

Aug. 2003-1

U. S. S. LOWNDES- APA 154

August 2003 Newsletter

Wm. "Bud" Kautz, CCBW – 34782 Hiawatha Trail, McHenry, IL 60051 (815)344-6326
e-mail REDLABELBUDDHA@aol.com

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I goofed on the May 2003-1 page the telephone number for the Biloxi Beach Resort was in error, the correct number is (228)388-3310.
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Please note that my zip code has been changed from 60050 to 60051 as of July 1, 2003.

There have been many changes and additions to the Lowndes members e mail addresses, There are several additions to the roster listing in this newsletter due to David locating former Lowndes crew members.

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The following shipmates, spouses and friends have indicated their intentions to attend our reunion in Biloxi, MS:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| David & Odessa Brinkman | Bud & Jean Kautz | Jenny & Lori Porter (Kautz) |
| Gordon Buck | Herb Kears | Ed.& Dolores Person |
| Jim Chilcote & M. McGrody | David & Joanne Long | Warren & Albena Proctor |
| John & Lebbly Dyer | Clark Martin & D. Flood | Arthur & Marjorie Rauseo |
| Ed. King & Lavada Boyer | Mike & Jerry Michalski | Earl & Frances Robertson |
| Mary Gebhart | Roland & Becky Moore | Dallas & Lorene Stratton |
| Pam Hennessey | Eileen Murray | Bill & Amelia Taylor |
| John & Marilyn Hess | Leo& Margaret O'Brien | Jan Trober |
| Dick & Roseanna Jones | | Walt & Jackie Umbarger |

(There are still a few postcards that have not been returned.)

To date the following have contributed to the USS Lowndes model fund:

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| Roberta Brinkman fund | Sterling Hornsby | David Brinkman |
| Helen Butler (In memory of Jim Davenport) | Bud & Jean Kautz | (Effort & unlimited time) |
| Howard & Lois Chappell | Clark Martin | |

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David Brinkman is working on another project for the APA Historical Preservation Project (formally the "Save the Gage"). He and several other guys want to prevent the Gage (The last APA known to exist) from being destroyed. The Navy is planning to use it as a target for a sinkex exercise in 2004. He needs people (especially APA veterans) to write certain congressional people to have the Gage saved. He will have more information on why the Gage should be saved and a list of congressional people to contact for assistance in this project at a later date.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOR THE USS LOWNDES 15th REUNION IN BILOXI, MS

THURSDAY, Oct. 2nd:

1800 Check in & register – Pizza party in hospitality room

FRIDAY , OCT. 3rd:

Day trip to New Orleans (0830-1800)

Deluxe Continental breakfast at hotel

0830 Bus departs hotel with professional guide

1000 Pick up guide in New Orleans

1230 Lunch on own

1400 Visit National D-Day Museum or explore on your own

1600 Depart for hotel

1730 Return to hotel- dinner & evening on own

Hospitality room open

1930 Business meeting

SATURDAY, Oct. 4th:

Biloxi sightseeing tour (0900-1330)

Deluxe Continental breakfast at hotel

0900 Depart on sightseeing tour with professional guide

Visit Seafood Museum

Visit Mardi Gras Museum

Lunch on own

1330 Return to hotel – free time

1700 Group photos – Uglies & Lovelies

1730 Cocktails

1800 Banquet buffet dinner at hotel

Hospitality room open

SUNDAY, Oct. 5th:

Deluxe Continental breakfast at hotel

Farewell, see you next year

Package includes all breakfasts, banquet, tours professional guides, taxes & gratuities.

See Page Aug. 2003-9 for details.

Aug. 2003-3

Have just heard from Thomas F. Baker – (WO)CARP. States that he was aboard the Lowndes when it was commissioned and did not leave until after the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. His address & phone number is:

102 Southwood Ct.
Graham, NC 27253
(336)222-9753

(Received a phone call from his son recently and contacted Tom, sent him some information and he mailed a biographical data sheet to me. Seems as if we have reached the end of the rope in locating former shipmates, then another one pops up out of the blue.)

David Brinkman has located another crew member. William Thomas Sanders, S1c. According to Tom's son in law he served aboard the Lowndes and will try to bring him to the reunion in Biloxi. His address is:

PO Box 775
Pinson, AL 35126
(205)681-8094

(Wm. Has informed me that due to health he will be unable to attend our reunion.)

(Will add these to the reunion roster and mailing list. Seems as if the name Thomas has made the list again.)

