



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

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REUNION

USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS & MEMORIAL SERVICE

February 28 - March 2, 2002

Houston, Texas

ASIATIC FLEET REUNION

27 February 2002 - 2 March 2002

South Shore Harbor Resort, League City, TX

*The Asiatic Fleet has offered bus transportation to their Memorial Service
on March 1, 2002

contact: Jack Slaughter 3801 Canterbury Rd Unit 812, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

FROM THE SURVIVORS

Sadly we must begin by reporting that the following shipmate has joined the rest of our crew standing watch in Sunda Strait.

HENRY H. ALLEN

6-12-01

Heart disease

Hank passed away after a long battle with heart disease. He was buried on June 20. Attending his service was Dutch Kooper, Jack & June Smith and John Bartz.

NEW BOOKS - "The Saga of Sailor Jack". When we arrived home from Wichita Falls on August 12, we found in the mail an autographed copy of Jack Feliz's new book. We had been attempting to purchase a copy and greatly appreciate Jack and Marie honoring us with an inscribed copy. A friend is presently recording the book onto audio tape so that I may be able to read it, and report in the next newsletter.

"Unjust Enrichment" - A new book by our good friend Linda Goetz Holmes has also been recorded on tape for me to read. The book deals with the use of American POW's by the Japanese as slave labor. Linda has done her usual outstanding job of research, and interviewed hundreds of former POW's. Her book is a vivid account of where POW's were used as slaves and the conditions which they suffered. She has uncovered many communications between Japanese companies and their government. re: the use of POW's. She also uncovered communications between the various governments. re: Red Cross relief for POW's, and reports on the fact that much money was sent by US, UK, etc. for this purpose but these supplies never reached the POW's. Names and specific Japanese companies, and their locations are fully recorded. The extent of her research is amazing. This book is a **MUST** for all former POW's of the Japanese and their families. For all those web-intelligent people in our midst, Linda has a website: powslaves.com.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - There are numerous bills pending in Congress re: the ability of POW's to sue Japanese companies for slave labor. These bills in the House are: HR 1198-Honda/Rohrbacker. In the Senate: S 1154 Bob Smith/Warren bill. An amendment, S 1272 - which would prevent a statute of limitations being placed on any claims.

IT IS URGENT THAT WE WRITE TO ALL OUR CONGRESSMEN REQUESTING THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ABOVE BILLS!

PAY FOR PROMOTION UPDATE - The "National Defense Appropriations Act of 2000" passed by the second Session of the 100th Congress included a special provision which would pay us for promotions we are eligible for while prisoners of war. Admiral Bob Fulton has been following this matter through the Retired Officers Association and will keep us updated as information is available.

WICHITA FALLS REUNION - Trudy & I were able to attend The Lost Battalion Reunion this year, August 9-11. As usual we received a very warm reception starting at the Dallas /Fort Worth Airport, where we were met by Val & Max Poss and Max's sister Becky. They drove us with them to Wichita Falls.

The following Houston family members attended: Theresa & Paul Papish, Elleen & Doc Hanley, Mary & Bob Charles, Dorothy & Lloyd Willey. Donna & David Flynn, Trudy & Otto Schwarz & John Hood. NOK Val & Max Poss, Lin & Ron Drees, Susan & Larry Krug, Mrs. & Harold Burkey, Diane Boone, Judy Robinson, Sharron Long & her sister. Widows Lee Robinson, Jimmy Pryor and husband JB Pryor.

Please excuse us if we left anyone out, you know how hectic it can get at a reunion. It was certainly great having six survivors together, and we greatly appreciate the extremely warm reception that we all received from all The Lost Battalion family. Next year's Lost Battalion Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn in Irving, Texas which is near the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

SURVIVORS MAILBAG - A word from downunder that the Australian and New Zealand governments have awarded their POW's \$25,000... For the twenty fifth year in a row, faithful Miria and H.M.A.S. Perth survivor Arthur Bancorft, made their Happy Birthday America telephone call to us. They have never missed throughout those many years... Pluto Aust informs us that he has finally received his Purple Heart and tanks us for our help and guidance.... Friend of the Houston Don Kehn tells us how he enjoyed last reunion and regrets not connecting with our son, John. Don sent me an interesting set of tapes about a spy ring operating in Japan all during the war... Several letters from John Wisecup, and as usual they are the most wonderful and unusual letters we receive. If any of us deserve to write a book, it certainly should be John. His letters are long, interesting and filled with stories of great adventures as a youth. The stuff that great books are made of.... Ole Faithful Dutch Kooper never forgets a birthday or anniversary. He was missed at Wichita Falls, but was undergoing hip replacement surgery at the time. Many asked for Dutch and all hoped that he now has enough new parts to make it to the Houston Reunion next March.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE - Col. Ned Gallagher and his hard working Scholarship Committee has gotten the program off the ground thanks to your response for donations. **WE URGE EVERYONE TO KEEP THE BALL ROLLING BY PERSONAL DONATIONS AND DONATIONS FROM FRIENDS OR BUSINESSES!**

FYI - The organization needs email addresses! We've seen a considerable savings in postage using email to send the newsletter...

