

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P. O. BOX 71835
CHARLESTON, SC 29405

EIGHTH ANNUAL REUNION AND MEETING 6-8 AUGUST 1982 YORKTOWN VIRGINIA

Well, it is that time again to start thinking about and planning to attend this years' annual Reunion and Meeting which will be held in Yorktown, Virginia the home of the Mineman Rating and location of the first formal Mine School in the U.S. Navy. We hope you will plan to attend and renew old friendships and make new ones.

Jackie Smoot, a member of the Board of Directors is in charge of the arrangements this year. Those of you living in the area are urged to contact him and offer your assistance.

The tentative plans for 1982 are similar to 1980 when we held the Sixth Annual Reunion and Meeting in Yorktown. To start the weekend off in a true "Mineman" fashion, there will be an "Early Bird" on Friday evening 6 August 1982, hopefully at the Fleet Reserve and will include heavy snacks. Saturday afternoon will be the time set aside for a short business meeting, with the dinner and dancing in the evening. The main dining and ballroom at Ft. Eustes's has been reserved. Sunday will be the picnic at Wright Circle picnic area on the Naval Weapons Station (formerly Naval Mine Depot). Hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, potato salad, etc., and refreshments will be served fresh from a serving line/area where the food will be cooked to perfection as you need it. There will be another flyer mailed out in a about 2-3 months that will contain the detailed information as to cost, menu, etc. This year it is important that you get your reservations in early, as we will provide tickets for the dinner Saturday and the picnic Sunday in order to ensure everyone has a good time; with a minimum of waiting and inconvenience.

NEWS OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REUNION AND
MEETING 14-16 AUGUST 1981

For those of you that were unable to be in Charleston for the meeting, we think you messed a great weekend. We received a lot of feed back from many people that enjoyed themselves, in spite of the lack of air conditioning at the dinner (but the Navy Show Band made up for it; they were the greatest!) and some shortages of food at the picnic. Also received was some constructive criticism that is welcomed, it will help make this year's event that much better.

MEETING MINUTES 1981

The Board of Directors met Saturday morning 15 August 1981 at 0905 in the lounge of the Charleston Air Force Base officer's Club. Lyal Stryker presided and in attendance were Harry Coker, Vice President, Ron Swart, Secretary/Treasurer; Charlie Hunt, Board of Director (BOD); Toby Horn, BOD, Bob Forbes, BOD; Dick Schommer, Chairman Yorktown Committee and Ted Newton from the Awards committee. BOD members Phil Dechene and Jack Smoot were unable to attend the BOD meeting.

The following committee reports were presented:

1. Treasurers Report: Ron Swart reported a savings account balance of \$1033.00 and a checking account balance of \$3,865.00 before the bills were paid. Our Post Reunion balance was \$1034.00. T-Shirt sales have really bolstered our bank account, just as inflation threatened to overwhelm our income.
2. Membership: Toby Horn reported there were 233 members at this time last year (Aug 80) and 354 members as of now (Aug 81). Recognition was given to Dick Schommer, Ed Hutsell, Bob Pricer, Carily Wallich, J. L. Rodgers and all the members. (Note: our membership now stands at more than 450!)
3. Time and Place: Dick Schommer made a motion to disestablish the committee, noting it had been approved at the meeting in 1980, to alternate the Annual Reunion and Meeting between Yorktown and Charleston until further notice. The BOD approved the motion.
4. Mine Museum (USS YORKTOWN): Dick Schommer reported that a permanent location for the Mine Shop display had been established. There is still a lot of work to be done to get it properly established and maintained, and Dick is continuing to request volunteers to assist.
5. Historical: Lyal Stryker reported that we had received a large amount of old documents and publications from various sources that pertain to mines and Minemen. Charlie Hunt provided an old copy of OP 901 (First Revision), Description and Instructions for assembling and Testing Mines MK 12 Mods 0 and 3, dated 24 November 1952. LCDR Arnold Lott, USN(RET), author of the book "Most Dangerous Sea", presented us with an original copy of the report "The Offensive Mine Laying Campaign Against Japan" dated 1 November 1946. Herb Fairbanks gave us a copy of an old Laboratory Manual from the Naval Mine Warfare School, Yorktown, and although the date has been torn off the cover, some pages are marked (8-4-44) through 15 SEPT 1945. Also acquired is an original copy of the "Phase Analysis of the Strategic Mining Blockade of the Japanese Empire" conducted by the Twentieth Air Force, which includes information about Mine Assembly Depot (MAD) No. 4 on Tinian.
6. Awards: Ted Newton reported that Milt Baird had acquired the deceased Minemen shadow box. After some discussion, the BOD recommended the names of deceased Minemen, as occurring, be placed in the shadow box regardless of membership status. The following recommendations were also recommended for approval:
 - No more than two (2) Honorary Mineman awards will be awarded at each reunion meeting.
 - The H-4 Horn Plaque, be designated a special BOD award to be presented at the discretion of the BOD.
 - The Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers (COCC) award would be presented annually to the senior Association of Minemen regular member retiring during the year. For 1981, it is awarded to Jim McDonough.
 - A fifth wheel award is created for recognizing regular members who recruit new members, as follows;
 - 10 members - black fifth wheel
 - 25 members - silver fifth wheel
 - 50 or more members - a gold fifth wheel.

