

# THE ANCHOR



Houston  
Maritime  
Museum

JULY 2016 | NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON MARITIME MUSEUM

## Family Days at HMM



On Saturdays throughout June and July, Houston Maritime Museum has sponsored Family Days! These summer Saturdays mean free admission for families and include fun activities for kids. Each Family Day claims a specific maritime-inspired theme, designed to excite families about seafaring history and industry.

Some recent topics have included containerization, World War II, and Buffalo Bayou. The accompanying activities were Container Jenga, strategy board games, and a race for the bayou! On July 23, the "Build Your Own Ironclad" activity drew a record number of visitors, all eager to craft their own versions of the famous ironclads.

As always, the costumes in the Kids Cove also prove to be a popular attraction for families! Check out the photos below for a look at the family fun at Houston Maritime Museum!



FROM THE COLLECTIONS HOLD:

# U-596, A Type VIIC U-boat

by H. Steven Dittrich, HMM Docent



**U-596**

**Artist: Ronald Roberti**

**Accession No: 2007.1.4**

*Bequeathed by James Leon Manzolillo, Founder*

The submarine U-596 was one of over 1100 U-boats (for "Unterseeboot" = "under-sea boat") built by Germany both before and during World War II. The Type VII was the most numerous of all the U-boats built by Germany, with over 700 being built.

The U-596 was constructed at the Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg, Germany, and launched on September 17, 1941. After crew training in the Baltic, and after two brief shake-down cruises, the U-596 started on the third of twelve war patrols on August 8, 1942, heading into the Atlantic. After sinking two convoyed ships, she arrived in St. Nazaire, France on October 3rd.

After refit and re-supply, the U-596 was transferred to the Mediterranean Sea and left St. Nazaire on November 4, 1942. She was much more successful in her new assignment, sinking nine more cargo ships and tankers, giving her a total of 41,110 gross registered tons sunk. She also torpedoed LCI-162 (Landing Craft - Infantry, 380 tons) near Oran off the coast of North Africa.

As the fortunes of war turned against Germany by 1944, the U-596 was damaged during an air attack by American bombers while she was docked in Piraeus, Greece. Considering the heavy damage she suffered, her crew scuttled the U-596 on September 24th, 1944.

**Come by and see the U-596 on display!**

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## New Acquisitions: Naval Warships



Earlier this month our collections staff added eight new models of World War II era warships, the USS *Enterprise* CV-65, and a LCAC Landing Craft to the museum. Mrs. Karen Kahrs kindly donated these models to the museum. Her late husband built hundreds of small models, including tanks, ships, and other military equipment and we are fortunate to add some of his unique ships to our collection.

Among our newest acquisitions are the HMS *Hood* and her famous adversary, the German Battleship *Bismarck*.

Another three models represent unique warships from the Imperial Japanese Navy. A *Tone*-Class heavy cruiser, submarine I-53, and an *Ise*-Class battleship. This dreadnought, built during World War I, became obsolete by the start of the Second World War. In desperate need for more aircraft carriers, *Ise* and her sister ship *Hyuga* underwent conversion to operate aircraft on the back half of the ship. These two "hybrid carriers" were sunk by American aircraft on July 27 and 28, 1945.

## Meet the HMM Crew

**Natalia Kapacinskas, Education and Outreach Intern**

I'm a rising junior at Southwestern University, and I joined the Houston Maritime Museum crew in June as an education intern. I began by creating educational programming based on our collections. Since then, I've also been running our social media and designing



our Tumblr blog, which I love for its ability to share our collections with a broader audience. During my time here, I have also enjoyed learning about exhibit design and being a part of the museum environment!

## Tumblr Blog Launch

This month, we've revamped many of our social media accounts. Along with this, we have begun a blog on Tumblr. This blog will allow us to share museum news, items from our collection, and our events.

We have reached out to our docents and volunteers for extra insight on content, and the blog has given us just one more reason to explore our collections.

In the process, we've discovered interesting things such as a business card case from our founder Jim Manzolillo, with cards featuring an early Houston Maritime Museum logo design (pictured at top right). On National Moon Day, Natalia also wrote about Jim's flag that flew to the moon on the Apollo 11 mission!

[Visit us on Tumblr](#) to take a look at our blog and learn about more of our recent finds!



## SUMMER 2016 @ HMM



**Voyage to Antarctica:**  
*Ernest Shackleton Explorer Extraordinaire*

### History Lecture Series

*Voyage to Antarctica: Ernest Shackleton, Explorer Extraordinaire*  
August 9, 2016 | 7 pm - 8 pm

Join us to hear Ruth Fowler discuss Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Explore the fascinating story of what happened after they reached the Antarctic Circle, which made Shackleton, his crew, and the Endurance legends in maritime exploration. Admission to our History Lecture Series is free courtesy of [UTC Overseas!](#)

[Learn more about Voyage to Antarctica](#)



[arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums)

### Blue Star Museums

Memorial Day to Labor Day 2016

HMM is proud to be a Blue Star Museum this year! Starting on Memorial Day and running through Labor Day, active duty personnel and their families will receive free admission to the Houston Maritime Museum. Blue Star Museums is a partnership among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, Joining Forces, MetLife Foundation, and over 2000 American museums.

[Blue Star Museums](#)

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