

# POWELL POST

Volume 11, Issue 4

September 2005

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



### Points of Special Interest

- *Keep up with the news from Skipper Mike with his report on the cover page.*
- *If you remember Typhoon Cobra, there's a letter in Mail Call you'll want to read. See page three.*
- *Maury Drummond sent in a moving article about "Just a piece of cloth." Read it on pages three and four.*
- *Learn how to help control the rising cost of reunions on page five. Larry Eckard gives you some advice.*
- *More jokes from Red on page six.*

## SKIPPER MIKE'S REPORTS (September '05)

### NOW HEAR THIS!

July 25th. Talked to ML&RS this morning and everything for the Omaha reunion seems to be in place.

Registration seems to be slow, but I'm sure since there are three months before the deadline, that that will improve.

Ruth and I are off to Tennessee for a family reunion tomorrow morning. Then it's off to Mississippi to visit our daughter and, by then, our new son-in-law.

Several regular attendees are unable to attend this year. Health, at our age, takes its toll. That's

why it's so important to make a reunion. We just don't know what the future holds in store for us.

I'm sure that when I return home about August 7th, maybe later, we are in no hurry to stop the fun, that the registration list will be much longer.

Ruth is fine, I'm O.K., Bubba's great. Weather, same as many areas, hot, dry, and I love it, except for the electric bill to pump water 12-14 hours a day.

Hope to see many of you in Omaha.

### PRAYER LIST

Continue to pray for our POW's and MIA's. Pray

also for our military personnel serving in harms way throughout the world. Please pray for all our shipmates, especially for:

Ralph Creech  
Felipe Salazar  
L.C. Murningham  
Ray Parker  
JoAn Traut  
Joe & Jessie Chambliss  
Stu Hoffman  
Wayne Bloomer  
Harold Schmidt  
Jim & Barbara Nowlin  
T. J. Breaux

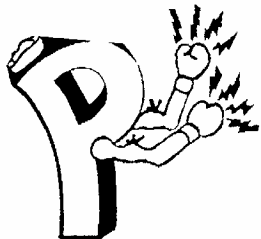
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Skipper Mike

**FOR SALE  
PATCHES &  
COFFEE MUGS**

**PATCHES \$10.00  
COFFEE MUGS \$15.00**

**Make check payable to:  
Mike Baker  
109 Dunton Ave  
Holland, MI 49424**



**U.S.S. HALSEY POWELL  
DD-686  
KOREA 1950-1953**

**MUG \$15.00  
#PPM**



**MUG \$15.00  
#BCM**



**4 1/2" 7 COLOR PATCH  
\$10.00 #HPP**

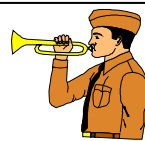


**WELCOME MAT**

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!

*Larry Pierce (1967-68) TM2 (SS)  
3327 Tampa  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
269-342-4792  
hawk342@aol.com*

*Robert Feagan (1945-46) SN  
PO Box 921  
Hugo, OK 74743  
580-317-5570*



**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.

*Duane Traut  
(1951-54) BT1 Eng Div  
Died July 27, 2005*

*Leonard Walsh  
Date of death not reported*

**Financial Statement:**

The cost of this issue is \$427.52 mailed to 466 members.

**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.

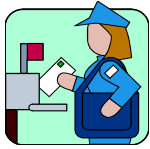
All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

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.

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

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



## MAIL CALL

Hello,

I'm an historian and the son of a WWII Pacific LST officer. I'm currently researching the typhoon that Third Fleet encountered off the Philippines on 18 December 1944 (which subsequently became known as Typhoon Cobra). I noticed that you're listed by the Naval Institute Press website as organizer for a proposed reunion, so I thought I would contact you. According to my research, Halsey Powell was involved in the December 1944 typhoon (please excuse me if I've gotten this wrong). I'd be interested in corresponding with or interviewing anyone who would care to share memories of steaming through that particular storm. I'm set up to do phone interviews, but I might also be interested in attending the reunion, if my attendance and interviews would be allowed. While my main focus is on operations around the Philippines in late '44 or early '45 (from Leyte Gulf onward). If anyone reading this happens to know of someone who remembers these events who might be interested in talking to me about these things, please do let him know. You may reach me via e-mail at:

[melton\\_bf@mercer.edu](mailto:melton_bf@mercer.edu)

or at a special account I've set up for this project:

[ruefulscribe@bellsouth.net](mailto:ruefulscribe@bellsouth.net)

My thanks to all veterans of whatever era for your service to our country.

