

PLANK OWNER By Bob Walker

What is a Plank Owner? A person assigned to a new construction ship for Pre-commissioning Training and on board for duty when placed in commission, is considered a Plank Owner. ESSEX members who were aboard when she was re-commissioned in 1951 are NOT Plank Owners.

Being a Plank owner of a ship is a unique honor. There is a story that when a Plank owner is transferred from his ship, he can take a plank with him. I'm sure this was in the days of sailing ships although when I left ESSEX, I received a piece of her flight deck even though I was not a Plank Owner. I treasure that piece of wood!!

We see some of our Plank Owners at our reunions, but only a small number compared to our total figure. At last count made by the Secretary from his trusty computer, 81 ESSEX Plank Owners belong to our association! I think this is a wonderful display of allegiance and nostalgia to and for our Grand Old Lady - THE FIGHTIN'EST SHIP IN THE FLEET.

Considering that a person was about 17 when he came aboard in 1942, and the time lapsed, which would make him about 75 years young! Some were more advanced. Al, don't throw rocks at me, but if our records are correct, Al Shannon our illustrious Cannon Cocker, is the Senior ESSEX Plank Owner at the Tender Age of 84! Many more years Al.

So all of our Plank owners ages lie somewhere between, 84 and 75. That's a darn, good longevity! We are proud of all our Plank Owner members: We will continue to recognize all in attendance at our reunions.

We could not find any listing of Plank Owners when reviewing our current and past records. So we are publishing here a complete listing of all our members who are Plank owners. Corrections/additions can be made to the Secretary, Leonard Schlamp.

PLANK OWNERS AS OF 1 SEPT 2000

A current review of our membership rolls has been compared with Naval Monthly Muster Lists and ESSEX Deck Logs to ascertain who were on board for duty as of 31 December 1942 and were therefore ESSEX Plank Owners. We are prepared to advise those who may question this listing, with the exact date they came aboard and what their previous duty station was. Please contact the Secretary H. Bruce Sims and/or our former Secretary C. Leonard Schlamp, if you have a question.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DIV</u>
ARD, Phillip F.	KY
BENDIX, William E.	E
BILICA, John	4th
BOONE, Ralph C.	A&M
CHOCKLEY, George M.	E
CLEMENT, Lee	R2/S1
COUGHLIN, Thomas	1st
CROFT, George W. Jr.	MARDET
DANKLEFSEN, Earl G.	A
DAVIS, Ronald W.	MARDET
HAYES, Robert F.	Band
HELMICK, Calvin C.	N
HUCK, Lawrence J.	S1
JONES, William H.	MARDET
KENT, George E.	V
KORTE, John B.	?
LAVORE, Nicholas S.	R1
LEWIS, Earl A.	2 nd
LYNCH, Calvin C.	KY
LUBITZ, Bernard "Buddy"	Band
McCARD, J. Harold	Band

McGINN, William P.	M&B
MEDVITZ, George S.	1st
PASTIAN, Rudy	4th
PAUL, Harry B.	?
POTTER, Warren E.	5th
RIESTER, Andrew J.	V2
ROUNTREE, John H.	V2S
SANTOLI, Michael A.	MARDET
SINNOTT, Leo A.	E
SMITH, Robert J.	4th & 5th
TOMLINSON, Philip	Med
TUERK, Charles F.	MARDET
WINE, Edwin L.	MARDET
WOODRUFF, Charles G.	E