

# KEAR SAGA<sup>II</sup>

*The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association*

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FALL

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

1996

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## 1998 CORPUS CHRISTI REUNION

Work on the 1998 reunion has begun, with a tentative date of April 29th to May 2nd. We will let you know when we have a hotel contract, but the reunion will take place around this time period (a couple of weeks before or after). Lewis "Mac" McGaffee, who lives in Corpus Christi, has agreed to be our local reunion coordinator. Bruce Covington and I did a sight visit to Corpus Christi in November and we feel this is a great area for our next reunion; a very friendly city, with a lot to see. The USS Lexington is docked there as a museum and is open for self guided tours. Since it is an Essex class carrier and was built like the USS Kearsarge CV 33, walking around on her decks brought back a lot of memories for both Bruce and me. At this time we are planning to have our dinner dance on the hangar deck of the Lexington. We will have a theme of "Nautically Casual" for the dinner so you may want to shed a few pounds and try to fit into your old uniform or make a visit to the Army-Navy store and find something that will fit. Start making your plans to attend the 1998 reunion!

## USS LEXINGTON MUSEUM

Judith Whipple, USS Lexington Ship Historian, has offered to set up a USS Kearsarge room aboard the Lexington to display all types of Kearsarge related items. Members would donate items to the museum such as memorabilia, artifacts and related items. Items donated would be used for exhibits, research, as an aid in the enhancement of the ship and would become the property of the museum, however items displayed would show the donor's name. If enough materials are collected for this room, the museum will have the dedication at the time of our reunion with full press coverage. (We will probably be setting up another room at a later date aboard the USS Hornet located at Alameda, California. Members who live on the West Coast may wish to wait and donate to this museum.) For more information call or write me: John Bennett, 815 Savannah Dr., Columbus, OH 43228-2944 Phone 614-272-6842

## MARINE DETACHMENT

The Marine Detachment of the Kearsarge CV, CVA, CVS 33 will be holding a reunion/convention in New Orleans July 31 to August 3, 1997. For more information on this event contact H. Hoppe III at PO Box 1775, Slidell, LA 70459. You would be staying in the French Quarters with the finest of restaurants and tours of your choice..

## USS SARATOGA

The USS Saratoga Reunion Association is looking for former crewmembers (Ships Company, Air Wings and Marine Detachment) of CV 3, CV 60 and CVA 60. Call John Brandman at 1-800-328-6279 for more information.

### DONALD K. ROSS COMMISSIONING

You are invited to attend the commissioning of the DONALD K. ROSS at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The ship is named after Donald Ross who was a junior Warrant Officer aboard the USS Nevada during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Ross earned the Medal of Honor for "extraordinary courage and disregard of his own life during the attack."

Ross was presented the medal by Admiral Chester Nimitz on April 18, 1942 and was commissioned Ensign in June 1942. He remained aboard the Nevada until 1946 and participated in the landings at Normandy and Southern France.

Donald Ross served as the Main Propulsion Assistant during the recommissioning of USS Kearsarge CV 33 in February 1952 and advanced to Chief Engineer in 1953 and served in that capacity until 1956. Captain Ross retired in 1956 after 27 years of consecutive active duty aboard every type of surface ship then afloat.

Having worn the Medal of Honor longer than anyone then alive, Donald Ross had the honor of introducing President Bush at the 50th Anniversary Ceremony of the Pearl Harbor attack.

On December 7, 1992 President Bush authorized the building of the USS ROSS (DDG 71), the tenth of the Arleigh Burke Class of Aegis guided missile destroyer. Construction began April 22, 1994 with the keel being laid on April 10, 1995. The ship was christened on April 20, 1996. The commissioning will be in early 1997.

I found the christening to be a very moving experience, and I'm sure that all of us who knew Don will want to be a part of the commissioning of the USS ROSS. CDR Jeffery R. Ginnow, Prospective Commanding Officer, has assured me that every former shipmate desiring an invitation to the commissioning will get one. If you are interested please write to

Prospective Commanding Officer  
USS ROSS (DDG 71)  
Ingalls Shipbuilding  
Pascagoula, MS 39568

William Waller Jr., Second Division Officer, '52

### MONTANA KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Dear Shipmates,

Over the years I have become involved in various programs and projects that I felt were important enough to work on a personal basis and to also ask my friends and business associates to support.

