

# USS ALLENTOWN REUNIONS AND CAPTAINS

Stony Point, NY-----	Frank Morstatt & Bill Lansley	1960
Bear Mt., NY-----	Frank Morstatt & Bill Lansley	1961
Cherry Hill, NJ-----	Al Macelis	1962
Detroit, MI-----	Tom Moseley	1963
Allentown, PA-----	George Holko	1964
Chattanooga, TN-----	Frank Pierce	1965
Lexington, MA-----	Allan Emery	1966
Pittsburgh, PA-----	Jim Godlesky & John Dean	1967
Vero Beach, FL-----	Gene Tarquinio & Maynard Duvall	1968
Buffalo, NY-----	Tom Hull	1969
Joliet, IL-----	Don Miller	1970
Bethesda, MD-----	Robert Beall	1971
Oshkosh, WI-----	Jerry Panske	1972
Chickamauga, GA-----	Frank Pierce	1973
Des Moines, IA-----	Leo Bienfang & Paul Bryan	1974
Wilmington, NC-----	Bill "Doc" Davis	1975
Philadelphia, PA-----	Al Macelis - (Bicentennial)	1976
Sioux Falls, SD-----	Everett Olsen	1977
Kalamazoo, MI-----	Gare Van Eck & Carl Fockler	1978
Baltimore, MD-----	Al Stampone	1979
Cleveland, OH-----	Homer "Red" Nichols	1980
Merrimack, NH-----	Robert Lincoln & Paul LaFrance	1981
Elkhart, IN-----	Bill Bradley	1982
1983 was cancelled by a hurricane which damaged the Galvez Hotel		1983
Williamsburg, VA-----	Russ Meyers	1984
Galveston, TX-----	Marvin Crumpler	1985
Pittsburgh, PA-----	Stan Goryl	1986
Albany, NY-----	Bill Lansley & Joe Falkenheimer	1987

## ALLENTOWN REUNIONS

By John Dean

QM Striker Aboard the Amazing "A"

The spirit of camaraderie that bound the Allentown crew together through some trying times during shakedown in Bermuda, and later in the South Pacific, served also as a catalyst to reunite many crew members along with wives and families some 15 years later. A number of crew members had kept in touch mainly by Christmas greeting exchanges. This included Jim Godlesky and myself, then residing about 80 miles apart in western Pennsylvania. Previous to 1960, we had attempted a low budget reunion for west and central Pennsylvania members at Renzie Park in McKeesport. We had fond expectations, but low attendance had us undecided as to whether to continue our efforts. Our problem resolved itself not long after when we were contacted by Bill Lansley, Frank Morstatt and Joe Micklas, who were interested in trying a reunion in New York state. Well, that reunion came about and was a great success. It was an unforgettable occasion.

I have been priveleged to attend most of the gatherings, as well as assistant in hosting on two occasions and have been called upon to invoke God's presence and blessing on quite a number of them.

It is my fond hope that some of the recollections and memories I have may pique the memories of some other crew members so another day may be brightened a bit for you.

In some instances where I was unable to attend, or had a very brief appearance, I will have to depend on someone else to fill the gaps.

Just remembered another mini-reunion held at Gene Tarquinio's home in Pennsylvania attended by myself, Godlesky, Tarq and Jimmy Dunn. Jimmy disappeared after that get together, and we have not heard from him since. Bill Horvat was there also.

