

USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)

Newsletter September - December, 2004

Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

This is our Eighth Ships Newsletter to be created in this format. If you would like to contribute an article, a piece of Navy or Plymouth Rock history, photo, memory or anything that might be of interest to you or other shipmates, you can sent it as an e-mail to:

Bill Provencal, Association Secretary at:
billinp@worldpath.net

or regular mail at:
Bill Provencal
37 South Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

If you change address or e-mail address be sure to let me (Bill Provencal) know so we can update our Crews List. My e-mail is billinp@worldpath.net Our website is found at www.ussplymouthrock.com



Photo contributed by Gerald Holden, YN2



Reunion Update

Well in less than one month we will all be getting reacquainted at the reunion. Rich Mathis has just let me know that the hotel has 37 rooms booked as of last Monday, (8/9/04), check in begins at 3 PM, continental breakfast 6:30-9:30 and Hospitality Suites are in room 255 and 355. Paul Mohawk informs me that he has received money from 46 persons who plan on attending the reunion. Paul would like to set a deadline of August 31st for those who wish to take in the shows and banquet to send him the Application and money. I have included the application once again at the end of the Newsletter, page 10. Information on the Reunion can be found on the ships website at www.ussplymouthrock.com

The guest speaker at the reunion banquet will be DC1 Monsees of the Navy Recruiting Office in Springfield, MO, who will speak on the present and future navy.

We have the opportunity to visit the Veterans Memorial Museum in Branson. Rich Mathis says we can get a group rate of \$7.50 per, provided we have more than 15 to sign up. We would need to provide our own transportation. More on this at the reunion.

Rich says that dress for the banquet should be casual, no shorts or blue jeans.

USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29) Association Association Business Meeting Agenda September, 11, 2004

Old Business:

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Other Old Business

New Business:

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurers Financial Report
 - a. Dues: To change the policy of dues for new members joining the association. Payment of dues prior to last 6 months of "fiscal year" be paid up for the next two years.
3. Webmasters Report
4. Storekeepers Report
5. Historian's Report
6. Vice President's Report
7. Presidents Report

8. Nomination and Election of Officers for next two years:

- President**
- Vice President**
- Treasurer**
- Secretary**

9. Appointment of shipmates to the following positions:

- Ship Historian**
- Reunion Chairpersons**
- Webmaster**
- Storekeeper**

10. Reunion 2006

Site for 2006 reunion, date, etc

11. Other new business



USS Neversail

Note and Photo's by Ron Swearingen, Alta Loma, CA

Recently my wife, Lydia, and I visited San Diego, California. We passed by what used to be the U.S. Naval Training Center. The USNTC ceased operations and was closed on April 30, 1997. The City of San Diego took control of the property and an urban village (whatever that is) is being built. It will be called Liberty Station. The photos are of the USS Recruit Mockup, known to most of us as the USS Neversail. Anyone who went through basic in San Diego spent training time aboard her. She was built in 1949 and plans are to keep her where she is. Just thought it might bring back memories to those who walked her decks



Shipmates Who Live in the State of New Hampshire	
Battaz, Mike	Goffstown
Bergeron, Dick	Manchester
Botteron, Richard	Hudson
Doyle, Richard	Pittsfield
Elderidge, Marguerite	Somersworth
Joyce, Ed	Manchester
Lavalee, Leo	Greenville
Provencal, Bill	Pittsfield
Smith, Lawrence	Charlestown



FACTS ABOUT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS

This must take a special kind of person.

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.
3. Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not? He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face, and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
5. How often are the guards changed? Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.
6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30". Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guards are given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapels signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guards must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

Their shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on their uniforms. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

Submitted by John Allardyce, DC2



★ ★ ★ Welcome Aboard ★ ★ ★

Recently Located Shipmates

Clarence J. (Tiny) Campbell, SN, Peoria, IL e-mail at: grampasoup@aol.com
Charles (Butch) Bruce, Tampa Bay Area, FL, e-mail at: j1829b@aol.com
Donald F. Parrish, Nashville, TN e-mail at: cparrish@alphillipsinsurance.com
Thomas (Killer) Kane, BT2, Truro, MA
Roger Pratt, PC3, Harrodsburg, KY, e-mail at: rpratt01@adelphia.net
Charlie Williams, IC2, Virginia Beach, VA, e-mail at: charlie1220@cox.net
John T. Wrvin, HM2, Quitman, GA, e-mail at spiccole@aol.com
Larry Roszkowiak, RM3, San Francisco, CA, e-mail at lroszkowiak@its.ucsf.edu
David Ingraham, E2, San Antonio, TX., e-mail at dingraham@satx.rr.com
Mike Sobchak, ET3, Walnutport, PA e-mail at bmsgta@aol.com
Dave Brusky, EM2, Beaver Dam, WI e-mail at dbrusky@charter.net
David Dortch, BT2, Paragould, AR e-mail at tazhondave@yahoo.com



Story of "Taps"

We have all heard the haunting song, "Taps". It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually the story behind creates tears in our eyes. But, do you know the song? If not, I think you will be delighted to find out about it's humble beginnings.

