



Now Hear This!

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Association Founded 1947

By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

U.S.S. Houston (713) and H.M.A.S. Perth III Crewmen Lay Wreath in Sunda Strait



(L to R): EMN1 Shawn Milender, USN; CAPT Ivan Ingham, RAN; and LT Sam Ward, USN. The two crewmen from the Los Angeles Class Nuclear Submarine USS *Houston* (713) embarked on HMAS *Perth* III for the passage to Jakarta to participate in a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the wreck sites of the WWII cruisers HMAS *Perth* (D-29) and USS *Houston* (CA-30).

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When HMAS *Perth* III sailed to Jakarta, Indonesia this past June, 2016, she carried two American guests—crewmen of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Houston* (SSN-713)—Lieutenant Samuel Ward and Electrician's Mate (Nuclear) 1st class Shaun Milender. The two US Navy crewmen participated in a special wreath-laying ceremony as HMAS *Perth* III reached Bantam Bay and passed over the site of the remains of her namesake, HMAS *Perth* (D-29) and the remains of USS *Houston* (CA-30), according to a 7 July 2016 article in the RAN's *Navy Daily*.

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"Perth and Houston have a shared history dating back 74 years," said *Perth* Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Darin MacDonald. "It is great that we could invite the USN guys on for the transit and especially for the important wreath laying ceremony," he said.



June 2016: The crew of HMAS Perth III gathers to lay a wreath over the wreck of HMAS Perth (D-29), which was sunk in Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942.

As for the two submariners, the voyage aboard HMAS *Perth* III had additional benefits. "This is fantastic, it's nice to see the sun every day," Lieutenant Ward said.

LT Ward and EM(N)1/c Milender received orders to sail aboard HMAS *Perth* III as a result of coordinated efforts of the skippers of HMAS *Perth* III and the USS *Houston* SSN-713—Australia's Captain Ivan Ingham, RAN, and the American Commander Scott McGinnis, USN. After thirty years of service, the American nuclear submarine USS *Houston* SSN-713 is scheduled to be decommissioned on 26 August 2016, which coincidentally, will be the tenth anniversary of the commissioning of HMAS *Perth* III.



CAPT Ingham and EMN1/c Milender hold the memorial wreath aboard HMAS Perth III.



Bill Ingram's New Vest

USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor Bill Ingram recently showed off his "Rolling Thunder" leather vest—a birthday gift—complete with patches and the 10 medals he earned during WWII. Among the patches on his vest: USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association; the U.S. Navy; and the U.S. POW patches. Bill's 92nd birthday was on June 13, 2016.



U.S.S. Houston (CL-81) Association's 40th Reunion

October 19 – 23, 2016

Register with: Sun 'N Sand Resort,
2701 South Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, NC
(843) 839-9375; SunNSandResort.com
Ask for "USS Houston Association Block" and
Indicate if you want a beachfront room.
Questions may be directed to: (717) 792-9113.
Shipmates, families and friends are welcome!



From the desk of the Executive Director

John K. Schwarz

A reminder about Association communications: Please, contact our Association's Board of Managers **directly** through contact@usshouston.org

Utilizing contact@usshouston.org enables:

- Efficient handling of incoming/outgoing correspondence, given that our four-member Board of Managers is spread around America.
- Processing by a professional caliber correspondent (Dana Charles) who delivers quality and consistency in content and format.

Any issue of significance will receive attention which reflects the views of the entire Board. For those with no internet access please use the Association address for mail and/or phone contact. Both are published on Page 1 in this issue of the Blue Bonnet.

All honor and thanks to our co-founder Trudy Schwarz, who has recently composed and distributed special sentiments to the survivors and to the Mayor of Houston, with a personal invitation to join us for the forthcoming 75th commemoration of the loss of our ship, coming up on March 4, 2017. Trudy continues to demonstrate unequaled dedication. You will also 'hear from Otto' in this edition of Blue Bonnet. This, too, comes from Trudy, as she dug up an important piece concerning this Association which was written by Otto that is very well worth everyone's read and understanding.

I continue to marvel with true joy, the ongoing dedication to service demonstrated by the three other Managers with whom I proudly serve. They each spend inordinate amounts of personal time, attend to their individual tasks in contribution to the maintenance of the Association, and truly are tributes to their Dads' legacies. This also holds true for each and every one of you who make contributions to our Association's mission.

Our Board of Managers continues to work on clearer definitions of Association membership, reunion planning, finance management, handling of correspondence matters and relationships beneficial to the protection of USS *Houston* CA-30 and HMAS *Perth*.

It's never too early to coach the next group of scholarship candidates.

Stay well everyone,

John

Son of Otto and Trudy Schwarz

A Celebration of the Life of Howard Brooks



A US Navy Officer presents Silvia Brooks with the U.S. Flag at Howard Brooks' funeral on 19 April 2016.

