
Breinling, John H

Nickname Rate FC2 **Division** Repair
Spouse Beatrice **Hometown** Benton Harbor, MI
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1942-05 **Years To** 1943-05
Civilian Occupation Insurance Agency
Special Hobbies Fishing, Golf, and Gardening
Favorite Memory Fishing off the fantail & gambling
Worst Memory The trip to Nomea
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 6

Special Comments While aboard the Prometheus, I did salvage diving. Frank Prebezich and I were part of a Navy diving group that worked on the Oklahoma, getting it ready to raise it, before our trip to Nomea. We were in Pearl for several months before we left for Nomea, towing the dry-dock with a loaded yard oiler inside and another one in tow. I think it was the later part of Sept or Oct 1942. Our refueling stop was Pago-Pago, Samoa and I believe it took us 28 days doing 6-8 knots. I was a repairman, either gunnery electronic gear or haul inspection and repair. I left the ship in May 1943, back to the states to pick up the light carrier USS CABOT CVL-28. In Nov '44 we received heavy damage in that typhoon and they repaired us and had us ready for battle in about 8 days. I could go on, anyway I've some very fond memories of this old ship.

Brinwall, Arne M

Nickname Rate SM2/c **Division** 4th
Spouse Joy **Hometown** Minneapolis, MN
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1943 **Years To** 1946
Civilian Occupation Switchman Burlington Northern Railroad
Special Hobbies Wood Working and Fishing
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 4
Special Comments

Brown, Ted G

Nickname Rate PHM 1/C **Division**
Spouse Laura **Hometown** Portland, OR
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1944-02 **Years To** 1946-01
Civilian Occupation Civil Engineer, Construction Manager
Special Hobbies Bicycling, Riding, Traveling, Elderhostels Volunteering
Favorite Memory Sydney, Australia, Hong Kong, VJ Day
Worst Memory Okinawa Typhoon
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 3
Special Comments

Brown, Fred D

Nickname Rate Coxswain **Division**
Spouse Helen **Hometown** Hugheston, WV
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1945 **Years To** 1946
Civilian Occupation Railroad
Special Hobbies Golf, Fishing
Favorite Memory Our call at Hong Kong
Worst Memory Our service at Okinawa
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 4
Special Comments

Carleton, Ernest S

Nickname Ernie **Rate** COX **Division** Sail Locker
Spouse Sallie **Hometown** Kansas City, MO
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1944 **Years To** 1946
Civilian Occupation Over the Road Truck Driver, Graham Ship by Truck (30 Yrs)
Special Hobbies Volunteer to raise Missouri orphaned and injured wildlife
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 2
Special Comments

Castle, Bob F.

Nickname **Rate** RM2 **Division** Radio C
Spouse **Hometown** Denver, CO
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1942 **Years To** 1944
Civilian Occupation US Post Office
Special Hobbies Travel
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 6
Special Comments

Eames, Harold D

Nickname Rate S 1/c **Division** 1st
Spouse Nettie **Hometown** Omaha, NE
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1944-09 **Years To** 1946-06
Civilian Occupation Sales Mgr Chevrolet Dealership
Special Hobbies Golf
Favorite Memory Liberty in Hong Kong, China
Worst Memory Typhoon in Okinawa & kamikazes
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 12
Special Comments

Eaton, Walter E

Nickname Walt **Rate** SM 3/c **Division** 4th
Spouse Bonnie **Hometown** Salt Lake City, UT
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1941 **Years To** 1945
Civilian Occupation Quality control specialist
Special Hobbies Golf, Trailer Traveling
Favorite Memory 10 day in Australia
Worst Memory Working in the laundry
Children 8 **Grandchildren** 25
Special Comments

Evans, Walter R

Nickname **Rate** SM 3/c **Division** Signal Gang
Spouse Joyce **Hometown** St Louis, MO
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1942 **Years To** 1943
Civilian Occupation Employee in tire manufacturing (Goodyear)
Special Hobbies North American Railroad History, Major League Baseball, Naval History, College Basketball
Favorite Memory Our visit to Sydney, Australia
Worst Memory The humidity and heat at Espiritu Santo
Children 1 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments

