SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Members
- In Memoriam
- President's Report
- Donations
- Financial Report
- Editor's Corner
- Ship's Store

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Over 58 years ago, (March, 1945) I was aboard the USS Mount McKinley when she was the command ship of the Kerama Retto invasion force. Along with Okinawa, the Kerama Retto comprised the bulk of the Ryukyu Islands chain. They lie about 300 miles south of Japan. The invasion of the Kerama Retto (March 26, 1945) was the opening round of the last battle of World War II. The battle for Okinawa began a week later, on April 1st. It was described as the "greatest sea-air battle in history" by the New York Times’ military editor, Hanson W. Baldwin.

I was part of a radar counter-measures team assigned to the Staff, Amphibious Group Seven. My unit consisted of four draftees and an officer. Also aboard the Mt. McKinley then were some Army units from the 77th Division, including an intelligence group that had in it several Nisei (Japanese Americans). I became acquainted with those Japanese Americans, often visiting them in their intelligence office.

On one visit, I noticed a large clump of heavy paper protruding from a full wastepaper basket. For some time I had been collecting war memorabilia and sending as much of it home as possible. This seemed to be something they were throwing out, so I asked for it without ever in-
DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION
Thanks to these members for their donations to the USS Mount McKinley Association during the last quarter.

Ed Anderson and Ken Boenitz
Total Donations $17.00

In addition, Chris Wilson donated his Reunion registration of $122.00 and our Librarian; John Stroup donated his expenses for the past year of $22.98
Total Donations in cash and in kind is $161.98

USS Mount McKinley Association
Statement of Financial Condition
As of September 30, 2003

Income:
- Ship's Store Sales 3459.50
- Less Cost of Goods Sold 2548.14
- Gain on Ship's Store Sales 911.36
- Advertisement 50.00
- Dues 5292.00
- Donations 756.00
- Interest 60.15

Total Income 7069.51

Expenses:
- Equipment 86.59
- Newsletter 1833.52
- Postage 34.62
- Ship's Store Shipping & Supplies 310.96
- Supplies 260.12
- Telephone & Bank Charges 12.70
- Plaques & Awards 448.81
- Web Service 335.35

Total Expenses 3322.67

Net Income-Operations 3746.84

Reunion Income-2003 20730.00
Reunion Expenses-2003 19510.96

Reunion Income over Expenses 1219.04
Reunion Deposit-2004 -200.00
Total Income Year-to-Date 4765.88

Cash January 1, 2003 13263.48
Ship's Store Inventory January 1, 2003 4267.41
Add Income as of September 30, 2003 4765.88
Add Prepaid Life Dues 217.00
Total 22533.77

Cash-Bank Of America 7292.13
Cash-Zurich Money Market 10947.09
Cash-Prepaid Dues-Not available for operations 217.00
Total Cash September 30, 2003 18456.22
Ship's Store Inventory, September 30,2003 4077.55
Total Assets 22533.77

Submitted By: William K. Ellis, Treasurer
Having just returned from another excellent reunion, I can again tell my friends what a great Association we have. We've had outstanding leadership that has brought us where we are today and I am honored to have been elected President of the Association. I will do my best to continue the legacy our past Presidents have left us. Special recognition and thanks go to Les Mayer for his service as President and Vice President for the last four years.

This was the biggest reunion so far with about 180 attending. We had 20 members attending their first reunion and half of those had become members since our last reunion. It was great to see so many new faces and especially encouraging to have Dave Nelsen fill the position of Vice President, Patrick Tracy taking the Secretary’s job and to have Paul Barefoot assume the Chaplain’s duties at this reunion. Dave and Paul are new members since the reunion in Washington D.C. last year.

Dennis "Pops" Pilny, with Jim Filippo’s help, did an outstanding job putting this reunion together. Work was not done with the start of the reunion, however, and continued with Dennis and Les Mayer making the early morning (6 A.M.) DONUT RUN every day in Les’ red Mustang. At the end of the reunion, Jim Filippo agreed to take the excess liquor etc. and return it for us.

The Ship’s Store was handled by some of the ladies this year as Steve Schermerhorn was unable to attend the reunion. Lynn Ellis spearheaded the crew of gals working in the store, making sure everything was going the right way. They proved to be excellent in their job, selling out several items, including the pencils. Great job girls! You really know how to do it and you did it in a big way with the largest dollar sales ever!!

At the conclusion of the reunion, 27 of us got on a bus for a trip down the coast highway to Long Beach (Les and Sharon Mayer drove down in their red Mustang) and then we went on a wonderful 4-day cruise. Unfortunately, Bill and Florence Martinic had to fly home from L.A. and missed the cruise because of a medical problem. I understand Flo is on the mend and I hope the problem has been completely resolved.

