World War II Memorial

On April 29, 2004, as a service and tribute to members of the World War II Generation, the National World War II Memorial opened for public viewing, exactly one month prior to the formal Dedication Ceremony taking place May 29, 2004. The World War II Memorial is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during the Second World War. The memorial, established by the American Battle Monuments Commission, honors all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation’s call to arms. The Second World War is the only 20th-century event commemorated on the Mall's central axis.

WWII generation members also can make plans to visit Washington, D.C. and the memorial throughout the summer to take part in a citywide, summer-long celebration called “America Celebrates the Greatest Generation.” The celebration, produced by the American Experience Foundation in partnership with the Washington, DC Convention & Tourism Corporation and Cultural Tourism DC, will kick-off Memorial Day weekend and continue through Labor Day weekend.

World War II Registry
Honor members of the World War II generation by enrolling them in the World War II Registry, a list of individual Americans who participated in the war effort.

Nearly 59 years after the end of World War II, the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 29, 2004. The Memorial Day weekend celebration on the National Mall will culminate an 11-year effort to honor America’s World War II generation. The memorial was authorized by Congress in 1993. Construction began in September 2001 after several years of fund raising and public hearings.

The official dedication celebration will span four days and will include a WWII-themed reunion exhibition on the National Mall staged in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, a service of celebration at the Washington National Cathedral, and an entertainment salute to WWII veterans from military performing units. Other related activities in cultural venues throughout the city are expected.

Information is also be available by calling the memorial’s toll free telephone number at 800-639-4992.
Donations to the Association

Thanks to these members for their donations to the USS Mount McKinley Association during the first three months of 2004.

Edward R. Anderson, Paul R. Behun, Ken Boenitz, James D. Corak, Victor Crivello, Lucien J. Hockman, Amos E. Patterson, and Andrew B. Ulichney
Total Donations $130.00

Additionally we received an anonymous donation in the amount of $50 in memory of Retired Captain James Arthur Schriner who was the Supply Officer on the USS Mount McKinley from 1963-65 during the Vietnam War. The late Captain Tuttle recalled Commander Schriner during the landing of the Fourth Marine Division along the delta region of Vietnam.

USS Mount McKinley Association
Statement of Financial Condition
As of March 31, 2004

Income:
Ship’s Store Sales 73.00
Less Cost of Goods Sold 44.70
Gain on Ship’s Store Sales 28.30
Advertisement 125.00
Dues 2994.00
Donations 130.00
Interest 16.56
Total Income 2093.86

Expenses
Newsletter 223.39
Plaques and Awards 28.94
Postage 43.68
Supplies 63.24
Total Expenses 1359.25

Total Income Year to Date 1734.61

Cash January 1, 2004 18014.21
Ships Store Inventory January 1, 2004 3829.12
Add Income as of March 31, 2004 1934.61
Add Prepaid Life Dues-2004 2615.50
Total 26393.44

Cash-Bank Of America (See Note 1) 11626.65
Cash-Zurich Money Market 10982.37
Total Cash March 31, 2004 22609.02
Ships Store Inventory, March 31, 2004 3784.42
Total Assets 26393.44

Note 1. Includes prepaid life dues of $3340.50 not available for operations. Will be allocated to dues income over life expectancy period.

Submitted By: William K. Ellis, Treasurer
We are fast approaching the 2004 Reunion and it is not too early to get your plans set for attending another excellent and memorable reunion. Dennis (Pops) Pilny had a lot of information about this in the February Masthead and there is more in this issue.

Treasurer Bill Ellis reports a very strong response for Life Membership in the Association. We are very encouraged to have so many (39 at the last count) becoming Life Members. This shows the depth of commitment our members have in the USS Mount McKinley Association. A Lifetime Membership Award certificate, designed by Dennis, suitable for framing, along with a Lifetime Membership Card and a letter thanking them for their commitment is sent out to each new Lifetime Member.

Bill and Dennis have also been busy making and sending out the new Membership Cards. This is quite an undertaking on their part and I thank them for adding this to their already busy Mount McKinley duties. I'm happy to report that the pay is the same!!

Thanks to those that sent me the names and addresses of newspapers I had requested. We can always use more, so if you think of any, just send me the name and address and we'll take it from there.

In light of recent events regarding Iraqi prisoners, I hope we all try to keep things like this in perspective. There are many more positive things happening there than the negative news we've all been seeing. I don't mean to excuse or overlook wrong doing but we should also recognize and commend the men and women doing the good and right things. Let's keep our troops and leaders in our prayers during these difficult days.

