

## **MUSTER ROLLS OF U.S. NAVY ENLISTED PERSONNEL SERVING ABOARD U.S.S. ERIE**

During the time when the ERIE was in service, her Commanding Officer and Executive Officer regularly reported on enlisted personnel to the Bureau of Navigation, by the submission of Muster Rolls and related Reports of Changes. (In 1942, Muster Rolls were sent to Bureau of Personnel.)

**Muster Rolls** are quarterly listings of all enlisted naval personnel formally attached to the ship, as of the last calendar day of each quarter. Muster rolls contain the following information for each enlisted man aboard the ship:

**Family Name, Given Name, Middle Initial** (if any)  
**Service Number** (seven digits)  
**Present Rating** (occupational specialty)  
**Enlistment Date**  
**Date First Received Aboard Ship**

Preceding each quarter's Muster Roll are **Reports of Changes** --- alphabetic listings of enlisted personnel who were subject to significant status changes, reported at the end of a month or on the date of sailing from Port "A" to port "B" (or to sea).

Each Report of Changes form contains a top and bottom section, each with lines numbered from 1 to 15 or 16 to 30.

On the lines in the top section are listed, for each man with status change:

**Family Name, Given Name, Middle Initial** (if any)  
**Service Number** (7 digits)  
**Rating As of Date of Last Report**  
**Enlistment Date**  
**Place of Enlistment**

On the corresponding lines in the bottom section are listed, for each man with a status change:

**Branch** (USN = US Navy; USNR = US Naval Reserve; USMC = US Marine Corps; USMCR = US Marine Corps Reserve; V.N. = Venezuelan Navy)

**Status Change:** **AgExEnl:** Executed Agreement to Extend Enlistment  
**Appt:** Appointed  
**CR:** Change in Rating  
**DC:** Deck Court  
**Death**  
**Des:** Deserted  
**Detach:** Detached  
**Disch:** Discharged  
**Duty** (change in duty station)  
**Ex Enl:** Extended Enlistment  
**Fur. Trans.:** Further transfer

**Hospital****Leave****Rec(v)**: Received Aboard Ship**Reenl** or **RE Enl**: Re-enlisted**SCM**: Summary Court Martial**Temp Duty** or **Tmp Du****Trans**: Transferred**Date of Change****Detail on Status Change**

While Muster Rolls were intended to report on enlisted personnel, at times, these were also utilized to report on Officer Personnel. Additionally, whenever a ship took on passengers, military or civilian, these would also be listed on pages of the Muster Roll. If civilian, these would usually be listed on a page entitled "LIST OF NONENLISTED PASSENGERS OF U.S.S. \_\_\_\_\_."

In addition to the pages described above, a complete Muster Roll always included a cover page describing the contents and signed by the ship's Executive Officer and her Commanding Officer, and two Recapitulation Sheets (reporting numbers of men in various change categories or conditions, and summarizing the ship's compliment as of the end of the quarter).

All the pages contained in a Muster Roll were sized 9½ inches wide by 14½ inches high. (Those posted on the this website have been resized to 8½ x 13 inches.) After submission to the Department of the Navy, pages were checked for accuracy and then inserted in special 4-ringed volumes.

To date, the webmaster has only been able to secure microfilmed copies of U.S.S. ERIE Muster Rolls for the years 1939 through 1942. (Muster Rolls for the years 1936 through 1938, whenever acquired, will be posted on the web site.) The microfilm was then sent to a firm with facilities for converting it to digital images (in jpg image file format).

The quality of the Muster Rolls posted on this website reflects the fact that some of the original pages were typed using ribbons that were badly in need of replacement. Some of the pages were not carefully preserved before microfilming by the U.S. Navy, which resulted in marring of the originals by what appear to be mold spores. The quality of many of the images was also diminished by poor filming procedures.

The webmaster, using photo-editing software, has made every effort to remove spotting, enhance contrast and otherwise sharpen the text, but was not always able to create highly legible copies.

Some pages had to be reconstructed or recreated, for various reasons. These are:

**Report of Changes, 28 February 1941, page number 6 in the Muster Roll for the Quarter Ending March 31, 1941.** The top third of this page is missing and the rest of the page is severely deteriorated, which required that the webmaster totally re-construct the record.

**Muster Roll dated September 28, 1942.** This Muster Roll has numerous checkmarks, penciled-in changes (changes in ratings which occurred in October and

November 1942) and some annotations. These were apparently made by a Bureau of Personnel Clerk in creating the listing of enlisted personnel aboard the ERIE when she departed on her last mission, November 10, 1942. This entire Roll was re-created by webmaster for the sake of clarity. Note that no Muster Roll dated September 30, 1942 was submitted, because no changes occurred in the interim and "in the interest of the reduction of paperwork and conservation of forms."

**"Last Orders"**, the 3-page document, dated 1 December 1942, ordering Chief Gunner's Mate Pete Herrera to take charge of 133 ERIE survivors on their journey aboard the USS ANTEAUS from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the Receiving Ship at the New York Navy Yard. All 3 pages were badly discolored and torn; this document was recreated.

One final note regarding the **13-page Report of Changes dated December 1, 1942.**

This is essentially the last Muster Roll for the crew of the ERIE. 134 enlisted men are each shown as a "Sur [Survivor]" and "Passenger U.S.S. Antaeus fft [for further transfer] R/S [Receiving Ship] N.Y." Any enlisted man listed in the top half of any of these pages whose corresponding line in the bottom half is blank was a survivor who remained at Willemstad, Curacao, after November 12, 1942, either to help with salvage operations or to receive medical treatment on the island.