

MAY 2015



Elsie Item

**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
USS LANDING CRAFT, INFANTRY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

• *Established May 14-18, 1991, Norfolk, VA* •

MEMORIAL DAY 2015



OKINAWA: THE LAST BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II
70th Anniversary Edition

ON OUR COVER:

H-Hour at Okinawa: An LVT carrying infantry moves past USS LCI(M) 630 during the naval bombardment on the morning of invasion—April 1, 1945. The LCI(M) 630 was assigned to LCI Mortar Division One, part of Task Unit 52.23.1 covering the Army landing on Orange Beach 1 and 2.

(U.S. Navy photo from the National Archives)

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- *2015 Joint LCI & LST Reunion Updates and Information!*
- *A Tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt*
- *A Special Thank You to Phil Reed of the LCI 35*
- *Sea Stories Return!*
- *"Profiles of the Men" by Dennis Blocker*
- *70th Anniversary of Okinawa*



CHECK OUT THESE WEB SITES:

www.uslci.com Our own website

www.amphibiousforces.org For information on the LCI 713

Now on **Facebook!** Please join our group:

"Remembering the LCI Vets"

CORRECTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE (FEB. 2015):

Pages 13-19: The author's last name cited in some image captions was misspelled several times. The author's correct last name is spelled "Rielly." Robin L. Rielly wrote "American Amphibious Gunboats in World War II A History of LCI and LCS(L) Ships in the Pacific."

Page 19: There was a typo in the caption of the top image misstating the year. It should have read "February 17, 1945."

Page 27: Joe Flynn, our California Director, recently had an address change. Please re-direct all correspondences to his new address below:
4603 Collwood Lane
San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 546-7088

"THE ELSIE ITEM"

NUMBER 90, May 2015

Official publication of the USS LCI National Association, a non-profit veteran's organization. Membership in the USS LCI National Association is open to any U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard veteran who served aboard a Landing Craft Infantry, to anyone related to an LCI veteran, or to anyone just interested in the history of LCIs. Published quarterly by the USS LCI National Association. Zach S. Morris, Editor (*John P. Cummer, Editor Emeritus*). Any material for possible publication should be sent to the Editor, preferably by email (morrisza23@gmail.com).

A WORD FROM THE OLD MAN



It's a beautiful spring day here in South Carolina – dogwood, azaleas, forsythia and a multitude of other beautiful flowers along with that vibrant light green look in the hardwood trees contrasting with the dark green of the pines all coming together under blue skies and fleecy, white clouds to remind us again of the eternal renewing of the seasons and to help us get over some of those dark, cold days of winter. It's a good reminder of how our lives are a series of seasons – with periods of renewal following more trying days and it's sort of given me a bit of a sermon to preach to you, my shipmates, who, like me, are now entering their ninth decade: Keep going, there's a springtime ahead for you! It ain't over yet! If nothing else, we can have a go at the great challenge of "finishing well."

I was encouraged along those lines recently by an article about aging in *Parade* magazine, which comes with our Sunday newspaper. According to this article there are now over 53,000 centenarians in the U.S. today and that number is expected to skyrocket to 600,000 by 2050. Amazing numbers! We're the beneficiaries of great advances in medicine and health. I often think of the medical support that I'm getting that wasn't around for my father's benefit.

The author of that article, Dan Buettner, has spent over a decade studying the healthiest, longest-living people around the world and has identified four "most important longevity-boosting habits of centenarians around the globe". There are a couple that really stand out for LCIers: (1) Find Your Tribe – the longevity-boosting effect of friends with whom you've shared meaningful experiences and (2) Seek a purpose – find an activity, passion or career that motivates you and gives your life meaning.

If you are fortunate you may have more than one of those "tribes", but certainly the LCI Association, its reunions, its newsletter, the restoration of the 713, etc., can be a highly significant "tribe" for you to cultivate. It can also supply some of that motivating purpose that can give your life meaning.

So, my point is: a chance to indulge in a big helping of that longevity-giving activity is to participate in reunions! We want to see YOU in Charleston in September!

Oh yes, and those other two longevity-boosting activities? (3) Eat well and (4) Move it!

Stay the course!

John Cummer

The LCI 713 Has a New Home!

– Photos and information courtesy of "Amphibious Fleet News," the publication of the Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum (December 2014)

We have a new home!

We are very proud to announce that the Port of Portland is now a major sponsor and is providing that long sought home for the 713. We are now located at a Port of Portland Berth in the Swan Island lagoon in downtown Portland and we are directly adjacent to our good friends the PT-658's base of operations. Our members and guests now get a double treat when arriving for a visit.

We wish you all fair winds and following seas,

Rick Holmes,
AFMM President

Please visit the Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum web site: www.amphibiousforces.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LCI713
Email: afmm@amphibiousforces.org
Phone: (509) 427-5402

Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum
An Oregon Non-Profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization
PO Box 17220
Portland, OR 97217



LCI 713 dressed up for the reunion while moored at her new Port of Portland Berth.



LCI 713 underway

IN MEMORIAM

*“Almighty and eternal God, from whose love we cannot be parted, either by death or life;
hear our prayers and thanksgiving for those whom we here remember.
Grant unto sorrowing family and shipmates the blessing of your peace that passes understanding.”*

LCI 67
Jack Vernon Higgins

LCI 452
Glee E. Bridges

LCI 472
Robert E. Coburn

LCI 519
Joseph E. Weisel

LCI 76 and 588
Paul Freeman

LCI 471
Lawrence Hermes

LCI 487
Vernon Haslup

LCI 545
Bernard A. Clark

LCI 237
William T. Patton

LCI 472
Barnett J. Axelrod

LCI 492
Thomas B. Mayes

LCI 596
Robert “Sunshine”
Fairfield

LCI 345
George Rush

LCI 612
Lewis Lees

LCI 349
Lawrence J. Campbell

LCI 712
Henry J. Alberico

LCI 373
Albert D. DiVincenzo

LCI 812
Hal Bleyhl

LCI 407
Manuel Lebovitz

LCI 814
Lee Toms

LCI 437
Andrew M. Rauen

LCI 814
Robert Short

LCI 449
Leo Bedell
(Silver Star)

LCI 1032
Harold Petke

LCI 1077
Ross Fragale



JOINT REUNION

USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION & UNITED STATES LST ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2015 • CHARLESTON PLAZA HOTEL, CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, September 17, 2015

4:00–8:00 PM Registration in the hotel lobby.

Arrival and Reunion Registration.

Meals are on your own.

Board Members attending meetings between 2:00 and 4:00 PM may check-in prior to 4:00 PM. A list of LCI and LST Board Members will be provided to the hotel's desk attendant.

7:00 PM–8:00 PM LCI Financial/Budget Meeting

USS LCI National Association Member Meeting [open to all members]

8:00 PM–9:00 PM..... LST Financial/Budget Meeting

United States LST Association Member Meeting [open to all members]

Friday, September 18, 2015

7:30–9:00 AM Breakfast

After breakfast, tours will depart from the Charleston Plaza Hotel East Entrance.

OPTION A

Friday, September 18, 2015 [Tour Option A]

HISTORIC CHARLESTON TOUR • \$35.00 per person

10:00 AM Depart

Tour Charleston, SC one of the most beautiful and historic cities in the South. Your tour will begin at your hotel where you will board your motor coach for a privately guided drive through the city's historic district. Throughout the tour, your licensed guide will recount over 300 years of Charleston's long and colorful history from 1670 to present day with a blend of knowledge, wit, and humor. Topics discussed will include Charleston's role in Colonial America, the American Revolution, the southern Antebellum Era, the Civil War, and its current day status as one of top travel destinations in World.

Some of the landmarks you will see include the Battery, Rainbow Row, St. Michaels Church, the College of Charleston, and South Carolina's famed military academy the Citadel. Your guide will also point out early period houses in Mazyck-Wraggborough and Harleston Village as well as magnificent public buildings like The Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon and the famous "Four Corners of Law" at the intersection of Meeting and Broad Street. At the Battery, we will also stop for a brief walk through the park and some photo opportunities of Charleston's scenic harbor. Your tour will end at the Old City Market where you will have time for shopping, browsing, and lunch on your own at one of Charleston's many fine restaurants.

