

# THE DASHPOT

February 1991

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Faster than you know it, a New Year is upon us. Our past year of 1990 has brought some changes to our Association - changes in membership qualification and status - our own Mineman history book in the making - new applications for Charter status - more material for our Mine Museum - our scholarship fund activated and applications solicited - and, sadly, the loss of some of our honored shipmates. We will also be losing one of our stalwart supporters of the past two years, RADM Mathis, Commander Mine Warfare Command, as he moves to new duties heading negotiations for North and South Korea. For those of you who were able to attend our reunion this past August to hear him speak, you know first-hand the inspiration and leadership he brought to our professional community. We will miss him.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our formal committee members for a job well done throughout the year and I look forward for good things to come as the new year progresses. My special thanks also to Carol Whitley and all her Yorktown supporters for their dedication, organization and preparation for reunion early bird and dinner festivities.

As many of you know, I have relocated to Florida to take up fully retired native status. I intend to keep involved as your elected statesman, so to speak, and with the help of our very active Secretary and Board of Directors I am sure we will see continued association growth and interest. All of us need your help to get and keep our affairs in order, however, so lend us your expertise whenever and however you can. Our newsletter Editor's appeal for your participation in providing "news from you" is an example of how all of us can stay in touch throughout the year. The new newsletter format advertises your committee areas, the current chairman and his/her address where you can supply newsworthy items for us to share. As you will see, we even have some vacant or redundant committee chairman areas where we need a volunteer. We'll look forward to hearing from you.

Most important, I personally appeal to all of you who have not sent your biography to the History Book Committee - please do so as soon

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## MINEMAN OF THE YEAR



Presentation of the 1990 Mineman of the Year plaque to MN1 Larry D. Walker, Misawa, Japan, 6 September 1990. LtoR: MNCM Carr, MN1 Walker, Mrs. Shirley Walker, LCDR Swart and MNCS Benton.

Presentation of the Mineman of the Year award was made this past September by COMINEWARCOM Command Master Chief Carr on behalf of RADM W. W. Mathis who could not be there personally due to Operation Desert Shield commitments. Our congratulations to MN1 (now MNC) Larry "Dave" Walker for both the award and his recent promotion. His lovely wife Shirley is also to be praised for her stalwart support of "Dave" in his quest for professional excellence. As LCDR Ron Swart, Commanding Officer of Misawa Unit 12 stated, "Dave Walker is an excellent choice...tremendously interested in his job, the Mine Force and his Mineman shipmates, and we are all very proud of his accomplishments."

The award and plaque are sponsored by

the Association of Minemen and awarded annually by COMINEWARCOM. Selection of MN1 (now MNC) Walker was made after a rigid nomination and selection board process. The selection board is comprised of senior active duty enlisted personnel from Mine Warfare Command, Mobile Mine Assembly Group and the Fleet Mine Warfare Training Center. No one knows the winner of the award until it is announced each year at our annual reunion dinner. ♣

**New Dues Payments  
Are Due  
Renew Your Membership Today**





## ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

DEDICATED TO SERVING  
THE  
U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina ....to perpetuate a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defence.

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## SECRETARY'S CORNER

### BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Our early bird reception, Board of Directors meeting, general membership meeting and dinner meeting were held at the Newport News, Virginia Omni Hotel on 17 and 18 August 1990. The location was new to us and some of us had difficulty reaching it even though we could see it from the highway. There was a good turnout for all these events at the Omni and again on Sunday for the picnic at NWS Yorktown. However, we did not see many of our old friends who live in the area which we had expected to drop in for at least a short visit.

The Board of Directors meeting on Friday formatted the business that was subsequently conducted at the membership meeting on Saturday afternoon. Concisely stated:

- \* The recommendation that dues be increased to \$10.00 a year and that new members would pay an additional application/initiation fee of \$5.00 was carried. Any member not paying their dues for two consecutive years will be dropped from the mailing list and will have to pay the \$5.00 again to rejoin. We will continue the policy of no dues for widows and Honorary Minemen.

- \* There were no applications for scholarship consideration.

- \* Recommendations for Jack Smoot and MNCM Roger Adams, USN to serve on the Board of Directors for a 3 year term were carried.

- \* The nomination for RADM Mathis, Commander Mine Warfare Command to be made an Honorary Mineman was unanimously carried.

- \* The recommendation of Charleston for the 1992 reunion site was carried after much discussion and voting on several locations.

- \* It was confirmed that the 1991 reunion would be Long Beach, California from 12-15 September.

- \* The recommendation to delete the Associate Member membership category was carried after discussion and debate. This will require changes to our C&BLs, membership applications (also re new dues) and membership committee review guidelines.

- \* The recommendation that the matter of proxy voting be deferred and that the President appoint a committee to investigate and report recommendations to the BOD was carried. These will be presented to the general meeting in Long Beach in September 1991. The subject of proxy voting was brought forward as a means of allowing whole chapters to vote on business matters in absentia when chapter members (such as overseas chapters) could not be present.

- \* The recommendation that the AOM purchase a desktop publishing program for

newsletter publication was carried.

The Treasurer's Report was made, current to the time of the membership meeting. The reunion bill was \$3051.60. Please see the FINANCIAL REPORT below.

Committee reports were heard. Please see those comments reiterated elsewhere in this newsletter. Everyone please take note of the new History Book project deadline of 1 May 1991 and "get with the program". Taylor Publishing is doing a great job for us and I can guarantee you'll be pleased to be a part of it. Please note that it is not necessary that you purchase a book in order to have your biography and photographs included. YOU are an essential part of OUR history. Take a little time and give us all the benefit of relating your own personal professional contribution. Read the back of your membership card, and with those words in mind, sent us your information and order TODAY!!!

Please note that we have some advertising in our new newsletter format. Those of our members who are in business are encouraged to sign up. You can't beat the price anywhere!

### CIVIC AFFAIRS/CALENDER OF EVENTS

The AOM here in Charleston is preparing, along with the local Fleet Reserve Branch, to organize the USS Hobson (DMS-26) annual memorial service 28 April 1991. Local members are encouraged to attend. The color guard from MOMAG Unit 11 here in Charleston is expected to participate as they have in the past - as they have for the annual Memorial Day Service sponsored by local veteran groups, the AOM and the recent Bob Hope benefit for the USS Yorktown.

Reunion 1991, Long Beach CA, 12-15 September 1991. Mark your calender now. LT Tim Paton, Commanding Officer MOMAG Unit 1 in Long Beach has told us they will do everything they can to support us. If local Long Beach members can help, please contact us or LT Paton so we can get you in touch with the Reunion Committee.

Your AOM also assists other military, veteran, civic organizations and historical media centers in providing information or arranging for tours, speakers, etc., if they are visiting the Charleston area. If any of members out there have civic affairs or vents you want related, please let me know and I'll get them in the newsletters.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 1 January 1991, we have \$1791.18 in the checking account, and \$727.27 in the savings account. We also have on hand a stock of AOM hats, T-shirts, tie tacs, mine models,



etc., valued at approximately \$1500.00. A detailed financial report through 31 December 1990, including disbursements and fund accounts is being prepared for the Board of Directors audit.