U.S.S. *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor Howard E. Brooks was laid to rest in his home state of New Jersey on April 19, 2016. The day began at the Mount Laurel Home for Funerals in Howard's hometown of Mount Laurel, NJ with a solemn service which was led by Pastors Phillip Barnett and Owen Griffiths, and attended by Howard's widow Silvia; Howard and Silvia's two sons Eugene and Jonathan; other family members, and friends. Also in attendance were: U.S.S. *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association Co-Founder Trudy Schwarz; association executive director John K. Schwarz; and association president Sue Kreutzer. John Schwarz spoke during the service of Mr. Brooks' untiring efforts to perpetuate the memory of his ship and her crew. "In the past

twelve months alone Howard participated in approximately four lengthy, comprehensive interviews where he candidly described his experiences as a POW," Schwarz explained. "He inspired all who heard his message, and we truly honor that commitment," he said.

Following the funeral service, a motor procession accompanied Mr. Brooks' remains to the BGEN William C. Doyle Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ in Central NJ near Fort Dix/McGuire Air Force Base. At the cemetery Howard received full military burial honors and all in attendance had an opportunity to pay their final respects.

The day culminated in a luncheon hosted by the Brooks family at their home in Mount Laurel, NJ. There, guests engaged in wonderful recollections of Howard's life, ending the day in a true celebration of the distinguished, loving, and wonderful 96-year-long life of this great man—Howard Brooks. We were all so blessed to have this wonderful man in our lives for all those many years.



19 Apr 2016: (L to R): Mrs. Howard E. (Silvia) Brooks and John K. Schwarz.

It was truly a great day for a great individual, Howard Brooks, who now "stands watch over Sunda Strait" along with his shipmates.—John K. Schwarz.



...NOW HEAR THIS...!

INTERNAL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Applications for next year's scholarship program competition are being accepted beginning June 1, 2016 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1, 2016.

To apply for the scholarship applicants can go to www.ussHouston.org and click on the scholarship tab, scroll down to bottom of the page and click to download the application packet.

Application packets can also be obtained by writing to John Keith Schwarz, 2500 Clarendon Blvd. Apt. 121, Arlington, VA 22201.

Each year the amount our Association can award to the Internal Scholarship recipient depends on your generosity. The scholarship award available for 2017 will be \$3,000. Donations are always accepted and appreciated, and are necessary to perpetuate this program.

You can also remember the U.S.S. *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship Fund in your will, estate planning, or beneficiary designations. All donations are tax deductible.

Donations should be made out to: U.S.S. *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association. Please note on your check: "Scholarship Donation."

Mail Donations to: Pam Crispi Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648

To-date and after approximately 15 years of program implementation, we have awarded **13** scholarships totaling **\$28,250.00**. This is an extremely successful program outcome by any measure.

We thank everyone who has donated and participated in this worthwhile endeavor.



Past Internal Annual Scholarship Winners

- 2004 – Gene Bankhead, grandson of Gene Crispi
- 2005 – Katy Fort, granddaughter of Cecil Chambliss
- 2006 – Gerald Agin, grandson of Gerald Agin
- 2007 – Jenny Garrett, granddaughter of Joe Garrett
- 2008 – Raymond Davis, great nephew of George Davis, Jr.
- 2009 – Alex James, great nephew of John Stefanek
- 2010 – Kevin Swick, grandson of John Reilly
- 2012 – Cody Karcher, great grandson of Richard H. Gingras
- 2013 – Laura Reilly, granddaughter of John Reilly
and Maggie Tuttle, great niece of Howard Brooks
- 2014 – Stephanie Daigre, granddaughter-in-law of Gene Crispi
- 2015 – Stephen Reilly, grandson of John Reilly
- 2016 – Emily L. Kovacs, grand-niece of John Stefanek

Past U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Winners

- 2010 – Stephen Scales
- 2011 – Lene Gilchrist,
- 2013 – Robert Z. Sutherland
- 2014 – Evan S. Hovenden
- 2015 – Megan Cessna
- 2016 – Anthony R. Powers, Jr.