Regards,  
Buckner F. Melton, Jr. PH.D.  
Distinguished Writer-in-Residence  
Mercer University  
400 Poplar St  
Macon, GA 31201

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CREWMEMBERS

Following the disaster in London, the Ambulance Service has launched a national "In Case of Emergency (ICE) campaign.

The idea is that you store the word "ICE" in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency."

In an emergency situation, ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly look at your mobile phone and find out who your first contact should be and be able to contact them.

It's so simple that everyone can do it. Please do.

E-mail this to everybody in your address book. It won't take too many "forwards" before everybody will know about this, and it will become an international practice.

For more than one contact, name ICE1, ICE 2, ICE3, etc.

It really could help the emergency services in doing their job.

Skipper Mike

### BATON ROUGE 1999

A few years ago I was in my car listening to a radio call-in talk show and the topic of conversation was that of whether it was proper for people to burn the American flag in protest or if it was a protected individual freedom. During the talk show, someone called in and said they didn't understand what all the controversy was about over "just a piece of cloth." The image struck me immediately of the Marines on Iwo Jima with their faces down in the volcanic ash and looking up at Mount Suribachi to see the flag being raised. Surely, they didn't consider it to be just a piece of cloth.

When I arrived home that evening, I put the following thoughts down on paper and I believe that this expresses my beliefs and my feelings of who I am and the love that I have for this country. I entitled it:

### "Just a Piece of Cloth"

I was with Colonel Parker and the Minutemen at Lexington and Concord to hear "The Shot Heard Round the World" that began the American Revolution. I was with General Washington when he crossed the Delaware and suffered with his men in the harsh winter at Valley Forge. ***Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?***

I was with Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys at Ticonderoga and with Washington, Hancock, and the Marquis de Lafayette to accept surrender terms at Yorktown with the British playing that old European tune "The World Turned Upside Down." ***Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?***

I was with Andrew Jackson and Jean Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans in 1814. I was with Lee and Longstreet and all the Boys in Gray at Gettysburg. And I was with all the Boys in Blue with General Mead and Colonel Chamberlain on Little Round Top. I was with Grant in the Wilderness at Vicksburg. I was with both the Blue and Gray when our country was healed at Appomattox. ***Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?***

I was with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders on San Juan Hill and with Admiral Dewey and the Great White Fleet in Manila Bay. I was with the Doughboys in World War I, the "War to End All Wars." And I now lie buried in Flanders Field. ***Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?***

I was with Admiral Isaac Kidd aboard the **ARIZONA** that fateful Sunday morning in 1941. I was with the infantry that landed on beaches so far away named Omaha, Juno, Utah, Sword, and Gold. ***Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?***

I was with General Wainwright on

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Correigador. I was with Admiral Fletcher in the Battle of the Coral Sea. I was aboard **ENTERPRISE**, **HORNET**, and **YORKTOWN** at Midway. **Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I fought at Kwajalein, the Battle of Leyete Gulf, at bloody Tarawa, Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima and served on destroyers on picket duty. **Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I flew Saber jets in MIG Alley in North Korea and I was with the Marines at Chosin Reservior. I was with the Navy at Inchon Harbor and fought on hills and ridges called Bloody, Heartbreak, Old Baldy and Porkchop. **Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I flew bombing missions over Hanoi and was on Rat patrol in the Mekong Delta. I was with the Navy on Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf. I flew missions over Baghdad and was with the battalions in Desert Storm. **Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

Freedom is not free. It has a price and it has been paid many times by many people. I am a product of my past. I am what you have made me. I am an American and I am free.

*H Maury Drummond  
Executive Director,  
USS KIDD (DD-661)  
President, Historic Naval Ships  
Association*

Dear Mr. Baker (Skipper Mike),

In separate correspondence, I have requested the Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. to delete me from the Powell Post mailing list.

Newsletters from previous commands and filled with news about former shipmates can be very welcome and should bring back good memories of the ships and the men you served with. There is no reason for them to include derogatory or belittling remarks concerning former shipmates, both those senior and junior to them. Printing this type of "letter to the editor" or to Mail Call is inexcusable and encourages more juvenile correspondence. I was surprised and disappointed to note in the June newsletter that you encourage Mr. C. A. Smith's continued adolescent references to me as "a certain executive officer." This is certainly the 2nd letter of his concerning me that has been printed in "Mail Call."

