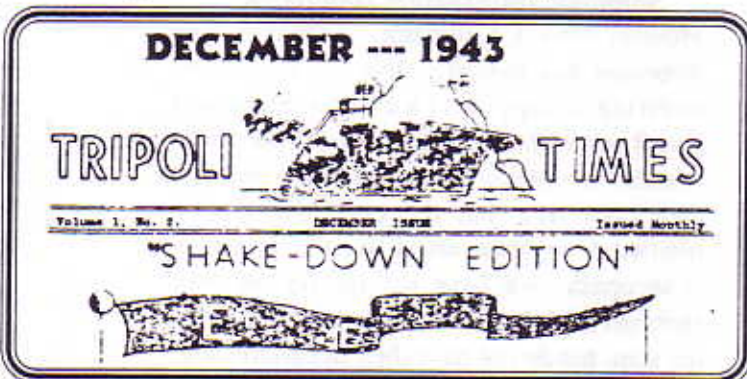




**DECEMBER 2001**

**Tripoli Holiday Newsletters  
of Yesteryear**

Front Pages from the Tripoli Holiday Newsletters of Yesteryear



### Casablanca Class Escort Carriers

The USS Tripoli was a Casablanca class Escort Carrier, built at the Kaiser Shipyards in Vancouver, Washington. Fifty of the Casablanca class carriers were built, from 1943 to 1944, at an average of almost one ship per week. As each of these carriers were built, they were towed down the river to the commissioning yard at Astoria, OR. USS Casablanca, CVE 55, first of the class, was commissioned on 8 July, 1943. The Tripoli was commissioned on 31 October, 1943. The Casablanca class carriers were notorious for their hard rolling characteristics. They were considered unsuitable for North Atlantic operations and most were assigned to the Pacific. Displacement of these ships was 10,900 tons, dimensions -- 557 feet long, Beam --- 75 feet. Twin screws --- uniflow reciprocating steam engines, speed- 19-20 knots. Armament -- 1-5" 38, 4-40mm quads, 20- 20mm.

### Shipmate Information Handbook

Member Info Coordinator /Treasurer Neil Robinson has indicated that you will be receiving a copy of the latest Shipmates Handbook with this Newsletter. Those that attended the Reunion have already received their copy. He has requested that he be notified if any data, about yourself, or others, is incorrect. We have listings, for the 50's shipmates, of the date they reported aboard the ship, but do not have their departure date. Please advise Neil if you can remember your departure date. Also, if you know of shipmates that we do not have listed, advise Neil of their name /address, or possible address, so we can attempt to locate them. Neil has, also, issued a reminder that Nov. 2001 to Nov. 2002 dues are due.

### 2002 Reunion Planning

Reunion Coordinator, Paul Long, and Tripoli Group Chairman, Luther Royds have indicated we are planning for either Mobile, Alabama, or Grand Rapids, Mich. for the 2002 Reunion. Selection will be announced in the March 2002 Tripolitan.

## TRIPOLI SHIPMATE CARL BRASHEAR IS FEATURED SPEAKER AT 2001 REUNION BANQUET



Tripoli shipmate Carl Brashear, subject of the 20th Century Fox movie, "Men of Honor", was the featured speaker at the USS Tripoli 2001 Reunion Banquet, in Philadelphia. His presentation covered the obstacles he had to overcome in his efforts to achieve his goals in the Navy, and in his life. Carl has had a busy schedule in his role of consulting and promotion for the motion picture, covering his life, and our Tripoli Group was proud and pleased that he was able to join us for the Reunion. Carl was born on January 19, 1931, in Tonieville, Ky. His parents were McDonald and Gonzella Brashear. He joined the Navy on February 25, 1948, and completed his Recruit Training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. He was assigned to duty in Key West, Florida and the USS Palau CVE122 before his service aboard the Tripoli. He served aboard the "Travelling T" from November of 1951 to March of 1955 as a Second Division Petty Officer and Master-At-Arms. From 1956 to 1960 Carl's assignments included salvage diving duties on the USS Opportune, ARS-41, the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point, R. I., and on Guam, Marianas Islands. In 1964, he graduated as a First Class Diver from the Deep-Sea Diving School in Washington, D.C. The details on how he was able to overcome the loss of one leg, amputated below the knee, and continue his career as a Navy Diver, are covered in the movie, which features Cuba Gooding, Jr. in the role of Carl. Carl retired from the Navy on April 1, 1979, as a Master Chief Petty Officer and Master Diver.



