

Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John K. Schwarz, Executive Director
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Arlington, VA 22201

Association Phone Number:

703-867-0142

Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

USS Houston Survivors' Association

c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer
2065 Sutter View Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648

(Please specify which fund – General or Scholarship)

Association Email Contact:

Contact@USSHouston.org

Association Founded 1947

By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

2019 Day of Remembrance marks the 25th Annual Gathering at USS Houston Monument



2 March 2019 Memorial Service: The Association's Board of Managers accepts framed photograph of the original USS Houston (CA-30) Foundation members who raised funds for the USS Houston (CA-30) Monument in the 1990s: (L to R): Bernice Harapat; Pam Foster; John Schwarz; Paul Marshall; Sue Kreutzer; Dana Charles. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)

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2019 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

By Sue Kreutzer

The 2019 Day of Remembrance marked the 25th time we have gathered at the Monument in Houston, TX, for a Memorial Service to honor the sacrifice of the gallant crew of CA-30. On Friday, March 1st, the scale model of USS Houston (CA-30), nicely housed in its new display case, was unveiled at
(Continued on next page)

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Bill Thoet speaking at The Heritage Society on 1 March 2019. (Photo by Dana Charles)

All week long the rainy weather in Houston threatened to drench Saturday's Memorial Service in Sam Houston Park. However, when Saturday afternoon rolled around, the skies were clear, and as many as 150 people arrived for the service. Houston-area Sea Cadets assisted with programs, chairs and wreath-laying duties. Excellent instrumental music was provided by the Community Band of Southeast Texas.

The Heritage Society. Bill Thoet (Left), donor and grandson of the model's creator, Robert McCandliss, shared his grandfather's story as well as his own memories of his grandfather's passion for building ship models. Michael Aufiero, creator of the beautiful display case, shared his thoughts with us on the project.

Friday evening's keynote speaker, historian Mark Lardas, gave us detailed information on Cruiser *Houston*. Saturday morning's breakfast speakers, Dana Charles and Don Kehn added even more detail to our knowledge of CA-30's men as POWs and the ship's role in the Asiatic Fleet.



The McCandliss USS Houston (CA-30) Model inside its new case.



Members of the Houston Grand Opera (HGOco) performing "Overboard" on 2 March 2019 (Photo by Dennis Flynn).

Members of the Houston Grand Opera (HGOco) beautifully performed "Overboard", a vocal work specifically composed to honor the men of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29). All countries of the 1942 American-British-Dutch-Australian (ABDA) fleet were represented by outstanding speakers including: The Honorable Peter McGauran, Australian Consul-General; Paul Johanson, Commander, RAN, Assistant Naval Attaché, Embassy of Australia, Washington, D.C.; Andrew Betton, OBE, Commander, RN, UK Naval Attaché, Washington, DC; Captain (N) Hugo L. J. Ammerlaan, Netherlands Naval and Assistant Defence Attache' USA; Samuel Cox, Rear Admiral, USN (Retired), Director, Naval History & Heritage Command, Curator of the Navy.

(Continued on page 3)

Paul Marshall, a member of the Naval Officers of the U.S., Texas Commandery who were tasked back in the 1990s with the effort to build the Monument, presented the Association with a framed photograph of the original group of men who raised the necessary funds for the monument, which was dedicated in 1995. The Association presented Mr. Marshall with CA-30 mementos to thank him for his hard work.



Vibraphonist Harry Sheppard performing on 2 March 2019 for Day of Remembrance attendees.



Dana Charles reciting the lyrics to the Navy Hymn at the Memorial Service accompanied by the Community Band of Southeast Texas and members of the Houston Grand Opera (HGOco). (Photo by Kathleen Charles)

Saturday evening's dinner at the Doubletree Galleria was complete with live entertainment from Harry Sheppard, local vibraphonist and Dana and Kathleen Charles.

We were very pleased this year to have so many folks joining us at our Day of Remembrance for the very first time.

Mark your calendars now for the 2020 Day of Remembrance—March 6 – 7, 2020.



Some of the Naval Officers and Houston-area Sea Cadets who participated in the 2019 annual USS Houston (CA-30) Memorial Service on 2 March.

2019 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE SNAPSHOTS



CDR Jim Sterling, USN (Ret.) standing by during the USS Houston CA-30 Memorial Service, ready to ring "Eight Bells," signaling End of Watch. The special bell was provided by the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Houston Division.



Sea Cadet Color Guard, 2 March 2019



RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret.), Director of the History and Heritage Command, Curator of the Navy, speaking at the Memorial Service on 2 March 2019.



