

NOVEMBER, 1982

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

MNC FORREST C. FISHER, USN (RET)

21 September 1908 - 26 October 1982

The first President of the Association of Minemen, Forrest (Foxy) Fisher, passed away on Tuesday, 26 October 1982, in Yorktown, Virginia. Foxy enlisted in the Navy on 26 February 1926, and after he retired from the Navy as a Chief Mineman, he went to work at the Naval Mine Engineering Facility. He then retired from NMEF and devoted much of his time to assisting elderly and handicapped people through the York Lions Club.

Foxy willed his body to science and requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the York Lions Club. Anyone wishing to honor Foxy's memory are urged to send a contribution to the York Lions Club in his memory. Checks should be made out to the York Lions Club and sent to:

Mr. G. B. Llewellyn, Secretary  
York Lions Club  
335 Lafayette Road  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690

The Association of Minemen has sent a contribution. Following is a copy of the Association's and Commander Mine Warfare Command's letter to Mary Fisher.

"Dear Mrs. Fisher,

I was saddened to hear that your husband, Forrest, recently passed away. His contribution to the Association of Minemen, as the first President, will long be remembered. As you may recall, I met both you and Forrest at one of the earlier Association annual dinner meetings, and I was impressed with his enthusiasm for the Minemen of our Navy.

Please know that the many people who were fortunate enough to know Forrest will long remember him for what he stood for and accomplished. On behalf of the Minemen of the United States Navy, I extend our sincere condolences to you and your family.

Sincerely,

C. F. Horne, III  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy"

"Dear Mary;

On behalf of the more than six hundred members of the Association of Minemen, I wish to express our condolence to you and your family on your recent great loss. We also feel the loss, because Forrest was not only our first President, but was loved and respected by so many people in different walks of life. I know that you and your family are justifiably proud of the many contributions Forrest made not only to the Country and Navy he loved and served, but also to the community in which he lived and also served.

I personally shall always remember "Foxy", as he is affectionately known to many of us, for the positive influence he had on my life and career in the Navy. This influence was also a positive factor in the lives of many other young men that chose a Navy career as Minemen.

In keeping with the family wishes, a contribution is being made to the York Lions Club in memory of Forrest to help keep up the work that Forrest was actively involved with.

If I personally, or the Association may be of any assistance at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our members in the Yorktown area. We will, of course, keep your name on our mailing list for our periodic newsletters so you can keep informed about the Association and your many friends.

With warmest personal regards

Lyal M. Stryker  
President"

If any of you would like to drop Mary a note, her address is:

Mrs. F. C. Fisher  
Box 76  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690

NEWS OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REUNION  
AND MEETING 6-8 AUGUST 1982  
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Again, another great reunion weekend in Yorktown, Virginia. The early bird Friday evening at the Fleet Reserve was well attended and although the "caterer" didn't show - a quick call provided a wide assortment of pizza. A wide assortment of AOM ball caps, T-shirts and tie tacs were available for purchase at the early bird and the picnic.

MEETING MINUTES 1982  
AT THE FRA, BRANCH 172, YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

The Board of Directors (BOD) met Saturday morning, 7 August 1982. The meeting was called to order at 0920. Present and voting were Lyal Stryker, President,



Harry Coker, Vice President, Toby Horn, BOD, Phil Dechene, BOD, Charlie Hunt, BOD, Bob Forbes, BOD, and Jackie Smoot, BOD. Also present were Dick Schommer, Richard Spofford, Donald Gatewood, Gordon Webster and Francis Martin. The Secretary/Treasurer Ron Swart, was unable to attend due to military duties. The following committee reports were presented:

