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U.S.S. LOWNDES - APA 154

January 2008 Newsletter

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Jan Trober reports: "That everything went well at our reunion in St Charles, MO and I want to thank all at Military Reunion Planners for all of their help. The hotel we used for our home base had a wonderful staff and pool area. Had I known, I would have had the "Meet & Greet" there because it was so beautiful with a waterfall that fed into the pool area. The hotel's dinner show was a blast And a very good choice so that our group didn't have to leave the hotel. There was a grocery store right behind the hotel that made it very easy for me to purchase snacks and things for our group's hospitality room. I would recommend the hotel in St. Charles again".

Theme of the dinner show was "I love Lucy." The performers impersonated Desi and Lucy and circulated the dining area and passed out slips of paper denoting the role that some members of our group became participants involved in the show which helped to add a bit of hilarity to the event.

Now to a more serious topic. We are looking to October 16, 17 & 18 (Thursday thru Sunday) to host our 2008 reunion in San Francisco, California. Stuart Hyde (Iwo Jima Author) our West Coast representative will assist Jan regarding the points of interest to visit. There will be a bus and boat tour of the San Francisco area, and naturally a banquet and possibly a show, just to name a couple of events in the planning stages. More details will follow in a future newsletter. Even though this is a long time in the future, please keep it in mind and place it on your agenda.

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Our home base will be the Whitcomb Hotel, located at 1231 Market St. After the 1906 earthquake ruined the city, the hotel served as the San Francisco's City Hall from 1912 to 1915. Curious guests can arrange a tour of the old jail cells in the basement.



\$99 per night plus tax. Make reservations at (415)626-8000. Rates apply to 3 days before and after our reunion. Be sure to mention USS Lowndes, The Hotel sanctuary is surrounded by trendy restaurants, shops and many attractions. You'll enjoy walking or riding the Cable Cars to the Theater District, Union Square, Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, and the Golden Gate Bridge. Tour of Alcatraz, one time home of Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly.

Roger Solley

Thank you, that was beautiful. We enjoyed the reunion very much. I was told there are dues to pay, how much and where do we send it. God willing we will be at the next one. We are sorry we missed so many of them, we did not know about them until our daughter found it on the Internet. We enjoyed seeing everyone.

Roger and his wife Lee were first time attendees to our reunion group.

Sally Cary

Just a line this holiday season to let everybody know I'm still kicking, but not as easy as I used to. Had a stroke last November 14th, went to the hospital in town here and they sent me to Mesa for a month. Came home Christmas Day. My left side was affected. Leg is mobile now and I can use a walker but my left arm is out in another galaxy as my great grandson said I haven't found out which universe it's in.

Nice to hear from Sally again and certainly wish her a speedy recovery.

Jack M. Lotsey

I was working as a circulating nurse in surgery in a Naval Hospital in Philadelphia and had finished my chores for the moment. I laid down on a metal gurney in the tile floored hallway. A nurse came up to me while I was partly asleep and tickled me in the ribs. WOW! I jumped up and the two of us rolled on the floor laughing. The gurney turned over with a bang. All this happened at 3:00 AM in the hospital and people came running out of rooms and the surgeon came out. Embarrassed? You bet. Such is the life of a corpsman.

Sterling Hornsby

I like getting the newsletters and would like very much to make the reunions but health

problems prevent it. I was a signalman First Class in the Beach Party When I went aboard the Lowndes in 1944. When we went to Pearl Harbor Billy Biggers and I transferred into ship's company and made Chief with the help of Dr. Dunbar. When we arrived off Iwo Jima I volunteered to go ashore but they wouldn't allow me to go since I was no longer in the Beach Party. Don Bowman was a very good friend of Billy and I and it hurt when he was killed on the island. Well, here's to smooth sailing for everyone and may the wind always be at your back.

Hey fella, you just hang in there and keep in touch.

Julia Jurica

Receiving the USS Lowndes newsletters brought back all the memories back. The pictures are great. John would also have wanted to see them. We miss him all the time and can't believe it is over two years since he left us. Every time he got a newsletter he had tears in his eyes. He loved his ship and all his friends. Well, here I am alone and wish I could attend the reunions, but my age comes to fast. I will be 91 October 21st. I live in my own apartment. I loved San Francisco and think of all the good times we had there. All the Comments regarding John's former shipmates are great to read and it feels like it was just yesterday that it all happened. I am doing the best I can and am still diving and shopping on my own.

