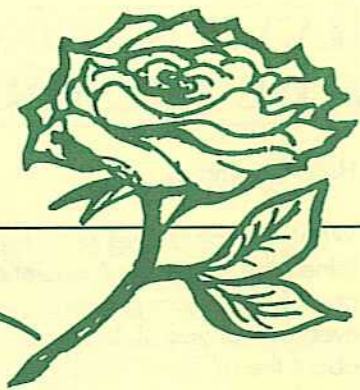


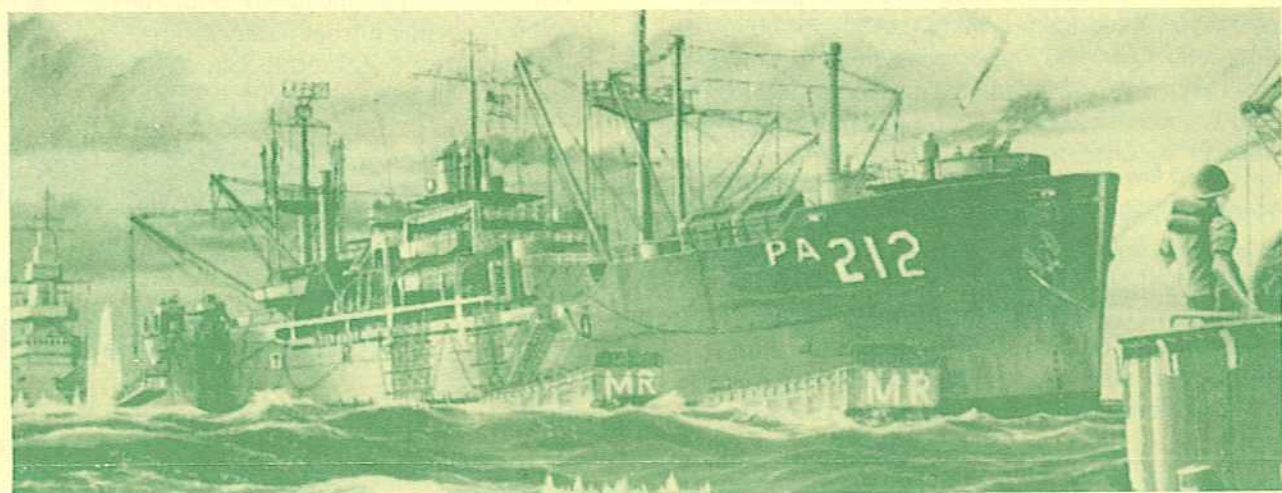


Ramblin Rose



A Publication of the USS Montrose Association

ISSUE 2 - SPRING 1995



U.S.S. MONTROSE (APA 212) 1944-1969

On the evening of 2 April, 1945, at 1835, while steaming in company with Task Group 51.1 for night retirement from KERAMA RETTO, on course 135°T., speed 8 knots, the formation was taken under surprise attack by Japanese suicide planes approaching from the west. During the attack, the MONTROSE was the fifth ship in the right-hand column of three columns of ships. The visibility was good and the sun was setting.

One plane crossed our column of ships directly forward; its tail was shot away and it splashed ahead of MONTROSE, on the port side of the EASTLAND. The second plane of this group was taken under fire by this vessel's quad 40mm. and the forward starboard twin 40mm., and tracers from these guns were observed to hit the plane. The plane crash-dived on the port bow of the TELFAIR. The third plane, which moved almost parallel to the right hand column of ships, was under heavy fire from all this vessel's starboard batteries. Tracers from MONTROSE gun were seen by observers on the bridge to hit the plane and a few seconds later smoke was seen streaming from the plane. The plane crashed on the starboard side of the column, and is claimed as a sure assist by the MONTROSE.

In the last phase of the attack, MONTROSE came under direct attack of two Bettys approaching from the starboard side, MONTROSE opened fire on the first plane, followed by other ships of the column. This plane closed to approximately 1,500 yards, and appeared to bank and turn. As it began this maneuver, tracers from the starboard batteries were seen from the bridge to hit the plane. Both engines began to smoke, and as the turn was completed, the tail of the plane fell away. The plane flipped once, and crashed into the water. This plane is claimed as a positive kill by MONTROSE.

The second Betty took a direct-hit from this vessel's 5"/38, and burst into flames. Fire was continued until the plane crashed into the water. This plane was unquestionably shot down by the MONTROSE and is claimed as a positive kill.

