USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7:
The USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7 was the first of a new class of Amphibious Force Command ships. The following ships were all designated as belonging to the Mount McKinley class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHIP</th>
<th>COMMISSIONED</th>
<th>DECOMMISSIONED</th>
<th>DAYS IN SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS Mount McKinley AGC-7</td>
<td>1 May 1944</td>
<td>26 March 1970</td>
<td>9,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Mount Olympus AGC-8</td>
<td>24 May 1944</td>
<td>4 April 1956</td>
<td>4,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Wasatch AGC-9</td>
<td>20 May 1944</td>
<td>30 August 1946</td>
<td>852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Auburn AGC-10</td>
<td>20 July 1944</td>
<td>7 May 1947</td>
<td>1,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Eldorado AGC-11</td>
<td>25 August 1944</td>
<td>8 November 1972</td>
<td>10,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Estes AGC-12</td>
<td>9 October 1944</td>
<td>30 June 1949</td>
<td>1,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Panamint AGC-13</td>
<td>14 October 1944</td>
<td>January 1947</td>
<td>809 + ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Teton AGC-14</td>
<td>18 October 1944</td>
<td>30 August 1946</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons

2007 REUNION
September 12th to 16th

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

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.
THE MASTHEAD: Winter 2007
USS Mount McKinley Association Newsletter

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

Secretary: Lee Temanson
10749 106th Ave. N
Maple Grove, MN 55369
(763) 425-6315

Membership Secretary: Gerald Critz
10 Euphoria Ct.
Homosassa, FL 34446
(352) 382-7694

Treasurer: Ed Bannan
3339 SW 49th St.
Ft. Lauderdale FL 33312-7945
(954) 962-9887

DIRECTORS
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William Martincic
Charles Prange
Richard Wilson

2005-2006
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Bob Halas
Chuck Hakli
William Alexander

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Internet Editor: Ken Oxenrider
webmaster@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

DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION
A special thank you to Nancy Quinn in memory of James Quinn

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006
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>$5,887.53</td>
<td>$24,737.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scudder Fund</td>
<td>$2,624.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Inv.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Membership dues: $4,011.00
Life Membership dues: $2,185.00
Donations: $1,521.00
Ships Store: $4,792.50
Masthead Adv.: $100.00
Interest Scudder Fund: $1,106.20
Reunion Income: $12,929.00
Misc. Income: $5.00

Office Supplies: $251.62
Ret. Dues Check: $79.00
Bank Fees: $1,000.00
Printing: $2,490.00
Postage for Assoc.: $1,843.65
Ships Store S&H: $555.42
Computer Software: $27.99
Web Hosting Fee: $230.40
Computer Purchase: $2,088.22
Reunion Liability. Ins: $138.00
Reunion Expenses: $11,160.56
Ships Store Inv. Purch: $3,833.13
Ships Store Refund: $66.00
Reunion Fee Refund: $218.00
Total Expenses: $23,155.68

Total Income: $26,649.70
Less total expenses: $23,155.68
Total Annual Income: $3,494.02

Total Assets: $33,889.71

Mount McKinley Ship’s Store:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Color / Size / Style</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golf Shirt (Short Sleeve, 100% Heavyweight Cotton)</td>
<td>Navy Blue / S, M, L, XL</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Navy Blue / XXL, XXXL</td>
<td>27.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps</td>
<td>White, Kaki, Navy Blue / One Size Adjustable</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship’s Patches</td>
<td>3 Mountain, 5 Association Mermaid/Turtle, 6” Diesel Gang Patch, Snipe Force Patch, Task Force 90 Patch, Gator Navy Patch</td>
<td>8.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ship’s Decal</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00 each or 2 for 5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mouse Pad</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Laser Engraved Key Tags</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Master Roster</td>
<td>Red Cover, 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue Cover, 1944-49</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow Cover, 1950-59</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold Cover, 1960-70</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
<td>Includes your name, division years of service</td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Call Steve Schermerhorn 574-831-2843 for special order form</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matted Color Print</td>
<td>16 x 20 Doubled Matted Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ship’s Photos</td>
<td>8 x 10, Black &amp; White Photos Listed at Bottom (A-C)</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#11 Series are B & W photos. More photos and items are listed on the website: ussmtmckinley.com
New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.

