

U. S. S. LOWNDES (APA-154)

11th. Annual Reunion

Washington, DC.

September 16 thru 19, 1999

*Package cost will be \$295.00 per person including:

3 Nights lodging.

4 Meals

5 or 6 tours in & around Washington, DC.

Bus transportation.

Banquet.

*Interested shipmates other than those listed below - please contact:

Bud Kautz or Leo O'Brien

Crew Members & Mates Indicating Attending Reunion

Lavada Boyer

Jim & Carol Bussard

Sally Cary

Howard & Lois Chappell

Jim Chilcote

Jim Davenport

John & Leby Dyer

Dotty Flood

Bud & Jean Kautz

Ed. King

Don & Joan Macpherson

Margaret McGrody

Henry & Dolores McNamee

Mike & Jerry Michalski

Chuck Munson

Eileen Murray

Leo & Margaret O'Brien

Arthur & Marjorie Rauseo

Earl & Frances Robertson

Cliff & Mary Schaffer

Dallas & Lorene Stratton

Bill & Amelia Taylor

Walt & Jackie Umbarger

John & Sally Vernale

Details and schedule arrangements will be in a future news letter as soon as they become available. At this time an outside source is being used as there wasn't anyone in the Washington area to undertake this project.

Earl Robertson**St. Louis, MO**

Received the group photos and note that Joanne long is looking the other way and Jim Chilcote and Ed. King are obscured. (Note: How many times was the phrase "If you can't see me or Jean - we can't see you.") cited? Our oldest daughter Ruth Ann and her husband were over in Maui. We did meet them at the Honolulu port when we arrived. They came into Honolulu a day ahead of us. We left on Sunday and they stayed until Wednesday. I'm happy we had a pretty decent turnout in Hawaii and hope something good develops in the Washington area, it sounds interesting. I am a Pearl Harbor survivor and I was in the Base hospital on Dec. 8. There was a particular item that happened that day. I had a broken wrist in a cast from a motorcycle accident. At the time I was in A Co. boat crew. The U.S.S. Oklahoma had been to sea on maneuvers the week before, I believe all the running boats except the Captain's gig were secured along with most of the crews at what we called the coal docks. We went to the Marine base mess hall for our meals. After being out on Pearl Harbor on the trip we had at the reunion I wish I had asked Joel Rodriguez if he knew where the coal docks were. It seems to me to be in the area beyond the hospital grounds around a bend to the left as we were leaving the harbor. When the attack started several of us from the Oklahoma were waiting for liberty to start when the bombing started. Planes were coming in low over us as they completed their runs. The Marines were firing 50 cal's and ships were throwing whatever was available. Anyway, this one plane was hit and flying about tree top level a little to one side and smoking very badly. One wing took a few shingles off the paymaster building and then crashed on the other side of the hospital where we were. The fire department took care of the fire and kept us out until it was out. The crash was in the area where some officers and their families lived. We finally got back close enough to see that the plane had burned up and the engine was 12 - 15 feet away. The pilot was still there with stubby arms and legs - dead of course. Many of us who still had mobility (me with one arm) were put to work carrying litters of the injured arriving from boats and ambulances to the hospital. Anyone that was able were moved to tents on the hospital grounds. Men who had lost ships and not severely injured were also living in tents. Oddly, until two years ago I happened to look over the Oklahoma's roster and saw that I was listed as MIA. Since I was at the hospital at the time of the bombing I didn't answer for muster of the remaining crew members after the bombing. Thought this had been straightened out the following week. Don't know why I was still listed as MIA, but I wrote o the reunion committee and let them know I was still very much alive. A number of us went beyond where the plane had crashed to the beach and watched them run the battleship aground. This was the same ship that Joel Rodriguez said was beached. Was this the U.S.S. Utah? These ramblings are not in any chronological order, but they did happen as I remember them.

Bill Thomas**Oroville, CA**

I have been unable to attend any of the reunions, but I thoroughly enjoy reading about them in the news letters.

Mitchell Chasteen**Florissant, MO**

Thanks for keeping us informed and up to date. Very interested in Washington, DC. Keep me informed concerning reunion.

3/99-3

John Lackey

Burbank, CA

One day the guys were playing draw poker. They asked me to sit in. The pot was opened on jacks or better. I didn't open. out of the five cards I was dealt I kept the Jack and Queen of hearts. I drew three cards which were the Ten, King and Ace of hearts. I drew me a royal flush.. When the betting and raising was over, I turned up my hand. You should have seen the eyes of the guys. Guess they thought I had drawn to a pair.

Note: How lucky can a guy get?

Mrs. Florence Richards

Nebraska City, NE

Glad everyone had a nice trip to Hawaii. Had a nice 98th birthday, October 29th. Received 49 cards. Virginia keeps in touch with me every day. Heard from the Michalski and Brinkman families during the holidays.

Dick Jones

Donna, TX

Sorry we were not at the reunion in Hawaii. We left for Texas on the 1st of December. Will probably stop in to see Big "H" on the way down south. Sending pictures from the 1997 reunion. Pass them to whoever.

