

LST 534 Newsletter

July, August, September 2012

Volume 15 , Issue 3

PLEASANT THOUGHTS OF SHIPMATES

Pleasant Thoughts of Shipmates by Willie Gunn

Willie Gunn, Y2C, compiled a list of nautical terms for me in honor of James Richard (Dick) Drew in 2001. At the end of the list, he recounted a story about Mr. Drew and my Dad, Henry Norman Alvers, Coxswain.

Here is that story. And thanks Willie for helping me to understand more about my Dad's days in the Navy aboard LST 534.

If you remember a day in the life of being on LST 534, send it in and I will publish it.

Per Willie's own words:

Linda,
This list is not complete; it would be difficult to say any list is all inclusive. I thought of Dick frequently as I compiled this, and I thought of Henry too, when I thought of expressions he would use in his rate. I know that he would never have used some of the slightly vulgar ones, for he was not prone to use curse (cuss) words – ever!

I may have mentioned to you previously that I recall the day when the Exec (Mr. Wright) sent me over to the USS Pennsylvania (a battle ship) to borrow some Navy forms we had exhausted. Henry was the cox'un. He was always neat, even in his dungarees, and I wore mine on that trip. The sailors on the battle wagon were dressed in white undress uniforms and looked sharp, but Henry stayed in the LCVP while I boarded to talk with their yeoman.

I was not allowed to leave the stern because I was out of uniform. They did send the forms down to me. The crew of the BB was enjoying ice cream that day, but they did not offer me or Henry a cup of ice cream, which we surely wanted. It is strange, Linda, that when I eat ice cream to this day, I think of Henry and that trip.

I vividly recall how Henry could wheel that LCVP around so fast, so skillfully and how he could make it slide sideways when we came around to tie up to the battlewagon. He did it

especially fast that day, I am sure, to impress those sailors on the stern. They probably envied us for our apparent freedom to roam around in a "VP" in the bay.

The very next day, a Jap plane came over the 534 and dropped a torpedo which stuck the Pennsylvania in the stern, killing 18 men. One of our "VP"s went over to the ship the next day to look at the damage.

The stern was so low that we could have stepped from our boat onto the deck of the Pennsylvania. I was amazed that it was so low in the water. Dick was in the boat when we went back to rubberneck the damage. Henry drove that time too. On the second trip, I was taking a typewriter to be repaired (which had been badly damaged).

Pleasant thoughts of Dick and Henry.



Willie

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THE NATIONAL
PURPLE HEART
HALL OF
HONOR



The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor commemorates the extraordinary sacrifices of America's servicemen and servicewomen who were killed or wounded in combat. The mission of the Hall of Honor is to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across generations to ensure that all recipients are represented.

History



The Badge of Military Merit circa 1782

The award known as the Purple Heart has a history that reaches back to the waning days of the American Revolution. The Continental Congress had forbidden General George Washington from granting commissions and promotions in rank to recognize merit. Yet Washington wanted to honor merit, particularly among the enlisted soldiers. On August 7, 1782, his general orders established the Badge of Military Merit:

"... The General ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of

Military merit directs whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding."

This award was open only to enlisted men and granted them the distinction of being permitted to pass all guards and sentinels as could commissioned-officers. The names of the recipients were to have been kept in a "Book of Merit" (which has never been recovered). At the present time there are three known recipients of the Badge of Military Merit: Sergeant Elijah Churchill, 2nd Continental Dragoons; Sergeant William Brown, 5th and Sergeant Daniel Bissel, 2nd Connecticut Continental Line Infantry.

Washington stated that the award was to be a permanent one, but once the Revolution ended, the Badge of Merit was all but forgotten until the 20th century.

General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing suggested a need for an award for merit in 1918, but it was not until 1932 that the Purple Heart was created in recognition of Washington's ideals and for the bicentennial of his birth. General Order No.3 announced the establishment of the award:

"...By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart, established by General George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements.