Dennis has some things in place already for next year’s reunion in Branson, and I'm confident he will put together another outstanding and memorable reunion. I am looking forward to getting together again in Branson with truly the best group around, the guys and gals in the USS Mt. McKinley Association. Let's all start planning for that one!

Dwight Janzen

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**Bits and Pieces**

**Dick Armstrong** is asking that anyone with new area codes or zip codes to please notify him. Remember, if your address changes, you need to notify us so you can receive your newsletters and other notices.

I am looking for Officers and enlisted who were on the staff of **Rear Admiral Ingolf N. Kiland** on the Mighty Mac in late ’44 through ’45. Over 50 Officers had transferred from the USS BAYFIELD to Kiland’s command after the Southern France invasion under the late **Rear Admiral Don P. Moon**.

Jonathan Alter calter@iopener.net

Members of the USS New Jersey Association have asked us to see if any of our members have pictures of any US Navy Ship bells. They are putting together a display with ships bells from all the ships they can get. Mail me if you would like to be a part of the project. (By the way, we would like to see it first if you have one of the MM)

I am looking for information about my grandfather. His name was **Patrick Brady** from Philadelphia. He served on the McKinley during WW II. IF anyone has any info regarding his time on the Mac, I would appreciate it.

Thanks, Joe Verica (Mail Dennis with any replies)
I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

Congratulations go out to our new President, Dwight Janzen. I’ve worked with Dwight over the past few years while he was Secretary and I can tell you, he is the right man for our most important job.

We also have a new Vice-President and Secretary. David Nelson has stepped up to take over the VP position, a big step for a first timer at the reunion. When you meet him, you’ll know why we asked him to accept the job.

Patrick Tracy, an old hand in the association, willingly accepted the Secretary position. Our new Directors for the term 04-05 are: Harold Dodge, Ken Boenitz & Amos Patterson. The new nominating committee members are: David Long, Les Mayer, and Joe Florez.
I cannot tell you in words how much I enjoyed the San Francisco Reunion. There was a problem with the hotel over our hospitality room, but the weather in California that week took care of the headaches. We were able to enjoy a nice patio porch that gave us the room we so badly needed. I want to thank Jim Filippo again for his help with setting things up. He made my job a lot easier.

As you might expect, work is already beginning on the 2004 Branson reunion. I had several offers at the reunion from those who are familiar with the area, and I expect to take them up on helping.

We had a record number of first-time attending members at this reunion. That is always nice to see. I know I appreciated seeing several guys who have never attended a reunion. I hope all of you continue to come. Our group is growing, and more and more guys show up each year. This year we had 181 at the reunion, 97 veteran members, and 84 guests. Of those, 21 were first timers. Great showing, guys and gals!

What is really cool is that we had two new guys step up and fill two key positions with the association. This is what makes our group so strong a willingness to pitch in and get the job done. To all our new officers, thanks for helping keep this a strong association, and for helping us bring it into a whole new century.

I also want to thank all of you who came up to me at the reunion to tell me about how you enjoy the Masthead. It really does mean a lot to me.

I recently went through a major life change. I just retired on October 28th. It’s something I’ve been waiting for, and now that it’s actually here, it is such a relief. Now you don’t have to listen to me whining about still working. I look forward to the Branson reunion so I can spend some extra time vacationing like all the rest of you. It’s a great club to be a part of.

**An Eloquent Thank You**

The following note was received from Ed Beeskow #091C. It was in response to his get well card we all signed at the previous reunion.

“It was very thoughtful of all of you and you will never know how much it was appreciated. Being that I cannot travel any-

more with this emphysema, I won’t be seeing you guys anymore, but I did want you all to know I have not forgotten our days together. My best to you all and thanks again for all the memories I have.”

Sincerely, Ed Beeskow

**Life Membership**

At this year’s reunion and annual meeting, a resolution was passed to establish a paid-for-life membership option. The application for this is included in the new roster that you will receive shortly, under separate cover.

With a paid-for-life membership, you will also receive a certificate suitable for framing, and a “Life Member” membership card.

We had several members apply while still at the reunion. The first paid-up-for-life member is Ralph Walker, with Edwin Hays running a very close second. At the time of this printing, we have five members who have applied.

The rate schedule for Paid-for-Life membership is based on the American Legion schedule broken down by age, and is listed on the application.

