

THE DASHPOT

Issue 20

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

WINTER 1997



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays,

Thanks to all of you who contributed in making 1997 an eventful year. As I look forward to a productive 1998 as your president, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our members, families and friends a joyous holiday season as well as a prosperous and healthy New Year. Our membership has had a rash of personnel rushing to "sick bay"; hopefully this is only an aberration.

I want to thank those utilizing e-mail and our Web page for assuring we all stay current with those events of interest and concern to us. Those persons sending and updating information include **Fred Dane, Don DeCrona, Hal Elston, Toby Horn, John Loonam, Richard Martin, Bill Roberts, Paul Santa Maria, and Ron Swart** as well as a host of others. Thanks very much for the extra effort.

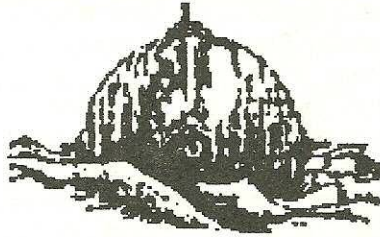
You can visit our Website at "http://battle.netgate.net". This Website is generously maintained by **Hal Elston and Fred Dane**.

Let me once again thank **John Loonam** for the extra ordinary effort and time he has put into our Dashpot - a truly informative publication for the benefit of all involved or interested in the Mine Force and Minemen community. The Dashpot has been a vehicle allowing us all to stay abreast of events of interest as well as general information. Again, many

Please see President on page 2

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AOM

HELP HELP HELP

by Toby Horn

SURVEY

I need your help in determining whether I should pursue the idea of a 2 or 3 hour dinner cruise aboard the Island Belle for our Charleston dinner meeting at our reunion next August 8th. I have been talking with Ms. **Nancy Brown** of the Charleston Harbor Charters and she tells me they will give us a Navy discount (Island Belle's skipper is retired Navy) to make the dinner cruise affordable and fun. The Belle will accommodate 150 people and can feed that many buffet style including chicken, prime rib or salmon (we get choice of two), salad, veggies, potato or rice, desert and coffee, tea or milk. A cash bar will be available. The cost would be \$35.00 p/p for a two hour cruise or \$39.00 for the three hour version. We would probably charge an extra \$1.00 to cover the cost of the dinner speaker and his/her guest. We would get underway approx. 6:30pm. The format is flexible. We could do speaker and presentations before cruise (on board at dockside), during, or after cruise (on board at dockside). **Nancy** says it's fun and the August weather lends itself to a nice, calm cruise. The ship is a three decker with air conditioned spaces as well as ample outside and deck chair viewing.

I need help in determining: Is this a good idea. Do we have enough

interest to have 150 people sign up (usually we have more than this at our dinner meetings in Charleston) - or is cost out of ordinary. In the past we have tried to keep dinner meeting cost around the \$25.00 mark, but in this case we are getting a 2-3 hour cruise (a \$25.00 p/p value) added (for about \$15.00 cost).

Members, friends, shipmates - please help me with some feedback.

If we go with idea, it will require a contract which makes AOM responsible for total cost involved (i.e., if we don't get 150 people, we pay for difference). I think it sounds like a great idea and change from our ordinary scenario. Some locals I have talked to agree, but that is small sample. I need some feedback NOW!. For local people an ol' fashioned phone call will do. For cyberspace members, please email me at tobyone@ix.netcom.com, or others can slip a \$1,225.00 post card (new postal rate coming up) in the mail. I need to do something quick, so your early response would be appreciated. Thanks for your help.

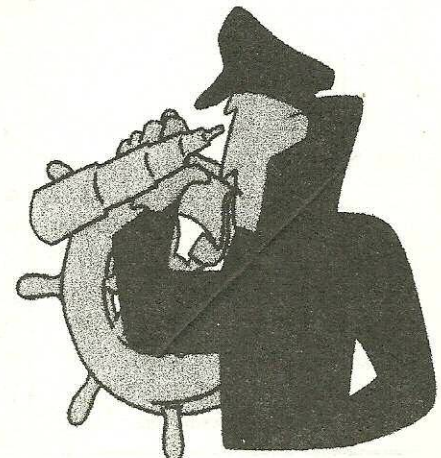
Charleston Reunion Contact:

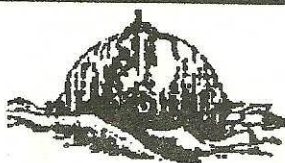
Toby Horn

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Lyal Stryker

address p 2





**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 defense.

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President. Continued from page 1

thanks from all of us in your able and relentless efforts of pulling the many news items together to keep us all up to date.

Plans are on-going for our 24th Annual Reunion to be held in Charleston, South Carolina from 7 to 9 August 1998. We are looking forward to you all attending an enjoying events being planned as well as the fellowships and networking opportunities. Anyone desiring to assist please contact **Toby Horn** at (803) 762-3552 or contact the AOM officers in Charleston listed in the Dashpot. **More to Come.**

Anyone interested in helping with any of our AOM committees or activities please contact us through one of the officers or the Committee Chair.

Again, my sincere thanks goes out to all who have contributed to our success in the past year. I look forward to 1998 as a year of joy and fulfillment. Best wishes to all.

Respectfully, **Warren**

**Address changes to the
Secretary/Treasurer
Please provide 9 digit ZIP**

NWS Yorktown

the Booster, 10/97

A transfer of claimancy ceremony held at NWS Yorktown changed their management from Naval Ordnance Center to CINCLANTFLT. Also Naval Ordnance Center's Atlantic Division was disestablished. Ordnance operations now fall under a new Naval Ordnance Center Command: Weapons Support Facility, Yorktown. Naval Ordnance operations at Earl and Charleston will be handled by separate detachments at those bases.

