

USS MASSEY DD-778 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Editor: E. Gerald Goodson - 491 Fairway Dr.- Somerset, MA 02726 - ajgoodson@earthlink.net - 508-672-3649

Massey Website: www.ussmassey.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to wish all our USS MASSEY family members a happy and healthy New Year and I hope that one of your resolutions is to attend our annual reunion this September in Branson, MO. To members who may have never attended, I urge you to do so. You will enjoy the camaraderie of your shipmates and meet other members who served on this fine ship through-out her 30 years of service. I don't believe a finer crew could be found.

Reunion information will be mailed to members soon from Branson Hospitality. The dates are September 24-28 at the Cobblestone Inn. There is such a great number of shows and attractions offered there that you may want to spend some extra days. The Cobblestone Inn is offering us a rate of \$69/day INCLUDING TAXES for the three days on each side of the reunion. Some of the activities include these shows: **the Lowe Family of Utah, Mel Tillis and Family, and a cruise on the Showboat Branson Belle with dinner and entertainment.**

To escape an attrition clause, we have to give up one half of our reserved rooms 60 days prior to the reunion, so PLEASE get your reservations in early. Should something happen and you cannot attend, you will be reimbursed your deposit less \$10.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Dick Pearsall for the magnificent job he did in developing our web site and bringing it online. WELL DONE DICK.

As most of you know, I took a hit in the port shaft in November. I had to have some shims added and realigned and this caused some related problems that had to be addressed. During this hospitalization, I really appreciated the cards, calls, and prayers of our

members. I thought the flowers were a little much, but the XO liked them. I guess it is a woman thing.

Remember, the 2006 annual dues are now due. Please send your \$10 dues to Jerry Goodson.

I hope to see you all in Branson, a wonderful city that respects our country and the servicemen who serve her.

Phil Smith
President

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Many members have inquired as to the status of the Massey website. As Phil mentioned, the site is up and running and may be accessed at www.ussmassey.org. I think you will be pleased with the site and find it informative and easy to navigate. Dick Pearsall has asked for constructive criticism and suggestions to make the site reflect your needs.

A notification was sent to everyone who has informed me of their email addresses. A number of messages were returned as undeliverable. I ask again that you notify me at ajgoodson@earthlink.net if you change your e-mail address in order that I may update our association records.

Jack Zagaros has informed me that Marvin Christensen has also attended all the MASSEY reunions. Way to go Marv!!

Harry Steele wishes to thank those members who provided him with assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Jerry Goodson
Secretary/Editor

USS MASSEY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Philip Smith
221 Oak Road
Drums, PA 18222
(570) 788-3305

VICE PRESIDENT

Bernard Barilla
121 Berner Ave.
Hazelton, PA 18201-7301
(570) 454-0462

TREASURER

Don Heenan
5224 Willow Mill Drive
Marietta, GA 30068
(770) 973-1693

SECRETARY/EDITOR

E. Gerald Goodson
491 Fairway Drive
Somerset, MA 02726-4008
(508) 672-3649
ajgoodson@earthlink.net

HISTORIAN

Gordon A. Risk
1523 Mollicoquins Ct.
Rochester, MI 48307
(248) 650-5138

MASTER at ARMS

Francis Zucco
201 Logan St. PO Box 875
Milesburg, PA 16853-0875
(814) 355-5291

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Philip Smith, President
Bernard Barilla, Vice President
Don Heenan, Treasurer
E. Gerald Goodson, Secretary
Gordon A. Risk, Historian
Francis Zucco, Master at Arms
John Bertram, Past President

MASSEY HISTORY

The USS MASSEY in the Korean Campaign, Republic of Korea (ROK)

MASSEY, as a unit of Destroyer Division 162 [ZELLERS (DD777), SPERRY (DD697), MASSEY (DD778) and FOREST ROYAL (DD872)] left Norfolk, VA on 6 September 1950. One month later, the division was on station and commenced an eight-month uninterrupted period of activity.

