



USS Gunston Hall

LSD 5

Winter 2007-08 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association



John Tradup, YN, 54-56 sent us this official 1954 Gunston Hall Christmas Card. Inside are greetings from Cdr Duryea and the menu for Christmas Dinner aboard ship.

Connections

Christmas 2007

FROM THE VISITOR'S LOG

Name : **L.A.Michelsen (Mike)**
Rate : S/F 1/C
Dates : Atomic bomb test
Email : Mikendi4@msn.com
comments : Great ship and crew, proud to be part of it

Name : **Winters O. Hope**
Rate : FT2
Dates : 1957 - 1959
Email : wintersoh@bellsouth.net

Name : **Lyle Hansen**
Rate : RM 3
Dates : 1951-1954
Email : lhansen6368@msn.com

Name : **Al Stover**
Rate : Chief Boatswain's Mate
Dates : 1945-1965
Email : gwstover@yahoo.com
comments : Looking forward to the 2009 reunion.

Name : **Ken Daniels**
Rate : Sgt USMC
Dates : 1957-58
Email : kjd27fdny@aol.com
comments : Served onboard w/ HMR-162
Operation Strongback Okinawa and P.I.
Good memories, Good ship

Name : **Harold Larson**
Rate : PO1
Dates : 1951-1954
Email : Mhvj2225@charter.net
comments : I am happy about the reunion location for 2009.

Name : **Thomas Wright**
Rate : Pn3
Dates : Jan 1967 to Jan 1970
Email : yankeestation@netzero.net
comments : I was in 2nd Div two years, then PN3

Name : **Jerry Walker**
Rate : BM1 Retired
Dates : 20 Jan 65--5 Jul 67
Email : doubchoc@prodigy.net
comments : Just visiting.

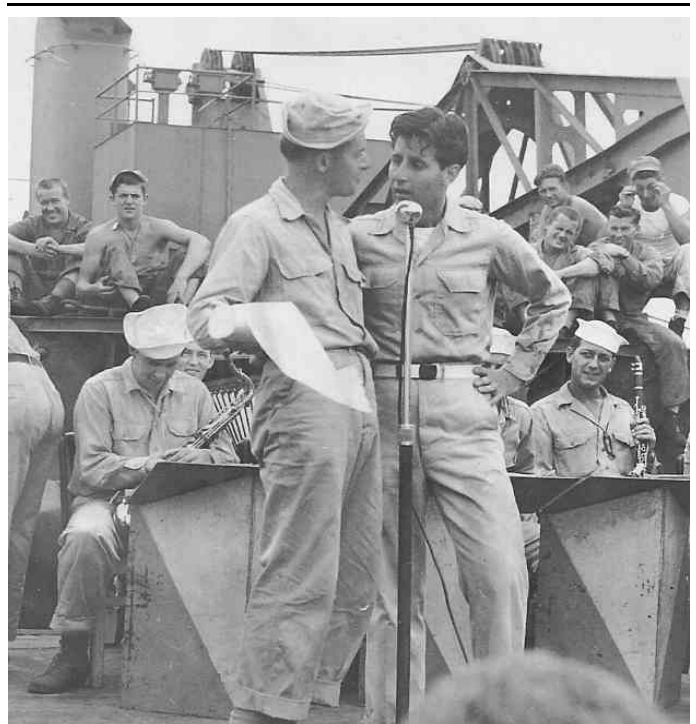
Name : **Don Dye**
Rate : MM2
Dates : 67-70
Email : 2ds87forever@speednet.com
comments : First time logging on.

Most of the above have been edited due to space limitations..
The original entries remain in the Visitor's Log on the web-site.

Hello Shipmates,

It's the holiday season once again and I just want to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in 2009 in Branson, Mo. and having another great reunion.
Happy Holidays,

Ron



Live from the U.S.S. Gunston Hall - sometime during WWII
Photo from **George Dickinson's** (YN, 43-45) collection.

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Ealy, BM, 59-62, passed away December 8, 2007 from cancer. Jack was one of the founding members of GHRA.

Larry G. Jarman, BT, 52-54 passed away October 1, 2007, as a result of lung cancer.

