

THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 15, Issue 2

September 2005

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



DATES FOR REUNION ANNOUNCED

**USS PURDY
2006 REUNION**

APRIL 19-23

**NASHVILLE,
TN**

**NASHVILLE
HOLIDAY INN**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again Purdy guys and girls. Hope all of you had a real nice summer, and hope you were someplace where it wasn't as hot and humid as it was here in northeast PA. Needless to say that due to the extreme heat and humidity, Karen and I didn't get too much motorcycling in this summer. Hopefully we will have some good riding weather in Sept, Oct and Nov, before Ol Man Winter forces me to set my baby up on blocks for a few months (my motorcycle, not Karen).

By now, all of you should know that our next reunion will be in Nashville, TN, April 19-23,

2006. Hope all of you took the time to complete the survey from the June Purdy Report and returned it to ML&RS. Personally, I'm not too thrilled that attending the Grand Ole Opry will interfere with our Saturday evening banquet, but if a majority of you don't mind, then I guess we go to Opryland. Nashville will be a great place for our next reunion, so I hope many of you are planning to attend. If you have never been to one of our reunions, plan to join us in 06 and meet some shipmates you probably haven't seen in many years. I promise that you will have a great time,

and that you will never want to miss another reunion.

In the June Purdy Report, I thanked Bill Dow and Jim Meechan for all their help as our association's VP and Sec/Treas during the past year. I also thanked Fred Harrington for his assistance and for staying on as our association Chaplain, but somehow in the editing the thank you to Fred got deleted. So again, I'll say thanks to Fred. While speaking to Fred, I want to thank him for the comment he made in his column in the last Purdy Report that said, "I looked as good as I could in the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

old Navy uniform." Fred and I will discuss that at the next reunion!!

Sec/Treas Jim Meechan is still accepting our \$5.00 annual dues. If you haven't paid yet, and you want to continue receiving this Purdy Report to be kept up on happenings in our association and news about reunions, send Jim dues as soon as possible. Make your check payable to "Purdy Association," and send it to him at: 145 Laura Dr, Gahanna, OH 43230.

Don't forget about those neat Purdy jackets, sweatshirts, T-shirts, ball caps and ship's patches that VP Bill Dow has for sale. For prices and information, write him at: 11 Riverside Dr, Southington, CT 06489, or call him at 860-841-4213 or e-mail him at:

bdowusspurdy@wmconnect.com

Since the next Purdy Report won't come out until December, I'll wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving now, and hope to see you at the reunion next year in Nashville.

Sincerely,
Larry DiPasquale
President, Purdy Association

THANK YOU TO CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to the funding of the Purdy Report:

Robert Espeseth
Ivan Schmer

You can make your contribution by sending your check to the Association Treasurer, Jim Meechan, 145 Laura Dr, Gahanna, OH 43230.

NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Cost of this issue is **\$328.88**. This Purdy Report is being sent to dues paying members only.

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: **mplummer1@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.



WELCOME MAT

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

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 research 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.

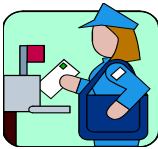


TAPS

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

**Warren Jesso
Died July 10, 2005**

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

Purdy Report,

In an incident that occurred some time in 1970, I almost drowned while on guard duty aboard the USS Purdy DD-734. WE HIT A SEVERE STORM. This incident occurred during the morning. I had the 0400-0800 watch on the fan tail (stern of the ship).

This duty was after Lookout Watch on the main deck. The boat was so unsteady that I was unable to stand and therefore remained on my stomach (while on duty). By the Grace of God I was able to grab and hold on to a pole for dear life throughout this ordeal. For approximately 30 minutes as the boat rocked and rolled, I remained in and out of the water, not knowing how much sea water I had drunk. At some point I could hear the ship going into General Quarters and sounding "Man-Over-Board." When

the storm ceased, there were 4 or 5 shipmates standing in the passageway at the back of the ship calling my name over and over. It appeared that they were afraid to come out to help me as I continued to throw-up sea water. When everything appeared somewhat calm, I was able to stumble and get up to my feet. As I continued to stumble (and throw up), I worked my way to a secured area (the Stern Passageway) and proceeded to the Bridge.

