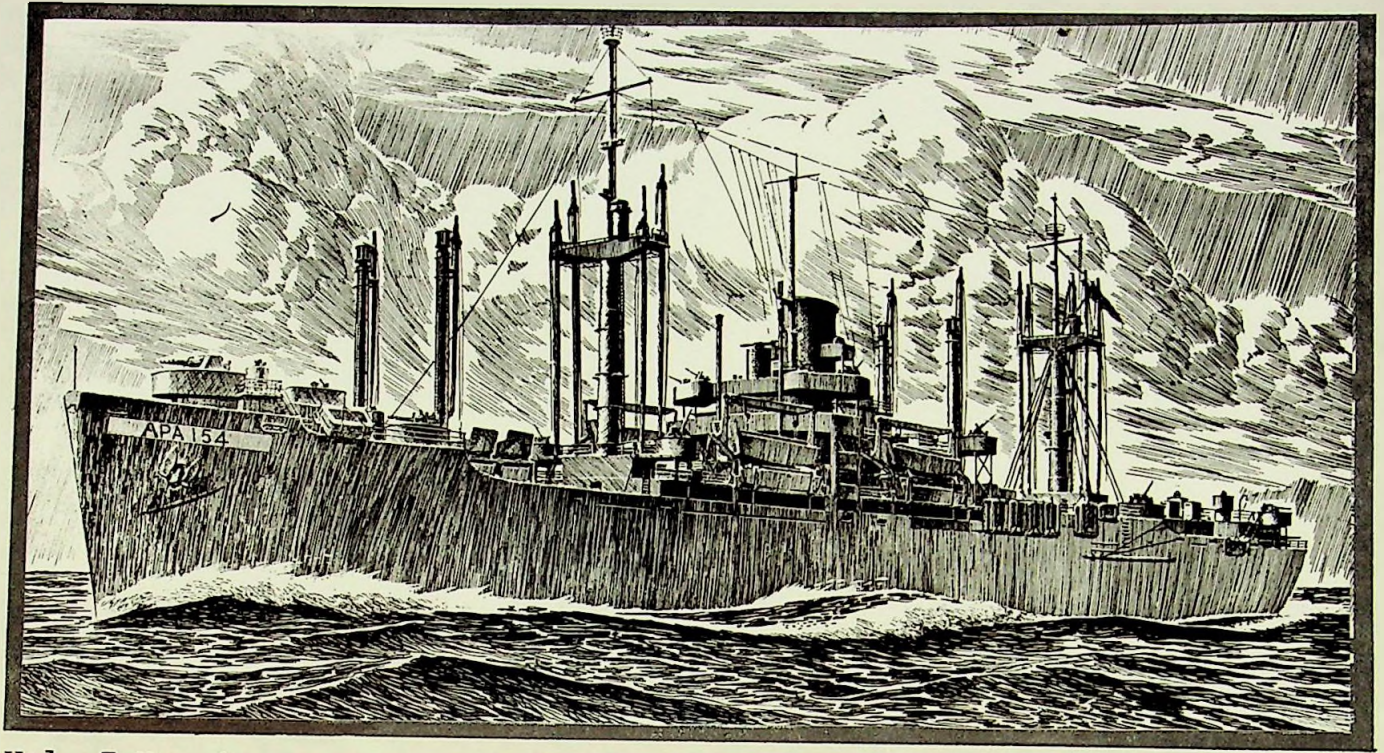


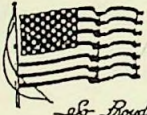
# USS LOWNDES APA-154



Vol. 7 No. 4

AUGUST 1995

CC&BW



USS LOWNDES - APA 154  
Wm. "Bud" Kautz  
34782 Hiawatha Trail  
McHenry, IL 60050