I am looking forward to better times ahead, a good summer and to the Reunion in September……………..Dwight

Dick Armstrong is reminding all of us to get those dues in. If your newsletter is marked with a red marker, that means your dues are now payable. Dick also is asking anyone who sends in their dues to please include their date or birth with the payment.

I am just looking to try and find pictures and more about what my father, Winfred Charles Knight, did on his stay on the USS Mt McKinley. thank you, Susan Clark jgcskc@aol.com (from the inter-net)

I'm interested in communicating with anyone who knew my father Mike Fahey. He served on the McKinley during the invasion of the Philippines and when they went to Japan after the surrender. Dad was from ND. Thank you, R. Ryan Fahey rfahey@ptialaska.net (from the inter-net)

I've been in real estate for over twenty-five years. My wife and I moved to South Florida about eleven years ago. The idea was to slow down and coast a little. To make a long story short, about six years ago we ended up opening our own office (thirty agents), again. Anyway it is pretty much a tradition to ring a bell when someone makes a sale. Just to let the other agents know with a ring or two. Several years ago I bought a ships bell from the ships store and we use that MM bell to ring in all our sales and start our sales meetings. I just wanted to let you know that a McKinley Bell rings in all our sales. Ed Bannan #818

Giving a “Get Well” to two of our associations best supporters. Don Slaby #038C who just had Open heart surgery, 5 bypasses, and Bronson Thomas #159C, who just had open heart, double by-pass surgery. We hope you both have full and complete recoveries.

I just wanted to touch base and ask when the newsletter comes out that you were going to ask the other crew members if they remembered my dad, Hilmar Krueger. Thanks, Jason Krueger JKRUEGER1@neb.rr.com (from the inter-net)

I have often wished to converse with someone who visited the Bluebird EM club in Naples, Italy. The memory of that spacious watering hole with its lovely and sensual female singer(s) and live band and affordable prices has lingered with me forever. But would you believe there is such a comparable place on the east coast?? A few years ago, I found a post, a few miles from Rhehobeth Beach: POST 28 (Oak Orchard/Riverdale), which reminds me when I was in my twenties and in Naples, Italy. If you've been to the Bluebird, you'll love Post 28. I'll try to find my photo taken outside where you could tell the difference between myself and a tank. Post 28 is on Route 24, a few miles west of Rhehobeth Beach. God Bless. When you sign in, ask for me.....Bluefish George...George F. Clark BluefishGeorge@msn.com (from the inter-net)
Our official reunion headquarters. Call 1-800-333-3333 or the hotel direct at 417-335-5767 to make your reunion hotel reservations by August 11th. Our association registration and plan of the day will be included in the next issue of the Masthead, which should be out around July 1st.

**Branson Ticket & Travel**

Our official ticketing agent for the Branson Reunion is **Branson Ticket & Travel**. You can call them at 800-432-4202 to make reservations for our two tours, and any additional shows or attractions you may want to see on your own. We are getting special pricing to have our Thursday morning “Ride the Ducts” area tour. This tour will be early so you’ll still have the afternoon available for show hopping. On Friday we also have a noon luncheon cruise set up for the Showboat Belle. Pricing for both of these two tours is only $49.00 total, per person, and it also includes a special memorial service to honor our lost shipmates. You can call their 800 number and mention our association and they will mail you out a show schedule and additional information about the Branson resort area. Any agent can assist you, just mention our group name when making your reservations.

**Show’s & Things**

Due to the vast number and variety of theaters & shows available in Branson, I have left enough free time in our schedule for you to pick and choose the times and shows you would like to see. Everyone has different taste and preferences for the type of show they would like to see. The local booking agents can and will make package deals for the time you are there. I am including in this issue the tentative schedule of events that we will do as a group. The balance of time is open for you to attend which shows or attractions you would like. I am also including a list of booking agents in the area, I would suggest you talk to our agent, Branson Ticket & travel, since they have knowledge about our group and it’s schedule. Their contact information is in the article above.

**Getting to & Around Branson**

One of the most asked questions that I have been getting is, “how do I get from the airport in Springfield to Branson?” Well so far the best answer that I can give you is to rent a car at the airport for the week. That is actually cheaper then taking the shuttle that runs between Branson and the airport. If you can team up with another couple then it becomes even cheaper. The other thing to consider is that in Branson, everything is pretty well spread out. Unless you book shows that are only near the hotel, you could be spending a lot of money on taxis. All VFW, American Legion or other association members should have special discounts that they can use. The pricing I have for the Gray Line shuttle is $35.00 per person, one way. That’s about $140.00 per couple round trip. You can easily book a rental car for a fraction of that per week with unlimited Mileage, and you have use of the car during the week to save on other transportation cost.