NEXT GENERATION MAILBAG - Don Kehn has sent me copies of Japanese postcards commemorating battles. One of them is of the Houston being bombed. I have included them in my albums to share at the March reunion. Thank you, thank you Don! Anne DuHaime writes that although Art is not recovered from his stroke, he is much improved and doing well. Roy Kent (Perth survivor) sent a lovely note along with a donation and autographed copy of his book "One Australian's Story". From the first sentence, I was hooked and could not put it down until I had finished. Thomas Baker (our NG CPA) sent me a quick note that I was 10 cents off on the financial report last edition..... to the good. OC McManus had a wonderful Father's Day surrounded by lovely ladies in his life (2 daughters, foster daughter & his Honey Bun). I've received correspondence and a call from John Wisecup -- can't get him to commit to attending the March Reunion, but I'm working hard on him!! Lloyd sent a lovely poem remembering Hank Allen-they are enjoying their new home. Claude "Sweetpea" Washburn called to correct his address! Laurence Louis, Otto Schwarz and Jack Smith all contacted me about the "Vale Houston" segment I've added to the newsletter explaining errors. Thank you for your input and understanding that I am pulling from my archives from old articles for information. Audy Lynch writes that he plans to attend the March reunion with his brother William to honor the memory of their older brother Charles (KIA). William Stewart has corresponded with a great niece of Leonard Zimmerman.... thank you for helping yet another family member find out about their crew member! Jack Smith emails me with poems of crew members that I keep on file. JoAnn Pryor & Dottie Critter send me fun jokes and good thoughts via email.

SAD TO REPORT - Admiral Bob Fulton reports the death in Houston of Captain Robert Holt, USN (Ret). He was a very effective member of the small group that led the way to the Monument there in Houston. He died in January.
Eli Warich, Esq. died 2 April 2001. Eli was one of the lawyers working on the issue of the POW slave labor cases.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - James McCone has moved to 17615 125th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223-9449, John Stanczak: 513 E 2nd St., Fort Clinton, OH 43452-1122, Guy Rose: 554 Tradewinds Dr., Deltona, FL 32738-7792
CORRECTION OF ADDRESS - Claude "Sweetpea" Washburn to 5301 Gregg Tex Rd., Longview, TX. 75604, Florence Battles: 400 Lake Ave. NE, Largo, FL 33771-1684.

POW PERCENTAGES - 1% of American POWs held by the German military died in captivity whereas the fatality rate for American POWs captured by the Japanese was 38%. As of Jan. 1, 2000, 48% of our POW's held by the Germans were still living while only 16% of our POWs held by the Japanese were still alive.

VALE HOUSTON
by E. L. Cullis

Continued from last edition.....

A swarm of fresh Jap planes appeared, all heavily loaded up with more bombs. We felt this was to be the last, the very last. We fought on with gritted teeth expecting the awful screech when they should turn to dive down upon us.

In a sort of daze, I saw a man staring. Then another man. Then we all stared.

Houston had suddenly wheeled away to starboard, turned on great speed, and was racing across the bows of the now widely scattered convoy. She was a wonderful sight, a fighting cruiser racing away at the uttermost limits of her energy. Above the smoke of her guns poured a smoke screen, as her bow like a hissing knife slashed through the "drink" at speed that churned a stern wave boiling almost up to her after rails. We stared dumbfounded, as she tore across the Timor in that last desperate ruse.

And the Japs responded.

Those swooping upon us left us and tore after *Houston*, while those new flights in the sky circled around until high above the fleeing cruiser. They thought they had her, they thought she was fleeing. The new Jap flights with all their loads of bombs got in line high above the cruiser, then dipped their noses--every Jap plane screaming down to concentrate all they had upon *Houston*. It was a majestic but terrifying sight. All the sea boiled up and *Houston* was gone. Above and in that water-tortured volcano screaming planes were so concentrated in entangled maneuvers some at least must crash amidst the smoke.

"Good God! They've got her!" roared Pincher Martin.

From walls of water surely two hundred feet high, from clouds of flame-shot smoke, *Houston* emerged, racing ahead. A miracle.

We sighted her mast. Then her upper deck - it was a rippling sheet of flame. She was surging and bouncing and skidding like a toy ship spinning upon whirlpools. But her every gun, from her eight-inch to every machine gun still in action, was blazing away. That sight, with the fires rippling along her decks, we shall never forget.

