

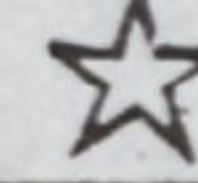
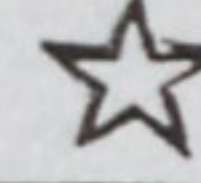
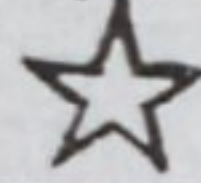
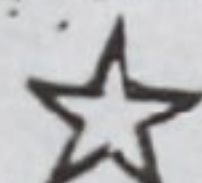
U.S.S. EMMONS

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NEWSLETTER



Vol. XII, No. 1

USS EMMONS ASSN.

Mar/Apr 2001

EMMONS IS FOUND Still Looks Proud, Ceremony Planned

The first word came in an Email and then a posting on the EMMONS website: "WE FOUND THE EMMONS."

The messages came from a civilian government employee who, with four other Americans, had been searching for a U.S. warship known to have been sunk in the battle of Okinawa. Their efforts came to successful conclusion on February 19.

Rich RUTH, a local diving instructor who led the search reported, "The ship is pretty much intact, considering what happened to her and the abuse she took. The guns are pointing straight skyward, the props (screws) are still there and this proud ship really looks like she could just drive away."

Another team member said, "Your ship is resting well and we are impressed with the way the ocean has preserved her." All assure that visits are conducted with reverence and respect for the site as the resting place of so many Shipmates.

With help of the State Department's consulate general and the USMC Base Commander, a ceremony is planned to place a wreath over the site on April 6. Also, it

is hoped a plaque, bearing names of those who died, can be placed on the ship. Each event would be carried out with full military honors.

There is little doubt of the EMMONS' identity. She is resting at a 30-40 deg. angle in 140 feet of water just north of the Motubu Peninsula, less than .01 of a degree from position coordinates supplied from action reports by your Editor.

The discovery triggered great excitement among Okinawa's American population, culminating in a March 4th article in Stars and Stripes Pacific edition. It was accompanied by stirring pictures of the port 40mm, the after deckhouse and either No. 1 or No. 2 five-inch gun.

The dive group is making video footage available to all of us, and photos have been sent to our webmaster, Rich Angelini, who has posted them on the EMMONS website.

Video is available and photos can be viewed on Rich RUTH's website: diveoki@fathoms.net. Other outstanding pictures can be seen on the John Chandler site: john@visionlmm.com. You can read Stars and Stripes at: www.stripesonline.com.

Tour Possible? Jerry Needs Photos

Jerry HORWITZ is hopeful that a tour can be put together to go to Okinawa for the ceremony at the EMMONS site April 6 and to visit the "Cornerstone of Peace" monument to victims of that battle.

Jerry is the very active Association member whose brother, Lt. Dave HORWITZ, died following the EMMONS' attack. Any others interested should contact him.

Jerry is also in need of original photos from days on the EMMONS to go with an article he has sold to the Naval Institute. He will copy and return them.

His address is: 1551 Larimer St #802, Denver, CO 80202. Ph. (303) 893-9778. His Email address is: sjerry@aol.com

THERE WILL BE A 2002 REUNION

It's official -- there will be an EMMONS Association reunion in 2002!

Jacksonville, FL, will be the site and, though the exact date has not been set, it definitely will be in October.

After contacting and talking with a professional reunion coordinator, your officers authorized proceeding under his direction. A retired Navy CPO, Bill GLOVER has staged reunions for 10 years, many for destroyer groups, and offers a very favorable cost package.

Jacksonville was chosen because of the Crew's stated desire to go south this time and its many tour attractions.

More later!

