Today the ex-USS HOEL is providing 50 megawatts of electrical power to the city of Manaus, Brazil, located about 1,000 miles up the Amazon River. The ship was delivered to its new home in the Fall of 1997. Ex-HOEL is the first of several stricken Adams Class DDG’s purchased at a cost of $46,000 by the Florida Crushed Stone Company in Leesburg, Florida to be converted into floating electrical platforms. The actual conversion took place in Charleston, South Carolina where the weapons systems, topside superstructure and propellers were removed. The two stacks are new construction. And, the final displacement was reduced from 4,500 to 3,370 tons.

In the engineering plant the dual 35,000 hp propulsion systems drive two electrical generators providing a net available output of 50 MW of electrical power. The four boilers continue to provide steam to the two steam turbines. The output from each turbine is combined through new gear boxes which reduce the turbine output speed to 1800 rpm to drive the 30 MW generators and optional 1500 rpm gear-boxes can be installed for 50Hz users. The two generators are connected to a step-up transformer mounted on the fantail.

New extensive computerized controls have been installed to control the boilers, turbines, generators and power output. All computer controls are linked by fiberoptic cable to a modern central control operating system located in one of the former crew living compartments.

The company is also in possession of ex-USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7), ex-USS LYNDE McCORMICK (DDG-8), ex-USS TOWERS (DDG-9) and ex-USS ROBISON (DDG-12).

Recent correspondence with the Florida Crushed Stone Co. indicate they are having some trouble with the ex-HOEL. After acquiring the ships it was determined they have an excessive number of unsound rotors, steam pipes, etc. So far ex-HOEL has not yet proven to be economical. At second thoughts about future conversions.

Crushed Stone Co. indicate they are having success with ex-ROBISON which is providing 50 megawatts of electrical power to the city of Charleston, South Carolina. Ex-ROBISON is being stripped for living compartments.

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United States Navy Band.


For members who do not have access to the internet this is a brief description of the Web site. It consists of eight interesting pages. The Home Page identifies the USS Berkeley site and contains a brief history of the ship launching, commissioning, decommisioning, and its history page lists what Berkeley did after its commissioning. The next page is a brief biography and photo of MG EN Berkeley and his Medal of Honor citation. The page following is the Berkeley crest with a notation on how the crest was designed. The fifth page is a listing of all the commanding officers, the dates they were in command and their final retirement rank. By clicking on the C.O.’s listed in blue, their biography and photo will pop up. The next page lists all past and future reunion information, the mailing address and telephone number of the Association. Page seven is a photo of H.S. Themistokles, the ship’s crest with a brief history of Themistokles and previous ships with the same name. The final page is the Visitor’s Page or the Quarterdeck Log. Visitors can check in, provide their mailing address, indicate if they would like to join the Association and write in a brief comment. When the form is completed, clicking on the “Submit” button sends it immediately to the DDGBerk mailbox.

For your protection against identity theft, your e-mail address, please advise. If you have an e-mail address and it’s not listed in the new roster, send a message and it will be added to the next issue.

1998 Reunion memory book

The company contracted to take photos and print a memory book of the reunion attendees will not be published. They have asked that during the photo session their vehicle was broken into and all their equipment and film was stolen. Refunds should have been received by all who ordered a book.

Interesting Reading

The Edge of Honor is a fictitious story written by Capt. Peter T. Deutermann (Ret) about action in the Tonkin Gulf during the period 1969-70 involving a DLG on PIRAZ Station. All of the ships in the story are real names of those out there during that era and Berkeley is one of them. She takes a real beating during one of the Sea Dragon operations. Available in paperback.

Berkeley Internet News

The new USSBerkeley.com Web site has been visited 167 times since activation on 13 October 1998. When the new Web site was announced to the membership, 10 e-mail addresses were rejected as invalid. If you change your e-mail address, please advise.

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USS BERKELEY HISTORY DECEMBER

30 Years Ago
1-2, Enroute to Subic Bay. 2, Inport Subic Bay. 3-6, Enroute to Guam. 6-10, Inport Guam. 11-13, Inport Pearl Harbor. 14, Inport Pearl Harbor. 15-20, Enroute to Long Beach. 20-31, Upkeep Long Beach. CDR Thomas M. Ward, Jr. is the Commanding Officer.

