#### ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

#### P.O. BOX 71835

#### CHARLESTON, SC 29415

Notice: Reunion 1989 will be August 11-13, 1989 in Reno, Nevada. Reunion 1990 will be August 17-19, 1990 in Yorktown, Va. More information on the following pages.

NEWS OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION AND MEETING 12-14 AUGUST 1988, CHARLESTO SOUTH CAROLINA.

FIRST: THANKS TO ALL OF YOU THAT ATTENDED and made this one of the best reunions to date - more later - but a SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB FORBES, JOHN EPPS, JOHN MUESSIG AND MANY OTHERS IN THE AREA THAT PUT IT ALL TOGETHER. Just proves that MINEMEN can do anything, anywhere, anytime!

Board of Directors Meeting (BOD): Called to order by our President Dick Schommer at 1400 August 12, 1988 at the Fleet Reserve Home, Charleston. Reports were submitted by the various committee chairmen. Following are the highlights:

\*Reunion committee reported everything on track. Picnic to be at Short Sta Dinner set as announced in last newsletter.

\*Membership reports 1205 names on the rolls. Number will probably drop when we purge the list of members who have not paid their dues and those that moved and left no forwarding address. If you know of anyone that has lost touch with us PLEASE have them get in touch with us or you can send us their new address and we will contact them to see if they want to keep up their membership.

\*Mine Museum - Bob Forbes reported we are going to install new lights in the display area. We have also been given access to additional space adjacent to the mine museum that we will develop into more display area. for the public. Display stands and new identification posters have been

made for the civil war mines in the caged display area.

\*Historian - Lyal Stryker reported we are still receiving various artifacts and documents for the museum and archives. He will also accept for the

AOM any old publs etc for the museum.

- \*Scholarship Bob Benintende, Toby Horn, and Lyal Stryker were appointed by Dick Schommer to have a proposed program ready to submit to the 1989 annual meeting in Reno. Ground rules/criteria for selection and awards will be established and discussed at the 1989 meeting.
- \*Nominations Bob Forbes and John Loonam were recommended for the two openings on the Board of Directors.
- \*Honorary Mineman Cdr Jorgen Lorenzen, Royal Danish Navy and Lcdr Jack Tripp, USN were recommended for this honor by the Board of Directors.
- \*Future Reunions BOD recommended we continue alternating east and west (of the Mississippi) each year and select locations two years in advance.
- \*AOM Chapters The BOD recommends continued support for the concept and encourages our members to petition the BOD to establish a chapter in their area.
- \*Advertising Recommended accepting advertising from MEMBERS in the newsletter to help defray the cost. More information later in this newsletter

There being no further business to come before the BOD, the President adjourne the meeting and all proceeded to the early bird.

EARLY BIRD: At the American Legion, Goose Creek and was well attended. A good turn out and a lot of new members were there, many for the first reunion. A good time was had by all.

#### MEMBERSHIP MEETING 13 AUGUST 1988

The meeting was called to order by our President in the meeting room at the American Legion, Post 166, Goose creek. The BOD minutes (above) were read and approved by the members after some discussion. Following are the highlights of the meeting:

Elections - In addition to Bob Forbes and John Loonam, Will Dixon, T. A. Morris, Mike Bera, and Carily Whitener were nominated from the floor. As a result of the eleciton, Bob Forbes and John Loonam were elected to the BOD for three years.

Future Reunions - After some discussion the members approved the 1989 reunion in Reno and the 1990 reunion in Yorktown.

Following a period of general discussion the general membership meeting was adjourned and everyone headed back to the machines and tables.

#### DINNER MEETING 13 AUGUST 1988

The Fourteenth Annual Association of Minemen Dinner Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Summerville. The evening started with a cocktail hour followed by dinner. Following dinner TAPS was observed with a minute of silence following the reading of the names of our members and friends that had passed away since our last meeting.

Welcome - President Dick Schommer welcomed everyone and introduced our distinguished guests and visitors, which included Radm & Mrs. Wendell Johnson, USN, Commander Naval Base Charleston, Radm & Mrs. Byron E. Tobin, Jr., USN, Commander Mine Warfare Command, Captain and Mrs. Michael Nash, USN, Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Captain and Mrs. Richard J. Fromholtz, USN, Deputy Chief of Staff for Mine Countermeasures, and TMCM and Mrs. Byrd, COMOMAG Command Master Chief.

