

POWELL POST

Volume 12 Issue 2

March 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



Points of Special Interest

- Find out how to get replacement medals by reading the cover article.
- Several letters about the stolen Christmas turkey are in Mail Call. The thief has been identified!
- LeRoy Pacheco was part of Operation Dominic 1 & 2 in 1962. He raises some interesting questions. See page three.
- A new series begins on page four. Ed Collender shares his autobiography.
- Important information about how you will receive this Powell Post in the future is on page six. Be sure to read it carefully and respond as needed.

FREE REPLACEMENT MEDALS

By Colette Dywasuk

Do you still have your old Navy medals? Whether you do or not, did you know that you are entitled to one replacement set of all the awards and medals you earned while serving in the U.S. Navy? All medals are free of charge—and so simple to obtain.

To request your medals, you need to fill out Standard Form 180 (SF-180) Request Pertaining to Military Records, which can be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center web site:

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

Mail the completed form to:

The Naval Liaison Office
National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63132

Write, "DO NOT OPEN IN MAILROOM" on the outer envelope. If possible, include a copy of your Discharge Certificate (DD214).

From the information you provide, the National Personnel Records Center will identify any awards and medals you've earned and send a replacement set in the mail.

Hey, guys, don't be shy

about asking for a set of replacement medals. You've earned the recognition—and that's part of your family history. And ladies, I obtained and filled out the form for Jerry. He had to sign it, but I sent it in.

All of us—Jerry and I, our children and our grandchildren—are enjoying the shiny new medals!

From Skipper Mike:

I was so happy to receive the above. Not only for its content, but for the fact that a wife wrote it. Come on ladies, you can

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

write articles for the Powell Post. They don't need to be military in nature. Topics about life today, children, grandchildren, trips or whatever, all are welcome, and make the Powell Post what it should be.

I will be happy when I get so many items for Powell Post that I have to upset someone for lack of space.

I received a letter recently from Capt. Joe. Included were many bits of info I didn't know before. Following are parts of that letter:

Powell Post for Dec 05 was complete, with a Christmas story. Fine edition.

Jim Winnefeld mentioned the Egg Nog Party of 1951. I was in charge of that officer and will fill you in verbally at our next meeting. Jim was my roommate, as was Kim, the Korean officer who was our translator. By the way, I ran across Kim in 1968 while on CINCPACFLT inspection team. He was a Capt. by then. He showed me Seoul that night.

The 2006 reunion should include the USS Massachusetts. I commissioned her, a new BB, May 15, 1942.

We participated in North Africa landings at Casablanca, Nov 1942 (Operation Torch). It was the first time Fletcher class cans saw action.

We had a fierce battle with the Free French BB Jean Bart, a division of French DD's, and a French submarine. Had to dodge a spread of torpedoes. We fired 880 rounds of 16" and a ton of 5/38. Was the closest call I had in WWII. We hoisted a #1 size Ensign on the fore, main, and after turret. The Ensign on the after turret, 20' above me was shot full of 15" holes from the Jean Bart. I went to church on board the next Sunday.

I saw a lot of Boston in 1941 while on USS Lea DD 118, a WWI Tin Can. We assisted the British in tracking subs and ran convoy duty in Roosevelt's "Undeclared War."

Corky Anton once mentioned the

USS Small DDR 838 which struck a mine and lost her bow. I became CO of the Small 1961-1962 on a WESPAC tour. A #1 ship.

Sincerely,
Joe Chambliss

NOW HEAR THIS

Sunday, February 5, "Super Bowl Sunday." Have to be quick so I have time to fix all my junk food for the game.

Ruth and I are enjoying our time here in Mississippi with daughter Kathy, although the weather is a bit cool. 31° in Chicago this AM and 30° here in Horn Lake. Two days this week have snow in the forecast.

Bubba is having a blast. All new area to sniff and roam in. Have to chain him and keep an eye out because Kathy had a coyote in her back yard a couple days ago.

We'll probably make the trip to Tunica next week to the casino and gather up some \$ for this year's reunion trip.

Next week starts the NASCAR season, so I'll be busy watching the #6 car.

That's it for this issue, as I have to spend some time today calling the duty section about reunion tours.

We look forward to seeing everyone again and hopefully we'll have some new faces this year.

Skipper Mike

PRAYER LIST

Continue your prayers for our POW's and MIA's. Pray for those currently serving our nation, especially those in harm's way. Pray for our shipmates and their families who are in need of prayer.

