

# The FLAGSHIP

Volume 9 Issue 4

November 2001

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS ROWE & USS WATTS



### Special Points of Interest

- *If you missed the 2001 reunion, read about it in the story on the cover.*
- *Your coordinator has a few words of wisdom on page two.*
- *If you'd like to see who attended the 2001 reunion in Pensacola, see the attendees listed on page two.*
- *Page three has the Welcome Mat with eight newly found members. Taps remembers four who have passed away.*
- *See if you remember any names from the letters in Mail Call on page four.*
- *You can now get the newsletter from ML&RS's web site. See details on page four.*
- *Please read what Reno has to offer, then fill out the survey on page six and return it to ML&RS.*

## 2001 REUNION IN PENSACOLA RECAP

The 2001 reunion of the USS Rowe and USS Watts was a great time of fellowship and fun for the forty-six shipmates and guests who attended. The reunion was held in Pensacola, FL on September 6-9.

The reunion began on Thursday evening with a Welcome Reception, giving everyone a chance to become acquainted or to renew old friendships.

On Friday was the optional tour of Pensacola and the surrounding area. Then, one of the highlights of the day—off to the racetrack! The Pensacola Greyhound Racetrack ran a special race in

honor of the USS Rowe and USS Watts members. Everyone had a great time and some even won a little money! It was a great hit with all. (See picture on page five.)

On Saturday the tour took the group to the Naval Aviation Museum, where vintage and modern aircraft were on display. This was a very enjoyable visit for all the "old Navy guys."

The Business Meeting was held on Saturday afternoon. Bob Wood was again chosen as reunion coordinator. Reno, NV was the choice for the 2002 reunion and Charleston, SC for 2003.

On Saturday evening came the main event of the reunion—the banquet. Everyone came dressed

ready to have their picture made for the *Sentimental Journal* and for an evening of fine food, fun and fellowship. The Memorial Service was held during the banquet and was a moving reminder of all who had passed away or whose death had been learned of since the last reunion. A bell tolled for all as the names were read aloud. A Remembrance Table was also set up in memory of those who have passed on.

Sunday morning farewells brought some hugs, lots of handshakes and even a few tears. It had been a wonderful reunion, and everyone was now looking forward to next year's reunion in Reno, NV.

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

A big thank you to each and everyone of you that came to our reunion at Pensacola, Florida. We were somewhat short in numbers, with 26 shipmates with a total of 46 in attendance. I know that we all had a good time together. This is the first time in ten years that I can recall not getting any complaints about the hotel, staff or anything.

Ruth and myself were the last to leave Pensacola, which was early on Monday morning. If the attack on America had been a day earlier, we would probably have been stranded in Memphis. It was voted on that we go to Reno next year and Charleston in 2003. We do not want to project too far ahead, but just wait to find out what the Lord will decide for each of us.

A cruise to either Alaska or Hawaii was mentioned, but for some of us, financially and /or physically, out of the question. It could be a trip for anyone wanting to go this route in addition to our regular reunions. We are asking the Reunion Service to keep us notified if and when they are working on any such trips for groups such as ours.

It was great to see some new faces this year as well as you regulars and hope that we will all get together next year. Maybe the Reunion Service will be able to obtain and print a picture in the newsletter that was taken at the dog track. (See page five.)

Bob and Ruth Wood

### MILITARY LOCATOR & REUNION SERVICE, INC

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[www.mlrsinc.com](http://www.mlrsinc.com)  
 Our reunions work so you don't have to.

## 2001 REUNION ATTENDEES

Paul & Margaret Bisson  
 Donald & Dorothy Blanchard  
 Dr. John Bower & Edna Curry  
 Norman, Mary Ann, & Dena Britt  
 Donald & Deanne Canby  
 Van & Jamalyn Cannon  
 Certice & Hazel Corley  
 Carl & Glenda Cramer  
 Joseph & Roberta DeBono  
 David Erb  
 Paul & Mary Kennedy  
 Bob Lechtreck  
 James & Rita Lindler  
 Ted Mullett  
 Otto Piskac, Jr.  
 George & Wilhelmina Reynolds  
 Edmond & Ann (Mildred) St Laurent  
 Clarence & Margie Stegeman  
 Robert & Ruth Wood  
 Lewellyn & Shirley Chartier  
 Roger Frick  
 Charles & Eunice Wahl  
 James Hanks & Karen Gillett  
 Carl & Rose Hermann  
 William & Dolores Mauger  
 Ray Smith

**TOTAL MEMBERS— 26**  
**GUESTS—20**  
**GRAND TOTAL—46**

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### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 08/01 **Minus \$163.19**

Funds received since 08/01 issue  
**\$269.00**

Funds available for 11/01 issue  
**\$105.81**

Funds Expended for 11/01 issue  
**\$277.43**

**Ending Balance Minus \$171.62**

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**There will be NO MORE NEWSLETTERS until sufficient funds are received. Please mail contributions to ML&RS, Inc. at our address at the left 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.

