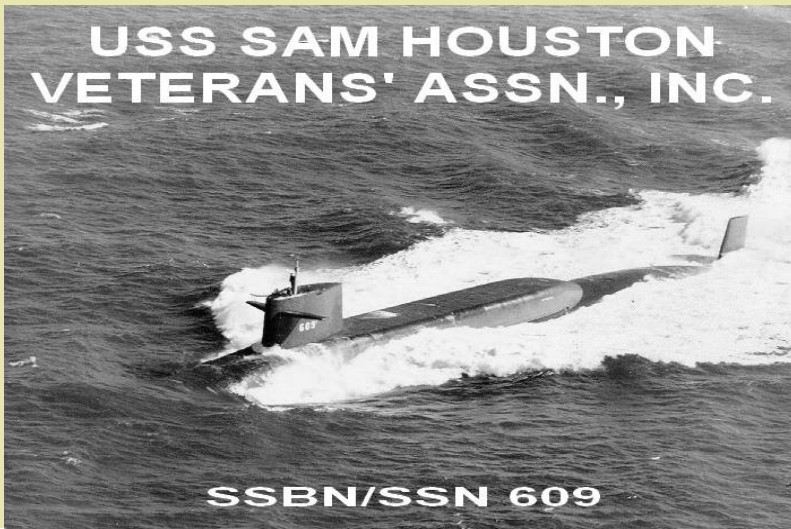


USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN., INC.



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1st Edition 2012



A Society of Distinguished Naval Veterans
Web Site: www.USSSamHouston.org



The Raven

An official publication of the USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn., Inc.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Shipmates & Associate Members:

I hope that all of you enjoyed the holidays and entered the new year with good health.

In December, I completed mailing Membership Certificates to most on the roster, and I received many favorable comments about them. Although I devised the certificates with the help of others, the trigger for their implementation is credited to **Bob Bishop** [MMCS(SS), Blue & Gold, 1960-1970]. Within are pictures from two shipmates who framed and hung their certificates.

The year for our 2012 reunion in Charleston, S.C. has arrived with the reunion to occur 25-27 October. I intend to distribute the 2012 Reunion-Registration Packet to all between mid-March and early April.

Also, some of the mystery shipmates in prior photos are identified, some other sought-after information is provided, and more subjects are covered in subsequent articles.

Hoping that you can attend the reunion in 2012,

Howard Dobson [ETR2(SS), Gold, 1969-1972]
Chairman, Reunion Planner, & Newsletter Editor
8 Colony Blvd., Apt. 338C
Wilmington, DE 19802-1426
Phone/Fax: 302-764-1197
E-Mail: howardvaldobson@verizon.net

FROM OUR STOREKEEPER

"We have received the Sam Houston SSBN Medallions or 'Challenge Coins' and are now making them available to members of the Sam Houston Veterans' Association. We paid \$9 ea. for their manufacture and have determined that it will cost a buck apiece to ship them. So, we came up with a reasonable price of \$12 ea. with the difference going to the Association's kitty for future expenses.

"The coins are the same as the one passed around at the last reunion. On one side it has the Sam Houston crest, 'Try Me' below the raven with a background in orange. 'USS Sam Houston SSBN 609, 1962-1991' is engraved on the same side. The other side is engraved with 'Forty One for Freedom' and 'SSBN Deterrent Patrol.' Also with a set of Dolphins is the following statement by General Colin Powell:

'No one has done more to prevent conflict—no one has made a greater sacrifice for the cause for peace—than you, America's proud missile submarine family. You stand tall among our heroes of the Cold War.' "

Larry Ferrell [MM1(SS), Blue, 1968-1970]

You may order this coin via postal mail or you can purchase it at the 2012 reunion. To order by mail, please send a check or money order payable to USS Sam Houston to the following address:

**USS Sam Houston Vet. Assn.
c/o Howard Dobson
8 Colony Blvd., Apt. 338C
Wilmington, DE 19802-1426**



Larry will mail the coins to you from his home in Maine.

This coin is associated with the SSBN configuration of the boat. We are developing a design for the SSN configuration and will keep you posted on progress. Altering the front is easy, but the content on the back requires some thought. **Ernie Lockwood [CDR & CO, SSN, 1983-1987]** has volunteered to help with the design of the SSN coin. Hopefully, the new SSN coin will be ready for sale by June or July.

