

LST534 Newsletter

January/February/March 2008

Volume 11 , Issue 1

Time Marches On...

Well, a little late, but nonetheless sincere,
Happy New Year, 2008!!!

And yes, I'm late. It seems I've been in this "late state" for several months now. It started right before the holidays. In fact, on November 1st, 2007, I decided to start addressing my Christmas cards. I usually start with the beginning of the alphabet in my address book, A to Z. Then I do the LST family. I figured I would be far ahead on my card sending this year.

Then, my business travel picked up. My last travel day was December 19th! That's 6 days BEFORE Christmas.

No problem, I said to myself.

Not to bore you, but at some point during the 6 weeks from mid-November to the end of December, I decided something had to give. What got "cut" so to speak, was my Christmas cards going out. Now, if you remember, I started addressing them on November 1st? I got through As, Bs, Cs, Ds, Es and Fs and that was it!

That's something about "time,"

isn't it? It marches on. No matter how we try to manage it, manipulate it, trick it...it keeps marching on.

And there's only so much of it. You can't "buy" it. You can't "bake" it. You can't "store" it. Most of the time, we can't even manage it.

When we are younger, we think, "I'll have lots of time to do 'such and such' when I retire." Well, guess what? I'm not sure that works, either. Here's an example:

I call my Mom, Marian Alvers, whom many of you know. She is now a beautiful 87 years old. I ask her how's she doing and she begins complaining that she doesn't have enough TIME!

Another example:

I watched my father, LST534 Coxswain Henry Norman Alvers, retire. I wondered what that meant. All I ever knew about Dad is that he worked. My dad was busier after he retired than when he worked. He used to tell me he didn't have enough "TIME" in the day!

And if you listen to yourself and

your loved ones and friends, we all say "I didn't have time to do that."

SO to those of you who did NOT get a Christmas card this year, let me say now what I did not get to say then...

Merry Christmas. Hope all is well. Have a wonderful season and a great New Year!

Love, Linda

HISTORY OF TIMEPIECES

From The History Channel Magazine, Jan/Feb 2008

1803: First Mass Production

Using waterpower to run saws and lathes for manufacturing wooden clocks, Eli Terry of Connecticut incorporated interchangeable parts to rapidly produce clock parts in assembly-line fashion.

1884: Time Zones Established

Delegates from 25 nations at the International Meridian Conference in Washington DC, adopt Greenwich, England, as the zero meridian to be used as the worldwide standard of time zones.

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1914: Watches At War

During WWI, pocket watches became impractical for use during combat, so soldiers began using wristwatches as an alternative; following the war wristwatches become highly popularized globally.

1927: First Quartz Clock

W.A. Morrison constructs the first quartz clock that combines an electronic oscillator with a quartz crystal to maintain exact time.

1949: First Atomic Clock

Using techniques developed by Isidor Rabi of Columbia University, the National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute of Standards and Technology) announces the first atomic clock that uses the ammonia molecule as the source of vibrations.

News:



Corrections:

In the last newsletter of 2007, Volume 10, Issue 4, I printed an article that was forwarded to me from the internet entitled Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Honor of Veteran's Day. One of our readers, Marygayle Ritzert, found errors in the article and mailed me the corrections. Thanks goes out to Marygayle for helping us record facts correctly. Here are the corrections.

How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

The guard does not execute an about-face, and there is more involved in the procedure:

* The sentinel marches 21 steps across the black mat, past the final resting places of the Unknown Soldiers of World War I, World War II, Korea, and the crypt of the Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam War.

* With a crisp turn, the sentinel turns 90 degrees (not about-face) to face east for 21 seconds.

* The sentinel then turns a sharp 90 degrees again to face north for 21 seconds. A crisp "shoulder-arms" movement places the rifle on the shoulder nearest the visitors to signify that the sentinel stands between the tomb and any threat.

* After the moment, the sentinel paces 21 steps north, turns and repeats the process.

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives.

Sentinels at the Tomb do not have to commit to serving there for any fixed period of time, and the average tour of duty is only about half the two year period claimed here. Like most servicemen, Tomb guards may live either on-base (at nearby Fort Myer) or off-base in housing of their choosing. There are no restrictions on guards' off-duty drinking.