Lawson, Dennis

Nickname
Spouse
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4)
Civilian Occupation
Special Hobbies
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children
Grandchildren
Special Comments My father was Murray Lawson. He served on the VESTAL from before Pearl Hrbor to the end of the war. He hot out as a CSC. I live near KC and can help with Reunion activities if it would be beneficial. Dennis Lawson

Levine, Seymour

Nickname
Spouse Sarah
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3)
Civilian Occupation Garment Center-Computer Manager
Special Hobbies Fishing
Favorite Memory USO shows and in Hong Kong at the end of the war.
Worst Memory Seeing all ships that were hit with the planes still on deck
Children 2
Grandchildren 1
Special Comments

Lewaine, Robert W

Nickname
Spouse Genevieve (deceased)
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3)
Civilian Occupation Electrical Industrial Control Systems Expert
Special Hobbies Photography, Fishing, Model Railroad building
Favorite Memory Going to Sydney
Worst Memory Leaving Sydney
Children 2
Grandchildren 3
Special Comments

Malikin, Hiram Ben

Nickname
Spouse Dorothy
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3)

Rate
Hometown Washington, DC

Division
Years From 1943
Years To 1946

Civilian Occupation Linotype Operator (Printer)

Special Hobbies

Favorite Memory

Worst Memory

Children 2 **Grandchildren** 4

Special Comments My Father died in 1971, but I wanted his name to be alongside of his buddies. He was a quiet man who like many veterans didn't talk very much about his Military experiences. I have been enjoying others sharing their memories of life on the PROMETHEUS and am so sorry he didn't tell me more of the stories. He learned his trade (Printer) while on board and did describe the crew hazing that occurred when crossing the Equator. He also briefly mentioned a Ship's Newspaper, but I never saw a copy. Thanks to all of you for your service.
If anyone has any memories of my father, please e-mail me at Bob.Malikin@state.MA.US

Massey, Billy T

Nickname
Spouse Norma Lee
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3)

Rate M 2/c
Hometown

Division
Years From 1943
Years To 1946

Civilian Occupation Farming, Maintenance

Special Hobbies Horses, Motorcycles

Favorite Memory

Worst Memory Crossing Equator and being at sea for 2 Yrs

Children 1 **Grandchildren** 1

Special Comments

Mayberry, Theodore Roosevelt

Nickname Ted
Spouse Audey
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3)

Rate Coxswain
Hometown Cranberry, NC

Division Deck
Years From 1941
Years To 1945

Civilian Occupation Mason

Special Hobbies Coal Miner

Favorite Memory Visits to Australia

Worst Memory

Children 4 **Grandchildren** 5 GG2

Special Comments I submitted this for Dad. He died accidentally in 1975. He often talked about his WWII experiences and the Prometheus. He liked Australia and talked about being in New Caledonia. He also participated in some exchange with the Russians. Was the ship involved in that? Was it in the Pacific? Does anyone have any information regarding this? If so, please reply to the above email. Thanks

Murphy, John A

Nickname Rate RM 1/c Division 4th
Spouse Hometown Moorpark, CA
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) Years From 1939 Years To 1944
Civilian Occupation Electrician
Special Hobbies Early Ford V-8 Club, Knife Collection, Citrus Label Collection, Tractor Club
Favorite Memory 10 days in Sydney, Australia
Worst Memory Pearl Harbor Attack
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 2
Special Comments

Myers, Marshall W

Nickname Rate EM 3/c Division Eng
Spouse Hometown West New York, NJ
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) Years From 1944-04 Years To 1946-04
Civilian Occupation Telephone Company
Special Hobbies
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children **Grandchildren**
Special Comments

Newman, Joe R

Nickname Sparka Rate EM 3/c Division Repair
Spouse Hometown Salem, OR
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) Years From 1944 Years To 1945
Civilian Occupation
Special Hobbies Playing organ and gambling (casino)
Favorite Memory Coming home and end of World War II
Worst Memory Ship being hit by kamikaze
Children **Grandchildren**
Special Comments