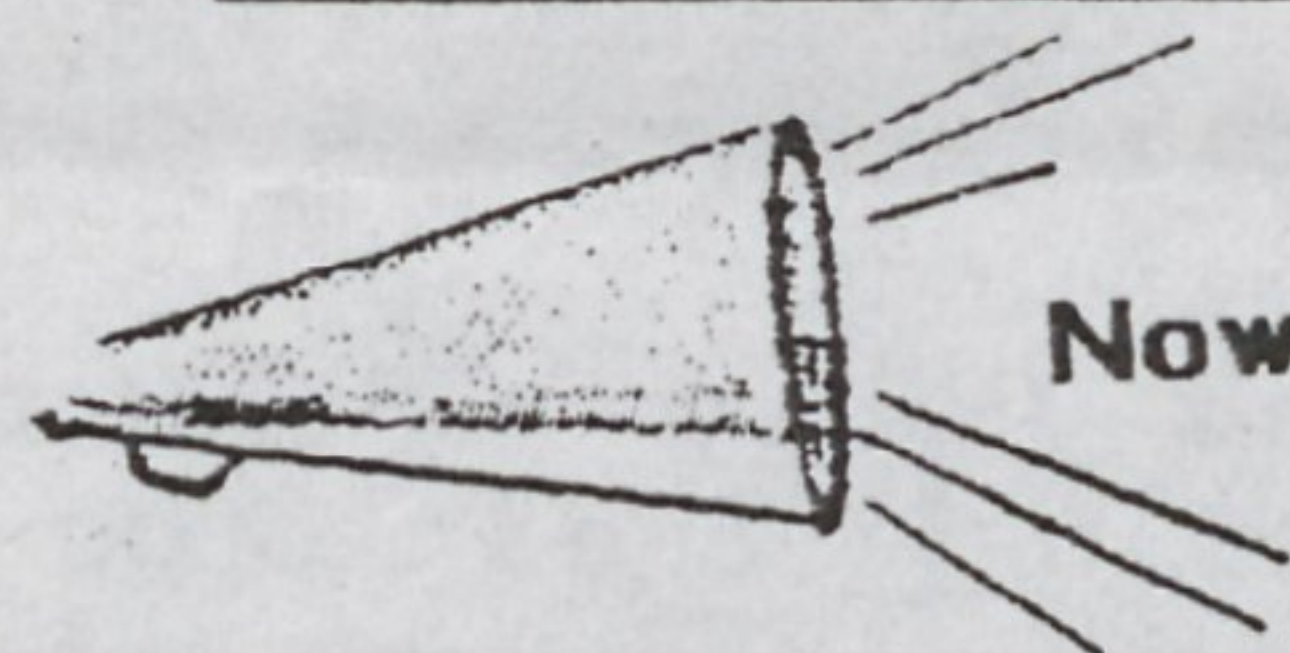
EXCITEMENT OF EMMONS DISCOVERY CARRIES WITH IT SOME PROBLEMS

Excitement at Okinawa created by the EMMONS discovery carries with it some problems, and the dive group with whom we've been in contact asks our help in heading them off.

Members of the group are Divemaster Rich RUTH, instructor/photog John CHANDLER, Tammi CLARK and Steve TOMLIN; boat operators John HOWLAND and Jack MARTIN.

Chandler, a retired Marine Lt. Col., writes: "The EMMONS is a monument to her crew, and we sincerely respect that. Others have already dived on her, and I ask that you pass the word not to encourage anyone out here to bring up souvenirs or artifacts. Try not to excite the divers out here any more than they already are!"

(NOTE: Naval wrecks are government property in custody of the US Navy. The Naval Historical Center in Washington, which administers regulations regarding such sites, has been in touch with the EMMONS Assn and will monitor activity.)



Now HEAR This!

Jack GRIFFIN spent his 88th birthday in the hospital after he fell and broke his hip in late February. A pin was inserted surgically and, after two weeks in rehab, he returned home on March 10. He says he's feeling fine but acknowledges he "probably won't make spring training this year" and sends regards to all.

* * * * *

NEW SHIPMATE HEARD FROM! Bill COUGHENOWER, who was an EM, has signed in. His address is: 26791 Pinckney Way, Sun City, CA 92586-3163. Phone (909)301-1916. Email WildBill19622@aol.com

Bill vows he'll be at the next reunion "If I'm vertical."

* * * * *

Among the many contacts generated by the EMMONS website was one from Evelyn COOPER UELAND, the daughter of ChWT Russell Fenimore COOPER. She said her dad had been postmaster in Sutherlin, OR, until his death from a cancerous brain tumor in 1976.

* * * * *

The new address for Lillian JENSEN is Spring Hill, 116 Gainsborough Sq Apt 217,

IN MEMORIAM

A note from his sons advised us of the death of **Willis H. WEBBER** after a long battle with cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes. Willie came on board as a GM3/c in the commissioning crew and, with his ever-present bundle of keys, transferred as Chief

We were saddened to learn also of the passing of two other members of the EMMONS Family, both in November.

Peg IGOU, widow of deceased Shipmate Fred IGOU, succumbed following lengthy treatment. The IGOU's hosted the 1992 Reunion in Niagara Falls

Lee KORNEY, wife of Shipmate Jim KORNEY, had been undergoing treatment for Lou GEHRIG's Disease, and was unable to recover following a fall in which she broke her hip. Lee and Jim had been married 52 years.

Warmest wishes are extended to all the families and loved ones.

Chesapeake, VA 23322.

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Especially fitting mementos at the Plymouth Reunion were compass key holders, inscribed "USS Emmons DD457 2000," supplied by Susan LUDLOW and her employer, E.S.Ritchie & Sons.

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A letter from the daughter of Robert "Doc" WAGNER informs us that he is in a nursing/rehab center following bypass surgery in Maryland. She writes: "We've been reading 'The Emmons Saga, and it's really stirred up a lot of memories that Dad shares with me.'"

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An inquiry from Lillian ZIEGLER seeks information about her brother Ens, George THEISS who was listed as missing following the attack. She would be pleased to hear from anyone who might recall his GQ station or activities on April 6, 1945. Her message is on the EMMONS website's Deck Log, Email at ziegler@gscyclone

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A note from Jim DONOVAN included an aged snapshot taken in front of No.1 gun showing a slim Jim, Woody WOODRUFF and a third shipmate Jim can't ID. Too bad Newsletter can't help by reproducing the graphic -- we'll just have to wait till the next Reunion.