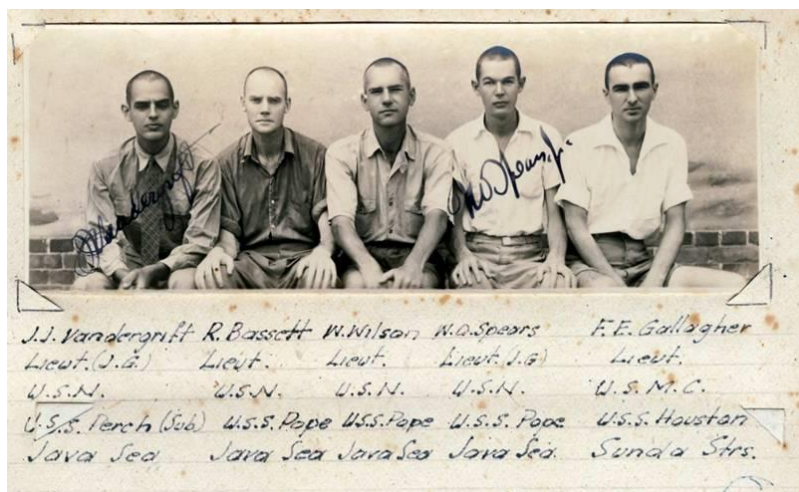


U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Due to the generosity of our Association members and others, and since its inception in 2008, this permanent scholarship—the U.S.S. *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Scholarship—has been awarded six times. This scholarship award enables a year of preparatory military school education, which helps these candidates enter the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), and helps produce proud Naval Officers. We are pleased to report that so far 100-percent of our scholarship recipients have been graduating from the USNA and are serving, or will serve, as officers in the U.S. Navy. What a lasting tribute to the legacy of the men of U.S.S. *Houston* (CA-30)!

Notes on news received via email at contact@usshouston.org and via regular mail...

- 5/26/16: Received an email from **John Schwarz**: "Two great communications which Trudy has received from Hawaii and from Australia: Trudy received such a nice note from author **Gavan Daws**, who in 1994 produced the wonderful book, Prisoners of the Japanese as well as appeared with Otto on the Charlie Rose show that same year. After going back to watch the Charlie Rose Show on YouTube, Gavan commented: "And there was Otto...which reminded me once again how invaluable he was. He was the Kickstarter, the one who convinced me that the project was worthwhile, and he kept me going. Without him, the book would not exist." Trudy also received a wonderful letter from one of only two remaining survivors from HMAS *Perth*, Mr. **David Manning**. After seeing the latest edition of Blue Bonnet David wrote, "On the subject of that edition, it is apparent that present President and Committee are getting things done and that must be satisfactory to you, plus Otto's memory...Yesterday, I received a book and generous letter from the Captain of HMAS *Perth* III, with whom I seem to have formed a close and beneficial relationship. The ship departs for an overseas posting next month for a several month deployment after a major re-fit, and with a virtual new crew, so has been working up for a couple of months now, but Ivan has kept me informed of progress. I still find it difficult to appreciate that there are only 3 (sic) survivors living, and that I would ever be in that situation." He included in the letter, a postcard with the picture and description of "The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial." This memorial pays homage to the more than 35,000 Australian men and women who were held captive as prisoners by the enemy during the Boer War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War, David explained.
- 6/16/16: Received the following link from **Stephen Youll** regarding the "Push to Save HMAS *Perth* in Indonesian Waters from Scavengers": http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-16/push-to-save-hmas-perth-in-indonesia-waters-from-scavengers/7514928?WT.mc_id=newsmail
- 6/27/16: Received the following email from Australian **Roger Clarke**: "I have a photo album from the father of a family friend who was an Australian POW in Japan during WW2. The album features photographs of other Australian POWs as well as 61 US servicemen who were also POWs, mostly navy and USMC together with their names, rank, unit and vessel. It shows photos and details of five survivors of USS *Houston*: **Lt H. G. Kirkpatrick; Lt J. F. Dalton; Lt W. G. Winslow; Lt T. B. Payne; Lt F. E. Gallagher**...Some are even signed. I am endeavouring to find out where in Japan the photographs were taken. It may be significant for your organisation to hold a copy of this album and to maybe pass on the details to next of kin if that was possible. Here is a sample page. Let me know if you are interested. I can supply the album electronically together with an historic provenance statement.Roger Clarke, Melbourne, Australia." *[Editor's Note: I replied via email to Mr. Clarke that our Association would be very interested in obtaining a copy of this album!]*



U.S.S. HOUSTON (CA-30) SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION

By Otto Schwarz

Sometime in 1947/48 while speaking with my wife, I expressed sadness that the crew of the USS *Houston* had served in peacetime together, fought a war together, were sunk and taken prisoners of war for 3 ½ years together, and yet were scattered all over the world, and would probably never be in touch with each other again. My wife challenged me by replying, "Why don't you do something about that?"

I had brought home from the prison camp a little booklet with six names and addresses in it. I wrote to those six men and asked if they had brought any names home, and would they please respond and help me in finding the rest of the 268 survivors. It took about 15 months for these men to be located. They responded and my worldwide search began. Most of the other men had remained in the Navy and were scattered all over the world. It took about 20 years until all had been found.

I started corresponding with these men and that resulted in a quarterly newsletter to all during this time. I also started getting letters from next of kin families who had read my name somewhere, or heard about what I was doing. They were hungry for any word about what had happened to their loved one or his ship. The only information they had was a telegram from the Navy Department informing them that their loved one was MIA or killed in action. This opened up an entire new avenue for me, so I began attempting to put these NOK families in touch with someone who might have known their loved one. I was successful in a number of cases, and the thrill of accomplishing this was indescribable. It drove me to devote my life to the memory of USS *Houston*, her crew and their families. Thus the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association was born.

