

Boyle, Ordronaux, Champlin Reunion 2009

Valley Forge, PA – October 2009

Set in the beautiful historic Valley Forge Region of Pennsylvania, members of the USS Boyle, USS Ordronaux, and USS Champlin Reunion Groups gathered for their annual reunion. Once again, the reunion was an outstanding success. Even with the last minute invitation to members of the USS Ordronaux, former crew of the "Mighty O" managed to attend.

It was hard for me to anticipate a better reunion than 2009, but Audrey Woodard outdid herself once again with her meticulous planning and attention to detail. The facilities featured four star 'all-suites' accommodations and even included a 'free' managers cocktail reception each afternoon with snacks and cocktails free of charge – this, as one might imagine was VERY well attended. Breakfast was included every morning, and the dinners featured well prepared and tasty meals, with evening entertainment which followed the dessert course.

Tours of Historic Valley Forge, and Historic Philadelphia had been arranged by Audrey complete with bus transportation to lessen the stress of metropolitan driving on all the attendees.

Our visit to historic Valley Forge included the visitor's center as well as a narrated tour of the grounds of this historic site, and historic buildings. The following day we once again boarded our bus and were taken to Philadelphia where we toured various historic sites including the Liberty Bell, the State House, and a short walking tour of the historic area. Boarding our bus we were taken around Philadelphia, where we learned of the history of the period learned of Ben Franklin, Betsy Ross, and many of our other founding fathers, as we continued our bus tour around the historic area. As lunch time approached our driver proceed to the "Reading Terminal Market" (one of the largest indoor farm markets in the world) Where we had some time to explore a plethora of lunch options – I have never seen

so many food booths and dining options in one central setting. The hardest part of the day was deciding what and where to dine – there were just so many great options: from seafood, to the traditional Philly Cheese Steak, to Amish fare, to stacked deli sandwiches – it was REALLY hard to decide!

Following the annual reunion group meetings, we all met together to explore options for the Reunion's of 2010 and 2011. First off, Audrey Woodard once again has agreed to coordinate and plan the reunions (Thanks Audrey). Multiple suggestions were made for possible reunion sites, and following a vote of all attendees it was decided we would meet in Rhode Island in 2010, and tentatively explore options for a reunion in Virginia Beach in 2011.

So...why not set aside some time in the Fall of 2010, and plan on joining all of us in Rhode Island! Hope to see you there...

Welcome Aboard USS Ordronaux DD-617

The Editors of the Seaweed would like to extend a warm welcome to the officers and crew of the USS Ordronaux. We hope you have enjoyed your complimentary copies of the "Seaweed" Newsletter. Hopefully, you have found the newsletter to be a good read, and will consider subscribing to receive the upcoming issues – it's just a mere \$5.00 per year for four issues.

The USS Champlin and USS Boyle Reunion Groups would also like to extend an invitation to all of the USS Ordronaux Crew and Officers to join our annual reunions which are held in the fall of every year.

Welcome Aboard! Hope to see you all in Rhode Island, and don't just subscribe to the newsletter – send us your Naval and USS Ordronaux stories to publish in the "Seaweed" – we would all love to hear your tales...

CHAMPLIN REUNION GROUP

Annual Meeting 2009

The annual meeting of the Champlin Reunion Group met at 8:45 a.m. on October 10th, 2009 in the Embassy Suites Hotel in Valley Forge, PA.

Members attending: Lou Gilbert, Bill Gustin, Gary Gustin, Bob Maitre, Hal Medvedeff, Tom Morton, Norman Prewitt, Larry Suter and Dick Valentine

President Larry Suter opened the meeting with a call for the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag.

The Invocation was given by Norm Prewitt, followed by a prayer in memory of the deceased shipmates and a moment of silence.

The minutes of the 2008 Annual meeting were accepted as printed in the Seaweed.

Treasurer, Norm Prewitt, advised that as of August 30th, 2009 we have a balance on hand of \$3305.86, subject to audit. The audit committee Lou Gilbert and Tom Morton advised the Treasurer's books are in order.