**Paid your '95-'96 dues yet?
They were due in August
Please Send your check in
today**

Minemen Advancements Bupers Internet

ACTIVE FY 98

MNCM Bainbridge, Robert
MNCs Sinclair, Ronald L
MNC Harris, Bert J Monn, John D
Sep 97 MN1
Ault, Allen E Bostic, Melvin
Cammack, Ted P Childers, Randal
Collins, Ollie F Despres, Marcus
East, James L Haley, Patrick M
Morris, Michael A Nelson, William
Venczel, Dean L Walters, Timothy
Sep 97 MN2
Crain, Gerald L Jimenez, Manuel
Mitchel, Victor Pollitt, Dale F
Sep 97 MN3
Bridgeford, James Craylor, David
S Davian, Michael Douglas, Lance
E Harrison, Brent Herbig, Jarad C
Kutrich, John C Lanpheare,
Richard Matelski, Joseph
Olenslager, Jenn Rye, Scott W
Saunas, Clark J Sanders, James W
Smith, Bryan S Thompson, Christ
Valdez, Richard Zimmer, Marc C

RESERVE

MNCM Niemitalo, Gle
MNC Bourgouin, Gil
MN1 Colvin, Otis E Munroe,
William
Oszvart, Joseph
MN2 Fortunato, Richard Murdock,
Wayne A Standley, Christ Stelling,
David
MN3 Briley, Ronald S, Miller,
Stephen J
Previous promotion cycle ACTIVE
MN1 Biel, Martin A Christmas, Gary
MN2 Baney, Joseph W Gary,
Shawn R Kopp, Brian E Merzier,
Livingston
MN3 Artal, Laura S Castacio,
Demerrius Gonzales, Abel Gold,
Lawrence J Heider, Steven M
Hinton, Antwan Hire, Brian P
Johnson, Gavonni Kinzi, Kevin R
Lessor, Shawn T McKnight, Eric C
Ohalloran, Demetrious Pats, Jeffery
K Phillips, Phillip Rosser, Richard
Schneider, Sharon

What Price They Paid.

sent in by Bill Roberts

Have you ever wondered what happened to those men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and were tortured before being put to death. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned to the ground. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured and held prisoners of war. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. Poverty was his reward. Vandals or British soldiers or both looted the properties of **Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton.**

At the battle of Yorktown, **Thomas Nelson** noted that the British General **Cornwallis** had taken over the **Nelson** home for his headquarters. **Nelson** urged General **George Washington** to open fire, and the home was destroyed. **Nelson** dies bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed, and the British jailed his wife who died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she lay dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. For more than a year, he evaded pursuers by hiding in forests, returning home after the war to find his wife in a pauper's grave and his children all vanished. He died of a broken heart. **Norris and Livingston** suffered similar fates.

Such were the sacrifices of the American Revolutionaries, our forefathers. But what kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were plantation

owners. These were not wide-eyed rabble-rousing ruffians. They were well educated and soft spoken men of means, who had attained comfort and security.

Volunteer??

The AOM is looking for someone in the Ingleside area to present a complimentary one year membership to the Honor Graduate of Mineman "A" School classes. *Sounds like a job for COMOMAG's Command Master Chief.* We are looking for a platform to describe our purpose and recruit new members. If interested, please contact any member listed on page 2.

**Are you a member of
AOM Why not Join?
Contact Lyal Address Page 2**

A married couple went to the hospital together to have their baby delivered. Upon their arrival, the doctor said he had invented a new machine that would transfer a portion of the mother's labor pain to the father. He asked if they were willing to try it out. They were both very much in favor of it. The doctor set the knob to 10 percent for starters, explaining that even 10 percent was probably more pain than the father had ever experienced before. But as the labor progressed, the husband felt fine, so he asked the doctor to go ahead and bump it up a notch. The doctor then adjusted the machine to 20 percent pain transfer. The husband was still feeling fine. The doctor checked the husband's blood pressure and pulse and was amazed at how well he was doing. At this, they decided to try for 50 percent. The husband continued to feel quite well. Since it was obviously helping his wife considerably, he encouraged the doctor to transfer ALL the pain to him. The wife delivered a healthy baby with virtually no pain. She and her husband were ecstatic. When they got home, they found the milkman was dead on their front porch....

START

MINEWARNEWS Oct. 97

Shipboard Technical Assistance Real Time (START) provides a better less expensive and immediate method of providing technical assistance to the MCM Fleet. Using satellite technology remote technical assistance would be available to deployed ships regardless of their location. START has the capability of a conference link to additional sites and access to interactive electronic technical manuals. The project demonstrated miniaturized video cameras and microphones, worn by technicians as they work on equipment. The video and audio signals are transferred to ISEA engineers or Technical Support Center where engineers will see, in real time, exactly what the technician sees and can direct further trouble shooting procedures and repairs. Early evaluations have been generally positive, but additional analysis and evaluations will be conducted to determine overall feasibility.

Engineers from Naval Surface Warfare center are preparing to Demonstrate that Advanced Lightweight Influence Sweep System (ALISS) will perform satisfactorily to work in shallow (SW)(40-100') and very shallow (VSW) (10-40'). Full scale testing is scheduled for first and second quarter FY 1998. CSS has been designated as the Technical Direction Agent and System Integration Agent for the ALISS program. Overall, ALISS technology is lighter than sweep equipment technology currently in use and produces less drag. The system will make it possible to sweep large areas at speeds up to 50 knots using a single combined package and is adaptable for SW/VSW minesweeping.

Russian M-16 contact mine found in Estonia. U.S. Navy divers and Estonian Sailors found a moored mine 800 yards offshore during Baltic Challenge '97. The mine contained about 200 pounds of explosive and may have been sitting there for about 40 years.

Committee Reports

Signs that you are no longer a Kid:

From Toby Horn

1. You're asleep, but others worry that you're dead.
2. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
3. Your back goes out more than you do.
4. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into

AOM 24th Annual Reunion Charleston, SC 7-9 August 1998

Looking for Mines on the Net?

AOM Homepage

<http://battle.netgate.net>
by AOM members **Fred Dane** and **Hal Elston** lots of Minemen and ex-MN. Minewarfare

Homepage
<http://www.ae.utexas.edu/~industry/minel/>

by **Paul Calhoun** ex-MN

Frank Gregory, editor, **MINEWARNES**, Coastal Systems Station, Panama City, is looking for information about mines or minesweeping near Wonson, Korea in October 1950. He is in contact with Hal Elston who provided some of that information on the AOM Homepage. If you can help NCSS(850)235-5828.

