

July 2008-1

U.S.S. LOWNDES - APA 154

July 2008 Newsletter

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20th Annual Reunion will be in San Francisco, CA. October 9, 10 & 11, 2008.

**Be sure to mention the USS Lowndes Reunion
when making reservations at the Whitcomb Hotel.**

Check in: 3:00 PM – Check Out: 12:00 PM

Special prices will be in effect 3 days prior and 3 days after.

**The following have indicated attending the 20th Lowndes Reunion
In San Francisco, CA October 9, 10 & 11, 2008:**

Shen & Mary Adams
David, Odess & Jeremy Brinkman
Cathy, Ashlee Brown &
Mike Johnson
John & Lebbly Dyer
Mike Dyer
Joe & Loreta Freitas
Vernon & Beverly Freitas
Pam Hennessey &
Jackie Minaghan

Stuart & Allie Hyde
Bill Kautz
Bud & Jean Kautz
David & Joanne Long
Don & Shirley Lorenzi
Leo & Margaret O'Brien
Sam Petricelli & JoMcCarthy
Earl & Frances Robertson

Roger & Lee Solley
John & Bridgett Solley
Bill & Amelia Taylor
*Jenny & Tex Teixeira
Jan Trober &
Mary Gebhart
John Vernale &
Mary Fuggetta

*Dinner only



The now-familiar art deco design and International Red color were chosen and construction began in 1933 and was completed in 1937. Total length: Including approaches, 1.7 miles. Width: 90 feet. Towers: 746 feet above the water. Towers weigh 44,000 tons each and contain 600,000 rivets. Total weight of bridge is 887,000 tons. The Golden Gate Bridge's paint color is orange vermillion, also called international orange. The bridge was fully painted when it was built and then touched up for the next 27 years. In 1965, the original paint was removed because of corrosion and replaced with an inorganic zinc silicate primer and an acrylic emulsion top coat, a project that took 30 years. Today, painters touch up the paint continuously. 38 painters work on the bridge, along with 17 ironworkers who replace corroding steel and rivets. Two main cables pass over the tops of the main towers and are secured in concrete anchorages at each end. Each cable is made of 27,572 strands of wire. There are 80,000 miles of wire in the two main cables, and it took over six months to spin them. Each cable length is 7,260 feet and 36-3/8 inches in diameter.

July 2008-2

Keith Albers

For the past several years (?) I have looked forward to receiving the U.S.S. Lowndes newsletter. Congratulate for all the interest and effort made. This April issue seemed of particular interest. I wonder about the flag story and just who the new owner is and what was the main attraction to the flag. I, like David would have been willing to have multiplied his profits. I wish I could add something for Alan Dahms –It rings a bell, but I cannot bring anything into focus. It seems that our paths have crossed after the Lowndes. Enclosed is a token for dues and remind me of any future needs. My main purpose in writing is to establish a contact with Shen Adams. His father, G. S. Adams, Jr. (Lt.jg.) and I served together aboard the Lowndes. We shared a stateroom (?) with Dean Martin and Al Resetar. We made the landing at Iwo together and also participated in the Okinawa 1, '45 invasion. At the same time I felt that I did know Stuart Hyde quite well. I never felt it was possible to attend any of the reunions—Now I regret those decisions.

"Welcome aboard. Have e-mailed Shen Adams' address to Keith. Hope to see him in San Francisco in October."

Following is an invitation sent to Clint Eastwood to attend our banquet:

"To get right to the point, the men of the USS Lowndes invite you to be the honored guest at our banquet on October 11th, 2008. Our reunion this year will be held in the historic Whitcomb Hotel on Market Street, San Francisco.

At our 2007 reunion in St. Louis, MO, you were the focus of many of our discussions. "Flags of Our Fathers" was, we agreed, the only depiction of the Iwo Jima battle to show this experience as we lived and remember it. We thank you for bringing this campaign to the public, most of whom

thought they knew all about it from "Sands of Iwo Jima."

Here are a few details about our ship at Iwo Jima.

The Lowndes, APA 154, transported 1,500 Marines and Seabees from Saipan to Iwo Jima, and began landing them on Yellow Beach II on February 19, 1945. For several days, our landing craft delivered reinforcements, as well as food, fuel, ammunition, and medical supplies to the beach, returning with wounded Marines for treatment by our small staff of surgeons and hospital corpsmen.

We landed our ship's Beach Party on Dog-Day plus 1; when we retrieved them on February 24, four of our shipmates had been killed and thirteen seriously wounded.

On March 4, we transported the Marine casualties on Guam. Of the 321 injured men we treated, only one died from his wounds.