Since those early days in 1947/48, the quarterly newsletter The Blue Bonnet, a copy of the original USS *Houston* newsletter printed aboard, began. My efforts grew to a circulation of almost 500 copies quarterly.

In addition to the newsletter, our Association has been responsible for many activities and events of interest to the survivors and NOKs. We became the repository for USS *Houston* material, photographs, diaries and stories as well as the center for information about the *Houston* and the prisoner of war camps. A number of authors have used our material and location to begin their books, and a number of television shows have done coverage here such as Dan Rather (CBS), Peter Jennings (ABC), and others. The Navy Department has used us to invite USS *Houston* Survivors and NOKs to important events like the launching and commissioning of the USS *Houston* SSN-713 submarine, and the USS *Rentz* FFG-46. We have been invited to visit aboard these ships which have histories connected with the CA-30, and have gone to sea on the *Rentz*.

The Association has been directly responsible for memorializing the USS *Houston* and crew in many ways and places. We have placed a number of plaques in the Peace Wall at The Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredricksburg, Texas; planted a tree and bronze plaque in Arlington National Cemetery, participated in the building and dedication of a magnificent Monument in downtown Houston, and in cooperation with the 131st Field Artillery in Texas, placed a beautiful monument in The National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

Realizing that the original survivors will be gone we planned to have the memory kept alive by the formation of "The Next Generations".

Crewmember Spotlight:



GUNNERY SERGEANT WALTER STANDISH, USMC

By Joe McCain

The Browning .50 caliber heavy machine gun was a devastating weapon used primarily in a defensive role during World War 2. It proved highly effective against enemy aircraft and lightly armored vehicles but was far too heavy to be carried into battle by foot soldiers.

Four of these water-cooled weapons were mounted on USS *Houston's* foremast gun platform; two Marine gunners at each position. At the top of the foremast was the gunnery officer's booth manned by Commander Arthur Maher, USN. The Marine gunnery sergeant who controlled the fire of these four machine guns was Walter Standish, a twenty year veteran.

Walter Standish was born Wladyslaw Stankovitch in Vilna, Russia in July 1901. In 1912 he immigrated to the United States and settled in Boston. In 1919 he enlisted in the Marine Corps and completed basic training at Parris Island. Because of his previous civilian occupation as a meat cutter, he was often assigned duties as a mess attendant. In 1928, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and changed his name to the more American-sounding "Walter Standish".

Sergeant Standish qualified as an Expert Rifleman and was chosen for the Marine Rifle and Pistol Team in 1937. He also was an instructor at the San Diego Rifle Range and made Gunnery Sergeant in 1939. He reported to the *USS Houston* for sea duty in August 1940.

By the afternoon of February 28, 1942, the *Houston* and its crew had been through a lot. The rear (No. 3) turret had been rendered useless by a Japanese bomb with four dozen crew members lost. Others had been wounded and left hospitalized at Tjilatjap, Java. Much of the *Houston's* ammunition had been found to be defective. Of the fleet of Allied ships assembled to protect Java, only the *Houston* and *HMAS Perth*, an Australian light cruiser, remained fit for duty. Although the *Houston* had earlier found some reliable shells for its guns and had completed refueling at Batavia, the crew still worried about their chances against the anticipated arrival of a numerically superior enemy force. Having been ordered to attempt escape, *Houston* and *Perth* hoped to reach Australia by passing through the Sunda Strait and entering the Indian Ocean under cover of darkness.

Sergeant Standish shared the crew's concerns that late afternoon as they stood looking at the tiny islands in the Strait. Standish thought that the Japanese could hide an unseen destroyer or a battleship behind the islands until it was too late to avoid an attack.

The two ships set out to clear Sunda Strait at dark with the *Perth* in the lead. Just before midnight the Allied ships came under fire from a fleet of Japanese ships intent on landing troops in Bantam Bay, Java. The two cruisers began taking enemy fire from all sides. The *Perth* lasted just a short time and was observed sinking about ten minutes after midnight. The *Houston* continued to fight alone but was hit repeatedly by Japanese shells and torpedoes.

As the *Houston* lost momentum the surviving crew obeyed the abandon ship call with some going over the side into life rafts and others choosing to swim. The Japanese ships moved closer to the *Houston* and used searchlights to enable their gunners to target the escaping *Houston* crew. The Marine machine gunners shot out every searchlight they could see, but there seemed always to be another to take its place. Marine PFC H. Robert Charles remembered firing belt after belt of .50 caliber rounds and seeing the tracers reaching out for the Japanese lights. It seemed like he had been firing for nearly an hour when the gun stopped for lack of ammunition. He then noticed that the front of the machine gun platform had been shot away.

