



MAURICE HURD	OCT. 2, 2004	CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE
EUGENE CRISPI	OCT. 5, 2004	CANCER
JOHN FERGUSON	OCT. 25, 2004	CANCER

REUNIONS

USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

March 4-5, 2005

Doubletree- Allan Center

400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002

713 759-0202

LOST BATTALION / USS HOUSTON REUNION

August 12 – 13, 2005

Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West

1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235

972 869-4300

It was with great sadness that I learned of MAURICE HURD's death via email from his widow. Maurice had suffered for some time with COPD & it finally took its toll. Pam Foster, Gene's daughter, kept me posted those last couple of weeks as he was losing his battle with cancer. John's son emailed me the day prior to his death that he was slipping away. On the 25th, I received his email and passed it on to the rest of our members with email. We all send our heart felt sympathy to their family members.

MAILBAG - Mattie Atterberry writes such interesting letters. In her latest, she urges to work hard while you are young to bring back things that really are the prize winners – be someone to make your grandparents, especially granddads very grateful for the price they paid...well put! I always cherish the phone calls from OC McManus. He's still fighting back from the stroke he had but has a wonderful and upbeat attitude so indicative of the survivors. Our friend Johan van Leer sent a translation of an article from Holland stating that Dutch cruisers HR.MS.JAVA and HR.MS.DE RUYTER were located, explored and photographed. The diver refuses too disclose their locations. Dr. Ron Marcello

(the professor that interviewed so many of our survivors) sent us the 3rd Edition of his "Heroes: Oral History Interviews with WWII Veterans". Congratulations to Audie Lynch, NG – he's a newlywed!

DONATIONS: Col. Tom Sledge, Mattie Atterberry, Rufus Choate, BILL INGRAM, Betty Miles, OTTO AND TRUDY SCHWARZ, John Schwarz, Johan VanLeer, RAY GOODSON, Gwyn Stewart, Roy Kent, Robert Moga, Viva Wiley in memory of her brother JAMES E HOGAN–KIA, Dr. James Owens, Linda McManus, Jack (last name illegible) from Covenant Management Systems, & BASIL BUNYARD TAX ID # 17053122009007

OVER THERE – Our Fred Seiker in England sent an article from THE DAILY TELEGRAPH dated 8-27-04 stating that "a secondary school in Tokyo is to become the city's first state school to use a new history textbook which omits all mention of Japanese wartime atrocities".

FROM DOWN UNDER – I goofed. Roy Kent gently reminded me that although he was an Aussie POW in Borneo, he was not off the HAMS Perth but in the infantry (2/20th Battalion of the Australian 8th Division. He noted, "I point this out as I would not like to think that Perth Survivors would think I was trading on their misfortunes. Lord help me --- I don't want to start a civil war! All kidding aside, I apologize for the error. We were delighted to be contacted by Bill Riopel, Trustee VFW 9951 in Bangkok, Thailand wanting to send a CD about the Railway and the memorial there. He encourages both Houston and Lost Battalion survivors, families and friends that are able to make the trip to attend their Anzac Day on Monday, April 24, 2005. For those readers that aren't familiar, Anzac Day is like our Veteran's Day.

JAPANESE DESTROYERS IN BATTLE OF SUNDA STRAIT –

(continued from September issue)

Phase Two:

The 11th Destroyer Squadron approached the Allied cruisers on course 123° and at 2340, in spite of furious Allied gunfire, fired 27 torpedoes (9 each) at a range of 350-380 meters. They then laid a smoke-screen and retired to the north.

The leader *Harukaze* was hit, her rudder was damaged and she veered to port and could not fire her torpedoes. The second destroyer *Hatekaze* lost sight of *Perth*, having suffered many near-misses. But at 2343 *Asakaze* fired six torpedoes at *Perth* at 3,700 meters, and then escaped to the north. At the same time as *Asakaze* fired her torpedoes, the light cruiser *Natori* (the destroyer flagship) illuminated *Perth* and opened fire. One minute later *Natori* fired 4 torpedoes at *Perth* while on a parallel course with him under cover of a smoke-screen.

The 12th Destroyer Squadron had sighted *Perth* and *Houston* at 2336 at a range of 13,000 meters, 15° on the starboard bow. At the same time the destroyer *Shikinami*, which was screening the Japanese heavy cruisers, sighted the Allied

cruisers dead ahead. At 2343 *Mogami* and *Mikuma* closed in and three minutes later *Mikuma* catapulted an aircraft for gunnery observation. At 2344 a hit was observed on an Allied cruiser, which returned the fire with their main and secondary armament and machine-guns at *Natori* and her destroyer. Both *Perth* and *Houston* were hit repeatedly and their speeds declined – the two cruisers now separated. *Shirayuhu* and *Harukaze* were both hit and each suffered eight casualties. Phase 3 & 4 to be continued.....

CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MAURICE CHARLES HURD

Maurice Charles Hurd died October 2, 2004 at his home in Lindsay, Texas of COPD with Acute Exacerbation. He was born March 1, 1918 in Ekalaka, Montana to Wallace & Hazel (Kinsey) Hurd. On March 26, 1950 Maurice was married to Marcella Mae Dotson in Sidney, Montana. They are the parents of : Susan, Maureen, and Laurie.

In his youth, Maurice worked on his father's ranch herding sheep & cattle, haying & other ranching duties. He would often hire out to other ranches as far away as North Dakota. In 1936, he joined the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) working road construction, as a hospital orderly and a radio operator.

In December 1939, Maurice enlisted in the Navy as a Radioman 3rd Class & soon promoted to Radioman 2nd Class. Maurice began his POW years working on the railway, rubber plantation & later, mining coal in Japan. On April 1, 1946, he was discharged from the Navy in Bremerton, Washington.

Taking advantage of the new GI bill, he began his studies at Rocky Mountain College in Montana. In his senior year, he worked for a radio station in Billings performing duties as the broadcast engineer. In 1951, he earned his BA in History and Political Science. Maurice then taught junior and high school for 9 years in both Montana and California. He not only taught history but also math & science as well as directing school plays & sponsoring the radio club. Maurice learned to square dance in California, later taught it in college and called square dance in Montana. During summer break from teaching, Maurice often worked on ranches & for the Soil Conservation Service. In 1959, Maurice returned to school to attain his Master's degree in Range Management at Montana State University which he earned in 1961.

POINTS TO PONDER - If you move, please advise us of your new mailing address. If you change your email address, please report in with the new one.

WE SURE COULD USE SOME CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT MATERIAL....

There are many of you working behind the scenes on the birthday adoption list – if your name needs to be removed from the volunteer list, please let me know. Lastly, thank one and all so much for your help both in the legwork and in donations. This is YOUR organization and your help is greatly appreciated.

WWII REGISTER – Thanks to our NG Bridget McMaster, we have all of our crew listed with the WWII Register. This was entirely Bridget's idea and hard work. **THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!** She spent weeks getting the information entered. Some men didn't have hometowns and she had to be creative. If you find an error, it can easily be corrected. Just notify me. Go to www.WWII Memorial.com and click WWII Registry then follow the guides. We owe her a debt of gratitude!! Well done, VERY well done.

Cruiser Houston Library Reception Encounters Some Exhibit Delays

Library staff are looking forward to welcoming the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association back to the newly expanded and renovated M.D. Anderson Library next spring. On March 5th, 2005, we will be hosting a reception for survivors and their guests in the new Rockwell Pavillion, adjacent to the new Cruiser Houston exhibit space.

Unfortunately, construction delays mean that the new Cruiser Houston exhibit will not be as far along as we had hoped. Only one of the two sets of exhibit cases will be completed in time for the reception. We apologize for this delay; these kinds of setbacks are difficult to avoid with a major construction project like ours.

At the reception, you will be able to view the new exhibit cases designed to hold oil paintings of the USS *Houston*, framed artwork and photographs, and plaques. We will also have some additional collection materials available for viewing. The cases that will not be ready in time are those for displaying letters, documents, photographs, and memorabilia.

I believe that this year's reception will be a very special one. We are excited about showing off our new library wing, and giving you a first look at the state-of-the-art exhibit cases. Most of all, we are delighted to welcome you back to the "home port" of the Cruiser Houston Collection.

For any additional information about the reception, please contact me by e-mail at jgrob@uh.edu, or by phone at 713-743-9744.

Julie Grob
Special Collections Librarian
University of Houston Libraries

Line from Lin (moves back to Houston, Tx.)

Okay, we missed Texas and Houston ---- **we are in the process of moving back to Houston!** We are moving back into our "old" house - and still have our same "old" phone number. Please contact me at 14219 Wickersham, Houston, Tx. 77077. Phone and fax are the same number, 281.493.5171. E-mail address is lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net

Val and I are getting volunteers - more are still needed. Please consider volunteering to help with the up-coming reunion, March 4-5, 2005. Also please remember that this is not the original date (as was marked on this past year's Memorial Service bulletin) - so mark your calendars.

We will again have buses - SO be sure to mark on your registration form if you will need to ride the bus to UH for the light lunch and reception, following the Memorial Service on Saturday.