- the room.
5. You buy a compass for the dash of your car.
6. You are proud of your lawn mower.

FULL FORCE NEWS



LANTFLT Site Consolidation

MOMAGAZINE 3Q97

C INCLANTFLT requested COMOMAG to research the possibility and feasibility of consolidating MOMAU Three, MOMAU Eleven and MOMAU Fourteen in Yorktown, VA. Some issues are being considered are: total inert/explosive storage space, administrative/production spaces and manning.

Relocation MOMAU Fifteen All preliminary legwork has been done to relocate MOMAU Fifteen from NAS Kingsville to NAVSTA Ingleside. Plans are to go forth and implement this plan as soon as a couple of small details are worked out with Ingleside PWC Department. The main reasons for possible consolidation on LANT/PAC sites is a reduction of weapon station operating costs coupled with a reduction of our service mine inventory. More will be forthcoming as these different issues are ironed out.

Laying Mines MK 52/55 are deleted from the Navy's stockpile. Quickstrike laying mines will replace them. Hunting mines are still needed for EOD and MCM operations.

MOMAG goes to the VISA card for purchases under \$2,500.

All Sites to have Windows NT by the year 2000. They will also have color printers, color scanners, CD towers and additional work stations.

Scholarship Committee

by Paul Santa Maria

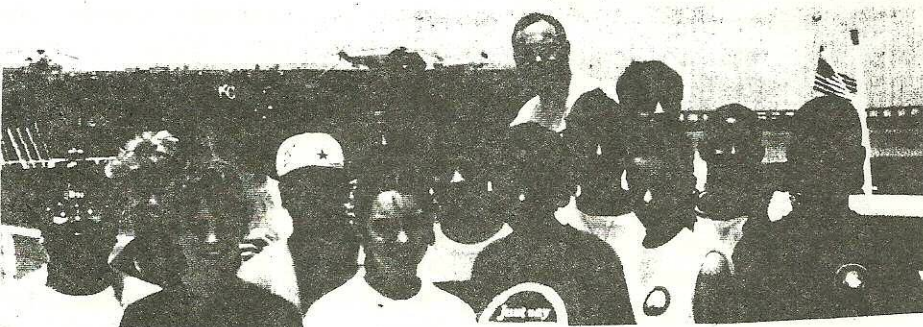
The following students were awarded \$500. scholarships at the August AOM Reunion: **Kumi Swart, Janeen Rosales and Kerr Hanson-Smith.** The Scholarship Committee reported these were the top three (in order) applications among the many received. The Committee recommended a minimum grade point average be established for future applications.

EDITOR

by John Ioonam

My confidence in the Community was restored after receiving great response for articles. Thank you fellow Minemen. Its up to you to keep this Newsletter going. Any information to be shared is welcome from everyone. Thanks folks.

1997/98 Dues were due in August. Please send your check to Lyal Dues notices are not mailed to members



NJROTC Field Day at Mine Museum

by MNCS Rick Spofford USN Ret.

'Il just go left to right regardless of row: Chaperons Mrs. **Aiken**, and Mrs. **Williams**, C/SA **Anderson**, CPO2 **Blocker**, Squad Leader, C/ENS **Horsley**, Platoon CDR C/ENS **Carter**, Admin Officer C/CPO

Garrett, Platoon Chief, C/LT **Martinez**, Operations Officer, C/SA **Aiken**, MNCS **Spofford**, ANSI, C/SR **Atkinson**, C/CPO **Ellett**, Color Guard CDR, C/CPO **Thomas**, Platoon Chief, C/CPO **Riley**, Platoon Chief & C/CPO **Williams**. These Cadets love the opportunity to help out on the Yorktown and are already bugging me to set up the next Mineman Museum upgrade/renovation trip.

THE JUNCTION BOX

COMOMAG's Ombudsman **Kathleen Nahra**
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the following personnel on being selected for promotion:

LT **Joyal** to LCDR
LTJG **Dunn** to LT
LTJG **Berrios** to LT
LTJG **Martin** to LT
LTJG **Gwaltney** to LT

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Welcome aboard to our latest

COMOMAG members:
MNCS(SW) **John Babcock**
YN2 **Eric Ellis**
LTJG **David Gwaltney**
MN1 **Paul Chitwood**

Farewell and good wishes to:
MNC **Larry Witt** (retirement)
LT **Daniel Krulewich** (DFAS, ST. Louis)
MN2 **Rhonda Orrick** (separation)
MNC **Robert McGuire** (NRD, Dallas)
MNCS **Charles Lewis** (retirement)

MOMAU ONE

by LCDR John Iwaniec

Well to start off, I must say how extremely proud I am of my crew for the outstanding AV we just completed. The crew nailed 100% in all five areas, staying consistent with every other inspection we have completed through the course of the year. The shop is looking great and the crew has really pulled together to make the place shine. Our Christmas Party this year in going to be one of the best ever, the crew has been raising money for the past six months so we can celebrate Christmas at Medieval Times, sounds like its gonna be a blast. We will sorely miss two of our good friends MNCS **Williams** and his wife **Carrie** who will be leaving us in a week with PCS orders for Guam. The Senior Chief has been personally responsible for so many projects around the Command, that I will be reminded of him every time I walk the deck. the Senior Chief has been nominated for a Navy Commendation Medal for his many contributions. **Carrie** has done a super Job as our Ombudsman and she has really

worked hard in that capacity. For all those folks she has helped, I'm sure I can speak for them by saying we will miss her tremendously. We will also be saying good-bye to MN1 **Goodman** who has received orders to Misawa Japan, **Goodman** has done a tremendous job here my QA Dept. Head, Safety Officer and our Hazmat Guru. He has been personally responsible for acing every EPA/Hazmat inspection to come our way and has made many improvements to the Command. MN1 **Goodman** has received a NAM for his outstanding efforts. We also had a future Mineman brought into the world, MN2 **Marcus Despres** and wife **Maribel** just had a beautiful baby girl and are spending some sleepless nights like only newborns and teenagers can bring you

Other news, A couple weekends ago we participated in the Long Beach Veterans day parade. MOMAU One was able to get a Semi Tractor Trailer and put on a great display of mines, the City councilman said we had one of the most interesting floats he had seen and said we would be up front next year as one of the hottest entries. My daughter **Joleen** wore a little white sailor outfit and MN1 **Ciccarello's** son **Kyle** wore a set of blues, they both rode the float along with us to depict the sailors of today and our future Sailors of tomorrow. MOMAU One has also received four new warm bodies in the Command, MN3 **Koski** comes to us from MOMAU 12 and is off to a good start, MN3 **Nason** reported on board from MOMAU 5, and doing great. Also received Seamen **Martinez** and **Burton**, who reported to us from FMWTC, they are doing wonderful. Our latest SOQs are MN1 **Ciccarello** (Senior) and MN3 **Medina** as our Junior representative. In closing, I would like to say that I hope everyone out there had a wonderful and Merry Christmas and great New Year celebration.

