



"LEAKY T" News

The Newsletter of the U. S. S. Tolovana AO-64 "WE CARRY THE LOAD"



I received from ace reporter Alice Joseph a short bio of Edward C. Ellison, a CS1 who served on the "T" from 1955-1957 and retired from the Navy in 1963.

Ed was born in Media, PA 12 September 1923, and graduated from Church Farm School June 1942. He worked in Chester, PA until joining the Navy January 1943. He took his "Boots" at Sampson Naval Base. On graduating from his boot training he elected to take gunnery training for the armed guard aboard Merchant Marine ships. He served aboard the SS Beauford from April 1943 to February 1944 when he went to the SS Theodore Bland. On looking back he says this was the worst duty of his career.

His next duty was aboard the USS Ostara, AKA 33, and then to the CBs in Adak, AK. CB 10 was there at that time building landing fields. After a short leave, returning to Adak, the plane he was on crashed in Seattle on takeoff. Ed was feted in the Seattle paper as a hero. He had been asked to keep an eye on Dorothy Felip and her pregnant dog "Tiny." Ed showed Dorothy the way out and jumped behind her. The dog stayed behind and Ed took a long metal strip and gave the dog a pat on her hindquarters, and out she came, landing almost on the face of her owner.

Ed met his future wife, Elmina, in California, and they married in 1950 in Hayward, CA. They had one son. In 1997 Elmina was killed by an automobile in Rising Sun, MD.

Ed served as a CS1 on the "T" during 1955-1957, and retired from the Navy in 1963. After his retirement Ed

Dedicated to the deceased and living members of the best Fleet Oiler in the U. S. Navy.

First Edition published
Spring-Summer 2002

Edition No. 11 FALL 2010 EDITION/Reunion Report

joined the local Lions Club and American Legion. During this period he devoted his time to writing and accomplished three books relative to his local area. He lives alone today and his son, who lives an hour away, comes by to help with anything Ed needs. Ed still dances at every opportunity and enjoys the "Big Bands."



I heard from Irvin Gatlin YNCS (YN3c on the T) recently when he took his wife to the hospital at Jackson, MS to further evaluate a Laurel, MS hospital MRI and CT scan re an aneurysm. What they found was very encouraging and she was back home a few days later. Now "Gunner's" big problem is keeping Ms Iretha quiet. Knowing her that will be a big job.

I have received a request from Alice Joseph, the numero uno roster technician for the "T," asking that I mention her husband's very serious health condition and age (95 +) and, for that reason, she will be taking a permanent hiatus from ALL roster chores in the NEAR future. This is an urgent request from Alice. She will send whoever takes on the job what she has on cards and tell them what she has been doing. It should be someone with a computer and a cell phone with minutes they can save. Anyone wishing to take

on this chore please contact Alice at aljo42@sbcglobal.net.

Marion and Herman Weigold, CM3, 1945-46, a "T" plankowner, have moved to 397 Meadow Lane, Cadillac, Mi 49601. Their new email address is marionweigold@att.net. Herman was our oldest reunion attendee and usually held the banner in our reunion pictures. At the Maggie Valley reunion Herman told me he ran a dairy farm for many years after he got out of the Navy and that is a 24/7 hard labor job and he still cut and split his firewood! That impressed me. I know that Herman is one tough ole salt. They regret they won't be able to attend the reunion this year as Herman now uses a wheelchair and his health has deteriorated, therefore their traveling is limited. Herman and Marion want to tell all the "T" shipmates that they looked forward to the reunions and want to wish them well and to tell everyone Hello. We all wish you well Herman and may God bless you."

Sadly, we have now received an obituary for our shipmate Herman, which we reprint below:

Herman F. Weigold Jr.

McBAIN - Herman F. Weigold Jr., age 83, of Cadillac and formerly of Tustin and McBain, passed away at his home in Cadillac on July 9, 2010.

He was born on June 29, 1927, to Herman and Beulah (Oliver) Weigold Sr., in Wheeler. He married Marion L. Hosner on January 14, 1950 in Ortonville. He grew up in the Leonard/Oxford area, farming and working at Fisher Body in Pontiac for 22 years. He resigned his job at Pontiac and in 1972 followed his passion for farming and moved to the McBain area, where he dairy farmed up until 1992. He then moved to Tustin where his garden became his farm up until this year. He served for 22 months in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S. Tolovana during World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Marion L. Weigold of Cadillac; his children, Richard (Barbara) Weigold of McBain, Terry (Pam Strunk) Weigold of Oxford and Penny (Jeff) Johnson of McBain; seven grandchildren, three step-grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a sister, Marilyn (Donald) Arnott of South Haven; and a sister-in-law, Berenice Burt of Abilene, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister-in-law, Beverly Maxwell.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Burkholder Funeral Home in McBain, with Rev. Scott Torkko officiating. Burial will be in Lucas Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions for Mercy Hospice would be appreciated. Military graveside services will be conducted by the Cadillac Area Honor Guard.