And now a recap of reunions from 1960 to the present---

# USS ALLENTOWN REUNIONS AND CAPTAINS

Stony Point, NY-----	Frank Morstatt & Bill Lansley	1960
Bear Mt., NY-----	Frank Morstatt & Bill Lansley	1961
Cherry Hill, NJ-----	Al Macelis	1962
Detroit, MI-----	Tom Moseley	1963
Allentown, PA-----	George Holko	1964
Chattanooga, TN-----	Frank Pierce	1965
Lexington, MA-----	Allan Emery	1966
Pittsburgh, PA-----	Jim Godlesky & John Dean	1967
Vero Beach, FL-----	Gene Tarquinio & Maynard Duvall	1968
Buffalo, NY-----	Tom Hull	1969
Joliet, IL-----	Don Miller	1970
Bethesda, MD-----	Robert Beall	1971
Oshkosh, WI-----	Jerry Panske	1972
Chickamauga, GA-----	Frank Pierce	1973
Des Moines, IA-----	Leo Bienfang & Paul Bryan	1974
Wilmington, NC-----	Bill "Doc" Davis	1975
Philadelphia, PA-----	Al Macelis - (Bicentennial)	1976
Sioux Falls, SD-----	Everett Olsen	1977
Kalamazoo, MI-----	Gare Van Eck & Carl Fockler	1978
Baltimore, MD-----	Al Stampone	1979
Cleveland, OH-----	Homer "Red" Nichols	1980
Merrimack, NH-----	Robert Lincoln & Paul LaFrance	1981
Elkhart, IN-----	Bill Bradley	1982
1983 was cancelled by a hurricane which damaged the Galvez Hotel		1983
Williamsburg, VA-----	Russ Meyers	1984
Galveston, TX-----	Marvin Crumpler	1985
Pittsburgh, PA-----	Stan Goryl	1986
Albany, NY-----	Bill Lansley & Joe Falkenheimer	1987

## Shades of World War II

# USS Allentown Crew Holds N.Y. Reunion

Former members of the crew of the USS Allentown which saw service for two years in World War II as a U. S. Navy escort vessel held a reunion last weekend at Stony Point, N. Y.

The patrol frigate, named for the City of Allentown, was launched in 1943 and saw Pacific duty until 1945.

### 'Passed Through'

John Dean, New Castle, member of the crew, in passing through Allentown on his way to the convention, writes:

"My wife and I passed through your fair city . . . . . and after stopping long enough for dinner at a diner down 15th St. way, we did take time out to visit briefly with the Sollenbergers whom I had met on my last trip to Allentown several years ago and who reside in the Hotel Traylor. Then to George Holka's residence in Catasauqua.

"George is the sole resident of your immediate vicinity who served aboard and it was a very keen disappointment to both of us that due to lack of proper communications somewhere along the line, George hadn't heard of our plans and due to having made previous commitments was unable to make the trip."

Dean said in speaking of the U. S. S. Allentown that during World War II "the USS Allentown and her crew did not only what was expected of her but did it well and as flag ship of her escort division capably led the rest of the division and all of the many ships in convoy which became entrusted to her care and protection."

### Honor Gen. Beary

The frigate was sponsored by Joyce E. Beary, daughter of Gen. Frank D. Beary, chairman at the time of the Lehigh County Office of Civilian Defense. In naming Miss Beary as sponsor of the ship, the city paid tribute to Gen. Beary who was chosen as Allentown's outstanding citizen of 1942 and whose work in Civil Defense won him state-wide recognition.

The corvette was launched at Milwaukee, taken down the Mississippi River and completed at New Orleans. It was commissioned March 24, 1944 and served at Leyte and New Guinea.

In 1945, under Lend - Lease it was turned over to Soviet Russia and returned in 1949. In 1953 it was transferred to the Japanese under the Charter Party agreement for loan for five-year period with an option for an additional five years.



**Reunion of 1960--**

**Stony Point, NY**

**Captains--Frank Morstatt  
Bill Lansley**

What an exhilarating experience! To have never known any of these men as civilians, and to see them now with spouses, and discover how they ended their military career and what they are doing now--just incredible!

This had to be from the standpoint of intrigue, of human interest, of togetherness, nearly spellbinding. A dream come true. There have been many excellent reunions, but a little of the luster wears away after that first one.

