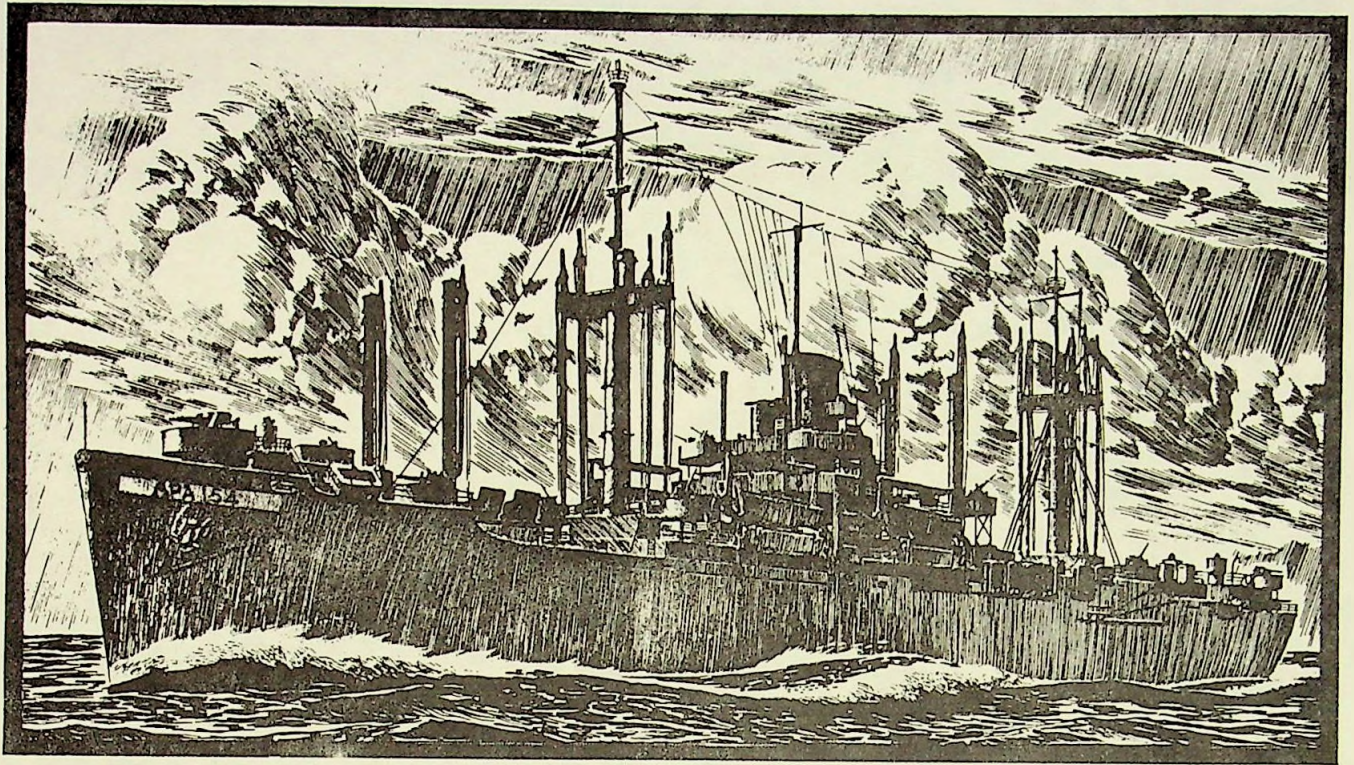



# USS LOWNDES APA-154



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BUD KAUTZ EDITOR



USS LOWNDES APA 154  
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## FIRST CLASS





Aug-92

I believe I can "speak" on behalf of our shipmates, spouses, friends and relatives who attended the "FOURTH ANNUAL USS LOWNDES REUNION" in Harrisburg, PA. Our compliments to Bill & Amelia Taylor and Cliff & Mary Schaffer for the outstanding job they did in organizing activities at the hotel plus arranging for two very interesting tours. The Schaffers never give up, they provided souvenir cups (more on this in the News Letter). They sold 20 additional cups at the reunion and INSISTED that the proceeds plus added income from future sales be donated to the Bowman/Richards Memorial Fund. Fellows - we owe these individuals a debt of gratitude. T H A N K Y O U !

