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YAGR'S

C/O HARRY MILLER
230 W. FOREST AVE.
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860-3318
(401) 724-7278

U.S.S. INVESTIGATOR	AGR 9
U.S.S. OUTPOST	AGR 10
U.S.S. PROTECTOR	AGR 11
U.S.S. VIGIL	AGR 12
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Baltimore, MD
May 29, 30, 31, 1996

September 21, 1996

YAGRGRAM #2

The Baltimore, MD reunion dates and location are set. The dates are Thursday May 29, Friday May 30 and Saturday May 31, 1997. The location is the Tremont Plaza Hotel, Baltimore, MD. The special room rate for us is \$95.00 per night. As I mentioned in YAGRGRAM #1 the room rate is higher in Baltimore than we paid in Newport, RI. The \$95.00 fits in with the results of the room rate survey I had. Of the 46 of you who responded, 31 said that the \$75.00 to \$100.00 range was okay. The Tremont Plaza Hotel is 6 blocks from the Inner Harbor, and you can walk there in 5 minutes or so. If you want to request tourist information for Baltimore, you can call or write. Baltimore Area Visitors Center

300 W. Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
(800) 282-6632

I have reserved a block of 75 rooms for the above-listed dates. Get your reservations in early. Based on my projections (see information further in this YAGRGRAM) of how many former crewmen will be aware of our 1997 reunion, I hope the 75 rooms will be enough. You can call the Tremont Plaza Hotel at 1-800-873-6668 to reserve your room. Let them know that you are with the YAGR reunion. Since the last reunion I have been in touch with 109 more YAGRMEN. This brings the total to 287 men who know of our plans. With any luck we should have contacted 375 to 400 by the May reunion. If every one reserves their rooms early and if I see we will need more rooms, it should not be a problem to get the rooms needed.

Tours and other functions are still being finalized, but as before I hope to keep the cost of the reunion in the \$60.00 per person range. I have been in touch with the S.S. John W. Brown in regards to having a tour aboard her but plans are not yet finalized. Also as per our first reunion in Newport, RI, you will have plenty of free time to do as you please. I plan to have the same schedule as before. Thursday will be for checking in, Friday our tour will be held (1/2 day), Saturday we will have our membership meeting in the morning and our banquet that evening. As things come together, I will get the complete information to you.

I have enclosed a list of former crewmen that I have been in touch with from the ship/ships that you served on. Look it over. If anything is wrong, get back to me. I'm keeping track of 20 different list and things can get mixed up. If you have an information request form enclosed with this list, please fill it out and return it to me. **I will need this request form returned to me for you to receive future updates of the crew list of ship.** Please keep this list, as I will be sending only updates in the future. I want to thank everyone who me names of former YAGRMEN. If you do not see a name that you sent me, there are a few reasons why. First, I could not locate the name in the computer program that I have, or there were too many people with that name. Second, a post card was sent but I did not receive a reply from them.

As most of you know, I use postcards to make the first contact with former crewmen. In response to one of these cards, I received a letter from the parents of Bernard Shepherd. Bernard served on the U.S.S. Protector AGR-11 as a RDSN in 1963-64. He died in an auto accident in 1994. They would like to hear from anyone who knew him. Their address is

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Shepherd
6280 Magnolia Dr.
Chincoteague, VA 23336
804-336-5925

In YAGRGRAM #1, I omitted a few things. Saturday evening we held our banquet at the Best Western Mainstay Motel. After the banquet our group split up. Some chose to stay at the Mainstay's lounge, while others went up to our hospitably room to close the evening out. Judging by the way some people came into the hospitality room Sunday morning for their coffee, they had a good time the night before.

I want to thank John Draves (AGR-2 1959-61, AGR-9 1961-62) for supplying the ships pictures and the various charts that were hanging up in the hospitality room.
John Hemminger (AGR-2 1960-61) for doing the photo-copying for the YAGRGRAMS and the list of former crewmen.
Bill Hinman (AGR-4 1955-57) for sending reunion notices to newspapers around the country.

In regards to my hunt for the ship's patches (the ones that were sewn on work jackets), the response has been good. To date I have received the following.

Lookout	AGR-2	(need to know what colors were used)
Skywatcher	AGR-3	
Scanner	AGR-5	
Picket	AGR-7	
Interceptor	AGR-8	
Investigator	AGR-9	
Protector	AGR-11	
Interpreter	AGR-14	
RADRON TWO		
YAGR DIV. 21		

I am still looking for Guardian, Searcher, Locator, Outpost, Vigil, Interdictor, Tracer, Watchman, RADRON ONE and YAGR DIV. West coast. If you have one of these patches please send it to me. **I guarantee that I will return it.** If you have not looked to see if you still have yours, please do so.

