

U.S.S. LOWNDES – APA 154

March Newsletter

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**A reminder, Seventeenth reunion is September 15 thru 18, 2005.
In Oakbrook, Illinois. See January 2005 newsletter.
A detailed schedule of events to follow in
a future newsletter as soon as it is available.**

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Please note: There was an error on the postcard requesting information regarding attending the reunion. It should have mentioned this is our seventeenth reunion not sixteenth,
Many post cards have still not been returned.
We need to have an estimate of attendees for the reunion organizer
To make this a successful occasion.

Jan Trober has requested items for the Lowndes "Giveaway" event, it appears this has been one of the highlights well received at previous reunions. The articles can be sent to Jan or brought to the reunion. Let's assist Jan in this endeavor.

"HOW to SIMULATE the LIFE of a SAILOR"

Buy a steel dumpster, paint it gray inside and out and live in it for six months.

Repaint your entire house every month.

Empty all garbage bins and sweep the driveway 3 times a day, whether it needs it or not.

Have your neighbor come over each day at 5 AM, blow a whistle and shout, "Reveille, reveille and shout all hands heave to and trice up.

Make coffee using 18 scoops of budget priced grounds per pot, allow to simmer for 5 hours before drinking.

Have your spouse shine a flashlight in your eyes about 3 hours after you go to sleep, and say, "Sorry wrong rack."

Set your alarm clock to off at random times during the night. At the alarm, jump up and dress as fast as you can, making sure to button your top shirt button and tuck in your pants into your socks. Run into the back yard and uncoil the garden hose.

Raise your bed to within 6 inches of the ceiling, so you can't turn over without getting out and then getting back in.

Enjoy!

Compliments Sally Cary & John Hess

Mar. 2005-2

Bill Thomas

Who said Navy chow isn't nutritious, I enlisted in the Navy December 1943 when I was 17, I was five foot six inches tall and weighed 98 pounds on the scale at the induction center in Salt Lake City, Utah and my weight was 101 pounds when I got to boot camp in Farragut, Idaho, I was 17 but looked more like 13. A kindly, fatherly old doctor took me into a room, sat me down and said, "Now son, how old are you really, this is just between you and me and no one else will know." If I had been underage it sure would have been a short enlistment. Two years and five months later I was six foot one inch tall and weighed 155 pounds. My boat was #12 on #4 davit port side. Lemmons coxswain, O. A. Smith signalman, Ross deck hand and bowhook, I was a MoMM and sternhook. The last time we hit the beach at Iwo Jima was about dusk. I don't know what happened, but the next thing I knew we were broached, sideways on the beach. A Marine MP came up and me still wet behind the ears thought that was strange, a cop on the beach during an invasion, in my mind MP's only pulled shore patrol and brig guard, guess he thought we were souvenir hunters, "Get this damn boat off the beach." That p--- off me off, I said, "We don't want to stay on this beach any more than you do." He told us to get our machine guns off because they were expecting a counter attack. To this day I don't remember if I volunteered or was ordered to pack wounded down to the aid stations. Later that night one of our boats hit the beach in what looked like the only open spot, there was so much wreckage littering the beach. We got off the beach after dark, but the Lowndes had retired for the night. There was an LST anchored nearby with some big pontoons along side for stranded boat crews, we came aboard and we got a hot meal, bunk for the night. Next morning when our ship came back and we went aboard it.

John Dyer

Lebby is healthiest she has been for sometime, I am better than nothing. Sure

enjoy receiving the newsletters. Keep up the good work. Hope to see you all in Chicago. I guess you noticed we voted right at the last election here in Florida this time.

Bill Ramsey

So glad to receive the newsletter from all of you. We haven't traveled at all the last couple of years and it looks like our travel day are over. So I'll just live through all the stories in the letters. Thanks a lot. Keep it up.

D. & S. Lorenzi

We are doing great health wise. Really, really enjoy warm Arizona. Kinda feel sorry for all you people that live up north during the winter. Looking forward to the Chicago reunion. See you then.

Reta Freitas

We are doing fine and still dancing. It seems to be good exercise. Glad to get the newsletters and to know what's going on with everybody. Joe has been busy making changes around the house. We are going to try to make the Chicago reunion this year. Our best to everybody.

Mike Michalski

If all goes well – as planned. We hope to make the trip to the reunion this year. Jerry and I will probably fly to Chicago. If I have my way we'll be there a day early for the usual looking over of the area to see what is available.

Bill Fletcher

Enclosed a contribution towards mailing costs – please keep me on your mailing list. Our Second Marine Division is meeting in Houston, Texas this summer and I'll probably find other buddies who were afforded your hospitality aboard the Lowndes in March and February, 1945. "Memories are made of this."