Note: Will add them to the 1997 reunion album.

Virgie Engle

Shelbyville, MO

Will try to update you on the Gene family a bit later. I sure would have loved to see all of you soon or make a reunion or make a reunion. You were so much a part of Gene's life.

Don Lorenzi

Gold Canyon, AZ

We bought a large house in a golf resort in Arizona. No more RV'ing. Note our new address and phone number - 8389 Aloe Vera - Gold Canyon, AZ. 602-983-6971. See you in Washington, DC.

John Vernale

Farmington, CT

Glad to hear all went well in Hawaii. "Bud, how come you didn't buy Jean a grass skirt?" I bought one for Sally in Hawaii in '44 (I believe). After we were married she put it on and danced for me, (those were the days). I hear the next reunion will be in Washington, DC. Hope all goes well.

Note: John, I did buy a grass skirt for Jean way back in on my 1st tour of Honolulu in 1942. Sent it to her and she put it on and had photos taken to send to me.

Leo O'Brien

Malden, MA

Sending a photo clipped out of a local newspaper regarding the U. S. S. Missouri. It shows volunteers and former crew members boarding the Mighty MO during a ceremony memorializing the battleship at Pearl Harbor.

Note: Yes, Leo, it was quite a sight when we toured Pearl Harbor.

3/99-4 *John Dyer*

Jupiter, FL

Lebby fell on September 1st and injured her knee, ankle and hands. It will take several months to heal, other than that we are OK, able to travel to Indiana for Xmas this year. Received news letter and sure enjoyed it. Sounds like Stan did a great job. We will be careful in the coming year and ready to go to Washington, DC.

Frank Miller

Kearns, UT

Frances and I were sorry we could not make the reunion in Hawaii. Sounded like everyone had a good time. When the Mighty MO was at Bremerton, WA we went aboard it. Just to show you how stupid old sailors get. I walked up the gangway and started to face aft and salute the colors, but then Remembered it was decommissioned and I didn't have to salute. Old habits are hard to break. The VFW Honor Guard firing squad keeps me pretty busy. In all these years this is the 1st. time I have ever seen a copy of the Japs surrender document. I really appreciate it and will also show my children the copy. Just before Christmas I had a little problem with blood in my urine, had a check up and was put in the hospital for surgery. They found a malignant cancerous tumor the size of your fist in my bladder. It was cut out and the doctors worked for 1-1/2 hours to stop the bleeding. Christmas Eve the doctor made a house call on me and brought a bottle of champagne to celebrate, the biopsy showed it had not got into my bones or muscles. Best Christmas present anyone could have given us. OK now, will know more in a month.

Bob Henkels

Dyersville, IA

The big "C" has finally caught up to me. They tell me it's terminal. Was diagnosed in January this past year. Don't get out much and take it day by day.

Roberta Brinkman

Columbia, SC

Sorry we missed the reunion in Hawaii. I had surgery in mid September and Fred's brother passed away a few days later. Hope to see you in 1999.

Howard Chappell

Wampum, PA

Just a note to let you know my status. Got out of the hospital a few days before Thanksgiving. Spent over a month in there, went in on September 18th. Had reservations made for 10 days - 3 island tour in Hawaii, but had to cancel. Lois and I were looking forward to the trip, sorry we had to miss it. Looking at most recent news letter it appears everyone had a good time. Am now at home trying to get back my health, I lost my right leg above the knee after several operations failed to save it. Got a new leg in early January. Hope to be walking by February. Still awful weak, confined to staying in the house using a walker to get around. Will write later when I get my strength back. Looking forward to the '99 reunion. Received the afghan that I won in the Lowndes Lovelies raffle. Real nice.

(We have Frank, Bob and Howard in our thoughts and wish them well.

Two surgeons were watching a mechanic work on a car when the mechanic remarked, "You know Doctor, being a car mechanic is perhaps as complicated as the work you do.

"Maybe," One surgeon replied, "But let's see you do it while the engine is running."

E. Max Cole

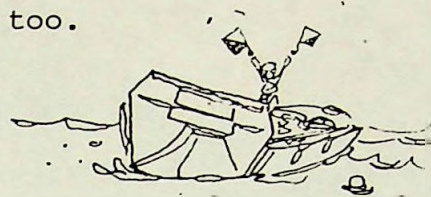
Lt. Macpherson and I took over the QE-2 in a reunion.

Don Macpherson

We had a great lunch and a great visit in LA harbor. The QE-2 was great but too big. I'll take the Lowndes.

Joan says she was there too.

Never know where Lowndes lizards will show up. Acapulco, Mexico.



Ed. McKellar

Margaret and I joined Max on The QE-2 in Miami, FL and sailed through the canal up to Los Angeles and back to Hawaii. Max sailed on to Sydney, Australia and is probably back in New York now. I was ill for over 3 weeks so this note is a bit late getting to you.

