

Terror (CM-5)

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Mid - Winter Notes --

Just had to kick off this scribbling with this photo. The magazine that has their attention is the latest issue of the Navy's *All Hands*. Just a casual glance tells you that this is a squared away bunch.



True, most of the crew passed around dog eared copies of the old *Esquire* mag with all the photos of Betty Grable and Rita Hayworth missing, but these chaps were into *All Hands* and the *BJM*. Couldn't wait for the next issue.

Now a cynic might suggest that this photo is just a pose, intended for the hometown Dover, New Hampshire paper and lacks only a glowing caption from the pen of Dick Newcomb. All to demonstrate that their boys were well fed and happy.

You and I know the truth. This is really a handsome, All American group of young men and between church services they did read *All Hands* and refused to even look at Rita Hayworth. Just to prove it, they are Left to Right:

Raymond Daigle, Pericles (Pat) Stefanopoulos, George Sherwood and Edward Coleman. Dover

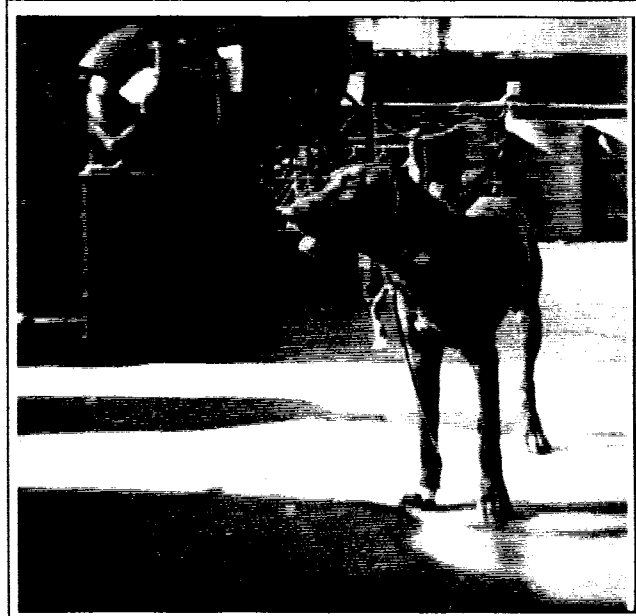
New Hampshire's contribution to *Terror*

REUNION 1999

The Cincinnati affair exceeded all expectations. Attendance nudged 100 and all seemed well pleased with the effort. The genial Hostess, Jeanette Hancock was anywhere and everywhere leaving no desire unattended. Entertainment abounded with not one but two strolling minstrels, an all girl vocal group and libations aplenty. A great time was had by all. I did come away with two resolutions -- never again will I try to harmonize with an all girl vocal group nor will I ever again lay flat on my back to watch a movie. That's a promise.

ERROR

This stunning photo was sent along by George Sherwood and just has to be the best I have ever seen of that noble subject. True, the jaded amongst us might suggest he looks like he could use a good meal and he is possibly less than AKC standard but this superior canine specimen was capable of

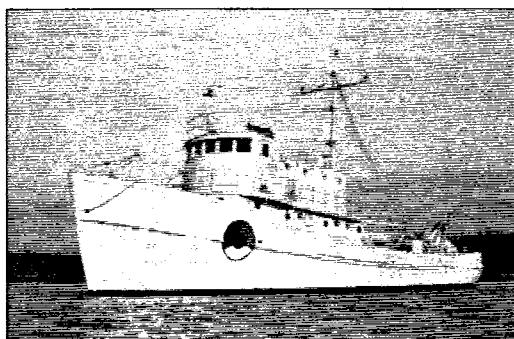


remaining aloof and ignored any and all negative comments. This snapshot inspired a search in the Most Requested Photo Dept. The result, while not a complete surprise, revealed some interesting results, Photo requests -- Error (27) , The ship (8), the XO (2) and the Chief Master - at -Arms (0). Although he may have been cast in a different mold than the rest of the crew, it is easy to see just who was top dog.

REUNION 2000

A change of format here. Ed Wolfe is the designated Skipper of a Caribbean cruise. Word filters down that some 94 souls have secured a berth. Should be a memorable affair.

It may be too late to book passage but if you didn't and want to, give Ed a call or write him a note. Just in case you don't have a roster, he hangs his hat at, 276 1st Ave, New York, NY Phone 212-673-3198. If you don't have these addresses and 'phone numbers at your fingertips, it's your fault, not mine.



MINESWEEPERS

The photo here shows *Combat* (AMc-69). At a neat and trim 97' and boasting a 400 hp diesel; these little sweepers were perfect for their appointed tasks. Seventy of these coastal minesweepers were built to augment the 35 fishing trawlers that had been converted, early on, to minesweepers. Fully equipped with "O" gear and generator for magnetic and noise maker for acoustic sweeping, they busied themselves sweeping harbors and coastal waters throughout the war.

