

4/96-1

U.S.S. LOWNDES - APA 154 REUNION GROUP
APRIL 1996 NEWS LETTER

REUNION
Oct. 17-20

CONTENTS

Wm. "Bud" KAUTZ
34782 Hiawatha Trail
McHenry, IL 60050
(815) 344-6326

Martinique Hotel
Oceanfront at 71st Ave. N.
Box 331
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578.
1-800-542-0048
1-803-449-4441

Myrtle Beach Martinique
Resort Hotel Brochure
Financial Statement
Letter to Mr. Wm. Lowndes
Lowndes Tales
Tentative Schedule
* Activities Questionnaire
Activities Available
Hotel Reservation Cards to follow

* Please return activities questionnaire to Fred Brinkman as soon as possible. Time is of the utmost importance to make arrangements for an enjoyable reunion. Do not hesitate to contact Fred for any additional information required or suggestions.

Fred Brinkman
1140 Green Valley Lane
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
Telephone: (803)772-5296

January 16, 1996

William Lowndes
P.O. Box 5042
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304

Dear Mr. Lowndes:

It was great to talk to you today and to confirm that you are a direct descendent of William Lowndes, the prominent South Carolinian, Congressional leader and Presidential nominee for whom our USS Lowndes APA 154 was named.

I am enclosing information that we have obtained during the past two years about William Lowndes and the upcoming reunion of our ship that bears his name.

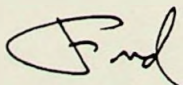
As indicated on some of the enclosures, I would like to get William Lowndes nominated and elected to the South Carolina Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments for our state and the nation.

You mentioned that a biography on William Lowndes has been written by a University of Georgia professor. I would like to obtain a copy of this biography and will appreciate any other information or recommendations you might offer that could appropriately tie in with our reunion at Myrtle Beach on October 17-20, 1996.

We will invite you to attend one of the reunion functions, preferably a banquet on Saturday evening, October 19 at the Myrtle Beach Martinique Hotel. The group would be honored by your presence and participation.

I look forward to communicating with you in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely



Fred Brinkman

Note: Fred has worked very diligently to obtain the above information. This all came about with a photograph George Tuppan took of a grave marker on his way through South Carolina. Thanks George.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - FEBRUARY 29, 1996

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Balance September 30, 1995

\$2843.35

INCOME

Contributions - General Fund.....	\$740.00	
* Bowman/Richards Memorial Fund.....	267.00	
Lowndes Lovelies Raffle.....	575.00	
** Surplus - 1995 Reunion.....	446.03	
Sale - Iwo Jima Pins.....	52.00	
Sale - Iwo Jima Booklets.....	17.00	
Sale - Ship's History Booklets...	17.00	
Sale - Cookbooks.....	12.00	
Sale - Photos.....	5.00	
Sale - V+50 Hats.....	10.00	\$2141.03

Total Income-----\$4984.38

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing.....	\$ 75.60	
Postage.....	152.20	
Haling/ Richards Expenses.....	1071.67	
Supplies.....	56.28	
F. Brinkman 1996 Reunion.....	1000.00	
Reunion Notices.....	2.00	\$2369.66

Balance March 31, 1996-----\$2614.72

* NOTE: There is a surplus of \$254.78 in the Bowman/Richards Memorial Fund. \$120.00 will be allocated to enter Donald & Norman into the United States Navy Memorial Log in Washington, DC. Leaving a grand total of \$134.78 to be added to the General Operating Fund.