Pray especially for:

Stu Hoffman
Felipe Salazar
Jerry Pistor
Eugene LaBorde
JoAn Traut
Ray Parker
Harold Schmidt

Ron Christensen
Ken Coggins
Ralph Creech
Corky Anton



WELCOME MAT

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

Joe Whitley
(1957-59) RM3
320 Liddon Pl
Lynn Haven, FL 32444
panamajoe@knology.net



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.

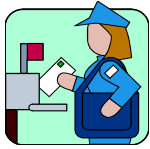
James Orr
Died 2002

Carroll Petty (1943-45) SN
Died March 26, 2005

Robert Golombek (1945)
Died November 16, 2005

Robert Learn (1951-54) BT3 E Div
Died August 2005

James Doll
Date of death not reported



MAIL CALL

Skipper Mike,

My grandfather served on the USS HALSEY POWELL during the end of WW2. Do you know where I could find information on the men who manned the Halsey Powell? I am trying to determine the time frame that my grandfather served on this ship. My grandfather's name is Roy Curtis Adkins.

Bo Adkins
Texas Parks & Wildlife
Wildlife Biologist
adkins1@valornet.com
806-934-2488

Dear Mike,

I enjoyed the December issue of Powell Post. The Christmas Stories caught my eye, especially the one written by Erwin Dillard. The deployment Erwin wrote about started on July 17, 1958, and ended on December 21, 1958.

The turkey story is essentially correct, except it was Thanksgiving and not Christmas. I verified these dates in the Cruise Book for 1958.

I was an Ensign in 1958 on my first cruise on the Powell.

Sincerely,
Fred McMenemy
17 Roger Ave
Concord, NH 03301
fmcmenemy@comcast.net

Dear Skipper Mike,

In 1962 I was aboard the USS Halsey Powell offshore Christmas Island during all of Operation Dominic 1 & 2. I was a MM3 in the aft engine room "M" Division.

We were issued film badges or dosimeters and told to sign some papers, but they never told us we were going to be used to test Atomic Radiation fallout. We were

allowed to fish, but never allowed to keep the fish because of the radiation contamination, and yet we took salt water showers and drank evaporated water from the same contaminated water. I remember we were taken ashore for some R&R, cold beer and a swim, in the same contaminated water.

I wish all crewmembers aboard during 1962 would log onto Atomic Veterans of America and see what is happening to us now that we are all 60+ years old. We get no compensation unless we are terminally ill. It would be nice if we could get the names of everyone aboard at that time and see how many are still with us and what kind of medical problems have developed.

I believe Mr. C. A. Smith was my division officer and was wondering if he ever found that other section list he was referring to in an earlier Post? I would also like to hear from anyone aboard in 1962. My e-mail address is lerbon@vcn.com.

Thank you,
LeRoy Pacheco
Phone: 307-683-3070

Powell Post,

In answer to the Christmas letter from Erwin Dillard:

The Captain's turkey was stolen by Ron Steele, my watch messenger. We tried to cook it by frying it, but it came out awful. The Exec suspected Steele and me, but couldn't prove it. He just glared at us through the smoke of his big cigar.

Not only did the Halsey receive a medal for its "expendable target" duty in Quemoy and Matsu, but all its sailors are awarded the ROC Badge of Honor. Check with

www.Taiwanvets.com or
bohaus@peoplepc.com

Regards,
Gene LaPorte BMSN
1957-59

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.

“THE STORY OF MY LIFE” BY ED COLLENDER

We begin a new continued series of articles written by Ed Collender, relating the story of his life in the military. We want to thank Mr. Collender for sharing this special project of his with us for the Powell Post.

In his cover letter that accompanied the autobiography, Mr. Collender states: “To set the scene, please note that I was born in August 1920 in Evanston, IL and lived on the far north side of Chicago. I attended Lane Technical High School, one of three in the City, and graduated with a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.”

WWII START, GRADUATION, SHARPLES, CORNELL & NAVY

It started on September 1st, 1939, and I recall that when Hitler rolled into Poland and Norway, my sophomore classmate and fraternity brother, Norwegian Herb Hansen declared himself to be a German! Europe was far off then, we didn't have much time to read the World's Greatest Newspaper (*the Chicago Tribune*) or listen to news broadcasts very much.

A year later, Selective Service System was initiated, and Dad received a telegram signed on October 24, 1940, by Paul G. Armstrong, Illinois State Director, informing him that he had been appointed as one of three members of our local Draft Board. He was sworn in the next day at the Auditorium Theater along with Eli Herman and Walter Littig as the three original members of Illinois Draft Board Number 139. Could it be that Dad had been recommended by Marshall Field, his WWI Company Commander?