Dan Wisdom

Sorry for the long delay in writing, sometimes just don't seem to be enough time to do what needs to be done. Finally have my own e mail address now instead of using my son's. I now have 30 years in the school district and will probably retire from them in the next couple of years, have been involved in restoring military vehicles which I really like to do, Also old tractors My Dad is 90 years old and Mom is 84 and in pretty good shape. Both live on a farm by themselves, farm is rented out so they get some extra income. Lera has 5 more years to go with the telephone company, works in downtown Dallas. I try to keep her from getting bored by giving her all the extra chores she can handle. Poor Lera, but she has a bright side now that we have 2 grandchildren, they live 2 houses down from us. These belong to our oldest son, Matthew. Stephen graduated from Lou. Tech in aviation and has all his pilot ratings, goes to a college in Waco getting his airframe and mechanics license as well, finishes in April then goes off the payroll. I enjoy getting the USS Lowndes newsletters, I know putting out the NL is a job and hope all appreciate it. I also appreciate all the photos you have sent of the crew and wives. I hope the effort to save the last APA is successful as I got information from someone** on all the remaining APA's and the present condition of them and what countries own them and their disposal. I will try to send more e mails in the future on a more consistent basis. Please inform me if any photos turn up of the Lowndes crew from the old days aboard ship. Bud, keep well, tell any crew members hello and I have never forgotten how nice they were to me and my family when we were able to attend reunions.

Your Adopted Crewmember

*** Information received from David Brinkman.*

Marty Umbarger

Unfortunately we have a National Guard conference at the same time the U.S.S. Lowndes reunion in Chicago is scheduled. Hope all is well with everyone.

Bud, Thanks so much for the prompt reply to my question concerning the deceased. I was in error thinking that this information was readily available on the computer. (Unfortunately, I do not have one.) I know that you have taken on a big job and I don't want to add to it. Really appreciate what you are already doing. I was neglectful in not recording this info from previous newsletters, will start doing it now. I believe the list will increase faster with each publication. At 82 I'm one of the younger crew members, therefore still able to communicate. I imagine there are many that would like to stay in touch but have difficulty doing so. Not ever being an officer, I'm not interested in a roster of them. Not important but was curious why only a few are listed. Thanks for the newsletters. I'm appreciative and look forward to receiving them.

One reason that there aren't too many officers listed on our roster is because we have not been able to locate many of them, not that every effort was made. Will attempt to include a list of deceased in a future newsletter. Just bear with me, at this stage of life things move very slow on my end.

Leo O'Brien

Thanks for the newsletter and group pictures. They are a fine looking bunch. I especially enjoyed Max Cole's comments.

I'm sure everyone is aware of my personal filing system. Going through it one day I came across a little story related to me by Leo which I think all will get a large charge out of it. Forgive me Leo if I'm telling tales out of school.

"Went to a restaurant in San Francisco with several shipmates. Being a good Catholic I ordered fish, wanted shark but was informed they had no shark, I then asked for barracuda, again the waitress said that wasn't available either. I then said, 'The good Lord knew that I had asked for Fish.' So give me steak like the rest of the guys ordered."

David Brinkman

I'm still looking through over 100,000 films in the National Archives.

Title: "SAN FRANCISCO RECEIVES
"NEWS OF JAP SURRENDER."

The date is August 14, 1945 and the location is San Francisco. The film starts off with footage from an APA going into the San Francisco Harbor and then it ends showing celebrations on the docks after the end of the war is announced. Some of the footage is around pier #2. The Lowndes deck log shows that we were docked in the harbor at maybe pier #36. Does anyone know or remember how many APA's may have been in the harbor at that time (tens or a hundreds)? This may be a good film to obtain.

Scanned images of the entire Lowndes deck log are now on line. There are 2 ways to access:

Calendar:

<http://www.lowndes.net/lowndes/decklog/calendar.htm>

1. Through a Calendar page where you can pick a day to start viewing:

2. Crew member index to log:

<http://www.usslowndes.net/Lowndes/decklog/dindex.htm>

By crew member.

View all the Lowndes crew and see when they boarded the Lowndes and when they left. Also see when they had a temporary transfer, an injury, a violation (this ranges from being an hour late from leave to a court martial and discharge.) Check out a member of the Beach Party who got a bad conduct discharge after only 5 weeks on the ship. Stay tuned for updates of the list or do your own searching with the calendar.

J. Shelton Scales

Since I was not a member of the Lowndes crew. Please eliminate my name from your mailing list. Thanks and Semper Fi!

Col. Scales USMCR-Ret. Was very much involved with the invasion of Iwo Jima. While aboard the Lowndes he carried an envelope with highly classified material marked TOP SECRET. He also contributed information for the Lowndes Iwo Jima booklet. See page 2/95-M for more details.