Taps - A minute of silence was observed to honor our departed members and shipmates. The names of those who had departed since our last meeting were read; Louise H. Shackelford, Lcdr Nick Scariano, USN(RET), CWO Robert E. Parker, USN(RET), and Rear Admiral Herman J. Kossler, USN(RET) Honorary Mineman H010.

Comnavbase Welcome - Radm Johnson, Commander Naval Base Charleston officially welcomed the Fourteenth Annual Association of Minemen Reunion to Charleston and wished all a happy, safe reunion. Radm Johnson is no stranger to mine warfare, he was Commander Mine Warfare Command briefly in early 1987 . prior to Radm Tobin assuming command.

Guest Speaker - Dick Schommer introduced Radm Byran E. Tobin, Jr., USN, Commander Mine Warfare Command as our guest of honor and speaker. Radm Tobin painted a bright picture for the future of mine warfare in the U. S. Navy and briefly outlined some of the new mines and systems coming on line as well as new programs.

Mineman Of The Year (MO4) - Radm Tobin announced the MN1 Dwayne Baldwin, USN stationed at Momag Unit 8, Guam had been selected the 1988 active duty Mineman of the Year and that MN1 Larry A. Boystern, USNR stationed at Momag Reserve Unit 1006, Yorktown had been selected the 1988 Reserve Mineman of the Year. Capt Nash, Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group accepted the award for MN1 Baldwin who is now MNC Baldwin. CWO-4 Jack Smoot, USNR, Commanding Officer of the Reserve Momag Unit 1006 at Yorktown accepted the award for MN1 Boystern.

<u>Awards</u> - The following were eligible for the Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers (COCC) award, having completed thirty years service: Joe Balderrama, Bob Forbes, Ted Newton, and Red Niederberger. Only Bob Forbes and Joe Balderrama showed up to collect the award from Dick Schommer.

<u>Door Prize</u> - John Epps won the "famous" Giles Cartoon, Captain Dick Fromholtz (Honorary Mineman H007) won the cast aluminum AOM ashtray, and Bob Austin, Bill Mehard, and Paul Rousseau each won a mine warfare book. Following the awards the meeting was adjourned and the members and quests settled down to some serious "sea stories" and dancing to the **GREAT NAVY** BAND CHARLESTON!!!

#### PICNIC AUGUST 14, 1988

The picnic was held at the Navy recreation area, Short Stay, past Moncks Corner. Standard picnic fare of hamburgers, hot dogs with all the trimmings along with cold beer and soft drinks were available. Also games for the children and young people, thanks to T.A. and Jhonda Morris. The challenge/re-match horseshoe contest never materialized. The auction this year raised \$1,000.00 for the mine museum and scholarship fund to be split 50/50. Our thanks to Toby Horn and Curtis Christian for conducting the auction. a SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU that provided so many great items to auction, including the carved duck from Toby & Janie Horn, the Old Salt framed poster from Dick Schommer & J J Sbei, the model MK 16 Mine from Charliand Grace Daughtrey, large colored photographs of the Naval Schools Mine Warfare 1957 from Cdr Lorenzen, Denmark, baby quilt from Doreen Stryker, stuffed animals from Laverne Padgett, and many other items. THANKS TO ALL!!

<u>Door Prizes</u> - Results of the drawing were: Giles Cartoon - Hargerty; AOM ashtray - Otto Smith; Book Infernal Machines - Bob Stancik; Book Brave Ship Brave Men - Ralph Padgett; Book Undersea Warfare - Roby Blankenship. This was the best picnic we can recall in many years. Counting all the children, babies, members, friends, families, and guests, we believe there had to be 300 people at the picnic. The generosity of all who donated items to auction and then participated in the auction is a vivid example of how great the Mineman Community/Family is. YOU PEOPLE ARE THE GREATEST!!

