



## USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET “The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast”

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### FROM THE SURVIVORS

We must report the following shipmate has joined the crew still standing watching in Sunda Strait.

<b>ROSS M. GLOVER</b>	<b>2-15-01</b>	<b>Pancreatic cancer</b>
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From the very moment that he knew he had terminal cancer, Ross became an inspiration to all of us. Many of us spoke to him almost to the very end and his attitude in facing death was uplifting to all of us.

**A CLASS “A” ACT** - If you were not there you missed the biggest and best memorial service/reunion conducted to date. I have attended many events of this nature, but March 2-4 was, by far, the best I ever attended. We can truly be grateful for Val, Lin and their husbands Max and Ron. I will not attempt to take up a lot of space in describing the event, as I am sure that Val and Lin will do that.

If you were not there, you missed being with the following shipmates: David Flynn-Bill Ingram-Joe Snyder-John Reas-Ray Goodson-Gene Wilkinson-John Hood-Ned Gallagher-Howard Brooks-Elmo Kennedy-Skip Schilperoot-Bob Charles-Harry Kelley-Paul Papish-George Stoddard-Otto Schwarz.

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**BITS AND PIECES** - Gus Forsman was registered but ended up in the hospital: Bob Fulton's doctor would not let him travel, as was the case with Gene Crispi and Maruice Hurd was also too ill to travel. I am sure there were others who wanted to attend, but health prevented it. I apologize for not being very good company this year, but I was experiencing severe hip and back pains. In addition, we had a good number of our Houston wives and widows in attendance and with NOK families, there were well over 200 at the ceremony. Watching NOK families with their sons, daughters & grandchildren touching the name of their loved one on the monument; others touching the porthole glass recovered by the diver last September and expressing the thought that their loved one had been with that glass all these years, and yet others viewing the photos of the wreckage taken by the diver and voicing the thought that they had finally seen their loved one's grave..... highly emotional stuff.... that is why we have all worked so hard over the years to make this possible.

**\*MISC\*** - We were honored by the presence at our Memorial Service/Reunion of five of our 131st FA comrades. Kyle Thompson, Frank Ficklin, Quaty Gordon, Arthur “Youngun” Clark, Eldridge Rayburn and their wives. We were pleased to present the porthole glass, recovered from the Houston, to Kyle

Thompson to be placed on exhibit in the Texas Military History Museum. This museum, located in Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas, has opened a Lost Battalion Room which also features an exhibit about the U.S. S. Houston CA 30. A beautiful case for the porthole glass was made by students at the Kitatinny High School in northern New Jersey through the efforts of our good friend Vic Campbell.

I recently spoke to Arthur Bancorft and David Manning on the phone in Perth, Australia. The HMAS Perth survivors were holding their Commemoration of the 59th Anniversary of the sinking of their ship.

**NEW BOOK** - We have just received a complimentary copy of a new book written by the daughter of Perth survivor Allan Gee. Although I have not had the opportunity to have the book read to me yet, the promo that came with it, and Trudy's description of the book, sounds like it will make excellent reading. The book, "Silver Creek" a Family Memoir, not only details the experiences of HMAS Perth and her crew, but also traces several generations of the Gee family settling in Australia. There are also a number of interesting photographs in it. It can be obtained for \$20 US, which includes postage. Write as follows: PO Box 221, Double Bay, NSW 1360 Australia

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We are still waiting for Jack Feliz's book, "The Saga of Sailor Jack". Jack apparently ran into a glitch with the original publisher and his book is now in the hands of another one. We will keep you informed as soon as we have more information.

