



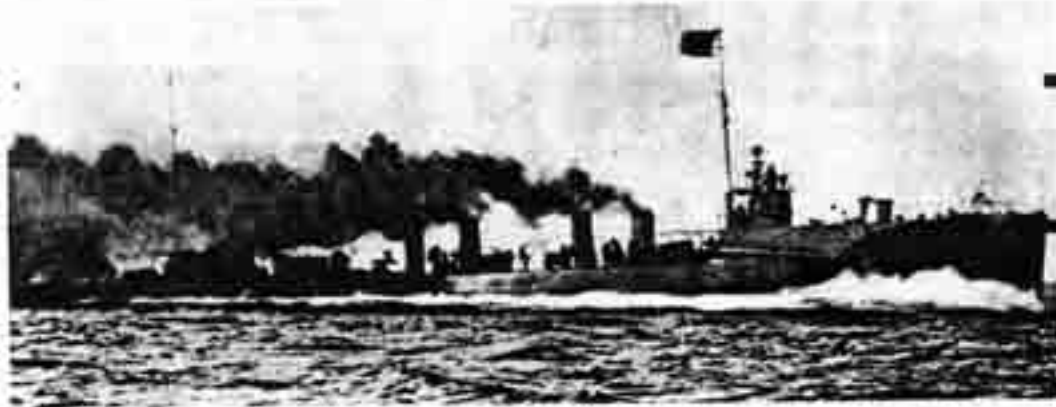
NEWSLETTER

Of the USS REID Reunion Group

Vol. 8 No. 3

September, 2004

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USS REID DD 21
Reunion

USS REID DD 292
Reunion



USS REID DD 369
Reunion

USS REID FFG 30
Reunion



FINN ASKILDSSEN

Redlands, CA

Finn's daughter contacted me saying that he has had unspecified health problems and won't be able to make the reunion. He is very disappointed and so are we. He will be sorely missed.

Finn has moved from his home to an apartment with a new address:

10 Terracina Blvd #119
Redlands, CA 92373
Tel: 909-748-0477

JOHN CHURCH

Surprise AZ



John Church 1940

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the June '04 USS REID newsletter. The article and photos of the WWII Memorial made me feel as if I were right there with you. "BRAVO ZULU," and of course I do enjoy the notes and photos of my long ago Reid shipmates.

Over the years I have had two heart attacks which resulted in my being no longer able to fly. I drive to the store and back, but I no longer attempt the freeways!!

Enclosed please find a check to be used in defraying

some of the newsletter expenses. Keep up the great work.

[In a second letter he writes,] I met my wife (Anne) in Hawaii and we were married in San Francisco. On 16 October 2003 we celebrated our 60th anniversary along with our four sons from Honolulu, HI, Colorado Springs, CO, Coronado, CA, and Peachtree City, GA, three spouses (one son not married) and several grandchildren.

Also enclosed please find a snapshot of Anne and me practicing our ukuleles. We are members of Keeney's Kool Kats, a ukulele band consisting of 23 ukes, one tuba and one "gut bucket." We play at retirement homes, schools, churches, military and fraternal clubs, single clubs, etc. A lot of fun.

We live in Sun City Grand, a Del Webb retirement community in Surprise, AZ.

Wishing you and REID survivors fair winds, following seas and smooth sailing.



Congratulations on 60 years.
Keep strummin'

[Red sent this letter to Gil Girdauskas along with a \$100 check to help with reunion expenses.]

My service on the REID was from April 1939, when I went aboard as a GM3/c, until June 1941, when I went to the USS MCCALL (DD400) as a GM1/c. So I was not a survivor. But the guys, Walt Smudzin, French Manckia, Joe Driscoll, Elmer Childress, Charlie Grantham, Nick Shuman, Art Bish, Bill Blaha and [others I can't remember] who were at the first reunion here in San Diego, made me a "guest member" of the survivors group. It was an honor that I appreciate more as each year goes by.

Enclosed you will find a check which is just a small "thank you" for all the years that I have been allowed to remain on the roster, especially for the newsletter, which I appreciate more as time goes by.

We, Pat and I, cannot attend the upcoming reunion, partly for financial reasons, but mainly because of the horses, sheep, goats, rabbits, chickens, geese, dogs and cats we have a hard time finding a sitter for. Also the wild creatures that we look after around the place.

