



T H E B R I G H T P E N N Y

June 1996

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) ASSOCIATION

Next Reunion - Fall 1998

It is now time to begin planning for our next reunion. At the 1995 reunion we did not reach a decision as to the next location; therefore, the following cities are offered for suggestion. All are located in the central portion of the U.S. which is in accordance with earlier plans to rotate reunions in the east, central and pacific regions. All of these cities are popular locations for military reunions and offer excellent packages.

Minneapolis

Chicago

Denver

Kansas City

St. Louis

Branson, MO

Oklahoma City

Dallas

New Orleans

In selecting a reunion site it is important to consider access by the major air carriers, a variety of hotels to select from and local tourist attractions.

The most important factor to a successful reunion is the *reunion planning committee*. Volunteers are needed to head up a committee to plan, negotiate and coordinate all activity with the selected site. If you live in or near one of the suggested cities and are interested in taking on the job, please check yes on the enclosed post card. Volunteer planner responses will influence the decision for selecting a city.

There is an organization, *The Reunion Network*, which conducts one-day reunion planning conferences throughout the U.S. The conference covers numerous topics such as negotiations, contracts, liabilities, pitfalls, etc. The all day session includes breakfast and lunch and the planner can bring his spouse at no additional cost. The Association will pay for the planners registration fee. For a Fall 1998 reunion the organizer should plan to attend a conference in the summer of 1997.

So, tell us what you want and if you are willing to help. Fill out the enclosed post card and send it in for review. From there we will go forward and report the results in the next newsletter.



1996-97 Dues

Biennial dues in the amount of \$10.00 are now being accepted. A 97 after your name on the mailing label denotes your dues are current. Make check payable to the USS Berkeley Association.



SKIPPER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Commander Jones served as the seventh Commanding Officer of BERKELEY from October 1972 until April 1974. He first enlisted in the U.S. Army reserve in 1959 while in his last year at Drake University where he graduated with a degree in Finance and Accounting. In 1960 he transferred to the Naval Reserve and accepted an appointment to Officer Candidate School in Newport. He graduated and was commissioned Ensign in October, 1960 and reported to his first duty station, USS BRADFORD (DD-545) as DCA and Electrical Officer. Bradford was transferred to the Greek Navy in 1961 and he then attended CRUDESPEC Engineering Officer School and was assigned to Executive Officer of USS PLEDGE (MSO-492) followed by a tour as Commanding Officer of USS MAHOPAC (ATA-196) from October 1964 until October 1966. A tour in BUPERS followed then he received his Masters Degree at Monterey in Management. Following PG School he was assigned as Commanding Officer of USS GALLANT (MSO-489) until 1972 when he was ordered to BERKELEY. After his tour as C.O. of BERKELEY he was assigned again to BUPERS and then a tour at ICAF from 1977 until 1978. His last tour, prior to retiring for health reasons in May 1980, was on the staff of the Navy Secretariat in the Manpower Division.

After retiring, Commander Jones returned to Lebanon, Indiana and became involved with the family manufacturing



Commander Jerry S. Jones

business and in 1986 became the President and CEO. He retired once again in 1992 when he sold the business. He is now involved with a number of activities and is executive secretary for two fraternal organizations and is an elder in his church. CDR Jones and his wife Nancy still reside in Lebanon and their three children are grown and married and they currently have four grandchildren. CDR Jones is on the internet and can be reached at CDRJones01@aol.com

News from HS THEMISTOCLES DDG-221

June 16, 1996

Dear members of the USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION.

First I would like to salute you from the Adriatic Sea where our beloved ship is being operated under the NATO flag. Let us go back now, to a narrative of all that has happened since the last letter from the previous C.O. which was addressed in April 95.

She spent all the year 1995 in extended repairs condition in Souda Naval Base according to the HN PMS Program. In the meantime, I relieved Captain Gortzis on July 20, 1995 when the ship was in drydock. So, I enjoyed meeting her from the very top of the mast to her most secret corners. Touching her hull inch by inch, we established very strong ties.

Her hull was found to be in very good condition with few exceptions (spots). Some rust was found on some inner construction and frames. Limited parts of the steam piping needed replacement and the boilers were set under PMS in accordance with U.S.

Navy regulations. As far as the armament and the rest of the equipment was concerned, no significant observations were made. It should be noted that her transfer from the U.S. to Hellenic Navy was done in 1992 rapidly and no other repair or inspection had taken place since then.

