



“LEAKY T” News

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



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. 10
SUMMER 2010 EDITION/Reunion Report

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

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 Ireta 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.

OK, here is the report of the reunion as submitted by Fred Husak, DK2.

Wednesday

Brenda and Larry Echard were there to greet us as we checked in, and gave us the latest updated itinerary, breakfast coupons, etc. Had the welcome reception from 5 to 6pm. Larry gave a brief description of upcoming events then turned the meeting over to me.

The first order of business was to determine the four men to lay the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Each man was given a numbered ticket, and Merle Masters drew the tickets: Fred Husak, Wayne Schultz, Bob Kemp and Joe Moore were chosen to lay the wreath... The next issue was to set up the Chinese auction of the items donated by Gary McGee. Tickets will be sold through Saturday and the winners pulled at the business meeting. After this it was dinner on our own.

Thursday

On the way to the Arlington Cemetery we picked up our delightful guide, Mona. At the cemetery we boarded tour buses and went through the cemetery and then to the Tomb. By this time the temperature was 98 and the humidity high to match. After laying the wreath we were given a choice of the *Women in the Military Memorial* or Arlington House, the one time home of Robert E. Lee. We chose the latter.

That evening we had Social Hour from 6 PM then dinner at 7. We didn't leave the dinner table 'til after 9, we so enjoyed the company.

Friday

Nineteen of us boarded the bus at 7:45 AM for the Naval Academy. We were received warmly and escorted about the grounds by a retired Captain. There were a number of highlights but probably the best was in the Academy Chapel when the organist played Eternal Father on their beautiful and powerful organ. More than a few of us shed tears. We also got to see the Noon Formation.

That evening we went to the Marine Barracks for the *Evening Parade*. It was a splendid and inspirational performance.

Saturday

Today was the day we were supposed to tour the White House but the Senator or a staff member screwed up (hard to believe). So we toured DC instead. We had another delightful guide, Larry, and did a lot of walking but experienced a lot. It was by no means a wasted day.

That afternoon we held our business meeting. We had the drawing for the Chinese Auction Tolovana artifacts donated by Gary McGee. This added \$45 to our Treasury.

It was resolved that our next reunion will be hosted by Joe Moore, with the help of Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc., October 2011, in Long Beach, California. It may include a one day cruise on the SS Lang Victory. Joe is now the holder of our treasury, \$495.

John Sater kindly brought up the fact that Alice Joseph is struggling to maintain the roster and could use help. Larry Echard stated that this is a service that his staff at ML&RS provides.

That evening we had our Banquet. The icing on the cake, and a total surprise, was a Program that Larry and Brenda had prepared. It included playing of the National Anthem, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, a beautiful Invocation delivered on short notice by Bob Alfton, then a delicious steak dinner. After dinner came a Memorial Service. Fred Husak was M/C, Wayne Schultz the chaplain, and Beth Husak the ringer of the bell. Names of deceased shipmates were read and the bell tolled twice after each name. Finally, taps was played.

Summary

It was a busy three and a half days in DC and not much sitting around in the Hospitality Room. Nevertheless, we spent a great deal of time together, riding the bus and walking, and got well acquainted. The turnout was disappointing, but all had a great time, so rate this reunion a huge success. Credit to

Larry and Brenda. They should be asked to plan all of our reunions.

Below is a list of the attendees per MLRS, Inc. records.

Hensley, Robert
Fogleman, Larry
Masters, Merlyn & Ann 1967 1969
Grone, Richard & JoAnn 1955 1957
Jensen, Walter 1972 1975
Marcellus, Michael & Carol Sue 1959 1961
Kurpiers, Steve & Eve 1952 1956
Moore, Joseph 1968 1969
Schultz, Wayne & Mavis A. 1952 1956
Kemp, Robert 1965 1969

Sater, John & Louise 1951-09 1954-03

Husak, Kimberlee & Bethany
Husak, Fred & Rose Ann 1961 1961
Alfton, Robert & Nancy Foster 1961 1963

Sounds like they had a good reunion even with so short an attendance. If anyone sends me pics taken during the reunion I will try to distribute copies.

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