



NEWSLETTER

Of the USS REID Reunion Group

Vol. 5 No. 4

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Message from the President

With the events that changed all of our lives in recent days, it didn't take much to realize the changes that had to be made with our scheduled Buffalo Reunion. Several phone calls had to be made to Walter and Katy Fox and others in this unwanted decision.

As a group, we owe Walter and Katy a big "THANK YOU" for all their efforts for the planning during the weeks ahead of the reunion and for their understanding that the decision had to be made. None of us liked it, but it was the only thing we could do.

Most of those who planned on attending the reunion, were notified by phone on what we had to do. Unfortunately, some Reid members were already on their way by driving. We felt badly that we couldn't get in touch with them. Those who I heard from later, concurred with what we did.

I have heard from many by E-mail and phone who extend their thanks to Walter and Katy. By this time, all

should have their full refund for the banquet and side trips. Thanks to Walter and Katy for their efforts on this also. It was felt that holding these payments would not serve any purpose.

At this time, we are not sure where or when the next reunion will be held. Almost everyone I spoke to wants to reschedule somewhere. We need to come up with suggestions from you on this matter. When and where do you want to next one? There have been some ideas on this matter. Let's hear from you too.

I know it is not an easy thing to volunteer as a sponsor for the reunion. It takes some effort. But we will need someone for that also. So give this some thought too.