Membership renewal dues are due the first of each year and we have some coming in daily. This will boost our financial resources and help pay for newsletter costs throughout the year. Members in arrears are asked to please get their dues paid up so we can meet the projected budget. ♣

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

My intention was to get this newsletter off in good fashion per the verbal schedule voiced during our general membership business meeting at the Yorktown gathering of the clan. At that time I agreed to take over the newsletter publication if the AOM would give me some literary license as well as invest in an IBM compatible software package that would help me put the newsletter together in a somewhat professional looking manner. Well, the AOM came through okay. As you can see, I've taken the literary license and picked a name for our newsletter from those submitted in a contest the AOM had several decades ago. The prize for the winning name, DASHPOT, eludes us for the moment. Lyal Stryker separated the entry names from the entry forms/cards during a previous selection process that got nowhere, and as of now we are still looking for them. Anyone out there who can shed a light on this for us so we can formally acknowledge the prize winner???

In the publication and production end of things, however, I haven't quite been able to get through all the self-taught training that goes with the software package. Call it operator's problem, but this newsletter version will be via my WP format with interface to a local printer's (Image Masters of John's Island, SC) desk-top publishing system. They are being very patient with me during this first "new" edition start-up. Early projections are that we will have a quality newsletter at a reasonable cost.

Concerning newsletter editions, we are planning a quarterly schedule for publication which is paced by our new, voted-on reunion month of September (see Publicity Committee Reunion Report). We want to get a newsletter to you at least one month preceding the reunion, so this puts the month of August, 30 days in advance of reunion date, in concrete. This then means publication, printing and mailing of our newsletters in edition months of August, November-December (see Xmas card idea elsewhere in the newsletter), February and May. If anyone has a better solution, please send it to me. I know I've been out of sync on the

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## President (from page 1)

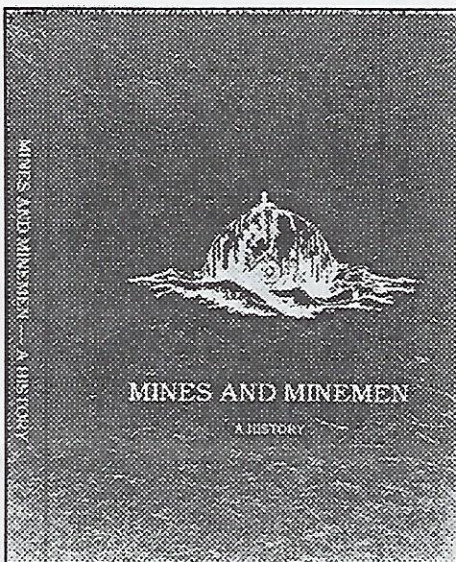
as you can. YOU are our history. YOU are our organization. YOU are what we are all about. The committee is hard at work to provide an elite commemorative history about YOU and your professional roots. Please help! Send in your biography and your order today. The Mineman History will be something YOU, your children and your grandchildren will be pleased to have and cherish for years to come.

If I can be of any assistance to any of our members anywhere throughout the coming year, please let me know.

JIM COFFMAN ♣



Toby Horn and MN3 Tracey L. Kunkel, USN hold the cover proof of our Mineman History Book in front of the COMOMAG Headquarters in Charleston, SC. MN3 Kunkel hails from Pittsburg, PA and entered the Navy in June 1987. She has been a Mineman since January 1988 and is very happy to help us promote our professional history book. A photo of the cover appears below. Deadline for biographies has been extended until 1 May 1991. Dont Delay! Send your's today.



## B. ARNACLEBUTT'S COLUMN

We'll use this column to field any written or vocal questions, ideas or suggestions you may have. Constructive criticism is welcome regarding newsletter or Association matters. We would ask that if a member addresses a foreseen problem that they also propose a reasonable solution which your AOM officers and other members can act on.

Dear Barnacles,

Remember last month and all the time and expense of getting our Christmas cards in the mail. Well, our postal rates are now up to \$.29 for mailing next holiday season cards. That gets expensive folks, even when you're only sending cards to selected shipmates.

So - why not put that time and money to good use??? I suggest that members send the AOM a "contribution to the Scholarship fund in lieu of Christmas cards" - in the amount they would expect to pay for individual cards and mailing costs - and the newsletter publish their name along with all the others in a universal Christmas/New Year holiday message in the November (December) newsletter edition. What a nice way to stay in touch with all our shipmates throughout each year and help a youngster as well. Jani Horn, Charleston

Dear Jani,

What a great idea. I'm all for it and include the idea here for member's consideration. Some others I've talked to locally think it's a great idea, too, and have expanded on the idea. When you send the card and contribution - please include a greeting you would like for publication and also your XMAS newsletter so we can publish some of your other interesting year-end news where appropriate. Sorry, no family pictures for publication. Mark your 1991 calender NOW and plan to get your contribution and message to the DASHPOT Editor by the end of November. I'll remind members in later newsletter editions!

B. Butt ♣

## Support Your History Book

Biography Deadlind  
Extended To  
1 May 1991



## COMMITTEE NEWS

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Chairman, M.D.(Toby) Horn, 54 Rivers Point Row, Charleston SC 29412*

Our business meeting this year voted in new changes to our Constitution and By-laws - increasing our annual membership dues slightly to cover increased costs - and eliminating the Associate Member designation and opening Regular voting membership to all active members.

Effective January 1991, membership dues will be \$10.00 per year, renewable each January of each year. New members will also have to pay a one time application/initiation fee of \$5.00. A grandfather clause will protect all those visionaries who forsook such an occurrence and paid the old dues rate far in advance. The increase in dues will help defray the rising cost of printing and mailing your newsletter, correspondence and administrative costs for membership (cards, franchising, etc.), museum maintenance, phone calls and meeting arrangements. You can see from our financial report that we are not a money-making organization. We do, however, want to be a very professional organization - one that you will be proud to be a member of. As an interested, active member, you will be able to see your dues work for the entire organization - which is devoted to you and our profession.

All former Associate members will now have full membership and voting privileges. The vote was unanimous following "arguments from the floor" favoring the motion. It was recognized that many of our associate members were participating and contributing to our association in greater depth than many of our regular members. Take time to remember our preamble (see the masthead) and you will find that many of our previous associate members bring strong industry and government service credentials to our team. Several of these "new voting members" have already volunteered their service on committees. How about you???

#### FIRST NOTICE!!! FIRST NOTICE!!!

We will be purging our membership rolls to cull all of those "disinterested members" from our mailing list who have not renewed their membership through payment of dues. We are still carrying names and addresses from those days of initial subscription, where everyone we knew was placed on the mailing list. In some cases, these "members" have never paid any dues at all. As everyone knows, the cost of mail continues to rise. We must be practical and restrict publication of our newsletter to our shipmates who are interested in our association. If your membership payment is due, please remit as soon as you can. We want you

to stay in touch. The rule of thumb will be that if an addressee's dues are two years in arrears, we will strike them from the rolls. If, after being struck from the rolls, the member wished to be reinstated, the new application/initiation fee will be required. Please, don't let your membership expire. We want to stay in touch with you and vice-versa. Next issue will be the last notice.

