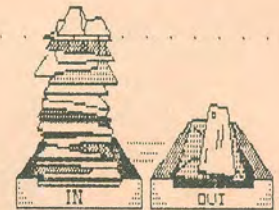




USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

NEWS LETTER #1

AUGUST 1991



REUNION#1!!! Was held at Lake Wright Motel in Norfolk, VA. May 16th thru 18th, 1991 with 105 LCI Members Present. On Saturday May 18th, the USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION was born with the election of officers. (They will be named later) The 1992 reunion site was selected by the members present, NASHVILLE was selected. At first things were in sort of in a turmoil as we officers had no idea where the reunion started and by whom, we had no guide lines at first--we started to ask questions and finally nailed down the person responsible for having enough guts to start the reunion--it was Ted Dey who owns a commercial reunion company called ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC of Norfolk, VA. He did all of the leg work in forming our first reunion. He placed ad's in the various service magazines kept tract of your name and address, sent out one notice to you, this is where he dropped the ball, no follow up notices were sent. This took almost two years to form and a number of you simply forgot about it. This won't happen again, we will keep you informed.

NEED LOTS OF HELP!!! First off we need your cooperation on getting our records in order. Ted's secretary, admits she doesn't know much about a computer, and I believe her. We received 600 names from her, it took a lot of work on the part of our secretary Walter KOPACZ. The file came on a disc from a computer which is IBM compatible (MS DOS) system, Now Walter own's a Apple Computer, Apple & IBM don't understand each other, so Walter bought a new computer that reads IBM MS DOS System. My computer is a Tandy which also operates on the IBM MS DOS system, so Walter and I now trade discs. At the present time we have over 1040 LCI crew members on the list and growing each day. Many of you have sent me names of crew members of your ship, friends and relatives who served in the Navy and would like to be members.

DUES!!! has been set at \$10.00 PER YEAR, Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1991 we do not mail dues notices. At the present we have about 120 paid up members, most coming from the people who attended the reunion. The next mailing label will have your ships number on it and dues paid. If no dues are received we will drop your name from the mailing list. If you are short on cash, notify us and we will keep your name on the mailing list. A membership card will be mailed to you.

1992 REUNION SITE!!! Reunion #2 will be held in NASHVILLE, TN. DATES MAY 28th thru MAY 31st, 1992, this should be Memorial Day week end, commercial travel will be crowded and so will the highways. The PARK PLAZA HOTEL has been selected. I understand that it is situated in the downtown area. The room rate is \$57.00 plus tax, single or double. More information will be sent to you at a later date. At present we have 200 rooms booked, but I'm sure we will use many more rooms. This reunion was turned over to MILITARY REUNIONS INC. for the planning. We the officers don't particularly care for this set up of sight unseen, but we were in a bind, since we only organized in May and had to move fast to get the hotel reservations.

STILL NEED MORE HELP!!! We need to know if you plan to come to the '92 reunion, or even a maybe--this is no obligation on your part. We are new at this and need a head count---look on the enclosed information sheet. Don't PROCRASTINATE!!!

USS LCI 713!!! I received my latest copy of Sea Classic Magazine, which contained two pictures of the 713, she still looks like an LCI. The mast has been removed and it needs a good coat of paint, for some of you home sick LCI'ers, it can be located in Portland, Oregon, on the Willamette River across from the shipyard on Swan Island, on the west bank. On the other side of the pier you will find the LST 1166. Take some pictures!!!!

REUNION BOOK!!! Has been sent to the publishers on 6/28/91, they say 6 to 8 weeks to print it. If you failed to order a book and want one, send 12 bucks to DLAN MILLS, 242 MUSTANG TRAIL SUITE 1, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452 or call (804) 463-3261, ask for JEAN.

CHAPLAIN NEEDED!!! If you wish to help out, get in touch with President Bob WEISSER for more details.

LOVE BOAT!!! The Seneca, IL wanted to purchase an LST to be used as a memorial to all LST's built. Several LST's were available here in the US, but were in poor condition and the companies wanted too much money for them. After a long search, one was located in Taiwan, ROC. It was the former LST 859 and was complete including the guns. The price was one buck, it would take one million bucks to repair the engines and make it sea worthy and another million for fuel, food, docking charges, canal fees, just to name a few items. SO!! into the picture comes three HOT SHOT DUDES from California. They formed a corporation to bring the LST 859 back to Seneca, IL. Out comes a beautiful catalog explaining the LOVE BOAT TRIP, all the liberty ports that you would visit, and the length of stay in each port. The trip was to take three months--now for 1000 bucks you could sign on as a working crew member, into the picture come the City of Seneca, they demanded that these dudes produce a complete audit of the monies collected, WELL!!! GUESS WHAT??? they couldn't account for the money, so the City of Seneca pulled out. The US LST Ass'n is also washing their hands of the project. At present a Law Suite is pending against the HOT SHOT DUDES. It looks like a lot of LST sailors will get stung for a thousand bucks.

US LST ASS'N Did you know that there is a reunion group for LST sailors. They have been formed for about 6 years now and have a reunion every year since then. This September they will be in New Orleans and next May they will be in Washington, DC. If you are interested in joining, send \$15.00 to US LST Ass'n, PO Box 8769, Toledo, OH 43623. Toll free 1-(800) 228-5870 talk to Lynda. (Evenings) Send same information as on our sheet. Tell them you received your information from Bob Kirsch.

