



# Tripolitan



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2000



## A SAILOR'S TOAST

**"There are good ships  
and there are wood ships,  
the ships that sail the sea.  
But the best ships  
are friendships,  
and may they always be."**

The above photo shows three Tripoli shipmates who served aboard the "T" during WWII. The photo was taken in Brazil. Pictured at the left is Clarence Johnson, S1c, (center) Haven Fisher, S1c, and (right) Kerman Isbell, S1c. Our Tripoli Group, our many Tripoli Reunions, our Newsletter, and the multitude of communications between "T" shipmates, from the 40's and 50's, is a fitting testimony to the many friendships created during our time of service aboard the USS Tripoli CVE 64. Photo provided by K. Isbell.



## A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Your Tripolitan Editor was walking down Bourbon Street, in New Orleans, in October of 1953, when he spotted the bus shown in the above photo. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to photograph "A Streetcar Named Desire" in New Orleans. This was the Tripoli's first visit to the "Mardi Gras" city since re-commissioning in January of 1952. A Sesqui-Centennial celebration, of the Louisiana Purchase, was underway at that time, and a "Mardi-Gras" atmosphere prevailed. President Eisenhower visited the city for the celebration, and his speech, at the ceremonies, was preceded by a wonderful parade, with Mardi Gras floats. Some of the Tripoli Crew enjoyed the Moonlight Dancing cruises aboard the Riverboat "President", and Johnnie Ray, Ed Sullivan, and other celebrities joined in the festivities. This year the "T" Shipmates will return to New Orleans, for their Reunion, in November.

**SALLY FORREST VISITS TRIPOLI IN 1952**

On December 23, 1952, the Tripoli was host to MSTS-ATLANTIC's Christmas Party. With Herman Hickman as Santa Claus arriving via Helicopter,



and movie star Sally Forrest, mistress of ceremonies, introducing such notables as Barbara Ashley, of "Wish You Were Here" fame, and Television's Herb Shriner, the party was a huge success. Bob Smith and Howdy Doody were on hand to the delight of the children, while the adults danced to the music of the Sherry-Netherlands Hotel Orchestra. Sally gave the above autographed photo to Tripoli shipmate Bill Krause, of Rensselaer, N.Y.

**TRIPOLI REUNION 2000**

Thursday, Nov. 16 to Sun., Nov. 19, 2000  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Reservations: Best Western Landmark Hotel  
2601 Severn Ave., Metairie, La., 70002  
1-800-277-7575, \$69.00 per night, double or single. Mention that you are with the U.S. Tripoli Group when calling. Complimentary Airport Shuttle Service available. Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge. Walking distance to major shopping mall. Those desiring refrigerator in room, and those planning to arrive prior to 11/16, should make their reservations early. We are considering a Gulf Coast Casinos tour for Thur., 11/16 (8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.--free bus trip and tour, and free buffet at Casino) if enough people are interested. Notify Luther Royds if you are interested in attending this tour. A Reservation form, covering current activities scheduled, is enclosed with this Newsletter. Luther has requested your response, as soon as possible so that he can complete commitments for the activities.



**FROM THE DECK LOG**

The following excerpt, from the Tripoli Deck Log, was provided by Bill Atkinson, who obtained it from the Navy Archives.

5 November, 1952 -----enroute from Yokuska, Japan to San Francisco, California. 0800----Held quarters for muster. Absentees--none. 0812-----exercised crew at collision drill and general quarters. 0837---secured from collision drill and general quarters. 0900 ---made daily inspection of magazines and smokeless powder samples. Condition---normal. 1117 -----Two (2) men overboard; latitude 37' 25' N. ----longitude 169' 22' W. from #5 sponson, starboard side. Stopped all engines. Placed rudder at right 30 degrees. 1119 -- All engines ahead full. Commenced Williamson turn. 1125----Completed turn. On course 264 degrees true. Captain assumed Conn. 1128 -- Sighted one man 2 points on port bow----distance about 1,000 yards. Commenced maneuvering on various courses and speeds, approaching man. No. 2 port motor-whaleboat manned, but not lowered, due to high winds and excessively rough seas. 1131 --- With the ship approximately to within 150 yards, man went under and disappeared from sight. Continuing search for both men. 1136----- sighted second man bearing 45 degrees on the starboard bow, distance about 1500 yards. Commenced maneuvering on various courses and speeds to pick up man. 1140 -----with the ship approxmantly within 900 yards of man, man went under and disappeared from sight. Continuing search in area for bodies to re-appear. 1203 ---Held muster for crew and passengers. Absentees --- Eichorn, C. W., FT3, and Stephenson, B. C., TE3. After completing a search of area, lasting 2 hours and 7 minutes, set course 090 T, speed 16.7 knots. S.N Zinman, USN.

