

A newsletter exclusively for former sailors of USS GRIGGS/USS GRUNDY

GRIGGS-GRUNDY NEWS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

December 2001

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS GRIGGS AND USS GRUNDY



Special Points of Interest

- *Daniel Brown tells you all about the New Orleans reunion in the cover story.*
- *If you're wondering who was at the reunion, wonder no more. The list is on page two.*
- *You can soon receive the newsletter on line. See details on page three.*
- *MAIL CALL is on pages four and five. See if you remember any of the people in the letters.*
- *Who was your most memorable character from your ship? See if you remember the ones on page five.*
- *The Charleston survey is on pages six and seven. Please take time to fill it out and return it to us.*

2001 REUNION A SUCCESS

Dear Shipmates,

The Eighth Annual Reunion of the USS GRIGGS & the USS GRUNDY was held at New Orleans, LA on 11 October 2001.

Some of our shipmates arrived a day early and they greeted us and the Lewis's on our arrival. With the situation of the world, I think our reunion was a success. There were 15 shipmates and 14 guests for a total of 29.

Our first tour was on Friday, the 12th of October. Our shipmates and guests, along with the shipmates of the USS

RENVILLE APA-227, went on a swamp tour. We were able to see four alligators and I believe some one saw a water moccasin. Our tour guide Cheryl and the boat captain gave us a great tour. After the boat tour we re-boarded the bus, along with Cheryl and Lynn Love, our hostess for the reunion, and headed for the plantation. On our way Cheryl then pointed out different points of interest such as her home and area where she was raised. She also pointed out the fields of sugar cane, telling us that they cut it three different

times, after the third cutting it is dug up and replanted. Very interesting. We then arrived at Oak Alley Plantation. This had a walkway with 28 live oak trees that were each over 250 years old. We toured the home and had a lunch in an outdoor area. Everyone enjoyed it. Some people bought souvenirs.

That evening we had a very nice meal at the hotel. This was all included in our package.

We had a buffet breakfast each morning. On Saturday the 13th, we boarded the bus, along

(Continued on page 2)

with the shipmates for the USS RENVILLE. We had a tour of the city of New Orleans. Some of our shipmates left the bus along with the ones from the Renville and did a walking tour. They said they enjoyed it. Some one got a blister—eh—and somebody got misplaced—How about it Clyde? Lynn took them on that tour. We who stayed on the bus saw more including a tour of a Catholic Cemetery. There are many of them in New Orleans. Because New Orleans is below sea level, they must bury above the ground. We then got back on our bus and went to the D-Day Museum where we met the rest of our group. This museum was very interesting.

At 3:30 PM Saturday we had our business meeting. It was agreed to stay with the ML&RS next year. Also it was voted on to go to Charleston, SC in 2002. We agreed to raise our dues to \$15.00 a year. This helps with the newsletter. Also, Charles Forshee has agreed to take co-chairman along with Daniel and Frank Galloway and wife as co-chairman.

That evening we had our banquet. Again, very good food.

We welcomed two new shipmates this year to our reunion—Wilburn Roberts and his wife Chris from the Griggs and Frank and Diana Galloway from the USS Grundy. We hope to see them again.

At our banquet, Diane Galloway came with a cast on her leg. She asked that everyone sign it. I think all enjoyed it.

Your shipmate,
Daniel Brown

Published by:

*Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603
Tel: (828) 256-6008
Fax: (828) 256-6559
E-Mail: DinaMLRS@aol.com
mlrsnewsletters@aol.com
www.mlrsinc.com
Our Reunions Work, So You Don't
Have To*

2001 REUNION ATTENDEES

USS GRIGGS

Charles & Tolvie Forshee
Claude & Dorothy Graham
R.B. & Phyllis Kahl
Joseph & Ruth Locke
Allan & Jean Morton
Wilburn & Chris Roberts
Thom & Shirley Arthur

USS GRUNDY

Daniel & Claire Brown
Harry & Wanda Fairall
Frank & Dianne Galloway
Cloyd, Jacqueline & Butch Knepp
William & Evelyn Lewis
Robert Palmer
Clyde Pigott
Fenwick & Lillian Watts

Total Members: 15

Guests: 14

Grand Total: 29

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 06/01 issue
minus \$59.83

Funds received since 06/01
\$170.00

Total funds available for 12/01
\$110.17

Funds expended for 12/01 issue
\$133.05

**Remaining balance
minus \$22.88**

If you haven't contributed to the newsletter fund, now would be a good time. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please send in your contributions. There were no funds for the September issue, so to keep the newsletter coming contributions are needed.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The GRIGGS-GRUNDY NEWS is the official publication of the USS GRIGGS—USS GRUNDY Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the GRIGGS-GRUNDY. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially *share experiences*.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family by submitting your stories and suggestions.