We were in a long, narrow, but very private dining room that night on the high banks of the Hudson, in an old restored or well-maintained home made-restaurant, A Bit of Sweden. After dinner, welcomes, introductions, thanks, etc., there was no program planned, but no one seemed to leave. It seemed a moment to capture and try to keep. Allan Emery made the suggestion to go around the table and each relate the best story they could recall from shipboard days. Everyone participated, and there were great ones related. I remember sitting beside Marvin Carty, an ex-boatswains mate, and rather an introvert. Marvin had his head cocked up with a big cigar and a big smile. He could hardly believe what was going on. Midway through the evening, Marvin (probably a veteran of some notable liberties) turned to me still smiling and said; If this was 16 years ago, this place would be a shambles." Marvin, I know enjoyed that evening immensely and was planning to attend in 1961, but suffered a fatal coronary shortly before the next reunion time. Frank Morstatt and Joe Micklas, who did much to get things going, are also deceased as of this writing.

I have many other memories of this event but what can you expect for \$25.00, thats what the buffet dinner for two and overnight lodging cost in May, 1960.

Attendees were: Morstatt, Lansley, Dean, Godlesky, Emery, Garlington, Beall, Ryder, Macelis, Carty, Spurduto, Moseley, Kingsley.

**Reunion of 1961--**

**Bear Mountain, NY**

**Captains--Frank Morstatt**

**Bill Lansley**

**By: John Dean--**

Yes I was there but arrived late and left early, so my recollections are more limited and not as vivid as 1960.

This was a nice setting, being a state park, with chalets and many types of recreation available. It was upriver, perhaps 20 miles from Stony Point and just below West Point, the Army Academy. The weather was somewhat cool and damp (early May) which helped trigger consideration of a later date for future reunions.

My wife, June, and I did something which became very traditional and a valuable part of our gatherings--we took our daughter, Gayle, as the first child to attend a reunion. I remember Betty Fockler--a great lady with much patience, personality and imagination, taking Gayle under her wing and being a tutor for her.

It was at this reunion that Frank Pierce flew into NYC on Friday evening, was captivated by the thought of all those guys up there telling all their stories so he hailed a cab and said, "Take me to Bear Mt." About \$48 later he was there, a day early, and not a shipmate in sight. He was a day early, and he and the cab driver found a room for the night.

A newcomer was John Gates. Our first casualty was Marvin Carty who died since the last reunion. Two other first-timers were Jack Weinstein and Don "Smokey" Miller.

**Reunion of 1962--**

**Cherry Hill, NJ**

**Captain--Al Macelis**

**By: John Dean--**

If you had ever met Al and Betty Macelis, you just know things will be well done and exciting, and of course that is the way it happened. I remember going early and staying over the previous night at Al's house in Pennsauken, NJ. Al is a great host, Mr. Entertainment, Personified. He had also invited John Paulis of Chicago. Now Al isn't about to be upstaged by a big city super-salesman--what a great time we had as they competed to be "top banana."

This is the only reunion to my knowledge where an "A" member proved to be a real bummer. One of our seaman turned up posing as a merchant ship captain, accompanied by a female dancer, reputed to be his wife. This dashing couple told alot of stories, ate alot of food, drank alot of booze, threw a party in their room, and left without paying their bill and haven't been heard from since.

Shouldn't Al be saying "Why me Lord"

It was a great reunion with newcomers Russ Meyers and John Paulius attending. They were regulars from that one on.

**Reunion of 1963--**

**Detroit, MI**

**Captain - Tom Moseley**

Tom is an old Mo-Towner transplanted from Arkansas to Detroit. Tom and I hitched across country from Oakland, California to Kansas back in 1945, so we had some personal reminiscing to do. One keen disappointment was in not being able to get Al "Whitey" Carlsen, who lived 10 miles or so up the road to come down and visit his shipmates. I had spent a lot of time with him all the way from boot in Manhattan Beach. I was hurt. Godlesky, with job ties in Detroit, had been getting together with Whitey, Jake Barton, Charles Krulic and Tom Moseley for some time.

Another sidelight was Jim Godlesky's trip to the pool about 2:00 am. It was a very warm night and everyone, or most were lingering in the restaurant or around the pool. Jim had gone to the room, put on pajamas and returned to summon his wife, Ruth. He shouldn't have walked too close to the pool, as someone couldn't resist, and in he went. I thought this was amusing and came close to take a picture, and almost ended up in the pool with him, but escaped - just barely.