Anyone reading this newsletter that knows of an incorrect address, phone number, e-mail address, etc, on the roster, or a NEW address, please send all of the info to Alice Joseph, aljo42@sbcglobal.net, Howard Hensley at howardhensley@cox.net, John Sater at jlsater@comcast.net or me at the below shown address.

One of my F Div guys is doing a great job helping Alice Joseph with the corrections for the roster and I know I appreciate it almost as much as Alice does. Thanks John Sater.

Howard my name is Gary McGee and I'm the guy who bought the Tolovana artifacts in Oklahoma City last year. There are several items I would like to donate to the reunion Pictures of the last Captain, his coffee cup, his plaque, letters and other items. I would like to send them to you or anyone else you could direct me to. Thanks Gary McGee SK3 70-72

Well, the 2010 reunion is now logged into the history books. According to MLRS, Inc. there were 13 shipmates, 8 wives and one guest and wife. I am waiting on a report of the reunion when my reporter gets back home. Joe and Sybil Baer did not attend as they had planned as Sybil had some heavy health problems. Please keep her in your prayers.

John and Louise Sater's version:

Wednesday

Louise and I were the first ones to register, and I was disappointed to learn that Joe Baer and Sybil had to cancel out due to illness. When we all assembled for the Welcome Reception I learned that, once again, the shipmates and their spouses from Minnesota outnumbered all other states! One advantage of the smaller turnout was that we all got to know each other faster and better. The hors d'oeuvres were tasty and plentiful.

Thursday

After an early breakfast we departed for Arlington National Cemetery, picking up our Tour Guide on the way. She was very knowledgeable and personable, and directed the bus driver on a shortcut through the Pentagon parking lot to get us to the cemetery on time. The bus driver was a little apprehensive about driving his bus through there but she assured him it would be OK, and it was. Because the group was smaller in size, Larry Eckard of ML & RS had rented a smaller bus rather than a full sized one that might have resulted in us paying additional fare. An advantage of the smaller bus was that we were able to get closer to drop-off points, which was critical in the heat and humidity of the day. The bus also had water bottles in ice that were provided to us whenever we needed them. We visited the grave site of JFK and family and also the simple grave of RFK nearby, marked only by a white cross. We also visited the grave of Audie Murphy, the most decorated serviceman of WW II. We then reboarded the bus and were taken to the area of the Tomb of the Unknowns

where we witnessed the Changing of the Guard followed by a Wreath Laying by a group of Boy Scouts (there were 52,000 of them in VA for the 100th Scout Jamboree, and Washington was overrun by them but they were well behaved). Finally, it was the Tolovana's turn to place their Wreath in front of the Tomb, and Fred and the others were very dignified as they performed the ceremony. This was followed by the live playing of Taps by the bugler, and was a sober and emotional moment. As we were leaving the area, a bystander noticed my Tolovana badge and stepped forward to shake my hand and thank me for our participation. It was a privilege that would not have happened without the services of the ML & RS company, who seemed to know who to contact to smooth the way in each of our tours.

We then boarded the bus to the former home of Robert E. Lee, then headed downtown to the Union Station for lunch on our own. After lunch, we visited the Navy Memorial where I watched a video message from Regis Philbin about his Navy service from 1951-53 as a Supply Officer, followed by six more years in the Naval Reserve. The circular fountain outside contained metal pictorial sculptures depicting historical ships of the Navy, and a large sculpture of a sailor and his sea bag was located on the plaza inside the circle.

When we returned to the hotel about six hours later, we retreated to the Hospitality Room for light snacks and cold drinks before returning again around 6 pm for social hour before a casual dinner (we had excellent Salmon) at 7 pm.

Friday

After another early breakfast, we boarded the bus for the US Naval Academy in Annapolis for about an hour's drive. We were met at the Visitors Center by a retired Navy Captain (a former member of the Blue Angels) who was very gracious in welcoming us and thanking us for our service to our country. He had done his homework and mentioned the fact that the Tolovana had earned 12 Battle Stars in its period of service. He then proceeded to narrate a slide show that covered all aspects of the Academy, and he needed no notes for his talk. He emphasized that the primary purpose of the Academy was to produce LEADERS for the country, but also mentioned that although degrees were granted in some liberal arts studies all graduates earned Bachelor of Science degrees, meaning that they were required to take math and science courses in addition to their other courses.