Please use this check towards the reunion expenses.

I called Art to ask him for a bio and some pictures. He promised he would send something in soon and he said, "If I promise something, I will do it!" If he doesn't promise, then maybe.

Here's a few extras about Art that He passed on to me on the phone: Art dropped out of high school and joined the Navy in 1936. He was lucky to be accepted because he was at the minimum height, 5'4". (He may have been still growing. I didn't ask him how tall he is now.) He made Chief later in the war and then moved up through Warrant Officer and was an Ensign when he transferred to the Naval Reserve. He was called up during the Korean War and left active duty again as a Lieutenant.

Later as a civilian, Art worked for a number of years

DEE BARBER (JOHN) Oakland, CA

Dee recently filled in the blanks in a story that Butch Marriott alluded to in correspondence some time before he passed away. The story involved an altercation between John Barber and Chief Horvath. At our advanced age, we can now look back, smile and enjoy the retelling of such stories.



**John Barber
the Combatant**



**John Barber
the Conciliator**

Dee writes, "I didn't write it in John's story because he was sorry that the incident happened. He said that he went into a bar (on liberty, I'm not sure where.) When he got there the Chief was sitting at the bar. John always liked to wear his sailor hat at a jaunty angle. The Chief said, "Sailor, square your hat." John ignored him. The Chief said it again and flipped the hat across the room. He then said, "Go get your hat." John said, "You go get it. You knocked it off." With that, the Chief started to hit John.

John had fought in the Golden Gloves competitions and the Chief had fought in Navy competitions, so they really got into it. They fought on the way back to the gig. They fought in the boat, and they fought in the engine room. The officers closed the hatch and let them go to it. When they were both too exhausted to fight any more, or the drinks wore off, they quit. They were never brought before the mast.

When we were in San Diego years later, we went to see the Chief and John apologized. The men shook hands. John said that he should have just picked up his hat and left. That would have avoided the situation."

HANK KOLSOM

Eatonton, GA

The young lady is my granddaughter and the other lady is my wife of 59 years.

I sent you some pictures taken at the World War II memorial celebration that the Township of Eatonton, GA put on for the Veterans.



Norma and Hank Kolsom with granddaughter. Hank decided not to reveal his granddaughter's name or telephone number.

They have erected a granite slab in honor of the World War II veterans and asked all Veterans to come and be recognized. As you can see by the photos I got my Pearl Harbor Survivor clothing on and went to be the person of the day. In a town of Army people a sailor is sort of a strange person. There are a few more around but they are hard to come by.

I ended up by having my picture taken by a CNN man and by several local papers and have been interviewed about my Pearl Harbor experience.

BILL TERRY

White Oak, TX

Our e-mail address has changed. It is <bmterry@tiagris.com> now.



Follow



Tulsa Reunion 1980's?? I recognize Bill Alford, John Gallup, John Barber, Dallas Foley, Peter O'Neill, Frenchie Manckia, Walter Fox. Who are the others?



It's
a
stretch
to fill up
12
pages

This is the other half of the Tulsa picture. I recognize Finn Askildsen, Don French, Jim Bryson, Bill Pennington, Mack Massa, Dick Woll, Cal Sims, Rufe Porter, Blackie Blackwell and Bill Terry. The others? Tell me at the reunion.

REMEMBERING

Adolph (Abe) Viegelmann San Jose, CA

Abe Viegelmann passed away on June 8, 2004. He was 91.



Abe holds a picture of the REID painted by a neighbor

Abe was born on Long Island, NY in 1912 and joined the Navy in 1930 at the age of 17. He was sent to China and served in the Asiatic fleet with Van Trees. Both men returned to the States and were subsequently assigned as members of the commissioning crew of the DD369 in 1936. Abe came aboard as a Machinist Mate2/c. He left the Reid in 1938 after being appointed Warrant Machinist. In his bio he states that, "I had the honor and distinction of being the first W.O. appointed from the crew of the DD369."

Abe went on to serve on many ships and moved up the ranks, retiring with 30 years service as Commander. His favorite ship of all that he served on, according to his wife Wyvonna, was the USS REID. His second favorite thing was playing golf, and he combined the two as the picture shows.