Photos by Gil Raynor

SNAPSHOTS (CONTINUED)



Sue Kreutzer



Historian Mark Lardas

Photos by Dennis Flynn



From the desk of the Executive Director
John K. Schwarz

I'm sure everyone will enjoy the wonderful shots in this edition of the Blue Bonnet of this year's 'Day of Remembrance' gathering in Houston, TX March 1-2, 2019. For those of you who joined us in person: thank you so very much for sharing your time to be a part of this glorious two days of remembrance. Your support truly is what enables this kind of tradition to be carried on in tribute to the brave crews of both the *USS Houston* (CA-30) and *HMAS Perth* (D-29). For everyone else, we wish you could have been there, but there is always next year.

This year was certainly special: the unveiling of yet another wonderful ship model of the *USS Houston* (CA-30), coupled with our annual memorial service—this year enhanced with a performance by the Houston Grand Opera (HGOco). It was just fabulous; even for me being at the podium I was astounded at the level of participation by so many dedicated people, it is just heart-warming beyond description. And what a tribute to the men who deserve it—crews of both *USS Houston* (CA-30) and *HMAS Perth* (D-29)!

And a huge THANK YOU to all of the local Houston folks who came out, participated, and contributed in support of this annual service. Job Well Done to you all!

Some other points of interest for you:

- We are in the process of finalizing the ultimate placement location for the newly unveiled 'McCandliss' ship model of the *USS Houston* (CA-30). An announcement will be made as soon as that is formalized.
- We still have, albeit a shrinking inventory, some remaining *USS Houston* (CA-30) merchandise all of which is on sale. (See page 17).
- Also in this edition, see the opportunity to obtain a *USS Houston* (CA-30) jacket through a special order offer (See page 18, 19).
- Please consider what you might be able to contribute to either of our fund accounts (kitty/scholarship), so we may be able to continue to grow those balances to position ourselves to take advantage of future opportunities for scholarships and permanent remembrances of our ship.
- The next "internal scholarship" cycle is about to open on 01 June 2019, so let's spread the word and help prepare those who might be eligible and interested in competing for this award.
- Feel free to reach out to the Board of Managers at contact@usshouston.org with any questions, concerns, suggestions or compliments. The communication door is literally always open.

This is in appreciation of each and every one of you who contribute to what we are all about—perpetuating the memory of the men of the *USS Houston* (CA-30): THANK YOU!

John



NEWS FROM JAKARTA

By
CDR GREG R. ADAMS, USN

I am happy to report that we successfully concluded the Battle of the Sunda Strait Commemoration on 1 March 2019 in Banten Bay from onboard an Indonesian Navy Corvette, KRI *Usman Harun* (359).

It was the perfect day for it, overcast, but no rain. U.S. Ambassador Joseph Donovan, Jr. joined us at sea for the ceremony and delivered remarks to a crowd that included Australian Charge D’Affairs Allister Cox; Special Staff of Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Dr. Suseno Sukoyono; and the Commander of the Main Naval Base in Jakarta First Admiral Denih Hendrata; as well as more than 20 crew members from three visiting U.S. and Australian ships: USS *Chief* (MCM 14); HMAS *Leeuwin* (A 245); and HMAS *Diamantina* (M 86).

KRI *Usman Harun* got underway from Merak on the western side of Banten just after 9:00am and traveled north-east, first to the site of *Perth* and then on to *Houston*. During the *Perth* Ceremony, Ms. Dawn Manning, daughter of HMAS *Perth* Survivor David Manning, committed the ashes of her father to the Java Sea who passed away last year at age 94. Mr. George Hatfield Jr. was also in attendance again this year.

During the *Houston* ceremony, Ambassador Donovan told the crowd of close to 100 Indonesian, Australian, and American guests, “It is a distinct honor to be here with you on this special day of remembrance. Being here at the site of the USS *Houston* is the greatest honor I have had while serving as Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.”

Also joining us at sea was Lieutenant Commander John Freiberg, USNR, Navy Chaplain, a U.S. Navy Reservist living in Jakarta with his family. Chaplain Freiberg offered the Opening and Closing prayers during the ceremony and made special mention of *Houston*’s Chaplain George Rentz, who, after the sinking of *Houston*, offered his lifejacket to a Seaman, said a prayer and swam away from the group—a selfless act that posthumously earned him the Navy Cross.

We are very grateful to the Indonesian Navy for their assistance in getting to the sites onboard their ship. I have had several senior leaders in the Indonesian Navy explain what an honor it was for their Sailors to witness the ceremony and the respect and reverence the U.S. and Australian governments still have for the *Perth* and *Houston* sites and these national heroes that remain in Indonesian territory. Lest we forget.