The fifth wheels are to be genuine and appropriately painted and mounted.

An Association of Minemen plaque was prepared for presentation to Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit Eight (GUAM) to recognize them for being awarded the first Mine Site Excellence Award from Commander Mine Warfare Command. The Association will present an AOM plaque annually to the MOMAG Site selected to receive the Mine Site Excellence Award.

7. Rules Committee: There was no report from the rules committee, but the BOD had been informed they were still reviewing the constitution and By-Laws for possible change to be recommended for consideration by the BOD and general membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

The position of Chaplain was filled when Phil Adams accepted.

Tom Shipley was unanimously recommended to be a regular voting member.

A three (3) member Finance Committee was established to review and audit the Association books.

There being no further business brought before the Board of Directors, they adjourned at approximately eleven hundred hours.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The general membership meeting was held at the Charleston Air Force Base Officers Club on Saturday 15 August 1981 commencing at 1300 hours. The following business took place:

1. Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting were read and approved by the voting members present.

2. No Old Business was presented.

3. Under New Business:

A. Discussed the Honorary Mineman Award. It was voted that no Award be made this year (1981).

B. The Awards criteria was explained by Ted Newton.

C. A contact mailing list for use by members was discussed but not approved. The recommendation was to poll the membership as to their desire following the establishment of the mailing list on a computerized system. Any member desiring their name not be included for dissemination to the membership would have the opportunity to advise the association so their address could be removed.

D. On behalf of our Past (and first) President "Foxy" Fisher, John Seigle presented to the Association, A bolo tie with the Mark 6 mine emblem to be used by the Association President, as a badge of office. The membership approved unanimously acceptance of the badge of office and expressed their appreciation to "Foxy" for the bolo tie.

There being no further business matters to be brought before the membership, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1530 hours. Following adjournment, Association T-shirts and MK 6 Mine tie tacs were made available to those desiring to purchase them.

DINNER MEETING 16 AUGUST 1981

Without a doubt, the highlight of the dinner meeting was the performance by the Navy Show Band from the Naval Base. The Rock and Roll show was a show stopper and the dance music was delightfull and as varied as the age groups in attendance.

GREETINGS. Rear Admiral Robert B. M. McClinton, USN, Commander Naval Base Charleston, SC welcomed the Association, their friends and guests to the Charleston area, noting the important role that Charleston plays in Mine Warfare and the Navy.

GUEST SPEAKER. Rear Admiral A. J. Baciocco, Jr., USN, Commander Submarine Group SIX here in Charleston spoke to us about the application of new technology to Mine Warfare. His comments were well received and reminded some of the members that neither time or technology stands still and this is especially true in Mine Warfare.

MINEMAN OF THE YEAR. Rear Admiral C. F. Horne, III, USN, Commander Mine Warfare Command, announced the recipient of the award. It was Mineman First Class Roger A. Adams, an instructor at the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center. Mrs. Adams was present for the award as well as Capt Chadwick, Commanding Officer of the Fleet Mine Warfare Training Center. The beautiful bronze floating Mark VI mine, mounted on a plaque, suitably inscribed was presented to MN1 Rogers by Bill Mehard, who personally cast the mine, polished it and mounted it on the plaque.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS. In addition to Captain Chadwick, also present, and recognized were Captain Hyatt, Commander Mine Warfare Inspection Group, Commander Beatty, Chief Staff Officer, Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group and many other members of the Mine Warfare Command in the Charleston area.