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS: The following are your officers for 1988-89:

President: MNCM Dick Schommer, USN
Vice-President: Phil Dechene
Secretary/Treasurer: Lyal Stryker
Board of Directors: Bob Benintende
Bob Forbes
John Lemieux
John Loonam
Jim Miller
CW04 Warren Savage, JR. USNR

 ${\tt NOTE}$ : At the reunion and meeting in Reno, Nevada, August 11 - 13, 1989 we will elect a President, Vice-President, and two Board of Directors. Term of office is three years.

1988 REUNION BOOK: They have been mailed out from the company in Florida. If you did not receive the one you paid for you can call them toll free at 1-800 327-8010 out of state and 1-800-432-6293 in Florida. This was an exceptional reunion book with some photos of the Iranian M-08 mine and a couple of old timers photographs.

1989 REUNION: A flyer and application form was mailed first class mail on 11 July. You should have it by now. If not call Lyal Stryker at (803) 553-1450 and he will send you one immediately.

# MINEMAN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer, Protect all Minemen everywhere.

Keep us safely in Thy sight, As we sail by your guiding light.

Watch over us as we travel far and near, Renewing friendships of a previous year.

Bless our families we hold so dear, Keep them safe from harm and fear.

Your eternal blessing for loved ones gone before, May they be most welcome at your door.

Grant us Thy peace and serenity, Whether on land or upon the sea.

We ask these things, O Lord, of Thee, So a better place this world will be.

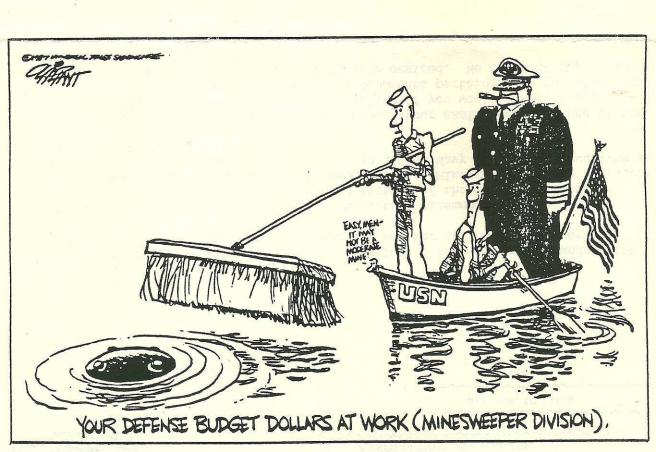
Heavenly Father, hear our prayer Protect all Minemen everywhere.

#### THE YEAR OF THE MINE

1988

#### THE PERSIAN GULF

In April, guided missile frigate Samuel B. Roberts steamed into a freshly laid Iranian minefield and struck a mine, injuring 10 crew members and nearly sinking the ship. In retaliation, the United States attacked two Iranian oil platforms that had been converted into military Outposts.





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#### P.O. BOX 71835

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A Non-profit Organization Incorporated in the State of South Carolina

If additional space is needed, please use reverse side.



### P.O. BOX 71835

#### CHARLESTON, SC 29415

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If additional space is needed, please use reverse side.

## Whitener 2nd woman mine LDO

By Laura Elliott

Times are certainly changing in regard to women these days and MNC Carily Whitener is proof.

Whitener will be commissioned on April 1, 1990, as a Limited Duty Officer and is only the second woman in the mine community to be selected for this position. Ens. Cora Lee MacIntosh, formerly of Charleston base F&MWTC, was the first.

"I got here by having a very strong chain of command...they pushed me to learn, and gave me leadership roles that entailed a lot of responsibility," said Whitener.

She enlisted in the Navy in April 1977, following the lead of her father who was a torpedoman in the Navy.

"I lived in a very small farm town in Minnesota and there was no real opportunity there, so I decided to join the Navy."

Though she wasn't sure what a mineman did when she enlisted, Whitener quickly mastered the building, assembling and testing of underwater mines.

Looking back, Whitener has seen a drastic change in the Navy over the course of the past 12 years. "Not only has the Navy changed in their views toward women, but so has society as a whole," she said.

"For a woman, Navy life was almost unthinkable twelve years ago. Now it's a viable career path.

