

THE MAGOFFIN MESSENGER

The Newsletter of USS Magoffin (APA-199)

Veteran's Association

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President's Corner

Upon receipt of this newsletter it will be about four months out from our 11th reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We will also be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the USS Magoffin and it's commissioning of October 25th, 1944.

A reminder to all that the deadline for the special reunion room rates at the Sheraton Brookfield close out on August 15th, 2004 so be sure to make your reservations before that date.

If you are in need of wheelchair access to any of the tours please let me know as soon as possible so we can make accommodations with the tour bus company.

Shipmates from the mountain states time zone should be considering hosting our next reunion in the spring of 2006. Hope to have a couple of proposals for the membership to consider in Milwaukee.

Please note the suggestion from our webmaster, Terry Little, to send a little extra on to the scholarship fund this year. As you are aware we have sufficient funds in that account that we were able to raise the scholarship to \$1000.00 for the deserving graduate this year. Tom and Mary Paul Haglage will be attending the awards presentation at Magoffin County High School and will be presenting our scholarship check on May 11th.

I recently did an Internet search and was able to find an article dated January, 15th 2004 in the Hutchinson, Kansas newspaper about Captain Richard Scott, the last Commanding Officer of the USS Magoffin. I was able to locate a phone number for Captain Scott and he was unaware of our veteran's association. I have encouraged him to join our group, and you will note that he has sent a message to the logbook at ussmagoffin.org. (See page 3)

I have attempted to locate other commanding officers by utilizing the web pages of lonesailor.org at the U.S. Navy Memorial. The web page had entry for Captains, Moore, Iffrig, Keyes, Heath, Robertson, and Rawson. My attempt at communication for all the captains was returned with no mailing addresses for all with the exception of Captain's Robertson & Rawson.—see *right column*

Scholarships

As the time nears for the 11th reunion we need to remember an important commitment that the Association has made. For the last 6 years we had provided a graduating senior from Magoffin County High School a \$500.00 scholarship. The members who attended the 10th reunion in Lexington, KY had the opportunity to visit this school and meet some of the past recipients. After the trip, after learning about how much our scholarship is appreciated and needed, after seeing the good that it has done, the general attitude was "We need to do more!" The membership voted to double the scholarship to \$1000.00.

While it is understood that our scholarship is needed and appreciated, the membership has to understand that the education fund must have to money to be able to make the awards. Not just this year, but the next and the next and the next.

The only income that the education fund has is from the silent auction, the raffle and the occasional direct contribution. If we expect to be able to support the fund for a number of years, the membership needs to increase the level of individual contributions.

When you can afford it, why don't you sit down and write out a check to the Education fund? When you fill out your reunion registration, why don't you round off the total to the next highest hundred and mark the overage for the education fund?

Terry Little—Editor/webmaster

Presidents Corner Continued

Hopefully my letters to them have been forwarded and if I hear from either I will let you know.

Look forward to seeing all of you in Milwaukee — Mike Stein, President

Reunion—2004

Now is the time to finalize your plans for the 11th reunion of the USS Magoffin Veteran's Association. Tom Tassar has been hard at work making sure that there will be plenty to do and lots to see. There will be tours and sightseeing as well as the crew's meeting and the banquet. One of the highlights will be the tour of Great Lakes Naval Training Center and the opportunity to attend a boot camp graduation. If you were at Great Lakes for boot camp or "A" school, you will be surprised at how much has changed and how much is still the same.

According to President Mike Stein, there will be a number of new members attending. This will include men from all three decades of Magoffin service.

The registration form for the reunion is on page 4 just above your address label.

More Milwaukee Highlights

If you are planning to arrive early or to stay a few extra days after the reunion be aware that there is a lot to do in Milwaukee and the surrounding area. Some examples are—Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Milwaukee Public Museum and Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater, Miller Brewing Company Visitor Center, House of Harley-Davidson / Buell,, Bast Bell Museum, Germantown Historical Society, Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion, Cedar Creek Winery, Charles Allis Art Museum, Circus World Museum, Dairyland Greyhound Park, Discovery World Museum - The James Lovell Museum of Science, Economics, and Technology, Harley-Davidson Tour Center, House on the Rock, International Clown Hall of Fame, Lakefront Brewery, Inc. , Mason Creek Winery, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee County Zoo – whew!

