



USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET
"The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"

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LOST BATTALION & USS HOUSTON REUNION

August 9 – 12, 2007

**Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West
1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235
972 869-4300**

Contact: Gail & Mike Bialas 972 612-6768 Email: mgbialas@verizon.net

USS HOUSTON ASSOCIATION (CA-30 & CL-81)

September 5 – 9, 2007

**Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel
3041 E Washington Av, Madison, WI 53704
1 866-791-3349**

Contact: Harold Bergum 608 798-4264

USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS REUNION

Feburary 21-24, 2008

Doubletree-Allen Center

400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002

Call for room reservations Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Central Time:

Shanna Jackson 713 351-5757 or

Advise you are with the Houston group for the \$89 per night rate

If they are not in, leave a message & ask they call you back....

Have your credit card ready to provide billing information

Contact: Val Poss 512 989-0000 Email: CA30NG@aol.com

CHANGES TO THE WEB SITE – Matt Matthews took pictures of our basic sales items & I created an order form of sales items. Please contact me & I will send the pictures and form to you for an order. We hope to have this on our web site by the time we send out our Sept. '07 issue. Jane Matthews & I'll be working with Susan Kreutzer to update the web site. SHE's the whiz kid – I'll announce when the changes have been made....be patient, this is no easy task.

NOW HEAR THIS!

All *USS Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association and Next Generation family: Spread the Word! To all blood relations of the ship's crew, descendants, those associated through marriage, or any known persons with a keen interest in the *USS Houston*....

Scholarship Program - Applications are accepted beginning June 1 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1. Applications and specific information about applying may be obtained anytime by writing a request to:

John Keith Schwarz

2500 Clarendon Blvd Apt 121
Arlington, VA 22201

Applications are now available via the USS HOUSTON website
www.usshouston.org)

Those eligible to apply include students entering the final year of high school with anticipation of going to college, as well as all college under-graduates up through the final year of study. Previous applicants and winners can re-apply.

Applicants are required to present grades or evidence of progress in school and may present outside work experience, extra-curricular activities, etc. Applications must also present an essay.

The '08 scholarship amount will be in the amount of \$3,000 (unless there is a tie so applicants --- give it your best!)

Please remember that donations are appreciated – It would be an extraordinarily loving act to donate in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Make your checks out to: USS Houston Scholarship Fund % Pam Foster, 370 Lilac Ln, Lincoln, CA 95648

CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK – Please remember to send greeting cards to our USS HOUSTON SSN 713 crew to: FPO AP 96667-2393 & the USS RENTZ FFG-46, FPO AP 96667-1500. I received a nice hand written note from the CO of the RENTZ thanking us for our card last year. Also, John Schwarz has graciously offered to deliver a Christmas wreath to your loved one in Arlington Cemetery. Please contact him at john.k.schwarz@usps.gov or 2500 Clarendon Blvd #121, Arlington, VA 22201 & he will advise the cost of the wreath & upon your approval order & deliver it for you.

MYSTERY GIFT - I received a small tile (for lack of a better description) from Clive and Judy Brumpton of Queensland, Australia. Mrs. Brumpton wrote that her husband has had it in a box in his workshed "for probably twenty years". It was given to him by an acquaintance who found it on a beach on the northern shores of Australia. It is made of wood & the lettering seems to be embossed. It's 1 1/4" long, 1 1/8" wide and 1/4" deep. On the right end there is a hole cut in it. At the bottom of the entrance into the hole is a thin piece of metal. It looks as if it could have possibly been clipped to the end of a letter opener? Does anyone have any clue as to what it could be? I'll be glad to send a picture of this mystery item to that needs a look at it – I can't seem to get the picture I scanned to print clearly or I'd be showing it in the newsletter.

