



May 2023

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 2

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Land deal may aid *Queen Mary's* comeback

The *Queen Mary* has opened her gangway to guests once again, and local officials are making plans to provide for her long-term care.

The legendary ship resumed limited tours on April 1 for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. That was followed by the first stays for hotel guests on May 12, with a grand reopening to the public planned for early June.



“It is so exciting to finally welcome visitors back onboard this historic landmark,” said Mayor Rex Richardson. “We have worked tirelessly to protect the ship’s safety, preserve its rich history and bring it back to life. These tours are just the beginning of a larger phased reopening plan and we look forward to sharing more details of the ship in the coming months.”

The *Queen Mary* wasn’t sitting idly throughout the lengthy closure. Officials have made a number of upgrades to the ship, including a multi-phase project that began in late January to make the last round of critical repairs required to reopen the ship’s hotel, restaurants, bars and other onboard amenities. Workers demolished the existing, out-of-commission boilers and heat exchangers and installed new ones to supply hot water for cooking, cleaning and sanitizing.

The remainder of the repairs included the installation of an emergency generator, which powers critical components of the ship in the event of an emergency, and the completion of the bilge pump system that is also designed to protect the ship in case of an emergency.

Looking toward the future, the City of Long Beach also announced an anticipated partnership with the Port of Long Beach that would provide



The Spring issue of *PowerShips* has landed

Issue #325 of *PowerShips* magazine is available now, featuring the following stories:

- *City of Erie vs. Tashmoo*
- French Line Flagship *Liberte*
- SS *Savannah* Interior Design
- Notes on the Great Bitter Lake

Whether you're new to SSHSA or your membership has lapsed, it's not too late to come on board! Sign up or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. Don't miss out!

What you're missing on social media

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on [Facebook](#),

support and investment for the *Queen Mary*. This involves the city providing 13.9 acres of underutilized properties for the port to lease out to customers, with the revenue gained from the new leases split evenly between the two parties.

In addition, the port will advance \$12 million to the city to fund the *Queen Mary*'s re-opening amenities and activities, support ongoing restoration projects or address infrastructure needs at the site to help future restoration and ultimate development of the surrounding 43 acres. The city will use its allocation of the new revenue share to repay the advance, after which it will accrue to the city's Tidelands Operating Fund.

"It is clear the *Queen Mary* has the potential to be a large economic generator and this partnership helps find new revenues to give her the best shot at being successful in generating revenue to support restoration efforts," City Manager Tom Modica said.

(Photo: www.queenmary.com).

Escort veterans to say goodbye, but USS *Slater* will continue its mission

The Destroyer Escort Sailors Association will bid farewell following a 50th anniversary celebration in June, but the ship they worked to save and restore will live on as their legacy.

The organization was formed in 1973 by a group of World War II Navy veterans who had served aboard the "small but mighty" destroyer escorts. Membership grew quickly and resulted in 44 annual conferences, a streak that ended three years ago with the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, the group was unable to recover, and recently announced that it would disband because of declining membership and reduced operating income.



But the DESA isn't going out without one last celebration. The group is gathering together June 16-18 in Albany, New York, for a farewell reunion. The weekend will include tours of the USS *Slater*, cruises, a DESA flag ceremony and a farewell banquet and cocktails. [Click here for more information about the event.](#)

The time spent aboard the *Slater* is poignant because the DESA was responsible for saving it from the scrapheap. The ship was awaiting disposal in Greece when the group began a year-long series of

[Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.



Take another trip around the lochs

Catch a replay of SSHSA President and PONY Branch Vice Chairman Pat Dacey's presentation "Maiden Voyage of the *Lord of the Highlands*" on Saturday, May 20, at 10 a.m. Eastern on Zoom. Registration is required; [click here to sign up](#).

The presentation focused on the debut of Hebridean Island Cruises' *Lord of the Highlands* as it traveled from the Scottish resort town of

negotiations to acquire the vessel and then raised the \$290,000 needed to bring the Ship to New York City. The group also planned for her long-term future by establishing the nonprofit Destroyer Escort Historical Museum to maintain and operate the historic ship, which it will continue to do even as the DESA sails off into the sunset.

Today, the *Slater* is the only destroyer escort still afloat in the United States. It was one of 563 such ships that battled Nazi U-boats on the Atlantic while protecting convoys of men and materials. They also defended troops in the Pacific from Japanese submarine and Kamikaze air attacks. She is open seasonally from April to November for guided tours, youth group overnight camping and other events. For more information on this spectacular ship, visit www.usslater.org.

(Photo: [Facebook](#), [USS Slater](#)).