Sick & Welfare report:

Chuck Meehan has terminal cancer
George Styles has heart problems and Gal is not well.
Dick Berman has heart complications and Shirley is not well

Unfinished business: None

New business:

1. Discussion of the merging of the three ships, the Champlin, the Boyle and the Ordronaux. We have structured meetings, the Boyle does not. Those wishing to be members of the Champlin Reunion Meetings must pay dues; according to the by-laws one does not have to have served aboard the Champlin to be a member.
2. Seaweed Editors Gary and Bill Gustin advised that a second Seaweed will be sent to the Ordronaux members as they had little time to be aware that they had been invited to join the Reunion.
 - a. Gary Gustin advised we had 120 good address and five returns of the Seaweed to the Ordronaux members.
 - b. The Gustin's also suggested we include an offer to the USS Huse DE 145 to join our group, contact David Perlstein It was approved by the members.

Norm Prewitt gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was now open to everyone attending the Reunion. A Boyle spokesman advised that Frank Bean had passed; shipmates and friends forever. Larry Suter expressed a hearty "Thank you" to Audrey Woodard for arranging the Reunion, following a loud round of applause, Audrey thanked everyone for coming, and advised everyone that she is willing to continue being Coordinator of the Reunion. A vote was taken on future reunion sites and Rhode Island was chosen for 2010, and Virginia Beach was the winning site for the 2011 reunion. Audrey was then made an Honorary Boyle member.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary, Norman Prewitt

Dues are Due

With the arrival of 2010, USS Champlin Reunion Group dues are now past due!

USS Champlin Reunion Group dues, include membership in the reunion group, as well as a subscription to the "Seaweed Newsletter". Dues are \$15.00 per year and due in October at the time of the Reunion Group's Annual Business Meeting.

So, let's get those checkbooks out and get your memberships up to date.

Newsletter Only Subscriptions are also available to all interested parties, including: USS Boyle, USS Ordronaux crew and officers, other destroyer squadron crew, family, and friends at an annual cost of only \$5.00.

To subscribe to the "Seaweed" send your annual subscription fee of \$5.00 to Norm.

Norman Prewitt
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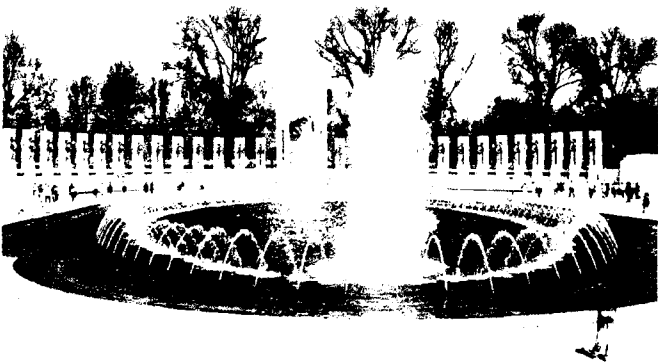
Old Guys Crying

My story began with an inquiry from my son, asking me if I would be interested in going along with about 45-50 other World War 2 vets on a cost-free overnight trip to visit the World War 2 memorial in Washington DC. The cost-free thingy got my attention, so I said I would be interested.

He went on to explain that he would go with me as my "Guardian". You soon learn that every vet must be accompanied by another person, male or female, usually a younger relative, to assist in the usual trials and tribulations of travel. The Guardians receive special instructions prior to the trip regarding their role and responsibilities. This is especially important for those vets who need a wheelchair to get around. Our group turned out to be 43 vets, 43 guardians, plus two registered nurses, a tour director and about 4-5 assistants. Of the 43 vets, three were female - one WAC and two nurses.

The whole experience was truly rewarding and emotional, so much so that I found it difficult to actually sit down and write this article. The "Old Guys Crying" thing is so very true. Those who were hesitant to admit it later would come back with "But my eyes were certainly sweating a lot."

But wait, this recent article by Mark Hare, a reporter for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, says it better than I. Read on:



"At Honor Flight Rochester, every day is Veterans Day. The mission is straight-forward: Take every World War 11 veteran to visit the memorial to their service in Washington, D.C.

"But each trip to the World War 11 Memorial builds appreciation and understanding of the men and women who saved the world from tyranny. The idea, say Vince Hope, the organizer of Honor Flight Rochester, is to build 'engagement across generations.'

