

USS GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON (AP-111) (TAP-111)

May, 2008 Editor: Harry "Swede" Lagerstedt



American Campaign Medal

For service in the US Armed Forces within the American Theater of Operations during WWII



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

For service in the US Armed Forces within the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater during WWII



Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

For service in the US Armed Forces within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations during WWII



Korean Service Medal

For service in the US Armed Forces in the Korean theater during 1950—1954



China Service Medal

Awarded to U.S. Navy, Marine Corps. And Coast Guard personnel who served ashore or on support vessels in China between Sept. 2, 1945 and April 1, 1957. The China Service Medal is considered obsolete and is no longer issued by the United States Navy.



World War II Victory Medal

For service in the US Armed Forces between 07 Dec 1941 and 31 Dec 1946.



Philippine Liberation Medal

Awarded for participation in The Philippines' Liberation from 17 Oct. 1944 to 3 Sept. 45. Service on ships in Philippine waters for at least 30 days during that period. Andy made two voyages and spent 43 days there.

The Korean Service Medal 1950-1954

The following is a list of units credited by the Secretary of the Navy with having performed duty during the indicated periods which entitle personnel to the Korean Service Medal. Engagement stars have been authorized for the Korean Service Medal for participation in combat operations.

The column below (Left) identifies the period of time for which the USS General Anderson and its personnel qualified for the basic medal. The K 2 and K 4 dates are those for which the ship's attached personnel qualified for a 3/16-inch bronze engagement star for participation in combat operations, if any. This list is reproduced from the 1953 U.S. *Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual* which was prepared by the Bureau of Naval Personnel and Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Ref. <http://www.history.navy.mil/medals/korea.htm>

K2 = Communist China Aggression: 03 Nov. '50 — 24 Jan. '51.

K4 = First UN Counter Offensive: 25 Jan. — 21 April '51

The USS General Anderson is listed under Codes **K2** (18-21 Dec. '50) and **K4** (2 Feb. '51).

Medal Dates for the General A. E. Anderson (AP 111):

31 Jul-13 Aug 50
20-26 Sep 50
8-13 Nov 50
13-27 Dec 50
20 Jan-5 Feb 51
27 Mar-1 Apr 51
2-6 May 51
25-29 Aug 51
28 Sep-2 Oct 51
5-7 Dec 51
5-7 Jan 52
21-24 Mar 52
25-27 Apr 52
26-28 May 52
29 Jun-1 Jul 52
6-12 Aug 52
5-10 Oct 52
1-6 Dec 52
8-9 Jan 53
12-19 Feb 53
25-28 Mar 53
13-18 Aug 53
29 Sep-2 Oct 53
1-2 Nov 53
6-7 Nov 53
11-13 Dec 53
16-20 Jan 54
21-23 Feb 54
26-29 Mar 54
25-27 Jul 54

According to the listed medal dates, (left) ANDY spent 135 days in Korean waters for which it earns the basic medal.

The K2 and K4 periods (centered in **bold**" above) are the specific time periods that would qualify the ship for one or two engagement stars.

ANDY is listed under the specific K 2 and K 4 dates of 18-21 Dec. '50 and 2 Feb. '51. Checking the list of "Medal Dates" on the left it can be seen that our ship was in Korean waters during those two dates.

To qualify for an engagement star, it also states: "for participation in combat operations, if any". Will leave it up to you Korean Vets to determine the dates you were there and what you are entitled to wear.



The good conduct medal. It was given to those who never got into legal trouble in the armed forces. ! You could be a first class pain in the butt and still get the good conduct medal but if you got into legal trouble then no medal!



This was nick-named "The Ruptured Duck". It is a lapel pin about the size of a dime. Everyone who ever served in any of the Armed Forces received it on discharge, as long as their service was "Honorable".

Republic Of Korea War Service Medal ROKWSM

U. S. veterans of the Korean war are now eligible to wear a medal initially offered to them over 50 years ago, but never issued.

The medal was originally offered by the Republic Of Korea in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters. At the time, U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998 the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U.S. military personnel. On Aug. 20, 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it. Next of kin to eligible deceased veterans can also apply.

In a May 13, 2000, letter to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Republic of Korea Defense Minister Seong Tae Cho announced that his government would provide the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (ROKWSM) to eligible U.S. veterans of that conflict, or to their surviving next of kin. The medal will be provided at no cost to veterans. The U.S. Air Force has been designated the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals.