### VETERAN'S DAY

Originally known as Armistice Day and meant to honor those who served in the first World War, in 1954 the holiday was expanded to include veterans of all wars, and its name was changed to Veteran's Day.



## 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.

### USS WATTS

*Richard Brown*  
PO Box 29  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101-0029  
802-463-4364

*James Killian*  
PO Box 237  
Loyalton, CA 96118

*Roger Frick (1964)*  
3702 S 8th  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
253-752-1816

### USS ROWE

*Jim Caudell*  
3516 E 1000 N  
Greenfield, IN 46140

*J. Fred Robinson*  
50 Mountain Cove Rd  
Signal Mountain, TN 37377  
derfred@bellsouth.net

*Edward Wojnar (1951-52)*  
114 McKissick St  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
925-933-9248

*Certice Corley*  
1609 Concord Ave  
Metairie, LA 70003

*Rudolph Hansen*  
2449 Santiago Dr  
Holiday, FL 34690  
813-934-7023



## TAPS

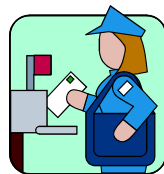
*The Flagship* learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last publication. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the widows, families, and friends of the deceased. If we missed anyone, please let us know and we will publish it in the next issue.

*Gordon Hornung*  
(USS WATTS)  
Died March 27, 2001

*John Sorenson*  
USS WATTS  
Date of death not known

*Robert Hassel*  
USS WATTS  
Died April 24, 2001

*Kenneth Willis*  
USS WATTS  
Date of death not known



## MAIL CALL

This will brighten your day. You may have seen this. A friend of mine who lives near Annapolis sent it to me. This is an extract from an e-mail from a U.S. Navy Ensign to her dad. The message is clear and poignant. It's short; take a moment to read it.

Jim Haldaman

Dear Dad,

We have seen the articles and the photographs, and they are sickening. Being isolated as we are, I don't

think we appreciate the full scope of what is happening back home, but we are definitely feeling the effects.

About two hours ago the junior officers were called to the bridge to conduct Ship Handling drills. We were about to do a man overboard when we got a call from the LUTJENS (D185), a German warship that was moored ahead of us on the pier in Plymouth, England. While in port, our ship and the LUTJENS got together for a sports day/cookout on our fantail, and we made some pretty good friends. Now at sea they called over on bridge-to-bridge, requesting to pass us close up on our port side, to say goodbye. We prepared to render them honors on the bridge-wing, and the Captain told the crew to come topside to wish them farewell.

As they were making their approach, our Conning Officer announced through her binoculars that they were flying an American flag. As they came even closer, we saw that it was flying at half-mast. The bridge-wing was crowded with people as the Boatswain's Mate blew two whistles—Attention to Port—the ship came up alongside and we saw that the entire crew of the German ship were manning the rails, in their dress blues. They had made up a sign that was displayed on the side that read "We Stand By You." Needless to say there was not a dry eye on the bridge as they stayed alongside us for a few minutes and we cut our salutes. It was probably the most powerful thing I have seen in my entire life and more than a few of us fought to retain our composure. It was a beautiful day outside today. We are no longer at liberty to divulge our location, but we could not have asked for a finer day at sea. The German Navy did an incredible thing for this crew, and it has truly been the highest point in the days since the attacks. It's amazing to think that only a half-century ago things were quite different, and to see the unity that is being demonstrated throughout

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Europe and the world makes us all feel proud to be out here doing our job. After the ship pulled away and we prepared to begin our man overboard drills the Officer of the Deck turned to me and said, "I'm staying Navy." I'll write you when I know more about when I'll be home, but for now, this is probably the best news that I could send you.

