

Historic Naval Ships Association
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEMORANDUM 18-11

Subj: ***DAILY LIFE ON BOARD SHIP, IN A SAILOR'S VOICE***

Call for Submissions

We need your help for a new HNSA project! Do you have first person accounts in your collection, written by sailors who served on your ship(s)? We are compiling an anthology of sailors' stories describing various aspects of daily shipboard life. Tentatively titled "In a Sailor's Voice," this compilation will consist of oral histories and first person accounts by sailors representing various ships, navies, and eras. Ideally, we would like to have at least one story from each historic vessel in HNSA.

Each account should be representative of a specific aspect of naval or shipboard life that was commonly encountered or experienced by sailors during their careers. An account could be as short as a single paragraph, or as long as several pages. The important thing is that each account represents one particular aspect of navy life, either ordinary or extraordinary—and that they are told by sailors themselves, in their own voice. We are especially interested in the enlisted sailors as most stories are usually published by officers.

Together, they will comprise a sort of "diary" of the daily shipboard life of an average sailor. No matter what sort of ship one served on, in what navy, or in what time period, there are common experiences and aspects of navy life that all sailors have experienced.

We hope to gather enough stories for both a print version and an online collection of "In a Sailor's Voice," for posting on the HNSA website.

TOPICS: Do you have an account by a sailor who served on your ship, describing one of the following aspects of navy life?

- how/why I enlisted
- how I was recruited
- training/boot camp
- other tasks
- getting my sea legs
- seasickness
- discipline at sea
- standing watch
- brightwork, deck swabbing, and
- trash disposal while at sea

- launching, commissioning ceremonies
- the shakedown cruise
- a good leader I served under on board
- a bad leader I served under
- sleeping on board a ship
- eating on board a ship
- showering on board a ship
- the sea bag
- clothes/uniforms/laundry
- the experience of being on watch while at sea
- bravery/fear on board
- promotions
- achievement/failure
- the chief who changed my life
- devotion to one's shipmates
- learning about/using shipboard technology/equipment
- the lucky break that saved my life
- a shipboard pet
- fun/amusements/recreation
- sports
- shipboard practical jokes
- ceremonies/traditions on board
- "crossing the line"
- women on board: from a male perspective
- women on board from a female perspective
- being a gay sailor in the navy
- illness/injury/medical operations
- the binnacle list
- "sea state"
- the rogue wave
- jinxes/the "jinx ship"
- superstitions at sea
- mail call; letters to/from home
- receiving a "Dear John" letter
- geedunk
- the head
- liberty
- grog
- getting a tattoo
- shipboard scuttlebutt
- smoking on board
- coffee
- religion/religious services at sea
- funeral at sea
- going AWOL
- the brig
- man overboard
- leaving the navy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS: Please designate the appropriate staff member from your organization as POC for this project, and provide their name and contact information to Jeff Nilsson. We will contact the POC to discuss a submission to represent your ship(s).

For submissions, questions, or further information, please contact:

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