She saved the convoy. She saved us.

The Japs flew away. *Houston* turned back, reassembled her scattered convoy. We proceeded on our way.

Almost immediately we received a wireless to return immediately to Darwin as the Japs were in possession of Koepang and had assembled a powerful naval force there to trap us.

We returned to Darwin, and the Japs followed up several days later with their devastating air attacks upon that town. But that is another story.

When back at Darwin *Houston* made a signal to *Warrego*, *Swan* and *Peary*. It was a simple message, but, coming from *Houston*, it gave us one of the proudest moments of our lives:

"Thanks, *Warrego*. Well done, *Swan*. Good work, *Peary*."

Soon we were again in the holocaust of fire and death that was the Java Sea campaign. We escaped. Alas, *Houston* went down -- as we knew she would go -- in a blaze of glory.

She went down with our own cruiser *Perth* in the Java Sea, ringed in by many Jap ships, fighting until the very last gun was flooded by the sea. But as she plunged down she took several big Jap ships with her.

Vale *Houston*, and her gallant company. Pray God they rest quietly.

When we eventually returned to this dear land of ours I went ashore with some shipmates. We fell in with a party of American seamen from another U.S. cruiser. In the course of conversation they asked us had we ever sighted *Houston*!

We glanced at one another, then took them to a quiet place and told them the story. It was good to see their quick attention, to see them square their shoulders, see the light shining in their eyes.

Whenever I and any of our ship's company chance to meet we shall never tire of telling the story of
U.S.S. Houston.

footnote: This story was in our archives & it caught my eye. I've received responses from some survivors that the information is not totally accurate. i.e.: Turret 3 was bombed on Feb. 4th, newer ammo from the Boise that kept the Japs high & unable to strafe. What was of interest was the explanation of the *Houston's* crew courage, the description of a battle plus the admiration and pride the crew of the *Perth* had for our men. This is something the NG's need to know.

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER - I received an email from Di Elliott with this information: Japan ordered to compensate laborer - **TOKYO (AP)** - In a landmark ruling Thursday, a Japanese court ordered the government to pay \$161,300 to a relative of a Chinese forced laborer for his suffering during the war and long afterward, court officials said. It was the first time a Japanese court granted compensation to a Chinese victim of Japan's wartime labor force, news reports said. The Tokyo District Court said the Japanese government should pay Liu Lianren's relatives for failing to take responsibility for its conduct as well as forcing Liu to work under harsh conditions before he escaped to a life on the run. Liu, who died last year at age 87, was sent to a mine on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido in 1944 after the military abducted him from his home in Shantung Province, according to court documents.

WARNING - If you see an @ by the side of your name -- this is your last newsletter due to change of address, monies due or lack of response.

CREWMEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Charley L. Pryor

Charles Pryor was born February 9, 1920 in Garvin County, Oklahoma to an impoverished sharecropper and his beautiful wife. Charley quickly learned that being the oldest of 9 children entailed hard work in the fields and praying for bad weather so he could go to school. He won many awards even though he attended school only a few months each year.

In January 1939, Charley and his uncle had had enough of the cotton fields and hitchhiked to Dallas to join the service. They decided to join the Marines because the uniforms were sharper than anyone else's. Charley was accepted, but Vernon was not - so they pooled their money and Vernon made his way back to west Texas with \$2.00 while Charley proceeded to San Diego with just a dime.

They boy from Oklahoma finally got to see the ocean and he loved it. After boot camp he chose to become a sea-going Marine. He sailed the USS Henderson to China where he was assigned to Admiral Hart's flagship the USS Augusta. Charley loved his job. Shipboard Marines were considered elite and most of them had hand-tailored uniforms with gold-plated buttons which were extremely cheap in China. He had the unique opportunity of watching the Japanese troops train for war. One of the most famous Marines, Chesty Puller, gave Charley his PFC stripes and when he was given his Sergeant stripes he was, at 21, the youngest ever to receive them.

When the flagship was changed to the USS Houston, Charley transferred aboard the beautiful ship to be the gun captain on the 5' gun number 8. Letters home indicated his happiness with the ship and its crew. Letters also showed increasing concern about tension in the area. Charley sent nearly all his pay home to help his family and to allow his brother Ben to go to trade school and learn a vital trade so he would be exempt from a possible draft.

In later years Charley described the months following Pearl Harbor as a mixture of emotions including the knowledge that he would probably die. The possibility of becoming a POW never occurred to him. But at 22 that's exactly what happened.

He credits his training as a Marine and his hard-scrabble upbringing as helpful to his survival in the various camps. He also credits his love for peppers for helping him avoid the rickets and vitaminosis that others were afflicted with. He personally buried over 60 friends and comrades and remembered each detail of the cemetery according to where each body was in relation to the plot of his good friend "Egghead" Lusk. Later Charley made a map of the cemetery so American officials could find the remains and relocate them.