*Bob Rowdy  
We Sail*

## FIRST CLASS



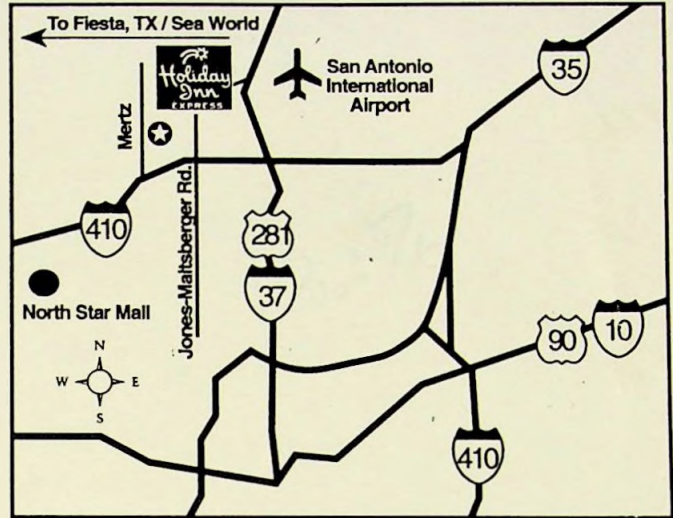
**U. S. S. LOWNDES -- APA 154**  
**October 5th - 8th, 1995**  
**SAN ANTONIO - FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS**

Holiday Inn Express Airport  
 95 NE Loop 410 & Jones Maltsberger Rd.  
 San Antonio, Texas 78216  
 (210)308-6700

Host & Hostess  
**Mike & Jerry Michalski**

\$59.00 1-4 persons, per room per night (plus 15% hotel tax. Room rate will apply to early arrivals and those staying over. Please be certain to mention U. S. S. Lowndes Reunion Group when making reservations.  
 Check in - 3:00 PM  
 Check out - 12:00 Noon

Phone 308-6700 for Airport shuttle service.



Notice to those coming to reunion via RV's. Closest to Holiday Express is Fiesta Kampground Kamp 6. 1326 Austin Hwy.(Business 81). San Antonio, TX 78209 (210)821-6494. \$12.00 daily (2 people).

Directions: If on I-35 exit 164 on Eisenhower, go west to Austin Hwy. Left 3/4 mile to Fiesta Kampground on left.

If coming in from the west on I-10 go east on North Loop 410, pass Holiday Exp., pass the airport. When reaching the Perrin-Bietel exit go right to Austin Hwy., go right approx. 2 miles. Fiesta is on the left just past 7 Oaks Motel.

If arriving from the East or Northeast get on 410 North Loop, go west pass the airport exit & continue Jones Maltsberger & turn right on Mertz St. Look for Holiday Exp. Inn.



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**U. S. S. LOWNDES REUNION ORDER FORM**

|  |                    | Amount Enclosed |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Bus to Admiral Nimitz Museum (Fredericksburg),<br>tour of LBJ ranch.                                       | \$25.50 per person | \$ _____        |
| Bus tour of San Antonio, Imax theater, river boat ride,<br>trolley ride, visit the Alamo, & Hall of Horns. | \$26.50 per person | \$ _____        |
| Banquet  | \$22.50 per person | \$ _____        |
| Please make checks payable to <b>Mike Michalski</b> and mail with order form to:                           | <b>Total:</b>      | \$ _____        |

**Mike Michalski**  
 8706 Mountainwood Circle  
 Austin, Texas 78759  
 (512)345-0694

Please respond by Sept. 1, 1995

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Following have indicated a desire to attend the U.S.S. Lowndes  
Seventh Annual Reunion in San Antonio, Texas

