OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MISSISSIPPI
EAG-128

BATTLESHIP MISSISSIPPI CREDITED WITH DESTRUCTION OF SHURI CASTLE

Continued from earlier issues.

(In addition to this commendation, the following officers endorsed: Maj. Gen. A. D. Bruce, Commanding 77th Div.; Maj. Gen. J. R. Hodge, Commanding 24th Army Corps; Brig. Gen. E. D. Post, Chief of Staff, 10th Army; Vice Adm. H. W. Hill, Commanding Fifth Amphibious Corps.)

“From: Commander 5th Amphibious Corps:
The excellent fire support rendered the troops ashore by the Mississippi contributed in no small amount to the success of the capture of Okinawa.”

“From: Commanding General 24th Army:
All of us on the beach have enjoyed working with you and hope to do so again. The best testimonial to your work are statements by POW. You have given us everything we asked for and more besides. We assure you that the doughboys have appreciated your help. Our entire gang extends to you our thanks.”

“From: Commander 3rd Amphibious Corps:
We foresee no further need for gunfire support on this island. We wish to express our gratitude to you and all who have fired for us during the campaign. Their firepower has added materially in bringing this campaign to successful close. The cooperation shown by all echelons of your command has been outstanding. It has been a privilege to work with you and we hope we may have the pleasure of working with you all again somewhere along the line.”

Shuri Castle was nothing more than a good news story from there on, but completion of Plan Imperial Special meant nothing more to the Missy’s crew than the fact that the ammunition supply was low,

(Continued on page 2)
so the next day was given to reloading to capacity, for there was Naha, capital of the island, a city of 65,000 people with the best airfield in the entire group; and after that the Missy had to lend a hand with the final push on the Yazu-Dake Line.

During the drive for Naha, the doughboys on one occasion found that the artillery was not ready to support the drive. Heavy guns were an absolute necessity, so they again sent out a rush order to the Galant Gal, asking for 14 inch shells only 400 yards in front of the advancing infantry. Considering the fact that everything alive within 300 yards of the bursting point is flirting with the grim reaper, there wasn't much room for a mistake. The request was so surprising that Mississippi officials demanded authentication. The commanding general, admitting later that he had figured on losing some of his men to our own gunfire, though many more would be saved at the same time, revealed that not a single casualty was suffered.

After that a tired, but prouder gang of sailors on a great Navy ship were due for a little rest in an area which they had helped occupy six months previously.

When the Mississippi finally left Okinawa on June 17th, not one of her main engines had been secured for 53 days, for she had been in operation itself for more than sixty consecutive days. She burned 1,876,182 gallons of fuel oil during that time, enough to run an automobile continuously at 40 miles per hour for 90 years. Five locomotives pulling 133 ordinary tank cars each would be required to transport that much oil. Over three million gallons of fresh water, distilled from ordinary sea water, was consumed, enough to keep an ordinary one-inch pipe to kitchen sink running wide open for seven months. Enough corn starch was used in the distilling process to make a half million pies. A housewife in an average American family could prepare three meals a day for 180 years with the electricity generated. Gasoline enough to drive an automobile around the world four times was burned in two observation planes flown by the Missy's three pilots, Lt. (jg) G. A. Lewis of Idaho Falls, Idaho; Ens. N. O. Stieler, of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Lt (jg) T. E. Bowman, of Jamestown, Michigan, all of whom have been recommended for the air medal.

When the operation was all over, the Mississippi had strengthened her claim for firing more steel at the enemy than any ship in the world's history. She laid more that three million pounds of sleeping pills on the Nips and had burned up another million pounds of powder on delivering sedatives at Okinawa alone. Her entire war record showed that she had delivered 12 million pounds of steel to the enemy in a dozen operations, ranging from the misty Aleutians to the sun-baked Solomons and the typhoon filled China Sea. Before that she had hovered about American convoys in the stormy North Atlantic, protecting them from Nazi raiders in the days when England's very life depended upon the U. S. aid.