We have received a petition from MO-MAG Unit 12 Misawa, Japan to establish a Chapter of the Association of Minemen. The petition has been approved and they will receive their formal Chapter papers shortly. The Chapters for South California (Chapter 2), Charleston (Chapter 3) and Yorktown (Chapter 4) are also being prepared. Apologies to all who have waited too long for their official recognition.

Welcome back to all our ol' timers who have renewed their membership, and welcome to these new members (list compiled as of 31 December '90) who have joined us since the reunion in August:

Howard H. Cooper, Herman M. Kennickell, Philip Hansen, Harold V. Benton, Timothy E. Blake, Charles L. Browder, James D. Cernick, Douglas M. Collins, Lori K. Fairsheets, Mark P. Gorman, Timothy W. Hickman, Richard E. Hutchings, Stacy J. Jackson, Susan J. Kreidler, Theresa G. Phelps, Ronald D. Powell, Johnny L. Shelton, Thomas L. Sumpter, Michael W. Thanscheidt, Larry D. Walker, James W. Wright, Amedo R. Zabala, John F. Harris, Steve A. Spade, H. Leck Mitchell, and our newest Honorary Mineman, RADM W. W. Mathis, formerly Commander Mine Warfare Command.

Special thanks to Ron Swart, CO MO-MAG Unit 12 in Misawa, Japan for sending in their package of 19 new member applications and 5 renewals. Well done Misawa!!!

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

*Chairmen: Bob Forbes, 1 Newark Avenue, Goose Creek SC 29445 Lyal Stryker, 8517 Deerwood Dr., N. Charleston SC 29418 @*

We need items of interest and information passed on before each newsletter deadline so we can get this out to the printer and in your mail box before the news is passe'. Your help is greatly needed for us to have the effective bulletin you have said you want.

#### SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

As a professional organization we care about all our members well-being. Please keep us informed about your family and other association members you know that may be affected by sickness or distress. We want to help where we can, but timely response can only be made when immediate notification is received

(this is most important in case of death). Getting too many reports of an incident is better than not getting a single report and, we fail to render the proper response. For matters requiring immediate notification call your Secretary (803-553-1450), Publicity Chairman (803-553-6845) or your newsletter Editor (803-762-3552, recorder available if no immediate answer).

Your President, Jim Coffman, has recovered nicely from knee surgery this past October - says it has affected his golf game, but beware him asking you for "strokes per hole". Sam English has recovered from quad by-pass surgery and Ziggy says it hasn't helped his disposition one bit. J. J. Sbei had a colostomy operation but reports he is doing great. Dick Martin suffered a grandmal seizure and some temporary loss of memory but is back remembering his ol' shipmates again. John and Bobbie Loonam both recuperating - John from a bad fall from his roof when installing his corn-burning stove and Bobbie from a gall bladder operation. Lyal corresponding with an old shipmate, Marvin "Jake" Jacobson, in North Dakota - has been in and out of the veterans' hospital, having both his hips replaced - served with Lyal in Korea in 1953 aboard Mine Squadron ships operating out of Sasebo - wants to be remembered to Don Decrona and LaVon, Al Boreen and George Oxendine - has some old photos of those days and has promised to send them for the History Book. Donald Branan dropped a line to let us know he and Kay are doing okay, but Kay's Alzheimer's slowly getting worse.

All of us in the Association of Minemen wish everyone a speedy recovery and the blessing of continued good health.

### REUNION

Our reunion and business meeting at Yorktown this past August was advertised as a "Homecoming" - which it was to many of us. There are those of us who served tours and were trained at the old Naval Schools of Mine Warfare in Yorktown (now the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center) - the old Mine Depot (now the Naval Weapons Station) which was also home to Mine Project FOUR and two Mobile Mine Assembly Teams - the Naval Ordnance Lab White Oak facility at Hampton roads where many of the MINEVDET and KWESTEVDET guys put our developmental mines through their paces - and now, of course, it is home to our active duty MOMAG Unit 14 and reserve MOMAG Unit 1006 shipmates.

The early bird, business and dinner meetings were held in the new Omni Hotel in Newport News. There was some initial confusion by many of us trying to find our way into the place - there may still be some lost souls out there somewhere, trying to get to the 16th AOM reunion. It was good to catch up with some of the Yorktown area crowd, although



there were many "no-shows", which was a real disappointment to all our gang at the reunion who wanted to catch up with their Yorktown friends. Remarks heard included, "...at least they could have made an appearance at the picnic for a hot dog, some beer and chit-chat".

Those who attended the functions seemed to have a great time. We received many good comments concerning the tours that were conducted at the Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity (NMWEA) and the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center in conjunction with the reunion. It was good to visit the old school, but unfortunately there were very few of the old original WWII buildings left. We were told that by March 1991 all the old buildings would be gone. Korean Hall and the movie theatre (built later of brick) are still there. The tour included viewing old photographs, maps, books, etc., from the old school days. We then boarded busses to tour the base which has expanded significantly. The tour of NMWEA was great, and it was something to see the looks on the faces of some of the ol' timers when they saw the new facilities. Someone was heard to say, "Hell, we used to do the same things in quonset huts". Probably true, but the complexity of the mines have really changed since those days as we saw from the display at the end of the tour. We also had the chance to view some of the old documents and publications we grew up with professionally. The Fleet Liaison guys did a great job guiding the tours to the many different NMWEA locations where we were given briefings by the engineers and technicians that worked there. Our thanks to all the participants at these activities who took their time to make us feel "at home".

Even the business meeting on Saturday afternoon was smooth sailing. We had 42 signatures on the sign-in sheet, but I know there were more who came in after the meeting got started. A special report of these proceedings and resultant decisions are contained in the Secretary's Corner column.

Saturday evening was our dinner meeting and banquet. Carol Whitley, one of our members from NMWEA, along with the Reunion Committee, did a super job in preparing everything, including illustrations and art work depicting various mine systems and equipment, and table programs of the evenings events. To my memory, it was the most professionally arranged dinner meeting we've had.

Following dinner, our President, Jim Coffman, made opening welcome remarks and introduced visiting guests RADM Mathis, Commander Mine Warfare Command; CAPT Masten, Commanding Officer NWS Yorktown (originally the Mine Depot) and his wife Carol; CAPT Nash, Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group and his wife Ann; Doug Clark, Technical Director NMWEA; and Mary Fisher, wife of our first president "Foxy" Fisher and their son Marty. Lyal Stryker then read names of our deceased members, friends and ship-

mates since our last meeting, followed by a minute of silence to honor them. Names are listed in the TAPS section of this newsletter.

Toby Horn then introduced CAPT Masten who welcomed everyone to Yorktown and showed us slides of old black and white photographs dating back to the days of the Mine Depot circa WWI. Doug Clark also welcomed everyone on behalf of CDR Steve O'Keefe, OinC of NMWEA who could not be at the meeting. Jim Coffman then introduced our guest of honor and principal speaker, RADM W. W. Mathis, USN. RADM Mathis threw away the book and gave a spontaneous and lively account of the happenings in the Mine Force in preparation for Desert Shield. His vivid portrayal of events had everyone riveted to their chair. He is a marvelous speaker and a real supporter of the AOM. He gave us the bad news that he will be leaving the first of the New Year for a new duty assignment in Korea, and we will miss him. He was given a standing ovation by everyone present including the waiters and waitresses.