** Surplus due to an anonymous contributor.

THE FOLLOWING REUNION MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE
BOWMAN/RICHARDS MEMORIAL FUND:

B. F. Binney	D. & W. Haling	C. C. Michalski	C. W. Schaffer
F. Brinkman	R. J. Henkels	F. J. Miller	Mrs. C. Seay
J. W. Bussard	H. J. Hughes	J. F. Morrissey	W. L. Taylor
H. D. Chappell	F. T. Judnitsch	H. D. Moore	E. L. Trevillyan
M. S. Chasteen	J. F. Jurica	R. M. Neilan	W. B. Thomas
J. G. Davenport	W. B. Kautz	L. P. O'Brien	G. R. Tuppen
W. R. Davis	Mrs. G. Kindle	E. T. Pilchard	J. A. Vernale
F. B. DuBois	J. L. Lackey	B. J. Ramsey	O. Walker
S. H. Dunn	J. E. Layton	Mrs. F. Richards	F. Wanits
J. Dyer	H. D. Long	W. Richards	R. Warnberg
J. H. Erlandson	D. E. Lorenzi	E. O. Robertson	J. B. Weatherbie
D. F. Fearing	W. L. Markus	W. H. Robinson	H. Workman
J. J. Freitas	C. O. Martin	J. V. Ross	Mrs. J. Zinkgraf
R. B. Hail	E. G. McKellar	Mrs. R. Schadler	

Bowman/Richards Memorial Fund statement as follows:

Total Contributions -\$2378.00, Plaque -\$350.00, B/R Exp. -\$1690.91, Museum -\$82.31, Log. -\$120.00

JACK HOVEY - Pasadena, CA - We made it thru Christmas and New Years with our large family. Then on the 6th of January the so called bottom fell out. Evelyn and myself went down to the harbor to remove all the Christmas decorations on our boat which we used for the Christmas parades in local marinas San Pedro, Long Beach, Los Alamitos, Huntington Beach and Newport Bay. Well we then washed the boat, cleaned up the below decks, cabin and galley, fired up the engines and checked all the electronics, etc. We then took our tender (inflatable dinghy) and attempted to launch it to the snap davits aft. As we attempted to drop it in the bay, (our age became a factor) Evelyn fell between the dock finger and the boat on the port side. As I grabbed her and brought her up on the dock I could see her right leg was very badly damaged. Real quickly I took her into the boat and wrapped the leg up to slow the blood flow. Some friends on the dock stayed with Evelyn while I ran up and down the dock looking for emergency equipment. Finally 3 fire trucks, 2 paramedic units, harbor patrol, Huntington Beach, Orange County sheriffs and 200 or 300 people arrived. During this excitement my heart ran out of oxygen and this old buffalo went down like Buffalo Bill Cody hit me with a Henry repeater. Well, we filled both paramedic units and ended up at Pacific hospital, Evelyn in emergency and me in intensive care unit. Evelyn had 32 stitches outside and 12 inside, she is still in a cast. I have slowed down a little bit but am walking two miles a day and following orders much better than I did in the Navy. First heart attack since my double bypasses in '84 and '87. We have two great things going for us this year and expect to make them both. First, our 50th Wedding Anniversary - July 23rd, 1996 and second, being with all our friends and shipmates in Myrtle Beach, SC for the reunion. This isn't a war story but it was very scary to us at the time.

JAMES CARSON - Rockford, IL - I was in the original crew that put the U.S.S Lowndes in commission. I did not get out of the service after the war, I went on and served 13 years in the Navy and would have stayed longer but I got married and couldn't get to stay home so I changed over to the Army and finished out 20 years and 20 days. Have been married for 42 years. Four children, 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, so you can see we are pretty busy.

WALT KARSON - Elk River, MN - I am trying to put together some kind of a small book or something on the 2 years I was in the Navy. Half of my tour was aboard the U.S.S. Lowndes. Since I came aboard at Pearl Harbor and we left for the war zone, no camera, so no pictures of the islands and the ship were taken. No souvenirs were bought, but I do have a good deal of information about our ship. With the booklets of Iwo Jima and Okinawa it should make good reading for my grandchildren in the future. Of course, I will welcome any additional information or photos anyone has to offer. Every little bit will help. Fran and I had planned to make the reunion in San Antonio including a 2 week vacation visiting friends in Allen, Texas. then to the Ozarks where Fran has relatives. So as the story goes, good plans are shot in the @#\$\$&*() but had to miss this one because of health reasons. Our next trip will be to Mayo Clinic. Have you heard the one about the "Golden Years?" Wonder what they mean.