Let's move forward. The world is forever a different place. The flags, the patriotism, and the desire to put a halt to these attacks will continue. Young Americans will come through as our generation did back in the forties.

~~~~ Gordon Seastrom



# News from Shipmates

Dave Burke

Phoenix, AZ

The usually silent Dave Burke has been unusually communicative since the last newsletter. And thank goodness he has. It's a habit more of you guys should work on.

Writing before the September attack, Dave explained why he would not be at the reunion. "My daughter and husband have a time share at Barnsdale, near Oakham, Rutland, England. The couple who had planned to go with them had a mishap and they asked us to go instead. It is a wonderful opportunity for an old couple. .... In fact, Finn [and his wife] had talked about going [with us.] but then he lost his lovely Bettie."

Writing after the September attack, Dave reported, "Just as we didn't have the reunion, we didn't have a London trip either."

Dave sent along a picture and a new telephone number:



602-896-0309. The picture with the hat was taken after coming back from the Aleutians. At the time, his young cousins (not shown here) were so impressed that his ship had sunk a submarine that they offered to shine his shoes. He says the offer expired some time ago.

There also is a hint of a good story in Dave's past. He recalls that one set of grandparents migrated from Virginia in the 1800's and later took part in the land rush when Oklahoma was opened up to the pale faces.







## Mack Massa

Ventura, CA

Mack is a great source of historical information. He recognized nearly everyone in the front page reunion photo I printed in the last issue. I am reproducing it here so that the names he gave me can be associated with the picture. The picture dates from 1965 and Mack says it was taken in San Diego, at the Navy Picnic Grounds

**First Row with sign:** Frenchie Manckia.

**Second Row L to R:** Doug Salmon, Mack Massa, Aubrey Forsyth, Bob Sneed, Lemke, "Hubba Hubba" Glenn Woods.

**Third Row L to R:** Lou Horvath and Elmer Childress

**Fourth Row L to R:** Cowboy Terrill, Smudzin, Daniels, Bill Lambert, ?, and Frenchie Perrault.

**Last Row L to R:** Don Hynard and cannot make out the others.

Admiral "Mick" Carney, Admiral Joe Callaghan and Capt. Morgan Slayton were at the reunion but were not in the photo.

## Butch Marriott

3Los Alamos, CA

Butch says the reunion picture shown above was taken at San Diego Naval Training Center when Capt. Fletcher Hale was commanding officer there.

Butch said, "I won't make the Buffalo reunion. Don't travel much any more. Physically, I'm trying to hold my own. Tired of seeing doctors, taking tests. Just learning to live with it. Gave up booze, chasing women - everything except my coffee and smokes.

*[The picture you sent Butch, was too dark to reproduce. - - - Ed.*

Butch's sister, Martha Cranford, is a devoted fan. "He is very generous, humorous and a strong person." She writes that she is the youngest of 10 children. Butch is one of two brothers still living. Step brother Harvey Brubaker was killed on the Reid sometime before the ship was sunk. "Herb [aka Butch] has had a lot of tragedy in his life. Two sons were killed and a wife was found dead after WWII."



Calvert Sims

Hutchinson, KS

Since you haven't had any word from me, you might assume that I am six feet under.

Sorry I couldn't make the Buffalo reunion. It just didn't work out.

While visiting my sister, I felt lousy, so I went to the emergency room at the hospital. I was low on blood count and after a bunch of tests, I ended up getting four units of blood during my 3 day stay.

Whatever is decided on for the REID model is fine with me. It would be nice to have another destroyer named REID. Hope I live that long!

Enclosed is my check for dues.

Ed Emanuel

West Bend, WI

It's sad news that the reunion was cancelled, but I guess I'm relieved that I didn't find the wherewithal and rush off to the travel agency at the last minute.

I've been asked for my comparison of the NYC mayhem to the Pearl Harbor attack and I have trouble explaining how I feel about the demonstration of incredibly effective low cost weapons supplied to terrorists for no charge other than a few airline tickets. Having been through the Kamikaze ordeal, I easily sympathize with the families of the killed or missing, but the difference I see is that we witnessed other ships being sunk by suicide pilots and had plenty of reason to consider that we could also become a target.

But all of that was so long ago that many people either never heard of Pearl Harbor or have had 60 years to forget what a well orchestrated "surprise" attack can do in a very short period of time. So maybe this wake-up call close to home will make people realize that radical force response is necessary to prevent or reduce the very likely possibility of similar acts and more death and destruction. That's what had to be done after Pearl Harbor, but it took 3 years and the elimination of many thousands of enemy civilians. Hopefully our retaliation this time will be swifter.

Regarding your questions in the Newsletter, I feel Capt. Ziemba's offer to help by talking with people at the Naval Memorial, and Rufe's suggestion to give the REID model and artifacts to the Navy is the road to take while keeping in mind that the only two things guaranteed to be preserved forever are death and taxes.

Recovery [from heart surgery] is continuing well. Some days are better than others. There is one unresolved problem with a lung, but generally I feel there is improvement most of the time.

Mike Olson

Onalaska, WI

Well, how about that! Out of that hazy cyberspace the other day came this e-mail message referring to a shipmate never before on our lists in all these many years.

*"I am writing this e-mail for Mike Olson. I told him I would check for information on the internet for survivors of the sinking of Reid 369 . I e-mailed a person named Mack and he gave me your e-mail address.*

*"Mike Olson is alive and well and lives with his wife at 1314 Main St., Onalaska Wisconsin. (608) 783-3734. He was on the Reid's #1 gun when a plane struck along side, below him in the side of the ship. Mike said he had been working below deck passing up shells in the days*



previous to the attack and that a man on the # 1 gun had asked to switch spots with him several days earlier because of the loud noise of the gun."

