

SUMMER 2011

Any man or woman who may be asked in this century what they did to make life worthwhile in their lifetime....can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, "I SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY."

The Evolution of the Fighting Ship: Bataan



In continuing with the stories of the trips of the Magic Carpet, I received a very interesting letter from Jim Carpenter regarding the same — this is what Jim wrote:

“Due to the conditions right at the end of the war, about 1/2 of our crew were allowed liberty for the day. No food sources, so back to the ship if we wanted any chow. We also had to provide one SP for every 10 men on liberty. Back aboard at 1800 hours.

I don't recall the exact date of departure for home, but don't remember anything particularly bad about the weather.

Spending New Years Eve ('45) and New Years Day ('46) was rather uneventfulunless you were a passenger playing Poker! Apparently our government had issued “Gold Seal Currency” as part of the Occupational process. At that time, it was not legal tender, so it made

for some rather “interesting pots”. There were some very large bets, as many of the passengers had acquired some rather large sums through some rather questionable sources. The big changes came when a communiqué was received which announced that the currency was now “legal tender”. WOW!

Within the next few days, the weather turned sour. Wind and waves tossed us around like a rubber ball. The engineers and bridge crew kept very busy changing speeds, as the flight deck disappeared , along with the bow, the screws would be out of the water ... then the process was reversed.. After about two days of this, everyone aboard had about enough; we changed courses, went south to get out of what later was described as the worst storm in the Atlantic in 27 years.

For whatever reason, someone didn’t notify someone that we would be delayed in getting back to Norfolk one day late.

When we arrived in Norfolk, scuttlebutt was heavy —”where you guys been? You were reported as overdue and possibly lost at sea.” About 500 guys hit the beach and tied up every phone line in half the country.

**AGAIN, BATAAN HAD A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY WHICH COULD NOT BE DENIED!
We’re glad we made it back!!!”**

Magic Carpet Runs-1945 (from Anthony Soper)

It was 1945. The Bataan was leaving Boston after installing bunks on the hanger deck. The new destination was Norfolk, VA. When we arrived, we loaded Italian war prisoners to return them back to Italy and bring back American soldiers. We were on our second trip to Naples, Italy. The Bataan was tied on the pier across the bay from the Italian sub base. There were a number of destroyed ships in the harbor including one that was capsized. Upon the arrival, an English tanker came alongside to refuel the Bataan. We were busy discharging Italian soldiers and loading returning American soldiers.

While this was going on some of the crew members from the Bataan decided to sell some cigarettes to the tanker. Because neither sides were allowed on each other’s ship we had to use a rope. We tied cigarettes on a rope to get to the tanker and the tanker tied money to get to us. We charged them 20 lira per carton. (\$20. 00 USA dollars) We had been buying them at sea for \$5.00. During the transaction an officer appeared and yelled, “Stop this there won’t be any cigarettes left on this ship!” The whole crew scattered; however, I was hidden on the catwalk below the flight deck. When the excitement died down I yelled down to the crew from the tanker that I had not received my money. He told me that I would have

to come aboard the vessel and speak to the person in charge. I went down a Jacobs ladder that had been placed on the side of the Bataan. A member from the tanker crew showed me the way to the bridge. Imagine my surprise when I found out a woman was in charge of this whole operation. She claimed that she lost money from the deal. She paid me a compromised amount. Upon returning to the Bataan I was stopped by one of crew. I had to explain who I was in order to get aboard.

I had liberty that day I left the ship with my running mate, John Owen Strong and one other. I had on a pea coat with packs of cigarettes hidden in the lining. When we got to the shore patrol at the gate the marine took one look at me and said, “whew”, and let me go ahead. Back then cigarettes were worth more than money. (I’ll never forget how nervous I was approaching the gate.)

Leaving Naples we sailed out into the Mediterranean Sea right into an approaching storm. As the wind picked up the sea seemed to swell with unforgiving waves. The Bataan was violently shaken with each wave getting bigger than the next. I was the starboard lookout on the bridge. On my watch I saw the life raft carried away. Waves would spray up off the bow and go over the flight deck. We had one plane tied up in front of the island, but it came through the storm okay. My work station as a seaman was the bow. The dogged door going out to the bow was torn off. The wheel with the brake used for anchoring was bent down to the deck. The reason that the hanger deck was such a mess was because the medal siding of the ship was torn open allowing the wind and water to come in. The poor returning soldiers became very sea sick. They were vomiting even in their quarters. Thankfully we lost no men in that storm however other ships weren’t so lucky.