- **Summary of Current Reunion Activities Scheduled**
- --Fri.--11/17/00--8:00 to 11:00 A.M. Bus trip & walking tour--French Quarter & Bourbon St areas.
- 11:00 A.M to 1:30 P.M. --Miss. River/New Orleans Harbor Cruise--lunch--Jazz Band--\$40.00 per person.
- ---Sat.--11/18/00--9:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M.----Tour of 3 Louisiana Plantations. \$35.00 per person. 6:00 P.M. -- Reunion Banquet--Buffet style--\$25.00 per person. To make reservations for these, return enclosed form, or send letter and check, payable to Donald Robertson, 2411 Gardner St., Elliston, Va., 24087-3015, asap, to allow us to complete these reservations.



The arrangements for this year's reunion, in New Orleans, have been completed, and Luther Royds has requested that everyone make their reservations, as soon as possible, so we be assured of the Hotel Rooms set aside for us, and the arrangements for our tours and activities can be completed. The demand for hotel space and tours in New Orleans is very high, all year round, and we are fortunate that we were able to obtain the accommodations and tours that we have reserved.

#### 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, Bob Terry

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.  
207 Sabin St., Apt#42., Putnam, Conn., 06260  
E-Mail: r.j.herlihy@snet.net

PUBLICATION EDITOR: William Atkinson  
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 Donald Robertson, 2411 Gardner St., Elliston, Va., 24087-3015 (Checks payable to: Donald Robertson)

#### TRIPOLI NEWS ITEMS -- NOVEMBER 1958

The Tripolitan shipboard newspaper published the final edition, before de-commissioning, in November of 1958. Capt. H. H. Larson was Commanding Officer, CDR. F. A. Todd was Exec., the Editor was Lt. Asa W. Jones, Chaplain, Asst. Editor was William A. Atkinson, SN, who also handled Make-up and Layout. Arts & Cartoons were handled by Peter P. Cardinal, ABC, Photography by William A. Reynolds, Sn, and Features and typing by Bob Drury, YN1.

O/N division News --- By "Spike" Atkinson, SN--- The big news in O/N Division, during the past trip, has been the recent advancement of our former Division Petty Officer, BOSN Boardman, who is now our Division Officer. Good luck to you, BOSN and don't get too cold, this winter, up in, Newport Rhode Island. From what I hear, Chief "Flags" Gillespie, and VAK, "Short-timer" Kakerics have been having a contest to see which one has the most hair. I guess the Chief won out after VAK's trip to the Barber. The new man in the Division this trip, is Larry "Tony" Kubat, who comes to us from the 1st Division. There was, also, a brief visit to the Division by "Smitty" Smith who is now back to his old job as MAA. Now that the "T" is about to pull into port for the last time, "Pudgy" Graham, "Doby" Berry, and "Roby" Robertson will be waiting for their orders. I hope you all get the orders you want, I know I will.



"T" shipmate, Bill Atkinson, from Portland, Michigan, is pictured, above, at the Lake George Reunion, displaying a framed replica of the Tripoli signal flags (NKVT) that he contributed for our annual auction. Bill serves as Publication Editor of the Tripolitan Newsletter, and published the final editions of the Tripoli Newspaper, aboard ship, prior to de-commissioning of the "T" in 1958. He is currently providing information and photos about the Tripoli during the late '50's.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**January**

- 1 -- T.K. Sorrow
- 5 -- Donald Prohaska
- 6 -- Charles Milnor
- 7 -- Kenneth Palovitz
- 12--Fred Kratz
- 15 - Russ Denaro
- 17--Lee Kinsey
- 20 - Herb Frymark
- 22 - Joseph Misek
- 23 - Robert Robbins
- 26--Howard Marschhauser
- 27 - Joseph Boorujy
- 27 - Patrick Pica
- 29--Fernand Villeneuve

**February**

- 1--Alfred Lowe
- 6--Paul Long
- 9 --William Turner
- 12 -Benny Beiso
- 15--Bob Terry
- 16--Bennie Cloud
- 17--Casper Bailey
- 22 -William Atkinson
- 24--Carl Peterson