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**MAILBAG** - Our faithful advocate, Linda Goetz-Holmes, has informed us of a bill in Congress which would create a \$20,000 payment from our own government to equal that which we gave the Japanese internees. The bill has been introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman and Representative Tom Udall to authorize additional compensation from Federal funds. Linda has been fighting for us for many years and it is *imperative* that we do something for ourselves by writing to our own Congressmen to support this legislation..... Joyce Ranger was reluctant, upon the death of JOHN, to continue receiving the Blue Bonnet. Thankfully she has reconsidered upon prompting from son Jerry to continue to be an active ember of the Houston family.... The usual family Christmas letter from Dorothy and LLOYD WILLEY. This one contained interesting news about a visit by Rebecca, daughter of our old Aussie mate Rusty O'Brien, and her daughter.... Marge and LEE ROGERS update us on conditions at their home. LEON seems to be recovering nicely from his many physical ailments, but Marge has recently experienced some of her own... Betty Miles took me to task for indicating that she was "stirring the pot" when writing about the proposed museum at the Kwai Bridge. Apparently "stirring the pot" is not a compliment on the westcoast, but on the eastcoast one who "stirs the pot" is usually a go-getter and a doer. I intended it as a compliment, Betty. Very Sorry.

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**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** - The first phase of our Scholarship Program has been completed and was presented at our recent reunion in Houston. The reunion registration packet contained a pamphlet explaining the Program details that covered: Application; Eligibility Criteria; Annual timetable of Events; and the Award Selection Process. This part of our Program was written by John Schwarz, Otto's son. It is outstanding for two reasons: (1) the quality and thoughtfulness of the work, and (2) the work was done by a member of our Next Generation who is the son of a Survivor. A wonderful demonstration of the Survivor/Next Generation relationship that gives our organization a remarkable example of strength and momentum for the future.

In the near future, a copy of the pamphlet will be mailed to all hands on our mailing list, and this will signal that Phase II of the Scholarship Program is underway. Accompanying the pamphlet will be information about donations for the Scholarship, and especially that Phase II is the most important part of our scholarship Program - Funding. Everyone will be asked to help by devoting time and energy, as well as thoughts and ideas to the Program in order to ensure that a successful Program will endure. (by NED

GALLAGHER - Scholarship Co-Chairman)

**DECEMBER 28, 1945** - Congress officially recognizes the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES** - contact me with your email address! I can keep you posted on the latest news AND email you a newsletter!

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**SICK BAY** - **Hank Allen** suffered a severe heart attack in early January, last report is that he is in a coma. **Art Duhaime's** health is failing due to his previous strokes & is now bed ridden but his spirits are high. **Capt. Leon Rogers** and his wife have both had health problems this past year and are slowly recovering. **Lloyd Willey** has to have more chemo eye drops for his cancer but no surgery is planned which is good news. **Dutch Kooper** is in the process of hip replacement, just now one leg is 1 1/2" longer than the other and he walks like Peg Leg Pete. **Maurice Hurd** continues to deal with heart problems & has been in and out of the hospital. **Bob Charles** is going back for tests due to another aneurysm. **Gus Forsman** is in rehab after another hospital stay due to his lung problems

**MAILBAG** - We are pleased to introduce a new NG - Kamine Jakara Rossalyn Edmondson born to Jo Edmondson 12-16-00 (8lbs 2oz, 20"). Jo named her after ROSS GLOVER. GERRY WARCHKEN writes that AUGUST was in the hospital for 5 months after having 2 strokes and a heart attack but doing fairly well. Gail Kimberling of the News-Times, Newport, Oregon emailed to report that RICHARD AUST was awarded his Purple Heart and Bronze Star on Dec. 8, 2000. Congratulations Richard - we are all proud of you! PAUL AND BETTY BEATTY report they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a cruise to Nassau with their children and a trip to Ireland and Scotland. They have 25 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Bruce & Gerri Olson (brother in law of IRVING FELIX died 18 April 43) stopped by in their travels and spent the day with Max & I. They got to see "the office" and gather some information. Bruce brought some letters from Felix & I scanned the envelopes (they are especially interesting!). One of the perks of this work is meeting such wonderful people!!! Mary Fort writes that every year, she has her new students learn about the Houston, now other teachers in her school are doing the same! JOHN WISECUP called to see if we had a spare copy of his sketches that I agreed to send. He promises to attend the Memorial Service/reunion in March 2002 - I promised him a pot of Texas chili (his request) if he came by Austin. Receiving a letter from Nancy Morrow is always a treat as she is always full of cheery news about her work, pets & their home sausage, jams and hot relish...yummm! Fred & Liz Seiker have become close friends and we fax each other routinely. They were very disappointed they could not come to the March reunion and sent their regards to all. He now has two web sites, one for his artistic talents and the other for his book "Lest We Forget".  
Artist: <http://www.beverevivis.com/feature/feature2.htm> and  
Author: <http://www.beverevivis.com/books/lestweforget>

