

KEARSARGE II

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

Winter

CV CVA CVS 33 LHD3

1993

COMMISSIONING LOCATION CHANGED

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

The Commissioning Ceremony's location for the new Kearsarge has been changed and is now scheduled to take place at Ingalls Shipbuilding located in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The date will be in late August or early September. The exact date will not be known until this spring, but as soon as a date is known I will get a notice to everyone as soon as possible so you can make your plans to attend. The Association will try to get a block of rooms and also a conference room for the event. There will not be a dinner or any planned trips, however we will try to arrange transportation to the shipyard from the hotel we stay at, (as we did at the reunion). The ceremony will be on a Saturday and a reception and tours of the ship will follow. Captain Montgomery said however, that he will try to arrange special tours for the Kearsarge Association on Sunday because the Saturday tours will be very crowded. I'll keep you posted on any new information.

John Bishop and I are going to meet with Capt. Montgomery and the Commissioning Fund Raising Committee, Feb. 8, to discuss the Association's role in fund raising for the commissioning ceremony. As soon as I return, I will get a letter out to every one with all the details of what we would like to do, as well as information regarding the plaque we will present to the new Kearsarge.

SEMPER FIDELIS

Sam Thompson of the Marine Detachment (53-54) was trying to find some fellow marines he served aboard the Kearsarge with and T.W. Smith (our vice-president) saw his ad and informed him of our Association so we added 25-30 new names to the mailing list, and he even found a few sailors in the process. Most of these men have joined the Association and we are pleased to have them on board. Thank you T.W. for your help in finding some of these men. The Marine Detachment is planning to hold a mini reunion at the commissioning get together.

ITS OKAY TO SPIT

In response to your solicitation of stories that might be of interest to others, I had an incidence that happened to me aboard the Kearsarge that will never escape my memory. My life was saved by simply having to spit....

I reported to the Kearsarge in Bremerton, Washington while she was being taken out of mothballs and outfitted for return to service in 1951. After all qualifications were met for ship and air crews we found ourselves off the coast of Korea and China in that fiasco.

I was assigned the duty of deck edge elevator "talker" and usually found myself seated on the phone box that was located in front of a refueling hose reel. This was a circular metal reel about four feet in

diameter.

The old Navy AD fighter bombers had twenty millimeter cannons as part of their armament. If for some reason a shell was overlooked and left in the chamber of the gun, they could "cook off" and fire due to the heat.

We brought a Skyraider, AD, down to the hanger deck from the flight deck that had just returned from an air strike over Korea. The aircraft was parked approximately fifty feet from me with wings folded and the nose of the aircraft toward me. This placed the cannon upward at about a thirty degree angle. I arose from the phone storage box, walked to the deck edge about six feet away to spit over the side. At that moment a twenty millimeter shell "cooked off" in the AD, struck a steel beam in the overhead, ricocheted off, and struck the refueling hose reel dead center above the phone box where my chest was five seconds earlier.

Don't ever tell me it's bad manners to spit...

Porter Terrell
10434 Mollylea Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

BENNIE NEWTONS MOMENT OF TRUTH

Bennie Newton was aboard the Kearsarge from 1952 till 1955 and was in F and 4th divisions. He was also on the ships boxing team and was PACFLT Light Middleweight Champion in 1954.

On April 29, 1992 during the Los Angeles riots Rev. Bennie Newton was again a Champion.

In the August 1992 edition of Readers Digest is a story about how Rev. Newton went to the aid of a motorist and saved his life with complete disregard of his own. Make sure you see this issue and read this story.

Rev. Bennie Newton The Kearsarge Association is proud of you.

Sent in by T.W. Smith, V.P.

DEAR FRIENDS AND BUDDIES

I promised myself to write something to all of you soon after I got home from the reunion. and time has passed from weeks to months. I've inched my way through the memory of our reunion minute by minute (many-many times) trying to grasp firmly to each sight, sound, and word of the whole four days. It seemed like we only had moments to spend with each other, one to one, while wanting hours. No one could ever have convinced me beforehand, how important, how wonderful, etc., those would be. The EMOTION I felt, shared, and witnessed, just can't be explained, only experienced. And that we did! Good things seem to go fast, we hardly took time to eat or bath. Times change, people don't, not the good ones! (yes we did--- we used to shake hands when we met or departed, now we give hugs. Hugs are better and I'm glad. It's great!) I'm very grateful to each one of you for the joy each added to my time in Mobile. Those who couldn't make it this time, "WE MISSED YOU"! We remembered you, and talked about you. You should have been there to defend your own reputation. Hope you will make it next time! To all of you, THANKS for being part of my life. Yes, once again THANK YOU MAC, for waking us up and putting us back together. We owe you, big time!! Tears were shed, TEARS OF JOY!