"During my first tour overseas, my command master chief actually assigned a petty officer to carry my orders and to basically take care of me...now, nobody holds your hand."

With determination and hard work, Whitener was named COMINEWARCOM Sailor of the Year in 1987, and went on to be selected as

Vice CNO Sailor of the Year.

Since then, Whitener has become an MNC and is preparing for her promotion to LDO next April.

"I wanted to experience being a chief petty officer before I got commissioned, because it is such a vital role in the Navy," she said.

Her goal now is to become a CSO at a COMOMAG site one day.

Her secret to success?

"From the beginning. Cora and I adopted the attitude that you have to do better than everyone else if you're going to succeed."

And succeed they have. Though things have come a long way, Whitener feels that there is still a long way to go.

"I hope we'll get to a point where a woman can do the same job as a man and be equal.

**AUGUST 19, 1988** 

THE BOW HOOK

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# Capt. Nash new Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group

Capt. Michael A. Nash relieved Capt. Frederick T. Massey recently as Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, here.

Massey, who had commanded MOMAG since 1986, will assume duties as inspector general for Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Southern Command, Quarry Heights, Panama.

A 1962 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Nash earned his master's degree from Pepperdine University. He is also a graduate of the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. His most recent assignment was as commanding officer, Naval Air Reserve Center, Pensacola, Fla.

Nash's other assignments include duty as executive officer of Patrol Squadrons 30 and 49 in Jacksonville, Fla.; as commander, Fleet Air, Keflavik, Iceland; and as commanding officer of

Reserve Patrol Wing, Atlantic, Norfolk, Va.

The mobile mine assembly group was established in 1975 to train personnel in mine maintenance, assembly, and preparation. Additionally, MOMAG provides training mines for mine countermeasures forces, Air Force and Navy aircraft, and submarines. The 61-members of the MOMAG staff serve around the world, ashore and afloat.

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#### Roberts Piggybacks Out of the Gulf

THE GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58), damaged April 14th by an Iranian mine in the Persian Gulf, departed that region July

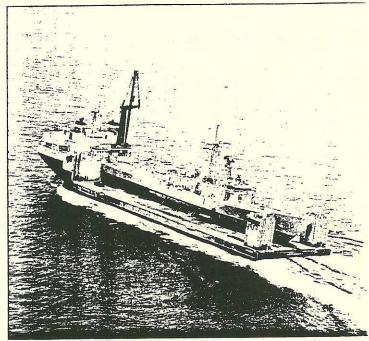
1st onboard the Dutch heavy-lift ship Mighty Servant II and is enroute to its home port in Newport, RI. The Roberts will make the journey across the Atlantic on board the Mighty Servant's floating dry

dock.

Designed to transport oil rigs in the North Sea, the Mighty Servant partially "sunk" itself, enabling the Roberts to be floated onto and secured to the Servant's dry dock platform. A care-

taker crew of about 30 Roberts crewmen are making the journey back with the ship. The Roberts is expected to arrive in Newport this month.

USS Samuel B. Roberts on board the Mighty Servant II



# Crippled Frigate to Return to United States

Special to Defense News

WASHINGTON — The crippled frigate Roberts will be loaded on the back of a huge cargo ship this month to return to the United States.

The Navy has hired a Dutch company to retrieve Roberts from the Persian Gulf, where it struck an Iranian mine April 14, ripping a nine-foot hole in its bottom and a 21-foot crack in its side.

The trip home, which will take about 40 days, will return Roberts to its home port in Newport, R.I. From there the ship will be towed to Bath Iron Works in Maine for repairs. Roberts was built by Bath and commissioned in 1986.

Roberts will head home on the back of Mighty Servant II, a semisubmersible heavy lift ship usually used to carry oil-drilling platforms to drilling sites.

Mighty Servant II is one of several massive heavy lift ships operated by Wijsmuller Transport Co., a Dutch company based in Ijmuiden, Holland, with offices in

Houston and 11 other cities.

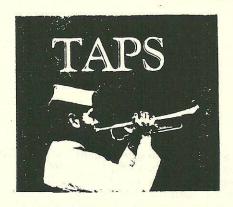
A 22,400-ton workhorse, Mighty Servant II is the equivalent of a seagoing flatbed truck.

