12 SEPTEMBER 1950

General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief, Far East Command, arrives on board the USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7 in preparation for the amphibious assault at Inchon, Korea. This historic color photograph has never been published before. Photo Credit: Gene Witherspoon, FC/3, #953

In This Issue:
Reunion '07 News . . . . . . . . . .2
President’s Report . . . . .3
Fond Farewells . . . . . . . . . . . .3
Masthead . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .4
1st Quarter Financials . . . . .4
Editor’s Message . . . . . . . . . . . .8
Mighty Mac Timeline . . . . .6-7
Marguerite Higgins . . . . . . . . . . . .8
From Our Shipmates . . . . .8-11
Full Dress . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .12

This newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether at times of war or moments of a peaceful world.

USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7

“July 4, 1949. The USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7 anchored in Everett, Washington dressed for open house. Fifty members of the crew marched in the 4th of July parade. The local VFW post invited the crew to their party that night which was held outdoors.” Photo credit: Gene Witherspoon, FC/3, #953
Reunion News

An Invitation to former crewmen of the USS Mount McKinley AGC-7 and her sister AGC’s to participate in a fun-filled 2007 reunion in Buffalo / Niagara, New York

2007 Reunion Facts:
September 12 – 16, 2007
Buffalo/Niagara

The Low Cost of Having Fun
Reunion Registration Fee: $72.00
Required of all members, spouses and guests

Your registration fee includes four-day hospitality room with beer, mixed drinks, soda, coffee, etc. and morning donuts; Wednesday Welcome Reception; Saturday night banquet and program, door prizes & awards; Sunday morning buffet breakfast, your share of administration & reunion costs and all taxes and gratuities.

Registration Form
The registration form is included as an insert to this edition of the Masthead. Please fill it out and enclose your check made out to: USS Mount McKinley Association, and place it in an envelope and mail to:

Ed Bannan
3339 SW 49th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312-7945

Registration closing date is August 1, 2007.

Reunion Quarters
Holiday Inn Buffalo – Downtown
620 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
www.hibuffalodowntown.com

Reservations should be made directly to the hotel at:
Voice: (716) 886-2121
Fax: (716) 886-7942
Single Room Special Rate $87.00 plus tax (Single and Double)
Reservation deadline is also August 1, 2007

The Holiday Inn – Downtown, is located in the historic Allentown District, adjacent the Theodore Roosevelt Inauguration site. The hotel features 167 guest and business class rooms in addition to a heated outdoor swimming pool, fitness room, complimentary airport shuttle, free parking, PPV movies, ESPN, CNN, and free PPV movies.
“I don’t remember when Carter A. Printup became Captain, but soon after we wound up doing amphibious landings at Aliso Canyon up close to Camp Pendleton, we came back to San Diego to anchor off Coronado. The first of my duties was teaching gun crews how to use sound powered phones. So my special sea detail was phone operation on the forecastle.

The procedure was: bridge would call over phones to me the distance to drop anchor in yards. We were some thousand yards to drop anchor and I would repeat the yards out loud to Chief Warrant Wise. I have passed on 500 yards to let go of anchor. When next word was “let go of anchor”, and I repeated “let go of anchor” Wise looked at me and said what? I repeated “let go of anchor” Wise, said, “Not you Witherspoon, you’re staying with me”. The pelican hook was hit with a sledge and the anchor and chain started feeding out. You could not hear anything as the chain was going rata, rata, rata. We ran out 106 fathoms of chain and when the end hit, the bow raised out of the water, some 10 feet. Needless to say we were all scared to death. After we stopped Captain Carver Printup and his aides came to see what the damage was. Mr. Printup had been on a destroyer before the Mac and figured he would drop the hook and then back down. Needless to say C-4 hulls don’t respond like tin cans.

When the chain ran out, it pulled the steel wall away from the frames in the chain locker. I was able to see it at a later date. So much for anchoring.

After the Inchon invasion we returned to Sasebo. I was still on the forecastle with the headphones on special sea detail. When entering Sasebo there were sub nets before entering the harbor. We were about 800 yards to the nets, when all of a sudden a submarine surfaced in front of us going straight across the bow. The only thing visible was the conning tower. The surface look out on the starboard side holleder “There is a damn sub crossing our bow starboard to port.” He didn’t use sound powered phones, but anyone topside would’ve heard him. We never were told if it was a friend or foe.

I ended up spending 10 years in the Navy, and did one year for Harry Truman. I can’t complain. I had 126 weeks of electronic schools and that experience helped me to continue my career with the Federal Aviation Agency. I also spent time on the USS Princeton and USS Midway.”

– Gene A. Witherspoon, FC/3 #953

“The USS Mount McKinley, the USS Union (AKA 106) and the USS Fair (DE 35) were on our way to Japan for peace time landings with the 1st Cavalry off Camp McGill in Japan. We were changing supplies with the Union.” Photo Credit: Gene Witherspoon

From Our Shipmates:

Gene A. Witherspoon, FC/3 served on the Mac from February 1949 to April 1952. He was a Fire Control Technician and worked on all the electronic components that control the 5 inch 38, the four 40 mm and the ten 20 mm guns. Some other members of the Association might remember the incidents recalled by Gene.

Future Reunions:


HBO, high speed wireless internet throughout the hotel, an award winning restaurant, Jouquiles Café. The hotel is surrounded by coffee houses, cafes, grills and assorted other restaurants as well as some of the most famous historical sites in Buffalo.