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate; but, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.....and the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.



Paid Association Members for 2003-2004

As of August 11, 2004 we now have 131 paid members

The 2003-2004 dues are due, please send dues to Paul Mohawk, Treasurer, make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are \$20.00, and run from reunion to reunion. The dues help to support the association with planning and having the next reunion, newsletter printing and mailings, general postage and the cost of maintaining our website on line. Paul's address is found below this list.

Allardyce, John	Andersen, Harry	Baldwin, Brad	Balf, Jim	Bell, Joe
Bello, Ralph	Berry, John	Bena, Joe	Bierce, George	Bild, Robert
Black, Robert	Bjorkman, Ray	Brit, Ben	Buchanan, Richard	Buiak, Peter
Bullington, Calvin	Caldwell, Timothy	Casillas, Greg	Chappell, John	Clark, Robert
Conboy, William	Condinelli, Anthony	Conklin, Robert T.	Conroy, Mike	Cummings, Stephen
Crowl II, Martin	Cypher, Harold	Cyr, Dennis	Czarnetski, Bruce	Czarnetski, Jon
Dalfonzo, Sam	Decuir, Wilton J	Dusault, Andy	Edwards, Maurice	Edwards, R. A.
Eldridge, Margurite	Ervin, John	Fisher, Jack	Formaro, Frank	Forton, Andrew
Freeman, James	Gee, James	Gibson, David	Goodman, Bill	Greco, Salvador
Gregory, Peter	Grier, Frank D.	Guertin, Jerry	Haines, Ira	Hart, Ed
Hartson, George	Haws, Joe L.	Hill, Edward Jr.	Hofman, Timothy	Hopper, Richard
Howland, John R.	Ishmael, Harry	Janes, Lyle	Jennings, Seeley	Jepson, Norm
Johnson, John	Joyce, Edward	Kaderka, Leonard	Kane, Thomas	Kellar, Harry
King, Ronald	Krolak, Raymond	Kuhns, James	Lamay, Roger	Larson, Jerry J
Leazier, Larry A.	Lillig, Bernie E	Luttrell, James	Madill, Shorty	Mathis, Richard
McAvoy Sr., John	McCully Wade	Mohawk, Paul	Moyer, Larry	Murtha, Jerry
Musella, Rocco	Nichols, Bob	Noto, Ralph	O'Neil. Marty	O'Neil, Thomas
Pihl, Walter	Power, Rand	Pratt, Richard P	Pressler, William	Provencal, Bill
Purvis, Anthony	Pyle, Ted	Raniszewski, Louis	Rhine, Don	Ringer, Joseph
Robb, Barry J	Robertson, Allan	Robinson, Jim	Rose, Christopher	Sandlin, Richard
Scott, William	Sims, Bill	Shanahan, Robert	Shewchuk, Richard	Shober, Robert
Simons, Charles	Smith, James	Smith, Larry	Stackhouse, Norm	Stark, Peter Jr.
Stovall, Jack	Stull, John III	Swathwood, David	Swart, Mike	Swearingen, Ronald
Tacinelli, Jerry	Toungette (McLain), Mike	Tunstall, Van	Tustin, William	Tesh, Sam

Viaene, Robert	Vranesevic, Robert	Wagner, Paul	Wagner, Tom	Walling, Roger
Warwick, Robert	Ward, James	Watkins, Richard	Welsh, Mike	Ziemba, James
Dortch, David				

Any paid Association member (2003-2004) who is not on this list and who have paid their dues, please contact Paul Mohawk at 2505 Conifer Ave., Alexandria, MN 56308, or e-mail: hawk@rea-alp.com For those wishing to join the Association and help us out financially you can obtain an application that can be printed on the ships website at www.ussplymouthrock.com All paid dues members receive a hard copy of the newsletter.

