



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

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Email: rathdrum154@gmail.com

Website: Rathdrumpost154.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RathdrumAmericanLegion>

Mailing Address: PO Box 1116, Rathdrum ID

Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum

Editor: Jean Bledsoe



Post 154 Mission Statement

The American Legion Post 154 is a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness to support Veterans and the Community at large. We are committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members, veterans, and their families in our communities. Our success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. This organization belongs to the people it serves and the community in which it thrives.

Commander:

As I sit here in quarantine, I reflect on the great things that we have done and the many things that we will do. It's been a rough couple of months and hopefully we are in a positive up swing from the national epidemic that we have all had to face. There are no right and no wrong decision that can be made in this situation. Usually we are talking about our new upcoming year, but now we are trying to decide what is the safest and best approach for our members.

We are going to start having our Executive Committee meetings in person and hopefully at the end of the month we will have our General Membership meeting. At this time, we will not be having a potluck dinner and I am not sure when we will start that again, but I am buying pizza for everyone! This is a safe alternative. Yummy, and I hope to see you there.

If you have concerns about coming to the meeting, we will be social isolating and are open to any ideas to how we can have you participate. Maybe by Zoom or being of the phone.

Please stay safe and Healthy. - Dee Sasse, Commander



1st Vice-Commander:

WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?



Back in April, I decided to send out birthday cards to our Post 154 members. These cards are sent by E-mail, through [Jacquie Lawson E-Cards](#). This is a great site for all kinds of cards. I have the date-of-birth for 127 of our 149 listed members and have chosen cards for everyone through the August birthdays.

I realize many of you, not knowing where the cards originated, may have had them go into your SPAM file. As it turns out, there have been 23 cards sent and only 8 have not been opened. Not bad for not informing everyone from the start. SORRY!

So, if your birthday rolls by, take a look in your files for a card from the American Legion Rathdrum Post 154, and have a Happy Birthday.

Bill Kinder 1st Vice Commander, Membership Committee

Finance Officer:

As we end the month of May, I have very little to report, since we have not had any meetings or participated in any activities or events due to the COVID – 19 virus and the State’s “Stay Home” procedures. We had one donation to the Honor Guard from a family who appreciated the military honors we provided at a memorial service. We also received some member donations. We had to cancel our annual Poppy Distribution for Memorial Day, which is our major fundraiser, but have received some donations from members (THANK YOU).

The economic impact of the virus has been considerable. The State of Idaho went from an unemployment rate of below 3% to a 17.5% unemployment rate as of May 15 with 133,100 unemployment claims filed in the past month. It has also impacted State revenues with collections for income, sales and other taxes well below projections. The only bright spot is liquor sales, which have increased significantly. The Governor has already announced a 1% hold back on all State expenditures, including education, and is planning an across the board 5% reduction in expenditures for FY 2021, which starts in October.

So, as we open up our economy in late May, I recommend that you get back to shopping, eating out and supporting our local small businesses – but do it safely: with social distancing, wearing a mask and frequently washing your hands. – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Chairman:

Goodwill Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Receives Additional \$1.6 Million Through CARES Act:

Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program received an additional \$1.6 million this week to provide rental assistance and emergency housing support to area Veterans impacted by COVID-19.

“This funding comes at a critical time for Veterans who are in shelters, on the street, or at-risk of becoming evicted,” said Michele Harris, Vice President of Workforce & Family Services.

“With unemployment at all-time high levels, many of our citizens are struggling to pay rent and shelters are running at full capacity. This funding increases homeless prevention assistance, which is in very short supply in our community” explained Harris.

Goodwill’s SSVF program serves eligible Veterans residing in eleven counties in eastern Washington and north Idaho, including Spokane, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Orielle, Lincoln, Whitman Kootenai, Bonner, Shoshone, Benewah, and Boundary counties.

Veterans who need help should call the 24-hour Veteran hotline (509) 828-2449 or walk-in to the Goodwill Administration office located at 130 E. Third Avenue in Spokane, Washington, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (cont. below)

Legion Supports National Guard Called to Duty for COVID-19:

Currently, more than 40,000 National Guard members have answered the call to service to help our nation fight this unprecedented pandemic. When these service members report to duty, they do so knowing they are putting themselves in harm's way for the greater good of our nation. Part of the promise we make to our National Guard is when they are called to duty, they will earn certain retirement and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for their service.