Optional Tours

• Thursday, September 13th: Niagara Falls, US

A five hour tour of the U.S. side of Niagara Falls, with a visit to Goat Island, Whirlpool State Park, and a cruise on the famous Maid of the Mist (waterproof camera recommended).

Cost $29.00 per person.

• Friday, September 14th: Buffalo/Erie County Naval and Servicemen’s Park. A 3-4 hour visit to see a variety of military equipment including:

- USS Little Rock, CL-92 a light cruiser (Cleveland Class) later reclassified as CLG-4 after being refitted as a guided missile ship.
- USS Croaker, SS-246 a submarine (Gato Class) and veteran of 6 war patrols in WWII, she was recommissioned SSR-226 on April 9, 1953 and served as hunter-killer submarine until 1968.
- USS The Sullivans, DD-537, a destroyer (Fletcher Class) that received 9 battle stars for WWII and 2 for Korean service.
- PTF-17 A Fast Patrol Boat (Trumpy Class) was used to patrol coastal and inland waters in Vietnam. And much more!

New Passport Regulations

As of Jan. 23, 2007, Americans traveling to the Caribbean, Canada and Mexico by air must have a U.S. passport to re-enter the U.S. However, Americans do not need passports to travel to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands because they are U.S. territories. Land and sea travel is exempt from the new passport regulations, at least until Jan. 1, 2008, so you can still cruise to other Caribbean islands, Canada or Mexico, or drive across borders without a passport (though both a driver's license and a certified birth certificate are required to prove U.S. citizenship when driving back from Canada or Mexico). For details on how to obtain a passport and the new travel rules, go to http://www.travel.state.gov/passport.

Future Reunions:

The following shipmates have left us since our last reunion:

MEMBERS

Merkell Fader April, 2006 #139C
Bernadean Shreeves 7 October, 2006 #001A
Ed Fitzgerald July, 2006 #271A
Melvin Hamilton Unknown #843

President’s Report:

April 2007
Dear Shipmates;

Wow, what a fantastic job Bob Anders and his daughter did on the Masthead newsletter for Winter 2007. I thank Bob and his daughter Leslie for their extra effort. Their efforts are examples of the Mount McKinley spirit to get things done at the highest level. I thank all the Officers and the Directors of the Association for their willingness to go the extra mile for the Association’s membership.

The planning for the 2007 Reunion, September 12-16, 2007 in Buffalo/Niagara has been great and should be one of the best reunions. I still hope that our “Pen Pal” exercise will take place; my thought for 2007 was for every Mount McKinley Association member to send one photo from their shipboard experience to another shipmate and publish the exchange in the Masthead.

Good Luck!

Cheers,
David Nelson, President, Mount McKinley Association

Fond Farewells:

The following shipmates have left us since our last reunion:

MEMBERS

Merkell Fader April, 2006 #139C
Bernadean Shreeves 7 October, 2006 #001A
Ed Fitzgerald July, 2006 #271A
Melvin Hamilton Unknown #843
From Our Shipmates:

Three weeks after Japan officially surrendered, here are some of the images captured by our shipmate Bronson H. Thomas, # 159C, now deceased, of Sasebo, Japan. We are truly fortunate that Bronson was able to provide these photographs to our Association’s archives.

Summer 1945. Scenes of Sasebo, Kyushu Japan. September 1945. Clockwise from top left: Civilian policemen; Japanese girls; Fountain pen shop; Japanese man with rickshaw and wreckage of bombs; Fishing village at Sasebo Harbor.

Financial Statement:

Statement of Financial Condition for Period Ending 03/31/2007
Submitted by Edward J. Bannan, Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>CASH ON HAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank of America</td>
<td>$7,836.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scudder Fund</td>
<td>$25,018.51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Inv.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,125.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td>$52.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund for ret. Comp</td>
<td>$1,818.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Membership dues</td>
<td>$1,969.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Membership dues</td>
<td>$270.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store</td>
<td>$442.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Scudder Fund</td>
<td>$101.91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>$94.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>$1,263.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>$669.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Refund</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunion Fee Refund</td>
<td>$218.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$2,269.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$4,624.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less total expenses</td>
<td>$2,269.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Quarter Income</td>
<td>$2,354.84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$36,032.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wanted:

Our Association needs a new Treasurer.

Ed Bannan has done a wonderful job filling this important post since 2005, and has recently resigned the position. Any member interested in serving this vital role, please contact Dave Nelson, or Ed who can describe in detail the responsibilities of the Treasurer. Interested parties may reach Ed on his cell phone at (954) 205-0740.
Dear Shipmates,
I thank all of those who sent me kind words about the new look of the Masthead. I hope all of you will continue to send me your letters and photos, because without them, there cannot be a newsletter in any format. Only with your help, through your interest in the Association, can the publication succeed in its mission.

My special thanks in this issue to Lee Temanson for his article on Marguerite Higgins. His advisors told him that an amphibious landing at Inchon in 1965, she was stricken with leishmaniasis, a tropical disease, and returned to the United States to be treated at Walter Reed Hospital. She died in 1966, at the age of 45. Higgins' s outstanding career as a journalist and her service to her country as a war correspondent was honored with her burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Sources: War in Korea (1951) by Marguerite Higgins and *Woman to War*, a biography of Marguerite Higgins by Antoniette May (1983).