The Mineman of the Year was then announced by RADM Mathis. CAPT Nash symbolically accepted the "award" on behalf of MN1 (now MNC) Larry "Dave" Walker, USN, stationed at MOMAG Unit 12 Misawa, Japan. Please see the MOY photo and writeup elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lyal Stryker was then called on to announce that the membership had unanimously voted to award Honorary Mineman status to RADM Mathis in recognition of his support for the Mineman rating and all Minemen. In accepting the award and accompanying plaque, RADM Mathis stated that..."in his professional opinion, the Mineman were the best sailors in the Navy and he had been privileged to know them and work with them."

Jim Coffman then called for the Reunion Committee members to stand and be recognized. Members gave them a big round of applause. COCC (Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers) awards were then announced for John Muesig, Dick Schommer and Jack Smoot for their 30 years of devoted service to the Mine Force. Formal regrets from J. J. Sbei, Dick Schoomer and CAPT Dick Spofford, who were unable to attend, were read. Door prizes went to Lyal Stryker, Dick Rhoderick and Joyce Bright. Everyone then got down to the serious business of swapping sea stories.

On Sunday, the weather caved in on us (again) at the picnic, but not enough to dampen the spirits of all those who attended. The NWS Billboard greeted and welcomed the AOM Mineman Homecoming Reunion as we came through the gate to head for the Wright Circle picnic grounds. The rain washed out the infamous horseshoe competition, so we'll have to postpone the rematch until the Long Beach reunion this year. Food, beer and good cheer were in abundance, and LaVern Padgett's Reno Rocks went over real well for those who were

there to collect them. Mary Mathews (wife of Nick of Nick's Seafood) donated some scrumptious platters of chicken and cheese - she couldn't be at the picnic but asked to be remembered to all "her Minemen". Can you ol' timers remember Nick's before the bridge was built and the ferry was running. How many of you remember sleeping on the ferry slip benches on the other side of the river when you missed the last ferry to Yorktown???

Several people brought their old photo albums for us all to look at and reminisce. Bob Trask has old photos from Trinidad which were priceless. He really enjoyed himself at this, his first reunion. Unfortunately, Bob died a few weeks later. Details in TAPS section.

I want to get my "digs" in here about the rather mediocre return of \$661.00 we got from the picnic auction this year - usually one of our best money-makers where proceeds are split between the Scholarship and Mine Museum Funds. Much time was spent by our usual contributors such as Millie Reed, Doreen Stryker, Helen Webster and LaVern Padgett and others in fabricating or collecting wonderful auction items that would be hard to find in a specialty shop let alone being available for purchase at all. Yet, these items were going for only a few dollars of their real value. Our Chief Auctioneer, Toby Horn, finally put opening value bids on items - which he will continue to do in the future - and those items not auctioned will either be returned to the donor or carried over to next year's auction. Com'on folks, this isn't a retail operation for profit. The whole idea is for you to be able to contribute to your association and receive a nice gift in return.

Picnic door prizes were drawn towards the close of the picnic as the rains started coming down in earnest. Prizes went to Ralph Padgett, Horace Stewart and Steven Horn. I can't say enough for the all-out effort of Jack Smoot, our Newport News Reserve Unit 1006, and several MOMAG Unit 14 shipmates and all their ladies provided, not only for the picnic but our other reunion functions as well. Well done, shipmates.

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## HISTORY COMMITTEE

*Chairman: Lyal Stryker, 8517 Deerwood Dr., N. Charleston, SC 29418*

The most notable history message we can get to you in this column is one concerning your history book. While orders are doing "okay" we are still lagging our predicted sales - and the asked for biographies of some of you ol' salts out there are still just trickling in. I keep getting panic phone calls asking..."is it too late?"

Our History Book Committee just recently got together with Taylor Publishing and negotiated a new deadline of 1 May 1991 as a cutoff for biography submits. As you can see by the photo of the cover on page 3,



## New Postal Rates Affect Your Newsletter Mailing Costs

### Dues Increase To Defray Expense

Taylor Publishing is doing a great job. We recently made a trip to COMOMAG Headquarters to make a pitch to some of the Minemen there and they were very impressed. This is our chance to be a part of history that will last for a long, long time - a place with your shipmates where you can inscribe your own personal biography, photographs and sea stories that will relate who, where, when and how? What an opportunity - and one you will never regret. I can assure each and every one of you that it is a book that you will be proud to own and, most important, to be part of. But, you must act NOW so that we have the time to do a good job for you.

It would be such a great help if you would take a few minutes of your time now and get your bio down on paper. Hand-written notes are fine, and our previous offer to help put a bio together for anyone who has trouble writing about theirs still stands. A little effort on your part now will help the few of us who must sort, catalog, cut, paste, photograph and cuss. Any treasured photographs will be fiercely protected and returned per your direction. Please, give us your history now. You don't have to buy a book in order to be a part of it. Don't let the wealth of information you have go to waste. Hello out there! You! Yes, you!

Editor's Note: We received membership renewal, bio, photographs and book order from RADM JMSDF (Ret) Hiroshi Ikawa. Our thanks for his interest, support and yet another dimension to our history.

Our USS Yorktown mine museum history and hardware is still continuing to accrue. COMOMAG has alerted us that a whole shipment of material has arrived there for our screening and transfer. We will be doing just that in the near future. We will also be updating some of the graphic placards which have been mutilated by John Doe public as they pass thru our display. Any of you guys and gals in the Charleston area want to volunteer? We can use your help!

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

*Chairman: Lyal Stryker, 8517 Deerwood Dr., N.Charleston, SC 29418*

Although my address appears above for receipt of any information or questions regarding the AOM Scholarship, you are reminded that any formal application for a scholarship should be submitted to the formal AOM address in accordance with the rules for application. Don't miss out on a technicality - which

could be a deciding factor as competition for an award gets more keen. Our scholarship fund is doing well, but we can always use contributions. We have had several inquiries about formal application but none actually received to date.

Elsewhere in the B. Arnacbutt's Column (how nice to have him back), our Editor has published a great idea for the 1991 Christmas and New Year holiday - a gift to the AOM Scholarship Fund in lieu of cards to all your AOM shipmates. It's not too early to get this idea circulated. As B. Butt says, it is a great idea!!! This would be a simple way to keep in touch with everyone during a very hectic time and contribute to a great cause at the same time.

I also want to pass along that there are some other scholarship opportunities offered by the Navy League, Veterans of Foreign War, American Legion and as advertised in NAVPERS List 15003-B. A recent newspaper article also announced that high school students interested in applying for a \$1000.00 college scholarship may request application by 15 March 1991 from Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation, 721 N. McKinley Road, P.O. Box 5002, Lake Forest IL 60045-5002. To receive an application, students should send a note stating their name, address, approximate grade point average and year of graduation. Winners will be selected on the basis of academic performance, involvement in extra curricular activities and need for financial aid. As I hear of other opportunities, I'll pass them along in future newsletters.

## WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

*Chairman: Dick Rhoderick, 30 Forde Row, Charleston SC 29412*

### QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER

Well, with my induction into the AOM voting ranks after being an Associate Member for so many years, I thought it appropriate to volunteer my services to help in any way I could. What do they say - never volunteer for anything??? Your AOM officers took me up on it so fast my head is still spinning. So, I'm your new Quartermaster and will head up a committee (of one so far) to keep track of money-making (you guessed it) "ways and means" for our association. This will include sales and inventory maintenance of all our mine models, specialty clothing, jewelry items (we have a new lady's pendant - see order form) and

subscription to our new newsletter space provided for publication of business cards or notices. All inquiries or orders can be addressed to my address above or to the official AOM mailing address. I'll get them either way.

I'd also like to hear from anyone who has any "ways and means" of making money for our organization to help sustain our museum and scholarship funds. I'll forward all viable suggestions to the AOM officers at each succeeding local AOM business meeting and will keep you apprised of the progress.

**Cont Page 7**

## WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO CHARLIE???

Some of you ol' timers will remember this column from the TROUBLESHOOTER periodical we had in the Mine Force way back when. We are changing the format a little bit, however, to include any inquiries on a shipmates' whereabouts from both within and outside of the membership. In keeping with sensible privacy guidelines, we'll try our best to locate an old friend for you.

Lyal Stryker finally caught up with an ol' shipmate from the staff of CINCUSNAVEUR who helped all the Mine Force people get Mildenhall, Glen Douglas and Machrihanish off of the drawing boards and making them a reality. Fred Foy now resides at 457 Lakeshore Drive, Bluff City, TN 37618. You'll be hearing from us Fred.

Received an inquiry about the whereabouts of Tom (Windy) Roberts and Harry Coker. I talked with Tom on the phone just before the reunion in August and he and wife Marion are doing okay. They reside at 10596 N.W. 2nd Street, Knobhill Plantation, FL 33324. We've heard via our X-rated Martin (Frank X., that is) that Harry has moved back from out West somewhere to Panama City, but we don't have a firm address on him yet. We need all the help we can get to muster these two guys back actively into our association. Both were stalwart "institutions" of our profession and have a wealth of information and advice to pass along. Anyone who can help convince these guys that we need them, please try.

Your Editor would like to catch up with a couple of shipmates himself. Anyone know where Gene Smith (last known in Sacramento) or P. J. Sita ever got to??

Eddie Horn, ex-AO turned MN, at Mine Shop in Naha, Okinawa in early 1960s and then a tour at Whidbey Island. Believe I heard he married and settled back on Oki. Anyone have any news???

Where is MNC (Ret) J. D. "Jack" Hallstram, last known to be in Honolulu.

Anyone else want to make an inquiry or supply some info??? If you see someone listed here and know where they are, please let us know. ♣



## MILI AMP'S BRIEFS

This column is for lady's news, so you gals send in your gossip or other goodies. I promise I'll only edit to take out the swear words and references to male chauvinist things. If one of you gentle folk out there would like to take the reins on this column, I'll be glad to pass it along???

The following is a recipe for Rum Cake that Jane Horn wanted to pass along. This did appear in numerous Christmas cards, so some of you have it already. Personally, I think a male (they make the best chefs) put this recipe together?

### BEST RUM CAKE EVER

1-2 quarts Rum 1 cup butter 1 tsp sugar 2 large eggs cup dried fruit baking powder 1 tsp soda lemon juice brown sugar nuts

Before you start, sample the rum to check for quality. Good, isn't it? Now go ahead. Select a large mixing bowl, measuring cup, etc. Check the rum again - it must be just right. To be sure the rum is of the highest quality, pour 1 level cup of Rum into glass and drink it as fast as you can. Repeat...! With an electric mixer, beat 1 cup of butter in a large, fluffy bowl. Add 1 seaspoon of thugar and beat again. Meanwhile, make sure that the Rum is of the finest quality. Try another cup. Open second quart if necessary. Add 2 arge leggs, 2 cups fried druit and beat until high. If fruit gets stuck in beaters, just pry it loose with a drowscriver. Sample the rum again, checking for tonscisty. Next, sift 3 cups of pepper and salt. (It really doesn't matter.) Sample the Rum again. Sift 1/2 pint of lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and your strained nuts. Add 1 babblespoon of brown thugar, or whatever color you can find. Mix well. Grease oven and turn cake pan to 250 gredees. Now pour the whole wess into the coven...and brake. Check the Rum again and bo to ged.

*Editor's Note: Several readers have suggested either another quality assurance check, or doubling the amount of Rum???*

The ladies asked me to pass along the joke (it isn't funny) about the three guys walking down the beach - one picks up a bottle and wipes the sand away - poof, out comes a Jeanni and says since there are three of you I'll grant each of you a wish - first one says he wants to be smartest man in the world (zap, gets wish) - second one says he wants to be 20 times smarter than smartest man in the world (tough, but Jeanni zaps and grants wish) - the third says he wants to be 30 times smarter than the smartest man in the world - Jeanni grunts, groans and moans, states it's really tough problem but then ZAAAP - turns him into a woman.

Leave it to the ladies??? ♣

Ways & (from Pg 6)

### IT'S SOME OF YOUR BUSINESS

The following spaces have been purchased by AOM members or commercial entities to advertise their business venture or to solicit your participation or expertise. A business card size space requires \$10.00 for a single issue of the newsletter or \$30.00 for four issues. Multiples of this size space may be purchased to include a business message or solicitation. The Editor and Publisher reserve the right to refuse or edit material in the interest of good taste.

#### Editor's Note:

Don Lozen states that he will make a donation to the Minemen Scholarship Fund if you purchase a vehicle from him. You must provide him with your AOM membership number.

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

*Chairman: Phil DeChene, 1827 Broadway Dr., Graham NC 27253*

The membership change voted on at the business meeting in August provides for a major Constitution and By-Laws overhaul we are going to have to make. All members received a copy of the C&BLs when they signed up, and we will advise everyone via newsletter of wording changes to be made as soon as we can get the wording formalized. I'll try to publish it in a format where you can just cut and paste. If anyone out there needs a copy of the AOM C&BL, let me know. However, I may have to charge a small repro and mailing charge in order to get it to you. I'll run that by the AOM officers and BOD. ♣

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## ACTIVE & RESERVE NEWS

Only a few items to report here. We hope to expand this column greatly. Our new Board of Directors member, MNCM Roger Adams, will be working through COMOMAG Charleston to help get some news from all the active and reserve shipmates out there. We'll be looking for news of individual promotions, awards, events and command accomplishments.

MN1 John T. "Ski" Totuszynski retired 31 July 1990 here in Charleston after 20 years service. Ski was a great help to the AOM as a volunteer helping us take material over to the USS Yorktown mine museum. We appreciated his help and hope he'll keep up an active role in our AOM affairs.

LT Ed Simmons relieved LT Homer Reagan



as Commanding Officer MOMAG Unit 11 Charleston, 19 October 1990. Ed is already sorting through material he has received for us for further transfer to the USS Yorktown mine museum.

LT Tim Patton relieved LT John Lawton as Commanding Officer MOMAG Unit 1 Long Beach, 14 September 1990. Tim has offered any help the Unit can provide to make the Long Beach reunion 1991 one to remember.