Each Holiday Season serves as a reminder that we are grateful for the opportunity to share our comradeship of yesteryear, for another year, and also, a reminder of those shipmates who can no longer share this joyous season with us. They will always be a part of our memories as we enter this New Year.

### U.S.S. Tripoli Group

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Tripolitan Newsletter is distributed to members of the Tripoli Group, who served aboard the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Tripoli, CVE-64. Member annual contributions of \$10.00 support the Newsletter and Group activities. Contributions should be mailed to Neil Robinson, 88 Goddard Dr., DeBary, Fl., 32713 (Checks payable to: Neil Robinson)



## FROM THE DECK LOG

The following excerpts, from the Tripoli Deck Log, were provided by Bill Atkinson, who obtained them from the Navy Archives. 2 November, 1956--1257--moored as before. Pilot, Captain Wieboldt on the Bridge. 1300 --received draft for getting underway. Draft: forward 19' 11", aft 21' 00". 1305--material condition Baker set. 1313 -- Captain, Navigator on the Bridge. Captain has the Conn, Pilot assisting. Cast off all lines--underway for Gibraltar. B.C.C. Commenced maneuvering at various courses and speeds to stand out of inner harbor, Bremerhaven, Germany. 1407 -- entered Weser River Channel. 1415 --- secured special sea detail with the exception of anchor detail and after-steering watch. 1441 -- Energized degaussing. 1454-- Visibility reduced to less than 1.5 miles. Commenced sounding fog signals. **C.W. Crowl, Lt., USN**

### "T" Shipmates enjoy Philly area attractions at 2001 Reunion



"T" shipmates brought home many pleasant memories from the recent reunion at the "City of Brotherly Love" Independence Hall, pictured at left, was one of the top tour attractions for the visit. The tours afforded our group the opportunity to relive the War of Independence and experience the old colonial capital as known to Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, and Betsy Ross. The Independence Hall tour provided a look back into the beginnings of the history of our country and insight into the lives of our founding fathers. Additional items of interest included a drive through historic and interesting parts of the city, including Ben Franklin Parkway, Betsy Ross House, Avenue of the Arts, Society Hill, Penns Landing, City Hall, and stopovers to see the Liberty Bell, and the Independence Seaport Museum. Another tour included the Amish Country. Our appreciation goes out to Paul Long, Luther Royds and their Committee for a great Reunion and many happy memories.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### October

- 1--Lowell Clark
- 1--James Van Gorder
- 2--Gene Vakerics
- 2--Leonard Rogers
- 3--Paul Raisch
- 3--Robert Harding
- 3--Otis Roundtree
- 3--Howard Kaltenbach
- 4--Charles Mauro
- 7--Donald Poff
- 9--Thomas Hands
- 9--William Behymer
- 9--Richard Ruger
- 12--Francis Eddy
- 14--James Ernst
- 15--James Franciscus
- 15--Walter Faudree
- 17--Walter Clark
- 18--Adolph Ivanouskas
- 18--Clifford Osborne
- 19--Marvin Williams
- 21--Charles Benson
- 21--Roger Carter
- 21--John Carlsen
- 22--Frederick Coningsby
- 22--William Corbett
- 23--Edward Wickkiser
- 24--Loyce Johnson
- 25--Wayne Dipner
- 26--Roger Kinney
- 27--Andrew Nuzzo
- 27--Irvin Spencer
- 28--Adam Bragg
- 28--Thomas Kapustynski
- 28--Howard Shelton
- 28--Fred Stieghorst
- 31--Edward Fetters
- 31--Richard Amo

### December

- 1--Clarence Williams
- 2--William Kyser
- 2--Wesley Reinhardt
- 2--Harrison Cawood
- 2--Vincent Flanagan
- 5--Elwood Hill
- 5--Charles Phillips

