

Spring 2014



The Invincible

President's Report



Adm Bill Turner

Mark your calendar: The Texas Navy Association will host 2 events on Saturday, May 10th in Austin.

Open Board Meeting: All members and guests are welcome. The meeting will begin at 2:00, in the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry, 2200 W. 35th, Austin. The meeting will consist of a board business session, activity updates and an open conversation between the board and members and guests. The new Texas Navy museum exhibit will be available for viewing before and after the meeting. Note: quarterly open board meetings are held on the second Saturday of the second month of each calendar quarter. The third quarter meeting will take place on Saturday, August 9th.

Special Opportunity: In addition to the open board meeting, Admiral Jerry Patterson has arranged for guided tours of the Map Vault and a viewing of original Texas Navy Documents. This event will held be at the General Land Office Building, 1700 North Congress Ave. Hours will be 10:30 to 12:00. Items available for viewing are not ordinarily available to the public and visiting the Map Vault is an incredible experience, don't miss this rare opportunity...

Update: The Tom Toby Squadron and the Texas Navy Association will be manning 2 booths at the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment, being held on the San Jacinto Battleground in La Porte, Texas. Hours are from 10:00 to 6:00 on Saturday, April 26th. The battle reenactment will take place at 3:00, for more information on this event, visit: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/2014-san-jacinto-day-festival-and-battle-reenactment> To register for these events click **HERE**

The Battle of Campeche - May 1843

First and only time sail bested steam men-of-war!

The Battle of Campeche was one of the worlds most historic battles in the annals of naval history. First, the Republic of Texas was at war with Mexico. Yucatan was the most rebellious state of the Centralist Government of Santa Anna in Mexico City. The adjoining State of Tobasco ran a close second in its displeasure with their national government. Yucatan entered into a contract with the Republic of Texas under the presidency of Mirabeau B. Lamar where Yucatan was to pay the Republic of Texas \$8,000 a month for use of some of its ships to defend their ports from being blockaded by



the Mexican Navy and to defend them against their own government. She was Texas' only ally that actually joined in the fight, much to the embarrassment of the Centralist Mexican government. Had this disruption not held the main force of Mexico's army putting down their uprisings, Texas most surely would have been invaded by a much

larger force, again commanded by Santa Anna and the course of Texas retaining its independence and eventually becoming the 28th State of the United States of America might never have happened.

During the Battle of Campeche the Mexican Navy had two steam vessels in their opposing fleet, the *Montezuma* and the *Guadaloupe* along with several sail vessels. The Texas Navy had only sail vessels, the schooner of war *Austin* and the Brig *Wharton*, and while the battle lasted several days. They were aided at the beginning of the battle by the small fleet of the State of Yucatan under the command of former Texas Navy officer Captain James D. Boylan.

The Mexican Navy had a distinct advantage over the Texas vessels, powered by sail alone. To make matters worse, as can be seen by James Moore's minutes of the conflict, there was little or no wind, giving the Mexican navy an even greater advantage as they could maneuver at will and the Texas Navy was at the mercy of the elements for power. This also gave the Mexicans the advantage of staying just out of reach of the Texas Navy's canons.

As can be seen by the minutes below, the Mexican fleet suffered a large amount of casualties, while the Texans losses were minimal. The Mexican's withdrew from

the battle during the night of the 16th of May, but they struck a medal for their navy proclaiming a "Great Naval Victory for Mexico". See the end of this article for a picture of the medal.

Historians have been arguing about this sea battle for years, and I am sure it will continue far into the future. But, the fact remains, this is the first and only naval victory where two sail vessels of the Texas Navy, and a "fishing boat navy" of Yucatan, prevailed over the superior steam men of war of Mexico!