7. Your best friend is dating someone half their age.....and isn't breaking any laws.

8. You call Olan Mills before they call you.

MOMAU THREE

LT Tom Mathison

Hello from MOMAU THREE, lots of things happening here in New Jersey. First off LT **Thomas R Mathison** relieved LT **Kenneth R. Allen** as Commanding Officer on 29 August 1997. MN1 **Sharon L. Frederick** retired under the TERA program after 17 years of active duty and MN1 **Gorden V Harris** retired with 20 years of service on 31 October.

MNCM **John Nolen** transferred to Unit 15 on 17 December. His knowledge and expertise will be missed around here. MNC **George Butterhof** has taking over the Mine Assembly Officer duties.

The following personnel have been selected for advancement to MN3: MNSN **Brent Harrison**, MNSN **John Kutrich**, MNSN **Richard Lanpheare**, MNSN **Scott Rye** and MNSN **Clark Salinas**.

The unit has had an excellent year, and we are all looking forward to the Holidays and a chance to spend more time with our families. So far no snow but hopefully we'll have some for Christmas. That's all for now, the Unit and I look forward to the next issue of the Dashpot.

MOMAU FIVE

by CWO4 Bob Reed

Greeting from Club Med! The winter months have brought a nice layer of snow on Mr. Etna. This combined with the orange glow of lava and minor eruptions in the near dusk hours makes for a splendid sight. I have about six troopers here that survived Mt. Pinatubo in Subic, and they are keeping their eyes on this one closely.

Each year during Santa Barbara Day (Santa Barbara being the Italian Patron Saint of Ordnance) competition is held, tug of war, relays, soccer, etc. between our Italian Navy counterparts and us at the Mine Depot. Each and every year they dominate and we sit around whining why we never seen any of these individuals stationed on-board the depot prior to these events. Some

Please see MOMAU 5 Page 6

have even mentioned the possibly of their Olympic team being in town. Well, this year Team MOMAU kicked some serious butt and brought home the gold. The remainder of the day was enjoyed with an outstanding luncheon and awards ceremony with our host nationals.

In other news, MN2/YN2 **Jeffrey Wirth** and MN3 **Eric Hubble** were my Most Valuable Players this year (SSOY, JSOY). These two Sailors do it all. MN1(SW) **John Wolfe** and MNSA **Dominic Vallez** were SSOQ and JSOQ this quarter. MN3 **Laura Arthur** was advanced to her present raffle as was MN3 **James Sanders** frocked to his present rank. MN2 **Luis Ortiz** received his second Good Conduct Award while MN1 **William White**, MN2/YN2 **Jeffrey Wirth** and MNSA **Domini Vallez** all received Letters of Appreciation.

MOMAD SEVEN

Congratulations to MN2 **Robert Dunbar** and MN3 **Natasha Faili** on their selection as Senior Sailor of the Quarter and Junior Sailor of the Quarter respectively.

We would like to welcome Mrs. E. **Allston** as our new Ombudsman.

Welcome aboard to YN1 **Claire Eversman** who arrived 29 October 1997.

MNCS **Dwayne Baldwin** is retiring this spring and is leaving our Detachment on 20 January 1998. Replacing him will be MNCS **Campbell** from MOMAU 14.

Fair winds and following seas to MNCS **Baldwin**.

MOMAU EIGHT

by MNCS Williams

Hafa Adai' from Guam! Things are going great here in the tropics. We've just welcomed aboard our new CO and his family from COMOMAG Staff, LT **W. Keith Nesmith**. Arriving 1 day later, the new MPO/SEA, MNCS **Williams** and his family arrived from MOMAU I. Preparations are underway for the

Change-of-Command scheduled for 19 December. With this of course, we'll be saying goodbye to our current CO and his family, LCDR **Patton**, who'll be moving on to COMOMAG Staff. As usual though, we seem to get more than our fair share of typhoons, and looks like our new arrivals brought one with them. Typhoon **Pales** is due to hit in just a couple of days, so once again its time to batten down the hatches and fide another one out. The crew, as always, continues to excel in every respect. This past quarter, our SSOQ was MN2 **Cowart**, and JSOQ was MNSN **Herbig**. Selection, as. always, was difficult with so many sterling performers. In addition we recently frocked MN2 **Bill "Nellie" Nelson** to MN1 and MNSN **Jarad Herbig** to MN3. Congratulations to both of these most deserving individuals. Our ongoing TQ efforts continue to pave the way for improvements in our processes. We've found that despite the human tendency to resist change, encouraging crew participation and documenting our progress, instills ownership, thereby facilitating many reforms that otherwise would be difficult. We've come a long way on the road to implementing TQL throughout the command, and would be happy to provide our data and techniques to anyone interested in an effort to get every MOMAU/MOMAD on the same path. That's about it for now, everyone take care, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God Bless.

MOMAU TEN

By MNC **MCGOLDRICK**

Ho Ho Ho! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of the Minewarfare Community. The holidays are fast approaching and MOMAU Ten like other sites is gearing down for tat much deserved holiday routine. Our Assist Visit in September was a 100% success in the areas of Logistics and Weapon reliability. This lead into a successful Foul Eagle '97 operation conducted in Pohang, Korea were the OCE was the ROK MINERON 52, all mines operated and training for all units involved was invaluable. It's always

nice to work with our South Korean counterparts.