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**REUNIONS** - June 13-18, 2001 US Navy Cruiser Sailor Association, Embassy Suites, Seattle, Washington. Contact Bud Browell, 317 S Anacortes St, Burlington, WA 98233

August 16-18, 2001 131st & USS Houston Reunion @ Holiday Inn 401 Broad St, Wichita Falls, Texas (940 766-6000 or 800 465-4329)

Dubuque Reunion (July) - Due to unforeseen issues with the new management at the Julien Inn, Dale reports that the reunion will have to be canceled.

**ATTENTION SURVIVORS** - The following people are searching for someone that knew their loved one. Any word from you would be cherished.

JAMES EUGENE "GENE" RAYMANN, F 1c - (niece) Sharon Bateman, Box 89, Plainville, Indiana 47568  
WILLARD G. WARD, SF 1c - (niece) Brenda Crank, 605 Rockford Ave #2, Dayton, Ohio 45405 (They have heard rumors that he was taken to Japan and also seen in Hong Kong))

WILLIAM . ZELLER COX - Marianne Langford (great-niece) 398 Grimsley Rd, Cookeville, TN 38501.

ROY A WENHOLZ- Claudia Wenholz (daughter in law) 520 567-8043

LESLEY F SEATON (of Smithland, Iowa) - Randy B. Seaton, PO Box 232, Herrick, Ill 62431

WALTER "CHRIS" AXELSON-Patricia Spahr (daughter), 32 Burntmill Cir, Oceanport, NJ 07757

ROY A. WENHOLZ - (son) James Wenholz, PO Box 2399, Camp Verde, AZ 86322

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Cyril Tripp (HMS Exeter & Fukuoka Camp 2 Nagasaki, Japan) - Phil Tripp, 14 Tencreek Ave, Penzance, Cornwall TR182Q8 UK

Albert C. Swatzki (USS Houston 1936-1930) - JM Pollak, (nephew) 4244 Harrison St, Omaha, NE 68147-1032 is searching for members or a 1938 crew roster.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** - LLOYD AND DOROTHY WILLEY have moved to 2010 W San Marcos Blvd #52, San Marcus, CA 92069

**USS HOUSTON SSN-713** - Congratulations to the crew for earning the Squadron Eleen Tactical "T" and the Medical "M" award. The tactical award recognizes the entire crew for outstanding performance on deployment..... Well Done! Also, Sailor of the Year, Electronics Technician (Submarines) 1c Marvin Keen was selected as Squadron Eleven's Sea Sailor of the Year. He is recognized as the top E-6 and below sailor among all six submarines in San Diego. Twenty one of the crew have received advancements. The SSN-713 will be changing her home port to Bremerton, Washington this summer. We send our special for LCDR Len Borgoorff, their XO for attending the wreath laying ceremony at the March reunion.

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**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON** - Pat Bozeman and her wonderful staff hosted a lovely open house and reception for us at the March reunion. They didn't miss a detail down to golden flowers in a Navy blue vase. We were very surprised and honored that Dr. Arthur K. Smith, the President and Chancellor of the University of Houston took time from his busy schedule to say a few words. We were also delighted to know he's an ex-Navy man himself (Annapolis graduate). U of H has established a Donor Honor Roll for the Cruiser Houston Collection. The Year 2000 honorees are Carter Conlin, Lin & Ron Drees, Phillip and Sean Ellerbee, Jack Feliz, Mrs. Sam Milner, Liz Milner, John Reas, Mrs. Lee Robinson, William Schramm and Otto Schwarz. Exciting things are happening including expansion and the designing of a USS Houston Collection web site. We will be announcing the web address as soon as it is complete. Again, our deep appreciation goes out to the wonderful people at the University.