DONATIONS – (Tax ID # 17053122009007 **PLEASE** make checks out to the USS Houston Survivors Assn to claim your tax deduction) Please remember - we are set up as a non profit organization and depend solely upon your donations to get out the newsletter (paper, printing, postage), pay for the web site, etc. There are no dues. However, complimentary editions are not unlimited (including those emailed because we have expenses to maintain that). I sent over 250 newsletters and received 21 donations???? You do the math..... We thank the following for their generosity: Joe Kollmyer, Jimmie Pryor, Leland Stewart, Silvia & HOWARD BROOKS, Bruce De Wald, Ron & Lin Drees, George Duffy, C.R. Jenek (USS HOUSTON Avenger), Marti & BOB CHARLES, Carol Ann Hess in memory of WILLIAM STEVENS, JR., Marie & JACK FELIZ, Billie Reese, D.A. Cherry, Bette Fowler, Debbie Carson, Laura Stevens, JOHN HOOD, Fred Haring, Steven See, Anne DuHaime in memory of ART DUHAIME-OTTO SCHWARZ-RAY GOODSON , Mattie Atterberry. Without your help, we could not continue!

AGAIN - TO END ALL WARS is a film with Kiefer Sutherland that received little attention. When HOWARD BROOKS & Silvia came for a short visit after the reunion saw it, he proclaimed it was a much truer version than BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI could ever hope to be....please rent and/or buy it at Blockbuster/Netflix or whatever. We let our grandsons watch it and they were in awe of what our men experienced!

MAILBAG – Joann Wychopen, daughter of Jimmie Pryor reports that Jimmie “had bi-lateral knee replacement surgery on the 10th of this month (May) and is doing well. She is home now and walking with a walker and doing everything possible to be ready to dance at the August reunion. She's had hearing aids, cataract surgery and now 2 new knees. A real bionic woman!” Jane & Matt Matthews volunteered to work up a price sheet for our sales items for our web-site PLUS volunteered to transfer our videos to DVD's before donating them to the University of Houston Archives! THAT's a lot of work! Thank you, thank you – we all thank you! Jimmie Pryor had hip replacement in April & plans to dance to her heart's content at the August reunion. Frank Ficklin (131st) has not come home since breaking his hip at the '06 August reunion. Leta had a heart attack Thanksgiving time. Both are in assisted living & will wait until Leta recovers from having a cyst removed before returning to their home that has been remodeled so Frank can get around in his wheelchair – whenever the doctor says it's safe enough for her heart to handle it. Georgeanne has recovered very well from having her brain tumor removed. She spent a few months overcoming dizzy spells, etc. Now she truly knows what it's like to be a dizzy dame (really frustrating for a retired Colonel). Daughter Susan (affectionately known as SuSu) thought her MS was acting up only to find that not one but THREE disks have blown so surgery is around the bend for her also. Hang in there Fantastic Ficklins – you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Sharron Long observed at the last reunion that our copy machine was old, slow (like some of us) and only printed one page at a time in black and white. She has purchased a newer model with bells and whistles & will share it with us. Now we will have TWO to use at the reunions! Thank you! An email from Eunelle Weissinger reported the death of Johnny Johnson (1,000 Volunteers) on May 12th of a heart attack. Jane & Matt Matthews have been working with me to get pictures of the sales items and an order form on the web site to make ordering items easier. Matt has also volunteered to take all of our video's (old interviews, lectures, etc.) and put them on disks for our archives AND make them available to others to purchase! I received a suggestion to use larger print so I did last issue. I hope it's easier to read now. Anne DuHaime writes she and ART now have 10 grandchildren and 2 greats. She has macular degeneration of the eyes but doing well. Mattie Atterberry writes she is “doing great & loves living in the River Bottom (Arkansas). She wants all NG's to know they're doing a good job & thanks the survivors for keeping in touch with us to share their news in the newsletter. “Here's to you Otto Great Humble One” & hopes the “young ones of your Generation will keep it going too”. I speak to BILL INGRAM often & he always sends his love to one and all! Please note MARVIN BAIN'S new address is: 2607 Albert Pike #332, Hot Springs, AR 71913 (501 760-1002).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) – The US

National Archives recently released records about the Japanese war crimes: Don Kehn reports he downloaded the entire 1700 page index, which is a fabulous aid.
<http://www.archives.gov/iwg/japanese-war-crimes/>

Did you know that NARA is the name of Japan's 1st permanent capital established in 710? It was first known as Heijo but changed to Nara. Just a bit of trivia ----

