

U.S.S. Lowndes -APA 154

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AUGUST 2001 NEWSLETTER

Thirteenth Annual Reunion – Oct. 11, 12 & 13, 2001
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Again – Please inform the hotel when checking in or making reservations that you are a member of the U.S.S. Lowndes Reunion Group.

“Do this by September 27th”

Rates apply 3 days before & after reunion

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The time has come to start thinking about where and when our fourteenth reunion will take place in the year 2002. Let's put on our thinking caps on so we can discuss this item at our next business meeting.

Tentative schedule of events for reunion:

- October 11 – Check in & registration
Business meeting in evening
- October 12 - General Jackson luncheon cruise
Grand Ol' Opry – 9:30 PM
- October 13 - Cash bar – 6:30 PM
Banquet – 7:30 PM

- Attractions: General Jackson - \$35.00 per person
- Grand Ol'Opry - \$23.00 per person
- Banquet - \$30.00 per person

Please send payment to John & Leby Dyer by September 1st.
Make checks payable to John Dyer-Lowndes Reunion Group. Mail to
8851 East Southshore Dr. – Unionville, IN 47468 Any questions (812)332-0908

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Indoor pool, all rooms have cable TV, hairdryers, iron & iron board, coffee maker & modem hook-up. Full room service, lounge live entertainment, guest fax, complimentary parking and game room, shuttle service to above attractions, trolley route to outlet malls & restaurants (\$1.00 each way). Airport transportation \$11.00 one way or round trip \$18.00. Applebee's restaurant on premises.

Carmel Fesi

I'd like to refresh Leo O'Brien's memory about our signalman. Merrill Hart transferred to the radio gang about a month before we hit Iwo Jima. He was replaced by Senares, the cartoonist from Brooklyn. Do you remember the special flashlight that was issued? It had a blacked out lens except for a small cross mark for light to show through. This light was used when we were called by the control boat at the line of departure for night runs, the signalman was supposed to be in charge of it. Well one night while circling around the area waiting to make a landing, we had ten drums of high octane fuel on board. I asked, "Where is the flashlight?" Senares didn't know, we had to have this light to give the signal to the control boat with vertical movement for even number date and horizontal for odd number date (like 19th or 20th of the month.) If you didn't show the signal with the flashlight you could be blown out of the water. The P. C. had 20 MM guns trained on every boat that came along side and we couldn't find it in the back bilge. We were called along side, I assume Senares gave the right signal because we were not fired upon. Three trips to the beach to unload the fuel and the beach master would run us off with the fuel. We finally unloaded high octane fuel on an old barge anchored about 200 yards off the beach. There was one lonely marine on the barge. We unloaded the fuel and started back to the rendezvous area when a mortar hit the barge and it blew it sky high, the poor marine went with it.

CORRECTION

In the last newsletter "Where were you & what were you doing on Dec. 7, 1941?"

Clark Martin

I was a young Navy Ensign fresh out of 90 day training at Supply School. I had been out of the University of Virginia for two years and had been working since then. If memory serves, the exact wording...was. "AIR RAID, PEARL HARBOR, THIS IS NO DRILL!"

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Additions to the Lowndes e mail addresses:

E. Max Cole	- MaxCole@prodigy.net
Art Wilson	- CLIPPER@vcm.com

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Scientists have built an atomic clock 100 to 1,000 times more accurate than any timepiece ever made. Current atomic clock loses a second every 20 million years. The new clock would need 20 billion years to lose a second.

July 24, 1866 Tennessee became the first state to be readmitted to the Union after the Civil War.

June 22, 1945 the WWII battle for Okinawa officially ended after 81 days, during which 12,520 Americans and 110,000 Japs were killed.

Aug. 2001-3

John Lackey

Sorry I'm late sending in my dues. My wife was in and out of the hospital twice this year. She is doing good now. When we were going to the east coast to decommission the Lowndes I was on mess cook duty. I told the cook that made ice cream, I would make it if I could serve the men all they wanted. He said the room is all yours. Where he was serving 7 gallons I served between 30 or 40 gallons a day. That was good duty for me I was in a cool room. I read Mike Michalski's article in the March report.