The Bataan arrived at Newport News, VA to disembark the soldiers. The Bataan pulled along side the dock where a railroad transportation vessel was tied up on the port side. When leaving the Bataan backed out of the slip and the flight deck overhang hit the top of the vessel railroad overhang. The Bataan continued up river to Yorktown, VA to off load ammunition. What I remember most about Yorktown was the shore patrol forbid us to talk to the girls from William and Mary College. (All girl college) When finished the Bataan got underway for Philadelphia and getting ready for going into Mothballs.



REUNION 2011, our 24th annual, was great. The success was due to the fact that we had close to 70 attendees — this made it a wonderful reunion. As was mentioned before, it is no secret that our numbers have fallen, due to one thing or another, and if we are to continue, we needed your help. This year we had many friends, relatives, widows, and widowers of members attending — this made our get-



together more of a family affair and to the eventual success.

NOW FOR YEAR 2012 — NEW AREA — NEW AGENDA — NEW EXPERIENCES, AND ABOVE ALL — A GREAT 25TH REUNION IS PLANNED FOR THE STATE OF **MAINE** !! Clifford ENG, with the help of his wife Ada, have agreed to sponsor next



year's gathering. When more information is received, it will be forthcoming in the next newsletter; but, for now, pencil in on your calendar the proposed dates of **MAY 15 –19, 2012**. By the way, if you have never eaten a FRESH Maine lobster — I don't mean the frozen type that we get in the super markets — but a true Maine lobster — well — you will be the judge — we are having a lobster bake at our next reunion!!!!

As mentioned, the 2011 reunion was great — it started on a Wednesday, but, many of our people came in on Sunday and Monday — there is so much to do in Colorado Springs that many made it a vacation. Our sign-in was on Wednesday as usual, the packets were filled with many goodies and included a cloth bag with USS BATAAN CVL 29 imprinted on it — this was a gift from the Carters, who by the way were the helpers along with the Waylands that made the reunion a GO — maybe I should mention all the others that helped, but if I do, I'm going to miss one or two, so, I'll just say thank you to ALL — you were great.

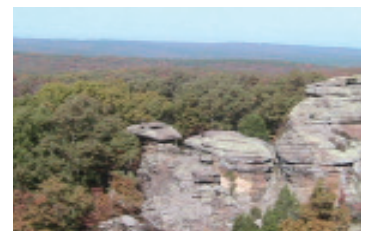
Wednesday evening, we had our usual buffet with Roast Beef, Baked Salmon, and all the sides plus a table of deserts — all that you could eat — both the main dishes and the GOODIES. Music was provided by a threesome that played songs from the 30s, 40s, and 50s — you know the type — our type.

Thursday was our Memorial Service — it was held in the Chapel at the United States Air Force Academy — what a spiritual place — and what a service given by Capt. Darren Duncan, USAF Chaplain — it was a service that was extremely moving and one that will be remembered by all that were there. We were then taken on a tour with a guide that not only was entertaining, but very knowledgeable about today's religions — the tour took us to the various chapels within the main chapel. We then had lunch at the Valley Of The Gods and after which, we had a very informative tour of the Valley Of The Gods and the towns that adjoined the Valley. Back to the hotel for a meal on our own, and the Hospitality Room, well stocked, awaited for the stories to be told of years gone by. Friday was a FREE day — with so many places to see and things to do in Colorado Springs — we thought that people could pick and choose what they wished to do — and, we were right.



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Saturday started with the usual breakfast —all—you—can—eat and what—you wish—to eat prepared especially for you by the hotel cooks — all included in the original price.

AT 0900 — PRESIDENT CLANCY DECKER, WITH THE STRIKE OF THE GAVEL, CALLED THE 24TH ANNUAL USS BATAAN CVL29.LHD5 ASSOCIATION MEETING TO ORDER. THE PRESIDENT LED US IN THE PLEDGE OF THE FLAG FOLLOWED BY AN OPENING PRAYER BY OUR CHAPLIN, DONALD BORDER. A ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS INDICATED THAT ALL WERE PRESENT OR ACCOUNTED FOR. VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD WEAVER AND TREASURER WAYLAND HAVIG WERE EXCUSED DUE TO ILLNESS. THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WAS READ AND ACCEPTED AS READ. THE TREASURER'S REPORT, WHICH WAS INSPECTED BY CLANCY DECKER AND DAVID CARTER AND FOUND TO BE CORRECT, WAS READ TO THE BODY AND REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