|                         |                          |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ed. & Agnes Bensie      | Dorothy Haling           | Frank & Frances Miller   |
| Fred & Roberta Brinkman | Jack & Evelyn Hovey      | Warren & Albena Proctor  |
| Sally Cary              | Dick Jones               | Art & Marjorie Rauseo    |
| Howard & Lois Chappell  | Frank & Dora Judnitsch   | Florence Richards        |
| E. Max Cole             | Bud & Jean Kautz         | Wallace Richards         |
| Jim Davenport           | John Lackey              | Bill & Virginia Robinson |
| Virginia Duncan         | Jack & Marilyn Laird     | Joel & Mary Rodriguez    |
| Stan & Mona Dunn        | Dave & Joanne Long       | Jim & Ina Mae Ross       |
| John & Lebby Dyer       | Don & Shirley Lorenzi    | Cliff & Mary Schaffer    |
| Carmel & Evelyn Fesi    | Don & Joan Macpherson    | Dallas & Lorene Stratton |
| Glenn & Millie Forgay   | Clark Martin             | Bill & Amelia Taylor     |
| Lawrence Foyt           | Ed. McKellar             | George & Glenda Tuppan   |
| Bob & Joyce Hail        | Connie & Jerry Michalski | Dan & Lera Wisdom        |
| Bill Haling             |                          |                          |

The purpose of the Memorial Wall at the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas is to remember those individuals who died in the Pacific War. It is often confused with a memorial to ships or units which served there. It is specifically to remember those who died. The other limitation is that it must pertain to ships or individuals, or units which participated in the Pacific War.

We will dedicate a memorial plaque in honor of Donald William Bowman and Norman Robert Richards on Oct. 6th. (See schedule on page 2. Cliff and Mary Schaffer have placed a plaque on the wall in honor of Mary's brother John Natysyn KIA in the Pacific. The commissioning pennant of the U.S.S. Lowndes will also be donated to the museum.

Condolences to Goldie Johnson - John R. Johnson passed away on April 11, 1995. He will be missed.

In the Navy Museum in Washington, D.C. there is a stature of BM Charles W. Riggins of the U.S.S. Baltimore who was killed in Valparaiso, Chili. This statue and two others was made entirely of 26,000 silver dimes contributed and melted down for this project.

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N O W Y O U K N O W D E P A R T M E N T

50 years ago last Easter Sunday Leo O'Brien and Arthur Rauseo were discharged from the Navy.

The hearts of Americans collectively pump more than 400 billion gallons of blood daily, equal to the flow of the Mississippi river at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Americans toss back 15.7 million gallons of beer and ale; that's 28 million six-packs. The bottles and cans from a day's drinking would fill a baseball stadium to a depth of 30 feet.

CONNIE MICHALSKI - Austin, TX - "In Convoy" One night while we were in convoy we had to stop our ship because of an unexpected vibration in the engine room. It took awhile but the cause was corrected and we got underway again - and so to speak -- put the pedal to the metal in an effort to rejoin the convoy. On the mast were small lights, red, white and green which could be programmed to flash in different frequencies or code for identification. The code would change at different time spans in an effort to avoid the possibility of the enemy using it. However, during the time we were stopped (we were later told) the gang in the signal room hadn't changed the code at the specified time, therefore when we did approach the convoy, it was night time and we were challenged by one of the other ships in our convoy. We responded with the incorrect code resulting in a 5" shell passing over our bow. Immediately our radio in the hands of our skipper advised them who we were. Their answer was "Get your signals correct, because we've got the next shell aimed right at you. Always, fun and games. Another night while in convoy I was on the throttle in the engine room when general quarters sounded by the announcement that two unidentified planes were approaching at 10 miles, then 8 miles and finally 6 miles when we got orders to stop engines. A message came down from the bridge that two ships at the rear of the convoy were really putting up a barrage of bullets. Shortly after the bridge informed us that one of the planes had been shot down, soon after, the other one was downed. after each announcement I would signal down to the man at the boilers to keep him informed. About ten minutes later the bridge advised everyone that the planes were ours and that a can (destroyer) had been sent out to search for the men. They were rescued and were OK. They had been on a mission and had been in battle with the enemy. They forgot to turn on their signaling device upon approaching the convoy that would let us know they were friendly and not enemy. So we lost two planes but no pilots. (file)