Love you guys

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Dear Karen,

On June 25, you returned my call regarding the announcement in *The Flagship* on the passing of Eugene Mackewicz with whom I had served on the USS ROWE. By furnishing me Gene's home address, I was able to speak with his wife Ann directly.

Karen, I want to thank you for your patience and help regarding my search for Gene's number.

Sincerely,  
Marty Wunderman

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Hello Shipmates,

I was a commissary man first class on board the Rowe when it was recommissioned. I have thought about a man that worked for me that might be of interest to some of you. His name was Frank Shula. He was a seaman, but worked for me in the galley as a commissary man. He was also the famous Don Shula's younger brother. I bet no one ever knew that . Don was working at some college in the Midwest, hoping to become a football coach. (Boy, did he ever!). Frank was married to a girl named Julie Ann.

I was a close friend of the Wiggin Brothers. They were from Wilson, NC and I was from Rocky Mt, NC. Rocky Mount is the world capital of the best Bar.B.Q, great band leader, Ray Kaiser, and beautiful women. Ray Kaiser was born and raised in Rocky Mount, and so was my wife. After 54 years of marriage

she still turns those young sailors' heads at the Naval Hospital. I am amazed at her youth and beauty. She volunteers at the pharmacy. She has done over 1100 hours.

Now about Wiggins—we used to go home together on the weekends. We only lived 16 miles apart. Two great shipmates.

Just thought you'd like to know.

Randolph P. Parker  
717 School House Rd  
Chesapeake, VA 23322  
757-482-5494

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Karen,

Have lots of thoughts "bubbling" around in my head from my stay on the Rowe, some can be printed and some would take lots of editing for the expletives that would be needed to really be funny.

If you want one short one, then here it is.

Lying about in our compartment one hot summer day, Alan Doerner said to me, "Do you know the Navy test for wearing socks?"

To which I replied, "No, Alan, what is it?"

To which he replied, "You wear your socks for two weeks, take them off and throw them at the nearest bulkhead—if they stick, they need washing, but if they stick and slid down to the deck, then they are good to wear for another week."

And then there is the longer story of how the ENTIRE Operations Division could "disappear" at will while in port. The reason we HAD TO "disappear" was that working parties were needed. For some reason, no one ever took muster at this time, for they would have realized that some twenty-plus people just were not there.

Anyway, our compartment was two decks down (under the main deck), in the forward part of the ship. Directly under our compartment was a smallish room which contained the sonar transducer (a "transmitter" that sent out the sonar waves). The only way into this room was through a wa-

tertight door, and we all went there to play cards, paint, read, and do hobby projects. The ONLY thing we could do is NOT make any noise, because noise traveled a long way in a quiet ship.

We "disappeared" when the person that was responsible for cleaning the compartment (exempted from additional duty) put a laundry bag OVER that door. It just fit the outline of the door, and if you did not know that that door was in the deck (at that point) it was "invisible."

I have many more like this and if you want more, will be most happy to contribute. (*Please do!*) Since there were so many people on that ship, you should be able to come up with a lot more stories. (*Yes, you would think so, wouldn't you?*)

Found out just recently that the Rowe was now in some 6,000 fathoms of water, but have misplaced the lat/long.

Paul Siegel, RD3  
USS ROWE DD564  
Dallas, TX

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## NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE!

The newsletter for the USS ROWE/USS WATTS is now available 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@aol.com](http://www.MLRSINC@aol.com), then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the USS ROWE/USS WATTS. Click on the button labeled Newsletters, and in a few minutes the newsletter should ap-

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

pear 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](mailto: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

*The following was sent in by Roy Dray. It is a liberty guide provided to the sailors for tours of Havana, Cuba.*

**TOURS:**

Mauel Valdes, Sevilla Biltmore Hotel, Phone A-036. (Tours are by limousine, English speaking guides).

City Circle Tour: 3 hours, 25 miles, \$3.00. Starting at 0900 &

**1400. Includes:**

1. Prominent Government buildings
2. Parks
3. Historical points of interest
4. Working Class Districts
5. Aristocratic Residential Districts.
6. Cigar factory (through factory)
7. Trocadero Rum Distillery, where "You will get free drinks and you will have frozen daiquiris to your heart's content."