If you want more information about these and other Milwaukee attractions—Write to: **Visitor Information Center**
101 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 425, Milwaukee, WI 53203.
Call - 800/554-1448 or visit the website at www.milwaukee.org/

Website Award

Our website was recently given a "Thank You, Veteran" from the USS Savage (DE-386) Association. The graphic may be seen on our association web site, www.ussmagoffin.org

The "Pony Express" Boat Group

Mike Stein found this picture in the Navy Archives. We don't have any information about "Pony Express" in the Magoffin History. Were you there? Where was it? What was the purpose? Who is on the boat? If you can help to fill in with some information—please contact Terry Little by mail at 1914 Irvin Cobb Road, Murrays, KY 42071 or e-mail - webguy@ussmagoffin.org



Photo # USN 1054472 LCM-6 from USS Magoffin beaches during Exercise "Pony Express", May 1961

The Current Membership

The following members are current with their dues as of February 22nd.—Alonzo Aguilar 04, Clyde Aexander 05, Craig Anderson 06, Paul Andress 07, Willis Anson 04, Charles Arnold 04, Leo Ayers 04, Clifford Barrick 04, Richard Bee 04, Merble Bellin 04, Joseph Beninato 04, Bill Berglin 05, Bill Betz Jr.06, Vernon Bidinger 05, Earl Bryant 04, Jackson Bryant 04 , William Calvert 05, Junior Carey 04, Floyd Carper, Jr. 07, Jimmy D. Charlton 05, Raymond Cheely 06, Mac Christy 05, August Cooper 05, John Crowley 04, Don Culpepper 04, Bernard L. Curry 04, Michael Dejarnette 05, Dick Dickenson 09, L.G. Duncan 05, Eugene Durham 05, Kenneth Duttarer 06, Jeff Eagon 07, James Earven 07, Daryl Elliff 05, Dave Engelman 04, Francis J. Fitzpatrick 05, Joe E. Flanagan 05, James Ford 04, Robert Foster 05, M. Allan Frank 05, Ray Furlow 06, Al Gaskill 04, Richard Gehrick 06, Lester Gideon 06, Jim Gillivan 06, Paul H.Goguen 04, Marvin P. Gray 04, Hugh Griffith Jr. 05, Pasquale. Guido 07, Jack W. Hagg 05, Thomas Haglage 05, David W. Hammond 04, William Hancock 04, Jack Heiken 06, Don Hellmann 07, Robert Henderson 05, Joseph Hogard 08, Don Hummel 05, Carl E. Jennings 04, David C. Johnson 04, Guy Johnson 04, Jack L. Johnson 06, William Kershner 05, Terry Key 04, Robert King 04, Ed Kopczynski 04, Robert Kuklenski 04, Keith Kyle 04, Erwin Langlo 05, George Latham 04, Terrence Little 04, Herald Lowther 07, William Lutz Jr. 04, David W. MacConnell 05, George Macioce 04, Terry Mackey 04, Robert Marcus 04, Derrell Maroney 04, John Masters 04, Thomas McCants 04, Harold McElroy 05, William McIntyre 04, Jerry Miihbach 04, Gary Miller 05, Dennis Molloy 04, Jerry Montgomery 04, Daniel Muller 04, Bill Munger 05, Kenneth Nelson 04, Louis Noll 05, Robert O'Brien 04, Donald D. Ogburn 04, Albert Oliver 06, Robert Olson 04, Robert Paquette 05, Rodney Patterson MD 04, John J. Pearce 04, Charles Peterson 04, Richard Phares 04, Charles Phipps 04, Al Poortvliet 04, Tex Raily 04, E.E. Renfron 05, Mike Riley 06, William Ring 04, Emmon Rogers 04, Ellis Roth 04, Claude Rubeling 05, James Saeugling 07, Ross C. Sakers Jr.06, Pat Savage 10, Wallace Schaeffer 04, William Schulz 06, Don Schirmer 04, Gerald Schultz 05, John G. Sharp 04, Bill Showler 04, Ronald Shreffler 05, Wallace Shropshire 05, Harry Simpson 05, Kent L. Skluka 04, Fred Small 04, Richard Snodgrass 04, Earl D. Sons 04, John Splese 06, Ralph Springer 05, Michael P. Stein 06, Michael G. Stevens 07, Bill Stutzman 05, Gerald Swanson 04, Wayne Swary 05, Jim Taylor 04, Karl Tellefsen 04, Jim Transou 04, Harlan Truxillo 05, John Tull 05, Eugene Walker 04, Thomas A Ward 06, Gilbert Wayson 04, Charles Whiteley 04, Wallace Wilhelm 04, Jesse Wilkinson 04, Thomas Williamson 04, James Wilson 07, Leslie Wilson 05, Howard Wood 05, Robert Youngs 04. Life Members – Adams, Agostini, Dixon, Graves, Jardine, Johnson, Reece, Schanzenbach, Unetl