1. Treasurer's Report. Toby Horn made the following report for Ron Swart; checking balance on 1 October 1981 was \$1,034.65 and a savings balance of \$1,049.48. Expenditures since 1 October 1981 were \$4,150.11. Checking balance on 6 August 1982 was \$387.06 and a savings balance of \$734.36, for a total balance of \$1,121.42. Jack Smoot reported the Audit Committee found everything in order. The Treasurer's Report was accepted. (Current status will be reported later in this newsletter.)
2. Membership. Toby Horn reported we have 450 active, 100 associate and 6 honorary members for a total of 556. This represents a growth from 233 members in 1980 and 354 members in 1981. (We are now over 600.)
3. Dinner/Picnic. Jack Smoot reported 130 people signed up for the banquet vis-a-vis contract for 150 dinners. He anticipated some last minute attendees would make up the difference. (They did!) Jack also reported that we had to hire a band this year since the Navy Band was in R&R standown. It was reported the NWS military were being required to wear their uniforms to the dinner/dance. Inasmuch as the AOM members have to pay to attend, the BOD directed that in the future, the AOM invite the attention of local commands in the area of our Annual Reunion and request that their military personnel be allowed the choice of either wearing their uniform or appropriate civilian attire. Jack reported they expect 175 people for the picnic.
4. Mine Museum. Dick Schommer reported that there had not been much progress since last year. Following a discussion, it was resolved that increased attention and effort to get things going would be applied. The local Sea Cadet unit, sponsored by the Navy League have offered to assist. (More on this subject later.)
5. Historical. Lyal Stryker reported that we are receiving more memorabilia all the time and encourages everyone to keep us in mind when you run across an old artifact, book, manual, etc., relating to Mine Warfare. We are also receiving incidental requests for information and there is much potential to provide historical information to other similar organizations and museums.
6. Constitution and By-Laws. Phil Dechene and Bob Forbes jointly submitted the report concerning the proposed changes to authorize chapters, regional areas and officers. Recommendation was that the C&BL's be amended to provide for the establishment of chapters, etc., of the Association of Minemen. Following a discussion, the BOD voted 6 to 1 to recommend approval of the change to the membership. The question of have 6 BOD members versus 5 to allow better continuity (elect 2 each year) was discussed. The BOD voted 7 to 0 to recommend approval of the change to the membership. A question on membership criteria was raised regarding the present wording of the C&BL's relative to regular voting membership requirements. Following a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the BOD was that the C&BL's regarding membership as now written is adequate. The C&BL's provide for the BOD to decide any questions concerning membership. The BOD voted 7-0 to recommend to the membership leaving the C&BL's as they are concerning membership.



7. The matter of making the mailing list available to the membership was discussed. Following the discussion, the BOD voted 7 to 0 to recommend the membership approve making the mailing list available to members only, based on the following criteria:

- The mailing list would not be used for commercial purposes.
- There would be a nominal charge to cover the printing and mailing costs.
- Members not wishing to be listed should notify the Association in writing. Deletions in future lists would be effective with the next update.
- The list would be available within three months following approval by the membership and with notice of the intent to publish the mailing list promulgated in the newsletter. This will allow time for members to request deletion of their names and addresses prior to printing the first listing.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Honorary Mineman Nominations. There were no recommendations for this award this year. The BOD will recommend to the membership that the selection process be modified to provide for soliciting nominations through the newsletter. The BOD would then select one or two (maximum allowed by C&BL's) for the award prior to the annual reunion. This will allow for the person(s) selected to attend the reunion dinner and accept the award in person. The BOD voted 7-0 to recommend the membership approve this procedural change.

2. Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers (COCC) Award. The award criteria was discussed. It was recommended that the period of eligibility be from one AOM annual meeting to the next meeting. Any Mineman completing thirty years or more service would be awarded a COCC award and there would be no limit on the number of awards each year.

3. Charter Member Plaque. This plaque was suggested in a letter from MNCM Billy C. Owen, USN (RET). Following a lengthy discussion on how to establish eligibility and other criteria, the BOD voted 7-0 to table the issue pending further investigation by the Membership Committee. The results of their investigation and recommendations will be provided to the membership in the next newsletter.

4. Ninth Annual Meeting Committee. Following a discussion of this subject and noting the 1983 meeting will be in Charleston, SC, Bob Forbes was appointed Chairman of this committee. (Note: The weekend of 12-14 August 1983 will be the reunion weekend here in Charleston. Details and reservation forms will be in the next newsletter.)

5. Tenth Annual Meeting. A discussion was held concerning the possibility of holding the 10th meeting somewhere special in observance of our "official" anniversary. Locations such as Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada were mentioned. In keeping with our present policy of alternating meetings between Yorktown and Charleston the 10th meeting in 1984 would be in Yorktown. It was recommended by the BOD, 7 to 0, that a poll be taken of the members at the general



membership meeting and also request comments from the readers of the newsletter to get a consensus of opinion. (Note: Please let us know what your thoughts are for a location for the 10th Annual Meeting.)

6. Other New Business. Our Vice President, Harry Coker, submitted his resignation, stating that there were several reasons he felt compelled to resign. The resignation was taken under advisement, with the BOD to discuss the matter at the picnic. (Note: The BOD, at the picnic on 8 August 1982, voted to accept the resignation. In accordance with the C&BL's, the BOD appointed MN1 John A. (Frenchy) Lemieux, USN (RET), to complete the term of office of Vice President.)