Does anyone remember Marguerite Higgins on board the Mt Mac? How many remember Incheon?

Does anyone remember the sequence on how the ladies head became “The Marguerite Higgins Room”?

Would Marguerite Higgins night on board the Mt. Mac be the first time a woman spent the night on board? I know it was not the only time but I wonder if it was the first.

Prepared by Lee Temanson

Editor’s Postscript: “In 1952 Marguerite Higgins married then Air Force Major General William E. Hall. Their first daughter, born prematurely in 1953, died five days later. A son was born in 1958 and the following year, a daughter. (Source: Marguerite Higgins Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Library)

Photo Credit: Carl Mydans for Time & Life Pictures — Getty Images

Editor’s Response: Dennis, you’re right. And I was right. The problem was that I failed to tell the complete story of the Estes, sloppy scholarship on my part. My apologies to all. Thanks for pointing that out to me. Here is the correct chronology of the Estes.

Commissioned: 9 October 1944
Decommissioned: 31 October 1969

Agin in your latest issue on the back page you list the AGC’s. The USS Estes is listed as AGC 12, decommissioned on June 20, 1949.

I remember during the time that I was aboard the Mt. McKinley there were two other AGC’s in the Pacific. One was the Eldorados AGC 11. The other was the Estes and I remember it as AGC 3. Does anyone else remember it like I do?” —Bill Taylor

Editor’s Comment: I plan to write about the various iterations our ship went thru when I have space within the newsletter to do it. At the moment, I am limited to 12 pages.

Finally, I thank Joseph Ostendorf, MM3 for sending the photograph at left of men from Ohio aboard the Mighty Mac. Joseph told me that even though he lives in the Dayton area, he was unable to attend last year’s reunion because he had suffered both a heart attack and a stroke, but is now recovering. We wish him well.

Robert Anders, Editor
Timeline: USS Mount McKinley (AGC-7) Second Cruise

World Events

- July 28, 1945: Allies delivered an ultimatum to surrender to Japan, which the Japanese ignored

Mighty Mac Events

- 23 June to 30 Aug, 1945: Mare Island overhaul
- 24 – 30 August: Sailed from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor
- 15 August, 1945: Departed Pearl Harbor for Saipan
- 16 to 22 September, 1945: Sailed from Saipan to Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan. Moored at buoy #17 at Sasebo, where VADM Abe, RADM Ishii, MGEN Koho of Japan came on board and reported full compliance with the Tokyo Bay surrender terms. Participated in landing occupation troops there
- 2 November, 1945: Arrived Yokosuka
- 17 November, 1945: Departed Yokosuka
- 22 November, 1945: Thanksgiving
- 15 November, 1945: Changed anchorage from Yokosuka to Yokahama
- 18 October, 1945: “We saw city rains in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.” - Russell J. deLaubell, RM/3
- 2 November, 1945: Arrived Yokahama
- 26 November, 1945: Arrived Pearl Harbor
- 28 November, 1945: Departed Pearl Harbor
- 1 December, 1945: Arrived San Diego
- 5 December, 1945: Arrived San Diego

“In Their Own Words”

“... We were being prepared for the invasion of Japan on All Saints Day, November 1, 1945. But President Truman made one of the greatest and best decisions of many presidents of the U.S. by authorizing the military to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. VJ day came on August 14th, 1945. President Truman’s decision saved countless American lives.” - Andrew B. Ulichney YN/2 (#023)

“... I was transferred from the ship back to the states at Okinawa. I thought I was pretty lucky because I figured the Mt. McKinley was going to get hit sooner or later from one of those Jap planes. Imagine my surprise when, in San Francisco, I met some of the guys from the ship on VJ Day and found out that they had already been back east on 30 days leave and were about to report back on board at the shipyard.” - Robert “Bob” Raymond, RM/3

“... When we found out that we were headed for Japan to accept surrenders, we did not know what to expect as we approached Japan. We were wondering how the Japanese would feel, and how they would view us.” - Russell J. deLaubell, RM/3

“In Their Own Words”

“... I remember selling a complete storeroom of cigarettes to the crew in Tokyo and the crew was trading cigarettes into Jap yen to buy souvenirs.” - Glen A. Lundy, SK/3 (#348)

“In Their Own Words”

“... We were being prepared for the invasion of Japan on All Saints Day, November 1, 1945. But President Truman made one of the greatest and best decisions of many presidents of the U.S. by authorizing the military to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. VJ day came on August 14th, 1945. President Truman’s decision saved countless American lives.” - Andrew B. Ulichney YN/2 (#023)
Timeline: USS Mount McKinley (AGC-7) Second Cruise

**World Events**

- **July 28, 1945**: Allies delivered an ultimatum to surrender to Japan, which the Japanese ignored.

**Mighty Mac Events**

- **July 16, 1945**: First nuclear weapon “Gadget” detonated in New Mexico.
- **August 6, 1945**: Crew allowed to visit Hiroshima.
- **August 9, 1945**: Second A-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
- **August 14, 1945**: VJ Day—Japan announces surrender to Allied Powers.
- **October 16-22, 1945**: Moored at buoy #17 at Sasebo, where VADM Abe, RADM Ishii, MGEN Koho of Japan came on board and reported full compliance with the Tokyo Bay surrender terms.
- **November 2-13, 1945**: Departed Pearl Harbor for Saipan.
- **October 18, 1945**: We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.