Unlike their larger wood hull counterparts that were so numerous they were identified with numbers only, these were christened with names. Oh yes, names that would do justice to Lord Nelson himself. The Ensign in Charge of Names had never seen a minesweeper but undaunted, he produced such gallant entries as : *Aggressor, Bold, Avenge* and even *Rocket* (flank speed 14k), and one can't ignore *Heroic*.

The launch day photo here shows *Combat* not quite ready for the pick-up crew. A 50 cal. machine gun was mounted forward. Lest you think that was all, each officer was bolstered by a .45 sidearm. Also aboard was a Springfield rifle and--- a shotgun. Bring on your U-boat with it's deck gun. *Combat* was ready . Aside from sweeping and endless hours of patrol, many a liberty party hitched a ride to the big city on these and that alone made their existence worthwhile.

In a serious vein, these were great little ships doing a dull and dirty job that no one else wanted and they did it well.

MISS THE GOOD OLD DAYS ?

Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Six hours after you go to sleep, have your wife whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your

eyes and mumble "Sorry, wrong rack".

Paint the walls inside your house pea, the ceilings dirty white and the staircases gray. Number all the doors and windows and mark them "X", "Y" and "Z".

Renovate the bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of your bathtub and move the shower head down to chest level. When you shower, make sure you shut the water off while soaping.

Repeat back everything anyone says to you. Set your alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. When it goes off, jump out of bed and get dressed as fast as you can, then run out in your yard and break out the garden house.

This item was cribbed from Frank Anderson. He got it from "The Messenger" a newsletter of the Marias, Arcadia, Cadmus and Nantahala Association. They stole it from ----

Anyway, I liked it and thinking you may not have encountered it, I threw it in here.

ADDRESS

Does this letter have your correct address ?
If not, let me know. New zip code, maybe ?

MINE PLANTERS

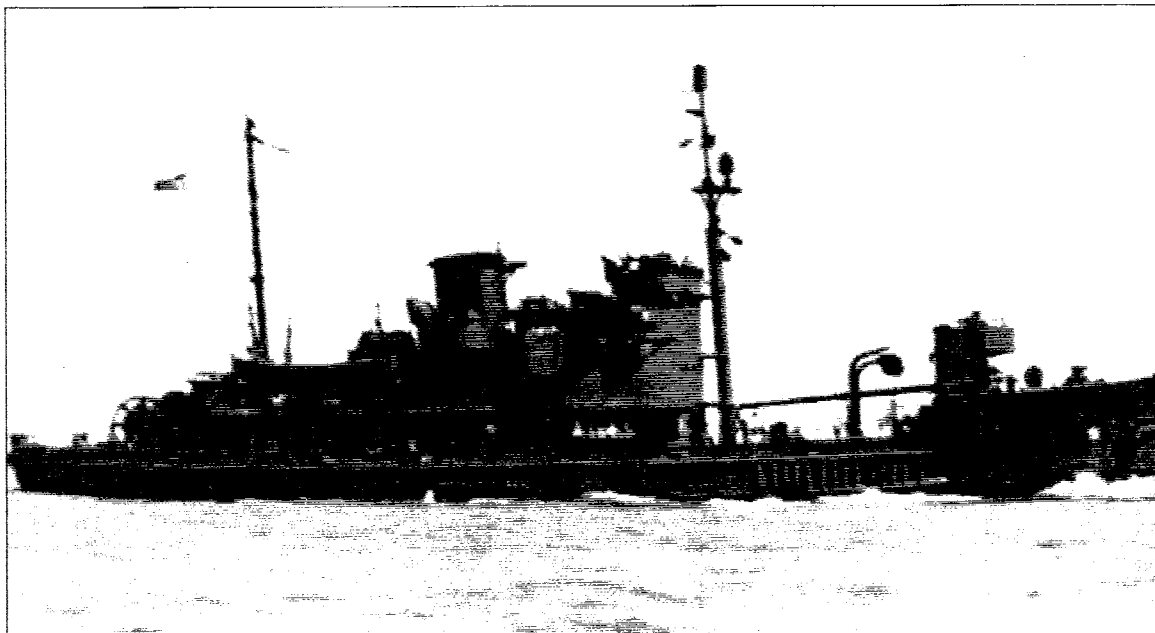
The photo here is not a good one but even if it were good, the profile presented is one only an Army man could love.

The U.S. Army was responsible for Coastal Defense and that included scattering controlled mines about vital harbors. That effort necessitated creating a small navy to plant and service these mines. The U.S. Navy, in its desire to have some of everything that

YOUR ROSTER

Approximately 45 former crewmen have committed to attend the year 2000 reunion. That tells us that 180 on the roster will not attend, for one reason or another. Those attending the reunion do so year after year while those absent almost never attend, no matter the location.