Mr. Smith was an excellent destroyer engineer officer 40 and 41 years ago in the USS Halsey Powell. He sustained the tragic loss of his father in an aircraft accident while stationed aboard. I had hoped that his occasional lapses of military courtesy toward his seniors would have disappeared as he matured. Apparently, they haven't! If anyone had cause to complain about a shipmate's attitude and officer like conduct, it was the executive officer whom he enjoys writing about.

Sincerely,  
Ronald L Tarbox, Jr.  
Lcdr, USN (Ret)

*Skipper Mike's Response:*

Dear Mr. Tarbox,

Received your letter dated 26 June 2005. Still write the date the military way. What a guy!

I was saddened to hear you wrote the Military Locator & Reunion Service to request your name be removed from our mailing list.

In regards to the article in the June 2005 issue of the Powell Post by Mr. C.A. Smith you should notice he did not mention you by name. Also, Mr. Smith served under more than one X.O. You should also note that I requested all responses be sent directly to me. I sometimes edit articles. I encouraged no one, and had no idea of L.S.M.F.T. meant.

I received one response, so I assume this entire story was a trivial matter.

As for the other article by Mr. Smith, I won't comment, as I don't recall them.

You stated that after 40-41 years you hoped that Mr. Smith's lapses in military courtesy would disappear as he matured. Well, after that many years I am surprised you still remember such a trivial matter. I'm a bit confused as to where the immaturity lies.

I gather that Mr. Smith didn't like you. Could it be he was tired of so many New England boiled dinners?

I will also make the assumption that the movies "Caine Mutiny" and "Mr. Roberts" are not on your list of favorites.

On Mr. Smith's behalf, I must say that it is men such as him that pay their dues, donate extra, that keeps the Powell Post going to those who are unable to pay, or in your case, have neglected to do so since 2000.

As for L.S.M.F.T., I guess I would agree—"Lord Save Me From Tarbox."

Sincerely,  
Skipper Mike  
Mike Baker CS3 USN

**REMINDER FOR  
REUNION ATTENDEES!**

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING  
AN ITEM FROM YOUR  
HOMETOWN OR STATE  
FOR DOOR PRIZES AT  
THE REUNION !**

**HALSEY POWELL  
2005 REUNION**

**SEPT. 21-25**

**OMAHA, NE**

**CLARION HOTEL**

(Continued from page 4)

Dear Dina,

Last issue of the Powell Post has my name misspelled TWICE. Don't know why I'm listed as ill, unless someone there knows something I don't. It is Corky Anton, not Auton. And again, with joke about the service language with Auton. It's Anton, please.

Thank you,  
Cornell "Corky" Anton with "n's" not a "u" to be found.

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## Rising Reunion Costs

Larry H Eckard, President, ML & RS, Inc

Anyone paying attention to the reunion costs have seen a sharp rise in past two years, and you're probably concerned about them. We are just as concerned as you are because it does no good to plan a wonderful reunion and price it so high that people can't afford to attend.

First let me make it very clear that we (ML&RS, Inc) have not increased our fees. The rising costs are 100% due to the increased cost of hotels, food & beverage, tours, entertainment, etc. We cannot control those costs, but we still get the best possible rates –better than you can get for your self – and pass them on to you.

Although prices have increased all across the country, some areas are still more expensive than others. Our on site representative has a ton of information about potential reunion sites so take advantage of it; let our representative answer questions about locations in your meeting when it's time to discuss reunion sites.

Also, in every hospitality room you will find a blue three-ring binder notebook full of information about potential reunion sites. The book gives you suggestions for tours and/

or activities, information about at least one hotel, an itinerary and cost sheet from a recent reunion if one has been held in that city. Look over that book.

Here is some other information that you may find helpful. Option A (arriving on Thursday and departing on Sunday) for a couple is used as the standard for the prices that are cited below. There are of course some exceptions to the prices, depending upon the time of year and the other activities going on in the city at the same time.

- **In any of the following cities (and this is not a complete list) you can expect to pay a minimum of \$740.00 and as much as \$800.00:** Baltimore/Washington, DC; Charleston, SC; Savannah, GA; Boston, MA; Newport, RI; Charleston, SC; San Antonio, TX; San Francisco or San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Dallas, TX; Nashville, TN; Minneapolis/St Paul.

