



USS GUARDIAN	AGR-1	USS INVESTIGATOR	AGR-9
USS LOOKOUT	AGR-2	USS OUTPOST	AGR-10
USS SKYWATCHER	AGR-3	USS PROTECTOR	AGR-11
USS SEARCHER	AGR-4	USS VIGIL	AGR-12
USS SCANNER	AGR-5	USS INTERDICTOR	AGR-13
USS LOCATOR	AGR-6	USS INTERPRETER	AGR-14
USS PICKET	AGR-7	USS TRACER	AGR-15*
USS INTERCEPTOR	AGR-8	USS WATCHMAN	AGR-16
USS	YR-23	USS	YR-65
		*USS INTERRUPTER	AGR-15

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YAGRGRAM #14

October, 1999

FOUND! ONE RADAR PICKET SHIP! USS TRACER AGR-15

The Tracer has been located alive, but not well. She is lying in the waters off St Pauls Island which is part of the Pribilof Island chain in the Bering Sea. At the present time, she is owned by a company called UNISEA out of Washington state.

Tracer, now called Unisea, is considered to be a barge by her present owners because her rudder and screw have been removed. She is presently being used as a seafood processing plant.

Locating her came about because of our display on the Battleship Massachusetts. While doing some work on the display signs for the ships, I got thinking about the Tracer. While it has been known that she was sold to be used as a fish processing plant, no one was able to find out where she was. In conversations with other organizations that deal with liberty ships, I was told nothing could be found of the Tracer and, as far as everyone was concerned, she was probably scrapped. So while waiting for hurricane Floyd to hit Rhode Island, I decided to make a few phone calls. On my first call to the harbor master at Unalaska, I hit pay dirt. He not only knew about the Tracer, he had helped to convert her to a fish processing plant. He gave me a few other phone numbers and I finally got hold of the owners. I was then given the phone number of Al Mendoza, the person who they said knows everything

about the Unisea (Tracer). Once we got in touch with one another, after playing phone tag for a few days, I found out he did know quite a bit about the Tracer and her history. He told me that the Tracer arrived at Dutch Harbor in 1975 to begin the conversion to a seafood processing plant. He will be sending me some pictures of the Unisea (Tracer) as she looks now. As I get more information I will pass it along. For Mr. Mendoza's help, YAGR'S will be sending him a Tracer hat.



REUNION 2000 Minneapolis / St Paul, MN

YAGR'S 5th reunion will be held June 1,2,3, 2000 in Minneapolis / St Paul MN. Our host hotel will be the Minneapolis / St. Paul Airport Hilton, 3800 East 80th St, Minneapolis, MN 55425, 1-800-637-7453. This site was picked as the best hotel for our needs after viewing 3 other locations. The Hilton offers free shuttle service from the airport and also to the Mall of America, which by the way is only two minutes from the hotel. The negotiated rate that YAGR'S has secured is \$89.00 per night. You can call the above phone number to reserve your room. Let them know that you are with the YAGR'S reunion group to get the special rate. Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

At the present time we are working on setting up the tours and the million other details that have to be done

before you arrive at the reunion. The cost of this year's reunion will be **\$69.00 per person**. The next YAGRGRAM will have the reunion registration form.

The format will be the same as the other 4 reunions. Thursday will be check in day with time to meet others in our hospitality room; Friday a tour of an area attraction; Saturday morning our meeting and the breakfast for the wives/guest; and Saturday night our banquet.

Spouses / Guest Breakfast

On Saturday morning we will again have the spouse/guest breakfast. Again, each spouse/guest is asked to bring an item for the Penny Social raffle. The item should cost in the area of \$5.00. Handcrafted items are always most welcome.

Because the crazy hat contest was so much fun last year, it was suggested that this year we try a "Crazy T-Shirt" contest. Be creative. There won't be any limitations or themes involved. Just design a T-Shirt that you think is crazy and fun. We will give a prize but the whole idea is to have some fun with it. Winning is really just for the bragging rights.

Minnesota

*The Land Of 10,000 Lakes
And
The Mall Of America*

To receive travel information for the Minneapolis area, you can call or write Minnesota Office of Tourism, 121 East 7th Place, St Paul, MN 55101, (800) 657-3700.

