

THE MESSENGER

Volume 9 Issue 2

October 2001



Special Points of Interest

- **Our cover story has an uplifting side to our recent tragedies. It's good to know we have support from others.**
- **Page three has the WELCOME MAT. Fourteen newly located shipmates are listed. Do you know anyone?**
- **MAIL CALL on pages three and four have stories about the most memorable characters from the five ships. Please take time to let us hear about your colorful character for the next issue.**

LETTER FROM A NAVY ENSIGN TO DAD

This is an extract from an e-mail from a US Navy Ensign to her dad. The message is clear and poignant.

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 over un-

(Continued on page 2)

secured e-mail 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 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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Funds received since 07/01 issue
\$782.00

Funds available for 10/01 issue
\$782.00

Funds expended for 10/01 issue
\$743.79

Balance remaining for 01/02 issue
\$38.21

Published By:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603
828-256-6008 (voice)
828-256-6559 (fax)
Dinamlrs@aol.com (e-mail)
mlrsnewsletters@aol.com (e-mail for newsletter only)

www.mlrsinc.com

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

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Messenger is the official publication of the MCAAN Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, October, *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 Messenger*. 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 and grammar.

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

NEWSLETTER STILL IN NEED OF FUNDS

In order to keep the newsletter going, funds must be available for publishing each issue. Please make contributions to Military Locator & Reunion Service and be sure to say it is for the MCAAN Messenger Newsletter. A big thank you to everyone who contributed recently, some of you very generously, but more money is still needed.

MCAAN GROUP COORDINATORS

Henry Miller (USS AMPHION)
1214 Langstonshire Ln
Morrisville, NC 27560
919-677-9554

Andrew Malone (USS ARCADIA)
38 Croyden Ln
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-681-0725

Robert Baschmann (USS CADMUS)
11231 Bullis Rd
Marilla, NY 14102
716-655-5415

Ray Bower (USS MARIAS)
3471 Blackjack Ct
Lake Wales, FL 33853
863-676-4047

Jack Gibbs (USS NANTAHALA)
40695 Newport Dr
Plymouth, MI 48170-4742
734-455-9306

OCTOBER FACTS

- People born in October claim as their special flower the calendula. Their birthstone is the opal.
- Columbus first landed at Watling Island in the Bahamas.
- The October full moon is the Hunter's Moon.
- Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday in the U.S., with Americans spending \$2.5 billion on this holiday.



WELCOME MAT

The MCAAN Group proudly welcomes the following recently located shipmates. Welcome aboard to all of you who will receive your first copy of *The Messenger*. We hope you enjoy your first issue, and will contribute not only financially, but also with your stories and anecdotes about life aboard your ship.

Edward Blute
USS ARCADIA (1952-54)
672 Main St
Harwich, MA 02645
edandlulu@aol.com

Ronald "Maverick" Herbert
USS AMPHION (1958-59)
125 Henderson St
Houma, LA 70364
985-868-4004

Dale Kottenhaver
USS AMPHION (1966-70)
446 River St
Millersburg, PA 17061

Howard Wolf
USS MARIAS
5539 Edie Pl NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114
505-898-4821
wufie@flafh.net

George Smith
USS CADMUS (1956-59)
49 Iron Forks Rd
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-7079
grampysg@aol.com

Martin Wascher
USS AMPHION (1960-68)
3796 Goodbody St
San Diego, CA 92154

David Thompson
USS NANTAHALA (1969-73)

16686 Cynthia Dr
Brook Park, OH 44142
216-267-5160
dlthomp135@aol.com

Richard "Dick" Johnson
USS AMPHION (1951-54)
W10984 Sand Rd
Merrillan, WI 54754
715-333-6853
dbrook@3oaks.com

Roger Cain
USS AMPHION (1953-54)
1827 Laurel Dr
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Karl "Smitty" Schmitt
USS NANTAHALA (1946)
23 Bristol Ln
Palm Coast, FL 32137
386-445-0386
nakarl@webtv.net

William Heard
USS CADMUS (1956-57)
4304 Aaron Rd
Erie, PA 16511-1311
814-899-8930
radiobill2020@aol.com

John Helbert Taylor
USS AMPHION
1101 Crocker St
Des Moines, IA 50309

Vernon Price
USS AMPHION
PO Box 255
Kirklin, IN 46050

Donald Smallwood
USS AMPHION
8938 Washington St
Savage, MD 20763

2002 MCAAN REUNION

MAY 16-19
SAN ANTONIO, TX

FOUR POINTS SHERATON
HOTEL RIVERWALK NORTH

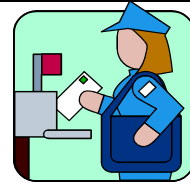


TAPS

The Messenger learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The deaths may not have been recent, but we just learned of them. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the widows, families, and friends of the deceased. If we missed anyone, please accept our apology. Let us know and it will be published in the next issue.

