

ANTIETAM

NEWS

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VC-4 PILOT CRASHES IN SEA



LT A.L. Degroff

LT A.L. Degroff, serving with VC-4 aboard the USS ANTIETAM, crashed into the sea on April 13 and was brought to a safe recovery through the combined efforts of the USS WALLER, Commander Task Unit 81.4.2, and VC-4.

His plane, suffering from loss in fuel pressure, LT. Degroff piloted to a crash landing. The pilot then abandoned the plane and took to a rubber life raft to await the arrival of the rescue teams.

The USS WALLER DDE 446 steamed from its location, some eight miles from the downed pilot, while planes of VC-4 hovered over to keep the pilot company and to ensure that he did not become lost.

Approximately 15 minutes after the plane crashed, the pilot was picked up by the WALLER.

LT. Degroff is a native of South Bend, Ind. He attended the Illinois Institute of Technology at Chicago. He has served with VC-4 since July of 1953.

RADM LEE REPORTS

ABOARD

ComCarDiv 14 officially hoisted its flag high above the ANTIETAM'S canted deck at 0800, 11 April 1954, with RADM Fitzhugh Lee in command.

7,000 TH LANDING



LTJG KOEHLER

On April 13, LT W.C. Koehler of VC-4, who hails from Chicago, Ill., made the 7,000th landing aboard the ANTIETAM. As is normal practice with all of the 1,000 landings, a cake cutting ceremony is observed with the officers and crew of the squadron. But not so with this landing.

The cake was sent to the officers and men of the USS WALLER DDE 446 as a token of appreciation of the personnel of VC-4 for the recovery of their downed pilot, LT. A.L. Degroff who was rescued on the 13th of April by the WALLER.

The cake, which was brought to the destroyer by high-line, was a sort of extra gesture of gratitude. In the past, it has been the practice to send ice cream to the rescue ship. ANTIETAM went that one better by sending the ice cream and the canted-deck cake to go with it.



RADM FITZHUGH LEE

Carrier Division 14 is operating as a Hunter-Killer group with the important task of tracking down and destroying enemy submarines. This newly originated mission is commanded by RADM Fitzhugh Lee with the ANTIETAM as his flagship.

ADM Lee has been in command of Carrier Division 14 since November, 1953.

Graduating from the Naval Academy with the class of 1926, ADM Lee has served most of his time in the aviation branch of the Navy.

During World War II, he was awarded the Navy Cross and Gold Star for his service in the Pacific theatre.

Since the war, he has been Commanding Officer of the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt and Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va.

EASTER SERVICES BROADCAST TO DIVISION SHIPS

Easter services were conducted aboard the ANTIETAM on Easter Sunday while the ship was operating as part of the Carrier Division 14.

Facing the problem of conducting services for the ANTIETAM and for what other ships in the division he could, Chaplain Sessions had originally planned to visit several of the ships during the day and conduct short services.

But during the process of planning for the Holyday activities, the idea was devised to broadcast the services from the ANTIETAM to the other ships in the division that otherwise would have no divine services.

On Easter Morning, Chaplain Sessions conducted non-sectarian services which were broadcast on Group Frequency for all ships in Carrier Division 14.

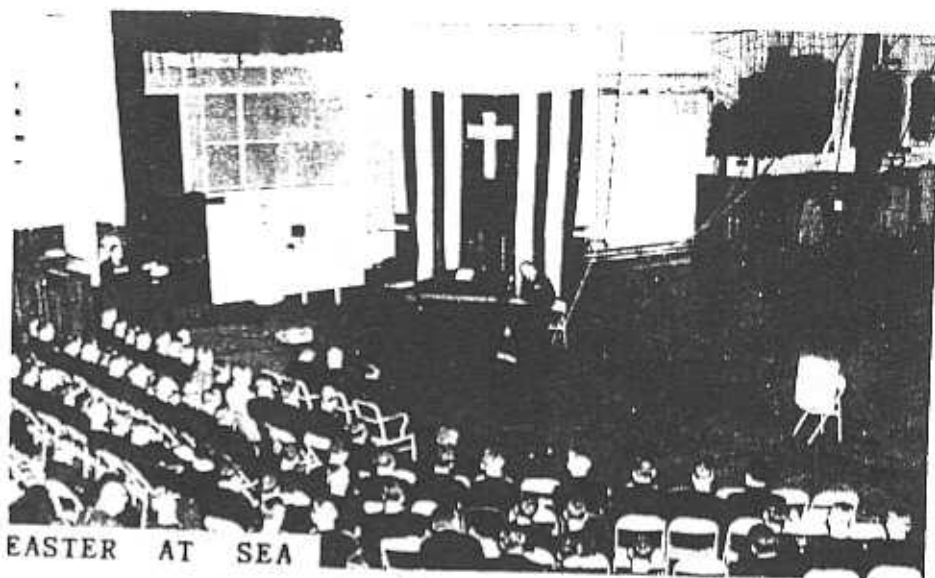
"The response was very edifying," said Chaplain Sessions.

RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT PAID BY I&E OFFICER ON STATION BIAS

Don't wait - it may be too late.

Say shipmate...are you going up for your next rate? You better not wait too long. The next fleet-wide exams for advancement in rate are scheduled for August. Doesn't leave you too much time...Apply for your correspondence course NOW. Visit your Training Office..Take out a correspondence course....You must have it in your records that you completed your training course before you go up for your next rate. It's not too late....But it will be.... Yes, it may be too late, if you wait.....

This announcement was paid for by the experience of your Training Officer....Visit your Training Officer tomorrow..... Make it a point to make points



EASTER AT SEA

WINNER

The Enlisted Men's Recreation Committee recently announced the winner in the "Name The Dog" contest.

Irving Kantrowitz, HM 3, Medical department, was the winner of the \$25.00 savings bond when his entry was chosen as the best name for the boxer puppy adopted as the ship's mascot while the ship was in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Kantrowitz' choice was "Gee Que". This name was chosen, he said, "because it was around the time of all the General Quarters drills we were undergoing that the puppy came aboard and it will be an association that not many will forget soon."

VISITORS ON

ANTIETAM

The Navy is now putting into effect a guest program to acquaint the American Public with the Navy.

Visiting the ANTIETAM during the two-week cruise are Senator Humphry, Congressman Westland, Messrs. M.A. Andrus, Warren Ackerman, C.S. Dewesse, Marshall Hall, William Pate, J.C. McNesse, J.N. Moore, Albert Hardy, Chad Carswell, T.C. Law, Lafayette Montgomery, E.T. Methvin, Gene Craig, Robert Watterson, J.L. Conner, and Frank Wilson.

This program aims at creating a public understanding of the Navy and its relationship

EMERGENCY OPERATION PERFORMED ON ANTIETAM

Dr. G.P. Corey performed the operation assisted by Drs. Dobson and Smith.

One of the ship's hospital staff, commenting on the operation, said "the ship was steady" and conditions for operating were very favorable. The operation was completed in approximately three hours.

At last report, hospital officials said his condition was good and he is expected to be released and returned to his ship in about one week.



An operation was performed in the Sick Bay of the ANTIETAM when a member of an accompanying ship of the division took sick.

LT(jg) Robert L. Walters of the USS KEPPLER DDE 765 was transferred to the ANTIETAM by high-line on the evening of 14 April for an emergency appendectomy operation.

He noticed first symptoms early during the day and as they became more severe, he was transferred to the ANTIETAM

ANTIETAM PROUD BEARER OF BATTLE FLAGS FROM CIVIL WAR BATTLE

The historical battle flags carried by the troops of the North and South at the Civil War battle of Antietam Creek remain treasured in the glass encasement on the Quarter-deck where they were placed at their presentation, about a year ago.

The flags were presented to the ANTIETAM during a flight deck ceremony on April 11, 1953, while the ship was berthed at Bayonne Naval Base.

The battle streamers were the gifts of the 165th infantry regiment of New York's "Fighting 69th Division" and the 167th infantry regiment of the "Old 4th Alabama Division"



W.G. Jennings, PH 1, is shown explaining the story of the flags to his new shipmates, R.L. Vines, PHAA, and T.C. White, AN.

HOBBY ENTHUSIASTS ENTHUSED HOBBY SHOP RE-OPENS

The Hobby Shop is now reopened after securing for repainting.

The stock has also been replenished and the shop is once more operating full scale.

ANTIETAM RETURNS HOME FROM THE SEA



WELCOME HOME

At 1126 Monday morning, 29 March, the first line was cast off the bow of the ANTIETAM as she edged to the pier at Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

After six weeks of extensive training at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, the ANTIETAM returned to the United States. Passing the operational readiness with an overall rating of "GOOD" the ANTIETAM now begins her operations as a Hunter Killer Carrier.

In keeping tradition, mothers, wives, and sweethearts waited anxiously as the newly named Flag ship came alongside the Quonset pier, to greet their loved ones home from the sea.