Harry Contreras

In response to your request in the latest newsletter, for the Lowndes reunion attendees and other shipmates about continuing mailing the newsletters. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for all the efforts you have put into the Lowndes newsletters. I am proud to have been included in the Lowndes newsletters. As more time goes by, some of the details of my service aboard the ship seems to be fading from my memories. I feel sad about giving permission to not send me any more. Again, thanks for the past considerations for the information about the ship.

I will abide by their wishes to be removed from the mailing list after this issue.

Marlene Rezza Schadler

Please make the following correction on the e mail listing "Rezza". I only mention this because the Rezza is my Dad's name – the most important part. As always, thank you for all the time and effort in putting out the newsletters. Also enjoy receiving the e mails from Lowndes crew members.

Randy Vavrek

Sorry it has taken so long to respond. It has been 8 years since my Dad G. Tupper passed away. My Mother and I have so enjoyed being included in the USS Lowndes reunions. My Mother has entered a beautiful home, Park Regency, just 2 miles from our house and easy to visit. She has a regular routine, but needs 24/7 care. Enjoy reading the newsletter updates of the crew.

TAPS

James C. Chilcote



Born Feb. 3, 1917 in Ridgeway, PA and passed away suddenly on Sept. 15, 2004 in Boise, ID. He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio where he attended public school

graduating on the honor roll. He came west in Oct. 1935 where he joined the CCC. While residing in Vale, CO he played on a minor league baseball team. Worked for the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army before enlisting in the Navy Sept. 1943 in Boise, ID. Boarded the Lowndes Oct. 1944 as Y2c. His GQ and watch station was on the bridge. While on the Lowndes he participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. Left the Lowndes Feb. 1946 as a Y1c, was employed by Consolidated Freightways and continued there for 33 years until retirement as an office administrator. Survivors are Virginia Chilcote Cowden, Gene Chilcote, Richard Chilcote and six grand-children



Jim & Son Charles in Giants dugout

Herbert S. Kears

Born Nov. 28, 1925 in Glendale, CA. Passed away Dec. 27, 2004. Joined the Navy July, 1943 in Los Angeles, CA. came aboard the Lowndes Oct. 1944 in Astoria, OR. Departed the Lowndes March 1946 as a QM3c. Was QM on reserve D.E. out of San Diego training P.O. in reserve unit. Last active duty Mar. 1946. Graduated College (Junior) with associate in arts degree 1948. Applied for commission in 1951, passed all tests except physical (bad knees). Worked for Los Angeles County road Department on survey crew for eight years also with other agencies as an engineering draftsman, construction inspector, materials tester and other related engineer jobs until retiring.

Taps

Annabelle Dawson

Annabelle writes to inform us that her sailor (Rank) passed away on December 8, 2004. He was born September 5, 1910 in Sissonville, West Virginia. Enlisted in the Navy June 28, 1941 and boarded the USS Lowndes in San Francisco as a Lt. Commander in 1945 and left the ship December 31, 1945, his last active duty. Was promoted to Commander and released from duty shortly after. Practiced surgery in Charleston, West Virginia from 1946 to 1985, then retired. Annabelle says he told her many stories. He had served on another ship before coming to the Lowndes. Survivors include four children and five grand-children.

Bob Wurth

It is with sadness that I report the passing of my wife, Martha of nearly 50 years. She was a wonderful wife, mother and a friend who touched many lives.

It sounds like everybody had a good time in Branson, Missouri. Martha and I spent several days there about six years ago and loved

it. Don't know if I'll make another reunion or not. Attended the one in Fort Wayne, Indiana and really enjoyed it.

Chuck Rodgers

I am saddened to report the passing of my grandpa, L. B. Rodgers on Jan 12, 2005 in Dallas, Texas. He served aboard the USS Lowndes. He was quite a man, he never spoke much about his time in the service. I was glad he found the USS Lowndes web site last year, he truly enjoyed it.

The above is a note written to David Brinkman. Chuck and L. B. came across the Lowndes web site last summer and Chuck really got into the history of the ship the last 6 months. David being the son of another crewman (Fred) says he knows

Chuck is left with some special memories and pride in his grandpa.

Mary S. Lee Holderman

My Mother, Mrs. James Holderman passed away Feb. 22, 2004. She had lived with us the past 2 years in Conroe, Texas and she really enjoyed reading the newsletters. I would like to receive the newsletters in the future. A wonderful job has been done with the web site and documenting the history of the Lowndes. My husband, Mike plans to scan some photos and forward them to you. Thanks for keeping us posted.

Condolences have been sent to the bereaved families.

