

# USS LOWNDES APA 154 REUNION

OCTOBER 1997 NEWS LETTER



NINTH ANNUAL REUNION

October 23 - 26, 1997

PALM BEACH AIRPORT HILTON  
150 AUSTRALIAN AVENUE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA  
1-888-777-7256  
1-800-445-8667

FREE shuttle to & from airport to hotel. Shuttle near US Air or Delta baggage area. Look for phone.

WM. "BUD" KAUTZ - 34782 Hiawatha Trail - McHenry, IL - 60050  
(815)344-6326

\*\*\*\*\*

## Contents

Your guess is as good as mine!

\*\*\*\*\*

The following are planning to attend our reunion in Florida.

David & Modesta Brinkman  
Roberta Brinkman  
Jim & Carol Bussard  
Sally Cary  
Howard & Lois Chappell  
Jim Chilcote & M. McGrody  
E. Max Cole  
Frank & Joyce DuBois  
Stan & Mona Dunn  
John & Leby Dyer  
(Host & Hostess)  
Mike & Jo Ellen Dyer  
Pam Hennessey  
Dick & Roseanna Jones

Bud & Jean Kautz  
Don & Shirley Lorenzi  
Don & Joan Macpherson  
Clark Martin  
Connie & Jerry Michalski  
Francis & Frances Miller  
Jackie Minaghan  
Eileen Murray  
Leo & Margaret O'Brien  
Art & Marjorie Rauseo  
Cliff & Mary Schaffer  
Dallas & Lorene Stratton  
Bill & Amelia Taylor  
Walt & Jackie Umbarger  
John & Sally Vernale

---

WARREN PROCTOR - Jarrell, TX - Sure sorry to hear about Fred Brinkman. We are all getting up in age and each year there will be more passings. I'm doing fine for my age - will be 80 in November. I don't think we will try to make the reunion this year, sure would like to, see all of the gang again. I have a leaky valve in my heart and have to take medicine every day. Can't go out alone for fear of passing out. Don't have any pain, but need to take it easy for awhile. The people that lost their homes in the tornado building back up, it was terrible, so strong it took everything in its path. Unbelievable what happened. We were lucky that it missed our house. Say hello to the gang for both of us. Have a good time so I can read about it in a future News Letter. (See page 8 in the July '97 News Letter.)

---

After October 1st. John Dyer can be contacted at:

115 Sea Steppes Ct. - Jupiter, FL 33477 - (561)575-7191

DAVID LONG - Genesco, NY - Don't know whether we will make the reunion or not this year. We are going on a safari in Africa in September. (Note: Look forward to hearing about this trip and what trophies he will bring back. Get the hint Dave?)

---

JEWEL BROKENSHERE - Portland, OR - Here is another reunion coming up, unfortunately, Stuart and I will not be able to attend. Stuart became sick on Christmas Day, we took him to the hospital where they drew some blood for tests. An hour later they wanted some more blood and Stuart got up and walked around saying "They have taken enough." It took 5 big men to hold him down. He has been in a nursing home since January 9th. (We all wish him well.)

---

#### LOWNDES BOAT CREWS

Boat #12	Boat #15	Boat #19
R. Lemmons - Cox	J. Hovey - Cox	G. Kindle - Cox
O.A. Smith - SM	C. Fesi -	????? -
W. Thomas - MoMM-	M. Hart -	????? -
????? - Bow Hook	L. O'Brien - MoMM	????? -

Boat # 20	Boat #21
E. King - Cox	W. Proctor - Cox
S. Vlasak - MoMM	G. Kindle -
J. Rodriguez -	G. Dudash -
????? -	????? -

Can anyone out there in this broad country of ours add to the above? Or make corrections? Let's hear from you. Sure there were more than 5 boats on our ship.

---

#### WORLD WAR II TRIVIA

1 April, 1945 American Forces launched the invasion of Okinawa.

21 June, 1945 Japanese forces on Okinawa surrendered to the United States.

I am looking to start another booklet regarding experiences, feelings, etc. This time the topic is Okinawa.

H E L P ! H E L P ! H E L P ! H E L P ! H E L P !

---

To keep our roster current in this age of area code changes, please inform me of any additions or corrections.

---

New 'RUPTURED DUCKS' Available for WWII Veterans.