By flooding part of its hull, Mighty Servant will sink 33 feet so that its cargo deck is under water. Roberts will then be towed over the cargo deck and Mighty Servant will be refloated, lifting Roberts out of the

Roberts is in a drydock in a shipyard in Dubai undergoing repairs. The frigate will be picked up by Mighty Servant there, the Navy said.

Navy minesweepers will shepherd Mighty Servant into and out of the Persian

The Navy had considered patching Roberts' hull and towing the frigate back to the United States. However, the ship was so badly damaged by the mine that marine architects warned a storm while under tow could cause the ship to break apart and sink



#### ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

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

CDR Mark L. Booth
CAPT David M. McIntosh
RADM Herman J. Kossler
Mrs. Johnnie L. Caulder
MNC Charles H. Daughtrey
MNC Emory Ray Stegall
Bill Haynes
LT William T. Bartram, USN
MN1 Theodore R. Rutt
MNCM Willie Brooks
MN1 Dennis E. Bornholtz
MNC Thomas C. Cope
MNC Harry F. Gottke
MNC John "Pappy" Dwyer

Waynesburg, PA January 28, 1988
Gulfport, MS June 28, 1988
Charleston, SC July 1, 1988
Durham, NC July 20, 1988
Adel, GA August 28, 1988
Jackson, MS November 1, 1988
Sacramento, CA December 5, 1988
SN Subic Bay, PI January 20, 1989
Naval Affairs March 1989
Long Beach, CA April 1989
Naval Affairs June 1989
Naval Affairs June 1989
San Jose, CA June 1989

Cdr Booth was an associate member and WWII veteran having served on Minesweepers.

Capt McIntosh was an associate member and WWII veteran. He commanded the Harry F. Bauer from 1952-54 and was Comineron 4 from 1960-61.

Radm Kossler was known to many Minemen - He was a past Cominelant and later Cominewarcom when he was also the Sixth Naval District Commandant here in Charleston. In 1987 at our reunion in Reno, Nevada he was elected an Honorary Mineman, number H010.

Mrs. Caulder was the wife of our member MNCS John Caulder and died after a long illness.

MNC Charlie Daughtrey was an active member and attended many of our reunions along with his family. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and was a GM2 when he changed his rate to MN. In the early 1960's he was an instructor at the Naval Schools Mine Warfare Charleston, SC where he retired in July 1964.

MNC Ray Stegall became a Deputy Sheriff in Hinds County following his retirement. Many of us remember Ray as being one of the pinochle gang that played every lunch hour at the old Minecraft Base at the foot of Calhoun Street in Charleston.

Bill Haynes, according to Ray Schardin, was in charge of MCM at Cominepac in 1945-46. He also was one of the three U.S. Navy Minemen that participated in the British MTB mining in the mediterranean in WWII. Bill was buried with full military honors December 8, 1988 in Sacramento, CA.

Lt. William Bartram was a Naval Aviator and son of member MNC Fred Bartram of Bothell, WA. Lt. Bartram died in a Navy jet plane crash at Cubie Point Naval Air Station, Subic Bay, Phillipines. Burial with full military honors was February 3, 1989 at the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.

MN1 Teddy Rutt, MN1 Dennis Bornholtz, MNC Thomas Cope, and MNC Harry Gottke were listed in the TAPS section of the Fleet Reserve Magazine, Naval Affairs and we have no other information. However, many of you that were stationed at West Loch in 1949 and the early 50's probably remember Harry Gottke.

MNCM Willie Brooks died after a long illness at the VA Hospital in Long Beach, CA. He enlisted in the Navy in 1937 in Boston, MA and retired in 1970 at Long Beach. His son, LtCol Jim Brooks gave the eulogy at the service. Many of you will probably remember Willie as the instructor at Yorktown that mastered and taught the M-11 mine firing mechanism.

MNC Pappy Dwyer was moving into a new home and planning to attend the Reno reunion when he passed away. He and his family attended the 1987 reunion in Reno.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS:

Congratulations to Coral Lee MacIntosh on her promotion to Ensign on 1 February 1989 in a ceremony at the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center. Lcdr Bill Fortner performed the swearing in ceremony. Her next duty station will be the USS Jason (AR8).