I received a call from Capt. Brian Hope who is chairman of Project Liberty Ship (S.S. John W Brown). For those of you who don't know, the Brown is only one of two Liberty ships in operation and is home-ported in Baltimore, MD. Capt. Hope has asked for our help regarding the U.S.S. Protector AGR-11. The Protector is awaiting disposal at the reserve fleet James River, VA. The volunteers from the Brown have been removing spare parts and equipment off the Protector to be used in restoring the Brown. The Brown crew was waiting to remove the propeller (screw) off the Protector to be kept as a spare. Some of us YAGRMEN know what it is like to lose a screw. As in all good plans, something has gone wrong. MARAD (Maritime Administration) James River has plans to sell the Protector to the highest bidder for scrap. Capt. Hope has told me that most likely a foreign company will wind up with her (probably from India or Pakistan). She will then be towed to ship yards in their country to be dismantled. If this happens the Brown will never be able to get the screw that she needs. There are also plans to remove the main engine off the Protector to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a planned marine museum.

Capt. Hope proposes that when MARAD puts out the bid specifications, they stipulate that Norfolk, VA companies are the only ones able to bid and that the work is to be done in the Norfolk, VA area. He is asking us former YAGRMEN to write our congressmen and senators and ask that they get in touch with MARAD and ask to include the above requirements in the bid specifications. Please take a few minutes and write to your Congressman and Senator.

Also a reminder. Dues are \$15.00 per year with a one time fee of \$2.00 for a total of \$17.00 for the first time you pay your dues. The \$2.00 fee is being used to help fund the search for former YAGRMEN. It helps pay the postage for the large amount of postcards that must be used in this search. To date 69 of 287 have paid their dues. I will be sending membership cards in the near future to everyone who has paid his dues.

I have been told by some West Coast YAGRMEN that there was a group of DER'S that was part of RADRON ONE. I have also been told that these DER'S just operated with the AGR'S and were not attached to RADRON ONE. If anyone knows for sure if they were actually part of RADRON ONE, please let me know.

In response to numerous request for ball caps with the ship's name on it, I have located a company that is willing to work with me. Most companies want a large order placed for any one ship. With 16 different ships this would be impractical because of the cost involved. This company will make the hats on an as-needed basis. These hats are a cotton blend and they will have the ship's name and silhouette embroidered on the hat. **The cost will be \$10.50 plus \$3.50 shipping for a total of \$14.00 per hat.** If you are interested in ordering a hat, please send your check made out to YAGRS to me by October 21, 1996. Along with your check, I will need to know how many hats you want and the ship's name. Delivery will be in about 8 weeks. Note: These hats are for the AGR'S **not the YR'S**. I am still working on them.

ABOUT THE

GUARDIAN AGR-1

LAUNCHED AS JAMES G. SQUIRES, MAY 1945
COMMISSIONED USN: FEBRUARY 1, 1955 AT CHARLESTON, SC
DECOMMISSIONED: JULY 1965
SCRAPPED: SEPTEMBER 1971

U.S.S WATCHMAN AGR-16

LAUNCHED AS VERNON S. HOOD, MARCH 1945
COMMISSIONED USN: JANUARY 5, 1959 AT CHARLESTON, SC
DECOMMISSIONED: SEPTEMBER 1965
SCRAPPED: OCTOBER 1974

To close out this YAGRGRAM, I have received another request for help. This request comes from Bruce "Beetle" Bailey. Bruce served on the U.S.S. Scanner AGR-5 as a QM3, from June of 1959 to October of 1961. Bruce retired as a QMC. He is writing a book about the YAGR'S. He has found what all of us know-- that there is very little information around about the ships and crews. Bruce is hoping to have one chapter of his book devoted to each ship. If you think you can be of any help, get in touch with him.

Bruce Bailey
1940 East Sycamore St.
Anaheim, CA 92805
(714) 635-9278

Hope to see you in Baltimore.



USS TRACER AGR 15

	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP CODE	RATE/YEAR	TELE #
	ASMUNDSON, FRANKLIN	13350 SAINT ANDREWS DR 68A	SEAL BEACH	CA	90740	CO	
2	DOYLE, M. L. "LEE"	2315 BAVARIAN CT.	PENSACOLA	FL	32503	LTJG 1960-62	904-433-6930
3	NANNINI, AL	21 PHELPS RD	MIDDLETOWN	RI	02842	LTJG 1960-62	401-846-4579
4	PRIEST, CLAUDE	PO BOX 400	ESTES PARK	CO	80517		
5	SCARROW, FLOYD	1457 MANNING RD	SUFFOLK	VA	23434	DC3	
6	SZAKAS, CHARLES J	231 TILESTON AVE	ZANESVILLE	OH	43701	DC3 1964	
7	TINGLEY, RONALD	1641 S. SWEET BRIAR LN.	SPRINGFIELD	OH	45505	SFM3 1960-64	