Make Checks Payable to: USS Mount McKinley Association (Sorry No Credit Cards) Please add $5.00 shipping charge to each order.

Mail Order to: USS Mount McKinley Ship Store c/o Steve Schermerhorn
69272 County Road 23 New Paris, IN 46553

Please Print Clearly
Name
Street Address
City State Zip
Phone # (               ) Email

Visit us on the web: www.ussmtmckinley.com
The following poem was written by John P. Wall, a new member #1027 after he served as a lookout on the port side during the third watch. (Circa 1962-1963)

Downward Thrust… “SPLASH” !!!
The fury of the sea and that of a bridge lookout upon the third watch.

“SPLASH” as, the waves passes over, the bow of our ship.
Then, feeling the first roll beneath the keel. As the ship twisted to the starboard and rise upward to meet the second roll.

“SPLASH” in a downward thrust as, the ship pulled to the port side with a sudden impact of a huge wave that came up to the bridge. A slight spray of salt water upon, one’s brow and it is here, that we learn to be men and not play with the sea.

Especially, when she is mad and thoughtless… whispering these words… “COME PLAY WITH ME” !!!

John P. Wall, above, also sent some portraits, below, of his shipmates that some of you may remember.

From left to right: Captain Flynn, USS Mt. McKinley, AGC-7, 1963; Commander Goulet, Executive Offices, USS Mt. McKinley, AGC-7, 1962-63; L.W. Buchmeier, GmC

Missing Members:
The following members are missing if anyone knows anything about them, please contact me at nanakw@tampabay.rr.com (352) 382-7694 or Gerald Critz, 10 Euphorbia Ct., Homosassa, FL, 34446

Bobby Jatho #1021
1730 W. Capri St., Mesa, AZ

Thomas J. De Beav Jr. #398
11050 Bellarbor Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

Eugene Shelton #750
PO Box 9234, Hickory, NC

Dennis C. Smith #889
2106 Squires St., Longmount, CO

Arthur Mc Capes #624
1082 San Marcus Rd., Hemet, CA

John Morrey #868
2000 S. Lake Line Blvd #326, Cedar Park, TX

Robert D. Bohall #760
330 16th Ave S.W., Largo, FL

Vera Beeskow #091A
526 Newberry Dr., Streamwood, IL

John O’Neal #756
1827 N. Ave., Red Oak IA

December 2006
Dear Ron,
What a pleasant surprise to receive your letter and picture. The ship was off the coast of Sardinia, November 1961. I had just come aboard and relieved LTJG Brubacker as Disbursing Officer and he is departing from the flight deck. Also pictured is Lee Temanson, CDR USN Retired and current Secretary of the Mount McKinley Association, plus the ship’s Captain and LT CDR Muccetto.

So sorry that you could not make the reunion. There are several others on oxygen that have attended. Maybe next year you will be able to make Buffalo/Niagara Falls.

Many thanks again for your letter and the picture.

Cheers, Dave Nelsen

My current thought for the New Year 2007: would it be possible 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 with this “pen pal” exercise.

Cheers,
Dave Nelsen, President, Mount McKinley Association.
**Editor’s Message:**

A message from your new Editor.

Well, something has obviously happened to our newsletter. It looks…well, different. Not better, only different. I know that for eight or nine years, Dennis Pliny did a fantastic job of bringing us the newsletter, filled with facts, humor, history, insights and commitment to telling the story of those who served aboard the Mighty Mac. He also served as the reunion chairman. He was obviously a glutton for punishment, since I can’t image doing both jobs simultaneously, but he did. Then, about a year ago, Dennis asked to resign as the reunion chair, claiming that doing both jobs was too demanding of his time. At the Dayton reunion, thankfully David Long agreed to take on the job of organizing our reunions. But then, suddenly, Dennis also opted out as the newsletter editor. Luckily, George Betts, an old hand at the newsletter, agreed to step in and produced the October 15, 2006 edition, and asked if anyone else was willing to take on the editor’s job. Foolishly, I raised my hand and said I would do it. Actually, I did so only after I asked my daughter Leslie, who shares studio space with me and is a skilled graphic designer, if she would be willing to help me put the newsletter together. Thankfully, she agreed.

I wondered though what happened to Dennis.

On Friday, January 12th I called Dennis with a question about newsletter production. Dennis answered the phone and then blurted out that: “I can’t answer your question now because I’m in Key West on my honeymoon. I was married yesterday.” Aaaahaaaa. My questions have been answered. Priorities in life change from time to time.