My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
Ray's daily duty was to produce Public Information Bulletins, The Shipboard daily newspaper, and issue scheduled upgrade tests. His favorite memories included the great bunch of guys he worked with and the band nights on the Helo deck. Ray writes: I look back on my years on "The Mighty Mac" as an enjoyable time in my life. Of course, you couldn't convince a 19-year old at the time that it would be true. I was transferred from O-I to X Division. The PN's and YN's of X Division with whom I was associated were a terrific bunch of guys. One of my primary responsibilities was turning out the Ship's daily newspaper while underway. In order to retrieve the latest world news off the shipboard wire services, there were many situations when time was running against me. The ship's office crew would pitch in to help with production whenever I needed it. Remember what mimeographing was like?). That was a decade before photocopying and light years before computers, J. Epps, A. Sedler, R. Perkins and G. Wonders were speed demons on the type-writers while I proofread and corrected copy. While we worked together daily, we also enjoyed sightseeing and pub-crawling ashore together. The USO Club in Cannes wasn't too bad either. If there was a positive side to being extended in the Mediterranean because of the Beirut crisis, it was that we were afforded an opportunity to visit eastern Med. ports not originally scheduled. As the saying goes: "Join the Navy and see the world." Well, we sure got to see all of the Mediterranean...from Gibraltar to Greece and Turkey, and everywhere in between. I also recall Captain Blouin issuing a "Swim Call" in the middle of the Med. It was a relaxing day. What I remember most about the day, however, was while I was willing to dive off the bow of the ship, there were guys diving off the signal towers. Blew me away! There was only one time -57 NATO Exercises (North Atlantic)- when we experienced extreme seas. No meals served and the crackers and peanut butter were tied down on a galley table. I remember trying to walk with one foot on the deck and one foot on the lower bulkheads as the ship rolled from side to side. An interesting, exciting cruise for a "first-timer"! I have fond memories of my time serving aboard the USS Mount McKinley. I had the opportunity to meet and work with great guys, visit wonderful foreign countries and benefited from a cultural experience I never will forget. Ray's post military work is Marketing and Sales Management for the Dining and Hospitality Services.

Ray Zall #964 provided us with the accounts of My Mac Duty with his application for membership.

Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded..

Recollections of My Mac Duty by: Ray Zall, SN/PN, 57-59

Lest we Forget, These former shipmates who departed us this past quarter:

Bob Costello  #928
SN, C Div., 1944-45
Died Sept 15, 2003

Ron Yuhas (non-memb)
SN, 1st Div., 1967-68

Leonard Arthur #220(P)
RT 1, C Div., 1944-45
Died Aug 4, 2003

Jake D. Giddens, Jr.
(non-memb)
Died Aug, 2002

John Ragland #702(P)
LCDR, RD Officer, 1944-45
Died April 28, 2002
New Members

955 Larry E Galat
SN, 1st Div., 1959-63
455 W Mesa, Apt 117
Clovis, CA 93612-0720

956 Wm Fred Clutton
QM2, Signal, 1946-48
7800 Tripp Ave.
Amarillo, TX 79121-1726

957 Leonard J Wiegand
BMSN, 1st Div., 1953-56
2094 20th Road
Kearney, NE 68845-8068

958 Labon E. Wellman
YN3, 2nd Div., 1961-63
1517 W Main Street
Leesburg, FL 34748-4856

959 Paul C Barefoot
QM3, Signal, 1949-52
1401 El Norte Pkwy #178
San Marcos, CA 92069-2245

960 Donal C West
BM2, 2nd Div., 1948-52
1780 Auburn Folsom Rd
Auburn, CA 95603-9406

961 Paul W Paulsen
EM2, Elect Div., 1949-53
147 Chaves Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94127

962 Wendell E Earle
ETC, CE Div., 1961-62
552 Compass Circle
Redwood City, CA 94065-1132

963 William L Wilmoth
SN1, 2nd Div., 1946
1709 Eagle Ave
Alameda, CA 94501-1206

964 Raymond F Zall
SN/PN, IO/X Div., 1957-59
1914 Bay Lake Way
Daytona Beach, FL 32128-6865

965 Tim Curtin
YN3, Flag, 1953-54
6564 Pacheco Way
Citrus Heights, CA 95610-4557

966 Ronal M Kilgas
DM2, 1961-62
925 S. Arlington St.
Appleton, WI 54915-3458

967 John W Knighton
SN, 1st Div., 1949-52
807 9th Place
Phenix City, AL 36867-6319

968 Robert W Cooper
BM3, 1 & 2nd Div., 1963-66
391 Omaha St.
Gladewater, TX 75647-5663

083C Alvin Turquette (re-joined Assoc.)
LCDR, Comphib 4, 1945-46
11709 Lee Lp NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-5437

Always remember to let Dick Armstrong know about any changes in your personal information!