Apply to National Personnel Records Center,  
9700 Page Blvd.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63132  
(314)538-3071

FRANCIS MILLER - Kearns, UT - I've been pretty busy with the VFW convention here. As a delegate and marching etc. Just a line to let you know we're alive and kicking (barely). Frances and I will not be able to attend the reunion this year, health hasn't permitted us to do much traveling lately. Sure sorry to hear about Fred Brinkman passing away. It was an honor to have called him a shipmate. Average about three burials a week. Being on the honor guard has some odd sides also. Once, when the flag was presented to the widow she declined it saying, "I already have three of them at home." Another time a young man was killed in an accident with another truck. Instead of a hearse they used a 45 foot low boy trailer to carry the casket to the cemetery with the pall bearers kneeling alongside. His buddies were in the procession driving 40 tractors, at the grave site they blew their air horns in salute. (That must have been quite a sight.)

---

Francis also sent several pages from his "Memory Leaves" after VJ Day, Here are a few quotes from his fellow shipmates when leaving the Lowndes:

Ed. Benson - "Well, buddy, we're stateside bound at last."  
 Jim Carson - "Save your money for beer."  
 Vince Halbauer - "To a good "ole" Missourian a lot of luck."  
 Bud Kautz - " See ya at the Arcadia."  
 Russ. Pappenhausen - "Remember the old days at Radar School & Sad Sack Miller SM3c? Look me up after the brawl & we'll hang 1 on, roller skates & all."  
 Harry Ruether - "Remember me as a fellow member of the Clan Miller bash."

---

JOE & RETA FREITAS - Gustine, CA - Thought we had better write and let you know a few things about what we have been up to. First thing, we decided not to sell our place (Growing walnuts) as long as we are able to take care of it with help we will stay here. We have put in a mobile home for our working man and his wife. He will help us and be our caretaker so we can go and do a little traveling now. We have put a lot into it setting it up, it's a large mobile with 2 bed rooms and large living room, kitchen with all appliances. We will not be get to the reunion this year, but plan on going next year. Hope to see everyone again. On November 8th we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Sorry to hear about Fred Brinkman's passing. He was a very good and nice gentleman, we wish his family the best.

---

LYMAN NEDEAU - Baldwin, MI - Returned home from Florida after one of the worst winters in 15 years. citrus growers lost about half of their harvest, tomatoes were going for about a dollar apiece. Came back to Baldwin too early , entire month of May was cold. One good thing did happen last winter in Florida, Walt Umbarger called, he only lives about 3 or 4 miles from us and we were able to get together for coffee, just about drank up all the coffee, but it was great. I really enjoyed the session. I may get a chance to attend the reunion for maybe a day or so. Will see how Harriett is progressing after eye surgery in July.

---

On September 9, 1776 the term United States became official in a ruling by the Second Continental Congress. (It had been "United Colonies.")

MEMORIES

ELLIOTT PILCHARD - Port Hueneme, CA - Drills got to be routine...the Bo'sn would "pipe" the drill and say (for example) "This is a drill...this is a drill...all hands man your stations...this is a drill,"...and the GQ horns would blow. Well, comes the time that we're entering the 'battle zone'...Now, these are NOT drills, but the real thing. The first "real" General Quarters, the Bo'sn. pipes GQ but does NOT say "This is a drill - this is a drill", BUT says " This is NOT a drill - this is NOT a drill". As soon as stations are manned - they report. "Station #...manned and ready, sir". But a forward 40 did not report - the bridge called down and asked why - they said we are not manned yet sir, there's one man missing. A search party was set up and searched all compartments...a lot of work as all compartments are "dogged" down. They got to the compartment where the mess boys slept..sure enough the guy was there - asleep in his sack. His explanation. Sir, the Bo'sn said it wasn't a drill so I didn't go. He was right - in a way - The Bo'sn. did pipe GQ and say - "This is NOT a drill - this is NOT a drill - all hands man their battle stations - this is NOT a drill".

---

JOEL RODRIQUEZ - Hidalgo, TX - I want to compliment Ed. King on organizing the book he sent me. The pictures you added to this book brought back a lot of Iwo Jima memories as we all have great memories of. While reading this book it brought back memories of boat #20 "the Smoke Boat" and it reminded me of Okinawa and the dark nights we spent off the Lowndes, waiting to set off the smoke machine. As I remember, the four of us took turns at the steering wheel from dusk to dawn. It was a pretty scary feeling, when we received word that in the Philippines the Japanese were swimming under a box, from shore, and were attacking small boats - we were told to keep alert. We had a radio and a sub-machine gun. I'm not sure who got it, although I think it may have been Ensign Adams, since he was our boat officer. Anyway this sub-machine gun was kept very close to the guy at the wheel. I don't think I can make the reunion this year. I am co-ordinator for Las Vegas tours, and October is one of the busiest months.