But I can’t do this job alone. I need your help! At the moment, we have 483 members. That means that we have at least 483 stories to be told about the Mighty Mac. Send me your thoughts about what you would like to see in your newsletter. Tell me about your times and experiences aboard our ship. Send me your photographs (which I will handle with great care) and that I will return to you after they have been digitally scanned. If you don’t have the time to write your stories, then please call me on the phone and I will record your recollections and transcribe your thoughts so your shipmates can share your remembrances.

I hope you find this, my first effort as your newsletter editor, of interest.

---

**Welcome To:**

New members 4th quarter 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Joined</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John P. Wall</td>
<td>October 2006</td>
<td>#1027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael S. Maiden</td>
<td>October 2006</td>
<td>#1028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin Broadway</td>
<td>October 2006</td>
<td>#1029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrique M. Valdez</td>
<td>October 2006</td>
<td>#1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felix Hodges</td>
<td>November 2006</td>
<td>#1031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wade Cochran</td>
<td>November 2006</td>
<td>#1032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fond Farewells:**

The following shipmates have left us since our last reunion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles Worrel</td>
<td>4 September, 2006</td>
<td>#726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Chapman</td>
<td>22 April, 2006</td>
<td>#786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvin (Knick) Knickerbocker</td>
<td>25 December, 2006</td>
<td>#302</td>
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**MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony J. LaCapra</td>
<td>22 August, 2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NON-MEMBERS**

It’s not the Mt. McKinley, but “The Maid of the Mist” above, is a must-do for folks visiting Niagara falls.

---

**Niagara Falls**

**Reunion Facts:**

**QUARTERS:**

Holiday Inn, Buffalo – Downtown

620 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

Rooms are $87.00 per night

**REUNION COST:** $72.00

**SCHEDULE:**

- **September 12** Registration Starts at Noon
  Welcome Reception

- **September 13** A five hour tour (to/from Buffalo takes approx. 1 1/2 hours) of the US side of Niagara Falls. We would visit Goat Island, Whirlpool State Park, and enjoy a cruise on the Maid of the Mist. This tour would cost $29 per person.

- **September 14** A tour of the Buffalo/Erie County Naval and Servicemen’s Park. A 3–4 hour visit including transportation & admission at $20 per person.

- **September 15** Show and Tell and business meetings in the morning. Afternoon is free. Banquet in the evening.

- **September 16** Farewells
2007 Reunion: Buffalo/

Our Reunion Chairman, David Long, reports the following:

When people think of Buffalo, the think of either snow or chicken wings. Of course there are the Buffalo Bills, the only NFL team to lose four consecutive Super Bowl games. Founded in 1801, Buffalo is the 8th largest city in the US, and 2nd largest in NY.

Buffalo has more than 1,000 acres of parks connect by parkways and avenues that form a complete system. Buffalo also boasts beautifully designed homes by architects such as E.B. Greene, Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. City hall is the oldest city hall in America and the best example of Art Deco architecture. Delaware Avenue was once christened “Millionaires Row” and is still lined with stately turn of the century mansions, though many have been converted to corporate offices, shops, and restaurants. Buffalo also has the Pedaling History Museum which is the largest all bicycle museum in the world. There is the Museum of Science, and the Albright Knox Art Gallery which house works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Matisse and Monet.

At the Naval and Military Park on the waterfront (pictured right), all branches of the service are represented in the park’s exhibits. The park is the home of the destroyer, USS The Sullivans, missile cruiser USS Little Rock, and WWII submarine USS Croaker. Along the veterans walk, there are tributes to WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Marine vets.

With some free time during the reunion, there is Shea’s performance arts center, the Irish Classical Theater, the new Angelika Film Center and the Elmwood strip which features a mix of restaurants, nightclubs, and boutiques.

And of course, don’t forget where the buffalo wing was invented. Visit Frank and Theresa’s Anchor Bar which is the home of the Buffalo Chicken wing, or try the indigenous beef on ‘weck sandwich with lots of horseradish sauce.

With many things to do and see, Buffalo is a great choice for a reunion.

The Buffalo airport is served by AirTran Airways, American, Comair, Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Northwest, Southwest, United, and US Airways. Car rentals at the airport include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Hertz and National car rentals.

