

U.S.S. LOWNDES - APA 154

JULY 2007 NEWSLETTER

Wm. "Bud" Kautz-CCBW, 34782 Hiawatha Trail, McHenry, IL 60051 (815)344-6326

E mail: redlabelbuddha@comcast.net

The photo below is just a reminder of one instance in the history of our ship during its participation during WW II. Does it bring back any memories? *Photo from D. Macpherson album*



Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons



Precedence of awards is from top to bottom, left to right

Top Row - Combat Action Ribbon - American Campaign Medal

Bottom Row - Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (1) - World War II Victory Medal - Navy Occupation Medal

I would like to remind all recipients of this issue of the newsletter that we should put our thinking caps on to decide where and when our next reunion in 2008 will be. Jan Trober has been doing a fantastic job for the last several years with the assistance of Mary Gebhart and Angela Turin and we certainly appreciate their efforts. We shouldn't drop everything regarding our reunions on their shoulders. I personally would not like this reunion to be placed among the past historical memories of our great ship.



We have not received many postcards asking for the intentions of our shipmates and family members attending our reunion in St. Louis, MO. Please return them as soon as possible so the reunion organizers will be able to act accordingly for a successful get together.

July 2007-2

Harley Workman

I was a WT3c in "B" division under Lt. Flagg. I boarded the Lowndes in Pearl Harbor on her maiden voyage. Those years were a special learning experience in my life. Lt. Flagg was a very special person, an excellent leader and understanding person. I was on watch in the engine room with a sailor named Yantz who was on condenser watch where sea water is changed to fresh water. Lt. Flagg asked Yantz what he was doing? "I'm on condenser watch, sir." The Lt. asked him, "Where is it?" Yantz replied, "It's around here some place." The Lt. smiled and said, "Come with me and I'll show you." He was one of the best. I also noticed how fast the rubber heels wore out on those steel decks and the water for drinking was so pure it didn't quench your thirst. The first time we returned to Pearl Harbor I bought 2 cases of heels and 3 cases of packets of kool-ade. Boy! Did I become popular. I will be 87 next May and walk with a cane. I do miss my old shipmates, Whitey Wahlberg, John Veal and Frank Miller. Among others. I always wanted to attend the reunions but something always happened and so I hope some time in the future.

Haven't located Wahlberg, veal and Miller has since passed away.

Donald Lorenzi

Bud, you're asking the impossible, I can't remember being on the ship let alone what may have happened. What does come to mind is the crossing of the equator and the planned activities. A lot of sailors put on a great show. Prior to the crossing and unknown to me at the time, Meeker (my boss) was trying to make an electric chair to be used on we polliwogs being dumped into the make shift pool. As I recall he was working with a Model T spark coil and was having a problem and I curiously stepped in and helped, again not knowing what it's intended use would be. A few days before the big day I got word that Meeker was building an electric chair to be used on us

lowly polliwogs. I threw the damn thing overboard. I strongly denied this dastardly act, but Meeker seemed to know better. So my punishment on the big day I had to strip down to my skivvies, wear my pea coat and stand watch down in the propeller shaft until I was called upon. The only recall I have of this great affair has been through pictures. I was totally removed. Then came the big moment, I heard like a POW and I was led to the garbage tunnel. The executioners laid aside their padded paddles and got out baseball bats. I don't know how long they kept me in that garbage but I went in 6 ft 3 in and came out 5 ft 6 in. However, when I got to the electric chair it didn't work. I did however get dumped into the pool and by this time I sure did need cleaning up.



**Do the above photos bring back memories?
Good or bad?**

July 2007-3

SPEAKER TELLS HOW JAPS WERE FOOLED BY OKINAWA ACTION

One of the "Now it can be told" stories of the war concerns the fooling of the Japs in the invasion of Okinawa. Capt. George L. Drennan, USNR, in an address at the meeting of the Lions Club told the story, as his ship, the U.S.S. Lowndes, was one of the big fleet that feinted a sham landing off the southwest corner of the island. In this move 20,000 men were put into landing craft and started for the shore. The Japs fell for the ruse and pulled their artillery from the prepared defenses at the spot where the real landing was to occur. The troops which took part in the fake landing, turned back to the ship a thousand yards from the shore.