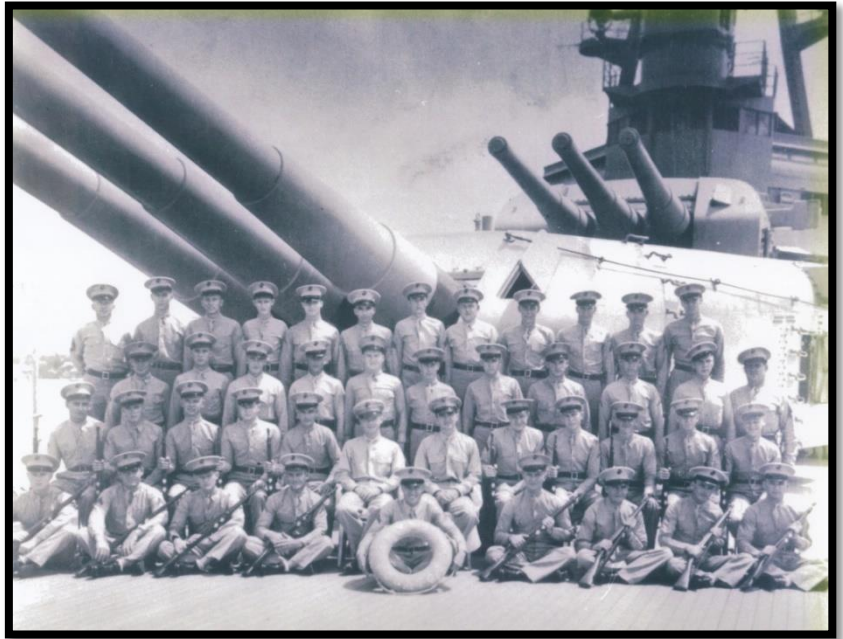


Photo of approximately half of USS *Houston* (CA-30)'s last Marine Detachment (74 Marines total) taken in June, 1941. GSGT Standish stands in the Third Row, last man on the right. Only 28 Marines survived *Houston*'s last battle and 3.5 years of POW captivity which followed.

In the quiet, PFC Charles realized that only he and Sergeant Standish remained. A moment later the two men were joined by Commander Maher who told them the time had come to abandon ship. The *Houston* was sinking but Sergeant Standish said he wanted to stay with the ship. "Better go, Charlie – It's all over – finished", said Standish. "What about you? You going with me?" asked Charles. "I'll never make it. Go now and swim away before you're pulled under" was the reply.

"Goodbye, Charlie" were the last words Standish spoke as Charles climbed down the mast.

Gunnery Sergeant Standish continued firing and covering the escape of his shipmates as the *Houston* sank beneath the waters of the Sunda Strait.

Sources:

Internet Biography of Gunnery Sergeant Walter Standish

Ship of Ghosts by James D. Hornfischer

The Ghost That Died at Sunda Strait by Walter G. Winslow

Shots Fired in Anger by Lt. Colonel John George

Transcripts of interviews with H. Robert Charles, courtesy of Dana Charles

Special Note:

The courageous act of Sergeant Standish continuing to fire at the Japanese searchlights and their crews was witnessed by at least two *USS Houston* shipmates. The late Marine PFC John Wisecup and the late Mus2C Walter Schneck both reported seeing this as they swam away from the sinking *Houston*. Walt Schneck remembered that Standish was still firing as the mast hit the water.



THE BELL

The Japanese thought their expansion would be a slam dunk,
They reported many times The *USS Houston* was sunk.
Up, down and around the Java Coast,
She was still there, now called the Galloping Ghost.
In the darkness and steaming through the night,
They ran into the Japanese fleet, what a fight.
I seriously doubt about then, any were thinking of FDR,
Or they would go on to earn a Medal of Honor, Presidential Citations or, a Silver Star.
CAPT Roofs could have turned and evaded the enemy power,
Instead he ordered General Quarters and steamed into their darkest and finest hour.
Through the night, lights, rockets, heavy shells flew back and forth,
The enemy ships were all around from South to North.
1 Mar 1942, The *USS Houston* slid below the indigo water in Sunda Strait,
368 managed to survive, the others formed up at The Pearly Gate.
It took years for the whole story to come out;
Heroic, unimaginable American grit and guts, no doubt.
Many years it took to get FDR's favorite ship's story,
Slowly into history the puzzle, became glory.
Today, 5 MAR 2016 and we meet beneath the *USS Houston* Ship's Bell,
A widow smiles a little and looks at the crowd, she was pleased, I could tell.
None of today's 7 survivors were there to talk,
We hug and then watch and to the Bell take a slow walk.
The Widow smiles and puts her arm through my arm,
She is such a charm.
All these generations are here at the Bell today, in the Land of the Free,
And the ship is still talking, still telling her story from the bottom of the Java Sea.