**“In Their Own Words”**

- **August 20, 1945**: “When we found out that we were headed for Japan to accept surrenders, we did not know what to expect as we approached Japan. We were wondering how the Japanese would feel, and how they would view us.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, RM/3

- **October 18, 1945**: “We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **November 3, 1945**: “I remember selling a complete storeroom of cigarettes to the crew in Tokyo and the crew was trading cigarettes into Jap yen to buy souvenirs.”
  - Glen A. Lundy, SK/3 (#348)

- **November 17, 1945**: “When we found out that we were headed for Japan to accept surrenders, we did not know what to expect as we approached Japan. We were wondering how the Japanese would feel, and how they would view us.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **November 22, 1945**: “We arrived in Sasebo and could see the Japanese people fleeing their water shore homes as they did not know what we would do.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **December 1, 1945**: Changed anchorage from Yokohama to Yokosuka.

**Photo Credit**: Bronson H. Thomas (#159C) now deceased

---

**World Events**

- **July 16, 1945**: First nuclear weapon “Gadget” detonated in New Mexico.
- **August 6, 1945**: Crew allowed to visit Hiroshima.
- **August 9, 1945**: Second A-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
- **August 14, 1945**: VJ Day—Japan announces surrender to Allied Powers.
- **October 16-22, 1945**: Moored at buoy #17 at Sasebo, where VADM Abe, RADM Ishii, MGEN Koho of Japan came on board and reported full compliance with the Tokyo Bay surrender terms.
- **November 2-13, 1945**: Departed Pearl Harbor for Saipan.
- **October 18, 1945**: We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.

**“In Their Own Words”**

- **August 20, 1945**: “When we found out that we were headed for Japan to accept surrenders, we did not know what to expect as we approached Japan. We were wondering how the Japanese would feel, and how they would view us.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, RM/3

- **October 18, 1945**: “We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **November 3, 1945**: “I remember selling a complete storeroom of cigarettes to the crew in Tokyo and the crew was trading cigarettes into Jap yen to buy souvenirs.”
  - Glen A. Lundy, SK/3 (#348)

- **November 22, 1945**: “We arrived in Sasebo and could see the Japanese people fleeing their water shore homes as they did not know what we would do.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **December 1, 1945**: Changed anchorage from Yokohama to Yokosuka.

**Photo Credit**: Bronson H. Thomas (#159C) now deceased

---

**World Events**

- **July 16, 1945**: First nuclear weapon “Gadget” detonated in New Mexico.
- **August 6, 1945**: Crew allowed to visit Hiroshima.
- **August 9, 1945**: Second A-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
- **August 14, 1945**: VJ Day—Japan announces surrender to Allied Powers.
- **October 16-22, 1945**: Moored at buoy #17 at Sasebo, where VADM Abe, RADM Ishii, MGEN Koho of Japan came on board and reported full compliance with the Tokyo Bay surrender terms.
- **November 2-13, 1945**: Departed Pearl Harbor for Saipan.
- **October 18, 1945**: We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.

**“In Their Own Words”**

- **August 20, 1945**: “When we found out that we were headed for Japan to accept surrenders, we did not know what to expect as we approached Japan. We were wondering how the Japanese would feel, and how they would view us.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, RM/3

- **October 18, 1945**: “We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **November 3, 1945**: “I remember selling a complete storeroom of cigarettes to the crew in Tokyo and the crew was trading cigarettes into Jap yen to buy souvenirs.”
  - Glen A. Lundy, SK/3 (#348)

- **November 22, 1945**: “We arrived in Sasebo and could see the Japanese people fleeing their water shore homes as they did not know what we would do.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **December 1, 1945**: Changed anchorage from Yokohama to Yokosuka.

**Photo Credit**: Bronson H. Thomas (#159C) now deceased

---

**World Events**

- **July 16, 1945**: First nuclear weapon “Gadget” detonated in New Mexico.
- **August 6, 1945**: Crew allowed to visit Hiroshima.
- **August 9, 1945**: Second A-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
- **August 14, 1945**: VJ Day—Japan announces surrender to Allied Powers.
- **October 16-22, 1945**: Moored at buoy #17 at Sasebo, where VADM Abe, RADM Ishii, MGEN Koho of Japan came on board and reported full compliance with the Tokyo Bay surrender terms.
- **November 2-13, 1945**: Departed Pearl Harbor for Saipan.
- **October 18, 1945**: We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.

**“In Their Own Words”**

- **August 20, 1945**: “When we found out that we were headed for Japan to accept surrenders, we did not know what to expect as we approached Japan. We were wondering how the Japanese would feel, and how they would view us.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, RM/3

- **October 18, 1945**: “We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **November 3, 1945**: “I remember selling a complete storeroom of cigarettes to the crew in Tokyo and the crew was trading cigarettes into Jap yen to buy souvenirs.”
  - Glen A. Lundy, SK/3 (#348)

- **November 22, 1945**: “We arrived in Sasebo and could see the Japanese people fleeing their water shore homes as they did not know what we would do.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **December 1, 1945**: Changed anchorage from Yokohama to Yokosuka.