REGISTRATION FORM **USS MAGOFFIN ASSOCIATION**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
SERVED ABOARD MO/YR. _____ TO MO/R. _____
BATTLE STATION _____
RATING/RANK _____ DIVISION _____
WIFE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER _____
SPECIAL FRIENDS WHILE ON BOARD _____

Scholarship fund donation \$ _____
MY 2004 DUES (\$10.00) ARE ENCLOSED ()
MY 2005 DUES (\$10.00) ARE ENCLOSED ()
MY 2006 DUES (\$10.00) ARE ENCLOSED ()

If you have previously filled out this form completely, just your name and address would be required to re-register unless something has changed otherwise.

MAIL DUES TO:
USS MAGOFFIN ASSOCIATION
Joe Beninato, Treasurer
61 Sunrise Drive
Edison, NJ 08817

What Ever Happened To? Anchored Memories

Pratt man's love of Navy as strong as ever decades after career

By Clara Kilbourn

PRATT - As a 12-year-old kid growing up in landlocked Kansas, Richard Scott didn't even know if he liked the ocean. It was the tales of a family friend in the Navy that fired Scott's desire to successfully seek an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis - and pursue a 30-year career in that military branch.

"My mother and an aunt drove me through the big iron gates of the academy," he said. "When they left I wasn't sure what I was getting into. I'd never even been on board a boat or a ship." It's been almost three decades since Scott retired from a career that led to his being named commanding officer of five different ships plus a Pentagon stint with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in strategic military planning.

He also had command of a squadron of 10 destroyers. His blue eyes have softened from the days when his ship, the USS Bausell, towed the practice target for the initial nuclear depth charge on the ocean; his hair has silvered in waves from the days he wore the insignia of the commanding officer's cap. Scott saw action in two wars and rode out more ocean hurricanes and typhoons than he can count - his memories are flooded with those details of waves that towered "way over the ship's bow." "Those storms can be terrifying and can do so much damage," he said. "But I never lost a person overboard."

Scott's initial brush with combat came in the final months of World War II; he was aboard the USS Cowell, credited with shooting down 27 enemy aircraft during the course of the war.

His own commands were on the mine-sweepers the USS Plover and USS Conflict; USS Bausell, a destroyer; **USS Magoffin**, an amphibious attack transport that carried Marines; and the USS Seminole, an amphibious attack cargo ship.

His Pentagon duty involved making military contingency plans for specific areas of the world based on a myriad of what-ifs - short-range wars plans for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He remained in Washington, D.C., with the Department of Interior on a similar assignment, the Micronesian Islands.

Note: Richard Scott was the last captain of the Magoffin. Serving from October, 1967 until April, 1968. He now resides in Pratt, Kansas.

Iwo Jima and Okinawa—1954

The following is a excerpt from the history of Item Co. 3rd Marines 1951-54 by Dave Tucker. The website is <http://www.geocities.com/itemco3d/>

MARDIVLEX 1-54 was a 7th Fleet exercise that included the 3rd Marine Division, Task Force 90, Cruiser Div. 1, Trans. Div 13, and Carrier Div 5 (USS ORISKANY), the forces includes 60,000 military, 100 ships, and 200 aircraft.