Gordon Buck

As I reminisce some names come back to me. Ray Eagan, HC1c now a retired fireman in Orange County, NJ., Bob Leet, HC1c, Olean, NY., Davie Follette, dental assistant, Minneapolis, MN. The 2 "old men" W. W. Woodie Long, HC1c a butcher from Orlando, FL., Ralph Baylis, HC1c from Newark, NJ went back to Shell Oil. These 2 were the first to go home after the war. Joe Kabilo, PhM2c (and a licensed embalmer) from Youngstown, OH was transferred to the hospital in Guam and died of hepatitis while there. Mannie Lieder, PhM1c (dental assistant), Bill Hill PhM1c (surgical assistant) from Philadelphia, PA. And of course Bill (Fred?) Brinkman and Jack Laird. Maybe

Jack Laird should take a crack at these names. See you in Biloxi.

(How about it Jack, can you shed any light on the fellows mentioned by Gordon? Or for that matter, can anyone else out there have any information regarding them?)

Lois Chappell

I am so sorry to have to write this letter, but Howard and I won't be able to attend this year's reunion. This spring Howard developed two ulcers on his left foot and no matter what we used, they continued to grow and get deeper, then they were in the bone and he had so much pain, even the medication only took the edge off. His circulation was so bad in that leg since they took the large vein to try and save the other leg. The doctors decided to amputate on May 13th. Howard is in a nursing home for rehab, just a few miles from home. He will be fitted for a prostheses as soon as his leg is ready. Now the question is, can I take of him at home. I have a conference meeting with the staff to review the plan of care. We brought him home for a cook-out on Father's day, he seemed pleased and was able to transfer from the car to the wheel chair, so we will just hope and pray for strength and guidance in care. His attitude is good and I know he would love hearing from any of his shipmates. I'm not sure just how long he will be in the nursing home.

Jameson Care Center
3349 Wilmington Road
New Castle, PA 16105

(Received above letter in late June. Cards can be sent to the home or to his home address in Wampum. Needless to say, we will miss their smiling faces in Biloxi. Good luck! Howard.)

How can you have a total of 30 cents with 2 coins and one of them is not a nickel?

Anyone coming up with the correct answer will receive free, a 1 year subscription to the USS Lowndes newsletter.

Aug. 2003-4

Wally Richards

Jackie had open heart surgery on June 16 at Creighton University Medical Center (St. Joseph's) in Omaha. She had a triple heart bypass and got along great and no pain. Two of the girls were with us to help out with cooking, etc. We all stayed at our sons home in Millard while Jackie was at the Medical Center. Thanks for all the thoughts, cards, flowers and especially the prayers. They WORK!!!

An update. Just a short note to everyone about Jackie's recovery from the surgery. She is now at home and doing very good. Had an infection in her left leg where an artery was taken to do the by-passes. She got an antibiotic and looked a lot better. Does tire easily, but started on Cardiac rehab three days a week.

(Received 2nd letter on June 29th)

Joe Freitas

Just letting you know we are still moving around but have slowed down a lot. Arthritis is really getting the tour. Mamma especially, it takes her longer to get going in the mornings. But she still is able to cook for me. Hello to everybody, we think of them often.

(Best wishes to all for a speedy recovery.)

Sterling L. Hornsby

On December 5, 1941 I was stationed on the USS Elliot – DD 146 and as we pulled out of Pearl Harbor a Japanese plane was coming in for a landing. It was carrying two Japanese diplomats to Washington to "negotiate peace." Fleet maneuvers took place around the Johnston Islands. On the morning of December 7, 1941 I had just finished breakfast and was stepping to the bridge to begin my 8-12 watch. One of the officers informed me that Pearl Harbor had been bombed and the fleet immediately returned to port. There were rumors that a battleship had

been sunk, but we couldn't believe that could have happened. On approaching the harbor on December 9, we saw that it was much worse than that. One story we heard was that all the officers on the Utah had been killed. A chief, the highest ranking sailor left alive, tried to get the ship out to sea but didn't make it. A chaplain on the ship helped man the guns, Singing "Praise the Lord the Lord and pass the ammunition" as he did so. The Elliot was on patrol duty at Pearl Harbor from 1940 to 1942. After the Pearl Harbor attack we spent a year on antisubmarine patrol. We may have sunk a small one, but we weren't sure. Transferred to San Luis Obispo, CA for training in the Beach Party. President Roosevelt visited at Camp Pendleton while we trained with the Marines. From there on to Astoria, OR to board the USS Lowndes as a SM1c. Then on to Pearl Harbor for more training. At Iwo Jima I was on the bridge when the Executive Officer, watching through binoculars, said "they're raising the flag." After Iwo on the way to Okinawa we saw the Enola Gay take off but had no idea what was about to happen. I may not have all the details exactly right, but this is pretty much how I remember things. I still live in Dallas, TX.

A bit of trivia

(July 2, 1776 the Continental Congress passed a resolution that said, "these united colonies are, and of right, ought to be, free and independent states.")