Ted Reiley, TE, 54-56 passed away 10/24/07. Ted had been in ill health for some time. He had planned to attend the '07 reunion but was unable due to a stroke

World War II

We are fortunate to have personal logs of the ship's movements and activities beginning with the ship's maiden voyage in January, 1944, and continuing to V-J day.

Horace Silver, RM, 43-45, kept such a log . His son, Ron, has given it to us. **George Dickinson**, YN, 43-45, was custodian of another that was authored by an unknown shipmate. George's daughter, Debbie, has provided us with it.

Following are a few excerpts from the Dickinson log. The entire document is 7 typewritten pages all of which will be reproduced on the website in the new WWII section as will the Silver log.

1944

13 Jan Left San Diego

30 Jan Arrived Marshall Islands

31 Jan Landed Marines, LCM's, tanks

06 Feb Left Marshall Islands

24 Feb At Solomon Islands for training

20 Mar Landed Marines & equipment at Emirau Is

26 Mar At Guadalcanal – Loaded men & equipment

30 Mar Returned and off-loaded at Emirau

18 Apr At Cape Cretin, New Guinea

Loaded men and equipment

22 Apr Invasion at Hollandia

28 Apr Returned to Cape Cretin to re-supply

30 Apr Unloaded at Hollandia

12 May At Tulagi – preparing for invasion of Guam

To be continued



George Dickinson



Horace Silver

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/>

If you haven't already discovered

<http://www.military.com/>

check it out ... they have interesting articles, special offers for veterans and they keep on top of benefits available to us.

Website

Our website, www.ussgunstonhall.org, is taking on a new look. World War II, the Korean War, and the Viet Nam War periods will all have their own unique page. The intent is to have a lot of relevant photos and memories on each page. At this time, we are working on World War II and have had some inputs from a few WWII vets. If you served on the ship at any time during the War, please send us all you have. We are particularly interested in anecdotes, stories, memorabilia and photos.

If you have nothing to submit but would like to be involved as a consultant, we have photos needing to be identified and facts needing verification. Contact us via e-mail or U.S. mail.

Trivia

From time to time, we will endeavor to enrich our lives with important bits of information such as this definition ...

Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is an early 19th century nautical term for an open cask of water kept on deck for use by the crew. The term comes from scuttle (to cut a hole in) + butt (a large cask). Sailors would gather about the cask and trade stories and gossip, much like modern office workers do at the water cooler or coffee pot. By the turn of the 20th century, American sailors began using the term scuttlebutt to refer to these sea stories and gossip. And eventually the term became associated with any gossip or rumor and divorced from its nautical origins.

History

U.S.S. Gunston Hall

Many of the elements of the LSD 44 shield and crest are references to the LSD 5.



SHIELD: The border of nine stars represents the nine battle stars LSD 5 earned for World War II and the nine battle stars LSD 5 earned in the Korean War. The red cross also refers to Operation "Crossroads", the 1946 series of atomic bomb tests in which USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 participated at Bikini Atoll. White, symbolizing high ideals and virtue, exemplifies the part the Gunston Hall (LSD 5) played in the U.S. Navy's humanitarian efforts in 1955 to evacuate almost 800,000 refugees from North to South Vietnam, Operation "Passage to Freedom".

CREST: The sea lion is taken from the device of LSD 5, represents and recalls the long and distinguished service of the first Gunston Hall. The torteau refers to LSD 5's World War II Pacific actions against Japan and the threat of Kamikaze attacks.

Liberally paraphrased from ...

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/navy/lsd-44.htm>



Reunion 2009

In case you didn't get the memo, the 2009 reunion will be in Branson, MO in April/May 2009.

Spring 2009 seems a long way off but for some of us old-timers, it goes so quickly it will be here before we know it.

The details remain open but we will be researching facilities and will provide details as they become available. Also, Branson attractions will be featured here such as that which follows.

S.S. Titanic

Docked at Branson, MO



A museum built to resemble the s.s. Titanic contains many items and artifacts salvaged from the sunken ship. The Grand Staircase and several other features of the ship have been re-created allowing visitors to experience the grandeur of the Edwardian era. The museum also has the Father Browne photo collection.

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman

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