



USS MC CAFFERY DD/DDE 860 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello all,

We are beginning to plan our reunion in Chattanooga TN for fall 2016, in October. It should be a great opportunity to get together with shipmates. Mark it on your calendar.

I went to the annual "Blessing of the Fleets" Ceremony at the US Navy Memorial in April. The fountains around the Memorial are turned on (charged) for the summer and into the water is added a couple of gallons of water collected from the Seven Seas and the Great Lakes by Navy ships all over the world. The Navy Band plays and it is a very impressive ceremony.

I also checked out the USS McCaffery plaque on the Wall of Honor in the Memorial and it looks great. Be sure to visit the Navy Memorial when you are in Washington DC.

Doug

WELCOME ABOARD

We continue to add new shipmates to our association thanks to the efforts of Lee Hendrickson Joe Bosko and Bob Biegen. If any of the shipmates listed served along with you, and you would like to contact them, let me know. No need to wait until the next reunion to say hello.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	RATE	YEARS
Hewitt	James A	RM3	60-61 : 70-71
Blackmon	Clinton	PC3	72-73
Yeager	Douglas A	BT3	71-72
Westphal	Christopher	BT2	72

SAVE THE DATE ! OCTOBER 16, 2016

Breaking news from our reunion coordinators George Cromie and Ron Trippett! They have picked the dates for the reunion as well as the hotel. The dates are October 16 to October 20. We will be staying at the recently remodeled Chattanooga Choo Choo hotel. The hotel, in years past, was the train station. Arrangements have been made for our special room rate to be available two days before and after the reunion.

The next issue of the Newsletter will contain more information on our plans for the reunion, as well as some of the sea stories Bill Maslak has sent to us. If we have space, we will include a story on the Sumner-Gearing Class Destroyers.

USS McCaffery, DD-860 SECRET MISSION -- MARCH 1946

By Bill Maslak USS McCaffery 1946-1947

USS McCaffery DD/DDE 860 was commissioned in July 1945, too late to engage in any great sea battles. Among many deployments in her 28 year career, she did make her presence known in Korea, Vietnam and the Cuban Missile Crisis. In March of 1946 she was ordered on an important and secret mission.

WWII ended! The Japanese and Nazis were defeated but another war was fermenting -- the Cold War. Civil war in China kept the country in a state of upheaval. Bandits ran wild. The Nationalist and Communist conflict ended with the Nationalists retreating to Formosa (Taiwan). The Marshal Mission was unsuccessful and the Soviets took advantage by moving into and looting much of Manchuria, an area with a good industrial and communication base; rich in natural resources and a couple of important sea ports.

Dairen was a free port by the Yalta Agreement. There was a U. S. presence but the Soviets moved in, the Americans were painfully driven out. It was necessary to reestablish an American presence in order to keep an eye on the Soviets as well as the Chinese Communists. Enter -- USS McCaffery, although in an unheralded manner. The State Department quietly and secretly ordered Counsel General Leo D. Sturgeon to establish a consulate in Dairen. He was to proceed without Soviet permission but not to provoke a confrontation by a surprise presence of a U. S. warship. He was to inform them of his arrival no sooner than forty- eight hours before he arrived aboard a coastal merchantman, SS Check Knot. McCaffery, shuttling between Shanghai and Tsingtao was ordered to escort Check Knot to Dairen, Manchuria. Given the Soviet penchant for paranoia, McCaffery was put in harm's way without being able to defend herself while escorting Check Knot and Sturgeon. As ordered, she proceeded with disabled guns and radio silence. Messages, in code, were split into two pieces and sent by semaphore, each piece by a different signalman. Coded messages received were handled the same way.

The crew was not told why they were underway, where they were going, or what the mission was about. They were cautioned not to discuss the mission with anyone. This was easy; they did not know what was going on. Scuttlebutt was their only

information. They knew they were sailing north and rendezvoused with a tramp steamer but that was it. Only the skipper knew what was going on and maybe, the communication officer, if he read the decoded messages before delivering them to the skipper. As they approached Dairen, McCaffery stood off and was not permitted to enter the port. Check Knot went in but the Soviets would not permit the crew to go ashore. Sturgeon went ashore, mission accomplished without incident. Eventually a consulate (eye and ear on Manchuria) was established.

