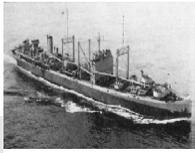

Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 3, Issue 1
June/July, 2000
Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 128

RTC, Great Lakes Graduation

Keep the Memories Alive



466 New Shipmates

Join the Navy



Thursday, 22 June - crewmembers arrived at the hotel, viewed the displays and made and renewed friendships with other shipmates and took part in the Association business meeting.

We proudly displayed a banner made by a 4th. grade class from St. Stephen Campus, Perth Amboy, NJ. During the Gulf War, the 4th. grade class at that time, was a pen-pal for the USS Nitro. When the teacher, Miss Novak, read about our up-coming reunion, she had the class make the banner. We have sent them a thank you letter and a certificate of appreciation.

Friday, 23 June, the Navy graduated 466 sailors to the fleet. Approximately 35 former USS Nitro crewmembers and family members were in attendance for the 0900 graduation. Upon completion of the graduation, a wreath laying ceremony was conducted at the U. S. Naval Cemetery located on the main base. The Naval Reserve Center, Great Lakes provided the color guard, the Navy Band, Great Lakes provided a bugler for taps and Chaplain Smith of the Chaplain's office delivered a prayer for the ceremony.

From the ceremony, we went on a tour of the Service School Command area, which included a drive by of the Nitro Club (yep, that's right – it's still there). Lunch was served at the Service School Command galley followed by a stop at the base post office, where postcards purchased by the Nitro Association were cancelled with a commemorative USS Nitro cancellation stamp. This was followed by a visit to the Naval Museum and a shopping



trip at the Great Lakes Naval Exchange.

Forty crewmembers and family took part in the Friday evening dinner at the Embassy Suites. Letters written by Captains Howe and Snyder were read to the crewmembers. After dinner, group pictures of the crewmembers were taken.

Saturday, 24 June – The Association members visited the 98th. street U. S. Coast Guard station in the morning and Navy Pier, on the lake front in Chicago. That evening several groups went out to dinner and then met back at the hotel for one last get-together.



Petition to SecNav



I suggested to the Association membership at the reunion that we start action to petition the Secretary of the Navy to place a naval auxiliary ship (preferably the USS Nitro (AE-23) in memorial status to the thousands of auxiliary ship sailors who sailed in them. We are looking for volunteers who would like to work on this project (email access is desirable).

Other Auxiliary Ship Associations would be contacted to solicit their support in this effort. Suggestions about other persons or groups to contact would be appreciated and may be sent to Jim Timmons at: stitch@ticon.net

Nitro Membership Update

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stand at 128. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

March 2000 – John Grantier (); Jim Brown (59-61); John Lege (72-73)

April 2000 – Robert Knoll (65-66); John McClure (68-69)

May 2000 – Thomas A. Smith (42-44)

June 2000 – Martin Polstein (62-66)



Nitro Lighters



Nitro lighters have been ordered and should be arriving within 4-6 weeks. The style ordered was the brass (a photo of which appears here). If you are interested in purchasing a lighter, the cost is \$14.50/ea. (S/H included). The order and check should be sent to USS Nitro Association, % Robert Eberlein, 12215 Ashland, Granger, IN

46530-9654.



The Nitro Sage - B. Gregory



*No one is listening until you make a mistake.
Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.*



The Crows Nest



World War II Memorial contributions are now being accepted, on behalf of our USS Nitro (AE-2) shipmates, to be forwarded to organization in charge of building this monument in Washington D. C. Please send them to the USS Nitro Association, PO Box 1254, Mishawaka, IN 46546-1254.

Members wishing to purchase microfilm of the ship's company or deck logs may do so by sending a post card to

the National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Request order forms to order these documents. Cost is \$34.00 for the crew's company and \$20.00 for the deck logs.

Dominic P. Conte, 81, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer, retired of Pittsburg, Calif., died Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1999. Served on board Nitro during WWII.

Al Trevillian's, a former AE-2 crewmember, son would like to hear from any WWII vets who might remember him. Jeff's email address is: k2000_jt@caci.com



A Final Thought



Did we all look that young when we graduated from recruit training? Wonder what the graduating classes thought about a bunch of "old guys wearing Nitro ball caps" watching them graduate?

I am glad all who attended had a great time. It appears each reunion is better than the last. Hopefully next years gathering of the crews will be even better. For those who missed this years there is always next year.

No rest for the wicked. The reunion committee is off and running once more. E-mails sent to Charleston, SC., hotel groups to see what kind of packages they can put together for us. Checking Charleston's website to view the types of events planned and points of interest.

Planning these reunions is no small chore. At this time I would like to ask our membership if you have family or friends who live near our planed reunion sites, if they could help the reunion committee by doing on-site hotel inspections or acquiring information on attractions in the local area.

The "Reunion Magazine" repeatedly publishes "horror" stories of reunion committees who did not do on-site inspections, only to find what was in the brochures was not as pictured. So far we have had two outstanding hotels and wish to continue this practice.

Nitro Blast Newsletter

%James Timmons

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Waukesha, WI 53189

Address Correction Requested

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If you are planning on moving and would like to continue to receive the Nitro Blast, please send us your new address so we can get the newsletter to you on the first attempt.



USS Nitro Web Site



The place for frequent updates on the Nitro reunion, association and other related activities:

**[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/
homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm)**