Greg Adams

Commander, USN
Naval Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia



(March 1, 2019) U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Joseph Donovan Jr. (right), Cmdr. Greg Adams (center), Naval Attaché of U.S. Embassy Jakarta, and a senior leader of the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) prepare to lay a wreath during a memorial service aboard the Indonesian Navy ship Kri *Usman Harun* (359).

77TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS DOWN-UNDER



24 February 2019: The HMAS Perth & USS Houston Memorial Church Service was held at 11:30am at the St John's Church, Fremantle, Western Australia. In attendance: (L to R): Flo Hill (Widow of Perth survivor Tich Hill) and Betty Gray (Widow of Perth survivor Digby Gray).



On 17 February 2019 the Nedlands Yacht Club in Perth, Australia was the site of the 59th HMAS Perth Memorial Regatta (Above & Right). (Photo by Shauna McGee Kinney)



HMAS Perth Association NSW members with HMAS Perth Survivor Frank McGovern, OAM. (Center)


 The Commodore, Flag Officers and
 Committee of Nedlands Yacht Club
 Would like to invite you and a guest to join us
 for the
**59th HMAS PERTH
 MEMORIAL REGATTA**
 Commemorating the 77th Anniversary of
 the loss of the HMAS Perth and her crew

 Nedlands Yacht Club
 Sunday 17th February 2019



On 28 February 2019 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia the Last Post Ceremony was in honor of Captain Hector MacDonald Laws Waller, the Commanding Officer of HMAS *PERTH* (D-29). As part of the ceremony, the recovered bell from HMAS Perth was rung to remember those who perished during the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942. (Photos: Screenshots from Australian War Memorial film).



On 1 March 2019 in the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Australia the HMAS Cerberus Catafalque Party, led by CPO Dean Russell, participated in the commemoration of the sinking of HMAS Perth and USS Houston, which resulted in the loss of some 1,000 American and Australian sailors and U.S. Marines. (Photo: Save HMAS Perth Facebook site).

You Shop, Amazon Gives

By Pam Crispi Foster, Treasurer

Many of us already shop online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Did you know that Amazon has a program to donate a portion of your purchase price to the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®? There is no additional cost to you or to the association and the proceeds help to perpetuate the memory of our ship and the sacrifices made by her crew. Visit our website: www.usshouston.org and click on the AmazonSmile link or go to the website shown below. This is a win-win situation for all of us.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®** by starting your shopping at [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2814051](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2814051).

Notes From Here & There



(Left and above): On 11 November 2018 some 500 people attended a service of remembrance at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand. (Photos by Mick Newbatt)



HMAS Perth Survivor Francis (Frank) Joseph McGovern, 99, was recently awarded an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia).



Stefany Cutrer , age 6, great-granddaughter of USS Houston Survivor William Weissinger, lays a wreath at Houston National Cemetery on 15 December 2018. (Photo by Steve Cutrer, Master Gunnery Sergeant, USMC (Ret.) and Grandson of William Weissinger)

USS HOUSTON (CA-30) SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION
AND NEXT GENERATIONS®

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations® sponsors two scholarship programs:

USS HOUSTON (CA-30) ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is an "internal program" in that it is administered by the Association's Scholarship Committee. It is funded through the generosity of our group's constituency and other associated donors and is targeted to be awarded annually given sufficient funding and applications from eligible candidates. The program's window to apply extends from **June 1** through **November 1**. Candidates are then evaluated and a deserving applicant is awarded the scholarship based on a documented grading system. Funding comes through donations to our Association's Treasurer, Pam Foster, 2065 Sutter View Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648. For any donations please annotate that it is for the scholarship program. You can also remember the USS *Houston* CA-30 scholarship fund in your will, estate planning or beneficiary designations. All donations are tax deductible. Since its inception in the year 2000, **15 scholarships** have been awarded totaling **\$34,250.00** dedicated to the further educational pursuits of winning candidates. For a complete listing of all scholarship winners and applications visit our Association's website, www.usshouston.org (scholarship page). Applications can also be obtained by making request to the Association's Executive Director at the address for the Association listed on page one of this Blue Bonnet newsletter. Award amount for 2020 will be \$3,000.00.