Novak, Jerry A

Nickname Rate M OMM2/c **Division** 5M
Spouse Helen **Hometown** Chicago, IL
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1943 **Years To** 1945
Civilian Occupation Federal Employee, U S Navy Technician 25 Yrs, DAS Contract Adm 10 Yrs.
Special Hobbies Hospital Volunteer and Church Work (Aid to needy)
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory Leaving Sydney. Very rough weather for a couple of days
Children 7 **Grandchildren** 9
Special Comments

Ortman, Walter

Nickname Walt **Rate** MM2/c **Division** 3rd
Spouse Spouse Deceased **Hometown** Charles City, IA
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1944-02 **Years To** 1946-06
Civilian Occupation Was a Design Engineer (Plumbing, Heating, Vent & Air Conditioning) Also, a Plant Engineer responsible for all mechanical and electrical construction inside the facilities and parking lot, snow removal and grass cutting.
Special Hobbies Hunting, Fishing, Golf, Football, Baseball, Cooking, Baking, Singing, Travel.
Favorite Memory Meeting so many great men, plus the opportunity of being able to serve my Country by being a part of a floating repair shop to service all types of ships.
Worst Memory The typhoon that hit us in Buckner Bay, Okinawa. We came pretty close to capsizing.
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 6
Special Comments

Ose, James A

Nickname **Rate** M 1/c **Division** Welding and Repair S
Spouse Ida (Spse Deceased) **Hometown** Oakland, CA
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1942 **Years To** 1945
Civilian Occupation Owner, Automotive Warehouse Distribution. After WWII, worked to rebuild the automotive industry
Special Hobbies American Legion Chaplain (13 Yrs), VFW, Travel, History, Landscaping and Gardening
Favorite Memory To know that the USS VESTAL survived the war
Worst Memory 1. When the Concord ammunition dump exploded. We were up in dry-dock for repair and having radar systems installed. I was below deck-a frightening experience. After repair on the same ship I returned to the islands for one more year before I came home.
2. To hear our ship had been decommissioned and scrapped (died and buried)
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 12
Special Comments During my time on the VESTAL, I feel highly honored that I was able to enjoy each and everyone, relate to their stories on ship and to learn something of their lives and their families.

Pretlow, Austin D

Nickname Rate Seaman 1/C **Division** 1st
Spouse Maxine **Hometown** Olympia, WA
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1942-05 **Years To** 1944-11
Civilian Occupation Logger, Merchant Seaman
Special Hobbies Fishing, Hunting, Boating
Favorite Memory A few minutes ashore Pago Pago. Some liberty in Sydney, Australia 1943 and 1944
Worst Memory The day I spilled cabbage on Admiral Halsey. Time in brig, solitary confinement on bread and water
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 6
Special Comments

Price, Warren Leslie

Nickname Rate Petty Officer **Division** Chief
Spouse Mary **Hometown** San Jose, CA
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1941 **Years To** 1946
Civilian Occupation Welder, Plumber, Butcher, Sheet Metal Worker
Special Hobbies Family, Building Home, Ranching, Animals, Hunting
Favorite Memory Since this is written by his only daughter, the only memory I personally have is how he tried to redefine SNAFU to keep his children's vocabulary innocent; it did not work very well. In addition to me, there were 4 boys. I remember how he wanted a lifetime of military service, but a heart problem was brought on and aggravated by military service.
Worst Memory He described the ship as a "repair ship" and loved the sea. When at sea, he grew a "red beard to accompany his coal black hair. When he came home on leave to propose to our Mother, our grandmother sent him walking like a hobo. When he returned "clean shaven" he was invited in the house, even though our Mother had never taken to him previously, but our father had told his uncle when he carried her off the beach in school (she had fainted), that he was going to marry this girl someday-Our Uncle Otis had laughed at him. Obviously our Father had the last laugh.
Children 5 **Grandchildren** 5 GG3
Special Comments Am going through old photos in the near future, after losing our mother in 2007 and hopefully will have something to share with others. Our father unfortunately died in 1964 at the age of 41, leaving 5 minors raised by his wife, Mary. Mary did an excellent job and never remarried.