In the latter part of 1945, Charley met the stunning Jimmie Hooper while giving a talk in a little church in Whitharrel, Texas. Six weeks later they were married. Charley had duty stations in Dallas as a top USMC recruiter; in Camp Lejeune, NC; Pusan, Korea as an officer on a AAA gun; 29 Palms, California, and Waco, Texas as Inspector-Instructor at the Marine Reserves. During these years Charley and Jimmie had 4 kids: JoAnn, Chuck, George Langford, and David.

Three and a half years as a POW, a year in Korea and 24 1/2 years in the Marine Corps let Charley to the belief that what he wanted to do next in his life was teach. So in September 1962, he retired from the Corps and began as a freshman at Baylor University.

By September 1963, he was one hour away from junior classification. He finished Baylor in 2 years with a 3.9 GPA. He began teaching Political Science at Baylor while pursuing his Master's at the University of Texas.

In April of 1969, Charley was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a particularly deadly disease. Even after the amputation of his leg he still had only 20% chance of survival over 6 months. Once again, he beat the odds and soon began a teaching career at Dallas Baptist College where he was known to be somewhat to the right of Attila the Hun.

His later years were filled with his beloved grandchildren, Ranger games and reunions. He loved his POW buddies and was always ready and eager to help them in any way - from trips to the Waco VA to speeches at the Memorial Services.

As he slipped into his final illness, the unfairness of it was mentioned. Charley, however, had a different perspective. "Any breath of life after March 1, 1942 has been icing on the cake. I cannot help but be grateful for the life I've had." And we, as his family, have been grateful to God for that life, also. He is missed. Semper fi, Dad. submitted by Charley's daughter JoAnn.

MOVIE REVIEW - "Pearl Harbor" opened strong in Japan. Analysts attribute this partly to a \$12 million marketing blitz depicting the movie as a love story versus the American's marketing the movie as an historical movie.

WEB SITES - for pre war pictures of the USS Houston go to <http://www.awm.gov.au>, gr 1198 or S.1154 legislation go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/> House of Representatives - <http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW.html> or <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> Senate <http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm>

DONATIONS - Carol Pullen, Vanessa Mehlman, Roy Kent, OC McManus, Bill Tetterton, Anonymous, Jean Burroughs, Diane Hall in memory of Meredith Hall, Joe Lochner, Don Kehn, Paul & Theresa Papish, Dan Buzzo...your generosity is deeply appreciated! *** My apologies - I lost about 3 donor's names when I had a computer crash. If you would like to drop a note to me, I'll be glad to add your name in the next newsletter. Thank you all for your donations, we are a non-profit organization and your generosity is deeply appreciated.

"THE PACIFIC WAR" - This is the new book Stephen Ambrose is doing research for. He is requesting memoirs, photos, oral histories and memorabilia. Please take part and mail yours to: Office of Stephen Ambrose, PO Box 1713, Helena, MT 59624.

IN SEARCH OF - Attention Survivors..... please respond to the loved one if you remember this crew member!

Guthrie Layne - Kathryn Patera (grand daughter) 9S060 Lake Drive, Bldg 12, Unit 201, Clarendon Hills, Ill 60514 (yes, the street # is 9S060)

James Watt - Jim Warwick (great nephew) Box 118 219 Grant St., Coulter, Iowa 50431 Phone number is 641-866-6997.

Merideth C. Hall (S1C from South Dakota) - Diane Hall (niece) 1523 S. Monterey St., Golbert, AZ 85233.

Joseph Caplicki - Charles J. Zawisza (nephew), 115 West Fourth St ,Fulton, New York 13069 ,Tele: 315-598-6058

James D. Nelson - Willard M. Nelson (nephew), 220 Ferris Ave, Holland, MI., 49423. Home 616-394-5079 or 703-781-9079

Kenneth S. Blair - Robert J. Blair (nephew), 12 Roosevelt Dr. East Norwich, NY 11732

Charles E. White - Joyce Christian (sister), 243 N 1st Apt 5, Seward, NE 68434 402 643-2896

David W. Roberts - John H. Barth (cousin), 1024 N 500 West Vernal, UT 84078

Chester L. (Buddy) Chorman - Colleen Schwanz (sister) 424 Monte Dr., Mason, H 45040

FINANCIAL REPORT

DEBITS		CREDITS	
Print Newsletter	\$ 559.14	Previous Balance	\$ 7581.09
Postage Newsletter	171.06	Math error	.10
Telephone	208.36	Donations/sales	696.32
<u>696.32</u>			
Bulk rate fee	125.00	Total	\$8277.41
Supplies	480.10		
Computer expenses	1227.70		
Postage	<u>124.12</u>		
TOTAL	\$2895.48		

BALANCE \$5381.93

BOOK REPORT - "The Saga of Sailor Jack" by our very own Jack Feliz is now available. You can phone to iUniverse's Customer service 1 877-823-9235 for the continental US, via most major book stores by giving the ISBN # 0-595-18204-6 or via computer <http://www.iuniverse.com> or custservice@iuniverse.com.

"Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan" by Herbert P. Bix, pub. 2000, 688 pages, plus index. \$35. Bix is a Ph.D. scholar who has studied the Far East for over thirty years, including teaching at Harvard. Review by Ron Drees: The book is too long and expensive to recommend purchasing but I would like to summarize the text. First, as you have suspected for half a century, not only did Emperor Hirohito (1901-199) know what was going on, he caused it. He directed Japan's aggression against China, South-east Asia and the United States. When it became obvious that the war was lost, his *only* concern was preservation of his throne and his posterior. Former prime minister Tojo was willing to take more than his share of the fall to protect the emperor. MacArthur and Hirohito worked together to protect him from war crime charges although some Japanese citizens called for him to abdicate. What is important in this book to "Houston" survivors are the last forty pages which describes how the post-war government worked to prevent Japanese from learning how the war had really been started and conducted. This included censorship of books, slanted public education, and organized criminal activity to keep protesters silent. This explains Japanese denial of responsibility and refusal to admit guilt, going back to MacArthur's assistance to Hirohito to avoid prosecution.

MAX WILKER VIDEO - I've received a 30 minute video of Max describing his POW days and it is fantastic! I hope the rest of you survivors take the hint and do the same. This type of information is priceless to continue the telling of your story for future generations!!

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP - We will begin accepting applications for scholarship as of the receipt of this newsletter. Application forms are enclosed on the last page. The Monday before Christmas in DECEMBER will be the last day applications will be accepted!!

FOR SALE - ** Unfortunately, I still have 4 people that have not paid for the shirts sent out to them last April so I do have to ask for payment in advance**. 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...)

PAYMENT TO POWS - 4/23/01 The New Zealand government announced that it would make an of exgratia payment of NZ \$30,000 per person to ex-prisoners of war and civilian internees of Japan or their surviving spouses. The Australian Government will be paying \$25,000 to each of their W.W.II ex-POW's as compensation. 31 May 2001, Norwegian Parliament unanimously decided to award former POWs & civilian internees compensation of about \$10,800 in compensation for their suffering by their Japanese captors in W.W.II. *NOT A WORD FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!!!*

CURRENT LEGISLATION - H.R. 1198 To preserve certain actions in Federal Court brought by POWs/Internees of Japan during W.W.II seeking compensation for mistreatment or failure to pay for forced labor from Japanese companies individuals. **H.R. 963** Provide compensation for certain WWII POWs who survived the Bataan Death March. **H.R. 308** To establish the Guam War Claims Review Commission that will determine parity in War Claims paid to Guam residents with US Citizens in territories occupied by Japanese forces in WWII. **H.R. 142** The Georgia State House Resolution urges the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge and issue an apology for the war crimes committed by the Imperial Japanese military during W.W.II and to pay reparations to the victims of those crimes; requesting that the President of the United States and the United States Congress take all appropriate action to further bring about a formal apology and reparations by the Japanese Government. Similar legislation was introduced in Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, West Virginia and Virginia.

H.R. 5408 sub title E (Section 667) Directs the Secretary of the Navy to pay back pay to Claimant who, by reason of being interned as a Prisoner of war during W.W.II, was unable to accept a promotion for which such Claimant was selected. Requires such back pay to be paid to the spouse of such member is deceased. Requires such Secretary to ensure that such benefits and eligibility requirements are widely publicized. Well, we haven't seen much publicity, however, John Bartz got his hands on an application form that I have sent to all of the survivors and widows. The address to mail your information to is:

POW-MIA SECTION PERS-62P
NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
5720 INTEGRITY DR.
MILLINGTON, TN 38055

TRIP - The trip to Jakarta/Singapore/Thailand is forming up. Survivors get first dibs on space available, however, you NG's need to give it serious thought since this will probably be your last chance to go over there with a survivor to describe what went on. *It's the chance of a lifetime.* More information is in the following pages.

LINE FROM LIN

A very special reunion and Memorial Service is being planned for March 1 and 2, 2002. March 1 is the 6th anniversary of the sinking of the USS HOUSTON. Please mark the dates on your calendar! You may want to plan to arrive on February 28th!