Howard Dobson

ETERNAL PATROL

Since the last newsletter, two shipmates have been reported to have received orders for Eternal Patrol.

Ron Jakubisyn [MM1(SS), Blue, 1970-1972] reported that the following shipmate departed on 23 July 2011:

Ronald B. Anderson [MM1(SS), Blue]

Bruce Sanderson MM2(SS) of another boat reported that his father left for Eternal Patrol on 25 Nov 2011:

George Sanderson, Jr. [TM2(SS), Blue & Gold, 1967-1970]

These two shipmates helped preserve our freedom for a portion of the tumultuous period of the Cold War.

Howard Dobson

DONATIONS FOR 2012 NOT REQUESTED

I have decided not to request donations for the SHVA for the year 2012. Your money might better serve you if applied toward the reunion. I do not anticipate any major expenses that are not related to the reunion for this year. Reunion attendees pay for the reunion-related expenses.

The SHVA will soon begin to recover the expense associated with the purchase of the Challenge Coins through sales of the coins. This will compensate for the usual yearly expenses related to the continued existence of our organization. These expenses are minor—less than \$250. They encompass the incorporation fee and costs associated with the postal mailings for those without e-mail.

At the board and business meetings during our 2012 reunion, I will proposed that the SHVA sponsor a small plaque to be placed in the US Naval Memorial in Washington, D.C. in memory of the boat and crews. That plaque will cost about \$2,500. I got this idea from the Destroyer Leader Assn. of which I am a member. It has purchased a plaque, and I will attend the 3-hr. dedication ceremony in mid-April 2012. I'll have all the details at those meetings.

If you wish to donate this year anyway, you may send a check or money order payable to USS Sam Houston to our Treasurer at the following address:

**USS Sam Houston Vet. Assn.
c/o Mark Manzer
10118 NE 41st St.
Vancouver, WA 98686**

Your donation for 2012 will not be refused should you decide to donate. For your generosity, you will receive a commemorative patch (pictured right) if you did not receive one last year. I have records of recipients. If you donate and request an additional patch, I will send you one.



Howard Dobson

WHAT IS THE FATE OF THE SHIP'S PLAQUE?

After **Jim Hoey** [ETR2(SS). Gold, 1971-1973], our Web Master, submitted the picture of the Ship's Plaque for the previous newsletter, it triggered the question "What happened to it?" It would certainly be a revered item if the SHVA could acquire possession of it should it exist somewhere. I will pursue trying to determine its fate; and if it exists, to acquire it. My thought is to begin the quest by contacting the scrap yard at Bremerton. I'll keep you posted.

Howard Dobson



2012 REUNION UPDATE

I am pleased to provide you with some preliminary information about the upcoming reunion in Charleston from 25-27 Oct 2012 (Thursday morning-Saturday evening) to facilitate your availability and advance planning. **You cannot register for the reunion at this time; I will issue the registration form between mid-March 2012 and early April.**

The sales contract with the hotel (for guest room reservations and function rooms) is signed. I have yet to sign a catering contract with the hotel. This latter one deals with the menus for our two group meals; thus, I do not have prices for these meals. For the 2012 reunion, we will not have a Welcome Reception. The reason is that the hotel has a daily buffet dinner in its restaurant/lounge at a reasonable price. We will be on our own for breakfast each day. The following prices are either contractually established with the hotel or are routinely offered under the hotel's current practices:

- Guest room cost/night: \$108.19; (\$94 cost + 13.5% tax + \$1.50 CVB Marketing Fee).
- Thursday (and daily) buffet dinner: about \$10.00.
- Daily buffet breakfast on your own: about \$10.00
- **KEEP IN MIND THAT TWO GROUP-MEAL MENUS AND THEIR PRICES ARE BEING ESTABLISHED.**

Because I have signed the contract with the tour operator, I can provide details of our scheduled tours—and I think that you will enjoy all of the attractions. Our group tours will occur during the days on Thursday and Friday. No tours will occur on Saturday to ensure that a rush does not occur with fitting in our Business Meeting, auction, and personal preparation for the banquet. We might have a professional photographer for portraits on Saturday before the banquet.