Admiral Walter Nass

Minutes of the first action with the Mexican Squadron at the Battle of Campeche taken by James Moore:

Texas Sloop of War Austin, }
Off Campeche, April 30th, 1843 }

At 4 A. M., called all hands and piped the hammocks up---

at 4:30, called all hands, "up anchor", to stand off until sea breeze set in---

at 4:45, as the day broke the enemy have in sight consisting of the steamers *Montezuma*, 7 guns and *Guadaloupe*, 4 guns; brig *Yucateco*, 12 guns, and *Iman*, 7 guns, schooners *Eagle*, 7 guns, and *Campechano*,

3 guns; we were then standing for the land on the starboard tack, the brig *Wharton* in company, with the wind about E. S. E.--

at 6:35, hove the main-top-sail to the mast to let the brig come up--

at 6:40, filled away--

at 6:50, tacked ship and stood for the enemy, trying to get the weather gage of them--

at 6:55, made signal 77--

at 7:05, hoisted Texas ensign at peak and mizen, English and American ensigns at the fore and broad pennant at the main, when the crews of both vessels gave three hearty cheers, made signal 96--

at 7:10, the *Montezuma* appeared to be aground, set the fore-sail--

at 7:15 the schooners *Sisaleno* and *Independencia* and five gun boats from Campeche hove in sight standing for us at the same time the *Montezuma* succeeded in getting off, when the enemy wore round and stood to the S finding we were coming on them too fast---

at 7:30 the enemy wore and stood for us, hauled up the fore-sail---

at 7:35 the enemy commenced firing at us, most of the shot passed over, some fell short, but not one struck us---

at 7:50 manned our larboard battery and exchanged five broadsides with the enemy's steamers, the sail vessels then on our starboard bow, on the starboard tack, firing at us---

at 7:65 enemy's sail vessels tacked to keep out of our reach, when we hove in stays and fired our starboard broadside at them---

at 8 the brig passed close under our lee, when Com. Moore, ordered her commander to follow his motion---

at 8:10 manned the starboard battery and exchanged three broadsides with the steamers, enemy's shot passing over us---

at 8:20 the steamers wore and stood to the S to join the sail vessels---

at 8:26, finding our shot did not reach them, ceased firing---

at 8:35 the schooners Sisaleno and Independencia with the gun boats commanded by Com. J. D. Boylan, passed us, gave them three hardy cheers which they returned; they then tacked and followed our motinos the Independencia wearing at fore

No. 5 of our signal, a private signal between the two squadrons---

at 8:40 beat the retreat and piped to grog---

at 9:07, the land breeze dying away came too with the starboard anchor, with springs on the chain, two fathoms water, thirty fathoms chain, the City of Campeche bearing S. E. distant seven miles; piped to breakfast---

9:30 nearly dead calm, ship's head S. E. the enemy's squadron on our starboard beam, the brig Wharton on our larboard beam, the Yucatan vessels on our larboard quarter---

at 11:15 to two steamers approaching us, we beat to quarters, the Yucatan vessels commenced firing upon the enemy, the steamers fired several shots at them and us; sprung the ship with the larboard spring to bring our starboard battery to bear on the enemy---

at 11:27, a light breeze springing up, from the N. and W. slipped the anchor with thirty fathoms chain, putting a slip-buoy on the chain, filled away on the starboard tack and exchanged several broadsides with the steamers---

at 11:35 a sixty-eight pound shot from the Guadalupe cut the after-shroud of the mizzens-rigging about eight feet above the

dead-eye, (Com. Moore holding the shroud at the time) passed between Com. Moore and Lieutenant Gray, would have killed both of them, but that one dodged to the right and the other to the left, passed through the poop deck into the cabin, and pass out the stern about two feet above the transom--- up to 11:40, continued firing at the enemy, but finding our shot did not reach them, and they having the weather gage of us, we kept off for Campeche, the men being completely exhausted, but in good spirits, having been at quarters and working ship, with scarcely any cessation, nearly the whole of the previous twenty-four hours---

11:45 Com. Boylan sent a pilot on board---

at 12:15 the ship struck lightly but continued to go ahead a little---at 12:20 the brig Wharton passed under our lee when Com. Moore ordered her commander to steer for Campeche---

at 12:30 finding the ship remained aground, made signal 146 to brig Wharton---

at 12:40 the ship floated when we steered on our course---

at 1 P. M. the steamers fired several shot at us which we returned, but as our shot did not reach them, we ceased firing, when the enemy's vessel hauled off and stood to the

southward and westward.