A newcomer arrived this year - all the way from Texas - wearing a cowboy hat and carrying his gallon of stump juice, 120 proof - it was none other than Marvelous Marvin Crumpler. He added a bit of spice to the gathering!

Our get-away day on Sunday was with real class. Maurice Lezell of Detroit who was in the home improvement business, invited all hands to his home for brunch in grand Jewish style. He and his wife were great hosts and the food was plentiful.

Newcomers this year were Lezell, Duvall, Krulic, Panske, Horvat.



1964 REUNION PICTURE

FRONT - Stewart Rushton, Don Miller, Robert Beall, John Dean, George Holko,  
Tom Moseley, Frank Morstatt, Bill Lansley

MIDDLE - Jim Kenedy, Jack Weinstein, MacConnell, Frank Pierce, Sam Pollard,  
Bob Esford, Bill Horvat, Joe Altomere, Everett Olsen, Allan Emery

BACK - John Paulius, Al Stampone, Dick James, Maynard Duvall, Jim Godlesky,  
Al Macelis, Royal Greer, Oakes, Al Sperduto, Bob Edwards, Russ Meyers

Reunion of 1964--

Allentown, PA

George Holko, Captain

George was in a rather unique position in that he was the only person from Allentown with us. He had specifically requested assignment to this ship when he heard that his city was the sponsor. He was proud and sometimes sentimental about his situation.

Certain reunions are more vivid in my mind, not because they were "better than" the others, but because of the events which became etched in my mind. This was one of those -- I had broken my ankle playing ball and was wearing a full cast. A neighbor took me to Irwin, PA about 80 miles from home where I met Bill Horvat at the Pennsylvania Turnpike entrance. When we got to Allentown, I wanted to scout about the city having become rather proficient with the crutches. After becoming oriented with a few blocks of the city, I went into a restaurant and noticed a few Allentown wives there. Ruth Godlesky was eating the biggest piece of strawberry pie I ever saw before or since. Strange thing to remember, but it sticks with me. George had a full schedule of events arranged for adults and children. Most of the events were in the main ballroom of the Americus Hotel where the city had hosted us at a banquet in 1944 while we were in Brooklyn Navy Yard having repairs made. One of the features George had was a magician/hypnotist. The performer selected several people from the audience to hypnotize, including Alan Emery. After being successfully induced, the hypnotist instructed each person on hearing the proper word "key" to shout out a loud answer. Alan's line was "Hooray, hooray for the PTA"--which he promptly and dutifully did many times.

Sometime during or after the dance, Al Macelis lead a snake dance through the ballroom, up and down the steps, through the balcony, etc., using one of my crutches as a slide trombone at the head of the parade. I believe this was Everett Olsens first reunion, and what a time he had. Both "OLE" and George Holko are deceased now. Not coincidentally, this was the 20th Anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Allentown. Joyce Beary, who christened the ship, was present at this reunion.

**Reunion of 1965--**

**Chattanooga, TN**

**Captain - Frank Pierce**

Southern hospitality was certainly epitomized as we might have expected by the Pierces of Chickamaugua, Georgia. Frank has been Mayor there these many years. Since children had become a very important part of the Allentown reunion, you might say this one was almost dedicated to children. If you wanted to earn a following in a short time, you needed to observe the Pierce magic.

I wouldn't say Frank wine and dined us as wine doesn't grow under a Mason jar lid. We were extremely well provided for, accommodated, amused, toured, educated in Civil War history, and generally red-carpeted all the way. We visited Frank's home and country store, and toured the City of Chattanooga, and the military part of the battle of Chickamaugua. The moonlight boat ride up the Tennessee river and through the locks into Lake Chickamaugua was particularly fascinating and a fitting climax to an exciting day. Sam Pollard from Norfolk burned enough energy on the dance pavilion that he could have powered us up the river single handed. Also, there was the time to visit and get to know people. I remember particularly a fascinating conversation with Hadgie Beall, Bob's wife of Bethesda, MD. She was an army brat, and was well acquainted with the MacArthurs in the Philippines. What a joy she was. Her son IS NOW A DOCTOR IN Laramie, Wyoming.

