

USS BRISTOL DD857 VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION REUNION

NEWPORT, R.I.
OCTOBER 2-5 2007

USUALLY WE LEAVE KENTUCKY ON A COOL, CRISP MORNING TO GO TO THE BRISTOL REUNION, BUT THIS YEAR WE LEFT ON A VERY WARM AND DRY DAY. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER MAY OR MAY NOT BE, WE ARE STILL FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT, ANTICIPATION, AND EAGER TO SEE ALL OUR FRIENDS AND SHIPMATES. A YEAR HAS PASSED, AND IT IS NOW TIME TO ONCE AGAIN ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL THE ATTENDEES. IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, 144 SHIPMATES AND FRIENDS ATTENDED THIS REUNION.

THE OPENING RECEPTION ON TUESDAY NIGHT WAS AS GOOD AS IT GETS. OUR PRESIDENT WAS IN FINE FORM AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED ALL THE OFFICERS AND ALL THE NEW MEMBERS. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT 56 YEARS AGO THE BRISTOL STARTED ON THEIR AROUND THE WORLD TOUR. WITH COMMANDER CHARLES DARROW TO LEAD THIS GROUP OF YOUNG MEN. THE TRIP WAS SUCCESSFUL, AND THE MEMORIES FLOWED AMONG THE MEN THAT HAD SERVED DURING THAT TIME PERIOD.

THE TRIP TO BRISTOL R.I. WAS VERY INTERESTING. MEETING THE MAYOR AND BEING MADE SO VERY WELCOME WAS VERY SPECIAL. SHE TOLD US A LOT ABOUT THE CITY OF BRISTOL, AND MADE US FEEL PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A SHIPMATE ABOARD THE USS BRISTOL DD857.

THAT EVENING, WE WENT ON A LOVELY DINNER CRUISE. THE FOOD WAS EXCELLENT, THE COMPANY WAS UNSURPASSED. EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME. I EVEN FOUND OUT WHAT OLD CAMPBELL'S FIRST NAME WAS. I HAD DONE A LOT OF SEARCHING TO TRY TO COME UP WITH HIS NAME. IT WAS JULIAN. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?

AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, EVERY THING WENT WELL. WE NAMED TONY MOLNAR TO TAKE OVER FOR DICK BRISTOLSKI. AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, WE LOST DICK THIS YEAR. JAN AND HER DAUGHTER SUE ATTENDED THE REUNION. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF THE BRISTOL FAMILY.

A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT WAS ELECTED——DOUG LIPPERT.. DOUG WE KNOW YOU WILL DO A GREAT JOB.

PAUL RATCLIFF STEPPED DOWN AS SECRETARY, AND MARTY WALSH WAS NAMED TO TAKE HIS PLACE. MARTY WILL BE GREAT AS SECRETARY. THANKS TO ALL THE OFFICERS FOR DOING THE JOB THAT YOU DO. WE COULD NOT HAVE THIS REUNION WITHOUT YOU. AND WE ARE PROUD OF EACH OF YOU.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT IN 2009 WE WILL BE IN MILWAUKEE, WI. THAT IS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO AND WE WILL ALL TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT IT WILL BE A REUNION TO REMEMBER.

THAT EVENING, WE ALL CAME OUT IN OUR BEST BIB AND TUCKER. GREAT JOB GUYS. EVERYONE LOOKED GREAT. THIS IS ONE GROUP THAT WE CAN ALL BE VERY PROUD. YOU NEVER DISAPPOINT ME. THE RAFFLE TABLE EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS. VERY NICE.

FRIDAY MORNING ALL SHIPMATES AND FRIENDS GATHERED FOR A WONDERFUL BREAKFAST, AND THE MEMORIAL SERVICE. THIS IS ALWAYS VERY TOUCHING.

IT WAS SO GOOD TO SEE ALL THE SHIPMATES AT THIS REUNION. AND NOW IT IS ON TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU THERE. IT IS SOMETHING WONDERFUL TO LOOK FORWARD TO FOR ALL OF US.

ONCE AGAIN, HOLD ALL YOUR MEMORIES CLOSE TO YOUR HEART. BE PROUD OF YOUR SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. MAY GOD HOLD YOU ALWAYS IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND..

