

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

Spring

CV CVA CVS 33 LHD3

1994

**USS Kearsarge Association
815 Savannah Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43228**

1994 REUNION- VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

The 1994 reunion is fast approaching and lots of fun activities are being planned for everyone attending! The Virginia Beach Resort Hotel will hold our block of 200 rooms until April 27, 1994 so if you haven't sent in your reservation, time is drawing near. Don't delay if you want to be where the action is because the hospitality room, ships store, banquet and departure point for all tours will be located there. For those who want to arrive a few days early or stay a few days longer the hotel will give you the same rates as those for the reunion. Bruce Covington has three tours scheduled that everyone should enjoy. Bruce has room on the tours for everyone who has notified him, and says there is still room for more.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM WITH YOUR SELECTIONS OF TOURS AND YOUR DINNER SELECTION FOR THE DINNER-DANCE. MAIL THIS FORM, WITH YOUR SELECTIONS, TO BRUCE COVINGTON BY MAY 10, 1994..

VIRGINIA BEACH REUNION TOURS

Thursday, May 26

***SPIRIT OF NORFOLK* LUNCH CRUISE AND WATERSIDE, 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

Enjoy a fascinating narrated tour of the Hampton Roads Harbor while cruising on board the magnificent *Spirit of Norfolk*. This beautiful ship will thrill you with its sleek design and elegant decor. Feast on a wonderful buffet and then sit back and enjoy the rousing Broadway revue. After your cruise spend time at Watersides, Norfolk's exciting waterfront festival marketplace offering more than 100 restaurants, shops, galleries, bazaars and boutiques. Package Price: \$32.00 per person, inclusive.

Friday, May 27

TOUR 1 - COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG OVERVIEW & YORKTOWN, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Spend the morning in Colonial Williamsburg. Your historical interpreter will guide you through the past and the events that helped shape America's history, as you stroll through the restored area of this lovely colonial capital city. Following lunch on your own, shop and browse in merchants Square. Admire the view as you ride along the scenic Colonial Parkway to the quaint village of

YORKTOWN. Visit the National Park Service Visitors Center which include exhibits relating to the Battle of Yorktown, a 12 minute film, and a rooftop view of the battlefields.

Package Price: \$23.00 per person, inclusive.

TOUR 2 - SPIRIT OF NORFOLK LUNCH CRUISE & WATERSIDE, 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM
(SEE DESCRIPTION ABOVE)

Package Price: \$32.00, inclusive.

SATURDAY, MAY 28 - NAVAL BASE TOUR, LUNCH ON USS KEARSARGE LHD - 3, MACARTHUR MEMORIAL, RIDING NORFOLK & VIRGINIA BEACH TOUR, TIMES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Tour the Norfolk Naval Base, the largest naval installation in the world. See aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and aircraft. See the beautiful historic homes along "Admiral's Row", which house the flag officers. Have lunch aboard (at your expense) and tour the *USS Kearsarge LHD-3*. Next, ride through Norfolk's beautiful historic district and restored areas. View the lovely homes along the Hague, the Chrysler Museum, the Moses Maoris House, old St. Paul's Church and many other points of interest. Visit the MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into this century's history of our country. A unique collection of artifacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia housed in Norfolk's historic city hall traces the life and time of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. The General is entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Enjoy beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay as you ride through Virginia Beach. See the historic light house and the First Landing Cross at Cape Henry.

Package Price: \$19.00 per person.

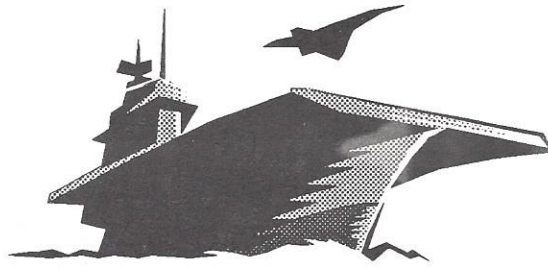
DINNER - DANCE

Saturday - May 28 - The dinner dance will take place at the Virginia Beach Hotel. The exact time and location will be in your reunion packet when you arrive. Tentatively, the cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 PM and dinner will follow. After dinner you will be able to dance your socks off to tunes of the fifties to present time, from 9-12 PM. Bring your dancing shoes or just enjoy the music and fellowship with friends.

