



**USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUEBONNET**

**“The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast”**

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**IN MEMORIUM**

**Jack Fowler                      11-23-00                      Lung and heart failure**

**Earl Humphrey                  11-25-00                      Pneumonia**

“I am standing on the seashore. A ship spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the ocean. I stand watching her until she fades on the horizon, and someone at my side says, ‘She’s gone.’ Gone where? The loss of sight is in me, not in her. Just at the moment when someone says, ‘She’s gone’, there are others who are watching her coming in. Other voices take up the glad shout. ‘Here she comes!’, and that is dying.”

(Henry Scott Holland)

**SPOUSES**

**Dorothy Swanson, wife of Dorsey (Swanee) Swanson                      9-22-00 Heart attack**

**Jo Goodson, wife of Ray Goodson    10-25-00 Heart failure**

Our hearts and prayers reach out to the families.

USS *HOUSTON* SURVIVORS

**AND**

NEXT GENERATION

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

**We plan to remember not only the Americans, but also the Australians, British, and Dutch who fought and perished in the sea battles and in captivity.**

**Each country is invited to participate.**

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

Saturday 11am

**March 3, 2001**

**at**

**USS *Houston* Monument**

**Sam Houston Park**

**Houston, Texas**

**Cruiser *Houston* exhibit and reception  
at the University of Houston library**

**2:30pm in the Brown Room.**

## FROM THE SURVIVORS

**A SAD REPORT** - We were grievously saddened to learn of the sudden death of the beloved wife of shipmate Ray Goodson. Jo's death was a great shock to Ray and is to all of us. Ray and Jo were such a great couple and a fine asset to our organization. We will miss her. Our hearts go out to you, Ray.

We are also saddened to also hear the loss of another very close friend. Walter Guzzy, 131st FAA., was a very good friend of many of the Houston survivors as we made our way from prison camp to prison camp. He remained a very faithful friend in the intervening years, a constant correspondent, and always with us at the reunions. Walter was a kind and gentle man, a cherished buddy, and we extend to his family our sincerest and deepest concerns.

**HE DID IT AGAIN** - Otto has been taking a medication for his prostate cancer, and without knowing it, his body became depleted of sodium. This caused disorientation and he was admitted to the local hospital. During his first night there, disoriented as he was, he attempted to get out of bed to go to the bathroom. He fell and broke his right wrist, fractured right leg bone, pelvis bone and cracked a rib in his upper chest. Three days later operated on to pin the femora bone in his leg, then transferred to a rehab center to regain mobility. He is progressing slowly, but well. We both cannot tell you how much all your messages of good wishes have meant to speed him back home. Words are inadequate, so just know of our love and thanks.

**DIVE ON THE HOUSTON** - On September 25, Mason Logi left for a two week exploration dive on our U.S.S. Houston and the HMAS Perth. His trip was extremely successful, finding Houston with charts we supplied him. He dove for four days on Houston, then found Perth and dove on her. In addition, he found a large Japanese transport upon which he also dove. My report to you is intentionally short as Mason has promised a full detailed report the newsletter. There are many interesting aspects to Mason's dive, but I would rather have him tell you in his own words.

**NEW BOOKS AND A NEW MONOGRAPH** - *The Japanese Military Burma-Thailand RR-42-45* by Herbert S. Herman. Publisher: International Society for Japanese Philately, Inc, -ISBN 0-934282-16-1, is now available. Herbert and I met many years ago and have kept a steady flow of correspondence. Herbert is totally dedicated to telling the complete story of Japanese mail, to and from the camps. Copy of this fantastic work was sent to me by his widow Marilyn and we are most grateful.

*In The Highest Traditions...RAN Heroism Darwin 19 February '42* by John Bradford. Bradford has been in touch with me over a long period of time concerning his desire to write a book about the raid on Darwin, (Australia's Pearl Harbor). He was particularly interested in the aborted convoy to Timor. I supplied him with all that I knew about the subject and his new book is now available via the internet; via his publisher, or

preferably he could look into other forms of credit card means of purchase. His

address is: PO Box 1016, Blackwood, South Australia 5051. His email is: johnbradford@picknowl.com.au.

