



USS Gunston Hall

LSD 5

Spring 2008 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

Hello Shipmates

I hope that each and everyone of you and your families had a very Happy Easter and are enjoying good health and getting ready for our 2009 reunion in Branson.

We are in contact with some Branson people regarding our reunion and should have the details in our next newsletter. I think that all of you will be pleased with the Branson area as there is much to do there and they really cater to military reunions.

Our reunion dates will be April 26, 27, and 28th of 2009 so mark your calendar and make plans to attend so we can have another great reunion as we did last year in San Diego. Hope to see many of you in Branson!

Reminder: check the date behind your name on the mailing label. This is the month and year that your dues expire. If you get this newsletter on the internet the month and year are after your name in the To: header section. If you have any question as to when your dues expire just send me an e-mail or give me a call and I will check it for you. Please make sure your dues are current so you can remain a member, participate in reunions and elections and help keep our association alive and well.

Send your check for \$20, payable to GHRA to:
Chod Cremer, PO Box 201, Agency IA 52530
- Ron

Branson Showboat



Branson 2009



Branson is the fifties ... well, at least a part of it. There is a museum of cars from the 50's ... the large fin type. There is a 50's diner and more. Dick Clark has done a lot with the theme.

For many of us, the references to the 1950's will be a nostalgia trip.



Recent Navy reunions held in Branson include:

- U.S.S. Fort Mandan LSD-21
- U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN 69
- U.S.S. Huse DE 145
- U.S.S. Ajax AR 6
- U.S.S. Kaskaskia AO 27
- U.S.S. Shields DD 596
- U.S.S. Carpenter DD 825
- U.S.S. Maury DD401
- U.S.S. William M. Wood DDR 715
- U.S.S. Howorth DD 592
- U.S.S. Libra AKA 12

With the exception of the USS Eisenhower, all of these ships are sister-ships in the sense that they were all commissioned in the 40's and they all saw action in World War II.

Connections

The following are selections from the Visitor's Log at our website. Note that several were not crew members but have a connection to the Gunston Hall.

Roberet E. Redner, MM, 1956
zook41@hotmail.com

Joe Zawaly, BT, 60-62
probablyis@msn.com

Jim Karakos, SH, 51-56
mcpojimk@aol.com

Robert Fender, BM, 60-64
bethnbob@valyou.net
comments :

C. Richard Cecil, RM
seajaycecil@yahoo.com
"My father, Charles Hill Cecil, MM3 served aboard Gunston Hall during WW2. I would be honored to hear from anyone that served with him. They called him 'Ceas'"

Larry Wasikowski
larrywaz@swiftboats.net
"LSD 5 transported PCFs from Subic Bay to Vietnam. Looking for help identifying the dates these deliveries were made and which PCFs were involved. Also interested if anyone has pictures of these boats on board. Check my website at: <http://swiftboats.net>"

Jim Knudsen, Army, 1966
mistic@adelphia.net
"operation duke 84th eng"

Fred Kelly, SN, 57-61
Email : divewfred2@verizon.net

Eustace G Lee, SM, 56-57
krorphn@hotmail.com

Paul Chester Cannizzo, CM, 61-63
paulcannizzo@msn.com

Note that most of the comments have been edited or removed here but all are intact on the website

N Z B L

Internet Links

Branson Websites

<http://www.branson.com/>
<http://www.explorebranson.com/>

Nimitz Museum

<http://www.nimitz-museum.org/>

Other Links

American Naval Fighting Ships:
<http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/>
<http://www.navsource.org/>
<http://www.military.com/>

As soon as we have some specifics, we will open a special Reunion '09 page on the website.

GHRA Website



If you surf the net, you are used to seeing a lot of "Under Construction" signs. Our website is also "under construction" and probably will be forever. Shipmates regularly send in new items and photographs that we add to the site making it a somewhat dynamic, constantly changing thing. In the past few months, the World War II section has been re-done and a new section for our San Diego reunion last year was added. If you haven't visited recently, come see. Even if you have seen the WW2 section, we have added new pictures just last week. To see them, go to the website; go to the World War II section; got to 'Pictures.' Scroll to the bottom and click on "More Pictures." The photos have no names attached. If any of you WW2 vets recognize yourself or someone else, let us know in order that the archives may be updated.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles "Moon" Mullin, PN, 51-53 passed away Dec. 28, 2007. Our sympathies go to his wife and family.

World War II

In the last edition of the newsletter, we reproduced the first part of a personal log detailing the ship's movements during World War II. The log was given to us by Debbie, daughter of **George Dickinson**, YN, 43-45. As before, we have abridged some of the comments. The original documents can be seen at our website

The last entry we printed here was :
12 May 1944 At Tulagi.

Continuing from that point ...

1944

- 04 Jun Left Tulagi loaded with LCM's, tanks and men for the invasion of Guam.
- 08 Jun Arrived Kwajalien Atoll
- 12 Jun Left above
- 16 Jun Steaming East & West within 60 miles of Saipan.
- 24 Jun Returned to Eniwitok Atoll
- 28 Jun Arrived Eniwitok

- 17 Jul En route to Guam invasion
- 21 Jul Arrived Guam; commenced invasion
- 26 Jul Guam secured ... returning to Eniwitok
- 30 Jul En route to Tulagi

- 05 Aug Arrived Tulagi for overhaul
- 16 Aug Left for Manus, Admiralty Is.
with 18 LCM's, 18 LCVP's and men
- 19 Aug Arrived Manus, unloaded (milk run)
- 20 Aug Left for Tulagi
- 23 Aug Arrived Tulagi; loaded 3 LCT's, tanks,
equioment and men.
- 24 Aug Russell Islands, training period
- 27 Aug Arrived Lunda, Guadalcanal, R&R

- 08 Sept Left Lunda with equipment for invasion of
Peleleu, Caroline Islands
- 15 Sept Arrived ... commenced invasion.
Retired to sea for the night
- 16 Sept Overhauling damaged landing craft.
- 24 Sept Left to deliver (4) tank barges to Kessel Passage.
- 25 Sept Arrived, unloaded, left for Peleleu.
- 26 Sept Arrived Peleleu, unloaded
continued repairing damaged craft
Retired to sea.
- 27 Sept Left for Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea
- 30 Sept Arrived Hollandia, overhaul and R&R

- 12 Oct Training troops for landing
- 13 Oct Left Hollandia with LCM's, equipment and men
for invasion at Leyte Island, the Philippines.

To be concluded in a future newsletter

History



USS Gunston Hall had adapted a rather unique method of displaying her ship's bell.

The bell is supported by a Japanese Torii, an ancient Oriental symbol that wards off evil spirits.

The Torii was constructed by **J H Garrett**, DC, 1965-66, **H. P. Rosenberg**, SF, 1964-67 and **W.B. Moore**, DC, 1966

Gunston Hall was commanded at that time by **Cdr. Sundt**.

Excerpted and paraphrased from a news article in the Amphibian

Submitted by Kelly Jones, BT, 65-68



Two of Gunston Hall's finest!
Submitted by: **Bob Henderson**, RD, 63-64

CIVILIAN FRIENDS vs. VETERAN FRIENDS

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book about you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will kick the crowds' ass that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences. ..

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared experiences no civilian could ever dream of.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, "You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!" Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will not.

From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your Company.

Quoted from an unknown author with liberal paraphrasing.

Sent to us by: George Dickinson's daughter, Debbie



Branson

Save the dates
Don't miss out
April 26, 27, 28, 2009



Kelly Jones, BT, 65-68 sent us his 1st class crow

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman

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Avondale AZ 85323

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