

Charles F Adams Class

PO Box 106
Milltown NJ 08805-0106

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USS Claude V Ricketts (Biddle)



Patch

From Bob Haner

The CHARLES F ADAMS CLASS

This document can be shared with other CF Adams Associations.

I had a long talk with Mike Kegley of the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum regarding the current status of bringing the USS CF Adams to a permanent berth in Saginaw/Bay City, Michigan as a floating museum.

1. The Board of Directors for the SVNS Museum has changed direction in regards to bringing the USS CF Adams (DDG-2) to Bay City. Instead of the Adams, the USS Edson is being consisted as the best choice because of the following:
 - The Edson is currently a floating museum in New York City in the Intrepid Museum. The amount of money required to restore it would be significantly less (\$1-2 Million, estimated) than bringing the Adams out of the Philadelphia mothballs.
 - A goal of the Museum is to bring a warship as the show piece. A destroyer which was built by Defoe Ship-yards would be best but the available ships which are in restorable condition were not built there.
 - The USS CF Adams was originally selected as the preferred ship for the museum because of her current condition and the fact Defoe built some of the ships in this class.
 2. The SVNS Museum would welcome an assistance from the other CF Adams Associations in bringing the project to completion. However, they believe there is a lot of groups (some of them new organizations) which all have different ideas relating to the Museum which do not agree with the SVNS group.
 3. The Navy has to OK release of the USS Edson from New York City but it seems Navsea would probably approve this transfer of the ship.
 4. The USS CF Adams is still on museum hold in Philadelphia and can be claimed by any group which can convince the Navy they have a good plan on the books. This is pending the move of the USS Edson by the SVNS group.
 5. The SVNS has been working on this project of seven years. They did not give a time line to get the USS Edson but based on the condition of the ship, need to move it because of other displays arriving, and the work already done by the group, it would be shorter than the USS CF Adams.
- TR Jones DDG 24

1 IT IS TRUE THAT THE SAGINAW VALLEY GROUP HAS WITHDRAWN THEIR DONATION APPLICATION FOR THE EX-ADAMS DDG-2.

2 AT THIS TIME, THE NAVY HAS NOT DETERMINED WHICH DDG WILL CONTINUE ON DONATION HOLD.

3 SINCE THE NAVY HAS NOT DETERMINED WHICH DDG WILL CONTINUE ON DONATION HOLD IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR OUR GROUP (ADAMS CLASS DDG Veterans Association TO TAKE SAGINAW VALLEY'S PLACE AT THIS TIME.

4 THE NAVY WILL HAVE AN ANNUAL MEETING IN THE SPRING (MAYBE MAY) AT WHICH TIME SHIPS ON DONATION HOLD OR REQUESTS TO PLACE SHIPS ON DONATION HOLD ARE DISCUSSED AMONG OTHER NAVY MATTERS.

THE MEETING IS A CLOSED MEETING.

If you would like to get some more info go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Adams_Class_DDG_Veterans_Association/ Click "JOIN THIS GROUP" You will get all the E mails that are passed within the group.

There is a new web site for the C F Adams DDG 2. Jim Bosworth was the former webmaster of the SVNSM site and has set a new site up just for the Adams. <http://www.bozair.com/adamsmen/DDG2.html>

There are also two other web sites to look at. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Adams_Class_Veterans_Association That is the home of the Adams Class Vets site where you can join. The other site is www.spiderbookproductions.net/cfava This site is to bring a CAF ship to museum status. The site is still in dry-dock in the precom unit.

Have you joined the Charles F Adams Class Veterans Association? You can go to the following web site http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Adams_Class_DDG_Veterans_Association/ Click on Join this group. We are looking for the following Board positions to fill, **MEMBERSHIP Director** And **FUNDRAISING Chair person**. Check out the web site at <http://www.spiderbookproductions.net/cfava/>

Subscription info. Contact Len Gordon PO Box 106
Milltown NJ DDGgusboat@aol.com

Maybe we could learn from the Germans and Greeks. Learned of an interesting twist today with regard to preserving a Charles F. Adams class DDG. The German Navy has announced that the Zerstörer Mölders D186 will be preserved as a museum. As of 12/18/03 with the decommissioning of the Zerstörer Lütjens D185, the only CFA DDG commissioned in the world is the HS Kimon DDG 218 (former USS Semmes DDG-18). I have heard rumors of the Greeks preserving the Kimon or Nearchos (former USS Waddell DDG-24) as a museum but no decision has been made public. The obvious advantage of both Germany and Greece is that the museums are government sponsored.

There is a new group out there. The Charles F Adams Veterans Association. With the following people elected (shanghaied) to office.

President: Frank Manis DDG 14
nightwriterla@yahoo.com

Vice President: Tom Crosser DDG 14
Tecrosserbsausnr@aol.com

Public Relations/Newsletter: Len Gordon DDG 17
DDGgusboat@aol.com

Secretary/ Treasurer: Dave Myerly DDG 2
DaveDDG2@yahoo.com

USS Barney Liasion: Rick Watson DDG 6
Rwatsonjr@applegarth.com

We are looking for 1 or 2 reps from each ship in the class to come join with us. Contact any one above for info. The purpose of this group is the bring a Adams Class ship to become a museum ship in either Baltimore, MD, Miami, FL, or Savanna, GA.

MISSION STATEMENT

To work with all Adams Class groups and organizations to Save, Restore and Preserve an Adams class DDG ship.

Educate the public on the rich naval heritage of the Adams class ships;

Document the roles Adams Class ships played in United States history;

Show the importance of preserving historic naval vessels for future generations.