There being no other business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried, BOD meeting adjourned.

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING

The general membership meeting was held at the FRA Branch 172 Yorktown, VA, on Saturday, 7 August 1982. Meeting was called to order at 1330 and the following business was conducted:

1. Attendance list was circulated. There were forty-three (43) names on the list.

2. The following Committee Reports were made as stated/noted in the BOD minutes above.

(a) Treasurer's Report accepted.

(b) Membership - no discussion, accepted.

(c) Dinner/Picnic - Concern over requirements for military personnel to wear uniform to the dinner discussed. BOD approach presented in the BOD meeting, as noted above, agreed to. No further discussion.

(d) Mine Museum - Concern voiced over the lack of progress to date and everyone was urged to assist when requested. Assistance from the Sea Cadets will be solicited.

(e) Historical - Lyal Stryker thanked everyone for their past assistance in donating various documents and artifacts. Requested continued support from everyone.

(f) C&BL's - The following matters were presented and discussed:

(1) Authorizing chapters of the AOM and amending the C&BL's to provide this authority with established rules. Approved. The proposed C&BL amendment will be in a future newsletter prior to the next meeting so the members can vote on the proposed amendment at the next meeting.

(2) Increase the number of BOD from 5 to 6. Approved. C&BL's amendment as noted in (1) above.



6. There being no further business to be brought before the membership, a motion was made to adjourn. Motion seconded and meeting adjourned.

#### DINNER MEETING 7 AUGUST 1982

Again this year, as in previous years in Yorktown, the meeting was held at Ft. Eustis. The sit down prime rib dinner was excellent, everyone commented how good it was.

GREETINGS: Captain John Fox, U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer of the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, welcomed the Association, their friends and guests, to the Yorktown area.

GUEST SPEAKER: Vice Admiral James A. Lyons, Jr., U.S. Navy, Commander SECOND Fleet, out of Norfolk, Virginia, spoke to us about the Total Force Concept. VADM Lyons noted that some tend to lose sight of the fact that one very key element of that concept is mine warfare and congratulated the Association of Minemen for preserving the outstanding heritage of the mine warfare community. He also cited several historical examples of the importance of mine warfare in past conflicts and said that they are now incorporating mine warfare into all Second Fleet/Striking Fleet Atlantic exercises in much greater depth than ever before. VADM Lyons ended his speech with the following comment: "Professional groups like the Association of Minemen with your broad spectrum of members, including active duty and retired mine technicians and specialists, government engineers and employees, civilian contractors and interested citizens lend tremendous support of today's mine programs and our future goals. It is my honor to be with you tonight to recognize the best Minemen in the world. Thank you." VADM Lyons received a standing ovation from everyone present for his inspiring talk.

MINEMAN OF THE YEAR: Rear Admiral C. F. Horne, III, USN, Commander Mine Warfare Command and an Honorary Member of the Association of Minemen, announced the 1982 recipient of the award. It is Mineman First Class Kenneth M. Empie, U.S. Navy, stationed at MOMAG Detachment SEVEN, Hawaii. Captain W. E. Riley, U.S. Navy, Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group, accepted the AOM Letter of Recognition and COMINEWARCOM plaque from RADM Horne on behalf of MN1 Empie, who was unable to attend. Jack Smoot, Board of Directors of the AOM, presented the beautiful AOM Mineman of the Year plaque to Captain Riley. The awards will be presented to MN1 Empie in Hawaii by Captain Riley. Also on hand was MNCM Ted Newton and his wife, from Detachment SEVEN. (Note: The presentation took place on 9 September 1982 at West Loch).

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS: In addition to our distinguished guests, VADM Lyons, RADM Horne, CAPT Fox and CAPT Riley, also present and recognized were CDR Petersen, Officer in Charge Naval Mine Engineering Facility, Mr. Trist McConnell, Technical Director Naval Mine Engineering Facility and an Honorary Member of the Association, and CAPT Carl Scherrer, USN (RET).

#### AWARDS:

- Honorary Member/Mineman. None awarded this year.



- Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers (COCC) - MNCS Harry Bright, USN (RET). NOTICE! - NOTICE! - Following the dinner meeting it was discovered we had another qualified member for this distinct award, CWO4 John Loonam, USN (RET). Our apologies to John for this unintentional oversight. Both Harry and John have subsequently been provided their suitably engraved plaques.
- Oldest Mineman Present: MNC Noel A. Goode, USN (RET).
- Youngest Mineman Present: MN3 Laura L. Sample, U.S. Navy, from the CAPTOR IMA at Yorktown.
- Mineman Travelling Longest Distance: MNCM Ted Newton, USN from MOMAG DET SEVEN, Hawaii.

#### TAPS:

- A minute of silence was observed to honor the memory of all our departed Minemen and those listed below that have died since the last reunion:

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| MN1 GORDON S. STANLEY         | 1981           |
| MN1 CHARLES E. MELTON         | AUGUST 1981    |
| MN2 WILLIAM J. LITTLE         | DECEMBER 1981  |
| LCDR R. A. BILLINGS           | JUNE 1982      |
| CWO HAROLD W. JOOS            | JUNE 1982      |
| MN3 R. TERRY JONES            | JULY 1982      |
| MNC B. "BOBBY" F. MCCOY       | AUGUST 1982    |
| MN3 JOSEPH HURSCHAL JAMES, II | SEPTEMBER 1982 |
| MNC FORREST (FOXY) C. FISHER  | OCTOBER 1982   |

#### DRAWINGS:

Mrs. Fox drew two ticket stubs for the two door prizes. The first ticket drawn was Ray Etheridge and he chose the two matching AOM ashtrays, courtesy of Bill Mehard. Harold (Jash) Keeran's ticket was drawn next and he received the Giles cartoon picture.

#### ADDENDUM:

CAPT Scherrer and Al Boreen were thanked for the artifacts and historical documents they presented to the Association.

LCDR Farmer, PCO MOMAG Reserve Unit 1006, relieving CWO Warren Savage were both present along with many members of the unit.

Thanks to CAPT Fox, CO NWS Yorktown for the "Welcome AOM Reunion" sign inside the main gate.

Following VADM Lyons' speech, RADM Horne presented him a copy of the book "Weapons That Wait."

(3) Membership criteria to remain as stated in the C&BL's. Approved. Following the discussion on the membership criteria, a motion was made and seconded to make Roy Kettner a regular voting member vice the associate member he now is/was. Motion approved unanimously. Roy was one of the early organizers of the Association, although not a Mineman, he is certainly deserving of full voting membership. Congratulation Roy!

(4) Making the Secretary/Treasurer office two instead of one. Approved. C&BL's amendment as noted in (1) above.

(g) Mailing List - To be made available to members as noted in BOD minutes. Approved.

### 3. New Business

(a) Nominations for Honorary Mineman - Recommendation of the BOD approved.

(b) COCC Award - Recommendation of the BOD approved.

(c) Charter Members Plaque - Recommendation of the BOD approved. Membership Committee to submit report to be reviewed by the BOD.

(d) Ninth Annual Meeting Committee - As noted in the BOD minutes. Bob Forbes, Chairman. (Note: Weekend of 12-14 August 1983 scheduled.)

(e) Tenth Annual Meeting - Discussion held on possibility of having it in Reno, Nevada. The majority present at the meeting, by a show of hands, favor the suggestion. (Note: Those of you not at the business meeting desiring to propose other locations, please advise us so that we can discuss and vote on the matter at our next meeting.)

4. The BOD minutes were approved as submitted.

5. The meeting was opened to business from the floor, and the following action taken:

(a) Frank Martin made a motion to have the reading of Harry Coker's letter. Motion seconded. It was noted that Harry had requested the letter be destroyed but Harry indicated he had no objections to the letter being read to the assembled members. The members voted to hear the letter, and after a brief recess, Phil Dechene read the letter. Following the reading of the letter, the chair inquired if anyone had any comments. None were offered.

(b) John Keen made a motion that a gavel be provided for the office of President. Seconded and approved.

(c) "Mac" McCune made a motion that a safe fireproof repository be found for the Association records. Motion seconded. During the discussion "Mac" noted that another organization he belonged to had lost valuable records in a fire at a persons' home where the records were stored. (Note: We have recently acquired additional secure storage space aboard the USS YORKTOWN, where our records will shortly be moved to.)



Following the dinner, the band played for the enjoyment of the many remaining. There were a few old timers on the floor that someone said they thought they had forgotten how to dance! but it certainly did not appear that way.

#### PICNIC SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 1982

The picnic was held at Wright Circle picnic area on the Naval Weapons Station. Food was prepared at the picnic by personnel from the MOMAG Reserve Unit 1006 and the CAPTOR IMA. The members certainly appreciated their fine efforts. Games were organized by Janie Horn for the children and prizes given to nearly everyone that participated.