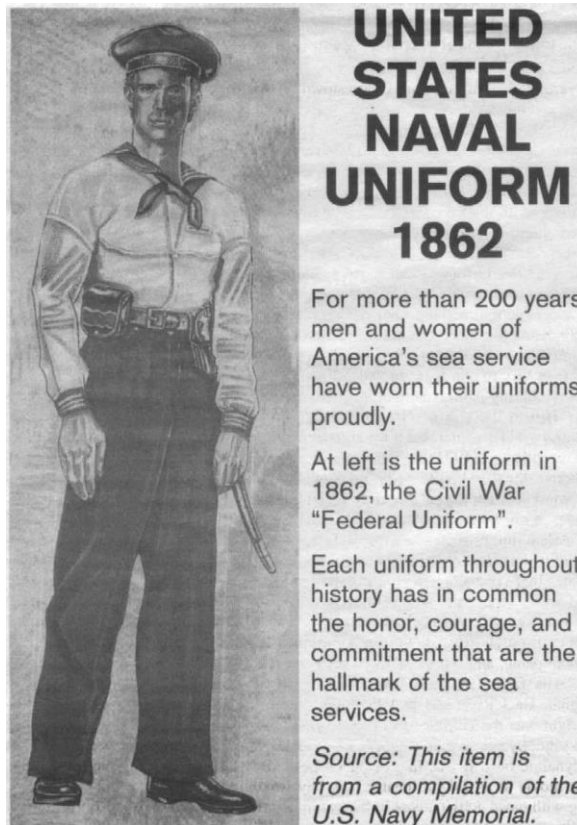


Photo Contributed by Harry T. Andersen, BTC



Known Deceased Shipmates

For a complete listing visit our Memorial Page in the ships website

LCDR Lester Wicks, Nov. 9, 2003		
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This list represents departed Plymouth Rock Shipmates that we have received notification on during the past four months. If any of you know of other shipmates now deceased, who should be on the list, please contact either Bill Provencal, 37 So. Main Street, Pittsfield, NH 03263, or e-mail me at

billinp@worldpath.net or Harry Andersen, 2544 Chestnut Street, Waukeegan, IL 60087 or e-mail Harry at andycporetsnipe@aol.com



Thank You's

We would like to thank the following shipmates/friends for providing pictures, information and articles to the website, the association and newsletter.

John Allardyce	Harry Andersen	Ron Swearingen	Roger Lemay
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Experimental Sub Aluminaut inside the Welldeck
Photo by Ron Swearingen



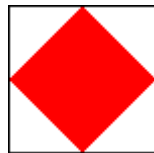
SHIPS STORE



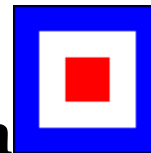
Any individual desiring Plymouth Rock items such as Cups, Patches, etc. are urged to contact Brad Baldwin at 203-374-8213, e-mail jbpjs11@msn.com



Navy Recruiting Posters



Navy Trivia



Cinderella Liberty

Liberty where one must be back aboard by midnight.

Close Quarters

Sometimes also referred to as 'closed quarters' as well. The quarters aboard ship, especially those for officers and passengers, had wooden partitions or bulkheads dividing them. Also, many ships had pre-assembled partitions which could further sub-divide the interior, according to the cargo or passenger requirements. In case of enemy action, these could be quickly assembled, pierced by loopholes, and then be used by firearms, pikes and cutlasses to fight through. The defenders would thus be well-protected and dangerous opponents to anyone who went below decks. It was a very effective means of fighting off boarders

Down the hatch

Here's a drinking expression that seems to have its origins in sea freight, where cargoes are lowered into the hatch. First used by seamen, it has only been traced back to the turn of the century.



USS PLYMOUTH ROCK LSD29, 2004 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

All Show Prices are "Group Prices" (20 or more)

		Price	Number	Amount
Thursday, Sept. 9, 10:00 am	Mickey Gilley Show	\$18.00		
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2:00 pm	50's at the Hop Show	\$18.50		
Friday, Sept. 10, 12:00 pm	Branson Show Boat	\$39.00		
	Transportation	\$ 8.00		
Friday, Sept. 10, 8:00 pm	Moe Bandy Show	\$15.00		
	Transportation	\$ 8.00		
Saturday, Sept. 11, 6:00 pm	Banquet			
	Prime Rib of Beef	\$25.58		
	Stuffed Breast of Chicken	\$19.18		
		Total Amount	Due	

Make check or money order payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association and mail to:

**PAUL MOHAWK
2505 CONIFER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308**

Name _____ **Years on Board** _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ **Phone** _____

Emergency Contact _____ **Phone** _____

E-Mail Address _____

Disability / Dietary Restrictions: _____

Are You Staying at the Hotel? (Please Circle) YES NO