### November

- 1--Leonard Vizzaccero
- 2--Arley Dunn
- 2--Frank Miller
- 2--John Hartley
- 4--Raymond Phillips
- 4--John O'Halloran Jr.
- 5--George Bailey
- 5--Richard Shannon
- 6--Robert Herlihy
- 7--Richard W. Smith
- 8--Seymore Joffe
- 8--Edmond Verbal
- 9--Stanley Aldycki
- 9--Robert Adwin
- 11--William Platt
- 13--Dale Bellamy
- 15--Gordon Kay
- 19--Donald Cortelyou
- 19--David Solum
- 21--Harold Korb
- 22--Robert Kunda
- 22--Donald Master
- 22--Seth Simpson, Jr.
- 24--Orlan Johnson
- 25--Dean McCumber
- 25--James Hamlin
- 27--Ronald Tepley
- 28--Murry Selog
- 28--William McMenamey Jr.
- 30--Michael Kulbieda



### December- continued

- 5--Leon Moyer
- 6--John Flora
- 7--Raymond Zoglmann
- 13--Lowell Mercier
- 13--Julian Clements
- 13--Allen Emrich
- 15--Frank Genus
- 15--Gerry Iovane
- 16--Wes Lindahl
- 18--Joseph Tamer
- 18--Robert Kohan
- 18--Stephen Eppner
- 19--Rudolph Berg Jr.
- 19--Atha Aviakeotes
- 20--Delvin Meyer

(Continued on page 5)



## THE AFT LOOKOUT

By Paul "Fighting Father" Long

(Ed. Note) This is the sixth article in a series by Paul Long, on Navy Rates. Job descriptions associated with some of the rates listed below.



**Signalman (SM)** SM's send and receive various visual messages, handle and route message traffic, operate voice radio, and repair visual signaling devices. They also render honors to ships and boats and serve as navigators.



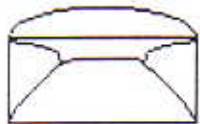
**Storekeeper (SK)** SK's are the Navy's supply clerks. They see that needed supplies are available including everything from clothing and machine parts to forms and food. SK's have duties as civilian warehousemen, purchasing agents, stock clerks, and supervisors, retail sales clerks, store managers, inventory clerks, buyers, parts clerks, bookkeepers, and even fork-lift operators.



**Yeoman (YN)** Yeoman perform secretarial and clerical work. They deal with visitors, telephone calls, incoming mail, organize files, operate copy machines, and order and distribute supplies. They write and type business and social letters, notices, forms directives, and reports. They maintain files and service records.

### "T" Officers of the 1950's

Following is a list of Officers who served aboard the Tripoli during the 1950's: Ens. B. E. Abbot, V-Div JO-'55, ChElec Frederic A. Aldridge, E-Div, Asst. - '53-'54, ChMach Emanuel J. Amato, B-Div, Off. - '54 - '56, Lt. Frank R. Anish, Maint. - 1-5-'52, Ens. George T. Anton, A-Div, Off. - '53, LCDR H. B. Arthur, Supply Off. - '54, ChPclk Frederick C. Ballagh, Asst. Supply - '52 - '54, Lt. John Barcy, First Lt. - 1-5-'52, Lt. William F. Barnes, O/R Div. - '55 - '56, LCDR R. C. Barney, Operations - '55, Lt. F. Barr, V-Div, Off. - '54, LtJg J. E. Berger, Maint. - '54 - '55, LCDR John R. Bering, Supply - '55 - '56, LtJg J. A. Bersen, D.C. - '54 - '55, LtJg Kenneth A. Bihler, '57, WO1 Clarence R. Bibo, M-Div - '58, Kenneth R. Bisler - '56, Lt. C. L. Blackwell, '58, Julian T. Bollinger, XO-'56. (Continued in next issue)



# SHIPMATE NEWS

## December Birthdays -- Continued from P-4

- 20- Murry Hollowell
- 21-Edwin Beven
- 22-Eugene Mayeaux, Jr.
- 22-Pete Cassinelli
- 24-Joseph Cook
- 30-Jurrell Krause
- 30-Ray Loele
- 31-Elmer Komblum

Ed. Note: This is the 12th in a series of articles, by R. Warren Smith, on his personal history aboard the Tripoli in WWII.