**RULE OF THUMB (Newsletter mail out)** - We now have 593 names on our mailing list (74 are Survivors, 59 Surviving Spouses, 164 friends of the Houston Association and 295 NG's) With the increase in paper, printing & postage, I have had to carefully review those names and have marked out (but not deleted) names due to an apparent lack of interest. Many people have asked their names to be added to the mailing or that we add loved ones but we never hear from them. I am forced to constantly review and omit names, which is not an easy or pleasant job. There are some of you on the edge of being marked off. Please, if you do not want a newsletter or not interested, send me a note.

*This is my rule of thumb:* If the newsletter is returned, I do not spend the extra money to resend (it is your responsibility to notify me of your new address) & the name is marked off the mailing list, if after 6 newsletters there is no response - the name is marked off the mailing list. If I don't know how you are related to the crew member - the name is marked off the mailing list. (I have asked in past newsletters for the NG's to provide the information). Attention Nag's-If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please drop a line with your name, address and relationship to the crew member because if I don't hear from you, I will have to interpret your silence as your request to be removed from the mailing list.

**OTTO DOES IT AGAIN!** Broken bones & losing his sight hasn't slowed Otto down! Just a few weeks after he was out of the hospital and while still getting physical therapy, he made the front page news in his home town on January 18th shown giving a talk to high school students about the Houston and her crew.

**UPDATE** - Last issue, I reported a new book "The Yamato Dynasty - The Secret History of Japan's Imperial Family" by Sterling and Peggy Seagrave. It is now reported that Sterling and Peggy are now in hiding in Europe as they are being hunted by the Japanese Mafia.

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**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES** - As they have every year, the NOUS Texas Commandery took part in the Memorial Service to make it a special event as we paid our respects to the crew of the *Houston CA-30* at the foot of the magnificent *USS Houston* monument. Our heartfelt thanks to LCDR Clarke Coldren and Capt. Carter Conlin for participating in the wreath laying ceremonies, LCDR Conan Meehan for leading us in the invocation, Capt. George Holyfield for helping me with my myriad of questions.... I could go on and on. Capt. Carl Ragsdale was kind enough to say a few words at the service. He had previously asked if he could invite a friend that was a Medal of Honor Recipient, Michael Thornton. To our surprise and delight Capt. Ragsdale apparently talked him into saying a few words to the crowd.

**FROM DOWN UNDER** - David Manning (Perth survivor) reports that the nation is now celebrating its centenary. He is very pleased and proud to report that at long last a photo of the "Perth" has now joined the "Houston" hanging in the JEATH museum in Kanchanaburi, Thailand. He and Aud met with Arthur & Myria Bancroft to make their pilgrimage to Perth joining the other "Perth" survivors for their annual activities. My friend, Di Elliott (who's father was a POW on the Death Railway) find's this in her research:

"14 May 1943

The first American to die at this camp died today. His name and c is: First Sgt. Dupler H.H., U.S. Marine Corps, aged 33. Cause of death, vomiting and debility. Dupler was a husky strong man. He received a bashing at jungle camp about a month ago. Since then he went off his food. Next of Kin Mrs. Betty Dupler, 601 Northcla St, Frankfort, Indiana, USA.

15 May 1943

Funeral of Sgt. Dupler this morning. AIF present an excellent wreath made from jungle leaves and red flowers. 6 American pallbearers. Comdr. Epstein only US officer present." This was taken from Brig. Varley's diary. He was the Commanding Officer of A Force & sadly died when the Rokyū Maru was sunk.

**NAVAL TRADITIONS** - An old Naval tradition has it that the ship's cook shined the ship's bell and the ship's bugler shined the ship's whistle..... in case you ever wondered.

**WEB SIGHTINGS!** - [www.lonesailor.org](http://www.lonesailor.org), [www.history.navy.mil/trivia01.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/trivia01.htm), <http://www.geocities.com/dutcheastindies>, [http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/the asiatic fleet](http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/the_asiatic_fleet), <http://communities.msn.com/DIVECENTRAL>.