Some bad weather blew up later in the afternoon, which dampened some of the festivities, but it did get everyone closer together when they all huddled under the covered cooking shed. It was reported that a tornado touched down in some woods near Grafton but did not cause any damage.

The cook-out was excellent, consisting of hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings and baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad and plenty of refreshments. A dunking machine from the Coast Guard Base (old Minewarfare school!) was on hand for the picnic. After it was filled with water, Jack Smoot was the first "volunteer" in the dunking seat. He was dunked several times until the machine had to be secured because of the bad weather. Toby Horn had volunteered to relieve Jack, but never got the opportunity, so Toby volunteered to be the first one in the seat in August, 1983 in Charleston.

Several of the ladies who were at the business meeting observing and had noted the presiding officer had to use an ash tray for a gavel, presented to our President an interim gavel that resembles a rolling pin. It was gratefully appreciated, and was inscribed with the following names: Carmen Bemis, Evelyn Dechene, Gracie Hunt, Edna Lemieux, Jane McCune and Helen Webster.

The door prize drawings were done by a young man volunteer, who first picked Swede Carlsen's ticket and he selected the matched pair of AOM ash trays. The second ticket belonged to Mrs. Davis, wife of the PCO of MOMAG Reserve Unit 1006 and she received the framed copy of the Giles cartoon.

Thanks to all the helpers that policed the picnic area even while it was raining. Thanks to everyone for sticking it out in spite of the weather.

#### NEWS OF INTEREST

- We have recently learned that the U.S. Navy is constructing a new class of ships, the T-AGOS, which will be designed for towing arrays used to detect submarines. The interesting point, is that they will be named after old minesweepers. There will be twelve ships in the class with the following characteristics: steel hull, 226 feet long, 43 foot beam, 15 foot draft, 2,300 ton displacement, speed 11 knots, 1,600 shaft horsepower, accommodates 26 people and has an endurance of 90 days. The first eight ships have already been named and are STALWART (now under construction by Tacoma Shipyard and will be delivered in early 1984), CONTENDER, VINDICATOR, TRIUMPH, ASSURANCE, PERSISTENT, INDOMITABLE, and PREVAIL. The remaining four ships will be



named later. (Information courtesy of CDR Ray Witter, NAVELEX PME 124-40 recently of COMNAVSEASYS COM Code 63Y1.)

- The recent (September 1982) issue of the Naval Undersea Warfare Museum Foundation Newsletter contained the following comment in the Message from the President (VADM Eli T. Reich, USN (RET)) column: "I have been expanding the Foundation's contacts with other organizations serving one or another specialty within the USN community. Among these are the Association of Minemen and the Submarine Veterans of World War II. These are both fine, long-established organizations totally dedicated to the support and advocacy of their undersea warfare specialty and whose support of the Museum is welcome!" Association of Minemen members are urged to consider joining the Naval Undersea Warfare Museum Foundation. The following form is provided for your use.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
NAVAL UNDERSEA WARFARE MUSEUM FOUNDATION

**I DESIRE TO BE A MEMBER.  
MY CONTRIBUTION IS:**

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other

- **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** --The Naval Undersea Warfare Museum Foundation is a nonprofit, tax exempt foundation incorporated in the State of Washington.

- Make checks payable to:

NAVAL UNDERSEA WARFARE MUSEUM FOUNDATION

\*\*\*\*\*

THE FOUNDATION IS INTERESTED IN  
YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS--  
PLEASE USE REVERSE SIDE.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**I DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE.  
MY INTERESTS ARE: (Check One or More)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sensors (Acoustic and Nonacoustic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Aircraft                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weapon Control                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Ships             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Torpedoes                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Submarines                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mines                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic Warfare          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missiles                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Intelligence/Ops Analysis |

**I WOULD ASSIST IN COMMITTEE WORK: (Please Check)**

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design, Development, Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Planning                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization and Administration   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Audit                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Liaison                      |

Business/Activity \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

NAVAL UNDERSEA WARFARE MUSEUM FOUNDATION  
NAVAL UNDERSEA WARFARE ENGINEERING STATION  
Building 97, B Street  
Keyport, WA 98345

**FELLOW MINEMEN AND ASSOCIATES**

The Mineman rating has a short, colorful past that should not be lost to the future. (Mineman rating established 12 October 1943, disestablished 1 January 1948 and reestablished 9 June 1948.) In order to preserve that past we are collecting as much of its history and as many of its sea stories as we can find. We hope that someday a book will be written, but for now, at least, the information will be kept on file by the Association. We would appreciate all the help you could give us. If you know any sea stories, nick names and how the people got them, or where we can locate historical information jot it down and send it to us here at the Association of Minemen. - D. Doane, MNC, Assistant Historian



- Congratulations to Clint and Kathy Snyder on the birth of their son, Logan Thomas, born 18 June 1982. They also report they have purchased a home in Summerville, SC.