JAMES W. MOORE, Secretary E. W. MOORE, Commanding
Texas Navy

5th May.

On repairing the injury under No. 1 port the sixty-eight pound shot was found lodged in a part of two timbers, and the plank was put on leaving the shot where it lodged.

E. W. Moore

Comments of Commodore Moore on the Battle

While the carpenters were at work repairing the damages sustained during the action of the 16th May, I procured from the Governor of Yucatan the schooner Independencia, being the largest of the gun-boats, and mounting two guns---a long twelve and a long nine pounder. This vessel I placed under the command of Lieutenant A. G. Gray, (1st Lieutenant of the Austin,) and ordered him to proceed in the direction of Telchac, for the purpose of intercepting any supplies that might be on the way from New- Orleans for the Mexican squadron, and if possible to capture officers of Barragan's division, who were about leaving with troops for Tampico. This I most ardently desired, with the hope of being able to exchange for some or all of my countrymen who were in chains and slavery in Mexico. Before reaching Telchac, the Independencia fell in with the American schooner Glide, with provisions designed for the enemy, (or which in all probability would have fallen into their hands,) and returned with her to Campeche.

Letter from Commodore Moore to Secretary of War and Marine G. W. Hill after the Battle of Campeche

Texas Sloop of War Austin }
Off Campeche, May 20th, 1843 }

Sir.---I wrote last per schooner Republican on 10th instant, and take advantage of the American schooner Rosario, which vessel sails to-night, for New Orleans, to report that on the morning of the 16th, we stood out at daylight to attack the enemy's two steamers and schooner Eagle; the two brigs and the other schooners and steamer Regenerator, being up at Telchac.

I herewith enclose a copy of the minutes of the action, and the Surgeon's report of killed and wounded.

The brig Wharton was in position and kept up a brisk fire whenever the medium guns could be used with effect. A long twelve pounder on board of her, obtained since our arrival here, was fired sixty five times, and frequently hit the enemy. The fire was directed at this vessel nearly the whole action---not one shot struck the Wharton, and but very few were fired at her.

It would be impossible to particularize the conduct of any one under my command---every officer and man on board both vessels did his duty nobly.

Many of our shot struck the Guadaloupe, and one shell shot struck abaft her wheel-house on the larboard side, and must have done great execution. I fired very few of them owing to the distance they kept from us---it was a running fight from the time we fired the first gun, and the distance that we sailed, endeavoring to close, was not less than fourteen miles. A fisherman came alongside yesterday who had been on board the Guadaloupe, (at which vessel the greater part of our fire was directed,) and stated that the number of killed on board of her was forty seven, and that thirty were so badly wounded as to require

amputations. From the Montezuma we have heard nothing. On the 18th, the Regenerador joined the other vessels in the offing, and this morning the two brigs also appeared.

We are at anchor now about seven miles apart, our rigging and sails are repaired, and carpenters are at work, repairing where shot struck us. In a few days we will be in as fine a condition as ever, and the first favorable breeze another attack will be made upon the enemy.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
E. W. MOORE,
Commanding Texas Navy.

Hon. G. W. Hill,
Secretary of War and Marine.