Unfortunately, our nation's service members are being treated like numbers on a spreadsheet instead of the heroes that they are. The Department of Defense has enacted a policy of issuing a "hard stop" for National Guard orders at 89 days, 1-day shy of the 90-day threshold required to earn many retirement and educational benefits.

We would be far worse off if we did not have the National Guard setting up field hospitals, cleaning nursing homes, and delivering emergency supplies. An 89-day deployment strongly suggests a decision based on accounting rather than what's needed to truly respond to this emergency. The American Legion is calling for the Department of Defense to put a stop to this.

Legion Supports the Coast Guard Authorization Act: On a daily basis our Coast Guard personnel carry out missions that are vital to our national security, yet they are the only military branch working without pay during a government shutdown. This is unacceptable. The repeated, and all too common, threat of government shutdowns bring severe hardship on our Coast Guard men, women, and their families. No member of our military service should ever live in fear of not being paid.

Last year, the longest government shutdown in our nation's history came to an end, stopping what had been more than a three-week gap since more than 41,000 active-duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard had been paid. This is why The American Legion supports Section 221 of S. 2297, **Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019**. This provision, known as the "Pay Our Coast Guard" provision, would ensure Coast Guard pay in the event of another government shutdown. - Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman



A safe activity during our "sanctuary" time!

Service Officer:

As we continue to practice social distancing and keep our fingers crossed to move forward in our state's "phases", we realize how essential telehealth innovations are to patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Health System recognizes the importance of telehealth to prevent in-person spread of the novel coronavirus while still providing quality care to beneficiaries. As a result, the Defense Health Agency is making three temporary revisions to TRICARE regulations regarding telehealth with unprecedented speed.

DHA published an interim final rule in the Federal Register May 12, 2020. The rule invoked temporary changes to how beneficiaries and providers receive and provide telehealth care. These changes to the TRICARE telehealth rules were not Congress-directed. DHA acknowledged the need to make temporary changes to telehealth policy and took action to expand access to care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes to regulation that require publication to the Federal Register usually take six months to a year to implement. However, DHA sought to expedite the process due to the urgency to continue providing care during the pandemic. DHA recognizes that both beneficiaries and providers may have technical and capacity limitations to the expansive telehealth demand created by both social distancing recommendations and restrictions to person-to-person interactions.

The agency hopes to implement changes to beneficiaries worldwide in 30-90 days. Once implemented, changes made through the interim final rule will stand as long as the country remains in a state of national emergency, as declared by the president March 13, 2020.

The FIRST change gives beneficiaries access to audio-only telephone visits with their providers. TRICARE will permit audio-only health care visits to improve access to care for beneficiaries that cannot access audio-visual care. Beneficiaries that cannot access audio-visual care due to lack of in-home technology, such as smartphones or computers, or who live in remote areas without the bandwidth for video conferencing, can take advantage of this service.

The SECOND regulatory change: TRICARE will reimburse providers that practice interstate telehealth where permitted by federal or state law, even if the provider is not licensed in the state where they are remoting in. Usually, providers that offer telehealth must be licensed in both the state where they practice and the state where their beneficiaries reside. This requirement will be temporarily modified to allow providers to expand their telehealth reach and still qualify for reimbursement. The rule also applies to providers overseas as long as a provider holds an equivalent license in another nation, and the host nation permits such practice.

The THIRD change temporarily waives cost-shares and copayments for covered, in-network telehealth services. This change doesn't cover just services related to COVID-19, but all telehealth services inside of the network. DHA hopes that by removing these costs, beneficiaries take advantage of telehealth and reduce exposure of others to TRICARE beneficiaries who may have the novel coronavirus.

Although the new rules are effective May 12, it will take time for all of the changes to be fully implemented. Beneficiaries may still be assessed a copay for telehealth services over the next few months, but adjudicated claims will either be pended or copays may be reimbursed. Some changes may remain in effect beyond the national emergency for overseas locations. DHA will reevaluate telehealth changes in the long term once the threat of COVID-19 diminishes.

DHA remains dedicated to transparency, while working to swiftly to reduce inconvenience for their beneficiaries and providers. Future updates will be posted to Health.mil and [TRICARE.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) as they are finalized. - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



For those that have not renewed for 2020 you still have time.

But!!! Not many days left!

You have until June 17th, to get your dues paid for 2020. Your membership runs January through December. We have 16 members whose memberships have been expired since the end of December 2019. I do not want anyone to lose their continuous membership. Some have quite a few years already. If you are planning on renewing, do so now, as National begins sending renewal notices out in July for 2021. Anyone renewing after June 17th will be renewed for 2021 and will lose their continuous years.