Funny, I don’t remember being absent-minded..
In recent months, it has come to our attention that those of you who are sent the on-line edition of the Masthead are not accessing the newsletter. Some of you just don’t understand how to do it, or you just choose not to view it for whatever reason. This is our main source for dissemination of information to our members. If you choose not to receive the Masthead via the internet, please advise us so we can make sure everyone who wants it can be put on the hard copy mailing. We will still have on-line publication available to those who choose that method. It does save the association considerable amounts of money, so if you can access it that way, we appreciate your support by continuing to do so. The main issue here is that you do get the Masthead.
Japanese Surrender on the Mt Mac?

At this year’s reunion, I heard something that I have never heard before. How many of you knew that the first Japanese surrenders were actually held on the USS Mount McKinley in Nagasaki & Hiroshima. Both of these surrenders were several weeks before the complete surrender in Tokyo Harbor aboard the USS Missouri. While still at the reunion, I had the chance to verify this little-know fact with Jack Allen, Matt Hilling, and Luke Ellison-both who were all were present at the event. I think this is a significant event in the history of the Might Mac, and I would like to hear from as many of you who were there at the time. We need to document this for future generations so they will know how important the McKinley was. Please, if you were there and have anything to contribute about this historic event, please pass it along to me so I can let all our members know what happened. Sometime in the near future, I would like to do a feature article on this. If anyone has any pictures or documents from this event, please share them with us. They will be cared for and returned once copies have been made.
1 Mount McKinley Golf Shirt – Blue, White Short-Sleeve w or w/o /Pocket
   Sizes: SM, MED, LG, XL. .............................................$23.00
   XXL + $1.50, XXXL + $2.50 (Due to stock shortages, White w/pocket – XXL only, White wo/pocket, SM only)
2 Mount McKinley Baseball Caps – White w/wars on Back
   Choice of: Korea or Vietnam please specify...............................$18.00
3 Mount McKinley Baseball Caps – Blue or White, plain back
   No Wars.................................................................$15.00
4 Mount McKinley T-Shirts – Navy Blue with, White or Gold, Screenprint Lettering on Shirt Front. Front – Ship’s Silhouette, Atomic Bomb Test Logo, Mermaid Logo, Commissioning Date, De-Commissioning Date, Other Important Dates & Cruises. Sizes: SM, MED, XL, XXL, add $1.00, XXXL, add $2.00..........................$10.00
5 Assoc. Logo T-shirts (only available in L & XL).............................................$10.00
   Due to reduction of stock on t-shirts & golf shirts a substitute color will be supplied if your selection is no longer available in your size
6 Mount McKinley Ship’s Patches
   3 3/4” Mountain Patch, 5” Association Mermaid/Turtle Patch, 6” Diesel Gang Patch, Snipe Force Patch, Task Force 90 Patch, Gator Navy Patch.................................$8.00
7 Ship’s Pin (Specify – Lapel Pin, or Charm).................................................$4.00
8 Ship’s Photos 8 x 10’s (specify with/without helo deck).................................$5.00
9 Decal.................................................................$3.00 ea. or (2) $5.00
10 Official Assoc. Mouse Pad.................................................................$5.00
11 Laser Engraved Key Tags.................................................................$5.00
12 Laser Engraved Pencils...........................................................................one for $1.00/6 for $5.00
13 Refrigerator Magnets, four views......(first one) $2.00 ea. additional one $1.00
14 Master Rosters: (listing of all years) Red 1944-70......................................$28.00
   Blue 44-49, Yellow 50-59, Gold 60-70..............................................$18.00
15 Ship’s Bell.............................................................................................$31.00
16 Laser Engraved Plaque.............................................................................$65.00
   (Please call Steve 574-831-2843, to receive a special order form for the Plaque)

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Please include a “ship-to” mailing address
Make check payable to:
USS Mount McKinley Association & mail to:
Steve Schermerhorn
69272 County Rd 23, New Paris, IN 46553

SUBTOTAL
SHIPPING $5.00
TOTAL
Branson, Missouri
September 8th – 12th

The photo above was taken just before deployment to Operation Crossroads
It was donated to the Association by:
William Wilmoth #963, SN1, 1st Div., 1946

USSMTMCKINLEY.COM
Visit our web site. It’s quite an experience!

“IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED”

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Branson is calling us. Come and share your stories with us.
Dick & Viv Armstrong

REUNION INFORMATION:
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