

THE DECKPLATE

Volume 6, Issue 4

December 2008

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG-3)



Special Points of Interest

- Keep up-to-date on your Schofield family by reading Ron Spagna's column in our opening message.
- Robert Cichowski presents the Treasurer's Report on page two.
- Two Schofield shipmates share their tribute to Allen Personette on page three.
- Do you remember your first day in boot camp? Compare your first day with those described on pages 3 & 4.

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Dear Schofield family,

The end of the year is near and time for another Deckplate!! Just a few items that may interest some of you regarding our Schofield family.

Some of our shipmates had some physical problems this year and I've tried to keep you abreast of how they are doing. If you know of any one who may be having some problems and would like it broadcast, please let me know. I am building an email list in addition to the public one that ML&RS has. I only use it for Schofield related items and just BCC everyone unless requested to do otherwise.

Unfortunately, Allen Personette passed away on Nov. 18, 2008. He was a

regular at the past few reunions and a pleasure to be with. I'm sure we all send Mary our condolences and hope she will stay in touch with us and remain active in our reunion activities.

John Winschel, our group Chaplain, is still in an assisted living facility. He is rehabbing from some surgeries, and doing a bit better. Appreciates calls and can be reached at 541-956-2223. Paul Roeper had some surgery and will be on a program to get himself squared away as well. His number is 814-473-9884. Dan Gnade and Mark Fletcher both had surgeries since our last reunion and both are on track and doing OK.

Our last reunion in San Diego was certainly a

success. I think all who came had a great time. If you haven't been to one yet, please give it a try. We're a welcoming group and would love to have you. Doesn't matter what year(s) you were on board. We were all Schofield sailors at one time or another. Our 2009 reunion is scheduled for Nashville, Tenn. Dates are Sept. 10 thru 13, 2009. More information will follow.

I've sent out some info regarding the Deckplate and costs, etc. A good portion of the cost is postage. We'd like to encourage as many as possible to access the Deckplate via the ML&RS website or via an email directly from ML&RS. This

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would just entail letting them know that you can retrieve the Deckplate from your email. We don't want to miss anyone, so this may take an issue or 2 to implement.

Just a reminder about dues. They are \$20/year due in June. Robert Cichowski is our treasurer and checks can be made out and sent to him.

His address: Robert Cichowski,
1980 McGee Rd.
Scott's Hill, Tn. 38374

We appreciate your cooperation regarding dues. We just want to get the Deckplate out to as many shipmates as possible. Our dues are what makes this possible!!

Last, my wife Frani and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a healthy, Happy New Year, and a great Holiday season. This past year has been trying for so many and for so many different reasons. We are thankful for all we have, a great family, which of course includes our Schofield family, and for living in our great country!

Regards
Ron Spagna

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TREASURER'S REPORT

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT CICHOWSKI, TREASURER

December 2008

Estimated money in account
\$936.66

Dues collected 12/3/2008

Gordon Sebring	\$20.00
James Borowicz	\$20.00

Money owed to Jack from the San Diego Reunion \$51.00

Estimated Total Funds in the Association \$925.66



TAPS

The Schofield Deckplate has learned of the following deaths since the last newsletter. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the deceased.

Allen Personette
(1969-71) BT1 B & M Div
Died November 18, 2008

Mark Lemery
(1979-83) MM2 (E-5) Engine Rm
Died October 25, 2008

Stephen Danzis
Plankowner
Died June 4, 2006

Anyone who knows or learns of a shipmate's death, you are requested to notify the newsletter so that person can be listed in TAPS and also on the Honor Roll at the next reunion.

Financial Statement: The cost of this issue is \$385.50, and was mailed to 345 members.

SAILORETTE

Just in case you should think it a modern innovation to grant commissions and ratings to the weaker (?) sex, remember that Mary Ann Talbot received a pension of 20 pounds per annum for wounds received in action many years before Nelson's time. Also note that Ann Johnson died at the Battle of Copenhagen while serving as a member of a British gun crew.

