

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P.O. BOX 71835
CHARLESTON, SC 29415

NEWS OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL REUNION AND MEETING 16-18 AUGUST 1985 CHARLESTON SC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Called to order by our President Dick Schommer at 1400 hours on Friday 16 August 1985 in the Blue Room at the Fleet Reserve Home Charleston SC. Others in attendance were; Vice President John "Frenchy" Lemieux, Secretary/Treasurer Lyal Stryker, BOD's Phil Dechene, Bob Forbes, John Muessig, J.J. Sbei and Caily Wallick (Whitener) and John Epps, picnic committee and Toby Horn membership committee. The president opened the meeting by calling for the committee reports which were as follows:

REUNION COMMITTEE: Bob Forbes reported that all was on track for the early bird, dinner dance and picnic. Final head count for the dinner had been called in and some last minute supplies for the picnic were being picked up at this time. John Epps and his people from Unit 11 have made all the arrangements for the picnic at Short Stay including games for all, young and old.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Toby Horn reported that our membership now stands at 751 regular members and 208 associate members for a total of 959 members. In addition there are 183 more addresses on our mailing list, including Military addresses, for a total of 1142 addresses/newsletters. Following Toby's report the BOD's discussed the matter of non payment of dues and agreed that all of the mailing list for this NEWSLETTER, less military addresses, that were in arrears of their dues would be granted a 45 day grace period. At the end of that period they would be notified by mail that they were being dropped from the membership and mailing lists unless they paid the amount our records showed they were in arrears OR communicated with us in the event they believe our records are in error.

USS YORKTOWN MINE MUSEUM: Bob Forbes reported that we had received the material we requested from Yorktown which included two Mark 3 instrument racks with components and a Mark 263 test set. Also received were three Mark 53 mines and one Mark 50 mine, assembled (ALL INERT). It was agreed that we should write to the Navy and request display mines of the type we do not yet have in the museum and include a Mark 56, 57, 60, 62-65, and 67. It was noted that Aerojet agreed to provide us a Mark 65 Quickstrike in 1986. The BOD also directed that a letter be sent to the Patriots Point Authority requesting additional space for the display of the newer mines we expect. The matter of acquiring an MSO in the future was also discussed and again it was directed that a letter be written to the Patriots Point Authority requesting they officially request from the Navy the opportunity to acquire a minesweeper when one is scheduled to be decommissioned.

HISTORIAN: Lyal Stryker reported we had received an old lab manual from Ken Huggins. Also received from J.J. Sbei material on the USS Argonaut the first (and only) submarine designed for mine laying using the Mine Mark 11. It was reported that we are looking into having some of the documents put on microfiche to preserve the information. We are also going to purchase special folders and boxes to store the documents in. They are made from materials that will protect the documents.

CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS: Phil Dechene reported that he is still working on a proposed update that will strengthen our non profit status but will in no way affect the original intent of the original C&BL's. Any proposed changes will be submitted to the members for discussion and approval.

FINANCIAL: Lyal Stryker reported that we have paid a \$100.00 deposit on the Oaks for the dinner meeting, the balance will be paid after the dinner. Also paid out was \$138.50 for beer, \$575.00 for picnic food, supplies, soda, etc., and \$85.00

to the American Legion Goose Creek for the use of a private area for the early bird. The following is the report of our assets: Checking \$3464.56, Savings \$202.54 for a total of \$3667.10 on deposit. In addition there were checks in the amount of \$336.00 for deposit, \$99.00 cash and \$282.00 owed for tickets ordered. Total assets were \$4384.10 with the dinner to be paid for. It was agreed that we would open a separate savings account for the Mine Museum donations received. The matter of scholarships was raised and it was agreed to poll the members as to their feelings. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE AOM PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR MEMBERS???? LET THE BOD KNOW YOUR DESIRES.

NOMINATIONS: There were two vacancies coming up at the meeting this year for two members of the Board of Directors to replace Bob Forbes and Phil Dechene who have completed the three year term to which they were elected. After some discussion the BOD recommended that both Bob Forbes and Phil Dechene be reelected for another three years. The BOD recommendation will be made to the general membership meeting and the floor will be open for any other nominations. There were no volunteers for these positions that the BOD were aware of. The matter of recommending someone for Honorary Mineman was discussed with several candidates put forward. One name was recommended by the BOD to be submitted to the general membership meeting for approval. There was only one member eligible for the Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers (COCC) this year, CW04 Jack Lindquist and a plaque has been prepared for him. (Jack was unable to attend the reunion and the plaque was mailed to him at his new address in in Florida. (Hope to see you next year Jack!)).

Reunion Time and Place 1986: After much discussion and cussin and etc. the BOD recommended we adopt a five year plan as proposed by BOD member Carily Wallick. This plan will be submitted to the membership for discussion and approval. The plan calls for Charleston in 86, Reno Nevada in 87, Yorktown in 88, and Charleston in 89 and 90 and then select another West site for 91 and continue on as may be desired by the members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Lyal Stryker reported on a letter from member Jim Trick that suggested we have a contest to name our newsletter and also that we have some specific columns such as "Memory Lane". The details were in our last newsletter. The BOD agreed that this is an excellent idea and directed the Secretary implement the idea that Jim sent us. Details later in this newsletter. It was requested the Secretary be authorized to investigate the feasibility of accepting advertising in the newsletter to help offset the cost of preparing a quarterly newsletter. The BOD directed the matter be looked into and report back to them with details.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to come before the BOD.

NEW BUSINESS: LCDR (LDO) Bill Johnson from the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center requested in a letter to the BOD to be considered for regular membership. Bill has been an associate member for some time and is a strong supporter of our Association. After reading his letter to the BOD and a brief discussion the BOD approved his request.

There being no further business to come before the BOD the president adjourned the meeting and all present proceeded to the early bird.

EARLY BIRD: At the American Legion Goose Creek Friday evening 16 August and by the number that turned out it must have been a great success - the place was packed and we understand it was the biggest night the Goose Creek post has seen since opening. Some old friends showed up this year that we haven't seen in a while including Steve and Bonnie Howard. Hope to see them next year and you too if you didn't make this one, it was a gooder!! There were a few (a lot!) hangers on when they started sweeping down and putting the chairs up on the tables. The unofficial head count was in excess of 100 people at one time with many coming and going during the evening. We plan to repeat the event in 86 and for future reunions we anticipate larger turnouts where we can have a place to ourselves so you all can get together and enjoy catching up on what everyone is doing or isn't doing but probably should be doing??

The meeting was called to order by our President Dick Schommer at 1300 hours. There were thirty members present. Meeting was held at the Goose Creek American Legion Post. The Board of Directors minutes (previous two pages) were read and approved by the members present.