Written for the *USS Houston* Survivors and Family,
Chaplain Barry Barlow, 8 March 2016
© 2016 Barry Barlow

Notes From Down-Under*

Norm Fuller, the last Western Australian HMAS *Perth* I survivor and POW, died on 25 June 2016. The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN, issued the following signal to all naval authorities:

"With sadness, I inform you of the death of the former Able Seaman Norman Fuller, the last known WA survivor of HMAS PERTH I, aged 96... Joining the RAN in 1941, he was posted to the cruiser HMAS PERTH I in 1942, with 14 others from the city of Perth. The Western Australian contingent was a close knit group at sea, with their friendship enduring the war and lasting for the rest of their lives. AB Fuller survived the Battle of the Java Sea, but his seagoing service ended when PERTH was sunk in the Battle of the Sunda Strait on 1st March 1942, and he became a prisoner of war... As a prisoner of war, AB Fuller labored on the Thai-Burma railway and endured conditions in which many others died. Upon completion of the railway, those prisoners of war deemed fit enough, were shipped to Japan to labor in coal mines. AB Fuller was deemed to be too ill to travel and he remained in Thailand until his liberation in 1945. Leaving the Navy post war, he became the State Manager of Dunlop Bedding, retiring after 40-years' service."

Norm's funeral was held in St Oswald's Anglican Church, Swanbourne, on 4 July. With Norm's death, that leaves only two *Perth* I survivors and former POWs—the redoubtable Frank McGovern in Randwick, New South Wales and the resilient David Manning in Ballarat, Victoria.

Frank McGovern

Frank is in fine fettle. He's had an operation on his head to remove a skin cancer, which we think was a bit unpleasant - but unpleasant to Frank would be hell for the rest of us! He was a star of the media in June regarding continuing concern over the scavenging of the wrecks of PERTH and HOUSTON and the Australian National Maritime Museum is on the front foot and the Museum and the RAN have been in extensive negotiations with the relevant Indonesian authorities with a view to a joint survey later this year.

David Manning

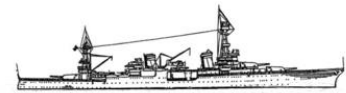
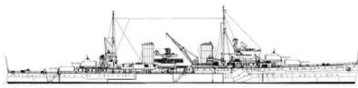
After a Mayoral Reception for HMAS *Ballarat* on 30 May, David had a tumble whilst re-arranging his "Navy Wall" and suffered a broken left arm near the shoulder. He now reports that he is "Back on board, but feeling like a bird with broken wing and sheltering. Actually (I am) fine, but frustrated with life without the mobility a car gives."

HMAS *Perth* III Remembrances of Gavin Campbell

Gavin's widow, Sue, and daughter, Jane, gifted Gavin's sword to PERTH III when they learned that the Officers had named the wardroom ante room "*The Gavin Campbell Room*" in his honour. The Ship has had the sword box-framed and is now on display in the main part of the wardroom.



(*) Reprinted from August 2016 issue of the Barbed Wire and Bamboo Naval Report. (Used with permission).



UPDATE

ON PLANS FOR A SURVEY OF HMAS PERTH (D-29) & USS HOUSTON (CA-30)

On 8 July 2016, Commander Stephen Youll OAM RAN (Retired), Committeeman of the HMAS Perth National Association Inc. wrote to Kieran Hosty, Curator, Technology and Archaeology at the Australian National Maritime Museum to inquire about proposed plans to survey the remains of HMAS Perth I and USS Houston (CA-30) in the near future. Mr. Hosty's 8 July 2016 email reply (below) provides some important information regarding Australia's efforts to preserve and protect the remains of H.M.A.S. Perth and U.S.S. Houston (CA-30).

Dear Commander Youll OAM (Retd),

Thank you for your email of the 8 July 2015 regarding the Museum's proposed archaeological investigation of the sites of HMAS *Perth* (I) and USS *Houston* in Sunda Strait.

As you are no doubt aware in late 2013 recreational divers, who had recently visited the wreck site of HMAS *Perth*, reported back to the Australian Federal Government that unknown salvage companies using surface-supplied divers operating off self-propelled barges equipped with crane-operated grabs appeared to be salvaging the site.

Alarmed at the prospect that salvage operations were disturbing the remnants of a sovereign warship that could also contain the remains of some of the more than 300 naval personnel lost during HMAS *Perth*'s engagement with the Imperial Japanese Navy the Chief of Australian Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, wrote to his counterpart the Chief of the Indonesian Navy, Admiral Dr. Marsetio regarding the alleged salvage works.

In addition, as the wreck site of HMAS *Perth* has great emotional and historical significance for many Australians, in 2014 the Australian National Maritime Museum was approached by the Royal Australian Navy and the Department of the Environment to explore the possibility of leading an archaeological expedition to the site of HMAS *Perth* to survey the site and assess the alleged damage.