There are three entrees from which you can choose for dinner. Each is served with the chef's selection of fresh vegetables, fresh baked bread and the host's choice of salad, potato and dessert; coffee and tea. The entrees are as follows:

1. Homemade Chicken Cordon Bleu and Shrimp Stuffed with Crab
2. Vegetarian Plate - (Whole wheat linguini with a tomato-basil sauce, broccoli, asparagus, julienne carrots, tomato Parmesan, zucchini and yellow squash).
3. Roast Prime Rib with Yorkshire Pudding and Chiffon of Horseradish.

KEARSARGE REUNION REGISTRATION



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

	COST PER PERSON	NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING	TOTAL COST
REGISTRATION FEE	\$5.00		
5-26-94 SPIRIT OF NORFOLK CRUISE AND WATERSIDE TOUR	\$32.00		
5-27-94 WILLIAMSBURG AND YORKTOWN TOUR	\$23.00		
5-27-94 SPIRIT OF NORFOLK CRUISE AND WATERSIDE TOUR	\$32.00		
5-28-94 NAVAL BASE TOUR	\$19.00		
5-28-94 DINNER-DANCE MEAL SELECTION INCLUDES TIP AND TAXES (Choose one of the entrees below)			
Cordon Bleu	\$29.00		
Vegetarian Plate	\$21.00		
Prime Rib	\$29.00		
		TOTAL AMT. DUE	

GUESTS NAMES

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION

AND MAIL TO:

MR. BRUCE COVINGTON

4928 ADMIRATION DRIVE

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464

PHONE: 804-467-1668

BUSINESS MEETING

A business meeting of the Kearsarge Association will be held at the Virginia Beach Hotel on Friday tentatively at 5 PM. Items on the agenda will include: location and date of the next reunion, election of officers, finance report and any new business you feel needs to be addressed. All paid members are welcome.

HOW MY LIFE MAY HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY TWO GLASS HORSES

On May 13, 1948 when my friend from Kentucky and I went on liberty the Kearsarge was tied up at the dock but then they got underway and anchored 2 miles out in Hampton Roads so they could get underway early the next morning. While on liberty my friend from Kentucky bought a set of glass horses to send home and before we got to the dock I picked up some hamburgers for a couple of guys on the ship.

When we got back to the dock it was raining and blowing very hard and as we were getting on the liberty boat the coxswain said to hurry up as the water was getting very rough. As we were going aboard my buddy from Kentucky slipped and fell and thinking he might have broken the glass horses we didn't go aboard and checked to see if they were broken. The next boat pulled up and the coxswain called out that it was getting too rough and that was going to be his last trip. As we were on our way out to the ship water came over the bow and I was standing up to my knees in water and the hamburgers I had under my jumper was all soggy so I decided to throw them overboard. As I threw them overboard I saw two men in the water and it was so dark I could just barley make them out. I yelled "Man Overboard" and the spot lights were turned on and we started picking men

out of the water and preceded to pick up 15 or 20 men. The big spot light on the Kearsarge was turned on and that helped a lot. I never knew if we picked up the men I saw that night but a man from VHF division laced on one of the seats all night and another stayed on the launch that got swamped and tried to send SOS by covering the running lights.

This is how my life may have been saved by glass horses and 15-20 other mens lives who might have been saved by soggy hamburgers.

(Harry Lee Saltsman '47-50 VHF Div.)

JOHN BARLEYCORN

It was a cold winter evening in December 1945 and the new CV-33 was tied up at the old Brooklyn Navy Yard. I was returning from liberty and somehow got a smart-asked idea that a pint of whiskey would go good while working in the 20mm ammo-ready room which was my duty station. Why not? I'd put a pint of John Barleycorn into my sock and pull the sock up over the top of the bottle to snug it in. No sweat! I walked up the gangway, salute-salute-all aboard. As I started across the hanger deck I miscalculated the thickness of some of the overlapping steel deck plates. Why (It had never happened before) did my heel have to catch on a protruding deck plate with the result that one full pint of hooch was jarred out my sock and went clunk-clunk-clink-clink across the hanger

deck.