**Photo Credit**: Bronson H. Thomas (#159C) now deceased

---

**World Events**

- **July 16, 1945**: First nuclear weapon “Gadget” detonated in New Mexico.
- **August 6, 1945**: Crew allowed to visit Hiroshima.
- **August 9, 1945**: Second A-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
- **August 14, 1945**: VJ Day—Japan announces surrender to Allied Powers.
- **October 16-22, 1945**: Moored at buoy #17 at Sasebo, where VADM Abe, RADM Ishii, MGEN Koho of Japan came on board and reported full compliance with the Tokyo Bay surrender terms.
- **November 2-13, 1945**: Departed Pearl Harbor for Saipan.
- **October 18, 1945**: We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.

**“In Their Own Words”**

- **August 20, 1945**: “When we found out that we were headed for Japan to accept surrenders, we did not know what to expect as we approached Japan. We were wondering how the Japanese would feel, and how they would view us.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, RM/3

- **October 18, 1945**: “We saw city ruins in Kure, completely fire bombed out and several other places.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **November 3, 1945**: “I remember selling a complete storeroom of cigarettes to the crew in Tokyo and the crew was trading cigarettes into Jap yen to buy souvenirs.”
  - Glen A. Lundy, SK/3 (#348)

- **November 22, 1945**: “We arrived in Sasebo and could see the Japanese people fleeing their water shore homes as they did not know what we would do.”
  - Russell J. deLaubell, BM3

- **December 1, 1945**: Changed anchorage from Yokohama to Yokosuka.

**Photo Credit**: Bronson H. Thomas (#159C) now deceased
Marguerite Higgins was a journalist with a reputation as a top war correspondent. Her primary employer was the New York Tribune. She covered the end of WWII in Europe, the liberation of concentration camps, the Nuremberg trials, the Korean War, the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu and the Vietnam war.

She was born in Hong Kong in 1920, where her father was employed with a shipping company. The family later moved to Oakland and Marguerite entered the University of California and graduated with honors and then received a master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University.

Well, does all of this have to do with the USS Mount McKinley? While working at the front in Korea she ended up in Pusan. She wanted to find a radio room where she could file her report. Finding no luck on the Ist she found a boat going to the “McKinley,” the flagship of General MacArthur, was referred to as just “McKinley” and never as “Mount McKinley.”

With great reluctance the Mount Mac let her come aboard, again with the prejudicial conception that women did not belong aboard a US Navy ship. The ship had told her that there was no room but for some reason, a medic told her that there was an empty room in the dispensary (sick bay) with “facilities.” She spent the night sleeping on a stretcher and was able to send in her account of the invasion to the Tribune from the Pusan Harbor.

These events were retold in Ms. Higgins book, “War in Korea” in 1951. Documenting her experiences as the Tribune’s reporter in Korea, the book became a best selling hit in the United States.

In 1951, she became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. The same year she was named Woman of the Year by the Associated Press news organization.

After one of her many trips to Vietnam in 1965, she was stricken with leishmaniasis, a tropical disease, and returned to the United States to be treated at Walter Reed Hospital. She died in 1966, at the age of 45. Higgins’ outstanding career as a journalist and her service to her country as a war correspondent was honored with her burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Editor’s Message:

Dear Shipmates,

I thank all of those who sent me kind words about the new look of the Masthead. I hope all of you will continue to send me your letters and photos, because without them, there cannot be a newsletter in any format. Only with your help, through your interest in the Association, can the publication succeed in its mission.

My special thanks in this issue to Lee Temanson for his article on Marguerite Higgins Hall, to Gene Witherspoon FC 3 for his article and the 179 color slides from his time on the Mount McKinley, some of which I included in this issue. Also to the following for their letters:

“Only one comment. I don’t know where you got the information about the AGC’s on the back page but there is at least one error that I know of. The USS Estes was decommissioned in 1970. I know because I had to help do it for about a month after decommissioning the Mac. I think all the rest are correct. It’s not a big thing but I thought I should let you know.” —Dennis Pliny

Editor’s Response: Dennis, you’re right. And I was right. The problem was that I failed to tell the complete story of the Estes; sloppy scholarship on my part. My apologies to all. Thanks for pointing that out to me. Here is the correct chronology of the Estes.

Commissioned: 9 October 1944 Decommissioned: 30 June 1949
Recommissioned: 31 January 1951 Decommissioned: 31 October 1969
(Source: www.navsource.org/archives)

“Bob, it’s nothing new to my wife but I am confused. Since I have been a member of the association and reading the Masthead, there has been a listing of the AGC’s. Again in your latest issue on the back page you list the AGC’s. The USS Estes is listed as AGC 12, decommissioned on June 20, 1949. I remember during the time that I was aboard the Mt. McKinley there were two other AGC’s in the Pacific. One was the Eldorados AGC 11. The other was the Estes and I remember it as AGC 3. Does anyone else remember it like I do?” —Bill Taylor

Editor’s Response: I am sorry that my incomplete information about the Estes (AGC-12) contributed to your confusion. It was the Estes that was operational along with the Mount McKinley and the Eldorado during your time aboard. The AGC-3 was the USS Rocky Mount, Commissioned 16 October, 1943 and Decommissioned 22 March 1947.

“Bob, while you are at it, I noticed the picture of the Mt. McKinley on the back page of the Masthead that the gun mounts had guns other than what I remember. In the ’50’s there was a 5” and two forty’s on each side forward. The ones in the picture look different. Thanks again” —Bill Taylor

Editor’s Comment: I plan to write about the various iterations our ship went thru when I have space within the newsletter to do it. At the moment, I am limited to 12 pages.