**MAILBAG** - Word from Lloyd and Dorothy Willey indicate his eye problems are doing well but he needs heart tests. They attended MIA/POW Day at MCAS Miramar on September 15. Thanks for sending us the program. The Willey's are hoping to see everyone at the Reunion in Houston. We are hearing from all those on the westcoast who know about Otto's latest event because good old faithful Dutch Kooper has spread the word. What a guy. He and Val surely do keep the lines of communication open. What treasures we survivors have in them... Vic Campbell sent a thoughtful card and visited Otto at the rehab center... We have been receiving daily cards and phone calls and faxes from Val, Max, Lin and Ron. Ray Goodson, in his sorrow, has even called, as has Howard Brooks, Anne and Art DuHaime, Bill Ingram, Frank Ficklin, Marie and Jack Feliz, June and Jack Smith, and so many others I am sure I haven't listed here. Val, bless her, has passed along faxes off the net and emails expressing concerns for us. How can anyone feel other than utterly humble over this kind of love and support. There is NO organization like the U.S.S. Houston Survivors and Next Generation... A letter from Des Rainville, a friend of Otto's cousin Fred Schwarz in CA., informing us of a book titled, "The U.S. and World Sea Power". In it there is much description of Houston's action... A welcome letter from Carlita Zummo in which she encloses a photo of her and Zip. She remembers the good times we had in Port Arthur when Zip was President of the organization. This was prompted by seeing a PBS documentary which had Howard Brooks and Otto on it.... Received word from Capt. Bob Warren who has retired from his present church in Virginia Beach and moved nearer to family in California. He tells us of the subjects and comments of his closing sermon. The title was, "Christ and the Greatest Generation" (when uncommon valor was a common virtue). He hopes to make the next reunion in Houston.... A newsy letter from Nancy Klymaszewski, daughter of shipmate Lee Roy. She ends by wishing Otto a quick recovery... A recent long letter from John Wisecup who is having a difficult time adjusting to life without his dear wife, Iku. Another advantage to living in America; John spent many hours trying to straighten out his VA checks. Got no help whatever from the American Embassy, but finally got help by calling K.O. who provided all necessary paperwork and addresses, etc. John is still not decided just when he will return stateside or where.... Dan Buzzo writes from Peru wishing us a speedy recovery and hoping to see all in Houston... Maurice and Marcella Hurd send very encouraging get well wishes... Gene and Dotty Crispi, although busy leaving for their trip to Italy, took

the time to send us their prayers and get well wishes. Late in: anytime that any of us feel sorry for ourselves, please think of our shipmates who are enduring serious illness and should be first in our prayers. At present, Gene Crispi, who suffered a broken back in a taxi accident while in Italy recently....Gus Forsman, who just seems to be plagued with a constant health battle, Gus Warcken, and faithful westcoast contact Dutch

Kooper... Ross Glover is getting about from day to day as he lives with his current

health problem. I sincerely hope that I haven't omitted any shipmate that needs our prayers... Jack Smith, country dancer extraordinaire, now comes up with yet another field of expertise. He is writing poetry, and I hope that Lloyd Willey does not feel threatened. There is certainly plenty of room for both of you talented guys, and maybe June Smith can work on Lloyd's country dancin'. One of Jack's poems was a beautiful tribute to Dorsey Swansea's wife, who passed on recently... Our own Bob Futon notifies us that he managed to visit with Dr. Clement "Butt" Burghs shortly before he died...

**FROM OVERSEAS** - Word from Ian Jaguar in Sydney informing us of the death of a great lady, his mother Marie. Ian and Marie had been mourning the loss of our shipmate Max Jaguar, HAMS Perth survivor. We truly miss them both... David Manning HMAS Perth survivor and wife Audrey, from Ballarat, on a trip to Darwin, visited a monument on a hilltop overlooking Darwin Harbor. On it are panels and photos describing the tribulations of that city during the Japanese air raid. Included was an account of Houston's aborted convoy to Timor... Good friends Alan and Hazel Donaldson thank us for warning them about the Kanchanaburi project. He was ready to send a donation, but will hold off until he can investigate further. Alan thanks me for an update on Jonathan Feldscher, who had been one of Alan's mates in prison camp... We still receive the welcome newsy 2nd Pioneers newsletter. Many thanks, mates... Fred Seiker writes from London that the news about our federal judges knocking down our attempts to sue Japanese for compensation for our slave labor is discouraging. We did receive an article from a Press release in England reporting that British POW's and widows have been awarded compensation of \$15,000 FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. Does the American Government love the Japanese that much...apparently so.

**NAVAL MEMORIAL** - In Washington, D.C. at the Navy Memorial Building there is a data bank where one can memorialize a veteran and/or ship. For a small fee you can obtain a photograph of the veteran and his service record, mounted in a beautiful folder. Anyone interested in submitting pictures for this, please contact me. I have the details and forms.

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*Trudy and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the many phone calls, cards & faxes received during my latest episode. There is nothing that could replace the concerns expressed by our U.S.S. Houston & Next Generation family. We thank God for each and everyone of you. Circumstances don't allow us to mail out Christmas cards as in the past. May you have a blessed and happy holidays.*

**DIVE TO THE USS HOUSTON** - "It all began when I read about the USS Houston in High School in the early 1970's. This ship before World War II was the one President Franklin Roosevelt had made several good will tours to several foreign countries. What fascinated me about the Houston was how it had been sunk in a battle with several Japanese warships, in the Java Sea. While over three hundred members of the crew had been captured by the Japanese, no one in the United States knew what had happened to the ship for two years. I also took up scuba diving and had an interest in diving the Houston. In the mid 1980's that I began to writing letters dive operations in Indonesia, asking if any of them would be able to arrange for me to dive on the Houston. However, as I received back was that Indonesia didn't want divers coming to their country to dive wrecks. This was due to the fact several wrecks in the country had been looted by treasure divers.