Flying time to Buffalo varies from one to two hours for most east coast cities and around 6 hours from the west coast.

From Our Shipmates:

The following letter was received from William (Bill) F. Taylor (095C)

In 1950 I was just out of High School and attending Western Kentucky University that is only about an hour and half drive from my home in Greensburg. Every time I would come home (about twice a week) my dad would tell me that they were going to draft me and I would end up in Texas digging foxholes in the sand. I was at home on Christmas break when two of my friends got me out of bed one Saturday morning and said it was time to join the Navy. We did.

After boot camp, a large group of us were transferred from NTC San Diego in a whaleboat across the bay to Coronado Island. We were being assigned to Beachmaster Unit One. Walking into the barracks we all knew something was wrong because on top of all the lockers were full field packs, helmets, and Carbines. We were issued what was called marine greens or fatigues. The first week there, we were out on the Silver Strand Beach, digging six foot deep holes in the sand. After a year I applied for and was accepted to Printers School.

After school I was assigned to ComPhibGroup 3. At the time I thought it was shore duty. Boy was I fooled. They told me that I was being sent to the Mt. McKinley that was in Japan. Now I had ready spent one year in Japan and didn’t think I would be sent back (fooled again). There was quite a group of us that were in transit and loaded aboard an LST which was a part of a convoy made up of two LST’s and about four small mine sweepers that were being given to the Japanese Navy. We arrived in Pearl after about a week. The other LST was put into dry dock for some repairs, so instead of a few days at Pearl, we spent two weeks. We got paid the day before we sailed and, as most sailors did at that time, we all went on liberty and did what sailors do. The next day we sailed out of Pearl and it was the only time that I was really seasick.

When aboard the McKinley I was in the print shop as a member of ComPhibGroup 3 and after about a month was assigned to Ships Company. Was a mess cook for three month in the Chiefs mess. This was good duty because we ate the same food as the chiefs, I gained about 20 lbs. Then came Captain Hardin. After a Saturday morning inspection he decided that there were too many of us in the Print Shop so I was first transferred to the Electric Shop for about a month then to the first division, where I spent the remainder of time on board. The Captain also refused to let us wear dungarees while working on the deck, instead we had to wear our blues, which wound up covered with red lead. I also remember how hard it was to handle the hawser when we had to tie up. (shown at left)

There I met for the first time Boat-swain’s mate First Class Yo Buck (shown below). If you didn’t know Yo Buck it is hard to explain the type of person he was. Being at that time 21 year old and still wet behind the ears seaman, I was scared of him and if he said jump off the fantail I would have. A hard taskmaster and a loud mouth that kept you on you toes all the time. Some of his favorite sayings were “anytime you can rest, do it.” Or “while you’re resting do this and do that”. He was fair and I believe all of the crew respected him. I notice that he is a member of the association and could probably tell us more about the Mt. McKinley than anybody.

F. Taylor (095C)

The following letter was received from William (Bill) F. Taylor (095C)

In 1950 I was just out of High School and attending Western Kentucky University that is only about an hour and half drive from my home in
**Timeline: USS Mount McKinley (AGC-7)**

**The Beginnings**

- **12 September, 1942**
  Headquartered at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

- **30 September, 1942**
  Departs Philadelphia for Pearl Harbor

- **27 October, 1942**
  Sailed from Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal

- **31 October, 1942**
  Arrived Guadalcanal

- **26 November, 1942**
  Complied to Seeadler Harbor

- **5 December, 1942**
  Left operational area after it was secured and transferred to Seeadler Harbor

- **15 December, 1942**
  Mission to reinforce southern Palau islands

- **28 December, 1942**
  Sailed from Guadalcanal to New Guinea

**In Their Own Words**

- **June, 1944**
  "My first exposure to the natives of Guadalcanal was an eye opener. Their outward appearance was their orange colored hair, which I found out was due to their using lye to control head lice. — Jack A. Moseman, Ph.M. (Seved 11/4/44 to 10/45)"

- **August, 1944**
  "Ah yes! The Bob Hope Show. Fifteen thousand marines were waiting in the hot sun and along comes an inimal two or a general or two followed by 400 or 500 sailors who marched right up to the stage — Dale W. Sigafoos, SKC (#219)"

- **August, 1944**
  "The belly of the Arizona sticking out 40 ft. above the water. — Dale W. Sigafoos, SKC (#219)"

**END OF CRUISE 1**

- **January, 1945**
  Attacked by lone Jap suicide plane off CVL Kitanami, Port qtr. — Wm. Chilton (218)

- **January, 1945**
  "I remember the Typhoon in the Okinawa area, when the winds were 110 miles per hour and over 40 ft. waves. We thought the ship was going to break apart, garbage all over the mess hall." — George L. Palme, YK2 (#322), now deceased.