**I believe the Montana Korean War Memorial is one of these projects.**



The Korean War began 25 June, 1950 and continued until 27 July, 1953 when an armistice was signed. During the war 54,246 Americans were killed; 10,3248 were wounded; 8,177 were listed as MIA's; 7,000 were POW's (51% of the POW's died in POW camps) and 389 were unaccounted for.

To this day however, there remains a void when remembering the 137 Montanans who gave their lives in the Korean War. This project will correct that oversight.

Your help with a contribution will insure the completion of this memorial which will be dedicated on 14 June 1997, Flag Day, in Rose Hill Memorial Park. Contributions of \$500.00 or more will be acknowledged in granite near the memorial.

Please pass this information on to friends, relatives or anyone else who you think might be interested in this project.

Contributions should be made payable to The Montana War Memorial Project and mailed to Don Trenary, Treasurer, C/O First Security Bank, P.O. Box 4506, Missoula, MT 59806

Signed

C.E. Crookshanks

Ltjg, V-7 Div. and Operations, '53-'56

## HONG KONG TAILOR MADE BLUES

One New Years Eve in Japan a long time ago (1955) I went ashore with a couple of shipmates to celebrate the New Year. I felt great and had plenty of Yen in the pocket of my brand new Hong Kong Tailor Made Dress Blues. They were made of the latest blend of material the Chinese tailor could get, so he told me.

Well the evening went on with drinking, dancing, singing and some more drinking. Midnight came and passed on into the New Year. All the good time I was having began to make me light headed and a little bit "STINKO". I needed some fresh air to clear my head, so outside I went. In my condition I shouldn't have been out in public but as fate would have it, in the dark of the night I stepped off the walkway and yes, right into the "Honey Ditch". Well you can imagine my concern for my shoes and most assuredly my brand new "blended material tailor made blues".

I remembered, I think, the building next door housed our famous "Hot Bath and Rub Down" parlor. So in I go, past everyone in the place, leaving a trail of substance and proceeded to jump into the hot bath to cleanse my outer self. They must have just filled the deep bath with "HOT" water as I came out faster than I went in. Then Mama San got on my case about the substance not only on the floors but now floating on the top of the bath water. I turned and saw a familiar face in the crowd that had gathered. Could it be, yes my lady friend from the party next door. She said a few words to Mama San that ended with "Hefty Hive Hunred Yen". The young lady put out her hand and I handed her a roll of yen from the pocket of my beautiful wet "blended material Hong Kong tailor made blues". When everyone was satisfied she led me back to the party. Shortly after that I passed out.

When I woke up the next morning all my clothes were gone and in their place was "Mitchico". She had taken my clothes, washed them and hung them up to dry. When it was time to get dressed and return to the party still going on downstairs, she brought me my dress blues.

My heart started pumping very hard, my eyes popped wide open because in her hand she was holding a pair of navy blue knickers that would fit a ten year old boy. I screamed in horror, "What has happened to my Blended Material Hong Kong Tailor Made Dress Blues???"

Rod Amelotte, B Div., '54-'55

## ATTENTION ALL HANDS

I became aware of the San Diego reunion quite by accident as I approached a customer in the Wal-Mart store where I work. The customer turned out to be Francis "Smitty" Smith who was wearing a Kearsarge hat. We started talking about "when" and "where", and he brought up the reunion in San Diego. We became friends (he was aboard years before me) and he loaned me an association roster and book from the previous reunion. I joined the Kearsarge Association immediately.

Afterwards I mentioned the reunion to an old friend and shipmate in a Christmas card that I sent him and he joined shortly after that. Since then I have tried unsuccessfully to reach a couple of other shipmates. That is the reason for this letter.