Please check your American Legion ID cards, if it says it's for 2019,
you are expired!

You may renew online at legion.org/renewal or send your \$45.00 Check to:
American Legion Rathdrum Post 154
PO Box 1116
Rathdrum, ID 83858

Submitted by: Bill Kinder 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman



Post 154 Honor Guard:

For those of you not aware, our Post has an Honor Guard. They march in parades, present the colors at ceremonies, and most importantly, provide a rifle salute to honor Veterans at their funerals. Starting this month there will be an account of the honors and hours given by the men and women in our Honor Guard. However, more members are always needed to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in participating in this very fulfilling activity, contact Harold Markiewitz at 208-691-3039. This past Memorial Day 9 members of Post 154 Honor Guard gave a rifle salute, presented the Colors, gave a rifle salute, and played *Taps* for the ceremony.

Chaplain's Pew:

For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. John 6:33, NIV

Dear Father in heaven, in your Word we trust, in your Word of eternal life, given us in Jesus Christ our Savior. We build on this Word of life in these days when it seems that everything is losing strength and value, and yet there is so much longing in people's hearts. You will not let our hope be disappointed. What you have spoken must be

fulfilled. What is promised in Jesus Christ must come into being, not only for a few but for the whole world, for which he died and was raised from the dead. Be with us. Keep us so fully alive that our lives reflect all the goodness we are allowed to experience and we overcome all the evil which tries to attack us. We thank you for calling us to life and for renewing us again and again. May your name be praised among us forever. Amen.

Submitted by Helen Kinder, Chaplain



A Healthier You: from The People's Pharmacy



Hydroxychloroquine Harm: Arrhythmias and Death

You have probably read the headlines about hydroxychloroquine harm. What's the real story? Learn about the data behind the health headlines in this alert.

We promised we would keep you informed about the latest developments in the ongoing hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin controversy. Is this drug combination a breakthrough or a disappointment against the coronavirus? Preliminary studies produced mixed results. Some suggested benefit. Others were discouraging. The latest and largest study reveals hydroxychloroquine harm and no benefit. [Read this article](#)

Coronavirus News: Should You Wear a Face Mask? Yes, According to Hamsters



Terry Graedon

May 26, 2020

A study of hamsters demonstrates that face masks can reduce transmission of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19.

Being whether wearing a face mask is worth the hassle, hamsters in Hong Kong showed that mask on, for your neighbor's sake!

Studying Hamsters:

The researchers didn't put tiny masks on the rodents. Instead, they deliberately infected some of them with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and housed others near them. In addition, they made sure that the flow of air went from sick creatures toward the healthy ones. Previous studies have shown that the virus can travel on circulating air.

Without any barriers, 67 percent of the healthy animals contracted the infection. When the scientists covered the healthy hamsters' cage with surgical masks, the infection rate dropped to just 33 percent. What's more, covering the cage of the infected rodents instead reduced the spread of the virus to just 17 percent. In addition, the animals who did become infected in that situation had lower viral loads in their bodies.

One of the researchers, Dr. Yuen Kwok-yong, commented at a press conference:

"In our hamster experiment, it shows very clearly that if infected hamsters or humans — especially asymptomatic or symptomatic ones — put on masks, they actually protect other people."

Why This Research Is So Exciting:

We cannot ethically perform a human experiment that would intentionally try to infect human volunteers. As a result, one could never do this kind of mask experiment with people.

The hamsters, however, have demonstrated that if their respiratory tracts are protected from viral particles, they are less likely to catch SARS-CoV-2. Let's thank the hamsters for their contribution to our better understanding of the coronavirus transmissibility.

Previous research has shown that asymptomatic individuals can be infected and can spread the coronavirus. Therefore, it is helpful to have the reinforcement from this study to show that wearing a mask is a thoughtful behavior to protect others as well as yourself. The study itself is reportedly being reviewed for publication in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, where Dr. Yuen Kwok-yong has published previous research.

If you have friends or family who think wearing a mask is a waste of time, please send them this post. Perhaps if they read about the hamsters, they will be more likely to wear a mask themselves.



The Amazing Art of Perspective re: current pandemic

For a small amount of perspective during these crazy times, imagine you were an American born in 1900. When you are 14, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday with 22 million people killed. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until you are 20. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

When you're 29, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, global GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet.