12:00 PM Free time in the Old City Market for lunch on your own, shopping and browsing

3:00 PM End tour at the Charleston Plaza Hotel East Entrance

OPTION B

Friday, September 18, 2015 [Tour Option B]

PATRIOTS POINT TOUR • \$45.00 per person

10:00 AM Depart

Tour Patriots Point, one of the world's largest naval and maritime museums. Visit the USS Yorktown, the famous fighting lady of World War II; the Destroyer Laffey, a participant in the World War II D-Day landings at Normandy; the Vietnam Era Naval Support Base with its Sea Cobra and Huey helicopters; and the newly renovated Congressional Medal of Honor museum.

2:00 PM End tour at the Charleston Plaza Hotel East Entrance

OPTION C

Friday, September 18, 2015 [Tour Option C]

SPIRIT OF CAROLINA DINNER CRUISE • \$105.00 per person

6:15 PM Depart for Patriots Point

7:00 PM SPIRIT OF CAROLINA DINNER CRUISE

Cruise Charleston's beautiful harbor by moon light aboard the 100' luxury yacht, Spirit of Carolina. Enjoy the unique and beautiful sights of our harbor at sunset as well as a delicious dinner including entertainment from live and local musicians. Your 4 course dinner is made to order using fresh local ingredients and entrée choices may be made at the table. Alcoholic beverages and optional dessert menus are on your own.

Sample Dinner Menu:

*Charleston She-Crab Soup and Spirit Signature Salad with port wine vinaigrette
Choice of Entrée [Seasonal and locally inspired Beef, Seafood, Chicken or Vegetarian dishes]*

*Chef's selection of potatoes, rice, fresh seasonal vegetables,
and freshly baked breads*

Lowcountry Pecan Pie • Iced Water, Tea, or Coffee

9:30 PM End dinner cruise and depart for hotel

10:00 PM End tour at the Charleston Plaza Hotel East Entrance

Saturday, September 19, 2015

7:30–9:00 AM..... Breakfast

After breakfast, tours will depart from the hotel lobby.

OPTION A

Saturday, September 19, 2015 (Option A)

THE CONFEDERATE SUBMARINE, H. L. HUNLEY • \$45.00 per person

10:00 AM Depart

On February 17, 1864, the Confederate Submarine, *H. L. Hunley*, successfully sank the Union warship, the *Housatonic*, in Charleston Harbor by ramming it. After this successful foray she also sank with all of her crew to the bottom of the Atlantic where she remained until August 8, 2000. On this auspicious day after months of planning and work by archeologists from the state and National Park Service, divers and marine engineers, she was successfully raised and taken to a special tank at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston. Today we will have the opportunity to view this 19th century marvel as the archeologists continue their research and preserve this time capsule.

12:30 PM End tour at the Charleston Plaza East Entrance

OPTION B

Saturday, September 19, 2015 (Option B)

MAGNOLIA GARDENS TOUR • \$50.00 per person

9:00 AM Depart

Carved from a Cypress Swamp by the Rev. John Drayton in the early 19th century Magnolia Gardens is considered one of the most beautiful romantic gardens in the world. As you stroll with your private guide through the lush garden pathways, these unique landscapes will captivate you. After touring the gardens board the Nature Train, which will take you into part of the Audubon Swamp Garden, home to scores of water loving creatures, and past the newly restored Slave Cabins, which interpret African American life on the plantation. While traveling through the old rice fields, you may even run into the nostalgic American alligator and will have the opportunity to view the abundant bird population of the Lowcountry.

12:15 PM End tour at the Charleston Plaza East Entrance

2:00 PM Memorial service held in Charleston Plaza Hotel Ballroom

5:00 PM Reception

6:30 PM Banquet and Big Band Entertainment in Charleston Plaza Hotel Ballroom

Dinner Options \$50.00 per person–Sliced Sirloin of Beef • Grilled Atlantic Salmon • Chicken Florentine

Sunday, September 20, 2015

7:30–9:00 AM..... Breakfast

Farewells & Departures

**USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND UNITED STATES LST ASSOCIATION
FORM A: ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM**

Please submit Form A along with check for registration to Nehemiah Communications.

Nehemiah Communications • 101 Rice Bent Way, Suite 6 • Columbia, SC 29229

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to NEHEMIAH COMMUNICATIONS in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20.00 fee. **Registration forms and payment should be received by mail on or before Friday, August 14, 2015; however, reservations may be accepted after this date if space is available.** Please make a copy of these forms for your records. We look forward to seeing you in Charleston!

TOURS and BANQUET

CITY TOUR FRIDAY:..... \$35.00 x _____ persons = Total \$ _____

PATRIOTS POINT FRIDAY:..... \$45.00 x _____ persons = Total \$ _____

Lunch provided for additional \$12.00 per person

DINNER CRUISE FRIDAY:..... \$105.00 x _____ persons = Total \$ _____

HUNLEY TOUR SATURDAY:..... \$45.00 x _____ persons = Total \$ _____

MAGNOLIA GARDENS TOUR SATURDAY:..... \$50.00 x _____ persons = Total \$ _____

BANQUET (dinner) SATURDAY:..... \$50.00 x _____ persons = Total \$ _____

Dinner Options (check one): Sliced Sirloin of Beef Grilled Atlantic Salmon Chicken Florentine

PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE (Includes Hospitality Room and administrative expenses):

Registration..... \$35.00 x _____ persons = Total \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Total Amount Payable to: **Nehemiah Communications • 101 Rice Bent Way, Suite 6 • Columbia, SC 29229**

CHARLESTON PLAZA HOTEL

4770 GOER DRIVE • N. CHARLESTON, SC 29406

The Charleston Plaza Hotel is conveniently located at 4770 Goer Drive, N. Charleston, strategically located near the historic downtown district and the Charleston International Airport. The hotel is approximately 3 miles from the Charleston International Airport. If you are driving, please call the hotel directly for accurate driving instructions. This hotel offers 289 spacious rooms. Each room features a coffee/tea maker, iron/ironing board, hairdryer, and free wireless high speed internet access. Recreation enthusiasts will enjoy an indoor/outdoor heated pool, fitness facility and golf courses nearby. The Charleston Plaza Hotel is a non-smoking hotel. Handicapped rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservations.

The hotel provides complimentary parking for its guests. Check-in time is 4:00 PM on Thursday, September 17, 2015 and check-out time is 12:00 PM on Sunday, September 20, 2015. Moniker's, open 6:00 AM–2:00 PM and 5:00 PM–11:00 PM, features a hearty full breakfast everyday with it la carte dining available as well. Monikers Bar, open 4:00 PM–12:00 AM, offers American cuisine and local favorites. Enjoy your favorite libations in a fun and inviting pub atmosphere.

The Charleston Plaza Hotel offers complimentary airport shuttle service to and from the Charleston International Airport . The shuttle runs every 20 minutes on the hour to and from the airport. Please call [843] 747-1900 upon arrival then wait by taxi/shuttle stands outside of baggage claim for the shuttle to arrive. Space is limited on complimentary services, so you may want to make other arrangements. The hotel shuttle takes all guests to and from the Tanger Outlet area, if desired. The hotel also provides round trip shuttle service to downtown Charleston for \$10.00 per person. You must sign up upon check in. Departure times are 10:00 AM / 2:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 9:00 PM, last pick-up is at 9:15 PM.

The hotel offers complimentary RV parking for guests staying at the hotel. Should you need full hook-ups contact the Charleston KOA Campground at [843] 797-1045 or [800] 562-5812. They are located at 9494 Highway 78, Ladson, SC 29456, which is approximately 11 miles from the hotel. Make your reservations as soon as possible due to limited space and availability.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at [888] 441-7575 for details. All prices quoted include delivery fees.

- Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.
- The Hotel Rate is available 3 days pre & 3 days post reunion dates.
- Hotel reservations may be made using the following link as directed below:
- Hotel Registration Website **thecharlestonplazahotel.com**
(Click on reservations, select dates add LCILST in the Group Code box, and select room preferences.)



FORM B: HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

MAIL HOTEL FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:

CHARLESTON PLAZA HOTEL • 4770 GOER DRIVE • N. CHARLESTON, SC 29406

FAX FORMS TO: [843] 744-6108-ATTN: RESERVATIONS • PHONE [888] 747-1900

Hotel Reservations website: thecharlestonplazahotel.com. Click on reservations, select dates and enter LCILST in the Group Code box. Select Room preferences.