Holland America marks major anniversary in style

Holland America Line's flagship *Rotterdam* arrived at the Port of Rotterdam on April 18 just in time for Holland America Line's 150th birthday, kicking off an all-day celebration that included royalty, local dignitaries, port officials and guests who commemorated the special day.

Holland America Line President Gus Antorcha was joined by Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb and descendants of Holland America Line's original founders for a celebration at Hotel New York, home to Holland America Line's original headquarters from 1901 to 1977.



"The fabric of history is woven from the threads of millions of stories, and at the heart of each of those stories is a person," Antorcha said. "I am certain that there are many chapters still to be written. And I hope that decades from now, those who come after us will gather on this very spot at Hotel New York to share them."

From the ship's arrival through an overnight stay, memorable moments marked the milestone. Inside a room that once collected luggage for immigrants in the early 1900s, Holland America Line presented a commemorative 150th Anniversary bell to be permanently displayed at Hotel New York. Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet poured

Oban to Kyle of Lochalsh. The journey included a trip along the Caledonian Canal, which was designed by noted Scottish engineer Thomas Telford and connects the Scottish east coast at Inverness to the west coast at Corpach.

Pat also explored the history and design of this unique vessel, from its origins as a Turkish ferry to a three-year conversion into a luxury river cruise ship.

When you have registered for a program, you will receive an email that includes a link to join the meeting. If you do not already have Zoom on your computer, you will be prompted to download and install the software. If you do not wish to install it, you can also click on the "Join from your browser" link. A Zoom account is not necessary to attend; however you do have to register with your name and a valid email at the link above.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at 401-463-3570 email info@sshhsa.org.

(Photo: Hebridean.co.uk)



Play Ball! New vessel honors baseball greats

champagne over the bell, which is a Holland America Line tradition usually reserved for a new ship launch.

In addition, members of one of Holland America Line's founding families presented an original company share that will be kept as part of a special collection in the Rotterdam City Archives. Attendees at the Hotel New York ceremony included Holland America Line team members and more than 60 of the line's top Mariners, guests who have sailed at least 1,400 days on the line's ships.

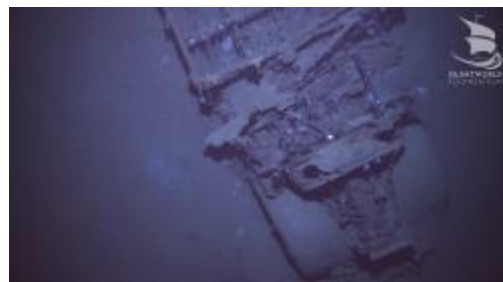
As a finale to the evening's events, the city of Rotterdam's Erasmus Bridge was illuminated with a special light display honoring Holland America Line's 150th Anniversary. Additional birthday celebrations were held aboard each of the company's ships.

Caption: From left, Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, Roel Dusseldorp (GM of Hotel New York), and Holland America Line President Gus Antorcha pour champagne on a ceremonial bell (Photo: Holland America Line).

Researchers find site of POW tragedy

The shipwreck of Australia's largest loss of life at sea has been discovered, more than 80 years after it sunk in a tragic case of mistaken identity.

The Japanese merchant vessel the *SS Montevideo Maru* was sunk July 1, 1942, off the coast of the Philippines after setting sail from the former Australian territory of New Guinea. The ship was carrying approximately 1,060 prisoners from at least 14 countries, including 850 Australian service members from Rabaul. The ship was not marked as a prisoner of war transport.



The number and identity of those on board the *Montevideo Maru* was not fully revealed until after the war, but the location of the shipwreck has remained a mystery.

"For 81 years, hundreds of Australian families have waited for news of this shipwreck. It is my great privilege to confirm their loved ones have been found," said Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles. "These Australians were never forgotten. Lost deep beneath the seas, their final resting place is now known. This remarkable discovery is a reflection of who we are as a nation and remarkably close to our day of national commemoration; Anzac Day. We will remember them."

The search was led by not-for-profit Silentworld Foundation, deep-sea survey specialists Fugro, and supported by the Australian Defense

Just in time for the baseball season, the U.S. Navy has commissioned a new littoral combat ship dedicated to the boys of summer.

The USS *Cooperstown* (LCS 23) was commissioned May 8 in New York City to honor the 70 Hall of Famers who served the United States during wartime in a range of conflicts spanning the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. It is the first naval ship named after Cooperstown, New York, home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Guest speakers for the event included Hall of Fame player and manager Joe Torre, who highlighted the ship's ties to the players who put everything aside to serve their country.