They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform (fighting) or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The Tomb Guard Identification Badge, first awarded in 1957, is an honor for which a guard qualifies by "flawlessly performing his duty for several months" and passing a test, not something simply handed out to everyone who serves. Once the sentinel has completed his or her training, he or she is examined formally for proficiency in performing the duties and in knowledge of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). He or she must first pass a written examination of 100 questions about ANC and then be evaluated on proficiency in keeping watch at the Tomb.

Upon successful completion, the soldier is awarded a temporary Tomb Guard's Badge at a ceremony presided over by the company commander. The Badge is one of the Army's higher honors and can be taken away from the soldier if he or she does not continue to maintain the highest military standards. The 500th Tomb Guard Identification Badge was awarded in early 2002, and the total number of recipients is now about 525. The

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award is, as its name states, a badge worn on the pocket of a uniform jacket, not a pin worn in the lapel.

Although the claim that guards "cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives" is fallacious, there is some truth to the notion that the Tomb Guard Identification Badge can be taken away, even after the recipient has left the service. According to Old Guard Public Affairs:

The Tomb Guard Identification Badge is one of the least awarded badges in the Army, second only to the Astronaut Badge. Since the sentinels are held to such a high standard, if they ever do anything that is deemed behavior unbecoming a Tomb Guard or brings dishonor upon the Tomb, their badges may be revoked, even after they have left active duty military service. As of early 2002, there had been nine revocations of the badge.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

A Tomb guard's behavior is not so stringently regulated that he is

prohibited from speaking to anyone for a full six months (someone seems to have confused the Old Guard with a monastery!), and guards may do whatever they want (including watching TV) during their off-duty hours. But since any soldier wishing to become a sentinel must undergo rigorous training, including several hours a day of marching, rifle drill and uniform preparation, and every tomb sentinel is expected to be completely versed in the history of both the tomb and of Arlington National Cemetery, they don't necessarily have a lot of free time to devote to recreational activities.

Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis (the boxer), and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy (the most decorated soldier of WWII) of Hollywood fame.

Joe Louis (aka "The Brown Bomber"), Heavyweight Champion of the World between 1937 and 1949, is the boxer interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Although Joe Louis served in the Army during World War II he did not meet the technical requirements for burial at Arlington, but he is interred there because President Reagan waived the requirements when Louis died in 1981.

Whereas the comedian Joe E. Lewis, as incorrectly mentioned in the previous newsletter, is buried in New Jersey.



BIRTHDAYS:

January 4

Ed Overstake
2440 World Pkwy Blvd. E, #38
Clearwater, FL 33763

January 14

Frank Frame
PO Box 1017
Jal, NM 88252

February 3

William Dox
443 South Main Street
PO Box 756
Massena, NY 13662

February 13

Captain's son, George Olson, Jr.
786 Seely Avenue
Aromas, CA 95004

March 14

Salvatore Logano
101 High Street
PO Box 144
Portland, CT 06480-1656

March 26

Willie Gunn
105 Bull Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401

April 1

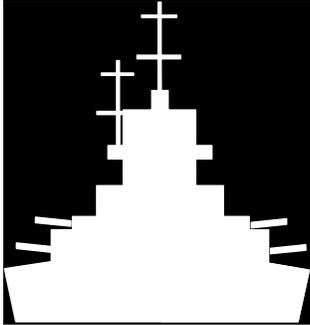
Angelo Cumella
11 Freeport Court
Toms River, NJ 08757

April 14

Alex Fielder
5950 Ambassador Drive
Fairfield, OH 45014



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



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IN MEMORIAM



Leo Wilson, Lt., died August 13, 2007 of cancer.

His wife, Barbara, tells me that Leo had been ill for about a year and uncomfortable for about three weeks. He passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his wife and five children.

Barbara and Leo celebrated their 60th Anniversary in June of 2007. Barbara wanted us all to know that Leo had great respect and admiration for the crew of LST534.

Thanks, Leo, for your service and may you now Rest In Peace.

HOLIDAYS:

January

1 New Year's Day 21 MLK Day

February

2 Groundhog Day 14 Valentine's Day
3 Superbowl Sunday 18 President's Day
6 Ash Wednesday 29 Leap Year Day

March

9 Daylight Savings Time 20 Spring Starts
16 Palm Sunday 21 Good Friday
17 St. Patrick's Day 23 Easter Sunday

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