News From Down Under

HMAS Perth III The New Perth was launched on Saturday March 20 in Williamstown Australia. The ship is the last of eight ANZAC Class frigates to be built for the RAN.

What's up with the Brisbane?

Well it has been a waiting game!

The state government, after yes ing and no ing and finally 'yes ing' found that it was going to be extremely difficult to put the proper legislation in place to enable them to properly administer the ship if it was to be scuttled at site 'A' which is in federal waters. The state requested the federal government allow them to sink it, still off the Sunshine Coast, but in state waters. (within 3 nautical miles from the shoreline) To cut a very long and frustrating story short, the federal government has, I understand, finally, given their consent for the state government to research state waters for another site as long as the original site in commonwealth waters is also given due consideration as well.

As all the experts who will be working and consulting have said that there is 12 months work in preparing the ship for scuttling, if everything was to happen NOW with the red tape and paper work between governments, then the ship would possibly be in Brisbane for Christmas, work would therefore not be completed until early 2005. This is not the time of year to try to sink a 5000 ton ship. The weather is so unstable then. We need to have the ship at the site for 3 days prior sinking for Roy Gabriel to weave his magic to enable the ship to be sunk properly, safely and right way up. My guess is that we would then have to wait for some fair weather around May, June 2005 so be able to sink her. I hope I'm wrong, but this is how the situation looks. This is also assuming that neither government can find any other reason to stall and delay the project any longer. We started this in early 2000. I was told by Ron Moore from Albany, when I went over to see the Perth sunk, (thanks again Peter Hall for the airline ticket) that it took him 5 years to get his ship on the bottom. The whole project almost put him out of business because of the time and energy that went into the project and which should have gone into his business. I can certainly relate to his plight. I told him that we would probably have ours down in 3 to 3.5 years. Wrong again hey? Let's hope I'm wrong about May/June 2005 and we are pleasantly surprised with an even earlier sinking. Oh I feel just a little bit better after getting that off my chest...whew!

Greg Riddell

Reunions this Year:**USS Claude V Ricketts DDG 5** June 2005 Philly. PA**USS Barney DDG 6** July 30-Aug 1 Norfolk VA**USS Lynde McCormick DDG 8** Sept 16-19 San Diego CA**USS Buchanan DDG 14** Feb 18-22 Pensacola FL**USS Conyngham DDG 17** June 9-13 Bloomington MN**US Semmes DDG 18** July 9-13 New Orleans LA**USS Benjamin Stoddard DDG 22** Proposed ContactHerm Chambers ddg22etcm@hotmail.com**Reunions in Review:**

Then there were two: The USS Lawrence **DDG 4** has been moved to a dry dock and will be **SCRAPPED**. It has been said that it started to take on water.

This is a update on the condition of the USS Lawrence, DDG-4. Please forward a copy of this message to all Confederation members. Last Thursday and Friday Steve Hamel, another ex DDG crew member (I'm getting old and forgot his name), myself spent two days on board the Lawrence. I actually for one month tried to kiss as much butt as I could find to begin a effort to rescue as much of her as we could. This effort was not to interfere with saving DDG-2, but to create another smaller museum that would be able to create jobs in our local area. The idea was to use the shell of DDG-4 as a center piece of a park and locate business around it. Knowing that they made power barges out of some was the thought behind this. Have a off ship modern steam plant off the ship that ran on used oil and fluids produce steam and pipe it on board to crank the generators. Electricity = \$\$\$\$\$ and the project would fund itself. But as I am not a kiss ass power broker in the region I got no response. Anyways, those that want to see progress in our area thought it was a interesting plan and would have got involved. So much for my off the wall idea.

After 2 days on board the ship there is really nothing left to save. Everything has been removed or smashed beyond repair. Other than the few things that are showing up on Metro Machine's e-bay page that is all that is left. Those items are not in that good of shape. When the Navy took her back they apparently did not put the dehumidifiers back on. The inside is rusted considerably. The inside has been totally DEMILED and no equipment is left other than the small things that have been smashed. On the outside the following is gone: ship's anchor, gun director, all antennas, and all masts. The holes are still pretty much intact but they are working on them. The ship should be moved into dry dock by August and be gone by December. We did take several hundred photos and will post them as soon as we can get a web site together. If you or anyone has any questions please feel free to e-mail me.

Lawrence's motto is "**Don't give up the ship**". Unfortunately she is past that point! Craig Bernat FC1 DDG 4

Military Pride

Be very proud of our persons in uniform

When Hurricane Isabel approached Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They refused, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7. since 1930.

The Commander took the shift when Isabel was unleashing her greatest fury, because he did not want to ask any of his men to do this. He felt it was his highest honor to be on duty during that time.

The Third Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer has the responsibility for providing ceremonial units and honor guards for state occasions, White House social functions, public celebrations and interments at Arlington National Cemetery; *and* standing a *very* formal sentry watch at the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers. The public is familiar with the precision of what is called "walking post" at the Tombs. There are roped off galleries where visitors can form to observe the troopers and their measured step and almost mechanical silent rifle shoulder changes.

They are relieved every hour in a very formal drill that has to be seen to be believed. Some people think that when the Cemetery is closed to the public in the evening that this show stops. First, to the men who are dedicated to this work it is no show, it is a "charge of honor." The formality and precision continues uninterrupted all night. During the nighttime, the drill of relief and the measured step of the on duty sentry remain unchanged from the daylight hours. To these men, these special men, the continuity of this post is the key to the honor and respect shown to these honored dead, symbolic of all unaccounted for American combat dead. The steady rhythmic step in rain, sleet, snow, hail, hot, cold, bitter cold, is uninterrupted, Uninterrupted is the important part of the honor shown.