Finally, I thank Joseph Ostendorf, MM3 for sending the photograph at left of mess from Ohio aboard the Mighty Mac. Joseph told me that even though he lives in the Dayton area, he was unable to attend last year’s reunion because he had suffered both a heart attack and a stroke, but is now recovering. We wish him well.

Robert Anders, Editor

The Marguerite Higgins Room

Just forward of the wardroom on the starboard side there was a ladies restroom, the only one on the ship. There was a sign outside that said “Marguerite Higgins Room”. So, who was Marguerite Higgins and why would a space on the USS Mount McKinley be named after her?

Marguerite Higgins was a journalist with a reputation as a top war correspondent. Her primary employer was the New York Tribune. She covered the end of WWII in Europe, the liberation of concentration camps, the Nuremberg trials, the Korean War, the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu and the Vietnam war.

She was born in Hong Kong in 1920, where her father was employed with a shipping company. The family later moved to Oakland and Marguerite entered the University of California and graduated with honors and then received a master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University.

Well, does all of this have to do with the USS Mount McKinley? While working at the front in Korea she ended up in Pusan. She wanted to find a radio room where she could file her report. Finding no luck on the Ist she found a boat going to the “McKinley,” the flagship of General MacArthur, was referred to as just “McKinley” and never as “Mount McKinley.”

With great reluctance the Mount Mac let her come aboard, again with the prejudicial conception that women did not belong aboard a US Navy ship. The ship had told her that there was no room but for some reason, a medic told her that there was an empty room in the dispensary (sick bay) with “facilities.” She spent the night sleeping on a stretcher and was able to send in her account of the invasion to the Tribune from the Pusan Harbor.

These events were retold in Ms. Higgins book, “War in Korea” in 1951. Documenting her experiences as the Tribune’s reporter in Korea, the book became a best selling hit in the United States.

In 1951, she became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. The same year she was named Woman of the Year by the Associated Press news organization.

After one of her many trips to Vietnam in 1965, she was stricken with leishmaniasis, a tropical disease, and returned to the United States to be treated at Walter Reed Hospital. She died in 1966, at the age of 45. Higgins’ outstanding career as a journalist and her service to her country as a war correspondent was honored with her burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Photo Credit: Carl Mydans for Time & Life Pictures — Getty Images

Dear Shipmates,

I thank all of those who sent me kind words about the new look of the Masthead. I hope all of you will continue to send me your letters and photos, because without them, there cannot be a newsletter in any format. Only with your help, through your interest in the Association, can the publication succeed in its mission.

My special thanks in this issue to Lee Temanson for his article on Marguerite Higgins Hall, to Gene Witherspoon FC 3 for his article and the 179 color slides from his time on the Mount McKinley, some of which I included in this issue. Also to the following for their letters:

“Only one comment. I don’t know where you got the information about the AGC’s on the back page but there is at least one error that I know of. The USS Estes was decommissioned in 1970. I know because I had to help do it for about a month after decommissioning the Mac. I think all the rest are correct. It’s not a big thing but I thought I should let you know.” —Dennis Pliny

Editor’s Response: Dennis, you’re right. And I was right. The problem was that I failed to tell the complete story of the Estes; sloppy scholarship on my part. My apologies to all. Thanks for pointing that out to me. Here is the correct chronology of the Estes.

Commissioned: 9 October 1944 Decommissioned: 30 June 1949
Recommissioned: 31 January 1951 Decommissioned: 31 October 1969
(Source: www.navsource.org/archives)

“Bob, it’s nothing new to my wife but I am confused. Since I have been a member of the association and reading the Masthead, there has been a listing of the AGC’s. Again in your latest issue on the back page you list the AGC’s. The USS Estes is listed as AGC 12, decommissioned on June 20, 1949. I remember during the time that I was aboard the Mt. McKinley there were two other AGC’s in the Pacific. One was the Eldorados AGC 11. The other was the Estes and I remember it as AGC 3. Does anyone else remember it like I do?” —Bill Taylor

Editor’s Response: I am sorry that my incomplete information about the Estes (AGC-12) contributed to your confusion. It was the Estes that was operational along with the Mount McKinley and the Eldorado during your time aboard. The AGC-3 was the USS Rocky Mount, Commissioned 16 October, 1943 and Decommissioned 22 March 1947.

“Bob, while you are at it, I noticed the picture of the Mt. McKinley on the back page of the Masthead that the gun mounts had guns other than what I remember. In the ’50’s there was a 5” and two forty’s on each side forward. The ones in the picture look different. Thanks again” —Bill Taylor

Editor’s Comment: I plan to write about the various iterations our ship went thru when I have space within the newsletter to do it. At the moment, I am limited to 12 pages.

Finally, I thank Joseph Ostendorf, MM3 for sending the photograph at left of mess from Ohio aboard the Mighty Mac. Joseph told me that even though he lives in the Dayton area, he was unable to attend last year’s reunion because he had suffered both a heart attack and a stroke, but is now recovering. We wish him well.