We boarded the U.S.S. MAGOFFIN (APA 199) on March 14 along with Det. Shore Party, A Co 3rd Eng. Bn, C Med Co, C Bn st Bn 12 th Marines, Det. 3rd Marine Band, Det. HQ Bn. (Wire & radio). The aggressors were 2 nd Bn. 4 th Marines.

14 March 1954 3rd Bn 3rd Marines embarked on U.S.S. MAGOFFIN (APA 199) Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. We departed Yokosuka, Honshu, Japan 16 March 1954. It looked like they had the whole Pacific Fleet participating in this landing exercise. 17 March 1954 U.S.S. MAGOFFIN held live fire exercise, fired 4 rnd 5"38, 157 7 rnd. 40 MM, 290 rnd. 20 MM. 19 March, 1954 3rd Bn 3rd Marine debarked and made a rehearsal landing on Haha Shima - west side of island and we returned to U.S.S. MAGOFFIN same day.

20 March 1954 the MAGOFFIN refueled the U.S.S. BASS (APD 124) (Small Destroyer) and while they were transferring oil, the hose broke. The Deck Log on the MAGOFFIN said that the U.S.S. Bass veered away. We sighted Kito Iwo Jima distance 32.7 mi. If this is the island that I remember, it appeared to be about 3 times as high as it was wide. That night while we were on deck with the ship darkened, we heard a splash in the water and saw something float by that we could not identify. We yelled 'Man Overboard' and the fleet lit up like a Christmas tree. They had a head count and no one was missing so we went on our way. I later learned that they were throwing trash overboard about the time that we heard the noise.

21 March 1954, sighted Kita Iwo Jima Island 40 mi., sighted Minami Iwo Jima Island 82 mi., sighted Iwo Jima 47 mi. This was the first landing exercise on Iwo and possibly the last one with LCVP's. The Division made it's landing after the Navy simulated a naval bombardment of the island, and Navy and Marine aircraft had their fun. We landed on the southwest beach by Mount Suribachi, just across a narrow strip of beach from where the actual landing took place. On D Day +2, our battalion became the helicopter maneuver force of the Division, and we boarded choppers and headed north to seize the airfield. That accomplished, we headed out for Hill 362 which had been the main line of the Japanese defense system, and was the scene of the bloodiest fighting of the Iwo Campaign. The area around Hill 362 is a sulphur bed. In fact you could heat a can of 'C' Rations by burying them in the ground. We buried a five gal. can of water for 15 minutes and the water got too hot to shave with! We were restricted to certain areas on Iwo because of the unexploded ordinance that had not been recovered. We could go up on Suribachi but we had to stay on the road and it was a long walk. After the exercise was completed, some 16,000 of us participated in a memorial service at the foot of Mount Suribachi as the American Flag was raised atop of it.

27 March 1954 3rd Bn 3rd Marines returned to USS MAGOFFIN aboard LCU 1421 and/or LCU 1396. We arrived at Yokosuka, Japan 30 March, 1954 and debarked from the U.S.S. MAGOFFIN on 31 March 1954. We returned to Middle Camp Fuji.

Were you aboard in March 1954? Do you remember this exercise or the incident of the "Man Overboard"? Let us know so that we can capture and save your history.

Where are you?

Have you changed your address or your e-mail recently? A number of **Magoffin Messenger 's** are returned each mailing due to bad addresses or expired forwarding. If you don't keep your contact information current, you may be stricken from the mailing rolls. Please let us know of your changes. Write to: Terry Little, 1914 Irvin Cobb Road, Murray, KY 42071 or e-mail webguy@ussmagoffin.org

WWII Memorial opens

The long awaited salute to the millions of Americans who served in World War Two has opened to the public. The \$67.5 million dollar memorial was authorized by congress in 1993 and actual construction was begun in spring of 2001. The memorial is 279 feet wide and 384 feet long. It features a "rainbow pool", a Freedom wall, two 43 foot high arches and a plaza that is 240' x 337' and is 6 foot below grade. There are four bronze columns, four bronze eagles and one bronze laurel within each arch. 24 bronze bas relief sculptures along the ceremonial entrance (12 on each side) 4,000 sculpted gold stars on the Freedom Wall, 112 bronze wreaths with armatures (two wreaths on each pillar, one on each side) and 56 bronze ropes between the pillars.

