

LST534 Newsletter

July/August/September 2001

Volume 4, Issue 3

WWW.LST534.COM

Finally, our web site is respectable. And we all need to thank Captain Olson's daughter, Darleen Olson Mead. Darleen graciously volunteered to take over the management and administration of the site. She has done wonders with it and for those of you who can access the internet, please go to www.LST534.com. Here's a summary of what you will see.

LST534 TV Documentary
THE LST534
LST534 Log
LST534 Crew Interviews
Newsletters
News and Links
Rental Library
Photo Album
LST534 Captain Olson
Sign Our Guest Book

If you click on the LST534 TV Documentary, you will find out all about the show. You can link to The History Channel and you can even order the tape here. You can print out the Press Releases and Press Package here too.

The LST534 button takes you to a page on the history of the LST534.

The LST534 Log button takes you to the log of shipmates by alphabet. This area needs work from all of you, but once we get all of the pictures and information on each of the crew, it will be a very valuable

source. To get an idea of what your entry will look like, click on my Dad's entry. That way you can get an idea of the information to send in. You can also email or call Darleen and she will send you a form. Her email address is DarleenDee@qwest.net and her phone number is (505) 532-9398.

The LST534 Interviews button takes you to the text of all the interviews I conducted during the production of the documentary.

The Newsletters button allows you to access all issues of the newsletter. Every time we mail out a new edition we will post it on the web as well.

The button entitled News and Links takes you to any news items we want to post plus any other historical or military links that we can think of that might be of interest to you. This area will be changing frequently so be sure to visit here often. For example, see the collection of military books, or get the schedule of the upcoming reunion.

The Rental Library button shows you everything we have available to rent on video tape.

The Photo Album button is really new and exciting. We are going to post all of your pictures here. Some of you may remember how

we scanned your pictures last year at the reunion. Well, Darleen is going to put up these pictures and put captions under each. She will be in Mobile and we will be scanning again, so bring your pictures to the reunion. If you are not going to the reunion, we'll figure out another way to get your pictures up under our photo gallery.

The LST534 Captain Olson button is a fabulous history of the first Captain of the LST534. Captain Olson would be proud of the history George and Darleen have recreated for us.

Since the LST534 had only two captains in its lifetime on the sea we all need to look diligently for Captain French.

The Sign Our Guest Book button encourages everyone to sign up and post a message online. Who knows who might see your message and respond to you.

I encourage each of you to visit this great site. If you can not access the internet at home, visit your local library. Send in letters, pictures, stories or articles of interest so we can keep the LST534 web site a vibrant experience.

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REUNION UPDATE

The LST534 reunion this year will be September 19-23 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. We are planning on arriving on Wednesday the 19th. Thursday, the 20th, is a rather loosely planned day. This is the time to see the USS Alabama, tour the LST325. And go to bed early because Friday morning September 21st, we all go to the D-Day Museum in New Orleans. I have reserved a bus to take us so we can all be together. Tickets are \$42.00 each. You can pay me in New Orleans. And thanks to those of you who have already sent in payment.

Our LST534 suite will be open Saturday and Sunday. I will give each of you an agenda in Mobile, but here is a peek at what will be happening:

Our website demo and photo scanning

Group picture (bring your shirts)

*Presentation by Jack Niedermair
(son of the Naval Architect)*

*Presentation by Captain Robert D. Jornlin,
LST325*

Overview of our Normandy trip

Videos of Normandy trip

And of course, our games

It will be the best time!

See you in Mobile

The LST325

Well, we're at it again here in New York—me and my staff. We are producing another documentary, only this time it is for the LST325 and the courageous journey it made across the Atlantic Ocean in the winter.

As you know, we were there all along the way, videotaping and documenting. And now we are doing the necessary interviews to complete the documentary.

The History Channel is going to air the show. I don't have an air date yet, but rest assured, you will all know.

I am also in charge of the Fundraising Committee. I really want to see this LST stay alive so generation after generation can know and understand the role of this ship and the gator navy.

Lyle Kingsbury, S2c, LST534 submitted the following words for thought. Thanks Lyle

SAGA of 325

The old ship crawled into the harbor
Twenty nine men were manning the ship.

Once they were young, but they still have the get up
and go after 57 years.

The ship bounced across the Atlantic where once she
carried us when we were young, the ocean sprayed over
her brow with the ex-sailors on the ship. They said, "we
never could make it to Mobile, Alabama from Greece".

As we neared the coast of the USA, the Captain was
trying hard to keep the wheel in his hands. His knees
were shaking, down below the tank. The old engine
sounded off — 1-2-3, old men of the sea, we'll get
back, we've been this way before.

We reached Mobile with the grace of God—and to our
surprise thousands of people were waiting to see us.