If a statue in the park of a military person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle, if the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle, if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Only two people signed the declaration of independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2nd, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

Aug. 2003-5

Joan Macpherson

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the reunion this year in Biloxi, MS. It sounds great. Enclosed is my check for dues. I always enjoy the newsletters. Thanks for keeping me informed. Good health and lots of fun.

Reuben Johnson

The newsletters are a terrific way of keeping "Our ship" ship shape. Our crew is richly blessed. I'm so far behind right now, hoping to catch up one day soon. God bless the good folks of our crew. Will send some info later.

Jim Chilcote

I'm enjoying early summer in my new Boise home Trust that all is going well with everyone. I neglected to send the area code for my telephone number. Complete number is:
1 (208)327-1157

Harley Workman

I first want to apologize for not keeping in contact. I intended to attend some of the reunions, but it seems something always came up to interfere. I had back surgery three years ago and still have a hard time to work far. I'm not complaining as I know there are many worse off. We are kept busy with our children who are scattered all over the nation. It's good but time consuming. sending dues as I want to continue getting the newsletters. My friend, Frank Miller passed away My 14th and enclosing his obituary. I will miss him very much. He kept me informed of the things going on with the Lowndes crew. Vivian and I attended his funeral. The days in the Navy was a learning experience and one we will always remember. Te Lowndes was a good ship and a lot of fine people. Keep the newsletters coming.

Shirley Wetzel

Thank you for responding so quickly. My Dad Sterling served on the Lowndes and many times he told about how he and Billy Biggers

Were picked for chiefs school – the officer in the pharmacy helped them, I think he said – and that's why he didn't get to go with the landing party at Iwo Jima. He has talked about leaving Pearl Harbor a day or so before the attack, and about the ship turning around and going back. He hasn't said too much about what he experienced when the ship got back to the Harbor, other than to say it was a big shock for a young country boy who'd never been out of Texas to see what men could do to other men. My Dad has been getting the newsletters, and saved them all. I've been putting all the information together – he never really talked about a lot of what he went through during WWII until the last few years. He had surgery in February and there were complications. He was in intensive care for 17 days, just went home in May. He's always been strong and in pretty good health, and it shook us all up to come so close to losing him. Dad would love to go to the reunion, but he's still very frail, and is not likely to travel too far from home. I've been thinking of the reunion in October. If he gets strong enough, I may just put him in my car and bring him. I'm not sure why he never went to one – maybe because he's kind of shy, or didn't want to bring up old memories. I think this might be the time for him to go.

(We certainly wish the best for Sterling in recuperating and sure hope he can make the reunion, I'm sure he will find it rewarding. Shirley is his daughter.)

(Sometime ago I asked about a Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunaggungamaugg located in Massachusetts, but our shipmates in that state didn't respond to my query. To enlighten them here is the true meaning, it is a Native American word that means, "You fish on your side; I'll fish on my side; nobody fish in the middle.")

How does that grab you fellows?

Wally Richards

We have a new e-mail address change – wjrich@megavision.com. Lost quite a few messages when we had computer cleared of viruses. Keep those cards and letters coming.

Aug. 2003-6

David Brinkman

For a possible museum exhibit, I have located a museum quality model ship builder that has experience building WWII ships including Haskell class Attack Transports.

To date the following have contributed to the USS Lowndes model fund:

I received much better copies of the Lowndes (Haskell APA) blueprints from the Smithsonian and have placed scanned copies on the Web site at:

<http://www.usslowndes.net/lowndes/ship.htm>

I'm working on a VHS tape that will include many of the photos from the Lowndes Web Site. This is mainly for those that don't have computer/internet access. Below is a 12 minute sample from this video that includes about 140 WW II Lowndes photos and Navy songs. If you have a fairly new version of Microsoft Windows, try clicking on this link

http://www.dobrinkman.net/usslowndes/video2/photos_med.wmv

If the above does not work and you have the Real Video Player, try clicking on the link below:

http://www.dobrinkman.net/usslowndes/video2/photos_med.wmv

The main page for the Lowndes is now at: www.usslowndes.net You can get to everything from this page. If you want to access the newsletters, you need the password which is: 1945

The old page www.usslowndes.com has been terminated as of July and changed to:
www.usslowndes.net

I have some new digitized videos on the web site of a couple of WW II APA's.

The first is a 16 or 8 mm film from 1945 on the USS Kames (APA-175). This ship was, like the Lowndes, was built in Oregon in 1944. The video is in 2 parts. Click on the links below to start. These videos require a fairly new version of Microsoft's media player. If it doesn't work, come to the reunion and I'll have copies of it there.