This was the first reunion that we really toured an area before and after the reunion, and it was an outstanding experience.

Dear Shipmates:

Here is a list of the fellows who were able to  
make the "A" Reunion here in Boston. 1966

MR. AND MRS. CARL FOCKLER

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT BEALL

MR. AND MRS. JIM GODLESKY  
AND THEIR 2 CHILDREN

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH B. McMANUS

MR. AND MRS. RUSSELL H. MEYERS  
AND THEIR 2 CHILDREN

MR. AND MRS. ALBERT P. MACELIS

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT EDWARDS

MR. AND MRS. JACK WEINSTEIN  
AND THEIR 2 CHILDREN

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS HULL  
AND THEIR 4 CHILDREN

MR. AND MRS. JACK WELLIVER

MR. AND MRS. DONALD C. MILLER  
AND THEIR 3 CHILDREN

MR. AND MRS. TOM R. MOSELEY

MR. AND MRS. ANTHONY W. SPERDUTO

MR. AND MRS. FRANK E. MORSTATT

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM LANSLEY  
AND THEIR 2 CHILDREN

MR. AND MRS. CHESTER A. BEGBIE JR

MR. AND MRS. JOHN B. GATES

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD N. JAMES

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM J. HYDER  
AND THEIR 2 CHILDREN

MR. AND MRS. ALLAN C. EMERY, JR.  
AND 2 OF THEIR CHILDREN

MR. FRANK PIERCE

MR. OMAR MOUNTAIN

DR. CLYDE J. DOUGLAS

DR. PHILIP C. GARLINGTON

MR. JOSEPH CLIFFORD

Captain Dugan planned to be with us but had to be in Bermuda  
at the last moment. Rigger Lane had to go to sea so he could not make  
it.

For the benefit of those who did not attend, we are enclosing  
a copy of the program so you can see what we did and get a feeling of  
the good time we all had together.

A number of the men arrived Friday night and had a good time  
talking at the inn and their children enjoyed the swimming pool.  
Saturday morning the crew arrived. We had a living room set aside for  
us that proved quite adequate. We had a fine luncheon at the Inn.



Then rather than delay our meeting until 3 p.m. when the ladies and children were going on a tour, we had our meeting promptly 5 after luncheon. It was confirmed that the next meeting is to be in PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA the weekend of July 8th, 1967, with Jim Godlesky as "Captain" assisted by John Dean.

After our business meeting we all went by bus to the various historic points nearby such as Lexington Green, the Old North Bridge Battlefield at Concord, and the Old Manse.

At dinner Bill Ryder presented the Coast Guard Flag used to start the Bermuda Races - and this will be displayed at each one of our reunions. Joe McManus presented the commissioning pennant which was taken down when the Red Star of Russia was raised over the "A"; he made a donation of this to the crew and it will be displayed at our reunions. Both flags have been given to Jim Godlesky, next year's captain, for the reunion in Pittsburgh.

The dinner Saturday night was followed by an entertainment by a cartoonist-artist, Roger Palmquist. Everyone seemed to enjoy him.

Sunday afternoon most of the lads and their families (about 55 in all) - those who did not have to leave early - came out to our home in Weymouth for further opportunity to chat and visit and had refreshments.

Each reunion is different and fine in its own way. I am sure all of us left with an acute sense of the unusual fellowship we have. This reunion is now a thing of the past. Let's get busy and put down the date of July 8th, 1967 so that as many of us as possible can be there next year in Pittsburgh.

With best regards to you all-

Dear Jim. The above was  
sent to the lads that were there.  
The program and copy of letter were sent to all those who

Your shipmate

ACE

For next year's reunion  
I thought I might like to see  
if I can get a copy of the  
program and copy of letter  
sent to all those who  
did not come in addition to this.