LADIES' CORNER

Ladies, we need to hear from you for your column! Send us a great recipe, a household hint that you've discovered, a story about your days as a Navy wife, or anything you think would be of interest to other Schofield ladies. Here are a few hints that you might like to try:

- Colgate Toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns
- Mix ¼ cup of vinegar with ¼ cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day for a sore throat.
- Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine Mouthwash.
- Spray 409 on bees, wasps, etc and they'll drop instantly.

USS SCHOFIELD 2009 REUNION

SEPT. 10-13

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

TRIBUTES TO AL

Schofield Shipmates,

As many of you know, a fine shipmate and friend, Al Personette, passed away recently after a courageous fight with multiple medical problems. Al was such an inspiration to all of us who attended the past three reunions. I can remember his first one in Reno, where he was struggling with his ills, and seemed to want to give up, but as his shipmates gathered around him with encouragement, he seemed to come alive. The next two reunions he was first in line to sign-up, and Mary and Al were the first to arrive in San Diego. If there was an event or tour, he'd say, "Sign me up." I can still see him traveling around in his little motor scooter reminiscing about the old times aboard Schofield. I know he will be traveling around next to Mary in Nashville, telling Mary, "Sign me up."

By Jack (Doc) and Sandie Knoblock

Dear Shipmates & Family,

Having worked with Allen from 1969 to 1971 aboard the Schofield,

I recall all the fun we had and not the hard times. Allen was the oil king and took care of the boiler chemistry and all the fuel oil aboard ship. I gave him hell sometimes because he wasn't on the watchbill, but he did his job in an excellent manner. He was always friendly and wasn't a griper.

Mary and Allen would come over to my house in Long Beach along with Bill and Wanda Farris and BBQ a few steaks we had begged from the ship's cook. None of us had any money, but times were pretty good and someone always had a half rack of beer somewhere. We were all in

our early twenties and thought we would live forever.

When Allen and Mary came to the Reno reunion Sha and I had a wonderful time with them. It was great to reminisce about the days onboard Schofield and the fun we had. I will miss Allen dearly and look forward to seeing Mary at every reunion in the future. We should not lose track of the families of departed shipmates. They are our Schofield family. Let's stay in touch with Mary.

Thanks,
Ken Wilson



AL & MARY PERSONETTE

MY FIRST DAY IN BOOT CAMP!

*Editor's Note: Jon Sage came up with the idea for this issue's topic: **Tell us about your first day in Boot Camp.** If you did not have e-mail, you can still participate by sending in your story for the next issue. Thanks to all who participated this time. We are happy to print your responses as follows:*

Michael Clark:

I was living in Union City, New Jersey (you know, the town that the Blondie song is about) when I joined the Navy. My recruiter picked me up at 7AM and drove me to the Brooklyn, New York induction center. So we took the oath and sat around for a couple hours in this dive of an induction center and approximately 12:00 noon they drove us to Penn

Station in New York City to catch a 4:00 or 5:00 PM train. It was like prison with the guys that were escorting us. It was like we had lost all freedom of doing anything. We had to stay in the same car, eat at the same time, and we couldn't mingle with the other passengers. They were kind enough though to get us sleeper cars. But when they woke us up at 6:00 in the morning everyone was complaining about it. All we heard was, "You're in the Navy now, so get used to it." None of us was very happy.

We arrived at Great Lakes approximately 9 AM the following morning where we were met by a Navy bus. The bus took us to boot camp at Great Lakes where we were lined up, insulted, cursed at.

You name it, and we got it.

There were two sides to the boot camp. One side was where they brought all the new civilians. We were there for about a week to get all of our gear. The first thing we did was get our hair cut. Some of us looked pretty ugly after getting our heads shaved. Then we went through a line and got what they called a "ditty bag." This bag had all the necessities like tooth paste, toothbrush, shaving stuff, etc. After that we got our uniforms and were told we had to wash everything before wearing it. We were taught how to wash our clothes (like we didn't know already) and how to hang them up. The next day we folded our clothes and put on our dunga-

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rees. We packed up all our civilian clothes and shipped them home.

At the end of the week, we were split up into companies and I was in Company 226. A BMC was the company commander and if he was a company commander today and tried to do some of the things he did to some of us now, he'd be in jail and busted to E1. He was not a nice man. Enough of that though.