Brief descriptions of our two tours follow. The prices mentioned are all-inclusive (tax and gratuities covered).

Thursday: The Charleston Tour, Shopping, and Fort Sumter Tour: \$66/person

- Coach transportation and gratuities.
- Admission to one historic house-museum; shopping time in the Market; and sightseeing-boat admission for the Fort Sumter Tour.
- Lunch on your own at a restaurant in the Market.

Friday: Hunley Museum Tour, Patriots Point Tour with Lunch, and The Citadel Dress Parade: \$83.50/person

- Coach transportation and gratuities.
- Admission to The Hunley Lab; admission to Patriots Point with lunch in the CPO Mess aboard the carrier Yorktown.
- Reserved seating at the parade.

Plans are to have a ceremony to dedicate the granite memorial bench that has been installed at the Cold War Submarine Memorial. Our Memorial Service will follow. Both of these ceremonies will occur during Friday's tour events.

Walt Young [EM1, Gold, 1975-1979] took this picture of the bench in late Oct 2011 after a rain while he was attending a reunion of the Escort Carrier Sailor Airmen Assn. in Charleston recently.

Looks great!



MEMBERSHIP & REMEMBRANCE CERTIFICATES

In October 2011, I completed the initial mailing of Membership Certificates and Cards for those who were on the roster before August 2011. I have also sent Remembrance Certificates to survivors whom I have been able to contact and who responded with interest in receiving the certificate. Let me know if your certificate has errors.

If you were added to the roster AFTER August 2011, you have yet to receive your Membership Certificate and Card. I know who you are and will resume production of the certificates and cards soon. Additionally, the US Postal Service returned about 6 certificates as "Unable to Forward." This means that the intended recipients have changed their mailing addresses within the past 12 months. Those intended recipients have either registered their new addresses with the USPS and the 12-month forward period has expired or those recipients never filed a forwarding address with the USPS. I am attempting to locate these 6 individuals. IF YOU ARE ONE OF THEM, PLEASE GIVE ME ANY RECENT CHANGES TO YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

About 8 formats of the Membership Certificates exist based on whether you were a CO or XO, other officer, or enlisted AND whether you served on the SSBN or SSN. Each contains subtle differences based on the combination of categories. **John Anulies** [FTB2(SS), Blue, 1964-1966] is the only shipmate to have received a Remembrance Certificate because of his brother, **Bernie Anulies** [FTB1(SS), Blue, 1961-1966; Eternal Patrol]—other recipients were Associate Members. I've included a picture of a Remembrance Certificate because only one shipmate has seen it. Its border is copper leaf with a gold-foil seal that states "Above & Beyond."

Howard Dobson

CERTIFICATE OF REMEMBRANCE

This document is issued in posthumous recognition of

Samuel Zook, MM1(SS)

for the distinctive service that he performed aboard the nuclear submarine
USS Sam Houston (SSBN 609) from 1969—1971.



His voluntary service aboard the boat was essential to the preservation of the many freedoms granted to all citizens of the United States of America. **Sam** was willing to sacrifice his life to preserve those freedoms by accepting the intrinsic hazards of the Silent Service. Fortunately, that ultimate sacrifice did not become reality. Instead, he was issued final orders to report for Eternal Patrol subsequent to his distinguished submarine service.



Respectfully accorded on behalf of the members of the
USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSOCIATION.

Howard Dobson, Chairman
31 October 2011

FRAMED MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES MOUNTED

Rick Nelson [ETN2(SS), Blue, 1964-1966] sent the following photo of his certificate:



Bob Launius [HM2(SS), Blue, 1976-1977] sent the above photo of his mounted certificate:

ALL OF THE “WHO ARE THEY?” ARE FINALLY IDENTIFIED!

The picture below, submitted by Kathy Eggers, wife of **Ed Eggers** [ETR2(SS), Blue, 1960-1962] as a “Who are they?” picture, has stumped our readers for about 6 months. But, I have received some more identities!