The word Christmas was first used in 1038, and results from combining the words *Christ's Mass*.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the USS GRIGGS/USS GRUNDY reunion will be available soon to download from the Military Locator & Reunion Service Inc web site.

If you are able to visit our web site and download the Newsletter, and therefore do not need a paper copy mailed to you, please let us know.

Please visit our web site at www.mlrsinc.com, then follow the link labeled **Reunions**, then scroll down until you see the listing for the **USS GRIGGS/GRUNDY**. Click on the button labeled **Newsletters**, and in a few minutes the newsletter should appear on your screen. (As a side note - it took about 4 minutes on my computer). This will only work if you have Adobe Reader 4.0 or higher. You can also download this viewer for free from our web site.

If this works for you and you would like to receive all future mailings from us in this method, please send me an e-mail requesting to subscribe to the Griggs/Grundy E-mail Roster. Each time something new is available, we will send you an e-mail informing you something new is available on the web site. **Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so you don't miss any important information.**

To subscribe to the Griggs/Grundy E-mail Roster please send an **e-mail to SubscribeMLRS@aol.com**, put the phrase **SUBSCRIBE GRIGGS/GRUNDY** in the Subject line and **type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail**. You will be placed in the e-mail roster.

Your name and postal mailing address will remain in our computers and will appear on all mailing lists, etc distributed to other members of your group.

If you have any question regarding this, do not hesitate to ask!

Dina Coffey



WELCOME MAT

The USS GRIGGS/GRUNDY Association cordially welcomes the following shipmates who have been located since the last newsletter. We hope to see you at the next reunion and that you will take an active part in the association.

USS GRUNDY

*Rick Dallandino
BM2/c*

*305 Virginia Ave
Milnot Park, PA 19033*

*Marshall Riley
7457 Hwy 78 W
Marianna, AR 72360
870-295-2504*

*Donald Holmes
66 Magnolia St
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
201-501-0790
Chile912@msn.com*

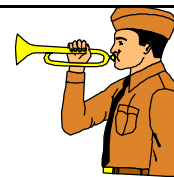
*Theodore Cole (1945-46)
Cox 3rd Deck
(Summer address):
42 Brigantine Dr
East Falmouth, MA 02536
508-564-9907
(Winter address):
26396 Nadir Rd # 504
Ponta Gorda, FL 33983
941-764-6747*

*William Wagner (S2/c)
2317 Elmwood Dr
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-405*

*Robert Daniel Griffin (1944-46)
152 Sherman Ct
Fairfield, CT 06430
203-259-6532*

USS GRIGGS
*Wilburn Roberts (1944-46)
Cox 3/c 1st
868 Minarca Dr
Des Peres, MO 63131
314-822-8222*

*Bill Edwards
202 Waverly St
Homer, IL 61849
217-896-2254*



TAPS

The News was notified of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widows, families, and friends of the deceased.

*Jose Cabanillas
(USS GRUNDY)
Died 1979*

*A.T. Holmes
USS GRUNDY
Died 1997*

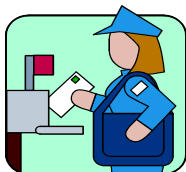
*Edward S. Kazmiercz
USS GRIGGS
Died May 1, 2001*

Anyone knowing of the death of a shipmate, please notify The News at ML&RS. We want to recognize the former crewmember by listing his name in The News and by placing his name on the Griggs/Grundy Honor Roll.

NOTE FROM LYNN LOVE TO REUNION ATTENDEES

Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of your group this year! I had such a wonderful time with all of you in one of my favorite cities. I hope to see all of you next year in Charleston, SC. Have a wonderful year and God Bless!

Love,
Lynn Love



MAIL CALL

The following letters were forwarded to ML&RS by Daniel Brown for inclusion in the newsletter.

Dear Mr. Brown,

I was reading my local paper when I saw a notice of a reunion of the USS Grundy. My father, A.T. Holmes, Jr. (Ted) served during WWII on the Grundy in the later part of the war. He was a LT. JG.