In-town shuttles run $4.00 – $8.00 per person based on the number of people and the distance being traveled.
Where does the time go? It's almost June and the reunion is only a few months away. I have already been getting several calls asking questions about the upcoming reunion. Hopefully this issue will answer a lot of those questions for those of you who haven't called yet.

Two of the biggest issues concerning this reunion is the ground transportation and selecting from the over 70 different shows that Branson has to offer. Please be sure to read the articles about this.

I want to take a few lines in my commentary to express my personal sorrow to the families of Lew Duncan and Matt Hilling. Both of these guys were very active in the association and were both plank owners and founding fathers. Their presence at our reunions will be sorely missed.

I am especially happy to see that the long overdue WW II memorial is being dedicated this month. Along with the two gentlemen that I mentioned above, this association has many more WW II vets that participated in that war. They have long been overlooked with regard to this memorial. My only regret is that it wasn't there for our 2002 reunion.

NOW! Please read carefully all the information in this issue. It explains how we are handling the different situation in Branson. Because or the uniqueness of the area, we are not doing our tours the way we usually do. You will have a lot more free time so you can pick the shows you want to attend. Make sure to make provisions for travel to your choices.

Branson Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of events for the Branson Reunion. Times are approximate until confirmed by our agents and association officers.

Wednesday, Sept 8.....check-in and early deli. Your evening is free.

Thursday, Sept 9.....8:30 or 9:00 AM “Ride the Ducts” tour, 80 minute tour and 1/2 hr. memorial service. Afternoon & evening free.

Friday, Sept 10.....Noon luncheon cruise on Showboat Belle, 2 hr. cruise & lunch. Evening free for shows.

Saturday, Sept 11.....8-9:30 Show & Tell, 10:00 Assoc. Gen. meeting. Afternoon free. 6:00 to 7:00 Cash Bar 7:00 to 8:30 Banquet & Awards 8:30 to 12:00 Dancing & reminiscing

Sunday, Sept 12.....Breakfast and then check-out.

This schedule is pretty close to what the final should be. I am posting this so you can pick and choose the shows and attractions you want. Please be flexible and allow for time to get where you want to go.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the 2003 Reunion in September 2003 the Membership approved the payment of Life Membership. The amount of the one time dues payment is based upon the age of the member at the time they elect to apply and pay the life time dues.

Since that time 39 members have elected to become paid up life members.

If you are interested in becoming a paid up life member see the application that was enclosed with the Masthead issue dated February 15, 2004 or contact Dick Armstrong or Bill Ellis for a copy of the application. The amount of dues for each age group is listed on the application. Each paid for life member receives a Life Time Award suitable for framing and a “Life Member” membership card.

You will have a lot more free time so you can pick the shows you want to attend. Make sure to make provisions for travel to your choices.

If you are choking on an ice cube, don't panic. Pour a cup of boiling water down your throat and presto! The blockage will be almost instantly removed.
Thank God for duty aboard the Mac.

It was the later part of 1950, after we made the Inchon landing. The Mt. McKinley was in the port of Pusan.

Being a radioman, my duties were in the radio shack which all you shipmates know, was down on the 3rd deck, so all lighting there was artificial. My eyes were getting bad; so the medical officer sent me over to a Hospital ship, which was in port, to have my eyes examined. The hospital ship, I believe was the USS Hope. The ship was at Dockside, and I noticed that a helicopter pad was prepared along the dock area.

As I approached the ship, I noticed the medics were off-loading wounded GI’s, and as I passed near them I thought, “My God, they’re so young.” I was an old man of 22 years at that time. I noticed the fear, hurt, and anxiety in their eyes. They were still in their combat fatigues, some of their boots were muddy and the only clean spots on them were the field dressings that the medics had put on their wounds at the aid station in the combat area.

I went aboard and found the Optical Department and was examined for my first pair of glasses. After my examination, I was told to wait outside the examining room while they made my glasses. No one-hour service back in those day’s guys, it took several hours.

As I was waiting, every once in a while the Bos’n would pipe over the ships intercom and announce, “attention to Starboard,” later he might pipe and say “attention to Port” after making those announcements, a minute or so later he would say “carry on.”

Now, I knew while at sea, if a ship of the line, like the Big Mo, or battle cruiser would pass us, we were called to “attention to Post” or “attention to Starboard,” whichever side the ship passed on, and we above deck, would salute the ship as she passed by. However, we were tied dockside with the dock on our Port side and the harbor on our Starboard side. I didn’t understand what was going on, so I asked a member of the crew what this was all about. He informed me that the Bos’n was piping the body of one of the GI’s that didn’t make it, off the ship, so whether you were topside or below decks, when you heard the Bos’n pipe attention, you would come to attention until “carry on” was announced.