This medal was struck by the Mexican government after the Battle of Campeche and is in the National Museum of History, Chapultepec Castle, Mexico City, Mexico. The picture comes from the book "Commodore Moore & the Texas Navy" by Tom Henderson Wells." (1960; The University of Texas Press in Austin)



TNA Affiliated Squadrons

Chester W. Nimitz Squadron

If you live in the Dallas area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Micki Sander** at 972.662.1818 or micki@thegolfspot.com

Sam Houston Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of Lakewood Yacht Club or a reciprocal club to Lakewood Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Sam Houston Squadron, please contact the Sam Houston Squadron Commander, **Admiral Don Genitempo**, at 832.771.3222 or dtempo@msn.com

Commodore Edwin Ward Moore Squadron

If you live in the Austin area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Larry Schroeder** at lschroeder@grandecom.net

The Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of the Houston Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron, please contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Ed Bluestein** at marshed@swbell.net.

The Tom Toby Squadron

If you live in Houston area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Curtis Osborne** at curtosborne@windstream.net (281.242.4972) or **Admiral Ron Brown** at 713 621-5660.

Non-TNA Affiliated Squadrons

Captain Jeremiah Brown Squadron

If you live in the Fort Worth area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Jim Sutton** at jim@suttonsonline.com

*A new Squadron is in the beginning stages of forming. If you live in Corpus Christi and have an interest please contact **Admiral Mark Underhill** at mark.b.underhill@uscg.mil or 409.882.4675*

The Texas Navy Time Line

1839

May 10: Texas finally pays U.S. claims over the seizure of the brig Pocket by the Invincible in 1836. A French naval squadron under Admiral Charles Baudin pays a visit to Galveston after destroying the Mexican fleet at Veracruz. The fleet is met by Captain A.C. Hinton of the steamer warship Zavala, and after being feted by Galveston officials, the Zavala returns a 13-gun salute from the French flagship Neride.

June 15: Santa Anna asks the Mexican Congress for extraordinary powers to prosecute the war in Texas.

June 27: Schooner San Jacinto arrives in Galveston from its builder in Baltimore, becoming the first warship of the "second" Texas Navy.

July 6: Texas finally pays \$12,445 for the 1836 seizure of the Pocket, as required by the July 6, 1838 treaty with the United States.

July 8: United States Navy Lieutenant Edwin Ward Moore resigns his commission to become commander of the Navy of the Republic of Texas.

August 7: Schooner-of-war San Antonio arrives at Galveston, the second of three armed schooners purchased by Texas as part of its reconstituted navy.

August 31: Schooner-of-war San Bernard, the last of the armed schooners purchased for the second Texas Navy, arrives at Galveston.

September 20: Negotiations for the harbor ship Louisville, also called the "Striped Pig," were consummated, and the Louisville was added to the Texas Navy roster as an unarmed supply ship.

October 4: Commodore Edwin Ward Moore arrived in Galveston aboard the SS Columbia to take command of the Texas Navy.

October 18: The Colorado, Texas' second-largest active warship (later renamed the Wharton) arrived in Galveston from Baltimore, where she was built. The Colorado would sail to New York on a recruiting trip and then remain in port until 1843, when she sailed with the flagship Austin on the Texas Navy's final cruise.

October 25: Secretary of the Navy Louis P. Cooke ordered Commander A.C. Hinton to proceed to New Orleans to begin refitting the Zavala as a fighting vessel. Hinton's cost overruns led to his dismissal from service the next year, but Texas Navy officials agreed that Hinton's repairs produced a vessel of extraordinary strength and seaworthiness.

November: During this month, the Texas sailing fleet, consisting of the armed schooners San Jacinto, San Antonio and San Bernard and the brig Colorado (later renamed the Wharton) receive supplies in anticipation of recruiting trips to New Orleans and New York.

November 10: The Colorado departs for New York via New Orleans.

November 18: President Mirabeau B. Lamar sends the Senate a

list of officers for the revitalized Texas Navy. Unfortunately, the number of officers exceeded the amount Congress had permitted, and Lamar and the Texas Navy become political targets of the pro-Houston faction. Lamar quickly withdraws the nominations, and the officers of the Texas Navy will operate without official commissions (therefore, technically as pirates) until July 1842.