AWARDS. Radm Horne presented the Force Master Chief badge to MNCM Milt Baird. The billet had just recently been officially approved and established at COMINEWARCOM.

Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers (COCC) - CW04 Jim McDonough, USN (RET)

Oldest Mineman Present - John Seigle

Youngest Mineman Present - MN3 Steve Gooch

Mineman Traveling Longest Distance - Bob Benintende, Oregon, beating out Gabby Goode by a nose - (whose?)

Special Award - A certificate of appreciation mounted on a plaque to Bill Mehard for creating and providing the Association of Minemen and Mineman of the Year superb bronze castings.

SHADOW BOX - This beautiful case was presented to the association by Milt Baird. The names of all known deceased Mineman are contained on individual brass tags mounted in the case, under glass. Name of those Minemen known to have died in 1981 were read, and are:

MNC James Lindley
MMCM Robert E. Doty
MN2 Charles S. Cowell, Jr.
MNC Bobby L. Bishop

A minute of silence was observed to honor the memory of our departed Minemen friends and to dedicate the shadow box in memory of all departed Minemen.

Following a few administrative remarks, the dinner meeting was adjourned. Toby Horn conducted an auction of the many items that had been donated by members to raise funds. Millie Reid's cross stitch went to Harry Coker, our Vice President, and it is one of a kind. It has "USN" in the four corners, three CPO anchors across the bottom, and says "GOD CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE THAT'S WHY HE MADE MINEMEN". We still have some copies of the pattern we will send to anyone sending us a stamped self addressed envelope. Other items raffled were one-of-a-kind AOM mugs made by Sonja Hirstetter, an AOM plaque from Bill Mehard and the Giles cartoon from the Association archives. T-shirts and MK6 Mine tie tacs were also available. Then we settled in for an evening of dancing and reminiscing with old and new friends. As noted earlier, the Navy Show Band was just too much and helped us forget the air conditioning was not operating.

PICNIC SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 1981

The picnic was held at the Air Force Base picnic grounds with catering by the Colonel and lots of refreshments. A raffle was conducted to raffle another AOM plaque and Giles cartoon. Games were available for the children as well as volleyball, and horseshoes for the older "children".

AFTERMATH: Sorry about the air conditioning at the Air Base Club, we tried to make the best of it (most did) as there was no where else to go at that late date. Also sorry about:

Seating and food at the Dinner - late comers not previously signed up was the main reason but the Association accomodated them thanks to Toby Horn who didn't get to even sit with Janie, (his wife).

Shortage of food at the picninc - apparently some people took more than one boxed lunch per personw ith the idea of eating the second one later in the afternoon.

In order to help prevent these problems in the future, we plan to provide tickets for the dinner and picnic in the future. The tickets will be sent upon receipt of the price for each person attending, will be numbered, and have your name on them, or GUEST if not sure about attending. Hopefully this method will establish a little more organization into the dinner and picnic as well as serving as a record of attendance and possible a name tag, raffle stub, etc. if possible.

Sonja Hirstetter for the cups and other items.

Toby Horn - Auctioneer and greeter for late arrivals at the dinner.

To ALL OF YOU that attended and made the year 1981 another good one for the Association.

NEWS OF INTEREST SINCE AUGUST 1981

Sorry to hear of Gordon and Helen Webster's car accident and then Gordon's problem with his ticker. Latest report is that they are both doing well and see us in Yorktown in August.

Anyone desiring a copy of Millie Reid's cross stitch pattern, send us a stamped self addressed envelope.

The Association now has T-shirts and MK6 Mine tie tacs for sale - see the order form in this newsletter.

MOMAG Unit Nine was awarded the Mine Site Excellence Award for 1981. Unit EIGHT and Det Four were strong runner - ups and special recognition of Det Six was noted. Congratulations and well done to the Minemen at these activities.

