

USS HADDO (SSN 604)



Volume 1, Issue 9

November 1993

Editor's Note:

November sure got here fast - it's already time for another Haddo Newsletter. A very large number of new names came in following the last edition- many for the commissioning crew - tanks to **Thomas O. Warner, Sr.** As always, if you have names/or addresses of crewmembers still not listed, please take a moment and send them on to:

Mike Gann
1468 Via Del Mar Rd.
Schenectady, NY 12309
Tel. (518) 377-2560

Each mailing results in a number of returned letters of the "Addressee Unknown" variety. Now that we've found you, we don't want to lose you! So, if your address changes, please send a note with your new address.

News from the Crew...

The 8th Edition produced a considerable volume of communications, partly due to the inclusion of a questionnaire about the desire for a crew reunion. We'll get to that later on. The Newsletter Office (a.k.a. Mike's mailbox and phone) heard from the following:

Shortly after the last edition was mailed, **Dave Waddell** sent a box of Haddo memorabilia, including photos, decals and other "treasures from the deep." We'll keep it on ice for display at the reunion which we'll eventually have.

On May 15, a letter came from **Hubert Hopkins**, former LT/LCDR and Engineering Officer on Haddo. Hube provided his address and one for **Will Jordan**, another former Haddo officer. Hube is now CAPT and program manager for the AN/BSY-2 Seawolf Combat System. Will is about to relieve as CO of USS Baton Rouge (SSN-703)

On June 27, a letter was received from **Willie Galvin**, who found out about the Newsletter from **Guy Mendenhall**. Willie is a former ETCS(SS) and Chief of the Boat, serving on Haddo 1971 - 1973. Sends his regards to all and appreciation for the Newsletter.

June 30 brought a returned questionnaire from **Ron Eaton**. Ron notes that he and **Len Weins** work for NRC as project managers; he at Pilgrim, Len at Oconee. Asks if Gann and Taft still keep track of their bass catches like we did in Pascagoula. (Actually, Taft and I got together back in '90 for the first time since Pascagoula - 16 years. We spent a day fishing a lake here in New York that I know, and "documented" 61 bass caught and released.)

June 30 also brought a card from **Henry Legros**, not the Richard Legros on our address list. Henry says he was in the submarine service from 1953 to 1944 aboard USS Tang and USS Greenfish. Henry did not serve aboard Haddo, so something's amiss here?!

A letter and enclosure from **Dave Hottenstein** was received on July 5, He and Tom Warner, Sr. had tried to start up a list of former Haddo crew members themselves, apparently unaware of the ongoing Newsletter effort. Dave's enclosure was a list of 22 new names and addresses, and 27 new names without addresses.

The phone rang on July 6 and **Ed Max**, former MM/ELT, 1964 - 1968 was on the other end. He called to support the Newsletter the idea of a reunion.

The phone rang again on July 6, this time with **Tom Warner, Sr.** calling. Tom was a member of the Commissioning Crew, and promised to send a list of names and addresses for crewmembers of that era. (Same was received in a letter from Tom on July 16, listing over 100 Commissioning Crew and other crew members from Haddo's early years. All have been merged into the master address list. Thanks, Tom!)

On July 8, another call came in, this time from **Andrew Massimino**, former XO, 1968-1970. Very interested in the prospects of a reunion; enjoys the Newsletter.

On July 11, two questionnaires were received in the mail from **Jack Bentley** and **Ed Max**.

July 21 brought a note and questionnaire from **Bill Candy**. Bill wants his address corrected - it's Georgia, not Virginia. Bill would like to hear from **Phil Rhaina**. (You're in luck, Bill - we found him. Check the address list.)

In August, two more questionnaires came in from **Dick Hillman** and **Don Koeppen**.

On September 21, a questionnaire arrived from **Nicki** (Phil's wife) **Rhaina**. She provided an address for **Frank Prochazka**. Nicki says she runs a cruise-only travel business and would be glad to book us all on a Haddo ports-of-call reunion cruise." (Now there's food for thought! I wonder how many ports Haddo visited in her career?)

Reunion Reaction...

Last edition I took up considerable space discussing this subject, which I believed to be of interest to many of you. We included a short questionnaire to gather your opinions and ideas. I now believe that I may have misread the level of interest, probably because of my own enthusiasm for the idea. While we sent out 108 newsletters, with about 10-12 returned by the Post Office, I only received 8 questionnaires back. I think this level of response speaks louder than the words of encouragement received. Of the responses that I did receive, the following results are reported:

1. Would you attend a reunion in 1994?
 Yes (3) Probably (4) It depends (1)
2. How often should reunions be held?
 Every year or every other year (2) Every 3-5 years (6)
3. If you would attend, where?
 Anywhere in the US (4) Only in my part of the country (3)
4. How long should a reunion last?
 A whole weekend (8) - unanimous
5. What time of year is best?
 Aug/Sep (5) Spring or Fall (2) Anytime (1)
6. Ideas, suggestions, questions?
 Cruise reunion suggested for consideration. (1)
 Thanks for newsletter, your efforts, etc. (3)
 I'll help organize when/if reunion comes to Charleston, SC. (1)
 Questionnaire should have included dates attached to Haddo. (1)

While these individual responses are encouraging, the numbers don't make for a viable reunion in 1994. Too much advance planning needed - too few people interested - and not enough time. Rather than kill the idea altogether, which would disappoint more than a few of you, let's continue the dialog through the newsletter and give ourselves more time.

I'll try to continue gauging the level of interest over the next year, and maybe revive the idea for a date later in the '90s.

Credits, Thanks and Miscellaneous...

Although I promised another stirring account of Haddo (SS-255)'s 9th war patrol in the Pacific this edition, I took up too much space with other news to include it. Next edition, for sure.

Envelopes and postage paid for in part by donations from Hubert Hopkins and Mike Gann. Typing and address list maintenance by Bill Cook. Rigging for silent running 'til April/May 1994. Best wishes for safe and happy holidays.

Mike

Mike Gann
 Author/Editor