We at Ten would like to take this opportunity to say hello to a few new shipmates, "Welcome Aboard" to MNSR **Valdez** and MN3 **Alvarez** and his lovely wife; both mates have come to us from MWTC Ingleside. This past exam cycle also saw a few improvements to our ranks, "Congratulations" to MN2(MN1) **Haley** and MNSN(MN3) **Thompson, Reed** and **Olenlager**.

As we mentioned before the holidays have arrived (Thanksgiving) or are arriving (Christmas and New Years), with Thanksgiving the crew being split for dinner arrangements at either MNC **Kaiser** or MNC **McGoldrick** humble homes. Everyone eat and stuffed themselves in honor of old Tom. Christmas will see the crew at MNC **McGoldrick's** house for a festive Christmas feast.

Those of you who remember what it is like at the **McGoldrick's** house can still answer yes! to the question of the "magic oven" definitely still works.

Congratulations are also in order for our Senior SOQ YN1 **Bell** and our Junior SOQ MNSN **Reed**. Both individuals have and continue to contribute 100 and 10% on a daily basis, there nominations were hard earned. MN2 **Vetter** was awarded the NAM in support of TSR during an FCA, MRCI and Assist Visit; due to his diligence TSR was awarded 100% during all three inspections quite a feat considering he was also running CT and the Command Training Petty Officer. Again Congratulations to all awardees.

Well that is all for now, we here at MOMAU are wishing you and yours a safe and happy Christmas and a successful coming New Year. Fair winds and following seas to all "and to all a good night".



Cheers from MOMAU Eleven. This has been an active year for us, we continue to be very busy. it appears as if our ET world is alive and well. We were very fortunate during the last advancement cycle, we had three advance to First Class, MN1 **Cammack**, MN1 **Collins** and MN1 **Venczel** and one to Third Class, MN1 **Zimmer**. We must have the best Color Guard in all of the Low Country as indicated by the demand, we do an average of two retirements/changes of Command a month. Speaking of retirements, Petty Officer **Boyd** officially retires as of 31 December. In the near future we will also be saying good-bye to SKCS **Williams**, MNCS **Dearing**, MN1 **Robertson** and MN1 **Humbard**. Some of the awards our people received: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, MNC **Edwards**, YN1 **Bevis**, MN2 **Brashier**, MN2 **Chitwood**, MN1 **Chitwood** and MN2 **Morehouse**. Flag Letter of commendation, MN3 **Scott**. Good Conduct Medal, SKCS **Williams**, MN3 **Pitts** MN3 **Scott** and MN3 **Logue**. Letters of Commendation, LCDR **McAdams**, YN1 **Bevis**, MNC **Wright**, MN1 **Biel**, MN2 **Wilbanks**, MN3 **Kwekel** and MN3 **Raphael** for consecutive outstanding on the Physical Readiness Test and MN2 **Sullivan**, MN3 **Kwekel**, MN1 **Parker**, MN1 **Collins** MN3 **Acox**, MN3 **Kenzie** for outstanding on PRT and MN1 **Parker** and MN3 **Kwekel** for Sailors of the Quarter. MNCM **Gordon**, MN1 **Cammack**, MN1 **Venczel**, MN2 **Gilliland**, MN2 **Wilbanks**, MN2 **Sullivan** and MN3 **Raphael** received letters of appreciation for HOBSON Memorial Ceremony Color Guard. MN1 **Venczel**, MN2 **Gilliland**, MN2 **Cammack** and MN2 **Sullivan** received Letters of Appreciation for Charleston River Dogs (baseball) Color Guard. MN2 **Evanoff** is still thinking of ways to improve things, he received a Letter of Appreciation for an approved Beneficial Suggestion. The crew of Unit Eleven wishes you a

Please see MOMAU 12 Page 8

were presented to the follow personnel for their efforts in the 1997 Mine Readiness Assist Visit. They include: LT Kenneth R. Allen, CO MOMAU 14; MNCM Wayne A. Helgersen, COMOMAG; MNC Robert L. McGuire, COMOMAG; MNC Kirby A. Brown, COMOMAG; AO1(AW) Scott A. Beiser, AO1(AW) Glen A. Meckes, TM1(SW) Alegernon G. Jackson, AO2 Ryan O. Duncan, AO2 James Branton, AO2 Bradley N. Randall, AO3 Christine J. Hall, and TMSN Melissa A. Warrick, all NAF Misawa Weapons. Fall PRT. Seven individuals were recognized for attaining an Outstanding during the Fall PRT. They include: MNCM Benton, MN2 Franklin, MNSN, Matelski, MN3, Rosser, MN2 Walker, MN2 Warren. Six personnel attained a score of Excellent. They include: MN1(SW) Corvo, MNSN Douglas, MN3 Dykes, MN2 Gutierrez, MNC Holt, and LCDR Simmons.

RETENTION. MN3 Daniel James extended for 24 months to accept orders to Everett, Washington. YN2 Donnie Wilson reenlisted on 21 November for 2 years.

MOMAU FIFTEEN

by YNC Mary Krenek

How Ya'll shipmates and friends from around the world doing. Well I can't complain about the heat anymore. The crew has been trying to keep dry and warm. Operation Cooperative TELOS-97 exercise was a great success, a BRAVO ZULU to MN1(SW) Arcand, MN2 Grant and MNSN Reeves, who by the way received his first Navy Achievement Medal for his superb initiative and drive in keeping this command going with some recent manpower shortages. MRCI is set for February, so all you Mineman understand just how busy we are around here. MOMAU FIFTEEN has some new faces. We want to

