

# POWELL POST

Volume 11, Issue 2

March 2005

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



### Points of Special Interest

- Find out all the latest news from Mike Baker's reports in the cover article.
- Five new names for the roster are found in the Welcome Mat on page two.
- A concern by Cornell Anton about the World War II Memorial is voiced in Mail Call on pages three and four.
- Ron Wolfe sent in an old song many of you might remember called "Walker's Battleship." See page five.
- And you can't miss Red's jokes on page six!

## SKIPPER MIKE'S REPORTS (1/19/05)

### NOW HEAR THIS!

Felipe Salazar will understand when I say The Packers Are Out." Enough said.

It's that time of year for a fire in the fireplace, a blanket in my recliner, the TV (Fox News, History Channel and Weather Channel).

I saw on the weather channel a couple days ago that northern MN was -54 degrees. I thought of Stewart and Arlene Nephew. Almost called them to see if they wanted to come to 0 degree temperatures (-10/-15 degree wind chill) for a while to warm up. I am

such a nice guy! However, looking at the forecast for our area, thinking of Ruth, considering Bubba's short legs and the fact that we have a daughter in MS, I made a decision. Didn't take long to decide. Ruth and I are heading south for about 5 weeks. Stewart and Arlene will have to stay by their fireplace in their love seat. Hope they have both. At least they have each other, and are young at heart. Watch the June issue of Powell Post as I will try to get caught up on my return.

### PRAYER LIST

Continue to pray for our POW's and MIA's. Also pray for Armed Forces, especially those serving in harm's way. Also requested are prayers for our shipmates and their family members. Pray especially for Ralph Creech, L.C. Murningham, Felipe Salazar, Duane and John Traut, Joe and Jessie Chambliss, Dot Owen, Wayne Bloomer, Stu and Dona Hoffman, and Lillian Higgins and family, Harold Schmidt, Ken Coggins, Gary Mootry and Ray

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Parker.

### SEARCHING FOR INFO

If anyone remembers Francis (Joe) Fours, a BT aboard the Powell 28 Feb 63—13 Jan 67, please contact Lisa Crane at:

Lcrane2@concentric.net.

She is looking for info about her dad for a scrapbook.

Also, Carol Lee Prickett is looking for info on her dad, Kenneth M. Chase, who was on Powell in WWII. You can contact her at:

dclrickett@msn.com or at:

Carol Prickett  
9368 W 104th Dr  
Westminster, CO 80021

### OPERATION DOMINIQUE

Dale Carter has hats available with the Christmas Island emblem. Please contact him directly if you would like one of these special hats. He can be contacted at:

bugkat@cableone.net

### TIDBITS

I have received nothing. This is your column. Use it, or it will be a short lived column.

### DID YOU KNOW?

During WWII most senior officers and political leaders had seen service previously during WWII.

1. Adm. Raymond Spruance, victor at Midway and commander of the Fifth Fleet commanded the destroyer Aaron Ward.
2. Gen. Douglas MacArthur was the only general to serve as a general in both wars.
3. Omar Bradley, principal ground commander in Northwestern Europe from D-Day till the war's end, spent WWI as did his boss, Gen Eisenhower, training troops and trying to get overseas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Skipper Mike



## WELCOME MAT

The USS HALSEY POWELL Association welcomes the following recently located crewmembers. We hope to see you at our next reunion, and trust that you will become an active member of the Association. Welcome Aboard!

*George Gibbs*  
PO Box 1045  
Benton City, WA 99320

*David Olsen*  
9391 Runn Rd  
Ely, MN 55731

*Larry Benning*  
4122 Woodfin St  
Houston, TX 77025  
713-660-7416  
Larry.benning@oncenter.com

*Tom Newell*  
510 W Hogerson St  
Buffalo, WY 82834

*Richard Rowlinson*  
2933 Boulder Ave  
Billings, MT 59102  
406-652-6427  
Rdr/sales@in.tch.com

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\_\_\_\_\_  
"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"



## TAPS

The Post was notified of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. Not all members died recently, but we just learned of their deaths. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widows, families and friends of the deceased. Please let ML&RS know if you learn of the death of a former shipmate so he can be recognized in here and on the Honor Roll at the reunion.

