

USS *Terror* (CM-5)

The early 1920's found the Navy renaming and renumbering minelayers. They became *Baltimore* (CM-1), *San Francisco* (CM-2), *Aroostook* (CM-3) and *Oglala* (CM-4). The only cruiser minelayer to survive until 12/7/41 was *Oglala* (CM-4) then flagship of the Pacific Mine Force. She was sunk minutes after the start of the attack..

Of all the minelayers serving during the war DM's, CM's, and CMc', each and every one, except *Terror*, were converted from another type of naval ship or merchantman. *Terror* was intended to be the lead ship of a new modern *Terror* class minelayer but she alone was commissioned a minelayer. The class never happened.

So what about the cruiser business? Your guess is as good as mine.

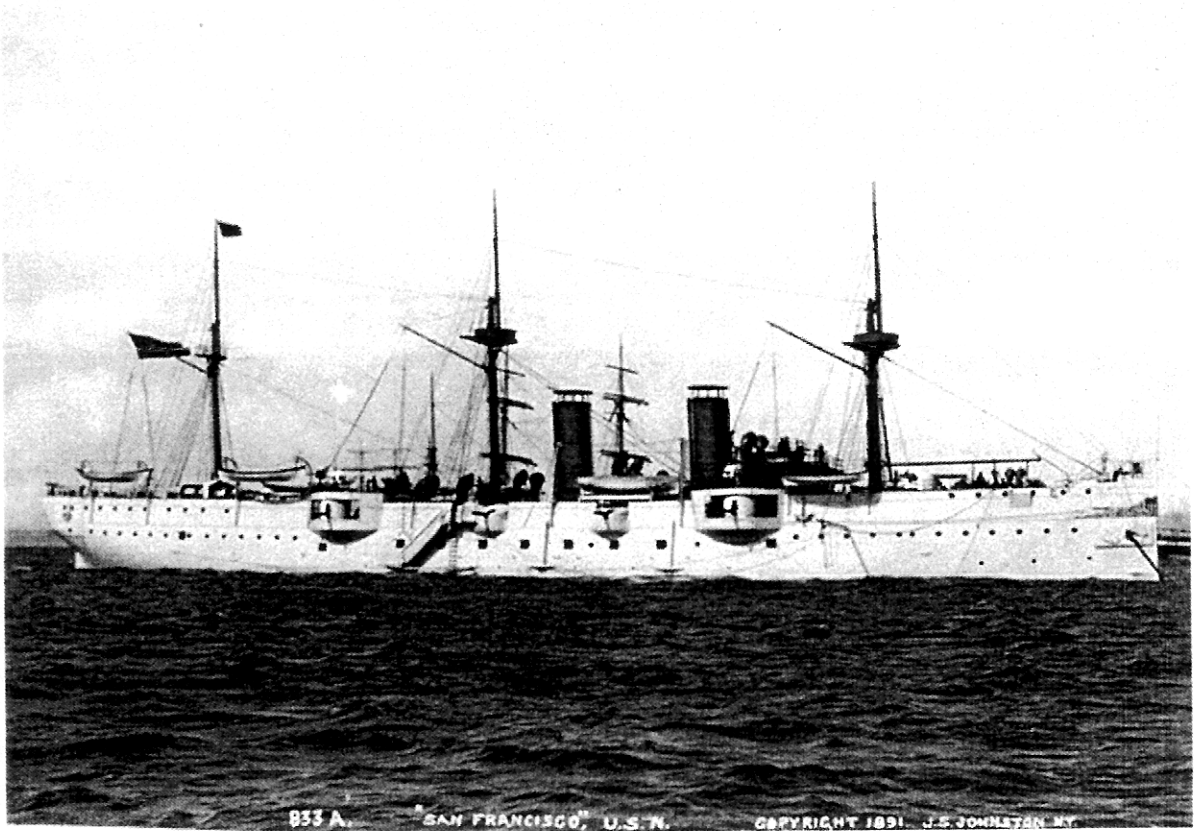


There were eighty people in attendance (former crewmen, wives and guests), at the 23rd Annual Ship's Reunion held in Milpitas, Ca. This was hosted by Austin Ross and his wife, Carroll. Our accommodations bordered on "luxurious" and our tours of San Francisco Bay and Monterey were enjoyed by all. The affair was an outstanding success and full credit must go to the hard working hosts. Well Done !!

By paying careful attention we found out some details of the 2004 reunion. We cannot however reveal the location as this information must come from the hosts Fred and Sue Bartlett in Tulsa, Oklahoma. You will be given the location at a later date.

Visit *Terror* on the Web at <http://www.ringleib.com/terror>

USS *Terror* (CM-5)



USS *San Francisco* (CM-2) ex (C-5)

Those newly arrived on *Terror* had much to absorb. Probably one of the first questions was simply - what kind of ship is this ? An inquiry as to the origin of the ship usually brought the response (a) *Terror* was converted from a light cruiser hull or (b) the keel was laid as a light cruiser, modified and commissioned as a minelayer. I first heard this well over 50 years ago and as recently as a month ago. So, with the handsome photo of *San Francisco* in mind, let us explore *Terror's* relationship (if any) with light cruisers.

The light cruiser of the day (1940) bore little resemblance to *Terror*. Let us consider *Cleveland*, 531' OAL, keel laid 1940, commissioned 8/15/42, one month after *Terror*. The 453' length of *Terror* would fit quite nicely inside our light cruiser.

Where, then, did the cruiser connection originate? Perhaps it had its birth with *Baltimore* (C-3) commissioned in 1880 and *San Francisco* (C-5) commissioned 1890. These two light cruisers were, prior to World War 1, converted to minelayers. During the war they laid mine fields in the North Sea. During the same time frame, the wood hulled *Aroostook* and *Oglala* were also converted to minelayers and participated in the post war North Sea sweeping clean up. Both steel hull cruisers were considerably smaller than WW11 *Terror*.