"It is critical that we honor the legacy of these Hall of Famers, not just for what they did on the field, but for what they sacrificed and what they accomplished off the field," Torre said. "Their legacy lives on with the USS *Cooperstown* and with the sailors here today and in the years to come."

Built by the Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wisconsin, *Cooperstown* was launched Jan. 19, 2019, christened on Feb 29, 2020, completed acceptance trials Dec. 14, 2020, and was delivered to the U.S. Navy Sep. 20, 2022. Littoral combat ships are fast, agile, mission-focused platforms designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats.

Cincinnati Reds Catcher, Johnny Bench, who was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989, presented the long glass during the

department. At over 4,000 meters deep, the wreck is deeper than the RMS *Titanic*.

The *Montevideo Maru* was spotted by the crew of the American submarine *Sturgeon* on June 30, 1942, but the ship was traveling too fast for the sub to fire. Unaware of the prisoners of war on board, the Americans tracked the ship until it slowed for a rendezvous with a pair of destroyers. At least one torpedo hit, and the ship went down in just 11 minutes. Eyewitnesses recalled that there were more POWs in the water than crew members.

"The Australian soldiers, sailors and aviators who had fought to defend Rabaul had enlisted from across the country to serve, met a terrible fate at sea on the *Montevideo Maru*," Australian Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart said. "Today we remember their service, and the loss of all those aboard, including the 20 Japanese guards and crew, the Norwegian sailors and the hundreds of civilians from many nations."

Caption: The remains of a truck from the *Montevideo Maru* shipwreck (Photo: Silentworld Foundation).

What's happening in ship history?

This is a brief listing, so make sure to check locally for what's going on in your area.

May 20

Know Your Ships book signing with Roger LeLievre

1:00-3:00 PM

Museum-only admission is \$11 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6 to 17, and \$10 for military and AAA members

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Toledo, OH

www.nmgl.org

May 20-21

Classic Workboat and Maritime Show

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Free

Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center

Seattle, WA

www.nwseaport.org

May 21

National Maritime Day Commemoration

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Free

Aboard the NS *Savannah*, located at Canton Pier 13

Baltimore, MD

[Click here for more information](#)

ceremony. The crew was host for a weeklong series of events celebrating the ship, its namesake city, and the community it honors.

"The USS *Cooperstown's* commissioning is a proud moment for us all, made possible by the tireless efforts of our dedicated crew," said *Cooperstown's* Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Daxton Moore. "They have demonstrated remarkable teamwork and a relentless commitment to excellence, working hard to ensure that this ship is ready. We are honored to carry the name Cooperstown into the fleet."

Following the ceremony, the *Cooperstown* was scheduled to sail to its homeport of Mayport, Fla.

(Photo: U.S. Navy)

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May 22

National Maritime Day

Various events and locations - look for a special eblast in your inbox!

Opens May 26

Steam and Splendor: Treasures from the Ocean Liner and Cruise Ship Ephemera Collection
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
\$20 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3 to 12, and \$15 for senior citizens, military members with ID and students ages 13-17
San Diego Maritime Museum
San Diego, CA
www.sdmaritime.org

May 26-29

LA Fleet Week
10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Free
Multiple locations; [click here for a full schedule](#)
Los Angeles, CA
www.lafleetweek.com

June 7

Lecture: From Sail to Steam to Diesel
7:00-8:30 PM
\$7 for general admission, free for members; [click here to register](#)
Hudson River Maritime Museum
Kingston, NY
www.hrmm.org

June 23-25

31st Annual Wooden Boat Show
9:00 AM-5:00 PM
\$29 for adults, \$27 for senior citizens, \$25 for children ages 13-17, and \$19 for children ages 4-12; discounts are available for three-day passes
Mystic Seaport Museum
Mystic, CT
www.mysticseaport.org

July 4

SUBFEST 2023
9:00 AM-5:00 PM
\$4 admission all day
Wisconsin Maritime Museum
Manitowoc, WI
www.wisconsinmaritime.org



Steamship Historical Society of America

RECORDING, PRESERVING, AND DISSEMINATING THE HISTORY OF ENGINE POWERED VESSELS

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Ahoy! is the quarterly electronic newsletter for those interested in maritime history. It is produced in February, May, August, and November and distributed by Steamship Historical Society of America to friends, members and any other individuals interested in maritime heritage.

Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

SSHSA is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization funded by donations from members and friends. SSHSA is dedicated to sharing the maritime heritage of powerful ships, legendary passengers and hardworking crews. Gifts to SSHSA are appreciated and may be considered tax-deductible.

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