

Aug. 2004-1

U. S. S. LOWNDES - APA 154

August 2004 Newsletter

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SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION - BRANSON, MISSOURI The state of Missouri Joined the Union in 1821

Let us all put on our thinking caps and come up with suggestions as to where and when our 2005 seventeenth reunion is to be held. It isn't too early to make suggestions for possibilities to put before the members for a vote and a decision at the business meeting in Branson. It is a too difficult and time consuming task to rely on any reunion group member to undertake and I suggest we attempt to locate an outside reunion organizer, once we have decided the locale and time.

Jan Trober will welcome and appreciate any and all donations (gifts and door prizes) for the Lowndes "Give-Away" event to be held after the banquet meal on Saturday evening. She and Mary have really made this one of the highlights of our reunion.

College of the Ozarks - There are many exhibitions of crafts and arts. Edwards Mill which is a 12 foot water wheel where students grind whole-grain meal and flour. See the operation of traditional looms in action and see the creation of basket weaving. Location of the Ralph Foster Museum containing many artifacts of archaeology and mineralogy. We will be having Lunch in the Friendship House.

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New address:

Alonzo Hodgson, Jr.
314 S. Fin & Feather Lake
Atlanta, TX 75551
(903)796-1260

Returned mail:

Leon Fougnes
Mrs. James Holderman
Paul B. Lineback

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What do the following states have in common?

Alaska
Delaware
Mississippi

New Hampshire
North Dakota
Rhode Island

South Dakota
Vermont
Wyoming

The only states where NO Reunion Group members reside

Aug. 2004-2

Dick Jones

We won't be able to attend the reunion. Our plans have changed. Instead of the Branson trip, we are going with about 40 friends on a cruise in November and feel that we can't do both. Have a great time and hopefully we can attend next year.

Mitchell Chasteen

Had advised earlier that we planned to attend the reunion in Branson. For reasons beyond our control I must advise that we will not be able to make the reunion. Needless to say I was looking forward to seeing many of my shipmates and am saddened that we can not attend. We know those attending will really enjoy themselves. Have notified Mary Gebhart.

Warren Proctor

Due to health problems we have decided not to try to go to the Branson reunion. Sure hate that too because I know it will be a fun time. They have good shows. Have fun!

Stuart Hyde

I'm still going over the vast amount of material Bud and David have collected, assembled and put forth on the website. It's possible to write a narrative of the Lowndes with what we have, but I'm hoping for more--as I've already mentioned. I'm still looking for information about how much training for our Lowndes duties was experienced by various groups of crew members: coxswains, pharmacists mates, deck hands, gunners, boat officers, radiomen, signalmen, cooks, and so forth. My thinking is that perhaps the most noteworthy miracle of the Lowndes history is that we did so well with so little relevant training. An example: I was in V-12 school for two semesters, and Midshipman School for four months, and didn't learn much of anything

about the duties I was expected to perform. Later on we learned about gunnery stuff that was only appropriate to battleships and cruisers; how to row a whaleboat; ship and aircraft recognition (which was OK but which was pointless for those on transports); how to drill (march), and how and when to salute. Just Before reporting to the Lowndes, though, I had four months of amphibious warfare training in San Diego, and that's what got me through the early weeks before I began to learn from experience, and with the help of the regular Navy men. If anyone has any information regarding my request, PLEASE send it to me.

Ed. Note: This explains the actions of our officers while on the ship. Suggestions anyone?

Chuck Rodgers

My grandfather served aboard the USS Lowndes 1944-1945, L. B. Rodgers S1c. I've always wondered about his service. I found out quite a lot, probably more than he wanted me to know. I am forwarding the information I gathered to him, I know he will get a kick out of it, he resides in Dallas, TX and is in declining health. My address: 13135 Acacia Ave., Victorville, CA. L. B.'s is 8565 Park Lane #1901, Dallas, TX 75231.

Welcome to you and your grandfather to the reunion group.

Mike Morrissey

Writing to inform you that Catherine Morrissey, widow of John, passed away on May 30, 2004 (age 91). John was proud to have served, even though he had two children at the time he entered the Navy. One of the things he mentioned about his tour in the Pacific was when his brother was brought aboard the Lowndes after being injured on one of the islands.

Ernest O. Scott passed away on May 14, 2003.

No further details available.

Walt Umbarger

I am getting along fairly well, just can't walk very far at one time. I am so proud of Marty and Rowana arranging their schedule for this reunion, they both are so busy. There will be four of us plus some extra for the drawings. Let me know if there are any changes in the schedule.

Jim Vaughan

Aye, Aye old friends. E mail received OK. Thanks for the continued good works. Read all the newsletters and enjoy them all. Would like to hear more about Okinawa, the last battle of WWII and the last APA for my old shipmate Joe Botti.

