



CA-30 BLUE BONNET

“The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast”

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**Once again more of our crew has joined his shipmates
still standing watch in Sunda Strait**

IN MEMORIUM

EDWARD MILES BARRETT Heart Failure 2/15/2005

DALLAS CLARK Injuries from fire 2/26/2005

REUNIONS

LOST BATTALION /USS HOUSTON

August 11-13, 2005

Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West

1500 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235

972 869-4300

Contact: Val Poss 512 763-1217

email: CA30NG@aol.com

USS HOUSTON CA30-CL81

Sept 28-Oct 2, 2005

KCI Airport Hilton

Kansas City, MO

Contact: Less Beigle 816 532-4130

108 W Main St, Smithville, MO 64089

email: donnakenr@cs.com

Line from Lin

The 2005 Memorial Service - What a beautiful day !!!! The Lord was gracious and gave us a beautiful day - the weather was perfect.

Attending were the following **Survivors**: Marvin L Bain, Howard Brooks, David Flynn, Melfred Forsman, Harry Kelley, Clarence Schilperoort, and George Stoddard.

Also attending were the following **Surviving Spouses**: Theresa Papish, Jimmie Pryor, Joyce Ranger, Teresa Reilly, Lee Robinson, Erma Snyder, and Eunelle Weissinger.

The **following deceased men were represented by family members** in attendance at the Memorial Service: John Anderson, Jr., Roger Barnett, Leonard E Bradley, Cecil Chambliss, Eugene Crispi, James Gary, Jr., Vernon Koelling, Kenneth L. Kollmyer, Albert McGarvey, Samuel McMaster, Thomas Pecena, Valdon Roberts, Marvin Robinson, CAPT Albert Rooks, Mason D Spencer, Charlie Parsons, John Reas, Arlie Williams, and James R Wilson.

Also attending was Dana Charles, son of Survivor, Bob Charles.

Representing the **131st** were Survivor, Frank Ficklin and family, and the family of Dub Reed, deceased.

This year we also remembered those who have attended previously and were not able to attend this year, plus the deceased men who had attended in previous years from both USS *HOUSTON* and 131st.

I want to start by thanking my "early" chair set-up committee: Becke Freitas, Ken Griffin, Larry Krug, and Ron Drees. With their assistance the chairs were set up early and ready for the early arrivals. The Houston Brass Band starts arriving early and sets up their own chairs, then they start playing at 10 o'clock and play for an hour before the service starts; then, of course, they also play during the service. If you have any photos or videos that you would like to share with them, here is their address: Houston Brass Band, c/o Robert E. Cowham, 1507 Pine Gap, Houston, Texas 77090. In an e-mail, Bob, the Band's Business Manager, said, "I think the band would now be disappointed if we did not schedule the USS *Houston* Memorial Service as one of our annual events. It is a pleasure to do this every year. Thank you for the invitation." They are now also tax exempt if anyone would like to contribute to their music fund. Their music adds much to our services, and they are appreciated for honoring "our Men." AND they have already signed up to come again next year.

Larry Poole, Linda Poole, Roy Gideon, and Darlene Gideon again brought cookies (20 dozen and homemade), coffee, and small bottles of water to serve

before the Memorial Service. What angels they are - they have done this several years in a row. This year, Larry also provided envelopes with First Day Covers for the World War II Memorial which was dedicated May 29, 2004. Larry and Roy presented an envelope to each of our Survivors. How nice these four angels are to come each year and bring refreshments - and for Roy to bring a small gift to each Survivor this year.

Again, each year (and everytime I go downtown to the Monument), I thank the Naval Commandery for the gift of the USS *HOUSTON* Memorial Monument - without it, there would be no one place to go to remember the crew -- my cousin, and our friends / family members of the USS *HOUSTON* family. You all mean a lot to me.

The Naval Commandery always look great in their uniforms, but this year we had 3 of our own in uniforms: Survivor Harry Kelley, John Kreutzer (Theresa Papish's son-in-law), and Katy Fort, our 2005 Scholarship winner and the XO of her local Navy ROTC. We missed you this year, Bill Ingram - Bill always wears his uniform at our Memorial Service - looking forward to seeing you again next year!

Susan Krug contacted Hershey's and relayed to Hershey's how "our Men" had missed their chocolate candies while POWs - and Hershey's sent 47 pounds to be served in our hospitality suite!

I contacted a local company, Logan Farms Honey-Glazed Hams, and Mr. Logan very quickly agreed to donate a large party tray, complete with condiments, plates, and napkins. I hope that more companies can be contacted and will donate to our hospitality suite next year.

To everyone who assisted, Many Thanks! I once saw a Peanuts cartoon where Charlie Brown's little sister showed him a program, joyous at seeing her name listed with the thank yous. Charlie could not see her name, and she pointed out a line that said something to the effect of "thanks to all who assisted," and she proclaimed, "That includes me!" So, please know that I appreciate your assistance - everyone's assistance!

Ron and I wish you a beautiful Spring, sunny (but cool) Summer, and soon it will be time for the Lost Battalion reunion in August - and then time to start your plans to attend next year's reunion and Memorial Service, March 3-4, 2006.

If you wish to contact us, here is our address: Ron and Lin Drees, 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077, e-mail, lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net, and home phone, 281.493.5171.

Scholarship Winner Announced

Katy Fort, granddaughter of Cecil Chambliss, a deceased survivor, was recognized as the winner of the 2004-2005 USS *Houston* Scholarship at the annual Memorial Service and Reunion. Katy, a member of the Naval ROTC unit at her high school in Crawfordville, FL, will use the scholarship to attend college in Florida. Congratulations, Katy!