To wear this medal on U.S. military uniforms, U.S. military personnel must have: served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953; been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days **or 60 non-consecutive days, and performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto.** The Anderson was in Korean waters for a total of 135 days.

Ref. <http://kdvamerica.org/ROK.html>

National Defense Service Medal

The **National Defense Service Medal** will be awarded to all persons in the Naval service who served on active duty between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954.

All personnel serving on active duty during the above period are eligible for this award with the exception of certain reserve personnel.

Following the precedent of the pre-World War II [American Defense Service Medal](#), the National Defense Service Medal has been worn by three "generations" of sailors and Marines for three distinct periods of our military history.

The first medals were issued during the Korean War era and note active federal service performed as part of normal extended duty between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954, both dates inclusive.

Ref: <http://www.history.navy.mil/medals/index.html>₃





Independence, Missouri

Since 1957 the Harry S. Truman Library has provided information, through its collections, exhibitions, and educational programs about Harry S. Truman and his Presidency. It is one of nine Presidential libraries and houses more than 14 million pages of documents, including President Truman's own papers relating to his life and Presidency and nearly 500 other manuscript collections related to his career.

Highlights & Collections: To understand our world today, step into the Harry S. Truman Library. You can walk right into the most powerful office in the world--the White House Oval Office which looks like President Truman just stepped out for a brisk walk in the Rose Garden. It's a precise re-creation of his office, down to the Dumont television near his desk, the first TV in the White House You can scan President Truman's mail. You can see the remarkable story of how Harry S. Truman rose from being a failed businessman and obscure local politician to become one of America's most popular presidents.

You can also see the original "**Buck Stops Here**" sign that President Truman made famous. Other exhibitions share insights into President Truman's life as a farmer, soldier, merchant and local politician. Another collection focuses on **The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb**. It includes documents totaling almost 600 pages, covering the years 1945-1964. Supporting materials include an online version of "Truman and the Bomb: A Documentary History,"

This is just one of many interesting

venues we will be visiting during the 14th annual reunion in Kansas City, MO Sept. 7-11 2008. In the Feb. newsletter we featured the Steamship Arabia, sunk on the Missouri River in 1856 and resurrected in 1987 from under 45' of soil and a half mile from the river's current edge. We will visit a museum now housing half of the 200 tons of cargo which was salvaged intact.

Also on our docket is the finest World War One Museum in the country. It has just reopened following a \$22 million remodel. Our reunion host, Frank Thompson, spends time there as a volunteer guide.

Another venue, the New Theater and Restaurant features great food and a Broadway quality matinee show, often with a known star as the headliner.

Our host hotel is Howard Johnson's (816)268-1600, \$65.00/nite group rate. More reunion details, registration form, program itinerary, restaurant/banquet info and every other thing you want to know will be in the Aug. newsletter. Your responsibility: **Block out Sept. 7-11 and make plans to attend!**

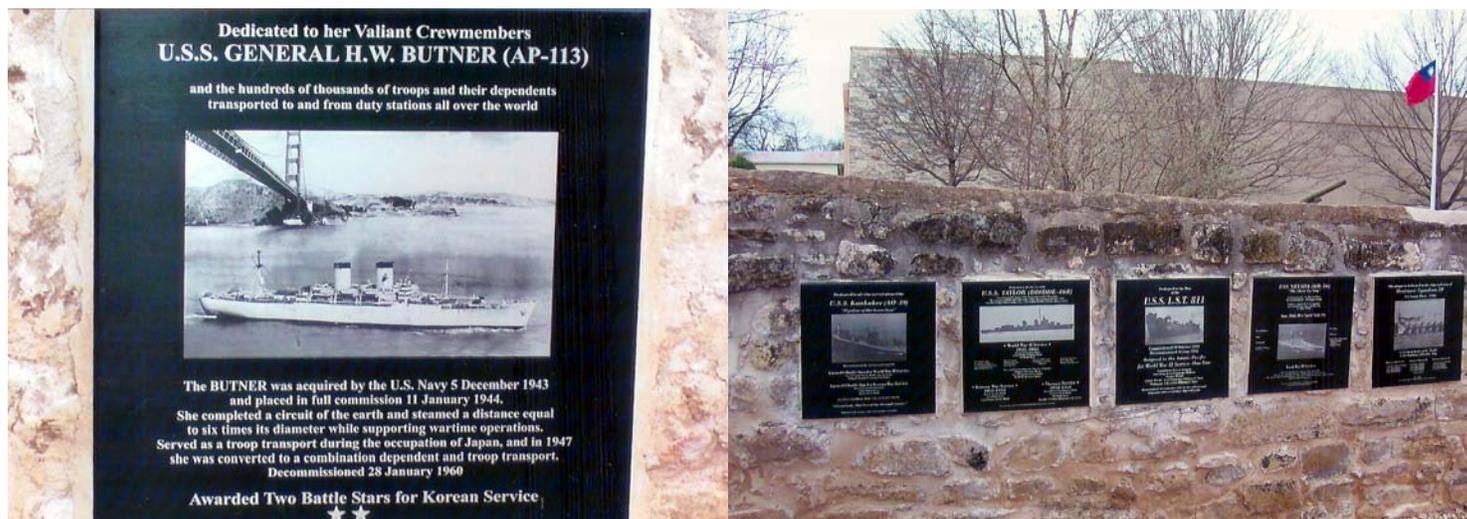
Arabia- www.1856.com World War 1 -www.nww1.org New Theatre- www.newtheatre.com
Truman Library-www.trumanlibrary.org