A request, please **DO NOT** make your reservations over internet - or through some other discounted service. We make our contract based on everyone paying the USS HOUSTON discounted rate -- and the hotel promises us complimentary services and perks. A complimentary shuttle will be available for trips downtown. SO PLEASE make all reservations with the hotel.

Through the years, Ron and I try to take seasonal silk flowers to the Monument -- we always take silk poinsettias for December. Let me know if you would like anyone remembered on a special day.

PLEASE remember if you would like to have any special bouquets to leave at the Monument after the Memorial Service, you are welcome to bring any bouquets.

We are making the auction an annual event. Please consider bringing something to donate toward the auction.

Ron and I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas - and a Very Happy New Year. And we hope to see you here in Houston for the 2005 reunion and Memorial Service.

FINANCIAL REPORT –

DEBITS

Newsletter Postage \$	96.98
Newsletter Printing	192.64
Postage	129.96
Supplies	470.92
Deposit at Doubletree	1000.00
Total	2359.24

CREDITS

Previous Balance \$	2045.52
Sales & Donations	2230.00

IN CONCLUSION: Here I sit at my workspace which is a cleared shelf off a bookcase in our daughter's home using a laptop to check my emails, plan the March reunion, get the newsletter out, etc. What an adventure this last quarter has been! As you all know, our Sean is in Iraq & I'm here helping with the 4 boys with school, sports and scouts. Sean & Wendy have done a good job with the boys so my task has been easy..... I've only forgotten a boy two times but remembered to get where I was supposed to be just in the nick of time! I had to wait a year after my heart attack before my bladder surgery in October. It was a piece of cake & had to remind myself not to lift those 6 weeks. The doctor's orders were to have total bed rest for at least 3 days to a week. I had surgery in the morning & was in the kitchen that evening telling Max what bowls & ingredients to get for me to throw some dinner together. Sharron Long, Dana Charles, Lin Drees, Jerry Ranger and some friends of the "Houston" have been working to make the next reunion special. PLEASE, plan to come. Your registration form is on the last page. I'm sure many an eyebrow was raised when they noticed the stamps on our Christmas cards. The post office was running short. I was in my usual rush and told them to give me what they had. Boy, did we have a chuckle looking at the mixture. I think we hit every ethnic holiday, ailment and honorable mention in lieu of ole Santa. Max and I send our love during the holidays wishing you a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

We'll see you in Houston!

**USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS
AND NEXT GENERATION
INVITES YOU**

**The USS Houston Survivors and Next Generation
would be pleased to have you join us
as we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice
for their country 62 years ago.**

**The survivors of the USS Houston CA-30, friends and loved ones
gather to honor those who perished in battle at Sunda Strait
that fateful pre-dawn night of March 1, 1942.**

**Those to be also remembered will be our staunch allies –
the Australians, British and Dutch
who fought and perished in the sea battles
and in captivity while serving in the short lived ABDA Fleet.**

**Saturday 11am
February 28, 2004
USS Houston CA-30 Monument
Sam Houston Park
Houston, Texas**

REGISTRATION FORM
USS HOUSTON Memorial Service/Reunion March 4-5,2005
 Room Reservations MUST be made by YOU
PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Office phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Relationship to the HOUSTON (survivor, spouse, NOK, 131st survivor, friend):

Friday night dinner	6:30PM	#Chicken _____	#Fish _____
Saturday Breakfast	800AM	# _____	
Saturday night dinner	6:30PM	#Chicken _____	#Beef _____

Dinner Friday \$28 x # eating	_____	=\$ _____
Saturday Breakfast \$14 x # eating	_____	=\$ _____
Saturday Dinner \$28 x # eating	_____	=\$ _____
Registration \$20 per person x #	_____	=\$ _____
Bus to University of Houston reception	_____ no. of seats needed	
TOTAL	\$ _____	

NOTE: LATE MEAL REGISTRATION – AFTER FEBRUARY 7 - \$5 PER MEAL

TOTAL LATE REGISTRATION \$ _____

Please include a check for the total cost (your check is your receipt)
 Make payable to: USS Houston – Next Generation
 Send to: Sharron Long
 11402 Memorial Dr
 Houston, TX77024

Hotel: Doubletree Hotel – Allen Center, 400 Dallas St., Houston, TX 77002. Again, make your reservations through the hotel - Call 713 759-0202 or 800 245-4378 by **February 13, 2003!**
 Please advise you are with the USS Houston group. If you have difficulties walking, tell them and ask for a room near the elevator. Handicapped rooms are available ~ please ask if you need one.