ELECTIONS: There were two vacancies on the Board of Directors to be filled for a three year term. Phil Dechene and Bob Forbes had been recommended by the BOD for reelection. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded and carried to close the nominations and elect Phil and Bob by acclamation.

HONORARY MINEMAN: John E. (Jack) Shreve was recommended by the BOD for this award. Jack recently retired from the Naval Sea Systems Command where he had been the Deputy Director for Mine Warfare Programs. He has been associated with mine warfare for over 33 years, at NOL White Oak and Navord/Navsea. He was instrumental in helping the Association of Minemen in obtaining copies of historical documents and equipment for display in our mine museum. The members present voted to elect Jack an Honorary Mineman.

CONSOLIDATED ORDER OF CLOCK COCKERS (COCC) AWARD: The only member eligible this year was CW04 Jack Lindquist who retired 1 June 1985 with 30 years and 2 days service. Jack and Maxine moved to Florida and were unable to attend the reunion so we mailed him his plaque.

NEW BUSINESS: Carily Wallick (Whitener), BOD member recommended we adopt a five year reunion plan. After some discussion the following was approved by the members present: Charleston 1986; Reno Nevada 1987; Yorktown 1988; Charleston 1989 & 1990. The cycle would repeat itself in 1991 with selection of a site out West. The 5 year plan can be modified/changed as needed at the annual business meeting.

PETITION: Lcdr Bill Johnson (FMWTC) an Associate member petitioned the BOD to be considered for regular membership status. The BOD recommended him for regular membership status and the members present approved his petition.

GOLF: Mac McCarthy suggested a golf outing at each reunion in the future for those desiring to play a round of golf during the reunion weekend. Bob Austin and Bob Forbes will try and arrange the details for next years reunion in Charleston. We will report the details in either the next newsletter or the one just prior to the reunion. Mac also suggested a ladies tour be considered. If there is enough interest expressed something could be arranged but it appears most ladies spend their free time either shopping/sight seeing or visiting with friends. The suggestion is still open if you have any ideas.

REMEMBER NEXT REUNION (12TH) 15 - 17 AUGUST 1986 CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA

EARLY BIRDS: Fred Reid suggested that at our early bird get together Friday evenings we could use less loud music and possibly have a separate area for those that wish to visit/reminisce etc. Another alternative would be to lower the volume and/or turn the music off for a period of time and then back on again. We will try and accomodate everyones wishes in 86!!

There being no further business President Dick Schommer adjourned the meeting at approximately 1500. The members present refilled there glasses and looked at some old photos brought by some of the old timers.

DINNER MEETING 17 AUGUST 1986

The Oaks Country Club, Goose Creek, South Carolina was the site of the dinner meeting and dance. The event started with cocktails from 1800 to 1930 followed by dinner. The Reunion photographer was set up and took pictures of each couple/person as well as some candid shots. Phil Dechene gave the invocation and the dinner was served. At approximately 2015 our President Dick Schommer introduced the head table which included our guest and speaker Radm Cockfield and his wife as well as Radm Primeau and his wife. Radm Cockfield is Commander Mine Warfare Command and Radm Primeau is Commander Naval Base Charleston.

Following the head table introduction the Master of Ceremonies (MC) introduced Radm Primeau who welcomed our members to Charleston. (We noted the welcome sign at the Viaduct gate entrance to the base - thanks!)

The MC then introduced our guest of honor and speaker, Radm Cockfield who gave a short talk about the importance of Mine Warfare to our Navy and how important people are to the mine warfare community. He also noted the importance of our association in helping to keep alive the heritage of the Mineman rating and providing support to the entire community.

MINEMAN OF THE YEAR: Following his talk, Radm Cockfield announced the winner of the Mineman of the Year competition MINEMAN FIRST CLASS JOHNNY R. WILSON, USN. Radm Cockfield read the AOM Letter of Recognition and presented MN1 WILSON with a Commander Mine Warfare Command plaque. Force Master Chief J.J. Sbei (and AOM BOD) presented MN1 WILSON with the AOM plaque and congratulated him on the award.

TAPS: Phil Dechene read the names of our shipmates that had passed away since the last meeting and a minute of silence was observed to honor their memory.

The MC then made the following announcements/awards;

Certificates of Appreciation to past Officers of the Association: TOBY HORN, JACK SMOOT who were present and in absentia HARRY COKER, CHARLIE HUNT, JIM LONGWAY AND ED SPRECHER.

COCC AWARD: CWO4 Jack Lindquist in absentia.

Honorary Mineman: Jack Shreve (as noted in previous notes).

Oldest Mineman Present: Mac McCarthy ?? Youngest Mineman Present: Jamie Gordon.

Member Travelling Longest Distance: Steve and Bonnie Howard (Texas) There may have also been one of the Reserve Momag people that travelled further but we were unable to determine who. If anyone knows please let us know.

DOOR PRIZES: Mike Cummings won the AOM 1985 ashtray made by Bill Mehard. Craig Weber won the Giles cartoon.

OTHER NOTES: Ed Sprecher called to express his regrets at not being able to be with us this year as well as Gabby Goode and Hal Elston. Thanks for the check Hal!!

THANKS: To the reunion committee, Bob Forbes, John Meussig, John Epps, Lee Ostrander and all their helpers, Also to Ron Ellis for taking pictures of the event and for putting the reunion book together this year, THANKS NAVY BAND FOR BEING HERE AND PLAYING SUCH GREAT MUSIC!!! To John Keen for a copy of OP 1853 Mine Mark 6, OP 898 Mine Identification Manual and a booster removal tool for Mark 6 boosters. To Phil Dechene for two H4 horns from a Mark 6 mine. To Charlie Hunt for his "Libert Pass" issued 7 Jan 54 to Hunt, Charles Edward, MN1, USN, S/M Base New London Conn. (not to exceed 72 hours). and a copy of Navy Department General Orders Series of 1948 (Navy Regs). To Harry Bright for finally returning the six inch crescent wrench from the TEVDET tool board that Ed Sprecher was always looking for.

Congratulations to Jim "Speedy" Blyth and his wife Margaret on the birth of their son Ian Mathew born 0900 Saturday 17 August 1986 at Charleston Naval Hospital.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: To HIROKO FORBES, EVELYN DECHENE AND CHARLIE DAUGHTRY !!!

Following all of the above important announcements the members enjoyed themselves by dancing to the great music of the Charleston Navy Band and also catching up on the news about old friends and making plans for the picnic next day. A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL IN ATTENDANCE. ANOTHER SUPER REUNION DINNER MEETING AND DANCE.