At this time we have 2 buses compliments of Steve Radack, Harris County Commissioner. If you will need a bus ticket to the Monument for the Memorial Service or to the University of Houston for the trip to see the Brown Room with the USS HOUSTON collection, please send in your registration early to reserve a seat. Hotel information and registration packets will be in the next newsletter - please fill in and return early.

Perhaps you saw the news item about the prime minister of Japan paying tribute to men who served in the Japanese military - to commemorate the anniversary of the end of World War II on August 15th, he visited the Shrine to pay his respects, he said. He said that he wanted to honor ALL Japanese who died in service for Japan. Included in the men honored by the shrine are 14 war criminals - this raised the ire of people in China, Korea, and the Philippines. It is good to see other countries involved in confronting Japan for their aggression in World War II. Nightline had a special program which featured an American POW of the Japanese, Iris Chang, the author of THE RAPE OF NANKING, plus 2 others of Oriental ethnic origin. All agreed that paying tribute to war criminals was not appropriate - and that Japan needed to apologize for its role in the war.

John Wisecup sent me a news article from a paper in Japan (no, it was not in Japanese); a Chinese family won 20 million Yen for their father's time spent as a POW and the time spent in hiding when he escaped the camp. The judge said that Japan was responsible for his suffering, that Japan had failed its duty to protect his rights when he was brought to Japan at the Japanese government's behest. The lawyers said that the ruling fully admitted Japan's involvement in the forced labor of Chinese citizens. Perhaps there is hope for American POW's.

A BIT OF HISTORY - Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.....

JAPAN ATTACKS WEST COAST - Feb. 23, 1942: The Japanese submarine I-17 shelled an oil refinery at Ellwood, CA.

A Place at the Inn (by Lin)

I am very sadly report that Allen Park Inn **will not re-open**. The Inn was severely damaged by Tropical Storm Allison in June -- 3 feet of water in the lobby and 5 feet in the kitchen area. \$750,000 was spent removing water and damaged walls, replacing insulation, wallboard, etc., but complications arose with the city and the insurance - and Mr. and Mrs. Harris decided to close Allen Park Inn. They do not own the land - the owners at this time plan to sell the land - and who knows what we will see on the beautiful landscaping by the reunion time of next year. In a letter that Ron and I received from Mr. and Mrs. Harris, she stated her pride in knowing the USS HOUSTON survivors and Next Generation and expressed her appreciation at having been able to be a part of our past reunions.

This all came about 2 weeks ago and we set out to find a suitable location. I have 2 hotels from which you may choose. The first choice is the University of Houston Hilton. They have beautiful areas for our banquets, our hospitality room, and a special room for display of our USS HOUSTON books, albums, photographs, etc. They will offer rooms for 1-2 people for \$79. To reserve a room, please call 1 800 468 3584 or 1 713 743 2471 and ask for the USS HOUSTON discount rate. You may start reserving rooms **after September 15th**.

As a 2nd choice I am offering you rooms closer into town (just a few blocks North of the Flynn family's favorite barbecue restaurant in Houston and 2 blocks South of one of my favorite restaurants). This is the DoubleTree Club Hotel at Greenway Plaza. To get to UH you would get on Alabama (or freeway) and take it East to the University of Houston -- or to arrive at the monument you would take Kirby North which becomes Allen Parkway which takes you directly to the Monument. The DoubleTree provides a beautiful exercise room and has a French bakery in the lobby. An excellent location (in the middle of everything) for those with a car and wanting to sightsee. To reserve a room at the DoubleTree, please call 1 713 942 2111 and ask for the USS HOUSTON rate. The rooms for Friday and Saturday are \$69 for a king and \$79 for 2 double beds (\$99 and \$109 for Thursday night). They will start taking reservations after September 15th.

BOTTOM LINE

Make those reservations right away..... September 15, 2001

We ask the NG and those with transportation to consider registering at the DoubleTree

HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND - Report by Ned Gallagher

Our fund amounts to \$6,000 in the first three months of operation - this is a very fine start! We thank each and every one of you for your contributions. In addition, Susan Krug of our committee has been sending thank you notes to all donors, and we are extremely grateful for your generosity. In fact all of us, each survivor and next generation member and each friend is grateful to all who have contributed and we have a team of many people that has potential for continued growth in numbers and in funds. Our need continues until we reach our goal- and we are off to a wonderful start!

In one sense, if we maintain our starting momentum, we can achieve our objective of accumulating \$50,000 in just over two years. This would ensure the perpetuation of our Scholarship annually because the \$2,000 annual requirement would be earned annually from interest on the fund.

Therefore we must think in terms of \$50,000 as one target goal, in order that our annual Houston Scholarship will always continue and not expire because we let it expire.

A contribution form accompanies this Bluebonnet. We hope you will be able to contribute. Also, please tell your friends about the USS Houston and our plans to assist a worthy young individual on their way to college and on their way through life.

