

The FLAGSHIP

Volume 10 Issue 2

May 2002

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS ROWE & USS WATTS



Special Points of Interest

- *Maybe you remember the three "Ghosts" off the Aleutians. See if our cover story brings back memories.*
- *Page two has the WELCOME MAT with seven newly found shipmates. Why don't you get in touch with one of them!*
- *Do you remember how much pay you received when you served our country? How about the present day salary as compared to then? See MAIL CALL on page three for some surprising answers.*
- *If you served under Commander Shinner, you will be interested in the story on page three.*
- *A reprint of the Pensacola Greyhound Race-track is on page four.*

A TALE OF THREE GHOSTS

Editor's note: In the last issue there was a letter from Don Bowman in which he mentioned the old gray ghosts of the Aleutian coast. After contacting Mr. Bowman, he was good enough to share with us what he remembers about the ghosts. See if you remember this:

By Don Bowman

I'm not sure about the origins of the name, I may have heard it first on the bridge of Watts. I served as a helmsman, spent many hours at the wheel and heard many stories, some of which could be believed. Be that as it may, the Ghosts were

three old World War I type light cruisers, too old and slow to operate with the fleet, but very well suited for the task at hand, which was shore bombardment.

About every other foggy Friday, we would sneak out of our base on Adak Island in the Aleutians, sail on course generally west-south west to the Krimle Islands and shoot up the Japanese fish canneries and various other targets on the beach.

Watching the old cruisers cutting through the mists and fog, in and out of gun flashes and smoke—what else could they be but GHOSTS! It was quite a show. After the gunfire, with the targets burning nice and bright, we would withdraw to our base in the

Aleutians.

I wish I could remember the names of all the "Ghosts." I'm sure one was CONCORD, another might have been RALEIGH. I have no clue concerning the name of the third.

After almost 60 years, one's memory is rather disappointing. As well as I know, we never had any casualties from enemy action, but the storms we encountered were something else and another story.

The screening force was usually made up of five destroyers. ROWE, WATTS, and STODDARD, and two others whose names are stuck in that blank, empty space of my mind. Sorry!

I hope you are able to put together a story from

this, maybe someone else out there can fill in the blanks.

Sincerely,
Don G. Bowman
TMCM USN (Ret)

Editor's note: If anyone else remembers anything about the "Ghosts", please let us hear from you.



WELCOME MAT

The following shipmates have been located since the last issue of the newsletter. Welcome aboard. If we missed anyone, please accept our apology. Let us know and you'll be in listed in the next issue.

Kenneth Grannis USS Rowe
(1954-56) BT3/BT2 Div B
RR 1 Box 104
Rome, PA 18837-9726
570-247-7884

Ted Mullett USS Rowe (1952-56)
3624 Baring St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-222-2144
tneonew11@aol.com

Allan Fleischer USS ROWE
(1952-55) LTjg Electronics Off
30 Binnacle Hill
Oakland, CA 94618
510-841-6789
asqf@msn.com

Ronald Saxon USS ROWE
(1958-59) RD 3/c
3225 York Dr
Augusta, GA 30909
706-495-0258

Laurence Edwards USS ROWE
(1956-57)
5025 Kessler Rd NW

Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Ross Smith USS ROWE
(1953) SN 1st Div
114 Easterly Dr
Mechanicsville, PA 17050
717-795-7239
hbg629@msn.com

Charles Bollinger USS ROWE (1959)
2919 West Grover St
Seattle, WA 98199-2750
206-283-0132
chuckd@eskimo.com

NEW E-MAIL

James Haldaman (USS Watts)
Tcnorthwoods@chatermi.net

USS ROWE/WATTS 2002 REUNION SEPTEMBER 19-22 RENO, NV HOLIDAY INN & DIAMONDS CASINO

*Registration information will be sent out
in June.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 02/02 **Minus \$43.60**

Funds received since 02/02 issue
\$818.60

Funds available for 05/02 issue
\$775.00

Funds Expended for 05/02 issue
\$305.76

Ending Balance \$469.24

Thank you for your generous contributions to the newsletter fund since the last issue. Your generosity has made this publication and others possible. Please mail contributions to ML&RS, Inc. at our address at the right and say it is for the Rowe/Watts newsletter.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Flagship is the official publication of the USS ROWE and USS WATTS Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in February, May, August and November, *subject to receiving sufficient funding.* The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the ROWE/WATTS. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter 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.

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

MILITARY LOCATOR & REUNION SERVICE, INC

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Our reunions work so you don't have to.



TAPS

The *Flagship* learned of the following shipmate's death since the last publication. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the , family, and friends of the deceased. If we missed anyone, please let us know and we will publish it in the next issue.

*Edward B. Majoros
(USS Watts)
Died November 15, 2000*



MAIL CALL

USS ROWE & WATTS,

Ruth and myself have been invited to attend a familiar trip to Colorado Springs to check out the area and facilities for a possible future site for our reunion. The dates are August 24-28, and we have agreed to attend. We will be home from there only about three weeks before our reunion trip to Reno. Will let you know what we learned at that time.