The Navy recreational area at Short Stay was the location for this years great picnic. Without a doubt this event is the most popular of the entire weekend as evidenced by the great turnout of a cross section of our membership, active duty, reserves, retired, associates, families and friends.

Festivities commenced at 1200 with lots of cold beer, soda, hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, chips, etc. and even some crabs later in the day. THANKS to John Epps and the crew at Unit 11 for all the arrangements and to John Muessig for cooking. THANKS GUYS!!

Toby Horn conducted the auction to raise funds for the mine museum on board the USS Yorktown here in Charleston harbor. We raised \$327.00 THANKS ALL!!! Our special thanks to Toby for being the auctioneer (we will have a bull horn next year Toby!) and thanks to Millie Reid for donating the beautiful afghan, Bill Mehard the ash trays, Doreen Stryker and Rani Rose for the childrens dresses and aprons and Susan Stryker for the decorative wooden pigs. And our THANKS to all the members that purchased the items. IF ANYONE WISHES TO DONATE ITEMS FOR NEXT YEARS PICNIC RAFFLE JUST BRING THEM TO THE PICNIC. IF YOU WANT TO COMMIT YOURSELF EARL JUST LET US KNOW AND WE WILL LIST THE ITEMS IN THE NEWSLETTER JUST PRIOR TO THE REUNION.

The games were run by Shelly Ellis and judging from the photos everyone had a lot of fun. Winners of the adults egg toss were MN! MORROW and MN! NEMO of MOMAG RESERVE UNIT 302 ALBANY NY. Runners up were (they dropped the egg) MNC BOB REED UNIT 11 and MN! MICHAEL SPORTELLI FMWTC. Winners of the childrens water balloon toss were DEBBY CURTIS and DON SHEMWELL. Second place was GERI BOLEMA and R. RODERICK. Did not get the names of the childrens egg toss but there pictures are in the reunion book and I recognize one of the ELLIS boys - CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THAT PARTICIPATED.

Door prizes went to Charlie Daughtrey (ashtray) and Tom Morris (Giles cartoon). As Always there were AOM caps, T-shirts, tie tacs, jackets and MCM tie bars and pins for the ladies. Orders were taken for any items not in stock.

Thanks to Norm Wicke, John Muessig, John Epps, Bob Forbes and others for being on the cleanup detail at the end of the day. THANKS!!

TAPS

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

Since our last newsletter the following members and friends have passed away:

- Commander William E. "Bear" Evrard June 11, 1985
- Paul L. Cottrell September 26, 1985
- Julie Stultz October 4, 1985
- MNCS Vernon L. Thompson Naval Affairs November 1985

- Bear Evrard was known by many of us in the Pacific, he used to accompany the inspection teams as a Cincpac rep. He had just joined our Association and was looking forward to the 1985 reunion.
- Paul Cottrell is the father of MNCS Jim Cottrell USN (RET).
- Julie Stultz is the wife of CWO Jim Stultz an old friend of many of us.
- MNCS Vernon Thompson we have no other information except that he was known to many of us.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Congratulations and best wishes to Carily Wallick/Whitener and Michael Whitener who were married Saturday September 14, 1985 at the Naval Station Main Chapel, Charleston Naval Base. The reception was at the Brandywine Club House in Goose Creek and was attended by many of our members and family friends. Carily and Mike will be transferred to Momag Unit Eight Guam next year.

Congratulations to our friends and members at the Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity (old NMEF) in Yorktown Virginia on the dedication of their new building on 6 November 1985. Cdr. John Yearwood is the OIC (and an associate member) and Trist McConnell is the Technical Director (and an honorary Mineman). Captain Bud Wood PMS 407 introduced the dedication speaker Radm Wayne E. Meyer, USN. In attendance at the ceremony were Radm Cockfield, Cominewarcom, and the many attendees to the Mine Conference, including the Momag CO's and OIC's from around the world. Many old friends also were in attendance to wish our friends at Yorktown good luck in their new building. See next page for more information.

Force Master Chief John J. Sbei retired on 31 October 1985 with over 30 years service. John joined the Navy in June 1955 and went through boot camp at Bainbridge Maryland followed by Mineman "A" School in Yorktown Virginia. In addition to his many duty stations he served on board the USS Shea (DM 30) out of Long Beach California. J.J., as we all know him was awarded the MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL for outstanding meritorious achievement while serving as Force Master Chief for Commander Mine Warfare Command from 15 November 1982 to 31 October 1985.

Master Chief Mineman Shelly J. Kelly retired at a ceremony on 25 October 1985 with over 30 years service. Shelly joined the Navy in 1954 and after completion of Mineman "A" School in Yorktown he reported to the USS Harry F. Bauer (DM 26) in Charleston, SC. At the time of his retirement he was a member of the Minewarfare Inspection Group here in Charleston. He volunteered for duty in Vietnam in April 1970 and from May 1970 thru April 1971 he was Captain of a River Patrol Boat (PBR) where he earned the Bronze Star with Combat Device, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon and other decorations.

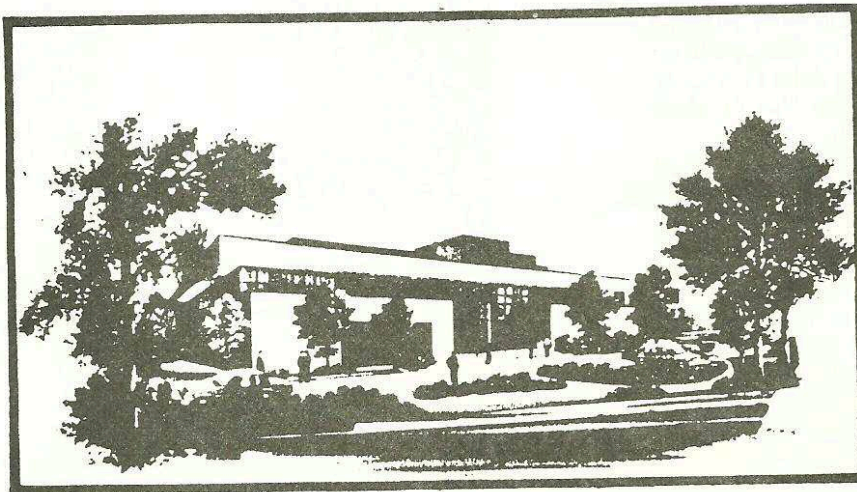
CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH MASTER CHIEFS ON THEIR RETIREMENT AND WE WISH THEM WELL IN THE FUTURE. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY, THE US NAVY AND THE MINE WARFARE COMMUNITY.

Received a letter from Jack Shreve thanking the members for honoring him by making him an Honorary Mineman. He said there is nothing more satisfying than to be recognized by those people you have known and worked with for many years.