Joseph Scavona (USS CADMUS)
Date of death not known

William E Ferback (USS CADMUS)
Died March 24, 2001



MAIL CALL

In order to have some good input from the readers, we asked everyone who has e-mail to reply to the question, "**Who was the most memorable character you knew while on board the ship?**" Thank you to all who answered. See if you remember any of these "characters."

I was on the CADMUS from 3-56 till 11-57 with ship's company.

The most memorable guy was a guy named James Long. He was a hillbilly from the true hills of Kentucky. (I have looked to see if I could find him, but no success.)

He was in charge of keeping the latrines functioning and was always carrying around a toilet plunger, putting it in your face and saying, "Say a few words to the folks back home."

The plunger was his "microphone." In addition when he went home on leave one time, he brought back some of his daddy's booze from his "still." He shared it with everyone and no one could even swallow it. Talk about "powerful stuff!"

Walter Ronald Johnson, DC3
84 S St Andrews Dr
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
WRJRPJ@aol.com

The most memorable character was a Clancy Ross. The guy was proud of his heritage which was 100% COW-BOY. His dad owned a ranch in LaMoille, Nevada, where people still rode horses to town (and this was 1970). He always said his dad had a charge account at the town brothel, but I never got there to find out. Would be fun to see him again, but all efforts to find him have been dead ends.

Garry Pepper
5030 Fischeek Rd
Stow, OH 44224
gpsierra@aol.com

Hi Karen,

Mel Price SK2, Supply Office here, USS AMPHION AR-13. I had a lot of friends aboard this ship. The most memorable ones were the gang from the Pattern Shop— Dick Stull, Roger Koerner, and Bill Kincaid. They were always happy-go-lucky and full of energy. They would do anything for you. The one person that stood out in my opinion over all was James Egolf, DK1. Our offices were side by side, and I communicated with him very well, as did others. Of course, he handled our pay records. If there were any problems, he would not hesitate to go over it step by step with you and then resolve it quickly. You can print this because it's true.

Regards,
Mel Price
7545 Valley Ct
New Port Richey, FL 34653
dmeldor2@aol.com

Hello Karen,

I am Calvin Cooper, was on the Arcadia 1952-56. My best friend was on there too. His name is Johnny Carter. We hung together all the time. Since he married, I don't know what state or location he may be. I have looked for him on the internet and did a phone search, but no luck. I don't know if you can or will publish this, but please do what you can.

I would like very much to get in contact with Johnny and he may read this article in the Messenger newsletter.

Calvin Cooper
4933 Kaysboro Dr
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
336-767-7779

Thank you!

A shipmate I always remember was George Puleo and his car pool back and forth to New York on weekends. He never had any trouble getting his 5 riders and occasionally would even stick a 6th guy in the back across the floor. I always remember my 1st ride at over 100 mph down the Merritt Parkway, but come Sunday night that big Buick always showed at New York Paramount for the ride back.

Malone Andrew
38 Croyden Ln
Hicksville, NY 11801
arcd23@yahoo.com

I often think about a shipmate named Jack Wells, RMSN who I served with in the 1953-54 time-frame on the Arcadia. Jack was one of the straightest arrows I ever had the pleasure to know. While all of us became frustrated in our work from time to time and would use pretty rough language, the naughtiest words I ever heard Jack use was "corn" or "fudge." He often spoke of his life-long ambition to become a minister, and I sure hope he made it because I know if he did he must have been, or still is, a good one. Jack's closest friend was a shipmate named Nobbs, PNSN. While we were all in the "O" Division to-

gether, Jack and I worked in the Radio Shack and Nobbs, I think, worked in the ship's office.

Some of my other old shipmates I remember from that period was Larry Brinton, RM2; Dick Janney, RM3; Bill Bell, RM3; R. Brunetti, SN; Wendy Ruthier, SN; and of course our Chief, W. Lembeck, RMC. As I recall, Brunetti (we called him "Bruno") was from Pittsburg and wanted to be a mortician after the Navy. I have many happy memories of those long-gone days and fondly remember those old shipmates. Thanks for letting me share some of my old memories.

Mel Redmond RM3
2818 Jefferson Ln
Waynesboro, VA 22980
melredmond@yahoo.com

From EM1 Cohagan on Arcadia,

Sorry not to remember names of fellow shipmates, but I enjoyed every day on board. If my mind is not going, we spent off hours playing Monopoly. We went to sea one time and I tried to tell the ones that got sea sick that it would keep them from getting sick if they would not look at the bulkheads moving. It worked on some.

Rick T. Cohagan
PO Box 223
Duluth, GA 30096
usnavyretired@juno.com

CORRECTION

Dear Editor,

In the July issue of the Messenger, you had an article "Coincidence" that had a few errors in it that I would like to correct.

First, Dick Bell is a "PRINTER" at Historic Sauder Village in Archbold, OH. Otherwise I appreciated the story and Dick Lees and I talk "Navy" every time we meet.

Dick Bell,
USS ARCADIA 1951-56
