

U.S.S. Askari Association

July 2010 Issue



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New web site to follow. Does anyone know of a web master that can help us?

Message from President Max

Hoover

I thought that I would share with you an article about the USS SAINT PAUL written by the New York Times correspondent R.W.Apple, who spent time onboard the Saint Paul.

"This article has been modified to fit our newsletter from THE MORNING SAINT. This 17,350-ton cruiser, the last ship in the Pacific with a full complement of heavy naval guns, has almost as much power as a regiment of Army or Marine artillery.

She can steam from one end of South Vietnam to the other in less than 24 hours. She can hurtle a 260-pound projectile 15 miles, and with all her five-and eight-inch guns in action, she can put seven tons of ordinance into the air at once.

Her massive batteries were designed to pierce the armor of enemy men-of-war and to shell forts and blockhouses on hostile shores, but in this unorthodox war--a war in which supersonic fighters strafe boxcars and eight-engine B-52s bomb jungle clearing--the SAINT PAUL'S big guns fire at stream crossings and straw huts and trenches.

The skill, effort and money needed to put eight inch projectiles into a bunker dug by a Vietcong guerilla with shovel is astonishing. The men of the SAINT PAUL do their jobs with skill and gusto, but some of them can't help feeling at times that they are killing mice with dynamite.

Last night, the ship fired 156 eight-inch rounds (they cost \$251 each) at 13 targets in Southern Quangnam Providence near Tam Ky. This was "harassing and interdiction fire" in support of the Marines conducting Operation Colorado nearby.

This is what had to be done before each salvo was fired. In the dimly lit, crowded room known as

"Combat," a radar man bent over his scope and took bearing on points along the shore. He called these out to another sailor who plotted the ship's position as accurately as possible on a chart.

After the targets radioed from shore by a Marine officer had also been plotted, the gunnery officer pulled a hinged arm across the chart and read from it the bearing and range from the ship to target.

One deck below, in the main plotting room, the command repeated the figures to a sailor standing at a bulky computer.

The computer had already been supplied with all the data needed to calculate the exact flight of the projectile.

In order to calculate the flight path, the computer must know the ship's course and speed, how much she is pitching and rolling, the wind speed and direction, the temperature of the air at all the altitudes through which the projectile will travel, the temperature of the powder, the latitude, and even how many rounds have been fired from the gun involved.

Every round blasted from an eight-inch gun scrapes away 68 ten-thousandths of an inch from the bore, and this minute change affects the flight of every projectile fired later.

Even the rotation of the earth must be considered. Firing at a target 26,000 yards away, an eight-inch shell will fall 95 yards short of its intended mark. While the shell is in flight, the earth will spin that distance beneath it.

The computer made allowances for all of this and automatically turned and elevated the guns to the proper position. While it was calculating, a sailor six levels below the main deck loaded two raw silk bags full of gunpowder into a hoist that looks like a dumbwaiter. Another, two levels above him, put a bullet-shaped steel projectile into a second hoist.

When the bags and projectile reached the turret above--an armor-plated box the size of two freight cars--gun crews slammed them into one of the three guns and closed the breach. The crew boss, nodded and pressed a button to indicate that he was ready to go.

In Main Plotting, a light marked "Turret Three" flashed on. "Batteries released?" he said into his microphone.

He paused to hear the bridge's assent, then said: "Fire."

Nearby, a Fire Control man had his hands on two shiny brass pistol grips. He squeezed the left one twice--sounding warning buzzers through the ship--then squeezed the right one. Somewhere overhead there was a dull thud.

Fifty-nine and three-tenths second later, the shell burst as it smacked into the soil of South Vietnam."

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$Treasurer Report\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

from Ken Kirkland

I appreciate the dues from everyone. It helps our bank account some. I think we need to remember that our dues are due in JUNE every year. As of June 4, 2010 we have a balance of \$2,078.18 in the bank. I do want to remind all readers (and Assoc. staff) that your renewal dues will cover you until June 2011. It will make it a great deal easier to monitor who has or has not paid dues if everyone would write on the check that this \$15.00 is for the 2010-2011 dues. Several parties have indicated that they have paid for a lifetime membership. I have not been able to find any documentation that indicates that the board has ever approved a lifetime membership. Remember to send the dues to me at Ken Kirkland, HC 1 Box 8172, Sells, Arizona 85634.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Change in special military service credits.