As I pondered over what the crew member told me, and thinking about those young men I saw on stretchers as I came aboard, I thought how lucky I was to be on the Mac. These young men were eating “C Rations” while we aboard the Mac had three hot meals a day. These men were sleeping in muddy foxholes, while we aboard the Mac had nice dry bunks to sleep in, and one other thing, we did not have a bullet with our name on it. So I say again, “Thank God for my duty aboard the Mac”.

This was the last of the articles that Chuck Sissom sent me before he passed away.

“My God, they’re so young.” I was an old man of 22 years at that time. I noticed the fear, hurt, and anxiety in their eyes.

Avoid arguments with the Mrs. about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.

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

Mathias Hilling #051C
EM2, E Div., 1944 – 46 (P)
Died March 29, 2004

Lew Duncan #080C
WT1, M Div., 1944 – 46 (P)
Died Aug. 12, 2003

Capt. Louis K Tuttle, Jr. #867
Capt., 1963 – 64
Died Oct. 14, 2002
### New Members

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>973</td>
<td>Andrew D. Harris Jr.</td>
<td>RM3</td>
<td>C Div.</td>
<td>1951-53</td>
<td>206 Holly Road, Taylor, SC 29687-4924</td>
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<tr>
<td>974</td>
<td>Floyd H. Peaco Sr.</td>
<td>SH2</td>
<td>2nd Div.</td>
<td>1951-53</td>
<td>4338 So. Atlantic Circle, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903-5054</td>
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<tr>
<td>975</td>
<td>John Dunlop</td>
<td>SK3</td>
<td>Supply</td>
<td>1947-49</td>
<td>81 1/2 Beacon Street, Norwalk, CT 06851-5924</td>
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<tr>
<td>976</td>
<td>Willard J. Wright</td>
<td>SF3</td>
<td>R Div.</td>
<td>1964-66</td>
<td>96 Smith Place, Staten Island, NY 10302-2042</td>
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<tr>
<td>977</td>
<td>Lloyd F. Stokes</td>
<td>QM1</td>
<td>STAFF</td>
<td>1946-48</td>
<td>236 Cobblestone Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906-7624</td>
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### 15 Years of Memories

I know it’s probably hard for some of us to believe, but the association has been in existence for fifteen years now. It all started with a simple phone call between two old shipmates and a “what if”. I think we all owe Bud Schreeves, Jack Allen, Dick Armstrong, Dick Rogers, and several others a big Bravo Zullo for getting and keeping this thing going. I know it is a joy in my life. Thank you guys!

### Lost Shipmates

Dick Lapan & Dick Armstrong have been trying to re-locate some of the members that for some reason or another have become AWOL from the association. While trying to locate some of these guys we were able to determine that several have in fact passed away.

Dick Lapan has asked that we start to assemble the birth dates for our members. By doing that simple thing, it does make it a lot easier for him to search through various data bases for those that we loose track of. Often members move and forget to advise us of their new addresses, others die and we just are not informed of their passing. The following have passed away:


Whenever you have an occasion to write to the association for anything, please try to include your date of birth so we can pass that along to Dick Armstrong, our Membership Secretary. That way, even if we loose you for some reason, we can still track you down. Or, if you prefer, call Dick at (928)859-3617 or e-mail him at rcarmstrong@tds.net. Dick loves to hear from all our members, so don’t be shy, give him a call.

---

High blood pressure sufferers: cut yourself and bleed for awhile, thus reducing the pressure in your veins.
Important Branson Notice! ! ! ! !

Please, anyone interested, or even considering attending our 2004 Branson Reunion. Call Branson Tickets & Travel for your reunion planning packet. They have put together our two planned tours and have agreed to plan your individual show & attraction planning and ticketing. Your show tickets will be waiting for you when you check in at the Radisson Hotel. They have helped me in the planning of our tours and are very well versed in our schedule, so they can advise you what shows are available, and the times you can enjoy them. Krysta Davis is our association contact, however she advised me that anyone at the office will be aware of what we need.

You can contact them either through their toll free number at 800-432-4202, or by visiting their web site at www.bransonticket.com. Krysta has agreed to allow you to combine as many shows or attractions as you need, together with the two tours I have already set up. You will pay for the association tours, and your personal show selections all at Branson Tickets & Travel. This should help in reducing confusion.

It is necessary that you make your reservation with Branson Ticket & Travel for the either, or both of the tours the association has set up. If you wish to use another tour company for show ticketing, that is your purgative. I am listing several other tour companies below for your assistance.