Our reunion this year will be in San Francisco. Dates have not been carved in stone as of this date.

The Golden Gate Bridge is 1.7 miles long. Remember the pools we had betting on what time we would pass under the bridge? According to the Almanac the weather in San Francisco in October will be , high of 68 degrees & low of 55 degrees.

Stuart Hyde

Here is some information that may be of interest to the Lowndes crew members who were aboard the ship at Iwo Jima:

American Campaign Medal

Navy Occupation SVC Medal with 1 Asia Clasp

World War II Victory Medal

Honorable Service Lapel Button

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze star Attachments

These medals can be obtained from:

Bureau of Naval Personnel
Liason Office Room 5409
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Don Lorenzi

We had a pleasant trip home. The St. Louis reunion like all our reunions has to be considered a great success thanks mainly to Jan. Shirley and I had a great time, especially Shirley. Like you, Bud, she has bad wheels and hasn't been able to travel much these past two years and getting out and meeting people is a special treat for her. She made a special attempt to attend this reunion in St. Louis so that she could take advantage to visit a friend she hadn't seen for over 50 years. Hope she (and you Bud) will be able to make the San Francisco reunion.

Sorry Don, I have been unable to find an Iwo Jima lapel pin. Will keep you in mind if and when I locate one.

Mail to: Mrs. Chuck Munson
June Zinkgraf

Has been returned.

Leo O'Brien

It was nice seeing all in St. Louis and looking forward to San Francisco, the good Lord willing. Even though the reunion group was smaller it is always nice to see old friends again. Thanks to Jan and family for all their hard work and putting up with us old codgers. We were glad to see Don and Shirley Lorenzi but sorry that Bill and Amelia couldn't make it. The stint with Lucy and Ricky Ricardo added some humor to the banquet. She really did sound like Lucy.

Marlene Rezza Schadler

We are still trying to recover from hurricane Katrina. Repairs to our home are going slowly. We have all become do-it-yourself people. Everything has to be ordered and takes about 8 weeks to arrive. Oh well, we are getting used to camping inside our house. Thanks again for the newsletters and e mails, especially the funny ones, we need to laugh. The D Day museum has changed their name to National War II museum.

Jim Frieden

I think it was in 1975 or 1976 that Maggie and I along with Walt and Jackie Umbarger were on a tour that included the island of Alcatraz, "The Rock" and the locale of the movie, "Escape from Alcatraz" Starring Clint Eastwood, one of our shipmates, Ed King had a small part in. I spent a very, very short time in solitary confinement and to say the least it was dark and gave me a real spooky feeling. I can only imagine how the inmates who spent time in there for some punishment that caused them to be put into that cell felt.

Just be thankful, Jim, that it was only for a brief period.

Renee Michalski

Sorry to report that my Dad Connie has Alzheimer's and Mom took care of him at home until June of last year; it took us a couple of tries to find the right place for him but Buckner Villa seems to have worked out well. Mother would appreciate the notes and letters be sent to her. She visits him every couple of days and gladly takes anything that comes for him. It's just that the staff does not help him to open his private mail, so it frequently sits there until she comes. It is a good place, he has rapidly become one of their favorite residents and has made some progress since being there. He is now back to walking to meals with his walker (he had been wheel chair bound for a while), has a great appetite, loves anything, dessert/sweet and loves to take naps in the afternoon after lunch. He is the 'quarterback' of ball toss and really likes the live music presentations they have. He still has a great sense of humor, likes jokes and loves anything about automobiles, the Navy or Boston Terriers (their dog is a Boston). We decorated his room for Christmas with a theme of 'Santa's toy delivery'- every ornament was some kind of car or truck as were the decorations on his door wreath. He always recognizes mother and me but is confused about some things. Yesterday he was sure he needed to go to work and was late. He wasn't convinced we were right when we told him that he was retired and didn't have to go to work, he had retired when he was 80, that wasn't so surprising. Although it is sad and not surprising that many of his cohorts are having problems. Dad is 94.

There was a time years ago that Connie owned a cream colored 1917 Maxwell with black top & seats and wooden spokes Maxwell. During a rain the windshield wipers had to be operated by hand. He and Jerry were involved in an automobile scavenger hunt. They went the whole bit, wearing dusters, etc of that vintage era. To refresh memories, Connie and Jerry hosted the 1995 reunion in San Antonio, TX with the very able assistance of their daughter Renee. During that reunion plaques in memory of Donald Bowman and Norman Richards were placed on

the wall at the Admiral Nimitz museum in Fredericksburg, TX.