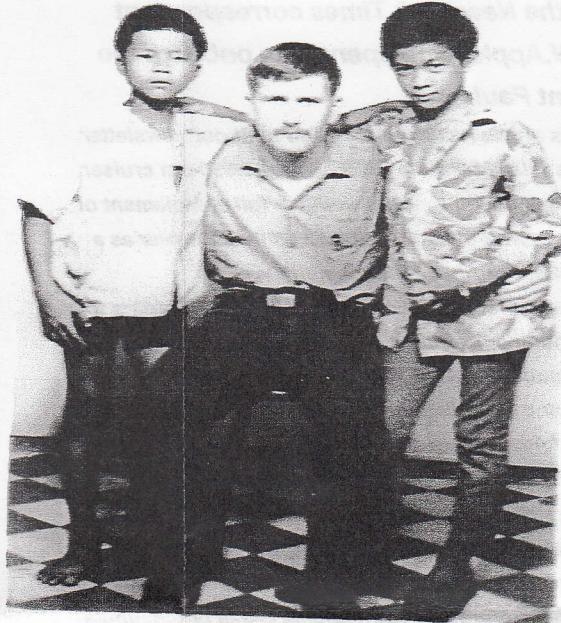
In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel. Military service in calendar year 2002 and future years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings credit.

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your benefit.

If your active military service occurred:

- > From 1957 through 1967, they will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
 - > From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits will automatically be added to your record.
 - > After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

The above information was gathered from my Spring 2010 issue of the Journal of Naval Special Warfare magazine "BLAST."



TONY - ROSIE 10

Also, do you guys remember leaving Long Xuyen for Dong Tam when someone turned right (not left), and almost beached the Great Green Weeney? I remember BT2 Bagshaw was the man. He refurbished the engine just before crashing into the beach. (WOW) I am sure that he saved a few Navy butts that day. Is it me or did all od this just happen yesterday.

I was thinking we should consider having the next reunion on Mackinaw Island, Michigan. Check it out.

Peter remember this Guy

Vice President's corner



722 807

Lee Daley

Vung Tau, Vietnam 9-August 1967

Hi to all of you. Hope you all are doing okay. We have had some cold weather here in Florida. I know some of you up North have had bad weather. This is to let you know about some of my time aboard Askari. I was the baker and also helped with the cooking. Sometimes at night I baked about 90 to 100 loaves of bread plus sweet rolls for breakfast. For lunch I baked pies or cakes or whatever was on the weekly menu. My helper at night was Paul Erasmus, he was a very good worker. Just about every night I would take some hot sweet rolls up to the bridge and to the radio room, they sure did like them. I was a 31 year old baker. We had some good cooks on the ship. My boss was CS1 Roger Valentine he was the best, even today we still keep in touch. As for myself, I am doing well and my new hip is great. Hope to see you all in 2011.

VA adds ships to Agent Orange Exposure list

USS Satyr (ARL-23), USS Sphinx (ARL-24),

USS Askari (ARL-30), USS Indra (ARL-37).

USS Krishna (ARL-38).

If you served on any of these ships and you have had a claim denied, you should reapply citing the VA list as the source for your reapplication. If you have a claim and evidence the ship you served on was in Vietnamese waters and/or tied up to a dock there, make sure you include that with your claim.

Secretary Report

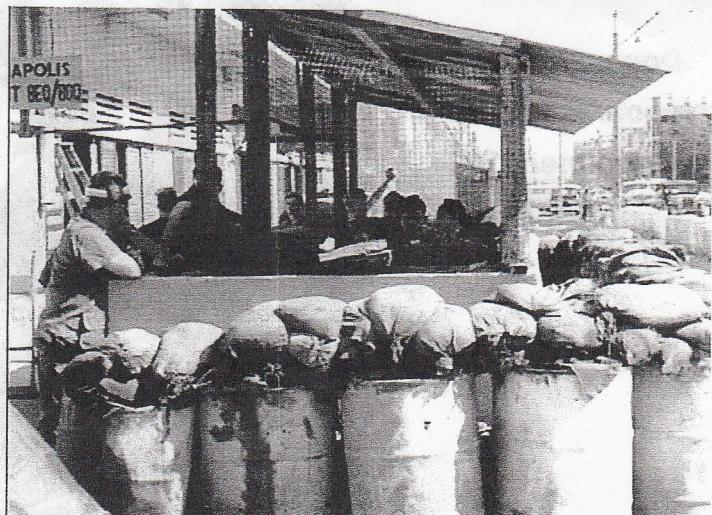
This edition of the newsletter is overdue because I have been overwhelmed recently. Since the last newsletter, I have changed jobs and am glad to have one. My daughter that is a special agent for NCIS got married here at our home to a combat hospital corpsman. We, Renee and I, came to the conclusion that we needed to get some projects completed before the wedding. All of our free time was dedicated to organizing the editing. The wedding came together and the weather held off until the "I Do's" were said.