Ed Eggers is standing on the right. Later, **John Anulies** [FTB2(SS), Blue, 1964-1966] identified his brother, **Bernie Anulies** [FTB1(SS), Blue, 1961-? and on Eternal Patrol], on the far left. John added “seated on the right is **Bulldog Drummond**, the cook.” This left the two shipmates in the center unidentified.

Merrell Henry [HM1(SS), Blue, 1962-1963] identified himself as the person second from the left. He adds “I note that I am not wearing Dolphins or collar device, so I am sure that I was an HM1 at the time. It also makes me think that it was the first Blue Crew Patrol since I made HMC(SS) toward the end of that patrol. The person next to me (i.e., second from the right) might be RMC Denny—his first name.”

George Hubbard [EM2(SS), Blue, 1962-1964] went one step farther and identified the person standing above Bulldog Drummond (seated at the far right) as **Jay “Whitey” Fiemster** [YN2(SS), Blue, 1960-1962; Eternal Patrol]. George adds “the picture was likely taken by **Robert G. Mick** [EMC(SS), Blue, 1962-1966], the Ship’s Photographer. There was likely a ceremony that preceded the taking of the picture because Whitey is there.”

Seems like everyone has been identified. Ed Eggers, do you remember those shipmates?

Howard Dobson

MORE SHIPMATES IDENTIFIED

Many readers identified the person standing to be Ken DeBeaumont [CS1(SS), Gold, 1967-1972].

Gary King [ETR2(SS), Gold, 1967-1970],
Jay Meadows [MTC(SS), Gold],
Larry Check [ETN2(SS), Gold, 1967-1970], and
Dave Barger [FTG1(SS), Gold, 1969-1972]
all contributed to Ken's identity.

Dave added "he and his crew put numerous inches on my belly, and they are still there!"

Jay also mentioned that the shipmate at the projector is **Tom Soleberg** [rating unknown].



Howard Dobson

SHIPMATES SEEKING INFORMATION

In the previous edition, **Tim Kroha** [EM1(SS), Blue & Gold, 1972-1977] asked the following question: "Do you know what dates the Sam Houston went through the Panama Canal in 1975 or 1976 and then crossed the International Date Line on its way to Guam?"

I received the following reply from **Walt Young** [EM1(SS), Gold, 1975-1979]:

*"That would have been the middle of August 1975. The exact date I don't remember off hand, but my guess is around the 12th or 13th of August. **Bill Blackburn** [ET1(SS), Overhaul & Gold Crews, 1973-1976] mentioned on Facebook that the Gold Crew spent Labor Day weekend in San Diego. We immediately went up to Bangor, WA for two weeks getting our initial weapons load leaving Washington around the 24th of Sept and arriving in Pearl on or about Oct 3. We were late getting into Pearl because the Robert E Lee had a leak in the RC, and we had to stay on mod alert for them for a week while they were out of service. Turnover was in Pearl to the Blue Crew, and they left for Guam mid or late Oct. '75. That would probably put crossing the International date line around Nov. 1, 1975."*