Written by
Shirley Clark
USS Bristol DD857 Veteran's Association Historian

THE REUNION WAS

THE REUNION WAS 144 SHIPMATES
HOSPITALITY ROOM
RECEPTION
TOURS
DINNER CRUISE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
GREAT OFFICERS
BANQUET
RAFFLE TABLE
DANCE
BREAKFAST
MEMORIAL SERVICE
SHIPMATES AND FRIENDS
GOOD FOOD
GOOD FELLOWSHIP
GOOD MEMORIES
PICTURES
GREAT CITY
FUN THINGS TO DO
NEW MEMBERS
OLD MEMBERS
PLANK OWNERS
TEN YEARS OF REUNIONS

DICK BRISTOLSKI ALWAYS WROTE WHAT THE REUNION WAS, BUT THAT
JOB IS NOW MINE. SO I WILL CONTINUE AS HE DID. IT IS NOT WHERE
WE WERE. IT IS NOT WHAT WE DID. IT IS NOT WHAT WE HAD TO EAT OR
ANY OTHER THINGS LIKE THAT. IT IS BEING TOGETHER AND SEEING
EACH OTHER AND REMEMBERING ALL THE GOOD TIMES, JUST
REMEMBER-----IT IS THE MEMORIES THAT BRINGS US ALL
TOGETHER. ONCE MORE FOR DICK-----GOD BLESS

Shirley Clark

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND WAS SETTLED BY THE ENGLISH IN 1639. MANY RELIGIONS SETTLED IN NEWPORT, PROTESTANTS, JEWISH AND QUAKERS. JEWISH PEOPLE CAME IN 1650, BUT THEIR REAL CONTRIBUTION TO CULTURAL AND ECONOMICS LIFE CAME ABOUT 1750.

THE QUAKERS ALSO CAME ABOUT 1650. THEY BECAME THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OF NEWPORT'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE TOWN INTO THE 18th CENTURY. THEIR PLAIN STYLE REFLECTED THE EARLY LANDSCAPE. THEY WERE HIGHLY SKILLED CRAFTSMEN, MAKING BEAUTIFUL FURNITURE.

NEWPORTS HISTORY IS REMARKABLE IN MANY WAYS. AND EVEN TODAY, NEWPORTS STRONG DIVERSITY KEEPS THE CITY ALIVE AND VIBRANT.

WITH A RICH TAPESTRY OF NAVAL HISTORY, THE CITY FRAMED BY NARRAGANESTT BAY, NESTLED DEEP IN THE NEW ENGLAND COAST LINE, NEWPORT WAS A JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

IF YOU WILL LET YOUR MIND WANDER ONCE AGAIN TO THOSE TIMES ABOARD THE USS BRISTOL DD857, TRY TO REMEMBER SOME OF THE BEST TIMES OF YOUR NAVY DAYS.

THE MIND PLAYS TRICKS ON US FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT TRY TO REMEMBER PLACES AND EVENTS THAT MAY HAVE FORMED A LIFE OF ITS OWN WHILE YOU WERE SERVING YOUR COUNTRY.

NEWPORT---, VARIETY WOULD BEST DESCRIBE THIS CITY. TO DESCRIBE NEWPORT, THE ONLY WORD THAT I CAN THINK OF IS MEMORIES.. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN "WILLIE" CAME BACK TO THE SHIP FROM LIBERTY IN NEWPORT, HE WAS ALL DRESSED IN HIS BEST UNIFORM OF DRESS BLUES. HE HAD HIS UNIFORM PRESSED, SHOES SHINED, LOOKING LIKE THE PERFECT SAILOR, THEN WHILE WEARING THAT HEAVY PEA COAT, HE SLIPPED ON ICE AND FELL IN THE DRINK. THE ONLY THING AFLOAT WAS HIS FLAT HAT. HAD HE BEEN TO THE BLUE MOON?

MEMORIES OF THE BLUE MOON VARY ACCORDING TO WHICH SHIPMATE IS REMEMBERING. THE BLUE MOON GOES FROM A CLUB WITH A BAR, BAND, SINGER, AND A DANCE FLOOR TO A STRIP JOINT. DID THE BLUE MOON CHANGE? OR MAYBE OUR MEMORIES HAVE BEEN ALTERED.

SOME OF THE SHIPMATES REMEMBER THE BLUE MOON AS A BAR THAT HAD THE SHIPMATES AS ITS MOST FREQUENT PATRONS. IT WAS A BAR THAT CERTAIN FELLOWS REMEMBER WELL AS A PLACE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE INVITED THEIR BEST GIRL, MOTHER OR SISTER. IT HAD A TYPE

OF ENTERTAINMENT THAT ONLY THE SHIPMATES COULD ENJOY TO THE FULLEST. I CAN NOT DESCRIBE THE BLUE MOON AS IT REALLY WAS, I WILL LEAVE THAT TO THE MEMORY OF THE SHIPMATES. NO MATTER WHAT THE BLUE MOON WAS OR WHAT IT HAD FOR THE FLOOR SHOW, IT WAS INDEED A VERY POPULAR PLACE. IT WILL REMAIN A MEMORY. MAYBE IT IS JUST AS WELL TO REMAIN AN UNSPOKEN ONE.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE SNAKE PIT. MEMORIES SAY THAT WAS NOT THE BEST PLACE TO BE. A LOT OF FIGHTS AND PROBABLY A GOOD PLACE TO STAY AWAY FROM, EVEN ON A GOOD DAY.