I have been asking our membership for articles to include and have been happy to receive some for the newsletter. I hope that everyone understands the delay.



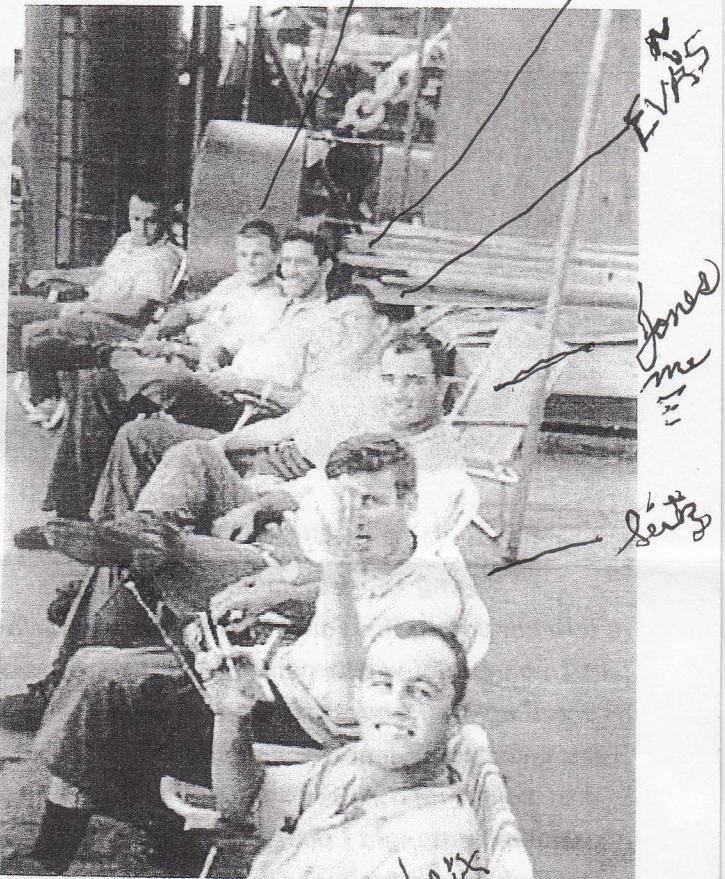
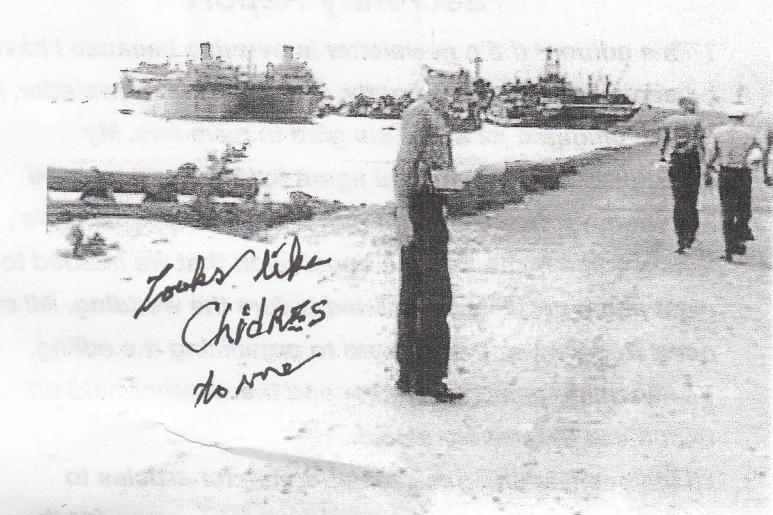
Left to Right: Brandi, James Renee and me (Steve).

?????????????????????????????????????



Where was this guard post????

Looks like
Childress
to me



John Preble at the docks in Vung Tau



Does anyone
recognize these
young men?????

my Eng. & Class