FINANCIAL REPORT

DEBITS		CREDITS	
Print Newsletter	137.50	Previous Balance	7813.28
Postage Newsletter	66.57	Deposits &	
Storage	191.25	Sales	2303.13
Postage	190.92	Total	10116.41
Supplies	239.43		
Shirts & Caps	733.95	New Balance	8145.48
Video converter to DVD	267.49	Reserve for '08 reunion	
Telephone	224.82		3000.00
Total	1970.93	Adjusted balance	4145.48

REUNION '08 – It seems the last 2 years have been “soft” and we are now competing with large corporations for rooms. We have also begun to have to plan around the Houston Rodeo Parade. Those of us working on the planning of the reunion are well aware that March 1, 2008 is on a Saturday. However, unless you have your heart set on a candle light ceremony, we have to go with a different weekend because the parade is on the 1st & the city will shut down the streets of downtown in the wee hours of Saturday morning until late afternoon. I negotiated with the Doubletree for Feb. 23rd to avoid room rates of \$168/night the weekend AFTER the 1st of March. Price negotiations started off rather rocky so I suggested we just might have to go to Motel 6 & order pizza delivered. We finally agreed to \$89/day and '07 meal rates. The valet parking will be \$5/day instead of \$10 but we had to give up some freebies. Prices have soared due to the gas increases but we'll get 'er done! The city has JUST now given us the go ahead – I called to discuss a date & they agreed “pencil in” the 23rd. First, I had to send in a letter requesting permission for the 3 volley salute (noise ordinance), port-a-potty, putting chairs on the site, sound system, etc. Now Lin can proceed with her assignments arranging the Memorial Service & send in the formal request form.....

FROM DOWN UNDER – Peter Winstanley emailed greetings from Western Australia reporting their memorial service held March 3 in St. John's Anglican Church in Fremantle. With 6 survivors of the Perth living in Western Australia, 5 attended with their families. They were: Arthur Bancroft, Robbie Roberts, Digby Gray, Fred Skeels and Norm Fuller. I had to re-read the list of Perth survivors because my dad's nickname was Robbie. What are the odds that two men from two different countries from the opposite sides of the world fought in the same battle and endured the same horrors as POW had the same name? (Robbie Roberts) I learn something new and interesting every day! Gavin Campbell emailed of their memorial service on March 1 inn Canberra at the Australian War Museum. The HMAS PERTH National Association organized the impressive service & wreaths laid at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The lament was piped followed by the Naval Ode, the Last Post, a minute's silence then the Reveille and closing prayer. My email friend, Di Elliott, (father wasn't on the PERTH but was a POW with the PERTH & HOUSTON men introduced herself to Capt. Dooris of the American Embassy. I will be in touch with him soon. The Australian Embassy focused on Australian War Brides as part of the commemoration for ANZAC Day. After asking Australian women who met and married US servicemen during or after WWII or the families of any such couples, there was a documentary shown on April 24th "For the Love of a Soldier" prior to a talk by researcher Ms. Robyn Arrowsmith. Later that day, a reception was hosted for the War Brides and families by Australia's Ambassador to the United States, Dennis Richardson. The Australian American Chamber of Commerce and TAZOT (The Australia-New Zealand Organization of Texas) co-hosted an ANZAC Day Ceremony & "sausage sizzle at the Bear Creek Park War Memorial on April 29th.

NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES NEWS - Our very own CAPT. Carter. Conlin is the national Commander General of the NOUS. Their National Congress meeting was October '06 in Arlington, VA & was a huge success. How could it NOT be since Jim Hornfisher was one of the guest speakers talking about the *USS Houston* & book SHIP OF GHOSTS. The Normandy Monument project shows steady progress & Capt. Conlin urges every one of you to support this effort. To make a donation to the United States Navy Monument at Normandy make your checks out to Naval Order Foundation (in the remarks section note NORMANDY, & send to Naval Order Foundation, PO Box 583, Glenview, IL. 60025-0583. The next Congress 2007 will be Oct. 17 – 20 at Portola Plaza Hotel at Monterey Bay. Check the National Website for more details or contact CAPT. Ken Johnson, USN (RET), 2007 National Congress Host Chairman, Monterey Bay Commandery (nousmtyken@sbcglobal.net)