Congratulations to our President Master Chief Mineman Dick Schommer, USN upon his appointment as Force Master Chief for Cominewarcom. See article on following pages. Good Luck Dick !!

During the reunion COMOMAG had an open house for our members to see what is now going on in mines. They had an Aero 51 Trailer set up with a Mark 56 mine, a Mark 52 mine and a DST 36 (destructor) and several boards set up with photos of other mines including the ones in our mine museum on the Yorktown. Our thanks to member Tom Shipley for arranging the open house.

The first ever MOMAG Reserve Olympics was held at Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group, located at Building NS 16, U.S. Naval Base, Charleston SC in August 1985. COMOMAG is host to a total of 27 Reserve Units throughout the United States. In the first six months of 1985, all the units competed with each other to see who would represent their area. In August 1985 seven Reserve Units reported onboard COMOMAG for the Reserve Olympics. After a hard two day competition, Reserve Unit 2116 out of Cedar Rapids Iowa was judged the victorious unit. Captain W.E. Riley, COMOMAG, presented Lt. Michael J. Dwyer, CO of Unit 2116, the award during the Annual Mine Conference dinner.



MINE WARFARE ENGINEERING LABORATORY

This 33,500 square foot facility is the new headquarters of the Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity (NAVMINEWARENGACT). It is the first structure specifically designed for and dedicated to in-service mine warfare engineering.

It will house about 180 people who provide engineering, logistic, inventory, budgetary, procurement and technical support for both mines and mine countermeasures.

Building 1959 is the first part of a two-phase project which, when completed in 1988, will accommodate 250 people and provide 81,000 square feet of modern engineering space.

NAVMINEWARENGACT - -

Dedicated to serving the Fleet.

Our mission is to provide engineering support for mines, surface-deployed mine countermeasures systems, related equipment and other combat systems assigned. Perform additional tasks as directed by COMNAVSEASYSOM.

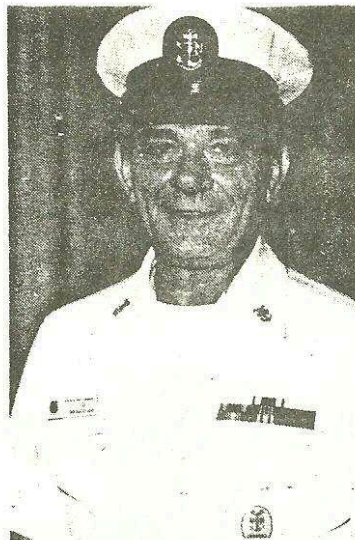
Schommer Relieves Sbei At Naval Base

Master Chief Mineman Richard D. Schommer today relieved Master Chief Mineman John B. Sbei as master chief of the Navy's Mine Warfare Command.

Schommer was last stationed at Charleston Naval Base's Mine Warfare Training Center and was mine department division officer of the fleet. He also has served aboard the aircraft carrier Yorktown, now docked at Patriots Point. He has been stationed in Sicily, Scotland, and Norfolk, Va. as well.

Sbei, force master chief since 1982, will retire to Summerville. He also has served at the Polaris Missile Facility and Mobile Mine Group in Charleston.

The Mine Warfare Command in Charleston is headquarters for the Navy's worldwide mine program. The force master chief, the highest ranking enlisted man in the command, is responsible for morale among enlisted personnel.



SBEI



SCHOMMER

MINEWARCOM gets new force master chief

By JO1 Bob Lutton

MNCM Richard D. Schommer relieved MNCM John J. Sbei yesterday as force master chief of the U.S. Navy's Mine Warfare Command, home ported at Charleston Naval Base.

Sbei has been force master chief since December 1982 and retired from the Navy with 30 years active duty service.

He joined the Navy when he was 22, shortly after the Korean War. His first duty station was at Yorktown, Va., where he attended mineman "A" school.

His other assignments were at Polaris Missile Facility Atlantic, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Charleston; Fleet Air Service Squadron (FASRON) 118, Okinawa, Japan; FASRON 117, Barbers Point, Hawaii; Marine Corps Air Station and Naval Air Support Unit, Iwakuni, Japan.

The master chief also served at Naval Air Facility and MOMAG Detachment Five, Sigonella, Sicily; Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, Japan; Naval Ammunition Depot, Laulaulei, Hawaii; MOMAG Detachment One, Long Beach, Calif., and on

board the destroyer mine layer USS Shea.

Schommer comes to Mine Warfare Command after an assignment in the mines department division officer at Charleston's Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center.

A 25-year Navy veteran, his sea assignments include duty on board the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown and seaplane tender USS Salisbury Sound.

He also served at MOMAG and Mine Warfare Inspection Group, Charleston; Naval Air Facility and MOMAG Detachment Five in Sigonella, Sicily; Mobile Mine Assembly Team 0327, Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va.; Naval Air Station, Key West, Fla.; Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Pacific, Long Beach, Calif.; and MOMAG Detachment Two, Machrihanish, Scotland.

The force master chief is responsible for keeping the commander of Mine Warfare Command aware of existing and potential situation, procedures and practices which affect the professional performance, welfare, morale, or well-being of the enlisted community.

NAVY TIMES DECEMBER 16, 1985

Miner of the Year

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Patrol Squadron 56 (VP-56) has been named the Navy's Miner of the Year for 1984, based on scores involving mine delivery expertise.

AOM PREZ
DICK SCHOMMER
IN THE NEWS!

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND LETTERS (CONT)

Our President Dick Schommer received a nice thank you letter from Don Mucheck, President L. Mendel Rivers Branch 50 Fleet Reserve Association, Charleston. Don expressed sincere gratitude to the Association of Minemen for their support of and participation in the USS HOBSON Memorial Ceremony 28 April 1985. NOTE: We will be participating again in 1986 - watch for date in future newsletter. It will probably be Sunday 27 April 1986 at the Monument on the Battery downtown Charleston.

Received a note from "MAG NET FLUX" a while back. Turned out to be Bill Kenney who was an Electricians Mate at the NSMW Yorktown. He was an instructor and lived in Skiffes Creek apartments where many of the mine instructors lived. Bill is now living in Hampton Falls NH and wondered if anyone might have an extra plaque from the USS Notable they would sell him as he served on the ship but doesn't have a plaque to remember the ship by. If anyone can help him please drop him a line at: Bill Kenney, Kensington Road, Rt 84, Hampton Falls NH 03844.