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WALT KARSON - Elk River, MN - Received our local newspaper and read two articles of interest. One was of the dedication of a veteran's memorial, a six sided piece of granite. Each side of the monument features an emblem of the five branches of service etched into the glossy black stone plus the **American Legion** emblem on one side. The second article was about a sailor that was on **Iwo Jima**. After reading this editorial I called him up and made a date to see him. We got together in the afternoon. He was just as glad to talk to me as I was to hear his story. He was with the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion Seabees. He Trained for the invasion of **Iwo** on our ship the **U.S.S. Lowndes**. As is known, we trained around the **Hawaiian Islands**. Just imagine, we were aboard the same ship and didn't know each other until we met 50 years later in the same town. He was taken aboard the **Lowndes** and treated for shrapnel wounds. After several days of good treatment and good chow he rejoined his outfit. They were sent to **Iwo** to rebuild the air runways so our bombers could land there in an emergency, on their way to **Japan** and returning. He said he was in the 3rd wave and when the ramp failed he went over the side into waist deep water and headed for the beach where all hell had broken loose. In battle he was a runner for a company commander. Small world, isn't it. I have now found a friend and shipmate who was on the good old **U.S.S. Lowndes - APA 154**. I'm sure we'll get together from time to time to compare notes of our time aboard ship. **Iwo Jima** book - great remembrances for the crew of the **Lowndes**. My wish is that all living shipmates of that great ship get to read it. (6/1/95)

JIM DAVENPORT - San Antonio, TX - "OKINAWA" We had a part of the Marine Second Division on our ship. We arrived April 1st, 1945 - Easter Sunday. We were a part of the greatest Naval armada in history! On that first morning our troops and the Beach Party made the fake landing on the east side of the island while the west side was assaulted by the Marines, Army and Seabees. As I remember, we were in **Buckner Bay** for only one night. It was a night to remember - pitch dark with smoke boats out and suicide planes droning overhead and plunging into the bay - hitting some ships and of course missing some. When we were topside we were ordered to lie face down on the deck and it was a terrifying time. As I remember, the next day it was decided by the powers that were in charge that they were not going to use the Marine Division at that time and our ship and the others that had the 2nd Div. on board were sent into the **China Sea** about 300 miles away where we ran into a typhoon. Do you remember the huge waves and the Marine's cargo breaking loose in the holds? Working parties were sent down to secure the loose cargo. It was pretty dangerous work. After nine days we went back to **Okinawa** and unloaded about half of the troops we had on board. was there about two days and saw many planes shot down. On April 15th we left for **Saipan** where we unloaded the rest of the troops, but not the cargo. On the 27th we loaded troops again to take to **Okinawa** but our orders were canceled and we went in again and unloaded troops and all the cargo. **Okinawa** was an unforgettable experience. It was the only battle in history where the Navy had more casualties than the ground troops.

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LYMAN NEDEAU - Baldwin, MI - As time goes on I hope to get more and more of the history of the **U.S.S. Lowndes - APA 154**. As for the reunions, it conflicts with our traveling in the spring and fall, to **Florida** and back to **Michigan**. If it took place in the summer or winter and near us it would be possible to attend. Have been doing quite a bit of big sail boating. To **Chicago, Port Huron, Mackinac Island** and ports in between. Even that is not as often as it used to be. It's a young man's job, and that I'm not. I believe I'm going to wear out one of these days. Our mobile home requires a lot of work to bring it up to date. Usually I walk about 7 miles every day (at one time did 10) and it was a 20 minute mile, now it's 22 or 23. Had I known I would live this long I'd have taken better care of myself. (4/18/95)

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LEO O'BRIEN - Malden, MA - Received a newspaper clipping from **Joel Rodriquez** with an article regarding he and **Dick Jones** citing experiences at **Iwo Jima**, interesting. **Joel** wanted **Jack Hovey's** address. In thinking of **Jack**, he was the coxswain of my boat along with **Carmel Fesi** and **Merrill Hart**. Don't remember who was the signalman or who was the deck hand, I was the MoMM. I wonder how many boats can be identified as to boat numbers and the names of the crew members. I have never seen such a listing and wonder if one exists, would it be worth the bother to try and find out through the News Letters? Something to think about. (4/12/95)

How about it fellow shipmates, Drop me (**Bud**) a line on this subject, maybe we can help **Leo**. Just a postcard should do it.