---

MRS. FLORENCE RICHARDS - Nebraska City, NE - Received word that Fred Brinkman passed away on May 11th. I had sent a birthday card and a picture of Fred that Norman had in his book. I have felt so bad not knowing he was ill. He was good to me. Remembered me every Christmas for 51 years and letters in between. Fred and Roberta flew to Omaha and rented a car and came to see Virginia and I one day in the summer of '95. He seemed like a son to me.

---

SALLY CARY - Dalton, PA - Spent the month in Casa Grande, Arizona visiting my daughter, grand daughter and husband and my first great grand son. He was born on July 2nd so I got to see him when he was only 3 days old. I have set October 10th. as the cut off date for return of the raffle tickets. That way I can be sure no moneys will come in after I leave for West Palm Beach, Florida.

---

In 1836 a \$28 Million surplus in the treasury was divided among the 26 states. WOW!

ED. KING - Cool, CA - Joel Rodriguez mentioned in one of his letters, of drifting close to Mt. Suribachi, after thinking about that, we did. Several other boats did likewise. We were out in that area for 3 or 4 days. One at a time we took turns at the wheel while we drifted with the engine off. Every once in awhile the engine would be started & we would move to a better position, especially when we were under fire. Remember someone saying that we were lost, we couldn't get lost, the island of Iwo Jima was so small & all the shells and bullets were heading to or away from it. Every 3rd or 4th shell in our machine guns were tracers. I'm glad we didn't have to fire our 2 machine guns. We didn't go in for fuel but Vlasak kept checking it & kept me informed. We shut down the engine and waited for the demolition crews to clear the beach. The control boat had us wait for orders before going in, & that took a few days to get cargo nets in with supplies. I remember the guys that painted the number on the bow of my boat No. 20 changed the height of the lettering from the gunwale to the water line. When I asked them what they were doing I was reminded that we told after Iwo Jima we would be decoys to land on the other side of Okinawa & draw fire while the real landing took place on the opposite side of the island. I remember laying smoke as soon as the ship came to rest in the Okinawa area. We laid smoke for four days in a row. Also recall seeing many dog fights overhead - planes everywhere, Zeros (Japanese) suicide planes hitting the ships in the area, many being shot down - both American and Japanese. I thought there must have been 1200 planes in the air, our planes & suicide planes. There were boats & anything else they could throw at us. We have to give credit to the pilots of our aircraft. I don't know how many planes we lost at Okinawa, but it had to be a high number. Getting back to the Lowndes. as soon as G. D. Kindle's boat No. 19 and our boat No. 20 hit the water we started our smoke generators and began laying smoke cover. After we got the area fogged in we returned to the bow of the ship by the anchor chain. Layed alongside each other, of course we could barely make out the ship and we were only a few feet off. All of a sudden we heard voices from the topside of the ship. Someone mentioned that we didn't answer the signal by flashlight (red lens), we were supposed to answer with 2 flashes and 1 flash, only trouble was we weren't looking straight up. On the deck the gunners mates, I was told later, were spaced around the ship & told to fire on anything that didn't answer the proper signal. It was expected that the Japs would make an all out effort to get our forces in the water. We were very lucky that someone topside didn't have an itchy trigger finger. I think we had Marines aboard. A Marine officer was standing by me at the wheel & asked me how old I was, I told him I was 18 years old, didn't want to tell him I was only 17. He wanted to know if this boat & crew made the landing on Iwo Jima, told him yes. We talked of other things. Now that I know Joel & I were both 17 at the time, I wonder what that Marine officer would have thought. D-Day was 1, April 1945 for the invasion of Okinawa and we were there for 2 weeks. As I remember, the ship's crew was busy manning guns & a lot of planes being shot down & hitting ships & the water the water in the area. On 14, April we departed Okinawa enroute to Saipan, Mariana Islands. Also remember being in a typhoon and in the eye of the storm - we had to go out to sea ride it out. One of the quartermasters on the bridge told me the "Inclinometer" on the bridge showed 37 degree rolls of the ship, looking up at the sky I saw none, we were dropping into some deep swells. Heard that the winds reached 138 MPH in that storm. I won't be able to make the Florida reunion this year, but maybe the Hawaii one. Sending Bud a photo showing the starboard side of the Lowndes. (Note: This is a much better one than any others on file.)