No Landing Casualties

Meanwhile the real landing was underway, and the forces reached the beach without encountering artillery fire; there were no casualties on the beach, due to the fact that the Japs had been outsmarted. Before going to Okinawa the Lowndes took 365 casualties from Iwo Jima to Guam. Dr. Drennan, as senior medical officer on the ship, had charge of the work of 40 hospital corpsmen and five other doctors in handling the casualties. All of the wounded showed a good spirit and would not complain. They co-operated with the medical officers and were in turn given helpful suggestions for rehabilitation. Dr. Drennan made the rounds of the sick bay twice daily, talking personally with the wounded men. The loading of the ship, the training of the crew, and the experiences on shipboard, constituted an education. The Lowndes crew of 300, and at the start only 75 had had sea experience. There were additional men in the boat crews and the beach party.

The above is an excerpt from a book authored by Marjorie Black Drennan wife of the Dr. Dr. Drennan passed away just three days after his 62nd birthday in 1960. The good doctor boarded the Lowndes Sept. 14, 1944 Making him a Plank Owner, He left Oct. 24, 1945.

Jan Przybylski

I am the daughter of Ralph Pollard Trafton (aboard the Lowndes during WW II and Iwo Jima). My Dad passed away last December and I am looking for photos of him. David, I think I found one on your web site. It's on page 5 of the pictures of the war? (picture 10 ?) It's a group shot. I love the site. It's awesome. I did not know until two weeks before my father died that he was even on the ship. He never talked about that to us. In fact, he didn't even tell me. He told my husband, who later told me. Since then, I've been researching info on the subject.

Does anyone remember Ralph and have any photos of him that they can send to Jan?

614 Lupine Drive
Moses Lake, WA 98837
jan.przybylski@juno.net

Bonnie Welker White

My Dad Harley Max Welker, served as a coxswain (landing boat operator) on the Lowndes from December 1, 1945 through December 17, 1945. Can any of his former shipmates provide information regarding him? I would appreciate any sent to me. Harley passed away October 1986 so he didn't get a chance to join the reunion group but I know he would be happy to see his photos alongside the other great pictures and information we have on the web site. Harley mentioned in his notes the following buddies: Clarence E. Whatley, Robert Ellis Tonge and Jones, (Dick?)

108 E. State St.
Astoria, IL 61501
1-309-329-2669
bonbon@logonix.net

To view about 24 photos that Bonnie has shared with us go to:

<http://www.usslowndes.net/lowndes/welker>

July 2007-4

Jack Lotsey

Doctor Dunbar taught four of us medical subjects on the way to Iwo Jima every day. Very interesting. However after the troops left we were shoveling trash overboard and I retrieved a pair of boots and cut them off as shoes and he threatened to court martial me and I said go ahead, and he backed off. Good friends after that. Donald Bowman took my place on the beach party. He wanted to swap and I said to ask the commander and he got the OK. I was sorry to learn about Donald at Iwo.

A bit of trivia regarding Iwo Jima. Before WW II the island was called Iwo To (pronounced "ee-who-toh") by the original 1,000 inhabitants who lived there and want to reclaim an identity they say had been hi-jacked by high profile movies like Clint Eastwood's "Flags of Our Fathers", "Letters from Iwo Jima". The new name, Iwo To was recently adopted by the Japanese Geographical Survey Institute in consultation with Japan's Coast Guard. Actually it was Japanese navy officers who moved in to fortify the island mistakenly called it Iwo Jima and the name stuck. Both versions have the same meaning, Sulphur Island but with a different sound.