USS HOUSTON CA-30 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In 2008, and again due to the generosity of our group's constituency and other associated donors, the Association made a one-time purchase for a permanent scholarship with the United States Naval Academy Foundation, Inc. This program, targeted for an every-other-year scholarship award, is named the **USS Houston CA-30 Memorial Scholarship**. This scholarship affords the U.S. Naval Academy candidate a year of preparatory school education prior to entering the Academy. This contributes to an improved success rate for awardees. Since it was obtained we have had **seven** awardees which has already produced **four** Naval Officers with the remaining three designees progressing satisfactorily toward graduation. For a full listing of all U.S. Naval Academy scholarship winners please visit our Association's website, www.usshouston.org (scholarship page). What a tribute to the men of the USS *Houston* CA-30!

For both programs: a huge **Thank You** to all who contribute to these important scholarships in honor of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and her crewmen.



Notes on news received via email at contact@usshoustons.org and via regular mail...

- 2/4/2019: Received the following email from R.R.: "Here is a post card sent from the *Houston* from my uncle **Patric Dinan**. Observe that tricksters [unclaimed]. In addition, note that there is no street address for the card. In spite of this my father received the card as you can see. I have to believe this was perhaps from the last mail delivery from the *Houston*. Note the date. I also have a couple of pictures of him if you would want them."

NOTHING is to be written on this side except to fill in the data specified. Sentences not required should be crossed out. IF ANYTHING ELSE IS ADDED THE POSTCARD WILL BE DESTROYED.

X I am well
~~I have been admitted to the hospital as~~ (sick ~~(serious)~~ (wounded ~~(not serious)~~)
~~Am getting on well. Hope to return to duty soon.~~
 (Letter dated
~~I have received your~~ (Telegram dated
 (Parcel dated
 X Letter follows at first opportunity.
 I have received no letter from you (for a long time lately)
 Signature *Pat Dinan*
 Date *Dec 14, 1941*

- 2/4/2019: Replied to R. R. as follows: "Thank you for sharing the scan of the postcard from your uncle USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman **Charles P. Dinan, F2/c, USN**, who perished at the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942. I am sorry for your loss. I appreciate your sending a scan of the postcard to us. I think it's fascinating that the card was delivered despite its 'modified' address. Very interesting."



- 2/4/2019: Received three photos and the following email from R. R.: "Picture in blues is from Great Lakes approx. 1939... Picture in whites was from Manila PI."
- 2/4/2019: Replied to R. R. as follows: "Thank you for sharing the scan of the two photos of your uncle USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman **Charles P. Dinan, F2/c, USN**... (NOTE: See one of the photos at right). By the way, our Association will host our annual USS *Houston* (CA-30) "Day of Remembrance" in Houston, Texas on March 1 – 2, 2019 (Friday and Saturday). As in past years, we will honor all crewmen of USS *Houston* (CA-30) at our annual Memorial Service, which will be held at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument located in Downtown Houston at 2:30 p.m. Attached is a schedule of events for your information. We would be honored if you would join us. If you would be available, and would like more information, just let me know..."



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- 2/7/2019: Received the following email: "John, AXPOW suggested I email you regarding my search for the daughter of a sailor named **Ross Glover** from the USS HOUSTON. I have recently discovered an interview with Ross and my father recorded in 1981 by the Australian War Memorial. My father was also a POW working on the Burma railroad with Glover. **Ross Glover's daughter** is named **Janet** and she was married to a **Dr. Glenn Davis**. They were originally from Little Rock Arkansas but have made several moves since then. If your folks lived in New Jersey then they are the same people that I stayed with back in 1976 when I was travelling the world. Later they came to Australia and Trudy called me from Sydney. I appreciate any help you could render. Thank you. Ross"
- 2/8/2019: I replied to Ross as follows: "Dear Ross, Thank you for your email regarding the daughter of USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivor **Ross Glover**. Unfortunately, neither her maiden name, nor her married name appear in our records, so I'm sorry but we can't help locate her current whereabouts. Suggestion: You might try locating her using Ancestry-dot-com... Meanwhile, the 1981 interview at the Australian War Memorial sounds very interesting. My father, a Marine survivor of USS *Houston* (CA-30), and Ross Glover were friends. I met Mr. Glover at a reunion many years ago. Would it be possible for our Association to receive a copy of this interview? Yes, John's parents, Otto and Trudy Schwarz lived in New Jersey. I assume they were the people with whom you stayed back in 1976. I'm sorry to report that both have passed away. Thank you for contacting us."
- 2/8/2019: Received the following reply from Ross: "Hello Dana, I found this photograph after I emailed you back, I thought you might enjoy it. It shows Ross and his wife Pat with me above them in their barn at their property in Cabot Ark. It was taken in the summer of 1976 when I was hitch hiking around the world. I saw them several times after this and was very sorry to hear of his passing, do you know if Pat is still alive and if she is do you have an address for her? Thanks again Ross Flaherty."
- 2/9/2019: I replied to Ross as follows: "Dear Ross, Great picture! Thank you for sharing it. Meanwhile, I'm sorry to report that our Association has lost contact with Pat Glover. So, I'm sorry I don't have any information to give you about her. My guess is that she would be in her 90's today..."
- 3/3/2019: Received the following email from **Dawn Manning**: "Dear U.S.S. Houston Association, Greetings as I leave Jakarta bound for Australia! It is a pleasure to write to you after hearing about you from my father, **David Manning**, *Perth* Survivor of the Battle of Sunda Strait. He has communicated with **Otto Schwarz** for many years but sadly passed away 21 February 2018. In his honor, I returned to Jakarta for 1 March 2019 and 77th Commemorations of the Battle. Meeting Greg Adams aboard the Indonesian vessel was a terrific encounter, plus US Ambassador to Indonesia. A service was held by RAN as the KRI *Asmun Harun* paused, followed by a Committal to Sea of my dear dad's ashes...I have retraced dad's journeys though Java, Myanmar and Thailand as well as visited Commonwealth War Cemetery in Japan, Yokohama... My last as yet completed step would be to visit USA and perhaps join with your precious folk for the 78th Commemorative Service 2020. Who knows..? Until then I shall continue to receive the Blue Bonnet in dad's name, though an e-copy is also welcome. Please pass my regards to your widows and [the] association! My mother is 92 now. I also communicate with **Mr. Peter Johnston** who assists with [the] *Perth* Association newsletter. Yours sincerely, Dawn Manning."