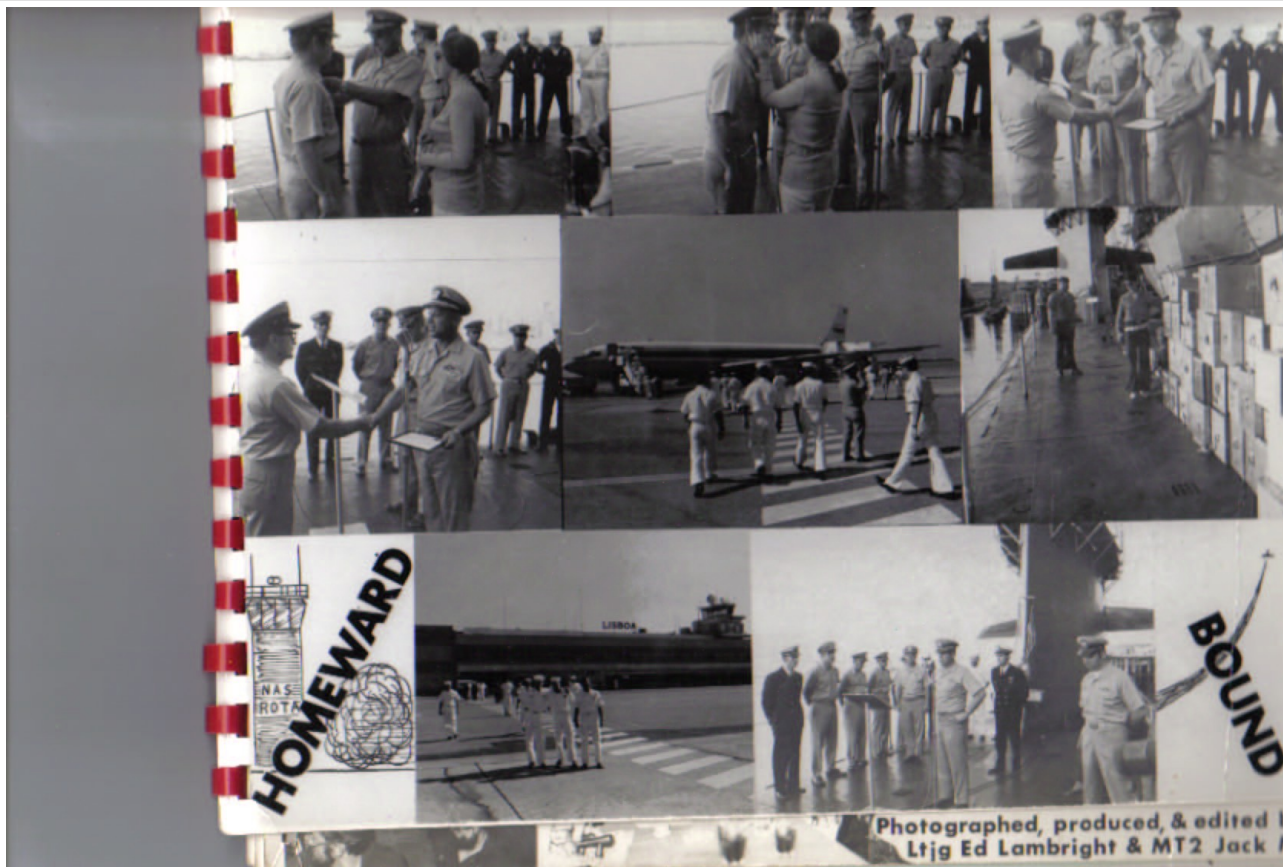
Bill Blackburn corroborates the info in his e-mail to me in which he states:

"Regarding the Panama Canal transit, it was in late summer of 1975 just prior to Labor Day weekend which we spent in San Diego on the way to load missiles in Washington."

I received no reply to **Mike Snare's** [ETR2(SS), Blue, 1968-1972] seeking info to locate **Russ Mann**, (Blue crew, ET, RC Div; late '68 to '72 or '73) or to **John Sheppard's** [FN(SS), Gold, 1971-1972] seeking info about **Keith Jacobs** who served on the Sam when he did.

Howard Dobson

MORE PICTURES FROM THE BLUE CREW PATROL 32 BOOKLET (cont.)



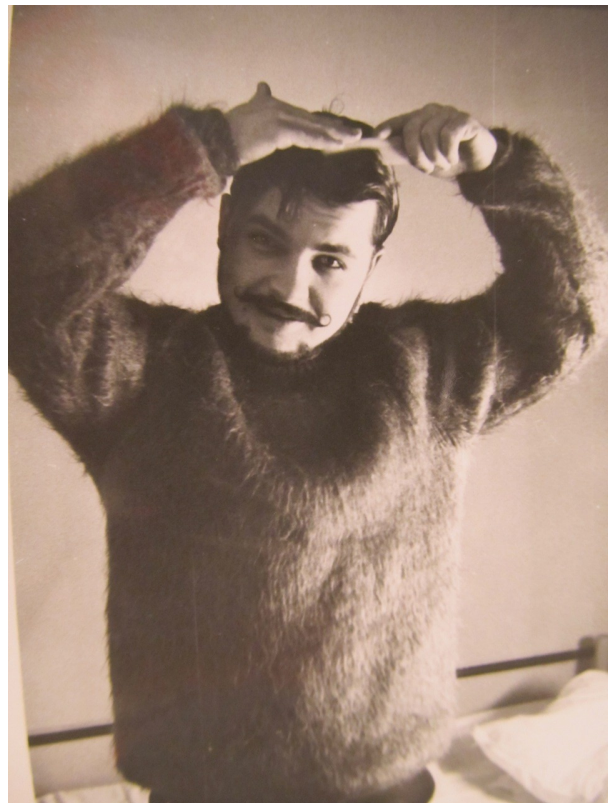
Blue Crew Patrol 32 Booklet pictures courtesy of **Roger Cramer** [MM2(SS), Blue, 1968-1972] and **Jay Haman** [MM1(SS), Blue, 1970-1972]