- Fred and Millie Reid recently married off their daughter, Linda, in Louisville, Kentucky, and will marry off son, Jim, in December. Fred recently swore Jim into the Navy as an Ensign in the Medical Service Corp. Jim and his bride will report to Bethesda Naval Hospital early in 1983.

- Harold (Josh) Keeran and Lynda Stryker were married 21 November 1982 in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

- A petition was received from the ladies at this year's reunion requesting they be allowed to participate in supporting the annual reunions. It is hoped they will play an active part in preparing for the 1983 reunion here in Charleston.

- Received a nice letter from Roy Kettner congratulating the Association on a "very fine and enjoyable Mineman reunion in the York County/Newport News areas. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet old acquaintances, shipmates, friends and to enjoy their company along with good food, interesting games and refreshments."

- The Charleston Reserve unit, MOMAG DET 1107, has a new commanding officer. LCDR Charles A. Peberdy became the Unit CO on 1 October 1982 when he relieved LCDR S. C. Poppy. The unit recently saw two of its members advanced to chief. They are MNC David B. Bronson and TMC Jeffrey W. Burts. Our congratulations to them. One other note, the MOMAG DET 1107 members are eagerly looking forward to ACDUTRA in Souda Bay, Crete during 11-24 April 1983.

- Contrary to what you may have heard, the Association is well and progressing nicely.

- It is understood that the Naval Mine Engineering Facility has finally, after many years, received approval for construction of their new facility. The new Mine Engineering Laboratory has been approved and funded for FY 83. On 15 October 1982, President Reagan signed the Military Construction (MILCON) authorization and appropriation bill and thus gave final approval for the construction of a new Mine Engineering Laboratory for the Naval Mine Engineering Facility. The laboratory will be built on the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia. The building will include 33,300 square feet of space and will cost 3 million 250 thousand dollars. It will house all of the Naval Mine Engineering Facility except the Test Engineering Department. A companion project, P-394, for a new test engineering building is now in the approval process.

The Mine Engineering Laboratory will greatly enhance productivity for in service engineering. The approval and funding are testimonials to the important role that mine warfare plays in world and national defense.

- Congratulations to MN2 Holden from MOMAG Unit 8 Guam, the only Mineman selected for MN1 off the last exam. Also to MN3 Watson, DET THREE; MN3 Statterfield, Unit 9 Subic and MN3 Thomas, DET 5 Sigonella, the only three selected for promotion to MN2.



- Also congratulations to:

- Ed Hutsell, COMOMAG, promoted from CW03 to LTJG and being transferred to MOMAG DET 10 as the Prospective OIC.

- Joe Harris, NMPC, Washington, D.C. (MN Detailer), promoted from MNC to ENS.

- Gary Gray, COMINEWARCOM, promoted from MNCS to CW02 and being transferred to MOMAG Unit 8 as the Mines Officer.

- Garry Williams, DET 2, promoted from MNCS to CW02 and being transferred to COMOMAG.

- Mike Myers, Indian Island, promoted from MNC to CW02 and being transferred to COMOMAG.

- A contract was signed this year to build the AVENGER, MCM-1, our first new mine countermeasures ship since the 1950's. The new class will be a wooden hulled state-of-the-art minehunter and neutralizer with the added capability of mechanical and influence sweeping. The MCM-1 will have a deep descending Variable Depth Sonar (VDS) to hunt the mines and a fully automated Mine Countermeasures Information Center to receive, plot and evaluate all prior and on-going mine information. Plans are to build fourteen of these highly capable MCM-1 AVENGER class ship.

- Received a nice letter a while back from MN2 "RITZ" Radke, stationed at the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. He said the MN billet there is being changed to a Boiler Tech. "RITZ" noted all the benefits of the billet, such as being close to Boston and New York, as well as other fine "liberty" areas. He noted also that he was transferring to MOMAG Unit 8 in Guam in August '82, so he should be there by now. The following is a quote from his letter -- "Also, it should please you to know how often, and how well the Mine Community is spoken of here at the War College. It made me proud to be a representative of the Mine Force."

