



# Tripolitan

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1998



## HOLIDAY MEMORIES FROM YESTERYEAR



REMEMBERING THE HOLIDAYS ON THE  
TRIPOLI IN THE 40'S AND 50'S  
STORIES INSIDE



LAKE GEORGE, N.Y. SELECTED FOR

'T' REUNION '99

DETAILS ON PAGE 3



The December 1943 issue of the TRIPOLI TIMES, ( the "T's" first newspaper), was called the "Shakedown Edition". The Editor was ENS. Cotter, and the "T" Skipper, at that time, was Capt. W. G. Switzer. The following items were "firsts" for the Tripoli, at that time--Number one man on the Launching list

was Warrent Machinist Stephenson, of the "A" Div., who became the proud father of a bouncing baby boy, William Lynn. Number one, on the "Shipping Over" list, was Chief A. R. Loomis in the Engine Room. Number one on the "Feed the Fish" list was Phil Sheeler, YN1. Although he was the first seasick victim of the cruise to cast his bread upon the water, he eventually regained his sea legs and became a salty old Sea Dog. The Tripoli Christmas dinner featured Cream of Celery Soup, Tomato cocktail, Roast Virginia Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, French Peas, Buttered Cauliflower, Celery Hearts, Parker House Rolls, Letuce and Tomato salad, Fresh Fruit, Mixed Nuts, and coffee. The popular phonograph records, of that time period, included "O' Come All Ye Faithful" by the Glen Miller band, and "Oh How I Hate To Get Up In The Morning" by Irving Berlin.

*Hearty Tripoli Shipmate "Get-Well Soon" wishes go out to Frank and Lois Scelzo, who both went through open heart surgery, recently. Frank and Lois expressed their appreciation for the many cards and letters they have received from "T" Shipmates and their spouses.*

Our Tripoli Group was saddened by the news that Tom Fash, our Tripoli Shipmate, from New Jersey, had passed away on 9/10/98. Tom was a member of our Reunion Planning Committee and was instrumental in the planning of our recent Reunion in Charleston. He served aboard the "T" in "V" Division from 1952 to 1954. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Tom's wife, May and their family.

*Luther Royds, our Tripoli Reunion Coordinator, has requested that any "T" Group Shipmate suggestions for future Reunion formats, or activities, be sent to his attention. His address is listed on page 3.*



(L to R) Dick Hiner, Carl Brashear, Vic Aloisio and Don Ravenelle are pictured, above, in the Hospitality Room at the Tripoli Charleston Reunion. Photo courtesy of Wiley Dummich.



Our thanks to Bob Terry for this photo of Jim McHenry, Vic Aloisio, and the Tripoli shipmates enjoying lunch, in the CPO MESS, aboard the Carrier YORKTOWN. The tour of the Carrier brought back many memories of our days aboard the "T".

"T" Shipmate, Joe Iannaco, from West Babylon, New York, is pictured, at right, with the sensational hat that he obtained at the Tripoli Group auction at the recent Reunion. Joe served aboard the "T" from 6/51 to 6/55 as an ME3 in the aft engine room, along with



Pat Pica, Olin Mann, and John Harrison. Joe was, also, a Division Reporter for the Tripolitan Newspaper, aboard the "T", in '52 and '53, covering Engineering Division News under the heading of "Snipes Scope" and won the Tripoli pie eating contest at a "T" Smoker in April of '52.



A special note of appreciation, on behalf of all the Tripoli Shipmates, to Luther and Jane Royds for a very enjoyable Reunion in Charleston. The accommodations, tours, and activities were outstanding. We're all looking forward to Lake George, N.Y. in '99. We are planning to add another tour to the next Reunion and detailed information on that, and some new twists to the activities, will appear in the March '99 Tripolitan. Speaking of the Tripolitan, I'm very pleased to welcome a new member to the Newsletter Staff. Bill Atkinson, of Portland, Michigan served on the Tripoli in the late '50's and published the Tripolitan at that time.

#### U.S.S. Tripoli Group

Reunion Coordinator ----- Luther Royds  
1019 Gorman St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19116  
(215-673-7742)

Steering Committee -- Victor Aloisio, Luther Royds, James McHenry, Lowell Mercier, Robert Herlihy, Paul Long, Thomas Hise, Neil Robinson

Member Info Coordinator -- Neil Robinson  
88 Goddard Dr., DeBary, Fl., 32713

E-Mail: cnrobins@bitstorm.net

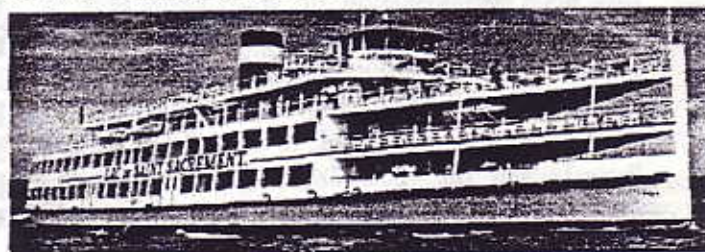
Treasurer ----- Donald Robertson  
Membership Committee -- Paul Long, Martin Stahl, Richard Merlin, James King  
Reunion Committee -- Luther Royds, Lowell Mercier, Donald Mills, James King, Henry Wegner