Another record was claimed by the Mighty Missy when turret II expended more than one million pounds of ammunition at Okinawa, said to be the greatest amount ever fired by a single turret in any engagement. This same turret had twice previously—once in 1926 and again in 1943—threatened to put a violent end to the big battlewagon when fire raged inside her powder train. But on both occasions, despite considerable loss of personnel, the men fought the fire and gave their life's blood in order that she might fight again.

This brings this series to a close. We want to again thank Earl Slattum for sending this article to the Mississippi Pirate. If anyone else has any articles from the Mississippi, please send them to ML&RS, Inc for use in the newsletter. All the former Mississippi shipmates appreciate reading these articles from the past, and we enjoy printing them.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It looks like we’re in for another good reunion come this November. It’s going to be in Charleston, South Carolina from 1—4 November. We had a great one last year in Nashville including day trips, and I feel that this will be just as good, if not better.

The sad note in this issue of the Pirate is the passing of my predecessor, Roger Moscone. He passed away on 6 February. He was one great guy, and I’m glad that Ann and I visited with him and Sandy last year. I remember him well from the days on the Missy, and I’m sure that there are a lot of others out there who also remember him. He was all Navy!!!

A few days later I was reading the local paper and read the “obit” for another shipmate, Ron Ulreich, who lived in Ventura, California. May they rest in peace.

The way time is flying by, we’ll be celebrating Easter and Pass-over holidays before you look around. In closing, here’s wishing you all Happy Holidays.

If there is anything going on that you’d like to share with the “group,” why not write it up and send it to Karen, in care of the Pirate, and it will be published. Let’s hear from you!

Jake

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“Our Reunions Work So You Don’t Have To”
TAPS

The Pirate has learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widow, family and friends of the deceased.

Roger Moscone
(1948-52) SA 1st Div
Died February 6, 2007

Ron Ulreich
(1953-55) GS1 8th Div
Died February 8, 2007

James McRae
(1948-51) GMS 1st Div
Died September 25, 2006

MAIL CALL

Mississippi Pirate,

Waters & Kraus, LLP, a leading national law firm, is searching for shipmates of our client, Frederick Coffey, who served aboard the USS Mississippi from September 1952 until April 1956 as a Machinist Mate. We represent Mr. Coffey in his Mesothelioma (asbestos cancer) case and we believe Mr. Coffey’s exposure to asbestos occurred during his time aboard the ship. If you have any information that could help us with Mr. Coffey’s case, please contact Tina Shuey at 800-226-9880 or email at tshuey@waterskraus.com.

Thanks for you help,
Alicia Johnson

The following letters and article came to ML&RS, Inc from an e-mail request for stories and items for the newsletter. Thank you to the men who were willing to share their stories! We need to hear from more of you.

Mississippi Pirate,

A case of learning fast. My first week onboard the USS Mississippi I was assigned to “B” Division. Nice place, everyone very friendly. While on mess deck, I noticed a list of names on a roster called “Mess Cooks.” Being new, I inquired as to what that was all about. After finding out that I was expected to spend 3 months doing kitchen stuff, I said to myself, “There has to be a better way.” There was. I applied for MM school and went back to Great Lakes. Upon completing school I was promoted to Fireman and went back to the Missy. I never had to do “Mess Cooking” and life went on.

Louis Dittman MM2 “B” Div 1950-53

Financial Statement

Balance remaining after 12/06
$1136.79

Funds collected since 12/06
$70.00

Funds available for 03/07
$1206.79

Funds expended for 03/07
$134.66

Balance remaining for 06/07
$1072.13

This issue is being mailed only to those who returned the coupon to receive the newsletter by mail. Others may access the newsletter from the web site www.mlrsinc.com/eag128. Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc. at our address on page 2.

MARINE BUMPER STICKERS

- Heaven won’t take us and hell’s afraid we’ll take over.
- USMC: When it absolutely, positively must be destroyed overnight.
- To err is human, to forgive is divine; however, neither is Marine Corps policy.