LT Mike Sportelli relieved LCDR Bill Johnson as Commanding Officer MOMAG Unit 3 Earle, 27 September 1990. We wish him the best in his new assignment. Bill Johnson is retired and living in the area.

LT T. A. Morris relieved LT Ed Simmons as Commanding Officer MOMAG Unit 5 Sigonella. What can we say about Sigonella, T. A., except we hope your tour goes well.

Got a look at the "Tohoku Log" magazine of NAF Misawa and our guys and gals out there did themselves proud. They made the "centerfold" of the magazine, a pictorial and text essay of going through the paces of their Mine Readiness Certification Inspection. The Misawa MOMAG Unit 12 crew was joined by Reserve MOMAG Unit 2622, deployed out of Seattle, WN and as LCDR Ron Swart stated, "Everyone performed magnificently...you couldn't tell the active duty Minemen from the Reserves". We were also pleased to note NMCS Mark McClain's presence in the photo showing promotions to E-8 and E-9. Well done to the Misawa and Seattle crews for their commendable performance.



## MAIL BAG

This column will be used to forward member news from around the world. It's kinda lengthy this issue, so we can catch up with all the news since the August reunion (and slightly before). Now that we are back on a quarterly track, though, we need to hear from you from issue to issue. We'll also use this space to try to acknowledge receipt, and our special thanks, for items sent to the Association for historical purposes.

Just spreading the gossip - mostly via nice cards and letters received over the holidays. Ray and Ann Cobis (Nevada) have been hunting down everything with horns on it (everyone better bury their Mk 6 mines) and bringing back trophies... Ralph and LaVern Padgett (Arizona), Sam and Zigi English (Georgia) doing well and planning on reunion in Long Beach ... Ed Golden (Virginia), our newest old newlywed, and wife Susan still on honeymoon and report attending Ed's son's wedding at end of December (they'll ask how you did that, Ed), had bad auto accident but everyone okay ... Bill and Jo Roberts (California) and their gold mining venture doing well ... Earl and Edna Roberts (Virginia) have been making the beach

scene, traveling hither and yon to keep track of parents, kids and grandkids, and trying to give Earl enough time to play with his new computer ... Rudy and Lois Schuetzler (Virginia) celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary year (1990) by traveling all over U.S. taking photos, some of which have made National Geographic and will end up at Epcot (our congrats) ... June Sprecher (Maryland) doing well and planning on Spring trip to Charleston and, we hope, Long Beach reunion next September ... Bob and Michiko Benentendi (California?) have been dragging their horses around the great Northwest and getting in some scenic riding ... Cecil and Kazuko Martin (Illinois) doing well, Cecil won first place in National Turkey Carving (that's wood carving) Contest, working on Master's degree along with son Toby, wishing everyone well and hoping to win the lottery so they can get around to see all their old shipmates ... Moose and Anne Wheelock (Washington) looking towards retirement at the end of 1991, miss all their good buddies and hope to make it to Long Beach to catch up with everyone ... Cliff and Patience Credle (North Carolina) tripping around the country to keep up with family and report that their health and happiness abound...Chuck and Bea Edwards (Illinois) are finally settled in Des Plains after bouncing back and forth between two different home locations and family at scattered locations...John and Bobbie Loonam (Virginia) report even more Loonam's on the scene during the year (it's like rabbits folks), both are very active with the Moose, both recuperating (see the PUBLICITY column)...Jim Gore (Michigan) with new BS degree and earning money to keep up his dues...Bob Lattanzi (California) back on the scene after wife's long illness and recovery, sent photos of Reno Reunion, hopes to see us all in Long Beach...Bob and Connie Hart (Pennsylvania) wrote, thanking for arranging free access to the USS Yorktown while in Charleston this past summer, said it brought back many memories of his days aboard the carriers...Dave Thrash (South Carolina) retired from Great Lakes and moved back to the low country, working at County Jail, and we aren't about to make a formal call...Bob Stan-cik (South Carolina) elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Low Country Coin Club.

'Read in a Goose Creek newspaper that John and Lynn Coers raised \$1250.00 to help dependents of American troops in Operation Desert Shield. They designed a Desert Shield T-shirt and sold them at their store "Lynn's Imports. The money was given to the local Red Cross.

'Received a nice letter from Bill Landers enclosing a photo of a UK mine in Plymouth, England and also a photo of a red "Shipwrecked Mariners Society" donation bank in the shape of a mine which used to be in many of the pubs over there. Bill said he enjoyed the search but was a little disappointed when he found the mine in the pub because then he

didn't have an excuse to go to other pubs. He found the "specimen" in a pub in a small sea village named Polruan on the Cornwall coast. Bill also had sent in a photo earlier from the Commons in Boston. It is of an old Mk 6 mine that was presented to the City of Boston through the North Sea Mine Force Association on October 26, 1921. Over time, the large metal commemoration plate mounted on the anchor has become difficult to read, but it does mention the 55,000 men involved in the WWI North Sea Mine Barrage. Thanks to Bill for his efforts. Any members up that way interested in looking into some more information on that mine and possibly in refurbishing it.

Frank Butler, member, sent us a set of slides showing the August 1968 tests of portable mine tracks on the USS Duluth (LPD-6), said he'll be sending us more photos as he finds them...Steve Scharschan, member, sent us an old 8MM film of Mk 6 tests in West Loch many years ago...Bill Hullinger, member, sent us 3 notebooks he had prepared containing handwritten and hand drawn schematics and terminal board hookups of long ago, says he'll see us in Long Beach...D. L. Valentine, member, sent us several photos taken during his time in the Mineman community...MN1 J. McKeivitt, USN, member, sent us photos from the deployment he was on in April 80 on the USS Nimitz (CVN-68).

"Andy" Anderson, member, from Livingston, Texas sent us his class album from the Mine Warfare School, Yorktown dated 18 September 1943. It was noted that none of the students graduating from the Mines Class Section G-1 (enlisted men) were designated as Minemen. Same goes for Section G-2. The two Chiefs in the photo are CGM(AA) J.T. King, USNR and CGM(PA) H.M. Cross, USN. This would appear to confirm that the Mineman Rating was not established at that time.

Received a biography, photos and History Book order from two of our overseas members, Honorary Mineman CDR Lorenzen, RDN (Ret) and RADM Hiroshi Ikawa, JMSDF (Ret). CDR Lorenzen was at our reunion in Yorktown all the way from Denmark. RADM Ikawa is hoping to visit the states in the near future. Perhaps the Long Beach reunion???

Al Boreen, member, gave us a copy of the Final Roster of Bomb and Mine Disposal Personnel dated 15 October 1945. Some of the familiar names are Cliff Credle, J.D. Freitas, George Houghton, Ben Randle, Earl Smoot, E.O. Spangler, J.P. Womack, John Wrobel, Dominic Traina and O.D. Waters.

The Fall 1990 issue of Naval History magazine contained an excerpt from the oral history of RADM Odale D. "Muddy" Waters, Jr. entitled "Mines at Haiphong: Delayed Execution". He commented on all the mining preparations in 1964 to mine North Vietnam, only to have these plans put on hold. After he retired and the Navy subsequently mined North Vietnam (do you remember the date), "Muddy"



wrote to ADM Tom Moorer (then Chairman of JCS) noting the mining campaign and guessing that they must have used the 1964 plans. ADM Moorer wrote back to "Muddy" that he was a pretty good guesser.