Subsequently in December 2014 the Australian National Maritime Museum hosted four representatives from the *Pusat Arkeologi Nasional* to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Australian National Maritime Museum, the Australian Department of the Environment and the *Pusat Arkeologi Nasional*. The purpose of the MoU is to facilitate cooperative maritime archaeological research and underwater cultural heritage management activities, educational opportunities and capacity building between the parties with an emphasis, in its first year, on the site of HMAS *Perth* (I). In August 2015 the joint MoU was signed by Dr I Made Geria, Director, *Pusat Arkeologi Nasional*, Kevin Sumption, Director, Australian National Maritime Museum and Stephen

Oxley, First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment. In September 2015 the Museum submitted its draft research proposal to Pusat Arkeologi Nasional and the Secretariat of Foreign Research Permits and in April 2016 we were officially informed that the proposal had been approved.

Working in partnership with the Department of the Environment and the Pusat Arkeologi Nasional - The National Centre for Archaeology (ARKENAS) it is the intention of the Australian National Maritime Museum (subject to permit conditions) to conduct a photographic survey and conservation assessment of the site of HMAS *Perth* followed up by an ancillary remote sensing survey (side-scan-sonar and magnetometer) of the wreck site and its surrounding area to confirm the condition of the wreck site, analyse the sites stability and ongoing corrosion processes and verify if the site has been interfered with by recent salvage events.

It is the intention of the project to confirm the location of the wreck and conduct a minimum disturbance archaeological survey of the site in accordance with Indonesian permit conditions and good archaeological practises – as defined in the *Annex to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage* (Maarleveld, T.J, Guerin, U and Egger, B, 2013) with a view to identify the shipwreck's historical and archaeological significance which will then be used to prepare – in consultation with Pusat Arkeologi Nasional -The National Center for Archaeology (ARKENAS) – a draft conservation management plan for HMAS *Perth* and a possible Case for Declaration under The Republic of Indonesia's Heritage Cultural Legislation.

The Museum is still in the process of applying for a RISTEK (Foreign Research Permit) which will allow it to conduct archaeological work in Indonesian waters however the RISTEK permit process is somewhat complex and involved and it has taken a number of months so far but this stage, and if everything goes according to plan, we hope to be on site in either late August or late October 2016.

I'm currently on leave from the Australian National Maritime Museum but will be returning to work on Tuesday 19 July – if you require any further information please do not hesitate in contacting me then.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Hosty

Manager – Maritime Archaeology Program
Maritime Archaeology & Research Centre
Australian National Maritime Museum



RADM Cox Speaks in Ft. Lauderdale

By John K. Schwarz

On Saturday, June 25, 2016, Donna Flynn, Dennis Flynn (Donna's son) and I had the pleasure of attending a luncheon sponsored by the Naval Air Station Ft. Lauderdale Museum, which was held at the Lauderdale Yacht Club in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where we heard a brilliant speech presented by guest speaker RADM Samuel J. Cox, USN (Retired), who had also been a U.S. Navy speaker in Houston, Texas at our Association's "Day of Remembrance" back in March. RADM Cox, the Director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, was thorough and interesting, and he offered insights into not only his re-collections of 'Flight 19', but other air missions as well. He also spoke about USS *Houston* (CA-30) and the ongoing effort to preserve the sanctity of that 'sacred burial ground', and then proceeded to respond to a whole host of questions from the audience. It was a great experience! My compliments to RADM Cox and to the leaders at Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale (NASFL), including John & Minerva Bloom, as well as Deborah McElhiney-Hamilton.



25 June 2016: RADM Cox speaks at the NASFL luncheon.



The Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale was built on the site of Merle Fogg Field in 1942 as part of the national defense program, serving as one among 257 air stations during World War II, and as one of a few specialty schools for training on the TBM/TBF Avenger aircraft. NAS Fort Lauderdale made a big impact in the growth and economy of the South Florida region and the United States as a whole. Building # 8, The [Link Trainer](#) Building housed 6-8 Link Trainer flight simulators. It is the only remaining structure left on

the naval base property—sole reminder of a naval complex of more than 200 buildings. This building is now the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum.

The Museum has been instrumental in preserving the memory of [Flight 19](#), one of the great aviation mysteries. Flight 19 flew out of NAS Fort Lauderdale on 5 December 1945, to vanish into the Bermuda Triangle. In addition, 19 year old future US President George H. W. Bush lived at this base as an Ensign, to train as a torpedo/bomber pilot. From October 1942 to October 1946 the base would train American and British pilots and thousands of air crewmen from the U.S and other countries. In December 1999, the building was relocated to its permanent site at 4000 West Perimeter Rd., 2 blocks west from its original location, literally on the site of the now Hollywood/Fort Lauderdale, Florida Airport.



New Book by James D. Hornfischer!