FROM ACROSS THE POND – Ian Mort of Lincolnshire, England emailed to report his father was on the HMS Exeter in '42. This year there were 7 EXETER men along with 2 members of the ENCOUNTER's crew (which was the ship his father was on when it was sunk on March 1. Approximately 50 people attended the reunion in Devon. Ian sends his best wishes to the survivors & relatives of those who served on a most gallant and beautiful American heavy cruiser! I was contacted by Ron Taylor of England and Mary Michael (British born/living in California) who both have fathers that were POW's on the Death Railway. Unfortunately, we started out on the wrong foot as I thought they were a part of COFEPOW who have burned their bridges with us. After we got THAT cleared up, we were able to move forward. Their father's are known as FEPOW (Far East Prisoners of War) & consider ours the same. The Next Generation of FEPOW feel as we do that there is no recognition of these men by our governments or teachings. There is a movement that is spreading throughout to establish an official *Remembrance Day* of August 15 to include ALL Allied forces throughout the world. The date of August 15 is known here in the USA as VJ Day. The project is in its infancy however, the idea is well worth supporting. Their detailed information can be found at www.fepow-day.org. They have begun a petition (www.fepow-day.org/html/petition.php) to send to send to the British Government and other governments worldwide to establish August 15th as their official *Remembrance Day* & are asking for worldwide support. If you have any further questions please contact Ron.Taylor@fepow-day.org or Mary.Michael@fepow-day.org. Please give them your consideration. I had already made plans to contact my local paper prior to August 15th with a short editorial stating the bombing of Japan was a necessary evil & saved many of our family member's life. One and all need to take pause on that date to give thanks for the return of our men, remember those lost and be grateful that horrific war ended.

What Exactly is the Cruiser Houston Collection?

Most *Blue Bonnet* readers are aware of the permanent exhibition honoring the USS *Houston* (CA-30) that is on display at the University of Houston's M.D. Anderson Library. What they may not realize is that the exhibition is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the library's USS *Houston* holdings. The vast majority of our *Houston*-related materials form the Cruiser Houston Collection, an archival collection which is used for research by patrons both in our reading room and around the world.

So just what is an archival collection? The term usually describes a group of related materials such as documents and photographs which have enduring historical value. Archival collections focus primarily on paper materials, rather than the kind of three-dimensional memorabilia collected by museums. These materials are typically housed in archives, which may be found in university libraries, public libraries, or other settings. Archival collections typically contain only one copy of any item for research purposes. Duplicate items are normally returned to the donor, given to another archives, or discarded.

The Cruiser Houston Collection is comprised of 48 linear feet of material, which includes 68 boxes, 9 scrapbooks, 10 oversize items, 28 framed items, and a model of the ship. Materials from the collection have been used by patrons for researching family members, writing articles for magazines like *America in WWII* and *The Houston Review of History and Culture*, for television programs including a British documentary on World War II in the Pacific produced by Carlton Television, and Jim Hornfischer's recent book *Ship of Ghosts: The Story of the USS Houston, FDR's Legendary Lost Cruiser, and the Epic Saga of Her Survivors*.

The Cruiser Houston Collection is housed in the library's Special Collections department. Any member of the general public may visit Special Collections and view items from the collection in our reading room. Because this collection is of great national and international interest, we also receive many queries via telephone, e-mail, and the Internet. As Special Collections librarians, we believe that providing this type of one-on-one service to patrons doing research with a collection is the most fundamental part of our mission.

The USS Houston Exhibition is a permanent exhibition, complete with professional signage and labels. As was the case with the earlier Brown Room permanent exhibition, there are no plans to rotate items or add new items to the display. The Cruiser Houston Collection is still accepting materials, but Special Collections strongly prefers significant runs of original letters, documents, diaries, or photographs from the period 1929-1945 to single items, contemporary materials, or scanned copies. We also plan to be more selective in the acceptance of memorabilia (medals, coins, stamps, etc.) now that the permanent exhibition has been completed.