FINDING SHIPMATES!! At the reunion a number of you wanted to know how to go about locating someone from your ship. My track record is 100% of the plank owners of the LST 694, all of the crew of the LCT 724, 100 Marines from my brother's marine outfit, last March I started on the LCI(R) 74 and have located 30 alive and 30 deceased since then. It can get expensive when you are trying to locate people, so be fore warned. There are so many avenues to use to do your searching. First, I'll give you the DO's & DON'T's. Don't buy any of those books that say "HOW TO LOCATE ANYONE", these deal with social security number which you don't have. Don't sign up for those Computer Huxters who offer a search for 25 to 50 bucks to join and 5 to 10 bucks a name. Everyone with a computer is selling names, do you know for a fact that he has a million names in his Data bank??? BUYER BEWARE!!!

TOOLS FOR THE JOB!!! Buy a paper back Almanac(\$6.95) you will find a wealth of information here, ZIP CODES, AREA CODES of all the cities over 5000 population. All sorts of addresses. If you belong to a Auto Association, get maps of all 48 states to find the towns, or purchase a Road Atlas(\$6.95). Nice to have a Post Office Zip Code book(\$17.00) at post office or if you have an in with your Postmaster, hit him up for his old books when they are replaced, he can't give you the old books, but technically you can pick it out of the dumpster. Next you will need some bucks to float this operation, it doesn't come cheap. I Know!!!

BLACK BOOK!!! If you kept an address book, this is excellent, start now--go to a large library that have phone books on file take plenty of paper, maps will help, or check an atlas out. Don't tackle common names yet, like Smith, Jones, Johnston, you will find pages of these names. Start with the less common names. Middle initial will help here. Copy people with the same last names, they may be related. Start calling, call during the week end/night rate. When you call, keep a record of the number and the results as you may try again and find you are calling the same numbers. If you want to spend big bucks, use the AT&T information operator at 60 cents a number. Use this service on the off peak hours as the operator will spend more time with you. Tell the operator this is a 1944 name and you are hunting a shipmate for a reunion. Ask her if she can search the whole area code. Southern states, you will have trouble with this as their computers aren't modern enough for wide search.

SO YOU DON'T HAVE A BLACK BOOK!!! Don't FRET!!! Send to the ARCHIVES for your ship's muster list. ASK for the SHIP'S MUSTER LIST on 16MM FILM (\$7.00), and the OFFICERS NEXT OF KIN from the DECK LOG (\$5.00)(These are 1984 prices) Make check for \$12.00 to CASHIER(NJC), send to CASHIER(NJC), NATIONAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND, WASHINGTON, DC 20408--note they will bill if the cost has gone up. Keep track of the check and date sent, they are awfully slow getting things out, expect months try your Congressman for more speed. What you will receive is 10 to 20 feet of 16MM film, take the film to a large library where you can get a hard copy made for about 10 cents a page or try your court house. Community colleges will do it for free. Some libraries have readers that you put the film in to bring it up on a screen. Your ship sent a complete muster in every month during the time it was in commission. The information you now have is the complete name, including the middle

name, the Navy service number, date of enlistment, date they came aboard and left, rate changes, place of enlistment, now this can be touchy, as a number of people were taken to large cities for the enlistment. It does give you an area to look.

REUNION NOTICES!!! Send out notices to the various service magazines, Addresses should be in the Almanac or library or write to me. Start out proposed reunion, and later make up a date, you can get two inserts a year this way, sort of sneaky.

STATE VA's!!! These VA's are operated by the state and are usually located in the state capitol, look in th zip book for the address of the state capitol. You will get a 1948 address here, as the bonus was given out then, southern states didn't give out a bonus.

Veteran's Administration!!! will search names for you. I am trying to get the addresses of the various regional VA's offices. If any one has the complete list, send it to me. Don't send more than 10 names at a time.

DRIVERS LICENSE!!! send to the state capitol, address is in the zip book. Fees are charged in most states, \$2 to \$8 per name. They use date of birth for filing names, but I have got names otherwise.

COLLEGE ALMA MATER!!! If you know a person's college, write to the Alumna Association, find address in the Almanac

RETIRED NAVY If you think that they retired from the Navy, a call to the Finance Center in Cleveland will help. or Department of Naval Personal in Washington is another source.

DECEASED!!! you are going to find that 35 to 50% of your crew is deceased. Also check the sun belt as, a lot moved there when they retired.

BY-LAWS!!! Our President, Bob Weisser took the by-laws of 4 reunion groups and combined them into a 28 pages of by-laws, mostly deals with the officers not getting away with the kitchen sink, and this can happen, look at our Congress. Bob is picking up the lawyer fees.

EDITORIAL!!! I'm Bob Kirsch, I served on the LCI(R) 74 and the LST 694. The 694 has had reunions every year since 1983, last March I started tracking the crew of the 74, then at the USS LCI Reunion I said I would take the news letter on. At the present time I will send out 1040 News Letters and growing every day. If you don't care to join us, your name will be dropped from the mailing list, but will be retained in another file. Those of you looking for shipmates, check with myself or Walt Kopezc. It only takes a few seconds to go through the files.

I need news items, stories and etc. Can't promise I will publish your item, but I will try. Any item of interest will be considered. How about good pictures of LCI's, could use some for future issues. CONTACT BOB KIRSCH, RD#4 Box 117, Evans City, PA 16033, PH(412)538-8151. Other computer search, Secretary: Walt KOPACZ, 155 Main St. Port Monmouth, NJ 07758, PH(908) 495-0672

PRESIDENT!!!! Bob Weisser, 134 Lancaster Ave., Columbia, PA 17512 PH(717) 684-4785

V. PRESIDENT!!!! Bob BYHENY, 55 Revere Dr., Sayville, NY 11782, PH(516) 563-2097

TREASURER!!!! Howard CLARKSON, 73 Grange Rd., Troy, NY 12180, PH(518) 279-3846