The Boston Delegation - Leo O'Brien, Art Rauseo & John Vernale reported on their progress in arranging the "FIFTH ANNUAL USS LOWNDES REUNION" in Boston in 1993. As details develop they will be passed on in future News Letters. Just be sure to mark July 12th week-end on your calendars.  
-SEE ENCLOSED FLYER-

The following were in attendance:

- |                         |                          |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ed. & Agnes Bencie      | Jim & Maggie Frieden     | Jim & Ina Mae Ross       |
| Fred & Roberta Brinkman | Bud & Jean Kautz         | Cliff & Mary Schaffer    |
| Harold Brunner          | Don & Shirley Lorenzi    | Dallas & Lorene Stratton |
| Jim & Carol Bussard     | Clark & Eve Martin       | Bill & Amelia Taylor     |
| Sally Cary & Son +      | Connie & Jerry Michalski | *George & Glenda Tuppen  |
| Howard & Lois Chappell  | Chuck Munson             | Walt & Jackie Umbarger   |
| Jim Chilcote            | Leo & Margaret O'Brien   | John & Sally Vernale     |
| Pete & Ercilia Cisneros | Art & Marjorie Rauseo    | Otto & Ruth Walker       |
| E. Max Cole             | Al & Jane Resetar        | Bob Warnberg & Son       |
| John & Lebbly Dyer      | Bill & Virginia Robinson |                          |
| David Frederick         | Joel & Mary Rodriguez    |                          |

\* Traveled most miles to reunion.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- |             |             |              |                  |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| August      |             | September    |                  |
| Gene Engles | Bill Ramsey | Buell Binney | Leo O'Brien      |
| Fred Gideon | Bill Taylor | Walt Karson  | Elliott Pilchard |
| Ed King     | Dan Wisdom  |              | Me too           |

69 year old Dallas Stratton looking like 39 playing for the Tone N'Trim baseball team in Florida banged out 5 hits including a home run?

If you can spend a perfectly useless afternoon in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned to live.

Max Cole has a 33 minute video he shot at the Harrisburg reunion. anyone desiring a copy contact Max. He did a terrific job on this tape.

Fred Brinkman - Retired from South Carolina Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Tourism Dec. 1991 after 18 years. Now what Roberta?

Thanks to John Cary for providing name tags for our reunion. After all, how else would we know who we're talking to?

It's easier to get into trouble than out of it.

Harold Brunner holds the distinction of being the first Lowndes crew member to make reservations for the Harrisburg reunion, for that Bill Taylor presented him with a great big kiss (Hershey).

Received the notes and letters from the following shipmates stating reasons for not being able to attend the Harrisburg reunion.

**Don Macpherson** - Previous commitments make it impossible to be at the fourth **Lowndes** reunion. Do look forward to attending the fifth **Lowndes** reunion, so please keep me advised of the time & place.

**Joe & Loreta Freitas** - We are unable to get someone to look after our interests here in California. we are both fine and hope to make the 1993 reunion in Boston. Hello to everyone. (Note: They sent packages of walnuts for our auction.

**Franklin & Dora Judnitsch** - Planned on attending but **Franklin's** health dictated the trip would be too much in addition to a trip to Salt Lake City to visit their son & daughter - haven't seen them for several years.

**Frank & Allice Wanits** - extend their good wishes to all. Real estate transactions prevent them from attending but look forward to Boston in 1993.

**Elliott Pilchard** - Previous commitment prevents attending Harrisburg. Have a great time, my best to the greatest crew ever - (we made it back - didn't we?)