I called Mike on the telephone number given. Mike was very pleased to hear from someone from his old ship. I asked him for some basic information about himself. Mike was born April 21, 1924 on a farm in Mendoro, WI. His number came up in early 1944 and he was sent to the Navy. He and 3 other Olsons came aboard in Pearl in August, as part of a fairly large replacement program. He was wounded when the ship went down. (I forgot to ask him about that.) After the war, Mike worked in manufacturing auto assembly parts and machinery, later in maintenance work at a medical clinic. He retired in 1989. He and his wife Mabel have 5 children and "many" grandchildren. Nowadays, Mike says, they are busy with "grampa and gramma chores."

I asked him to send along some sea stories and pictures for future issues.

## John Daniels

Bellflower, CA

John is now a patient in the VA Medical Facility - Blind Center in Palo Alto. I spoke to his wife Allie, a former Navy medical corpsman, and learned that some time ago John had surgery on both eyes that turned sour. He is now has 5 percent vision in just one eye. University specialists are trying to help stabilize and improve conditions. The hospital is a couple hundred miles from his home.



Mack Massa on the REID's shakedown cruise in 1937. Mack insists that the other person is a Greek soldier.

In the course of our conversation, I learned I had misidentified a picture of John and Allie in the November 2000 issue. The two in the picture taken at Frenchie's gathering in 2000, reproduced here, are John and Allie Daniels. *Mea culpa.* [I've got to stop working on the newsletter during happy hour.]

John could use some cheering up. His address at the hospital is: VA Medical Center - Blind Center, 3801 Miranda Ave., Bldg. 48, Room 104, Palo Alto, CA, 94304

|                |             |                              |                 |    |            |              |
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## BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN BARBER

By Dee Huff Barber



*Dee Barber has put together John's biography. It is written in the first person and very well done. It is more extensive and detailed than would be appropriate here, so I have given you a synopsis. In another sense, it is*

*incomplete. Dee has hardly mentioned herself at all and the story includes nothing whatsoever about his post Navy career. The sea stories are the ones Dee remembers his telling.*

John Barber's grandparents all lived in Italy in the Province of Avelino, Village of Paternopoli. The Barbieri family had three children, one of whom was a boy named Nicola. A neighboring farm family had a daughter named Carmela born about the same time as Nicola. They were betrothed as infants as was often the custom in that time and place. Many years later they would become John's parents.

Carmela's parents soon came on hard times and her father decided to migrate to America. Tragedy struck the family when his ship went down and he was lost at sea. The family had to separate to survive. Young Carmela was sent to a convent.

The Barbieri family in the meantime got itchy feet too. In 1902 they pulled up stakes in Italy and followed other members of their family to Philadelphia. Later moving to Pittsburgh, Nicola learned the cobbler's trade and eventually set up his own shoe shop.

Meanwhile, back in Italy, Carmela had grown into an attractive, well educated young lady at the crossroads. Should she take her vows as a nun, or should she seek her destiny with that little boy to whom she had been betrothed so many years ago?

She chose Nicola. Speaking no English, she pinned Nicola's name and address on her coat and set sail for New York. She made her way to Philadelphia where she had contacts and then set out for Pittsburgh to find Nicola whom she hadn't seen since they were 13. She knew he had a shoe shop, and she found one where the proprietor spoke Italian. He promised to take her to Nicola after he closed up shop. On the way after work,



he confessed that he was Nicola, now Nick, and had used the time to check her out before owning up to his identity.

Soon they were married and children followed, one of whom was our own John Barber.

One of the growing up stories that Dee has included illustrates the different views of right and wrong and punishment of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. John recalled a time in school when he was called up to the principal's office for some now forgotten mischief. "The priest took me up on the stage in assembly. He paddled me in front of all the students and teachers. I was so mortified. The younger kids told on me, so when I got home I got a licking again."

The early good times gave way as the Depression came on. John's father lost his shop to city expansion of a trolley line. One thing led to another. The family lost their home, and then his father had a stroke. The kids had to work and John gave up high school. When his father had a second stroke and died, it seemed that the family circumstances could go no lower. For a time they lived in a barn.

As the 1930's came to a close, John's mother married a man who gave her struggling family a home. John felt now that he could move out on his own. In 1940, he enlisted in the Navy.

John "graduated" from the Newport, RI boot camp in November, 1940. He then traveled by train to San Diego along with Finn Askildsen, Earl Barry, John Strand and Hank Antoni, all of whom had orders to the REID in Pearl Harbor. They reported aboard in February, 1941, just in time to make the U.S. Navy squadron's good will trip to Australia.

John remained aboard the REID and was a first class machinist mate working in the engine room when the ship went down. Although he lost all his clothes in the sinking and was virtually naked when he was picked up, John had not suffered any wounds. It was later, on the rescue ship, that he was hit in the back by shrapnel and spent a number of months in various hospitals.

In the confusion and multiple transfers that followed,



John returns from a TIGER cruise on the FFG30

the Navy lost track of John. His mother was notified that he was missing in action. When he later showed up at home unannounced, his mother fainted.

Before leaving the Navy in 1947, John served on another destroyer in China, made chief and developed high blood pressure. This sent him to his last assignment to a hospital in Philadelphia where the family first migrated from the old country and cousins still lived. At the hospital he met a Red Cross lady named Adelia Huff. They were married June 7, 1947.

Here the story ends that Dee Barber sent to me. We might well ask Dee, where is "the rest of the story?"