JOINT REUNION of the USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION & UNITED STATES LST ASSOCIATION

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

REUNION DATES: SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2015

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEP. DATE _____

_____ # OF ROOMS NEEDED _____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM HANDICAP ACCESS

KING BED OR 2 DOUBLE BEDS *[In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.]*

HOTEL ROOM RATE: [\$121 + 13.5% tax] = \$137.34 *Nightly rate includes breakfast buffet for up to 2 people in the hotel restaurant.*

CUT OFF DATE: August 14, 2015 *Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.*

HOTEL CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 72 hours prior to arrival.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

AMERICAN EXPRESS DINERS CLUB VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAME TAG TO READ: _____

CHECK GROUP AFFILIATION: USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION UNITES STATES LST ASSOCIATION

CHECK TYPE OF SHIP: LSM LSMR LCI LCI(FF) LCI(G) LCI(L) LCI(M) LCI(R) SHIP NUMBER _____

IF YOU HAVE A SEATING PREFERENCE, OTHER THAN WITH YOUR SHIP, PLEASE SPECIFY _____

SPOUSE NAME _____ GUEST NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DISABILITY / DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

[Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly to hotel.]

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO

[Please note that we cannot guarantee availability].

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____

REUNION REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS:

Nehemiah Communications will offer a full refund to those who cancel on or before Friday, August 14, 2015. All reservations received after August 14, 2015 are non-refundable due to vendor commitments. Please remember that reunion registration [Form A] is handled through Nehemiah Communications [803-865-5665] and hotel reservations [Form B] are handled through the Charleston Plaza Hotel [888-747-1900]. Registration refunds may take four to six weeks after the reunion. Thank you!

We Remember President Franklin Roosevelt

**70 Years Ago
April 12, 1945**



**"THE TEST OF
OUR PROGRESS
IS NOT WHETHER
WE ADD MORE TO
THE ABUNDANCE
OF THOSE WHO
HAVE MUCH IT
IS WHETHER WE
PROVIDE ENOUGH
FOR THOSE WHO
HAVE LITTLE."**

*Franklin Roosevelt
(2nd Inaugural
Address, 1937)*

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd
president of the United States.**

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WAS SEATED IN A CHAIR in front of a fireplace in the Little White House atop Pine Mountain in Warm Springs, GA on April 12, 1945. An artist labored away making sketches of him. The president had been in excellent spirits since 9:30 AM. That all changed when President Roosevelt felt a sharp pain in the back of his head.

"I have a terrific headache," Roosevelt announced abruptly at around 1:15 PM (Georgia time).

For the incredible man who ushered in the New Deal, helped pull America out of the Great Depression, and whose voice had brought comfort and security using his fireside chats—those five words would be his last. Roosevelt lost consciousness soon after and never regained it. At 5:58 PM, the White House announced that the former Democratic governor of New York, and 32nd president of the United States had died of a cerebral (brain) hemorrhage on the 83rd day of his fourth term at age 63. He was the only U.S. president to have been elected to serve more than two terms.



The funeral procession of FDR in Washington D.C. on April 14, 1945.

A nation at war for nearly four years mourned the loss of their leader. For 12 years, he embodied the hope of a country and helped unite the world against the most evil forms of fascism and tyranny history has ever witnessed. Roosevelt was part of every American's life throughout the 1930s and early 1940s. On April 14, 1945, a funeral procession marched President Roosevelt through the streets of Washington

DC. From the U.S. Capitol, to the gates of Berlin, to the island doorsteps of Japan—Americans felt the personal loss of their beloved president.

70 years later, we reflect on the man whose legacy inspired hope, emboldened Americans' resolve, and shaped history in a way that will never be forgotten. ■

**"APRIL 12, WE HEARD THE NEWS,
WHILE ON THE TRAIN, THAT
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAD DIED.
AN OLD LADY SITTING NEAR ME
STARTED CRYING AND I TOLD HER
THAT THINGS WOULD WORK OUT,
THAT SHE SHOULDN'T WORRY."**

*Joe L. Harris, Quartermaster, LCI 600 ("My
Adventures in World War II," p. 6)*

A Special Thank You to Phil Reed (LCI 35)



Phil Reed poses with his award winning 1927 Ford Roadster at the Good Guys Fall Car Show in Del Mar, California. Phil built this car and has won numerous awards in car shows throughout the country. (Courtesy Joe Flynn)

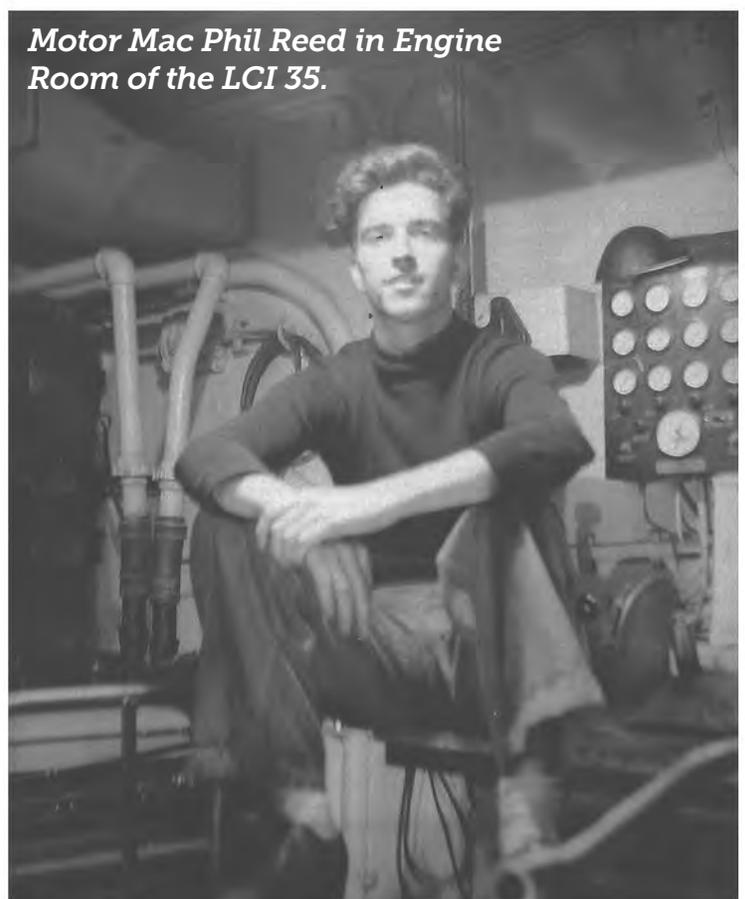
Motor Mac Phil Reed of the LCI (L) 35 recently contributed a very generous donation to the Amphibious Forces Museum and the LCI 713. We want to express how grateful we are for his years of support, as well as how proud we are to have him aboard our wonderful Association!

Editor's Note: I had the pleasure of paying Phil Reed a visit at his home in Whittier, CA on February 8, 2015. He shared over a dozen images of the LCI 35 from the European Theatre during World War II. He informed me that the Quartermaster, Johny Laga, had a camera aboard the 35 and originally took all the photos. To our knowledge, none of the following images from Phil's collection have ever been published.

Phil Reed served aboard the LCI 35 in the European Theater in the following campaigns:

- Sicily Campaign (July 1943)
- North Salerno, Italy (September 1943)
- Anzio, Italy (January 1944)
- Normandy, France – Sword Beach (June 1944)

Thanks Phil!