**World Events**

- **September, 1944**
  30 September, 1944
  The battle of the Arizona sticking out 40 ft above the water.

- **15 September – 14 October, 1944**
  Operation, Ormoc Bay Landings

- **15 September – 14 October, 1944**
  Invasion of Leyte, Phorus was under constant air attack. Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, 4th battle star. Invasion and Operation of Okinawa Gunto.

- **9 January, 1945**
  Arrived Luzon, Lingayen Gulf. 0400hrs Directed shore bombardment

- **28 March, 1945**
  Sailed from Leyte Gulf, to Kerama-Rotto off the southern coast of Okinawa. 1 April to 22 May, 1945. Directed last major assault of the war with the landing of the 77th Infantry Division. Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, 5th battle star. Invasion of Okinawa Gunto.

- **25 May, 1945**
  Departed Kerama-Rotto

- **26 May, 1945**
  Arrived Saipan

- **23 June, 1945**
  Departed Pearl Harbor

**BATTLESHEIPS**

- Buffalos: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Mississippi, Tennessee, Idaho

**HEAVY CRUISERS**

- Colorado: Indianapolis, Louisville, Minneapolis, Portland

**LIGHT CRUISERS**

- Cleveland: Portland, Honolulu

**LARGE DECK AIRCRAFT CARRIERS**

- Lexington: Wasp, and 6 others

**MIGHTY MAC EVENTS**

- **30 September, 1942**
  Headquartered at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

- **31 October, 1942**
  Sailed from Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal

- **15 December, 1942**
  Mission to reinforce southern Palau islands

- **28 December, 1942**
  Sailed from Guadalcanal to New Guinea

- **5 December, 1942**
  Complied to Seeadler Harbor

- **21 January, 1943**
  Sailed from Leyte Gulf to off Sipilae Island

- **23 December, 1944**
  Departed Leyte Gulf

- **23 December, 1944**
  Departed Leyte Gulf

- **28 January, 1945**
  Sailed from Leyte Gulf

- **29 January, 1945**
  Sailed from Leyte Gulf to of Sipilae Island

- **26 May, 1945**
  Arrived Saipan

- **23 June, 1945**
  Departed Pearl Harbor

**END OF CRUISE 1**

- **January, 1945**
  Attacked by lone Jap suicide plane off CVL Kitanami, Port qtr. — Wm. Chilton (218)

- **17 June, 1945**
  Received San Francisco

- **23 June, 1945**
  Departed Pearl Harbor

**END OF CRUISE 1**

- **January, 1945**
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- **17 June, 1945**
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  Departed Pearl Harbor