- Congratulations to MNCM Baird who was the first Force Master Chief of the Mine Warfare Command. He retired 1 December 1982 and was relieved by MNCM J. J. Sbei, COMOMAG Command Master Chief, who was relieved by MNCM John Muessig, DET 11, who was relieved by MNCS Forbes from COMOMAG!

- The weekend of 12-14 August 1983 has been selected for the 1983 reunion here in Charleston. This is a firm date and the Oaks Country Club has been reserved for the night of 13 August 1983 for the dinner. Other details of the reunion will be provided in future newsletters prior to the reunion.

- As noted elsewhere in this newsletter and as approved by the membership, the AOM mailing list will be made available for a nominal fee to those MEMBERS requesting a copy. The next newsletter will announce when they will be available and the cost.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS LISTED IN THIS MAILING LIST PLEASE ADVISE THE AOM IN WRITING.



The Mark 13 mine that came from the old Minewarfare School, Yorktown and was until recently in front of the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center is going to be put on display at Patriots Point in the near future - QUESTION: Does anyone know the origin of this particular mine? when was it placed on display at the NSMW Yorktown? We will appreciate any and all inputs which will help us to prepare an appropriate placard for the mine when it is placed on display.

The last several weekends have seen a very industrious group of AOM members and friends turning to on the YORKTOWN. We now have an attractive display of the Civil War mines and various other artifacts on public display. The Patriots Point Authority has now assigned us a large area on the third deck which used to be a crews mess (B-304-L), adjoining bunk room and reading room. These areas are now being worked on actively every Saturday morning commencing at 0800 and usually finishing up around 1300 or so. If you want to lend a hand (literally) either come on out or call Dick Schommer, Bob Forbes, Frenchy Lemieux or Lyal Stryker for directions how to get aboard and locate the work area. The general plan is to prepare the mess deck area to display the mines now scattered around the hanger deck and to make the crews berthing area into a mine shop. The reading room will be made into a display area to exhibit the various manuals, photos, artifacts, etc., we have received.

A beautiful gavel, gavel block and storage case has been presented to the Association by an anonymous donor. The gavel is inscribed with the Association name and date of official organization. The Association greatly appreciates this donation.

Recently, several people have asked why we do not have a lifetime membership fee, which could obviate the requirement to send in \$1.00 annually for administrative and mailing fees. Many organizations do have such a fee, which is usually dependent on age, i.e.; younger members would pay more and older members pay less, based on the premise that younger members of an organization will live longer than older members. If you have any thoughts on the matter, either pro or con, let us know. At the same time, we will have the membership committee look into the matter. Hopefully they can report on the matter in time to include it in the next newsletter in case a change to the C&BL's is necessary.

#### NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

I have a few gaps in my log book I would like to fill in. Anyone knowing who has numbers 481, 482, 487 and 490 please let us know. Also, please keep us informed of address changes when you move or transfer or move. Our numbers are growing and it is a tough chore to keep up with addresses as is . . . !

We are just getting caught up since the reunion in August. The backlog of orders for T-shirts, tie-tacs and such is down to the last few. Those of you who are still waiting for real silver or gold tie-tacs should be getting a card in the mail soon explaining the situation. We are still having a problem getting tie-tacs in gold or silver at a reasonable price. Our regular tacs look great however - see the attached order form for all the AOM items. I'm being transferred in the summer and the AOM will be looking for a relief. Any potential volunteer "Secretary" can let the Board of Directors know.



I am sure by now that you have seen the AOM order blank on the inside cover of this newsletter. In response to the ladies and families, we now have ladies french cut T-shirts and children's T-shirts also. The hats also come in two sizes. New items are the coaches shirts and jackets, which are quality items we are sure you will be pleased with. All of the items are available from a reputable supplier here in Charleston. On the order form you will also notice the "Heather" T-shirts are listed with two colors, i.e.; Brown on Tan, which means the first color listed (Brown) is the color of the neck and sleeve trim and the second color (Tan) is the color of the T-shirt.

Our supplier has just advised us that he can provide personalization on the jackets, if desired, for \$2.00, limited to three lines. Example: MN2  
M.K. SIX  
MOMAG DET 6

The personalization would be on the right front breast of the jacket with the AOM logo on the left front breast.

Also, the hats can also be personalized if desired, for .25 cents a letter. The personalization would be on the rear of the hat, either initials or a name.