Crew Contacts

YOU GUYS ARE FANTASTIC! 47 of you sent in your annual dues to Helaine Hamelman in response to that little “Dues Reminder” box on page 5 of the Feb. Newsletter. With all the offers, solicitations, “opportunities”, money requests, junk mail and crap that we all receive daily, I’m totally blown away that so many of you responded to that one little newsletter notice, **THANKS!** Helaine usually sends out dues notices around the first of the year, but just mailed them in April.

Many of you wrote a little note along with the dues and that’s a great way for us to keep in touch and keep addresses up to date. Don and Judy Stocks wrote that they appreciated the 2007 photo album prepared by Frank Thompson (who is organizing the ‘08 reunion in KC on 9/7). Several of you said nice things about the newsletter — and I really appreciate that! Helaine was complimented several times for her good work as Assoc. Secrty/Treas which we all appreciate. About 15 of you expressed intentions of attending the KC reunion — the more the merrier! Doc and Lois Vandever always want to participate, but regret not being able to make it due to recurring health problems for them both. Conversely, Gilbert and Rose Sanchez are cruising Baja California as this is being written. Tuff bananas G&R, we had an April snow shower here in Oregon this morning!

A few of you were especially generous by including some \$ over and above the requested \$20.00 dues — out of the goodness of your heart, and for the good of the cause. And you didn’t even know what the cause was! Well, in Feb. Carol and I visited the **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR IN** Fredricksburg, TX which is the hometown of Admiral Nimitz. The museum was built around the Nimitz family hotel in the center of Fredricksburg and has now expanded to a 6-acre cite and 34,000 sq. ft. of indoor exhibit space and several outdoor exhibits. Of special interest to me was the **MEMORIAL WALL**, a native limestone wall with over 1,000 plaques of ships, units and individuals from all the U.S. military branches. Below right is a picture of a portion of the wall with several plaques and on the left is a plaque of our sister ship, the USS Gen. Butner, the only AP so honored.



I am proposing that the members of the ANDY Assoc. commemorate our ship’s memory by sponsoring and dedicating a plaque. Presently the cost of a plaque is \$2,500. An additional (optional) \$1,000 to a **Memorial Wall Endowment Fund** is also available. The interest from the Endowment Fund would provide a standing floral wreath at the wall/plaque each Memorial Day, in perpetuity. The ANDY treasury already has some of the funds needed for a plaque and I am thinking of establishing a fund for the balance. This will be a topic at our annual reunion meeting. <http://www.nimitz-museum.org>

ANDY BOOSTERS **Never heard of them?** Well, several years ago we received an “extra” \$100 check from Bill Lambert, Army POW Medic and temporary ANDY crew member during voyage #9. Another \$100 came from Mel Weitz, Sk1/C onboard 1944-45 who was awarded the Purple Heart when his cruiser was sunk. Their “extra” dollars went into the treasury with thanks, but that was all. Oh yeah, we did write a couple of short story’s on these shipmates’ adventures.

