

## Day 42 (Friday, 10/31/08) At Sea, Halloween

On this day at sea the temperatures were in the mid 50s with low humidity and moderate seas. We are in the middle of "The Great Australian Bight" in the Indian Ocean on the way to Melbourne, Australia. In the captain's navigation report he said the Amsterdam was 240 miles south of Australia and we had 18,500 feet of water under the keel.

This morning at 11am Dr. Jay Wolff gave another lecture in his series on Australian history. Today's story was about the 1942 battle of the Coral Sea in WWII. This story is more about the US navy fighting the Japanese navy than about Australia. However, Dr. Wolff's perspective was that Australia was saved from Japanese conquest by the battle of the Coral Sea. He gave many examples of heroic fighting by US Navy personnel during the battle. Finally, the Japanese withdrew from the Coral Sea and Australia was saved. Memory of the US sacrifice in defending Australia has contributed to a lasting bond between Americans and Australians. Losses suffered by the Japanese during the battle of the Coral Sea led to the defeat of the Japanese at Midway Island a short while later. This began the Japanese retreat which was slow at first but ended with their surrender in 1945.

## Happy Halloween!!

Today was Halloween and there were plenty of people happy to put on costumes and celebrate this holiday. The Amsterdam even let us decorate our stateroom door.

As evening approached Barbara prepared to give out candy to excited Trick or Treaters if they should show up.



Everyone on the ship was invited to wear costumes and join in the fun. Barbara had planned ahead for this gala night and had costumes for us to wear to dinner. We had been invited to a Halloween costume party by Diana and MaryLou, our Cruise Critic friends. About 4:30 we donned our costumes and paraded down through the

ship to the back section of Deck 3. We found the celebrants already having a great time showing off their costumes and acting up in general. Our hosts had provided refreshments, including Champaign, and the participants provided the entertainment. Of course, MaryLou, on the left, and Diana, third from the left in this picture, were the real sparkplugs at the party.



The setting was perfect for a cruise ship party. We were sheltered from the wind but with the sound of the sea and motion of the ship there was a great sense of movement. Here are a few candid photographs taken as the evening progressed.

These characters were really getting into the spirit of the occasion. Here we are below in our disguises for the evening. Barbara was a Cat Lady while Orlin was disguised (poorly) as a pumpkin with a Lone Ranger mask to avoid identification.



In these wide open spaces there was even room for Hamid to give Diana some dancing lessons while other guests mingled.

Ever friendly Hennie made sure no one was thirsty at the party.



The party was really starting to roll and MaryLou led the group in a rousing Ohio State Fight Song to add fuel to the fire.

Unfortunately, we had to leave to join our dinner companions in the dining room but this Halloween Party cruised on.



The Amsterdam staff had done a great job of decorating the dining room and we had stopped by earlier in the day to get a few pictures at the entrance.



Our table mates, Bob and Esther had planned way ahead and brought elaborate costumes with them. Fortunately they had warned us so we weren't too shocked when they made their appearance.

Esther was a half devil half angel spirit in her red and white outfit.



Bob was the scariest monster in the room with his Dracula character. Joan scurried ahead to avoid being attacked.



The dining room stewards joined in the fun with their own idea of Halloween costumes. Here Gde is a Zoot Suiter from the 1940s while Dibya was a Roman with Cat Woman Barbara in between.



Later a really heavy duty monster showed up and appeared to even have Gde wondering if it was safe around here.



Fortunately we all survived the fright parade and enjoyed the good hearted fun. There was a "Boo Ball" with gala costume contest in the Crow's Nest Lounge later tonight. We felt that our costumes had served their purpose and we would let the Crow's Nest festivities go on without us.