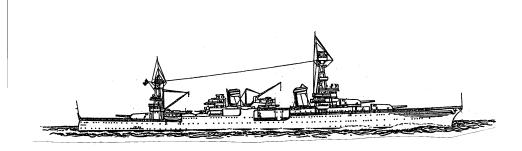
June 2004 Volume 42



CA-30 BLUE BONNET

"The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"

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Co-editors: Otto Schwarz and Lin Drees

REUNIONS

LOST BATTALION / USS HOUSTON REUNION August 13-14, 2004 Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West 1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235 972 869-4300

USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS MEMORIAL SERVICE
March 4-5, 2005
Doubletree- Allan Center
400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002
713 759-0202

Once again one of our crew has joined his shipmates still standing watch in Sunda Strait

August N. Warcken April 16, 2004 Heart Failure Paul E. Beatty May 27, 2004 Cause unknown

FROM THE SURVIVORS

HANGING UP THE GLOVES:

This will be my last submission to the Blue Bonnet.

No I haven't been fired. Instead it is a sign of progress for our Association. Over 50 years ago when *the Association*, and *Blue Bonnet*, were born, we never dreamed it would still be going strong in 2004. But it has, and our progress is due to the dedicated work of Val and her wonderful support team

Over the past few years I have received very little, and little communication from the survivors. Anything that I would have to report is already in the hands of Val.

This gives me a sense of deep pride. It means that what we started over 50 years ago has not only strengthened the bond between us survivors, but also our Next Generation. With Val's leadership we can be assured that the memory of our great ship and crew will continue for many years into the future.

So I am proud of what we have accomplished, and can now sit back and enjoy looking forward to future Blue Bonnets.

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A Line from Lin (moves across the state line to Oklahoma - but will still help with local arrangements)

As many of you know, Ron has been attending The University of Texas in Austin. He graduated in May with much "Pomp and Circumstance" - and his summer intern position from last summer turned into a full time position. His master's degree is from the School of Information with an emphasis in Archival Enterprises. I am one proud wife !!!! We are presently moving to Oklahoma - the house that we are buying will be available to us as soon as the current owners have completed the building of their new home.

We rented a mailbox @ The UPS Store (formerly Mailbox, etc.) - please use this address: Ron and Lin Drees, 720 North Commerce, PMB #325, Ardmore, OK 7340I-3915. As soon as we get phone and e-mail information, we will get that information to Val who will let you know. BUT please write to us (no gifts, please) - notes or cards of congratulations will work, plus prayers for a successful move to Oklahoma will be gratefully accepted.

I am taking my retirement - and Ron will be the NEW Associate Librarian for Technical Services and Archives at the Noble Foundation. The Noble Foundation conducts and supports agricultural research

