



THE BRIGHT PENNY

May 2003

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

2004 Reunion in Branson, MO.

It's a great time to be an American. My son served in the first Persian Gulf War and I am sure there are



Ray Bartlett

USS Berkeley crew members who have sons or daughters that have served in Iraqi Freedom. My gratitude and appreciation goes out to all of them. Thanks to their patriotism and courage, the world will be a better place for yours and my grand children.

The voting for the location of the 2004 reunion is now complete and Branson is the winner. The reunion will be September 30th through October 3rd 2004. The association has contracted with the Radisson Hotel for accommodations. Rooms will be \$78.00 plus tax per night. The itinerary will include daily continental breakfasts, a welcome reception, and of course the Saturday night banquet with dinner and dancing. The reunion committee is busy researching tours and shows for your enjoyment. Mark your calendars and start making plans now to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the reunion committee for their fine efforts to date.

Another committee has been appointed. The Bylaws and Constitution Committee is chaired by Lou Clark with Jim Alley, Dale Nielsen, and Don Thompson assisting him. We anticipate that we will have completed bylaws to distribute with the next newsletter.

I would like to set up yet another committee to assist Jim Barrett as contributing editors for The Bright Penny. I know there are some of you out there that have a lot to say. Give me a call or send an email and let's roll on this.

The Ship's Store is growing. Along with ball caps, pens, key chains, stainless steel mugs, decommissioning pins, and photos we now have polo shirts in stock. Sweatshirts and jackets are available for special order. Don't get left behind order your "Berkeley" gear now.

MASTER CHIEF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Master Chief George (Sid) Watson was born in 1945 in Rockford, Illinois and raised in Troy, New York where he attended St. Augustine's elementary school and LaSalle Institute high school. He enlisted in the Navy on September 30, 1963, attending boot camp at RTC Great Lakes, IL. Following recruit training he was assigned to FT "A" School at Bainbridge, MD, and then to FT "C" School at Damneck, VA. His first shipboard assignment was aboard the USS Conyngham (DDG-17) in Norfolk, VA. In May 1966 he was ordered to the USS Berkeley (DDG-15) in Long Beach, CA., attending FT "B" School at NTC Great Lakes, IL. while enroute. During his Berkeley tour from December 1966 to January 1972 he served as Missile Computer Work Center Supervisor. From Berkeley he was transferred to the USS Somers (DDG-34) in Long Beach, CA, where he served until May 1973 as Missile Computer Work Center Supervisor and 2nd Div. LPO. Following this sea tour he was transferred in June 1973 to CSTSC Mare Island, CA, for instructor duty. While there he attended two FT "C" Schools and taught the same courses until May 1977. Returning to sea he was assigned to the USS Schofield (FFG-3) in San Diego, CA, where he served as Missile and Gun Systems LCPO until December 1980. Next he attended Human Resources Management Training in Millington, TN, and was assigned to the Human Resource Management Center Subic Bay, Philippines. In April 1984 he was assigned to the USS Ramsey (FFG-2) in San Diego, CA, where he served as Command Senior/Master Chief, Command Career Counselor, and leading FT. In May 1987, he attended the Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, RI, and was then ordered to a second tour in USS Berkeley (DDG-15) as the Command Master Chief. In December 1989, he was transferred to his final tour of duty at Naval Ordnance Missile Test Station, White Sands, NM. He served as Command Master Chief, and project Officer of the Sea Lance, Rolling Air Frame Missile, and NATO Sea Sparrow Missile systems. Master Chief Watson retired on November 30, 1993. He had served 30 years, deployed on one Mediterranean Cruise, ten Western Pacific Cruises and accumulated seventeen years of sea duty. During his career he received the following awards: Good Conduct Medal (6), Battle "E" (3), National Defense Service Medal (2), Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (6), Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit



FCCM George Watson

Citation, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), RVN Campaign Medal, COMSEVENTHFLT letter of Commendation (3), Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal (6), Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Upon his retirement Master Chief Watson attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM, where he received a Bachelor of Science (Cum Laude) in Electrical Engineering (Power Discipline) in May 1996.

He worked for three years for Research Analysis and Maintenance Corporation in Fort Bliss, TX, maintaining, modifying and testing Russian mobile missile systems used to familiarize the US Army and Air Force with current threats. He currently works for Tritex Services Inc. at White Sands Missile Range, NM, installing, modifying and maintaining RADAR Systems in support of various US Navy projects.

Master Chief Watson lives in Las Cruces, NM with his wife Mila and his two daughters, Jomelyn and Meaghan. He is an avid hunter and hiker and enjoys fishing trips with his wife, who is considerably better at it than he is. He is a life member of the NRA, FRA, VFW and American Legion.

"I made many friends throughout my Naval career, among these the most memorable were from my two tours on the Berkeley. My many memories of Berkeley good friends and good times will stay with me until I reach my final retirement." To Capt. Girvin "You were absolutely correct about the difficulty of pursuing an engineering degree. Thanks for the inspiration!"