**March**

- 2--John O'Brien
- 4--Joseph Hanly
- 7--Stanley Tryzbiak
- 12 -Domer Long
- 13-Elmer Odgaard
- 14-Marvin Bordelon
- 15- Joseph Petrunic
- 18 - Charles Hobbs
- 18-William Morris
- 21-Joseph Baciagalupo
- 23-Lenning Perry
- 25 - Herbert Wistrand
- 27 - Ralph McDaniel
- 27-Parker Kinney
- 27 - Richard Baker
- 28 - Karl Schmitz
- 28 - Jack Lucy
- 30 - Hobson Lewis



October - 1953 - Tops in Pops on the "T"  
 "Loved Walked In"----- by the Hilltoppers  
 "Crying in the Chapel"-----by June Valli  
 "Ebb Tide" -----by Frank Chacksfield

**LPH10 / CVE-64 Tripoli Group**

**Extends Reunion Invitation**

John Bisbee, 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 Long Beach, California, on August 16 to August 20, 2000. Accomodations at the West Coast Long Beach Hotel, 700 Queensway Dr., Long Beach, Ca., 90802. (Tel. 562-435-7676). For more details contact John Bisbee, 1075 Cedar Ridge Dr., Rolla, Mo., 65401 (Tel. 573-364-3494)

**THE AFT LOOKOUT**

By Paul "Fighting Father" Long

(Ed. Note) This is the second article, in a series, by Paul Long, on Navy Rates. Do you remember the Rates represented by the Logo Descriptions listed below?



**Gear**



**Rangefinder**



**Caduceus**



**Helium Atom**



**Crossed Cannons**

Ed. Note: -----Job descriptions, associated with the various Rates, will be listed in future issues of the Newsletter.

Answers on last page.

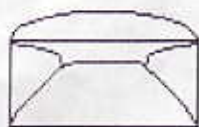
**17 SHIPMATES BID FAREWELL TO**

**TRIPOLI IN APRIL, 1952**

When the Tripoli returned to New York, from Bremerhaven, Germany, in April of 1952, seventeen shipmates bid farewell to the "T". Some would be transferring to new Duty Stations, and some would be returning to civilian life. Those leaving included: R. J. Wilson, ET3, J. Lachman, AK2, A. P. Ricci, MML1, J.I. Newell, RM3, R.T. Manning, BT3, P. T. Bowman, AN, H. R. Hillis, BTG1, J. W. Hartwell, BMG3, A.J. Jasky, SKG1, D. W. Healy, FA, A. R. Turner, HM3, G. W. Snapp, SN, J. M. Smith III, HM1, J. J. Pauly, MML3, G. G. Peluso, BT 3, W. A. Richardson, BM3, and C. Dinauer, ET3.

**Additional New Orleans Reunion Activities**

Additional free time Reunion activities possibilities, in November, include: A tour of the Superdome, visits to the Bourbon St. Night Clubs, and visits to the new Military Museum and the nearby Naval Air Station.



## SHIPMATE NEWS

Ed. Note: This is the 6th in a series of articles by R. Warren Smith on his personal history, aboard the Tripoli, in WWII.

(Jan. 1944)-- We went directly into the yard and work commenced immediately on our flagship modifications. To save a lot of redundant effort of off-loading, and then re-loading, the A A Battery 'ammo was all removed from the gun tubs and handling rooms and stacked in the middle of the flight deck, where it was covered with double tarps, and a fire watch was posted all around. Somewhere around day three or four of this operation, someone in the black gang decided to do a routine pumping of the bilges. As the last of the water left the fwd bilge area, there was a lot of AvGas sucked out with it. For some reason, it came to the surface on the off side (stbd), right under the gun tubs in work that day. A glob of hot metal, from a cutting torch, fell into it and lit it off big time. Like all disasters coming without any warning, there was total pandemonium. The first official notice came when some of the crew of a large tanker, laden with AvGas, across the dock from us, came running up the gangway and asked the OOD how to get to the flight deck. He asked them who they were, and they said: "We're the fire fighters from over there. We can't get underway and we've been sent over to fight your fire." We went to fire Qtrs. immediately. Most of us had been below, getting ready for liberty. (Liberty was cancelled). The only accessible fire stations were the stbd flight deck fire stations. With perfect timing, all of the flight deck fire fighting crews were ashore, attending fire fighting school. Foam was the needed medium and the flight deck foam generators were of a different type than those down inside the ship. Other crews tried to use this gear, with mixed results. In one incident, the Exec., Air Boss, and some other staff officers, were standing in the middle of the flight deck when a large ball of ugly brown foam blew out of a hopper, going straight up and drifting right over and down on this group. I'm sure they never saw it coming. Some of the witnesses thought their antics were hilarious and we heard about it for days. When it was all over, there were two or three fatalities in the CIC area, and a number of the crew were burned to varying degrees, some requiring hospitalization. The damage to the CIC and Island structure was extensive. Overall, the crew performed very well, as did the crew from the Tanker across the dock. The Naval Station's Marine Corps Fire Dept. added pandemonium dockside, when they arrived with their brand new fire engine and the siren relay stuck. (Continued next issue).