This message will be short - due to the fact that we are already in the moving stages - and have to complete moving Ron's apartment in Austin to a storage unit in Ardmore - so we now have a checking account, a mailing address, and a storage unit in Ardmore - and we will soon have a home - and please come visit !!!! (Ardmore is about 30 miles North of the state line between Texas and Oklahoma and on I-35).

~~~~FROM THE NEXT GENERATION~~~~~~

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROJECT RESULTS -

My name is Luke Adlong. I'm an 8th grader at Carl Stuart Middle School in Conway, Arkansas. My great-uncle, Charles Lynch, was killed in action with the USS Houston. Two of my classmates and I prepared an exhibit entitled "The Galloping Ghost of Java Coast: Encounters of the USS Houston" for our school's History Day project. Our project won 1st place in our school's and the regional competitions. We came in 3rd place in the Arkansas State History Day.

I have had the pleasure to correspond with, email and talk on the phone many of the USS Houston survivors. I attended the reunion in Houston this year and was able to visit with and interview several more survivors. I was honored to participate in the reunion service by leading the pledge of allegiance and to assist with the flag at the ceremony dedicating the marker to the 1000 volunteers. This is an experience I will never forget. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many survivors and others who helped me with this school project. Without your help, we would not have been able to successfully complete this project.

NOW HEAR THIS! – The Scholarship Committee announces they will be accepting applications for a \$1,000 Scholarship to be announced at the March '04 reunion! Please send your inquiries to: Marilyn Messier, USS Houston Survivors Scholarship, 49 Derby Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583. She will in turn mail the application & instructions to be completed and returned no later than **November 1st.** Criteria: Be at least a high school senior assured of entering/attending college up to and including a college junior who will enter his/her final year of undergraduate education. Be related (blood/marriage) to/or associated in some way with a crew member/descendant of the USS Houston (CA-30), Next Generation, the USS Houston Survivors Association and the Next Generation organization and/or has shown a keen interest in the history of the USS Houston CA-30's history and/or crew's legacy. This interest could come, for example, in the form of having participated in communications with any of the survivors and/or the organization while striving to learn more. Eligibility will be determined by the scholarship selection sub-committee, whose decisions are final. Be able to document current academic grades. Be able to document community/civic activity(s). Present an essay (not to exceed 5 pages) on; 'What does the memory of the USS Houston (CA-30) mean to me. Complete each item as indicated on the scholarship application including all necessary supporting documents.

FOR SALE - Caps \$15 (wool – Navy with gold lettering, twill – Navy with gold lettering or kaki with Navy lettering), T-shirts (Navy with gold lettering) \$15, coffee mugs (Navy with gold lettering) \$10, Monument and Bell pins \$2 each, "Death Becomes the Ghost" videos \$15, Avenge the Houston posters \$10, schematic of the HOUSTON \$5 for small, \$10 for large, 60^{th} Anniversary Memorial aboard the USS Blue Ridge video \$15, Bumper stickers \$2.00, "A Traveller's Guide to the Burma Railway" by Lt Col Ron Beaton, (Ret.) \$16, "Mr. Michel's War" by John J A Michel \$10, "The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors by James D. Hornfischer \$25 (only 1 left) All PLUS postage. I am still looking for some Next Generation items --- caps would run an extra \$4 PER cap so I'm hoping to find something more reasonable. If anyone can come up with an idea, *please* let me know.

DONATIONS – (TAX ID NUMBER: DLN 17053122009007) Many thanks to one and all for your donations! GUS FORSMAN in memory of PAUL PAPISH, Pat & Jack Mintzer, Capt. George Holyfield, Judy & Arnot Ellsworth in memory of PAUL PAPISH, Joann Wychopen (Pryor), Linda McManus, Gloria Williams, John & Lorraine Nardone in memory of AUGUST WARCKEN, Gloria Williams, Bruna Del Chiaro in memory of AUGUST WARCKEN, Albert Novak in memory of JAMES AUTREY, Glenn 7 Patty Kingery in memory of PAUL "PAP" PAPISH.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - MILES BARRETT, 2802 S D St, Spokane, WA 99224-4606

PLEASE – contact me with your change of mailing address or email address. I've had to give up trying to track you down when regular mail is returned (for a return fee of 70 cents after already spending \$2.00 for postage & printing – then having to pay 80 cents to re-mail, which I have stopped doing). If your email is rejected and I don't have a mailing address – I won't go on a hunt for you.

SURVIVING SPOUSE – Katheryn McMaster, widow of SAM MCMASTER, died peacefully on May 12th as reported by daughter Bridget. We send our prayers and sympathy.

VIDEOS FOR SALE: Gene Wilkinson (1001 Cliff Dr, Santa Barbara, CA 93109) has formatted the video of the Memorial Service. Please send him \$15 for the cost of printing and mailing. Sharron Long (11402 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77024) has made copies of the very moving video she and her husband took when they hired a boat to take them out over the site of the *Houston* wreckage to have a beautiful wreath taken down by a diver. Please send \$10 for the cost of printing and mailing.