We received a letter and a lot of new members from MOMAG Unit Eight. The letter announced that they had organized a branch of the Association of Minemen, with Petty Officer Rogers as President and Carly Wallich as Vice President. Our constitution and By-Laws do not have provisions for branches or chapters at this time, however we have tentatively approved their organization and offered our support, pending a change to the Constitution and By-Laws, to be approved by the membership.

On the subject of the Constitution and By-Laws, the committee is still working on proposed changes, so let us know if you have any suggestions. Article IX of the current approved Constitution and By-Laws require that any proposed amendments be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to 1 May. It also states that the Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of attending member at the Annual Meeting provided that written notice has been given to the membership that the amendment item has been placed on the agenda. It is believed there will be few proposed amendments in the next newsletter.

MNC Michael E. Carr, USN, from Mobile Mine Assembly Groups, Unit EIGHT, Guam, was selected as the Mine Warfare Command's "Chief of the Year".
RADM Horne, COMINEWARCOM announced Chief Carr's selection in December 1981.

We have heard that Captain McKamey, COMOMAG, has his staff working on a proposal to recognize the outstanding Reserve MOMAG Unit and Reserve Mineman of the year with a program similar to the active duty Minemen and sites. The Association of Minemen will recognize the Unit and Mineman with a letter and AOM plaque as we now do for the active duty people. There are now 27 Reserve MOMAG Units.

CDR W. L. (Bill) Roberts retired in December 1981 as the Officer-in-Charge of the Naval Mine Engineering Facility. He was relieved by CDR Louis H. Petersen, formerly the CINCLANTFLT mine planner.

Other retirements:

MNCM Otto Smith - Summer 1981
CWO4 Jim McDonough - 30 October 1981
CWO4 Ron Chapin - 30 October 1981
CWO4 John Loonam - 29 January 1982

Christmas newsletter from Bob Benintende, and we quote: "For my birthday in August, Michiko bought me a round trip ticket to the East Coast so that I could attend the Mineman Reunion and visit my daughters. Well, now let me tell you I had a ball from the time I landed in Charleston, SC until I boarded the plane for my return home. The reunion was well organized and quite eventful. It was great seeing friends that I had not seen in a span from three to twenty years. Between the planned functions of early bird meeting, dinners, and picnic, the rest of the time was filled with office calls, tour of Mine Warfare Training Center and house parties. When I left Charleston, I thought, that's a tough act to follow". End quote. Bob also noted that Michiko travelled to Japan in May and he did have a wonderful visit with his daughters.

Antoher Christmas newsletter - from Ed and June Specher. They thank everyone that called Ed and prayed for him during his bout with cancer. The recent news is that all is well, he is putting on weight and has his voice back, strong as ever. They also noted how good it was to see many of their friends at the Mineman Reunion in August.

Received a letter from Billy C. Owen, out in Texas, via Harry Coker. Billy was sorry he did not make the last reunion, hopes to make some in the future. He also sent us a photo of a Civil War Mineman - it will be on display at the reunion in Yorktown. Also enclosed a snapshot of the family headstone markers, which has the Mineman rating engraved on it. He said he wonders what kind of question it will pose 100 years from now when seen in a small country cemetary in East Texas. A few thoughts on the Association were also in the letter, which are appreciated.

TAPS: Since the reunion in August 1981 we have learned of the following Minemen that have died:

MN2 William Joseph Little, Dec 12, 1981, Oakland, California.
MN1 Charles Edward Melton, Aug 7, 1981, Huntsville, Alabama.

We have received our Non-Profit Organization certification from the Internal Revenue Service and have applied to the Post Office for a special mailing permit which will permit us to mail out our newsletters at a reduced cost.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanks to all of you from out of town that travelled to Charleston to attend the 7th Annaul Reunion and helped make the weekend so very enjoyable. I look forward to seeing all of you this coming August in Yorktown, Virginia.

If any of you should hear about any of our members or friends that are ill, please let us know so we can let them know we are all thinking about them. Notice of deaths sent to us will be listed in the newsletters and announced each year at the reunion.

We would also appreciate any news that would be appropriate for the newsletter, especially the Christmas letters that are becoming more and more popular.