BALANCE AS OF MAY 13, 2010 IS \$ 19, 196.04 — TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED WAS \$ 4, 749.54 — TOTAL MONIES EXPENDED WAS \$ 8, 751.60 LEAVING A BALANCE AS OF MAY 2. 2011 OF \$15,193.60 REPORT OF THE TREASURER WAS ACCEPTED AS READ. BECAUSE OF ILLNESS, WAYLAND HAS DECLINED THE POSITION OF TREASURER — THANKS AND GOD BLESS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE.NEW BUSINESS — PRESIDENT DECKER INFORMED THE GROUP THAT THE CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS THAT HAD BEEN PROPOSED WILL NOT BE DONE AT THIS MEETING DUE TO THE ILLNESS OF OUR VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD WEAVER — THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE ANTICIPATED CHANGES. THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES WAS MENTIONED AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO INCREASE OUR REUNION NUMBERS — IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT OUR REUNION DATES BE PLACED IN ALL POSSIBLE MILITARY MAGAZINES, THIS IS ONE WAY OF NOTIFYING FORMER CREW MEMBERS OF OUR UP AND COMING REUNIONS. PRESIDENT DECKER INFORMED THE GROUP THAT RICHARD WEAVER WILL NOT ACCEPT THE NOMINATION OF VICE PRESIDENT — WE WISH TO THANK RICHARD FOR ALL THE YEARS GIVEN TO US. NEW BUSINESS — ELECTION OF OFFICERS — THE FOLLOWING NAMES WERE PLACED IN NOMINATION FOR THE VARIOUS POSITIONS — PRESIDENT — CLANCY DECKER; VICE PRESIDENT — JIM McDONALD; — KEITH ARTERBURN AND CIFFORD ENG FOR TREASURER (KEITH ARTERBURN DECLINED THE NOMINATION); CHAPLAIN — DONALD BORDER; SECRETARY — SANDO COSENZA; WEB MASTER/HISTORIAN — RICHARD WEAVER; STOREKEEPER — AUDREY COSENZA (UNTIL SOMEONE IF FOUND TO TAKE THIS POSITION) — ALL INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION — NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED AND VOTED UPON. QUINCY GOLI HAR RESIGNED AS STOREKEEPER WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF HIS DOCTOR — LOTS OF LUCK QUINCY — THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE. SITES FOR THE 2012 REUNION WERE PROPOSED — WILLIAM LINKER PROPOSED LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY BUT SAID HE HAD NO PRICES FOR THE HOTEL, BUT THAT HE IS WORKING WITH THE HOTEL MANAGER TO GET A REASONABLE PRICE — CLIFFORD ENG PROPOSED PORTLAND, MAINE AS A POSSIBLE SITE. HE STATED THAT THE HOTEL WILL BE THE BEST WESTERN AND THAT THE PRICE PER NIGHT WOULD BE IN THE \$ 79.00 RANGE—TRIPS WOULD INCLUDE A HARBOR CRUISE, BATH IRON WORKS TOUR, AND A LOBSTER BAKE . A VOTE WAS CALLED FOR, WHEN BILL LINKER ROSE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD REMOVE HIS RECOMMENDATION OF LOUISVILLE IN FAVOR OF PORTLAND MAINE — WE WERE IN LOUISVILLE AND PORTLAND WOULD BE A NEW SITE AND THEREFORE HE VOTES FOR THAT. A VOTE WAS TAKEN AND PORTLAND , MAINE WILL BE OUR 2012 REUNION SITE. DATES WERE DISCUSSED AND IT WILL PROBABLY BE MAY 15 — 19 2012. MORE NEWS WILL FOLLOW. WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, PRESIDENT DECKER CLAIMED THE 2011 BUSINESS MEETING CLOSED AT 1020 HOURS.

AFTER THE MEETING A VERY INTERESTING AUCTION WAS HELD BY OUR AUCTIONEER WAS HELD — THE TREASURY IS NOW \$ 341.00 PLUS \$20.00 FOR THE ROVING PLAQUE FOR A TOTAL OF \$361.00 RICHER.

