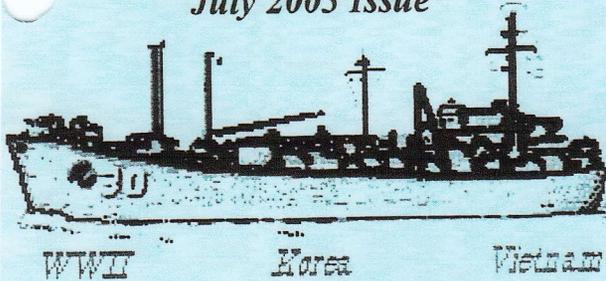


U.S.S. Askari Association

July 2003 Issue



Association Officers

President:	Edward J. Toth (419-693-9567)
Vice President:	Albert E. Wolfe (815-223-1823)
Secretary:	Merrill F. Davis (812-331-1641)
Treasurer:	John M. Roth (217-476-8095)



A Message from President Ed Toth

Greetings Shipmates –

I pray that all of you are in good health and enjoying the sunny weather that summer is supposed to bring after a long, hard winter. It is nice to see the sun and flowers finally. I know some of you are saying, "Yes, it is great to see the sun, flowers, and green trees, but the grass cutting is a pain." Well, I guess you have to get used to these seasonal changes unless you want to move somewhere else.

I trust everybody enjoyed the last newsletter. Maybe our members will take some time from their busy schedules to send some stories so we can all share experiences about each man's time on the ship. If we can do this, we will get to know each other better. This will also help our Secretary, Merrill Davis, to get out a good, interesting, and informative newsletter periodically.

We hope we can get a good turnout at our reunion August 27-31 in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. We will have our hospitality room in the Garrison Building (Room 4125). There will be a meeting on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. which we do at every convention. Come and join us and share some time together.

This will be the time to bring up anything that will help our group continue on and to have some good fellowship among our great group of former sailors from the U.S.S. Askari. Please pick up the phone and make that reservation as soon as possible. We are not getting any younger, so let's enjoy some good old memories together soon!

Askari Website

Askari Association member Tom Willoughby has done an excellent job with the Association website. It is located at: <http://arl30.vze.com> and contains names and addresses of members, a history of the Askari, photos of the ship, reunion news, reunion photos, etc. Be sure to read the guestbook which contains many entries from former Askari shipmates. You may run across the name of someone you know or recognize a story told by a fellow sailor.

Updating Membership Information

Members have sometimes notified us of changes in address, email, or some other information which we updated on one listing but forgot to pass along to Tom Willoughby for the website. We will be working to coordinate the two listings, so some of you may be contacted to verify information. We appreciate members keeping us informed of changes and will work to do a better job of updating all our records. We want to be sure members can get in touch with each other.

If you have a change or visit the website and note an error, please contact Merrill Davis (Secretary) by email (mfdavis33@insightbb.com) or by telephone (812-331-1641).

Let's Share Our Memories

We can't always get together to discuss the fun and not so fun things that happened to us aboard ship. We each have memories that would be meaningful to others and it would be great to share them. Al Wolfe is sharing a memory with us in this issue.

Albert "Al" Wolfe remembers...

I remember in early 1953, we were in Japan (Yokosuka Bay) when G.Q. sounded. In fact all of the ships in the bay were on G.Q. The PA systems said, "This is not a drill, this is not a drill!"

I was on the tank deck in damage control with the headphones on when I heard the Bow Quad 40's captain say, "Manned, loaded, and ready!" The gunnery officer on the con said, "What the hell do you mean 'loaded and ready' -- I didn't give orders to load."

Well the 40s gun captain was 1st class Anderson. He said, "Look, they caught us off guard in Pearl Harbor and they're not going to do it again." The gunnery officer did not like that and was going to put him on report.

We found out later that Captain Hall told the officer that Anderson 1st class was in Pearl Harbor when the Japs bombed the ships and Anderson saved several men and got the Congressional Medal of Honor. The gunnery officer said no more.

I know a lot more stories. Do you? Let's hear from you.

We want your story for our next issue

We love hearing remembrances from shipmates. Please email your story to Merrill Davis at mfdavis33@insightbb.com or mail it to him at

Merrill Davis
3405 Ashwood Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401

We haven't had a Viet Nam era story yet!!

Get Ready for the 2003 Reunion

At our last reunion, we voted to continue to affiliate with the Mobile Riverine Force Association (MRFA). The time for the next reunion is fast approaching.

Reunion Location

The reunion will be held at the Drawbridge Villager - Premier Hotel Suites (I-75 at Buttermilk Pike), 2477 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky 41017. Transportation to and from the airport is free.

When entering the baggage area at the Cincinnati Airport, you will see a phone set-up. Pick up the phone labeled "Coach to the Castle" and a van will pick you up shortly. The van leaves the Drawbridge to and from the airport every half hour.

Reunion Reservation Form

To register for the reunion, you need to fill out the information on the reservation form on the last page and send it to MRFA President Albert Moore at the address on the form. If you are a non-member, you can pay your dues at the reunion. Dues are \$10.00 for one year or \$27.50 for 3 years.

Hotel Reservations

We had a problem at the last reunion with our room location, but this year we will definitely be in the main hotel. Our hospitality room will be Room 4125 in the Garrison Building. Be sure to call in your hotel reservation early and indicate you are with the MRFA to get the special reunion room discount.

Dates: August 27-31, 2003

Place: Drawbridge Villager
(I-75 at Buttermilk Pike)
2477 Royal Drive
Ft Mitchell, Kentucky 41017

Reservations: 800-354-9793

Room rates are good 3 days prior to the reunion and 3 days following the reunion. Rates are as follows:

Main Building: \$77 (up to 4 occupants)
Garrison Building: \$67 (up to 4 occupants)

Hospitality Room: There will be a hospitality room available on the main floor of the main building with snacks and beverages (soda, coffee, beer, etc.) provided through donations.

The hotel has 3 restaurants and 3 swimming pools (one indoor and two outdoor).

Questions?

For more reunion information, check the MRFA website at www.mrfa.org (reunion 03) or contact Larry Ethridge at 502-459-1981 or email him at lethridge@amy-law.com.