Now hear this! The OD, Sgt/guard, and several others were all within 20 ft. or so, but nobody hollered at me. Could it be they never heard or saw the jug bouncing along the deck? Anyway, I walked up to and stood with my feet at a regulation 45 degrees apart with the pint now (so I hoped) hidden between them. I had the feeling everyone was staring at me. To bend over and pick it up would be all-incriminating I felt. Hell, I thought, pick it up now and get it over with- get caught or escape. I raced down and picked it up (nobody saw me?). Lady luck was with me. I suddenly felt that this pint of booze was the last thing I really wanted so to the fantail I went and over the side it went. I breathed easier and as I walked back to go below a loud authoritative voice from somewhere echoed, "Don't press your luck anymore, jarhead". Who that was I don't know, but I never again so much as tried to bring even a glass of milk aboard.

(Harvey Danielson '45-47 Marine Det.)

DUES

We regret that because of the costs of postage and printing we can no longer send the "Kear Saga" and other correspondence to those who are not paying members. Don't miss out on information about future activities of the Kearsarge Association because your dues have not been paid. Your dues expiration date is now part of your mailing label. Look at the upper right hand corner of the label and it will show a month and year when your dues should be paid. For example if you see (5-94) in this corner then your dues are to be paid in May, 1994. If this area is blank it means you have never paid or it was so long ago that we are wondering if you still exist!

Please mail your \$10.00 dues to:
The Kearsarge Association
815 Savannah Dr.
Columbus, OH 43228-2944

Please make checks payable to The
Kearsarge Association

F9F-2 PANTHER

I received a letter from the Naval Historical Center and they are compiling a history of a Grumman F9F-2 Panther, Bureau Number 123078, which served with VF-721 (aboard the Kearsarge September 52-February 53) and participated in combat off the coast of Korea from the deck of the Kearsarge CV-33.

Primary interest is in photographs of Reserve Fighting Squadron VF-721's aircraft and locating the Panthers crew chief or a pilot who flew this aircraft in combat. Anyone with information please contact:

Steven D. Hill
Naval Aviation History
Building 157-1
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20374-5059

Phone (202) 433-4355

TAPS

The following former shipmates departed us this past year:

Jack Grace 3rd Div. (67-70)
Merle L. Coon B Div. (53-57)
Charles Vollmer O Div. (55-56)
Maurice McDade B Div. (59-62)

Jack Grace was honored to have been the Duty Boatswain Mate and did the piping the

day the ship was decommissioned.

FUTURE REUNIONS

In discussing upcoming reunions with various members of the association, the suggestion has been made that we have a reunion every year instead of every other year. We would like to get opinions from anyone and everyone in the association about which you would prefer. Please communicate your preference to John Bennett, 815 Savannah Drive, Columbus, OH 43228-2944.

LIAISON OFFICER

The Kearsarge Association has a liaison officer aboard USS Kearsarge LHD-3 who volunteered (or was volunteered) for this job. His name is Lt. David Page and is from Chapel Hill, North Carolina and first enlisted in the Navy in 1976 as a antisubmarine warfare operator and helicopter rescue crewman. Lt. Page participated in three Med. cruises with the last one involving the Iranian hostage crisis. He left the Navy in 1980 to pursue a college education and graduated from Appalachian State University with a BSBA in finance and insurance in 1983. After working five years in the commercial banking industry after college he decided to pursue a career in healthcare and a friend recommended the Navy's healthcare management program. After being accepted in 1989 he attended OIS in Newport, RI and reported for duty to Naval Hospital, Beaufort, SC. Lt. Page and his wife have enjoyed the new position far more than expected and likes the Navy family concept and said, "The Navy is changing daily but many things stay the same".