Saturday evening the cow pokes of the USS BATAAN emerged upon the city of Colorado Springs, CO. Dressed in western attire, the group assembled in the main lobby of the hotel to await the boarding of the buses — we were going to the **FLYING W RANCH** for our Bar B Que evening meal along with entertainment by the **Flying W Wranglers**. What a meal — GREAT — entertainment — GREAT _ GREAT. We still had business to transact — our 50/50 drawing along with the award for the best dressed cowboy and cowgirl. We all got together in the hospitality room, which by the way, was still well supplied . Time for the drawing — THE WINNER — ROBERT “BUD” HINDMAN — THE TREASURY IS NOW \$ 290.00 RICHER. The winners of the costume get up — for the cowgirl — LIL TORGRIMSON — cowboy — SANDO COSENZA. As you know, Marge Decker is no longer with us ,so we had to look for someone to sell the 50/50 tickets and, NANCY COSENZA volunteered and did a remarkable job — thanks Nancy — it was again time to say our GOODBYES — the saddest part of the entire affair —BUT — with the anticipation of going to Maine next year didn't make the farewells too emotional. AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO AGAIN THANK ALL FOR MAKING MY JOB A LOT EASIER — WITHOUT YOU , WELL, I HATE TO THINK OF THAT — SO AGAIN THANK YOU !!!! WE ARE PUTTING THE MEMORY BOOK TOGETHER WITH PHOTOS TAKEN BY JIM “MATHEW BRADY” WARD AND HIS ASSISTANT CAROL VOEGELI. DON'T FORGET TO SEND ME YOUR PHOTOS SO THAT WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN THE MEMORY BOOK !!!

USS BATAAN LHD 5 ---



110525-N-7508R-003 MEDITERRANEAN SEA (May 25, 2011) Sailors aboard the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) prepare to receive supplies from the Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Robert E. Peary (T-AKE 5) during a replenishment at sea. Bataan is the command ship of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group conducting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Julio Rivera/Released)



110521-N-7508R-015 MEDITERRANEAN SEA (May 21, 2011) Capt. Erik Ross, executive officer of the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), renders a salute as cremated remains are passed over the side during a burial at sea ceremony in the ship's hangar bay. Bataan is the command ship of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group conducting maritime security operations and [theater](#) security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Julio Rivera/Released)



110511-N-7508R-002 MEDITERRANEAN SEA (May 16, 2011) A landing signal enlisted assigned to the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) guides an MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 263 (Reinforced), 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (22nd MEU), onto the flight deck. Bataan is the command ship of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and is conducting maritime security operations and [theater](#) security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS —

THE USS BUNKER HILL CV 17 WAS BADLY DAMAGED DURING THE OKINAWA CAMPAIGN — SHE WAS HIT BY TWO KAMIKAZE PLANES AND WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED. SHE WENT OUT OF CONTROL AND NEARLY CRASHED INTO THE USS BATAAN CVL29 . IT WAS ONLY THROUGH QUICK RESPONSE OF THE BATAAN THAT PREVENTED HER FROM BEING HIT BY THE DAMAGED BUNKER HILL. IT WAS THE 11TH MAY 1945. THE BUNKER HILL SUFFERED THE LOSS OF 346 MEN, 43 MISSING, AND 264 WOUNDED.

OR THIS —



THE USS BATAAN CVL29 PICTURE TAKEN BY ALBERT TRAVIS FROM THE USS WILES BARRE CL 103 . ALBERT TRAVIS WAS A FRIEND OF FRED BUTRY, A CREWMEMBER OF THE BATAAN FROM VIRGINIA. THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN DURING THE OKINAWA CAMPAIGN MARCH 18— MAY 26 , 1945 — 79 DAYS AT SEA WITHOUT SEEING LAND.

(THE ABOVE PHOTOS WERE SENT TO ME BY MARJORIE BUTRY, WIFE OF FRED BUTRY)

FROM THE DAYS DURING THE KOREAN WAR — FROM JOHN BERST, DIVISION OFFICER, USS BATAAN CVL29—

I WAS THE 3RD DIVISION OFFICER AND UNDERWAY OOD UNTIL CAPT. "HAIRBREATH" HARRY HORNEY' BANISHED ME FROM THE BRIDGE. WE WERE SAILING IN THE YELLOW SEA OFF KOREA. I WAS OOD OF THE BRIDGE WITH THE 0400 TO 0800 WATCH. WE WERE STAYING AWAY FROM A TYPHOON. WE PITCHED AND ROLLED IN HUGE SEAS THAT WERE 90 DEGREES TO AN 80 KNOT WIND. CAPTAIN HORNEY COME ON THE BRIDGE ABOUT 0600 HOURS AND ORDERED "BRING HER INTO THE WIND MR. BERST"

I RESPONDED WITH "NO SIR, CAPTAIN— THAT WILL BRING US 90 DEGREES TO THOSE HUGE SEAS." I WAS HOLDING A COURSE THAT SPLIT HALFWAY BETWEEN THE TWO. CAPT. HORNEY SAID "ARE YOU REFUSING TO OBEY MY ORDER"? I SAID "YES SIR!" AND SO HE BANISHED ME FROM THE BRIDGE.