A friend of mine introduced me to Mr. Otto Schwarz the head of the USS Houston Survivors Association. Mr. Schwarz was seventeen years old and a seaman second class when the Houston was in its final battle with the Japanese warships. He had managed to escape the Houston as it was sinking by diving into the water. He was later captured by the Japanese, and spent three and a half years as a prisoner of war. During this time he worked on the death railway in Thailand. He had informed me that several individuals had wanted to dive the Houston over the years but no one had ever succeeded, except for an Australian diver in the early 1980's.

It was only that in this year that I met a Mr. Robin Engel, President of Song Line Cruises, who runs charter boat business in Indonesia, through the internet. Mr. Engel was able to make the necessary arrangements for me to dive the USS Houston, with the help of two commercial divers in Indonesia.

I contacted Mr. Schwarz before I left on my trip and was given permission by him and his Survivor's Association to dive the Houston. I also took two American Flag's with me one to be placed on the Houston, the other was to be returned to Mr. Schwarz as memorial to the seven hundred sailors who died on the Houston. I also took with me a map which Mr. Schwarz had provided me a few years earlier. This map had been drawn by an Australian diver who dove the Houston, which reported to have the location where the Houston was.

When I arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia, Robin Engel introduced me to two commercial divers: Aguss MacQuiree and Chris Langmaid of Great Britain. We spent two days looking for the wreck unsuccessfully before I realized I had the map from Otto Schwarz, which showed where the Houston and the Perth were sunk. Between September 30th and October 6th 2000, several days were spent diving both the USS Houston and the Australian cruiser the Perth. We also found a Japanese ship that was sunk during the same battle.

During the dives I found the bow and the stern of the Houston intact. There was damage to decking between where turrets one and two had been, apparently from shell fire. The turrets had fallen off the wreck and were in the sand. The remains of some of the smaller guns were found and photographed. The mainmast was found intact and still had the platforms for search lights and machine guns. However, the lights and guns had apparently rusted away, for all that remained were rusty stumps. Another diver and I did go inside one of the airplane hangers but were unable to find the remains of planes the Houston had been carrying when it sank. The high point of the trip was finding the foretop (a small building) a top the tripod mast intact. This was where commands were given during the ship's last battle. It's also where the American Flag given to me by the USS Houston Survivors Association was placed, photographed, and left on the wreck. A flag given to me by Mr. Schwarz was flown for a short time, from a cable, on the wreck.

When we did an investigative dive on the Perth it was found to still have it's gun turrets which pointed in several different directions. Torpedo damage was observed and photographed.

I met with Mr. Schwarz a week after I got back and gave him back his American flag, which he'll fly over his house next Memorial Day. In addition, my trip was very exciting for the seventy seven remaining Houston survivors. They have asked me to come to their reunion (held in Texas in March), so they can finally see the pictures I took and how their ship looks today underwater.

Finally, another trip is being planned to dive the Houston in the spring of 2002 to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the sinking. Plans are now being made for an underwater memorial to be built and placed on the Houston at that time...."

Sincerely yours,

Mason R. Logie Jr.

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Mason and I are working together to go to the site in 2002. He has found a hotel and is also corresponding with an American drilling company about transportation to the sites of the Houston and Perth. It will take place after our traditional Memorial Service in Houston, but the date has not been set at this time. If any Houston and Perth survivors along with their family are interested in attending, please contact me.



## A LINE FROM LIN

**ORAL HISTORIES** - It is possible that I will have someone from the Nimitz Museum (or other sources) to take oral histories during the reunion weekend. Are you interested in giving an oral history? If so, please let me know to add you to the schedule.

### **SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE U.S.S. HOUSTON SITE/March 2002 -**

It is possible that there will be a special Memorial Service above the ship in the spring of 2002. Check with me or Val about details.

**FLOWERS AT THE MONUMENT** - Ron and I go to the Monument several times a year; we usually take seasonal silk flowers - and we take single bluebonnets to leave with the name of our men and spouses as we have a death in our USS HOUSTON family. We also take flowers to remember ones we have been asked to remember on special days. *You are invited to place a single flower, bouquets or wreaths at the Monument AFTER the Memorial Service.*

**CHANGI PRISON** - Were you there? I have the name of a man who is looking for men who were POW's there - there will be a re-dedication at the prison - oral histories are being made.

**DO YOU REMEMBER** - Survivors... please respond!

**Wilbur Eugene Bowlby and Donald W. Hill** - I have the family member's name, address and email address. **Loren Robert Smith** - contact Rosanna Parker (1st cousin) at 1502 Wyoming, Goodland, KS 67735-2448. **Charles Lynch** - contact William Lynch (brother) at email address: wplynch@compuserve.com. **Charles**, William and a 3rd brother, Alton, once served together on the *USS Mississippi*.