James Ross

You have probably received the information on the "Combat Action Ribbon" by now. "Medals of America" is a good book for ribbons and medals. It is free and may be requested by calling 1-800-308-0849. However, the ribbon can be ordered from the Navy department. Major Douglas Thomas Jacobson (Medal of Honor) passed away In October 2000. He was on the Lowndes landing on Iwo Jima about 1230 the first day – Jack Lucas and Woody Williams are the only Medal of Honor recipients left who served at Iwo Jima. The video tape, "Uncommon Valor – the Battle of Iwo Jima" is available by calling 1-405-841-4004 or ordering it through Master Card or Visa – 1500 United Founders Tower – Oklahoma City, OK 73112 or www.BRITTAN ENTERTAINMENT.com

Thanks Jim, for the information, consider it passed on.

Located another former crew member – rather he located us. Received a phone call June 13th from:

Art Wilson - 2704 Sadie Lane - Henderson, NV 89014 - (702)896-4576 - Clipper@lvcm.com

Bill Fletcher

Please accept this check to help defray mailing costs of the Lowndes newsletter. I enjoy reading about people with whom I associated with incognito and wish all continued joy in your get-togethers. I may make an effort to drop in on you guys in Nashville. October is my time of the year.

Patrick McGinley

Thanks so much for putting the story of my dad (Andrew John) in the newsletter. I heard from Leo O'Brien who sent me three more photos of my father. What a thrill! Please used enclosed to help with postage and mailings. I enjoy the newsletters greatly!

Bill Ramsey

Just finished reading James Bradley's "FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS." It's the story of the "six" marines that were in Joe Rosenthal's photograph of the flag raising. It is well written and I learned a few more details of the battle of Iwo Jima. I would recommend it to be read. This is a book given to me on Father's Day by my daughter who had up you this time never brought the subject up. I'm giving her the APA's compilation of the event and expect that it will her even closer to understanding what went on. Thanks for putting it together. I'll not see you in Nashville because my 60th class reunion conflicts.

Ed. Note: E. Max Cole donated this book for our Lowndes Lovelies' raffle in Las Vegas. One correction. James Bradley was the son of a Navy Pharmacist Mate who was one of the men that raised the flag. 5 marines and 1 sailor.

Aug. 2001-4

Jim Vaughan

I am looking for anyone that might recall knowing a shipmate from WWII when the U.S.S. Lowndes took part in the campaigns at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. His name was Joseph Botti a CMM, a Navy career man. He is the father of one of my daughters-in-law, Cheryl Botti. My wife, Doris and I spent many happy hours playing cards, square dancing, watching life's progress, or just sitting and visiting. I know it is a little late looking for shipmates of his Lowndes, but as I said, if that fails, perhaps someone from the ship could give me a little more personal touch of what happened at Iwo Jima and Okinawa than what I have gathered from books, movies, videos, etc. Joe transferred to the Lowndes on November 6, 1944, where he remained until his promotion to Warrant on 15 May 1945. For those of you during this time in the operations at Iwo and Okinawa, I'm sure you well remember the terrible Kamakazi attacks that caused the greatest loss of lives and ships in our naval history. For these events alone, if for no other reason, Joe said many times that he felt closer to the Lowndes and his shipmates aboard, than any other ship or station during his 21-1/2 years of active duty in the Navy. He always referred to the Lowndes as "his ship," the one in which he took the greatest pride, and to his Lowndes shipmates as those to which he felt the closest. When he passed away in 1995, Joe was still ALL NAVY, in mind and heart. He also served on the U.S.S. Saratoga CV3 and various other ships, from tugs to tankers. I am working on a biography book of Joe, it will be assembled only for our own families.

Ed's note: Earl Robertson, Lyman Nedeau, Dallas Stratton, John Jurica, Mike Michalski, Harold Brunner & John Dyer, all Machinists Mates – did any of you have contact with Joe Botti? Let Jim Vaughan know, see roster for his address.