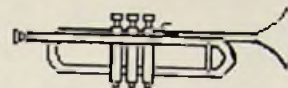
JOE ERLANDSON - Rush City, MN - At one time I was in the sail locker, which was by the after hatch - starboard side - when one of us decided to make some Raisin Jack or booze in a Coke keg. We got this from the Stores - it was a wooden keg they received Coke in. We blended a bunch of stuff - raisins, potatoes, and anything we could find. When it was done, I don't remember how long it took, we tried it out, after straining it. MAN, was that stuff stout. We proceeded to get loaded, then we decided to get some booze off the bum boats. We drew long or short to see who would go - I lost. My memory is real bad so I don't remember who anyone was there. It happened in Blacke Guzma's area. We found a way so I could get in one of the bum boats. We went ashore to another boat that was anchored out further - got out and bought two quarts of Kesslers for \$20 apiece. Went back to the ship, got aboard. The next thing I remember I was frying eggs in the Chief's quarters on the hot plate without a frying pan. Chief Swain came in about then. The next thing I remember I was up in Captain Perdue's office. He asked me how long it was since I made 2nd class, I told him, he said how long do you think it would take to lose it? I just stood there, so he said I wasn't going to lose it, but he did restrict me. If anyone involved in this remembers, I would sure be interested in what they remember because as I said, my memory is real bad. Wish we could make the Reunion, but unable to do so this year. Sorry.

(How about it? Can anyone enlighten Joe?)

---

E. MAX COLE - New York, NY - Sorry I have been out of touch for so long, but there are reasons. Like many of our ages, things happen - but not all bad. In April, I just finished a three month cruise around the world on the QE-2, ship just a bit larger than the U.S.S. Lowndes. Not as important, of course, and not as much fun. Was sorry we didn't hit any port the Lowndes did, except Hawaii, though we passed fairly close to Iwo and Okinawa but we couldn't see them. Since then I developed eye problems, so when I arrive come up close to me. I was pleased you printed my "Americus" in the April letter. Not having read it for a long time, it was almost like reading fiction. Memories fade, so it's a good thing I wrote all that down at the time. Making plans to attend the West Palm Beach Reunion.

# Taps



Just received word from Marjorie P. Moore, 1 Benjamin Rd., Mystic, CT 06355 that Kent Moore passed away July 30, 1985 at age 60 of emphysema and heart problems. For whatever interest it may be to anyone who remembers Kent, after the war he went to MIT and became a naval architect and marine engineer. After 2 years in the Cleveland area at American Ship Building Co., building ore carriers for the Great Lakes, he was hired by Electric Boat Company/General Dynamics in 1953, where he spent the next 28 years designing nuclear powered submarines as well as the NR-1 research vessel. We spent one year at Oak Ridge, TN School for Reactor Technology after which he worked on the reactor systems. Over the years he built some 10 boats ranging from dinghies and sunfish to a ketch and 3 sloops big enough to cruise on. We both loved the water and sailing. He also continued to play the clarinet by ear until his breathing difficulties. We had been married 34 years when he died, had a son and daughter, both a parent's delight, but unfortunately he didn't live to see and know his grandchildren.

---

Sam Hardy passed away January 27, 1997 after a brief illness. He is survived by a daughter, Robin and a son, Brook. No other information available.

---

Condolences to Bill Robinson, his wife Virginia passed away last March due to a massive stroke. Bill will not be able to make the reunion this year. But hopes to in 1998.


OCTOBER 23 THRU OCTOBER 26, 1997

PALM BEACH AIRPORT HILTON

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA  
TOLL FREE 1-888-777-7256THURSDAY - October 23rd

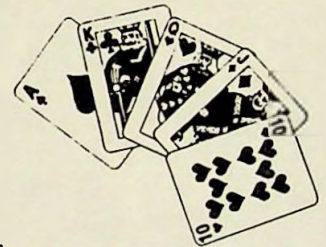
- 1300-1700 Check in & registration - Hospitality room 902.  
Dinner on own.
- 1900 Passes available to Kennel Club, if interested.  
Hospitality room 902.