Your Name:

Your Boat Number:

Shouldn't be too difficult.

BILL THOMAS - Oroville, CA - Thanks for the Iwo Jima book. Don't know if I'll be able to make the reunion in San Antonio or not. (6/14/95)

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DALLAS STRATTON - Belleview, FL - We are going to Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone then north to Alaska. The 70 and older baseball team that I play on qualified for the Senior Men's softball world series tournament in Palm Springs, CA October 1st thru 3rd. We'll leave California and plan to be in San Antonio October 5th thru 8th. (6/12/95)

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JIM BUSSARD - Columbus, OH - Enjoyed reading the remembrances of "The Unforgettable Image of Iwo Jima". (6/1/95)

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MITCHELL CHASTEEN - Florissant, MO - For health reasons we can not make it to the coming reunion. Maybe the next one. Thanks to the News Letters keeping us advised on our shipmates. (6/9/95)

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JOE FREITAS- Gustine, CA - Sorry to see that the Texas reunion is in the first part of October. We will be busy with second picking of walnuts. and will not be able to make the reunion. If it was later in the month, fine, but plans are set for the first part. Hope everybody that is able to attend will have a good time. We hope to make the next one and see all next year if possible. (7/10/95)

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FRED BRINKMAN - Columbia, SC - Roberta and I took in the College Baseball World Series at Omaha, Nebraska earlier this month. Our southern teams didn't fare very well. The highlight of our trip was a visit to Nebraska City with Norman Richard's mother, Mrs. Florence Richards, and his sister Mrs. Virginia Duncan. Now in her nineties, Mrs. Richards is a remarkable lady. She guided us on a tour of Nebraska City. where we saw attractions such as the oldest public building, the Otoe County Courthouse. On this site is a Veterans War Memorial, where Norman's name is inscribed on a granite wall along with others from World War II who died in the service of our country. Mrs. Richards hopes to come to Texas with her son Wallace and his wife, and daughter Virginia for the \*memorial dedication ceremony at Fredericksburg, Texas during our 1995 USS Lowndes Reunion. \*Donald Bowman and Norman Richards have been a great inspiration to those of us who served with them and were with them when they gave their lives to our country at Iwo Jima. (6/19/95)

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#### ARE YOU TIRED?

The population of the United States is 245 million, 98 million over 60 years of age, which leaves 147 million to do the work. People under 20 years of age total 85 million, which leaves 62 million to do the work. Deduct 24,800,000 - the number in state & city offices, leaving 200,000 to do the work. There are 188,000 in hospitals, insane asylums, etc., so that leaves 12,000 to do the work. Now it may interest you to know that there are 11,998 people in jail, leaving just 2 people to carry the load. That's you & me, and I'm getting tired of doing everything myself.

So speaks Bill Davis of Portage, IN.

8/95-7

SCHEDULE FOR U.S.S. LOWNDES SAN ANTONIO REUNION

THURSDAY Oct. 5, 1995

1500 Check in at hotel & registration in Buena Vista Hospitality Room on 10th Floor.

FRIDAY Oct. 6, 1995

0600 - 0930 Continental breakfast.  
0800 Board bus for Fredericksburg & Adm. Nimitz Museum.  
1100 Be back in court yard by the memorial wall for the Dedication of U.S.S. Lowndes Memorial plaque honoring Donald W. Bowman & Norman R. Richards. Cliff & Mary Schaffer have placed a plaque on the wall in memory of John Natysyn (Mary's brother KIA in Pacific)  
1200 Lunch on own.  
1445 Board bus for tour of LBJ National Park & tour of Texas White House.  
1700 Board bus for return to San Antonio.  
1830 Arrive at hotel. Dinner on own.  
2030 Business meeting - Hospitality room.