November 20: The steamship Zavala, Commander A.C. Hinton, weathers her first storm under Texas colors on her first voyage as a warship. She arrives in New Orleans safely after what would be the first of many sea storms she would run through with no loss of life. Just before her arrival, the schooner San Antonio under Lieutenant Francis B. Wright arrives in New Orleans to pick up new recruits and supplies for the schooners remaining at Galveston.

November 29: Commander Hinton reports to Secretary of the Navy Louis P. Cooke that repairs and refitting for the Zavala will cause an estimated budget overrun of about \$4000. (The ultimate tab would exceed Hinton's budget by nearly \$14,000, and would cost Hinton his job.)

December: Commander A.C. Hinton spends the month in New Orleans fitting out the Atlantic coast steamer Charleston into the warship Zavala. The war schooner San Antonio, under Lieutenant Francis B. Wright, was in Mobile recruiting men and procuring supplies for the Navy.

December 9: Commodore Edwin Ward Moore arrives in New York aboard the 16-gun brig Colorado, his first Texas Navy command vessel. He would spend the month in New York recruiting sailors and officers, and procuring supplies, small arms and ammunition. (Included in the supplies he procured were the first large shipments of Samuel Colt's newfangled revolver, the "Gun that Won the West.") Moore's recruiting is generally done under cover of darkness, as it

violates U.S. neutrality laws.

Save the Date

By: Admiral Curt Osborne
Commander
The Tom Toby Squadron

I would like to remind all TNA members of two upcoming events that are very important to our State.

On Monday, April 21, 2014 at 11:00 am is San Jacinto Day Commemorating the 178th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto. Ron Stone Jr will be the Master of Ceremonies and the Principal Speaker is Bill O'Neal, Ph.D.

On Saturday, April 26, 2014 is the San Jacinto Festival at the Battlefield. That's when the reenactment will take place. The Tom Toby Squadron, along with the TNA will each have tents to display Texas Navy memorabilia and Texas Navy Store items. Please make an effort to attend as volunteers are much appreciated.

Finally, September 20, 2014 is Texian Navy Day. Ceremonies will take place on the ship and The Tom Toby "Welcome Aboard Luncheon" will follow at the Monument Inn. We hope other Squadrons will join us.

Sam Houston Squadron

Texas Navy Spring Commissioning Ceremony

Submitted by SHS Deputy Commander Adm Marsha Taylor

The Sam Houston Squadron of the Texas Navy held their annual Spring Social on Sunday, March 16 in the Ballroom of Lakewood Yacht Club. Commander Don Genitempo welcomed the group and led the pledges to the United States flag and the Texas flag.

After the invocation from Rev. George Aurich, SHS Secretary Admiral Marisa Hegesyi led the group in singing The National Anthem, accompanied by Admiral Sue Warters on piano.



Commander Genitempo then initiated the squadron's first Admirals Commissioning Ceremony, as Jack Frassanito, Tom Richards, Jeff Southard and Loyd Thornton were inducted into the Sam Houston



Squadron and were presented their Commission certificates. Individuals are granted Admiral Commissions in the Texas Navy by the Governor of the State of Texas.

The speaker was Admiral Bob Callanan from the Nimitz Squadron, with a colorful, informative and entertaining program entitled "Galveston Island; Texas' Earliest Privateers." One of the areas of his presentation focused on the positive contributions and accomplishments of Jean Lafitte to the City of Galveston. As a fun aside, Admiral Callanan shared the speculation that research indicates Johnny Depp may have based his Captain Jack Sparrow character upon the recorded history and spoken



(L) Deputy Commander Marsha Taylor, Commander Genitempo, Adm. Bob Callanan

legends of the French pirate and privateer, Jean Lafitte.