TRIPOLITAN EDITOR ----- Robert Herlihy,  
1 Ash St., Putnam, Conn., 06260

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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 Luther Royds, 1019 Gorman St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19116

The picture at the right appeared on the front page of the November 25, 1953 edition of the Tripolitan. The "T" had just returned from La Spezia, Italy to New York, and all hands were looking forward to some holiday liberty. We were informed that all servicemen would receive reduced fares for all rail travel over the holidays. The "T" had just completed 142,000 miles of travel since recommissioning in 1952. The Third Naval District Headquarters had announced that Naval activities at Pier 26, North River, were being transferred to the U.S. Navy Pier 44, in Brooklyn. Ens. D. E. Mc Cumber was celebrating his birthday. The 3 top songs, across the U.S. at that time, were YOU, YOU, YOU by the Ames Brothers, VAYA CON DIOS by Les Paul & Mary Ford, and EBB TIDE by Vic Damone. The Tripoli movie of the evening, on 11/25/53 was "Treasure of the Golden Condor", with Cornel Wilde.



**LAKE GEORGE, N.Y. SELECTED FOR TRIPOLI GROUP '99 REUNION**  
*The Surfside Motel, on Lake George, N.Y., has been selected as the site for the Tripoli Group 1999 Reunion. A cruise aboard the Lake George Steamboat Company's "Lac du Saint Sacrement", pictured above, will be one of the activities at the Reunion.*

Reunion Dates: 9/30/99 to 10/3/99

Location: Surfside Motel, 400 Canada St., Lake George, N.Y., 12845

Reservations: (toll-free No.) 1-800-342-9795

Package Price: \$139.20 per person ---based on double occupancy.

(It includes 3-nights accommodations, 3-Adirondack breakfasts, a banquet dinner, a 2-hour cruise of Lake George, with lunch, and all taxes and gratuities.) For those who would like to arrive early, the cost would be an additional \$21.40 per person, per day. The package price, for those travelling alone, will be published later.

See Page 4 for more details

**REUNION  
99**



## SHIPMATE LETTERS

Editors' Note: The following personal history info was provided by Richard Warren Smith, a Tripoli Shipmate who currently resides in San Diego, Calif. He served aboard the "T" during the WWII era as a Torpedoman 1/C. The information is interesting because it provides a profile of the Tripoli history during that time period. This is the first in a series of articles which will continue in subsequent issues of the Tripolitan.

I was transferred, in June of 1943, from Ship Repair, Unit 1, in Pearl Harbor (where I had been since December, 1941) to New Construction, West Coast. After a month or two, in San Francisco, I received orders to a precommissioning Detail at Puget Sound Navy Yard (PSNY), Bremerton, Washington. From there I was sent to the Naval Barracks, Tacoma, Washington, assigned to the ACV CVE 36, USS Balinas, under final construction at Todd Ship Yard in Tacoma. Some time later, it was announced that, upon commissioning, the vessel would proceed to Vancouver, B.C., and be de-commissioned and handed over to the Royal Navy, to be Re-Commissioned as HMS Begum. Upon our return to PSNY I was re-assigned to the Tacoma Naval Barracks and the USS Tripoli pre-commissioning detail. (Continued in next Issue)



The Travelling "T" passed through the Strait of Gibraltar on many occasions during her history. The famous "Rock of Gibraltar", which towers above the surrounding countryside, is a beacon which signals the position of this narrow neck of water which provides the only link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. Many still refer to Gibraltar as an island, but physically it is a peninsula.

LCDR L.H. Schwock outlined the role of the Tripoli Engineering Dept. in the December, 1954 issue of the Tripolitan. He indicated that its' function was "Mobility, followed by Services and Repair. The mobility of the "T" needed no other testimony than her 200,000 miles of travel during WWII, and over 200,000 miles during the 50's. The unique engines, on the "T", were Skinner Uniflows. The "M" Division handled the Engine operation and Evaporators, the "B" Div., the Boilers and Fuel, the "A" Div.--Refrigeration, the "E" Div.--Power/Lighting, and "R" Div.----Damage Control, Piping and Drainage.

### 'T' REUNION '99

Luther Royds, Tripoli Reunion Coordinator, has requested that all, who plan to attend the '99 "T" Reunion, make their reservations as soon as possible. This is a peak time period for the Motel, due to the Fall foliage season, and the demand for the rooms will be very high as we approach our Reunion dates. A Reservation will only require one nights' room deposit. You can cancel up to 10 days before the scheduled dates without penalty. Mention that you are with the Tripoli Group when calling.

We are currently scheduling a motorcoach tour, which would include Fort Ticonderoga, and more. We estimate the cost of this tour would be approximately \$15.00 to \$20.00 per person. The details will be included in the next edition of the Newsletter. We are, also, working out the details on shuttle service to and from Albany Airport. This info will be listed in the March '99 Tripolitan.