## Remembering

Betty Askildsen, Finn Askildsen's wife of 57 years passed away August 29, 2001. Her picture here with Finn was taken on the San Diego dock in 1998 on the occasion of the decommissioning of the FFG 30.

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## From the Ladies

Rose Pierce (Floyd) Poughkeepsie, NY

I certainly appreciate receiving the USS REID Newsletter. I reread it, hopefully to find someone who knew Floyd Francis Pierce. He was a plank owner on the USS REID 369.

I met Floyd in the middle of the Hudson River during the International Regatta - Boat Races in Poughkeepsie, NY. He was on the USS REID. When I came aboard from the launch it was raining. The sailors invited us down below to the galley for coffee. We accepted and later went topside to watch the races. 5 PM came and leave was cancelled. They left for parts unknown.

That was June 27 or 28, 1937. Floyd had my address and he visited me a year later - not a good writer. We married April 12, 1942 in Poughkeepsie. It lasted for 45 years until he went to his Supreme Commander in January, 1986.

Does anyone remember Floyd Pierce? I would like to correspond with someone who knew or heard of him. He was a very good person. It is so nice to know about one's family. We have no children of our own. Floyd never talked about his Navy life to me.

I am busy with veterans groups and the AARP. I belong to the Ladies Aux., Fleet Reserve Unit in Newburgh, NY and I have been a past regional president. I'm on dialysis 3 times a week, so I can't travel.

Enclosed is a small token of \$25 for your efforts and newsletter mailings.

*[Contributions are appreciated. All are forwarded to our Reunion Group Treasurer.]*

*Rose Pierce was featured in a recent AARP newsletter as an "85 year old dynamo who continues to be a vital force in many organizations." She is a retired postal employee.*

*Floyd was born in 1907 and joined the Navy in 1923. He came aboard the REID as a plank owner in 1936 and was transferred in December, 1938. He retired from the Navy as a Chief Boatswain's Mate in 1945.]*

Rita Braloski (Emil)

Arnold, MO

Dave Burke added a postscript to his letter saying, "I was so glad to see Rita Braloski involved with the newsletter. I was the only one who saw Emil wash overboard in a storm in the Aleutians. He grabbed a stanchion with super strength and pulled himself back on board.

Dee Barber (John)

Oakland, CA

Last week [Sept. 11] was just so terrible. We were packed on Tuesday morning waiting for the cab to take us to Oakland airport. We were scheduled on American for our flight to Buffalo. My daughter in law called to ask if we were watching TV. When we heard the terrible news, we knew that the reunion was off. The next one may find some fewer men able to make it.



## Josephine Lucente (Tony)Hollywood, FL

Tony passed away three years ago and Josephine was recently remarried to Tony's brother, who also is a Navy man. Her new address is: Josephine Lucente, 2428 Dickens Circle, Hollywood, FL 33021. She sent a contribution and "keep the newsletter coming. I enjoy it very much."

Josephine forwarded some photos of her husband and shipmates. Thank you very much, Josephine. I scanned them into my hard drive and sent them right back to you.

*(OK, all you other guys and gals, I put that last sentence in to remind you that I do return the pictures. I can be trusted with your photographic treasures.)*

Here is one of the pictures probably taken in 1943 with Tony in the middle and Walter Gamma on his right. Louis Vela is the third class squatting in the front row. Does anyone recognize the others?



## sea story

Hank (Ace) Kolsom recalls: "The search light 'penthouse,' as it was called, was actually a work shop under the after main search light. (I don't remember whether the controls were there or not, but I believe it was actually a workshop.)

"Anyway to get on with it, the electrical gang of (naming all I can remember) Adams, Walton, Smudzin and Hayes had rigged up an electrical hot plate. When we could get some eggs or cheese and bread, we would go up there and make toasted sandwiches. I was invited

up many times and enjoyed the extra chow, because ... back in those days we were always hungry.

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Some of you may have heard of the alleged recent directive by the Reuters News Agency to its reporters to eliminate judgmental language and maintain strict moral neutrality in filing news stories. In keeping with such a policy, the phrase "Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor," might be replaced by "an unannounced Sunday morning aerial tour of Oahu's coastline by Japanese pilots." - Taken from an article by Ron Nessen



Kreiglowa, Lowe, Jensen, Grove, Eastman, Englehart, Bob French & Frenchie Manckia  
Honolulu, 1939 — Picture by Mack Massa

## This and That

Not too long ago, in a telephone conversation, I learned that Bill and Marcia Pennington have been spending their children's inheritance on a round the world tour this past summer. That must have been a great experience.

Frenchie and Marie say they are willing to host another gathering at their place next year, if that is what the gang wants to do. Let's hear about where and when from you-all.

I am taking this issue of the newsletter to Office Depot for printing on their digital copy machines. I am hoping to improve the quality of the pictures. A test run looked fairly good. Several years ago, I was able to have the photos professionally screened for printing by a friend, but he has moved. More recently, I have scanned the pictures onto my hard drive and manipulated them for the printer. Reproduction has not been very satisfactory. However, it is the way to go, because I can scan in your pictures, send them right back to you, and still have them as a resource for the newsletter when I need them. So this issue is yet another experiment. If it's bad, you'll be sad and I'll be mad.

Bill Pennington pointed out that the last time I printed the reunion member listing I left out the telephone numbers for the men, but printed them for the

ladies. The All Men list is reprinted here with the telephone numbers. There's little change in the Ladies list, so I didn't reprint it. Area code numbers keep changing. Notice that my area code is 434 now, instead of 804.

Is anyone doing something special for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor?

Can those three pictures on page 2 all be of the same guy?

Gil Girdauskas writes that he is now in his winter quarters in South Carolina and will be there until June. He'll have a new e-mail address when he gets set up.

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