**Theodore "Itch" Schram** - Nicholas (son) is just finding out about the *Houston* and her story. Write him at 6620 Wheelbarrow Peak Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89108.

Phone: 702 658-1099. **James Watt, F2c** - Michael Thompson (cousin) at PO Box 721457, Berkley, MI 40872. **Julius Schwerts** - Richard Ploessl (cousin) at 510 Johnston, Galesburg, IL. 61401.

**March 2 -3 WILL BE HERE SOONER THAN YOU THINK** - that reminds me -

PLEASE take the time to fill in your registration, write out a check, put into an envelope and mail to me. WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU - AND HAVING A FANTASTIC REUNION - AND AN INSPIRING MEMORIAL SERVICE.

**IN CLOSING** - Ron and I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New year, and we are both anxious to hear from you and see you in Houston in March.

Email: ronlindrees@juno.com

Address: 14219 Wickersham Ln, Houston, TX 77077 - 5225

**YOU ARE INVITED** - 2001 Memorial Service/Reunion, March 2-3, 2001 at Allen Park Inn (2121 Allen Parkway), Houston, Texas (800 231-6310). Ask for the USS HOUSTON special rates of \$69.00 (double occupancy).

**\*\*You must make your own reservations. Registration deadline - February 14th, 2001 (discounted rate). See registration form for rates after February 14th. Please register *even if you will only be attending the Memorial Service!* Registrants will receive maps and additional information concerning transportation to and from the airports. Two buses will be provided for those without transportation to the Memorial Service and the reception at the University of Houston. (Volunteers with extra room in their vehicle will be appreciated). Agenda - Friday night 7:30 (to allow for late arrivals): dinner, Saturday:**

11 a.m. : Memorial Service at Sam Houston Park, lunch immediately following at the Allen Park Inn, 2:30: Reception at the University of Houston, 6:30: dinner. All meals will be in the Rose Room at the Allen Park Inn.

The Allen Park Inn staff loves our group and will try to honor any special request (i.e.: non-smoking, near elevator, etc.). **\*\*Attention survivors - request a room in the Tower near the elevator to save walking distances\*\***

PLEASE register early to avoid confusion we have had in the past not having enough room or meals. We must reserve bus seats, meals, seating for the Memorial service and at the University of Houston reception, refreshments for the hospitality room, etc. This weekend is planned for you and we want the VERY BEST for you, in order to do that, we need your consideration. Also, we want to honor ALL our survivors and surviving spouses. Of course, we want to acknowledge our friends and family who represent a HOUSTON man who has passed away (whether it was March 1st, in the POW camps or since liberation).

The library staff at the University of Houston looks forward to holding a reception and enable us to view the USS HOUSTON exhibit (this is always a highlight of the weekend). If you have an item that you would like to donate (any letters, something that you brought home from the camps, etc.) to U of H while at the reception, please let me know or advise the UH Library Special Collections so that your donation may be recognized that Saturday.

**WE WANT YOU TO BE WITH US IN HOUSTON ON MARCH 2-3, 2001.** If you have attended one of our Memorial Service/Reunion weekends in the past, we hope to see you again. If you have not attended, please consider attending this year. Do not let the fact that you do not know anyone else deter you from attending. The first event Ron & I attended we did not know anyone, but came home with friends world-wide - we cannot imagine our lives without the USS HOUSTON men, their families, their friends, and the USS HOUSTON Next Generation family and friends. Your life will be greatly enriched by the friendships and "new family members".

Enough said, please register and please register early!

**CREWMEMBER SPOTLIGHT****AMM1/c William Charles De Wald 385 69 30, USN****Killed in Action March 1, 1942**

William "Bill" was born October 14, 1916 near Sultan, Washington. He was the second child of Elmer Worthy De Wald and Olga Slattelmeier De Wald. Per the birth certificate, Olga acted as her own midwife.

Bill grew up on a stump ranch west of Sultan and attended Sultan schools, completing the eleventh grade. Back in those days, you graduated in 11 years. Sultan is in Snohomish County about 15 miles inland from Puget Sound and about 40 miles NE of Seattle. At age 19, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Recruiting Station Seattle on June 15, 1936 as an apprentice seaman. He trained at the U.S. Naval Training Station, San Diego from June 17 to October 3, 1936, when he was transferred to and reported aboard the *USS Sicard DD 346* for duty. Bill changed his rating to Fireman Third Class on November 16, 1936 and was promoted to Fireman Second Class on June 1, 1937, Fireman First Class on May 16, 1938 and Machinist Mate Second Class on May 16, 1939.

In 1936 or '37, while in San Diego Bill married Vivian. Their divorce became final in 1941. They had no children.