The Scholarship Committee announces that applications for a scholarship to be announced at the March 2006 reunion can be requested **after 1 June 2005**. Please send your application requests to: Ron Drees, 14219 Wickersham Lane, Houston, TX 77077, **after 1 June 2005**. You will receive the application & instructions to be ***completed and returned no later than November 1st***. Only potential applicants should request applications. Criteria: Be at least a high school senior assured of entering/attending college up to and including a college junior who will continue his/her undergraduate education. Be related (blood/marriage) to/or associated in some way with a crew member/descendant of the USS *Houston* (CA-30), Next Generation, the USS *Houston* Survivors Association and the Next Generation organization **OR** has shown a keen interest in the history of the USS *Houston* CA-30 and/or the crew's legacy. This interest could come, for example, in the form of having participated in communications with any of the survivors and/or the organization while striving to learn more about either. Eligibility will be determined by the scholarship committee, whose decisions are final. Be able to document current academic grades. Be able to document community/civic activity(s). Present an essay (at least four but no more than six pages) on one of three topics, which will be detailed in the application package.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Previous Balance | \$14471.14 |
| Auction (Both nights) | 2737.50 |
| Donations | 00.00 |

Balance as of 3/9/05 \$17208.64

Debits

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| USS Houston Association Reunion Fund | \$685.00 |
| Reimbursement to Mary Fort | 76.00 |
| Reimbursement to Lin Drees | 14.00 |
| Total | \$775.00 |

Balance in account as of 3/9/05 \$16433.64

DID YOU KNOW? Robin Rowland discovered in his research that in the week before Pearl Harbor a secret US Navy task force was en route to Basra, Iraq. The British whom the USN were secretly escorting were diverted from their mission to protect the oil fields and sent to Singapore and the escort mission to Iraq was canceled because the US Navy was bombed in Pearl Harbor.

BOOKS – Walter Ashe emailed me about the USS HOUSTON THE LAST FLAGSHIP OF THE ASIATIC FLEET by Herber A. Holbrook he'd found through a system called Interstate Library Loan. In the event you would want a copy I also found a copy through ABE Books on the internet for less than \$15.00. Robin Rowland's book on the F Force war crimes trial, "The Sonkrai Tribunal" is almost complete and will notify us when it's available. He thanks Stephen Barrett, son of MILES BARRETT, for sending him a copy of Miles's diary as it helped him with the writing the chapter on the day Changi was liberated. He found his own father's name & address with the list of friends and contacts in the diary. "So my family connection with the Houston is finally confirmed! He referred to his blog page (now that's a new term for me!) at <http://robinrowland.com/garret.html>.

"Surviving the Sword: Prisoners of the Japanese in the Far East, 1942-45" by Brian MacArthur (editor with the Times of London) will be available as of March 29th via Amazon. You can find the review at Britain's /Independent /at http://enjoyment.independent.co.uk/low_res/story.jsp?story=620146&host=5&dir=2.

FROM DOWN UNDER – Remember to keep saving for the trip to Australia for the commissioning of the new PERTH in 2006. Wouldn't it be great to have USS HOUSTON representation? I'll keep you posted on when and where!

MAILBAG – Laurie Stevens wrote to send good wishes while our Sean was in Iraq. Walter Grice sent pictures via email of Victoria, TX with snow...something historic in those parts! David DeMarco emailed to advise his son Adam was accepted to the United States Military Academy Prep School. Adam, grandson of CHARLES LOHRIG, was nominated for the US Naval Academy but the Army wanted him to play football. Kim Barbero (niece of ED JOHNSON) emailed that she has "passed that pride, instilling in my sons, the debt we owe our fallen heroes & the surviving heroes. Norman Cook emailed that the *Houston* was almost sunk in '41 by the USS Holland. They were somewhere between Manila & Soerabaja when their only escort vessel notified them they had sighted a Jap battleship & were going to attack it by ramming it. The escort was the Isabel, a former yacht owned by the President of the Philippines. The Jap battleship turned out to be the Houston.....thank goodness they realized their mistake! Susan Krug reports she has arranged to speak at the local high schools to speak to the students about the USS Houston and their experiences. We need more NG's like her!! JOHN HOOD's sister reports he's still dealing with his blood pressure problems. EMIL BUKOWSKY sent a donation with a "howdy" to his shipmates. He had a fall preventing him from attending the March reunion. It

affected his eyesight. He will be having cataract surgery soon & says he's "fine for the shape I'm in – ha". Our friend Johan VanLeer sent the Dutch information he kindly translated that 40 Ex-POW organizations sent a statement on December 8th, 2004 to the Secretary General of the UN objecting to eventual admission of Japan to the UN Security Council. He also reported the unveiling of a monument commemorating the 22,000 POW's & native slave-laborers that died during transport on the "Hellships" in Bronbeek, Holland on August 17, 2004. Joyce Ranger had a stroke 2 weeks before the reunion but was at the reunion looking as lovely as ever – she's quite a gal! Ann DuHaime sent a card sending regrets that she couldn't make it to the reunion and sent her "deepest regards to everyone at the reunion". She's busy traveling around the country visiting with family. Otto & Trudy Schwarz sent a fax to us when we were at the reunion & we read his greetings to everyone at the reunion. George Duffy sent a notification of his change of address (THANK YOU!) & explains that due to Margaret's health they won't be able to attend future reunion. I received an email from Scott Ingram advising they survived the rains in California by just a few feet. The mudslide stopped in their back yard! Jane Harris writes that hubby LANSON HARRIS has Parkinson's Disease and can not write but enjoys the newsletters to get the news of his shipmates & what we NG's are up to. Lloyd Willey wrote that he can't hear, talk or write but can print & sent a lovely note about how his family is doing. Clay Ramsey emailed the address of an interesting website of the list of the deceased POW's transported to Japan. Go to <http://hopepage3.nifty.com/pow-j/e/list/index.html>. Steve Loeffler reports that he is now Chairman of the Board of the USO in San Diego these days and very busy along with sitting on the board of three other non-profit organizations. I didn't realize he grew up in the area we just visited in Brandywine Valley, PA... he now admits to sneaking into the Pierre duPont's estate and swimming in the fountains. Ahhh, a man after my own heart! Our Fred Seiker hasn't been well and to top it off, he got the flu. We wish him well!

DONATIONS – Many heart felt thanks go out to those that donate to the kitty. We are a non profit organization and survive solely through your donations. Without your generosity, we could not function! (Tax ID # 17053122009007) Laurie Stevens, John Waller, Robert Cumming, Erma Snyder, Audrey & HARRY KELLEY, STANLEY WOODY, James Warwick, Joseph & Carol Lochner in memory of FRANCIS LOCHNER KIA, Col Tom Sledge, Jean Rentz Lansing, Fred Haring, Billie Reese, Bill & Anne Lynch, EMIL BUKOWSKY, Nancy & Pete Adams, Joe Kollmyer, Theresa Papish, Mary & CLARENCE SCHILPEROORT, Joyce Ranger, Sylvia & HOWARD BROOKS, Jo Gallagher, Martha Loggins, Don Keehn, Ann DuHaime, JOHN HOOD, George Duffy, Theresa Papish (& a 2nd check from her) in memory of Maxine Ray, Joann Wychopen, Billie Johnson, Leland Stewart, Jimmie Pryor in memory of JB and CHARLIE PRYOR, Leland Stewart / for Roger and Ella & LANSON HARRIS.

CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS – Just a gentle reminder that I need you to send them in – I'm all out of new ones.....

REPORT ON THE WRECKAGE SITE – Many of you had sent queries about how the HOUSTON survived the earthquake and tsunami. I'm glad to report that the ship was not affected by the terrible disaster.

BANGKOK, THAILAND – William Riopel, Trustee VFW Post 9951 wrote of the memorial that members of the VFW, Dept of Pacific Areas, District V has constructed & sent pictures of their memorial service they held April 24, 2004. This memorial is located at the Kwai River Railway Bridge in Kanchanaburi, Thailand is dedicated to the men of the USS HOUSTON and the US Army Lost Battalion who worked on the Burma-Siam Railway in WWII. This post also enrolled NG Sean Gouge to their post.

SICK BAY – OTTO SCHWARZ went in for some tests in December and had a difficult time of it. He is being well cared for by Trudy and struggles day to day. OC MCMANUS is on oxygen 24 hours a day. Max, a friend and I stopped for a lovely 2 hour visit when we were in Pasadena & he's in great spirits. LLOYD WILLEY gets around with the aid of a walker since his stroke & must use a wheelchair to go out. DAVID FLYNN had knee surgery & is recovering slowly. JOE GARRETT is still recovering from his accident last year. RAY GOODSON is no longer able to travel. JOHN HOOD's illness kept him from attending the reunion.

NEWS ARTICLE – OTTO SCHWARZ sent "Cross from fiction to fact at the River Kwai museum" by Denis D. Gray (associated press) detailing the memorial museum in Kanchanaburi, Thailand focusing on the work by Australian Rod Beattie. Ron spends his time walking the old railway with a metal detector looking for artifacts for the Thailand-Burma Railway Center, a world class museum that opened last year. Beattie strives for an unbiased presentation through information panels, photographs, artifacts, video clips and an interactive detailed topographical map of the 258 mile railway, its stations and POW camps. Beattie has logged some 1,240 miles on foot mapping the railway, clearing sections and collecting artifacts. He has scoured archives around the world to build up a database now containing more than 12,600 names of Australian, British and Dutch POW's who died working on the railway or in captivity elsewhere.

IN SEARCH OF: Survivors & NG – if you can reply, it would mean a lot to these people!

JAMES L. MCCLASKEY, S2C, KIA – Joe McClaskey, great nephew, wants any information. Reply to h3helomac@yahoo.com or mcclaskeyj@rcoh.spear.navy.mil

ARLIE WILLIAMS, S1C, KIA – Mary Logins, niece hopes anyone will contact her with any information. Reply to logginsmartha@yahoo.com or all 936 875-3038 (home) or office 936 639-3073.

MASON D. SPENCER, S2C, died 80 Kilo camp, 11/9/43 – Danny Spencer seeks any information. Reply to dspencer@spawmax.com

JAMES E. WATT, F1C, KIA – Jason Watt seeks any information. Reply to jewfzr@earthlink.net

FREDRICK J. BOURGEOIS, ENS., KIA – Trish has a long letter from Fred just before he died & would like to give it to a family member. Reply at trishravits@comcast.net

JACK LEROY SMITH ,WT1C,died 9/14/71 – Ryan Stidam, great nephew seeks any information. Reply to thewhat2003@yahoo.com

ANDREW JOHN SPILLMAN,GM3C, KIA – Tom Spillman, brother, seeks any information. Reply to windmill2@mstar2.net

STEPHEN F KOSTER, served on the *Houston* '37-'39 - Stephen Koster III, grandson, seeks any information. Reply to skoster666@sbcglobal.net

MILTON SCHMITT, PVT, KIA - Vernon Schmitt, nephew seeks any information. Reply to vernschmitt1@aol.com

WILLIAM W. STEVENS, JR, EM2C, KIA – Carol Ann Hess, niece seeks any information. Reply to cahess@nortexinfo.net

RUBEN W REED, SGT ,KIA – Bob Goodnight, nephew seeks any information. Reply to regoodknight@aol.com

JOSEPH G COMER, CEM, KIA – James Comer, Jr., nephew seeks any information. Reply to sargecomer@yahoo.com

WALTER G. WINSLOW, LT(JG), died 12/12/97 – Robert Saiz, friend, seeks more information. Reply to robertsaiz@ev1.net, 10002 Kirkdale Dr, Houston, TX 77089.

DWIGHT A. HOUSTON, GM2C,KIA – Floyd Michaelson, distant cousin, seeks information. Reply to carolreader2@aol.com

MERITT V. "CHIPS" EDDY, CM2C, died 9/22/86 – Sandra Swanson, daughter seeks any information. Reply to dsselbert@worldnet.att.net

LUKE DUNBAR COLLITON – Andrew Colliton , son seeks any information. Reply to Colliton03@comcast.net or 33 Landing Dr, Methuen, MA 01844. 978 794-4635.

ALBERT NEIL NORVELL – Dr Don Higgins (nephew) and Albert's two sisters and brother would love to talk with anyone remembering him. Albert was a boxer on the USS Houston boxing team and a baker. Reply to Donnakenr@cs.com or 1821 N. Noyes St., Visala, CA 93291

REUNION '05 – The reunion is behind us and we're already making arrangements for next year! The weekend is becoming family reunions within the reunion & others are beginning to want to do the same. We were delighted to have the XO and Sailor of the Year from the USS Houston SSN-713 join us Friday afternoon to visit with the crowd. Everyone was enthralled by Jerry Ranger's talk about his dive on the Houston – our very own NG touching the ship! Jerry dove with some POW-MIA pins, dropped the satchel and it was later found by some miracle. It was as if those souls watching over the Sunda Strait gave it back so Jerry could present the pins to survivors at the reunion. David Faltot & his wife & son flew in from Tokyo, Japan to speak to us on Saturday evening about his dives on the Houston. David was living in Jakarta for several years --- he's the man that arranged the satellite phone call from his boat floating over the Houston wreckage to the survivors at the 60th anniversary. Both Jerry and David shared incredible pictures with us. Julie Grob of the University of Houston was in charge of hosting a lovely sit down luncheon for us after the Memorial Service. We were able to see a portion of what has been done so far in their renovations and we were told of their goals for completion. The Memorial Service was truly impressive with the brass band (including a breathtaking Echo Taps, Sea Cadets as Honor Guards, the Marines & their 21 gun salute, Dana Charles leading us in two songs, Capt. Carter Conlin reciting the Naval Hymn and of course our guest speakers representing the ABDA Fleet. We tried a few things this year that worked and some that we won't do again. Our goal is to make it possible for our survivors, spouses & widows to relax and enjoy themselves. This is a time we set aside for the survivors to remember their shipmates. It also gives family members to pay their respects to their loved ones, and the NG's time to honor the survivors that were able to be present. For those of you survivors that could not make the trip --- we paid tribute to you also. We had several new faces at the reunion and hope they enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed meeting them! *NOW HEAR THIS* - The USS Houston group was to have a discounted rate for parking. As a registered guest, it was \$8.00 weekdays and \$5.00 weekends. Please check your bill & if you were overcharged, contact the hotel. They have been alerted & acknowledge their error & will be glad to adjust the charges.