Three Minemen were named as participants in the Enlisted Education Advancement Program (EEAP) for FY 85 and are; MNC Michael Ledbetter, MN2 Kimberly McGoldrick and MN2 Bonnie Mosely. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

ADVANCEMENTS: To LTJG - Gary Gray and Mike Myers; to MNC Reserves - Jan Bays, Bill Beck, G. Chrisope, Robert Gunn, J. Heitzman, Larry Roman, Tom Sheridan and George Stone; to MN1 Gregory Dearing, Philip Mocalis and Tom Watson; to MN2 Mariene Cobia, Robbie Frunz, R. Gutierrez, Sharon Marsh, Randall Mims, C. Ringrose and M. Ringrose. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

RETIREMENTS: MN1 Strandberg Oct 85, MN1 Appleton Dec 85 and sked for Jul 86 MNC Bruce Swenson. GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU!!!

NOTE: If you saw MNCS Larry Moir listed in Navy Times as retiring just belay it. He is now stationed at Unit Five in Sigonella having transferred from the FMWTC.

A note from Bob Benintende to let us know he would not be able to make the 85 reunion - Michiko was spending the summer in Japan, but hope to see us in 86.

Lloyd Bemis wrote to say they were sorry they could not make the reunion as they were tied up with their golf course and its a busy time for them. Said he had by-pass surgery a year ago and got over it with flying colors. Sends their best and hope we all meet again soon.

Carl Sunday also wrote to say he could not attend the reunion but sent in his dues. As of 1 July 1985 he retired after 36 years service in the mine community, all of it at Yorktown. Four years as a Mineman when it was a Mine Depot and the rest of the time as a civilian working primarily with underwater mines. Said he is going to miss the community, especially his contacts at Dets 01, 03 and 11 as well as the sand crabs at Hawthorne and Keyport. Sends congratulations to the newly selected LCDR's Will Dixon and Bill Fortner. ALSO FROM THE AOM YOU GUYS!!

Jim DeFreese dropped us a note to pay his dues and make a contribution to the Mine Museum and said he enjoys the newsletters especially when he finds a name or two he knows real well. Said he and D.J. Branan found another old Mineman in Atlanta, Charles W. Watkins alias BODITTLEY who did not know about our Association. He was in the class of mid 49 at Yorktown. Jim said he hopes to make the next reunion and said to keep up the good work in Charleston.

George Metcalf dropped us a line some time back and just now surfaced. Said he had seen Al Boreen who told him what a great time he had at the last reunion he attended. George hopes to make a future reunion when he is well enough.

James Dillon Cdr USNR (RET) sent in his dues and provided some interesting information. He wonders if we have a member by the name of Lester J. Randal who was on duty with him in the Ordnance Section of the Twelfth Army Air Force in Algiers in 1943. Also trying to locate a Xavier Martin Smith who was an instructor at the Mine Warfare School in Yorktown. ANYONE KNOWS THEM PLEASE DROP HIM A LINE AT:

LETTERS ETC CONTINUED

James Dillon, 216 South Willard Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401. James tells us of an old friend Lcdr Lee DeBoer, an Annapolis graduate and the mine school in 1942, who was CO of a YMS that swept the approaches to Sicily May - June 1943. He and the crew were commended for their courage. Lee died in Stuart Florida in December 1984. James went to the NSMW June - August 1942 and all hands were assigned to the USS Bullfinch which had the largest crew of any vessel in the Navy. Had something to do with assigning mess men to shore stations at the time. James arrived in Algiers 9 December 1942 and reported to Major General James Doolittle as Mine Warfare Officer. Seems the General knew more about mines than James did. Around Sept 43 James returned to the states and reported to the Mine Depot Submarine Base New London where he was assistant to the XO William Y. Duncan. He hung up his hat in 1967 for good and has found space available flying is fun and if you have not tried it you are missing something worthwhile, he said.

Homer Kocher Member #0027 sent us a check to catch up on his dues and order a hat and t-shirt with the balance for the mine museum. He said that although he has not been able to make any of the reunions he still enjoys keeping up with the Mineman community through the newsletter. Both he and June are well and enjoying life. He and another retired Navy man have opened up a small business in TV-electronics sales and service. Says he is not making much money yet but really enjoys being his own boss. Sends best wishes to all their friends and hopes to see them all in the near future.

A.J. Zaleski sent in his dues and asked for some application blanks so that he could send them to ex minemen that he still writes to. Also told us that many years ago they used to have another name for Noel "Gabby" Goode and he would tell me when he sees me. I cannot wait to hear what it was!!!

Daniel Steen, ex Mineman and now Machinist Mate wrote to say that he recognizes a lot of names from the newsletters and will get around to writing them one of these days. He is a 1962 "A" School graduate that went to the USS Fulton, then to Sigonella and MOMAT 1322 before getting out and joining the reserves until 1970 when he changed his rate to machinist mate. Says he hopes we can get the reunion to Reno, Las Vegas or Seattle some time so he could meet with old friends. WELL ARE YOU LUCKY - THE 87 REUNION WILL BE IN RENO AND WE WILL EXPECT YOU. He said that he hopes his address gets in the newsletter or the Minemen roster. Well he is in the computer and if anyone wants to drop him a line his address is: MM1 Daniel M. Steen, USS Kitty Hawk, (CV-63) FPO San Francisco, CA 96634-2770. I am sure he would love to hear from some of his Minemen friends.

Brief note from Joe Hernandez with his dues telling us to have a great reunion and he and Rose send their best to everyone. SEE YOU IN RENO IN 87 JOE!!

Curtis Christian is interested in getting people to sign up for the Foreign Student Exchange Program. He sponsored a student this year and says it is great. Give him a call at (803) 553-4565 or writeto:Curtis T. Christian, 360 Holly Ave. Goose Creek SC 29445 for more information. THIS IS A GOOD CAUSE - GET IN TOUCH!

Ray Becker wrote to tell us how great Reno is and encourage us to have a reunion there sometime. IN 87 RAY! Ray gave us some good ideas which will be helpful in planning the 87 reunion. Ray said that he and Marian and another couple flew to Luxembourg and drove 4500 miles from Omaha Beach to Athens Greece. Also visited Crete and saw Steve and some of the people at Det Six Souda. Ray hopes we all had a good reunion WE DID RAY, THANKS! He also said that if we were able to slip the reunion one month when the weather was better he would attend every reunion.

A Jerry Hall, 1409 S. Dogwood, Siloam Springs, Arkansas 72761 wrote to ask if any of our members could help him with his hobby which is collecting military patches, pins, stickers, decals, etc. His main interest is patches but does enjoy other items. He said that anything he receives would only be for display and not worn or discredited in any way.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Sweeping a channel through one of our own mine fields (entrance to Manila Bay) in order that our submarines could come in at night. We (Tanager & Quail) suspended a light chain to a depth of about 30 feet, with small buoys, length about 100 yards. This chain was towed behind and between two motor launches. The chain contacting the antenna, blew the mines of course the chain had to be repaired This was done at night right under the noses of the Japanese who were at that time on Bataan. The operation was successful, several subs came in bringing AA fuses and medicine and taking out nurses and men of critical skills. Our thanks to member A.E. (Gunner) Caruthers for the above.