NATIONAL WWIII MEMORIAL – The Memorial include an online registration for any U.S. citizen, whether soldier or civilian, who helped in the war effort. The registry can be found at www.wwiimemorial.com Names can also be placed in the registry by calling 1 800-639-4WW2. Photographs of honorees can be added to the registry either by uploading them via the website or by mailing them to: WWII Memorial Processing Center, P.O. Box 305, Calverton, NY 11922 Please be aware that photographs mailed to the processing center WILL NOT be returned.

A 1943 GUIDE TO HIRING WOMEN - The following is an excerpt from the July 1943 issue of Transportation Magazine. This was serious and written for male supervisors of women in the work force during World War II - 60 years ago!

Ten Tips on Getting More Efficiency Out of Women Employees:

There is no longer any question whether transit companies should hire women for jobs formerly held by men. The draft and manpower shortage has settled that point. The important thing now is to select the most efficient women available.

- 1. Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters. They are less likely to be flirtatious. They need the work, or they would not be doing it. They still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently.
- 2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. It is always well to impress upon older women the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
- 3. General experience indicates that "husky" girls those who are just a little on the heavy side are more even-tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
- 4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination one covering female conditions. This step not only protects the property against the possibilities of lawsuit, but reveals whether the employee-to-be has any female weaknesses which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.
- 5. Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they will keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. Numerous properties say that women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but that they lack initiative in finding work themselves.
- 6. Whenever possible, let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
- 7. Give every girl an adequate number of breaks during the day. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied and wash her hands a couple times a day.
- 8. Be tactful when issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they cannot shrug off harsh words the way men do.
- 9. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she will grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.
- 10. Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point cannot be stressed too much in keeping women happy.

POW'S -

"What happened to those POWs was deplorable!" "Anyone who was involved in this should be held accountable!"

Today's growing media attention on "detainees" and the denunciation of poor treatment at the hands of the captors sounds so familiar, doesn't it...?

Wasn't this the same kind of outcry that happened in Tokyo after World War Two? Wasn't this the same kind of public outrage voiced by the Japanese over their Army's treatment of allied POWs...? Wrong.

If only such enormous public denunciation had actually taken place around the world and especially by the Japanese people over the atrocious treatment by the Japanese Army on allied prisoners of war -- including OUR AMERICAN BOYS. Fair is fair.

As long as the media is bashing the outrageous and dead-wrong treatment that Americans have recently inflicted on POWs and on so-called "detainees," the media should also provide a history lesson.

To date, the Japanese have not apologized for the abuse of POWs held by them from 1942-1945 -- a time when prisoners were murdered, starved, beaten, and worked to death -- by the thousands. Where is the outrage over that.....?

It is said that people are condemned to repeat history if they do not heed its lessons. Americans need to understand that this applies to them as much as to anyone else.

When people ignore any brutality toward POWs, they cannot learn how wrong such brutality is; they cannot learn that it is inviting the enemy to do the same, and perhaps worse to Americans who might end up as captives; they cannot learn that such brutality is against the Geneva Conventions.

Apparently, some Americans working in Iraq jails failed to get the word that there even are such things as the Geneva Conventions. Have the lessons of history been taught to them? It doesn't sound like it.

What these Americans did in Iraq was flat-out wrong. But, why not also speak out against ANY and ALL abuse of POWs everywhere...?

Perhaps then we'd all learn something; perhaps then such history of abuse toward POWs would never be repeated by anyone, anywhere.

Remember the Houston. -- Dana

Dana Charles Freelance writer Orlando, FL

PURPLE HEART – PAUL "PAP" PAPISH's family was awarded his Purple Heart posthumously April 30th at Congressman Joel Hefley's office along with other medals PAP was due. Max and I received word but couldn't make arrangements quick enough. I'm sure the family was thrilled and honored. Congratulations!