Frank Wanits

Received the newsletter and read them all. The article "Iwo Jima Lest We Forget" was particularly interesting and informative. I'm sorry that we will not be able to attend the reunion at Nashville. It certainly seems that it will be a very interesting one. Alice and I are doing good health-wise. She is being treated for skin cancer several times a year for removal have been taking cat-scans and blood tests quarterly. We keep ourselves pretty busy with church and family affairs. We wish you all a happy and successful reunion in Nashville.

John Vernale

Sorry to report that Sally and I won't be able to attend the Nashville reunion this year. Sally looks good and feels great, but we will just have to bide our time.

Ed's note: We will miss and wish them the best.

Sally Cary

I have permanently moved to Arizona – new address is: 1576 E. Cottonwood Lane - #1063
Casa Grande, AZ 85222
(520)426-3821

Sorry to report I will not be able to attend the Nashville reunion and will be unable to conduct the Lowndes Lovelies raffle this year.

Ed. Note: We'll surely miss Sally and the very efficient manner she has conducted the raffle.

Ed. King

I'm a little late sending this info to you regarding the boat crews and boats. As far as I remember John Lackey was the original coxswain on Boat No. 2 George Kindle was the coxswain on Boat No. 19 on Boat No. 20 I was the coxswain at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. As you know the boat crews came aboard the Lowndes as a unit, officers and enlisted men. We went through training at Coronado, California. The first base or training was called A.T.B. or amphibian training base. We lived in tents or on the beach.. This training was landing in the surf and backing out, of course the deck men dropped the ramp and so forth – night maneuvers, signaling, and getting off the beach without broaching. I can't remember how many weeks we were at A.T.B. We were then sent to a base down the Coronado Strand called A.B.C.D., "Amphibious Building Construction Division" This taught us how to survive and physical fitness. I remember the 100 pushups every morning, duck walking and many other physical activities – boxing, running and Judo. The thing that surprised me was that it wasn't very long before all of us were doing the pushups without stopping. At this time the base is used to train the "Navy Seals." Anyhow all of the different units met on the U.S.S. Lowndes – APA 154, officers and men in Astoria, Washington.

Ed. Note: In 1989 Jean and I stayed at the Hotel Del Coronado and took a walk down to the beach – guess what we saw? LCM's and LCVP's making runs into the beach and backing off. The Amphibious Training Base was still operating then.

John Lackey

You have the crew on Boat No. 2 correct. My crew and I were on that boat from the day the ship was commissioned until decommissioning. Remember Gordon Holley was coxswain on Boat No. 4. The second night out at Iwo Jima we hit something that put a hole in the boat, we were loaded with two cargo nets of mine torpedoes and could not get to the hole. We were able to signal another boat to come alongside and we took our personal gear and got into it. The next morning the ship returned and we were put aboard Holley's boat to operate. Before we went to Okinawa my boat and 7 more were lost and replaced. E. C. Taylor was a deck hand, I believe on Holley's boat.

Harry Ruether

I don't know who the other crew members were on Boat No. 16. It's been so long ago. You have me on Boat No. 14, I was on Boat No. 16 with Glenn Forgay, coxswain. Hope this will help.

Ed. Note: Received this letter from Harry after he passed away.

Ed. Note: The above letters are in response to a question that Leo O'Brien posed a couple of years ago. See page 9/2001-H. If anyone has more information please forward it to me. Maybe we can come up with the crew members of the landing craft aboard the Lowndes. Also several other boats are not on the list, what happened to them?

On June 22, 1945 The World War II battle for Okinawa officially ended after 81 days, during which 12,500 Americans and 110,000 Japanese were killed.

Aug. 2001-6

MORE ON OUR CAPTAIN

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

1 July 1957

My Dear Captain Perdue:

On the occasion of your retirement, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation of your long and distinguished service to our nation.

During your career you have witnessed many advancements in the morale, strength and efficiency of the Navy. By your grasp of essentials, your ability to make immediate and correct decisions and your excellent performance of duty, you have contributed materially to the accomplishment of these results. Your long service has been marked by the skillful direction, sound judgment and determination which you have applied to the tasks assigned.