I enclose a copy of a history of our ship at Iwo Jima. On page 107, you'll see a Joe Rosenthal photo of one of our broached boats. It was shown at the end of, "Flags of our Fathers."

Stuart Hyde Lt. (jg), USNR, Ret. Professor Emeritus, Broadcast Communication Arts, San Francisco State University. Reunion planner for USS Lowndes Reunion in San Francisco, Oct.9, 10 & 11, 2008.

Ed's note: Stuart also sent a photo of Clint Eastwood with Ed. King taken during the filming of, 'Escape From Alcatraz.' Needless to say it would be presumptuous of us to expect him to accept our invitation, knowing he probably receives many requests for his presence to various functions. However we certainly appreciate the effort made by Stuart Hyde knowing it was a long shot well worth pursuing. The package was unopened and marked return to sender. Nothing ventured nothing gained."

July 2008-3

Donald Lorenzi

Thanks for the notice that you have found me an Iwo Jima pin. Too bad you had to bribe me into writing a Lowndes war story to receive it. Somehow, some day I will get even. Don't have any exciting war stories that I can recall. Being an Electrician's Mate every time General Quarters was sounded my station was below decks in the Gyro room. The only communication with what was happening top side (when there was any real action) was what I heard over the sound powered phones we had to wear. Like planes and subs approaching X miles away – then after what at the time seemed like an eternity – the all clear would sound. Doesn't make for an exciting war story but scared the hell out of me at time. However, I still enjoy listening and reading of the stories from our shipmates who were closer to the real action and looking at photos – they do bring back many forgotten moments aboard the Lowndes. I was, however, topside when the Jap plane toyed with us at Okinawa. Never saw so much flak – just like the movies. All that gunnery practice somehow never seemed to pay off. I also recall the slowly sinking sister ship next to us at Okinawa after being hit amidships by a Jap suicide plane. I did not witness the hit. Reflecting back on my life and the time spent on the Lowndes, given the chance I would do it all over again in a heart beat. This may be because I do not remember much.

Hope to see you in Frisco.

PS: Just been informed that I have a 2nd cousin flying with the Blue Angels.

"Is that all it took to invoke a story from Don? Wonder what needs to be done for the rest of the Reunion members? I have no more Iwo Jima lapel pins."

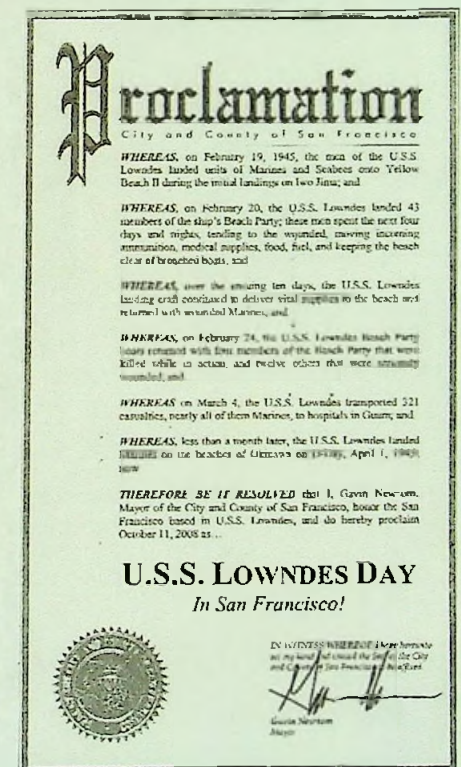
More about David Brinkman

Because of all the work with the USS Lowndes website and (the nice award presented to him from the Lowndes shipmates)

and the historical archeology work done in researching the old ferry and bridges on our river, the Explorer's Club has accepted him as a member. What also helped was the fact that several local members knew his dad, Fred Brinkman. (Fred hosted the 1996 reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC). Passed away in 1997..

Explorer Club members were the first to the North and South Poles, first to the deepest trench in the Pacific and the first to the Moon (Neil Armstrong carried the Explorer's flag to the moon). Sir Edmond Hillary had been the club's Honorary Chairman. This should lead to some interesting activities in the future.

"As we all are aware of David's capabilities on the Internet in doing research for our ship in locating former crew members. Also please note that his home address is 154. The house that he and Odess had built is also located on the river that caused his desire to do research on the history of the ferry, etc. Congratulations on the honor bestowed on you David, you are deserving of it."



