

Terror (CM-5)

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The Mail --

Its been a while since last we met so let's dig into the old mail bag. Here we have a neat one from Jim Decker. Way back on July 15, 1942 a pair of youngsters, Jim and John Decker, were transferred from *New Mexico*, after serving a four hitch, to *Terror*. The brothers, Jim, SK3 and John, SK1 were the only storekeepers as plank owners.

After *Terror's* return from North Africa, Jim was assigned to *Yorktown* (CV-10) where he served to war's end. In June of '48 he enlisted in the USAF where he retired in 1960. That's about 20 years of military service. Jim suggests that at 86 he may be *Terror's* oldest plank owner. Possibly Jim, just possibly.

Jim doesn't dwell on brother John's career but a blurry snapshot in a newsletter shows a CPO with gold hashmarks all over. That would be brother John.

So now we have heard from yet another plank owner who may indeed be the oldest.

Cook to Cartoonist

A great letter from Paul Sharpe, former Ships Cook on *Terror* who whiled away his idle hours creating cartoons. During 1950 his book of cartoons, *Gripes and Groans*, first saw the light of day. The book, some 99 pages in length, covers his Navy career from boots to wars end. Within its covers one finds what appear to be hundreds of cartoons, jokes, poems and just about anything else that comes to mind.

After the war, Paul had his work accepted by *Esquire* magazine, a popular publication of the day as well as other magazines and newspapers. He was well traveled during his Navy days. Starting in October 1942 he made stops at *Terror*, SCTC,

Terminal Island, *Vigilante* (AM - 324), a pair of stalwarts of the "splinter fleet" and finally *Murphy* (DD-603).

I thought I had a nice picture of Paul for this page but it won't scan. Anyway, no problem. Just picture Paul Whiteman in his prime, wearing a sea bonnet and you have Paul Sharpe.

What do you mean, who's Paul Whiteman ?

More Sick Bay



Here we have Ed Depot. You remember Ed. One of the Sick Bay guys. Unlike the preceding gentlemen, Ed sent pictures - lots of pictures. Now everyone understands that there aren't a whole lot of pictures one can take in Sick Bay; but, for gawd-sakes Ed, this stuff is gruesome. Everyone here is either wielding a knife or going under. At first I thought this was posed but no way - it's real. The Doctor's back is always turned in these photos, so did he ever turn around and say "Ed, what in Hell are you doing " ?

Ed, I really appreciate these pictures. You know how I feel about snapshots of the guys with hula girls hanging all over them. However, in this case, reach in that old wallet, you know, under that old shellback card and the credit cards you didn't destroy, extract that hula girl photo and send it along. I'll really appreciate.

<http://www.ringleib.com/terror>

Menu		
Turkey Mistle Soup	Cranberry Sauce	
Lettuce and Tomato Salad		
Hearts of Celery	Olives	Sweet Mixed Pickles
Roast Young Tur Turkey		
Cranberry Sauce	Sage Dressing	
Baked Spiced Ham		
Candied Sweet Potatoes	Giblet Gravy	
New Green Peas		
Hot Parker House Rolls		
Mince Pie	Ice Cream	
Mixed Nuts	Candy	
Coffee		
Cigars	Cigarettes	

H. S. S. Spofford

Thanksgiving Dinner Menu



COMMANDING OFFICER
Captain R. T. Spofford, U.S.N.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Lt. Commander C. A. Coombs, U.S.N.

SUPPLY OFFICER
Lt.(jg) C. F. Peters, (SC) USNR

COMMISSARY OFFICER
Chief Pay Clerk G. D. Kenney, U.S.N.

CHIEF COMMISSARY STEWARD
W. O. Jones, U.S.N.

28 November, 1946

Thanksgiving 1946

Herschel Thomas forwards a nice Turkey Day menu saved from the 1946 holiday season. True - most of us had left the ship by that time but Herschel stuck around and saved this memento of a memorable meal.

No, it wasn't the quality of the meal that embedded itself in Herschel's memory bank but rather the circumstances surrounding the repast.

It seems our man drew mess cook duty that day and immediately applied himself to the task at hand, namely, extricate the meat from the locker and move it to the next point in the processing chain.

Surveying the great pile of meat, our worker seized the nearest gobbler and immediately noticed a label attached to the bird. The note proclaimed "Packaged in 1943". The import of this may have escaped an NC Division candidate but Herschel, an Engineering type, immediately calculated that this foul had been dead nearly *four* years! A further check revealed all the critters had met their fate at the same time. While Captain

Spofford had never indicated any particular malice toward the crew, it was evident that he was about to feed his brood a great bunch of meat well past the "sell by" date.

Here, it would be nice to report that 'ol Herschel had gone to the OD to lodge a protest on behalf of his shipmates or perhaps started a rumor that the entire crew was about to be poisoned. No, he transferred all the meat as directed and, of course, we all know the cooks simply didn't care what went into a meal.

One imagines that Herschel, on completion of his tasks, repaired to the mess hall and simply perched on a GI can, waiting for the first shipmate to pitch forward, face first, into the mashed potatoes. When the menu was presented to him, it received a quick perusal and "No thanks, I'll skip the heavy stuff. Back home if it ain't got hooves and horns we don't eat it. I'll just grab a cuppa joe and a fistful of those fancy cigars on the menu. You fellas go ahead and eat my share."