**END OF CRUISE 1**

- **17 June, 1945**
  Received San Francisco

- **23 June, 1945**
  Departed Pearl Harbor
Timeline: USS Mount McKinley

**World Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 June, 1944</td>
<td>D-Day invasion of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 June, 1944</td>
<td>German-occupied Allied force overcomes Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 July, 1944</td>
<td>Underway for Palomino Islands, 50 miles east of Mindanao in the Philippines with Amphibious Group 5 embarked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 July, 1944</td>
<td>Crosses the Equator for the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 July, 1944</td>
<td>Anchors briefly at Guadalcanal &amp; then moves to Macquitzi Bay in Pauvui Island, Russell Island Group, Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 August, 1944</td>
<td>Sailors from the ship and Marines treated to a Bob Hope show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 August, 1944</td>
<td>Returns to Guadalcanal, begins boarding Marines of the Third Amphibious Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 August, 1944</td>
<td>Put air raid, GQ 1815hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 September, 1944</td>
<td>Sailed to nearby Ngosseki Island to provide shore bombardment coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September, 1944</td>
<td>Transit from Seeadler Harbor to Bismark Harbor, Hollandia New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September, 1944</td>
<td>Departed Leyte Gulf, 1330hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 October, 1944</td>
<td>Sailed from Seeadler Harbor to Bismark Harbor, Hollandia New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 October, 1944</td>
<td>Departed Leyte Gulf, 0400hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 December, 1944</td>
<td>Departed Leyte Gulf, 1330hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 January, 1945</td>
<td>Sailed from Leyte Gulf, off Sipig, Palau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mighty Mac Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 July, 1943</td>
<td>C-2 house down at the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May, 1944</td>
<td>Commissioned USS Mount McKinley AGC-7 Capt. W. M. Graham in command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May, 1944</td>
<td>Departed Philadelphia Naval Shipyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 June, 1944</td>
<td>Departed Norfolk for Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14 June, 1944</td>
<td>Transit the Panama Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 June-20 July, 1944</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 June-20 July, 1944</td>
<td>Seeing Pearl Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 June–20 July, 1944</td>
<td>Feeling Pearls of the water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May, 1944</td>
<td>At the commissioning party I danced in a compaglia for the first. — Dale W. Sigfoos, SKC (#218), now deceased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 August, 1944</td>
<td>The bally of the Arizona striking out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 &amp; 13 September, 1944</td>
<td>Heavy pre-assault shore bombardment of Palamau Island, an island nation of Palau included the following ships:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 January, 1945</td>
<td>Arrived Luzon, Lingayen Gulf. 0400hrs Directed shore bombardment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 September, 1944</td>
<td>First air raid, GQ 1815hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September, 1944</td>
<td>Sailed to nearby Ngeesak Island to provide shore bombardment coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September, 1944</td>
<td>Transit from Seeadler Harbor to Bismark Harbor, Hollandia New Guinea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**"In Their Own Words"**

Editor’s Note: Many of the details of the voyage were from the notes provided by Wm. Chichon SPX1/c (218), now deceased.

"My first exposure to the natives of Guadalcanal was an eye opener. Their outstanding feature was their orange colored hair, which I found out was due to their using hibiscus to control hair loss. Not a blade of grass was out of place, flowers on the sides of the fence, all you could see were sharks, little kids everywhere." — Dale W. Sigfoos, SKC (#218)

"Ah yea! The Bob Hope Show. Fifteen thousand marines were waiting in the hot sun and along comes an infidel or two, a general or two followed by 400 or 500 sailors who marched right up to the stage — Dale W. Sigfoos, SKC (#218)

"It was mandatory while in combat area our bedding on our bunks was covered with a tussah retardant cover which was stripped down with elastic straps with a hook on each end. After sweating all night and the bedding still damp, it was wrapped in the cover and never really dried out. We could hardly wait to get to a secure area so we could take our bedding topside and air it out." — Jack A Moomphan, PhM1/c (#218)

"I remember the Typhoon in the Okinawa area, when the winds were 110 miles per hour and over 40 ft. waves. We thought the ship was going to break apart, garbage all over the mess hall." — George L. Palmer, YN/2 (#322), now deceased.

END OF CRUISE I

Mighty Mac: goes in for two months overhaul!

Winter 2007 Volume 9, Issue 1
Buffalo has more the 1,000 acres of parks connect by parkways and avenues that form a complete system. Buffalo also boasts beatifically designed homes by architects as E.B. Greene, Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. City hall is the oldest city hall in America and the best example of Art Deco architecture. Delaware Avenue was once christened “Millionaires Row” and is still lined with stately turn of the century mansions, though many have been converted to corporate office, shops, and restaurants.

Buffalo also has the Pedaling History Museum which is the largest all bicycle museum in the world. There is the Museum of Science, and the Albright Knox Art Gallery which house works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Matisse and Monet.

At the Naval and Military Park on the waterfront (pictured right), all branches of the service are represented in the park’s exhibits. The park is the home of the destroyer, USS The Sullivans, missile cruiser USS Little Rock, and WWII submarine USS Croaker. Along the veterans walk, there are tributes to WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Marine vets.

With some free time during the reunion, there is Shea’s performance arts center, the Irish Classical Theater, the new Angelika Film Center and the Elmwood strip which features a mix of restaurants, nightclubs, and boutiques.

And of course, don’t forget where the buffalo wing was invented. Visit Frank and Theresa’s Anchor Bar which is the home of the Buffalo Chicken wing, or try the indigenous beef on ‘weck sandwich with lots of horseradish sauce.