FINAL BURIAL PLACE - Ron Beattie is the gentleman in charge of the Memorial cemetery in Thailand. He strongly feels that a grave there is one of our Houston or Lost Battalion men. I checked with Otto Schwarz to see if he could point me in the right direction to find information where our POW's were eventually buried after the war. Of ALL the information he has, there was no record of this. All I know is that the graves had been marked and after war's end we had believed that all were sent to a special cemetery in Calcutta, India. The government then gave the families three options: leave their loved one in Calcutta, inter the remains in a national cemetery or send them home for a family service.

I NEED YOUR HELP - This is directed to those that lost a loved one in the POW camps and can report back to me where they were buried OR anyone that has information that can assist me in this research. I emailed those on my list and just one person replied. I know there are others that have information and I really need an assist here.

NEXT GENERATION MEETING –

1. Both Susan Krug and I have begun to speak at high schools, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs etc. and strongly urged others to do the same. We have both found that our audiences are enthralled! You don't have to be silver tongued & you can take notes to help you.
2. We voted to let Susan Krug, as Treasurer of the Scholarship Committee, put some money from the scholarship fund in CD's to get a higher interest rate.
3. Newsletter: It costs \$2.25 to snail mail a newsletter (envelopes, printing, postage, etc). This does not include about a dozen newsletters we send overseas to Australia, England, Holland, & Canada. If someone has moved and not sent a change of address, the post office will charge me 70 cents per item with them either returning it undeliverable or with a notification of their forwarding it. I do not take the time (as I don't have it) to hunt down the undeliverable returns. I do not change my records when I've been notified of the change of address. It is a simple matter of courtesy for an individual to notify us & we should not be fined 70 cents.
4. Member participation: There are many people that volunteer their time **and/or** donate to the kitty for expenses. I have to run this like a small business because we are a non-profit organization. It is unfortunate that many more do not participate. The time has come to take steps to run the organization more economically and efficiently. Bottom line, after 6 newsletters and no response, I will be forced to remove names from the mailing list. We would rather have a strong core group and not have a few shoulder the burden of those that have not shown interest. We will continue to send complimentary newsletters to the survivors and widows that are unable to contribute.
5. Reunion '06 – Sharron Long is looking into alternatives to help with meal costs. (I am personally impressed with how she kept the price down to \$28 after attending our grandson's football banquet that cost \$40 & the meal wasn't any better than what she planned!)

LETTER FROM LEON ROGERS TO HIS PARENTS PROVIDED BY HIS FAMILY

USS Houston
15 September 1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Well your wandering son has finally settled down. I arrived yesterday and reported in to the Houston where I am now attached. I am very happy about it. If I have to be out here, this is where I want to be. The ship is very little different from the Northampton, so I feel at home. Seems to be an exceptionally nice bunch of officers – three classmates of mine and a couple of others that I knew before. I have the nicest room I have ever had. Plenty of room, stowage space, wash basin, and a porthole – desk and chair.

I haven't been assigned any duties as yet, but will be in a few days. The uniform is short sleeved shirts with open collars and short pants for all officers while at sea here. Very comfortable.

I can't tell you anything about the movements of the ship of course. I will say that they seem to operate in the Philippines all of the time and get to Manila for two or three days each month. Don't say anything about it and don't refer to it in your letters to me.

I had a very pleasant trip out on the Henderson – nice weather all the way except for a few days in between Wake and Guam when we skirted the edge of a typhoon. But even that wasn't bad. Stopped for two days in Honolulu, and saw Sherry, the Turners, and a few other friends.

It looks like a pretty dull routine, but I don't mind that, as the only thing I am interested in is getting back. It is pretty tough after the perfect year and a half that Ginnie and I had together. So now I am settling down to a long long wait. There are rumors that the tour is to be shortened to twenty months. Nothing definite though – and I'm not counting on it – only hoping.

Clipper mail is supposed to go out every week and should take about ten days to Washington – subject to delays by bad weather. Cost – 50 cents per half ounce. Steamer mail is very slow and irregular – taking from 3 to 6 weeks depending on sailings. Write me the news about Junie and tell him to write me – address:

Ensign L. W. Rogers
USS Houston
C/O Postmaster San Francisco, Cal

Have to close now as mail leaves the ship in a couple of hours. Miss you all so much and am anxious to hear the news from home.

Bye bye
Love
Leon

DEBRIEFING BY LEON ROGERS (date unknown):