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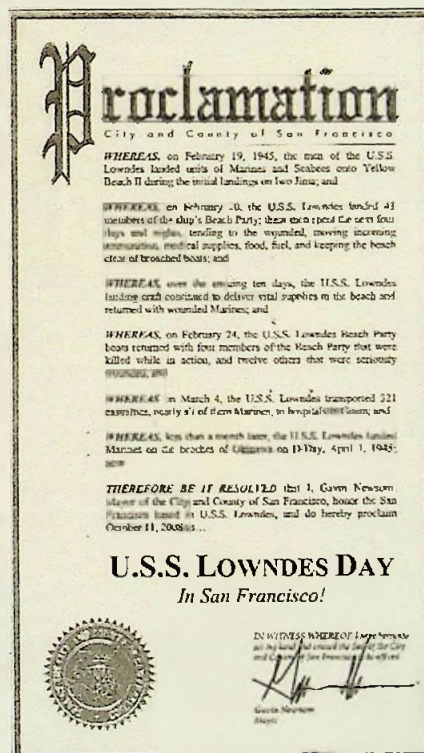
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The Seabag

There was a time when everything you owned had to fit in your seabag. Remember those nasty rascals? Fully packed, one of those suckers weighed more than the poor devil hauling it. The Army, Marines and Air Force got footlockers and we got a big ole' canvas bag. Traveling with a seabag was something left over from the "Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum" sailing days. Sailors used to sleep in hammocks. So you stowed your issue in a big canvas bag and lashed your hammock to it, hoisted it on your shoulder and in effect moved your entire home and complete inventory of earthly possessions from ship to ship. Wouldn't say you traveled light because it was a one-shoulder load that could torque your skeletal frame and bust your ankles. It was like hauling a dead linebacker.

Do they still make seabags?

David Brinkman

Allen Roberson, Director of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, was very impressed with my Dad's Iwo Jima letter and said his Museum would be honored to hold and preserve it. He also showed interest in my Dad's Carbine gun. I'm seriously thinking about doing this since my health has declined so much in the last year and I'd hate for something like this to get lost in the huge collection of things we have in our house. I also mentioned the USS Lowndes ship model but he didn't seem that interested in it, probably because it is not a real relic. By the way, the Confederate Relic Room is the oldest Museum in Columbia and is located in the same building as the South Carolina State Museum which is the largest Museum in the state. Here is what Mr. Reberson said,

"I am very familiar with the Pacific Campaign, the battle of Iwo Jima. Your father's letter is one of the best letters I have read about the battle and I have read many! It captures everything about the battle that I have ever read! David, you must be exceedingly proud of his service to his country."

The model of the ship was on display at the museum for almost a year, but there is not enough space in the Relic Room for it to be permanently on display. As of this writing it is in David's house awaiting further decisions.

I guess my memory is getting away from me now. I do remember this but the Lowndes officer that wrote the Lowndes narrative failed to list several crew members being wounded on Iwo Jima. Sounds like my Dad had his ear drums blown out also. In his own words,

"The beach was now loaded heavier more than ever with casualties. Between each blast, someone could be heard hollering 'Corpsman'. Pierce and I just lifted up our casualty to drag him back to the beach when a direct hit blasted on the wounded man, sinking him into the ground. I didn't know whether I was alive or not. I was covered with sand, but managed to force my way out. I don't know why, but I wasn't even scratched by shrapnel from the blast. However, I couldn't hear a sound for the rest of the day. The only way I knew a shell was blasting was when someone fell or made a dive for a hole. Meanwhile, Doc Eastham had received a shell concussion from the blast. He wasn't hit either, but was so mentally affected that we lost his services. Pierce received numerous shrapnel wounds on his back, but we evacuated him safely. Anderson was shot in the foot by another shell. We also lost the services of Gordon Buck who was wounded alongside of one of our ammunition dumps which the Japs hit.

I see where Marcum, BM1c was one of my Dad's buddies. He signed his autograph book and wrote, "Just because you like it here, don't ship over."

"Marcum shared a foxhole with your editor until that damn mortar raised havoc with the both of us at midnight. He got shrapnel in his legs and my ear drums were busted up. Marcum's first words were, "those SOB's woke me up." Last address I had for him was in Montana, then lost touch."

"Hang in there David, we need you."

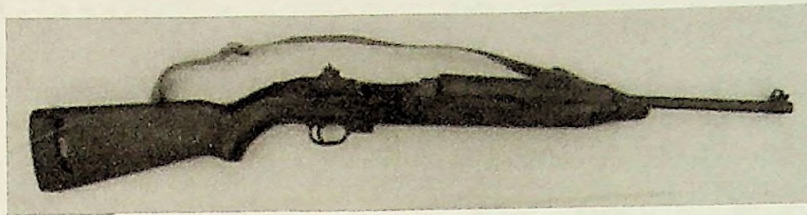
July 2008-5

Below is a newspaper article about the donation of Fred Brinkman's gun and letter to the museum:

Museum Receives WWII Weapon

By Rachel H. Cockrell, Registrar

The Collections Department is in the process of accessioning a WW II weapon with a wonderful story behind it. The M-1 carbine carried on the beach at Iwo Jima by a 19-year old Navy corpsman is being donated by the original owner's son David Brinkman.