MAILBAG – I sent condolences to the family of NG Cledith Crank (Sister of WILLARD WARD) who died April 9th after a long illness. Johan van Leer sent a copy of a stamp he donated to the University of Houston. This commemorative stamp (50 years after the Java Sea Battle) stamp was issued 12 years ago out of the Marshall Islands depicting the sinking of the de Ruyter with the USS Houston in the background. He also sent a copy of a page in the Dutch Ex-Navy Newsmagazine "VAST WERKEN" talking about our last reunion and WALTER WINSLOW's book. He also sent a notice that the Supreme Court of Japan rejected the appeals by 6 Dutch plaintiffs demanding reparations due to abuse on March 30th. Just an aside, but don't you find it curious that our government has apologized *repeatedly* in regards to the POW mess in Iraq yet the Japs have NEVER apologized for their treatment of those POW in WWII? EUGENE CRISPI had a heart attack on May 10th & received a pacemaker on the 14th. Daughter Pam reports he will have some restrictions for the next 3 months but she'll be around to help out. Clay Ramsey reported son Robert Stuart Ramsey was born on May 12th. He emailed a picture and he is a keeper!

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL – WASHINGTON D.C. – This is your nation's capital "roving reporter" coming to you with the latest on The World War II Memorial (5-15-04).

In my entire 12 years of living/working the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, I never could quite figure out why we had a Viet Nam ,and Korean war memorial and not yet a WWII. Be that as it may, as it will be detailed in this report, it has been worth the wait; and by the way, honor to all or our men and women who have ever served their country in whatever war circumstance.

I have just this moment gotten back from walking the new WWII memorial, and therefore felt particularly inspired to file this report. The memorial site at the end of the "reflecting pond", on the other side of it from where the podium was that Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have A Dream" speech, (and where of course Forest Gump did his thing).

The memorial is fabulous, it is moving, it is classy in every way, it is to make one proud, it is a most distinguished tribute to all those who contributed to their country during that infamous war.

The monument is circular, has two towers at either end, one for the Atlantic and the other Pacific. There are pillars representing each state, and a rope-like connector going all around the outside circular perimeter of the memorial that looks almost like rope used to tie up a berthed ship. In various places throughout there are the most profound and respectful quotes by famous people honoring those who served (like former President Harry S. Truman). The memorial honors the victory on land, at sea, and in the air.

Visiting is was an honor. It's actually not even finished yet, it will officially open on Memorial Day 2004. In the center of the circular memorial will be a fabulous fountain, not yet operational. Yet today there were thousands of people already totally absorbed in the magnificence of this memorial.

My employer, The U.S. Postal Service, is putting out a stamp to commemorate the opening of the memorial that becomes available on May 29, 2004. As I often tell my dad, if you/he wants that new stamp, Purple Heart stamps, heroes stamp, or even the one depicting the fiftieth anniversary of the United States Air Force Academy, rather than riding around, standing in line trying to hunt down these stamps, try just calling 1 800-Stamp 24; have your credit card handy, and you can order the

stamps as easily as 1-2-3 and they will be mailed right to your. There is a \$1.00 charge, bit I would think it is well worth saving a trip, or a stop at the Post Office. Otto's WWII memorial stamps are already on the way to him. You computer GEEKIES can get the same result from visiting Postal Store at usps.com.

Back to the memorial – Otto had asked me to pick up some post cards depicting the memorial, but as you can imagine, with it not yet open and not totally finished yet, that may be some time off.

I am not a computer GEEKIE, but I am going to try to hook up with someone who is, who will go down there soon with me and we'll photo shoot the memorial and ship those pictures. These pictures will be available at our website (see top of first page). For those of you that don't have a computer, possibly a friend or family member can download them for you.

In conclusion - I know I have said it before, because of the heroic efforts of our men, their contribution and sacrifices will/can never ever be forgotten.

Well I'll now add that in the bigger picture of WWII, that war and all its men/women who served/sacrificed, is most terrifically paid homage at the WWII memorial for the rest of the world to pay tribute from now until eternity.

Thanks to all that made that possible.

Once again, to all our CA-30 men, thank you for what you did in service to our country. What a shame the number of our men who didn't get a chance to see this most magnificent WWII memorial. May they all rest in peace "still standing watch over the Sunda Strait".

John Keith Schwarz – Next Generation

FINANCIAL REPORT

Debits		CREDITS	
Newsletter printing	310.18	Previous Balance	6429.71
Newsletter postage	83.67	Donations/sales	1413.01
Supplies	309.92		
Postage	156.40	TOTAL	7842.72
Phone	123.68		
Reunion	846.98		
Sales items	633.88		
(T-shirts & caps)			
TOTAL	2464.71	CURRENT BALANCE	\$5378.01

IN SEARCH OF: Survivors – please respond if you remember any of these men. It means so much to the family members. If there is no mailing address to respond to & you don't have email, just send the letter to me and I'll email it!

DWIGHT HOUSTON KIA: Floyd Michaelson (cousin) has an email address of CAROLREADER@AOL.COM to send a reply.