**September -1953 -- "Chief Cope New CMAA"** The new possessor of the sparkling gold CMAA badge for this cruise is FCC Cope. Chief H. C. Nelson is taking a 30 day leave and Chief Cope will assume the CMAA duties until his return, after this cruise. Chief Cope is the third man to assume the CMAA duties since the Tripoli was re-commissioned in January of 1952. Chief Nelsons predecessor was BTC H. A. Brown, who, eventually headed back to civilian life, and the Fleet Reserve, after over 20 year's service in Uncle Sam's Navy.

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**August -- 1944 -- "USS Tripoli Neptune Party" 8/10/44--** (1830)--Davy Jones comes on board. Official welcome by Commanding Officer. Deliver Supeonas to all Polywogs. Publish list of Special Details and extra watches. (1400)- 11 August, 1944 --Cross The Line. Polly wogs appear for trial, and, if found worthy, will be initiated into the Mysteries of The Ancient Order of the Deep. The Royal Court is composed of the following: King Neptune--Arthur R. Loomis, CEM(PA), Davey Jones--Percy W. Farch, EM1, Royal Princess--John L. Cumming, Y2c, Royal Queen--Lt. Otto E. Sporrer, Royal Baby--David M. Blackburne, SK3, Royal Judge--L CDR Aubrey H. Russell, Royal Prosecutor-- Harry E. Musgrove, BM1c, Royal Scribe--Robert E. Propst, CY(PA), Royal Secretary--Howard W. Knudsen, Royal Navigator--Victor A. Falbo, AOM2c, Royal Chaplain--Lt Jg. William T. Spellman, Royal Admiral--Jerome L. Colrud, CSM(AA), Royal Engineer-Ch. Mach. Frank Hamer, Royal Electrician--Raymond J. Gorski. (To be continued in next Issue)

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**2 October, 1957 ---** (1000) Captain H. H. Larsen, 74976, relieved Captain J. E. Owers, 73521, at Change of Command as Per BuPers Orders Serial 783 of 4 July, 1957. (1645) Pursuant to BuPers Order 783 of July 5, 1957, Capt. James E. Owers, 73521, was detached from this ship to report to Supreme Allied Command, Atlantic, for duty.



**TAPS**

Robert Alexander-----	7/25/75
Oliver Barnett-----	11/30/92
Walter Ewing, Jr. -----	3/31/73
Edward Jameson-----	7/28/81
Carl Lagasse-----	5/26/86
Harold Mathers-----	12/24/85
John Rictor-----	1/12/69
Raymond Urban-----	11/29/87
William Wilhelm-----	9/3/80





### MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR

The photos, above, show the gangway of the Tripoli, a familiar sight during her many stops at ports around the U.S., and around the world, and the racks found in the many sleeping quarters around the ship.



Tripoli souvenirs are available from Luther Royds, 1019 Gorman St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19116. T-Shirts - \$10.00, or Sweatshirts - \$15.00, plus \$3.00 shipping. Ball caps - \$10.00. Money Clip, Tie Pin, Pins - \$5.00, Letter Opener - \$6.00. T-Shirts and Sweatshirts come in S-M-L-XL-2X and 3-X sizes. You can save shipping charge by ordering now to pick up at the Reunion.

Answers to Navy Rate questions on page 4.  
(1) Engineman (2) Electronics Technician  
(3) Fire-Control Technician (4) Gunners Mate  
(5) Hospital Corpsman (More in next issue)

# Job Separator

## Job Info

JobName: final\_sheet2.pmd (Gray(Composite)).024  
UserName: anthonyk  
Duplex: False  
NumPages: 1  
NumCopies: 1