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#### **CREWMEMBER SPOTLIGHT - HENRY NICKEL**

Henry Nickel was born in Wamburg, Russia on January 31, 1907. His family was ethnic Germans descended from German citizens that had immigrated to Russia when Katherine the Great offered free land if the Germans would just come and farm the land. His father came to the United States from Russia in 1907, landed in New York and ended up in Fresno, California. Fresno was one of several Russian

German communities that had sprung up around the United States and Canada. A year or so later, Hank's mother made the same journey from Russia to Fresno bringing Hank, his four older sisters (Katie, Ina, Mari, Margaret) and brother (Frederick), by herself & speaking no English. Two more sisters, Elsie (my mother) & Bertha were born in Fresno. Bertha (Sage) is the only one the siblings still alive.

After the war & release from the prison camp, Hank married Frances Watrous on May 16, 1956. Unfortunately, they had no children. Frances lives in a retirement home in Palo Alto, California and will be 91 on April 26, 2001. In addition to his sister, Bertha, other living members of the family are nephews Lt.Cmdr. Walter F. Nickel USN (Ret) of Fairfield, CA, Robert Day of Denver, CO and Jack Williams of Phoenix, AZ & several great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Henry joined the Navy on November 25, 1927. In addition to the Houston, he also served on the USS Schaumont, USS Penguin and the USS Isabel. He was the highest ranked NCO in the prison camp during his captivity. He retired from the Navy on July 21, 1948. The story goes he retired when they put zippers in the seaman's pants.

Following retirement, he took a civil service position at Moffett Field, and retired from civil service on January 1, 1967. He enjoyed his retirement years golfing, fishing and gardening and was quite active in the Houston survivors group in Palo Alto, CA. He passed away on September 20, 1983 of a heart attack. (Provided by nephew Jack Williams).

**VA HOME DEDICATION** - The Texas Veterans Land Board had their dedication ceremony of the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veteran's Home on Monday, February 19, 2001 at 11:AM. This 76,000 sq. ft. skilled nursing center is located on 20 acres and will provide 160 beds to our veterans. Students of the Colorado Independent School District proudly acted as ushers while Bauer Magnet Elementary Select Choir sang songs of the WW II era to the arriving guests. This facility was named for three of Big Spring's fallen men: David V. Lamun killed in Normandy during W.W.II, Reynaldo A. Sanchez killed in Viet Nam and our Joe M. True "Egghead" Lusk who died as a POW of the Japanese laboring on the "Death Railway" in Burma & Thailand. Joe died of starvation and disease one year after captivity. Those of the USS Houston Survivors Association & Next Generation family that attended the ceremony in honor of Joe were: Bob & Marti Charles, Frank & Letha Ficklin, Art & Wanda Clark (POW survivors & spouses). Also, JoAnn Pryor-Wycopen, Joe Kollmyer, Edie Bizzell, Ryan Gouge and myself (Next Generation). Dan Lusk, nephew of Joe, gave an excellent speech in memory of Joe. The USS Houston family was proud to share this special day with the Lusk family that graciously invited us over for lunch after the dedication.

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### **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**

I watched the flag pass by one day,  
it fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it,  
and then, he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform,  
so young, so tall, so proud;  
with hair cut square and eyes alert,  
he'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,

when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play,  
and felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times,  
that Taps had meant "AMEN".  
When a flag had covered a coffin  
of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
of mothers and the wives,  
of fathers, sons and husbands,  
with interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
at the bottom of the sea.  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington,  
No, freedom is not free.

Cadet Major Kelly Strong, Air Force Junior ROTC

\* Kelly Strong is now a Pilot in the Coast guard

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**THE SUSPENSE MOUNTS** - We are all anxiously anticipating the publication of Jack Feliz's book, "Saga of Sailor Jack". Marie sends a review by Dr. Ron Marcello, Director, Oral History Program, University of North Texas. "What an adventure story! What a marvelous ride through history! As this manuscript so vividly attests, Jack Feliz has lived a truly remarkable life. His is the story of deep tragedy, of extreme joy, of wondrous exploits, of dedicated professionalism, of strong family bonding, of extensive worldly travel. In short, he has lived multiple lifetimes. Born in 1911, Jack has been eye-witness to an America having just entered the 20th Century America with steam engines and kerosene lamps to a 21st Century America of computers and .coms; an America emerging as one of several world powers to an America as THE single dominant world power; an America that fought the Kaiser to an America that won the Cold War. In this easy-to-read saga, Jack's writing style, with lively and down-to-earth prose, rivet the reader with vignettes of an unfolding and evolving 20th Century as seen through the eyes of a participant who has rubbed elbows with the rich and famous, kings and commoners, friends and enemies. This book is, in short, a "must read" for all Americans."