Robert Anders, Editor
OFFICERS
President: David F. Nelson  
3847 W. Sherwin Ave.  
Lincolnwood, IL. 60712  
(847) 673-3847
Vice President: William Ellis  
504 Sandy Oaks Blvd.  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174  
(386) 676-9963
Secretary: Lee Temanson  
10749 104th Ave. N  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
(763) 425-6315
Membership Secretary: Gerald Crizt  
10 Esphurba Ct.  
Homosassa, FL 34446  
(352) 382-7694
Treasurer: Ed Bannan  
3339 SW 49th St.  
Ft. Lauderdale FL 33312-7945  
(954) 962-9887

DIRECTORS
2005-2006  
William Martincic  
Charles Prange  
Richard Wilson
2005-2006  
William Alexander  
Bob Halas  
Chuck Hakli  
William Alexander

STAFF
Immediate Past President: Dwight Janzen
Newsletter Editor: Robert Anders  
PO Box 609  
Warwick, NY 10990-0609  
(845) 987-8674  
rjanders@msn.com
Art Direction: Leslie Anders
Internet Editor: Ken Oxenrider  
webmaster1@ussmtmckinley.com
Chaplain: John Knighton
Election: Dwight Janzen
Parliamentarian: Luke Ellison
Reunion Chairman: Dave Long
Service Officer: Pat Tracy
Ship’s Store: Steve Schermerhorn
Master-at-Arms: Bud White
Historian: Lee Temanson
Visit us on the web: www.ussmtmckinley.com

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Statement of Financial Condition for Period Ending 03/31/2007
Submitted by Edward J. Bannan, Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>CASH ON HAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank of America</td>
<td>$7,836.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scudder Fund</td>
<td>$25,018.51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Inv.</td>
<td>$3,125.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Cash</td>
<td>$52.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund for ret. Comp</td>
<td>$1,818.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Membership dues</td>
<td>$1,969.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Membership dues</td>
<td>$270.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store</td>
<td>$442.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Scudder Fund</td>
<td>$101.91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>$94.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>$1,263.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>$669.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Refund</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunion Fee Refund</td>
<td>$218.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$2,269.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$4,624.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less total expenses</td>
<td>$2,269.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Quarter Income</td>
<td>$2,354.84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$36,032.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WANTED:
Our Association needs a new Treasurer.

Ed Bannan has done a wonderful job filling this important post since 2005, and has recently resigned the position. Any member interested in serving this vital role, please contact Dave Nelson, or Ed who can describe in detail the responsibilities of the Treasurer. Interested parties may reach Ed on his cell phone at (954) 205-0740.

(Photo at right) Men from Ohio serving aboard the USS Mount McKinley during the early 1950’s (l to r top row) J. N. Gehrich, J. D. Coleman, Ens. W. L. Hurd, B. E. Sterling, J. A. Ostendorf, and A. F. Welter. (Kneeling are) Louis Proniste and C. A. Kish.

From Our Shipmates:
Three weeks after Japan officially surrendered, here are some of the images captured by our shipmate Bronson H. Thomas, # 159C, now deceased, of Sasebo, Japan. We are truly fortunate that Bronson was able to provide these photographs to our Association’s archives.

Scenes of Sasebo, Kyushu Japan, September 1945. Clockwise from top left: Civilian policemen; Japanese girls; Fountain pen shop; Japanese man with rickshaw and wreckage of bombs; Fishing village at Sasebo Harbor.
From Our Shipmates:

Gene A. Witherspoon, FC/3 served on the Mac from February 1949 to April 1952. He was a Fire Control Technician and worked on all the electronic components that control the 5 inch 38, the four 40 mm and the ten 20 mm guns. Some other members of the Association might remember the incidents recalled by Gene.

“I don’t remember when Carter A. Printup became Captain, but soon after we wound up doing amphibious landings at Aliso Canyon up close to Camp Pendleton, we came back to San Diego to anchor off Coronado. The first of my duties was teaching crew guns crews how to use sound powered phones. So my special sea detail was phone operation on the forecastle. The procedure was: bridge would call over phones to me the distance to drop anchor in yards. We were some thousand yards to drop anchor and I would repeat the yards out loud to Chief Warrant Wise. I have passed on 500 sand yards to drop anchor and I would still be able to anchor. The procedure was: bridge would call over phones to me the distance to drop anchor in yards. We were some thousand yards to drop anchor and I would repeat the yards out loud to Chief Warrant Wise. I have passed on 500 sand yards to drop anchor and I would still be able to anchor.

When the chain ran out, it pulled the steel wall away from the frames in the chain locker. I was able to see it at a later date. So much for anchoring.

After the Inchon invasion we returned to Sasebo. I was still on the forecastle with the headphones on special sea detail. When entering Sasebo there were sub nets before entering the harbor. We were about 800 yards to the nets, when all of a sudden a submarine surfaced in front of us going straight across the bow. The only thing visible was the conning tower. The surface look out on the starboard side hollered “There is a damn sub crossing our bow starboard to port.” He didn’t use sound power phones, but anyone topside would’ve heard him. We never were told if it was a friend or foe.

I ended up spending 10 years in the Navy, and did one year for Harry Truman. I can’t complain. I had 126 weeks of electronic schools and that experience helped me to continue my career with the Federal Aviation Agency. I also spent time on the USS Princeton and USS Midway.”