Meanwhile your Scholarship Committee will be developing a plan to solicit funds from other organizations and foundations in order to accelerate the funding of our Scholarship. More on this in future Bluebonnets and we will keep you informed of our plans and progress.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions, as we are all together in achieving our goal of \$50,000. Good luck in your endeavors - and thank you for your contributions.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FINANCIAL REPORT as of 31 July 2001

Ship and Crew	\$2300.00
In Honor of Crew Member	\$1550.00
In Memory of Crew Member	<u>\$2150.00</u>
Total	\$6000.00

submitted by Susan Krug - Scholarship Fund Treasurer

IN REVIEW AND LAST MINUTE NEWS - Shortly after mailing out the June newsletter, Max & I headed out for England. I had hoped to answer my backlog of mail and messages right away, however, my computer began doing mysterious things. Day after day, I was referred to my internet provider, Hewlett Packard, Microsoft and back and forth again. I gave up and called a technician out.... he left saying I needed to call my internet provider and the cycle began again! Again, I had to call for a technician - this time he was able to determine the computer has a personality of it's own & gave me some much needed tutoring. I now have added memory, a new scanner (that was a part of the problem), new key board (I've done so much typing that the letters literally were worn off) and a monitor (the other was small and the color was fading and letters shrinking). Eventually, I will need a more powerful hard drive for all the work I've been doing, but my son in law works for Dell and I can get a good deal. One little bit of humor.... I ordered a new CD ROM for my scanner and I came in SPANISH! Ohhhh, I had to laugh to keep from crying! I am in the midst of helping Vic Campbell update our crew member data base thanks Ian McLeod for the information he's provided to the organization. Dutch Kooper will have hip surgery on September 11 & plans to be in top shape by the March reunion. I'll be contacting the Naval Attaché's for the US and Australia, plus the Indonesian government and the Ambassadors from the US and Australia about our visit to Jakarta. **Those of you interested - I need those deposits NOW!** Lin & I plus our spouses are working hard on the March reunion & Memorial Service. We've got a mighty fine service lined up - one of our speakers will be a descendent of FDR!! Since I now have a scanner that works, I have a couple of days worth of work to do getting pictures out to people that have made requests. I am in touch with two young men that are deeply interested in the war in the Pacific. One excels in the ships (armament, battles each ship was in, etc.) and the other excelling in researching the crews (realizing that so many ships were lost along with the rosters, he is researching who was transferred to what ship & when etc.) - this has enabled us to expand on Weissinger's List to enter more details). Of course, the Scholarship committee is doing an amazing job. Kudo's to those that have sent donations! Interest is growing - queries are arriving fast & furious - it keeps me busy and I'm LOVING it! By the way, Otto has been taking some courses to use a voice activation program in his new computer. I've been razzing him that he's going to have to be extra nice to me or I'll quit & let him have the newsletter back! Heh, heh, heh.....

Until the next issue - Fair Winds!

**** The next pages are MOST important ****

CHOW LINE CHAMP

The youth stood out amidst the mob,
tall and gaunt in his greens,
But his carriage was erect,
Although still in his teens.
Every face was tense and grim,
as they waited for the call.
The signal that would send them forward,
toward that grim, forbidding wall.

A hand flashed up and downward,
and forward swayed the mob,
In that packed mass of bodies,
I heard a stifled sob.
The boy saw a little opening,
And was through it like a flash,
And right behind his back,
he heard some metal clash.
He could feel hot breath against his neck,
as he kept going at full pace,
and knew to reach his goal,
he'd really have to race.

Only a little way to go,
he prayed to God for strength,
To keep the closest man behind,
if only by a length.
He finally reached the platform
and panted to a stop.
"I finally made it!", he cried,
and hoped he would not drop.

What a cry went up,
when they saw him in the line.
He had beat the chiefs to "seconds"
for the very first time!

Bicycle Camp, Batavia, Java 1942
by Lloyd Willey, USMC "USS Houston"

SCHOLARSHIP - YES! I want to help perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston and her crew by donating to the USS Houston Scholarship Fund. I enclose my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like this gift

_____ IN HONOR OF _____ IN MEMORY OF

Please acknowledge my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Matching Contributions:

Does your employer match charitable contributions:

If so, please include a matching contribution form.

mail to:
USS HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND
%Susan Krug, Treas.
3031 Loops Rd
Stevenson, WA 98648

USS HOUSTON CA-30 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

Date of Birth:

Telephone (please include area code):

E-mail address (optional)

High School:

High School contact name and number: (i.e.: guidance counselor, teacher, etc.):

College(s) to be applied for: (include location):

List any sports, clubs, civic/church groups, volunteer work, activities or any other special items of note (use additional sheet if necessary):

From the previous item, offer at least one contact person name and number:

On an attached page please describe; your relationship/association with a crew member/descendant of the USS Houston CA-30, Next Generation, the USS Houston Survivors Association and Next Generation organization or your keen interest in the history and/or legacy of the USS Houston CA-30 or her crew.