In early 1937, the *USS Sicard* and the three sister ships in her Destroyer Squadron had their home port changed from San Diego to Pearl Harbor.

On September 18, 1939, Bill reported aboard the Light Cruiser *USS Memphis CL 13* for duty. While bill was aboard, the *Memphis* made a cruise to the Territory of Alaska. Bill was transferred to Receiving Station San Diego on May 12, 1940 and then to Receiving Station Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington, on June 1940. Bill was discharged June 4, 1940 after serving 3 years, 11 months and 20 days with a final average for all Quarterly Marks of 3.82.

Prior to his discharge, Bill had been trying to change his rate from Machinist Mate to Aviation Machinist Mate (AMM). Bill told his brother Fred that he wanted to get out of working in engine rooms because of the heat and that he was losing his hair. Ultimately Bill was successful and reenlisted on June 28, 1940 at Receiving Station PSNSY Bremerton as a Machinist Mate Second Class with authorization to change his rate to Aviation Machinist Mate.

Subsequently, Bill received orders to the *USS Houston CA 30* and went to the Philippine Islands aboard an unknown ship. Bill reported aboard the *Houston* in Manila on September 26, 1940 and was assigned to the Ship Aviation Unit - V Division. In November 1940, the *Houston* became the Flagship of the Asiatic Fleet.

Bill completed the Navy training courses for AMM3/c and AMM2/c in January and February 1941, and was recommended for a change in rate. Bill took and passed the AMM2/c test on March 4, 1941 and subsequently his rate was changed to AMM2/c. He was making \$140.00 per month. He completed the Navy training course for AMM1/c and Chief on July 23, 1941. Bill took the test for AMM1/c on December 19, 1941, passed and was advanced in rate on February 1, 1942. Many rosters erroneously show Bull as AMM2/c when he was lost.

In 1941, there were four aircraft assigned to the *Houston*, one SOC-1, two SOC-3 and one SON-1. They were single engine, two place (seat), bi-29ng, Scout Observation (SO) float aircraft with a wingspan of 36 ft., length 26 ft., and height 13ft 2 in. They had a Pratt and Whitney R-1340 (radial) engine which developed 550hp. Each aircraft had a crew assigned. Probably the most important duty the flight crewmen had was connecting the hook from the ship's crane to the lifting cables on the aircraft so it could be hoisted back aboard. When the aircraft returned from a flight, the crew performed all necessary maintenance including fueling, checking oil, wiping down (cleaning) and creasing control wires.

Part of Bill's duties included flying as an observer in the back seat of the aircraft he worked on. In a March 1, 1942 letter to his brother, Bill said, "We are required to spend four hours in the air a month, but we get much more (flight time). Talk about a car (having) pickup (acceleration) you should ride a plane shot from a catapult 60 miles an hour in forty feet. I get to take over controls once in awhile now but later on I should know how to fly." In a letter of March 15, 1941, Bill said he had over five hours in the air in *Houston's* aircraft and also flown in PBY's. (There were PBY's, twin-engine Patrol Bomber (PB) seaplanes at Sangley Point in Manila Bay. At times, *Houston* V Division personnel and aircraft were off the ship on temporary duty at Sangley Point.)

The *Houston* was sunk on March 1, 1942. Later, none of the survivors could recall seeing Bill during the last battle or in the water thereafter. He was declared Missing in Action (MIA) as of March 1, 1942, his presumptive date of death was reported as December 26, 1945. His status was changed from MIA to presumed dead on September 22, 1947.

Bill was previously awarded the Good Conduct Medal for his first enlistment. For service on the *Houston* he received the Naval Presidential Unit Citation, Purple Heart, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Fleet Clasp and two bronze stars, American Defense Medal with one bronze star, World War II Victory Medal and the Philippine Defense Medal with one bronze star. Bill's name can be found in the Tablets of the Missing area in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, together with the names of 17,581 other Sailors.

Submitted by LCDR Bruce F. De Wald USN Ret. nephew of Bill. Bruce has been a member (NG) of the USS Houston Survivors Association since 1979.

## FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES** - Lin and I are working with the NOUS preparing for our March reunion. They have always been generous of their time and assistance in making plans for the Memorial Service. The wonderful booklets enclosed in this newsletter are compliments of the Naval Order of the United States.... Job Well Done!

**LUSK-SANCHEZ-LAMUN TEXAS STATE VETERANS HOME** - The Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst, chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board announced the official naming of a nursing care facility in Big Spring, Texas for three Texas veterans. Joe M Lusk was born & raised in Howard County & enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1939 at the age of 19. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Lusk was stationed aboard the cruiser USS Houston, which was sunk March 1, 1942. Lusk survived the sinking but was captured by the Japanese. Lusk died of dysentery and beri beri March 23, 1943 in Kilo Camp, Burma. I have contacted the land commissioner's office by letter and phone call asking that we be notified of the grand opening. Their forecast date for the grand opening/ribbon cutting is January, but we all know about construction delays. I will report additional information when I receive it.