If you desire any personalizations, please mark them clearly on a separate sheet of paper and send in with the order form.

#### MEMBERSHIP

REGULAR - 502  
ASSOCIATE - 109  
HONORARY - 6

TOTAL - 617

RON SWART

#### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Association of Minemen has had another good year and it is all because of all you individual members who collectively support the Association. This year's reunion was another good one even in spite of the rain at the picnic, and the turn out was excellent. Much thanks to Jack Smoot for coordinating the weekend and to all his helpers from the Reserve MOMAG Unit 1006 and CAPTOR IMA.

Next year the Association will elect a new President, Vice President, and some Board of Directors. Please be thinking about who you want to serve the Association in these positions for the next three years (August 1983 to 1986). People that are currently serving can be re-elected if nominated, accept, and are elected. Previous officers can be elected again also. The only criteria is that a person be a voting member, i.e.; is or was a Mineman and is a paid up member. It is also suggested that if you have someone in mind, talk to them to make sure they can and will serve if elected.



PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE SHEET WITH YOUR ORDER.

# ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

NOTE: MARK THE QUANTITY OF ITEMS WANTED IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX. AFTER THE QUANTITY MARK A (B) IF YOU WANT A LARGE LOGO ON THE BACK, AN (FL) IF YOU WANT A LARGE LOGO ON THE FRONT, OR AN (FS) IF YOU WANT A SMALL LOGO ON THE LEFT FRONT BREAST.

## T-SHIRTS

HEATHER (POLYESTER COTTON)

### CHILDREN

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

### ADULT

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

### LADIES

|           | S | M | L | XL |
|-----------|---|---|---|----|
| NAVY BLUE |   |   |   |    |
| LT. BLUE  |   |   |   |    |
| YELLOW    |   |   |   |    |
| SAND      |   |   |   |    |
| RASPBERRY |   |   |   |    |
| PURPLE    |   |   |   |    |
| BLACK     |   |   |   |    |
| WHITE     |   |   |   |    |

### CHILDREN

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

### ADULT

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

## HATS

|       | S-M 6 | 1 1/2-7 | M-L 7-7 | 1 1/2 |
|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|
| RED   |       |         |         |       |
| WHITE |       |         |         |       |
| BLUE  |       |         |         |       |

## TIE TACS

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| GOLD TONE   |  |
| SILVER TONE |  |



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

## COACHES SHIRTS

THREE BUTTON PULLOVER  
WITH COLLAR AND POCKET

|             | S | M | L | XL |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|
| NAVY BLUE   |   |   |   |    |
| RED         |   |   |   |    |
| WHITE       |   |   |   |    |
| GOLD        |   |   |   |    |
| KELLY GREEN |   |   |   |    |

## JACKETS

### UNLINED

|           | S | M | L | XL |
|-----------|---|---|---|----|
| NAVY BLUE |   |   |   |    |
| RED       |   |   |   |    |
| GOLD      |   |   |   |    |

### LINED

|           | S | M | L | XL |
|-----------|---|---|---|----|
| NAVY BLUE |   |   |   |    |
| RED       |   |   |   |    |
| GOLD      |   |   |   |    |

| ITEM                               | PRICE    | QTY ORDERED | EXTENDED PRICE |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------|
| ADULT T-SHIRTS                     | \$ 5.50  | X           |                |
| CHILDRENS T-SHIRTS                 | \$ 4.50  | X           |                |
| LADIES SHIRTS                      | \$ 6.00  | X           |                |
| COACHES SHIRT                      | \$ 14.00 | X           |                |
| UNLINED JACKET                     | \$ 18.00 | X           |                |
| LINED JACKET                       | \$ 20.00 | X           |                |
| HATS                               | \$ 5.00  | X           |                |
| TIE TACS                           | \$ 5.00  | X           |                |
| SUBTOTAL                           |          |             |                |
| SHIPPING & HANDLING COST: ADD 10 % |          |             |                |
| 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 ANY FACET 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 GALANT 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.

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ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

P.O. BOX 71835

CHARLESTON, SC 29405

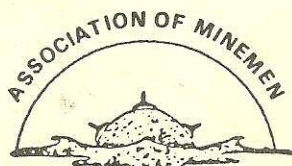
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CHARLESTON, S.C.



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

*Season's Greetings*

**9TH ANNUAL MEETING  
AND REUNION IN  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
AUGUST 12 - 14, 1983**



DEDICATED TO SERVING  
THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

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

NR 86