SATURDAY Oct. 7, 1995

0600 Breakfast  
0800 Board bus to River Center mall. View "The Price of Freedom" (Imax Theater) & video of the battle of the Alamo.  
1000 River boat ride in the heart of downtown San Antonio.  
1100 Board bus to the site of the Alamo (where battle was fought).  
1130 A guide will give a brief history of the Alamo & a 15 minute documentary video.  
1200 Lunch on own. A ticket will be issued for a 1 hour 15 minute trolley tour through the King William historical district.  
1500 Board bus for the Lone Star Brewery, Hall of Horns, Fins & Feathers. Hoist a couple of free beers at the Famous Old Bar. See the home O'Henry rented for \$6.00 a month.  
1630 Board bus for return to hotel.  
1700 Arrive at hotel.  
1800 - 1900 Meet in Rio Grande room - Le Cess Poole. An express lane may be available. Enjoy singing group from 1921.  
1900 - 2100 \*Banquet, raffle & enjoy comradery. \*Anyone in need of a special diet please contact M. Michalski upon arrival.  
2100 - ??? Hospitality room.

SUNDAY Oct. 8, 1995

0700 - 1000 Breakfast & bid fond farewells until next year.

A more detailed schedule of events will be available at check in time.

JAMES G. DAVENPORT - San Antonio, TX - I came from Bandero, Texas, population about 900. While we were loading troop at Pearl Harbor I was standing at the rail watching them come aboard and saw Pete Heimen, a fellow Banderian come up the gang plank. He was in the Sea Bees and went on Iwo Jima the first day and survived the whole battle. Also on Iwo was my brother-in-law Wm. Manning, a Marine he came through The best I can recall, the Beach Party landed on Red Beach about mid-morning 20, Feb.'45 and had to carry all of our equipment to Yellow Beach. Things were fairly quiet for awhile but after awhile Jim Bussard was wounded very badly. There was a lull until late afternoon when the Japs began shelling our beach with mortars. I along with S. LaTender and about 10 or 15 other men were all in a large sort of hole (believe it was a shell hole) with sacks of Iwo "sand" stacked all around. It wasn't much protection. I told LaTender that I was moving from there and he agreed. I ran up to our headquarters where the corpsmen were, there was a foxhole large enough for three men. I was in it with \*Collier and \*Coleman, both of Houston. Shortly after I got in that hole I saw a mortar make a direct hit in the place \*LaTender and I had just vacated. After that it was a nightmare with shells raining all over the place. At one time I got out and went over a few yards to where the medics were and helped carry some casualties down to the beach where a boat had pulled through a break in the wreckage that littered the beach. On one of the trips a star shell lit up the night and I looked down and saw that the casualty I was helping carry was \*Darrel Easter, he looked like he was hit pretty bad. Often wonder how they made out. Those were three days that are quite foggy in my mind. I helped carry ammunition nearly all day from the beach up to a Marine artillery that was shelling the Japs. It was either the 2nd or 3rd day. I will never forget where I spent my 30th birthday, 21, Feb.'45. If the situation hadn't been so sad it would have been funny when \*Mr. Pinnell tried to call muster on our last day. When we finally got on board that LST I felt safe at last. We were in the mess eating a hot meal for the first time in 4 days, that was the only air raid that I can recall of the battle. It was a great relief to finally get back to the good old USS Lowndes - APA 154. Okinawa was yet to come.

Note: \*All members of the USS Lowndes Beach Party.

