behind a computer.

We went down the next morning and with the help of other mates, we moved them to the main deck.

If anyone remembers that day, I would like to hear from them.

May God bless,  
George T. Tindall

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*The following are the copies of the letters Mr. Tindall received for his assistance in the above events.*

**THE SECRETARY OF NAVY  
WASHINGTON**

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

**GEORGE THURMAN TINDALL  
SHIPLIFTER THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For meritorious achievement as a Crew Member on board the USS PURDY, during the amphibious assault on Okinawa Shima, April 6, 1945. After the USS MULLANY had been struck and set ablaze by a Japanese suicide plane and her crew had been forced to abandon ship, TINDALL rendered valuable assistance in fighting the fires when his ship went alongside the stricken vessel and, despite the threat of further enemy suicide attacks and the danger of explosions, contributed materially toward saving a valuable combatant ship. His courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

TINDALL is authorized to wear the Combat "V."

For the President,  
James Forrsetal  
Secretary of the Navy

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**NAVY DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
WASHINGTON, DC**

**11 DEC 1946**

To: Mr. George Thurman Tindall, Ex-SF3, USNR

Subject: Navy Unit Commendation awarded to USS Purdy (DD-734)

1. The Secretary of the Navy has awarded the Navy Unit Commendation to the USS Purdy for outstanding heroism in action as a Support Destroyer on Radar Picket Station Number One during an attack by enemy Japanese aerial forces, fifty miles northwest of the Okinawa Transport Area, 12 April 1945.
2. By virtue of your service in the PURDY on 12 April 1945, you are hereby authorized to wear as part of your uniform a Navy Unit Commendation ribbon, one of which is transmitted herewith.
3. This authorization has been made a part of your official record

in the Bureau of Naval Personnel

By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel:

Joe H. Floyd  
Assistant to Director,  
Medals and Awards

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**FLAGSHIP OF THE COMMANDER  
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET**

In the name of the President of the United States and by direction of the Secretary of the Navy and the Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, the Commander Amphibious Forces, United States Pacific Fleet, take pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

**GEORGE THURMAN TINDALL,  
SEAMAN FIRST CLASS,  
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE**

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement as a member of the crew of the United States destroyer on April 6, 1945, during the amphibious assault against Okinawa Shima. When a nearby friendly warship was struck by an enemy suicide plane, causing severe damage and raging fires, he bravely and skillfully assisted in fighting fires although in grave personal danger from explosions and flames. Through his conspicuous and excellent performance of duty, he was of invaluable aid in extinguishing the blaze and contributed materially to the saving of a valuable fighting ship. His conduct throughout distinguished him among those performing duties of the same character."

R.K. Turner  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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Dear Sir:

I am sending two poems that I picked up in the I.C. room. Not

knowing who they belonged to, I kept them. Note the oil on one of them.

George T. Tindall

Dear.....

*I think about you often,  
And I'd write you every day,  
But there seems so very little  
That seems worthwhile to say,  
It either rains or it doesn't rain—  
It's either hot or cold.  
The news is all uninteresting  
Or else it's all been told.  
The only thing that matters  
Is the fact that you are there  
And I am here without you,  
And it's lonesome everywhere.  
I think about the way you smile  
And I recall your touch  
And distance lends enchantment  
And..... I miss you very much.*

*Heavenly Father up above  
Please protect the man I love  
Keep him always safe and sound  
No matter with whom or where he's found.  
Help him to know, help him to see  
That I love him and I hope he loves me  
And then, Dear Lord, help me to be  
The girl that he would expect me to be.*

*I CAN'T, HE CAN!*

*I cannot go, my boy, with you.  
I must leave you in God's hand.  
I cannot go, my boy, with you,  
I can't—He can!*

*I cannot shield you, son of mine,  
From war that's planned by man,  
I cannot shield you, precious one,  
I can't—He can!*

*I cannot hold your hand in mine  
In air, on sea, and land.  
I cannot hold your hand my son,  
I can't—He can!*

*I cannot dry the tear that falls,  
That's shed by bravest man,  
I cannot dry the tear, my boy,  
I can't—He can!*

*I cannot fill that aching void,  
Caused by the war we did not plan,  
I cannot fill the hours,  
I can't—He can!*

*I cannot lift you, son of mine,  
With strong and mighty hand,  
I cannot lift above it all,  
I can't—He can!*

*I cannot give you courage dear,  
To do your duty grand,  
I cannot give you courage, son,  
I can't—He can!*

*I cannot go, I can but stay, I can but give,  
I can but pray. So trusting Him, I stand,  
I cannot go, my boy, with you.  
I can't—He can!*

By Bonnie A. McRee

This next poem was submitted by Larry DiPasquale.

#### NAVY HOT-ROD RACE

*Now me and my buddy "Swabby Joe,"  
Took off in a "Can" from Sasebo,  
The chow was poor, the fuel was low,  
But that dern can could really go.*

*Along about the middle of the night,  
We were steaming along as a "Tin Can" might,  
When a cruiser behind us blinked his lights,  
Blew his whistle and pulled to the right.*

*We had twin screws on this old "Can"  
Which makes you think we're in a jam,  
But you swabs that don't dig this jive,  
That's four boilers and an overdrive.*

*Now we're "Tin Can" men and likely knew,  
We'd race all night until something blew,  
The stern was down from the churn of the screws,  
And through the waves we flew and flew.*

*The Exec was pale and said he was sick,  
But to "Tin Can" men he was just a hick,  
So why should we worry what the heck,  
That cruiser and us stayed neck and neck.*

*Over the ocean we did glide,  
Flying with throttle open wide,  
Our Skipper screamed and crew they cried,  
But that cruiser and us stayed side by side.*

*We looked over the fantail for something was coming,  
And thought it was a jet to hear it hummin'.  
It was moving along at a heck of a pace,  
And we knew right then it was the end of the race.*

*As it streaked past, we looked away,  
And the cruiser's crew had nothing to say,  
For there going by was a reserve J.G.,  
Pushing a hopped up LST.*