20 Years Ago
1-3, Inport San Diego. 4, Training & Readiness Evaluation (TRE) for ASW. 5, TRE for Weps & Ops. 6-7, Inport San Diego. 8, Underway for bumber drills. TRE for DC & Eng. 9-10, Inport San Diego. 11-15, Underway for plane guard duty. 16-17, Inport San Diego. 18-21, Inport San Diego (TYCOM 3-M Inspection). 22-31, Inport San Diego. CDR Kenneth R. Sydow is the Commanding Officer.

10 Years Ago
1-5, Inport San Diego. 5-8, Underway SoCal Op Area. 8-9, Inport San Diego. 9-12, Guest ship duty, Broadway Pier, San Diego. 12-16, Underway, NGFS. 16-31, Inport San Diego. CDR Charles R. Girvin III is the Commanding Officer.

Admiral Dennis C. Blair was recently selected for a fourth star and will report to his new assignment in Feb. 1999 as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii. Admiral Blair was Executive Officer aboard Berkeley 1977-1980.

USS HOEL (DDG-13)

spare parts and the hull is destined to become an underwater reef off the coast of South Carolina. The superstructures of ex-McCORMICK and ex-WILSON have been removed and scrapped and the ultimate fate of these two ships is undetermined. Most of the superstructure of ex-TOWERS is still intact and discussions are underway with several companies to make the ship available as a movie backdrop.


USS BERKELEY WEB SITE IS UP AND RUNNING.


Berkeley Internet News
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Request for newsletter articles
If you should come across any newsworthy item that our members would find to be interesting reading, send it in. LCDR Art Desrosiers (Ret) brought the Hoel story to our attention. Beginning with the next issue there will be a column entitled “Sea Tales” where interesting stories or experiences aboard Berkeley will be published. If you have a sea tale you would like to share with the membership, send it in. 300-400 words is ideal in size. And, photos always enhance an interesting story.

Vendor requests for our roster
It has always been policy to not provide our roster of names and addresses to other reunion groups or vendors. If you get such a request, please do not comply.

Telephone area codes
Has your area code or telephone number changed? If so, please advise so we may keep the roster current.

For members who do not have access to the internet this is a brief description of the Web site. It consists of eight basic pages. The Home Page identifies the USS Berkeley site and contains a photo of the ship. Page two is the history of the ship where it was built and the dates the keel was laid, the launching, commissioning, decommisioning and final disposition. A second history page lists what Berkeley did during her 30 years of service and the awards she earned. The next page is a brief biography and photo of MG EN Berkeley and his Medal of Honor citation. The page following is the Berkeley crest with a notation on how the crest was designed. The fifth page is a listing of all the commanding officers, the dates they were in command and their final retirement rank. By clicking on the C.O.’s listed in blue, their biography and photo will pop up. The next page lists all past and future reunion information, the mailing address and telephone number of the Association. Page seven is a photo of H.S. Themistokles, the ship’s crest with a brief history of Themistokles and previous ships with the same name. The final page is the Visitor’s Page or the Quarterdeck Log. Visitors can check in, provide their mailing address, indicate if they would like to join the Association and write in a brief comment. When the form is completed, clicking on the “Submit” button sends it immediately to the DDGBerk mailbox.

Visitors who have sound cards in their computers can also enjoy music by the United States Navy Band. Visitors with e-mail addresses and discussing are underway with several companies to make the ship available as a movie backdrop.

Another advantage of e-mail is that our sailors are now able to have rapid communications with their details, then discuss options with their spouse at home and e-mail the detailer back with a decision, often within 24 hours. No more worry about the time zone differences and long distance telephone calls. Soon sailors will be submitting duty preference forms using pop-up menus via e-mail. Correspondence courses with stateside colleges are being conducted less frequently, information is not appropriate such as the ship’s location and intended direction. In most ships messages are scanned by senior personnel to make sure operational information is not being released. Outgoing e-mail is stored and then transmitted in a burst according to a schedule. E-mail is definitely making a difference in fleet morale today.

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