"Honor Flight is a national organization, founded in 2005 and now operating from 75 hub cities, including Rochester. The local chapter was formed in 2008 and flew one test flight last fall with 10 veterans and their guardians. Each vet must be accompanied by a guardian who is young enough and strong enough to help them on and off buses and up and down ramps and is able to attend to any special needs. This year, Honor flight has flown five trips to D.C., with 30 to 50 vets on each flight.



"The vets pay nothing. Guardians are asked to cover the cost of their own flight and hotel accommodations for one night.

"Norm Bachman, 85, of Irondequoit, made the trip out of Buffalo early last year and has become an enthusiastic supporter of the program ever since. He is among those who greet each flight of returning vets at the airport. "You see these guys coming down the ramps with walkers and wheelchairs and they've all got tears in their eyes', Bachman says. 'We're big strong guys and we're not supposed to be crying, but we can't help it.'

"The Honor Flight trip was so meaningful, Bachman says, that he couldn't stop talking about it when he came back, he persuaded the Irondequoit Veterans of Foreign Wars post, where he is a member, to contribute \$500 - on two occasions. And he says he told his family that at his age, he wants for nothing, so instead of

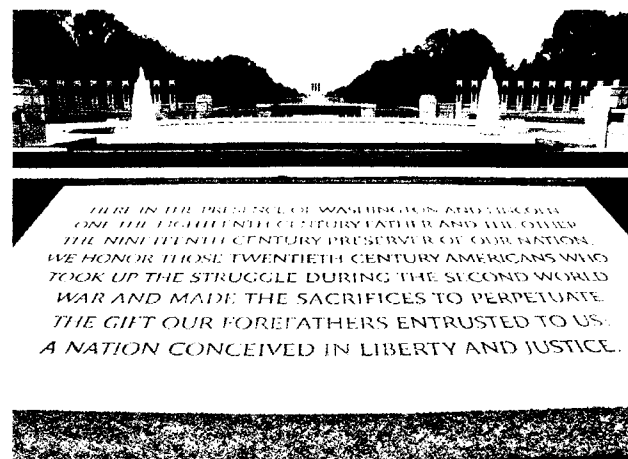
birthday or Christmas presents, write a check to Honor Flight.

"Jean Kelly of Macedon took the flight with her parents, Hank and Mary Masciangelo, last spring and acted as their guardian. 'When they go together with other veterans, it's different from going with family,' she says. 'You can see in their faces that they remember all those they lost. You can see the tears,' she says.

"The Honor Flight trips are very powerful for the vets, but Hope wants to use the experience to deepen appreciation for their contributions among younger generation. Students in the Gates-Chili and Spencerport school districts have become pen pals with veterans. Well before a flight, Hope gives their teachers the names and brief biographies of each veteran. The students Google the veterans' units and track their actions, and then write very personalized letters to their pals. "At 20,000 feet,' Hope says, 'I'll get on the plane microphone and announce 'mail call.' They haven't heard those words in 65 years, and the embodiment of everything they did gets reflected back to them in those letters.'

When they return to Rochester, many vets write back to their new friends. Others go to the classrooms and share their experiences and take questions - helping students see history, as Hope says, 'not as something in a textbook, but as what real people actually do.'

"Making connections is the true goal. After the last Honor Flight of the season returned last Sunday, Hope asked all the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the veterans to come and stand down front. Then he said to the grandfathers, 'these are the generations your sacrifice has enabled.' That's when he had to stop. The emotion was just too powerful."



I would encourage all my shipmates, as well as all those who rode the Boyle and Ordranax, to get in contact with the Honor Flight organization in your area. There are at least 75-80 throughout the country and more are being formed each year. For information on the Honor Flight nearest you just visit www.honorflight.org

Look over the various web sites listed there until you find the Honor Flight organization in your area, then contact them, or have a friend, neighbor, relative contact them on your behalf. You will receive a brief questionnaire to complete and return to the local organization.

Next, one of your local volunteers will contact you by phone, with a few more questions, and then place your name on their waiting list. Priority is given to WW2 veterans because of our age - a higher priority is given to WW2 veterans with health problems - they really want to be certain you get a chance for this trip.

The volunteers I worked with were great, very enthusiastic, efficient without being officious, and most caring. They are dedicated to the saying "thanks for serving"; you will find yourself in the company of vets from the army, marines, coast guard as well as the navy. All of them will have a fascinating story to tell.