When you're 41, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war and the Holocaust kills six million. At 52, the Korean War starts and five million perish.

At 64 the Vietnam War begins, and it doesn't end for many years. Four million people die in that conflict. Approaching your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could well have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening. As you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? A kid in 1985 didn't think their 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was. Yet those grandparents (and now great grandparents) survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art. Let's try and keep things in perspective. Let's be smart, help each other out, and we will get through all of this. In the history of the world, there has never been a storm that lasted. This too, shall pass.

I was very young during WW2 so my "memories" are sketchy other than through reading, but I was 12 when the Korean War began, and even then I wasn't that concerned...I didn't know anyone serving there, But by Vietnam I was a young wife and new mother, and I had relatives and friends serving...and everything from then on became personal and took on new perspective. Iraq & Afghanistan isn't mentioned...more painful and more recent history where friends and loved ones have served. And now we fight the "world war" of Covid 19...God willing, we will beat this too and everyone reading this will be able to look back and place it too into perspective! C.L. (unknown)- Submitted by Post member Paula Atwood





Mark Your Calendar:

Jun 6th - D-Day (1944)

Jun 11th – Executive Committee Meeting

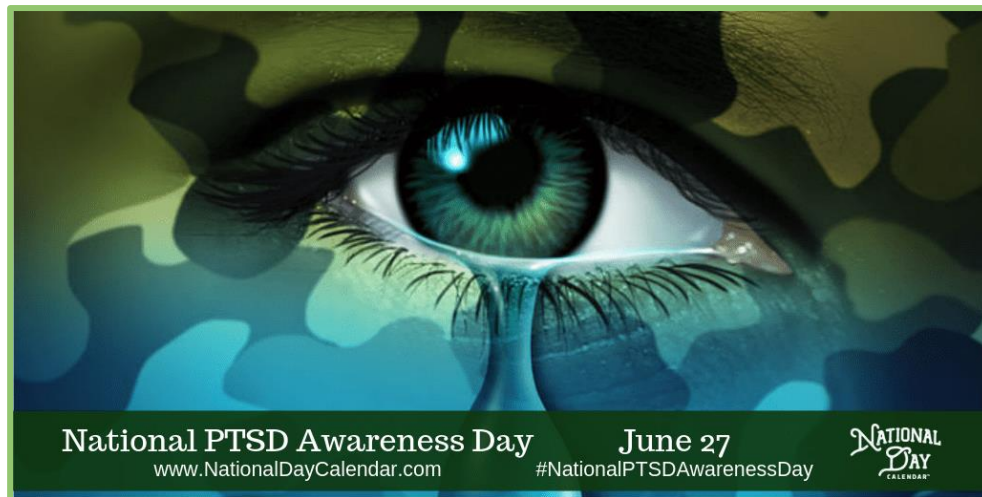
Jun 14th - Flag Day

Jun 14th - Army Birthday

Jun 21st - Father's Day

Jun 25th – General Membership Meeting and Pizza Party

Jun 25th - Beginning of Korean War (1950)



Bits & Pieces

- **Stimulus checks: How much money will you get, and when?**
Where's my check?
You can check on the status of your payment, including the amount and the anticipated distribution date at [the Get My Payment site](#). The IRS said that it will accept bank account information through the site until noon on May 13, 2020; after that, money will be sent by check to arrive in late May and June.
- **VA Participating in Drug, Plasma Trials in Fight Against COVID-19**
In a May 1 press release, the VA announced its participation in a series of clinical trials and investigations across the nation aimed at finding ways to mitigate or potentially prevent symptoms of COVID-19 in patients. [READ MORE](#)



Manuel Schneidmiller American Legion Post 154 will conduct its annual **Flag Retirement Ceremony** at 10:00 am, Saturday, June 13, 2020 in the parking lot of the Rathdrum Lions Club. Presently, we have approximately 100 flags to retire. If you, or anyone you know has a worn and tattered flag that needs to be retired, please bring it to the Lions Club on Saturday morning prior to the ceremony. You may also bring your flags to our Flag box in front of the Rathdrum City Hall, on Main Street, as we will check the box early Saturday morning.

