

# LST 534 Newsletter

April, May, June 2010

Volume 12 Issue 2

## World War II Remembrances Emerge

### **Australian World War II Shipwreck filmed**

Shipwreck hunters have captured the first underwater footage of an Australian World War II hospital ship that sank in 1943 and left 268 people dead.

A search team led by U.S. shipwreck hunter David Mearns sent a submarine robot more than 6,500 feet (2,000 meters) below the surface to snap the images of the Centaur. The footage showed the ship's bright red cross and a corroded number 47, its identification number.

The Centaur sank off the Queensland state coast. Just 64 of the 332 people on board survived.

Australia said the ship sank after being torpedoed by the Japanese, but Japan says the circumstances surrounding the sinking are unclear.

Mearns found sonar footage of the Centaur on Dec. 20, 2009 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of the southern tip of Moreton Island at a depth of 6,755 feet (2,059 meters).

Mearns and his crew sent the submarine robot into the depths to take a second round of pictures, which included an image of the ship's bell and an escape hatch that one survivor climbed through just before the Centaur sank. Mearns said the Centaur was relatively intact. "We found the bell with the name on it. You can't get any better than that," Mearns said.

Queensland Acting Premier Paul Lucas called on Japan to apologize for the sinking.

"Whilst the Japanese have certainly apologized for their actions during the Second World War, it would be appropriate for those involved to express an apology," Lucas said. "In this barbaric act, people lost their lives. Sailors, soldiers, nurses, doctors, orderlies. It was totally senseless and an wanton act."

John Argent said his father Jack, who was a paramedic on the Centaur and survived the attack, rarely spoke about the tragedy.

He said his father told him the ship sank in three minutes

because the torpedo directly hit the "fuel bunker". "I know that he went to his grave 26 years ago with no closure on it at all," Mr. Argent said.

It will be marked as a military gravesite and protected by an exclusion zone.

"Many nurses, on hearing this news, will take a minute to reflect on this tragedy and the important role many thousands of their colleagues have played during wartime."

Often, nurses, doctors, and paramedics don't get the credit they deserve for their service to the military. Let's take a minute and give thanks to the healthcare professionals of World War II, and all wars and those serving during peacetime.

**Thank you!**



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## WWII-era Ship To Become Sunken Reef Off Key West

A ship last used by the U.S. Air Force to track missiles and spacecraft will soon become the world's second largest intentionally sunk artificial reef.

Crews plan to sink the decommissioned Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg about seven miles off Key West. Officials hope it will attract fish and divers and relieve recreational pressure on nearby natural reefs.

Explosives will be detonated to flood the 17,000 ton, 523 foot long ship that was first built as a cargo ship in World War II. It's expected to settle on the sandy bottom in 140 feet of clear water.

Officials in the Florida Keys expect it to generate up to \$8 million in tourism related revenue, mostly from dives and related businesses.

## Clues Emerging About Crashed WW II Plane in Oregon

Officials investigating the wreckage of a World War II era diver bomber found in the Oregon woods say at least three U. S. Navy planes of that type went down in that area from 1945 to 1948.

Tillamook County Sheriff Todd Anderson said investigators still don't know the origin of

the wrecked Helldiver found near the now defunct Naval Air Station Tillamook.

However, Anderson said investigators have learned at least three planes of that type went down during the final years the air station was still in operation.

He said two went down in 1945 and another in 1948.

Anderson said investigators have been getting help from people who worked at Tillamook at the time.

*Articles by the Associated Press*

### The Need for Blood

- ◆ Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- ◆ More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- ◆ One out of every 10 people admitted in a hospital needs blood.
- ◆ A total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- ◆ The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints.
- ◆ The blood type most often requested by hospitals is Type O.
- ◆ The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs.
- ◆ Sickle cell disease affects more than 80,000 in the United States, 98% of

whom are African-American. Sickle cell patients can require frequent blood transfusions throughout their lives.

- ◆ More than 1 million new people are diagnosed with cancer each year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.
- ◆ A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

### Facts About The Blood Supply

- ◆ The number of blood donations in the U.S. in a year: 16 million.
- ◆ The number of blood donors in the U.S. in a year: 9 million.
- ◆ The number of patients who receive blood in the U.S. in a year: 5 million.
- ◆ Share of the U.S. population eligible to give blood: Less than 38%.
- ◆ Blood cannot be manufactured—it can only come from generous donors.
- ◆ Type O-negative blood (red cells) can be transfused to patients of all blood types. It is always in great demand and often in short supply.
- ◆ Type AB-positive plasma can be transfused to patients of all other types. AB plasma is also usually in short supply.