Also from the Gunner a trivia question but qualifies for this section: When and where was the first live mine fields laid at or near the beginning of WWII and what ships laid them ?? ANSWER: (Believed to be correct) Late fall of 1941, Manila Bay and Subic Bay, P.I. by the USS Tanager, Quail, Lark, Whipperwill. Mines (MK 6) were assembled by NAD Cavite.

From E.O. Spangler: I arrived in Pearl Harbor after assisting in the raid with Doolittle on Japan aboard the old Vincennes, CA 44. It was the last of April 1942 and I remember vividly how the fellows lined the shore waving their hats and cheering as we pulled alongside the pier. They knew we had to be the task force that helped the Shangra La. Although it was a secret, even to us aboard until we were well underway from San Francisco. I was a 2/c Gunners Mate in turret three and as trainer of turret three was looking direct at Doolittle when he took off. The oil and debris was still all over the water and we went on work detail to the Prune Barge (California), she was sitting on the bottom. When we returned to the ship the gunnery officer said they needed two 2/c gunners to go to hydraulic school and mine school. I had never seen a mine, didn't care what it was - it was bound to beat the hell out of what I was experiencing - plus they was shooting at us at sea and it didn't take no Einstein to figure out what I was going to do. I didn't care if they was teaching under ground balloon course. Anyway, my transportation orders read to Lee Hall Virginia. I had never heard of Lee Hall. As you know, sailors always rode 1/c one man to a bunk. When we got to El Paso some conductor came in and said we would have to double up from there to Lee Hall. I told him that was contrary to our orders, they were being paid for 1/c. He informed me that our orders could be changed. I said - thats right - but not by a railroad conductor. Anyway, three swab jockies had a pullman by their selves from El Paso to Lee Hall. May of 1942 enter mine school at Yorktown (now Coast Guard). They said the top of class could if they wanted to, would be sent to Wash. D.C. for further training in diving & mine disposal, explosive work. My class was Aug 1942 and I think it was the 2nd or 3rd class of mine disposal. A lot of my old shipmates have made the final muster and that is why I am writing memory lane now, to share some of the early memories. Would appreciate hearing from anyone from that period. I retired in Aug 58, in real estate for 20 years after that. Now go fishing, mow lawn, work in garden, play less & less golf as the time goes by - hunt some, most that dont require to much walking.

OUR THANKS TO GUNNER CARUTHERS AND E.O. SPANGLER FOR THEIR MEMORIES. If you want to drop E.O. Spangler a line send it to MNC E.O. Spangler, USN (RET), 107 Somerset Circle, Norfolk, VA 23505.

WHO REMEMBERS: When Minemen loaded boosters at Hawthorne ? Walking the rails of the Norfolk ferry ? Missing the last ferry from Gloucester back to Yorktown? First sight of Lee Hall ? The J-11's, MAD's, MDAU's, Fasron's, Malta, Whidby, Andoya, Trinidad, Port Lautey, Mildenhall Bomb Dump and other old mine shops ????

IF YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF THESE AND OTHER PLACES PLEASE SEND THEM ALONG TO US SO WE CAN SHARE THEM WITH YOUR SHIPMATES AND FRIENDS.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

DUES: We have included again this year for your convenience a self addressed envelope for you to send in your annual \$5.00 dues. Won't you please do it now while you are thinking about it ?? We appreciate it!! PLEASE include your membership # if known and if you cannot find it or do not know if you ever had one please let us know and we will issue you another one.

LABEL: Notice on the top line of the mailing label on this newsletter two sets of numbers (in most cases). The 1st # is your membership # and the 2nd # is your dues status, ie; 088 85. If there is nothing on the first line it means we either do not have a record of your membership # or have not entered it in the computer yet, as we try and do this at the time you send in your dues. If the 2nd number does not read 86 it means you owe \$5.00 for this year. PLEASE drop us a line if you think we have made an error so we can correct it. THANKS!!

TERMINATION: Note the BOD minutes on page 1, the Membership Committee Report. If you are in arrears in your dues we will notify you as noted in the BOD minutes. If we have made an error please let us know, we do not want to drop anyone from our mailing list - but - there are quite a few addresses that do not reflect a member # or any dues status. People not responding to the 45 day grace period will have to be dropped from the mailing list in accordance with the BOD directions.

NEWS: Please continue to send me your letters and notes and any newspaper/magazine clippings of interest. Also anyone sick, deaths, births, marriages etc. In the event of death or illness the AOM wants to know in time to be able to send a card/flowers etc. and timely information is essential. I can always be reached by phone at home (803) 553-1450 or through my office/answering service (803) 797-0841.

NAME THE NEWSLETTER: At the suggestion of member Jim Trick we are announcing a contest to name our AOM newsletter. The BOD have set the following rules: send in your suggested name on one piece of paper which may include the reason for the name but is not required. On a second piece of paper place your member # and name and address. Mail to "Secretary AOM/Newsletter" P. O. Box 71835, Charleston, SC 29415. The Secretary will number both papers in the order they are received and separate the names of the submitor from the suggested newsletter name. The BOD will review the suggested names and upon picking a winner then the Secretary will provide the BOD the name of the winning person. The decision of the BOD will be final. Winner will receive a free lined jacket w/personalization, hat and T-shirt in their choice of colors.

APOLOGY: I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter and will do better in the future. Even as you read this the next newsletter Vol II No. 1 is being prepared and should reach you in about four to five weeks.

Lyal Stryker Secretary/Treasurer

ADDNL NOTES: Saw R. C. Gochnauer recently and he is recovering well from his accident. Seems that he decided to take up race car driving !!

CONGRATULATIONS: Jack and June Smoot who both retired the same day from the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. Jack was with the QA Department and June was the Commanding Officers Secretary. Jack is a past BOD member also.

PAPPY DWYER: Had a phone call from GABBY GOODE to tell us that Pappy had to return to the hospital to have his other leg removed due to diabetes. Pappy is at home the last we heard and we know that he would appreciate hearing from his many friends. Write him at: MNC John J. Dwyer, USN (RET), 1861 Seville Way, San Jose, CA 95131.

FLASH: SEE ORDER BLANK - COACHES SHIRTS REDUCED TO \$12.00 - QUALITY PRODUCT (US) - W/AOM LOGO OVER RIGHT BREAST - PICK YOUR COLOR!!

REUNION INFORMATION OF INTEREST AND OTHER GENERAL NEWS

USS TERROR (CM-5): 27-30 SEP 85, Napa, CA. Contact Marshall Mickey, 47 Westwood Ave., Napa, CA 94558, (707) 226-6617.