Submitted by Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander

Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

Serves 8

Ingredients:

Pie Crust – Homemade or bought.
3-4 cups rhubarb, chopped
3 cups strawberries, sliced
1 1/3 cups granulated sugar
1/4 cup cornstarch
1 Egg White

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
Using a large mixing bowl, add chopped rhubarb, sliced strawberries, sugar, and cornstarch. Mix well.
Spoon mixture into pie pan containing pie crust.
Place top crust over mixture and pinch outer edges to seal.
Cut vent slices into top crust, brush on egg white over top and place in oven.
Bake 50 – 60 minutes, or until crust is golden brown.
Remove from oven and cool 15 to 20 minutes.
Serve each slice with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, or whipped topping. Enjoy!

Editor's Note: I haven't tried this recipe yet – but I plan to, it sounds delicious!



New Submarine Named USS Idaho

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus hosted a ship-naming ceremony today to announce that SSN 799, a Virginia-class attack submarine, will bear the name USS Idaho.

The submarine will be named to honor the history its namesake state has with the Navy. Idaho is home to the former Farragut Naval Training Station, which was the second largest training facility in the world during World War II. From the early 1950s to the mid-1990s, the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF) located within the Idaho National Laboratory, trained nearly 40,000 Navy personnel in surface and submarine nuclear power plant operations with three nuclear propulsion prototypes including the first nuclear-powered submarine prototype, S1W. The facility continues to support the Navy by examining Naval spent nuclear fuel and irradiated test specimens, which are used to develop new technology and to improve the cost-effectiveness of existing designs. And nearby, Lake Pend Oreille, the fifth deepest lake in the United States, continues to conduct tests of large-scale submarine and surface ship prototypes in a setting with acoustic properties similar to that of the ocean.

The future USS Idaho will be the fifth naval vessel to bear the name. The first, commissioned in 1864, was a steam sloop that served as a store and hospital ship; the second, commissioned in 1905, was a battleship that largely supported American Foreign Policy in Central America and conducted operations and exercises in Guantanamo Bay. The third Idaho was a motorboat commissioned in 1917 that patrolled New Jersey and Pennsylvania harbors. The last Idaho was a New Mexico-class battleship launched on June 30, 1917 and saw action in World War II.

Virginia-class attack submarines provide the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. They have enhanced stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that will enable them to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

These submarines have the capability to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert, long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea-based forces. Other missions include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare; mine delivery and minefield mapping. They are also designed for special forces delivery and support.

Each Virginia-class submarine is 7,800-tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet, and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. They are designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time. The submarine will be built under a unique teaming agreement between General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB) and Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding (HII-NNS) wherein both companies build certain portions of each submarine and then alternate deliveries. Idaho will be delivered by GDEB located in Groton, Connecticut.



WWII era USS Idaho



Newest USS Idaho

Operation Magic Carpet

Excellent story and videos of how the USA got everyone home after WWII. It was called Operation Magic Carpet and was an enormous, and complicated operation. What a thrill it would have been to be an American back then and old enough to realize what had just happened. I was still in diapers and had no knowledge of any war.

I could not find this story online, but if anyone searches online for *Operation Magic Carpet*, they will find lots of stuff, many of the pictures seen here and some other ones too. The story below however is more complete and has more photos than any I found while searching today. - Holly Gleaves

I can only imagine.....

We now have 2 generations who never entered the military, who have no idea how fortunate they are to live in a free country. A country who is not speaking German because of the sacrifices these young men & women made so we are a free country. I say this to my own children and grandchildren who have no idea how patriotic us old timers feel and will never forget

This is one email with proof of history you'll probably never see in our children's school books today. Share it please, pictures worth a 1,000 words. Remember what Eisenhower said at the end of the war, "Take pictures of the dead Holocaust Jewish people, a generation or two will never believe it happened"!!!

Returning the troops home after WWII was a daunting task....

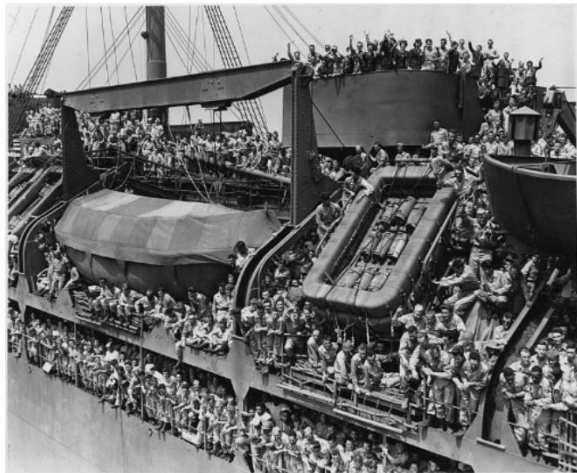
The *Magic Carpet* that flew everyone home.