It is unreasonable to expect the host(s) of the reunion to accurately maintain a mailing



floated, acquired nine of these and classified eight of them as Auxiliary Minelayers.

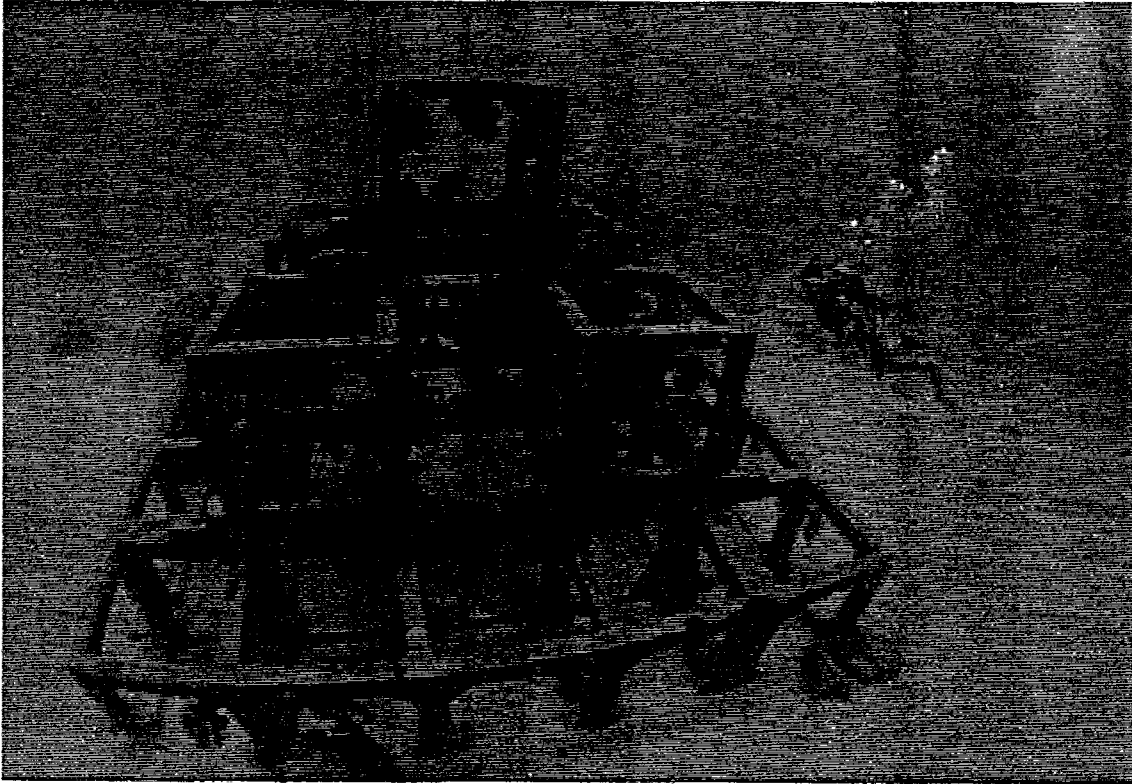
Pictured here is *Trapper* (ACM-9) better known to her old Army friends as *Murray*. A 1200 hp Diesel sped her along at a brisk 12k. *Trapper* may have been a fine minelayer but a close look leads me to believe she is rigged as a -- *minesweeper*.

Buttress, number 4 in the group declined the minelaying business and became (PCE-878).

list and subject the reunion attendees to mailing expense to those folks they know will not attend any reunion or indeed even respond. So why bother? It's expensive, it's work and it's a nuisance. So this is where your roster comes into the picture.

I get mail ! Some e-mail and some phone calls are scattered about. Some letters simply thank me for the note but most want information. The mail is divided with about 1/4 from former crewmen and 3/4 from survivors.

The old-timers usually usually seek



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information on shipmates, while survivors are looking for any information on dad, brother or uncle. I answer all, find information where I can and scan photos and material to send along to the person making the inquiry.

Your roster is as current as I can make. It includes address, 'phone number and now e-mail address. A version listing only name and phone numbers is also available. If you want one, simply drop me a note. There is never a charge for anything. I only ask that you look over the roster and call an old buddy. You may catch him on the patio sharing a Martini with his 19 year old girl friend or perhaps battling back from a tough medical problem. Either way, he'll appreciate the call or letter and you'll feel better too.

PHOTOS

If you have snapshots that have names and Division identification and are willing to share, send them along. I'll copy and return the original to you. When I get an inquiry from a fellow that was in that Division I'll scan and pass them down the line.

LOST & FOUND

Great Year ! Batted .998. Only one escaped the net and he was a late entry. So give me a hand. Here he is; Mavon (Jack) Schachtel SK3c came aboard 7/31/46. Now why would Mavon go around calling himself "Jack" ? Anyway, hailed from New York ? That's all we know -- now.