This was the first actual combat operation participated in by this vessel. The ship was composed of a large percent of inexperienced personnel few of whom had previously experienced actual combat or sea duty. However, the Commanding Officer reported the performance of duty of all personnel was excellent throughout the entire operation.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

RUSS McDONALD

Hello Shipmates,

What a response we've received! Over fifty of you joined the Montrose Association the first month. You're a great bunch of guys. It was good to hear from each and everyone of you. A lot of you sent some great stories about the ol' Rose. We'll be putting many of these in the newsletter as space permits. Thanks for your input.

Several of you submitted nominations for various offices. Many of you volunteered to help. Thanks again! We'll take you up on it! So far, two sites have been proposed for Reunion '97. Keep them coming, but please have them in by June 15th. Site and association officer nominations will be published in the next newsletter and ALL MEMBERS will be allowed to vote on them in-person at the reunion or by absentee ballot.

The prevailing thinking is that, as nearly as possible, each association activity (newsletter, reunion, memorabilia sales) should operate at BREAKEVEN and financially STAND ON ITS OWN... maintaining the current level in the treasury as an operating reserve. To that end membership dues are being applied to newsletter/communication activities and we need your support!

With the June issue we'll be sending the crew list and membership cards to all paid members of the association. Remember, it's your \$10.00 that make it all possible.

Well, it's less than six months to the reunion. I'm ready to go today! Talking to Bob McRoberts in Wisconsin, he told me about a place called The High Ground; a veteran's memorial not far from the reunion site. It's a very special place; I hope we can see it together. Be sure to get your reservations in to the reunion committee ASAP.

We have an open invitation to join the Mobile Riverine Force Association from National President Albert Moore. Anyone wishing to join can write them at P.O. Box 706, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020.

In closing, shipmates, I'll ask you not to forget our POW's and MIA's. Their numbers from World War II, 78,751; Korea, 8,177; Vietnam 2,304.

So long 'till next time.

Mac
Mac

HISTORIANS CORNER "Medal of Honor Winner"

By Jim Ruotsala

Did you know we had a "Medal of Honor" winner aboard the Rose? Well we did! Rear Admiral Richard N. Antrim (deceased) served as Captain of the Montrose from August 12, 1952 until August 5, 1953.

The Admiral received the Medal of Honor for saving the life of a fellow prisoner of war in a Japanese prison camp in World War II. The citation accompanying the nation's highest military honor states that Antrim stepped between a helpless prisoner and a "frenzied Japanese guard who was beating him".

With the entire Japanese force assembled and making extraordinary preparations for the threatened beating, and with the tension heightened by 2,700 Allied prisoners rapidly closing in, (then Lieutenant) Antrim gallantly stepped forward and indicated to the perplexed guards that he would take the remainder of the punishment, throwing the Japanese completely off balance in their amazement and eliciting a roar of acclaim from the suddenly inspired Allied prisoners.

"By his fearless leadership and valiant concern for the life of another, he not only saved the life of a fellow officer and stunned the Japanese into sparing his own life but also brought about a new respect for American officers and men and a great improvement in camp living conditions"

Rear Admiral Antrim passed away in March 1969.

U.S.S. MONTROSE
(APA-212)

23 November 1945

HOMECOMING DINNER!

FOR
CAPTAIN MITSU OF THE 20th AIR FORCE AND NAVY

LEFT-OVER NAVY BEAN SOUP
(If you don't eat 'em for breakfast, this always happens)
SALTED SEA BISCUITS

CHIEF FRUIT COCKTAIL
CARBOURD AND CARROT SALAD
(Dehydrated)

ENTREE:

CHOICE OF NEW ZEALAND MUTTON OR ARMY TYPE CORNED BEEF HASH
DEHYDRATED WATERED STEW
CHOICE OF VEGETABLES (Your choice of anything left in the storeroom from punkin to Hollywood Delights)

ICE CREAM (Quadruple small group)
PLAIN CAKE (No icing)
BLACK COFFEE (We're fresh out of canned cow)
BATED CIGARETTES (1940)
THE "O" HERMELBY BARS

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME BETWEEN DRINKS! BUT AT LEAST WE MADE IT BACK. HOPE THIS WINS YOU TILL YOU HIT A GOOD RESTAURANT.

THE MESS COOK

NOTICE: Our messies are your equal equals - Do not tip the mess cook!

WHY SHOULD I GO TO MANITOWOC?

The question, 'Why go to Manitowoc', is one each of us probably asked ourselves. For some, cost and time factors are real obstacles. For them, the next reunion may be more convenient. But for now, a lot of us want to know, 'Why Manitowoc?'

Apart from activities already mentioned in the first reunion committee letter, and disregarding the first twenty four hours playing catch up with old shipmates, what else is there to do?? We're so glad you asked!