**POW COMPENSATION** - Congress has legislation (PL 106-398 & 667) stating that if, while a POW, you could have received a promotion while serving in the Navy & Marine Corps, you could be eligible for back pay. This legislation also authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to make regulations to carry out this law within a period of 6 months. This means Congress probably will not hear about final procedures to submit claims until April 30, 2001..... Survivors - I suggest you get your letters to your Congressmen AND the Secretary of the Navy in the mail on April 28th! I have a copy of the information if you need more details. Just let me know.

**MORE INFORMATION COMES TO LIGHT** - On the crew list of the Dutch light cruiser *HRMS DeRuyter* (sunk during the battle of the Java sea 27 February 1942), four US liaison & signalman came from the *USS Houston*. They were transferred to the *DeRuyter* on the day the *Houston* arrived in the harbor of (Soerabaja) Surabaya. They were Lt. O.F. Kolb: Killed in action on board the *DeRuyter* 2-27-42, Signalman J. Penhollow: saved out of the Java sea on 2-28-42 by the USS Submarine U.S. 37, Signalman D. S. Rafalovich: saved with some Dutch sailors out of the Java sea by a Japanese destroyer and made POW (died 12-20-98 and Signalman 1c M.E. Sholar: saved out of the Java sea on 2-28-42 by the USS Submarine U.S. 37

(information provided via email by Dan van Lunsen, Netherlands)

**TAPS** - Few people know there are words to TAPS and they are beautiful:

First Stanza	Second Stanza	Third Stanza
Day is done	Fading light	Thanks and praise
Gone the sun	Dims the sight	For our days
From the Lakes	And a star	Neat the sun
From the hills	Gems the sky	Heath the stars
From the sky	Gleaming bright	Neath the sky
All is well	From afar	As we go
safely rest	Drawing nigh	This we know
God is nigh	Falls the night	God is nigh

**DONATIONS** - The organization is very grateful to all that have sent a donation to the kitty. Your generous hearts and pocketbooks are deeply appreciated: Jean Lansing, EARL SNYDER, LEM BRIGMAN, MARION BEARDSLEY, Marcie & Richard Eskin, Mr & Mrs. James Weber, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ulaszek, Christina Smith, Patricia Davidson, Allison Baxter, Andrew Stoehr in memory of Walter Guzzy, Lawrence Gerst, Beverly Johnson, Liberta Taylor, Caline & Don Von Seggen, Howard & Billie Humphrey, Arnold Johnson, Marine Humphrey, Ken and Sharon Nehring, Dean & Linda Hicks, Mr. & Mrs. Elbert Tripp, Charlotte Fisher in memory of EARL HUMPHREY, AUGUST AND GERRY WARCKEN, Brad and Debra Hobbs, Joanne Caputo, Bette Fowler, GENE WILKINSON, OTTO AND TRUDY SCHWARZ, Mattie Atterberry, Anita & Frederick Schwarz, Mary Fort, ART & ANNE DUHAIME, Joe Kollmyer, Billie Johnson, JOHN HOOD, George Duffy, Robert Cummings, Mary & John Fort, Brian Gallagher, Scott Ingram, Zeb & Joan Alford, CLARENCE SCHILPERRORT, HOWARD & SYLVIA BROOKS, RAY GOODSON, PAUL PAPISH, Donia Burroughs, John Kreutzer, Zeb & Joan Alford, Capt. Carter Conlin, USN Ret, Don Kehn, ELMO KENNEDY in memory of ROSS GLOVER, Eunell Weissinger, Eugene Frey & family.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

DEBITS		CREDITS	
Print newsletter	508.27	Previous balance	8360.09
Postage newsletter	166.20	Sales, Donations, Reunion	
Supplies	1348.32	payments	9287.24
Phone	318.63		
Postage	269.91	TOTAL	17647.33
Reunion	6387.30		
TOTAL	8998.63		
		NEW BALANCE	8648.70