LEO O'BRIEN, Malden, MA - Thanks for the note about Major Scales and his trip to Saipan and Iwo Jima. I saw a picture in a paper of veterans from the United States and Japan at Iwo for the dedication of a memorial. The article said there was little cordiality between both sides. Defeat is a bitter pill to swallow. Regarding Newcomb's Iwo Jima book, he mentions a Lt. "Smiley" Johnson who was killed on the first day or so and there is a ball field or sports arena named after him in Mauri where the 4th Marines trained with us. I remember him aboard the Lowndes when they used to do calisthenics on the hatches, he would be stripped to the waist and believe me, Arnold Schwarzenegger didn't have much on him. Although I never spoke to him he looked like a like fellow and seemed to get along well with his men. Even at a young age when I heard he had been killed I thought to myself that there is not too much in life that is permanent. If this could happen to him, then who among us is safe? As I write this there is about 14" of snow on the ground and more to come. Glenn Forgay wrote that Merrill Hart was on his boat. There definitely was a Merrill Hart on boat #15 with me and Jack Hovey and Carmel Fesi. Margaret and I are looking forward to Myrtle Beach. Unlike Cliff Schaffer there is no ----- taking place, he is younger than me.

Looking over the list of shipmates yet to be located - I believe that Roy Brown has passed away.

MIKE MICHALSKI - Austin, TX - Yes, the big sign read - Sarakata River - Swimming secured. The bank of the river was very steep and high above the water and close to the edge was a huge tree that someone had attached a good heavy rope to one of its branches. The rope just beckoned us to come give it a try, We did! I think Bill Taylor was the first to give it a try. The idea was to get a hold of the rope and go as far away from the river as possible then run to the edge of the bank and swing out high above the river and let go of the rope. Taylor did that and turned loose of the rope just as he reached the end of the outward swing which caused him to fall to the water, hitting it on his side which was at a great force that it ripped his swim suit all the way up to his waist and turning the skin on his leg pink. We all learned from that to release the rope just as soon as you started your return to the bank. When released the rope just as you started the return you would drop feet first into the river. At the height we were when we started our drop - it was a bit of a thrill. Why the river was secured - we never inquired and didn't get caught, so other than Taylor's little misfortune we had fun. Those present were, Taylor, Loy, Nedeau, Zinkgraf, Kautz and myself.

FRANCIS J. MILLER - Kearns, UT - One of the things that has bothered me over the years has been where in Oregon along the west coast did we go for gunnery practice? I remember going on the bus from Tacoma, Washington and passing through Salem, Oregon, the capital but, as many times that I've been to Oregon since, I can not remember where we went for target practice. Maybe one of our shipmates can remember and clue me in. Am sending along a few crew member names and old addresses in the hope that it may be possible to locate some of our former crew members.

Ed. Note: Using Frank's list I have attempted to correspond with 15 former crew members in the hopes that there will be a positive response.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 1996 USS LOWNDES REUNION
OCTOBER 17-20 AT MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
(Adjustments to be Made Following Preference Responses Received)**

Thursday, October 17

Arrive at Myrtle Beach Martinique Resort - The Reunion Hotel
Registration and Hospitality Room
Dinner on Your Own
7:00 p.m. - American Pride Show at Alabama Theatre

Friday, October 18

Bus Tour of Attractions in the Myrtle Beach Area, to include:
Morning Reception at Myrtle Beach Convention Center
Visit to Historic Brookgreen Gardens and Outdoor Sculpture Museum
Visit to Broadway at the Beach - Lunch and Shopping on Your Own
4:00 p.m. - Dinner and Galloping Horse Entertainment and Competition
at Dixie Stampede
7:00 p.m. - USS Lowndes Business Meeting at Hotel