As I said, Smitty loaned me a copy of the association roster, and after looking it over I realized that there are many states, towns and cities represented on the roster. I even found someone from my old hometown. In each of these areas each member has an opportunity to make the association grow. It won't take much time, and will cost a minimum, depending on the amount of stamps you might use.

Each town is reached by several TV and Radio Stations. Most of these usually have some type of Community Bulletin Board. You might try sending in a story about our reunions. TV, Radio Stations and Newspapers love to use public interest stories. Send them information about the association. Those of you with computers and have access to a BBS in your area, put a note on the boards and those of you who are on-line on the Internet, can spread the word there. If you want to spend a little on a classified ad in the local newspapers in your town or neighboring towns run on as they are usually pretty cheap to run for a few days or a weekend. They don't have to be seen by a shipmate but by someone who knows of a former shipmate. I used to work with a friend that mentioned to me one day that he had a relative who was aboard when I was and had I not had that chance meeting with Smitty I would not be writing this letter.

Now is the time for all of us to put some effort into this prior to our next reunion. Maybe each of us can find someone that we or someone else has been looking for. A bigger association and larger reunions will come from it. See you at Corpus Christi, Texas in 1998.

Signed

Cal

Cal Waterbury, AT3, VF112, '54-55

## USS HORNET CV, CVA, CVS 12

In the last Kearsarge was a notice about donations for the USS Hornet Museum. CV-12 was named Kearsarge when her keel was laid at Newport News on August 3, 1942. After USS Hornet CV-8 was sunk in the Battle of Santa Cruz in October of 1942 the Navy changed the



name of CV-12 to Hornet to avenge the loss of her predecessor.

The Hornet Foundation is still trying to raise funds to save this ship from the scrappers' cutting torches and to make it into a museum in Alameda, California. Anyone wishing to make a donation should send a check made payable to : Aircraft Carrier Hornet Foundation, Po Box 460, Alameda, CA 94501. For more information call 510-263-2890

## LOOKING FOR

While serving aboard the Kay during the Korean War, we were in the 7th Fleet, Task Force 77. The 7th Fleet and Task Force each had their own design patch, and I cannot find them anywhere. There is a local man who can make patches if someone in the Kearsarge Association can provide me with the design.

As a member of the local VFW and KWVA, there are various functions that myself and a couple other vets, who were also part of the fleet and task force, would like to wear them on our shirts.

Would appreciate any help on this. There must be someone out there who can provide this information.

Sincerely,

Chuck Phillips

21884 Fallview Dr.  
Sonoma, CA 95370  
(209) 532-5272

## USS KEARSARGE LHD-3

- The Kearsarge hosted 12 United Nations military advisors. Captain Thomas M. Wittkamp, Commanding Officer, provided each advisor with a first hand look at the latest technology in amphibious warfare and shipboard medical facilities.
- Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian and his delegation of 20 officers visited the Kearsarge and the attack submarine USS Baltimore at Norfolk Naval Base. Chi's visit is part of an effort to improve relations between the two nations.
- Kearsarge also hosted one of several Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstrations (JWID) that was held on the East Coast. JWID, an annual series, aims to identify problems in the joint operational environment and to promote interoperability.

The Kearsarge Association received a 1995 Med Cruise book (The Maiden Voyage), a color photo of LHD-3 and a Ships Crest patch from the XO, Captain Peter A. Masciangelo. The association appreciates receiving these items and they will be on display at the 1998 Corpus Christi reunion. Captain Masciangelo also became a member of the Kearsarge Association. Welcome aboard.

## **E-MAIL ADDRESS**

You can contact the Kearsarge Association, by e-mail, at the following address:  
JBenn20630@aol.com

## **OFFICERS MESS**

The wardroom menu for the evening meal of June 21, 1969 was French onion soup, salad and assorted dressings, barbecued pork chops, barbecue sauce, franconia potatoes, buttered green peas, chilled peaches and SUCKLING PYTHON. Only the last three feet of the snake was presented to the wardroom chef, which was good as a 16 foot barbecue spit was unavailable. As the ship had a policy against food from foreign ports the medical officer had to pronounce the snake fit for human consumption. Reaction to the serving was mixed but some thought it tasted like chicken. Was anyone aboard at this time, who recalls that meal, that can add a little history to this story?