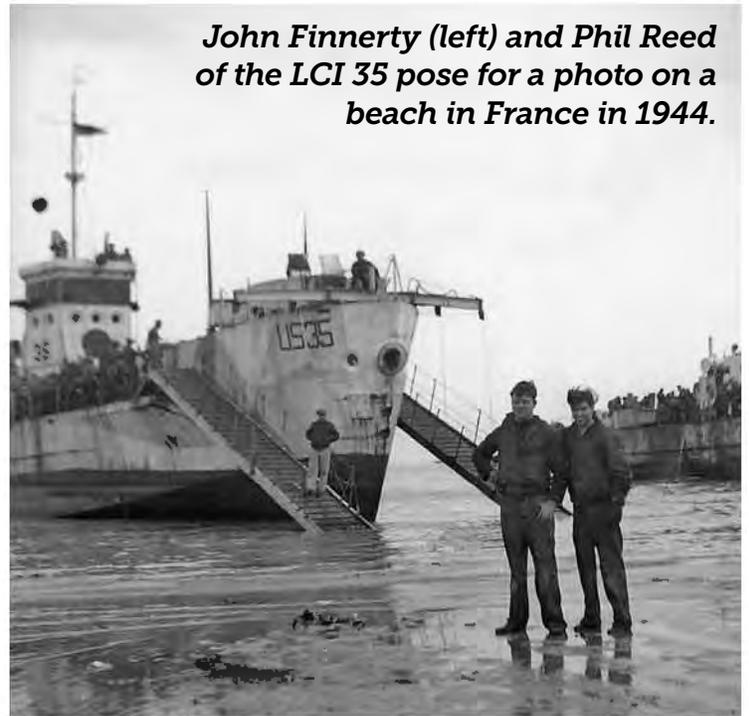


Motor Mac Phil Reed in Engine Room of the LCI 35.

LCI 35 unloading troops in June 1944. MoMM2/c John J. Finnerty of the LCI 35 can be seen standing at the bottom of the ramp.



John Finnerty (left) and Phil Reed of the LCI 35 pose for a photo on a beach in France in 1944.



(L to R) Joy (Phil Reed's girlfriend at the time and future wife), John Laga, and John's girlfriend. This photo was taken in England in 1944.

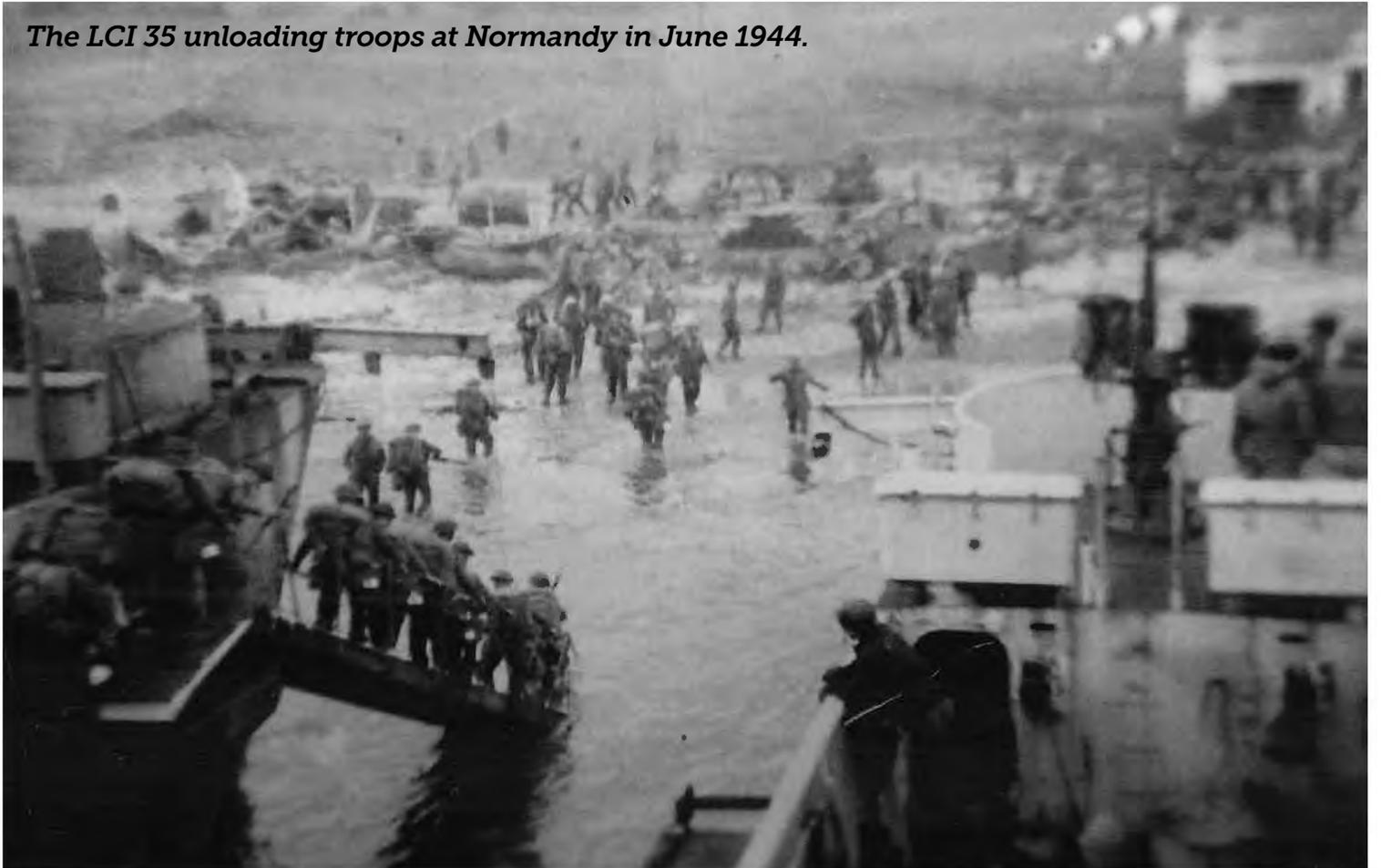


William C. Spicer, the LCI 35's Electrician's Mate.

Several LCIs, including the LCI 35, unloading troops at an unknown French beach in June 1944.



The LCI 35 unloading troops at Normandy in June 1944.





Quartermaster John Laga poses on a beach in France in 1944.



Phil Reed during World War II.



The LCI 35 beached at Normandy during the continuous buildup of forces. According to Phil Reed, they made twenty-five trips back and forth to deliver troops to France in June 1944.

★ SEA STORIES ★

BOUGIE, ALGERIA (NORTH AFRICA)

By
Gordon Smith, LCI 43

When you read the log of the LCI 43 for December 5, 1943 in Bougie, Algeria you cannot vision the events that actually transpired and the reason for the #43 being in this small harbor.

A convoy of British Air Crews had been headed to Malta. However, in the process, a couple of the transports had been sunk by German Magnetic Mines. These mines were so designed that as a lead ship sailed over the mine, a signal would trip a counter. After a designated number of ships had passed, the mine would release from its restraining cable and float upward to explode against the hull of the next vessel. This would, of course, cause havoc and confusion in the middle of the convoy.

In Bougie, far back from the war zone, a grave digging battalion had been established to bury American and British war casualties in North Africa. The purpose of our visit to Bougie was to proceed out from the harbor into the Mediterranean and locate floating bodies and bring them in to the grave digging battalion. That was the reason that at 1330 (1:30 p.m.) three Army Captains and two Lieutenants of the U.S. Navy Medical Corps came aboard the ship. Sad to say, at this point, the log for Monday, 6 December 1943 is not in this collection of logs. Many years later, my memory tells me that we proceeded out of the harbor the next day as ordered. After clearing visual contact from Bougie, we were to proceed on such and such a course to locate the waterlogged floating bodies. For some reason, we did not proceed on that "such and such a course" and also for that reason, found no bodies



and returned to Bougie without any casualties.

Another interesting story evolved in our visit to Bougie. Only a portion of the crew was given liberty and was to return aboard at a specific time. I had the watch and did not go ashore with my shipmates. Our group that had liberty gravitated to a bar in Bougie. While there, they ended up in the rear of the bar to drink whatever was available to consume.

It so happened that this bar was also entertaining a group of Australian soldiers. These particular "Aussies" had been bombed in the desert by what we call "friendly fire" which had been administered by the "Yanks". It did not take long for a serious fight to explode between the Aussies and the defending Yanks from the #43. Our poor crew had to struggle and fight their way out of the bar and attempt to get back to their ship.