*(Red Cross Information)*

# LST534 Newsletter

## In Memoriam

Salvatore V. Logano died on November 6, 2009, after a long and violent battle with cancer. His wife Louise reported that he was surrounded by his family. She said he always supported the LST 534 and looked forward to the newsletters. May Sal rest in peace.

Blossom Lego, beloved wife of Coxswain Earl Lego, passed away December, 2009. Earl passed away in 1999. I always wanted to meet Earl and Blossom. Earl was a Coxswain just like my Dad. Now Blossom and Earl are reunited in Heaven. May they both rest in peace.

## HOLIDAYS

### **April:**

- 1 April Fools Day
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter
- 11 Holocaust Remembrance
- 22 Earth Day



### **May :**

- 1 May Day
- 9 Mother's Day
- 15 Armed Forces Day
- 31 Memorial Day



### **June:**

- 14 Flag Day
- 20 Father's Day
- 21 Summer Begins



## BIRTHDAYS:

### April 1

Andy Cumella  
11 Freeport Court  
Toms River, NJ 08757

### April 14

Alex Fielder  
5950 Ambassador Drive  
Fairfield, OH 45014

### May 17

Jim Miller  
1452 Ellsworth Road, #221  
Mesa, AZ 85208

### May 17

Duncan Robey  
8301 Tieton Drive, #87  
Yakima, WA 98908

## Fascinating Facts You Never Learned in School

In 1953 a fledging company called Rocket Chemical Company and its staff of three set out to create a line of rust prevention solvents and degreasers for use in the aerospace industry, in a small lab in San Diego.

It took them 40 attempts to get the water displacing formula worked out. But they must have been really good because the original secret formula for WD-40—which stands for Water Displacement perfected on the 40th try—is still in use today.

Convair, an aerospace contractor, first used WD-40 to protect the outer skin of the Atlas Missile from rust and corrosion. The product actually worked so well that several employees snuck some WD-40 cans out of the plant to use at home.

In 1958 the product appeared on store shelves in San Diego for home use.

In 1961 the first truckload order for WD-40 was filled when employees came in on a Saturday to produce additional concentrate to meet the disaster needs of the victims of Hurricane Carla along the U.S. Gulf Coast. WD-40 was used to recondition flood and rain damaged vehicles and equipment.

In 1969 Rocket Chemical Company renamed the company after its only product: WD-40 Company, Inc.

### **Over the Years...**

The most interesting piece of WD-40's history is the uses for the product, now numbering in the thousands. Over the years, thousands of WD-40 users have written testimonial letters to the company sharing their often unique, if sometimes just plain weird uses for the product.

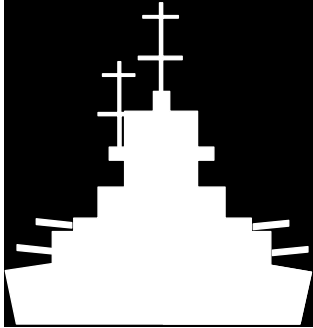
The uses include everything from silencing squeaky hinges and removing road tar from automobiles to protecting tools from rust and removing adhesive labels. But they get a lot crazier than that. Some of the more interesting stories include the bus driver in Asia who used WD-40 to remove a python snake, which had coiled itself around the undercarriage of his bus, or when police officers used WD-40 to remove a naked burglar trapped in an air conditioning vent.

*Think those are crazy? Check out the Official List of 2000+ Uses and more Myths, Legends & Fun Facts on the website [www.wd40.com](http://www.wd40.com).*

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250 West 49th Street  
Suite 401  
New York, New York 10019

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## LST534 Newsletter

# Just for Fun

**Just for Fun is a column meaning just that—FUN!**

What do men and sperm have in common?  
They both have a one-in-a-million chance of becoming a human being.

How many men does it take to open a beer?  
None, it should be opened by the time she brings it.

Why are husbands like lawn mowers? They're hard to get started, emit foul odors, and don't work half the time.

*Jokes by Roger Lee, AVMG*

### Nautical Terms:

In memory of James Richard Drew who contributed to this column until his passing.

Capsize—To turn over.

Lazarette—A storage space in the stern area

### **Editor and Comments:**

**Linda Alvers**  
250 W. 49th Street, Suite 401  
New York, NY 10019  
1.800.237.1224