Two delightful letters from CAPT Dick Spofford, now 82 years young. The first gave his knowledge of the establishment of the Mineman rating and his next was a four page hand written epistle for our History Book project. He tells of the early days when they were called the "Pineapple Fleet" and of events leading up to WWII, including his tour with Mine Craft Battle Force. Look forward to this wonderful account in your History Book!!!

New member Howard Cooper tells us that as an Aviation Ordnanceman he was involved with mines dropped from PBM and P5M aircraft, attended mine school in Yorktown and had a secondary job code of AO1-MN. Howard was recruited at the annual Fleet Reserve picnic here in Charleston. It pays to wear your Mineman T-shirt.

It was noted with pleasure that Sally Tobin, wife of RADM Tobin, Honorary Mineman and past Commander Mine Warfare Command, was the sponsor at the commissioning of the USS Pioneer (MCM-9) in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin on 15 August 1990. Another of our new class Minesweepers soon to hit the high seas. RADM Tobin is due to be relieved as COM-PATWINGSLANT as this newsletter goes to press, and he will report as Commander, Norfolk Naval Base. Congratulations on both notable events.

John Loonam sent a newspaper article from the Newport News area reporting the wonderful news that Bob and Jane McGaw had the only winning ticket in a Virginia \$13.2 Million Lotto drawing. Bob is a retired Mineman/LDO Lieutenant who USED TO WORK at Newport News Shipbuilding. They now reside in Gloucester, Virginia and will receive 20 annual payments of \$503,880.00. We're very happy for them. Congratulations, Bob and Jane. Spend some of that money and come see us in Long Beach this year.

Thanks to Art Zaleski, Huntington Woods, MI for the class album for the mine class graduating 7 August 1943, Yorktown, Virginia. Also for other photographs including a group from MAD FOUR Hawthorne, one of "young" Mac McCarthy, and one of the nose of a B-29 named "The Spearhead" which showed seven parachuting mines (they look like Mk 6's) which signify minelaying missions flown.

Received a couple of letters from Donald B. Hyde, Kennebunk, ME. His father was a Seaman on a Minelayer during the minelaying of the North Sea Barrage in WWI. He also sent a brief biography and some photos of his dad who passed away in 1985 at age 91 plus. Donald also provided us some historical information from his father's papers and has offered to loan them to us for our history book project. Joe Bianculli dropped a line a while back when

he sent in his membership application. While in the Air Force (Army Air Corps) he attended the Mine Warfare School at Yorktown from August 1948 to February 1949 and received an MOS as an Aerial Mineman. He said he has no fond memories of his stay at the Mine Warfare School (Don't we all?).

Clifton Farber, Sr. wrote to tell us that he had served on the USS Hopkins (DMS-13), the Lucky 13. It was an old four-stacker converted into a high speed minesweeper that served in the Pacific with distinction. The ship was commissioned in 1920 and decommissioned December 1945 in Norfolk, VA. Prior to decommissioning, she was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation by RADM Ainsworth, Commandant 5th Naval District. Of historical interest, RADM Ainsworth first boarded the Hopkins in Guantanamo Bay in 1932 when a young Captain named "Bull" Halsey had the Hopkins as his flagship.

We received a real treasure from Robert L. Hernstrom, an old book which has pages 16 inches wide by 11.5 inches tall, "The United States Navy - From The Revolution To Date", published by P. F. Collier & Son, New York, Copyright 1918. There are photos of mines which appear to be the Naval Defense Mine Mk 2 which had been designed and manufactured by the Sauter-Harle Company of Paris, carried 175 pounds of gun cotton and had a contact-inertia type firing pistol. It was a current ordnance item in the U. S. Navy for several years. The mines were moored-type, similar to the Mk 6 and are shown on tracks on the ship. Also in the book are photos of "laying mines from a launch" - "Lowering mines on a raft" - and, "making ready to sow a harbor with mines". They appear to be early distribution boxes (DBs) for controlled mines, as they have cables into them through stuffing boxes, etc.

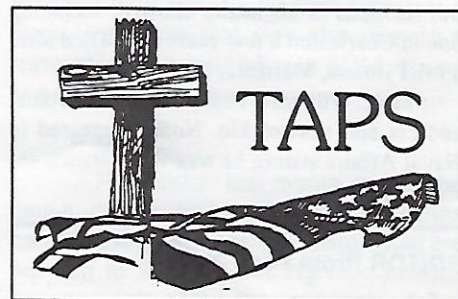
Thanks to Earl Roberts for a framed large picture of the NAVSEA Destructor (DST) Development Team which includes Roy Scharadin, Rudy Schuetzler, (?) Ramirez, Doty Harris, John Harris and Earl Roberts. Thanks also again Earl and Edna, for your recent visit with June Sprecher to help her with a biography of our deceased shipmate Ed and for photos to be used in our History Book. June gave us some of Ed's old trip reports and a copy of The History of Mine Warfare, 25 July 1968, Committee Document No.2 prepared by Robert Winters, Robert Albion and Andrew Patterson for our archives.

Homer Powell gave us a photograph of the USS Tolman (DM-29) which is in a glass covered serving tray, presented to him when he was an MN3.

As a final note, 'received a note from BMC Frank C. Weber from Scappoose, OR who is a collector of naval memorabilia. He is looking for a blue right arm MN1 crew and also ship's post cards, patches/crest, match covers, etc. Anyone out there who can help Frank, please wire him at P.O. Box 1154, Scappoose

,OR 97056.

As you can see, much of this gossip is from the ol' timers. How about some chatter from you youngsters out there so we can pass along your news. And how about some of your local command gossip you'd like to pass along for some of the other MinerMates to share? Let us hear from you!!! ♣



Since our last newsletter, the following members and friends have passed away. The membership of the Association of Minemen wish to express sympathy to the families of these departed loved ones who now reside with our most Supreme Commander.

Mrs. Jerry Wright, wife of Jerry "Mother Goose" Wright, from a stroke, Gloucester, VA 6/90.

Ekatrina A. Siegle, wife of long time member John Siegle, died, Yorktown, VA 8/16/90.

LCDR Robert Trask, USN (Ret), well known to many of us - attended his first reunion this past year in Yorktown and thoroughly enjoyed seeing all his old friends. He suffered a heart attack while at a golf tourney, 8/25/90. A memorial service was held at NWS Yorktown and his ashes were dispersed on Roosevelt Pond. Ed Oyer wrote of the respect all had for Bob. Jack Smoot assisted with the arrangements and represented the AOM.

Ian Blyth, 5 year old son of Jim "Speedy" and Margaret Blyth, from a drowning accident, Summerville, SC 8/26/90.

RADM Ralph E. Mills, USN (Ret), a WWII veteran who commanded the Cruiser-Minelayer Weehawken from 1942-1944. The Weehawken laid a minefield around the harbor of Casablanca in December 1942. During the invasion of Sicily, July 1943, the ship laid a 12 mile minefield around the transport anchorage at Gela - the longest minefield of WWII. He later served in the 6th Naval District in Charleston. Died, Charleston, SC 8/30/90.