Joe Murk, a dear Polish shipmate, did escape the bar with several Aussies in pursuit. In desperation, Joe dived blindly and headfirst through the window of a building. This building turned out to be a Machine Shop! He desperately crawled in the dark on the floor under lathes with their metal filings gouging into his hands and knees. With the determination of a Bull Dog the hostile Aussies were still in hot pursuit! Somehow, Joe got free and limped aboard the #43. He was bloody, greasy, dirty—and with one pant leg completely shredded off. On his face was a mighty grin. He had made it "home" and had escaped the Aussies! ■



Howard Wolfe of the LCI(G) 465 at age 20. (Courtesy Howard Wolfe)



Howard still looking sharp at 91. (Courtesy Howard Wolfe)

March 22, 2015:

Dear Mr. Morris,

I served as a junior officer aboard LCI(G) 465 from early September, 1944 until the surrender of Japan.

During my tour of duty, we engaged in the invasions of Leyte, Luzon, Kerama Retto and Okinawa. In each invasion, the LCI(G)s were the first ships into the beach, firing our rockets, retreating and then participating in patrol duties until the island was secured. Except for Leyte, the LCI(G) 465 also carried the mine sweeping swimmers into the harbor days before each invasion and then picked them up with their mines.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, I do not consider myself a hero in any sense of the word. I was a 20 year old carrying out minor duties. In most cases, the true heroes of the LCI(G) crew were the captains, executive officers, engineering officers and the sailors who were really responsible for the success of the ship. I was a damage control officer responsible for putting out the fires on the decks after the firing of the rockets. I was also supply officer, and in that capacity, was able to supply my men with ankle high boots even though they were not authorized for LCI sailors. In Luzon, after the beaches were secured, on two occasions, I took a dinghy ashore, and with my

high school Spanish, traded can goods with the natives for fresh eggs and bananas.

I am now 91 and would like to end my letter with the age-old question of the existence of a supreme being. My ship and crew were never damaged by enemy fire but we were in a group of twenty ships, 10 of which were assigned to Okinawa, and 10 were assigned to Iwo Jima. The Iwo Jima LCI(G)s suffered great damage and extensive casualties. At Okinawa, we escaped basically unharmed. In addition, the records will show that while on patrol in Okinawa, three kamikazes attacked LCI(G)465 within 24 hours, and all three were shot down within 100 yards of our ship by our very limited gun power.

Someone was looking down.

Very truly yours,

Howard O. Wolfe ■

WE PRESENT...

PROFILES OF THE MEN

LCI Sailor Killed in Action

Jessie Leroy Adamson LCI (G) 471

**By
DENNIS BLOCKER,
LCI Association Pacific War Historian**

JESSIE LEROY ADAMSON WAS BORN JANUARY 2ND, 1926 to Jessie James and Ruby Adamson while the family was living in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. Jessie was the sixth of what would eventually be ten children. Growing up with five older brothers had its challenges and then with the addition of three younger brothers and a baby sister made their living during the Great Depression a constant struggle for survival. Yet, survive they did.

The family all called him Leroy and his baby sister Naomi Ruth recalls events growing up, "We were poor growing up and momma didn't have the money to buy Leroy's lunches." So, to remedy this situation Leroy, just a kid dressed in hand-me-down clothes, would make the long dusty trek to the meat packing plant where he would scrounge up some soup bones. Hiding the soup bones in a paper bag he would take them to the school cafeteria and present them to the cooking staff who knowing times were hard agreed to make a soup for him using the bones. Day after day he had the same lunch but it was free.

Leroy was a kind-hearted lad who after the church service would offer his arms to two elderly members of the church, "Granny See" and "Granny Reed." While walking these ladies home his childhood friends would laugh and make fun of his "girlfriends" but he never wavered in his weekly escort. Leroy would just smile and wave at his friends.

At the age of fifteen he got his last "whipping." Sister Naomi recalled, "A bunch of the boys decided they wouldn't take another whipping. Momma told him to go draw some water, he refused (the only time he ever talked back to



momma that I know of). He took off around the house and Raymond (an older brother) went to get him and brought him back to momma. She used a switch on him and that was his last whipping."

Leroy joined the Navy on the 12th of December 1943 and was inducted into the Navy in Oklahoma City, the largest city near Tecumseh. Naomi recalls his visit home before shipping out overseas, "I thought he was the best looking sailor in the country. While home, a young woman who had grown up around Leroy, Bessie, tried to persuade Leroy to get married. She said, 'Leroy, let's go get married.' Leroy said, 'Aw, Bessie, I don't have the money.' She told him she had the money, but he said, 'My momma raised me, and my momma will get my money if I am killed.'

Rising before the sun on the day of his departure for California he went to the kitchen where his mother was busy preparing her boy a good breakfast before his long journey by train. Mother and son chatted quietly trying to avoid

waking the sleeping children. Slowly he reached into his wallet, pulled out some money, and told his mother to buy his sister Naomi a sailor dress. Tiptoeing to her room, he peeked inside and saw his kid sister was still fast asleep. He smiled, turned and with a heavy heart departed for the train station and destination unknown.

Assignment to the gunboat LCI (G) 471 was a good one for Leroy for there were many fellas from Oklahoma and Texas aboard and they got along famously. While overseas his mother did not really worry about him. She had a son in the Flying Tigers, a son in the Secret Service, another son in the Aleutians, and it was those boys she worried about for they seemed to be always in danger. One night their mother had a dream that her son Leroy was killed in action and she began to prepare herself for the dreadful news.

She must have penned her worries for Leroy seeks to allay her fears in a letter he wrote to her on the 14th of April, 1944, "Say, I have been helping today loading supplies on a ship I am on. Say, I get a picture show every other night. We really have things swell." His main discomforts are those experienced by his family back home, "It gets plenty warmed ruing the day time and there are a lot of mosquitoes out here." It is one of the gripes of all military men that mail is not fast enough and he voices his gripe, "Mom, something must be wrong, I haven't got a letter in three days. Please write more often. Well mom it feels funny being so far from home, it's just about 4,000 miles." From the letter his mother took comfort in the fact that he seemed to be working in supply and the fact that no enemy activity was mentioned, only mosquitoes and heat. Difficulties his mother could bear to ponder for her son.

Leroy first saw combat at Guam when the LCI (G) 468 was hit by a skipping torpedo and had its bow blown off. The 471 pulled alongside the stricken ship to deliver support personnel. The 471 then participated in the "mop up" of Guam and worked day after day trying to persuade Japanese to surrender. Over a matter of a few weeks they were able to persuade over 100 Japanese to in fact surrender and come aboard their ship. These activities were documented in an excellent report by the skipper.

On the 17th of February 1945 the LCI (G) 471 was part of LCI Group 8 that was assigned to

cover the UDT recon of the beaches at Iwo Jima. The 471 was slated as a stand-by ship in the event ships were hit, but there was little worry of this happening. However, within a few minutes the LCI (G) 438 received a huge hole in her side and the 471 was sent in to relieve her. Adamson was assigned to the bow where he was passing ammunition to the 40mm gun. A large Japanese shell struck beneath them and detonated but caused no casualties. As the 471 turned to retrace her path a Japanese shell struck the ammunition locker right among the large gathering of men there. The explosion killed Adamson in an instant.