More up to date, in response to the February dues notice we received two more \$100 checks — one from Scott Phillipson, RM3/C onboard 1952-56 and the other from James Tyson, LCDR onboard 1946-49.

I have traded newsletters with the USS Gen. Mann for several years and have noted that they have a “Boosters Club” for those who are moved to put a little something extra in the pot. Jumping the gun a bit on the idea of an ANDY memorial plaque at the National Museum of the Pacific War, I am initiating a Booster Club to generate funds for this purpose. The four shipmates mentioned above will be the first **ANDY BOOSTERS!** A tip of the flat top and thanks to each of you! Several others such as Virgil Call and “Blackie” Blackwell put a boost on their dues check and Earl Crawford fessed up that he had overlooked last years dues so he doubled up this time. We received another \$40 check from Loren Dixon who was only onboard for 13 days, on his way to Japan in 1952. He wrote that his brother John had also been on the ANDY and that they both ended up in Korea and on the same gun crew for 11 months.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Got a call from Bill Merriam who was an Air Force Sgt. and passenger on his way to Japan in Sept. of 1951. He has a vivid memory of eating beans and rice during a terrific storm where tables were upset. He slipped on the food and broke his ankle. He said that he had a USS Anderson Photo Album and was I interested in acquiring it. Sure thing! It arrived the other day and I had never seen anything like it. Blue cover with gold embossed picture of the ship at the Golden Gate. Inside was a special surprise, a chrome plated plaque with the ship’s name. Bill says he may just have pried this “souvenir” off the sick bay wall, but he isn’t too sure. A tip of the flat top and thanks to you Bill!



BURIAL AT SEA

This is a Naval custom and is the right of all eligible U.S. Military veterans who request it, whether they went to sea or not. Burial at sea only takes place in water deeper than 600 feet and no closer than three miles from the coast. In most cases the remains are cremated first, and the ashes are poured into the sea. The dispatch of casketed remains is permitted only with specific and strict guidelines. Family members are not permitted to be present at these ceremonies because they are held while the ship is engaged in regularly scheduled maneuvers. After the ship returns to port, the family will receive a Department of Veterans Affairs burial flag and a letter from the commanding officer of the ship which performed the ceremony. Some captains have the crew members take photos or videos of the ceremony, but they are not required to do so.

The ports available for burial at sea are: Norfolk Virginia, Mayport Florida, San Diego California, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Washington, and Pearl Harbor Hawaii.

SIX FRIGATES

BY

Ian W. Toll

History of the Founding of the
U.S.Navy



I have just finished reading this fascinating history of post-revolution United States covering 1790-1815. the Barbary pirates and the Brits were either blockading or capturing our merchant vessels and impacting our international economy. Something had to be done and thus Congress approved the construction of six frigates. In 1805, several U.S. ships blockaded Tripoli, but were too large to enter the shallow waters of the port to bombard their fortifications.

A plan was devised for a land attack on Tripoli, i.e., across the Libyan desert. The force consisted of one Army General, Eight Marines and about 500 mercenaries of various backgrounds. **EIGHT MARINES!**

WOW! Remember the Marine Hymn? “The shores of Tripoli”? This blew me away, I knew the marines were tough, but only eight? I spent a lot of time trying to verify the statement. I first learned that at that time the Marines operated under Navy regulations while afloat and under Army regs when ashore.

Under army General William Eaton, marine Lieutenant Presley O’Bannon, his 7 marines and Hamet Karamanli, the rightful heir to the throne of Tripoli, about 500 mercenaries marched 50 days and 600 miles across the desert from Egypt to Derne, just short of Tripoli. Eaton led the charge over the defensive walls of Derne, but was quickly wounded. O’Bannon continued the charge and raised the U.S. Flag over the works. The first time the flag was flown over fortifications on that side of the Atlantic.

The **Battle of Derne** was the first recorded land battle of the U.S. on foreign soil. As Eaton and his troops were marching on Tripoli, a U.S. Consul negotiated a treaty with the Bey of Tripoli and the attack was terminated. Eaton felt undercut by politicians. Prince Hamet was sent packing and the mercenaries were never fully paid.

Gen. Eaton returned to the U.S. as a national hero. Lt. O’Bannon was presented the Mameluke sword from Prince Hamet. Later, O’Bannon’s home state of Virginia also awarded him a sword patterned on the Mameluke design. This event led to the adoption of the sword worn by all marine officers to this day.