“H” FORCE –A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND SURVIVAL

BY JOSEPH L. MCCAIN

The Japanese demanded a railway be built through Thailand and Burma as a supply line for their planned invasion of India. In October 1942, the first group of prisoners of war, known as “F” Force, was taken from Changi Prison Camp in Singapore, Malaya, to Burma to build the line south towards Thailand. They were transported by hellship to their starting point south of Moulmein.

In April, 1943 a second group of POWS was shipped by railway from Changi Prison Camp to Ban Pong, Thailand. These men were designated as “H” Force. They were to build the southern part of the railway with a connecting or completion point midway up the line. Both groups had large proportions of men who had been taken from their hospital beds at Changi.

The “H” Force men were crammed into steel cattle cars with no room to lie down. What rations they were able to bring quickly spoiled in the heat, and water became very scarce. To many, the worst part of the journey was being separated from their closest friends, for the authorities had insisted that the prisoners be transported in alphabetical groups. Thus, it is likely that [USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor] Edgar Morris and Tom Martin [of the Australian Army] found themselves in the same car and this was the beginning of their long friendship. After a five-day journey by rail, the prisoners left the train at Ban Pong and began a series of night marches through the jungle. The unbearable day-time heat and humidity led to marching only at night and was a concession on the part of the Japanese. However, the guards set a brisk pace and many prisoners became casualties of illness, exhaustion and Japanese bad temper.

As the sun came up on the morning after the second night’s march, the group reached an area which the guards told them was called Kanchanaburi. There was a large permanent prisoner of war camp there as well as the ancient walled city for which the location is named. Here also is the infamous Kwai River Bridge. But most important, Kanchanaburi is the last outpost of civilization before entering the fever-ridden jungle through which the Japanese insisted their railway was to be built.

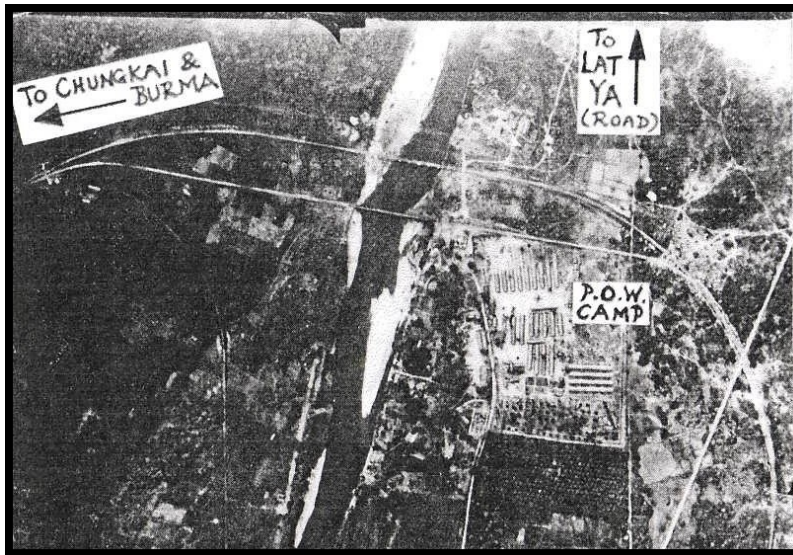
The exhausted prisoners only wanted to find a shady spot to rest that morning but the Japanese NCO called for a formation. In halting and limited English, he announced that they (the Japanese Imperial Army) “need three men – fo’ truck driver”. Probably Tom, an Australian Army truck driver, stepped forward to volunteer as did a second man, Douglas Wilson, a British RAF radioman. Edgar, a USS *Houston* survivor, was so exhausted and ill that he hardly heard the Japanese sergeant – but he suddenly realized that he was standing with the other two out in front of the formation. He always swore that somebody had pushed him out of line. Whatever the reason, it probably saved his life. The rest of the men were soon marched off into the jungle for railway construction labor. Many never returned.