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EDWIN G. MCKELLAR - Waianae HI - Have a little story regarding a friend of mine, Harry Hawkins, who was with the 4th Marines, that we on the Lowndes took into Iwo Jima during WWII. Iwo Jima was his 4th invasion and there he lost an arm. I had known Harry for a couple of years before we discussed Iwo, which was just recently and he didn't remember the ship's name that took him in after the battle, so I related this story to him. The officer's wardroom on the USS Lowndes was used for an operating room. The Lowndes was a relief hospital ship and had run out of clean places on the ship to do emergency operations. We lived on sandwiches for a few days which we picked up from the officer's galley. One day at noon I felt a little hungry and was descending the ladder that came down between the galley and the wardroom. As I reached the bottom of the ladder and was about to turn right to the galley, a hospital corpsman emerged from the operating room with an arm on a platter, and calmly threw it over the side. I immediately lost my appetite and, for that reason, would never forget the incident. I told Harry that could have been his arm.

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BUD KAUTZ - McHenry, IL - I can add to the above tale. As I passed a sick bay I heard a Marine who just had an arm amputated say, "Oh well, I didn't want to play tennis anyway." Same guy?



DICK JONES - DULUTH, MN - At Iwo Jima our boats could take 36 men in and out several times. We lost our boat on the 5th day at Iwo Jima while bringing in ammunition to the beach. As we backed out they (a deck hand and a Motor Mac.) rolled the ramp up, but we shipped water. The line commander came alongside and said we should abandon the boat and he took us in to shore and told us to take the first boat we could and get out of there. We were on the beach for about an hour before we could get on a boat that came in. While I was on the beach I remember a guy following behind a tank, and the Japanese were shooting at it...and of course, we were there when the Marines raised the flag on Mount Suribachi. It was quite a moment to see that flag go up after all the fighting. I was 18 years old at that time. One night a group of between 20 and 30 boats were tied up together. The Japanese were known for sending out kamikaze swimmers out to attach explosives to ship hulls. All of a sudden somebody yelled, "Jap in the water!" But it was probably somebody dead floating around. All the boats scattered out in the ocean, We wound up getting lost. One of the crew was supposed to be on watch, but he fell asleep. The sea valve on the boat was stuck, and over the course of a few hours the boat began to sink. He had to dive down there and clean that thing out...It was pitch black that night. We were in the middle of the ocean it seemed like, and we could have easily drifted out to where we wouldn't have been able to make it back. We pumped the water out and the Marines were shooting up star (pyrotechnics) to light the battle front up. We saw it, way off, and we knew we were out there. We took off toward the star and made our way back. Most Marines in the landing crafts jumped into harm's way without hesitation. But, occasionally, there were those who were reluctant. It was a tremendous confusion going in there. The Navy was shelling the island from battleships. Shells going overhead like freight trains. Planes were strafing the island. A couple of Marines would not get out and stayed in the boat. It wasn't too hard to figure out why they were reluctant to go out there. I don't know whatever happened to those guys.

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JOEL RODRIQUEZ - Hidalgo, TX - I almost didn't make the battle at Iwo Jima. I was a little short of my 17th birthday in boot camp at San Diego and before we were out of boot camp they found out that I was only 16 and told me I had to be 17. They had checked with the church in McAllen, TX, so I told them to double check, maybe there was a mistake in the records. By that time, I was already out of boot camp and headed overseas. Also recalled that the Marines did not think much of the Navy boys, and the feeling was mutual -- until the fireworks started then everyone pitched in and did the job that we all were trained to do. Ed King of Cool, CA was the coxswain on my boat. The USS Lowndes crew spent an important part of our lives together and I'm glad we can still be in touch. When the flag was raised on Mount Suribachi it was a moment that signaled the defeat of the Japanese. "Yeah, that was quite a moment."