As the Cruiser Houston Collection's curator, I'm always happy to speak to or correspond with members of the USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors Association or the Next Generation concerning materials you may be interested in donating. You may reach me, Julie Grob, by e-mail at jgrob@uh.edu or by telephone at 713-743-9744.

It's 1945 – “Tonight and Every Night” & “The Man From The South” are in the movies with best picture “The Lost Weekend”; George Orwell’s “Animal Farm” is a popular book; Roger’s & Hammerstein’s “Carousel” is a lavish musical production; Jackie Robinson becomes the first black man allowed to play in the majors; FDR died from stroke at age 63 on April 12th; Gas rationing ends along with 35mph speed limits; Grand Rapids is the first community to fluoridate water; the value of a dollar.... Coca-Cola a nickel, camera film 43 cents, electric iron \$6.95 (ouch, expensive), Bicycle \$51.50 (wow – I thought they'd be cheaper!), gallon of milk 62 cents, gallon of gas 15 cents, loaf of bread 9 cents, new house \$4,625 (no central heat & air or wall to wall carpeting), new car \$1,025 (you can't get an annual tune up for that much these days), average annual income \$2390

and the DOW JONES AVERAGE 169! Inventions of the time: Tupperware, frozen dinners, A-bomb and streptomycin. Bess Myerson of New York City was crowned Miss America! Music on the radio included: "You'll Never Walk Alone", "New York, New York", "It Might As Well Be Spring", "Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief", & " Autumn Serenade". Best of all – WWII ends!!! Ahhhh, those were the days!

Scholarship Fund Treasurer's Report

January 1 – May 25, 2007

Beginning Balance – Checking Account	\$9,803.09
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Receipts

John & Sue Kreutzer	Reunion auction
Trudy Schwarz	\$2,355.00
Rebecca Reed	Donations
Marvin Sizemore	\$12,165.00
Joe & Melissa Kollmyer – in memory of Kenneth Kollmyer	
Billie & Kathleen Reese	
D A Cherry – in memory of Claude Cherry	
Henry & Jane Matthews - in memory of John Stefanek	
Augustine Stefanek – in memory of John Stefanek	
Karnak Corporation	
Gary & Mary Ellen Silver – in memory of John Stefanek	
Westfield Corporation	
Robert & Helen Stack – in memory of John Stefanek	
Margaret Kovacs – in memory of John Stefanek	
St John Funeral Home – in memory of John Stefanek	
Denise McNaughton – in memory of John Stefanek	

Interest received January – April 2007	\$137.61
Total	\$24,460.65

Disbursements

Scholarship Award – Jenny Garrett, Southeastern College	-\$2,000.00
Total disbursements	-\$2,000.00

Ending Balance – Checking Account	\$23,460.65
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Certificate of Deposit	\$10,000.00
Cash on Hand	\$33,460.65

HOW WE DID IT!!! We stopped at my aunt and uncle's home in Florida shortly after the reunion in Houston. One of my cousins was also there visiting. We took an autographed copy of "Ship of Ghosts" to my aunt and uncle along with some photos of the items my father donated to the University of Houston.

A few weeks later, we were thinking about all the people we know and who also knew my father, John Stefanek. Westfield Corporation is an Australian owned company. We hoped we might receive a donation from them as my cousin is the CFO for Westfield. We contacted my cousin and asked his permission to send a letter. My cousin indicated that he would make sure the letter got into the proper hands. Within a couple of weeks, we received a phone call saying that Westfield was making a \$10,000 donation!!! Their kindness and generosity was beyond words!!! We thank them from the bottom of our hearts!! It is beautiful how we have come full circle with the Australians 65 years after the sinking of the USS Houston and the HMAS Perth.

We realize that everyone does not have a cousin that is a CFO for a very large corporation such as Westfield. However, everyone in the Houston organization has relatives, friends, acquaintances and neighbors. We all know people that are employed at companies. Everyone cannot donate \$10,000; but with a little bit of effort, we CAN accomplish this goal of raising \$100,000 to \$150,000 for the Scholarship Fund. We have sent letters to relatives, friends, and businesses that knew my Dad. Every single donation is greatly appreciated!!