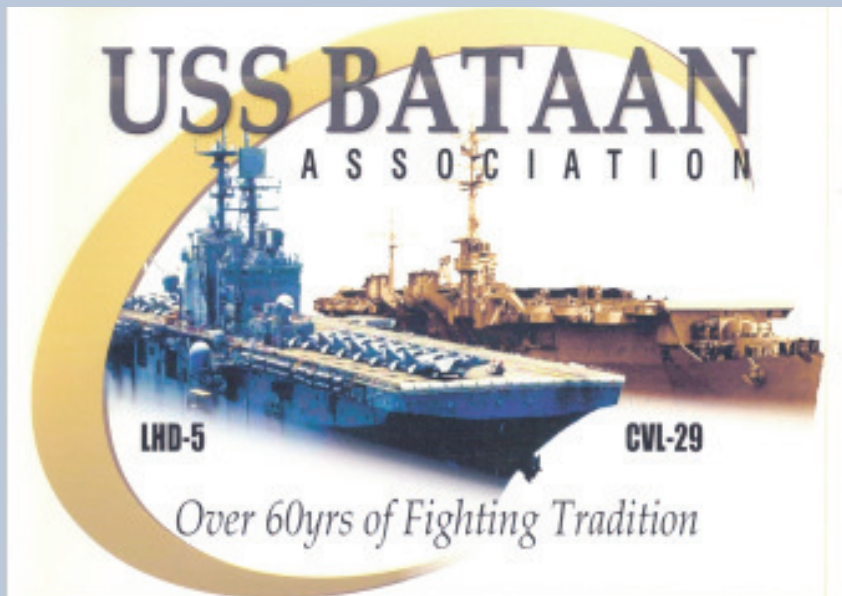
I WENT BACK TO THE NAVIGATOR'S PLOT WHERE THERE WAS AN INCLINOMETER. AS THE CAPTAIN BROUGHT THE BATAAN INTO THE WIND A LARGE SWELL HIT US BROADSIDE AND THE BATAAN ROLLED 37 DEGREES AND JUST HUNG THERE FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY. LCDR WHEATON, THE NAVIGATOR, AND I WERE HANGING ON, BUT THE CAPTAIN FLEW RIGHT OUT OF THE CHAIR UNTO THE DECK. THE SHIP FINALLY RIGHTED ITSELF — THE CAPTAIN PROPERLY CAME BACK TO MY COURSE. HE WAS SO INFURIATED WITH ME THAT HE ASSIGNED ME TO ENGINEERING SAYING "I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MR. BERST!" I EVENTUALLY BECAME M DIVISION OFFICER AND ENGINEERING OFFICER OF THE WATCH. I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT AND LISTENED TO CHIEF WARRANT MACHINIST BEAUMONT, WHO TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW. TURNED OUT THAT CAPT HORNEY DID ME A FAVOR— I LOVED ENGINEERING. AFTER WE DECOMMISSIONED THE BATAAN, I WAS ASSIGNED AS BOILER OFFICER ON THE ESSEX CV-9. I WAS HIGH-LINED OVER TO THE ESSEX FROM A SUPPLY SHIP IN THE GULF OF TOMKIN. IT WAS A TOSS-UP IF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WOULD DECIDE TO GIVE AID TO THE VIET CONG — WISELY HE DID NOT — AND WE WERE THANKFUL.

Sando COSENZA — SECRETARY

USS BATAAN CVL 29/ LHD 5 ASSOCIATION

4448 East Cheyenne Drive

Phoenix, Az 85044-1619



WE CHERISH TOO, THE POPPY RED

THAT GROWS ON FIELDS WHERE VALOR LED

IT SEEMS TO SIGNAL TO THE SKIES

THAT BLOOD OF HEROES NEVER DIE.



RECENT DEATHS

***Frederick "Fritz" WAGNER
DIED 2011***

***Frank MANGONE
DIED MAY 8TH 2011***

***A. Raymond MCKKEMAN
DIED MAY 13TH 2011***

***MAY THEIR SOULS
REST IN PEACE***