- Attach 1 page on: "What the memory of the USS Houston CA-30 means to me"
- Attach 1 page on: "Why I feel I am worthy, in need, and deserving of the scholarship"
- Attach High School transcripts documenting grades to date.

SEND TO:
USS Houston Scholarship
5848 Back Bay Ln
Austin, TX 78739

**Battle of Java Sea/Sunda Strait, and Bridge over the River Kwai Tour
March 22, 2002 to April 8th, 2002**

The U.S.S. Houston Survivors Association and Dive Away Tours are please to announce a tour of South East Asia, and to sites associated with the cruisers U.S.S. Houston, and H.M.A.S. Perth, and their survivors during World War II. On this trip memorial plaques will be placed on both the Houston and Perth, on the sixtieth anniversary of there sinking.

SYNOPSIS

On March 1, 1942 the cruisers U.S.S. Houston and H.M.A.S. Perth were sailing at night trying to escape Java, after participating in the day long battle of the Java Sea the day before. However, they sailed into the middle of a Japanese invasion fleet. In the ensuing battle both cruisers were sunk along with several Japanese ships. Approximately 700 sailors were lost from both ships. About three hundred sailors from each survived the and were captured by the Japanese. The survivors then spent three and half years as Prisoner of war, and during this time they were held in Java, Singapore, and Thailand. In Thailand many were forced to work on the death railway. Their ordeal ended in September 1945 when Japan surrendered.

ITINERARY

- March 23 flights from U.S.A. to Bangkok Thailand, crossing the international date line. Overnighting in Bangkok.
- March 24 flight from Bangkok to Jakarta with a possible welcome party at the U.S. Embassy. Over nighting in Jakarta.
- March 25-27 These days will be spent at Carita, Java, which is not far from where the Houston and Perth were sunk. We'll visit a movie theater and some of the jails were the survivors were held captive. A boat trip will take us to where the Houston and Perth are sunk. Divers will video both wrecks, and place memorial plaques.
- March 28 flight from Jakarta to Singapore.
- March 29 to March 30 In Singapore we'll visit several forts and sites dedicated to WW II. A tour is planned of Changi Prison where several survivors form the Houston and Perth were held.
- March 31 Flight from Singapore to Bangkok
- March 31 to April 5th Will be spent in Thailand with a tour of the death railway, the allied cemeteries, and the Bridge over the River Kiwi. We will visit several other sites also.
- April 6th flights from Bangkok to U.S.A. flights home, and cross international date line.
- April 7th arrive home.

WEATHER/WATER CONDITIONS.

It will at the change of seasons from the rainy to dry season during the tour. Light rain gear is recommend. The air temperature most days is in the eighties and seventies at night. The water temperature is eighty degrees.

TOUR BOAT/DIVE BOAT

For the individuals who want to dive the wrecks during the tour. Dive equipment can be arranged at an additional charge. All persons planning to dive must be a certified scuba diver, with advanced training preferred. Copies of all certifications must be sent before the trip. It should be noted that there are strong currents on both wrecks, which might be beyond beginner divers.

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

1. All air transportation from either New York City or Los Angeles to Bangkok. All airfares form Bangkok, Java, Singapore, Bangkok & to the United States.
2. Transfers from airports to hotels at all countries visited.
2. Hotel accommodations in Thailand, Java, and Singapore. Breakfast will be provided each day at the hotels. (Lunch will be provided at certain locations in Thailand). Double occupancy in all hotels. However, single supplement can be arranged at an additional charge.
4. Bus transportation and guides at all sites.
5. Entrance fees to all museums visited.
6. Boat tour to wrecks of U.S.S. Houston and H.M.A.S. Perth.

WANT TO GO?

The price of the tour is \$ 3,590 from Los Angeles and \$3,390 from New York. Air transportation can be arranged from other cities. A \$500.00 deposit paid to the U.S.S. Houston Survivors Association is required to book a spot on this trip, before October 15, 2001. Full payment is required by January 31, 2002. A detail trip preparation brochure will be sent upon recent of deposit.

Additional information: Please contact Val Poss at the U.S.S. Houston Survivors Association: 5848 Back Bay Lane, Austin TX 78739-1697 (512) 288-5505, fax (512) 288-9212, email: CA30NG@AOL.COM or Mason Logie at Dive Away Inc., P.O. Box 50201, S.I., NY 10305. Phone (718) 273-1813. E-mail "mlogiejr@AOL.com".