The Tripoli was in her home port of Mobile, Alabama for Christmas of 1954. Capt. J.A. Thomas was her Skipper at that time.



### TAPS

Cyrus Annear Jr.	5/23/94
James Brown	9/25/92
Albert Dredge	3/23/93
Thomas Fash	9/10/98
Quinton Hickman	4/18/62
Henry Morene	12/2/67
Lowell Rudy	2/14/74
Larry Tomko	7/11/80
Lewis Wright	3/31/94
Ronald Purdy	11/98

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**October**

- 3--Howard Kaltenbach
- 7--Donald Poff
- 9--Thomas Hands, William Behymer
- 21--Roger Carter
- 28--Thomas Kapustynski

**November**

- 6--Robert Herlihy
- 7--R. Warren Smith
- 8--Edmond Verbel
- 9--Robert Adwin
- 14--Les Thompson
- 18--Stan Aldycki
- 19--David Sotum
- 22--Robert Kunda
- 25--Dean McCumber
- 27--Ronald Tepley

**December**

- 2--Harrison Cawood, Wesley Rienhardt
- 5--Elwood Hill, Leon Moyer, Charles Phillips
- 13--Lowell Mercier
- 18--Stephen Eppner, Joseph Tamer, Robert Kohan



Wiley Dummich displays his prize from the Tripoli Auction at the Charleston Reunion. Wiley was our Speaker for the Reunion Banquet and talked about how the 50's version of the Tripolitan Newspaper was started, and reviewed some humorous aspects of life aboard the "T" in the early 50's. Our Auctioneer, Vic Aloisio, led us through another hilarious and enjoyable evening.

**LPH 10 / CVE 64 Tripoli Group extends Reunion Invitation**

Jim Metts, of the LPH 10 / CVE 64 Tripoli Group, has extended an invitation to anyone in our Group who would like to join them at their next Reunion, in Washington, D.C., on June 16 to June 20, 1999. Accomodations at the Sheraton National in Arlington, Va. Room rate is \$89.00 per night. For more details, you can contact: Jim Metts, 1103 N. 22nd St., Nederland, Texas, 77627, or call him, toll free, at 1-888-252-0775. Kenneth Lee, a member of both Tripoli Groups, reviewed their invitation at our Charleston Reunion.

**"T" News item from 1952**

To help build a ship wasn't enough for Marvin Nolt, SN, who served on the "T" in 1952. As a Burner in Kaiser Shipyard, in Vancouver, Wash., in 1943, Nolt worked on a ship called the USS Dedrickson Bay, later named the USS Tripoli. In the later part of '43 he served with the Army in the Phillipines. During 1952 he served in the "V" Division on the "T".

**DURING '58 HOLIDAY SEASON SHIPMATES BID FAREWELL TO 'T'**

During November, of 1958, the Tripoli shipmates were preparing to bid farewell to the "Travelling T". The ship's "Farewell Party" was held on Thursday, 13 November, at the NCO Club on Brookley Air Force Base, in Mobile, Alabama. The event included an evening of dining and dancing for the Tripoli personnel and their guests. The Tripoli was Decommissioned on 25 November. S.J. Oleksinski, S-1 Division, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas, and, most of all, "Bon Voyage", on behalf of the Supply Department. The S-1 Division, at that time, included McCleery, SN, Creech, SK1, Nispel, SK2, Lawson, SN, Hiehle, SN, Davidson, SH2, Gorham, SN, Smith, SN, Morris, SH1, Stallings, SKC, ENS. Rayborn, LCDR Primm, Holt, SK3, Hunt, SA, Coker, SH2, Kingsbury, SH3, Claydon, SH2, Dortch, SH2, Hensley, SH2, and Bass, SN.

Luther Royds has requested that '98/'99 member annual contributions be sent to him at his address listed on page 3 of the Tripolitan. Check payable to Luther Royds.

Jim McHenry informed us that he lost his 35mm camera at the Charleston Reunion. Anyone with info on this can contact him at: 21 Highland Dr., E. Greenbush, N.Y., 12061



**"T" Shipmates from 2 era's**  
Pictured at the left is "T" Shipmate R. Warren Smith, of San Diego, on liberty in Recife, Brazil in the early 40's. Above (left) is Joseph Cook, of Brandenburg, Ky., with another

shipmate, on the "T" flight deck in 1953. Tripoli shipmates, from both era's, shared their many sea stories at the Charleston Reunion. Thanks to the efforts of Luther Royds, and the input from many our Tripoli Group shipmates, we have been able to rekindle the memories from both era's.

Homer Thurston, from Springfield, Missouri, was a Plank Owner on the Tripoli, back in 1943. He is pictured, above, at the Charleston Reunion, displaying his treasure for the "T" shipmates. During our evening sessions, in the Hospitality Room, we enjoyed a number of sea stories from the WWII era Tripoli shipmates. Many of them will be returning, to join others, at our next Reunion at Lake George, N.Y.