By order of the Secretary of

War:
Douglas MacArthur
General, Chief of Staff

On May 28, 1932, 138 World War I veterans were conferred their Purple Hearts at Temple Hill, in New Windsor, NY. Temple Hill was the site of the New Windsor Cantonment, which was the final encampment of the Continental Army in the winter of 1782-1783. Today, the National Purple Heart continues the tradition begun here in 1932, of honoring veterans who have earned the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart has undergone many changes with respect to the criteria for being awarded. At first, the Purple Heart was exclusively awarded to Army and Army Air Corps personnel and could not be awarded posthumously to the next of kin. In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order allowing the Navy to award the Purple Heart to Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel. Also in that year, the Purple Heart was made available for posthumous award to any member of the military killed on or after December 7, 1941.

Originally the Purple Heart was awarded for meritorious service. Being wounded was one portion of consideration for merit. With the creation of the Legion of Merit in 1942, the award of the Purple Heart for meritorious service became unnecessary and was therefore discontinued. The Purple Heart, per regulation is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while

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serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917 has been wounded, killed, or has died after being wounded.



How do I register a Purple Heart Recipient?

With your help we are building a registry of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service, all wars for which the Purple Heart was awarded, and from all across the nation. In order to verify receipt of the medal we request documentation. This can include a variety of materials including:

The DD-214 or other discharge forms listing awards

Medical forms

A photograph of the back of the medal bearing the recipient's name

Or other supporting materials.

We are also looking for photographs, telegrams, letters home, news articles or other materials that help put a face and a story with each recipient's name. Please complete the enrollment form and return to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor with proper documentation.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

PO Box 207
374 Temple Hill Road
Vails Gate, New York 12584

If you have questions, you can contact the Hall of Honor at:

Phone: (845) 561-1765

Phone: (877) 28HONOR
(284-6667)

“The Windy City”

Chicago is named the Windy City because it is windy, right? Wrong.

Indeed there are strong gusts of wind blowing off Lake Michigan. But the popular myth has a storied past.

The most popular myth has the name originating with *New York Sun* editor Charles Dana at the time when New York and Chicago were vying to host the Columbian Exposition of 1893. Dana wrote at the time, that New Yorkers should not listen to the “nonsensical claims of that windy city”.

However, the nickname has been traced back to the 1860's to newspaper articles in the Milwaukee *Daily Sentinel*. Later, a well-publicized rivalry between Cincinnati and Chicago- competitors in baseball and the meatpacking industry – prompted the *Cincinnati Enquirer* to term Chicago the “Windy City” in two headlines (1876 and 1877) implying that Chicago was prone to braggadocio.

Source: Bottom Line Personal, June 15, 2007

HOLIDAYS:

July

4 Independence Day



24 Parents Day

August

5 Friendship Day

19 National Aviation Day

September

5 Labor Day

11 Grandparents Day
Patriot Day

16 National POW/
MIA Recognition
Day



17 Constitution Day &
Citizenship Day

21 Senior Citizen Day

25 Gold Star
Mother's Day



29 Rosh Hashanah

BIRTHDAYS:

August 16

Luther Lyles
2407 Reynolds
Road
Wauchula, FL 33873



August 23

Sammie Porter
5813 Seminole Ct.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

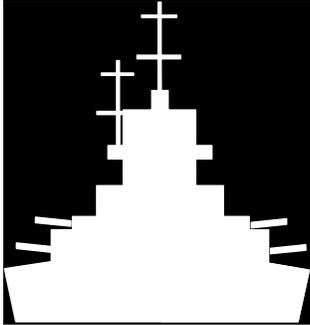
September 1

John Stanley Primmer
19410 East Cameron Road
Rockford, WA 99030

September 11

Myron W. Pully, Jr.
63 Yorktown Road
Newport News, VA 23603

LST534 Newsletter
250 West 49th Street
Suite 400
New York, New York 10019



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Just for Fun

Nautical Terms

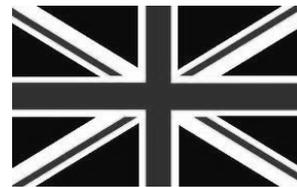


Submitted by Dallas Mead

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preacher on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment and then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Jack or Union Jack....When the ship is at anchor, this flag flies



Editor and Comments:
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