welcome aboard our new Commanding Officer, LT Sandra Oliver (former LT Sandra Downing), she recently got married (prior to reporting). Also would like to welcome SK1 Perry King. We are sorry to announce the transfer of SK1 Andre' Meeks, one of the last true Plankowners of this command, he will be going to London, England (such arduous duty). Additionally, MN1(SW) Todd Kumro (a prior GMG1), MN2 Raymond Farr whose wife, also an MN2, works across the street at VT-21 and MN2 Eugene Smith joined the Unit. MNC Sigstedt has transferred to Rotational Crew Alpha out of Ingleside. New personnel to arrive soon: MNCM John Nolen from Unit Three and MN2 Moorehouse from Mine Warfare School, Ingleside. On November 8, 1997 the Kingsville ELK's held their Annual veteran's Day Chili Cook Off for the third year running. Well of course as usual we placed again, but this year we took FIRST PLACE. A round of thanks to the SK1 Meeks for his recipe, LT Oliver, YNC Krenek, MN1(SW) Arcand, MN2 (Bubba) Farr, MN2 Grant, YN3 Martinez and to all the personnel of MOMAU FIFTEEN who came out and supported us. News Flash!, MNSN Traci White has a little boy, both Mom and baby are fine. Also MN2 Grant Just found out that he is going to be a father again, it's supposed to be a girl, but you can never trust those sonograms. Also MOMAU Fifteen would like to take this opportunity to say Congratulations to one of our fellow shipmates who just became a dad for the first time, MN1(AW) Timothy Hickman and his wife Tina who did all the work of course, well all right, Tim did play a small part in it. Other fellow shipmates we would like to say congratulations to are MN2(AW) East and MN2 Bostick for being selected as Mineman First Class Petty Officers off the recent September Exam Cycle. Way to Go Guys!!!! Well until we speak again, the crew Of MOMAU FIFTEEN wishes all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

MINE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, INGLESIDE TX

(by LT Coral Mac Intosh)

Hello from MWTC. I believe this is the first time we have submitted to the Dashpot, and wanted to ensure you knew we were here and hard at work!

Since my arrival at the school in mid-June, we have have graduated 3 Mineman "A" School classes, 3 Ordnance Core classes, 1 SLMM (Submarine Launched Mobile Mine) class, 1 CAPTOR (Encapsulated Torpedo) class, 2 VEMS (Versatile Exercise Mine System) classes, and 1 TSM (Test Set Maintenance) class.

We are preparing to graduate another "A" School class on December 19th, just started a Mineman "A" School class of 15 on 8 December, and have a full class of TSM students troubleshooting test sets.

I am the Mining Training Division Officer and have the following instructors preparing these students for their new assignments, whether it be a MOMAU or a ship on the waterfront: MNCS Healer, MNC Brieno, MNC McKevitt, OSC Hamilton, FCC Williams, MN1 Delaporte, MN1 Nicely, MN1 Lewis, MN1 Born, MN1 Kirker, GMG1 Spencer, BM1 Filter, OS2 Thornton, and OS2 Barnes.

Some changes to the Mineman "A" School curriculum have been proposed, and the wheels of progress are in motion for implementation for February 1998. Briefly, the changes will reduce the time spent at MWTC for initial training, while providing mine assembly and general combat systems training in "A" school vice follow-on "C" schools as we currently do.

I look forward to keeping you informed on these and other MWTC personnel, courses offered, and curriculum changes in future issues.

MOMAU FOURTEEN

Greetings shipmates! to date it has been a mild winter here in Yorktown. We recently completed a successful explosive safety inspection and we are busy preparing for upcoming AV and MRCI. Here is the latest regarding our crew:

Arrivals

MN3 Wendy R. Sims reported from Unit Five, Ssgonella, IT

MN2 Robert S. Hillerich arrived from EOD School, Panama City, FL

Departures

MN3 Paul D. Snyder departed for PreCom, USS Raven

MNCS(SW) Michael D. Campbell departs for MOMAD SEVEN Barbers Point, HI in December

Reenlistments

MN3 Paul D. Snyder

Awards

Navy Achievement Medals

MN2 Joseph K. Kirker, III

MN3 Michael E. Nagle

Letters of Commendation

MN1 David A. Vanetten

MN2 Michael J. Burks

SSOQ/JSOQ

MN1 John A. Pendleton, SSOQ, 3 Q 97

MNSN David S. Caylor, JSOQ, 3 Q 97

Advancements

MNSN David S. Caylor to **MN3**

YNSN Patricia G. Henderson to **YN3**

11. You would rather go to work than stay home sick.

12. You constantly talk about the price of gasoline.

13. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.

14. You consider coffee one of the most important things in life.

15. You make an appointment to see the dentist.

16. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

17. Neighbors borrow your tools.

18. People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"

19. You answer a question with, "because I said so!"

20. You send money to PBS.

21. The end of your tie doesn't come anywhere near the top of your pants.

News Clips

Coastal Courier 9/26/97

Sailors Certify Simulator

Crews learn how to locate mines, make decisions on what to do about mines and work as a team in a ships Combat Information Center. For the past few months MCM sailors have been evaluating the AN/SSQ-94(V)2 Countermeasures Simulator.

Advantages of the simulator: crews do not have to be at sea, simulator not dependent on sea state or weather, training capacity is increased, Simulators allow increased difficulty factors unlike immovable minefields, less costly at sea budgets, mistakes can be taken into account when re-programming simulators to observe or correct errors. **MNCS(SW/AW) John Babcock** (MOMAG) and **MNC John Monn** (Readiness Support group, Ingleside) were pictured acting as training coordinators and evaluating how well the system allows young sailors to learn the systems they will be using

Coastal Courier 11/7/97

Laying Mines Reinventing the Wheel Engineers at CSS have constructed a set of rails known as the Mine delivery System. The portable rails can be used on any type of ship. CSS uses the rails mostly in training exercises for MCM and defense. Weighing over 2,200 pounds, the assembly measures 28 feet and is mobile once loaded on board.

The Foc'sle 8/1/97

Captain **Donald E. Peters** was relieved as CO Naval Station Ingleside by Captain **Nancy E. Honey**. Capt. Peters next assignment is on the staff of Department of the Navy Organizational Management and Infrastructure team. Capt. **Honey** came to Ingleside from Secretary of Defense Fellow Program in Washington, DC. Her husband **Bob**, a Navy Captain, is CO NWS Earle. USS Scout MCM-8 returns from deployment to Euro '97. **MN3 David Albright** joined the ship during deployment.

Minemen studying for the September advancement exams had professional help. Twice weekly classes

coordinated by **MN2(SW) Terry Hoekman** at Ingleside.