This was the most horrible feeling that I have ever encountered, and at that moment I saw death. This ordeal still haunts me to this day and will always haunt me. The officer of the Deck relieved me of my duties at approximately 0530 and returned me to my quarters (rack). Please understand that there was no weather reports prior to and during my watch before this happened because the Radar Man was asleep.

Clarence Hawkins

Dear Sirs,

I was reading the letter from Olcovich and thought I would add something to it. I was in the same engine room as he was when we were attacked on the picket line at Okinawa. I was in the lower level (Fwd. eng. Rm.). The messenger would call down the voice tube whenever we would shoot down a kamikaze. Then we took a hit off the starboard side. Black smoke poured down the air shaft, and you could hardly see anything till it cleared up. The fireroom was hit pretty badly, so we lost our steam pressure.

The feedpumps started to really scream as they were low on water. So Jones and I each took a pump and had to shut them down, as they wouldn't stop screaming because they weren't getting any water.

I was standing by a plastic valve when we were hit. A piece of shrapnel came through the bulkhead and hit the valve I was standing by. I picked it up and put it in my pocket. I still have it after all these years.

Olcovich and I cross connected to

the after fire room. We got the vacuum up on the main engine.

I spent six years in the Navy, but that was the closest I came to being wounded.

Sincerely,
John Nordquist
jnordquist@lighthouse.net

Larry & Karen DiPasquale,

Please be advised that the USS Purdy Canvas Photo Reproduction is now available for your many crew members. Our initial supplier has gone down the tubes and we are now processing the canvasses locally, cutting out a tremendous amount of fat and one fat cat middleman. The 11" X 14" now lists for \$34.95 and the 16" x 20" lists for \$49.95. This includes shipping and handling, a price that all hands can now afford. (Old prices were \$59.95 and \$69.95.)

Here is what I'm asking you to do.

Go to our website:

www.kilroyscloset.com

and scroll down on the left column to Reunion List. Click on there and you will see a list of ships. Click on the USS Purdy to view the ship and prices. Your shipmates can order right on line with their credit card. Please reassure everyone that this is a secure and safe site as we use Paypal. Paypal does all of the money transactions and we are not privy to the credit card number.

Second, post the good news and instructions, as noted above, in your next Purdy Report. Your 900+ shipmates will be delighted that you have passed the scuttlebutt on to them and many will order the canvas photo reproductions for themselves, their children, grandchildren and (yes, I now have one), great grandchildren.

Thanks,
Dick Alsop
Kilroy's Closet

RISING REUNION COSTS

Larry H Eckard, President, ML & RS, Inc

Anyone paying attention to the reunion costs have seen a sharp rise in past two years, and you're probably concerned about them. We are just as concerned as you are because it does no good to plan a wonderful reunion and price it so high that people can't afford to attend.

First let me make it very clear that we (ML&RS, Inc) have not increased our fees. The rising costs are 100% due to the increased cost of hotels, food & beverage, tours, entertainment, etc. We cannot control those costs, but we still get the best possible rates –better than you can get for your self – and pass them on to you.

Although prices have increased all across the country, some areas are still more expensive than others. Our on site representative has a ton of information about potential reunion sites so take advantage of it; let our representative answer questions about locations in your meeting when it's time to discuss reunion sites.

Also, in every hospitality room you will find a blue three-ring binder notebook full of information about potential reunion sites. The book gives you suggestions for tours and/or activities, information about at least one hotel, an itinerary and cost sheet from a recent reunion if one has been held in that city. Look over that book.

Here is some other information that you may find helpful. Option A (arriving on Thursday and departing on Sunday) for a couple is used as the standard for the prices that are cited below. There are of course some exceptions to the prices, depending upon the time of year and the other activities going on in the city at the same time.

- **In any of the following cities (and this is not a complete list) you can expect to pay a minimum of \$740.00 and as much as \$800.00:** Baltimore/Washington, DC; Charleston,

SC; Savannah, GA; Boston, MA; Newport, RI; Charleston, SC; San Antonio, TX; San Francisco or San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Dallas, TX; Nashville, TN; Minneapolis/St Paul.