January-1945. (Roi Island at Kwajalein). Liberty at Roi meant swimming from a secured beach and looking over the ruins of the former IJN facilities. Among other things, there was a massive concrete blockhouse covered with sand, that had three large holes blown into the seaward side. A broadside from one of our battleships had zeroed in. It was truly awesome. We were there for several days, as the aircraft had to be lightered to and from the beach. We brought back a full load of shot-up and wrecked aircraft, and several POW's. Some of us took turns standing watch over the POW's all the way back to Pearl Harbor, as the brig was too small to hold all of them. Upon our return to Pearl Harbor, we commenced a schedule of CARQUAL's at sea, until the hangar deck was full of wrecks, and the next wrecked airplane would be parked on the flight deck. Then we would head into Ford Island NAS to off-load the A/C and pilots, re-provision, liberty, etc., for a couple of days, then repeat the process. I stood gun control watch, just aft of Flight Control on the island during many of the operations, where a squadron would come out from the beach, shoot landings and take-offs, wreck a ship or two, and then return to the beach. (Next issue---the final days of the Tripoli in WWII).

### Letter from USS Point Cruz CVE119 Shipmate

(The following letter was received by Luther Royds regarding events on September 11th, associated with USS Point Cruz CVE119 shipmate Robert Hemmerich): Mr. Luther Royds---As I told you by phone on Sept. 18th, I left by plane to attend my reunion, in St. George, Utah, on September 11th. Our plane was forced down in Kansas City, and we were told that they could not get us into St. G. After several days, my wife and I decided to take a bus home (no rental cars or amtrak available). We learned, at that time, that the CVE97 (Hollandia) was having a reunion in the hotel where we were staying. They adopted us and I never felt more at home. When we arrived home, we found a news-letter from the USS Tripoli (Luther had sent it to him) and it sure did make me feel good. God Bless you and all your Tripoli shipmates. Bob H.



### Tripoli Crosses Equator - 1944

Captain Tucker, King Neptune (A. R. Loomis), and Davey Jones (P.W. Farch) are pictured above as they open the initiation ceremonies for the August, 1944 crossing of the equator by the Tripoli. The "T" crossed the equator six times in anti-submarine activities. The announcement of the crossing, on 8/11/44 was as follows: "To all sailors, wherever ye may be---and to all mermaids, whales, eels, dolphin, porpoises, skates, crabs, and other living things of the sea---know ye that on 11 August 1944, the USS Tripoli will appear in the Royal domain of Neptunus rex. The Royal Court will be composed of the following members, all worthy and trusty shellbacks deserving of such high honor: (see next issue for listing).



- James R. Eaton-----12/25/00
- Andrew Elliott-----12/2/00
- Matthew Kuczek-----12/30/99





## Welcome Aboard to our New Shipmates

<u>Name</u>	<u>Served Aboard</u>	<u>Division</u>
George T. Anton	'53	A-Div. Officer
Fred Barr	4/53--2/54	
William A. Coffey	6/57-12/58	S
Cullie E. Davidson	11/57--'58	Eng.
Nathanel Dominick	5/58-Decomm.	O/R

### The Final Year of the Tripoli

(Information provided by "T" Shipmate Victor Brockmann of Albuquerque, New Mexico) During 1957 and 1958, the Travelling "T" had been redesignated as T-CVU-64. She was a Cargo ship, under MSTs, and Lt. Brockmann served as Cargo Officer, Gunnery Officer, Seamanship Officer, and Senior Watch Officer. All flight arresting/catapult gear had been removed, as well as most of the weapons. The main battery was two 50 caliber machine guns, and CIC was a storage area. The crew consisted of 13 officers and 210 enlisted men. The home port was Mobile, Alabama and the mission was to transport cargo, primarily aircraft and Army personnel with their helicopters. The ship was also used as a training vessel for Naval Aviator designated Captains who were slated for larger combatant commands. With a skeleton crew, all real maintenance was done in civilian shipyards. The Tripoli was decommissioned at New Orleans, La. on 25 November, 1958 and subsequently struck from the Navy list on 1 February, 1959. Her hulk was then scrapped by a Japanese firm in January, 1960.