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 24th

- 0930 Board bus for tour of Palm Beach with step on  
guide. Tour & lunch at Florida Culinary School.  
Dessert in lab. Flagler Museum tour - a history  
of Florida.
- 1530 Return to hotel.
- 1800 Dinner on own.
- 1900 Photo session - casual wear. 
- 2000 Business meeting Lowndes Uglies & Lovelies.  
Meet in room 901  
Hospitality room 902.

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 25th

- 0630-1000 Buffet breakfast at hotel. Tickets available  
for freebie. See John or Lebby Dyer.
- 1100 Bus leaves hotel for Viking Princess - buffet  
lunch. Casino & live entertainment.
- 1800 Return to port & board bus for hotel.
- 1900 Cash bar - Malayan/Coconut room.
- 1930 \*\* Banquet - Malayan/Coconut room.  
Raffle following dinner.  
Hospitality room 902.

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 26th

- 0630 Breakfast on own - Veranda restaurant in hotel.  
Buffet or order from menu.
- ???? Fond farewells until we meet again in 1998.
- Hospitality room will be available Wednesday thru Saturday.

\*\* Need special diet? Contact John or Lebby.







Mrs. F. J. Lundberg, center, sponsored the U.S.S. Lowndes Tuesday in the first swing shift launching at Oregon Ship in almost a year. Attending her were Mrs. L. L. Bennington, left, and Mrs. D. C. Walter, right. In the back row are their husbands, L. L. Bennington, day shipwright; F. J. Lundberg, day production worker; D. C. Walter, swing shipwright. Audrey Clark was flower girl.

## 4TH OSC ATTACK TRANSPORT GETS SWING LAUNCHING

(OREGON SHIP)—Swing shifters saw their first launching in nearly a year Tuesday evening, when the U.S.S. Lowndes, Oregon Ship's fourth Attack Transport vessel, slid into the water from Way 9 at 9:45 p.m. A huge crowd gathered for the occasion heard Lieutenant-Col. David H. Backus, ace of World war I and public relations and intelligence officer with Gen. Jimmy Doolittle's famous 12th Air Force in this war, describe American combat aerial experiences in Africa and Europe.

Launching honors went to the Shipwright department, one of the yard's heaviest bond-buying groups in the current Fifth War Loan drive, with Mrs. F. J. Lundberg, wife of a day shift production laborer, christening the Lowndes.

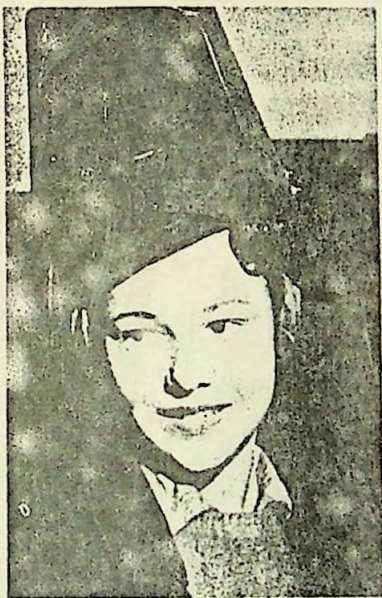
Mrs. D. C. Walter, wife of a swing shift shipwright, and Mrs. L. L. Bennington, wife of a day shift shipwright, attended Mrs. Lundberg. Flower girl was Audrey Clark, Mrs. Lundberg's niece.

The Rev. E. C. Salter of the Ardenwald Community church, delivered the invocation.

## Real Presentee Record

(OREGON SHIP) — Among OSC workers with outstanding presentee records is Otto J. Bobzien, swing warehouseman, who came to Oregon Ship on January 2, 1942. He has not lost an hour's working time.

## Exotic Rod Expert



(OREGON SHIP) — Pausing in the midst of his expediting duties to handle a Rosn's Whistle glamour scout assignment, Bob Delker, Brickmason's material clerk, discovered Lillian Kertzman, welder in Bay 2 of the Assembly, and returned with her photograph. "She's got everything," boasts Delker.

## Hull Control Blasts Their War Bond Quota

(OREGON SHIP)—The 38 members of Ted Dunkin's Hull control department have nearly doubled their quota in the Fifth War Loan drive, Dunkin reported this week. Their record has reached the 174 per cent mark.

# Expert Navy Staff