Ed. Note: I have attempted to garner more information regarding the Okinawa battle, but haven't been able to get much. I would appreciate it if the reunion members would search their memory banks and send their recollections to me.

Reuben Johnson

I didn't get the stamped addressed post card you mentioned in the March newsletter. But that's OK as I doubt I would make the reunion. I'm enclosing my dues for 2004. May get some information together one of these days. Thanks for keeping everything going well.

Ed. Note: Reuben, be assured that I will keep on your fanny that you to get that information together and send it to me. Consider this as one instance to be sure you live up to your statement. The rest of the reunion group members take note.

Arthur Rauseo

Does anyone remember any burials at sea that were executed while serving aboard the Lowndes?

Sending a little something to help with the great efforts on the mailings. I'm afraid we won't make it to Branson but we surely wish you all a most successful time together. Maybe we'll make it some day. Thanks again for all the efforts to keep us in touch.

Ed. Note: Donald is a former shipmate that David Brinkman has located.

A bit of trivia

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving 100%. We have all been to those meetings where someone wants over 100%. How about achieving 103%, here is one answer: A little math that might prove helpful what makes life 100%.

If ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then:

H A R D W O R K
8 1 18 4 23 15 18 11 = 98%

And,
K N O W L E D G E
11 14 15 23 12 5 4 7 5 = 96%

But,
A T T I T U D E
1 20 20 9 20 21 4 5 = 100%

And,
B U L L S H I T
2 21 12 12 19 8 9 20 = 103%

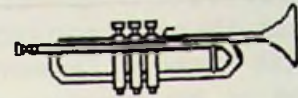
So, it stands to reason that hardwork and attitude will get you there, but bullshit will put you over the edge.

Contributed by Clark Martin.

Ed. Note: Thanks Clark for clearing up an age old preconception.



TAPS



Otto H. Walker

Buell F. Binney

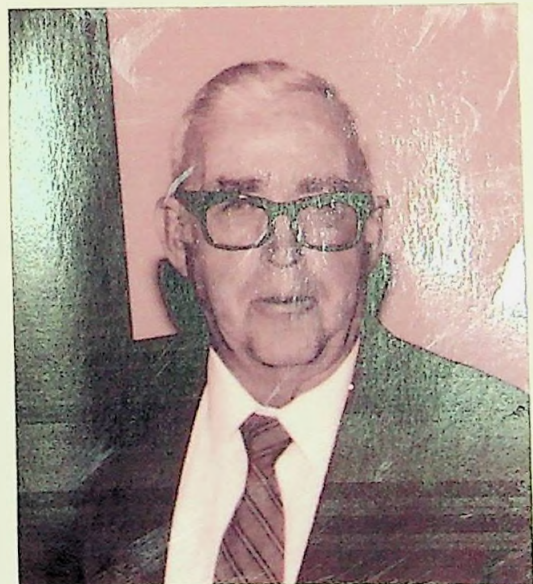
Born November 19, 1921 at Nellis, West Virginia. He enlisted in the Navy May 1940 In Richmond VA. As a S1/c. Boarded the Lowndes Sept. 14, 1944 and became a Plank Owner as a result of the commissioning of the Lowndes in Astoria, OR. He served aboard the ship until the decommissioning on April 17, 1946. Otto was also a Pearl Harbor survivor. While aboard the Lowndes his watch and GQ stations were in the galley. Last active duty was in Little Creek, VA with a rate of CCS. As a civilian he worked for 27-3/4 years in the mining industry. 1 year - Steel Mill Pueblo Co., 1 year oil and gas driller - Spencer, WV. 8 years as a lino type operator for the Coal Valley News. Retired in August 1983. Survived by his wife, Ruth, 4 children, 11 grand children. He said that all of his children went to college and he had to leave the room because he wasn't smart enough to converse with them.

Birth place, Wray, Colorado Sept. 1920 and Passed away on June 13, 2004 at the Cameron Regional Medical Center. He had been a resident at the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, MO since October 2000. Military rites were conducted by the Joseph L. Norton VFW Post No. 919. He enlisted in the Navy September 1942 at Kansas City, MO. Boarded the Lowndes in Astoria, OR Sept. 15, 1944 as a MM3/c. Stood watches on the throttle and his GQ station was in the engine room. Left the Lowndes Oct. 1945 in Seattle, WA as a MM2/c and was discharged at St. Louis, MO. After discharge from the Navy worked at a welding and machinist shop, then as an industrial electrician for 25 years. Retired in 1982 but still lived on a farm helping his son. He is survived by his wife, Mildred of 61 years, 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Ed. Note: I would disagree with his statement.



St. Louis, MO Reunion - 1989



Duluth, MN Reunion - 1990