After the program, Admiral Callanan presented the SHS with a star to top the flagpole which flies the Texas Navy Flag presented to the SHS by the Nimitz Squadron in 2012. He did so with a familiar and good-natured ribbing about General Sam Houston's general relationship with the Texas Navy. As she presented a gift to Callanan on behalf of SHS, Deputy Commander Marsha Taylor accepted the star on behalf of the squadron and theorized that if General Houston were around today, he would likely elect to join this squadron that bears not only his name, but maybe a tad of his feisty character as well. In addition to having strong opinions, Sam Houston was known also for being a peace maker, and at all times he had Texas' best interest at heart.

Adding a special finale and high note to the evening, Admiral Hegyesi led and Admiral Wartens accompanied on piano as the group sang "Texas Our Texas."

The SHS was honored to have guests from other squadrons present, such as Texas Navy Association Vice President Admiral John Nicholson and wife Carol from the Lamar Squadron at Houston Yacht Club. Guests from the Tom Toby Squadron in Houston included Commander Curt Osborne and wife Peggy, Admiral Beth Fisher whose ancestor was the second Secretary of the Texas Navy, and author Admiral Jim Bevill and wife Jodie. Admiral Bevill's most recent book is "The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit & Independence in the Republic of Texas."

The SHS was also honored to have several area officials present. Among those, Congressional Candidate for the 36th District, Brian Babin and wife Roseanne; Chambers County Commissioner Rusty Senac; Chambers County Sheriff Brian Hawthorne and wife Heather, County Clerk of Chambers County.



(L) A. R. Senac, County Commissioner of Chambers County; Brian Babin, Republican candidate for the 36th Congressional District; Admiral Bob Taylor SHS Member; Admiral Beth Fisher, Tom Toby Squadron/TNA Representative; Admiral Bob Callanan

Nautical Trivia

Bib: The portion of a Navy enlisted uniform that hangs from the back of the neck. In the wooden navy it was fashion for sailors to have long hair but it would get blown about by the winds and get stuck in the rigging or machinery. To counteract this sailors at sea would braid their hair and dip it in tar (used to seal the boards on the ship). When ashore on liberty (as opposed to a longer leave where they would wash the tar out of the hair) they would cut a bib out of sack cloth and tie it around their neck to keep from getting tar on their one good shirt. The bib eventually became an official part of the enlisted uniform.

Binnacle List: Many novice sailors, confusing the words

'binnacle' and barnacle, have wondered what their illnesses had to do with crusty growths found on the hull of a ship. Their confusion is understandable. Binnacle is defined as the stand or housing for the ship's compass located on the bridge. The term binnacle list, in lieu of sick list, originated years ago when ship corpsmen used to place a list of sick on the binnacle health. After long practice, it came to be called binnacle list.

Chewing the Fat: God made the vittles, but the devil made the cook was a popular saying used by seafaring men in the last century when salted beef was the staple diet aboard ship. This tough cured beef, suitable only for long voyages when nothing else was as cheap or would keep as well, required prolonged chewing to make it edible. Men often chewed one chunk for hours, just as if it were chewing gum and referred to this practice as Chewing the fat.

source: navy terms and fun: <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcpl/EduTrain/hmtraining/Documents/Navy%20Terms%20and%20Trivia.htm>

Take the Whole Family

...see the Texas Navy Exhibit while you're there!



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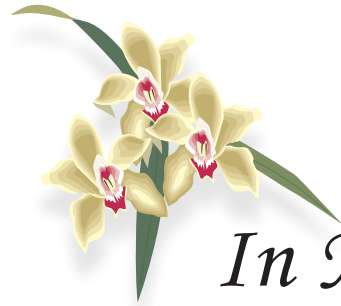


Mark Your Calendar

Tentative date for the Texas Navy Ball
more details will follow



December 13, 2014
Location: Moody Gardens, Galveston, Texas 77027



In Memory Of

Admiral Leland Mebine

Admiral Clarence Kendall

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