We did have one indication of government preparation when the Civilian Pilot Training Program was started about then. Fellow Pi Kappa Phi fraternity sophomores Ed Loftus, Dick Harper, Dale Willman and others signed on to the program where they took flying lessons

at a local airfield as an extra curricular activity for a nominal fee. Another program, V7, was started for people with two years of college to enlist in the Navy and be assigned to a university to complete their degree and receive their commission. If incomplete, they remained as enlisted.

Also in October 1940, our junior year, a Navy recruiting group came to school to offer the junior and senior classes direct commissions on graduation. Still we were not at war and life went on as usual. Defense production had begun in earnest and Armour Tech started an “Emergency Science, Management and Defense Training” program to train technicians and inspectors for the new defense industry. There were classrooms all over the state, directed by Armour, with some 200,000 enrolled.

PEARL HARBOR

Finally it happened. On Sunday, December 7th, 1941, my senior year, about 1:00 PM while I was on the elevated train returning to the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house at Illinois Tech (name change), where I got the news. We spent the afternoon and evening listening to the news and speculating as to where the committed ones would be going, as we heard of the parade of Japanese troops taking over all of southeast Asia. A blitz of Washington activity created new agencies for rationing, priorities and I suppose a hundred others.

GRADUATION & SHARPLES

Well, classes were speeded up so that we were graduated in mid May, and I had a job with a small Sharples Chemical Company on the South end of Biddle Avenue in Wyandotte, Michigan, just south of Detroit, whose principal product was amyl acetate (banana oil), the key solvent in DuPont's automotive lacquer. Another was an important mili-

tary medication for malaria, “Attabrine”. They hired new chemical engineers from 16 different schools that year. Research activity had been stopped and all pilot plant equipment had been switched to production. We were all assigned shift work, operating the pilot plant equipment for seven days on each of the three shifts in a 28 day rotation period (the company operated on a 13 period, 28 day system), under the direction of Ken Busch, Illinois, who had graduated the year before.

Four of us were distilling amyl naphthalene, an ingredient of mimeograph ink for A.B. Dick Co. most vital for all of that government paper work. We were also part of the “Volunteer” Fire Department, to respond immediately to any fire or spill; while an operator on an adjacent process would put our Unit on standby. We were very safety conscious and well aware of what could happen. Matches and lighters were forbidden within the gate, and oversight would result in a ten dollar contribution to the Plant Flower Fund; a day's pay at our level. All multi-storied buildings had slide poles for rapid egress—actually we always used them for descending; it was second nature to us, and it kept the poles polished.

After a few months, the plant separated us and we were assigned to different departments. I went to Maintenance and became their first Plant Inspector, climbing through tanks and towers with my flashlight and little hammer, keeping track of my observations on each. Life with the other 15 guys was a sort of extension of the fraternity house and we always had a few buddies to recreate with at any time of the day or night—sports, dances in Detroit and bowling in the company league—as well as bull sessions here and there. Sharples was a friendly organization. Senior supervisors would host

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

small parties and I would squire our young pert group secretary to them. (Rosie joined the Marines in Hawaii right after I left.) I was rather plush by this time and picked up a '35 Chevy for 65 bucks.

Now we read the papers and kept up with the War. The Siege of Stalingrad had our attention; if it caved in, it would be a major loss. So I checked in with the Office of Naval Officer Procurement in Detroit. Were they interested? You bet! Shortly thereafter I was sworn in as an Ensign on April 25th and had orders to proceed and report to the US Naval Officers Training Program at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY on May 1st, 1943. My dog tags, "serial number" would be 272 555.

To be continued in the next issue.

The Powell Post is Published By:

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

**2006 HALSEY
POWELL
REUNION**

OCT. 4—8

WARWICK, RI

**CROWNE PLAZA
HOTEL**

**WARWICK, RI, FOR
2006 REUNION**

The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI will be your host for the 2006 USS Halsey Powell reunion on October 4—8. Warwick is made up of over 30 villages, each reflecting a unique identity. Historic houses line the streets, and historic walking tours are a great way to explore the history. Warwick has more than 39 miles of beautiful coastline and two historic lighthouses, as well as many waterfront restaurants. The city is located just 5 miles south of Rhode Island's capital, Providence, a half-hour from Newport and an hour from Boston.

One tour available for the reunion will be the Historic Boston Tour that gives you a fully narrated tour covering over 100 points of interest in Boston. Lunch and shopping will be at Quincy Market and then an afternoon visit to Charleston Navy Yard and a tour of the USS Constitution.