**Buell & Mildred Binney** - Deaths in family prevented attending.

#### SICK BAY

**Ed McKellar** - Mary had 2 weeks of radiation on 2 tumors that returned, they are staying close to home for the present. They both send their "Aloha" Enjoyed the first reunion & want to be kept informed.

**Jim Davenport** - Reports that his wife **Midge** was in the hospital after a cardiac arrest. She also is a victim of Parkinson's.

**Erle Niemi** - Canceled the Harrisburg reunion, found out recently that he has cancer (no details). He and **Ellen** send their best.

**Bob Hail** - Had a total hip replacement May 6th this year. He's doing fine but the trip across country would be quite a strain on him.

**Goldie Johnson** - Reports **John's** condition has changed somewhat.

**Bunnie Jones** - Had a stroke last year & was paralyzed on one side. No further news as of this date.

#### MORE NEWS

The **Bob Warnberg's** grandson graduated from Annapolis on May 27, 1992. He will serve 5 years and has been assigned to the **USS Portland** a Troop transport that is larger than the **USS Lowndes**. Good luck to him.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

To all shipmates and their spouses who did not attend the "Fourth Annual **USS Lowndes Reunion**", you missed a terrific performance by **Bill Taylor & Cliff Schaffer** giving their rendition of "**Schnitzelbank**". They deserved & received a tremendous round of applause. Thanks **Bill & Cliff**.



**OTTO & RUTH WALKER** - Please accept our appreciation for the work you all did for that wonderful reunion at Harrisburg, everyone of you that did so much to make it possible, we enjoyed the tours, all the get together with everyone. The banquet and breakfast couldn't have been better and a wonderful crowd of people to enjoy it with - Thanks again. P.S. Special hello to Mrs. Bill Taylor, she made me (Ruth) feel so welcome.

**LEO & MARGARET O'BRIEN** - Dear Bud & Jean: It was nice to see both of you again, and thanks for the late nite champagne. It's too bad there wasn't more time to enjoy the company of all of our shipmates and wives. But then I'm thankful that GOD didn't make a 26 hour day or an 8 day week. The New England delegation had a great reunion and we all enjoyed the tours and thank GOD we all arrived home safe, as we hope everyone else did. Thanks to all for the special way of making everyone feel welcome. Looking forward to a great '93.

**Max Cole** - Was really great seeing all the guys & their wives at the gathering...also Munson, my old cabin mate. The location was great, too. Want to go back & check out more of the Gettysburg battle.

**CHARLES & CAROLE ROBBINS** - We really enjoyed the "reunion" and all of the people as well as the activities. It was so nice that Don & Shirley Lorenzi invited us. They're great people and fun to be with.

On August 12th Ed & Agnes Bensie will be off to Australia & New Zealand for 3 weeks celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary. Time passes quickly when you're havin' fun. Have a safe trip. Expect a report on the excursion.

More anniversaries in August: Judnitsch's, Tuppan's & O'Brien's in Sept. The Longs in July. "Happy to youse"

The Bowman/Richards committee have proceeded with the procurement of the Memorial Plaque to be installed at the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX. A check in the amount of \$350.00 has been sent to the Superintendent of the museum. Date of the dedication is still to be determined. As progress is made, details will follow in future News Letters. As of this date \$433.00 has been contributed to the fund. The Memorial committee consists of: Martin, Michalski & Kautz.

Now comes the sales pitch: Cliff Schaffer has more USS Lowndes souvenir cups. The price is \$5 each plus postage - \$3 for 1 & \$4 for 2. For those who have not seen them, they're really nice. They are blue with a sketch of the ship in white. As stated on page 2, all proceeds are to go to the Memorial fund. Order cups from Cliff Schaffer.

**BY THE WAY** - We still have USS Lowndes cookbooks available. The cost? A mere pittance, \$5.00 ea plus \$2.00 postage. All recipes were submitted by shipmates or their spouses. A good buy. Route orders to me (Bud). Jean & I - thanks to all who took the time to contribute to our book.