When the word was passed to abandon ship, I went over the side from the port side of the boat deck. I was wearing a life jacket but had no life raft. I swam clear of the ship, which was still being fired upon, and started swimming toward an island a few miles away. I was alone for about two hours, passing many men swimming with life jackets and several groups on life rafts. After about two hours in the water, I joined a group on a life raft with Lt. Hodge in charge. We held onto the raft and by swimming pulled it in the direction of the Java coast. The current was strong and progress very slow. By about 0300 there were no Japanese ships in our vicinity, but about an hour before sunrise more ships sighted and it became apparent that they would pass very close to our raft. I left the raft because I thought I could reach the beach before the ships passed us. At dawn when I was about 200 yards from the beach, it became apparent that the Japanese were landing at this point. I was afraid that I would be caught in the middle of a battle on the beach and so gave up trying to land. I drifted with the current through the anchored ships within 50 or 100 yards of several ship, but was not molested by the Japanese nor was any attempt made to pick me up. When I drifted clear of the ships I started to look for Mr. Hodge's raft but never saw it again. There were three other rafts in the vicinity, on the first were about thirty men (enlisted) without life jackets. They said they had been picked up by a Japanese motor launch and forced to throw away their life jackets. They were treated very well but were subsequently put back on the raft without their jackets. That had several wounded with them and were trying to paddle the raft with some bits of wreckage but were making very slow progress. I left this first raft and tried to swim to a small island (subsequently identified as Toppers Island) but the current was too strong and I returned to Mallory's raft. Again I left the raft and tried to swim to another island (subsequently identified as Sangling Island) but again the current was too strong and I returned to Mallory's raft. I left this raft for the last time about 1000 Sunday morning March first and tried to swim to the Java mainland. At about noon I joined another life raft which was not very crowded (19). In this raft the men and torn strips from the bottom of the raft for paddles and were making fair progress. When I joined them they were about four miles from the beach. We continued paddling all afternoon and finally reached the beach about 13 miles south of Anjer Kidoel light just at sunset. We slept that night in a native village where we were well treated and given drinking water but no food nor dry clothing. Two or three of the men walked on with native guides toward Laboehan rather than sleep in wet clothing. The rest of us were too exhausted to walk any further. The next morning March second shortly after daybreak we started walking south heading for Laboehan. At Tjarita we met several more Houston survivors who had been with Lt. Dalton. They told me that Mr. Dalton had gone on ahead to Laboehan to arrange transportation to come after any survivors along the coast and to arrange for boats to go out looking for rafts and survivors in the water. I stayed in Tjarita all that morning resting. Pony carts came up from Laboehan and were taking people back four at a time. Australian survivors from the Perth began arriving about 1000. By about 1400

most all of the Americans had left so I took the next cart. We had hardly got started when we met a group of excited natives coming from the opposite direction who argued with our driver. The driver then made us get out and said he couldn't take us because "Japan is coming". We decided that he meant the Japanese were in Laboehan. The natives in Tjarita became very restless and excited and insisted that we leave. We walked about a mile south of the village and sat down at the side of the road to rest and decide what to do. There were about fifty of us the greater part Australians from the Perth. While we were here Manista, A., CGM, arrived from Laboehan where he had left Lt. Dalton. He said that the natives were rioting there; that we could get neither food, rest, nor shoes there. Lt. Dalton was leaving for Menes about 25 kilometers inland. At Menes he expected to get shoes, clothes, and directions for Pandeglang where the Dutch Army was making its stand. Our party started walking south intending to take a chance on going through Leboehan to strike the railroad which led to Menes. We arrived in Tjaringin at about dusk and decided to turn inland there as the natives said the road led to Means. Progress was very slow as most of us had no shoes, and were in a weakened condition. The trees on both sides of the road had been felled across the road by the Dutch and we had to climb over them about every twenty yards. At about 300 (March 3) those of us with no shoes laid down in the road to sleep while those with shoes went on towards Menes. At daybreak we started out again. The party had kept together during the previous night but now began to straggle out. I was one of the slowest and finally walked into Menes about 1000 with two Perth seamen. I arrived at Menes just as Lt. Dalton was leaving with a party of about thirty men. The natives were looting the town and all of the Dutch had left, but we decided to get a couple of hours sleep in an abandoned hospital where Lt. Dalton's party had spent the night. Lt. Dalton and his party left for Pandeglang and I didn't see him again until we met in the Serang about ten day later. Two more Australians arrived at about this time and we slept until about noon. We got directions from natives and started walking towards Pandeglag where we expected to find the Dutch Army. We walked until dusk and then stopped in a native village where we found about ten stragglers from Lt. Dalton's party. The next morning we split up into groups of five or six as we had found that a small group had better luck at begging food and water from the natives. We started on towards Pandeglag and about noon began to see signs of Japanese influence. A few scattered Japanese flags were seen. The natives insisted that we keep going towards Pandeglang and implied that they didn't want to be found with us. They were definitely hostile but didn't actually molest us. We decided that without shoes, weapons, or knowledge of the country, and with the natives hostile; it was hopeless to leave the main road and try to hide in the hills. We decided to go on towards Pandegland and give ourselves up to the first Japanese that we saw. We straggled out again so that I reached the outskirts of Pandeglang with one Australian seaman. Natives put us in a horse cart and took us to the local jail. This was about 1800 and a few minutes later three more Houston survivors were brought in. There were no Japanese at the jail but a Japanese flag was flying over the front entrance..... to be continued next issue.

THANK YOU! I'm going to try to remember the names of everyone that is helping the organization & please give me a gentle nudge if I miss someone. Without your help, I couldn't keep this organization going as well as it is. Dana Charles:our Music man, Sharron Long:hotel , Patty Letze: keeper of the wreaths, Ron & Lin Drees: Memorial Service & Scholarship including NG's Susan Krug, Dawn Lodge, Diane McIntosh, Scott Ingram, Pam Foster & John Schwarz. Susan & Larry Krug: hospitality room along with Sharron, Patty, Don Kehn, Max Poss, Jerry Ranger & Jolene Stewart. Pam Foster. Sue Kreutzer & Vic Campbell: web site. Bridget McMaster: entering EVERY crew member to the WWII Memorial list available on the web. Allen & Chuck Crispi, Susan Krug and the Flynn brothers: at the banquets and auctions. Jolene Stewart: filming the reunion. Shawn Flynn: his web site with pictures. Debbie Flynn: bus monitor. Susan Krug & Shawn Flynn: project to acquire pictures of the crew members. Birthday adoptions: Jo Goff, Jan Bradley, Justin Kelley, Walter Grice, Joann Wypochen, Mary Fort, Bridget McMaster, Nancy Morrow, Helen Estes, Bill Lynch, Harry Kelley, Jr., Sue Pogue, Christie Lavireel, Thomas Baker, Patty Letze, Clay Ramsey, Cecilia Minton, Dorothy Rogers, Ben Reynolds, Marilyn VanDeever, Pam Foster, Jo Klenk, Nancy Adams, Billie Johnson, Jane Matthews, Lin Drees, Dana Charles. Vic Campbell has also offered to take our many taped interviews and put them on CDs (or DVD's or whatever one does). Without your help, this organization wouldn't be what it is. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME WITH IDEAS TO IMPROVE. Don't ever worry about hurt feelings, I'm pretty thick skinned (or skulled, ha ha)

HELP PLEASE – Shawn Flynn is developing a website of pictures of past reunions and pictures of the crew. (<http://home.pon.net/shawnf>) He is working hand in hand with Susan Krug's project of having these pictures available at the reunions. What we need from you is to send these pictures (preferably pre war and post war – in uniform but civvies accepted) to Shawn at 5240 Tening Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451. He will then share them with Susan for her project. Do this now! Don't delay!!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - I received a concern about the files here and what I've gathered on this computer in the event I could no longer do my duties... Lord forbid but I assured them that the files are in alphabetical order in the cabinets for reference and I try to keep what's on the computer every few weeks on a disk. I suppose if one person thought of it, others have too. Not to worry, it can all be easily accessed if something happened!