PICTURES OF "SPEEDY GONZALVEZ"



Jack Harden [RM2(SS), Blue, 1963-1966] submitted this set of pictures. The roster has no first name for "Speedy," and the only other info available is that he was an MT on the Blue Crew.

Jack also mentioned that Speedy was transferred from the boat because of a brain aneurism.



PICTURES OF MELVIN "DOC" HOLLIDAY



Jack Harden [RM2(SS), Blue, 1963-1966] also submitted this set of pictures. **Melvin "Doc" Holliday** was a RM2(SS) with the Blue Crew from 1962-1966. Doc lives in Honduras, Central America.

In the picture above, Doc seems to suggest that the object he is holding has some significance that is not to be overlooked. I zoomed in on it, and it is either a book or box with the title "Male Box." I'm sure that the item has some significance.

Hey Doc, what was it?



GRANDDAUGHTER OF A THRESHER SUBMARINER SEEKS INFO

In a letter to the US Submarine Veterans Assn., Inc. (USSVI), *Victoria Sallade*, granddaughter of Charles Wiggins, who served on USS Thresher, requests help in locating families of those lost with the boat. She has made a goal to help contact all of the families of the tragic loss of the 129 men aboard along with all of the former crew members prior to the 50th Memorial Service in 2013. She has contact information for a little over half. The USSVI has requested wide distribution of Victoria's request to help her achieve her goal. If you believe that you can give her any helpful information, please contact her:

Victoria Sallade
22 North Central Ave.
Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Phone: 609-519-1707
E-Mail: Bobjs@aol.com

REMINDER

I mentioned in an earlier article that some of the Membership Certificates were returned to me. This is likely the result of postal address changes for the intended recipients, and I was not informed of the change. Keeping in contact with Sam Houston shipmates is important regardless of whether you will ever be able to attend a reunion or not. You have memories of events that are worthy of sharing with the rest and vice versa. Thus, being able to contact you is important. Please do your best to inform me of changes to any of your demographic information.

Of equal importance is that the SHVA becomes aware of our shipmates receiving orders for Eternal Patrol. Although we wish that the day will never occur, it is inevitable. Your service aboard a submarine was significant, and not only will the SHVA recognize your past service, but the USSVI also. Soon, I will be submitting information about our members on Eternal Patrol with the USSVI. Such recognition begins with informing the SHVA of shipmates having received their final orders. Please inform your probable survivors of the need to contact the SHVA after you depart. While they may contact any member of the SHVA who would then forward the information to me., I am providing my contact information below.

USS Sam Houston Vet. Assn.
c/oHoward Dobson
8 Colony Blvd., Apt. 338C
Wilmington, DE 19802-1426

Phone: 302-764-1197
E-Mail: howardvaldobson@verizon.net
Web Site: USSSamHouston.org

You might wish to cut this article out of the newsletter and place it with your other important papers.

Howard Dobson

A TRUE
CHRISTMAS STORY

by

Jim Terrell, [TM2(SS), Blue, 1964-1965]

USS Sam Houston, SSBN 609

Holy Loch, Scotland, 1964

It was mid-December 1964, and it was as cold as one would expect Connecticut to be at that time of the year. We boarded the buses, and after a while, we were on our way to Quonset Point Naval Air Station where an aircraft waited to take us to Scotland. We were going back a few days early this time.