Branson Tour Guides

- Branson Arrangements  800-787-1541
- Gatherings Plus  
  (417) 338-4048
  www.reunionpro.com
- Branson Hospitality  
  800-925-8498 Ext. 0
- Veterans Reunion Planning Hdqtrs  
  800-800-1882
  www.missourilovescompany.com
- Fountain Head Tours  
  800-334-2723
  www.gobranson.com
  - Branson Tourism Center  
    800-978-1999
  - Branson Country Tours  
    800-841-2376
  - Custom Shuttle  
    (417) 335-1411
  - Branson Tourism Center  
    800-978-1999
  - Branson Country Tours  
    800-841-2376

- Custom Shuttle  
  (417) 335-1411
- Eagle Travel of the Ozarks - 800-897-8808
  www.eagletravel.com
- Flemming Tours Ozark Mountain Tour Division  
  (800) 346-7706
- Great Group Getaways - 800-749-7116
  www.greatsoutherntourism.com
- Noble Tours, Inc.  
  800-335-5396
- Terry's Tours of Texas - 713-895-8559
- Voyagesplus Travel Shoppe - (888) 859-9191
  www.voyagesplustravel.com

A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep when you hit the snooze button.
Mt Mac at Keramo Retto by Lt. J.g. Bruce D. Smith #713

We were regularly attacked day and night by Japanese kamikaze planes, a total of 125 times during the 55 days at these islands. Some ships nearby were hit and damaged! Finally, orders were received to turn over the command of the U.S. Naval vessels in the area and go to Pearl Harbor and from there to the Mare Island Navy base in California for repair and overhaul. The McKinley was still at the base when the Japanese surrendered. Work then continued on the ship. Upon completion of the yard work, orders were received directing the McKinley to go back to Hawaii and be part of a large convoy of ships to go to Kyushu, Japan. There were a lot of unhappy campers when this news was made. After arrival in Japan, it was at this time that the actual signing of the surrender papers, mentioned on page 9 of the November, 2003 Masthead took place.

As a means of receiving earlier notice that Japanese aircraft were on their way to attack our ships at Keramo Retto, so called picket ships, usually destroyer escorts were posted some 100 miles north of us. They would contact the McKinley of the approaching planes, and then our ship would send out a “Flash Red” alarm so every ship would go to their battle stations.

After arrival in Japan, it was at this time that the actual signing of the surrender papers took place.

If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.
1 Mount McKinley Golf Shirt – Blue, White Short-Sleeve w o/ Pocket
Sizes: SM, MED, LG, XL ................................................................. $23.00
XXL + $1.50, XXXL + $2.50

2 Mount McKinley Baseball Caps – White w/ war on Back, Vietnam era only $18.00

3 Mount McKinley Baseball Caps – Blue or White, plain back $15.00

4 Mount McKinley T-Shirts – Navy Blue or White, w/ Blue, White or Gold, Screenprint Lettering on Shirt Front
   Ship’s Silhouette, Atomic Bomb Test Logo, Mermaid Logo, Commissioning Date, De-Commissioning Date, Other Important Dates & Cruises.
Sizes: SM, MED, L, XL ................................................................. $10.00
   XXL, XXXL, add $1.00

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

5 Assoc. Logo T-shirts (only available in L & XL)................................. $10.00

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 Charm’s only............................................................... $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 Master Rosters: (listing of all years) Red 1944-70................................. $28.00
   Blue 44-49, Yellow 50-59, Gold 60-70........................................ $18.00

14 Ship’s Bell............................................................... $31.00

15 Laser Engraved Plaque............................................................... $65.00
   (Please call Steve to receive a special order form for the Plaque)

Please include a “ship-to” mailing address with your order!

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Make check payable to: USS Mount McKinley Association & mail to: Steve Schermerhorn 69272 County Rd 23, New Paris, IN 46553

Sorry, No Credit Cards......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBTOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Branson, Missouri
September 8th – 12th

Permission to come aboard, sir!

U.S.S. Mount Mckinley AGC - 7

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

Dick & Viv Armstrong"
Waiting to see you in
Branson, Mo..

“IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED”

CHARLES J. WORREL
WORREL EXPLORATION, INC.
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION
GEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION
WORREL EXPLORATION INC.
P.O. BOX 6786
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209-6786
(210) 822-7171

In memory of Retired
Captain James Arthur
Schriner
who was the Supply Officer on the
USS Mount McKinley from 1963-65
during the Vietnam War.
The late Captain Tuttle recalled
Commander Schriner during the
landing of the Fourth Marine Divi-
sion along the delta region of
Vietnam.