*Robert Podlasek (WWII)*  
Died June 25, 2004

*Thomas Murray*  
Died June 20, 2004

*Narcisco Chavez (1944-45)*  
Died December 23, 2003

*CDR Joseph Kington (1956-57) XO*  
Died July 15, 2004

*Cecil Sylvester*  
Died February 11, 2004

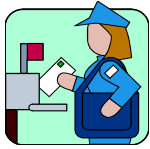
*Gerald "Jerry/Johnny" Johnson*  
(1951-54) SO2  
Died November 2004

*Kenneth Chase (WWII)*  
Died 1953

*Andrew Jones (Korea)*  
Died March 17, 2004

*James Higgins*  
(WWII, Korea, Vietnam)  
Died December 25, 2004

**HALSEY POWELL  
2005 REUNION  
SEPT. 21-25  
OMAHA, NE  
CLARION HOTEL**



## MAIL CALL

This story is set in the Naval Base at Yokosuka. While we were half way around the world and showing movies on the fantail at night, the Navy decided to send EM's to movie projector school at this base. After training during the day, we were allowed to go off base for the evenings. As mentioned above, I was married and had orders from home to bring back two sets of china from Japan (a Navy oxymoron if I ever heard one). One night I spent several hours bargaining with a china merchant for two sets of china. After wrestling these crates into a landing craft (liberty boat), C. R. Friend and I started for the ship. As soon as we left the dock the waves started getting bigger and bigger. We had to make two tries to get along side the ship. The next day we found out one of the other liberty boat's bow ended up on the ship's main deck and it had to go back to shore without unloading. After Friend and I unloaded the four crates into the aft 5"/38 handling room, we went to the quarterdeck to go back ashore. The officer of the deck did not want to let us go since by this time our whites weren't. He finally let us go, since all our clean clothes were in the barracks where we were staying.

By Edwin Young

### Edwin Young's Bio

After the Navy I returned to the University of Kentucky and finished my degree in Electrical Engineering, went to work in the Denver, CO area for the Bureau of Reclamation designing substations. After six years there, we moved back to Kentucky for the health of our son, and I went to work for our government at the Naval Ordnance Station, Louis-

ville (NOSL). I worked on the electrical systems of the 5"/38s, 5"/54s, 76"/60cal, and 3"/50s. I oversaw the design and manufacture of a loading system for the 3"/50 that would allow one gunner, in an emergency, to operate the entire mount until other crewmen could get to their stations. This system also included a stabilizing system that kept the barrels on target, even when the ship rolled under the mount, increased the rate of fire with a muzzle-brake, a night vision sighting system and a laser range finder system.

I retired from the NOSL in 1988 with 30 years of total government service. Many of latter years were spent traveling back and forth to DC, presenting "dog and pony shows" to secure funding for these and other programs. Also, I went to Cuba (Guantanamo Bay) to investigate an injury after a 3"/50 gun mishap, and to Italy to see if the 76mm/60cal OTO Melaro Italian documentation would be compatible with our manufacturing processes.

By Edwin C. Young EM3

Halsey Powell Shipmates,

I have a new Halsey Powell website. It is as follows:

[members.cox.net/rebel.dd686](http://members.cox.net/rebel.dd686)

Stuart Hoffman  
619-447-7619

Karen,

The following is part and parcel of what I have personally found out from National Park Service, National World War II Memorial.

First, for those who wish to read the entire speech made by President Roosevelt, Second, to be able to follow the reasoning set forth.

Here is the complete text of President Roosevelt's 8 December 1941 address to Congress.

"Yesterday, **December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy**—the United States of America was suddenly

and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation, and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And, while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has therefore undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense, that always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

**No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.**

I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend our-

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selves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

***With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God.***

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

Now the inscription on the World War II Memorial:

### PEARL HARBOR

**December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy...No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.**