## **PEA COAT**

Sailors who have to endure Pea-Soup weather often don their Pea Coats but the coat's name isn't derived from the weather. The heavy top coat worn in cold, miserable weather by seafaring men was once tailored from pilot cloth, a heavy, course, stout kind of twilled blue cloth with the nap on one side. The cloth was sometimes called P-Cloth for the initial letter of the word and the garment made from it was called a P-Jacket, and later called a Pea Coat. The term has been used since 1723 to denote coats made of this material.

## **NATIONAL CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

Anyone wanting information about the National Chief Petty Officers Association contact: W.A. Williams, Membership Director, 106 Waring Welfare Rd., Boerne, TX 78006-7925 Their 1997 reunion will be held in the San Francisco Bay area. Local chapters, or "Chiefs Quarters" are being formed.

## **OCEAN CRUISE**

Your Friendly Engineering Department  
invites you to an all expense paid

**GALA OCEAN CRUISE**

**THRILL at the EXCITEMENT**

of a

**DEEP SEA ADVENTURE**

**MARVEL at the WONDERS of OCEAN LIFE**

**SWAP SEA STORIES with SALTY, SEAGOING STALWARTS**

**TOUR ROMANTIC HAWAII, BEAUTIFUL JAPAN**

**AND EXCITING HONG KONG**

Host: Engineering Department U.S.S. Kearsarge CVS-33

Time: Departing Long Beach 18 June 1964

Departing San Diego 19 June 1964

Come early, Stay late

Refreshments and Entertainment Provided

R.S.V.P.



## SHIPS STORE SALES

USS Kearsarge Caps, 50 Anniversary, Navy Blue and Marine Red	\$14.00 EA
USS Kearsarge Caps, White, CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00 EA
USS Kearsarge Caps, Blue, CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00 EA
Ties, Navy Blue, ship's silhouette CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$22.00 EA
Magnetic Ship's Crest 3" (for your refrigerator, etc.)	\$ 3.00 EA
License Brackets, CVA, CVS	\$ 6.50 EA
USS Kearsarge Coffee Mugs with CV 33 and LHD 3 Crest	\$13.50 EA
USS Kearsarge Tie Bars	\$10.00 EA

All Prices Include Shipping and Handling

Cachet (as described in Kear Saga two editions ago) \$1.50 each, include self-addressed envelope with order.

Make checks payable to the Kearsarge Association and order from Art Killian, 3632 Spring Hill Lake, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405, Phone (205) 553-2710.



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family member's name.*



USS Yorktown CV-10 Association  
Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum  
40 Patriots Point Rd., Mt Pleasant, SC 29464  
800-792-4442



## SALTS

Recognize any of these men?

Sent in by Fred Weisse, OI Div, '48-'50

# KEAR SAGA<sup>II</sup>

*The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association*

USS Kearsarge Association  
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## **DUES & MEMBERSHIP**

The yearly dues for the Kearsarge Association is \$10.00. Check your label to see when your dues expire. To pay your dues send a check made payable to the Kearsarge Association: To Robert Finley, address below

To sign up a new member send information to John Bennett: Address below

**FIND A NEW MEMBER FOR THE 1998 REUNION**

Bruce Covington, President, 4928 Admiration Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464 804-467-1668  
TW Smith, V-President, 1172 DeLeon Court, Clarkston, GA 30021 404-296-3317  
John Bennett, Sec., Kear Saga Editor, 815 Savannah Dr., Columbus, OH 43228-2944 614-272-6842  
Robert Finley, Treasurer, Box 155495, Bellmead, TX 76715-5495 817-799-4041  
Art Killian, Ships Store, 3632 Spring Hill Lake, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405 205-553-2710  
Steve Udell, Historian, 211 Northwest First St., Young America, MN 55397 612-467-3943  
Kenneth McDaniel, Honorary President (Deceased)