Saturday, October 19

Free Time Day with Choice of Activities Available, including
Beach Walking and Sunning, Pool, Ocean Pier Fishing,
Golf (Miniature, Driving Range, 3-Par or 18-Hole) or Shopping
2:00 p.m. - Magic on Ice, an Ice Stage Show with Professional Skaters,
Music & Magic
Evening Reception and USS Lowndes Banquet at Hotel

Sunday, October 20

USS Lowndes Breakfast at Hotel
Free Time Activities

ATTRACTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE REUNION GROUP

AT MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

AMERICAN PRIDE SHOW - Carolina Opry, A variety of music and comedy, from country to bluegrass, as well as a forties medley and a rock'n roll medley.

BROOKGREEN GARDENS - A showplace of art and nature developed on the site of a colonial rice plantation. Over 500 of America's finest 19th and 20th century sculptures and 2000 species of plants. A wildlife park and aviary featuring native animals and birds is also on the grounds.

BROADWAY at the BEACH - A 350-acre complex includes live theaters, a nightclub district, restaurants, specialty shops and more. Famous name entertainers are scheduled to perform in the Palace. (Lunch and shopping on your own.)

DIXIE STAMPEDE - A four-course feast is served during a show with audience participation that focuses on friendly North/South rivalry. Music and comedy are featured, along with trick horseback riding and an Electric Parade finale.

MAGIC on ICE - A high tech ice show with world-class skaters, lavish costumes, lasers, and fantastic illusions.

MEDIEVAL TIMES - Turns the clock back to the 11th century. Knights battle and perform tricks on horseback while the audience dines royally.

CANE PATCH PAR 3 - Three 9-hole courses, the longest course a total of 653 yards. Ideal for practicing your short game and for the beginner their (long game). A short distance from the reunion headquarters. For the die-hards there are many regulation 18-hole courses in the Myrtle Beach area. So bring your clubs. More information will be available at the hotel.

There are many more attractions in the Grand Strand and Myrtle Beach area for the shipmates and their mates who plan on an extended stay.

Be sure to mark your calendars with the dates of our reunion. Sure that Fred and Roberta will make every effort see that our group will have a very enjoyable stay.

Be sure to see page 7 of this news letter.
Look forward to visiting with old cronies again.

**RETURN FORM FOR 1996
USS LOWNDES APA 154 REUNION**

(Please mail this form to Fred Brinkman as soon as possible. A tentative schedule for the 1996 Reunion is listed separately. Your preferences and recommendations will help complete and modify the tentative schedule)

(I do) (I do not) Plan to attend the 8th USS Lowndes APA 154 Reunion at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 17-20, 1996.

Name: _____ Number in Party _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

We Are Interested in the Following:

- _____ Pride Show - Opryland Production of history of American Music with song and dance
 _____ Tour of Myrtle Beach Area Attractions to include historic Brookgreen Gardens, Morning reception and Broadway at the Beach (with lunch and shopping on your own)
 _____ Dixie Stampede - Dinner show in arena-style theatre featuring galloping horsemanship and entertainment
 _____ Magic on Ice - Ice stage show with professional skaters, music and magic of illusion
 _____ Annual USS Lowndes Banquet on Saturday Night
 _____ USS Lowndes Sunday Morning Breakfast

Special and Free Time Activities (Please check items of interest to you)

- _____ Sunning and walking on beach
 _____ Swimming pool (indoor and outdoor)
 _____ Fishing on ocean pier
 _____ Shopping
 _____ Miniature Golf
 _____ Golf driving range
 _____ 3-Par golf
 _____ 18-Hole regulation golf

Before or After the Reunion:

- _____ Visit to USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial at Wilmington
 _____ Visit to USS Yorktown and Patriots Point Maritime Museum at Charleston
 _____ Other recommendations:

**Fred Brinkman
 1140 Green Valley Lane
 Columbia, SC 29210
 (803) 772-5296**