AND Congratulations to Carily Whitener on being selected for Ensign. See the article in this newsletter. She will be commissioned 1 April 1990.

CWO4 Jack Smoot retired 20 May 1989 at the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown after more than 42 years service in the Active and Reserve Navy. Most of his family and many friends were on hand to wish him well in his retirement.

MOMAG Unit Three had a change of command at Earle New Jersey where Lcdr Bill Johnson relieved Lt Yogi Bera who reported to the Mine Warfare Inspection Group.

THE MINEMAN RATING IS ALIVE AND WELL: There was some talk a while ago about merging our rate with some other ordnance rate such as AO's or TM's. We understand that the recommendation was not approved by the Chief of Naval Operations. Seems like we go through this every few years.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE RATING QUESTIONAIRE ENCLOSED IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION. Any documents or photos loaned to us will be returned after we copy them.

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# Mailbag

Dear Editor,

Why in the world do you suppose the Soviet Union would have built 40,000 sea mines (mines with hundreds of pounds of explosive, laid in shallow ship channels and exploded by a ship's presence), and converted a significant fraction of their more than 3,000 merchant ships to mine layers? Do you suppose they have just found out the information recently called to our attention by former Navy Secretary John Lehman that the Americans

of 1776, enlisted in the War of

Revolution, sank, captured, or

destroyed more than 2,000 British

merchantmen and thereby put pressure on King George to knock off his effort to control the Damyankees?

I think not. I think it was caused by the success of the present U.S.

Naval Reserve officers, supported by their friends and colleagues to the number of almost a thousand, who devoted their very successful efforts in the 1940s to:

a) develop (with the help of the U.K.) and build (with the support of the regular Navy) the equipment to degauss the Navy's ships; and to demagnetize the U.S. Merchant Marine, thereby thwarting the German magnetic mine.

b) copy the German mine successfully and have more than a thousand of them at Pearl Harbor and in the Philippines by the time we were driven to declaring war on Germany and Japan.

c) conceive, develop, and put to use a series of magnetic, acoustic, and pressure mines and get them built to a number approaching a

100,000, including the still un-

- sweepable mine of the U.S. Navy.
  d) follow these mines into the
  Pacific, prepare them for launching,
- and load them into U.S. bombers at the war front.
- e) persuade **General LeMay** to commit about 1,000 B-29s to

to the Navy; and through the work of LCDR Ellis Johnson, USNR, get Admiral Nimitz to accept the offer. The result was the immediate immobilization (it took about a week) of the Japanese Navy and merchant marine to war's end!

- f) sink or take out of service another million tons of Japanese merchant shipping in attempts to run the blockade.
- g) force the Japanese Navy in its attempt to block our bombing from nearby islands we had conquered, to "come out the front door" of Japan led by Yamato, with cruisers and destroyers in support. All, including Yamato, were destroyed immediately by our torpedo planes, putting an end to Japan's ability to make war. The access of Japan to the mainland was so full of Ú.S. mines that only small boats could be used for supply. The end of the war was in sight and the surrender of Japan inevitable.

Again, citizens in the uniform of the U.S. Naval Reserve, with the help of a myriad of civilian colleages and the support of the U.S. Navy, had won a great triumph for the United States over its enemies.

The mine specialists in the Naval

Ordnance Laboratory (NOL) had the Pacific war in hand. Unfortunately, other of their colleagues had concocted the nuclear bombdropped by parachutes based on NOL's experience in dropping mines in position without damagemaking such a brilliant and lasting flash that hardly anybody in the U.S. could see and understand the efficiency of sea mining. This lack of understanding is shown by our recent efforts to patrol the Persian Gulf and clear the Suez Canal. Just a few years ago, we led the world in mine technology. This time, we had to wait for the British to bring their mine finders and clear the way.

> Ralph D. Bennett CAPT, USNR (Ret.) San Francisco, Cal. (Former technical

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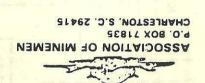
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