Elmer Trevillyan

I found some news items I didn't remember having. I'm pretty well beat up. My left elbow has a couple of bones rubbing together and is kind of crooked,

Elmer sent several old California newspaper clippings dated January 28, 1968. The first page has a photograph of Bill Fox playing golf with several other guys when 3" to 5" of snow fell. I guess that's what you can call die hards. Bill has since passed away.

Marlene Rizza Schadler

Yes, Bud, I want to remain on the Lowndes e mail and mailing lists. Ronald and I

really enjoy all of the informative items that you send. I especially liked the one about the dollar bill.

I can't take credit for the dollar bill info. I received it from one of the shipmates via e mail and merely forwarded it to Marlene.

David Brinkman

Every now and then I do some searching on the internet for Lowndes related information and recently came across this very interesting Memoir of Marjorie Black Drennan (Wife of the late main doctor George Drennan). This has a copyright of 1980 but I think it was made from a recorded interview in 1974. There can be found some Navy stories of Dr. Drennan throughout the document. This is a PDF file. I'm sure Stuart Hyde can open this. When I get time, I will extract the Lowndes related stories and place them on the Web Site (the document states that it can be freely quoted from the text.

Lo and behold David, I was able to pull up that Web Site. Will miracles never cease. See page 2007-3 of this issue of the newsletter and there is an excerpt from the document that David is referring to. Sometimes this old geezer is able to do something worthwhile doing, not too often trying to master this computer business. Thanks to the younger generation like David to keep many details of the Lowndes activities during WW II on the internet for all to be able to keep, historically, abreast of our ship.

Sally Cary

I haven't been able to do much lately as we only had one computer running and there were four people using it and since I only read my e mails about once a month I was never on it. We have also been stricken with health problems with my daughter, Bette. She can hardly stand and uses a wheel chair most of the time. Just heard from my sister-in-law that a large tree fell on their house and they lost three rooms. The den where a 2 year old was sleeping had a lot of insulation on her, but she didn't suffer any injury and was fine. Glad this happened in the summer and not during the winter.

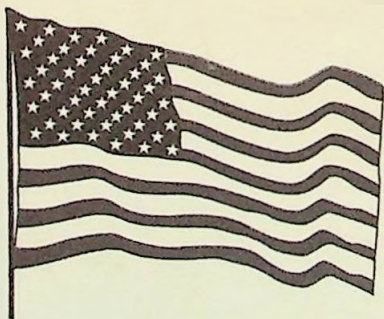
Joe Erlandson



Joe was born February 13, 1924 in Minneapolis, MN and passed away on January 14, 2007 after a battle with COPD. Enlisted in the Navy November 1942 and boarded the Lowndes Sept. 16, 1944 at Astoria, Oregon

as a coxswain and left on December 1945 in San Francisco as a BM2/c. His watch station was on the bridge as BM of the Watch and as lookout. General Quarters station was on one of the 40 mm guns. He was a member of the Beach Party. He served on the DD 527 previous to joining the Lowndes. In civilian life he was a truck driver for 11 years and at Brunswick Corp. a carpenter mechanic for 11 years, 20 years with Hennipen Parks. He is survived by his Wife, Betty, 3 children and 5 grand children.

TAPS



Donald Herbert Furth



Donald Passed away on March 11, 2007. He was with his Sue, his wife of 56 years. He was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He served as a RM1/c on the Lowndes. Boarded the ship on September 14, 1944 making him a Plank Owner. Left the ship on April 17, 1946. He returned to California to complete his college degree in mathematics at UC Berkley. Don joined IBM in 1954 at the threshold of the age of computer technology, transferred to New York in 1958 where he and Sue raised their three children. When Don retired in 1986, he and Sue moved to Surry, Maine, where they reveled in life. He was an excellent tennis teacher and a shrewd cribbage player. Survived by his wife, three children and five Grand children and three great grand children.

No other information available regarding his service aboard the Lowndes