Above the old rusty ship the flags were all flying with
their colors.

At last we were home with our pride and joy—the
LST325.

A Tribute by Lyle Kingsbury, S2c, LST534

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STORIES FROM SHIPMATES

Willie Gunn's Story

I may have mentioned to you previously that I recall the day when the Exec. (Mr. Wright) sent me over to the USS Pennsylvania (a battleship) to borrow some Navy forms we had exhausted. Henry was the coxswain. He was always neat, even in his dungarees, and I wore mine also on that trip. The sailors on the battlegagon were dressed in white undress uniforms and looked sharp, but Henry stayed in the LCVP while I boarded to talk with their yeomen.

I was not allowed to leave the stern because I was out of uniform. They did send the forms down to me. The crew of the BB was enjoying ice cream that day, but they did not offer me or Henry a cup of cream which we surely wanted. It is strange, Linda, that when I eat ice cream to this day, I think of Henry and that trip. I vividly recall how Henry could wheel that LCVP around so fast, so skillfully and how he could make it slide sideways when we came around to tie up at the battlegagon. He did it especially fast that day, I am sure to impress those sailors on the stern. They probably invited us for our apparent freedom to roam around in a "VP" in the bay.

The very next day, a Jap plane came over the 534 and dropped a torpedo which struck the Pennsylvania in the stern, killing 18 men. One of our VPs went over to the ship the next day to look at the damage. The stern was so low that we could have stepped from our boat onto the deck of the Pennsylvania. I was amazed that it was so low in the water. Dick was in the boat when we went back to rubberneck the damage. Henry drove that time, too.

On the second trip, I was taking a typewriter to be repaired (which had been badly damaged).

Pleasant thoughts of Dick & Henry.



NEWS & INFORMATION

Ratings

SK Storekeeper—a storekeeper controls the storage and distribution of supplies that keep the ship moving.

AK Aviation Storekeeper

SC Ship's Cook

CK Cook

BKR Baker

TIPS

Crayon Markers on the Wall?

Use a damp cloth, dipped in baking soda, and a little elbow grease.

Trouble Opening Jars?

Try wrapping a rubber band around the lid, then twist.

GET WELL

We need to send Get Well wishes to the following shipmates:

Alex Fielder

5950 Ambassador Drive
Fairfield, OH 45014

Alfred Ellis, F1c

28910 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, MI 48185-1829

Ed Overstake

2170 Americus Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 34623-2862

Get well, you guys. We need you!

BIRTHDAYS

July 11

Bill McAndrew
Box 781546
Wichita, KS 67278-1546

July 13

Jim Sarres
1010 North Westfield Street #510
Oshkosh, WI 54902-8771

July 16

Lawrence Killian, S1c
Rural Route 4
Dallas, PA 18612

July 17

Spencer James, R1M3c
40 Fulton Ave.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

July 18

Harold Makinster, SM2c
1132 19th Ave
Longview WA 98632

August 11

Larry Gray, F1c
101 Forrest Hill Drive
Taylors, SC 29687

August 12

Robert A. Goldsmith, MoMM3c
95 Shepherd Drive
Wakefield, RI 02879

August 16

Joseph H. Blackburn, S2c
4206 Deer Run Drive
Knoxville, TN 37912

Luther Curtis Lyles, S2c
2407 Reynolds Road
Wauchula, FL 33873

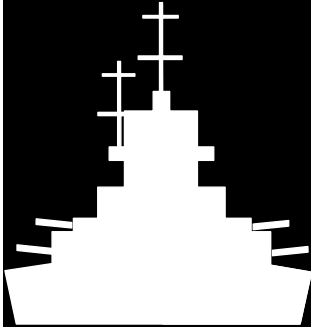
August 23

Sammie Porter, S1c
5813 Seminole Circle
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

September 16

Alfred Ellis, F1c
28910 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, MI 48185-1829

LST534 Newsletter
250 West 49th Street
Suite 401
New York, New York 10019



LST534

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Just for Fun
is a column
meaning just
that – FUN.

Jim Sarres has
graciously
volunteered to
keep this
column going.

We all know
how Judge
Sarres can
keep us
laughing!

Thanks Jim.

JUST for FUN

What do Eskimos get from sitting
on the ice too long?

Polaroids

What do fish say when they hit a
concrete wall?

Dam

What do you get when you cross a
snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite

Nautical Terms

*In honor of our dear departed shipmate,
James Richard Drew, Nautical terms remains
a column in our newsletter. Willie Gunn has
now stepped in to help nurture this column.
Thanks Willie.*

All Hands

Everyone on the ship.
"All Hands, Now Hear This..."

Field Day

Clean-up day. All hands.
Mattresses aired, etc.