

GRIGGS-GRUNDY NEWS

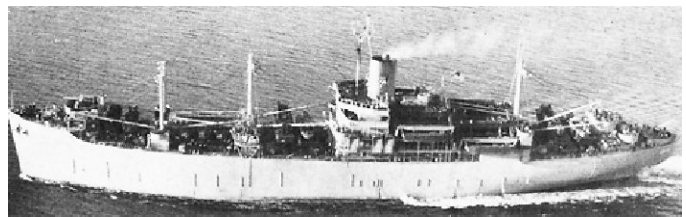
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

June 2005

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS GRIGGS AND USS GRUNDY



USS GRUNDY



USS GRIGGS

Special Points of Interest

- *Charles Forshee has some interesting items in his Coordinator's message on page one.*
- *Only one new member for the roster is found in Welcome Mat on page two. Let's find more for next time.*
- *Do you remember crossing the equator? Charles Forshee does. See his letter on page three.*
- *Art Thom sent in an entry from his diary from May 1945. It should bring back some memories!*
- *Facts about the Korean and Vietnam Wars are on pages three and four.*

NEWS FROM CHARLES FORSHEE

Have some inquiries about starting an APA Association, one by Bob Bolger with the USS Rockbridge APA 228. Returned his message with the fact that we are having reunions with the USS Griggs & USS Grundy (APA 110 & 111) and Military Locator & Reunion Service is doing the planning. The Rockbridge only had 10 to 12 attending. What do you think about having more attending our reunion?

Also received an e-mail from two daughters of Marvin Snider, who was in the "E" division, about the next reunion and would like to attend. Returned an answer that we would welcome them and they should get in touch with ML&RS so the proper paper work and reservations could be made before the cut-off date. Marvin Snider was electrocuted in an accidental job performance at 24 years of age. The daughters had to be small children at that time. They both are in education with North Carolina schools and may not be able to get away the full 3 days of the reunion. The e-mail addresses are <snider_e@yahoo.com> and

<elay@randolph.k12.nc.us>. (Eppie & Emily).

Got the information on the planned reunion for Nashville and things sound good to me. Hope everyone is happy with the plans in progress. We have not got a lot of news about the reunion, but we have had to have some teeth pulled and got the store bought kind, so we might have trouble eating the whole hog.

Finally got the tractor that has the tiller behind fixed and tilled my garden Monday and planted Tuesday and Wednesday so I can have the veggies we like so well. It is raining now, so maybe it will come up.

Will put the address for the hotel in the computer and get it to make a map and directions to Nashville and how long it will take to drive to be prepared. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville!

Charles Forshee
USS Griggs



WELCOME MAT

The USS GRIGGS-GRUNDY family welcomes the most recently located shipmate. We hope to see you at the next reunion and ask you to take an active part in our Association.

*Herman Krasner (USS Griggs)
1 Boleyn Ct
West Trenton, NJ 08068*



TAPS

The death of the following shipmates have been learned of since the last newsletter. The entire crew extends our sympathy to families and friends. If anyone knows of a deceased shipmate, please inform the NEWS so he can be recognized in TAPS and also be listed on the honor roll at the next reunion memorial service.

*Robert Palmer (USS Grundy)
1944-46 CM 2/c
Date of death not reported*

*Robert Shaw (USS Griggs)
Died August 11, 2002*

*Charles Reeves (USS Griggs)
Died October 26, 2004*

WORDS OF WISDOM

- Don't worry about what people think; they don't do it very often.
- It isn't the jeans that make you look fat.
- It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
- If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
- A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

USS GRIGGS/ USS GRUNDY REUNION

SEPT. 18-21, 2005

NASHVILLE, TN

**HOLIDAY INN
SELECT**

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*"Our Reunions Work, So You Don't
Have To."*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 03/05 issue **\$757.62**

Received since 03/05 **\$35.00**

Funds available for 06/05 **\$792.62**

Funds expended for 06/05 **\$160.46**

Ending Balance \$632.16

**SEND CONTRIBUTIONS & DUES
FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO
ML&RS. ADDRESS ABOVE.**

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The GRIGGS-GRUNDY NEWS is the official publication of the USS GRIGGS-GRUNDY Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in March, June, Sept., and Dec. *subject to receiving sufficient funding.* The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the NEWS. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

ML&RS, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be an monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the author to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.



MAIL CALL

Editor's Note: I didn't get a lot of response from my e-mail request for stories for the newsletter. I really appreciate the two who did respond. I would like to have a lot of you write in with your stories, so if you have an interesting tale, a piece of memorabilia, or articles from old publications aboard the ship, please send it in.

The "Griggs Log" does not have when the USS Griggs crossed the equator and the happenings that occurred. When the ship crosses the equator, those that have never been across are initiated, and those that have, do the initiating. And believe me, the initiators can come up with some dirty tricks! Maybe that's why some of the crew have not ever attended one of our reunions for fear that they would get even with them. This writer was fortunate to have duty when we crossed, since I had not been across. The officers and crew all were initiated together and the same dirty tricks were shared together. Pipes were on deck that were just large enough to crawl through, and those were full of garbage. Other items were dreamed up to belittle all. This writer had made a large flag in black with a background in white skull and cross bones. This was hoisted up on the mast, folded with ties that could be broken with a hard tug of the halyard. This flag was broken and unfurled at the instant the equator was crossed. This signaled the ceremonies to begin. Incidentally, this flag still exists and is in my possession. Most people being initiated were just having a good time, but again there was some that did not give their vote of appreciation, but the captain went along with no problem, since he had already been across.