Foc'sle 8/15/97

CPO Selectees

MN1 James Monn Readiness Support Group

Sailor of the Quarter

MN1 Rommel P Daclan MWTC

MN1 Steven V McLaughlin USS Blackhawk

Foc'sle 8/29/97

Program Executive Office (Mine Warfare) moved from leased office space to new temporary facilities on board Ingleside. They will move into permanent spaces in FY 2003.

MWTC students help clear brush.

MN1 Gary York, **MN2 Richard McClellan**, **SN Brian Smith** and **SA Bryan Littrell** saw an opportunity to lend a helping hand to some retired off base civilians. (the photo says Petty Officer **York** is a GMG1??)

The Ingleside degaussing range is nearing completion. Instead of travelling to Charleston, ships will only travel about one mile to the Navy's new Electromagnetic Roll (EMR) Facility. The project is due to be completed during the summer of 1998.

Foc'sle 9/26/97

MN3 Samuel Pritchard was selected as Sailor of the Month for July on board USS Cormorant MHC-57.

Foc'sle 9/12/97

MN3 Brad E Potts, Rotational Crew Bravo, on board USS Ardent MCM-12 was awarded his first Good Conduct Medal.

Foc'sle 10/14/97

MN2 Antonio Rodriguez, Rotational crew Echo, received a letter of Commendation.

Foc'sle 10/24/97

USS Cardinal MHC-60 Commissioned in Alexandria Virginia. The ship has five officers and 45 enlisted personnel. Tenth of 12 Osprey Class Mine hunters, she was built by Intermarine in Savannah, GA. The ship's hull is a solid, continuous monocoque or tension bearing structure laminated from special fiberglass and resin. It will flex to absorb the shock of an underwater mine explosion. She is 188 feet long,

Please see Cardinal Page 10

Cardinal from Page 9

a beam of 36 feet, has a draft of 12 feet and top speed of more than 10 knots. Her primary mission is reconnaissance, classification and neutralization of moored and bottom mines in harbors and coastal waterways during worldwide Navy operations "Forward from the sea". Cardinal's Homeport is Ingleside.

USS Avenger MCM-1 recently celebrated her 10th birthday.

Avenger MCM-1 Bravo Zulu to MN1 **Joseph G. Osborne** for receiving a Navy Achievement Medal and MN2 **Isauro P Sedillo, Jr.** for a letter of Commendation. Afloat Training Group MN1(SW) **Ronald D Johson** received his third Good Conduct medal. MN1(SW) **Brian Wilson**, SQQ-32 instructor was pictured on board USS Pelican MHC-53 demonstrating hands on experiences for "C" school students. "School-Ship" duties rotate quarterly and provide real-time exposure for students. They also provide an opportunity to compare MCM's systems with those on MHC's. MN2 **Terry Hoekman**, Ingleside transient Personnel department, was pictured landscaping around the Ingleside Library. MN1 **Jeff McCrady** participated in MHC 51 Class Follow on Test and Evaluation. The positive results will affect the future employment and tactics of the MHC and design of future vessels. One of the operational requirements met was "clean sweep" of deep moored mines in excess of 1,000 feet. Petty Officer **McCrady's** work center performed exceptionally well preparing their AN/SLQ-48 mine neutralization vehicle (MNV) for some exceptionally deep missions, where live ordnance was employed to neutralize deep moored mines.

Foc'sle 11/7/97

MN3 **Gary Fernandes**, Mine Countermeasures Rotational crew Alpha, was pictured with their softball team accepting NAVSTA Ingleside Summer/Fall Softball League Championship trophies. MCM Rotational Crew Bravo crew members receive Sea Service Deployment Ribbons in the Arabian

Gulf. 1st award MNC **Matthew S Prager** and MNSN **Jose A. Rojas, Jr.** 2nd award MN2 **Matthew D O'Connell** and MN2(SW) **Scott J. Spray** 4th award MN1(SW) **Floyd K Greer** 5th award MN1(SW) **Stephen R Rodriguez**

MN2(SW) **Patrick D Richardson** reenlisted on board USS Oriole MHC-55

MINEMEN hit the jackpot

Twelve Minemen collected an average of \$13,278 each during a reenlistment ceremony held at MWTC Ingleside. The reenlistees are MN3 **Michael Busch**, MNSN **Jayson Calton**, MNSN **Brian Smith**, MN2 **Angelo Taylor**, MN3 **Steven Stafford**, MN3 **Denny Jenkins** and MN3 **William Newberry** for four years, MN3 **Robert Williamson** for five years and MN2 **Larry Thetford**, MN3 **Brandon Alvarez** and MN3 **Cary Zander** for six years. That's 55 future Mineman years. MNC **Keith Brieno**, MWTC career counselor was pictured with the group along with **RADM Conley**, COMINEWARCOM and **Captain Haggart**, CO of the school.

SO2 **John Frederick**, USS Champion MCM-4 recently changed his mind about getting out of the service changed his rating to Mineman and reenlisted on board.

NEXT
ISSUE
Article Deadline
MARCH
10

Received an email from a nephew of a USS Hobson crewmember asking for details on the sinking. I told him she was cut in half by the USS Wasp during night time formation steaming in 1953. I forwarded the request to Lyal for a more factual answer.

Some Pondering

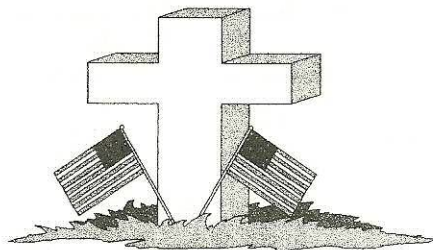
by Ron Swart

1. I at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
2. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
3. A conclusion is the place where you get tired of thinking.
4. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
5. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
6. For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
7. Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with.
8. No one is listening until you make a mistake.
9. The severity of the itch is proportional to the reach.
10. You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
11. A clear conscience is usually a sign of a failing memory.
12. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
13. The colder the X-ray table, the more of your body is required on it.
14. The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
15. Money can't buy love, but it can rent a close imitation.
16. If you must chose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.
17. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

more no longer a kid

22. You take a metal detector to the beach.
23. You wear black socks with sandals.
24. You know what the word "equity" means.
25. You can't remember the last time you laid on the floor to watch television.
26. Your ears are hairier than your head.
27. You talk about "good grass" and you're referring to someone's lawn.
28. You get into a heated argument about pension plans.
29. You got cable for the weather channel.