### Tripoli News item -- June, 1953

**Easy Div.** -- By Don Connell---The drooping heads you see in "Easy", at present, are due to the 8-10 loss to "Nan" during the Brindisi softballing. This makes it one and one between the two Divisions, and they are waiting, now, for the rubber game. "L'il" John Mullaly, the long ball hitter for Easy, was held to a pair of triples, due to some great fielding by Glen Jordan. Easy's starting pitcher was Lou Wright. He held out until the 4th when Frank Scialino replaced him. Joe Byrne came in to pitch the 7th. All EM's returned to the ship tired but happy.



Lisbon, Portugal -- First Tripoli Port-of Call after Re-Commissioning in 1952

Rossio, also known as Praça dom Pedro IV, the city's main square of Lisbon, Portugal, is pictured, above in 1952. The most important building in Rossio square is the National Theatre, pictured at the back of the square. An earthquake, in 1755, almost destroyed this district. The Castelo de San Jorge, a restored luxurious Castle, which offers spectacular views of Lisbon and the sea, is located on the hill behind the square. The Tripoli arrived in Lisbon on February 13,

## WELCOME TO Texas-Bar



1952, and departed for Naples, Italy on February 15th. One of the favorite night spots, in Lisbon, for the "T" shipmates, was the "Texas Bar" where you could meet mariners from countries all over the world. The "Travelling T" would, also, visit Brindisi, Italy, on her first cruise since re-commissioning.

### "T" Smoker features fun and fisticuffs in '52

Highlight of the Tripoli cruise from Bremerhaven to Port Newark, N.J., in April of 1952 was a Smoker which featured fisticuffs and merriment. A total of 14 pugilists vied for glory and prizes associated with the boxing bouts. LtJg S. R. Harris, a maritime Houdini, was featured with the cast of stars, which included John V. Hartly, making mirth, and Jason Anderson, a trumpeting Stewards Mate, giving rhythm with a professional air. C.M. Nave, BMC, was Master of Cerimonies, and the boxing events judges included LtJg Rendel Salmon, F. X. St. Pierre, RMC, and Adam Bragg, BM3. The time-keeper was E. A. Mallon, QMC, and the Medical Attendant, at ringside was D. L. Jackson, HMC. The boxing card included: Gil Mann, Harry Jordan, Rich Macinanti, Jim Hamlin, Elmer Mc Dowell, Servillano Esguerra, Pat Dugan, Billy Joe Lambert, Paul Richards,

## 8/14/43 Edition of "Tripoli Tripe"

### Newsletter lists shipmates on board.

The 8/14/43 edition of the Tripoli Tripe Newsletter (Chaplain O. E. Sporrer -- Editor) listed the shipmates on board the Tripoli at that time. CDR O.C. Gregg was the X.O. LCDR S. H. Porter was Air Officer, LCDR B. Stalnaker was Communication Officer, LCDR L. K. Chapman--Gunnery Officer, Lt. A. H. Russell -- Engineering Officer, Lt. L. Gearin -- 1st Lt., Lt. J. W. Wright -- Gunnery Dept., Lt. J. A. Dougan -- Communications Dept., Lt. E. J. Kramer -- Gunnery Dept., Lt. K. F. Cannon ---- Ship's Service Officer, Lt. R. S. Davidson -- Supply Officer, Lt. O. E. Sporrer -- Chaplain. Warrent Officers included: S.W. Van Gorden -- Electrician, W. T. Crawford -- Gunner, F. Hamer -- Machinist, C. H. Stephenson -- Machinist, J. Raineri -- Machinist, L. Capriglione --Ship's Clerk, and J. G. Mc Guire -- Pay Clerk. Enlisted Men included: Angelo J. Aversa -- MM2c, Jose P. Balajadia -- StM2c, Harold Bartko -- MM2c, Robert V. Bearens -- S1c, David N. Blackbourne -- S K 3 c, Robert B. Bleckner -- Y3c, Henry Bundy -- GM2c, James E. Butler -- S1c, Lendon L. Calhoun -- MM2c, Joe E. Campbell ---- C M M, William K. Campbell -- S 1 c, Charles J. Cantrell -- S 1 c, Julian T. Clements -- SC1c, Horace D. Cooley --M M 1 c, Jerome L. Colrud -- CSM, Ralph Cooper -- FC1c, Charles H. Corson -- FC 3 c, William T. Cousins, Jr. ---- B M 2 c, Telmo D'Alessandris -- F 1 c, Frederick E. Dayton -- T M 3 c, and William V. Deardoff -- Gm3c. (Listing will be continued in next issue).