At no time is freedom  
of speech more precious  
than when a man hits his  
thumb with a hammer.

A 77

## RECOLLECTIONS

**GEORGE TUPPAN** - A time in the past to remember aboard the **USS LOWNDES**. I do not remember the day or month (Ed. note: It was Sept. 2, 1945) but it was mail call. We all had our letters and packages, which we read and opened. **Bud Kautz** came by with a large can of tomato juice (28 oz.) that **Jean** had sent him. I think most of us wondered why she would send a can of tomato juice, at least I did. Bud had punched holes in the can and offered us in the engineering compartment a taste. He said it's special so I took a swallow (1st one not too large), then another, low and behold it was whiskey (brand unknown) then passed it back to **Bud**. If memory still holds true, **Jean's** father knew someone who canned it for her. One of the engineering (McNamee) fellows took a swallow, sensing it was not what he had hoped for, he sprayed 1 or 2 of us. Three guys hit the deck and tried to lap it up. Never got to thank you **Jean**, so thanks.

**DAVE FREDERICK** - I had my appendix taken out nine days before the invasion of **Iwo Jima** (I was in the **Beach Party**) so I missed the landing. I was on the boat deck when the **Beach Party** was loading and **Don Bowman** said to me "Here Dave I don't think I'm coming back" He gave me his billfold, keys to his locker and penknife. When I found out what happened on the island I turned in his possessions to my division officer. I had my mother have a mass for him at home. (Ed. note: I helped **Bowman** administer aid to some of the fellows who were injured, to me this is a very hairy tale and it gives me goose bumps, just found out about it at the reunion in **Harrisburg**.)

**LEO O'BRIEN** - I remember someone in our bunking section confiscated a canned ham that should have been refrigerated. Needless to say, when the heat got to it, it swelled up and became jammed in their locker - this required a block & tackle to extract it and did it smell.

My hat goes off to "**Pappy**" **Banks** - Chief warrant Boatswain Mate for his idea in implementing a hoisting system for bringing the wounded on board from the landing crafts. Even the hospital ships did not have it this good. The poor wounded had to be handed from the landing craft to a wide gangway while both were rocking up and down.

**JIM DAVENPORT** - Something you probably didn't know. **Jerome Frieder** who died recently was with **Bowman & Richards** when they were killed, in fact, he was standing between them and didn't get a scratch. I was in a foxhole with two boys from **Houston (Allan "Tex" Collier & Coleman)**.

**WALTER L. CLARKE** - This happened while the **Beach Party** was stationed at the Marine base in **Oceanside, CA.** on maneuvers with the marines before being assigned to the **USS Lowndes**. I had a 1929 Chevy, about 4 of us decided to take a ride up to **Los Angeles**, gas was rationed and all we could garner was 3 gallons. We pulled into a gas station for the 3 gals. and tried to talk the attendant out of more, uh uh, so I had him put in 3 gals. of kerosene. It smoked a bit but we made it to **LA** and back.

**LEO J. WINTER** - One day I was called upon to give **Capt. Perdue** a haircut, after I finished was passing thru officer's country whistling softly to myself when I was accosted by one of the **Lts.** and informed that I was out of order by whistling, and from now on "Allow the bos'n's pipe to furnish the whistles" (Leo passed away Nov. 2, 1991 - see taps).



A 92  
 Bill Ramsey - Submits this report of Capt. Perdue's post-Lowndes career: The United States hospital ship *Repose* is one of the unsung heroes of the Korean War. The sleek, 15, 000 ton vessel inched 30 miles thru a dangerously shallow channel, took aboard more than 750 wounded United Nations troops & carried them out safely before they could be trapped by a surprise Chinese offensive. The gigantic rescue operation was conducted so smoothly & swiftly it went virtually unnoticed. Capt. Perdue "We couldn't use the main channel because it was heavily mined. The channel we used was only 26' deep in places at high tide. The *Repose* draws 25'6". At times our fathometer reading was about the same as the draw. A helicopter hovered just above the water in front of the ship looking for mines and helping guide it." "We can do most everything aboard this ship that any modern big city hospital can." Needless to say, this was a very ticklish undertaking.