#### A LINE FROM LIN

The Memorial Service was beautiful - even though the weather was not and tents had been placed at the site. Many times we heard positive compliments from those in attendance. The Houston Brass Band set the tone with their beautiful brass instruments, playing before and after the Service. Val Poss was happy to introduce our MC of the day, Capt. W.O. King, USN, retired. Val also introduced the 16 Survivors: Gallagher, Schwarz, Kelley, Brooks, Flynn, Wilkinson, Papish, Charles, Goodson, Stoddard, Schilperrort, Hood, Kennedy, Snyder, Ingram and Reas. The following Surviving Spouses were then introduced: Mrs.

Pryor, Mrs. Ranger, Mrs. Burroughs, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Weissinger and Mrs. Barber whose husband had been transferred off the *Houston* in 1941. Five fellow POW (131st) Survivors were present: Ficklin, Thompson, Clark, Gordon and Rayburn. Each of the registered above listed survivors, their spouses, and surviving spouses were presented with a lapel pin with ribbons (before the service) to acknowledge that we as the Next Generation were thinking of them throughout the day. Lin Drees remembered the men who were not able to return home (the ones who did not make it ashore and also the ones who passed away in the POW camps) or had passed away since liberation; the following men had family present to remember them: Roberts, Wilson, Rentz, Schram, Weiler, Moga, Kondzela, Gary, Koelling, Nickel, McMaster, Bradley, Davis, McGarvey, Keith, Hill, Russell, Reed, Dombrowski, Kollmyer and Pecena. Two Survivors were not able to be in Houston; Gene Crispi was represented by a son, Allen, and Gus Forsman was represented by a friend, Rich Rostron. Also present was the son of Fred Rowland who was a British POW in the same camp with a *Houston* ensign: Clay Ramsey, Mason Logie (who dove on the *Houston*), Jerry and Dandra Waxman, Mr. Jim Bryant, and Don Kehn. W. O. King introduced the four speakers who each represented a country of ABDA, and Capt. Carl Ragsdale introduced a Medal of Honor recipient, Michael Thronton, who spoke briefly of heroes. LCDR Len Borgdoorff, XO of the USS HOUSTON submarine presented each Survivor with a USS HOUSTON (SSN-713) military coin; the coins were a gift from Capt. Mack who was with us last year. There were 222 present at our Memorial Service - that is 222 brave souls who braved the rain, drizzle, and mud to honor Our Men and families. Two of our family members were enroute to the reunion and had to turn back: Jessie Dethloff twisted her ankle and Harold McManus was involved in a car wreck - they were missed - and we wish them better luck next year enroute to Houston. The reunion was enjoyed by all - from the talks in the front lobby to the visiting around the diner table to discussing the photo albums in the hospitality suite. Each year brings new people - and brings back a large majority of the ones who attended the previous year. This reunion is for you - and Val, Max, Ron and I are glad to see so many enjoying themselves.

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Thank yous - to everyone who pitched in to help - from manning the registration desk to bringing goodies for the hospitality suite to cleaning up the hospitality suite to taking up meal tickets to supervising the erection of the tents to bus monitors to setting up and wiping the rain off the chairs for the Memorial Service - you are very much appreciated.

Had it not been for the *Houston* Foundation, the NOUS, and Capt. Ragsdale's original concept of the USS *Houston* Memorial Monument, we would not have a place for the Memorial Service. The Monument was dedicated in November of 1995, and we have had a Memorial Service each year since - next year will be March 2.

Steve Radack, the County Commissioner, again allowed us the use of 2 precinct buses to commute attendees to the Monument and to UH.

The local Park Service again provided a very nice sound system with a wireless mike. This year they were able to loan us folding wooden chairs for the Memorial Service - on loan where almost 200 chairs - what a nice gift (loan). They also loaned 2 portable toilets which were appreciated.

The Houston Brass Band arrived early and helped with the set-up - played for 45 minutes before the Service started, played appropriate music during the Service, and played after the Service. Several members expressed the honor of being present during our Service (one saying that she would rather play for Our Men than be paid). They have already agreed to play again next year.