As there will be plenty of free time while you are at the reunion, you might want to do some sightseeing on your own and at your own pace. While YAGR'S always plans a tour on the Friday for those attending the reunion, you are on your own the rest of the time as far as sightseeing is concerned. Plan accordingly.

Battleship Massachusetts

Since the last YAGRGRAM, preparations have been progressing for the YAGR'S display that will be on the Battleship Massachusetts. The ship's curator and I have had a couple of meetings. The purpose of these meetings was for both of us to get a better understanding of what is expected from both parties.

In our last meeting, the general format of how each of the ship's history and ship's emblems will be displayed was

approved by him. The plan at this time is to have a display board (sign) showing the ship's emblem and a brief history of the ship. Each ship along with RADRON ONE and RADRON TWO will have its own display board. The displays will be in color to show the ship's emblems as they were meant to be seen and also to make a good impression on the viewing public.

While I cannot report the exact compartment YAGR'S will have at this time, I hope to in the near future. The Massachusetts is still in the planning stages of rearranging its displays and the ship's curator hopes to be able to assign us a compartment in a few months. As soon as we find out, a layout and cost estimate will be done and work will start soon afterward.

We do have a good start on the funding to do this work thanks to Bill Simcox and everyone who has made a donation. Bill donated the model of the USS Guardian AGR-1 to YAGR'S. The donations to date total \$2,893.20. Anyone wishing to make a donation can send it to me. Please make your checks out to YAGR'S.

To keep our cost down, I would like to hear from anyone who might be able to help with this project. First everything will have to be of museum quality work. If a one has a printing or graphics business, wood working business or any other type of business that might be able to accomplish building our display and would like to help, please get in touch with me.

Also we are considering having some of our members do some of the work aboard the ship to help keep the cost down. I have started a list of people that have already said that they will be willing to do some ship board work. This work can be anything from cleaning the compartment to building display cases. Something to keep in mind is that I can make arrangements for those of us who will be doing the work to stay on board the ship and be bunked in staterooms. Again, if you think you might be able to help, get in touch with me.

At this time I want to ask everyone to see what they might have that can be donated for this display. Do not send anything yet. Just let me know what you have. I am especially looking for pictures of the ships in rough seas and/or covered with ice. After I have had the photo copied, I will return the originals to you. I have not had much feedback on this, so see what you can do.

Display Signs

To help in the general layout of the display boards for the ships, Al Nannini (AGR-15, 1960-62), John Hemminger (AGR-2, 1960-61) and I got together on the Battleship Massachusetts. We worked out a format that we feel will be very appealing. Once all the typesetting and graphics are done on the computer and placed on disk, we can get it to the graphics company to get started.

Model Of USS YR-65

We are still looking for information on the YR-65. As you know, Bill Simcox (AGR-4, 1960-61) has taken on the task of building a model of the USS YR-65 as his next project. If anyone has pictures that will aid Bill on this project, please send them to me and I will get them to Bill. If you send something in, I will make sure you get the item back. We especially need information on what the hull looked like below the water line.

Cold War Certificate

Below is a sample letter to send to receive a Cold War certificate.

YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
DATE

Cold War Recognition
4035 Ridge Top Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Please send me a Cold War Recognition Certificate for my service to the United States government during the authorized period of September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

Enclosed is a copy of source document with my social security number / service number / foreign service number, which verifies my service during the cold war era. I understand that my source document will not be returned.

Please send my Cold War Certificate to the following address.

PUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS HERE

Submission of this request confirms my faithful service to the nation during the cold war era. If my service was in the armed forces, I further certify that my discharge was

honorable or general under honorable conditions. If I served as a federal civilian employee, I further certify that the character of my service was honorable.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Note: Acceptable documents for proof of service.

Any official government or military document with recipient's name, social security number, military service number, foreign service number and date of service is acceptable. Do not send original as these documents will not be returned.

