

# THE MESSENGER

Volume 16 Issue 1

January 2009

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MARIAS, USS CADMUS, USS AMPHION, USS ARCADIA



USS MARIAS



USS CADMUS



USS AMPHION



USS ARCADIA

### Special Points of Interest

- *Can you remember the best officer you served under while on your MCAAN ship? See the cover story for some of your shipmates' picks for this distinction.*
- *Al Kuiper responded to the question about leaving the Navy. See his story on page two.*
- *Mail Call has a letter from Lee D'Arcy about an incident that happened to him because of an injury while on the Nantahala.*
- *More about the submarine USS Grunion is on page three also.*
- *Ten new names for the Welcome Mat are on page four.*
- *Read about the new law that allows veterans to salute during the national anthem. See page 4.*

## THE BEST OFFICER ON MY SHIP

The question for this issue that was posed to those with e-mail was: "Who was the best officer you served under while you were aboard one of the MCAAN ships? What made him a good officer? Are there any examples that you recall that caused you to think of him as the best officer you served under?" Here are your replies:

### Francis "Smokey" Schmolke:

In response to who was your favorite officer while aboard ship! Well, I recommend **Doc Harold Glasser**, LCDR Dental Corp, now retired Captain and **Capt Claggett**, the skipper who was on board the Cadmus when I was aboard. Both of them were well liked by the

enlisted men aboard. Capt Claggett was a submarine Capt and true WW2 hero. I was aboard the Cadmus from '59 thru '61. Capt Claggett was only aboard for one year. Doc Glasser was aboard for my tour of duty on the ship. Both of them would visit with the crew one on one. In fact, at our last reunion Doc showed up with his wife Alma. The five of us that showed up had a great time with both of them. I still keep in touch with Doc. I worked in the Capt's office and Doc did a lot of dental work on me while aboard. For the up and coming reunion in Charleston, we hope that Doc, Alma and more Cadmus crew show up. Both of them showed us leadership and I was happy to serve aboard

ship with them.

### Bruce Davis, DC3:

I hope it's the truth you want, because it is the truth I'm going to give.

I cannot even remember who my division officer was and I am not sure I ever met him. We were repair, not ships company, second class citizens to many.

I worked in the carpenter shop aboard the USS Amphion for almost 2 years before my hitch was up. I will not mention names because I am sure there are people out there who loved the men I worked for, but here are my thoughts and opinions.

My immediate supervi-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

sor was a second class who sat in the office day after day after day. The only thing he did was fill out requisitions (1348s) and complain about all the paperwork.

Next up the line was the first class. He occasionally made his presence known by actually showing up, usually hungover, to bark a few orders and give us job orders.

The chief was a joke whom we took advantage of and manipulated. His number one priority consisted of paneling Chief's Quarters and having us make cruise boxes for departing officers. Forty years later, after having made so many of them, I still remember the dimensions: 15 X 15 X 30.

Third class and below got the work done. We worked hard and worked long hours. We were the team. I do not remember ever being told we had done a good job or even thank you.

I remember when my grandmother died and I was going on leave at midnight to attend her funeral. I was given a job to finish before I could leave, replacing a terrazzo deck in a head on the ship alongside. At about midnight, exhausted and filthy, I gave up. I had been at it since 0800 that morning. It was winter, the air was cold and damp, causing the terrazzo to take longer to set up before I could start grinding, polishing and sealing. Normally terrazzo would be left to set up for at least 24 hours. I had poured and leveled this only a few hours earlier and officially, I was on leave. I ran into the first class, drunk, unsteady on his feet, and with slurred speech he said he wanted to inspect my work. I told him it wasn't finished but he insisted. When he saw the job was not complete, he told me to finish it before I left on leave. The same first class was shocked that I wasn't go-

ing to ship over or extend so I could be promoted to second class.

The best officer: Chief Petty Officer Windgate, USS Alatair AKS 32, 1962 and 1963. He was a leader. There you have it.

**Randy L. Brown, Sr., MR2, USS Amphion:**

In reference to your question about Captains I served under, the only one that comes to mind is a **Captain Thompson**. I had very little contact with him because of my rate as a Machinery Repairman. Those in operations were probably closer than myself. However, I do know he seemed to have a Captain's uniform inspection very often and it started to get on my nerves, but what can you do about it? I would like to say one thing and that's that he got our ship safely across the Atlantic and back again in one piece. So over all, he did a great job.