Rininger, Jack

Nickname Cowoy **Rate** LDR 1/c **Division** 5th
Spouse Jackie **Hometown** Cleves, OH
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1940-01 **Years To** 1944
Civilian Occupation Police Chief, Cleves, OH after service
Special Hobbies Boxing, Reading, Heavy Weight 1939 St of Montana
Favorite Memory Dropping bully in bout
Worst Memory Being sunk in 1941 at Pearl Harbor. Being missed by bomb at less than 9 Ft, penetrated ship before it exploded
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 6
Special Comments

Stock, Frank Peter

Nickname Rate MM1/c **Division** 5-S
Spouse Camille Ann **Hometown** Detroit, MI
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1940-12 **Years To** 1945-06
Civilian Occupation Retired Police Detective, City of Hamtramck
Special Hobbies Rail Fan and Train Buff (Anything R.R.)
Favorite Memory R & R in Sydney, Australia 1943
Worst Memory Returning to VESTAL and discovering my battle station and shop bombed and under water
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 3
Special Comments

Stone, Vernon T

Nickname Pebbles **Rate** MS 1/c **Division** 1st & 5S
Spouse Fredreca **Hometown** Walnut Ridge, AR
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1940-12 **Years To** 1944-04
Civilian Occupation Heating & Air Conditioning, Refrigeration
Special Hobbies Golf
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 6 GG2
Special Comments

Storrs, Gordon

Nickname **Rate** **Division**
Spouse Spouse Deceased **Hometown** Oak Park, IL
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3) **Years From** 1942-04 **Years To** 1944-01
Civilian Occupation Mechanical Engineer
Special Hobbies Bowling
Favorite Memory Every meal a banquet
Worst Memory Side cleaning
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 5
Special Comments

Watkins, Bernard R

Nickname Skins **Rate** SF3/c, SF 2/c, SF 1 **Division** 6-S
Spouse Spouse Deceased **Hometown** Keene, NH
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1939-09 **Years To** 1942-05
Civilian Occupation Charter Pilot, Bethlehem Ship Yard, San Francisco
Special Hobbies Flying, Masonic Fraternity
Favorite Memory Ability to work big ship repairs
Worst Memory Pearl Harbor Dec 7, 1941
Children 1 **Grandchildren** 2
Special Comments Enjoyed most of my 25 years of active duty

West, Jr, Charles D

Nickname Si **Rate** S/1c **Division** 5th
Spouse Frances-Deceased **Hometown** Penns Grove, NJ
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1943-12 **Years To** 1944-07
Civilian Occupation Retired
Special Hobbies Golf
Favorite Memory Liberty on the Islands
Worst Memory Being discharged in Jan 1945
Children 7 **Grandchildren** 8 GG2
Special Comments

Williams, John

Nickname Willie **Rate** ML1st **Division** Foundry
Spouse Spouse Deceased **Hometown** Mobsly, MO
Ship USS VESTAL (AR-4) **Years From** 1941-12 **Years To** 1944-12
Civilian Occupation Molder
Special Hobbies Horse buggy building
Favorite Memory 6 days at Sydney, Australia
Worst Memory
Children 1 **Grandchildren** 1
Special Comments

Witner, Harold L

Nickname
Spouse Ruby
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3)
Civilian Occupation Retired
Special Hobbies Guns
Favorite Memory Trip to Sydney, Australia
Worst Memory Damaged evacuations (Salt Water Showers)
Children 0 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments

Woodward, Jr (Ret), CW04 Daniel B

Nickname Woody
Spouse Reiko
Ship USS PROMETHEUS (AR-3)
Civilian Occupation Manager, Dept of Motor Vehicles, San Diego, CA
Special Hobbies Gardening, Walking, Reading, and Baseball
Favorite Memory Visit to Sydney, Australia in 1943
Worst Memory Being transferred at night, without prior notice to relieve the Skippers son in Espiritu Santos
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 1
Special Comments Retired 1 April 1966 as a Chief Warrant Officer W-4 at the Anti-Submarine Warfare School, San Diego, CA with 30 yrs and 3 months service.