It's Up To You

Hat Pin Or Patch

It is hoped to have all ship's emblems reproduced, either as a hat pin or a patch. The problem with this is the cost involved, as there are 27 different emblems, and for each one a minimum will have to be ordered. It is just not practical to order all 27 emblems at one time due to the cost of doing so. For example, if all 27 were ordered and we had to order a minimum of 50 of each emblem, 1,350 pieces would be needed. If the cost for each piece is \$3.00 that equals \$4,050.00 to pay up front. It would be more logical to have a few emblems made up at any one time and use the money received from the sale of those sold to order a few other ones. This way the sale of these items can pay for itself. Some people have told me that they would like to collect all 27 emblems. If there are enough people who would like to do this, I will get information on the cost for either pins or patches. Also let me know whether you prefer pins or patches. If there isn't enough interest, we will just drop the whole thing.

Sea Service Award

Joe Biron (AGR-9, 1958-60, CO AGR-14, 1964-65) and Al Nannini (AGR-15, 1960-62) have been busy on this project. Joe has been in touch with the head of the Awards and Special Projects Branch. A letter has been submitted to the Secretary of the Navy via the Chief of Naval Operations. There are three offices at CNO that have to sign off and one at the SECNAV. Joe has been told this can take a few months to process. We will keep you updated as we get new information to pass along.

Sea Stories

Joe Biron (XO AGR-9, 1958-59, CO AGR-14, 1964-65) and Ralph Edwards (CO AGR-9, 1958-59)

Shortly after arriving on station one weekend in the spring of 1959 the Investigator was on holiday routine when a skunk was reported at 15 miles closing on a collision course. The skipper was notified and he changed course. Within minutes the skunk altered its heading to remain on a collision course. Needless to say the entire watch kept a close eye on this approaching contact after such an unusual maneuver. In less than a hour it was close enough to identify as a soviet ELINT trawler that was fishing for electronic intelligence. It was the first time a soviet ELINT vessel had approached this close (about 300 miles) to CONUS. The skipper had just finished reading the monthly intelligence magazine which featured an article on the ELINT trawlers. He decided to try a little ploy to lure them in a little closer. He figured they were taking careful measurements of our electronic emissions. Our AN/SPS 12 air search radar was taken out of radiation. After putting out the word on the 1MC, every still and movie camera on the ship was topside and ready to shoot. When the contact closed to 1,000 yards, we were able to identify it as the soviet trawler "Vega" and reported this by FLASH message, as Captain Edwards put it "To God and everybody else". When the trawler closed to about 300 yards on our port quarter on a parallel course, the Captain ordered the air search antenna trained on it with full power, figuring to disable its monitoring instruments. We never did find out the effects of this gambit, but we probably cooked all the eggs in their galley. We then veered away to starboard and we both went our ways.

NORAD notified us that search aircraft were being sent out to view and presumably to photograph the "Vega". As dusk was falling Captain Edwards offered to illuminate the target with stars shells from our trusty 3"50s. This request drew a rapid response from all levels of the chain of command. "DO NOT OPEN FIRE"! It seems they had some aversion to starting World War III.

Bob Marshall (AGR-8, 1961-65) sent in that the Interceptors Captain at the time had his picture published in All Hands magazine as one of the few Captains who had a monogram command. This Captain was G. R. West, the ship hull number being GR-8.

If you have any stories you would like to pass on, send them to me and I will try to get them in as space available.

Found Crewmen

102 former crewmen added.

1,187 former crewmen now have been in touch with YAGR'S. As you all know, we are actively searching out former crewmen.

We hope to locate as many former crewmen as possible in the coming years. If you have any information on any former crewmen, pass the information along so that we can try to contact them. Or, for that matter try to reach them yourself. Anything you can do helps.

Lee Doyel (AGR-15, 1960-62) has been doing his bit to add to the Tracer list. He has located 20 former crewmen.

Dues

Dues are \$17.00 the first year you pay; then they are \$15.00 every year thereafter.

Dues for this year are now due. The YAGR'S year for dues runs from June 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000. If you have paid your dues and you did not receive your membership card and an updated crew list for the ship/ships you served on, please get in touch with me.

I have added information to the mailing label as indicated below. The date on the first line represents that your dues are paid thru the date that is shown.

5/31/00 (DUES PAID THRU)
JOHN SMITH GR-11 (hull # means I received questionnaire)
0000 STREET
ANYTOWN, RI 00000

Ship Emblems (Logo's)

We are still trying to locate the ships emblem for, YAGR-1, YAGR-4, YAGR-11, YAGR-12, YAGR-13, YAGR-14, YAGR-15 (both Tracer and Interrupter). Please look through your old stuff to see if you have anything that shows what these emblems looked like. We have almost reached the point of no return in regards to locating these emblems, if they ever existed. It will be very important to find out as these emblems will be on display on Battleship Massachusetts and once the display boards are made up, it would be very expensive to have another made up to show any newfound emblems.