With many things to do and see, Buffalo is a great choice for a reunion.

The Buffalo airport is served by AirTran Airways, American, Comair, Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Northwest, Southwest, United, and US Airways. Car rentals at the airport include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Hertz and National car rentals.

Flying time to Buffalo varies from one to two hours for most east coast cities and around 6 hours from the west coast.
Reunion Facts:

**QUARTERS:** Holiday Inn, Buffalo – Downtown
620 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202
Rooms are $87.00 per night

**REUNION COST:** $72.00

**SCHEDULE:**

- **September 12** Registration Starts at Noon
  Welcome Reception

- **September 13** A five hour tour (to/from Buffalo takes approx. 1 1/2 hours)
  of the US side of Niagara Falls. We would visit Goat Island,
  Whirlpool State Park, and enjoy a cruise on the Maid of the Mist.
  This tour would cost $29 per person.

- **September 14** A tour of the Buffalo/Erie County Naval and Servicemen’s Park.
  A 3–4 hour visit including transportation & admission at $20 per person.

- **September 15** Show and Tell and business meetings in the morning.
  Afternoon is free. Banquet in the evening.

- **September 16** Farewells

*It’s not the Mt. McKinley, but “The Maid of the Mist” above, is a must-do for folks visiting Niagara falls.*
More From Our Shipmates:

The following poem was written by John P. Wall, a new member #1027 after he served as a lookout on the port side during the third watch. (Circa 1962-1963)

Downward Thrust... “SPLASH” !!!

The fury of the sea and that of a bridge lookout upon the third watch.

“SPLASH” as, the waves passes over, the bow of our ship.

Then, feeling the first roll beneath the keel. As the ship twisted to the starboard and rise upward to meet the second roll.

“SPLASH” in a downward thrust as, the ship pulled to the port side with a sudden impact of a huge wave that came up to the bridge. A slight spray of salt water upon, one’s brow and it is here, that we learn to be men and not play with the sea.

Especially, when she is mad and thoughtless... whispering these words... “COME PLAY WITH ME” !!!

Missing Members:

The following members are missing if anyone knows anything about them, please contact me at nanakw@tampabay.rr.com (352) 382-7694 or Gerald Critz, 10 Euphorbia Ct., Homosassa, FL, 34446

Bobby Jatho #1021 1730 W. Capri St., Mesa, AZ

Arthur Mc Capes #398 11050 Bellabor Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

Eugene Shelton #750 PO Box 9234, Hickory, NC

The above, also sent some portraits, below, of his shipmates that some of you may remember.

From left to right: Captain Flynn, USS Mt. McKinley, AGC-7, 1963; Commander Goulet, Executive Offices, USS Mt. McKinley, AGC-7, 1962-63; L.W. Buchmeier, GmC

President’s Report:

January 2007

Dear Shipmates,

First of all, my wife Pat and I wish you and your family a happy and healthy New Year, 2007.

The Buffalo/Niagara Reunion is ahead, September 12-16, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Downtown. David Long, our Reunion Chairman has promised a great reunion.

The Dayton Reunion is in the past; it was so good to see and visit with so many of you.

I received the following note from a shipmate. I think this letter shows what the association is all about, “Long Term Friendships”. On a personal note, I would like to share the letter:

29 Nov. 2006

Hello Dave,

I am enclosing a photo taken on the Mt. MC. Do not recall the occasion or the time,

but I thought you would appreciate having it.

We didn’t make the reunion. I am on Oxygen most all day and it makes it tough to travel.

Good hearing from you. Lots of luck to you and yours.

R. John Dunkelberger
CPO USN RET
704 S Fisher St.
Knox, IN. 46534-1830

My response:

2 December 2006

Dear Ron,

What a pleasant surprise to receive your letter and picture. The ship was off the coast of Sardinia, November 1961. I had just come aboard and relieved LTJG Brubacker as Disbursing Officer and he is departing from the flight deck. Also pictured is Lee Temanson, CDR USN Retired and current Secretary of the Mount McKinley Association, plus the ship’s Captain and LT CDR Muccetto.

So sorry that you could not make the reunion. There are several others on oxygen that have attended. Maybe next year you will be able to make Buffalo/Niagara Falls.

Many thanks again for your letter and the picture.

Cheers, Dave Nelson

My current thought for the New Year 2007: would it be possible 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 with this “pen pal” exercise.