Words of Wisdom

- Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.
- Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
FORMER REUNION COORDINATOR, ROGER MOSCONE, DIES

Taken from the Boston Globe, February 17, 2007

Roger J. Moscone of Imperial Beach, CA, died peacefully February 6, 2007, with his family at his bedside. He was 75 years old. Roger was a native of Quincy, MA and enlisted in the Navy when he was 17 years old. He joined the Underwater Demolition Team 12 (UDT) in 1958, and became a member of Seal Team One in 1964 while stationed in Coronado, CA. Roger was also assistant training officer at the Underwater Swimmers School at Key West, FL in 1970. He retired from the Navy as a CWO-2 and was employed with Exxon Oil for 16 years. He is survived by his wife, 5 children, and 3 brothers.

From the archives of Earl Slattum.

THE PIRATE
Vol. IV, No. 9
Capt. J.F. Crowe, Jr. Commanding
19 April 1947

BOXING

At 2000 on Saturday night April 26 in the NAS Gymnasium, the USS Mississippi will play host for the COMBATCRULANT BOXING Tournament. The ship expects to enter a complete team with an entry in every weight. Heavy workouts and strict training is the order for every boxer on the ship. We are handicapped in that each ship may enter only one man per weight. As a result, several of our fine boxers will not be able to participate.

All participants in the tournament will be sent to this ship and will work out with our team next week. If you see Mississippi handlers in the opponent’s corner that is because we will have to provide them with such.

Scott Center Scuttlebutt has it that the Mississippi boxers will be in top form and ready for an overwhelming victory. All hands are requested to be at NAS Gym next Saturday night for a fine show and to help give your team the support that it deserves.

OFFICERS’ BOWLING LEAGUE

The Bowling League of the Officers got off to a flying start this week.

On Tuesday evening the Senior Officers bowed against the Ensigns. Whether it was due to their greater experience because of age or what, we do not know, but the Seniors came out on top by over 50 pins. Ensign Huston had the high score of the evening with 221.

On Thursday night the Lieutenants (including the JGs) bowled against the much-vaunted team of the Warrant Officers and walked off with the match. They won the first two games and lost the third but by that time had enough pins to be able to come out ahead. High game for the evening was Mr. Hanson’s 183. High series was also his with 495.

This coming Tuesday, the Seniors bowl against the Lieutenants. On Thursday evening the Ensigns bowl against the Warrant Officers. It promises to be a very close league since the scores have been even.

BASEBALL

In spite of wet weather which has hampered practice sessions during the past two weeks, the ship’s baseball squad has whipped itself into winning form.

Men drawn from recent drafts may well prove to be the nucleus of the team. Clarke, Corriveau and Belton have shown up well at practices. Clarke, in particular, wields both a powerful bat and a mighty right arm. The best infield found to date is composed of Ribet at 1st, Cardello at 2nd, Schoettker at short and Sinnott at 3rd. With Lynes and Rensud, two heavy-hitting outfielders, the first division is more than well represented, not forgetting Johnson, a First Division Coxswain who hurled some mighty mean ball for the Little Creek team last season.

Those who still want to try out for the squad are welcome to join the practice sessions on Monday and Wednesday at 1600. The team will never be a closed deal. If you think you are capable of taking over a spot on the first team, come on out and show your stuff.

In addition to the recreational facilities described in last week’s Pirate, the Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks has made the practice golf course, handball court and tennis courts available for the use of the forces afloat. Those who wish to use these must make arrangements through the ship. The Chaplain will help those who are interested.

CALLAGAHAN CENTER MOVIE SCHEDULE

Sunday—HIGH BARBAREE—Van Johnson, June Allyson
Monday—LITTLE BROWN JUG—Stage production, admission by ticket only.
Wednesday—BLAZE OF MOON—Ann Baxter, William Holden
Friday—DEVIL THUMBS A RIDE—Lawrence Tierney, Nan Leslie

Performances are at 1745 and 2015

STAFF

Chaplain W.J. Vierling—Editor
Recreation Committee—Reporters
C Division

The paper is published weekly in accordance with EXOS:AO (pub) WBW*bmed, 28 May 1945, with appropriate funds.