Fred Brinkman, Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class, went ashore at Iwo Jima on D-Day+1 and remained for four days tending to the wounded under fire and with no rest. He and two other corpsmen were the only unwounded survivors out of a medical section of nine from the USS *Lowndes*. He had worked out with the Marines in preparation for the invasion, and credited that physical training with giving him the stamina necessary to his survival during those terrible four days. Brinkman wrote his family a 40-page letter detailing his experiences during the Iwo Jima battle. A facsimile and transcript of the letter are posted on the USS *Lowndes* website maintained by Brinkman's son, David. The original of the letter is also being donated to the Relic Room.

In later years Fred Brinkman was the Director of the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism from 1973-1991. He died in 1997. The Museum is delighted to be the permanent repository of these reminders of his service in WWII.

A belated thank you to Stan Dunn for the beautiful floral arrangements that he sends from Hawaii to brighten up our reunions.

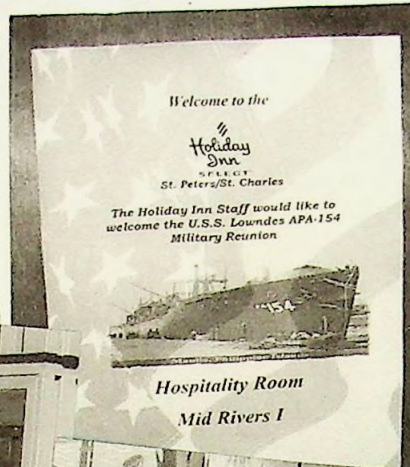
A reminder to the rest of the Reunion Group, how about putting on our thinking caps to come up with a location for our 2009 Reunion? Bearing in mind that Milwaukee was runner up to San Francisco. I make mention of this merely to get the ball rolling for discussion at our business meeting in SF. Naturally we welcome any and all suggestions brought up before the members.

Average temperature in October is high 69° & low 55°

July 2008-6

St. Charles,* MO – 2007 Reunion

*St. Louis, MO Area



July 2008-7

USS LOWNDES REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Complete and mail this entire form with check payable to:
LOWNDES-APA 154 (Wm. "Bud" Kautz)
347823 Hiawatha Trail – McHenry, IL 60051
e-mail<redlabelbuddha@comcast.net>

Registration Fee – Everyone Please pay: _____ people @ \$10.00 p.p.= \$ _____
(Non-refundable)

Fee to help defray the cost of the hospitality room, etc.
Unfortunately the hotel has placed a charge on the room
which will be available our entire stay.

Wednesday - Oct. 8th - Hospitality Suite (Room 745) will be open at posted hours.
Nothing planned for this evening, but you may want to enjoy a night on the town, or dinner at one
Of San Francisco's famous restaurants.

THURSDAY - Oct. 9th Event A - Check in & Registration, Continental breakfast in Hospitality Suite,
Room 745, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Free day for resting or planning individual or small group sight seeing
On your own. Informal get-together in Hospitality Room 4:00 PM to 6:00PM.

Friday - Oct. 10th Event B - Blue Angels air show. 10:20 AM – 3:30 PM. We have reserved
Seats at the Marina Green site of the Fleet Week headquarters. Cost p.p. @ \$25.00= \$ _____
(Includes Box Lunch). Hospitality Room 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Saturday – Oct. 11th Event C – San Francisco City & Bay Cruise Tour, 8:15 AM – 2:30 PM
Cost p.p. @\$59.00=\$ _____
5:00-6:00 PM Photo Session (Uglies & Lovelies)
Hospitality Room 6:00 – 7:00 PM – Business meeting.

Banquet Dinner: 7:00 P (at hotel) New York Steak p.p. @ \$37.00 = \$ _____
Chicken Marsala p.p. @ \$31.00 = \$ _____
Wild Mushroom Raviola @ \$31.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: (This includes gratuities & taxes) =\$ _____

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING & return form by August 20th. Thank you

Name: Spouse/Guest _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Emergency contact during reunion: Phone: _____

Reservations are due by Aug. 20, 2008. Late reservations accepted on space available basis
with \$10.00 per person late fee. Retain a copy for your records.

Stuart has arranged for the Blue Stars of the USS Hornet singers to entertain us during our
Banquet. They will sing old time favorites from the era of our crew members.

Sunday – Oct. 12th A full American breakfast will be available in the hotel. \$20.00

Any questions? Stuart Hyde's e mail: <stuarthyde@comcast.net>