Donald and Norman were both KIA on Iwo Jima.

Another little bit of trivia: At our very first reunion back in 1989 I brought USS Lowndes hats to be purchased by crew members. Well, Jim Ross bought one and passed it along to his son, Charles who wore it on every one of his missions during the first gulf war in 1991.

There are many interesting sites to visit in San Francisco. For those who will have the availability of a car, better have good brakes, Frisco is very hilly. One street that Jean and I drove down, very carefully, was Lombard St., the crookedest street in the world. It is a one way street and has umpteenth hairpin curves. Absolutely amazing.

Stuart Hyde

First, I thought the reunion was great. What was really great was the chance to associate and talk to crew members. We enjoyed the comedy/dinner evening, and we spent a good part of one day in St. Charles, which was awesome! Especially the Lewis and Clark Museum. The banquet went well, we thought. On the downside was the cancellation of the tour! We were really excited about it. On Saturday, we took the train to St. Louis, and saw nothing but the Arch. Couldn't find a tour bus anywhere. I guess St. Louis is not a tourist town, or there would have been ads and pamphlets, and hawkers all over the place. We have to make sure that doesn't happen again.

Stuart is assisting Jan Trober in setting up our next reunion in San Francisco. I'm sure it will be one to be enjoyed by all.

Lorene Stratton

It's that time of the year to pay our dues so we can keep the Lowndes newsletters coming our way. Dallas and I enjoy reading old friends remarks and what they are up to. We spent two weeks at our son's home in South Carolina.

Dallas is still playing ball in the summer.



As we entered the banquet hall we noticed a small table, in a place of honor. It is set for one. The military is filled with symbolism. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that crew members of the USS Lowndes are no longer with us so we remember them and their dedication to our country.

The table set for one is small to symbolize the frailty of one sailor alone against his enemies.

The tablecloth is white to symbolize the purity of their intentions to respond to our country's call.

The red roses across the plate reminds us of the blood shed in battle to protect the liberty so loved by our country.

The yellow rose displayed in the vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our shipmates who keep their memories alive lest we forget.

There is salt upon the bread plate to symbolize the tears shed by their family members.

The glass is inverted for they cannot toast with us tonight.

The chair is empty for they are no longer with us.

Remember all of you who served with them. You, who depended upon their might, friendship, their aid and relied upon them, remember.

Credit Jan Trober for the above.

**James V. Ross**

January 27, 1926

December 30, 2007

Born in Tamaha, OK. Enlisted in the Navy March 24, 1944 in Tulsa, OK. Boarded the Lowndes September 15, 1944 at Astoria, OR as a S1/c. Watch station, Division 3 boat crew and was a member of the Beach Party that landed on the beach of Iwo Jima during the battle of that island. Left the Lowndes May 1946 in Norfolk, VA. Honorable discharge from the Navy, was a civilian for two years. Re-enlisted in the Army Air Corps. (Became the United States Air Force) Received a number of medals and Certificates. Served in many theaters of WW II Including Iwo Jima and Okinawa Campaigns. He was a member of the Iwo Jima Survivors Association. Last active duty, January 31, 1966 at Condon AFB, Oregon. After his retirement he enjoyed traveling, rock collecting, gardening, furniture refinishing and telling war stories. Jim got sick on his way home from the Biloxi Reunion and could never overcome all the COPD problems. He is survived by his wife Ina Mae, son Charles Ross, daughter, Ann, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter.

**Lawrence Thomas Bandzak**

January 2, 1924

June 30, 2007

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Enlisted in the Navy on April 26, 1944 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He boarded the USS Lowndes on September 14, 1944 (becoming a Plank Owner) At Astoria, Oregon. He left the Lowndes April 17, 1946 as a Shipfitter 3/c. Larry worked with sheet metal for many years, then was forced into early retirement when we decided not to move with the company to Colorado. Hr had no trouble finding things to fill his time. He loved building model airplanes. Still have one hung from the ceiling. He also fixed up old cars. His favorite project was restoring a '57 Ford. Also enjoyed fishing with his son David and granddaughter Marie. They always came home with fish and stories. He talked fondly of the crew and that the USS Lowndes was a wonderful ship. He would pull out the photo album and share stories from his days on the ship. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Isabell, 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.