While the WW2 Memorial is the objective, like most other events, the trip getting there and back may be the most fulfilling. You will not regret the effort, believe me. If you need any help, just get in contact with me - the entire staff of The Seaweed stands ready to help get you on your way.

Honor Flight Information

The unofficial motto of Honor Flight seems to be a quote from Will Rogers: *"We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by."*

"Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation—and as a culturally diverse, free society. Now, with over one thousand World War II veterans dying each day, our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out."

"Time is of the Essence. Based on recent 2008 statistics, we are losing World War II veterans at the rate

of approximately 1,000 per day. Honor Flight Network will continue do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of our veterans and help our senior heroes travel absolutely free.

Subsequent to the World War II veterans, our efforts will then focus on our Korean War and then Vietnam War veterans, honoring them similarly.

Honor Flight Network gratefully accepts donations from anyone EXCEPT World War II veterans. We feel that World War II veterans have given enough. This is our way of saying "Thank You"!

World War II Veterans Served:

2005	137
2006	891
2007	5,000
2008	11,137
2009	25,000 (goal)

With the continued support of grateful Americans, by the end of the 2009 flying season in November, HFN will have transported more than 42,165 veterans of World War II, Korea and Viet Nam to see the memorials built to honor their suffering and sacrifice to keep this great nation free and a world leader.

For more information about Honor Flights near you, contact: <http://www.honorflight.org/>

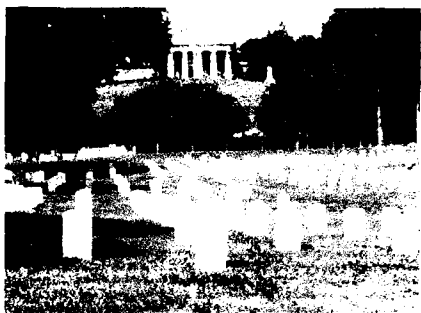
Sounding Taps

USS Champlin

Leroy "Lefty" Staller – 12/19/09

USS Boyle

Frank Bean



"Rest easy, sleep well my brothers. Know the line has held, your job is done. Rest easy, sleep well. Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held. Peace, peace, and farewell..."

Lou Gilbert Remembers:

My name is Louis Gilbert (nee) Goldberg. I joined the Navy on Dec. 2, 1941, at the age of 17. After 3 weeks+, on New Years day 1942, I was ordered aboard the USS Wilkes, DD441, and became a mess cook, while making Wilke's trip to Londonderry with a convoy.

Upon our return, we went from Boston with the USS Truxton and USS Pollux toward Newfoundland and ran aground, all 3 of us.

Watching the Truxton and Pollux break up and start to sink trying to send trolley lines to land without success. Crew members, drowning in frigid oily water, I turned to observe our own danger. The order to prepare to abandon ship was given and we all went to our Mae West life preserver stations. I got the last one. An "old" guy, about 35, was saying, "I have no jacket, I can't swim". I gave him mine, forgetting I didn't swim to well either.

We were then ordered to take everything possible from forward back to the fantail, pump oil aft, 5" shells aft, anything not tied down. All in an effort to raise the bow and come loose from the beach. It didn't work.

All hands were now ordered back to the fantail and to jump up and down. We came loose!

Now, we didn't know if we were going to sink or float. We were flooded all the way back to the forward engine room, but the after fire room and engine room got us back to Boston where we were repaired.

Then we were sent on a shakedown with the cruiser "Augustus", flagship of the Atlantic Fleet.

While just steaming off Casco Bay for the night we were rammed by an English tanker. Back to the yard we went. Maybe I was bad luck.

I was sent to the USS Champlin DD601 in Sept. '42. Wilkes went on to a fine war record. I did OK too. Left the Navy as a 1st Class Watertender on November 8, 1945. The Champ has had reunions for the past 25 years or so. I have only been able to attend one Wilkes reunion.

At 85, I'm still hanging in there

Why Veterans Reunite

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep.

Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed; who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men.

I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades. . . Such good men." *Author unknown*

submitted by Dick Berman, who ". . . took it out of the (May 2008) American Legion magazine while waiting in his doctor's office."