## LEAVING THE NAVY

*Here's another letter about what the process of leaving the Navy was like:*

**Al Kuiper:**

I just received my Oct 08 newsletter and read all the letters about other shipmates leaving the Navy. My leaving was very uneventful. I was aboard the Amphion from 1948 to 1952. In '52 the ship was leaving

for ? I don't remember! But they put me on the beach for about a month for my discharge. I was assigned to Barricks D and put on shore patrol in Norfolk and Back Bay. We used to take off our S.P. arm bands and sit in a dark corner of some of these joints.

To ship over, the Navy offered me 2nd Class and 2 years of shore duty in the state of Washington as a Station Keeper. (Kick me please for not staying.) I was married and just had our first son.

On the upper corner of this letter is a copy of my mess pass. I

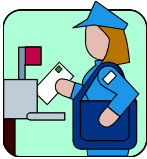
still have my mess pass and the card that informed me that I passed my 3rd class test. I also still have the wallet size Honorable Discharge Card. It has been in my wallet since they gave it to me, that's 56 years. I'm proud of my years in the Navy.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 10/08 **\$1625.88**  
 Funds received since 10/08 **\$35.00**  
 Funds available for 01/09 **\$1660.88**  
 Funds expended for 01/09 **\$103.00**  
 Balance remaining for 04/09 **\$1557.88**

The Messenger is being mailed by USPS only to contributors and reunion attendees who do not have e-mail. All other contributors and reunion attendees will receive it by e-mail, so be sure we have your current e-mail address. You are considered a contributor if you have donated money within the last calendar year from the time of the current newsletter. Please continue to support the newsletter. Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc. at the address below.

<b>TRANSIENT MESS PASS</b>		
U.S.N. Receiving Station, NB, NorVa.		
5ND 935 (Rev. 5-50)	SERIAL No. <b>C-31</b>	
NAME <b>KUIPER, Albert (n)</b>		
RATE <b>BTA</b>	SERVICE NUMBER <b>718 62 67</b>	DATE <b>JUN 11 1952</b>
<b>GOOD ONLY DURING TRANSIENT PERIOD</b>		
VOID AFTER <b>JUL 11 1952</b>	Signature and Rank of Validating Officer <b>R. D. THUME, SCLK, USN.</b>	
NAVY—DPP0 5ND NorVa		



## MAIL CALL

MCAAN Messenger:

I am Merritt D'Arcy, assigned to the USS Nantahala AO-66 from 1952 to 1953. I was painting the degaussing cable covers and squatting down to do the painting. I shifted my weight and twisted my back to change positions and my back dislocated. I was flat on my back and was sent to the hospital on a stretcher. After months in the hospital and having been prepped for a back operation 5 times, they tried to give me a psycho discharge, commonly called a Section 8. After talking to the psychiatrist and telling him I did not want a discharge, he told the doctor that I was not to be discharged as I was looking to be a retiree from the Navy as I loved the Navy and did not want a discharge. I only wanted to be treated and sent back to duty.

After another month or so, the doctor told me I was to be medically discharged and that would take some length of time staying there at the hospital and wanted me to sign a waiver so he could discharge me shortly. I said I wanted liberty so that I could talk to an attorney, but he refused to give it to me. He said they had lawyers there for me and sent me to them. (I was the only one that was refused liberty during their stay at the hospital and there was no reason to say no to me except to keep this 19 year old man from going to a practicing attorney.)

The Navy attorney said I should sign it as it was just a formality to early release for service and that I would go to the VA and get my medical retirement from the Navy. Once discharged, the VA refused to give me medical disability and for a long time I couldn't even go to the VA hospital. No attorney in practice outside of the Navy would

have told me to sign a waiver of rights as a mere formality and I have been with a bad back ever since treating on my own. The Navy cheated me out of thousands upon thousands of dollars in benefits.

The ability to use a waiver of any kind, especially a medical waiver, needs to be removed from the Armed Forces. And all past waivers need to be removed from all servicemen's records, as I am not the only one that they played this trick on.