Country & Farm Tour. 4 hours, 50 miles, \$4.00, starts at 0900 and

**1400. Includes:**

1. Home of Tropical Brewery's owner
2. Several quaint country towns.
3. "Rancho Luna", experimental farm of tropical fruits and vegetables. Cock Fight provided.

Morro Castle Tour. 2 hours, \$2.00, starting 0900 and 1400.

Night Club Tour, 5 hours, 40 miles, \$10.00, starting at 0900 and 2100. Includes:

1. Chinatown
2. Tropicana or San Souci Night Club (One free drink included)
3. "Pennsylvania", a "different" night club—spicy atmosphere.

**NIGHT CLUBS:**

1. San Souci-Highway to Pinar del

Rio (Bingo every night— 2100 to 2200).

2. Tropicana--Calzada de Columbia, Marianao
3. Montamarte-Calle 23 y 0 Vedado
4. Bambu-Highway to Rancho Boyeros
5. El Colmao-Aramburo entre San Rafael y San Jose (Typical Spanish).

*If you remember any of these places, please let us know about it.*

**MOST MEMORABLE CHARACTER STORIES WANTED**

One idea that has proved successful for some other ship's newsletters is to have everyone write and tell about the most memorable character you knew while aboard your ship. Tell us about him. Was he funny, a practical joker, a super-nice person, or just your best friend. We have had some really good responses from other ships and hopefully you will have some good ones too. Get out your pen or computer and start writing. If you want to mail in a story, our address is on page two. If you want to e-mail it, use the e-mail address on page two beside NEWSLETTER. Please participate!



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

## TOURS/SITES IN THE RENO AREA

### Reno City Tour:

Discover how Reno earned its intriguing name on this narrated tour which helps unravel the historical and cultural mysteries of this fascinating city. You'll stop at Nevada's History Museum, see impressive mansions built by great railroad, casino and mining barons. See "Divorce Bridge" where thousands of newly divorced persons toss their wedding rings; step back in time to see the National Automobile Museum where magnificently restored antique autos are on display in their natural setting, 1950 and 1890 streets. There is much more to see and do, so you don't want to miss this exciting experience.

### Lake Tahoe Dinner Cruise:

Watch the colors of Lake Tahoe change as you enjoy an early evening Twilight Dinner Cruise on the luxurious paddlewheel as the sun slowly sets. After a beautifully prepared dinner, stroll the decks and enjoy the mountain air, the beautiful clear water of the lake and the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountain scenery. To enhance your evening, and interesting narrative and music area is also provided. There is an open promenade, two heated decks, two full service bars and a galley manned by excellent chefs. There are numerous deck chairs and comfortable indoor seating which affords magnificent views from every direction.

### Virginia City Tour:

Visit famous Virginia City-circa 1859. You will recall that Virginia City was near the Ponderosa, where Ben, Adam, Hoss, and Little Joe lived. Stroll along the wooden sidewalks, see history come alive with colorful saloons, mansions, mines, and ghosts. You can't possibly miss this three hour (approximate) adventure.

## 2002 RENO SURVEY USS ROWE/USS WATTS

In order to insure we provide the kind of reunion that you want, please take a few minutes to read over this page, then complete and return it to:

ROWE/WATTS Reunion  
ML &RS, Inc,  
PO Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

The reunion agenda will be developed based on the responses. Make your voice heard, get your "vote" in.

Would you like a welcome reception the first evening?  yes  no;  
If yes, would you prefer hors d'oeuvres only during the reception and have dinner on your own \_\_\_\_\_  
OR a build your own hoagie from a deli tray (or hamburger/hot dog) type supper as part of the reception \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like breakfast as a group each morning?  yes  no

Would you like a group "Reno Theme" dinner Friday night? \_\_\_\_\_  
OR dinner on your own? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a more formal banquet Saturday night?  yes  no;  
If yes, do you want music for listening or dancing after the banquet?  
 yes  no

Please check any (or all) of the activities that you would like to see on the agenda.

Reno City tour \_\_\_\_\_; Lake Tahoe Dinner Cruise \_\_\_\_\_;  
Virginia City trip \_\_\_\_\_ (Note the Reno City and Virginia City trips are approximately 3 hours long, leaving plenty of free time for reminiscing. )

Your comments on how to make the reunion more attractive to you are invited below:

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**USS ROWE/USS WATTS  
REUNION IN RENO, NV  
SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2002  
RESERVE THESE DATES ON YOUR  
CALENDAR NOW!**