He told me he was in Japan 2 weeks after the war and went through the Panama Canal twice. That is almost all he ever told me of his ship board days. I'm not sure I could attend the reunion, but I would love to hear from anyone who served with my dad, who at the time was nicknamed "Happy."

My dad died 3 years ago. Just before he died, we met a former shipmate of his named Joseph Gary. In case you wish to find him, I have sent him the reunion info.

I was also wondering about the Grundy herself. I knew, after being decommissioned, it was sold to a passenger line in San Francisco. Do you know if it's still around? I've always been curious. Please send me information on the reunion and any further help you can give me.

My e-mail address is Chile912@msn.com. My phone number is 201-501-0790.

Good luck with the reunion!

Sincerely,
Donald Holmes

Mr. Brown,

My name is Jose C. Cabanillas, son of Jose M. Cabanillas, whom I believe was the first commanding officer of the USS GRUNDY.

I saw the notice of your October reunion in the Jul-Sept **Shift Colors**. I live in the Jacksonville, Florida area

and would like to attend the reunion, but unfortunately am booked solid for that period.

Instead I would like to give you details of the remainder of Captain Cabanilla's life after leaving the Grundy. To keep things short I'll refer to him as "JMC."

I remember going aboard the Grundy in Hampton Roads, Norfolk in the winter of "44-45(?) but it was only for a day, I believe. JMC told me some stories about his time in the Pacific, but they aren't written down and I'm not sure how much of them were sea stories. Things are a little vague.

JMC left the Grundy and was transferred to Norfolk as the Assistant Chief of Staff (Discipline), 5th Naval District in December '45(?). I believe he lost contact with the Grundy after that.

He served there until July 1949 at which time he was transferred as Commanding Officer, Naval Station, Orange, TX. That was the mothball fleet. I enlisted in the Navy in June and we parted company. I went to Great Lakes for boot camp, was selected for NAPS (Naval Academy Prep School) in Newport, RI, and subsequently entered Annapolis in June 1950. At the point I left the picture.

In July '50, JMC was yanked out of his job and sent to command the USS Dixie, a destroyer tender in the Pacific. That was at the onset of the Korean mess when MacArthur was planning the Inchon invasion and they were looking for people with combat experience. He was in the middle of the Inchon invasion and I remember his telling that he was anchored in the harbor and when the tide went out, the ship would bottom out and heel about 5 degrees. They had one 5" popgun on the foredeck which kept firing in support of the shore troops while they serviced anything that came alongside. I think he really enjoyed that experience.

However, after a year they asked why that old guy was in command and transferred him to the staff of the Pacific fleet in Hawaii. He remained there until June '53 at which time he was transferred to 6th Naval District in San Juan, Puerto Rico as Chief of

Staff. Puerto Rico was his original home. In June '55 he retired from active duty.

They returned to Richmond, VA, my mother's home. JMC puttered around the garden for a year and then, totally bored, entered the Richmond School of Law in '56 under the GI Bill. He passed the Virginia Bar at the end of his second year and was head (whatever) of the National League Fraternity in his third and last year.

He served as law librarian at the University for 6 years and then entered a Richmond law firm. He was with them for about a year and then left, saying he couldn't stand the profession any more. He did *pro bono* work for a while but finally stopped.

He died 15 September 1979 in the Veteran's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. He was cremated and the remains buried at sea with full military honors. On his death he was promoted to Rear Admiral due to awards received while Executive Officer of the USS Texas during the duel with onshore batteries in the Normandy Invasion.

He was the first Puerto Rican to make rear admiral in the US Navy, albeit a tombstone promotion.

His widow lives in Chesterfield, VA and will have her 95th birthday in September.

Thought you might like to know.

Jose C. Cabanillas

Dear Mr. Brown,

Where, oh where did the time go! We are finally back to normal after a year of some medical problems. But first of all, it is our hope that each of you had a pleasant, healthy and happy year. The above is the same thing we said in the year 2000.