Your Web site is www.ussberkeley.com

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BERKELEY HISTORY

MAY

40 Years Ago, 1963

History not available. Ship in commission six months. CDR Wyatt E. Harper Jr. is the Commanding Officer.

30 Years Ago, 1973

01-31, In drydock, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. CDR Jerry S. Jones is the Commanding Officer.

20 Year Ago, 1983

01, Inport San Diego; **02-06**, Underway So-Cal OpArea; **07-08**, Inport San Diego; **09-13**, Underway SoCal, Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT); **14-15**, Inport San Diego; **16-20**, Underway SoCal (CSSQT); **21-22**, Inport San Diego; **23-26**, underway SoCal (CSSQT); **27-31**, Inport San Diego. CDR Robert W. Reighley the Commanding Officer

10 Years Ago, 1993

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece.

Active duty promotions

CDR Dennis J. O'Meara has been selected for promotion to Captain. CDR O'Meara, USNA Class of 82, served in Berkeley 1982-86. In April 2000 he took command of the USS Paul Hamilton (DDG-60). Following this sea tour he was assigned as Deputy Director for Operations on the staff of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain. He is now enroute to his next assignment with OpNav in the Pentagon.

CDR Brad Kiker has been selected for promotion to Captain. CDR Kiker served in Berkeley 1982-85. Following a tour as C.O. of USS Jarrett (FFG-33), he is now serving on the staff of ComCruDesGrp FIVE.

Project SHAD

Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD) was part of the joint service chemical and biological warfare test program conducted during the 1960's. Project SHAD encompassed tests designed to identify US warships' vulnerabilities to attacks with chemical or biological warfare agents and to develop procedures to respond to such attacks while maintaining a war-fighting capability.

The primary purpose of the High Low test was to assess the vulnerability of ships to an enveloping cloud of toxic G-series nerve agent. The test had two primary objectives. Objective one was to investigate the penetration of a simulant for the nerve agent Sarin (GB) into four types of naval ships operating at sea. Objective two was to estimate the penetration of Sarin into the four types of operational naval ships by evaluating the results of Objective one in conjunction with the Sarin/Sarin-simulant relationship established in Flower Drum, Phase I (DTC Test 64-2). This was done mathematically, no Sarin was used in this test.

Methylacetoacetate was used to simulate Sarin nerve agent. The simulant was disseminated from a modified Model T-45M-2 MARS Portable Gas Turbine located on the bow of the test ship. All personnel (ships' crews and civilian test personnel) were instructed in the use of protective masks, and masks were worn by personnel directly exposed to significant quantities of methylacetoacetate.

The ships which operated in High Low were the USS Berkeley (DDG-15), the USS Fechteler (DD-870), the USS Okanogan (APA-220) and the USS Wexford County, (LST-1168).

High Low tests were conducted in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego, California, during the period January 11 through February 26, 1965.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is providing this information, at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to assist the VA in providing healthcare services to qualified veterans and to assist veterans in establishing service connection for disability claims. The Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD) collected this information from multiple sources and requested that the military services declassify it to allow its public distribution. The VA accepts this information provided on location, dates, units and/or ships, and substances involved in this exercise, which DHSD extracted from classified DoD records, and will provide it to individual veterans as necessary, but the VA cannot verify its accuracy.

This Fact Sheet was provided by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) Deployment Health Support Directorate. For more information (703) 578-8500 or (800) 497-6261.

Sea Tales "The Genie"

A Petty Officer Second Class, First Class

and a Chief are off the ship together for lunch. While crossing a park they come upon an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out in

a puff of smoke. The Genie says, "I usually only grant three wishes, so I'll give each of you just one." "Me first!" says the Petty Officer Second Class. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, a beautiful woman at my side and not a care in the world." Poof! He's gone. "Me next!" says the First Class. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of piña coladas and a beautiful woman." Poof! He's gone. "You're next," the Genie says to the Chief. The Chief says, "I want those two back on the ship right after lunch."

Web site visitor

"I'm very happy to see the ship that I spent two years of life on it. I'm a member of the Hellenic crew (as a sailor) who came to San Diego Naval Station on summer of 1992. Thanks for your reference on HS Themistocles and Greece, I'm really happy for this. I had some of my best times of my life in San Diego NAVSTA. Thanks to you all there for your great hospitality." *Antonis Bizios*

Web Site

Visitors to date – 12,708

Roster – 966 names

Community Forum

I was about to remove this page from our Web site due to lack of interest; however, the sea stories are beginning to show up so it will remain for a while. Where is your story? *Webmaster*

TAPS

HTFA Ellis Jones passed away on 24 February. Ellis served in Berkeley 1973-75 in the R Division. His sister tells that he loved his ship and was proud to be a member of the crew.

USS TOWERS (DDG-9) was sunk as a target on 9 October, 2002, 115 nm Southwest of San Clemente Island in 1,963 fathoms of water. Photos from the USS Towers Web site. For more information and additional photos, visit the site at www.usstowersddg9.com.



USS TOWERS (DDG-9)

