

## Bell from U.S.S Sacramento PG19 Relocated and Rededicated

By Bob Ulrich 9am Sept 2, 2006

The bell is now appropriately positioned next to the Merchant Marine Memorial anchor at the Tower Bridge. The ship was called the **“Galloping Ghost of the China Coast”** and sailed from 1914 until 1946. She was a gunboat, perhaps, somewhat like the boat we saw in the film Sand Pebbles with Steve McQueen.



*Pictures on this page by Nancy Ulrich*

The program to rededicate the restored and relocated bell was conducted by **Phelps Hobart and the Navy League**. I had the honor and privilege of ringing the bell as part of the ceremony.

The USS Sacramento (PG-19) was the second of three of the city’s namesake ships. She logged 64 thousand miles convoying 483 ships through submarine infested waters during World War 1. She moved to the Pacific in 1922 and provided a presence there during the Russian Chinese revolution. Called the **“Galloping Ghost of the China Coast”**, **USS Sacramento** was a positive symbol of America’s concern for the stability of the Western Pacific. From aiding earthquake victims in Yokohama, Japan in 1924 to engaging in battle on the Yangtze River in China in 1937, the USS Sacramento performed with distinction.

**The Sacramento was in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked. She performed with valor downing two enemy planes and rescuing 27 crewmen from the battleship Oklahoma.**

Late in 1942 USS Sacramento returned to California and spent the remainder of the war training gun crews for battle. In 1946 the veteran gunboat was decommissioned. The Navy League presented the bell to Sacramento in 1984.

*Photo to the left. Chaplain Viet Nam Veteran Bill McDonald gives the blessing.*



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