In a recent email, Jim wrote:

[“Page proofs are here!](#)

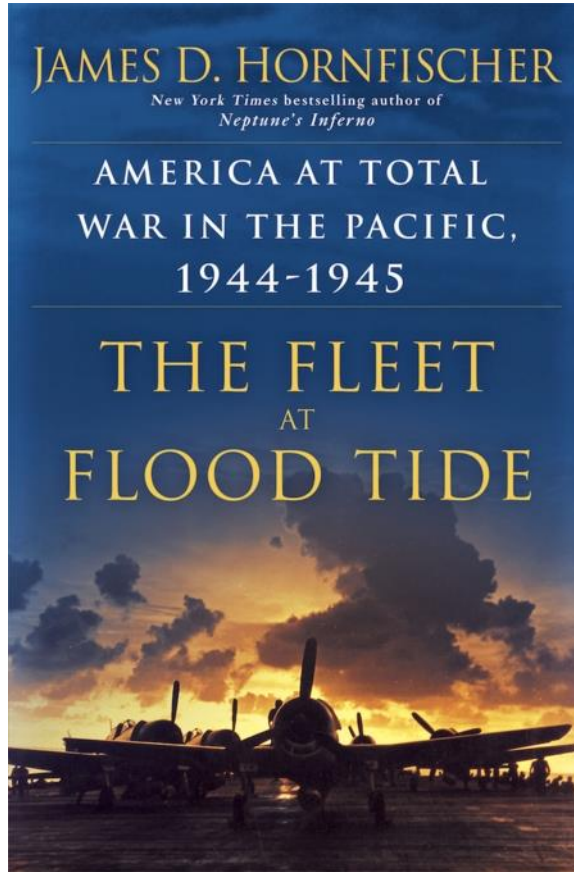
By this stage of a book's life, an author is pretty well tired of what he's written, no matter how good the manuscript may be. But seeing my page proofs for the first time is a joy all the same. Now that Random House has sent me 656 pages worth of [THE FLEET AT FLOOD TIDE: America at Total War in the Pacific, 1944–1945](#) for review, it's time to roll up the sleeves, pull out the monocle (not really), and dig in one final time.

There will be typos to fix, word repetitions to track down, ambiguities to clarify, and dangling modifiers to fix. If they let me get away with it, I may do a little more rewriting as well. The book has been set for release on **October 25, 2016**—the 74th anniversary of the Battle off Samar (the subject of [my first book](#)).

Please preorder today (Amazon.com; Barnes and Noble.com, etc.) and also consider helping spread the word through your email network and Facebook following. I will be eager to hear your thoughts about the book down the line. Many thanks, meanwhile, for your support.”

Jim Hornfischer

<http://www.jameshornfischer.com>



You Shop, Amazon Gives

By Pam Crispi Foster, Treasurer

Many of us already shop online at Amazon.com. Did you know that Amazon has a program where they will donate a portion of your purchase price to the U.S.S. Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations™? There is no additional cost to you or to the association and the proceeds help to perpetuate the memory of our ship and the sacrifices made by her crew. Visit our website: www.uss-houston.org and click on the AmazonSmile link or go to the website shown below. This is a win-win situation for all of us.

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Questions? Email: Sue@USSHouston.org

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Membership

Our "U.S.S. *Houston* family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks want to know about the gallant crew of U.S.S. *Houston* CA-30. If you have relatives and friends who have not yet joined our Association, please encourage them to join us! Members do not have yearly dues. However we do operate based on the generosity of our membership. All donations are gratefully accepted. For more information and a membership form, click on: <http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>, fill out the form and send it in!

Welcome Aboard!

*We would like to extend
a hearty welcome to
everyone who has
recently joined our
U.S.S. Houston (CA-30) Survivors'
Association and Next Generations™!*



Association Website:
www.usshouston.org

Facebook Group Site:
USS Houston CA-30

In Memoriam

In addition to remembering those of our U.S.S. *Houston* Family who have passed on from this life, the **Blue Bonnet** also remembers H.M.A.S. *Perth* (D-29) and 131st / 2nd BN survivors and their family members who have recently passed away.

They too will never be forgotten.



In Memoriam



Norm Fuller



Died: July 25, 2016
Western Australia

HMAS *Perth* and Burma-Thailand Railway Survivor



Thank you!

...on behalf of the Association to those who have made donations, as follows:

Donations March 21-July 23, 2016

In Memory of Howard Brooks

Silvia Brooks
Donna Mae Flynn
Rich & Pam Foster
Tim & Jo Klenk
Henry & Jane Matthews
Joe & Marlene McCain
Patricia Mintzer
Phyllis A Sommer
Swiss Benevolent Society
Swiss Club of the Jersey Shore

Other Donations

Anne DuHaime
Bernice Harapat
Sue Kreutzer
Henry & Jane Matthews
Trudy Schwarz

2016 Amazon Smile Donations Earned: \$29.44

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2016 January 1, - July 23, 2016

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$16,937.05
Receipts:	+6,643.91
Expenses:	<u>-3,643.45</u>
Ending Balance:	\$19,937.51



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$12,332.34
Receipts:	+2,897.34
Expenses:	<u>-0.00</u>
Ending Balance:	\$15,229.68



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