Part one: **http://www.dobrinkman.net/lowndes/video/APA175_part1.wmv** (15 minutes)

Part two: **http://www.dobrinkman.net/lowndes/video/APA175_part2.wmv** (15 minutes)

Here's a Navy color training video about Amphibious Assault Operations filmed on the USS Rockbridge (APA-228)

<http://www.dobrinkman.net/lowndes/video/amphib.assault.wmv> (25 minutes)

I have just received a complete copy of the Deck Log (860pages) and have placed the first 400 pages on the Web site starting with the commissioning date of Sept. 14, 1944 through July 1945. Still a lot to do... Take a look:

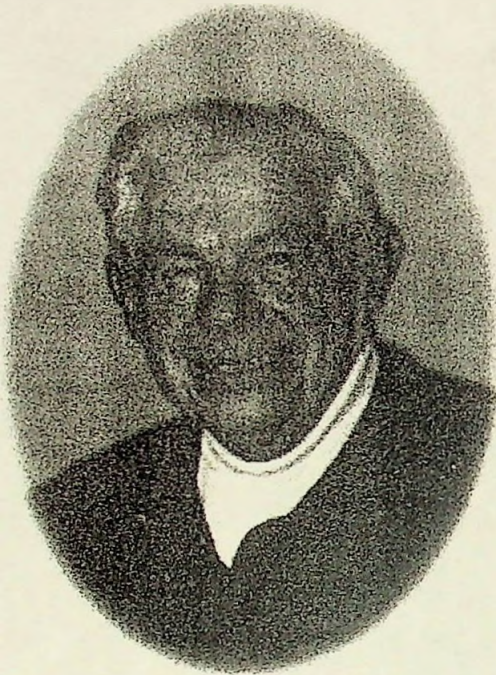
<http://www.usslowndes.net/lowndes/deck-log/htm/1944-9-14.htm>

You can navigate with NEXT, PREVIOUS, and CALENDAR links at the bottom of each page.

Francis(Frank) J. Miller

Born October 4, 1925 in St. Louis, MO. Passed away on May 14, 2003 in Salt Lake City, Utah at the age of 77. Survived by his wife, Frances, of 53 years. 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Enlisted in the Navy November 12, 1942 boarded the Lowndes at the commissioning of the ship as S1c and was a plank owner. Participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. Left the Lowndes January 1946 at San Francisco with rate of SSM2c. His watch and general quarters station was in the combat information center, fire control. Last active duty January 29, 1946 at NAS St. Louis, MO. He also served on the USS Hamul – AD 20. As a civilian he was a telephone lineman for Southwest Bell Telephone Co. Cable splicer at Brodwick & Bascom. Milk delivery man, burial lot salesman, sales manager 3 States Cemetery Co. Owner of a monument company. Driver salesman 36 years Consolidated Frieghtways Co. and PIE. Retired, said, "I helped a lot of people to heaven by scaring the hell out of them on the road." worked part time selling grave monuments. Police officer in St. Louis 1947 –1948. Frank was an active member of the VFW Post 7442 and a proud member of the District 2 Honor Guard burial team. Full Military Honors were accorded. H said, "Do not mourn me. I loved life, I enjoyed it and did the things I wanted to do."

"Auf Wiedersehn Franz!"



Ruth: Daughter of Harry & Agnes Ruether

I have received the reunion newsletter addressed to "Mrs. Harry Ruether". Just wanted to let you know that both are Harry and Agnes are deceased. My Mother, Agnes passed away on November 22, 2002. Please delete them from your mailing list.

Mildred Mims

I'm sorry I'm late in writing, but getting Dawson's affairs in order, I'm run to death. Dawson was born April 24, 1924 and passed away April 14, 2003. He enjoyed hearing about all the reunion group, But I couldn't

get him to write nor would he talk about going to the reunions. He was a very shy, caring person, I'm sending a small check in token of appreciation for all the joy he got from the newsletters. I hope the best for all and have fun at the reunions.

(He is survived by his wife of 53 years, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was a resident of Cullen LA since 1967. He served in the US Navy aboard the Lowndes, US Army & US Air Force, retiring after 22 years. Served in WW II and the Korean Conflict. As a civilian, 15 years as a guard at International Paper. Member of Masonic Lodge in Springhill, LA. No further information available.)

Aug. 2003-9

U.S.S. Lowndes APA-154 Reunion
Biloxi, Mississippi
October 2nd through October 5th, 2003

>>> RESERVATIONS:

Make my reservation for _____ people at \$170 per person. Total enclosed is \$_____

I want _____ tickets for the D-Day Museum in New Orleans. These tickets must be pre-ordered in advance.

>>> **NAME:** (as you want it to appear on name badge):

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Years on board: 19____ to 19____ Rank: _____

Send this form with your **full** payment ASAP or no later than August 20th to:

NATIONAL REUNION PLANNERS: P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034-1588
For more info call: 817-399-1737 or email: info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com

Note: Tour reservations are non-refundable after Aug 31st, 2003 unless you add \$5 per person for tour cancellation insurance. Insurance holders may cancel up to October 1st.

We'll see y'all in *Biloxi!*