Within a twelve mile drive along Lake Michigan are three small cities; Manitowoc, Two Rivers and Mishicot.

Each has its own special character. Two Rivers, for example, is "Home of the Ice Cream Sundae"... Slurrrp! Collectively, these cities have something for just about every hard to please skeptic.

For culture Freaks there are no less than nine museums, from art to auto; from nautical to historical. There are two theatres with plays and cultural, theatrical stuff.

For golf nuts (and you really are!) there are four courses.

One, Fox Hills, has 45 holes. Think of it! You can spend the entire reunion golfing yourself silly.

If water sports are your thing, you'll be in your element. Lake Michigan is REALLY BIG! Pontoon rides, sailing, canoe trips, cruises - it's all here. The bad news is, there are only three fishing piers; the good news is, there are about a zillion charter fishing boats.

Tennis? Oddly enough, nothing in print mentioned tennis courts. Those Wisconscians probably think the Californians aren't coming. But by golly, there are at least two bowling alleys. That was in print!

Oh yes!... For Lollygaggers there are the usual bus tours. The snacking, eating, dining and fine dining places are too many to list. Suffice to say - sweats to tuxes, you can pork-out big time.

Now if none of this foreplay has put you in the mood (as was intended), welcome to Manitowoc anyway. Think how impressed your friends and associates will be when they find out just how far you'll go for an ice cream sundae.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Coming to Wisconsin is not all fun and games. About one half of one percent of the time involves taking care of business. Elections will be held for President, Secretary, Treasurer, V.P. Communications, and Reunion Chairmen '97. Site nominations for Reunion '97 will also be voted on.

For that matter, we already have two site nominations. Branson, Missouri, the new 'Country' entertainment capitol was proposed by Howard Cotner. A luxurious, but affordable, three day cruise out of Los Angeles, California was proposed by Don Johnston. Both sound great!

You should also know that we need your input for other sites.

NOW is the time for your nominations, proposals and ideas. As an association member (and that means dues paid) you have an important say in what goes on; the who's and the where's of it. If you want a more active role, you can even nominate yourself. You can also participate without attending - an absentee vote counts as much as one cast in-person.

1995 Membership dues are \$10.⁰⁰. Be part of something worthwhile. Join us today. Send your check, ideas and nominations to:

U.S.S. Montrose Association
P.O. Box 1112
Stanton, CA 90680

Hey Sailor!

Get off your Duff
& get signed up for Manitowoc.

You think 6 months is a lot of time to make up your mind eh? Well think how fast your last birthday and Christmas came around. And getting faster all the time, I'll bet!



Listen, we're gonna have a Hootenanny one way or the other, but if you show up... it'll be like 4th of July and Cinco de Mayo too (actually Sept. 14th thru 17th).

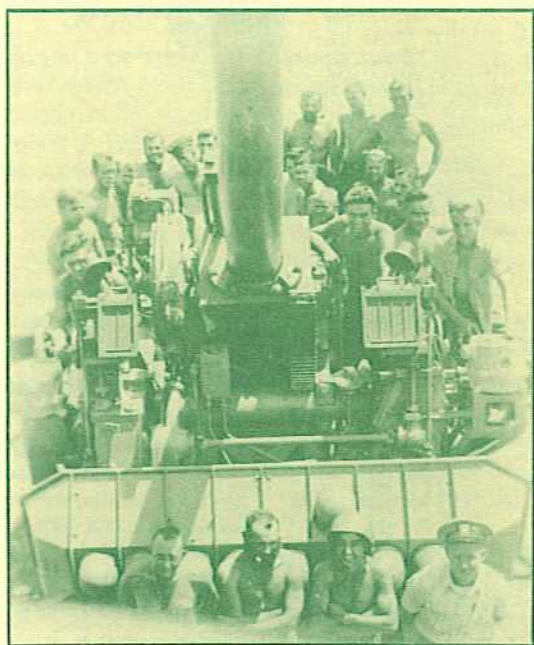
So stop draggin' your anchor... hoist the jib, set the mainsail and lay a course for Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Get those cards off to Claude Hribal or Mike Phillips so they can know how many of us are comin'. They got a tough job and the sooner you let 'em know, the easier it'll be...
... And you'll feel a lot better about yourself, knowin' you did the right thing.

U.S.S. Montrose Association
P.O. Box 1112
Stanton, CA 90680

Forwarding & Return Address Requested

ROSE'S 5"/38 & A FEW TRIGGER HAPPIES



Who says size ain't important?...
Even though, Rose's 5"/38 was credited with
a knockdown, the big gun was later removed.
She did retain her 40mm's and small calibers.

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