#### President Franklin D. Roosevelt

To continue with the World War II Memorial, Snopes, Facts, reasoning, let me quote the italicized points of dispute, and error in reasoning. "To most Americans—particularly those who lived through World War II itself—no words associated with that conflict *are more familiar or more stirring* than those delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt... Accordingly, no American memorial to World War II *would be complete without a reproduction of at least a portion* of President Roosevelt's memorable speech...inscribed on the side of the memorial dedicated to the war in the Pacific deliberately omits the words 'so help us God,' (sic) as uttered by President Roosevelt that because 'We're not supposed to say things like that now.' Ironically, this claim appears to be *based on a flawed recall* of FDR's speech, the *very sort of tampering* with memory that the message warns us against... Only a very short excerpt from President Roosevelt's speech

is inscribed on the National World War II Memorial. *The sentence that ends 'so help us God' wasn't edited to remove those final four words—the phrase 'so help us God' isn't there because the sentence containing it doesn't appear on the memorial at all.* The words inscribed on the memorial *were taken from a completely different sentence delivered earlier in the speech...*

Confusing? YES! Mixed facts and usage of punctuation, YES! Tampering with FDR's masterful, effective, dynamic and forceful use of locution is tantamount to plagiarism ("...present new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source." *Webster's*)

Now, as to the use of punctuation. The use of three periods is to inform the reader that something preceding was left out, or follows. The use of four periods is to inform the reader that something follows and that this is the end of the sentence. With this clarification, let's proceed with the plaque.

Error (1.) Editing. Speech reads, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941..." but the plaque starts off "December 7, 1941,...." The plaque should read, "...December 7, 1941,..." or include the word "Yesterday,..." Next, the plaque uses only three periods after the sentence is ended with "INFAMY..." indicating the next word is part of the same sentence—when it is on to another sentence. One more period please?

Editing. Am I being picky? You bet I am, especially when the official sources emphasize "...were taken from a completely different sentence..." when they have edited the speech to suit their own agenda. Let's start with the first word: PEARL HARBOR. Does not appear in the speech even once! Added by the persons with an agenda. "Yesterday" omitted completely. "NO MATTER...ABSOLUTE VICTORY." a *completely different sentence* from the first opening sentence. This agency has committed the same omission by their own reasoning...as erroneous as it may be.

To make the plaque read accurately and present President Roose-

velt's eloquence to Congress and the public, may I suggest that the plaque should read:

### PEARL HARBOR

**"...December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy.... No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in righteous might, will win through to absolute victory... so help us God!**

#### President Franklin D. Roosevelt

This IS what he said, and this is how he said it, with forceful emphasis, pausing as ever effectively to punctuate the last four words. Listen to the speech. Listen to the applause. None after the "...absolute victory." But, a forthcoming of emotion after "...so help us God." The sentences in-between and concluding are formality and necessary for protocol, but not essential to the meat and heart of this masterful piece of historical literature. Do not allow God to be left out to be politically correct. In this country it is the majority, it is based on Christianity, it is based on English. FIX IT.

Cornell Anton

As a footnote, the reference to ships being "...torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu," smacks of a slight exaggeration, yellow journalism, or just plain expanded imagination. There is no record of ships torpedoed in this area on these dates or thereafter. All ship sinkings occurred west or south of the Hawaiian Islands. I believe this was an honest error made by the existing Intelligence Agency functioning at that time with a case of hysteria, tho' mild, thrown into the fray.

Cornell Anton

## WALKER'S BATTLE SHIP

### CHORUS:

In and out of San Diego  
Up and down the slip  
We sail the ocean  
On WALKER'S BATTLESHIP

Good old Commander Walker  
To the crew, he'll never speak  
But one thing we can count on  
Inspections every week.

We have had inspections  
Oh this is very true  
But, we don't mind inspections,  
What the Hell's a seventy-two.  
(Chorus)

Oh, we abstain from liquor  
And we never buy a whore  
We are Christian sailors  
"Cause we never go ashore.

Good Commander Walker  
He treats us like our pap  
He never lets us go ashore  
So we never catch the clap.

### (Chorus)

"O" Division's working  
They're all making hay  
Their backs are whelped and scared  
From the whip of MR. JAYE.

Our XO's an old sea dog  
In the wheels he's quite a gog  
And he has been reputed  
As the PHANTOM POLLYWOG.

### (Chorus)

Way up in Annapolis  
From the class of '59  
They issued us a KARTVEDT.  
Floated out on BALLENTINE.

Oh, we keep lean with exercise  
In this we never falter  
But, we suspect some slacking,  
On the part of MR. WALTER.

