



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

June 2001

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

Ray Bartlett at the helm of the Association

A Challenging Undertaking

I don't think any of us truly realized what Jim Barrett did for all of us who served on the Berkeley. At least I know I didn't until the first week of December 2000. Before I give an update on where the Berkeley Association is at today, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim for all of us. And speaking for the Association I am grateful that he cared enough about the Berkeley and it's crew to start the Association.



Ray Bartlett

The first sixty days as the administrator for the Berkeley was mainly spent setting up a new database, organizing files, and inventory. By February 1, 2001 both feet were wet and I was off and running. Since we took over we have added 26 new members to the Association. We have split the country into six regions; North East, North Central, North West, South East, South Central, and South West. So far two Association members have stepped up to the plate and volunteered to be Regional Managers. They are Dale Johnson for the North East Region and Ron Ostarello for the South West Region. We are still looking for members to fill these important roles for the other regions. Efforts to get information for the next reunion, anticipated for late September or early October 2002 are underway. Details will be available in the next newsletter. We are also looking at expanding the ships store. Currently, the only items we have are pins, caps, and pictures. Would sure like to hear from some of you as to what you would be interested in. Some suggestions so far have been jackets, shirts, sweatshirts, and pens.

My personal goal is to increase the membership in the USS Berkeley Association by at least 20% by the end of 2002. To do this I need the assistance of all of the members. If you are still in touch with any of your former crewmembers have them contact us or send us their name and address. Filling the spots for Regional Managers in the other four regions would be a big help. So if you have any extra time (or no extra time but the desire to see our organization grow) give me a call.

Ray Bartlett

Adams Class update

Ex-USS Lynde McCormick (DDG-8) was sunk as a target ship off the West

X.O. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Admiral Dennis Cutler Blair assumed duties as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, on February 20, 1999. He is the nineteenth officer to hold the position. As the senior U.S. military commander in the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, he leads the largest of the unified commands and directs Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force operations across more than 100 million square miles. He is responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense through the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and is the U. S. military representative for collective defense arrangements in the Pacific.

Admiral Blair served on guided missile destroyers in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. He served as Executive Officer on USS Berkeley (DDG-15) from 1977 to 1980, commanded USS Cochrane (DDG 21), forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan, from 1984 to 1986 and commanded the Kitty Hawk Battle Group from 1993 to 1995.

Ashore, Admiral Blair commanded Naval Station Pearl Harbor from 1989 to 1990. He served as Associate Director of Central Intelligence for Military Support from 1995 to 1996. He has also served on



Admiral Dennis C. Blair

the staffs of the National Security Council, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and several major Navy staffs.

His personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three gold stars, and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal.

Admiral Blair is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He also served as a White House Fellow and as a Chief of Naval Operations Fellow in the Strategic Studies Group.

Coast during a fleet exercise on 24 Feb. Previously purchased to become a floating power generating plant, the company declared default and the ship was repossessed by the Navy.

Ex-USS Benjamin Stoddert (DDG-22) sank 1,500 nautical miles southeast of Pearl Harbor while being towed towards the Panama Canal for delivery to a scrap dealer in Texas. She was in a tandem tow with ex-USS Cochrane (DDG-21) when the towing vessel ran into 20-foot waves and 40-knot winds. Stoddert began to take on water and crewman from the tug went aboard to investigate where they found several feet of water inside. They opened hatches to increase the flooding, abandoned the ship and she sank on 3 Feb. The tug continued on with ex-Cochrane.

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By upgrading to a Gold Membership you gain the benefit of making direct contact via e-mail, visit chat rooms and much more. This is definitely a site to visit.

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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**BERKELEY HISTORY
 JUNE**

30 Years Ago

1-9, upkeep Yokosuka; 10-12 enroute Sea of Japan with USS O'Callahan (DE-1051); 12, fuel stop Sasebo; 16-18, enroute to Yokosuka; 19, upkeep Yokosuka; 20-22, enroute to Hong Kong via Okinawa; 22, fuel stop Okinawa; 22-23, enroute to Hong Kong; 24-26, inport Hong Kong; 26, emergency recall, enroute Bashi Channel to avoid typhoon GILDA; 27, enroute Hong Kong; 28, inport Hong Kong; 29, Change of Command, CDR John F. Frost is relieved by CDR Jerry A. Dickman; 30, inport Hong Kong.

20 Years Ago

1-30, Operations in Indian Ocean. CDR Joseph L. Lockett III is the Commanding Officer.

10 Years Ago

1-4, Underway transit to Portland, Oregon. 5-10, Inport Portland: Rose Festival, 11-14, Underway transit to San Diego: ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment, 15-19, Inport San Diego, 20, Underway SoCal OpArea: Midshipmen training. CDR Fred J. Mallgrave III is the Commanding Officer.

Your telephone number?

Area codes are changing faster than we can keep up with them. Review the last roster and if yours has changed, send the correct information in before the December roster is published.

E-mail addresses? Is your e-mail address listed in the December 2000 roster? If not, send it in so other shipmates can contact you.

Web sites:

Destroyers Online – www.plateau.net/usnnd

Tin Can Sailors Association; page for DDG Reunions <http://destroyers.org/R-DDG.htm>

Ships and rosters: www.hullnumber.com

Sea Tales

Lieutenant Richard Rogers was a good officer, graduated from the boat school and was well liked by everyone. Above average in size, he liked to wander up to the signal bridge to take in the warm rays of sunshine and

enjoy the sometimes-peaceful atmosphere of the Tonkin Gulf. The ship is on the gun line at Condition III just quietly steaming along minding its own business. Quietly, that is, until Rich arrives on the signal bridge. For some strange reason he always seemed to attract gunfire from the shore. Well now, after a few encounters like this Rich was getting a little gun shy. I mean 972 rounds within 500 yards would get anyone's attention. Rich's tour in the Navy was just about over and he was beginning to wonder if he was going to be transferred in the way he had always planned, vertical and breathing.