USS Hambleton DMS-20/DD-455 - Sep 19-20, Cleveland. Ted Ecker, 123 8th St, Lorain, OH 44052 (216-244-3700).

USS YMS-52 - Sep 6-7, Sheraton-Nashville. Jens Jensen, R 1 Box 14A, Valley Springs, SD 57068.

USS Goldcrest AM-80 & USS Chaffinch AM-81 - Oct 12-14, Manchester. Tom Gaffney, 195 Whipple, Manchester, NH 03102 (603-668-5955).

USS Emmons DD-457/DMS-22 - D. Jensen, 87-26 259th, Floral Park, NY 11001 (212-343-3286).

USS Hovey DMS-11/DD-208 - Oct 31-Nov 3, Holiday Inn/Casino, 3875 L.V. Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109. E.E. 'Dusty' Hartman, 2827 Monarch, San Diego, CA 92123 (619 278-0865/-5733).

USS PTARMIGAN (AM-376), USS TOUCAN (AM-387), USS MURRELET (AM-372), USS SYMBOL (AM-123), MINE DIV. 54, MINE RON ELEVEN: 25-27 OCT 85, Long Bch. Contact P. E. Nelson, 5022 Howard Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720, (213) 430-5176.

USS Shannon DM-25 WWII - Write Robert Martin, 7008 Cresthaven Dr, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (301-761-4625).

USS Butler DD-636/DMS-29 - Oct 3-5, Cleveland, TN. Bill Ewing, POBox 3782, Cleveland, TN 37311 (615-476-3805).

USS HENRY F. BAUER (DM-26): Proposed. Contact John Thomas Barber, 416 Darlene Ave., Linthicum Hts., MD 21090, (301) 859-3050.

USS SHANNON (DM-25) WWII: Proposed. Contact Robert J. Martin, 7008 Cresthaven Dr., Glen Burnie, MD 21061, (301) 761-4625.

NAVY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL ASSN: 27-29 JUN 86, San Diego. Contact K. R. Morgan, 3340 Del Sol Blvd. #229, San Diego, CA 92154, (619) 690-0407.

MINE SQUADRON TEN ASSN: 11-13 JUL 86, Charleston, SC. Contact Kenneth R. Cook, 63 Fort Royal Dr., Charleston, SC 29407, (803) 556-8102.

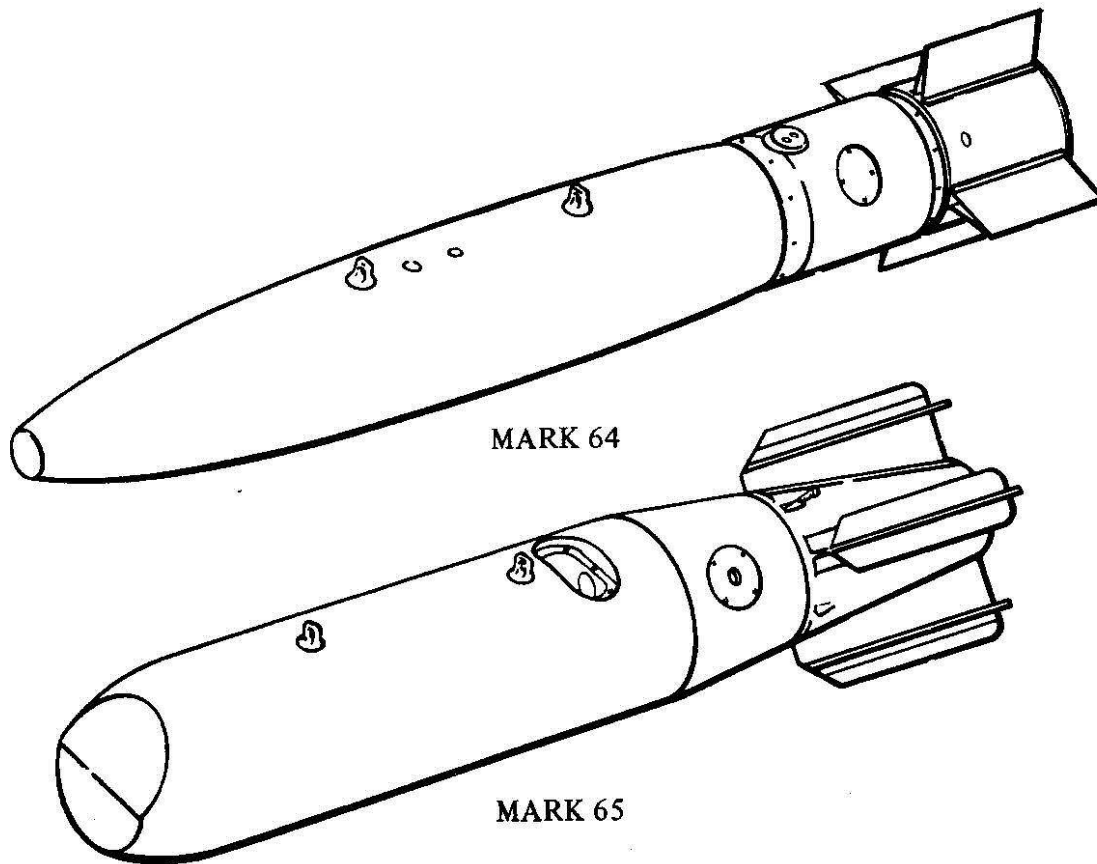
USS GLADIATOR (AM-319): 3-5 OCT 85, St. Louis. Contact Don Westerlund, 4708 E. Florian Cr., Mesa, AZ 85206, (602) 830-1161.

USS RODMAN (DD-456/DMS-21): 13-15 SEP 85, Ramada Inn, Clifton, NJ. Contact Ed Chapman, 36 Rossen Pl., Bloomfield, NJ 07003, (201) 338-8410.

Anyone in USS Lindsey (mine layer) in the Pacific in '44-45 who remembers Leonard Corkhill contact his wife, Greta, c/o Patty Browning, 233 Roland Ave., Winchester, MO 63021 (314-391-6926). She's planning a surprise for his 60th birthday later this year.

EOD Unit Formed

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 6 was established at Naval Weapons station Charleston Jan. 6, combining EOD Group 2 Detachment Charleston and Mine Warfare Command here. EODMU-6, commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Alfred N. Briggs III, will provide EOD capability under commander, Naval Base Charleston.