MERRITT VOLNEY "CHIPS" EDDY: Sandra Swanson (daughter) is searching for information. Phone 303 648-3543 or email DSSELBERT@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

JOHN "JACK" HOMER ALAMSIE: Scott Alamsie (great nephew) has an email address of SRALAMASIE@AOL.COM to send a reply.

EDWIN PAUL O'HAYRE (from Colorado): Dana O'Hayre McDonald (great niece) of 16022 N 17th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022 Phone: 602 332-0752 Email: Ryan.McDonald@knowledgenet.com

LOST BATTALION NEWSLETTER – Many of you have inquired as to whom would be taking care of the newsletter after our sad loss of Kyle Thompson (Feb. 27, 2004). The latest one was done by his daughters – and they did a fine job. Susan Ficklin of the Next Generation has consented to continue the newsletters until a permanent Newsletter Editor can be chosen At the August, 2004 Reunion in Dallas. All notices & changes of address are requested to be sent in writing to: Susan Ficklin, 6303 Sious Dr, Granbury, TX 76049-5393. Email: susuficklin@msn.com

IN CONCLUSION – Otto has only resigned from the Newsletter obligations --- the man is nonetheless CEO. Don't let his little announcement make you think he's retiring altogether. I still have too much to learn before he's off the hook! In May, I went to my dad's home town (VALDON "ROBBIE" ROBERTS to talk to his high school alma mater and the Lions Club about the USS Houston & her crew. I was well received and truly enjoyed myself. You NG's need to do the same! If you can't go to dear ole Dad's alma mater, then contact the local high school. I know that Susan Krug has begun her lecturing circuit and is a big hit. Our Memorial Day was quite an event! The 4 oldest grandsons invited us to their church for a special acknowledgement of the vets. Although the 3 year old didn't participate, the 3 older boys and their scout troops did a moving flag ceremony. I was standing next to a young couple from Europe and they were both in tears during the entire event including the missing man formation fly over. We also had the pleasure of meeting a survivor of Pearl Harbor. He was aboard the USS West Virginia, transferred to the USS Hennessey (and that was sunk 3 months to the day later) and transferred to yet another ship which was sunk exactly 3 months later. He knew all about our USS Houston and the Asiatic Fleet ---Summer is here and we have the 3 oldest boys here for the summer (we get them Sunday evening and give 'em back Friday evening). Max and I also attended a lovely gathering of friends to celebrate Ron Drees's graduation from the University of Texas's master's program. Y'all have a wonderful summer – plan to attend the Lost Battalion reunion – contact me with some ideas about something with "NEXT GENERATION" sell!

UNTIL SEPTEMBER – GOD BLESS

Lost Battalion/USS Houston Reunion Hotel Registration Information

Omni Dallas Park West 1590 LBJ Freeway Dallas, Tx 75234 972-869-4300 1-800-THE OMNI

Room Reservations are to be made directly with the Omni. You may call directly to the Hotel @ 972-869-4300 or through Central Reservations @ 1-800-THE-OMNI which is 1-800-843-6664. Please tell them you are booking for The Lost Battalion Reunion. The special prices are offered for the nights of Aug 11, 12, 13, and 14. If rooms are available, the special rates are extended to 3 nights before and 3 nights after the reunion.

Room Rates are: \$69 a night for single or double/double bedrooms \$89 a night for King Jr. Suite

Cut-Off Date or Hotel Registration Deadline is: Thursday July 29, 2004

<u>Methods of Payment</u>: The Hotel takes most major credit cards. They will need a deposit of one night to guarantee your reservation. The Hotel will also take a check for your deposit, sent directly to the hotel. Please ask the Hotel directly about their room cancellation policy, especially if you send a check.

<u>Directions:</u> The OMNI Dallas Park West is located at the south west corner of Luna Rd and LBJ Freeway (635). You can see where they are @ www.omnihotels.com Select Dallas, Texas - Dallas Omni Hotel @ Park West.

<u>Complimentary Round Trip airport transportation vouchers</u> are available; but, we must know when you register for the reunion if you need transportation. PLEASE check the Reunion Registration Form for more details.

Reunion Registration Form 60th Annual Reunion of the Lost Battalion Association 2nd Battalion 131st F.A. and USS Houston (CA-30) August 12 – 14, 2004 Location: The OMNI Park West. Hotel registration is separate.

Calendar of Events

	Calendar of Events
Thursday Aug 12, 2004	
Registration:	2 – 5 pm Hotel Lobby
Officers Reception	5 – 7:30pm Location TBD
Friday Aug 13, 2004	
Registration	8 – 5 pm Hotel Lobby
Brunch	8:30 – 9:30 am
Silent Auction	2:30 – 3:30 pm
Dinner / Dance	6:00 – 11:00 pm
Saturday Aug 14, 2004	
Registration	8 – 12 pm or as needed Hotel Lobby
Brunch	8:30 – 9:30 am
Memorial Service	11:00 – 12:00 (Noon)
Business meeting	2:00 – 3:00 pm
Next Generation Meeting	
Dinner / Dance	6:00 – 11:00 pm
Sunday August 15, 2004	Farewells and checkout by 12:00 noon
Names to Register – Please inc 1)2)3)4)	6)
Full Registration includes all evo	ents w/ 4 meals
Early Registration per person:	
Registration After July 29 th : 9	
Individual Meal Tickets: Cost	# Attending
Brunch Friday 17.00	x =
Dinner Friday 30.00	x =
Brunch Saturday 17.00	χ =
Dinner Saturday 35.00	x = .
	Total Registration Enclosed =
Mail Registration to:	Contact: Becke Freitas
The Lost Battalion Association	
PO Box 1104	email: rlr freitas@yahoo.com
	<u></u>