The UH Library and Development staff host a beautiful reception each year - at this time donated items are on view and new donations are presented. This is an opportunity for all to see the Brown Room which houses the USS *Houston* collection. UH is planning an expansion, and the HOUSTON collection will be moved and open for viewing during Library Hours.

Larry and Susan Drug purchased a color printer and supplies for use in the hospitality suite - to make copies of photos and news articles in the photo albums. They then donated the copier to the Next Generation so that it would be available for next year.

Newspaper coverage - Jerry Waxman, a W.W.II Marine, who writes for the Katy (Texas) TIMES, has written several articles. Since the Memorial Service / reunion week-end, he has had additional

articles, detailing the service and the men and families whom he met.

Allen Park Inn - As always Mrs. Harris and her staff made everyone feel at home - from every additional name added at the last minute for meals to providing a TV/VCR to the complimentary use of the Boardroom for our hospitality suite to letting us use the diner room as long as needed after each meal.

Place March of 2002 on your calendar - Val, Max, Ron, and I have already started planning (we welcome your suggestions and volunteering). The Memorial Service will be on Saturday, March 2nd, with the reunion that same week-end. I may be reached by mail at 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077 - or by phone and fax at 281 493-5171 - or by e-mail at ronlindrees@juno.com - Ron and I look forward to hearing from you.

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**TRIP TO THE FAR EAST** - Many people at the reunion expressed a desire to go as a group. Mason Logie (diver) and I are working on an agenda. At this point (not in the specific order) would be to visit the graves of the Houston men killed February 38 in the Battle of the Java Sea in Yogyakarta & have a memorial service, Merak-Krakatau excursion: Mason would dive the at the Houston site and video broadcast it to us aboard the boat as he places a plaque and flag and we would lay a wreath at both the Houston and Perth sites, Bangkok - go to Hellfire Pass and the River Kwai. At this point we are discussing 11 days. Those of you interested, please contact me as I will be writing and/or emailing you as details fall into place. I MUST make this VERY clear!

This trip is **not** specifically for a group dive to the Houston..... the currents are strong (we don't want to be chasing anyone around the Indian Ocean to retrieve them) AND visibility is poor (a slight movement of a fin could totally obscure one's vision). Diving would be restricted to someone VERY experienced!! 'Nuff said. Max & I will be checking into the cost of the plaque in the very near future. Mason writes to say how much he enjoyed meeting everyone in Houston and was glad his slide show was well received by the Survivors and their families. He was particularly pleased at how we all seemed to appreciate the porthole glass and that it was going on public display in a museum.

**FOR SALE** - Bumper Sticker \$1, Post Cards \$1.50/doz, Caps \$15, Shirts \$25, Note Pads \$1.00, Set of Monument Pictures \$5.00, "Death Becomes the Ghost" video \$15, Monument & Bell pins @ \$2 each, "Avenge the Houston" posters \$10, schematic of the Houston \$7.50 for small, \$10 for large, Bluebonnet Christmas ornament \$5 --- plus postage (no charge for handling....).

**IN CONCLUSION** - The correspondence, emails & phone calls are continuous. The interest in the history mounts on a daily basis! Max and I are truly enjoying ourselves with this as we get to meet wonderful people. The participation and help from the NG's at the reunion was heart warming. Special thanks to Brian Gallagher for his donation when he heard of the extra expense of the tents plus Susan & Larry Krug for purchasing the color printer to use especially for the reunions. I am amazed at the prompt response and eager participation of the Australian, Dutch and British when asked to participate in the Memorial Service. Rear Admiral Pieter Kok & Cmdr. Brett Dowsing, RAN flew in from Washington DC especially for the ceremonies. Brett arranged to arrive early to join us in the Friday evening meal. Both he and LCDR Len Borgoorf of the USS Houston SSN-713 mingled in the hospitality room. The Navy Marine Corps came and filmed interviews & took footage of the Memorial Service. It is heart warming to observe the hard work come to fruition. We are going full speed ahead with new projects and it's exciting! Until the next issue..... fair winds and God Speed.

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