Bob Wood

Dear Dina,

Just saw in Navy Time the projected 2003 pay scale. I noticed that an E1 going into the Navy today makes more than I did for a whole year during the Korean War.

Also enclosed you will find copies of my W2 statements for the years 1952, 1953 & 1954 from the USS ROWE DD-564. In 1952 I made a whopping \$1,104.63. An E2 going in today gets \$1,150.80 a

month, which is \$46.17 more than the \$1104.63 I made for the whole year in 1952.

Your friend,
Carl L. Cramer
2 E Main St
PO Box 98
Newburg, PA 17240-0098
717-423-6425
thecramers@pa.net

Dina,

My wife and I were on a trip to Ireland. We left on March 27, 2002, and I took my cap along, but packed it in my carry-on because of the overnight flight from JFK to Shannon. After we arrived and went on our first tour that afternoon, I wore my USS ROWE DD-564 cap. At one of our first and/or second tour stops, Ross J. Smith came up to me and said, "I was on that ship for four months in 1953."

Before we returned home on April 3, 2002, I had obtained his information to send to you to add this USS ROWE DD-564 Shipmate to our roster and/or mailing list. Ross J. Smith lives about 35 miles from my home. We both reside in Cumberland County, PA, and we both belong to the same Consistory in Harrisburg, PA.

Moral of this story: **It pays to wear your USS ROWE DD-564 cap!**

COMMANDER SHINNER

This information was compiled by Paul Siegel, Carl Cramer, and Dick Hale, who have been in contact with Commander Shinner's son and several other shipmates who knew him when they were aboard USS ROWE.

Submitted by Paul Siegel

When I left Navy bootcamp in the early summer of 1952, I had no idea that duty upon a ship was in my future. It should have been obvious, since the school that I was being sent to was a naval radar school. In any case, after completion of the school, I was transferred to the Naval Base in Charleston, SC for duty on the USS ROWE which was being recommis-

sioned.

The ROWE had been in "mothballs" and was being refitted with the latest sonar and radar gear, in addition to a compliment of the latest in boiler room equipment. It seemed that there was no expense being spared, for everything that was being furnished to this effort was state-of-the-art.

During this time I briefly met the officers of the ship, but spent most of my time becoming familiar with my new "home." The captain was Commander John Shinnners, and he had the respect of everyone that was under his command.

Our first sea test was in the fall of 1952, and everything held together. After several cruises to Cuba, we were on our way to Korean duty. Our last night on shore in Japan before leaving for the states, we toasted the cruise to WestPac.

Captain Shinnners bought two standard size French poodle pups when we hit France. During the trip home, the pups stayed in his main stateroom. Fun to watch them sway back and forth on their sea legs when we went through the hurricane. They survived well. Received a family Christmas card that included the then full size poodles a few years later.

I cannot tell you exactly when Commander Shinnners left the Rowe for other assignment.

Captain Shinnners had his law degree before he entered the Navy in WWII. After retiring as a CDR, John Shinnners practiced law in Towson, MD. He and his wife Kay had two girls and a boy. His first wife died in 1976, and he remarried in 1978. Shinnners was 77 when he died.

PEACE SYMBOL

The peace symbol that became popular in the 1960s is the combination of semaphore symbols for "N" and "D"— for nuclear disarmament. The symbol was popularized by British pacifists.

NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the USS ROWE/WATTS reunion will be available soon to download from the Military Locator & Reunion Service Inc web site.

If you are able to visit our web site and download the Newsletter, and therefore do not need a paper copy mailed to you, please let us know.

Please visit our web site at www.mlrsinc.com, then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the USS ROWE/WATTS. Click on the button labeled Newsletters, and in a few minutes the newsletter should appear on your screen. (As a side note - it took about 4 minutes on my computer). This will only work if you have Adobe Reader 4.0 or higher. You can also download this viewer for free from our web site.

If this works for you and you

would like to receive all future mailings from us in this method, please send me an e-mail requesting to subscribe to the ROWE/WATTS E-mail Roster. Each time something new is available, we will send you an e-mail informing you something new is available on the web site. **Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so you don't miss any important information.**

To subscribe to the ROWE/WATTS E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to SubscribeMLRS@aol.com, put the phrase SUBSCRIBE ROWE/WATTS in the Subject line and type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail. You will be placed in the e-mail roster.

Your name and postal mailing address will remain in our computers and will appear on all mailing lists, etc distributed to other members of your group.

If you have any question regarding this, do not hesitate to ask!

Dina Coffey

FROM ANDY ROONEY'S WISDOM I'VE LEARNED THAT...

- the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- when you're in love, it shows.
- just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- being kind is more important than being right.
- you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

Some of you requested a reprint of this photo due to the fact that it was on the other side of the survey which had to be returned to ML&RS. So, there it is!



Selected members of Rowe/Watts 2002 reunion group at the Pensacola Greyhound Racetrack