(Continued on page 5)
DIVINE SERVICES

Catholic Mass  0800—USS Pocono
0930—Yard Chapel
Protestant—0930—Quarterdeck
(weather permitting)

God's changelessness is the basis of our confidence. The prophet hopes in God's mercy, because God's attitude toward his people is not dependent upon them. God is Love, always and everywhere. Writing to Timothy, Paul said, "If we are faithless, he abideth faithful, for he cannot deny himself." God would deny himself if he were not kind. His love for the world is a constant tidal energy from which there is no ebbing. There is only the unceasing outgoing of his care for us and all men. Do we believe this? Do we believe that God's love can never fail? The last words of Professor Elemslie, of Cambridge, were: "God is love. God is love. I will go out and tell this to all the world. They do not know it." Do we know it? Is there any circumstance in which God's love can fail?

From now on the Divine Services will be held on the quarterdeck if the weather permits. We hope that more people will continue to attend the service, both Protestant and Catholic.

NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY

A number of new books have been received in the library recently. They are ready for distribution and will be found on the shelves for new books. There are several new mysteries, some westerns, and a few general novels. One of the more famous of them is Command Decision by K. W. Haines. This appeared as a book condensation in Reader's Digest. Among the non-fiction that arrived is The Lost War, a book by a Japanese newspaper reporter. It covers the period from Pearl Harbor to the occupation.

In addition there are current magazines available. There are copies of Life, Colliers, Saturday Evening Post and Esquire. Current issues may be taken out overnight.

The library is open daily from 1115 to 1145, 1230 to 1300 and 1800 to 1900. The chaplain and the librarian will be glad to help you find the books you like.

BACKSEAT DRIVER

There was a fearful crash as the train struck a car. A few seconds later a man and his wife crawled out of the wreckage. The wife started to say something when the man stopped her, "Never mind talking," he snapped. "I got my end of the car across all right. You were driving the back seat, and if you let it get hit, don't blame me."

Apprentice Seaman: A fellow who started at the bottom and works.

These pictures and dance program are courtesy of Earl Slattum

USS MISSISSIPPI WAR RECORD AS SEEN ON THE SHIP. IN THE MIDDLE IS SHURI CASTLE WHICH THE "MISSY" RECEIVED CREDIT FOR DESTROYING.

SUMMER DANCE

Sponsored by

U. S. S. MISSISSIPPI
(AG 128)

CAPTAIN J. E. CROWE, Jr., U. S. N.
Commanding Officer

COMMANDER H. H. McCARLEY, U. S. N.
Executive Officer

Jimmie St. Clair and His Orchestra
with
FLOOR SHOW

Starlight Room, Monticello Hotel
Norfolk, Virginia

2000 — 2400
27 JUNE 1944

Cover of dance program. Inside on next page.
Dance Committee

1st  R. J. Reilly               Ste
2nd  N. W. Lunden              Cox
3rd  L. C. Fulcher             GM2c
4th  R. P. Buss                GM2c
5th  E. A. Schulz              GM1e
6th  K. A. Goo                 Ste
7th  R. F. Hood                Cox
8th  R. R. Johns               Ste

A  R. R. Havelig               MoMM2c
B  W. R. Wagner               Flo
C  C. Paul                    Ste
E  G. L. Gutierrez            EM1c
F  R. C. Hoover               FC3e
H  L. D. Hollingstone        PhM1e
I  W. F. Hardy                Ste
M  R. G. Bishop               F2e
N  L. E. Pavesel              QM3c
R  J. M. Chmielewski          Ste
S  R. W. Bertran              SK1e
CPO J. Perico                 CGM
Harvey H. McClellan           Chaplain

Menu

BUFFET DINNER

Olives    Pickles    Radishes
Assorted Cold Cuts
Fried Chicken
Potato Salad    Chicken Salad
Fruit Punch
Rolls    Crackers
Ice Cream

Partner

Back - Bostwell, Sanders, Newcomb, Aimire, Bailey, Purfee, Newell
Front - Slattum, Carothers, Pace, Dayon, Xander
1946