MEL WALLER
RT 3 BOX 210
CARTHAGE, IL 62321

TAPS

The Association was informed of the death of Captain Don Ross who died in his sleep May 27, 1992. His ashes were scattered by The U.S.S. NEVADA SSBN 733 over the remains of the U.S.S. NEVADA BB 36. If the keel of DDG-70 (Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer) is laid it will be named the DONALD K. ROSS.

Captain Ross was aboard the Kearsarge during the Korean War and was in the Engineering Department.

Captain Ross was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for

distinguished conduct in the line of his profession, extraordinary courage and disregard of his own life during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by the Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. When his station in the forward dynamo room of the U.S.S. Nevada became almost untenable due to smoke, steam, and heat, Machinist Ross forced his men to leave that station and performed all the duties himself until blinded and unconscious. Upon being rescued and resuscitated, he returned and secured the forward dynamo room and proceeded to the after dynamo room where he was later again rendered unconscious by exhaustion. After recovering consciousness he returned to his station where he remained until directed to abandon it.

*

MSGT. Boyd Knowles, the Marine Detachment First Sgt. (1952-54) is now deceased.

*

LTJG Edward H. Auerswald VF114 (1952-54) was killed in a Navy jet crash in 1960.

ABOUT THE PRESIDENT

JOHN RAY BISHOP

John was aboard the Kearsarge from June 30, 1953 until Jan. 18, 1954 and was in Air Group 11, Squadron VF-112.

He is married to Bobbie Gann Bishop and has lived in Lovington, New Mexico for 23 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

John owns Mechanics Inc., an auto and truck repair business and has been a member of the Lovington Rotary Club for 23 years, which awarded him the Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

He is a member of the Confederate Air Force and owned a WW II, B-25-J Bomber, for 20 years and still flies a Cessna 182. His hobby is flying and he is a member of the much maligned Tailhook Association.

YORKTOWN PLAQUE

We have received \$ 957.00 towards the plaque we presented to The Arlington of Carrier Aviation, located aboard the U.S.S. Yorktown at Charleston, South Carolina. This memorial honors those who made the supreme sacrifice during WW II, Korea and Vietnam who were aboard carriers. The Kearsarge was not represented and so we presented a plaque to the memorial October 7th, 1990. I would like to thank all of you who so generously donated to this cause. The Yorktown is a museum ship open to the public so thousands go aboard each year. When I was there in 1988 I saw a plaque for CV-32 and CV-34 but no 33. Now there's a plaque for us. Thanks again.

SHIPS STORE

Art Killiam, our Ships Store man, would like to know what you would like for him to stock. At the present he has hats, license plate holders, and videos of the reunion. The videos are almost 2 hours long and are really good. Everyone I've talked to that has seen it has really enjoyed it. We are in the process of getting pictures of the ship from 1946-1968 at three year intervals, and we want to get ships patches made if Louie Mouse sends me his for a sample. What else would you like to spend your money on?? Drop Art a line or give him a call and let him know. His address is on back page.

We need items of interest for the newsletter. There has to be some great stories out there. Don't keep them to yourself, share them. Thanks to those who sent items for this newsletter.

DO YOU KNOW ?

John Elko VAW 11, 66-67. WRITE HIM
19 TWIN BEACHES DR.
ROCHESTER, NY 14608 716-458-7654

KEAR SAGA^{II}

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USS Kearsarge Association
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SHIPS STORE

KEARSARGE HATS CV,CVA OR CVS
\$15.00

LICENSE PLATE BRACKETS CVA,CVS
\$6.50

VIDEOS OF REUNION ARE ALMOST 2
HOURS AND INCLUDE OPERATIONS
ON BOARD DURING EARLY 50'S
\$20.00

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

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