In 1939, there were 334,000 servicemen, not counting the Coast Guard.

In 1945, there were over 12 million, including the Coast Guard

At the end of the war, over 8 million of these men and women were scattered overseas in Europe, the Pacific and Asia.

Shipping them out wasn't a particular problem but getting them home was a massive logistical headache. Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall had already established committees to address the issue in 1943.



Soldiers returning home on the *USS General Harry Taylor* in August 1945.

When Germany fell in May 1945, the US. Navy was still busy fighting in the Pacific and couldn't assist.

The job of transporting 3 million men home fell to the Army and the Merchant Marine.

300 Victory and Liberty cargo ships were converted to troop transports for the task.

During the war, 148,000 troops crossed the Atlantic west to east each month; the rush home

ramped this up to 435,000 a month over 14 months.



Hammocks crammed into available spaces aboard the *USS Intrepid*

In October 1945, with the war in Asia also over, the Navy started chipping in, converting all available vessels to transport duty.

On smaller ships like destroyers, capable of carrying perhaps 300 men, soldiers were told to hang their hammocks in whatever nook and cranny they could find.

Carriers were particularly useful, as their large open hangar decks could house 3,000 or more troops in

relative comfort, with bunks, sometimes in stacks of five welded or bolted in place.



Bunks aboard the Army transport *SS Pennant*

The Navy wasn't picky, though: cruisers, battleships, hospital ships, even LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) were packed full of men yearning for home.

Two British ocean liners under American control, the *RMS Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, had already served as troop transports before and continued to do so during the operation, each capable of carrying up to 15,000 people at a time, though their normal, peacetime capacity was less than 2,200.

Twenty-nine ships were dedicated to transporting war brides: women married to American soldiers during the war.



Troops performing a lifeboat drill on board the *Queen Mary* in December 1944, before *Operation Magic Carpet*

The Japanese surrender in August 1945 came none too soon, but it put an extra burden on *Operation Magic Carpet*.

The war in Asia had been expected to go well into 1946 and the Navy and the War Shipping Administration were hard-pressed to bring home all the soldiers who now had to get home earlier

than anticipated.

The transports carrying them also had to collect numerous POWs from recently liberated Japanese camps, many of whom suffered from malnutrition and illness.



U.S. soldiers recently liberated from Japanese POW camps

The time to get home depended a lot on the circumstances. *USS Lake Champlain*, a brand new *Essex*-class carrier that arrived too late for the war, could cross the Atlantic and take 3,300 troops home a little under 4 days and 8 hours. Meanwhile, troops going home from Australia or India would sometimes spend months on slower vessels.



Hangar of the *USS Wasp* during the operation

There was enormous pressure on the operation to bring home as many men as possible by Christmas 1945.

Therefore, a sub-operation, *Operation Santa Claus*, was dedicated to the purpose.

Due to storms at sea and an overabundance of soldiers eligible for return home, however, *Santa Claus* could only return a fraction in time and still not quite home but at least to American soil.

The nation's transportation network was overloaded, trains heading west from the East Coast were on

average 6 hours behind schedule and trains heading east from the West Coast were twice that late.



The crowded flight deck of the *USS Saratoga*.

The *USS Saratoga* transported home a total of 29,204 servicemen during *Operation Magic Carpet*, more than any other ship. Many freshly discharged men found themselves stuck in separation centers but faced an outpouring of love and friendliness from the locals. Many townsfolk took in freshly arrived troops and invited them to Christmas dinner in their homes.

Still others gave their train tickets to soldiers and still others organized quick parties at local train stations for men on layover.

A Los Angeles taxi driver took six soldiers all the way to Chicago; another took another carload of men to Manhattan, the Bronx, Pittsburgh, Long Island, Buffalo and New Hampshire. Neither of the drivers accepted a fare beyond the cost of gas.



Overjoyed troops returning home on the battleship *USS Texas*

All in all, though, the Christmas deadline proved untenable. The last 29 troop transports, carrying some 200,000 men from the China-India-Burma theater, arrived to America in April 1946, bringing *Operation Magic Carpet* to an end, though an additional 127,000 soldiers still took until September to return home and finally lay down the burden of war.

GOD BLESS THE GREAT GENERATION (Above) and the Generations that have served this Great Nation since WW II!

Submitted by member Holly Gleaves