So what happened? I don't know. Like I said - - I wasn't there.

David Mincey & Allie Ryan

About Books and -----

Over the years I have acquired copies of all the Deck Logs, Report of Changes Logs, Muster Rolls, War Diaries and everything else that has been archived at the National Archives in Maryland and Boston, from *Terror's* records.

Over time, by word of mouth and more importantly the internet, more and more requests for information on the ship, shipmates and events during 1942 and 1947 the active life of *Terror* have been received. Accordingly, I have for some time wanted to make this information more widely known to the *Terror* family..

I was reluctant to charge anything for this information and a mass printing and distribution of some of this material was beyond my meager means and there the matter rested. Nothing was done.

During the acquisition of material and information a lively correspondence developed with David Mincey. It seems that Mincey, those many years ago, had recorded everything he witnessed from Casablanca to Okinawa, throughout *Terror's* wartime cruise. As is my habit I save all *Terror* correspondence and Mincey's was no exception. When my copies of Mincey's letters and notes started to fill notebooks, I suggested that he consider writing a book. Again the matter lay dormant for a time. Finally, we agreed that we should present some of his writings through the war years and some of my stuff on the end for former crewmen and their survivors.

Mincey's material covers some of his observations 1942 through mid August 1945. My contribution covers notes mid August 1945 to November 1947. Additionally, I have transcribed the Muster Rolls and Deck Logs, as they relate to personnel, to a data base. The net result permits every officer or man who served on *Terror* to find his name, rate and date on board in these pages. I have also included War Diaries, Action Reports and Damage Reports for Iwo Jima and Okinawa. An effort to include everything would result in thousands of pages and be impossible to handle.



I might add that Mincey and I have agreed that neither one of us will make a dime on this project, rather, we will be lucky to break even.

As for the book itself, it is virtually complete awaiting cover, printing and binding. It will be 150 pages, soft cover, and 8 x 11. Two reasons here, easier reading and uh, cheaper to produce. *Perfect* binding - your local 'phone book has this binding. My estimate on price? I figure 13 bucks will cover all, including mailing.

The table of contents will look something like this:

War Cruise 1942 -1945 - David Mincey
August 1945 - November 1947 - Allie Ryan
Rosters and Reports
Iwo Jima Action Report
War Diaries January 1945 to June 1945
Officers & Men Killed in Action Okinawa 5/1/45
Officers & Men Wounded " Okinawa 5/1/45
Officers & Men Wounded - Remained on Board
Commissioned Officers 7/15/42 - 12/31/46
Ship's Company 7/15/42 - 6/30/46
Crewmen Reporting 7/1/46 - 12/31/46
Enlisted Personnel - Decommissioning Crew

This is not a history of the ship nor will you find the exploits of any individual. Officers and men with Flag Allowance are not included.

Enclosed you will find a request for you to return. Send no money but rather indicate your interest. You are under no obligation. This simply gives a handle on printing and binding costs. Secondly if you have no interest in the newsletter and do nothing, it will not be mailed to you, but you will remain on the roster and future reunion hosts will keep you informed as to reunion information.

Visit

Terror on the web

<http://www.ringleib.com/terror>

Shipmates, First Mates and Guests,

A quick note received from the other side of the country. Austin Hall, host in charge of this years reunion, takes pen in hand as follows:

" It looks like we have everything pretty well locked up. Carroll and I made a trip to Milpitas weekend before last and worked out the menu for the banquet. I will be sending you the menu for your selection later on .

On the arrival date of Sept. 5. 03, we will have trays of food plus coffee, tea, soft drinks and a keg of beer for your consumption. The other two nights beverages and light snacks served by the hotel from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

Now all we need is for you to make your hotel reservation (800-886-8747) and send your deposit of \$200 each to me.

Hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to your trip to California."

Austin Ross

11 W. 9th St. #189

Clovis, CA 93612 ph (559) 297-5008

Terror Annual Reunion September 5 - 9, 2003 Milpitas, CA

O.K. Austin, I think I've got it now. Let's see:

Sept. 5

Check in

Sept. 6

Tour #1

Leave 9AM return 5PM

Two hour tour San Francisco Bay

Lunch at Fisherman's Wharf

Sept.7

Tour #2

Leave 8:30AM return 5PM

Aquarium and Cannery Row

Lunch on your own and Carmel

Banquet Monday September 8

Now we have noted that Austin sends along a plea for deposit money and reservations. We all understand that he must make at least tentative plans for attendance, waits by the mail box each day and -- there's nothing there. Kind of a lonely, helpless, feeling, I suppose.

On the other hand , Austin, I don't have a clue as to where I'll be next September. For all I know, I could be --- you know. So I hate to even think about September, to say nothing of laying out the bucks right now. So, as a compromise, how about everyone sending a note saying " if I'm still vertical I plan to get together with you in September. I will make my reservation and send along my check on, say, July 15. O.K.?

apr

P.S. I hope that Bay Cruise has a one hour layover in Sausalito. Man. that's one weird place.