Lee D'Arcy

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MCAAN Messenger:

Follow up of article submitted in your April 2007 of the finding of my father's submarine the USS Grunion:

August of 2008 the location of the Grunion was confirmed using a ROV and HD cameras which can be viewed on the Grunion web page [uss-grunion.com](http://uss-grunion.com). Early October I attended the Memorial Services in Cleveland, Ohio aboard the USS Cod which is the sister submarine of the Grunion, for my father and the 70 crew of the Grunion. It was a very emotional experience for me, but finally closure. January 1, 2009, the *Today Show* aired the Memorial Services and interviewed some of the relatives of the crew, including myself. The segment aired 7-8 AM. I have a video which gives an overview of the Grunion search which I use telling the Grunion Story to various Veteran Groups and would be happy to share at our reunion if time allows.

Pete Stephens (USS Marias)

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**2009 MCAAN REUNION**  
**SUN. APRIL 19-**  
**WED. APRIL 22**

**CHARLESTON, SC**  
**SHERATON NORTH**  
**CHARLESTON HOTEL**



## WELCOME MAT

The MCAAN Group proudly welcomes these recently located shipmates. Welcome aboard! We hope you will become an active member in the association by contributing both financially and with stories for the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at a reunion.

**Lowell Eggleston (USS Amphion)**  
 (1958-59) EN3 ICE Shop  
 1419 Memorial Dr  
 Connersville, IN 47331  
 765-827-9463  
[egglestonsr@aol.com](mailto:egglestonsr@aol.com)

**Raymond Campbell (USS Marias)**  
 (1951-54) CSM3 S Div  
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 Catonsville, MD 21228  
[soupydad970@msn.com](mailto:soupydad970@msn.com)

**Rawn Davis (USS Amphion)**  
 (1969-71) OM2 R-4  
 8231 Aberdeen Rd  
 New Orleans, LA 70126  
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[rawn93@gmail.com](mailto:rawn93@gmail.com)

**Richard Taylor (USS Cadmus)**  
 (1956-58) HM3 H Div  
 3611 Greenfield Dr  
 New Albany, IN 47150  
 812-949-8403  
[olebear380@aol.com](mailto:olebear380@aol.com)

**William Rutledge (USS Arcadia)**  
 (1958-59) MM3 A Gang  
 1229 Longview Ave  
 Langhorne, PA 19047  
[rutgp@aol.com](mailto:rutgp@aol.com)

**Thomas Gromofsky (USS Amphion)**  
 (1956-59) ME2 Ships Company  
 6828 N Ridge West  
 Geneva, OH 44041  
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**Timothy Truesdale (USS Marias)**

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Diamond Point, NY 12824  
518-668-9184  
native\_adirondacker@hotmail.com

**John Slamka** (USS Amphion)  
(1970-71) MM3 R2 Div  
2259 Reeves Rd  
Riley Twp, MI 48041  
586-201-1290  
jackslamka@gmail.com

**Wilbur Stalions** (US Amphion)  
(1962-64) ICFN R-3, R-4 DMSN  
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Martinsville, IN 46151  
westalions@yahoo.com

**David Divine** (USS Marias)  
(1952-54) DK2  
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520-398-8473

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



## TAPS

The Messenger learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The death may not have been recent, but we just learned of it. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

**Donald Smith** (USS Cadmus)  
(1951-52) EM3 E Div  
Died April 2, 2007

**Richard Vaessen** (USS Arcadia)  
(1951-55) SN 6th Div  
Died June 24, 2008

**George Merkel** (USS Marias)  
(1951-55) CM3/c Cook  
Died May 6, 2008

**Lewis Willsea** (USS Amphion)  
(1948-52) EM3 6th Div  
Died December 8, 2008

**Edward Swaney** (USS Arcadia)  
(1951-52) RM Comm  
Died December 10, 2008

**John Dobay** (USS Cadmus)  
(1955-57) Supply  
Died July 4, 1998

**William Pence** (USS Marias)  
(1944-46) S1/c Deck  
Died August 18, 2008

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Messenger is the official publication of the MCAAN Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, October, *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 Messenger*. 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 a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter 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.



This picture was sent in by Cliff Jarman. He says, "Leo Tillett is on the right. I have been told that this picture was taken on the Marias. Any information would be helpful.

Cliff Jarman  
CliffGrmn@aol.com