I note your excellent performance of duty in your various assignments in the FIFTEENTH Naval District from June 1940 to January 1943. You continued your outstanding performance in the Personnel Office, ELEVENTH Naval District from February 1943 to July 1944. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. LOWNDES from September 1944 to January 1946 and as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. JASON from January 1947 to February 1948 you set standards of performance that will be difficult to emulate. You continued your distinguished service as Director of Training, with additional duty as Officer-in-Charge, Naval Reserve Training Facility and later as District Director of Naval Reserve, Headquarters, THIRD Naval District from May 1948 to October 1950. Your loyalty and devotion to duty as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. REPOSE from October 1950 to January 1951 as in your many assignments throughout your career reflects the highest credit upon you and the Naval Service.

May I wish for you continued success and many years of health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas S. Gatos, Jr.
Secretary of the Navy

Captain Charles H. Perdue
U. S. Navy, Retired
Member, Naval Inspection and Survey
Pacific Coast
Broadway Pier
San Diego, 30, California

Ed. Note: Additional information regarding our Captain can be found on the pages March 2000-10 and March 2001-6 of previous newsletters.

BOAT NUMBERS & CREWS

#2
 J. Lackey Cox
 Caldwell MoMM
 A. Escamilli SM
 G. Rosenbaum Deck

#4
 G. Holley Cox
 G. Engles MoMM
 A. Escamilli SM
 F. Detiveau Deck
 E. Taylor Deck

#7
 G. Dudash Cox

#9*
 R. Kieme
 W. Pollock MoMM
 H. Sarten
 A. Wilson Deck

#11
 A. Herrington Cox
 C. Smith SM

#12
 R. Lemmons Cox
 O. A. Smith SM
 W. Thomas MoMM
 J. Ross * Deck

#13
 J. Torelle Cox

#15
 J. Hovey Cox
 C. Fesi Deck
 Senares SM
 L. O'Brien MoMM

#16
 G. Forgay Cox
 H. Ruether MoMM
 M. Hart SM
 M. Rezza Deck

#19
 G. Kindle Cox

#20*
 E. King Cox
 S. Vlasak MoMM
 J. Rodriquez Deck
 F. Detiveau Deck

#21*
 W. Proctor Cox
 G. Kindle
 G. Dudash Cox

#21*
 Johnson Cox
 C. Schaffer MoMM
 H. Robles SM

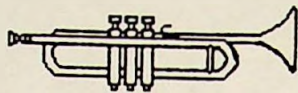
#17
 L. J. Foyt Cox
 M. Wishnoff MoMM
 A. Sefers SM

* **Lost on the beach at Iwo Jima** Why 2 No. 21 boats?

Other names in the landing craft division furnished by Carmel Fesi.

E. C. Brown Deck	H. D. Lemley * Cox	J. D. Schamburg SM
J. B. Douhitt* * Deck	R. G. Peese Cox	Solley SM
L. J. Foyt* * Cox	Reynolds Deck	M. T. Speer Deck
A. G. Gaspard* * Deck	C. N. Richard Deck	J. S. Stone Deck
R. B. Hail* * Deck	L. B. Rodgers Deck	R. H. Stoner Cox
P. Harden Cox	G. Rowe Deck	C. Tate* Deck
Harsley Cox	W. D. Sanders Deck	J. Torelle Cox

* **Members of the Reunion Group. Can any of you add to the above information?**



TAPS

HARRY RAYMOND RUETHER

Harry, 76 was born January 11, 1925 and died June 27, 2001 at his home. Agnes relates that Harry had a massive heart attack, he was standing at the kitchen sink drinking milk and eating a cheese sandwich and kinda slid to the floor, hit real hard on his rump then straightened back, he was standing up when he died, his neck and face was already turned blue. I called 911, they came and told me hit was too late. Needless to say, I was in shock. He joined the Navy June 1943 and boarded the Lowndes at Washington as a fireman 1class. He was a plank owner and was a Master at Arms. He was a member of boat crew No. 16, GQ station in the shaft alley. Left the Lowndes December 1945 as a MoMM 3c. Last active duty December 24, 1945 at St. Louis, MO. After discharge he returned to Jefferson City, MO at 8:30 PM. Called it a pretty good Christmas present. In civilian life he joined the Carpenter's Local #945 as a carpenter until he retired in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Agnes and three daughters, Karen Philips, Pamela Koestner and Brenda Wunderlich and two sons, Donald and Gary. All residing in Missouri. Three step-daughters, Betty Reinke, Dorothy Tate and Ruth Schneider. Thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Condolences have been sent.