Cheers,

David Nelson, President, Mount McKinley Association.

From left to right: Captain Flynn, USS Mt. McKinley, AGC-7, 1963; Commander Goulet, Executive Offices, USS Mt. McKinley, AGC-7, 1962-63; L.W. Buchmeier, GmC
**DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION**

A special thank you to Nancy Quinn in memory of James Quinn

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006
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>$5,887.53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scudder Fund</td>
<td>$24,737.71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Inv.</td>
<td>$3,264.47</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ships Store Cash</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Membership dues</td>
<td>$4,011.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Membership dues</td>
<td>$2,185.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$1,521.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ships Store</td>
<td>$4,792.50</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Masthead Adv.</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Scudder Fund</td>
<td>$1,106.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunion Income</td>
<td>$12,929.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Income</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>$251.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ret. Dues Check</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>$2,490.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage for Assoc.</td>
<td>$1,583.65</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Sal &amp; H</td>
<td>$3,555.42</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Software</td>
<td>$27.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Hosting Fee</td>
<td>$230.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Purchase</td>
<td>$2,088.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunion Liability Ins.</td>
<td>$383.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunion Expenses</td>
<td>$31,160.56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Inv. Punch</td>
<td>$3,833.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships Store Refund</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunion Fee Refund</td>
<td>$218.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$23,155.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$26,649.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less total expenses</td>
<td>$23,155.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Annual Income</td>
<td>$3,494.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$33,889.71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOUNT MCKINLEY SHIP’S STORE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Color / Size / Style</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golf Shirt</td>
<td>Navy Blue / S, M, L, XL</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps</td>
<td>Navy Blue / XXL, XXXL</td>
<td>27.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship’s Patches</td>
<td>3” Mountain, 5” Association Mermaid Turtle, 6&quot; Diesel Gang Patch, Snake Force Patch, Task Force 90 Patch, Gator Navy Patch</td>
<td>8.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ship’s Decal</td>
<td>3.00 each or 2 for 5.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mouse Pad</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Laser Engraved Key Tags</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Master Roster</td>
<td>Red Cover, 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
<td>Includes your name, division and years of service</td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>“Cruising in the Mac” by Ken Boenitz</td>
<td>4 Chronology – USS Mount McKinley, AGC – 7, 1944-1970</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matted Color Print</td>
<td>16 x 20 Doubled Matted Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ship’s Photos</td>
<td>8 x 10, Black &amp; White Photos Listed at Bottom (A-C)</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#11 Series are B & W photos. More photos and items are listed on the website: ussmtmckinley.com

New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.

**Make Checks Payable to**: USS Mount McKinley Association (**Sorry No Credit Cards**)
Please add $5.00 shipping charge to each order.

**Mail Order to**: USS Mount McKinley Ship Store c/o Steve Schermerhorn
69272 County Road 23 New Paris, IN 46553

Please Print Clearly

Name
Street Address
City
State
Zip

Phone # Email

Visit us on the web: www.ussmtmckinley.com
USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7:

The USS Mount McKinley, AGC-7 was the first of a new class of Amphibious Force Command ships. The following ships were all designated as belonging to the Mount McKinley class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHIP</th>
<th>COMMISSIONED</th>
<th>DECOMMISSIONED</th>
<th>DAYS IN SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS Mount McKinley</td>
<td>AGC – 7</td>
<td>1 May 1944</td>
<td>26 March 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Mount Olympus</td>
<td>AGC – 8</td>
<td>24 May 1944</td>
<td>4 April 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Wasatch</td>
<td>AGC – 9</td>
<td>20 May 1944</td>
<td>30 August 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Auburn</td>
<td>AGC – 10</td>
<td>20 July 1944</td>
<td>7 May 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Eldorado</td>
<td>AGC – 11</td>
<td>25 August 1944</td>
<td>8 November 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Estes</td>
<td>AGC – 12</td>
<td>9 October 1944</td>
<td>30 June 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Panamint</td>
<td>AGC – 13</td>
<td>14 October 1944</td>
<td>January 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Teton</td>
<td>AGC – 14</td>
<td>18 October 1944</td>
<td>30 August 1946</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons

USS Mount McKinley AGC-7 at full dress in Hong Kong, 1969.
Photo by Gregory Shipe, HM2 (#935)