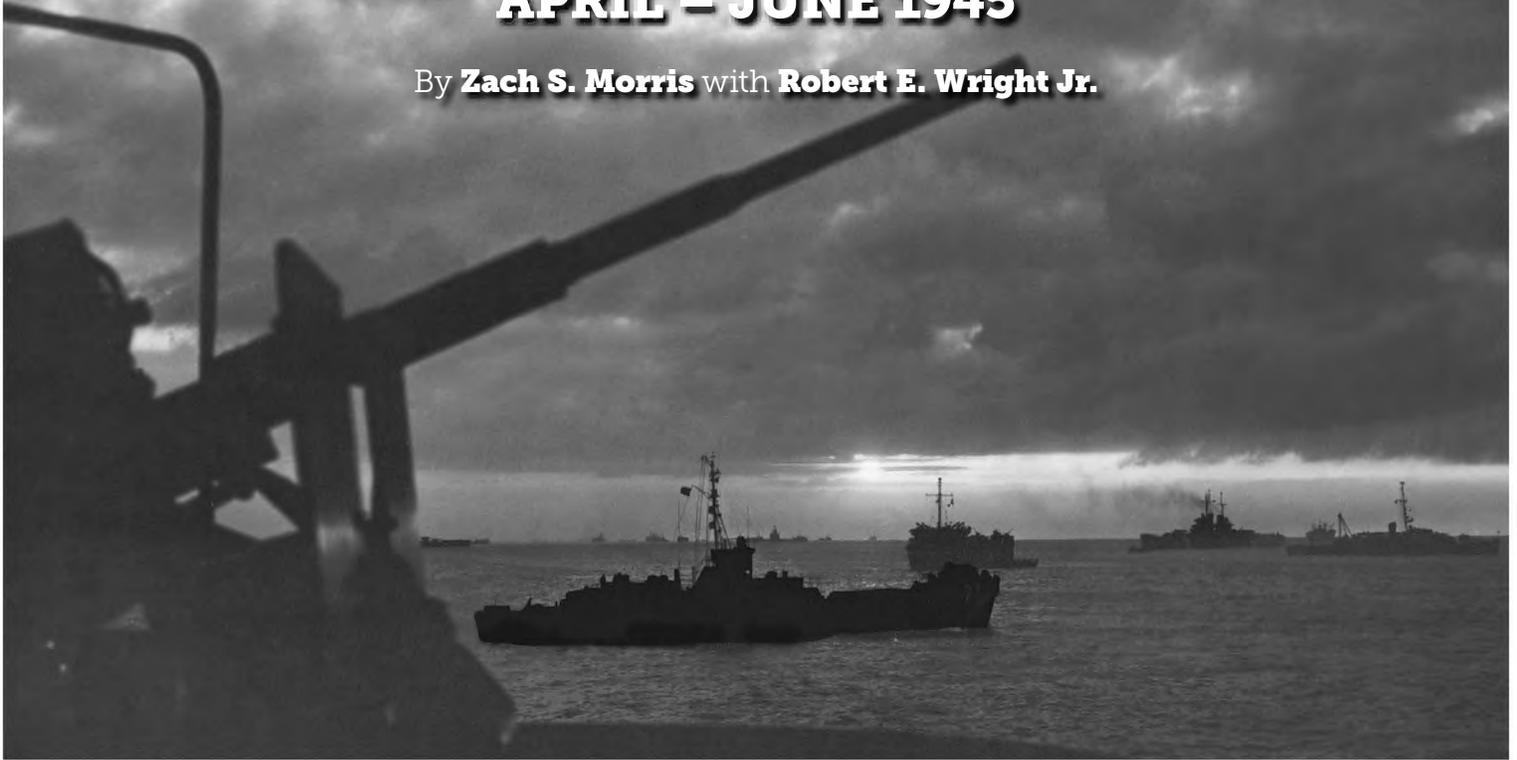
A few hours later a burial service was held aboard the 471 and the ceremony conducted by Ensign Larry Hermes, a Texan. With the service completed each of the 9 sailors killed were slid from under a flag draped tabletop and their remains that had been sewn into a mattress cover were dropped into the ocean in a naval ritual. Leroy's body plunged to the ocean floor in one of the deepest places on the earth. Reflecting back on Adamson, Ensign Larry Hermes would recall, "He was a big fella but a nicely, well behaved fella. He was not quarrelsome or anything like that. He was a nice fella, kind of out spoken and everything but not obnoxious or anything, he was very likable."

Years later Dennis Blocker, historian with the National LCI Association would make contact with the family and his sister Naomi would recall, with tears in her eyes, how her brother bought her a sailor dress that she wanted so she could look like him. His niece, Sarah, daughter of Naomi, wrote to Dennis, "Knowing she never was able to say goodbye, then not knowing exactly how or when he died has always been like a book with no ending... yet today you helped her learn for the first time exactly how and when he passed. Just a thank-you seems so small."

Dennis was able to supply the family with records from the LCI-471 that gave his service number, date of death and rating. These records were used to procure for the family a flag, cemetery headstone and service for him, over 60 years after his death. The family was so grateful to finally have a place to honor his memory and to finally have a place to close the chapter on the book of his short but heroic life. ■

70 YEARS SINCE OPERATION "ICEBERG" OKINAWA CAMPAIGN APRIL – JUNE 1945

By **Zach S. Morris** with **Robert E. Wright Jr.**



Here an LCI is providing anti aircraft cover support to an LST from where the picture was taken. Every evening before sunset and every morning before sunrise the fleet went to General Quarters in anticipation of the next air raid or kamikaze attack. (Courtesy Robert Wright)

THE JAPANESE WERE SILENT FOR THE MOMENT. On the morning of April 1, 1945, they gazed into the pale dawn at what lay to their south, certain of what was ascending upon them from the vast ocean beyond. The Allies, moving closer to Tokyo in late March 1945, had long since decided which island would be the location for the launching site of the invasion of mainland Japan. A patch of land in the Ryukyu Islands was chosen. It lay just over 400 miles from Kyushu, Japan. This soon-to-be desolate wasteland of shock and shells was about to become the location of the largest sea-land-air battle in history.

And the Japanese inhabitants could see the massive American armada was headed straight for them on Okinawa.

The U.S. naval operations at Okinawa were planned based on an accumulation of all knowledge from previous invasions and landings throughout the war in the Pacific. The battle would prove to be the bloodiest and among the

most bitter that had ever been fought. Eighty-one LCIs participated in the L-Day landings at Okinawa.

LCIs performed the duties of screening the fleet, as well as providing covering smoke to protect the capital ships from kamikaze pilots. They would surround the larger ships with fog to reduce visibility for attacking kamikaze pilots. The LCIs were under the constant danger of a "typhoon of steel" from the air and infested waters filled with suicide boats and Japanese swimmers from nearby land.

By the time the Battle of Okinawa ended in June 1945, it had claimed over 72,000 American casualties. More than 100,000 citizens of Okinawa perished in the chaos, and there were nearly 100,000 Japanese casualties.

On this 70th Anniversary, we would like to recognize the LCIs for their important contribution in all aspects to the victory at Okinawa. ■

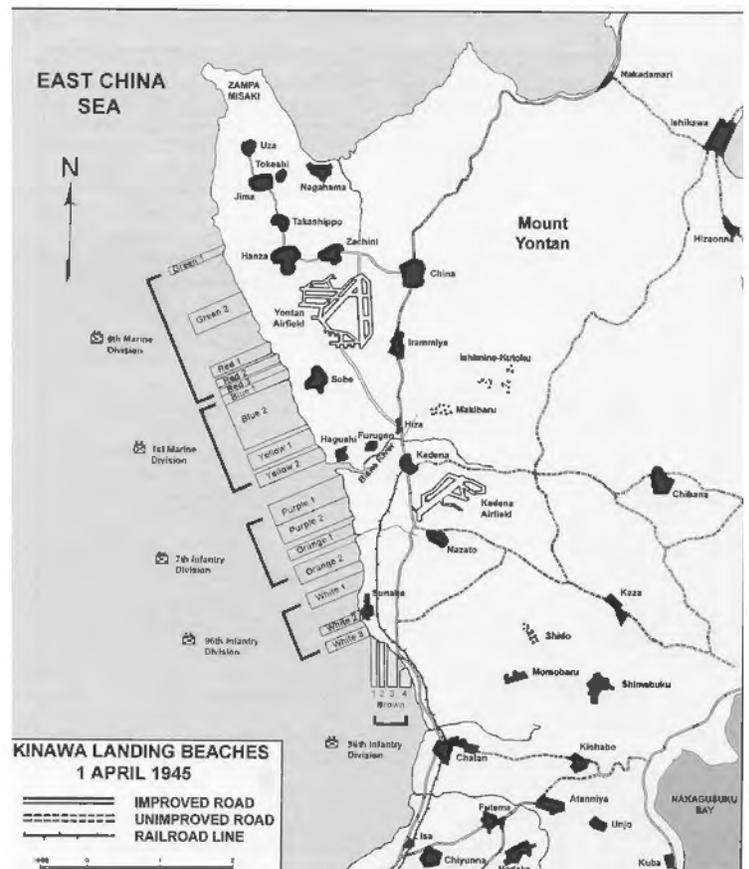


The invasion of Okinawa exposed the American fleet to Japanese air attacks from Kyushu and Taiwan. Photo and information courtesy Robin L. Rielly, "American Amphibious Gunboats in World War II: A History of the LCI and LCS(L) Ships in the Pacific" (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Publishers, 2013), p. 259