My hands have no fingers, my face has no nose. I run in circles though I have no feet or toes. What am I?

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT - JULY 31, 1992**

Balance Dec. 31, 1991		\$1854.79
Income		
Contributions - 1992	\$443.00	
Interest	33.34	
Bowman/Richards Memorial Fund	388.00	
Texas Memorial	20.00	
Cookbooks	161.00	
Ship Photos	4.00	
Auction	382.50	
Autobiographies	<u>20.00</u>	\$1451.84
		<u>\$3306.63</u>
Expenses		
Printing	\$494.35	
Postage	158.38	
Bowman/Richards Memorial Plaque	350.00	
Refreshments - Harrisburg	193.50	
Photos	13.89	
Printing Supplies	<u>25.54</u>	\$1235.66
Error - July 9th withdrawal		.01
		<u>\$2070.98</u>

Number of contributions received 90 (59% of shipmate membership)

We have had several suggestion as to the use of this money for certain worthwhile causes. These suggestions will be put to the membership for finalization and approval. More details in future News Letters.

The way to avoid criticism - "Say nothing, do nothing, be nothing".

A 92  
Fred Brinkman - My wife Roberta and I attended our first reunion of members of the **USS Lowndes** in **Harrisburg**. It was an enjoyable occasion to see 24 shipmates with whom I served during our Navy days in 1944-1946. Fred Has also contacted 18 members of the Beach Party (4 attended the reunion. Finally after several years of attempting to identify the members of our Beach Party **Fred** has done it. However, have heard from **Jim Ross** and he informs us that he is not No. 21 but that is **Ernie Ross**.

#### BACK TO 1945

**Iwo Jima** means "Sulphur Island" and the rotten-egg reek of the volcanic vapor pervades the air. On Feb. 19, 1945 a desperate battle began, raging across the 8.5 square miles of the island until mid April too many brave men perished on this tiny dot of land in the **Pacific**, including 2 members of the **Beach Party** attached to the **USS Lowndes** - **Donald W. Bowman & Norman R. Richards**.

So many tons of shells & bombs rained down on every square mile that the shape of the island was actually transformed. The lopsided battle for this barren but strategically located island - site of an airfield that **American** forces would use to mount air strikes against the **Japanese** mainland was one of the war's bloodiest engagements. Of the 20,932 **Jap** casualties, a staggering 19,900 were deaths. We also suffered terrible losses: 6,831 dead & 19,217 wounded, the highest in **Marine Corps** history. There was no safe place the attacking forces, whose advance was measured in yards rather than miles as **Jap** fire poured from hidden caves and bunkers. But advance we did, behind bayonets, battle tank-mounted flame throwers and artillery barrages.

Ed. note: Little known facts of this battle was the part the **Navy** had in it. There were many **Navy** personnel involved other than those aboard ships such as **Beach Parties** and **Navy** corpsmen attached to the **Marine Corps**. In fact, there was a **Navy** pharmacist's mate 2c who was one of the six men involved in "The Flag Raising on **Iwo Jima**". **Jean's** uncle was also one of the **Navy** corpsmen with the **Marines**. He suffered injuries to his arm and leg. Eventually he had part of one leg amputated. But he never lost his sense of humor. Now you know something about the family I married into.

TAPS  
Leo John Winter - Born August 12, 1991 in Glencoe, MN. passed away November 2, 1991 while clearing the yard of the 25+ inches of snow during the blizzard that week end. Leo was the ship's barber aboard the **Lowndes**. Upon his discharge from the **Navy** he joined his family in the **Winter Barber Shop** (Est. 1898) He had many interests - archery, electronics & photography to mention a few. Our sympathies to his family.

Bud

"Com'on fellows. I enjoy putting this News Letter together, but do need some input from you out there in never - never land. Think about it and work on it".