

Report by Wilfried Poenitz

Historical meeting of two authors in whose books Hartenstein played a remarkable roll

Our manager of the club received an email from Mr. Stan Norcom, in the meantime he became a member of the ISCP, to inform that a book exists from the author William Hochstuhl with the title "German U-boat 156 brought war to Aruba, February 16th, 1942". Stan also mentioned that this book has been republished on the 60th anniversary of this occasion and is available through the daughter of the author Mrs. Jane Getty from Wayne, New Jersey. That was on May 14th, 2003. Short time later in September/October, my wife and I spent our vacation in New Jersey, USA and a meeting was arranged with Jane and Bill Getty, where we received some books. We enjoyed a very interesting conversation regarding her father's book, especially the lucky coincidences which led to learn more about the person Hartenstein, his crew and the "life" on U 156. We, of course, reported about our club ISCP and its aims and about our previous activities. At the same time, we also introduced the book of our President David Jones: "The enemy we killed, my friend". During our most interesting conversation it became our wish to bring together both the authors. At that time they had already turned the age of 80.

Exactly one year later this happening took place when Captain David Jones and his wife Edwina visited their daughter and her family in Massachusetts. We arranged a meeting on Friday, October 8th, 2004. Altogether we were 11 people, 4 of them were ISCP members. The Getty family arranged the restaurant and brought their parents, Mr. and Mrs. William and Eileen Hochstuhl from Middletown New Jersey along to Massachusetts. It was great fun to see how the two authors exchanged their tremendous experiences. Unfortunately, this evening went by too fast and when the restaurant manager politely asked us to leave the place we found ourselves really the last guests.

Before we returned to Germany, my wife and I had the honor to be guests in the house of William and Eileen Hochstuhl and took this opportunity to discuss a lot of things which were touching us. Our hosts showed special interest to hear from first hand about the life in Middle (East) Germany under the Soviet occupation.

These meetings are unforgettable events and can hopefully become a tradition.

Mr. Hochstuhl handed me over his historical photos of U 156 for our club. Some of them were originally provided from the first watch officer and artillery officer von dem Borne. We are very grateful for these documents.