This was not a great sea battle but the importance of establishing a U. S. presence in Manchuria was extremely important to monitor the pulse of Soviet intentions then and for some years to come. The value or consequences of carrying out orders and completing a mission is not always measured by the number of enemy craft sunk, planes shot down, or troops dispatched. Returning to Shanghai, the crew was able to learn something of the mission, not from the Navy, but from the press. An article in the STARS and STRIPES dated, Shanghai -- March 17, 1946 reported that State Department diplomat was smuggled into the Soviet occupied port of Dairen under a strict veil of secrecy by a small tramp ship escorted by a destroyer.

A McCaffery sailor, on liberty in Shanghai, met a Check Knot merchant seaman who told him they were not permitted to go ashore. A Soviet boarding party came aboard to see what could be observed from the ship. Such was the paranoia of the Soviets. The consulate was established but could not establish a rapport, trust, or cooperation with the Russians or their puppet Chinese Government. American ships were not permitted to enter the harbor. After struggling under these conditions for several years, the consulate finally closed in October of 1949. On Monday, October 24, 1949, THE REPUBLICAN COURIER of Findley, Ohio printed the following announcement, "The American consul and vice consul from Russian-controlled Dairen arrived in Seoul today and reported continuous harassment by the Chinese Communists had forced the closing of the consulate on Friday." Monday was the 24th. Friday would have been the 21st. The consulate was re-established in 1984.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Listed below are the shipmates that have contributed to the publication of the newsletter since the last issue. We appreciate their support, as well as yours, and will work hard to provide you a newsletter that you will enjoy reading.

Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to Rich Kuroski. Make your check payable to USS McCaffery. It is through your contributions that allow us to keep publishing the McCaffery newsletter.

Last Name	First Name	Years	Rate/Rank
Abercrombie	Stan	65-67	QM3
Ashforth	Donald A.	54-56	MM2
Bell	John M	62-64	*LT
Benner	Meryl K.	62-63	BT3
Blankinship	Roy E.	1967	MM3
Blessman	Donald F.	*45-47	WT2
Boniberger	Eugene	48-52	FT2
Buell	Byron W.	61-62	*LTjg
Campbell	Howard M.	59-60	FTA3
Collette	Larry	69-71	*LTjg
Collorafi	Joseph	64-67	RM2
DeCelle	John E.	57-59	SN
Donatiello	Nicholas E.	57-59	YN2
Fleegle	Burton S.	61-63	YN3
Henstenberg	Joseph E.	61-64	SN
Kaptor	Thomas	1963	ETR3
Kartasiewicz	Michael	1960	SN
Lennon	George W.	71-72	*LTjg
Lomas	Gary D.	51-54	IC3
Martin	William F.	54-56	IC3
Raybuck	Richard N.	57-59	MR3
Slater	James H.	61-64	SOG3
Vroom	James E.	68-69	*LT
Willett	William R.	47-52	FT2

TAPS

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of our departed shipmates. If you know of a shipmate that is hospitalized or deceased` notify Doug Hackett so he can respond on behalf of the association. The following list are those for which we have been

notified on their passing since our last issue. We publish the names when we receive them and verify their passing as best we can. If we have erred, in any way, please let us know.

Last Name	First Name	Years	Rate/Rank
Moore	Walter	59/63	STG2
Rohrbough	Neal	64/65	EMC
Clark	Leslie A.	61/63	SK2
Cochran	Parvell D.	71/73	GMGC
Mills	Leslie	45/46*	MM3
Bowron	Denis	57/60	MM2
Zimmerman Jr.	Joseph	70/71	FN

*Plank Holder

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

The plan for the News Letter going forward is to add two pages for a total of six pages. This will allow us to add a section on sea stories as well as provide room for expanded coverage of the reunion. On the issue of sea stories we have a quite a few stories thanks to Bill Maslak. We certainly would like to have

stories from you, our other readers, as well. In addition to more pages we would like to increase the frequency of publication from twice a year to four times a year. Doing so would make news items more timely.

USS McCAFFERY MERCHANDISE

Ron Trippett has the following McCaffery merchandise for sale in the ships store:

Blue Polo Shirts s-m-l-xl \$20.00, xxl \$24.00, xxxl \$26.00 Women's White Polo Shirts \$22.00

Jackets \$35.00 xxl \$38.00 Caps \$17.50 Belt Buckles \$12.50 Lic Plate Holders \$8.00

Patches \$5.50 each/two for \$10.00 Coffee Cups \$8.50 T-Shirts \$6.50 xxl \$8.00

USS McCaffery Shoulder Arm Patches \$2.50. Ron's address and email are on the first page