YAGR'S

Since YAGR'S was established in 1996 we have held 4 reunions and, I might add, with great success. When I decided to do this, I figured to do it just for the Protector but soon realized that, because of the small crews and the ship's short life span, it would be wiser to do it for all 16 ships. In talking with a few others who tried to set up a reunion for their ship with no results due to lack of numbers, I found this proved to be a wise decision. To make a reunion successful you need numbers to get the best rates at hotels and also for other functions during the reunion. I have talked to other reunion groups that have been around for a while and I was told to expect 7% to 10% of our total membership to attend the reunions. We are doing better than that.

Since the very first reunion our attendance has grown along with the growth of YAGR'S. As numbers are a part of a successful reunion, comradeship is also. One of my concerns in the beginning was how the different ship crews would get along with one another. I do not mean that brawls would be breaking out (which could have happened when the ships were in commission) but would we get to know and socialize with the crewmen from the other ships. As anyone who has attended a reunion knows, this has happened. I do know of quite a few friendships that have formed from men who served on different ships. I myself have formed new friendships and have met some very interesting people that I would never have met except for the reunions. This along with renewing friendships from over 35 to 40 years ago has been a great reward for me. As YAGR'S has grown quite rapidly in the years since it was established, my hope is that we will continue to grow and hold many more successful reunions.

With your help YAGR'S will have a display on the Battleship Massachusetts second to none.

Like anything in life nothing comes easy. This is why your help is so important. As mentioned earlier, if you would like to do some work onboard ship, let me know.

We can probably schedule a weekend to go onboard the Battleship that will be suitable for most of us. This will take a little time to work out, but it can be done.

Anything you can do, whether working on the ship or making a donation, will help.

Ships Store

PLEASE GET YOUR ORDER FOR A HAT TO ME BY NOVEMBER 24, 1999

Hat.....Hull Number _____ Quantity _____ X \$15.00 each = \$ _____

Hat.....Hull Number _____ Quantity _____ X \$15.00 each = \$ _____

Ship Emblems (logo) Hull Number _____ Quantity _____ x \$ 3.50 each = \$ _____

AGR-1 THRU AGR-16

YAGR 2,3,5,6,7,8,9 AND 10

RADRON ONE and RADRON TWO

YAGR DIV. 21

NOTE: Emblems for YAGR-3 and YAGR-8

are the same emblems as AGR-3

and AGR-8 except for the lettering YAGR or AGR

All are approx. 4 1/2 inch diameter printed on 8 1/2" x 11" glossy paper.

Silhouette drawing of ship: Approx. 9 1/2 long, printed on 8 1/2" x 11" glossy paper.

Hull Number: _____ Quantity _____ x \$ 3.50 each = \$ _____

YAGR'S Logo Hat Pin, 3/4" diameter in color: Quantity _____ X \$ 4.25 each = \$ _____

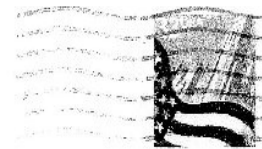
NOTE: This pin is of the YAGR'S Logo, not the emblems for the ships.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. MAKE CHECKS OUT TO YAGR'S

If you have ordered a hat, emblem or pin and have not yet received it, let me know.

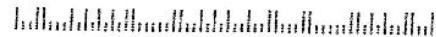


YAGR'S
C/O HARRY MILLER
230 W. FOREST AVE
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860-3318



5/31/01
M. L. DOYEL GR-15
2315 BAVARIAN CT.
PENSACOLA, FL 32503

32503/5866



Make your plans now

REUNION 2000

**YAGR'S 5th Reunion
Minneapolis, MN**

June 1,2,3, 2000

RADIOMAN Association

Chuck Miller (AGR-2, 1962-65) is President of the United States Navy Radioman Association. If you would like information about this association you can contact Chuck at (757) 473-8503.

If you have moved or will be moving

Please remember to update YAGR'S with your new address. Also add your new phone number.

