



Early Spring/Spring 2010

# KNOX KNEWS

We had intended a different issue for this time but circumstances occurred and this page was changed as the heading of the Knox Knews.

WILLIAM S. RHODES EM3 2/46 – 6/46 sent this contribution of

## Navy Ships In Vietnam

The VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing information to assist with development in disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy veterans,

To date, VA has received verification from various sources showing that number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and Delta of Vietnam. VA has also identified certain ships and dates of inland waterway service.

If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development. The ships include:

***All vessels of Inshore Fire Support (IFS) Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour.***

***USS Carronade (IFS 1)***

***USS Clarion River (LSMR 409)***

***USS Francis RIVER (LSMR 525)***

***USS White River (LSMR 536)***

***All vessels with the designation LST during their entire tour (WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces).***

***All vessels with the designation LCVP during their entire tour.***

***All vessels with the designation PCF during their entire tour (Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters).***

***All vessels with the designation PBR during their entire tour (Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on***

*island waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now").*

**USS Ingersoll (DD-652)**

*(Operated on Saigon River,  
October 24-25, 1965)*

**USS Mansfield (DD-728)**

*(Operated on Saigon River  
August 8 - 19, 1967 and December  
21-24, 1968).*

**USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849)**

*(Operated on coastal inlet north of  
DaNang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting  
Marines holding a bridge).*

**USS Basilone (DD-824)**

*(Operated on Saigon River,  
May 24-25, 1966)*

**USS Hamner (DD-718)**

*(Operated on Song Lon Tao and  
Long Song Tao Rivers, August 15-  
September 1, 1966).*

**USS Conway (DD-507)**

*Operated on Saigon River,  
early August 1966).*

**USS Fiske (DD-842)**

*Operated on Mekong River,  
June 16-21, 1966)*

**USS Black (DD- 666)**

*(Operated on Saigon River,  
July 13-19, 1966)*

**USS Providence (CLG-6)**

*(Operated on Saigon River  
3 days during January 1964)*

**USS Mahan (DLG-11)**

*(Operated on Saigon River  
October 24-28, 1964).*

**USS Okanogan (APA-220)**

*(Operated on Saigon River  
July 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and  
August 5-6, 1968)*

**USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3)**

*(Unloaded supplies on Saigon River  
and Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968).*

As other vessels service in the waters of  
Vietnam are confirmed they will be added  
to the list.

THANKS BILL.

Received another book "I Can't See,  
But . . . I Can Imagine", written by  
Patricia Bennett Wilson and  
**AUTOGRAPHED** by the author from  
Jim and Pat Wilson to be used at the  
next reunion. Jim was a QM3 aboard  
July 1955 to May 1957 and resides in  
Redmond, Oregon.

Many THANKS to Jim and Pat!

We've been informed TOM MARK,  
STC aboard 6/50 - 8/52 now resides at  
Grossmont Retirement Gardens, 5480  
Marengo Ave., La Mesa, CA 92042.  
His daughter wanted him to move from  
where he had been living to a place that  
he would have better care, etc. Tom's  
phone number is (619) 993-1708.

This message comes via CAPT Giza,  
Deputy Director of the Navy Nurse  
Corps, regarding additional social  
security benefits, which are entitled when  
they are applied for through the Social  
Security Administration.  
**SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT!!!!**

DD FORM 214—Social Security Benefit  
for anyone who's had active duty service  
between January 1957 to December 31,  
2001.

You qualify for a higher social security  
payment because of your Military  
service, for active duty any time from  
1957 through 2001 (the program was  
done away with 1 January 2002). Up to  
\$1200 per year of earnings credit  
credited at time of application - which



can make substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it.

Soc Sec website:

<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001.

FYI – this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it! This may be too early for some of you to think about social security but keep living and you will reach that age.

Received this some time ago from BOB O'KON who got it from CHARLES R. SMITH of Monroe, Ohio:

### OLD SAILORS:

Old sailors sit and chew the fat  
about things that used to be,  
of the places they've seen,  
and places they've been, when they  
ventured out to sea.

They remembered friends from long ago  
the times they had back then.  
The money they spent, the beer they  
drank, in their days as sailing men.

Their lives are lived in days gone by,  
with thoughts that forever last.

Of bell bottom blues, winged white hats,  
and good times in the past.

They long nights with a moon so bright  
far out on a lonely sea.  
The thoughts they had as youthful lads,  
when their lives were wild and free.

They knew so well how their hearts  
would swell,  
when Old Glory fluttered proud and free.  
The underway pennant such a beautiful  
sight as they plowed through an angry  
sea.