Since our last reunion in Las Vegas October 2000 we have been informed of the loss of the following shipmates:

James B. Douhitt	Sept. 11, 2000
Joseph E. Layton	Dec. 8, 1999
Henry F. McNamee	Jan. 24, 2001
Clifford W. Schaffer	Sept. 16, 2000

Aug. 2001-9

TENTATIVE TIME SCHEDULE

Thursday Oct. 11	3:00 - 6:00 PM Check in & register 6:00 - ??? PM Happy Hour Hospitality room Dinner on own
Friday Oct. 12	Breakfast on own 10:30 AM Meet in lobby, leave for Luncheon Cruise Dinner on own 8:30 PM Meet in lobby, leave for Gand Ol' Opry Hospitality room
Saturday Oct. 13	Breakfast on own Free time Lunch on own 6:00 - 7:00 PM Cash bar 7:00 PM Banquet Hospitality room
Sunday Oct. 14	Meet for breakfast Good bye

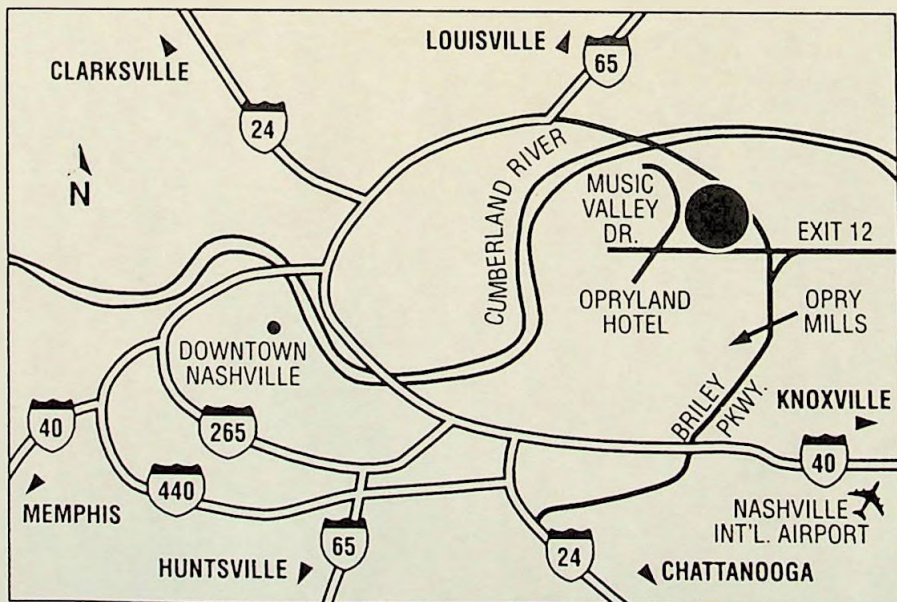
ATTENDEES

Howard & Lois Chappell
Jim Chilcote & Margaret McGrody
E. Max Cole
Stan Dunn
John & Lebbly Dyer *
Mary Gebhart
Mike & Pam Hennessey
Bud & Jean Kautz

Ed. King & Lavada Boyer
David & Joanne Long
Don & Shirley Lorenzi
Clark Martin
Mike & Jerry Michalski
Leo & Margaret O'Brien
Ed. & Dolores Persons
Arthur & Marjorie Rauseo

Keith & Lorraine Richards
Wally & Jackie Richards
Earl & France Robertson
Dee Rodgers
Dallas & Lorene Stratton
Bill & Amelia Taylor
Perry & Jan Trober
Walt & Jackie Umbarger

* Hosts



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