We would like to welcome Lt. Page to the Kearsarge Association and wish him a great Navy future.

Lt. Page is the one to thank for arranging the tour and lunch aboard the

Kearsarge during our reunion.

COMMISSIONING VIDEO

The Public Affairs Office has produced a 60 minute video of the commissioning of USS Kearsarge LHD-3 and can be purchased for \$10.40, checks made payable to USS Kearsarge MWR. Mail to:

D.R. Page, LT/MSR/USNR
Medical Department
USS Kearsarge (LHD-3)
FPO-AE 09534-1662

I ordered a tape and the quality is great. It brought back memories of a day that will not be forgotten. It is a must for all who attended the commissioning and will be great viewing for those who didn't have the chance to attend.

LHD-3

Kearsarge LHD-3 has returned from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where the crew has been going through refresher training. While in GITMO, some of the training included flashing light procedures, setting ecom, mass causality drills, open ocean navigation, manning battle stations (I remember that one), fire extinguishing and smoke clearance, equipment causality repair, precision anchoring, plotting by gyrocompass, man overboard drills, open ocean navigation, report of electrical casualties, ruptured tubes in boilers, and semaphore, just to name a few. The drills started at 0500 and concluded around 2000. On the way to Cuba, general quarters battle drills were conducted to sharpen damage control capabilities. I think all members have been involved in at least one of the above drills.

DRESS CODE

When our unit was deployed from Kirtland/Sandia Base in Albuquerque we reported aboard The Mighty K while she was in Los Angeles harbor. It wasn't long we were underway for Pearl and ORI. Our unit officer was in sick bay so when a abandon ship drill was called I had to stand in front of our unit at our assigned spot on the hanger deck. The XO was inspecting us to see if we were ready to abandon ship. When the drill was called I was in my bunk dressed in skivvies so I jumped up and pulled on my pants and jacket and put on my safety shoes (minus socks) that were by my bunk. The XO saw that my pants weren't stuffed into my socks (as required to keep floating oil from being caught if necessary to jump into the sea) and I got read off for being improperly dressed so our unit learned a lesson at my embarrassment.

While on R&R in Hong Kong we had a basketball game between the ships team and a team from the Wanchai branch of the Hong Kong WMCA. I never realized that the Chinese population included men over 6 ft. tall.

(Bob Giantvalley '52-53 W Division)

MEMBERS

Richard Silva ('46-48) was aboard the hospital ship Consolation AH-15 that treated one of the men who had swam two miles to shore when the liberty boat swamped.

Asa Norwood ('54-57) retired from the Pudget Sound Naval Shipyard with over 31 years of service and went to work for a private contractor working on navy contracts. He has been working in Yokosuka, Japan on the USS Independence. His company works on air conditioning and climate control

systems.

Fritz Schulz ('47-48) met his wife Daphne when she was visiting the Kearsarge at Portland/Wymouth, England. Daphne was in the St. John's Ambulance Corps and treated many injured vets, pow's and other war related injuries. She is returning for the 50th anniversary celebration of D-Day.

George Elwood ('47-48) Was a Merchant Marine seaman at age 16 serving on tankers and cargo ships and served on Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Joined the Navy in 1947 and retired from the Ready Reserves 1983 as a QMCS

KEN "MAC" McDANIEL

Ken McDaniel, or "Mac" as most of us know him, has been diagnosed with cancer and has been given 6 weeks to 6 months to live depending on how well chemotherapy works. It seems that Mac has had one battle after another with his health since starting the Kearsarge Association. Mac is aware of his illness and would like to hear from everyone, so feel welcome to call or write him at:

Ken McDaniel
301 East Dr.
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Phone: 615-482-4302

Mac and his wife Billie donated to the Kearsarge Association the new 4.5 Paradox software on which the association records are kept. With over 750 former Kearsarge crew members on the mailing list this new software makes it much easier to keep track of everyone. **Thank You Mac and Billie!**

KEAR SAGA II

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Spring

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USS Kearsarge Association
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Columbus, Ohio 43228

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