MASSEY's first mission in Korean waters was as flagship for the minesweeping force on the east coast. For over a month-and-a-half, this group swept the Wonsan, Hungnam and Songjin minefields. Personnel from MASSEY aided in the small boat sweeping of the heavily-mined inner harbor of Wonsan. The CIC of MASSEY plotted the mine sweeping runs and controlled the helicopters on anti-mine searches. On 24 November, MASSEY boats freed an Army crane barge from its mooring to a mine-sunken Army tug in the center of the Wonsan minefield and towed it to safety.

In December 1950, the Chinese communists unleashed their aggressors against the United Nations Forces of Korea. Elements of the ROK Capital Division were cut off and forced to evacuate the port of Songjin under cover of MASSEY's 5-inch battery, with a total of 470 rounds expended.

The Chinese, pressing southward, entrapped the US 1st Marine Division near the Chosin Reservoir. MASSEY joined the firing line as the Marines fought their way free and the Army's 3rd and 7th Divisions held the beachhead at Hungnam. With the evacuation of Hungnam, Army artillery and the Navy ships in the harbor bombarded the shore. For 11 days and nights, MASSEY's 5-inch guns fired shells into the advancing enemy. Over the night of 22 December, shells from MASSEY broke up a concentrated attack on one of the Army X Corps units that had been cut off and surrounded. In all, 2,663 five-inch shells were fired by MASSEY; and the ship was credited with saving one Army Company. On 24 December, with evacuations completed, MASSEY destroyed the harbor facilities and then withdrew as the first ship in and the last

In the dark days of December, 1950 and January, 1951, MASSEY participated in blockade and bombardment patrol along the Korean east coast, denying the enemy the use of the sea and harassing their communications. MASSEY supported the intense bombardment of Kosong and Kansong, adding 599 more rounds to her credit.

After a tour of duty during February, 1951 with the screen of USS BATAAN (CVL 29) on the west coast, MASSEY returned to Songjin and added her guns to the siege. During March and April, 1951, MASSEY interdicted and harassed the enemy communication at Wonsan, Songjin, and Chongjin. With 3,874 rounds fired, the enemy was denied use of the coastal highway and railroad. During this same time, MASSEY also sank 10 Russian-type mines sown in Korean waters.

During the third week of March, MASSEY's guns supported the ROK Capital Division as it pushed across the 38th parallel and recaptured the city of Yang Yang. In all, 1,635 rounds were expended. On the 6th and 7th of April, MASSEY hurled 784 rounds into the beach in support of the Royal Marine Commando raid south of Songjin.

The month of May found MASSEY screening the carriers, cruiser and battleship of Task Force 77 off the Korean east coast. MASSEY with SPERRY (DD697), led the USS NEW JERSEY (BB62) into the coastal waters near Kosong for her first fire mission in Korea. While with Task Force 77, MASSEY sank her 11th mine in Korean waters. In total, MASSEY fired 10,025 five-inch shells against the North Korean and Chinese aggressors. For her Korean service, MASSEY received four Battle Stars to add to the two Battle Stars from WWII.

On 6 June 1951, MASSEY sailed from Japan with Destroyer Division 162 without a casualty to personnel or equipment. On 18 June, DESDIV 162 and MASSEY arrived in San Diego, CA.

These four ships got a noisy welcome in Norfolk, VA on 2 July 1951. Bands on the pier burst into "Happy Days Are Here Again" and "Anchors Aweigh" while hundreds of sweethearts shouted and waved. Shortly thereafter, CDR E.R. King was relieved as CO by CDR H. Kriloff. Edward R. King

eventually retired from the Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral.

VETERANS' CORNER

An estimated 2 million impoverished veterans and their widows are not receiving the VA pension they deserve because they do not know about it. The Department of Veterans Affairs has had limited success in getting the information to them. Veterans, their widows, and other dependents may be eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs pensions if they meet certain requirements: (1) the veteran must have served during a time of war, even if not in combat; (2) they must be either permanently disabled or 65 or older; (3) their incomes must fall under a certain level. Widows of Veterans may also apply. If you are a veteran and think you may qualify for the benefit, visit www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Milsvc/Docs/Pensoneg.doc. A widow of a veteran should read www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Milsvc/Docs/Dpeneg.doc. The VA also has a toll-free number for more information: 800-827-1000.