MARINE DET. C.O. RECEIVES PROMOTION

Capt. R.M. Wadsworth, USMC, was recently promoted to his present rank while serving as Commanding Officer of the Marine detachment aboard USS ANTIETAM.

He entered the Marine Corps in 1943.

In June, 1953, Capt Wadsworth reported aboard the USS ANTIETAM from Quantico, Va.

Capt. Wadsworth is from Ronald, Washington. Before entering the service, he attended College of Pacific in Stockton, California.

SHIP'S MASCOT GETS "NEW LOOK"

Gee Que, the newly adopted mascot for the ANTIETAM, spent most of his two weeks on the beach while the ship was in Quonset Point. However, it was not because of a dislike for sea life.

Gee Que, or Stonewall as he is sometimes called, took advantage of the time in port to do what all good little Boxer puppies do; have his ears trimmed. When the ship arrived, off he went to Dr. Norman Meyer's veterinary Clinic in East Greenwich, R.I. for Operation "Canted Ears".

When reporting back aboard the ANTIETAM for duty, Gee Que was greeted by a host of friends who welcomed him aboard. Despite his awkward hospital-furnished collar, he showed great joy at being back aboard the ship and among his friends. This was proof enough that "Operation Canted Ears" was completed and was a great success.



LIBRARY TO RECEIVE 600 NEW BOOKS

The ship's library is expected to receive a large stock of new books, it was announced recently.

Some 600 books were ordered by Chaplain Sessions following the completion of additional shelves in the library.



VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Front row (L to R) R. Waite, G. Skinner, C. Murphy, D. Hilton, R. Hart. Back row (L to R) J. Beatty, A. Nelson, F. Benway, G. Zeller.

**ANTIETAM BASKETEERS
DEFEAT OFFICERS 80-48**

The ANTIETAM basketball team closed out the 1953-54 season with a rousing victory over the ship's officers 80-48 last Thursday at the Biro gym on Quonset Point station. This was the 13th victory of the season against 6 losses.

The officers led by Ens. Burnham's 17 points, held the "flying A" squad well in check throughout the first half and were only trailing by four points at half-time. During the first 30 minutes the officers' height kept the ANTIETAM hoopsters off the backboards and eliminated them from fast-breaking plays.

Starting the second half the Blue and Grey lads went into a zone defense, with big Lennie Starrat and Art Morr clearing the backboards like they owned them. With control of the rebounds being taken by the ANTIETAM five, the officers soon found themselves on the slow end of a mounting score.

Joe Hauser turned in the outstanding performance of the game scoring 28 points. Robert Locook was right behind him with 20 points.

**V-1-A V-1-C
VOLLEYBALL VICTORS**

V-1 A&C Division was crowned the victor in the Guantanamo Bay volleyball tournament by defeating V-2 Division in two straight games 21-16 and 21-17.

A. Nelson and G. Zeller were the leading spikers for the V-1 crew ably assisted by G. Skinner and R. Hart with their fine set-ups.

V-1 was undefeated in tournament play while V-2 was defeated both times by V-1.

The winners received a trophy and pictures of the team.



**NAVY ANNOUNCES
DATES FOR AUGUST
E-4,5,6 EXAMS**

WASHINGTON (AFPS)—Dates of the August 1954 Servicewide competitive examinations for advancement to pay grades E-4, E-5 and E-6 have been announced by the Navy.

Dates are as follows: E-4 (petty officer third class), Tuesday, Aug. 10; E-5 (petty officer second class), Tuesday Aug. 17; and E-6 (petty officer first class), Tuesday, Aug. 24.

A new system of effective dates of advancement in rating will start with the August 1954 examinations. The Naval Examining Center will issue advancement authorization letters indicating the various dates that advancements are to become effective.

Advancements will be divided into three periods. Personnel with the highest final multiples will be advanced in each rate as of Nov. 16, 1954. The effective dates for remaining personnel will be Jan. 16, 1955 and Mar. 16, 1955, depending on final multiples.

This system, the Navy says, will permit more advancements to be made and still stay within the limit of petty officer strength imposed by budgetary restrictions.

Examinations will be used for:

- 1)-Advancement in rating of USN and USNR personnel on active duty with the regular Navy.
- 2)-Change in rating from fire controlman to fire control technician and from aviation electronicsman to aviation electronics technician.
- 3)-Advancement in rating of personnel on continuous active duty in the Naval Reserve Organization (TAR).
- 4)-Substantiation of qualifications of Naval Reserve personnel to enlist in the regular Navy in equal pay grade.

Further information on the examinations can be found in Bureau of Naval Personnel Not-