USS Champlin Merchandise

Norm Prewitt has a small quantity of the following USS Champlin items available for sale. He can also arrange for ordering more where needed. To purchase any of the following, or for more information on the items – contact Norm Prewitt by phone at: 816-630-7272

Embroidered Hats - \$10.00 plus shipping
Colors: Navy, Light Blue, White

Polo Shirts - \$25.00 plus Shipping
Colors: Navy, Light Blue, White
Sizes: S-M-L-XL

Sweatshirts: \$20.00 plus shipping (XXL \$25.00)
Colors: Navy, White
Sizes: S-M-L-XL-XXL

Champlin Mini-Reunion

Lou Gilbert asked that we publish the following information for anyone interested in attending the Champlin Mini-Reunion this spring...

The annual Mini-Reunion for 2010 will again be held at the Ocean Holiday Motor Inn, 6501 Ocean Avenue, Wildwood Crest, NJ, 08260, 1-800-321-6232. This year we will start at 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 10, 2010 and will end Friday morning, May 14th. This year's double occupancy is the same as last year: \$245.00 per person.

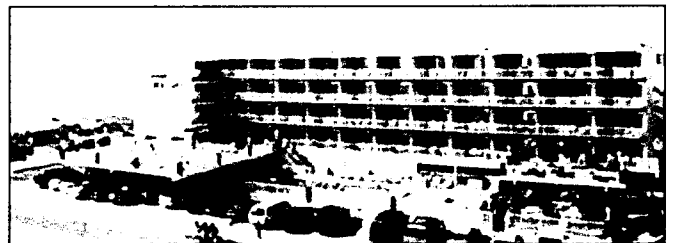
The accommodations include a Hospitality Room, a block of rooms with your choice of beds, TV, refrigerator, etc., as well as four breakfasts, four dinners, which include entertainment at some dinners, plus music for our banquet night.

The cost of the Hospitality Room will be covered by a \$5.00 charge per person to be paid upon arrival.

Daily activities include a trip to Atlantic City (with some comps) followed by a surprise dinner and entertainment. In addition there is general shopping and sightseeing in Cape May.

Please send Lou Gilbert your intent to come as soon as possible as well as your \$100 deposit to be sent directly to the Ocean Holiday Motor Inn. The hotel would like to have the entire per person fee by March 31, 2010.

If you are not planning to attend, or would like additional information, please Give Lou a call at his home, 631-957-1132. Prompt replies and payments will make Lou's task much easier.



Ocean Holiday Motor Inn, Wildwood Crest, NJ

Army – Navy Game 2009



Congratulations to the US Naval Academy on their 17-3 victory over the outmanned and outgunned West Pointers. Navy's victory marks the 8th consecutive Navy victory over Army. Navy has outscored Army 291 – 74 during those 8 years.

In addition to continuing a remarkable run over Army, the Midshipmen's latest victory, secured their 7th consecutive Commander-in-Chief's Trophy.

Makes you want to sing "Anchors Aweigh" – doesn't it?

HELP WANTED

This is your newsletter, and I need your help to make it meaningful to all of you. The best stories (and series of stories) have always been written by the officers and crew aboard ship. So please take a bit of time and write down your memories and stories (you've told them to others – so share them with us), and mail them or email them to me at:

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Email: photos@usschamplin.com

I'm particularly interested in hearing from the USS Boyle and USS Ordranax group!

This Month in Naval History

Jan 1, 1950 - Mary T. Sproul commissioned as first female doctor in Navy

Jan 1, 1962 - Navy SEAL teams established

Jan 3, 1944 - Top Marine ace MAJ Boyington captured after shooting down 28 aircraft

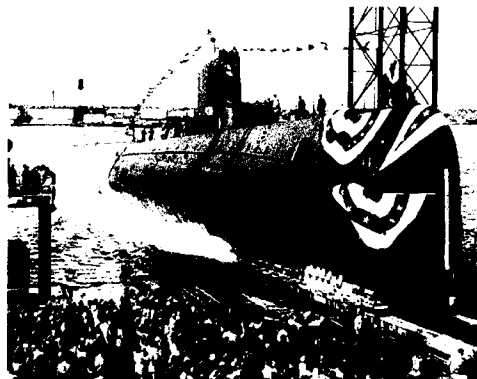
Jan 3, 1945 - Third Fleet carriers begin a 2 day attack against Formosa destroying 100 aircraft with loss of only 22 aircraft.