The idea was to relieve the other crew so they could get home for Christmas. The faces of the men betrayed their remorse at leaving home at this time of the year. There was little of the usual horseplay and chatter we normally enjoyed on these trips. Instead, the men stared out the windows reflecting on the price they and their families paid for the security of the nation. Children would rush downstairs on Christmas morning to discover a bounty of presents. Their fathers would share that precious moment, unaware that somewhere out in the world's oceans, other fathers, crammed into a cylinder of steel, kept watch over the delicate world peace. On our watch, there was peace on earth.

Takeoffs always amused me. I chuckled watching men who would take a boat to test depth and think nothing of it, grip the armrest so hard their knuckles turned white. They sat rigid with their heads back and their eyes closed, perhaps making peace with their maker, while the plane rotated and climbed out into the morning sunshine. In a few minutes, we had reached our altitude and leveled out. Almost immediately, I noticed a couple of the guys begin to move around the plane having conferences with first one group and then another. Soon they approached us with their proposition. They proposed that although we had our duty to do, we need not sacrifice our customs and traditions. We couldn't be home for Christmas with our kids, but we could share with others. There was an orphanage in Dunoon with children in need of what we had to give. Soon the hat was passed, monies collected, plans made, and duties assigned. The balance of the flight seemed more relaxed, and it was not long before I heard someone question the masculinity of a NavET. I knew then that all was well!

When we arrived in Holy Loch, the usual change-of-command process went forward with a greater sense of urgency than usual. Clearly, the other crew wanted to go home. In no time, the process was complete, and we had the boat. When the opportunity for liberty came along, we dispatched a committee to the orphanage, and they returned with a list of children who would be invited aboard for Christmas dinner. The list included their names, age, and gender. Each child was assigned to

A MOVING CHRISTMAS STORY BY ONE OF OUR OWN (cont.)

a "Daddy for the Day" who was charged with escorting them around the boat and getting them to all functions. It's funny, but although I have not been able to put a name to the faces of the men who organized this event, I still remember the name of the child I looked after that day—Angus Naylor.

A second committee, armed with the list that indicated age and gender, went shopping for Christmas presents for the children. Soon, the local merchants became aware of what we were doing, and our money went much further than we had estimated. Our men returned with a huge supply of presents. Instead of the usual movie, we spent one evening wrapping the gifts. The role of Santa Claus went to our Hospital Corpsman, affectionately known as "The Quack." [Ed. Note: *The Quack, aka, David "Doc" Jenkins {HMCS(SS), Blue, 1964-1967}*]

A liberty launch brought the kids out, and that in itself was a thrill for them. Some were scared and others mischievous. We gave them a tour of the boat, then took them to the Crew's Mess where they enjoyed, perhaps, the best Christmas dinner of their lives. After dinner, they were treated to a Walt Disney movie—*The Amazing Mr. Limpet*, starring Don Knotts. When the movie was over, we took them up to the periscope stand where The Quack was decked out in an ill-fitting Santa Claus suit. He had a couple of helpers in some form of costume. This was when we discovered that British children believe in Father Christmas, not Santa Claus. One of the guys quickly explained we had invited our American Santa Claus to come over especially for them. As the child sat in Santa's lap, The Quack would ask their name and then repeat it loud enough for his helpers to hear it. This would send the helpers frantically searching among the huge pile of presents to locate the ones intended for this child who was kept occupied answering the usual questions concerning their behavior during the year. When found, a present would be placed in Santa's hand. He would present it to the child while the two of them smiled at the camera. In the end, each child received about three presents and a picture of themselves with the most ridiculous looking Santa Claus!

Soon, it was time for them to go, and the tears began to flow. Tiny little girls held tightly to their "Daddies" and cried out that they wanted to stay. Everyone was affected. We escorted them with their presents back to the Tender where the liberty launches waited to return them to the cold reality that we had given them temporary respite from. As the launch pulled away, the children waved, and all the "Daddies" waved farewell to them as I had seen them do to their own children a few weeks before. It was not lost on me that here were men who wielded on of the most powerful warships ever conceived, who struck fear in the Russian heart, who could unleash an attack never before seen on Earth. There, at that moment, these warriors of the deep wiped tears from their eyes; and there was truly

Peace on Earth

Suggestion to print this article by **Doug Antonelli** [ET2(SS). Blue, 1967-1968]
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