**LATE UPDATE** - "A defaced plaque commemorating American POWs who died while building the so-called "Death Railway" during World War II was replaced during a ceremony for the war dead. The new plaque, which is located next to the bridge over the River Kwai, replaces one that was unveiled in September 1997 and subsequently vandalized by souvenir seekers who pried pieces off it. Most of the Americans who died while building the 250-mile railway came from a US warship, the USS Houston, which was sunk by the Japanese Navy off the coast of Indonesia. The survivors were taken prisoner and sent to Thailand as slave laborers. "

*The Associated Press - This article appeared in the News-Press, Ft. Myers, FL on April 26, 1999)*

**FACT** - William Hitler, a nephew of Adolph Hitler, was in the US Navy during W.W.II. He changed his name upon returning to the US after the war. (from the W.W.II Quiz and Fact Book)

**LOOTING OF SITES** - Allan Andrade has taken on quite a personal quest. He is trying to get our government to pass legislation that will protect the wreckage sites of our ships from looters and scavengers. He feels, as we do, that these wreck sites are also grave sites of our lost men that should be respected. His email address is:

agandrade@earthlink.net. He is asking that you readers write your Congressmen & senators on this issue. As he states, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease!"

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** - A gentle reminder to our birthday list people -- Ray Peterson % Elinor McCoy, 3144 Merrywood Dr, Sacramento, CA 92825. I received several returned pieces this mail out. If anyone comments to you that they are not receiving their newsletter, have them contact me with their new address.

**AGAPE** - Mary Martwick, widow of Phillip Martwick forwarded some information she had received from a group named AGAPE founded by Keiko Holmes. She has been able to have some former POW's of the Death Railway come to Japan and speak to children in school of their ordeal. I will be in touch with her in the future to report further. Her letter to me stated "We were so brutal, arrogant, greedy and proud. I am very sorry that we attacked Pearl Harbor, I am sorry that so many people had to suffer unnecessarily. We committed such evil to so many nations. I am sorry. Please forgive us. Humanly speaking, what we did was unforgivable".

**USS HOUSTON SSN-713** --- I have received a report that the Houston returned to San Diego in November after being out to sea 183 days covering more than 45,000 nautical miles and visiting 10 different ports in eight different countries. More than 500 qualifications in various watch stations were achieved during the deployment. We are all proud of the crew.

**CENSORSHIP** - "Return from the River Kwai" is a movie that was banned from being shown in the United States in 1998. Since the Japanese had purchased Columbia pictures, they went to court to stop the story of the survivors of the sinking of the Rakuyo Maru death ship. When witnesses Ernie Warwick, Sid Tavender (ex English POW's) and Carl Fritsche were called in, the Japanese demanded that the judge not allow them to testify stating that they (the ex POW's) would be too emotional. Judge Edelstein ruled in favor of Sony/Columbia & Academy therefore halting the men from testifying to the validity of the film.

**GRAND PRIX GALA** - On Sept 29 & Oct 1 the Texaco/Havoline Grand Prix was held in Houston. The event was opened by the Navy with a jet fly-over to open the race & a moment of silence dedicated to the men of the USS Houston. The USS Houston was honored by having the event dedicated to her and her crew. The survivors were invited to the Mayor's Grand Prix Gala (black tie affair).

**MAILBAG** - Elinor McCoy, sister of **Ray Peterson** sent a note in response to my mention that we had lost him due to returned mail. Ray is now in a nursing home after having had a light stroke in July of '99. Thanks Elinor! Jerry Sims served aboard the USS Sims in the Pacific & is a great fan of the USS Houston. He sends his regards to the survivors & notice of change of address. **Lanson Harris** sent a note of appreciation. **Marcela Hurd** writes that **Maurice** is recovering from his kidney infection & his PSA count has lowered considerably. Fred Hekking sent copies of postcards he