– Gene A. Witherspoon, FC/3 #933

“The USS Mount McKinley, the USS Union (AKA 106) and the USS Fair (DE 35) were on our way to Japan for peace time landings with the 1st Cavalry off Camp McGill in Japan. We were changing supplies with the Union.” Photo Credit: Gene Witherspoon

President’s Report:

April 2007
Dear Shipmates;

Wow, what a fantastic job Bob Anders and his daughter Leslie did on the Masthead newsletter for Winter 2007. I thank Bob and his daughter Leslie for their extra effort. Their efforts are examples of the Mount McKinley spirit to get things done at the highest level. I thank all the Officers and the Directors of the Association for their willingness to go the extra mile for the Association’s membership.

The planning for the 2007 Reunion, September 12-16, 2007 in Buffalo/Niagara has been great and should be one of the best reunions. I still hope that our “Pen Pal” exercise will take place; my thought for 2007 was for every Mount McKinley Association member to send one photo from their shipboard experience to another shipmate and publish the exchange in the Masthead. Good Luck!

Cheers,
David Nelson, President,
Mount McKinley Association

Fond Farewells:
The following shipmates have left us since our last reunion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>Month, Year</th>
<th>Nickname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merckell Fader</td>
<td>April, 2006</td>
<td>#139C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernadene Shreeves</td>
<td>7 October, 2006</td>
<td>#001A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Fitzgerald</td>
<td>July, 2006</td>
<td>#271A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvin Hamilton</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>#843</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HBO, high speed wireless internet throughout the hotel, an award winning restaurant, Jonquiles Café. The hotel is surrounded by coffee houses, cafes, grills and assorted other restaurants as well as some of the most famous historical sites in Buffalo.

Ship’s Store

The Ship’s Store will be open in the Hospitality Room during Reunion 2007 for purchases of Mount McKinley Logo items: hats, T-shirts, pins, patches, and more.

Optional Tours

• Thursday, September 13th: Niagara Falls, US
A five hour tour of the U.S. side of Niagara Falls, with a visit to Goat Island, Whirlpool State Park, and a cruise on the famous Maid of the Mist (waterproof camera recommended).
Cost $29.00 per person.

• Friday, September 14th: Buffalo/Erie County Naval and Servicemen’s Park.
A 3-4 hour visit to see a variety of military equipment including:
• USS Little Rock, CL-92 a light cruiser (Cleveland Class) later reclassified as CLG-4 after being refitted as a guided missile ship.
• USS Croaker, SS-246 a submarine (Gato Class) and veteran of 6 war patrols in WWII, she was recommissioned SSK 226 on April 9, 1953 and served as hunter-killer submarine until 1968.
• USS The Sullivans, DD-537, a destroyer (Fletcher Class) that received 9 battle stars for WWII and 2 for Korean service.
• PTF-17 A Fast Patrol Boat (Trumpy Class) was used to patrol coastal and inland waters in Vietnam.
• And much more!

New Passport Regulations

As of Jan. 23, 2007, Americans traveling to the Caribbean, Canada and Mexico by air must have a U.S. passport to re-enter the U.S. However, Americans do not need passports to travel to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands because they are U.S. territories. Land and sea travel is exempt from the new passport regulations, at least until Jan. 1, 2008, so you can still cruise to other Caribbean islands, Canada or Mexico, or drive across borders without a passport (though both a driver’s license and a certified birth certificate are required to prove U.S. citizenship when driving back from Canada or Mexico). For details on how to obtain a passport and the new travel rules, go to http://www.travel.state.gov/passport.

Future Reunions:
2008, Reno, Nevada; 2009, Corpus Christi, Texas; 2010, Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida
Reunion News

An Invitation to former crewmen of the USS Mount McKinley AGC-7 and her sister AGC’s to participate in a fun-filed 2007 reunion in Buffalo / Niagara, New York

2007 Reunion Facts:
September 12 – 16, 2007
Buffalo/Niagara

The Low Cost of Having Fun

Reunion Registration Fee: $72.00
Required of all members, spouses and guests

Your registration fee includes four-day hospitality room with beer, mixed drinks, soda, coffee, etc. and morning donuts; Wednesday Welcome Reception; Saturday night banquet and program, door prizes & awards; Sunday morning buffet breakfast, your share of administration & reunion costs and all taxes and gratuities.

Registration Form

The registration form is included as an insert to this edition of the Masthead. Please fill it out and enclose your check made out to: USS Mount McKinley Association, and place it in an envelope and mail to:

Ed Bannan
3339 SW 49th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312-7945

Registration closing date is August 1, 2007.

Reunion Quarters

Holiday Inn Buffalo – Downtown
620 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
www.hibuffaldowntown.com

Reservations should be made directly to the hotel at:
Voice: (716) 886-2121
Fax: (716) 886-7942
Single Room Special Rate $87.00 plus tax (Single and Double)
Reservation deadline is also August 1, 2007

The Holiday Inn – Downtown, is located in the historic Allentown District, adjacent the Theodore Roosevelt Inauguration site. The hotel features 167 guest and business class rooms in addition to a heated outdoor swimming pool, fitness room, complimentary airport shuttle, free parking, PPV movies, ESPN, CNN, and free...
USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7

“July 4, 1949. The USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7 anchored in Everett, Washington dressed for open house. Fifty members of the crew marched in the 4th of July parade. The local VFW post invited the crew to their party that night which was held outdoors.” Photo credit: Gene Witherspoon, FC/3, #953