Submitted by Russell Spangler, from "Veterans Report" a Mil.Com Publication

Free Navy Log Entries

Now through the end of July 2006, all members and veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines are eligible to record their service information in the U.S. Navy Memorial's Navy Log without charge or obligation. The Navy Memorial sponsors the Navy Log, a permanent public registry where Sea Service members and veterans may record their name, duty stations, awards, photos and memories. The Navy Log may be viewed at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., or via the internet at www.lonesailor.org. The goal of the Memorial is to record the service history of all eligible uniformed individuals and veterans.

Family members and friends may record service information for veterans who are deceased or those who are unable to record their own information. To enroll your information or to enroll family members, link to the Navy Log at www.lonesailor.org. If you have any questions, please contact the Navy Log

Department of the U.S. Navy Memorial, at 1-800-NAVY LOG (1-800-628-9564).

IN MEMORIAM

Since the last newsletter, we have learned of the following deaths:

Herbert Chapp

John O. Parker

Kenneth Horsford

George I. Elliott, Jr., 58-60, October 13, 2003

Webb Trammell, 54-55, November, 2003

Frank P. Tatum, 50-53, June 13, 2005

Theodore Lamielle, 49-52, August 27, 2005

Charles J. Hemmingsen, CO 58-60, October 2005

Marion R. Campbell, 50-53, October 28, 2005

Virginia Ruth Laird, October 28, 2005, wife of **Ian Laird, CO**, 65

Let us keep our shipmates, their spouses, families and their significant others who have gone to eternal rest, in our thoughts and prayers.

THE BINNACLE LIST

There were no reported illnesses since the last newsletter and that's a good thing.

If you know of a shipmate or their spouse who is ill, please notify me so that the association can send the appropriate card. It is important to keep in touch.

ANNUAL DUES

If you have not sent your 2006 dues, please do so. Your \$10 gets you a new membership card and a current roster. Make your check payable to: **USS Massey Association** and mail it to:

E. Gerald Goodson
491 Fairway Drive
Somerset, MA 02726-4008

Your association card and current roster will be mailed to you shortly after receipt.

Your dues cover the costs of newsletters and roster lists.

MAIL CALL

From **Fred J. Borsetti, 46, QMSN**

"Dear Sir,

My assignment to USS MASSEY was short but exciting. During a training mission together with new aircraft carrier MIDWAY and cruiser COLUMBIA, MASSEY ruptured the chain locker bulkhead and was ordered to report to Brooklyn Naval Shipyard for repairs.

MASSEY put into ammunition depot Earle, New Jersey to unload all ammo onboard.

A crewman aboard a DE at another finger pier dropped a hedgehog that exploded and set off a secondary explosion that sank the ship.

MASSEY and the ammo ship MT HOOD were unharmed.

I was discharged on 18 May 1946 and completed a reserve hitch after that.

My last cruise was aboard USS VANDEGRIFT FFG-48, built at Todd, Seattle Shipyard; I was Superintendent of Shipbuilding Quality Assurance Hull Specialist during INSURV acceptance trials in 1984.

If photographs of MASSEY are available, both original as well as modernized version, please inform me how I can purchase them.

I no longer travel but I wish all of you have a fine time at the reunions.

NEW MEMBERS

Marvin J. Brown, MM3, 65-69, and wife Mary

William K. Marshall, FC3, 50-53, and wife

Catherine

Anthony L. Funkhouser, ENC, 66-68, and wife Linda

Give us a hand in finding more shipmates. The more we find, the more old friendships may be renewed, and the more memories relived.