and his family received from his father (they too were POW's and knew the true conditions). Marcia Miles Milligan writes that she is working diligently on getting her dad's Purple Heart. Walter Grice sent a hefty donation in memory of his father. I had to look at the check several times to be sure I wasn't dreaming! Thank you so very much!!! **Carrie Hendrick** sent the original post cards and Vmail her husband **George** had sent home. Patricia Stoker sent for an USS Houston shirt, monument & bell pins and bumper stickers. Jack Mintzer sent a copy of an excellent write up of his cousin, **Fran Weiler**, that was written up in the Shipmate (alumni magazine of the US Naval Academy). I had written before that Clay Ramsey & his associate had come to our home for a weekend to do research about the Houston - his work will be published in the Encyclopedia of Naval Warfare, a three volume set to be published as part of an eight volume set of encyclopedias of land, sea & air warfare. Clay is general editor. As soon as it's available to the public, I'll let you all know! **Bill Stewart** (survivor) is looking for any NOK of **Leonard Zimmerman**. The Herman Middleton Law offices have come across more hurdles and continue to ask for letters (addresses are listed in our last issue) Dottie Crispie and Joann Pryor are in constant touch emailing jokes and bits of information. **Dutch Kooper** writes that he doubts he can make it to the March Memorial reunion due to his left hip and dental problems...he will be missed! **Eugene Crispie** is in a nursing facility while his broken back is mending but hasn't given up hope of attending the March reunion. Margorie Maggiora writes that she and her family re-created the last 7 hours of the USS Houston using information on the internet and books. They used their dining room table and color coded paper representing the ships. **Gus Forsman** called to say that he's simply ripped the month of March out of his 2001 calendar because for the last several years, March has been the month he's become ill. Gus.... note your personal calendar that the March 2-4 reunion will be February 30-32! **Matt Marinis**, at the young age of 81, still manages a 80 boat marina to stay busy. **Jim Ballew** writes that he took a trip this summer resulting in hitting two deer.... end result \$10,280 worth of damage, the air bags being the most costly items. He's grown an affinity to those air bags & has the car back to "it's original DEER KILLING appearance. Congratulations to Scott & Robin Ingram! They were married in California on October 15, 2000.... your Houston family wishes you a life of happiness.

Di Elliott of Australia writes that she is now doing volunteer work at the Australia War Memorial. Carol Cooper & hubby (of England) took a long trip to down under and met with Di and her husband. We NG's from all over the world are uniting to keep the memory of our loved ones alive. Fred & Liz Sieker of England and I are in constant touch. Max & I grew very attached to them when they visited last year. I was most impressed with the video he sent of their Veteran's Day!

**DONATIONS:** So many generous hearts donated this month. You have our deepest gratitude: **Maurice & Marcella Hurd**, Austin Smith, Walter R. Grice, Carrie Hendrick, Frank Enright, Carl Fritsche, **Lanson & Ella Harris**, Fred Hekking, Frank Enright, Patricia Stoker, Jane Mathews in memory of her father **John Stefanek** and friend **Joe Gans**, Robert Moga, Robert & Betty Wettach, **Gus Forsman** and Judy & Dan Buttery in memory of **Earl Humphrey**, Capt. Conan Meehan (NOUS), Margaret & Paul Dufault, Steven & Kathleen Stachnik, Christopher & Joan Higgins in memory of **Walter Guzzy**, Marcia and Forrest Milligan, Laura Stevens. Remember, we are tax deductible!

(DLN 17053122009007)

**LAWSUIT - S. Con. Res 158** (Senate Resolution 158) states that the US Senate has approved discussions to resolve the issues between former POW's of the Japanese & private Japanese companies. Call Wendy Behan at Herman-Middleton toll free at 888 225-31221 for additional information (web site [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov))

**MORE GOOD NEWS** - Provision of the FY2001 NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) was signed into law October 30, 2000 as Public Law 106-398. Although hundreds of provisions are in the 500+ page law, what is of interest is the back pay for promotions of Navy/USMC WWII POW's. This information was emailed to me via Admiral Bob Fulton.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY** - Capt. Richard Wright, US Naval Attache' assigned to the American Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia emailed to advise that he and the Australian Naval Attache planned a memorial wreath laying dive on the USS Houston and HMAS Perth on November 11, 2000. Lin tells me that the ceremony had to be delayed and they have proposed to her that some of the survivors should attend. Please contact Lin for more information.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

DEBITS		CREDITS	
Print newsletter	\$ 421.13	Previous balance	\$4791.51
Postage newsletter	136.67	Donations & sales	3568.58
Supplies	1059.33	Total	\$8360.09
Phone	283.07		
Postage	131.84		
Total	\$2032.04		
		NEW BALANCE	\$6328.05



**USS HOUSTON CA 30 SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP** - Seven members of our Association have agreed to form a USS Houston Scholarship Committee for the purpose of providing an annual scholarship award from the USS Houston CA 30 Survivors Association and Next Generation. Those on board are

Jo Edmondson, Ned Gallagher, Phil Gans, Scott Ingram, Eric Lien, Jack Mintzer and John Schwarz. Jack Mintzer and Ned Gallagher have volunteered to coordinate the efforts and activities of the committee and a program will be presented to all hands at our reunion in March 2001.