PLANNED BY PRESLEY O'BANNON



The Marines were authorized their own regulations and became permanently established in 1834. After WWI, The Marine Commandant moved the Marine Corps birthday from July 11th 1834, to the date when recruiting of Marines for the Continental Navy began in Tun Tavern, Nov. 10, 1775.

The WWII Veteran Death Rate is Approaching 2,000 per Day so says the Veterans Adm.

Sad news, but death is a part of life and can not be escaped. A recent note from Mike Macalus informed me that **William Vines** S2/c, onboard 3/45-7/46 passed away Feb. 8, 2008. Bill was one of the founders of the ANDY Assoc. It was he who called Red Mayo to say that he was meeting with Jerry Reed and Lee Reissener Aug. 2, 1994. TV coverage of this “shakedown” meeting led to locating three more shipmates and a second meeting. The original 7 planned and organized the “first” reunion a year later at Lake Gunterville State Park in Alabama.

Mildred Karlin was an Army WAC onboard during one of ANDY’S longer voyages, from NYC to Bombay, India starting in June, 1944. I located Mildred here in Corvallis, OR by following up on a Memorial Day newspaper story part of which described her trip to Bombay. After our meeting, Mildred became a member of our Assoc. and I enjoyed hand delivering the quarterly newsletter and visiting with her. She died in March and both Carol and I will miss her.

Jerry Wooton Ensign, USNR passenger on voyage # 9. Jerry has been a member of our Assoc for many years and shared a biography of his Navy years with us. Now he writes a farewell to his friends in what must be considered **A Profile in Courage**. His wife Mary Francis, was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer many months ago. The subject of his letter was, “The Second Shoe Dropped”. He said, “Having just returned from 12 days in the hospital, I was found to have untreatable, inoperable pancreatic cancer with short expectations so Mary Frances and I are in a race to our exit.” They remain at home, are under Hospice care, are reasonably comfortable and sons are nearby. He said: “Our affairs are in order.” Well Jerry, Thank you for your letter, it touched my heart. While we have never met, I feel that I know you well through our years of correspondence. Our prayers are with you both and I hope this issue of the newsletter brings you some comfort. Farewell good friend!

