



# the Almanac

*"I have not yet begun to fight!"* USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD 6

February 20, 2012

## Does BHR Have Paranormal Ship-tivity?



ing through the dark shadowy corridors of the Revolutionary Gator? According to some current crewmembers, that may be the case.

One person who claims to have had an unexplainable encounter aboard BHR is Aviation Boatswain Mate (Handling) Third Class Miguel Melendres. He claims to have had a close encounter with something unseen while trying to get some much needed rest one night in the Air department berthing.

"This happened just before we went into drydock," said Melendres. "I had duty one night and as I was making my rack and getting ready to go to sleep I heard footsteps. I didn't think anything of it at the time and went to sleep. During the night around 3:30am I woke up to go to the bathroom and just happened to notice that everyone else on duty was in their racks fast asleep. When I got back to my rack and laid down the same footsteps I heard earlier started up again, the only difference this time is that they sounded a little closer. That grabbed my attention so I got out of my rack hoping to see someone there but I didn't, and I started to freak out a little and got back in my rack and went back to sleep.

"A little while later I was woken up again when someone or something walked down the aisle where my rack is located and my curtains started to open," continued Melendres. "I stuck my head out to yell and got out of my rack to see what was going on I didn't see anybody. I checked the head, nothing. The lounge, nothing. I went through every aisle hoping to find out

who opened up my curtains but I didn't see anybody or anything. I didn't hear any footsteps running in or out of the berthing, no sound of doors opening or closing. Nothing."

Machinist Mate Fireman Vincente Perez claims there may be something out of the ordinary down in Shaft Alley Three. "When I am on shift, I have to go check things out in Shaft Alley Three about once an hour and I can't help but get the feeling that there is something down there," said Perez. "I always get a feeling that someone is watching me and as I take lube oil samples, I sometimes see shadows and weird noises that I can't explain happen. At times the lights start flickering on their own. I know it's not the light bulbs or starters because I have changed them out myself. There is definitely something weird down there."

Other places around BHR some crew

*Continued on back...*



Story and photos by MC1(SW) Duke Richardson

Throughout maritime history, numerous tales of ghostly and unexplainable occurrences have fascinated many, intrigued others, and kept skeptics scoffing at the notion. From documented phenomena such as the feel of ghostly fingers, unexplainable scents and "cold spots" aboard the Star of India, to ghostly apparitions and the sounds of disembodied voices aboard the decommissioned aircraft carrier, USS Hornet (CV 12), it is possible that vessels may have a strange way of taking on a life of their own due perhaps to residual energies left behind by men and women who once walked the various passageways and compartments. Is it possible that USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) also plays host to a number of unseen dwellers? Are disembodied entities of crewmembers of yesteryear lurk-

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members have experienced things that are not easily explained include the vestibule on the O5 level near Pri Fly, where some have claimed to have had the feeling of being watched and experiencing “cold spots”, which in “paranormal speak” is usually a sign of an otherworldly presence; as well as AIMD QA, where one person has had the hairs of his arms raised up and has broken out in goose bumps at times on duty nights when he is in the space alone.

“I sometimes wonder if anyone has ever committed suicide or something on this ship,” said Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class David Ford. “Maybe their ghost is still here?”

“  
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**Photo of the Day** -- ABH2(AW/SW) Joshua Taylor gives Enlisted Aviation Warfare and Enlisted Surface Warfare training to Sailors aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) while underway in transit to Sasebo, Japan for a hull swap with USS Essex (LHD 2). (Photo by MC3 Marcus L. Stanley)

## Movie Schedule Monday, Feb. 20

# KBHR TV

CH. 2 Command Information --- CH. 5 AFN Sports  
CH. 6 AFN News --- CH. 7 AFN Prime

### ch.3

0600 1800 Shrek  
0800 2000 Spiderman  
1000 2200 Gran Torino  
1200 0000 Hangover 2  
1400 0200 Nine  
1600 Ninja Assassin

### ch.4

0600 1900 Diary of a  
Wimpy Kid 2  
0800 2100 Thin Red Line  
1100 0000 Lean on Me  
1300 0200 Hannah  
1500 Flipped  
1700 Judy Moody

### ch.8

0600 1800 Toy Story 3  
0800 2000 Shark Night  
1000 2200 Rocky 4  
1200 0000 Book of Eli  
1400 0200 Moneyball  
1600 Salt



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MC3(SW) Jacob Wiley  
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