It quickly became apparent that they were to be repairing trucks and not driving them. Possibly, the Japanese NCO didn’t know the English word “mechanic”. Edgar once remarked that they spent a lot of time digging the trucks out of the mud. The Japanese guards lacked skill as drivers and were always burying one of the transports, especially during monsoon season. The trucks were a mixture of different models, many captured from the British.

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Parts for repairs had to be improvised and the results were often less than satisfactory. However, being at a permanent camp (Kanchanaburi “Motor Camp”) rather than in the jungle was, without a doubt, a big factor in these three friends’ survival and eventual return to Singapore in November 1943 after the railway was completed.



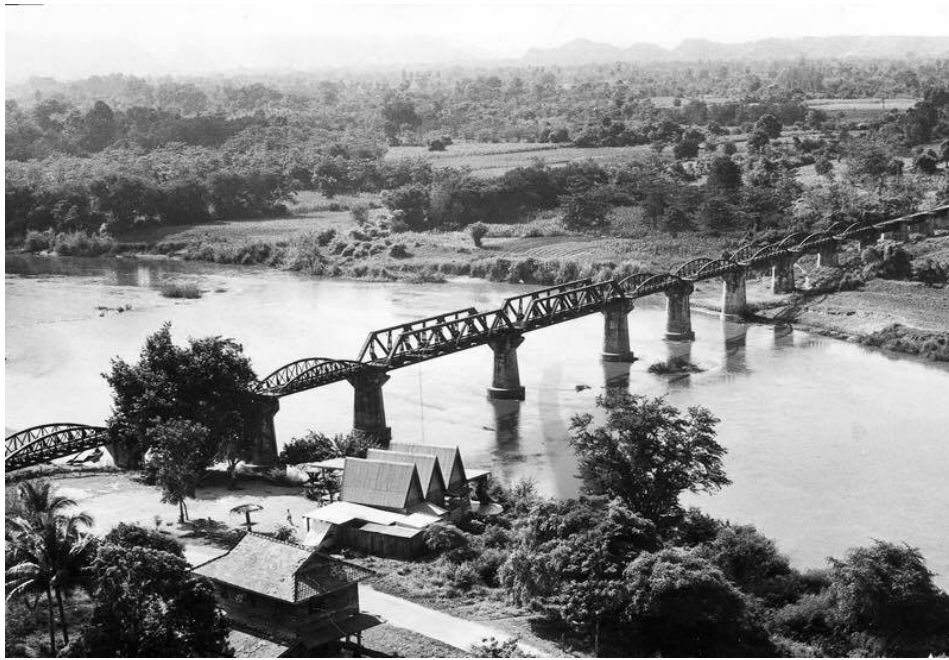
The POW camp and the two bridges—one wooden; the other made of steel and concrete—at Kanchanaburi, Thailand during WWII. Only the steel and concrete “Bridge on the River Kwai” exists today.

An important part of existing under these harsh conditions came from the support of friends. This was the closest of bonds – one that extended beyond nationalities and backgrounds. A prisoner’s “buddies” could encourage him during the worst times when spirits were low and provide care when illness prevailed. Because the Japanese issued rations based on the number of prisoners who were able to work, the sick depended on their friends to bring them food. Sharing with your friends was an essential part of daily life.

Tom, Doug and Edgar spent long hours sharing stories of their families and lives before the war. Tom was older and had a wife and a son and daughter in Australia. Doug and Edgar, both unmarried at the time, made plans that someday, after the war, Doug would immigrate to the United States. This he did in 1954 with his wife and two small sons. They were sponsored by Edgar’s parents. Tom returned to Australia and named his son, born after the war, for his friend, Edgar. Edgar’s second daughter was named for Tom’s daughter. The families remain in contact with one another although the three buddies have long since passed on.