After being there a week, we marched over to the other side where all the fun and games took place. And the rest, my dear friends, is history.

Nathan Sturre:

Wow. Ironically, I have just been remembering and telling this story. My son-in-law just went into boot camp in the Army. They get to have their cell phones during boot camp and they get Christmas off to come home. Whoever heard of such a thing in boot camp! Pretty soon they won't have to cut their hair.

I remember the first night. Actually the first 4 days, from the whole trip down till we got our company (*it took 4 days to get enough people to make a company*). I grew up in 2 small areas of Minnesota. First up north by Canada on a farm. The town by us had 109 people. The second was a small town in the middle of the state with 1400 people in it. My world was real small as we were too poor to travel and so I had grown up in the areas I lived in only. Did only local traveling (*at most 60 miles to some relatives*). I did all my testing and swearing in at the Minneapolis AFEES building. That was a culture shock. Going to a big city to test and swear in. They sent me alone by Greyhound bus. I made it though, ha ha ha. Then we were dropped off at the airport (*yep, had never been on a plane*) with strict instructions to not do drugs or drink on the way to Orlando, Florida and that we would be in big trouble if we got high or drunk. Well, I was stone cold sober when I got there. I was about the only one. Nobody got in trouble.

So we got there at 11 PM and

started processing in right away. You know...paperwork, pills, etc. We got to bed at 3:30 AM that first night and were told that when they came in and yelled "pop tall" we were to jump in front of our lockers at attention. So we all got to bed and I had just started to relax and get to the point of being able to sleep and they came in banging trash cans (they had steel trash cans then) and yelling "POP TALL!!!!" "POP TALL!!!" I jumped in front of my locker and probably didn't even touch the floor. We stood there while they were yelling and I kept thinking with a true sinking feeling, "My life is over. What have I done?" I was so scared.

The first 4 days we didn't get our company because they were waiting for enough people to make one, so we did the wholeuniform/haircut/paperwork thing and cleaned our completely clean barracks and mostly sat around, but there are a couple things that stick out. We didn't recognize each other from what we looked like before we got our hair cut to after our hair got cut. One guy that ended up being our RCC (*I don't quite remember wording. I think RCC is what he was and I think that meant Recruit Company Commader*), he is the one that led us throughout our time there, but he was one of us. This guy told us he was a long haired hippy who used to go to the mountains and trip on Chocolate Mescaline (sp?) and he looked like an old drill instructor, not a hippy who used to take drugs. He was waaaay older than us—he was 26. That sticks out and there was a guy who kept saying that we need to stick together and help each other out during this whole boot camp thing the first day and evening and he was AWOL the very next morning. We saw him 2 weeks later in the chow hall and he had turned himself in and they were giving him a general discharge.

So it was like the first 4 days that are like one, because we were holding/waiting.

I loved the Navy and would have stayed in if I hadn't gotten married (*we all know how that PROBABLY would have gone if I had stayed in after getting married*) but there were

times when I wished I was back in boot camp because in perspective, boot camp was a picnic compared to port and starboard watches and working in between all night ver-treps and everything else that caused us to stay up for weeks at a time without a decent night's sleep. Well, until I became a BM2, then life got GREAT.

2008 REUNION ATTENDEES

Editor's Note: Because of a mistake in the attendees' list in the last issue, we are printing it again. We apologize to those whose names were left off the list.

Michael Bayliss
James & Susie Borowicz
Dennis Cahoon
June Cruse
Dave Dedon
Charles Dickens
Wanda Farris
Mark & Carol Fletcher
Daniel & Judy Gnade
Andrew & Kathleen Golden
Abe Greenberg
Jack & Sandie Knoblock
Charles Knowles
Edward & Dawn Malchow
Irwin & Valarie Martin
Chuck Murtomaki
James & Pamela Pate
Allen & Mary Personette
Romeo & Myrna Ricarte
Jonathan & Winnie Sage
Ron & Frani Spagna
Paul Taylor & Theresa Cox
John & Harriet Walters
Kenneth Wilson & Shamarie Dixson
Lee Witham

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW
YEAR**

FROM ML&RS, INC STAFF