Katherine Jean York, infant granddaughter of Mike Cummings, died, Charleston, SC 9/9/90.

Mary Schoomer, mother of our Past President Dick Schoomer, died, Chanute, KS 10/90.

CDR Roy E. Burton, USN (Ret), past Commanding Officer of the Mine Warfare School in Charleston, died, Charleston, SC 10/90.

Pamela D. Smith, wife of Otto "O.G." Smith, died suddenly from collapsed lungs,



Summerville, SC 11/8/90.

MNC Noel A. Goode, USN (Ret), was known to many of us as "Gabby Goode". He was a WWII veteran who served on Saipan and Tinian with Mine Assembly Depot (MAD) FOUR preparing mines used in Operation Starvation. He was a strong supporter of our Minemen Association and attended as many of our reunions as his health allowed, including one in Charleston a few years ago. Died after a brief illness, Martinez, CA 11/14/90.

MNC William J. Brandon, unknown date, address and next of kin. Notice appeared in Naval Affairs stating he was with Branch 46, Honolulu. ♣

### EDITOR (from Page 3)

November edition, but I'm trying to play catch-up with the news. Please be patient.

The President, Secretary and Board of Directors have given me some broad latitude in publishing the newsletter relative to content, etc., so I've initially set up the columns and news categories you'll read in this edition. In some cases they are entirely new items such as "What Ever Happened To Charlie" - lifted from the old TROUBLESHOOTER periodical and designed for you members to try to track down some old shipmates you once did duty with. I also want to lift "B. Arnuclebutt's" column for any "Letters to the Editor", and also the "Mili Amp's Briefs" column for the ladies to use to swap gossip (a never-ending source of news). The "Mail Bag" column has been created for

newsworthy items you members might want to pass on and for us to acknowledge member contributions of memorabilia to the Association.

Other articles will feature items of interest from our AOM President and from our Secretary including thank-yous, calls for help, reports of civic affairs, calendar of events, and appropriate financial news. Committee reports on reunion plans, membership, publicity, history, ways 'n means (fund raising/sales items), scholarships and parliamentary matters will also be included as appropriate. We also want to have news space for our important Mineman Active and Reserve components out there and I thought we'd call it some catchy name like "Active and Reserve News".

As you can see, we are expecting some outside participation in getting news for our newsletter - namely you members and spouses alike. We want you to get news you want to read about. Please send in even short little one-line items - something you heard about - a question you may have - a long lost Mineman buddy you bumped into (sign him up) - a long lost Mineman buddy you want to locate - a local newspaper article we'd be interested in - a great rumor or recipe (R&R) you ladies want to share - an idea for fund raising or for a new newsletter column. Don't worry about style or prose or spelling or whatever, 'cause we'll edit it and make it sexy. You'll be surprised at how well you say what you said??? JUST SEND IT IN and we'll do the rest. You can send it to the regular AOM address listed on the masthead or

to my address: Toby Horn, 54 Rivers Point Row, Charleston SC 29412. Thanks!!! I'll look forward to hearing from you!!! ♣

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

An edition of Navy Times last year ran an article on Human-Powered Submarines in War. The bottom line was that the only reason David Bushnell built the submersible "American Turtle" was to place a charge ("mine") against the hull of a British warship. If you want to get an interesting conversation going with a submariner, just mention that the reason we have submarines today is because Bushnell needed a way to deliver mines. Then stand back!!! ♣

## READ THIS, DAMMIT

I know a lot of you guys and gals out there, and I want to make a personal appeal to each and every one of you. As with most organizations, the work of your AOM is accomplished by a few hardworking people. Most of these people have other full time paying occupations, so when the all voluntary AOM business must be done, they lay aside their primary jobs at significant personal expense to themselves. Rarely do you hear them complain, and just as rarely do you hear them receive any praise.

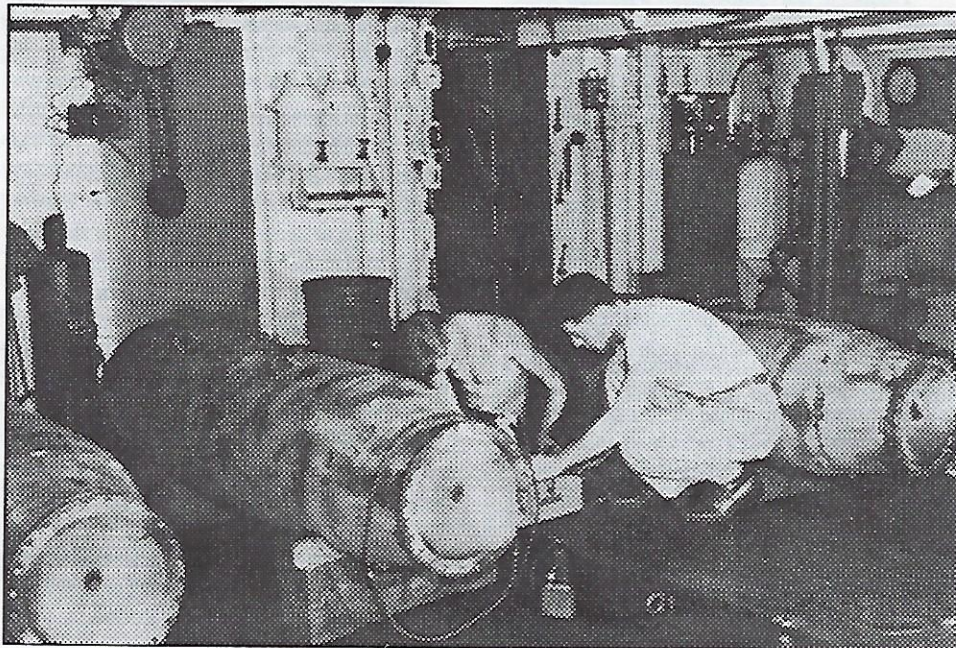
They want this Association of Minemen to work - not for themselves - but for YOU. You are the "heart" of this organization whether you be retired, active duty, reserve, civil service or industry participant in the Mine Warfare community. You are the ones who founded the organization and developed the principals by which we would declare our pride in our profession. I want each of you to re-dedicate yourself TODAY and help those who are keeping the organization going. Your help is needed to keep the everyday association business running smoothly and within budget.

If you haven't formally joined the association, you've been mooching off the rest of us. Take your place alongside your shipmates and JOIN TODAY!!! Dues - even with the modest increase to \$10.00 a year - are affordable. PAY THEM!!! They are due in January of each year. Help us with material for your newsletter. Send us photos or write us about something of interest. Finally, your Minemen History Book is an undertaking the U. S. Navy asked for and YOU, the membership, voted for. SUPPORT IT!!! Stop lolly-gagging and get your biography to us - whether you've been part of the mine community for 30 days or 30 years. This is what we're all about???

TOBY ♣

## QUARTERLY QUIZ

We hope to have this as a quarterly feature to take you down memory lane. Send us your answers for publication in the next issue. If you have a photo that you think will stump your fellow members, send it to us for publication in future issues.



Can you identify the mine being worked on (watch out for that hole blanked off between the hoisting lugs)? Where is it being worked on? When (approximate era)? Who are the Minemen?