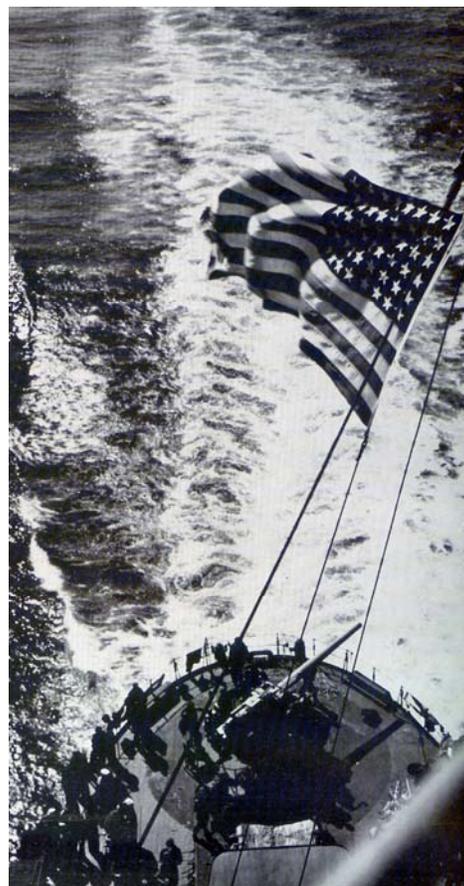
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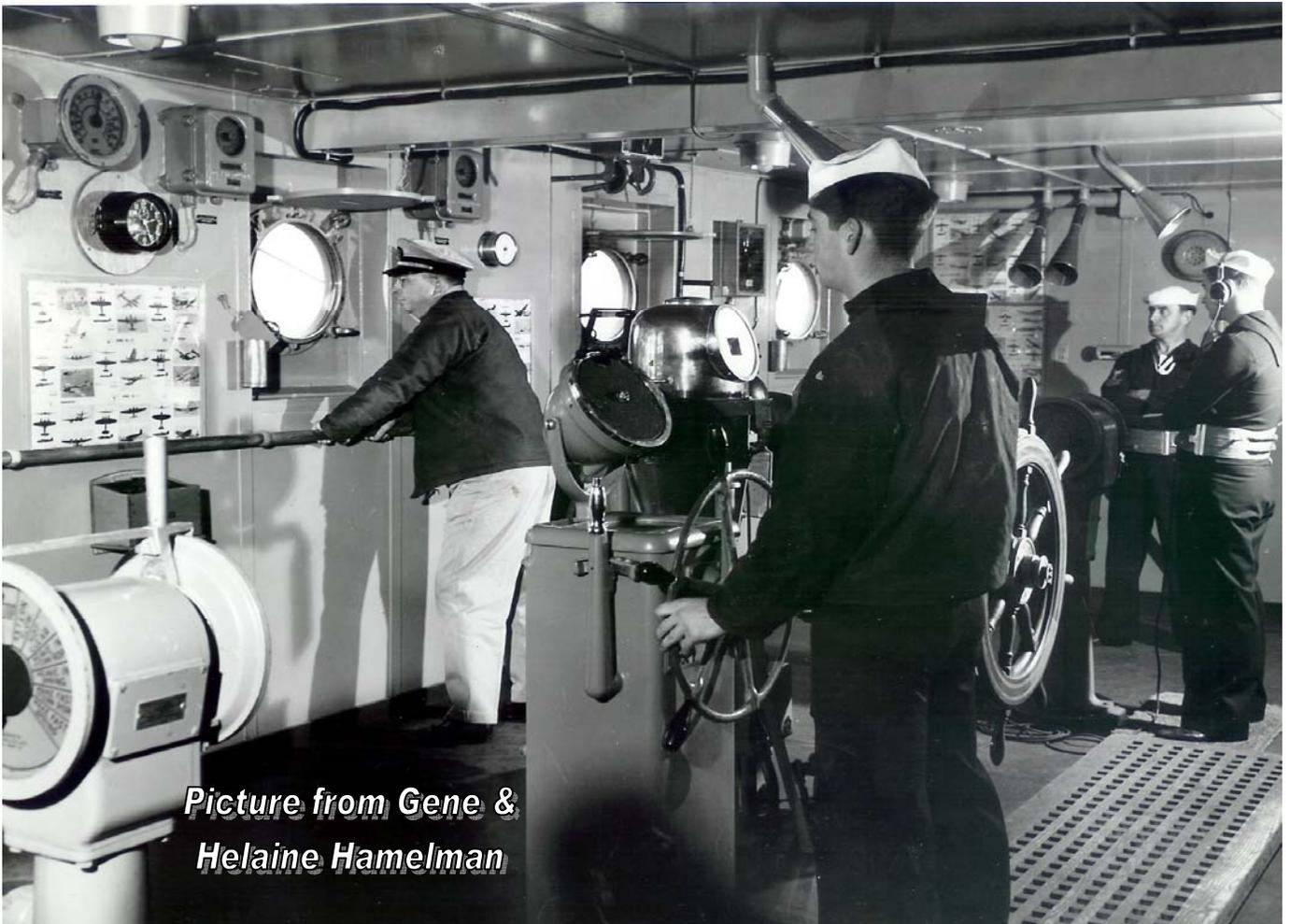
And here, at the end of the newsletter, is a good place to relate the ending, the last voyage of the USS General Anderson, her 122nd. It started in San Diego Sept. 15, 1958 with the Marine Corps Band striking up “Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White” while slowly moving away from the pier with the “bass” horn sounding off. ANDY was taking 1300 Marines 200 Army 100 Navy and 200 dependents to Yokohama, Naha, Okinawa, Keelung, Taiwan and Inchon, Korea. She returned to SF via Yokohama arriving Oct. 18, 1958 at Pier # 4 Oakland Army Terminal.

Oct. 20, underway by tugboat shifting berths to Naval Supply Center, Oakland, for removal of stores.

Nov. 4, 0900 held Captains Personnel Inspection. 1000 hours, Captain James F. Tucker was relieved of command by Commander Ernest L. Carpenter, the ships Executive Officer.

Nov. 10, 1958, 0900 held decommissioning ceremonies. We owe these details to Al Berg FA/FN onboard 7/57-11/58. He writes: 1200 hours, saluted the OOD for the last time on the General Anderson, requesting permission to leave the ship.





*Picture from Gene &
Helaine Hamelman*