BATTLESHIP SHIRTS – Max (my better ½) wore a Hawaiian shirt depicting battleships of WWII that was given to him by Capt. Susu Ficklin (Lost Battalion) NG. It was a huge hit and everyone was asking how to get one. We found a number to call and order – 1 800 921-3050. Or go to www.hotshirts.com to order on line.

UPDATE – Each newsletter, I comment on how busy the last quarter was. Well, things haven't changed much. Max and I flew to California for the Rose Bowl Parade and Rose Bowl game since we are avid University of Texas fans. We couldn't pass up the opportunity to visit OC MCMANUS. We met his daughter and son, "Honeybun" (his lady friend), her niece and little one & had a lovely visit. Our son in law returned from Iraq and we drove to Dallas to greet him along with 30 family members and 20 of his reserve unit at the airport. We had our banners & flags to greet him. Strangers saw what was happening and lingered long enough to cheer for him also. It was really moving. After the reunion, I needed a break since we had been on a full run since August. We decided that since Mohammed couldn't come to the mountain, we'd go see him.... OTTO SCHWARZ & Trudy were the ultimate host and hostess. I emailed everyone when we returned but will share it again. Like the old song, "Don't Get Around Much Anymore", Otto spends most of his time home listening to audio tapes. He looked great...just as handsome as ever. Otto was able to go with us as Trudy drove us around to see some historical sights and stop for lunch, etc. We even got to see the OTTO SCHWARZ PARK! Max & I took off on the 3rd day to go down the Jersey coast. Trudy packed us a surprise lunch to munch on while we sat on the boardwalk in front of incredible beach homes. That was short lived because a gull initiated us – well, not so much us as our sandwiches! We were concerned we would over stay our welcome. Not to worry because Sylvia and HOWARD BROOKS came up to fetch us & take us around to more historical sights. Their friend, Erica, is a professional tour guide and gave us a fantastic tour of Philly (Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, Benedict Arnold's home, etc) While with them we went to Valley Forge, Jockey Valley, Washington's crossing on the Delaware, DuPont estate & many more places. When they brought us "home", Otto had spoken to Vic Campbell. Vic drove in with his son Alex (a very impressive young man). We went out to a lovely dinner and had a great visit (along with being productive brainstorming about the organization). Bottom line, Otto is as sharp as ever & still loves to tease. Granted, he moves around slower but he's still got the drive. Trudy is a ball of energy. By their example, we are looking forward to our golden years! They send their love to one and all.

FUTURE PROJECTS – This next quarter, I'll be working on sending pictures here in our archives to Shawn Flynn, trying to find out where our POW's that died while in captivity were sent to their final resting place in either a family cemetery or National Cemetery for not only us but our friends in Thailand. **I really need your response** to my plea for help on this project. Remember, they feel they have found the remains of an American & the only way we can figure this out is to account for those men. Providing the list of medals our Houston men earned and locating a picture of them to provide to our contacts in Australia. **I could use some help** contacting businesses. i.e.: McDonalds for coupons, Wal-Mart/Sams, chain restaurants to donate to the hospitality room at the reunion. (Sharron Long has refused to be reimbursed for her expenses providing

snacks and drinks), the Houston Tourism center and Chamber of Commerce (some cities donate funds or services to a group holding their gathering in their city) and even bakeries for munchies. This is for the next March reunion. **Who will step up to the plate?** I also need to make a list of more than 30 eateries within a quarter mile of the hotel. I've got it printed out. **Would anyone be interested** in my mailing it to them and they type it up and email it to me? I have a new format on this computer that has me baffled about printing labels. Sue Krueztzer wrote directions down for me and entered a lot of information on the organization's laptop. Now to take a deep breath and dive in! Max and I were elected President of the Lost Battalion Assn. for August '05 so we are now working on those details. We'll be having a meeting here at our home the weekend after Easter.

FINANCIAL REPORT

DEBITS

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Newsletter printing | 216.76 |
| Newsletter postage | 63.08 |
| Phone | 587.18 |
| Postage | 332.41 |
| Supplies | 394.23 |
| Website '04 | 240.00 |
| Website '05 | 173.01 |
| Reunion | 5123.37 |
| TOTAL | 7130.04 |

CREDITS

| | |
|---|----------|
| Previous balance | 1926.28 |
| Donations/sales/ registration fees | 10822.66 |
| Subtotal | 12748.94 |
| BALANCE | 5618.90 |
| Reserve for '06 reunion expenses: | |
| Sales (Auction) | 685.00 |
| 1/3 of credit balance after deducting auction amount | 1661.30 |
| Total | 2346.30 |

CURRENT BALANCE 3272.60

UNTIL THE JUNE NEWSLETTER – GOD BLESS

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL

(This can be found at <http://members.aol.com/warlibrary/theheart.htm>)

1. The PH medal can be awarded to anyone who is hurt in a war zone.

Not true. The PH medal can legally be authorized to only three groups of personnel:

1. One, those wounded or injured as a direct result of hostile enemy action.
 2. Second, those wounded or injured as a direct result of friendly fire (FF). (Broadly speaking, FF occurs only during a hostile encounter or initiative with, or in response to, an enemy when someone on your side mistakes you for the enemy.) Or when injured by your own non-projectile weapon (bayonet, sword, blunt instrument, etc.) or projectile weapons fire (bullet, explosive device, etc) while engaging, responding to or attacking an enemy.
 3. And third, POWs injured or wounded as a result of individually directed conflict or punishment with their captor in violation of any article of the Geneva Convention Rules of Warfare Concerning the Treatment of Prisoners of War whether or not the captor's government is a signatory to the Convention.
2. All POWs are eligible for the PH.

Not true. See Option Three in the above regulation.

3. The type of wound/injury or degree of wound/injury is used as a factor in authorizing the PH.

Not true. The amount/level/degree of a persons wound or injury is never a factor. When establishing the PH General George Washington made it absolutely clear that awarding/authorizing officers were not permitted to make personal judgments based on how more or less serious a wound or injury appeared, and that being wounded in combat -- by any degree -- was a true distinction of "military merit". Since General Washington's original decision no president, military or Congressional authority has found it necessary to change the PH's issue regulation policy .