Did not do any traveling in September or October as we would normally do. Did not travel last year since Tony was out of action with his hernia surgery. This year it was Nancy's turn. Nancy and Tony were walking to go someplace on Ft. Meyer and Nancy tripped and fell on

an elevated piece of sidewalk. Normally we walk hand in hand, but at this moment I let go as we turned a corner and she fell. After a visit to the doctor, x-rays, etc. she had a fractured right kneecap. She also had a very bad bruise on the left hand that took forever to heal properly. No broken bones though. The good news (if you can call falling good news) is that it was a clean fracture and did not require surgery. The doctor prescribed a soft cast which was about 20" long and that kept her leg immobilized. She also had to do exercise therapy three times a day which she did faithfully. We borrowed a walker from a neighbor and she was back in business. Of course, this curtailed our walking. Four weeks later the soft cast was removed and we started a little walking along with her exercises. Four weeks later and new x-rays, the doctor told her that she did not have to return. We have continued our walking not as long and not as fast, but it won't be long before she is back to normal. Every once in a while the knee hurts, but then it passes.

Visited Nancy's sister and husband in Tarrytown for about a week and had a most enjoyable visit. Also visited other relatives. We do not usually travel during the summer months and with Nancy's fall, travel was out of the question.

As usual Tony held his Italian dinner in the condo party room. Nancy continues to say it is too much work, but... Still limited to 24 people. This small number can be handled with little or no effort. Always a great success. It is almost like a special invite—you let people know ahead of time when the reservation forms will be available so that they can make their reservation. It is usually sold out in a couple of days. Same menu as previous years as this works well and it is easy to prepare.

Can't get out of the church picnic as chief grill master and Nancy is in charge of the other foods.

The chief in charge of the picnic is our good friend Elizabeth H. Elizabeth has now told us that this year 2001 was her last picnic. We will have to wait and see. The picnic has been held in July and for the past several years, the weather has been wonderful.

In closing, have a Merry Christmas and God willing the year 2002 will be filled with many blessings for all. Hopefully we will be able to continue our fall travel.

Nancy and Tony DiSalvo

MOST MEMORABLE CHARACTER

A request for stories about your most memorable character from your days on the USS GRIGGS or USS GRUNDY was sent out to all who have e-mail. We got one response and it is truly appreciated. After reading it, I hope many more of you will be inspired to write for the next issue.

The most colorful character on the Griggs to me was Paul Tingler, a man much older than most of the rest of his shipmates in the "C" Division. He would have been close to 45 I believe and it was his duty, he thought, to keep Claude Graham from doing anything he would enjoy doing when he went ashore. Paul had several children and was from Weirton, WV, and didn't play cards or any of the pastimes some of the others liked to do including Claude Graham. He got out of the Navy on the point system in part due to having the children. Someone went to see him afterwards in Weirton and he had a guard on the entrance to his driveway.

Another person I found to be a nice person was the ship's captain, Mr. A.C. Wood. A couple of other people and myself went to the movies in Galveston, TX and when we got out of the movie there was a long entranceway to the showroom and the shore patrol took us in custody

for not having our coats buttoned up while we were still in this entrance hall. They took us down to their offices, booked us for not being properly dressed, then took us back to the pier where the ship was docked, and instructed us our liberty was over. This was about 8 PM. On the way down the pier to the ship, we met the captain going ashore who said you boys are coming back awfully early, aren't you? We then told the captain what happened, he then turned around and went back to a telephone beside the ship and called someone and told them he was sending us back out on liberty and didn't want us bothered. A full captain, not an acting captain, does get someone's attention, and it is a known fact that he went out of his way to see we got the liberty we were supposed to get that night.

Charles Forshee SM1/c

COME TO CHARLESTON OCT. 10-12, 2002

The dates for the 2002 reunion are confirmed for October 10-12, at the Town and Country Inn in downtown Charleston, SC. Everyone will have a great time reminiscing with old and new buddies. Please make every attempt to attend. You won't be disappointed!

Charleston is located on a narrow, low-lying peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper rivers, at the head of a broad bay leading to the Atlantic Ocean. It also includes an area on the western bank of the Ashley River.

The nearly landlocked harbor handles both coastal and overseas trade, giving it the reputation as one of the busiest ports of the southeastern United States.

A major tourist attraction is the extensive historic district, noted for its lush gardens and the varied architecture.

Three fortifications stand at the mouth of the Charleston Harbor: Fort Sumter and Castle Pinckney (1797), both built on shoals, and Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan's Island.

The city's points of interest are sure to attract many for this annual gathering. As you know, your time together will be short, so let's make the most of it at the places that interest you. Read over the Sneak Preview of the popular attractions in Charleston. Mark your choices on the survey form which is included in this newsletter to let us know what you would like to see. Be sure to return it just as soon as you can, so we can finalize your reunion activities.