After a great job by the base people and the tireless contribution of her crew the ship conducted her first sea trial on December 9, 1995. Ever since were are sailing...sailing...sailing. Just after New Years we passed the Hellenic Navy's FOSTS successfully.

We participated in the IMIA campaign against the aggressive Turk's (29-31 Jan) which was terminated by the Hellenic Government before any action was taken. On this spot I would like to assure you that the Hellenic Annex of your Association and the crew did their best.

Then we followed the training programme of the fleet without any absence and more, as the attached photos show. On 21 March we fired one more

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■ **HS THEMISTOCLES**

battle SM-1 where the target aircraft was shot down at a range of 15 n.m. On 18 April we fired one ASROC fitted torpedo MK-46 with outstanding results as the final analysis proved.

Gentlemen! Feeling proud of her achievements we keep servicing her with enthusiasm because she deserves it. Since 30 May we participated in NATO's Standing Naval Force of Mediterranean (SNFM) and at the present time we are patrolling Otranto enforcing the UNSC sanctions against FRY.

From the very first moment in NATO we established a good relationship with the cooperating ships and a brotherhood among her crew. And of course, the weekly defect list has nothing to report, at least up to now!

Believing in your warm concern and friendly thoughts I have opened my heart and the records of our beloved ship, ex-BERKELEY - HS THEMISTOCLES for your information and to add one more page to the ship's history. With your wishes we are looking towards the proud completion of this deployment like all the previous of a very special ship.

Sincerely,
CDR Lambos Sofras HN
Commanding Officer

Editors Note: CDR Sofras will be relieved on 30 July by CDR S. Mihalaros HN. The ship is home-ported at the Naval Base, Salamis, Greece.

Berkeley History
JUNE

30 Years Ago

1-5 June in transit from Pearl Harbor to Long Beach on the final leg of the second WestPac Deployment. 6 June - 12 July inport Long Beach for leave and upkeep. CDR William R. Smedberg IV is the C.O.

20 Years Ago

1-3 June inport Subic Bay. 4-7 underway in OpArea for combat systems exercises. 8-16 inport Subic Bay. 17-25 underway in the Philippine Sea for storm evasion and ASW training. 26-30 inport Subic Bay. CDR Clifford F. Homan is the C.O.

10 Years Ago

1-4 June underway RIMPAC 86. 4-5 inport Pearl Harbor. 6-18 RIMPAC. 8-10 inport Lahaina, Maui, 18-25 inport Pearl Harbor. 25-30 enroute to San Diego. CDR Richard K. Farrell is the C.O.

THE BRIGHT PENNY

The voice of the Association and the former call sign of our ship. Correspondence may be sent to:

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SM-1 MISSILE FIRING 21 MARCH, 1996



ASROC FIRING 18 APRIL, 1996

Crewmember Search Project

In January letters were sent to the Enlisted Personnel Management Center (EPMAC) and the Naval Records Center in our first attempt to locate former crewmembers through military channels. EPMAC maintains the Enlisted Distribution Verification Reports (EDVRs) which are submitted monthly by the various commands and the years 1976 to present are on file. Fortunately, we had on record the Unit Identification Code for the Berkeley which saved time.

The EDVRs contain Privacy Act protected information such as social security numbers so all printouts must be manually eradicated of certain information. To keep the process cost effective only the September EDVR was selected for each year of the sixteen year period, since that is the last month of the fiscal year and transfers are minimal. A sample was faxed to the Association and it was then discovered that the name column only allowed for twelve characters. From this narrow field it was noted that the report listed only partial first names and middle initials were non-existent. This virtually eliminated our

ability to research the national telephone listings.

The next approach was to request the Records Center have EPMAC send the EDVRs direct to the Center with social security numbers intact for conversion to full names. This was done in March and the Center agreed to search their database on an as-able basis. In June, after elimination of duplicate names from overlapping years, they were able to narrow the list down to 3,718 names. From that list 309 names were still in the system. Postcards provided to the Center have been mailed to those individuals. The remaining 3,409 could not be translated into full names; however, that list has been mailed to the Association for additional research via other resources.

Receiving a list of this length is a tremendous boost to the growth of our Association. A report on the final accomplishments of this project will be published in the next newsletter.



Try us on the internet.
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