The Association of Minemen is your Association, and you should let the officers of the Association know if you are not pleased with any aspect of our Association. Constructive criticism is helpful and will be of value in charting our future, so let us hear your complaints, if you have any, along with your suggestion of how to correct it.

We have received a lengthy letter from our Vice President, Harry Coker which is a letter of concern, evaluating our Association's present course versus what he believes the original intent of the organization to be. His letter and concerns will be a matter of discussion in a formal forum of Association officers and appropriate committee members in the near future. If you are not satisfied with our Association's goals, objectives and present method of operation regarding organization, reunions, membership, recruiting, awards, museum sponsorship, etc., please contact us via written letter as soon as possible so we can include your views as well.

Those of you living in the Yorktown area, please contact Jackie Smoot and offer your help to him in arranging this year's reunion.

Warm regards



LYAL STRYKER
President

P.S. The next newsletter, 1 June, will include info and forms for the dinner and picnic, etc.

I wish to join the Association of Minemen and include payment for one time dues of \$5.00 for Regular Membership or \$3.00 for Associate Membership.

P.O. BOX 71835 CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN



NAME

(FIRST)

(MIDDLE)

(LAST)

RATE/RANK

TELEPHONE #

ADDRESS

ZIP

ORDER FORM FOR T SHIRTS AND TIE TACS

Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 71835
Charleston, SC 29405

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

T SHIRTS: (46-48)EXTRA LARGE: _____ AT \$5.00 EACH = \$ _____
(42-44)LARGE: _____ AT \$5.00 EACH = \$ _____
(38-40)MEDIUM: _____ AT \$5.00 EACH = \$ _____
(34-36)SMALL: _____ AT \$5.00 EACH = \$ _____
CHILDS: _____ AT \$4.00 EACH = \$ _____

TIE TACS: AOM BRONZE: _____ AT \$5.00 EACH = \$ _____
* AOM SILVER: _____ AT \$16.00 EACH = \$ _____
* STERLING SILVER: _____

SHIPPING/HANDLING = \$ 1.00

TOTAL = \$ _____

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN ELIGIBILITY

REGULAR MEMBER: ANY PERSON ACTIVE OR RETIRED, REGULAR OR RESERVE, MILITARY OR CIVILIAN WHO IS A GRADUATE OF THE BUORD SPONSORED MINEMAN SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE AND MINE CRAFT SCHOOL, PEARL HARBOR, T.H. (1935 TO 1941), THE NAVAL SCHOOLS MINE WARFARE AT YORKTOWN, VA. FROM 1941 THROUGH DECEMBER 1958 AND/OR THE FLEET AND MINE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, CHARLESTON, S.C. FROM JANUARY, 1959 OR WAS DESIGNATED A "MINEMAN" SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER.

ASSOCIATE: ANY PERSON PREVIOUSLY OR CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN ALL FACETS OF MINE WARFARE, INCLUDING DESIGN/DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, TESTING, TRAINING, LOGISTICS, MINE LAYING/SWEEPING AND/OR SEA/SHORE MINING OPERATIONAL ASPECTS SHALL BE NON-VOTING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN: TO PROMOTE INTEREST, COMRADESHIP AND *ESPRIT DE CORPS* IN THE MINE WARFARE COMMUNITY; TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND COOPERATION OF PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN MINE WARFARE; TO PROMOTE RECOGNITION IN MEMORY OF THOSE GAL-LANT PERSONNEL WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR OUR COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MINE WARFARE OPERATIONS; SUPPORT THE MINE WARFARE MUSEUM ON BOARD THE USS YORKTOWN AND/OR OTHER SUITABLE MEANS OF PRESERVING MEMORABILIA ASSOCIATED WITH THE MINEMAN RATING.

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

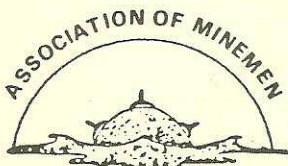
P.O. BOX 71835

CHARLESTON, SC 29405



ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P.O. BOX 71835
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29405

**8TH ANNUAL MEETING
AND REUNION IN
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA
AUGUST 6 - 8, 1982**



DEDICATED TO SERVING
THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

Feb 82

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 150
CHARLESTON, S.C.

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