Mar. 2005-7

WHO haven't YOU seen in over 40 years?

You'll never know, unless you attend the...

USS LOWNDES 2005 REUNION

Chicago, IL

September 15th – September 18th, 2005

Chicago, known as the “Windy City” offers more to do and see than any city in North America. You will be awed by the gleaming skyscrapers, the beautiful lakefront, breathtaking architecture, wonderful museums, theater, restaurants and world-class shopping along the *Magnificent Mile*. You will have the opportunity to experience some of the city's top attractions. Tours include a sightseeing tour, a visit to the Navy Pier and an evening dinner show. There will be many opportunities to spend time with family, friends and shipmates.

The reunion officially runs from Thursday, September 15th through Sunday, September 18th. You will be staying at the full service Hilton Garden Inn Oakbrook Terrace which is located at 1000 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. This full service hotel offers many amenities including a fitness center, an indoor pool, an on site-restaurant as well as room service. The Hilton Garden Inn is located close to many of the attractions you will be visiting, as well as several shops and restaurants. The room rate is just **\$79.00**, plus tax per night and includes complimentary breakfast daily. (If you want to come in earlier than September 15th or stay later than September 18th, the hotel has a limited number of rooms available. These are based on availability with the hotel and are on a first come first serve basis.)

Please make your hotel reservations **NOW** by calling the hotel directly at **630-941-1177**. You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap room, etc.) The hotel check-in time is 3:00 PM. Please, don't expect to get into your room before then.

Make your hotel reservations **NOW!** Due to the popularity of this city the hotel will sell out fast, so **DON'T** get left out by waiting too long. We have a limited number of rooms and may not be able to get additional rooms. Book immediately – you may cancel your hotel room later, and not be charged. Be sure to ask for the USS Lowndes reunion rate of \$79.00 per day. They will ask you for a deposit or credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. You must call by **August 12th** to receive this guaranteed rate. If you will be driving and need directions, please ask the hotel when you make your reservation. Reunion forms and a roster of attendees can be found on your private website at www.militaryreunionplanners.com/Lowndes.htm

See you in Chicago!

Mar. 2005-8

USS LOWNDES 2005 REUNION PACKAGE

REUNION PACKAGE

_____ people at \$169 p.p. =

The reunion package includes all of the following events: Events A, B, C, D, & the hospitality room. (Taxes & gratuities are also included with these meals.)

EVENT A: Friday, September 16th

Super Sightseeing Tour (9:00am-3:00pm)

EVENT B: Friday, September 16th

Drury Lane Dinner Theatre (6:00pm-11:00pm)

PLEASE SELECT: Roast Sirloin of Beef and/or Chicken Marsala

EVENT C: Saturday, September 17th

Navy Pier & Sightseeing Cruise (9:30am-3:30pm)

EVENT D: Saturday, September 17th

Gala Banquet Dinner (6:00pm at the *Hilton Hotel*)

PLEASE SELECT: Seared Salmon or Roasted Breast of Chicken

If you have additional guests that are only attending the Banquet, please select from the following:

ADDITIONAL BANQUET DINNERS:

PLEASE SELECT: Seared Salmon _____ people at \$34 p.p. =

AND/OR Roasted Breast of Chicken _____ people at \$27 p.p. =

Cancellation Insurance: (Full Refunds)

_____ people at \$6 p.p. =

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$ TO SECURE REUNION RESERVATIONS

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone(Home) _____ Phone:(Work/Other) _____

Additional Guests: _____

Emergency Contact During Reunion: _____ Ph: _____

Years Served: 19 _____ to 19 _____ E-Mail Address: _____

_____ Yes, I have made my hotel reservations at the host hotel (**Hilton Garden Inn, Oakbrook Terrace**)

Check In date: _____ Check Out date: _____ Confirmation #: _____

_____ I will be attending the reunion, but *will not* be staying at the host hotel.

>>> SEND COMPLETED FORM BY **AUGUST 5** WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

Military Reunion Planners, P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

Late Reservation forms will be accepted on a space available basis

You may wish to make a copy of this form for your records. For more information call weekdays: 817-251-3551 or Email: info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. Reservation forms and full payment must be received by August 5th, 2005. Request for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked before August 5th. There is a \$3 refund processing fee. No refunds will be made after August 5th unless you have purchased tour cancellation insurance. There is a \$25 returned check fee for NSF. Your cancelled check is your receipt & proof of purchase. For a written confirmation, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope. NRP will not be held liable or failure of vendors to provide contracted services, or any injuries/accidents that occur during the reunion. Sorry, no refunds will be given after September 12th for any reason.

www.MilitaryReunionPlanners.com

Date Rcv'd:	Check #	Amount\$	XCL #