The official dedication will be May 29th and will be a part of the Smithsonian Institution's hosting of the "Tribute to a Generation, National WWII Reunion" from May 27th to the 30th. (Information can be obtained at www.folklife.si.edu/CFCH/WWII/WorldWarII.htm.) It is anticipated that this event will be the largest gathering of WWII Veterans since the war. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, more than 140 WWII-themed exhibitions, performances, walking tours, restaurant experiences and hotel packages pay tribute to the men and women who served in World War II and on the home front. Music, art, dance, theatre, film and literature will all play a part in the summer-long salute.

More than 16 million Americans served in WWII. Today, 76 percent of the men who are now between ages 70 and 74 performed military service. Unfortunately, less than 1/4 of the American WWII veterans are still alive and it is estimated that they are passing away at the rate of 1000 per day. It is a shame that it took this long to build a memorial to the "Greatest Generation".

The Old Sailor

Old sailors sit and chew the fat
'bout how things used to be
of the things they've seen
and places they've been
When they ventured out to sea.

They remember friends from long ago
and the times they had back then
of the money they've spilled
and the beer they've swilled
In their days as sailing men.

Their lives are lived in days gone by
with thoughts that forever last
of Dixie cup hats
and bell-bottom blues
and the good times in their past.

They recall long nights with a moon so bright
far out on a lonely sea
and the thoughts they had as youthful lads
When their lives were unbridled and free.

They know so well how their hearts would swell
when the flag fluttered proud and free
and the stars and the stripes
made such beautiful sights
as they plowed through an angry sea.

They talk of the bread ole' cookie would bake
and the shrill of the boatswain's pipe
and how the salt spray fell
like sparks out of hell
when a storm struck in the night.

They remember mates already gone
who forever hold a spot
In the stories of old
when sailors were bold
and lubbers were a pitiful lot.

They rode their ships through many a storm
when the sea was showing its might
And the mighty waves
might be digging their graves
as they sailed on through the night.

They speak of nights in a bawdy house
somewhere on a foreign shore
and the beer they'd down
as they gathered around
cracking jokes with a busty whore.

Their sailing days are gone away
never more will they cross the brow
But they have no regrets
for they know they've been blessed
'cause they honored their sacred vow.

Their numbers grow less with each passing day
as their chits in this life are called in
But they've nothing to lose
for they've all paid their dues
and they'll sail with their shipmates again.

I've heard them say before getting underway
that there's still some sailin' to do
and they'll exclaim with a grin
that their ship has come in
and the Lord is commanding the crew.

Larry Dunn RMCM (Ret) USN
June 4, 2001

11th. Reunion Registration Form—Please Print

Name _____
 Spouse's name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone Number () _____
 E-mail address _____

Thursday Morning Ladies Tour
 Number attending _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Thursday afternoon tour
 Number attending _____ X \$55.00 = _____

Friday Great Lakes Naval Base tour
 Number attending _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Saturday Milwaukee City Tour
 Number attending _____ X \$45.00 = _____

Saturday night Banquet
 Number attending _____ X \$32.00 = _____
 (Make menu selections in box to the right)

Registration Fee Per Association Member \$30.00= \$30.00

Total _____

Check Number _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

**Menu Selection
 Saturday Night Banquet**

Prime Rib _____

Chicken Cordon Bleu _____

Orange Roughy _____

**Make checks payable to:
USS Magoffin Association**

Mail to:
USS MAGOFFIN ASSOCIATION,
Joe Beninato, Treasurer,
61 Sunrise Drive,
Edison, NJ 08817

**USS Magoffin (APA-199)
 Veterans Association**

**Terry Little, Editor
 1914 Irvin Cobb Road
 Murray, KY 42071**