**IN CONCLUSION** - We've all heard the old saying, "It's as easy as falling out of bed". I'll take Otto's word for it that it ISN'T all that easy... This is the main reason the newsletter is a month late. Trudy has her hands full and we were trying to relieve some of the pressure of the deadline. I'm sure everyone is understanding. None of you wives warned me of the changes when a hubby retires! But, best of all, we have the flexible time and we are both enjoying it to the hilt. My major project this quarter has been organizing the Scholarship committee. Needless to say, they are very enthused & I have every confidence this will bring honor to the memory of the USS Houston and her crew. Due to health reasons, the doctor has nixed our plans to attend the Anzac Day services in March of 2001. Although I am disappointed, this next opportunity has come up. Thinking positive and forging ahead, I am in the beginning stages of organizing a trip to the *Houston* for the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the ship in 2002. Mason Logie (the diver) and I have some ideas that I feel we can make a reality. First, we want to have him dive the site and via remote TV allow those in attendance to watch. He and I are investigating the details that would allow him to mount a plaque on the wreckage to designate the *Houston* as a memorial site. The ideas are flowing.... We want as many survivors and next of kin of both the *Houston* and *Perth* to attend as possible. With a head count, we can reserve a block of rooms at a nearby hotel. Mason is also checking into an American drilling company that has expressed an interest to take us out to both the *Houston* and *Perth* sites. Of course, this would take place after our March 1 ceremonies. He has urged that we hold the ceremony after the monsoon season (that seems only reasonable), but at this time, we do not have a specific date. I will need response from the readers and am giving as much notice as possible. Those that contact me will be given more specific details as they come on an individual basis. Give this some serious consideration!! PLEASE contact me right away if you are interested... Lin & Ron Dress are interested & we'd hate to be the only two couples there. I received at least 100 hits a week inquiring about a crew member or the history of the *Houston* on the internet not including the regular mail and phone calls. It is truly a fulfilling experience working for the organization. Max and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and the year 2002 is full of health and happiness for all.

**USS HOUSTON CA-30 MEMORIAL SERVICE-REUNION March 2-3, 2001**

Houston, Texas - USS HOUSTON MEMORIAL MONUMENT & Allen Park Inn

Room reservations **MUST** be made by **YOU** by calling 1 800 231-6310. State your preferences - ask for the USS HOUSTON discount rate of \$69.00 for 1-2 persons. ***Please print legibly***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the HOUSTON (survivor) (surviving spouse) (relative-please indicate relationship on lines provided) (friend - please indicate how you found out about the HOUSTON on lines provided) (131st survivor) (131st surviving spouse).

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (office) \_\_\_\_\_

email (home) \_\_\_\_\_ email (office) \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ (am) (pm) Departure date \_\_\_\_\_ (am) (pm)

Oral history - please circle interest      Yes                      No                      Maybe

Friday night dinner - choice of Roast Beef or Lemon Butter Baked Fish with salad, potato, vegetable, dessert, beverage (coffee, hot or iced tea)      No substitutions

# persons eating Roast - \_\_\_\_\_                      # persons eating Fish - \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch - Trio Salad (tuna, chicken, pasta) over lettuce with crackers, dessert, beverage (coffee, hot or iced tea)      # persons eating \_\_\_\_\_      No substitutions

Saturday night dinner - Chicken Monterey with salad, vegetables, desert, beverage (coffee, hot or iced tea)      # persons eating \_\_\_\_\_      No substitutions

I will need \_\_\_\_\_ # seat(s) on the bus.

After February 14th

Dinner - Friday # eating \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_                      # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$21 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch - Saturday # eating \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_                      # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner - Saturday # eating \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_                      # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$21 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration - \$10 per person - # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_                      # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After Feb. 14 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a check for the TOTAL cost - make your check payable to: USS Houston - Next Generation.

Send your check and registration to: Lin Drees - 14219 Wickersham - Houston, TX 77077 (by Feb. 14th)

If you will attend only the Memorial Service, please register so that we can recognize you at the Memorial Service. Please indicate the number of persons attending. Memorial Service only #\_\_\_\_

Memorial Service & Hospitality room only # \_\_\_\_ Memorial Service & UH reception only # \_\_\_\_

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES - please see other side of page.

**WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS - All gratefully accepted!!!!!!!!!!!!1**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill in address, phone, email, and fax information on the reverse side.*

If more than one person is filing in the form below, write in your name beside the applicable volunteer opportunity.

Otherwise, if only one person, write YEW where you will be able to help us.

We need your help with any of the items listed below. Please indicate your choice and return to Lin Drees, 13219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Appetizers or dip with chips \_\_\_\_\_ Cookies \_\_\_\_\_ (homemade or purchased)

Bottled water (individual size) \_\_\_\_\_ Canned sodas \_\_\_\_\_ (# six packs \_\_\_\_\_)

Other canned drinks \_\_\_\_\_ (# of six packs \_\_\_\_\_)

Other opportunities to volunteer:

Registration Desk - Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ (PM only) Friday \_\_\_\_\_ (am) (pm)

Sale table for USS Houston items - Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Help at Memorial Service \_\_\_\_\_

Help co-ordinate scheduled events at Memorial Service \_\_\_\_\_

Help dinner (take tickets) Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Bus monitor - Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle with extra seats - Memorial Service \_\_\_\_\_ Reception at U of H \_\_\_\_\_

Anything that we have forgotten? \_\_\_\_\_

Please register on reverse side of page - thanks!