4. A person who accidentally shoots himself or is shot by a unit member while cleaning a weapon in a war zone can receive the PH.

Not true. Accidental shootings that do not involve an engagement with an enemy are workplace accidents.

5. Commanders (officer or enlisted) that are wounded or injured by subordinates or superiors (whether or not military weapons are used) in incidents commonly referred to as "fraggings" are eligible for the PH.

Not true. "Fraggings" are criminal incidents. They are neither enemy nor friendly fire related even if the motivation for the 'fraggings' was due to a real-time or previous enemy-related situation.

6. Injuries that don't break the skin or cause bleeding are not eligible for the PH.

Not true. Any non-bleeding enemy inflicted or friendly fire wound or injury, such as electrical, gas, concussion, suffocation, etc., are PH-eligible.

7. The PH cannot be awarded posthumously or after discharge from military service.

Not true. The majority of (but not necessarily all) combat deaths are automatically awarded the PH. Enemy or FF injured/wounded veterans who did not receive the PH prior to their discharge may, if eligible, successfully petition their service department's Awards Branch for post-service award to a discharged veteran. The Military Records Center can only issue authorization for awards that were negligently not recorded on the Report of Separation, or those awards "automatically" authorized by 'class-action' to a specified classification of personnel via Executive Order (such as the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal(s), etc. (See URL: <http://members.aol.com/forvets/htom.htm>).

Please note that each of the four (five during wartime) Service Branches (USA, USAF, USCG, USMC, USN) have their own Awards Branch. The Awards Branch is the ONLY legal agency that can authorize a post-service military award. Only in specific cases of a previously rejected application or recommendation can a Review Board authorize a post-service medal to a discharged veteran.

8. A serviceperson can "put themselves in" for the PH.

Not true. There is only one medal in the United States military inventory that allows a serviceperson to recommend him/herself. That medal is the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. No serviceperson can recommend themselves (now or any time in the past) for the PH or any other medal.

9. An injured/wounded person does not have to be seen by a doctor or medic to be eligible for the PH.

Not true. Other than being wounded or injured by enemy or friendly fire, the serviceperson's wound/injury must be treated by a military or military certified medical person at the time or shortly after injury. "Shortly" is defined as the first possible OR available opportunity while currently assigned in the war theater.

10. A serviceperson can author his/her own After Action report that can be used solely as a basis for awarding a PH or other medal.

Not true. A written or oral After Action report must either be personally authored OR personally verified/approved by the senior military person on the scene at the time of the incident. If the recipient was the most senior ranking person on the scene the awarding officer must ascertain confirmation from all other personnel (regardless of their rank) on the scene at the time of occurrence.

11. A citation is always written for PH awards.

Not true. Citations are very rarely written for PH awards.

12. A display certificate is always issued for PH awards.

Not true. Although Display Certificates are authorized, the military has never been obligated/required by Congress to issue a display certificate. Neither is the PH recipient due a display certificate. Display certificates issued to active duty personnel occurs only when the local command possesses certificates to issue. (Prior to 1995 the government was not required to issue a full-sized medal.) The only military display certificate required by Congress for mandatory issue is Medal of Honor. (For info on the PH replacement recognition, see this page: <http://www.amervets.com/replacement/ph.htm>)

13. The government maintains a list of all PH recipients.

Not true. The only military medal list authorized/budgeted by Congress is Medal of Honor. The only service branch that maintains a "tape" of its PH recipients is the Marine Corps (due to the small size of the Corps). However, Marine Corps 'tapes' of PH recipients is neither required by Congress to be publicly accessible nor utilizable to confirm authorization or award eligibility.) Marine Corps 'tapes' are used solely for internal audit purposes. The Army, Air Forces, Navy and Coast Guard does not maintain a historic list of its PH recipients.

14. Anyone can access a veteran' military record file to verify the award of a PH.

Not true. However, in some very restricted cases the news media, law enforcement agencies and other official entities may petition the National Records and Personnel Center of Military Records under the Freedom Of Information Act for redacted verification of PH award. (The "news media" is an official agency due to its unique status written in the U.S. Constitution.)

15. The federal government must replace lost or stolen PH medals.

Not true. Military medals are issued only one time. If a PH medal was never issued ONLY the recipient or a direct family member [if the recipient is infirm or deceased] may apply for a first-time issue. Replacement medals can be purchased from any military medal retailer. Only those replacement medals sold by retailers that meet official United States government specifications may/must state on their packaging that they are "Official" medals.

16. The only "Official" PH medals are those issued by the government.

Not true. The only metallic entity manufactured by the United States government for public distribution are currency coins. Military medals, like military weapons and other military equipment, are manufactured by private industry. See the above reference for information on the 'officiality' of U.S. military medals.

17. Any family member may request a medal replacement.

Not true. Military medals and information from veteran's military files can legally be requested only from the following individuals that are related to active military personnel (this includes Reservists and Guardspeople) and veterans: Parents, siblings, children. However, under the Freedom of Information Act other relatives are not completely excluded from applying for information if there are no other living relatives in the above-listed category (parents, siblings, children.)

18. My Representative or Senator can get me the medal or record information I want... and get them faster than I can.

Not true. (House of) Representatives and Senators should not be asked to assist in obtaining record information or medals unless their assistance is absolutely necessary in cases of disputes, irregularity, discrimination, or lack of response from the Records Center (which very rarely occurs). Although the Records Center in St. Louis MO is perpetually inundated with an overload of requests for medals or information, the Military Records Center has a long history of excellent responsiveness in fulfilling requests just as quickly as its limited budget and manpower availability [during

wartime] permits.) Although some elected officials may offer themselves as advocates for record or medal retrieval during re-election seasons, authorized information or medal applicants can apply themselves using form SF-180. See URL: <http://members.aol.com/forvets/htomr.htm>. (House of) Representatives and Senators are best utilized for issues that cannot be accomplished after all other efforts have failed.

19. Employers must give hiring preference to PH recipients.

Not true. Although many Local, State and Federal agencies do provide bonus job application "points" to employment applicants. There is no federal law requiring private employers to give hiring preference to PH recipients.