MINES MARK 64 AND 65

Featuring a fast response-to-readiness capability, Mines Mk 64 and Mk 65 are a new generation of weapons closely related to the DESTRUCTOR family of mines, also described in this publication. Using the same variable influence-type target-detection systems, the Mk 64 and Mk 65 are aircraft-laid bottom mines for use against submarines and surface targets, with the Mk 64, a 2000-pound weapon, employing the Mk 84 low-drag bomb as a mine case. On the other hand, the Mk 65, also a 2000-pound weapon, employs a distinctively different, new-concept, thin-walled mine-type case, as opposed to the thick-walled bomb-type case of the Mk 64. Other differences in the Mk 65 include a special arming device, a nose fairing, and a tail section adaptable to a parachute option. Both mines, however, have the capability for making arming-delay, sterilization, self-destruct, and other operational settings.

DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT

	Mk 64	Mk 65
Length	150 inches	128 inches
Diameter	25 inches	29 inches
	(across fins)	(across fins)
Weight	2000 pounds	2390 pounds

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE SHEET WITH YOUR ORDER.

NOTE: All T-shirts include large logo on front. All hats include logo on front. All coaches shirts and jackets include small logo on right breast. Large logo on back of jackets and personalization on jackets (name/rate) \$2.00 extra each. Jacket logos and personalization in gold unless otherwise specified.

T-SHIRTS

HEATHER (POLYESTER COTTON)
(FIRST COLOR IS SLEEVE/NECK PIPING)

CHILDREN

	6-8 S	10-12 M	14-16 L	18-20 XL
NAVY ON BLUE				
ORANGE ON ORANGE				
BROWN ON TAN				
RED ON RED				
BLACK ON GRAY				
GREEN ON GREEN				

ADULT

	36-38 S	40-42 M	44-46 L	48-50 XL
NAVY ON BLUE				
ORANGE ON ORANGE				
BROWN ON TAN				
RED ON RED				
BLACK ON GRAY				
GREEN ON GREEN				

COACHES SHIRTS

THREE BUTTON PULLOVER
WITH COLLAR AND POCKET

	S	M	L	XL
NAVY BLUE				
RED				
WHITE				
GOLD				
KELLY GREEN				

OTHER COLORS AVAILABLE

(((((100% COTTON)))))

CHILDREN

	6-8 S	10-12 M	14-16 L	18-20 XL
NAVY BLUE				
ROYAL BLUE				
COLUMBIA BLUE				
RED				
WHITE				
GRAY				
BLACK				
MAROON				
CARDINAL				
KELLY GREEN				
GOLD				
PURPLE				

ADULT

	36-38 S	40-42 M	44-46 L	48-50 XL
NAVY BLUE				
ROYAL BLUE				
COLUMBIA BLUE				
RED				
WHITE				
GRAY				
BLACK				
MAROON				
CARDINAL				
KELLY GREEN				
GOLD				
PURPLE				

HATS

ADJUSTABLE BAND

RED	
WHITE	
BLUE	

JACKETS

PRINT PERSONALIZATION ON SEPARATE
PIECE OF PAPER.

UNLINED

	S	M	L	XL
NAVY BLUE				
RED				
GOLD				

LINED

	S	M	L	XL
NAVY BLUE				
RED				
GOLD				

OTHER COLORS AVAILABLE

TIE TACS

GOLD TONE	
SILVER TONE	
S/SILVER	

ITEM	PRICE	QTY ORDERED	EXTENDED PRICE
ADULT T-SHIRTS	\$ 6.00	X	
CHILDRENS T-SHIRTS	\$ 5.00	X	
COACHES SHIRT	\$ 12.00	X	
UNLINED JACKET	\$ 18.00	X	
LINED JACKET	\$ 21.00	X	
HATS	\$ 5.00	X	
G/S Tone TIE TACS	\$ 5.50	X	
JACKET LARGE LOGO (BACK)	\$ 2.00	X	
PERSONALIZATION	\$ 2.00	X	

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SHIPPING & HANDLING COST: ADD 10 %

1986 MAILING LIST \$2.00 X

MINE MUSEUM DONATION

1986 ANNUAL DUES \$5.00

TOTAL



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VOL. 1 No. 3

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**12TH ANNUAL MEETING
AND REUNION IN
CHARLESTON, SC
AUGUST 15 - 17, 1986**

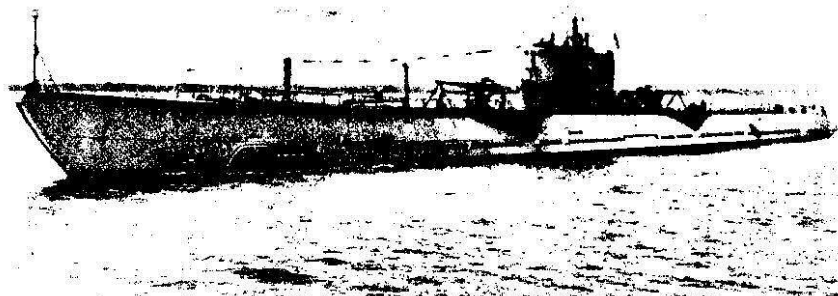


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THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

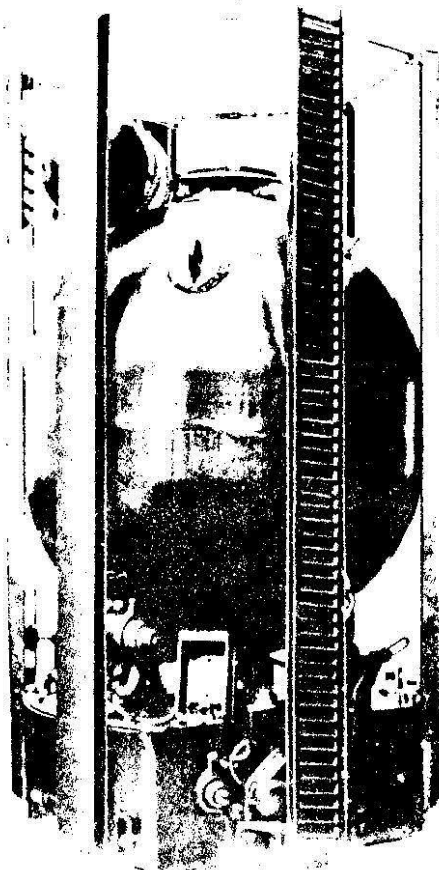
JOW Dec 86

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER... See Inside

..... TO PERPETUATE A KNOWLEDGE OF UNDERSEA MINE WARFARE, NECESSARY TO AMERICA'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE.



U.S.S. Argonaut.



Mine Mk 11.

**SEND A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR MINE MUSEUM
ON THE USS YORKTOWN
12TH REUNION — 15-17 AUGUST, 1986 — CHARLESTON, SC
RENO — NEVADA, IN '87**