THE “BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI” THEN AND NOW



The bridge was bombed in 1945. This postwar photo was taken sometime after two destroyed spans were replaced by less rounded spans (center of the photo).



In the highly fictionalized 1957 film “Bridge on the River Kwai,” actor William Holden played the part of a USS Houston (CA-30) survivor who managed to escape a POW labor camp, located somewhere in Burma. Today, due to the success of the film, Thailand has claimed that the concrete and steel WWII POW-built bridge in Kanchanaburi, Thailand was the “real” Bridge on the River Kwai, and each year since then, the bridge has drawn thousands of people to see it. In real life, only a few USS *Houston* survivors actually worked on or near this bridge. Today, the film “Bridge on the River Kwai” is owned by a Japanese corporation. — Dana Charles

Photo Credit: [Sotorn Pattarasirivorakul](#)

Now Hear This...

'SHIP'S STORE' SALE

All USS Houston (CA-30) Merchandise Still On Sale!

Below is a list of what is left and available.

Message johnk.schwarz@yahoo.com if you desire to place an order.

- Monument pins – 6 (\$2.50 ea.)
- Bell pins – 10 (\$2.50 ea.)
- Silver and gold trimmed blue ship pins – (2 for \$5.00, or \$3.00 ea.)
- Challenge coins – (\$9.00 ea.)
- 1 note card set left – (\$8.00 ea. pack of 10)
- USS Houston (CA-30) Galloping Ghost stickers (equivalent to a bumper sticker, 2 for \$1.00)
- Graphic ship drawings (\$1.00 ea.)
- 4 ship photos left of the USS Houston (CA-30) underway off San Diego (\$3.00 ea.)
- 13 Hats left – (\$13.00 ea.)
- Women's Polos – 4 small; 2 medium; 2 XL left: (\$20.00 ea.)
- Men's Polos – 5 large; 3 X-Large; 1- 2XL; 1-XXL left: (\$22.00 ea.)
- T-Shirts – 4- 2XL left: (\$9.00 ea.)
- One Navy Blue woman's XS embroidered jacket- special: on sale for \$25.00 (plus shipping)
- One Navy Blue woman's LG embroidered jacket- \$50.00 (plus shipping)



Visit our website's 'Ship's Store' at www.usshouston.org/shipsstore.html and see all of the USS Houston CA-30 items at their discounted prices!

Order Now while these supplies are still available!

SPECIAL ORDER

USS HOUSTON CA-30 JACKET

A special order will be placed if enough people would commit to pre-payment of a jacket embroidered with the ship's silhouette logo. Jackets and sizes are pictured. These high quality jackets, including shipment to your door, will run approximately \$65.00.

To commit to an order please email johnk.schwarz@yahoo.com indicating: color, size, quantity and exact shipping address.

If enough interest is shown to warrant an order it will be placed. John K. Schwarz will communicate with interested parties to advise as to the status of a potential order.

Ordering deadline is **May 1, 2019.**



Men's Two Tone Jacket

XS - 6XL

Black/Grey

Navy/Red

Khaki/Nutmeg

Red/Navy



USS HOUSTON CA-30 Logo

100% polyester shell

100% polyester mesh upper-body lining

100% polyester lower-body, front and sleeve lining

Stowaway hood in cadet collar

Locker loop

Interior chest pocket

Front zippered pockets

Adjustable elastic cuffs with hook and loop closures



SPECIAL ORDER

USS HOUSTON CA-30 JACKET



Ladies' Two Tone Jacket

XS - 4XL

Black/Grey

Navy/Red

Red/Navy



USS HOUSTON CA-30 Logo

100% polyester shell

100% polyester mesh upper-body lining

100% polyester lower-body, front and sleeve lining

Snap-off hood, open collar

Locker loop

Front zippered pockets

Princess seams

Adjustable side buckles to enhance fit



Announcing...
-THE NEW MERCHANDISE ORDERING PROCESS-

Visit the Association website at www.usshouston.org/shipsstore.html and select the item(s) you want to purchase. **All** items have been discounted and the new prices are listed.

There are **TWO OPTIONS** to choose from to place your order (Utilize any ONE of these options):

1. Send an email to our Association correspondence address- contact@usshouston.org with the following information:
 - Indicate the specific item(s) you want
 - Provide your shipping address
 - Provide your email address
 - Provide your phone number

—OR—

2. Phone in your order to John Schwarz at (703) 867-0142
 - Note: if you are choosing to phone in your order provide the same information as indicated above.