A SAILOR COULD GET A GOOD MEAL AT THE HOFFBRAU HAUS AND HOTEL. IT SAT HIGH ON A HILL ABOVE THE CITY. ONE SAILOR REMEMBERS GETTING SOME PORK CUTLETS IN NEWPORT THAT WERE SAVORY AND ENJOYABLE..

NEWPORT WAS NOTHING MORE OR LESS THAN A NAVY TOWN. A NAVY TOWN CARRIES WITH IT CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES. NEWPORT NEEDED TO BE OPEN TO THE SHIPMATES FOR FOOD AND DRINK AND ENTERTAINMENT. NEWPORT HAD ALL THE COMPONENTS THAT WAS NEEDED TO FILL THE BILL TO QUALIFY AS A NAVY TOWN. IT BECAME HOME TO THE BRISTOL FOR A LONG TIME AND THE SHIPMATES REMEMBER IT WITH GREAT FONDNESS.

THE MEMORIES OF THE SHIPMATES SEEM TO LINGER IN THE SHADOWS OF THEIR MINDS , MEN LIKE HOAGIE, WILLIE, JERRY AND DON TO NAME A FEW. EACH STREET, AND THE ATLANTIC FLEET DOCK, ALL THE NIGHTCLUBS, BARS, DINERS AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN NEWPORT HOLD MEMORIES FOR THE MEN THAT SERVED THEIR COUNTRY. THEY SERVED, PROTECTED AND DEFENDED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH HONOR AND PRIDE.

THE MEMORIES OF THESE SHIPMATES HAVE ARE WONDERFULLY SECRETIVE THOUGHTS THAT BELONG ONLY TO THE MEN THEMSELVES. ONCE IN A BLUE MOON PUN INTENDED, A SHIPMATE WILL LET YOU INTO THAT SPECIAL HIDING PLACE, SOMEWHERE IN THEIR MIND, AND TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT THEIR TIME ABOARD THE BRISTOL. IT IS A RARE OCCASION WHEN THEY WILL GO BEYOND THAT CERTAIN POINT AND REVEAL A MEMORY KNOWN ONLY TO THEM. I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING A FEW MEMORIES, AND I WILL ALWAYS TREASURE THAT I HAVE BEEN TRUSTED TO BE A PART OF THE PAST THAT IS GREAT TO REMEMBER AND SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND WAS AN ISLAND IN THE STORM FOR A LONG TIME FOR THE USS BRISTOL DD857.

*Written By:
Shirley Clark*

IT AMAZES ME

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*THAT EACH AND EVERY TIME
I TRY TO PUT MY WORDS IN RHYME
I THINK OF YOU.*

IT AMAZES ME

*THAT ALL I TRY TO BE
ALWAYS COMES BACK TO ME
AND I THINK OF YOU.*

*I WONDER WHERE YOU ARE
AND IF YOU ARE DOING WELL
I WONDER IF YOU ARE HAPPY
AND IF YOU ARE IN GOOD HEALTH.
I WONDER WHERE YOU ARE GOING
AND IF YOU ARE SAFE FROM HARM
AND I WANT NOTHING TO HAPPEN
THAT WOULD BRING ME GREAT ALARM.*

IT AMAZES ME

*THAT EACH AND EVERY TIME
I PUT MY WORDS IN RHYME
I THINK OF YOU.*

*THE NEXT TIME THAT I SEE YOU
OR LISTEN FOR YOUR CALL
I'LL BE JUST AROUND THE CORNER
WAITING FOR Y'ALL.
I HOPE YOUR HEART IS BLESSED
WITH HAPPINESS AND GLEE
AND SOON WE'LL BE TOGETHER
ALL YOU BRISTOL FOLKS AND ME.*

IT AMAZES ME

*THAT EACH AND EVERY TIME
I TRY TO PUT MY WORDS IN RHYME
I THINK OF YOU.*

*Written by
Shirley Clark USS Bristol DD857 Historian
December 16, 2006*