We had some that did not want to go to the Pacific Islands and instead

went AWOL so they would miss the ship's sailing. This occurred about 14 June 1945, I believe, and they therefore did not leave for the port of call. Instead they were apprehended somewhere. One got five years and the other got seven years at Leavenworth Prison. One of the men was from Georgia, but I don't recall where the other one lived prior to getting in the Navy.

I had the pleasure of hoisting the message by using flags for the following: "CEASE PRESENT EXERCISE, DESIG WAR." so did all the ships that were at Okinawa at that time. Then it was time to start hauling troops and their equipment to Japan to occupy several cities. After this was when we went across the equator to pick up troops and return them to the U.S. On one of these trips in the Pacific, we had a birth. A baby was born on board ship, so does that make them a citizen of the United States if the mother was not a citizen? Maybe some one can fill in the blanks of some of this or know more facts about some of the goings on aboard the ship.

Charles Forshee
USS Griggs

If anyone remembers any crossing of the equator, please write to us about your experience. How about the baby being born? Anyone remember the details of that?

FROM THE DIARY OF ART THOM (USS GRIGGS)

May 18, 1945

0700 arrived at op area off Maui, T.H.

0830 commenced dropping boats
0907 completed, Put Beach Party ashore on Red Beach #2 for three days and nights of training
1130 hoisted aboard

May 19, 1945

0700 General Quarters
0705 set condition I able
0730 lower all boats. Played control vessel to mark center of Red

Beach #2. Landed on Maui, T.H. Beach battalion evacuate (wounded). Salvage operation.

1300 secured

2030 until 2320 at General Quarters. Radar failed to pick up torpedo boat which came in and simulated torpedo attack.

May 20, 1945

Ship to Shore. Played control - dispatched five waves to Red Beach #2

0930 H hour. 20 seconds was the most a wave missed the beaching schedule. Good operation.

1200 Secured and hoisted aboard. All boats water born in 29 minutes early this morning for S. to S. Turkey for chow tonight. Can't squawk about that!

KOREAN & VIETNAM WAR ERAS FACTS

KOREAN WAR ERA

- Korean War (actual hostilities): June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953
- Official Korean War Era: June 27, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (The extended period was designated by Congress to define a period of eligibility to include a period of uneasy peace negotiations following hostilities.)
- 6.8 million served on active duty during the Korean War Era, making them veterans of the war, the war era, or both. 997,000 also served during WWII, 347,000 during the Vietnam War and 291,000 during all three wars.
- 1.8 million served in theater during the three-year period of hostilities.
- 4 million served elsewhere in the world during the period of hostilities.
- 36,940 died in theater during the era—33,665 from battle wounds and 3,275 from

(Continued from page 3)

causes unrelated to battle. Of the 33,665 battle dead, 23,898 were determined Killed In Action, and 2,438 died while prisoners of war.

- 17,320 U.S. Military servicemembers died elsewhere in the world during the Korean War Era.
- More than 92,100 U.S. military servicemembers were wounded in theater, some multiple times, accounting for more than 103,200 incidents in which U.S. personnel were wounded.
- 8,176 are listed as Missing In Action (bodies not recovered). This number is subject to change as remains are identified
- 7,140 were POW's, of whom 4,418 returned, 2,701 died in captivity, and 21 refused repatriation.

VIETNAM WAR ERA

- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam Era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.
- 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam
- Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.
- 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam Era.
- 58,148 were killed in Vietnam/
- 75,000 were severely disabled
- 23,214 were 100% disabled
- 5,283 lost limbs
- 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.
- 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.
- Of those killed, 17,539 were married.
- Average age of men killed: 23.1 years
- Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
- The oldest man killed was 62 years old.
- As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.
- 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.
- 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.

SENDING OLD MEN TO WAR!

If I could, I'd enlist today and help my country track down those responsible for killing thousands of innocent people in New York City and Washington, DC. But, I'm over 50 now and the Armed Forces say I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 35 to join the military. They've got the whole thing backwards. Instead of sending 18-year-olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join until you're at least 35. For starters:

- Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.
- Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. If we can't kill the enemy we'll complain them into submission. "My back hurts!" "I'm hungry!" "Where's the remote control?"
- An 18-year-old hasn't had a legal beer yet, and you shouldn't go to war until you're at least old enough to legally drink. An average old guy, on the other hand, has consumed 126,000 gallons of beer by the time he's 35, and a jaunt through the desert heat with a backpack and M-60 would do wonders for the old beer belly.
- An 18-year-old doesn't like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys get up early every morning to pee.
- If old guys are captured, we couldn't spill the beans because we'd probably forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank,

and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

- Boot camp would actually be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we actually like soft food. We've also developed a deep appreciation for guns and rifles. We like them almost better than naps.
- They could lighten up on the obstacle course, however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training. I can hear the Drill Sergeant now, "Get down and give me...er...one."
- And the running part is kind of a waste of energy. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.
- An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to actually carry on a conversation, and to wear pants without the top of his butt crack showing and his boxer shorts sticking out. He still hasn't figured out that a pierced tongue catches food particles, and that a 400-watt speaker in the back seat of a Honda Accord can rupture an eardrum. All great reasons to keep our sons at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off to possible death.
- Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten cowards who attacked our hearts on September 11. The last thing the enemy would want to see right now is a couple of million old farts with attitudes.

HUMOR CORNER

Due to inherit a fortune when his sickly, widower father died, Robert decided he wanted a woman to enjoy it with. So he went to a singles bar and he searched until he spotted a woman whose beauty took his breath away.

"Right now, I'm just an ordinary man," he said, walking up to her, "but within a month or two, my father will pass and I'll inherit over 20 million dollars." The woman went home with Robert.

Four days later she became his stepmother.
.....Will men never learn?