20. Employers can demand to see my DD-214 to verify I am a PH recipient.

Not true. The only private employers who can ask to look at your DD-214 or Report of Separation are those whose job applications specifically ask you if you served in the military AND/OR if you have a service connected disability, Private employers that do not perform federal contract work may not legally retain a copy of your DD-214 in your employment file. However, private employers whose job applications do not ask if you served in the military are permitted to examine a copy of your DD-214 if you have responded or stated either orally or in your written resume that you served in the military.

21. Anyone can possess a PH medal or PH certificate.

True. However, it is a punishable federal offense to possess any military medal or medal certificate that you fraudulently claim you are the official recipient of. Anyone who falsely misrepresents or claims they are the legal recipient of a United States or foreign military medal or certificate is subject to severe prosecution and penalty. Family members and collectors may legally possess military medals and certificates authorized or awarded to legal recipients. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is authorized by Congress to investigate any case of military medal misrepresentation. The United States Attorneys Office under the United States Justice Department is authorized by Congress to prosecute cases of military medal defalcation to the fullest extent of current law.

22. All military medals are issued with the name of the recipient engraved on the back of the medal.

Not true. Only in very rare cases are medals officially issued with the engraved name of the recipient. However, recipients and family members are authorized to have medals engraved with the name of the legally

authorized recipient. Medals currently issued by the Military Records Center and military units are not engraved except in very rare instances. Medal applicants may not, repeat not, request an engraved medal from the Records Center or any military branch. Engraving, when done, is done only rarely by those military commands that both possess engraving equipment and available personnel to perform the task.

23. A "V" for Valor can be awarded with a PH medal.

Not true.

24. If I find a PH medal that medal now belongs to me.

Not true. Lost medals (or any other military item) remains the permanent property of the United States government. Found items should be mailed along with a letter identifying the finder and the location where the item was found to the following address:

The Secretary of Defense
Room 3E880
The Pentagon
Washington DC 20301

25. If I find a PH medal it's okay for me to look for the owner.

Not true. Found items should be mailed with a report to the address above.

26. If I buy a PH medal that once belonged to a veteran I can ask the veteran or his family to compensate me for the money I spent when I return the medal to them.

No. United States military medals hold an exalted place in our society. The military recipient of that medal gave part of him or herself. A good citizen should feel patriotic in restoring a lost item to a recipient. Whenever you see a pre-owned military medal being sold you should ask the seller to please return the medal to the Secretary of Defense at the address listed above.

27. The VA has diagnosed I have PTSD. I am eligible for the PH.

Not true. War related PTSD is a psychological-rooted condition that may or may not manifest physical symptoms based on a singular or multiple incidents resulting from real, imagined, or combination of real and imagined memories that an individual claims or believes they are unable (or unwilling) to resolve unless perpetual therapeutic and/or financial assistance is provided them. However, regardless of any physical ailments or manifestations associated with war-related PTSD this psychologically based condition is neither a wound nor injury caused by enemy or friendly fire. PTSD is a negative by-product of a human memory phenomenon that occurs normally but can some times be attached by the individual to an unwanted memory or series of conscious or unconscious memories that if obsessed can lead to physical symptoms such as irritability, sleeplessness, bedwetting, aberrant, unsociable or anti-social behavior, etc. PTSD is strictly an individual condition that is not shared by everyone experiencing the same or similar wartime incidents. That is, if all members of a platoon are shot at the same time by an enemy they will all suffer gunshot wounds. But if all members of a platoon experience a psychologically upsetting situation not all will later claim symptoms typically diagnosed as PTSD. Lastly, the physical symptoms claimed by PTSD petitioners were never medically certified at the time the claimant asserts precipitated them. Both the Department of Defense (DOD) and Congress have relied on objective scientific studies to conclude that PTSD is neither an enemy or friendly fire inflicted wound or injury. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides treatment and/or compensation for diagnosed cases of PTSD. No United States military medal has ever been established by DOD or Congress for post-service psychological based symptomatic disorders. Previous petitions by veterans or veterans groups to make this condition eligible for a new or existing medal were not approved.

28. The VA has diagnosed I have Agent Orange (AO). I am eligible for the PH.

Not true. AO was a herbicide used to defoliate dense vegetation to deny secluded transportation and refuge to the enemy. AO was never intended to be used, nor used, as an anti-personnel weapon. Advocates seeking to have their AO-related physical ailments judged as "wounds or injuries of war" have irresponsibly and incorrectly subscribed (often deliberately) to the myth that all adverse physical conditions that can be directly attributed to a theater of war are eligible for the PH. Both the Department of Defense and Congress have relied on objective scientific studies to conclude that AO is neither an enemy or friendly fire inflicted wound or injury. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides treatment and/or compensation for diagnosed cases of herbicide-related toxicity. No United States military medal has ever been established by DOD or Congress for physical conditions that may be associated with herbicide contact. Previous

petitions by veterans or veterans groups to make this condition eligible for a new or existing medal were not approved.

29. A soldier in a war zone who is injured or wounded by the ricochet of his own bullet, grenade, missile or fragment of either is eligible for the PH.

Not true if the soldier did not not his weapon at the enemy. True if the soldier was firing his weapon at an enemy.

30. A soldier firing at an enemy in a war zone who is injured when the "kick" of his rifle or gun recoils against him is eligible for the PH.

Not true. It is the projectile (bullet, missile, etc) and not the rifle or gun that is the soldier's instrument intended to negate the success of an enemy. See the above regulation.

31. A soldier who suffers injury while jumping off or out of a vehicle or structure to avoid being injured or captured by an enemy is eligible for the PH.

Not true in a majority of cases. This type of injury is a generally classified as workplace accident. However, there are some minor circumstances depending on the incident that may render the injured eligible for the PH.

32. A soldier who suffers injury from being blown out of or off a vehicle or structure as a result of enemy or friendly (fire) explosive concussion is eligible for the PH.

True in all cases.

33. A soldier wounded or injured by a secondary object (not a bullet or missile) during an enemy attack is eligible for the PH.

True. Example: An enemy or friendly (fire) missile explosion during an engagement with the enemy knocks down a tree that falls on the soldier causing injury.

Additional topics will be added as they are received.

REFERENCES

- [The Purple Heart Discussion Forum](#)
- [List of Purple Heart recipients \(This is NOT a complete list. It is continually updated.\)](#)
- [Recipient Registry Application](#)

- Official Issue Regulations
- How to Apply for Purple Heart authorization
- Replacement Medal and Display Recognition

The American War Library
16907 Brighton Avenue
Gardena CA 90247-5420
(310) 532-0634