2006 REUNION

The 2006 reunion, hosted by Phil Smith, will be held at the Cobblestone Inn in Branson, MO, September 24-28, 2006.

It consists of a package deal:

Price/package: \$549 Single

\$427 Per Person Dbl. Occupancy

\$387 Per Person Tpl. Occupancy

The hotel will offer a rate of \$69 per day inclusive for 3 days on each side. Approx. 1/2 the rooms are equipped with a refrigerator. Please, don't request one if you don't need it; take pot luck. If you need one for meds, etc., state so and it will be furnished.

**YOU WILL RECEIVE A FLIER FROM
BRANSON HOSPITALITY IN FEB. OR MAR.
PLEASE DON'T THINK THIS IS JUNK MAIL
AND DISCARD IT. USS MASSEY DD-778 will
be on the top.**

This will have all your reunion information, and the registration form will be included. If you plan on attending, PLEASE return this form early. The hotel will release 1/2 our reserved rooms 60 days out and the rest 30 days out. Don't find yourself without a room. Also, a decision on the size of the hospitality room has to be made 60 days out. We don't want to be crowded; however, to order a room larger than we need wouldn't be fair to the hotel. A \$50 deposit will be required with your reservation. A charge card will be accepted. Should you have to cancel, you will be refunded \$40.

Some brief highlights: there will be a welcome reception, a continental breakfast each AM, sightseeing, Veteran's Memorial Museum, 3 shows-one of them being a dinner cruise, a banquet, and a group photo for everyone prior to departure. I feel this is a great package and all will enjoy, so please plan on attending. Options have not been included, mainly due to the uncertainty of numbers, best pricing, and transportation costs. Transportation alone will be approx. \$23/day/person and will cover all scheduled events.

Branson Hospitality Inc., Tel. 1-800-877-8687 Ext. 0, will provide airport shuttle service to/from Springfield Regional Airport; however, you will have to call with schedule and flight information at least 14 days prior to your arrival.

Tom Potoskie, SK3, 1963-66 is the chairman for the 2007 reunion which will be a **CRUISE** reunion and reports the following:

"No details have been discussed with our cruise representative. Most of the cruise lines don't have their itineraries ready until after the new year for 2007. The only thing set as of now is the reunion will be a cruise as voted at the last business meeting.

I will be meeting with the cruise rep in March to discuss sailing time and place, ports of call. From the responses received, most people don't want to cruise in the hurricane season. I will do my best to avoid the hurricanes and obtain the best price (\$700 to \$725 per person) and get the most amenities. More information will be in the summer edition of the newsletter. The cruise rep will be at the Branson 2006 reunion for three days to make presentations and to supply forms and discuss payment options.

We will also be working on securing affordable lodging prior to and after the cruise and for reasonable parking fees while on the cruise. We will be looking at a shuttle from that place of lodging and/or parking facility directly to the pier.

Watch for info in the next newsletters and on the website. They are the best ways to reach all of the MASSEY membership."

2008 REUNION

At our reunion in Branson, MO, we will be asking for someone to be the chairman of the 2008 reunion. Why not volunteer to have that reunion in your part of the country? It is work, but usually there are other members in your vicinity who will pitch-in and help.

We have experience now with all kinds of scenarios, so give it a shot. You will have two years to make plans and arrangements. Advice is always available from previous chairmen. The worst that could happen is that we all have a good time!!!

2007 Reunion

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP or RENEWAL USS MASSEY ASSOCIATION

(PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION EACH YEAR SO WE CAN VERIFY AND UPDATE OUR RECORDS)

Name _____ Spouse _____ Date _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) (FIRST, M.I.)

Mailing Address _____
STREET OR PO BOX _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4

Phone _____ - _____ Bus. _____ - _____ e-mail _____

Years On Board _____ - _____ Rank/Rate _____
(SUCH AS 58-62) (SUCH AS LT/FTG2) Mail check and application to:

Make checks payable to: USS Massey Association

E. Gerald Goodson
491 Fairway Drive
Somerset, MA 02726-4008