After retirement, he went to work at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley, CA. There he worked for 14 years with precision instrumentation and on the construction of the nuclear accelerator.

I had a brief and cordial conversation with Wyvonna on the telephone. She was a Navy nurse when they met. She said they were married in 1939 after a quick courtship of only six weeks. In a subsequent letter, Wyvonna wrote, "He spent the last three months at the wonderful VA Hospital in Palo Alto, where he received wonderful care. ..."

"I know all his shipmates called him "Abe," but some how in our 64 years together I always called him by his name 'Adolph.' He was a great guy and I sure miss him."

Wyvonna sent along some pictures together with a contribution for the newsletter in "Memory of Adolph." Thank you, Wyvonna.

Alfred Gallant

Oxnard, CA

Mack Massa wrote to say that he saw an obituary notice in the paper that Alfred Gallant had passed away. He was 86. Gallant was a plank owner on the Reid and a Fireman. Mac said, "He was a member of the company in Boot Camp in Newport, R.I. that I went through. . . I plan to visit his home and convey the Reid's members sympathies."



Several years ago, someone identified this picture as Gallant.

Gallant evidently was never a member of the Reunion Group. Based on my roster information, he probably was transferred from the Reid in 1939.

His obituary provides the following information: He was born in Attleboro, MA, enlisted in the Navy in 1936 and came aboard the Reid with the commissioning crew later that year. It appears from the obituary that he left the Navy in 1940 and became a precision grinder, a skill that carried him through much of his working career, mostly in California.

By Tom Blow

Marie Manckia passed away suddenly at her home on August 2.

Frenchie called a week or so after the fact to convey the sad news. He said that just before leaving for dinner out, Marie said she felt ill and sat down in a living room chair. She spoke not another word. The rescue squad rushed her to the hospital. There was nothing that could be done. She evidently had a brain hemorrhage. A memorial service was held at their house with over 300 family and friends attending.



Marie and Frenchie at their wedding reception - 1998

In the relatively brief time that we have known her, she seemed the friend of all whom she met; projecting a pleasant and positive influence on any gathering. Frenchie was lucky to have found her and we were fortunate to have known her.



WWII Memorial
on a summer's night,
looking east toward the
Washington Monument



It was in nineteen hundred
and forty four
That Reid met her fate
off Leyte's shore,
Her gallant crew who had
dared death thus far,
Were finally overwhelmed
in a violent air war.
Kamikazes strafed the bridge,
crashed off the bow,
Seven planes attacked and
her time was now,
The magazine burst and
helpless at last,
She sank 'neath the waves,
with colors at full-mast,
So, Mates, let us mourn
those brave men who died
And give a loud cheer
for those who survived.
Oh, may the name "Reid"
be ever preserved
And the names of those men
who so valiantly served.

Sea Story

By Doug Rennison (FFG30) Napa, CA

[Rennison is the first veteran of the USS REID (FFG30) to come forward to join the Reunion Group since the members voted in 2002 to invite the FFG veterans to become members. He was welcomed in the last issue. He sent in this story which is timeless in Navy lore.]

After the FFG 30 was commissioned in February 1983 in Long Beach CA, we began shipboard damage control drill exercises in preparation for eventual underway certification. The ship's DCA (damage Control Assistant) Ensign Boncal, a brash but energetic officer (who was "George" of the wardroom; it was engraved on his collar devices,) was in our duty section. He thoroughly enjoyed running the IET drills and stressed the need for all hands to conduct these drills as if they were the real thing.

We were told repeatedly to try to prevent any damage to material or spaces on our "pretty new ship" during these drills. Therefore, each IET team was to have an observer/coach who would accompany the team. Mr. Boncal usually accompanied the team and would instruct them in the nuances of fighting a fire.

One duty night, our section was awaiting the usual IET fire drill, which was scheduled around 2000. On the call of the drill we all converged on the DC locker and were given our assignments. The investigator was given his OBA and his "simulated" oxygen canister and sent off. Upon his return, we were told that there was a class Bravo fire in AMR #2. BM2 Herring and I were assigned to a fire hydrant about 20 feet aft of AMR #2 as hose tender and valveman. Herring unlimbered the hose for the nozzleman and I stood by the water valve. Ensign Lunak, with clipboard in hand, acted as observer and stationed himself by my hydrant. (Mr. Lunak was an LDO and our electronics officer who had been a senior chief ET. So all this DC stuff was old hat to him. He was also the "Bull" ensign of the wardroom. "Bull" was engraved on his collar devices.)