### Ship's Store

Moneyclip with knife--\$11.00, Tie clip--\$6.00, Tripoli Pin -- \$6.00, Letter Opener--\$7.00, White Tripoli Caps (S, XL)--\$11.00, Tripoli License Plate Frame ----\$12.00, Money Clip (Tiger)--\$6.00, Money Clip (Ship)---\$6.00, Keytag (Tiger)-----\$6.00, Military Belt and Buckle (tiger or Ship)--\$11.50, Buckle only--\$6.00, T-shirts and Sweatshirts will be discontinued after current supply diminished (due to high set-up charges--min. order quantities, etc). T-Shirts(s-m-l-xl)--\$13.00, Sweatshirts(s-xl)--\$19.00. **Money back guarantee on all items.** Send requests to Luther Royds, 1019 Gorman St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19116.

Checks payable to: **Luther Royds.**

## "A" Division News -- September, 1958

By Jerry Lee, FN ---We can thank Notre Dame for the addition of our Division Officer, ENS. J. E. Donalds, and the noise you hear at old point comfort isn't rain, it's the tears of the USS Mississinewa (AO-144) over the loss of their "Incomparable Janes" MM1. The little fellow with that big crazy white mustache isn't a human garbage grinder, it's Wimer, FN, trying to forget the long soup line he sweated out for 4 long years while in exile. Nick Navarette, MMC, and Lew Lewis, MRC, take a great pride in our Division. They are the Chief Petty Officers in charge. One of their many jobs is to help "A" Division with its' problems. Speaking of problems, here are a few---The main problem of our division is when "Turn to" is announced, we seem to have a hard time finding the machine shop. Burns, MR2, as we all know, is a hard worker. His problem is sleep, for he works ten hours a day on the lathe, and the following 10 hours he is trying to find out how to secure it. Shakelton, EN1, and Kates, FN, have been working on the motor whale boats for two years, and are still trying to locate the starters. In case you are wondering,, Murray, FN, has retired from mess cooking. Wadas, FN, is our mess cook. James, MM1, and Wimer, FN, are still working on refrigeration. Their problem is----what does cold water taste like? Chiccino, MR2, is still wondering why we call him the great lover. Davidson still has the problem of working while his bunk is within hand reach. Our only absentee this trip is Noyes, FN, who is home with mama..

### "T" Smoker (continued)

Howie Kaltenbach, Clar Potts, John Harris, Larry Miles, and George Linardos. **Free for All included:** Bill Stoll, Art Lurvey, John Miller, George Snapp, and Richard Dummich.

### "T" Reunion Auction Hilarious Success

The Annual Tripoli Reunion Auction provided another hilarious and enjoyable evening for the "T" shipmates and injected a substantial shot in the arm to our operating budget for another year. Many thanks to our Auctioneer, this year, Jim Mc Henry, and to Luther Royds and Neil Robinson for their help in this very important endeavor for our organization. Our thanks, also, to Vic and Phyllis Aloisio for their generous auction bid by phone, from Georgia, and for adding such a bright spot of humor to the evening. The gag gifts, contributed by Reunion attendees, are showing more originality each year. Photos of some of these will appear in future issues of the Tripolitan. This year's auction featured a lot of patriotic theme gifts which were appreciated by all who bid on them.



"T" shipmates Jim Van Gorder ('56-'58--R-Div.), Joe Boorujy ('45-'46---O/N Div.), and Bob Kohan ('55-'57---S2 Div.), are pictured above, next to a photo of the Tripoli, outside the Hospitality Room, at the Philadelphia Reunion. Jim Van Gorder currently resides in Willoughby Hills, Ohio, Joe Boorujy in Florham Park, New Jersey, and Bob Kohan in Kankakee, Illinois. Over 100 shipmates from WWII, and the early and late '50's attended the Reunion.



**Captain Switzer assumes command of Tripoli**

Captain Wendell G. Switzer is pictured above, at ceremonies where he assumed command of the Tripoli on October 31, 1943. The commissioning of the "T" took place at Astoria, Oregon.

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