TAPS



R 111410Z DEC 97
FM COMINWARCOM
TO MINEWARCOM
unclass //N00000//
MSGID/GENADMIN/COMINWARC
OM//
SUBJ/PASSING OF CAPTAIN C. R.
CHRISTENSEN//

Remks/1. I am sad to announce the passing of Captain **Cyrus R. Christensen** this past week. Captain **Cristensen**, who was fondly called "**Cap'n Chris**" or "**Combat Chris**" because of his many, many campaign ribbons (and sea stories).

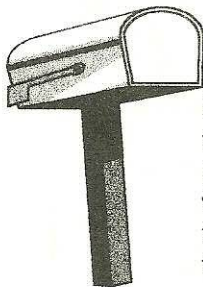
2. Captain **Chris** played a very important role in mine warfare. He enlisted in the Navy in September of 1943 and served in both WWII and the Korean War. Commissioned in 1956, he served in USS *Boston*, USS *Kingbird*, and Commanded USS *Stallion*, USS *Ability* and USS *Vreeland*. He was CO of both MINEDIV 42 and 45 and Task Group 116.2 (the brown water mine sweep navy) during Vietnam, he commanded Air Mine Countermeasures Squadron Bravo during mine sweeping action in operation "End Sweep" (Hyphong Harbor) and operation "Nimbus Star" (Red Sea). He then became the first Commander of COMOMAG when it stood up in July 1975. Subsequently, he served on the COMINWARCOM Staff as the Assist Chief of Staff for Planning and finally was CO of MINERON 12 in Charleston until his retirement in 1981.

3. Captain **Christensen** will be buried in Arlinoton National Cemetery.//

BT

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LETTERS



Dec 5, 1997

Hal Elston would like to say "THANKS" to everyone for their prayers, good wishes and kind thoughts during the trials and tribulations of the past few months. I am feeling great and expect to recover my strength gradually over the coming months. I look forward to seeing everyone in Charleston in August.

Heard from **Frank Whipple** a couple of times. He is in Columbia, SC working for a software provider in the insurance industry. He enjoys the challenge and says he ran into **Thomas Page** recent CWO retiree from the mine community at the technical school he graduated from. He called again to report the passing of "**Combat Chris**" Former COMOMAG.

Heard from **Joe Hernandez** by way of a copy of a letter he sent his son working at the Shiners Children's Hospital in Tampa, FL. Joe is still working on his history of mines in Vietnam. He worries about the environment and pollution. He said CDR **Chuck DeArmond**, NWS Ordnance Officer in '70's, has severe liver problems.

Retiree **Tom Roberts** (used to be "Windy") called asking about input for the History Book. Said he was working at Ft. Meade, MD. He said he told **Toby** he would get some input together. He is still gathering information. He said he has some information on early Project Four, Yorktown. He said the Minemen at Andoria were involved in the early stages of the U-2 shoot-down where the pilot, **Francis Gary Powers**, was missing. He will forward his thoughts as he gets them written down.

My apology to **Charlie (CW) Miller** for having him listed as having a slight stroke in the last issue. **Bob Piper** called to tell me I had bum dope. I called **Charlie** and he is just as fit as a fiddle and still working part

time. **Charlie** told me he regularly attends the "NWS old timers" luncheons the first Thursday each month in Newport News.

Fred Dane's wife was back in the hospital with complications after by-pass surgery. Back home now and doing good.

Bob Benintende had triple by-pass surgery in November. Lots of chatter on the internet with daily up-dates on his condition, phone numbers etc. After a couple of days home he went back to the hospital with intestinal problems. That squared away and he is home recovering nicely now.

When **Paul Santa Maria** notified us that **Bob** was in for surgery, the tom toms started and within hours **Toby Horn, Bill Roberts, Earl Roberts, Dick Martin, Hal Elston, Paul Bauer, Warren Savage, Ron Swart, Terry Auberry, Lyal Stryker and John Loonam** were all participating in spreading the news.

James E Trick Haverhill MA

I think many of us old retired types have many stories. Here are a couple I remember. When I was a young SA. I was going to MN A school in Yorktown. It was in 1953. I was standing pier watch. I heard a strange sound and looked down to see the Capt's Gig sinking. I was so new to the Navy, I did not even know what a gig was. I went into the Pier Shack, woke up a person. He said "I'm not gettin up, I said "you better, the Capt's boat is sinking". He got up and saved the day. The second story occurred when I was an MNC. We were all in formation for Personnel Inspection one day in Charleston. I was awarded a citation from the Chief of Chaplains for my work in the Chapel of Men Riv Park. The letter said I had played the organ for many years. LT **Janke** read, you have displayed your organ in church for many years. I thought LT **Billings** would, bust a gut laughing. When we were all done another MNC said to me "most guys would go to the brig for displaying their organ in church, but you get a commendation". I am now wheelchair bound and I am blind in one eye. But being home is far better then being back in the nursing home.

Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 71835
Charleston, SC 29415-1835

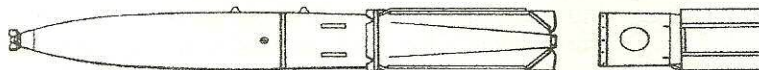
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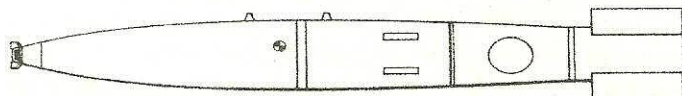
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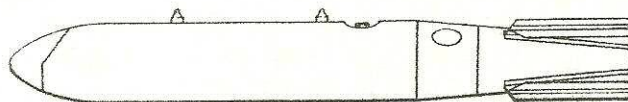
MARK 62



MARK 63



MARK 64



MARK 65

Mines MK 62, 63, 64 and 65