If you choose a city like one of these, you're going to pay top dollar, expect it and don't be surprised when it happens. Room rates are going to be near \$100.00 plus tax.

- **In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$665.00 upward to \$725.00:** Myrtle Beach, SC; Norfolk, VA; St Louis, Mo, Tucson, AZ; Albuquerque, NM; Colorado Springs, CO; Milwaukee, WI; Harrisburg/Lancaster, PA; New Orleans, LA; Pensacola, FL; Reno, NV; Branson, MO; Columbus OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Omaha, NE; Cincinnati, OH/Northern KY; Buffalo, NY; Corpus Christi, TX.

Room rates will range between \$75.00-90.00 plus tax.

- **In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$625.00 upward to \$675.00:** Biloxi, MS; Asheville, NC; Fargo, ND.

Room rates will probably be below \$75.00 plus tax.

- **For the past several years, Jacksonville, FL is the least expensive reunion city in the country with room rates in the \$60's and total package around \$600.00.** If you haven't been there and cost is a concern, you should give Jacksonville strong consideration.

In any city no downtown hotels ever have complimentary airport shuttle service, and many have daily parking fees of \$12.00 and more. Hotels nearer the airport usually do not have parking fees

and generally have complimentary airport shuttle service.

Here are some other points you may wish to consider. There are hundreds of military reunions held every year. The vast majority are held in April and May or September or October. *They don't have to be!* Passover, Palm Sunday, and Easter usually (but not always) fall in April; Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekends are in May. So with these holidays, the reunions are crammed into the remaining available weeks – and do you think for an instant that hotels don't know this and price accordingly? Labor Day weekend, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are in September or October and it's the same thing. You can move your reunion forward to mid-late March (depending upon the location) and you'll get a better deal; the same with early November. Also, some groups ask for specific dates, without ever knowing what else is going on at the same time in your city of choice. We can help you best when there is a two or three week window to work in.

If you take this information into account when you make the decision on where to hold your next reunion, you won't be nearly as surprised when you see the prices.

ITEM FOUND AT 2005 REUNION

A Gerber, multipurpose knife was found near the registration table at the close of the last reunion in Jacksonville. The knife is in a black nylon case and has a screw driver, pliers, etc. If this is your knife, you can reclaim it by contacting
Roger Whitehead
17196 Santa Lucia St,
Fountain Valley, CA 92708.

Larry DiPasquale

TRIVIA

The elephant is believed to be the only mammal that cannot jump.

KEN SCOTT'S STORY

*A collection of memories written for his grandchildren and shared with us.
Continued from June 2005*

During the last couple of weeks we spent in Korea I was notified I would be separated from the Navy as soon as we got back to the states "for the convenience of the service." When we got back to the United States I had quite a lot of leave time on the books and there was a long wait to get separated from the service, so I decided to take twenty days of leave while I waited. I figured I could come home and get a job lined up instead of staying at the separation center marking time and catching every work detail that came along.

I left the ship while it was in Fall River, caught a bus to Providence and a train from there to home. The train ride was one of those I'll never forget.

Shortly after the train left Providence, I met a middle aged woman in the aisle of the train. "Young man," she said, "why weren't you over in Korea helping those other men?"

I was dumbfounded! I didn't have a clue what was going on! I stuttered and stammered and tried to explain I had just come from Korea, but she kept asking what I was doing there all dressed up in my fancy uniform when other boys were over there fighting and dying. I told her I was there, but the fighting had stopped and the Navy sent me home.

She didn't seem to hear me. "You should be ashamed of yourself," she kept saying.

People around us sat there staring and open mouthed. No one seemed to know what was going on or what to do. I believe I was the most confused person on the train. I tucked tail and quickly moved away. She yelled after me, but didn't follow me, thank goodness. I found a seat a couple of cars away and stayed there until we got to New York.

When the Purdy went into dry dock it was due for several changes. They took all our twenty MM guns

and replaced them with hedgehogs, an anti-submarine depth charge type weapon. Other than that, our armament stayed about the same—updated in some cases, but technically unchanged.