### (Chorus)

ERVIN is a "deck-ape,"  
And we think that this is great.  
The first time for the Navy

YALE turned out a Boatswain's mate

### (Chorus)

The old Blue Jackets Manual  
Tells about the Navy Ensign,  
But, somewhere in that volume  
They neglected our LORENTZEN.

### (Chorus)

Oh, Ve haf a Norsky laddie  
Vit der goot olt name of OLSEN  
Tank God dat he vas made a snipe  
He'll never make a Bos'n.

### (Chorus)

Bakers, cooks and laundrymen  
Are always under hoof  
They're all a pack of animals  
Including MR. WOLF.  
(Simulate wolf howl)

They claim our chow is equal,  
Our spirits for to rally.  
But, New York steaks, with mush-  
rooms,  
Never came out of our galley.

### (Chorus)

The showers that we take at sea  
While riding on a swell  
You step right in, with a great big grin  
And the water's cold as Hell.

The movies on the mess decks,  
Are really nothing new.  
Two-hundred horny sailors  
In a space for thirty-two.

### (Chorus)

Oh, I am just a seaman  
I know I'll n'er be rated  
I'll stay right here at Christmas Isle  
'Cause I'm contaminated.

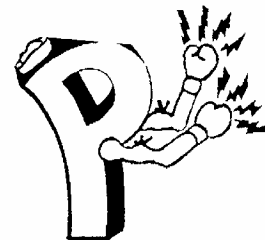
All in all it's a HELLUVA life  
While sailing on this trip  
But under the gun, we all have fun  
On WALKER'S BATTLESHIP.

From Ron Wolf

## FOR SALE PATCHES & COFFEE MUGS

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Holland, MI 49424



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## RED'S JOKE CORNER

### ALMONDS

A tour bus driver drives with a bus full of seniors down a highway, when a little old lady taps him on his shoulder. She offers him a handful of almonds, and he gratefully munches down the nuts. After approximately 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of almonds. She repeats this gesture about eight times. At the ninth time he asks the little old lady why they do not eat the almonds themselves, whereupon she replies that it is not possible because of their old teeth, they are not able to chew them.

"Why do you buy them then?" he asks puzzled.

Where upon the old lady answers, "We just love the chocolate around them."

### TELL ME THIS WON'T HAPPEN TO US!

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher:

"They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried.

The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way."

A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard." He says. "She got in the back seat by mistake."

### I CAN HEAR JUST FINE!

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?"

"No, the second man replied, "It's Thursday."

And the third man chimed in,

"So am I. Let's have a beer."

Jack was sitting in an airplane when another guy took the seat beside him. The new guy was an absolute wreck, pale, hands shaking, biting his nails and moaning in fear.

"Hey, pal, what's the matter?" Jack asked.

"Oh, man, I've been transferred to California," the other guy answered. "There's crazy people in California and they have shootings, gangs, race riots, drugs, the highest crime rate..."

"Hold on," Jack interrupted, "I've lived in California all my life, and it is not as bad as the media says. Find a nice home, go to work, mind your own business, enroll your kids in a good school and it's as safe as anywhere in the world."

The other passenger relaxed and stopped shaking for a moment and said, "Oh, thank you. I've been worried to death, but if you live there and say it's OK, I'll take your word for it. What do you do for a living?"

"Me?" said Jack, "I'm a tail gunner on a bread truck."

*This ad actually ran in The Atlanta Journal*

**SINGLE BLACK FEMALE** seeks male companionship, race unimportant. I'm a very good-looking girl who LOVES to play, take long walks in the woods, hunting, camping, fishing trips, and cozy winter nights by the fire.

Really like a man with a pickup truck. A candlelight dinner will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me.

Rub me the right way and watch me respond. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call (404) 875-6420 and ask for Daisy.

Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society about an 8-week old black Labrador retriever.

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The POWELL POST is the official publication of the USS HALSEY POWELL Association. It is published quarterly in March, June, September and December, *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 Halsey Powell by sending contributions to Mike Baker USS Halsey Powell Association.

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

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations. Copyrighted material cannot be used without attribution to the author and publication. If you think an article printed in another publication would be of interest to your shipmates, send the entire article—do not paraphrase it and send it in your own words. Let the editor do that.

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