If you choose a city like one of these, you're going to pay top dollar, expect it and don't be surprised when it happens. Room rates are going to be near \$100.00 plus tax.

- **In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$665.00 upward to \$725.00:** Myrtle Beach, SC; Norfolk, VA; St Louis, Mo, Tucson, AZ; Albuquerque, NM; Colorado Springs, CO; Milwaukee, WI; Harrisburg/Lancaster, PA; New Orleans, LA; Pensacola, FL; Reno, NV; Branson, MO; Columbus OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Omaha, NE; Cincinnati, OH/Northern KY; Buffalo, NY; Corpus Christi, TX.

Room rates will range between \$75.00-90.00 plus tax.

- **In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$625.00 upward to \$675.00:** Biloxi, MS; Asheville, NC; Fargo, ND.

Room rates will probably be below \$75.00 plus tax.

- **For the past several years, Jacksonville, FL is the least expensive reunion city in the country with room rates in the \$60's and total package around \$600.00.** If you haven't been there and cost is a concern, you should give Jacksonville strong consideration.

In any city no downtown hotels ever have complimentary airport shuttle service, and many have daily parking fees of \$12.00 and more. Hotels nearer the airport usually do not have parking fees and generally have complimentary airport shuttle service.

Here are some other points you may wish to consider. There are hundreds of military reunions held every year. The vast majority are held in April and May or September or October. *They don't have to be!* Passover, Palm Sunday, and Easter usually (but not always) fall in April; Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekends are in May. So with these holidays, the reunions are crammed into the remaining available weeks – and do you think for an instant that hotels don't know this and price accordingly? Labor Day weekend, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are in September or October and it's the same thing. You can move your reunion forward to mid-late March (depending upon the location) and you'll get a better deal; the same with early November. Also, some groups ask for specific dates, without ever knowing what else is going on at the same time in your city of choice. We can help you best when there is a two or three week window to work in.

If you take this information into account when you make the decision on where to hold your next reunion, you won't be nearly as surprised when you see the prices.

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## CHECK OUT THE NEW PAGES ADDED TO ML&RS, INC. WEBSITE

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc is pleased to announce a few enhancements to our web site. We invite you to take a look at a couple of new pages we have recently added. The page titled Sentimental Journal gives a detailed explanation of the great reunion book we publish after each reunion. (An order form is mailed to everyone on the mailing list a few weeks after the reunion for the SJ and other memorabilia items). There are links to sample pages to give you a better understanding of what is contained in the SJ. Also new is an on-line version of the questionnaire we send out when a new person is added to the mailing list. Many of you have never filled out this form and submitted your photos for the **Sentimental Journal!** Here is a great way to remedy this!!! You can access this form from the page titled Reunions (link is on the left side of our home page). Please take a few minutes and check out our updated web page, and please, if you haven't already, fill out and submit the questionnaire! Your buddies would love to know what happened to you since you left the Bryce Canyon.

CHECK US OUT AT **WWW.M L R S I N C.COM** (please note, spaces and caps for clarity!!!)

Dina Coffey  
Office Manager, ML&RS, Inc.

### Bet You'd Never Have Guessed!

More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in air crashes.

## RED'S JOKE CORNER

### TALKING DOG

A guy is driving around Tennessee and he sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Dog for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a Labrador retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the Lab replies.

"So, what's your story?"

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running.

"But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger, so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security wandering near suspicious characters and listening in."

"I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says.

"Ten dollars? The dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff."

Father O'Malley answers the phone:

"Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I can."

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will."

### THREE LITTLE PIGS

Three little pigs went out to dinner one night.

The waiter comes and takes their drink order.

"I would like a Sprite," said the first little piggy.

"I would like a Coke," said the second little piggy.

"I would like water, lots and lots of water," said the third little piggy.

The drinks are brought out and the waiter takes their orders for dinner.

"I want a nice big steak," said the first piggy.

"I would like the salad plate," said the second piggy.

"I want water, lots and lots of water," said the third little piggy.

The meals were brought out and a while later the waiter approached the table and asked if the piggies would like any dessert.

"I want a banana split," said the first piggy.

"I want a root beer float," said the second piggy.

"I want water, lots and lots of water," exclaimed the third little piggy.

"Pardon me for asking," said the waiter to the third little piggy, "but why have you only ordered water all evening?"

**(You're gonna love this!)**

The third piggy says, "Well, somebody has to go "Wee, wee, wee, all the way home."

Submitted by Red Belden