J. Shelton Scales

Martinsville, VA

I was not in the Okinawa battle. Most people do not know about the planned invasion of Japan - had the Pacific war continued. OPERATION DOWNFALL would have been in two phases. Operation Olympic would have landed 14 * Divisions on 1, Nov. 1945 on the southern beaches of Kyushi. Then Operation Coronet would have landed 28 *Divisions 1, Mar. 1946 on the eastern beaches of Honshu; Coronet would have involved about 1,000,000 men/women and country support personnel. The Mother of All Invasions!

* About 20,000 to a Division.

Joe Freitas

Gustine, CA

Have decided to skip the reunion this year.

Paul Lineback

Mount Airy, NC

Business dictates not attending the reunion this year.

Harry Ruether

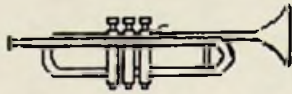
Jefferson City, MO

Unable to attend reunion due to illness.

So far today, God, I've done all right
I haven't gossiped,
haven't lost my temper,
haven't been greedy,
grumpy, nasty or selfish,
or overindulgent.

But in a few minutes. Lord,
I'm going to get out of bed,
and from then on I'm
probably going to need a lot
more of your help.

Thanks Leo

Randy T. Judnitsch*Taps*

This is to notify you that my father, Franklin T. Judnitsch passed away October 17, 1998, and a month later in November, my mother. Dora Judnitsch, passed away. Please cancel my father's membership in the U. S. S. Lowndes Reunion Group. Needless to say, the appropriate changes are to be made on the mailing list.

Franklin was born on May 21, 1922 in Park Rapids, Minnesota. Enlisted in the Navy on January 13, 1944 at Minneapolis, MN. Boarded the Lowndes on September 14, 1944 as a Fireman 1c. Becoming a Plank Owner. Watch stations - main switch board - and steam turbines and stand by generators. Left the Lowndes in December, 1945 as an EM3c. Last active duty January 4, 1946 at USN Personnel Separation Center. After discharge from the Navy he was employed by Streetway Farm - White Bear Lake, MN, Red Owl Stores - Park Rapids and Bemidj, MN, Cliff's Mining Co., Nashwauk, MN - 8-1/2 years, Gresen Mfg. Co., Minneapolis, MN for 24 years. Franklin and Dora were married August 7, 1945. Survivors are two children. He retired in April 1984.

U.S.S. LOWNDES (APA 154)

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR SUNDAY, 1 APRIL 1945

3/99-7

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Duty Medical Officer; Lt (jg) Dunbar | Duty SK: McMaus, SM2c |
| Duty PhM: Nerison, PhM1c | Duty MAA: Schaffer, MoMM3c |
| Duty Yeoman: Chilcote, Y1c | |

0320 Call PPO's and BM's.
 0330 Reveille. Call all hands. Trice up bunks.
 0345-0515 Breakfast.
 Davit boat crews, davit winch crews, and Demonstration debarking troops will eat at the head of the chow line.
 0430-0515 Breakfast will be served to officers in the wardroom.
 0515 General quarters (morning alert).
 0600 Approximate time for setting condition 1-Able.
 0630 Approximate time for arrival in the transport area.
 Demonstration troops will be embarked and davit boats will be lowered away as ordered.
 0815 Sick call for ship's company..
 0900 Sick call for troops.
 1115 Mess gear.
 1130 Chow. Troops will eat immediately after ship's company.
 1300 Turn to--continue ship's work.
 1400 Wardroom will be reserved for marine officers for briefing period.1600 Evening sick call for troops.
 1615 Mess gear.
 1630 Supper. Troops will eat immediately after ship's company.
 1730 Supper for officers in the wardroom.
 15 minutes prior to sunsert: Darken ship.
 Sunset General quarters (evening alert).
 1900 Evening sick call for ship's company.
 1930 Eight o'clock reports to the Executive Officer.
 2125 Tattoo.
 2130 Taps.

Memorandums:

1. Besides regular watch standers, all hands on deck will keep alert and vigilant at all times for any suspicious objects in the water, day or night, such as floating boxes or floating mines. The enemy have approximately 500 20-foot motor-torpedo boats in this area and may be expected to approach the ship at any time of day or night at either high speeds, or possibly stealthily at night inder muffled oars. ANY MAN NOTING ANYTHING WHATEVER OF A SUSPICIOUS NATURE IN THE WATERT SURROUNDING THE SHIP WILL REPORT SAME TO THE BRIDGE AT ONCE.
2. All hands must be prepared to expect a possible attack by air-craft, by surface craft, or by submarine, suddenly, without warning. All hands will wear their life belts or have them handy within reach at all times.
3. While we are in this objective area, NOTHING WHATEVER will be thrown overboard from this ship at any time, day or night.
4. DO NOT REMOVE BATTLE LANTERNS FROM THEIR BRACKETS. These lanterns are located in important places for emergency use only. They may well prove to be the means for saving your life.
5. Blue hats and dungaree trousers and shirts will be worn at all times on weather decks. Mutilated or sleeveless shirts will not be allowed.
6. CONSERVE FRESH WATER.
7. Any man wishing to strike for Quartermaster, please report to the ship's office.