Mr Boncal followed and coached the hose team into AMR #2 with the term "simulate" being used constantly. There came an order to "charge the hose!" Not hearing the word "simulate," I turned to Mr. Lunak and said, "He didn't say "simulate," sir." A big grin spread over Mr. Lunak's face as he said, "So, charge the hose,

Rennison!" Thinking that here was a SNAFU in the making and enjoying the moment, I spun the valve wide open and expected to hear the order "simulate" to follow. It did not.

Moments later, we heard shouts of surprise and laughter. It seems that Mr Boncal had been assisting GSM1 Moffett in defining the "simulated" fire. At some point, he directed the nozzleman to apply what he expected was "simulated" water to the "simulated" fire. Moffett got doused with fog spray from the applicator nozzle, and Mr. Boncal took a full stream of 90 psi cold sea water from the other nozzle directly in the chest, knocking him down, causing his glasses to fly halfway across the compartment and knocking the lenses out the frames.

Everyone around my hydrant "deplored" the unfortunate mishap. Mr. Boncal, with fire in his eyes (not simulated,) madder than a wet hen, charged up from AMR #2, verbalizing loudly all the way. Mr Lunak stepped forward with his hand up in the classic "stop" sign, said, "You didn't say "simulate!"

MACK MASSA

Ventura, CA

All is well here except that I recently had a carpal tunnel operation and have to wear a darn sling for about another 4 or 5 weeks, day and night. Anyway, it is coming along well.



Take care, I will not be able to attend the Reunion, so give everyone my best.

The firing
has ceased.

It is now
safe
to enter
Charleston.



Search for cannonball damage
at the USS REID DD369 reunion
October 11 - 13



Reunion Banquet Program

Our Featured speaker at the USS REID Reunion banquet will be Rusty Pickett a career Naval officer with over 26 years as a Submariner.

Russell A. (Rusty) Pickett commanded the nuclear attack submarine USS MENDEL RIVERS SSN 686, served in many other posts ashore and retired with the rank of Captain in 1998. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Yale University and has a Master of Business



Administration degree from Charleston Southern University. He is President of the South Carolina Chapter of the Naval Submarine League and a member of the Navy League of the United States.

He is the owner of the travel agency Shellback Cruises of Charleston, SC. and has been of great assistance to our President, Gil Girdeuskas in the planning for the USS REID 2004 Reunion. He will join us at the banquet by invitation and has agreed to speak to us at that time.

Reunion Program

Monday, October 11:

Register, Hospitality Room opens.
Dinner on your own.

Tuesday, October 12:

Historic Charleston Tour 9:00 - 11:30
Boone Hall Plantation Tour 14:00 - 16:30
Business Meeting 17:15
Dinner on your own

Wednesday, October 13:

Naval Museum Tour (optional) 9:00 - 13:00
(Includes USS Yorktown, USS Clamagore,
USS Laffey, USCG Ingham)
Fort Sumter Tour (optional) 14:00-17:00
Dress Up Photo Session 17:30
Happy Hour - Cash Bar 18:00
Buffet Dinner 18:45
Program follows

Hospitality Room:

- ☉ Opens Monday, October 11.
- ☉ Coffee, tea, juice & doughnuts provided in a.m.
- ☉ Cooler, ice, wine, soft drinks, cups, napkins provided.

What to Bring?

- Scrapbooks to share.
- Old WWII vintage pictures - bring them all!
- Your USS REID hat.
- Camera, binoculars.
- Coat and tie for the banquet & group picture.

Business Meeting - Tuesday 17:15

Agenda

- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Old Business
 1. Combining with FFG veterans
 2. Joining with other reunion groups
 3. Transfer of Reid model
 4. Other old business from floor
- New Business
 1. Next Reunion: Who? When? Where?
 2. Other new business from floor
- Report of Nominating Committee
- Election of officers
- Adjourn

USS REID REUNION GROUP
c/o Len Gardner
3 Cove Circle
Palmyra, VA 22963

FIRST CLASS

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