Jan 5, 1943 - USS Helena (CL-50) fired first proximity fused projectile in combat and shot down Japanese dive-bomber in southwest Pacific.

Jan 7, 1960 - Launch of first fully-guided flight of Polaris missile at Cape Canaveral (flew 900 miles)

Jan 11, 1944 - Aircraft from USS Block Island make first aircraft rocket attack on German submarine

Jan 13, 1865 - In largest amphibious operation of war, Union forces capture Ft. Fisher, Wilmington, NC, by joint amphibious force.



Jan 17, 1955 - USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the first nuclear-powered submarine, casts off lines at 1100 and sends message "underway on nuclear power"

Jan 18, 1911 - First aircraft landing on board a ship, USS Pennsylvania by Eugene Ely

Jan 22, 1944 - Operation Shingle, Allied landing at Anzio, Italy

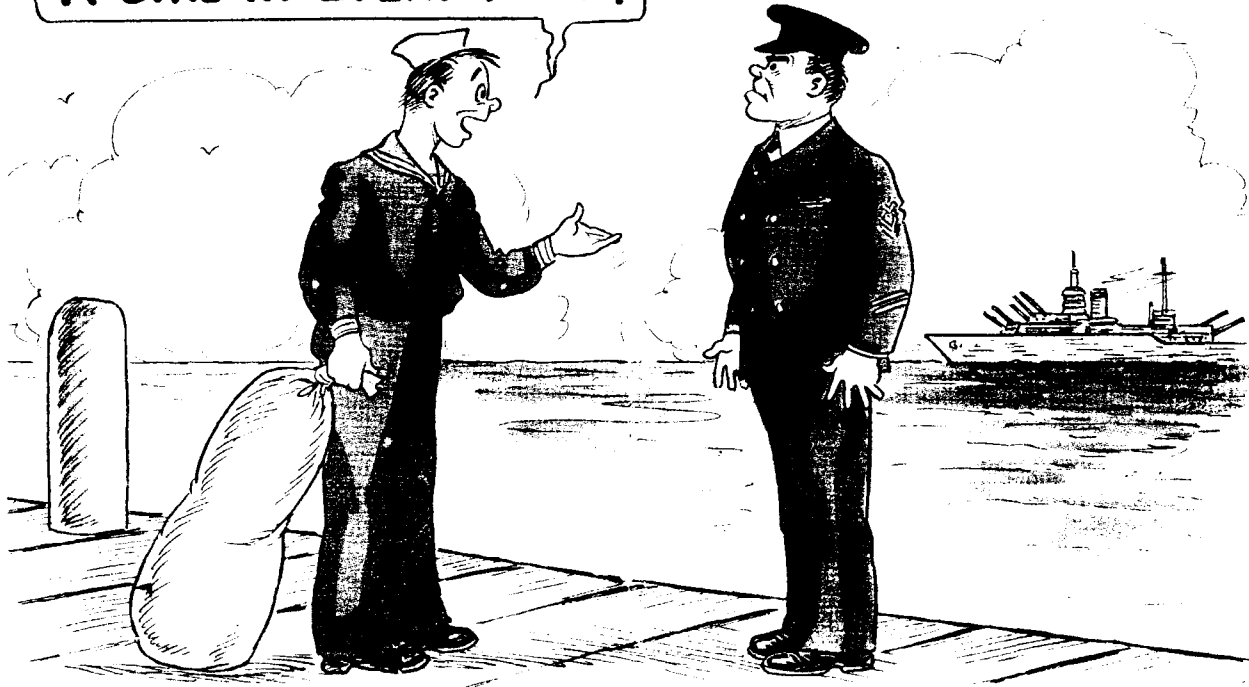
Jan 24, 1942 - Battle of Makassar Strait, destroyer attack on Japanese convoy in first surface action in the Pacific during World War II

Jan 26, 1913 - The body of John Paul Jones is laid in its final resting place in the Chapel of Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD

Jan 30, 1862 - Launching of first turreted warship, USS Monitor

**I JUST JOINED UP, WHO DO I SEE ABOUT
A GIRL IN EVERY PORT?**

NR10



William D Gustin – Editor
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FIRST CLASS MAIL