Also on the agenda will be Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts. Here is the country's most complete collection of American World War II Navy ships including the Battleship Massachusetts, the submarine Lionfish, destroyer Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., a landing craft and 2 PT boats.

If you want to extend your visit and explore on your own, you might want to spend a day in Newport, visiting the "summer cottages" of the rich and famous along the drive up Bellevue Avenue and Ocean Drive.

Although the prime time for fall foliage can be unpredictable, the time frame of the reunion should be a great time for fall color in the area. It should be a lovely time of year to take in the sights and enjoy the companionship of shipmates. Come join the fun. See you in October!

Financial Statement:

The cost of this issue is \$423.20 mailed to 450 members.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information contained in this letter is very important! Please read it very carefully and respond as necessary! **You must respond as indicated in this message to continue receiving information about your reunion through the US Postal mail!**

Big changes are going on here at ML&RS, Inc! They're not going to happen overnight, but the process has begun. As you are certainly aware, rising costs for hotel rooms, meal prices and fuel for autos and tour buses makes for a more expensive reunion! We are doing everything we can to keep our costs to a minimum. However, prices continue to rise, including postage (which has gone up again the first of this year). In an effort to offer you and your fellow attendees the lowest possible cost, we are going to make some changes to the way things have been done in the past. We hope you will work with us to implement these changes as smoothly as possible!

Due to the multitude of requests we have received over the last few years, we are going to now upgrade our web site to include a variety of information pertaining to your reunion. There will be a small web site within our company's web site for each of the reunion groups we work with. The main page for each group will contain basic information about the upcoming reunion, as well as links to several other pages, including but not limited to lists of those who have signed up, the actual registration packet as a web page, a link to the profiles that were previously printed in the Sentimental Journal, newsletters, and after the reunion a link that can be used to order copies of the memory books that will now be included as part of the reunion package. Also, we will not duplicate anything your group already has on their web page. We will do our best to keep personal information secure. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Email addresses will only be published with permission.

Beginning with the 2006 reunions, we will be discontinuing our memorabilia sales, including the Sentimental Journal. There are so many web sites out there now where hats, t-shirts, etc can be ordered, and the turn-around time is just a matter of days. When we first started this business, this was not the case. We began offering these

items as a service to the reunion groups who didn't know where else to order items. Due to the increased availability of memorabilia, our sales have declined over the last few years, and it is no longer cost effective for us to continue offering these items. Also, there are a lot of groups who prefer to sell the items themselves as a fund raiser for the association. We certainly do not wish to compete with your association sales!

In place of the Sentimental Journal, we will begin including a 2006 Memory Book as the memorabilia item given away at the reunion. This will replace the note cards, clocks, pens, etc that have been given in the past. However, they will not be given at the reunion, they will be sent to each attendee (who signs up for one of the Option Packages or orders one as part of their Individual Option) following the reunion. The 2006 Memory Book will contain photos from the reunion and "then and now" photos that have been submitted prior to the reunion each year. The very popular profiles will now be accessible from the web site.

Now that the group's web site is up and running we will discontinue the majority of the paper mailings we sent out. Newsletters, Surveys, Introductory Letters and Questionnaires, and the Registration Material will all be available on the web site. Your group's web site is www.mlrsinc.com/hpowell. Be sure to visit the site frequently and take advantage of the information that will be/is available there. If your profile is not listed in the Crew Profiles, then be sure to submit yours via www.mlrsinc.com/questionnaire.htm.

We do realize that there are still some people who do not have or do not want internet access. Because of this, we will continue paper mailings to those who let us know they want their info via the postal mail. **You must return the "coupon" at the end of this letter if you wish to continue receiving paper copies of the various materials we send out—newsletters, registration packets, surveys, etc.** If you do not mail in this coupon, we are assuming you have internet access and can obtain all the necessary reunion information off your group's web site.

At some point in the near future, we plan to add on-line registration capabilities to each group's web site. That probably won't happen this year, but I do foresee it happening soon. That is another feature we got a lot of requests for.

As we strive to provide you and your reunion group with the best possible value for your reunion dollar, it is sometimes necessary to change the way some things are done. Our ultimate goal is to offer each and every reunion attendee a great reunion at a reasonable price. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions!

Respectfully,
Dina Coffey
Office Manager
M L&RS, Inc

Return this coupon if you want to receive all future mailings from us on paper via US Postal Mail:

Reunion Group: _____
(ship or unit name)

Your name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Your phone number: _____

Return this coupon to:
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