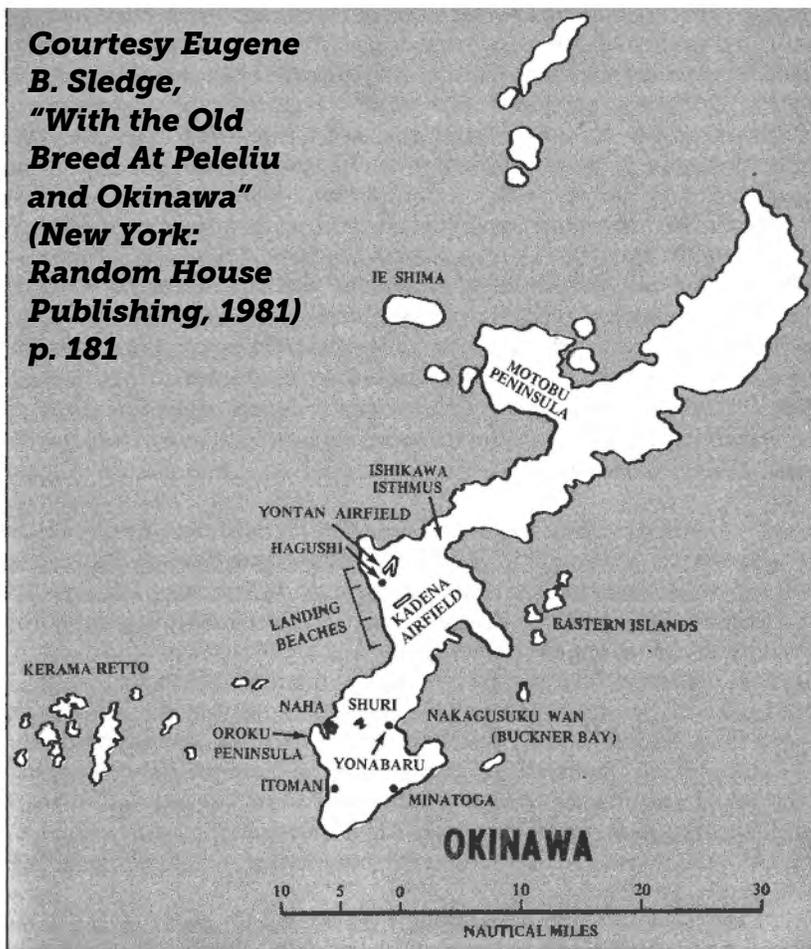
The 10th U.S. Army, under the command of Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. and consisting of both Army and Marine divisions, landed on Okinawa on 1 April 1945. Northern beaches were assigned to the Marines and the Army landed on the southern beaches. Photo and information courtesy Robin L. Rielly, "American Amphibious Gunboats in World War II: A History of the LCI and LCS(L) Ships in the Pacific" (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Publishers, 2013), p. 260

"IN THE PATH OF THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION, [...] ALL THE RIDGES AND VILLAGES WERE DEFENDED HEAVILY BY WELL-PREPARED, MUTUALLY SUPPORTING FORTIFICATIONS BUILT INTO A SKILLFUL SYSTEM OF DEFENSE-IN-DEPTH. [...] THE JAPANESE FEROCIOUSLY DEFENDED EVERY YARD OF GROUND AND CONSERVED THEIR STRENGTH TO INFLICT MAXIMUM LOSSES ON THE AMERICAN FORCES. THE TACTICS TURNED OKINAWA INTO A BLOODBATH."

Eugene B. Sledge, "With the Old Breed At Peleliu and Okinawa" (New York: Random House Publishing, 1981) p. 231



Courtesy Eugene B. Sledge, "With the Old Breed At Peleliu and Okinawa" (New York: Random House Publishing, 1981) p. 181



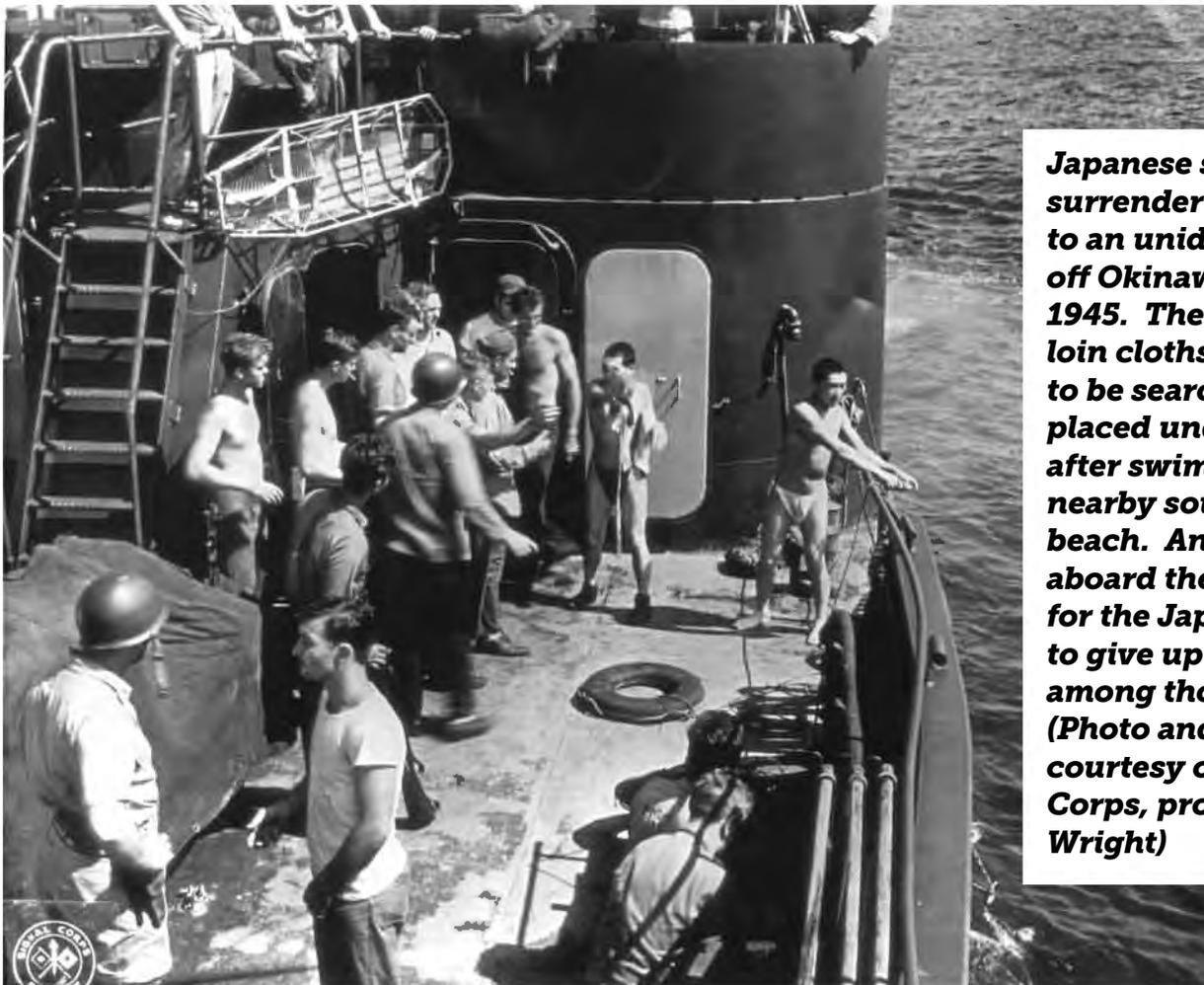
"WE WERE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE ABYSS, THE ULTIMATE HORROR OF WAR [...] WE WERE SURROUNDED BY MAGGOTS AND DECAY. MEN STRUGGLED AND FOUGHT AND BLED IN AN ENVIRONMENT SO DEGRADING I BELIEVED WE HAD BEEN FLUNG INTO HELL'S OWN CESSPOOL."