You will be called or emailed if further clarification is needed concerning your order.

Shipping:

- Once placed, your order will be prepared for shipment and taken to the U.S. Postal Service to obtain the most reasonable rate available.
- You will be notified of the cost of shipping which needs to be added to the total cost of the item(s) you have ordered. Add the total amount of your item(s) plus shipping and make your check out to: **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association**. Please write the word "Merchandise" on the "memo line" of your check.
- Mail your order payment check to: **USS Houston CA30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations, c/o Pam Foster, 2065 Sutter View Ln, Lincoln, CA 95648**

Meet your...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!*

Executive Director: John Schwarz
Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz
Association strategy/outreach, Special Projects,
Scholarship Committee, Membership liaison
Email: John@usshouston.org



President: Sue Kreutzer
Daughter of USN survivor Paul Papish
Webmaster, archives, membership,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Sue@usshouston.org



Vice President: Dana Charles
Son of USMC survivor Bob Charles
Crew and POW camp records,
Blue Bonnet Editor, researcher, correspondent
Email: Dana@usshouston.org



Treasurer: Pam Foster
Daughter of USN survivor Eugene Crispi
Financial and IRS records,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Pam@usshouston.org



Secretary: Bernice Harapat
Daughter of KNIL POW Survivor Willem Terluin
Special Projects
Email: Bernice@usshouston.org



* The Board of Managers is available to members for questions, concerns, input, or to clarify any matter regarding the Association via email (to contact@usshouston.org), phone, or regular mail.

Membership

Our "USS *Houston* family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks want to know about the gallant crew of USS *Houston* CA-30. If you have relatives and friends who have not yet joined our Association, please encourage them to join us! Members do not have yearly dues. However we do operate based on the generosity of our membership. All donations are gratefully accepted. For more information and a membership form, click on: <http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>, fill out the form and send it in!

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to everyone who has recently joined our USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations®!



Welcome aboard, Nancy Hamilton!

Association Website:
www.usshouston.org

Facebook Group Site:
USS Houston CA-30

Thank you!

...on behalf of the Association to those who have made donations, as follows:

Donations

In Memory of William Batchelor

Betty Miles

In Memory of Buel Fannon

Don & Stephanie Morelane

In Memory of David Flynn

Dennis Flynn

Other Donations

Silvia Brooks

Bernice Harapat

Paul Johnson

Terry Jones

Don Kehn, Jr.

Christian Kelleher

Tim & Jo Klenk

Joe & Melisse Kollmyer

Eduardo Martinez

Henry & Jane Matthews

Bridget McMaster

Michael & Jo Marie Reilly

RJMJR Consultants of Texas

Donald Rooks

Hal Rooks

Eunell Weissinger

Steven Stein

Amazon Smile Donations Received - \$49.67 YTD

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

January 1 – March 26, 2019

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$20,159.27
Receipts:	+9,429.85
Expenses:	<u>-6,035.32</u>
Ending Balance:	\$23,553.80



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$20,038.19
Receipts:	+2,500.32
Expenses:	<u>-00.00</u>
Ending Balance:	\$22,538.51



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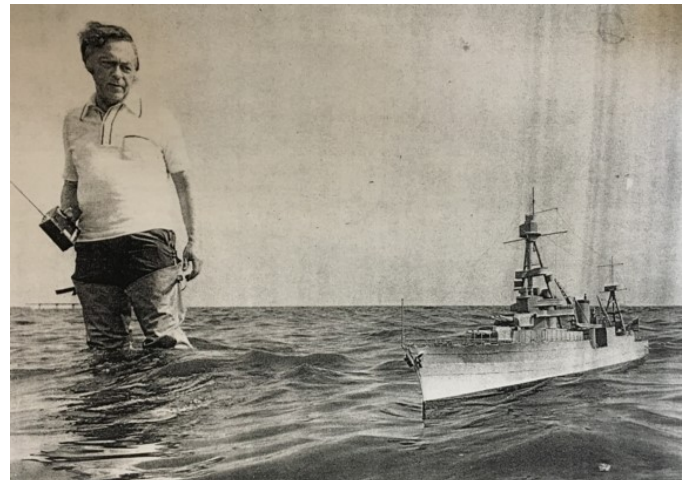
contact@usshouston.org or Bluebonnet@usshouston.org.

All articles submitted are subject to editing.

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Undated photo of Robert Kerr McCandliss using a handheld remote control unit to guide his USS Houston (CA-30) model across the water. (Photo provided by Bill Thoet)