Matt & Jane Matthews

IN CONCLUSION – This has been an extremely busy and successful quarter! I'll have to admit there are days & feel trapped in this office with so much to do and so little time however I can't imagine how I would spend my days without the "stimulation"! More and more NG's are taking an active part in keeping this a first class organization. We are developing the bond and desire to keep the history & stories going by adding more and more to the web site (soon) along with aggressive steps towards the scholarship funding. I often find myself humming the old song "We Are Family" as I pound away at the keyboard. Let's keep up the momentum. Max can tell you I'm so tight with a nickel I squeak so if you would PLEASE send us your email address to save us postage OR if you are no longer interested in receiving our newsletter, feel free to say so --- no hurt feelings. Unfortunately, this will be the last newsletter for about a dozen people (the 18 months and/or 6 newsletter limit has expired). Lin Drees sends her regrets there is nothing to report on her end. She's organizing the Memorial Service & always does an excellent job taking care of every last detail. We have a crew with each NG responsible for their own job assignment in preparation for the next reunion. Please circle the date and time in red on your calendar to come to our Houston family reunion February 21 -24, 2008!!

FF6-8(3)/(C-1)

U. S. S. HOUSTON

AHR:Mac

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

December 23, 1941.

From: Commander Task Group 5.3.
To: Commander Task Force 5.

Subject: Operations for December 21, 22 and 23, 1941.

1. Your despatches 210617 and 210935 were received in garbled form from a Dutch station at about 2000 on December 21, but they could not be understood until they were again received over the Baker schedule from Corregidor at about 0030 December 22. At this time the Task Group was about seventy miles from Waworada Bay where it was expected to arrive shortly after daybreak.

2. In view of our position it was decided that the best chances for interception would be by proceeding to the north toward Makassar through Linda Strait, searching with aircraft. Two aircraft from this ship made contact with MARBLEHEAD at 1150 in Lat. 06-07, Long. 118-30, course 270, speed 10. The planes did not report contact by radio because of radio silence. At this time the HOUSTON was about ninety miles distant bearing 150 T. from the MARBLEHEAD, and could easily have effected a contact. While returning to the ship the planes mistook a small island they were passing over for another and in consequence missed the ship. They continued on to the southward and landed in Bima Bay. One plane reported their landing by radio without a call and using only the words "BT landing Bima". The ship then headed for Bima Bay to recover aircraft and did not learn of the location of the MARBLEHEAD until the planes were recovered about 1730 that afternoon. My despatch 220630 was sent by government radio from Bima before I had recovered aircraft. At that time I thought the TRINITY Group, referred to in your 210617, would contain TRINITY, PECON, OTUS, GOLD STAR and two destroyers, which would probably be headed for Waworada Bay, and that the MARBLEHEAD Group would be headed individually for Surabaya.

3. After recovery of planes Task Group 5.3 proceeded to the north of Alas Strait, arriving there at daybreak, December 23rd, and as was anticipated, contact was made with TRINITY and destroyers PAUL JONES and BARKER. Despatches were delivered to these vessels as required by your 221145. Your 221820 was also delivered in paraphrased form. The TRINITY Group was then directed to proceed on duty assigned, and headed for Alas Strait.

4. Task Group 5.3 is now to the westward of Kangean Island, has made contact with MARBLEHEAD by planes, and expects to meet her at about 1400.

-1-

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

FF6-8(3)/(C-1)/A4-3

U. S. S. HOUSTON

AIR:Mac

CONFIDENTIAL

December 23, 1941.

Subject: Operations for December 21, 22 and 23, 1941.

5. After contact, Task Group 5.3 will escort PEGASUS, OTE and GOLD STAR to Port Darwin at best available speed, passing through Alas Strait in the morning of December 24, and then heading to the south of Soemba Island, keeping as clear of steamer lanes as possible. It is expected that we will arrive at Port Darwin in about five or six days from today. The destroyers will be fueled enroute, probably this afternoon from PEGASUS.

6. Referring to your despatch 221145, we do not understand the term "ACEE", but it is my expectation that the Naval Observer at that place will be able to inform me what organization is meant.

/ACN's

A.H. Rooks

A.H. ROOKS.

CC: CO USS MARBLEHEAD

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