The most notable change that happened on the Purdy wasn't that evident to the outside world. We left the Charleston Shipyard with a soft freeze ice cream machine! We were one of very few destroyers with an ice cream machine. An eight ounce cup of ice cream cost a whole five cents! We were the envy of most destroyers in the Atlantic Fleet.

There are about three hundred men on a destroyer, but with it so small, everyone gets along fairly well. With the cramped living quarters, it would make you think tempers would flair often, but such is not the case, or at least it wasn't while I was aboard the Purdy.

During this time I served on Purdy I had one incident that could have gotten touchy fairly easily, but everything worked out with no problem.

Every morning when we first got up, we were supposed to "sweep and swab all decks and empty all garbage cans." I knew we had to do it so I'd get up, dress and hit the deck with a broom, sweep the forecabin and then make my way to the chow line. Other men then had to swab the decks. That is where my problem came into play. The men that dilly-allied had to swab the decks, day in and day out.

A sailor by the name of Romeo would linger on and on in bed and always ended up driving a swab (mop). He finally got tired of swabbing the deck, so he jumped me one morning.

"You always sweep and I always have to swab," he said. "You could let some of us other guys sweep every once in a while. I'm getting tired of always swabbing."

"Get up and around like I do and

you'd be on the sweeping crew instead of the swabbing crew like you always do," I responded.

There were several other men standing around and they began laughing.

"Yeh," one of the men said. "If you wasn't such a bunk hound you could sweep any time you wanted to. Scottie gets up and around so he usually gets a broom. You always hang on to that bunk so you get what's left. You get exactly what you deserve. Now you shut your tater trap (he was from the South) and get to work!"

Everyone laughed as Romeo turned the air blue cussing but quickly started hunting a swab. He never mentioned swabbing the deck to me after that, but I did notice he didn't change his getting up habits and he always ended up on a swab as long as I was on the Purdy. Habits are hard to break.

To be continued in the December issue.

JOKE CORNER

The old Chief finally retired from the Navy and got that chicken ranch he always wanted. He took with him his lifelong pet parrot. First morning at 0430 the parrot squawked and said, "Off yer hocks and don yer socks." "Reveille, the old chief told the parrot, "we are no longer in the Navy. Go back to sleep." The next morning the parrot did the same thing. The old Chief told the parrot, "Look, if you keep this up, I will put you out in the chicken pen." Again the parrot did it, and true to his word, the Chief put the parrot in the chicken pen. About 0630 the Chief was awakened by one heck of a ruckus in the chicken pen. He went out to see what was the matter. The parrot had about 40 white chickens in formation and on the ground lay 3 bruised and beaten brown ones. The parrot was saying, "By God, when I say fall out in dress whites, I don't mean Khakis!"

NEW PAGES ADDED TO ML&RS, INC WEBSITE

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc is pleased to announce a few enhancements to our web site. We invite you to take a look at a couple of new pages we have recently added. The page titled Sentimental Journal gives a detailed explanation of the great reunion book we publish after each reunion. (An order form is mailed to everyone on the mailing list a few weeks after the reunion for the SJ and other memorabilia items). There are links to sample pages to give you a better understanding of what is contained in the SJ. Also new is an on-line version of the questionnaire we send out when a new person is added to the mailing list. Many of you have never filled out this form and submitted your photos for the **Sentimental Journal!** Here is a great way to remedy this!!! You can access this form from the page titled Reunions (link is on the left side of our home page). Please take a few minutes and check out our updated web page, and please, if you haven't already, fill out and submit the questionnaire! Your buddies would love to know what happened to you since you left the Purdy.

CHECK US OUT AT WWW.MLR SIN C.COM
(please note, spaces and caps for clarity!!!)

Dina Coffey
Office Manager, ML&RS, Inc.

SCENES FROM 2005 JACKSONVILLE REUNION



Audrey Crawshaw, Gerry LeBrun, Ed Crawshaw, Lenny Baldwin



Audrey & Ed Crawshaw



Bob Fuller & Gerry LeBrun



Ed & Audrey Crawshaw, Jerry LeBrun in St. Augustine, FL

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY BOB FULLER