They talked of the chow ol' Cookie  
would make and the shrill of the Bosun's  
pipe.  
How salt spray would fall like sparks  
from Hell when a storm struck in the  
night.  
They remember old shipmates already  
gone who forever hold a spot in their  
heart  
When sailors were bold and friendships  
would hold, until death ripped them  
apart.

Their sailing days are gone away, never  
again will they cross the brow.  
They have no regrets, they know they are  
blessed, for honoring a sacred vow.

Their numbers grow less with each  
passing day  
as the final muster begins, there's  
nothing to lose, all have paid their dues,  
and they'll sail with shipmates again.

I've heard them say before getting underway that there's still some sailing to do, they'll say with a grin that their ship has come in and the Lord is commanding the crew.

"Author unknown"

*Thanks Bob and Charles*

STILL RECEIVING RETURNED MAIL AS NOT DELIVERABLE !!!

Are you in touch with any of the following:

MICHAEL ANDERSON Costa Mesa  
JAMES BURTON Eugene, OR  
JOHN ELROD Gainesville, FL  
JOHN GRECIO Buffalo, NY  
RAY HART Mineral Wells WV  
HIRAM LIGGETT, Chesterfield MO  
WILLIAM MARRISON York PA  
DAVID J. MOORE San Diego, CA  
PERRY NELSON Short Hills, NJ  
ALFRED SEYMOUR St. Louis MO  
JOHN WILLCUTT Santa Maria CA  
THOMAS WOLFE Freemont OH

I will appreciate any help finding these members.

We have on hand some of the Katahdin Tek Fleece Vest in sizes:

Small	RED
Med	NAVY or RED
Lge	NAVY or ROYAL
XL	NAVY or RED
2XL	NAVY or RED
4XL	NAVY

These have the "Rough Rider" crest embroidered on the left chest, zipper front, deep pockets. \$25.00 including shipping. Drop me a line, email or call.

Received word from Edward Reid he has moved, new address:

EDWARD O. REID  
149 SADDLE MOUNTAIN DR. SE  
CALHOUN, GA 30701  
email; eoreid@aol.com

Also word came that James H. Thomas QM2 February 1949 – June 1953 passed away, no further details at this time.

E-mail from BOB LOWERY, Umatilla, FL saying there are about 32 members living in Florida and he is wondering if they would like to get together for dinner once a year as sometimes distance and expense precludes some from attending a reunion. I suggested to Bob that he contact the Florida members with the idea of a get together. If Bob has not contacted you about the possibility he can be reached at:

ROBERT E. LOWERY  
HWY 452, P.O. BOX 316  
UMATILLA, FL 32784  
352-669-2047  
(email) [jakeman53@hotmail.com](mailto:jakeman53@hotmail.com)

Received a letter from a Robert Clark (*not a member*) stating he would like to hear from any WWII, Korea, Vietnam or other conflict as a history project. I do not plan to write to him but you may at your own risk if you wish:



Robert Clark  
P. O. Box 685  
Collinsville, IL 62234

CLOVIS MANSELL, QM2 3/48-6/52 informed us of new area code, phone number is (863) 299-7448. Mark your Master Roster.

Plank Owner BILL FOLEY sent an article concerning WWII that reads in part:

The writhing land of Japan was cut off from its northern resources as earlier it had been cut off from the rich lands of the Indies.

Not all of the coal and ore of Hokkaido was shipped to Honshu. In the town of Muroran on the southern coast near Tsugaru Strait are the Nihon Steel Company and the Wanishi Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company, and a synthetic oil refinery. Or rather there were - before Halsey decided to throw a few 16-in shells in that direction.

At dawn on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Muroran awoke to the sound of American salvos. Vice Admiral Badger had brought a heavy bombardment group within sight of the city. Vice Admiral Louis E. Denfeld commanded the battleships *Wisconsin*, *Iowa*, and *Missouri*, with Halsey aboard the last named. The light cruisers *Atlanta* and *Dayton* and the destroyers *Remey*, *Norman Scott*, *Mertz*, *Monseen*, *McGowan*, *McNair*, *Melvin* and *Frank Knox* made up the rest of the force.

BILL said this came from a 2005 Sea Classics magazine. There was much more of the article in case you can find a copy of the magazine.

Thanks Bill.

LARRY MODLIN, Grass Valley, CA called to correct phone number. He is at (530) 272-3696. Correction will be made in next Master Roster.

BILL RHODES, Atlanta, GA wrote to tell us the correction for John D. Elrod, address is same 5111 Elrod Road, Gainesville, GA. New phone number (770-534-1214). He's still checking on James R. Brown, Ball Ground, GA. Thanks Bill.

Interesting article In Tin Can Sailor April/May/June 2010 Issue about Kamikazes attacks toward end of WWII during the Battle of Okinawa, no mention of *USS Frank Knox* however.