Sneak Preview

Boone Hall Plantation:

Historic Boone Hall Plantation was used in the filming of the television mini-series "North and South." It was the background setting for parts of "Gone With the Wind." You can watch the ladies make their sweetgrass baskets, in addition to touring the lovely Georgian-style plantation.

Charles Museum:

Founded in 1773, it is the oldest museum in America and contains natural science, cultural history, ornithology, and ethnology departments, the Charleston Silver Exhibit, which is internationally recognized work by local silversmiths, dating from Colonial times to the 19th Century.

City Hall Council Chambers:

The City Hall Gallery is located in the Council Chamber at City Hall and was built in 1801. It includes portraits of many important leaders, including one by George Trumball of George Washington.

Drayton Hall:

Built circa 1738, the Hall survived the Civil War intact and preserved almost in its original condition after more than 250 years. It is

considered one of the oldest and finest examples of Georgian Palladian architecture in the nation.

Fort Sumter:

A boat will take you from Patriot's Point to Ft Sumter. Some of you may recall this is the fort that the Yankees secretly, and by night, reinforced (no doubt to launch a sneak attack on Charleston). This overt action *forced* the Confederates to make a pre-emptive strike which marked the beginning of what some historians have called the "Civil War." In Charleston it is known as the "War of Northern Aggression." Once at the Fort, a ranger from the National Park Service will give you an informative introduction before you tour this famous bastion and its marvelous museum.

Charleston Carriage Tour:

Leisurely ride through narrow streets and alleyways past carefully restored 18th and 19th century homes and buildings. Your guide will relate three hundred years of history to the accompaniment of horse's hooves clopping along the pavement.

Magnolia Gardens:

Designed circa 1680, this contains America's oldest garden and boasts one of the largest collections of azaleas and camellias. The inside of the country house holds as much history as the gardens, being the pre-revolutionary war summer home of the Draytons. It has something for everyone-nature train tour, petting zoo, wildlife observation tower, orientation theater, gift shop, art gallery, horticultural maze, Biblical Garden, herb garden, and more.

Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon:

No other Charleston attraction presents so much of our American heritage as does the Old Exchange. Early settlers built a Court of Guard here in which imprisoned pirates and Indians were kept in the lower level, while town meetings were held in the hall. The Old Exchange was completed in 1771 by the British. With its striking

Palladian architecture, the Exchange dominated the harbor. It became the social, political, and economic hub of the bustling 18th century port. In 1965 part of the original seawall of Charles Towne was discovered during the excavation of the dungeon.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church:

Located on Meeting at Broad Street and completed in 1761, it is the oldest church edifice in the city and one of the few city churches in America to retain its original design. It was here that George Washington worshipped during his tour of the South in 1791. Its clock and ring of eight bells, except for short absences, have shared the lives of Charlestonians for over 200 years.

Patriot's Point:

This is the world's largest Naval Maritime Museum. Tour the famous WW II aircraft carrier USS YORKTOWN, visit Medal of Honor Museum on board. Also tour the destroyer USS LAFLEY, a participant in the Normandy landings, the submarine USS CLAMAGORE, and the Coast Guard Cutter Ingham. There is also a model of a Navy Base like those used by Naval personnel in Vietnam.

The goal of Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc is to give you the best possible reunion. We want to offer things that YOU want, not what we "think" you may like. You can help insure that your reunion is *your* reunion by participating in the survey on page seven. Return it to us at the address at the bottom of the survey, and then we can begin to finalize the reunion plans. We look forward to seeing many new, as well as many "old" faces, in Charleston.

2002 REUNION SURVEY FOR USS GRIGGS-GRUNDY CHARLESTON, SC

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in the Charleston area and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do.

Registration packets will be mailed approximately ninety days prior to the reunion.

Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.

Boone Hall Plantation _____

Charles Museum _____

City Hall Council Chambers _____

Drayton Hall _____

Fort Sumter _____

Charleston Carriage Tour _____

Magnolia Gardens _____

Old Exchange and Provost
Dungeon _____

St. Michael's Episcopal Church _____ Patriot's Point _____

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, would you prefer only an hor d'oeuvre platter _____
or a hamburger/hot dog or soup & sandwich type dinner? _____

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings _____ or only on Sunday? _____

Would you like a "low country" buffet on Friday night, featuring Charleston flavored dishes _____, or have the evening free to dine on your own? _____

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? (Keeping in mind this will increase the banquet cost to pay for the music) Yes _____ No _____

Other comments and suggestions: _____

Return to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603