Rich was becoming very anxious to get off the ship and the way he seemed to attract the attention of the North Vietnamese shore batteries, we were becoming anxious to see him go. As the countdown became short, Rich began packing his sea bag in preparation to being high-lined to a tanker the next day.

In preparing for his departure I asked CDR Smedberg if we could play a final practical joke on Rich and he gave the OK. Since I was the ship's communications officer I drafted up a very official looking message, ran it off on the teletype and made a single ditto copy for the message board.

D-day, *Detachment Day*, several of us are sitting around the wardroom table having breakfast, including Rich Rogers. The Captain arrived about 0645 and by prior arrangement the messenger dropped off the message board a minute or so later. CDR Smedberg, with poker face, thumbed through the messages and casually looked up and said, "Rich, I think you might be interested in this message." The message read:

R 071900Z JUN 67
 FM: SECNAV
 TO: ALNAV 20

UNCLAS BASEGRAM

A. PL 85-138

1. DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS THE NUMBER OF NEW OFFICERS ENTERING THE NAVAL SERVICE HAS NOT MET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY REF A. AT PRESENT THERE EXISTS A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED LINE OFFICERS IN THE LTJG/LT GRADES. THEREFORE, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY INVOLUNTARILY EXTEND ALL 1100/1105 LTJG/LT OFFICERS FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS. OFFICERS AFFECTED ARE THOSE WITH NORMAL RELEASE DATES THAT FALL BEFORE 31 DEC 1967.

2. IT IS WITH REGRET THAT THIS OFFICE MUST INCONVENIENCE THE MANY OFFICERS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THIS EXTENSION. HOWEVER, THE NAVY'S EXPANDING ROLE IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT MAKES THIS DECISION A NECESSITY.

3. THIS NOTICE CANCELLED 1 JAN 1968.

BT

When Rich read the message we thought we were going to have to call for a corpsman. He stammered...he stammered, "I'm packed and ready to go in four hours...they can't do this to me...can they, Captain?" With great concern in his voice CDR Smedberg replied, "I'm not sure Rich. The message clearly addresses officers in their present tour assignment. If I were to detach you after receiving this message I could be in trouble. You'll have to let me think about it. Meanwhile, enjoy your breakfast."

Well, the Captain strung Rich out to the very last minute; practically up to the time we began our approach on the tanker. Finally he said, "Rich, I'm going to let you go." In a flash Rich, with all his gear, was on the O-1 level checking out the chair...wanting to get across to the tanker as soon as possible. As he was high-lined across he was still clutching a copy of the message of gloom that had haunted him all morning. To protect us from any violent repercussions, Rich was not told it was all a hoax until he was safely on board the tanker. I can still remember him shaking his fist at us.

CDR Jim Barrett (Ret) 1965-67

USS BULKELEY (DDG-84) is scheduled to be placed in commission on 20 August and homeported in Norfolk, VA. *Hmmm!* Seems like a midnight run to the paint locker and with little effort we could have another USS Berkeley?

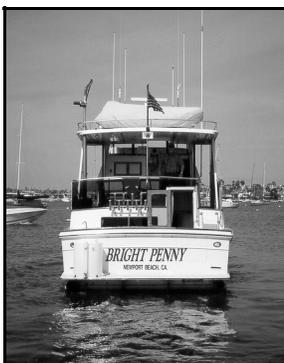
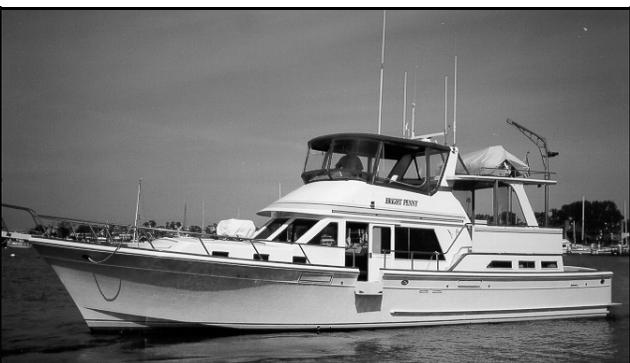
TAPS

Mary Harper, wife of commissioning commanding officer, Capt. Wyatt E. Harper, passed away in Arlington, VA July 2000.

LCDR Ted Petersen passed away in San Diego on 28 February following a lengthy illness. LCDR Petersen was a plankowner and served in Berkeley until May 1965, first as Communications Officer and then Operations Officer. At his request he was buried at sea.



CAPT John F. Leder passed away in Virginia on 9 March 2001 following a lengthy and valiant battle with cancer. Capt. Leder served as Weapons Officer from 1966 to 1968. He went on to command the USS Conyngham (DDG-17) from 1976-78.



BRIGHT PENNY STILL UNDERWAY

The proud owner of this yacht is LCDR Charles "Chuck" McKenna (Ret) who served in the original Bright Penny as Weapons Officer 1964-66. She is 48 feet long and displaces 20.5 tons. Homeported in Newport Beach, Chuck and his family enjoy deep-sea fishing off the Southern California Coast during the summer and fall seasons.