WOW . . . May 4, 2010 received package from JACK R. BIRD FT3, 1/51 – 6/54 with some great pictures from our time aboard the Knox along with the following poem that was sent to him by DOYLE “DOC” HOLLIDAY another FT3 from the same era that I haven't been able to convince joining the reunion group.

## K O R E A

By Francis M. Macy

We didn't do much talking,  
We didn't raise a fuss,

But Korea really happened,  
So please remember us,

We all just did our duty,  
But we didn't win or lose,  
A victory was denied us,  
But we never got to choose,

We all roasted in the summer,  
In the winter, damn near froze,  
Walking back from near the Yalu,  
With our blackened, frozen toes.

Like the surf the enemy kept coming,  
With their bugles in the night,  
And we fired in to their masses  
Praying for the morning light,

All of us just had to be there,  
And so many of us died,  
But now we're all but half forgotten,  
No one remembers how we tried,  
We grow fewer with the years now,  
And we still don't raise a fuss,  
But Korea really happened,  
So please remember us.

Special THANKS to JACK and DOC !

The photos were of the USS BOXER CV-21 when it had a below deck fire, I recall we helped pick up survivors. If you go to *Safari* and look up USS BOXER there are additional pictures of the hanger deck. Our photo was taken by SID PADGETT (deceased). The photo of the Tin Can taken from USS BON HOMME RICHARD CV-31 and then there is a photo of the USS PHILLIPINE SEA CV-47 and another of the heavy cruiser USS

ST. PAUL CA-73 and last but not least the USS MISSOURI BB-63 all of Task Force 77.

I'll have these photos in the memorabilia album at the next land reunion.

Where did 60 years go??

WELCOME ABOARD!! New member,

JAMES L. HOLLIDAY, YN3 11/60-6/63  
25150 N. Yankee Rd. Sedalia, MO 65301  
(660) 826-1627. Wife Mary Lou

James has MANY former shipmates of his era. Drop him a line and let him know there are a bunch of you. He'll be glad to hear from you.

May 15 received small package from FRANK JACKSON of Weymouth, MA who never served aboard the FRANK KNOX, but aboard RANGER CV-61 ABE-2 1981-1984. In the package was a booklet from COMMANDER CRUISER – DESTROYER FORCE and although the Pacific Fleet has contained cruisers and destroyers since it was established in 1919, the present command was established Oct. 15, 1949.

You will find a copy of the booklet along with this newsletter. It's a very informative narration and much history of the USS FRANK KNOX and her many deeds. You'll want to save it . . .

A thank you was sent to Mr. FRANK JACKSON from the USS FRANK KNOX DDR-742 REUNION ASSOCIATION.



If you care to write to him the address is:  
Frank Jackson  
139 Circuit Ave.  
Weymouth, MA 02188  
or by email;  
[nzwgtmo@comcast.net](mailto:nzwgtmo@comcast.net)

The June 2010 The American Legion magazine has a article "When The Cold War Turned Hot" Korea's place in our military history. Brought back a lot of memories of 60 years ago. Especially the article "The Korean War At Sixty" Forgotten, Remembered and Continued by William Stueck

Korean War 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations;  
*The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton Ohio*  
[www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/korea.asp](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/korea.asp)

A planned 2010 groundbreaking for the KOREAN WAR NATIONAL MUSEUM in Springfield, IL  
[www.kwnm.org](http://www.kwnm.org)

The Harry S. Truman Library & Museum in Independence, MO planning several events.  
[www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org)

The Harry S. Truman Little White House in Key West, Fla exhibit April to July  
[www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com](http://www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com)

Victoria College in Victoria, Texas and the University of Houston-Victoria Library are sponsoring a KOREAN WAR CONFERENCE June 24-26

[www.vcuhealthlibrary.uvh.edu/korea](http://www.vcuhealthlibrary.uvh.edu/korea)

In September 2000, *The American Legion Magazine* published a special issue marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Available online.  
[www.legion.org/koreanwar](http://www.legion.org/koreanwar)

UPS just stopped at our door and delivered a case of Pinot Noir and Zinfandel wine from JOE ZACCOLI RM2 56-58 destined for the "white elephant" auction. Too bad we cannot take it aboard ship for the cruise this year but we will store it in a cool place for the following reunion. Time and place to be determined and you will be informed. Stay tuned and if you see Joe be sure to thank him for the donation. If you attended the reunion at San Diego 2007 you know the reputation of Joe's wines.

## *Fair Winds & Following Seas*

"May the Lord fill our sails with fair wind,  
Support our hulls in inviting seas,  
Guide our hands upon the tiller toward  
pleasant places,  
And bring us home, O Lord, to a safe and  
loving harbor."