After the presentation, he boarded the bus with us and we drove around the grounds, stopping on occasion while he pointed out specific areas of interest. We left the bus to enter the non-denominational chapel, where he pointed out artifacts and then the magnificent pipe organ. It had ten separated keyboards, and if I remember correctly, over 5000 pipes. As we were about to leave, a woman arrived to get ready for a wedding to take place later that day, and he greeted her warmly and asked her to play the Navy Hymn so we could hear the organ. She played beautifully, softly at first and then unleashing all the power of the pipe organ, such

that one could not help being caught up in the emotional moment of that hymn which means so much to a sailor. I'm sure everyone felt a lump in their throat as they listened to that organ.

We then were led to the crypt under the Chapel which contains the remains of John Paul Jones, and were told the story of how his remains were found in France and then brought to the US to be reburied in that crypt. His body was identified by the unique shape of his ear lobe.

From there we were led to the Dry-Dock Restaurant on the Academy grounds for lunch on our own. After a quick lunch, we hurried a short distance to witness the Noon Formation of all the Plebes. I noticed that some of them were a little late in getting there and tried to speed walk to get there in time. The Captain told us that they had come aboard on July 1, so it was understandable that they were much like boots after five weeks in boot camp.

We then returned to the hotel around 3 pm, and those who still had energy left went to view the Evening Parade of the Marine Corps, after first enjoying dinner on their own.

Saturday

Breakfast was not quite as early this morning, as we departed at 9 am to visit the Memorials in DC. This time we had a Viet Nam veteran who was very knowledgeable about all of Washington, since he had lived there for over thirty years. We did a lot more walking because the Viet Nam, WW II, and Korean War Memorials were located in the same general vicinity. Our tour guide pointed out an area out of sight behind the WW II Memorial where "Kilroy was Here," including the caricature, carved into the stone. While walking around the WW II Memorial where each state has its own pillar, we came upon a picture of an Army Air Corps pilot with a summary of where he served and a note from his granddaughter. It was left there along with a single red rose as a tribute to him. It was a very poignant moment for me, as it reminded me of the oldest brother that I lost in WW II, also a pilot.

We moved on to the Viet Nam Wall with its solemn listing of the dead, then to the Korean War Memorial. The center piece of the memorial honors the grunts who bore the heaviest burden of that war, with pictures of personnel of the other services etched into the walls surrounding the figures of the soldiers trudging through the countryside. Off to the side is the memorial to the nurses who tended to the wounded, depicted by a nurse helping a wounded serviceman.

After viewing the memorials, we headed to the Library of Congress, which was a substitute for another venue that was cordoned off because a suspicious package was discovered there. After viewing historical documents in the Library of Congress we headed back to the hotel in time for our business meeting.

With so few shipmates in attendance, I was concerned about how we would get a volunteer for the next reunion, but Joe Moore quickly volunteered

to host at Long Beach next year, using the services of ML & RS because of the really great job they did for us in Washington. Although it is more expensive to use them, you get what you pay for, and if any of it is too pricey for you it can be skipped. Three shipmates and the spouse of one showed up only for the business meeting and the banquet and still had a good time. The banquet and following program was excellent, with the Remembrance Table set up as it was in Biloxi and the program done in good taste and in memorable fashion. All in all, we had a great time and thank Fred Husak for his part in hosting it.

There is someone sending e-mails to shipmates and they are using shipmates addresses. I have received e-mails, purportedly from at least six shipmates, selling ED products and beauty products. Somebody has hacked in to one or more address books. All we can do, as far as I know, is to simply delete the message. The subject of the message is a good indicator. If anyone knows a better way please let me and other shipmates know ASAP.

ALICE JOSEPH NEEDS HELP – Please send her any changes to the roster so that we can keep it current. If you don't keep it current you just might not get a notification of something important. Also, she sends the newsletter to about 100 shipmates who do not have e-mail. If there is anyone out there who will take this off her hands she would appreciate it mightily. Contact her for further details. Thanks. aljo42@sbcglobal.net

Alice Joseph has 5 CDs from the Reno reunion that she will send to anyone who has a computer, the only way to play the CDs. Let her know if you want one. Her e-mail address is in the box just above.

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Jim Dull has had a very serious colon operation and colon cancer was found. A day or so later Barb let me know the doctors downgraded the cancer to a less serious status and the tumor from a T4 to a T3. I have no idea what this means but Barb was very happy with the news, so I am pleased as well. Your prayers are still asked for and are appreciated.

Bill Novisel has mesothelioma and is also in need of our prayers.

Joe Joseph has had a pacemaker implanted and is doing very well according to Alice Joseph.

Skip Moore, F Div, 1951-1953
anchorman1@bellsouth.net