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JOHN A. VERNALE - Farmington, CT - My experiences at Iwo Jima as I remember February 19, 1945 was a beautiful sunny day and the planes and ships were bombing Mt. Suribachi. There were periods while the bombing was going on that Mt. Suribachi was obscured by the smoke by the smoke of the bombardment. We were circling for hours, finally we headed for the beach and had to go around the battleship, New York. We went around the ship and went straight for the beach. We were still close to the ship when they fired their 16" guns.

JOHN VERNALE (cont'd) - it was then that I knew what the end of the world would sound like, the concussion actually moved our boat forward. Our boat was carrying, 6 or 7, I think, when we hit the beach we lowered the ramp and rolled them off, the Japs were close and shooting at us. I looked over the gunwale and saw one Marine holding his arm and running as fast as he could to our boat. I saw sand kicking up all around him while he was running and the Japs were shooting at him. He dove right into our boat which was 1/3 full of water. We couldn't lift the ramp because it was full of lava ash. We backed straight out and when we were off the beach we washed off the ramp and raised it. As for the Marine, his arm was really a mess. I started to administer first aid, asked him to sit and while I was holding his arm, took out my knife to cut away the bloody jacket, my hand was shaking real bad, he let out a big holler and said his arm was cut up enough. He removed the jacket and I applied sulphur and a bandage. We dropped him off at a hospital ship. This happened on the third day and we looked for our ship. We were knee deep in water in our boat. We headed for the USS Lowndes. Our boat was being hoisted on the Lowndes full of water and when the boat was at ship's level, Bud Kautz jumped in and removed the strainer from the pump, it was full of sediment, and then the pump drained all the water out. I was a Momm and didn't think of doing that. Was ever embarrassed.

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JOE ERLANDSON - Rush City, MN - I remember Dickson and I were in a so called foxhole with others. I don't remember when, but Bowman came over the edge of the bank and stood there with a Jap's gold tooth in a pair of pliers. Don't recall how much longer after that when someone came by and told us Bowman had been killed. If I remember right, Dickson had been at Guadalcanal before Iwo Jima and was a little more stable than I was. I wanted to get the hell out of there but he held me back and I thank him for that. Fred Brinkman mentioned Jerome Freider getting a citation and he sure deserved it. Remember he was carrying and helping the wounded all the time. We were carrying ammo or something closer to the front in the middle of the night and he was taking care of the wounded in the rain. I believe some of us came off the island on the 5th day on an LST.

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GEORGE KINDLE - Tahlequah - One of the Jap mortars hit close to my boat, knocked me off the boat and I was unconscious. When I came to the enemy bullets were flying in the water all around me. one of the boat crew was Carroll Brown and another "Red" Sarten kept their heads and turned the boat engine off so it wouldn't drag me under the water and cut me up. They managed to get me out of the water and that was part of the Iwo battle. It was also quite a sight to see how the dead Marines were buried and seeing bodies floating in the water. One Marine lost his head and instead of hitting the ground after leaving the boat he started running and ran into a hail of bullets.

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ORBIE L. DICKSON - Mt. Pleasant, TX - Bowman came over to the foxhole that Joe Erlandson and I were in with a tooth held in a pair of pliers or forceps. He didn't have long as he was as busy as a cat on a hot tin roof. We did board a LST but had to wait until high tide the next day to leave the beach. The next morning some of us went back on the beach for a few minutes. That's when I discovered the foxhole Joe and I were in had received a direct hit during the night, killing all occupants. Another incident, not funny but comical, now 50 years later, during the heat of battle (2nd day I believe) I was down the beach when mortars started coming our way. I dove into a bomb crater. A Seabee dove in a second later. He was hit on his right hand between the thumb and forefinger. He stuck his hand over and I was applying pressure when a Seabee Lt. stepped up to the edge of the crater - referred to all of us as chickens, that the mortars were too far away to do damage. I said "Sir" and held up the boys hand. The Lt. turned white and dove to the bottom of the crater. I guess he turned chicken also.