Eugene B. Sledge, "With the Old Breed At Peleliu and Okinawa" (New York: Random House Publishing, 1981) p. 253



LCI 472 laying smoking at Okinawa. If the LCIs at Okinawa remember one thing other than the kamikaze's trying to kill them, it was making smoke to cover the position of the big ships to hide them from the kamikazes. From the stories I have heard the smell and taste just permeated everything. Usually two LCI's were assigned to cover one ship like a battleship or heavy cruiser in the fog. (Photos and information courtesy of Robert Wright)

Rocket Firing LCIs come into position to bombard Okinawa on 1 April 1945. USS LCI (G) 627, flagship of LCI (G) Flotilla 3 and commanded by Commander Michael J. Melanaphy, leads a column of LCIs. This was the same flotilla that covered the UDT operations at Iwo Jima on February 17, 1945. Six weeks later they are back in action at Okinawa. LCIs 442 and 22 are trailing the 627. (Courtesy Robert Wright)



Japanese soldiers surrender by swimming to an unidentified LCI off Okinawa on 6 July 1945. The two men (in loin cloths) are about to be searched and placed under guard after swimming from a nearby southern Okinawa beach. An interpreter aboard the ship called for the Japanese soldiers to give up and these are among those who gave up. (Photo and information courtesy of Army Signal Corps, provided by Robert Wright)

THE BROTHERS CANZONE

A Chance Encounter Off Okinawa During World War II

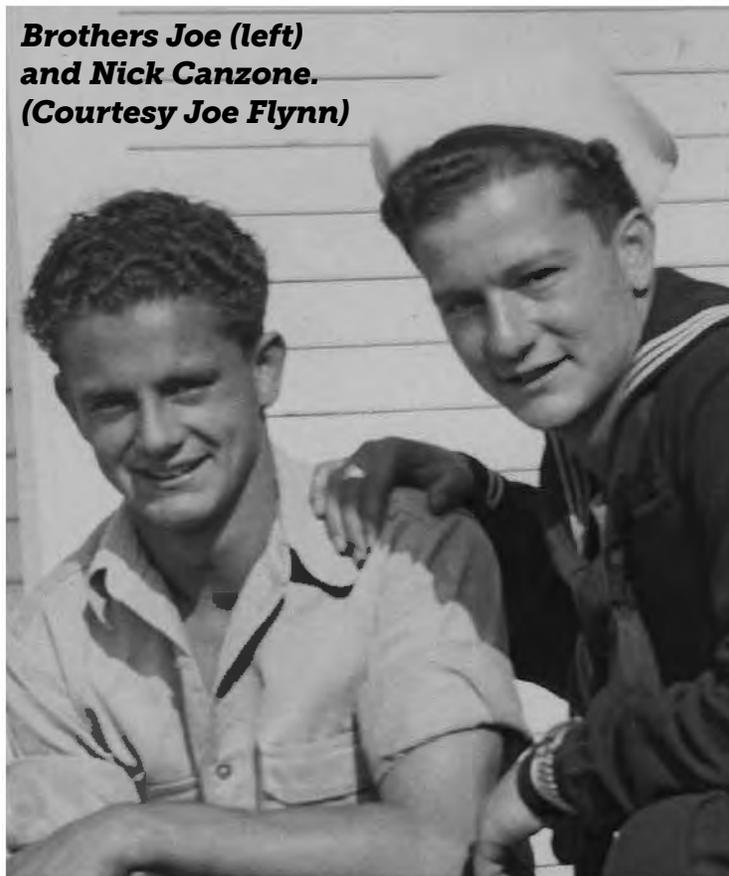
By
JOE FLYNN,
LCI Association California Director

Joe Canzone told me one time that in a location some 350 miles from Japan, in the middle of WWII at Okinawa, he managed to meet up with his brother Nick. A signal from Joe's LCI(G) 373 to a YMS flashing out "Hello from your brother" brought about the meeting of the Canzones. The signal was sent on April 2, 1945 by a signalman on the 373 where Joe was an electrician's mate third class. Joe knew that his brother's ship was somewhere out in the Pacific waters and he had kept looking for it during the Okinawa invasion.

While on deck he spotted the ship that his brother, Nick, electrician's mate second class, was on.



**Brothers Joe (left)
and Nick Canzone.**
(Courtesy Joe Flynn)



When the signal was sent Nick happened to be on deck and while the signalman from his ship was taking the message. The signalman asked if he knew anyone on LCI 373 and stating that he did, and Nick and Joe signaled messages back and forth. Signaling ended with "I'll be seeing you later."

And they did see each other later. In one of the calm periods of the battle the ships were moored close to each other and the captain on Joe's LCI allowed him to go over to the ship Nick was on and spend two hours on May 28. Joe said he wrote to his parents, about the visit, and said, "It sure was a heck of a place to meet a brother." Joe would recall with emotion how his LCI came alongside the minesweeper and his brother Nick reached over, pulled him up with one arm and landed him square on the deck.

The Canzone brothers have now both sailed west—but their service, their memories and the stories they passed on are ours to cherish. ■

Joe Canzone of the LCI (G) 373.
(Courtesy Joe Flynn)

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday May 25, 2015

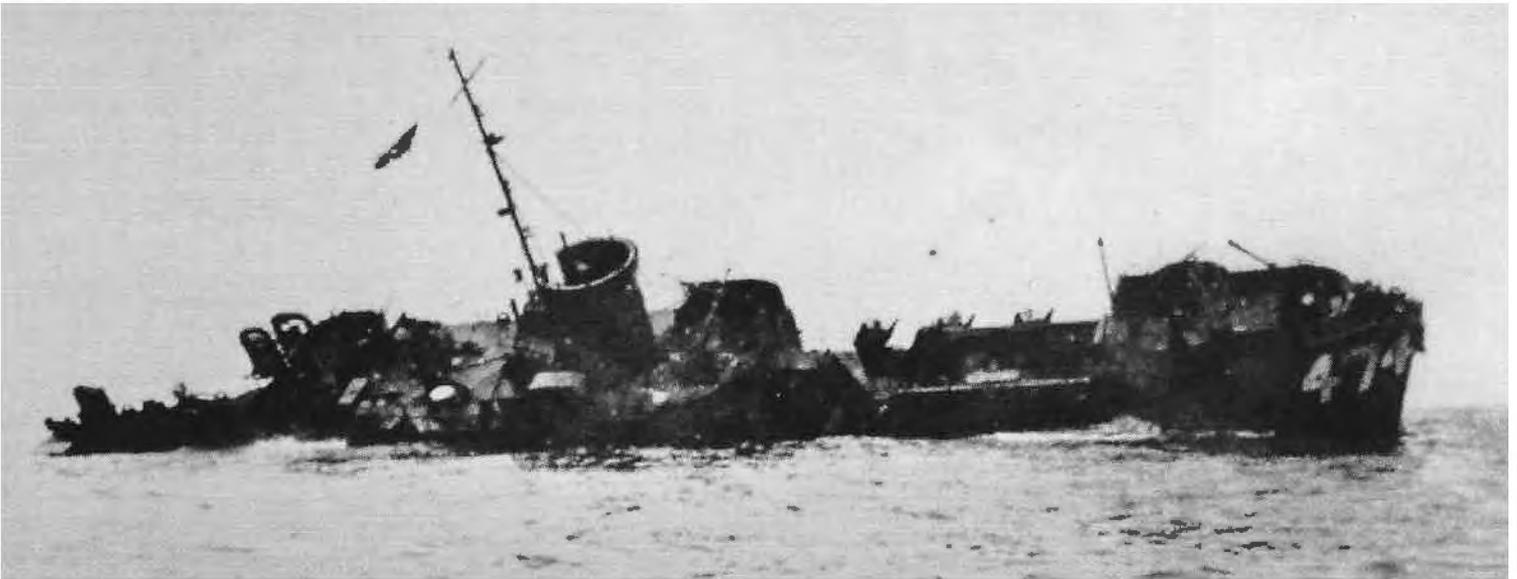
We pay tribute... LCI CREW KILLED IN ACTION IN WORLD WAR II

Information courtesy of the USS LCI National Association web site:
www.usslci.com/html/memorialnames.html

It has been a goal of the Association to assemble the most accurate list possible of LCIs killed in action during World War II. We are aware that the following list may be incomplete or contain inaccuracies. Please give this list your careful scrutiny and accept our sincerest apologies for any mistakes. If you are aware of corrections or additions that need to be made, please notify a member of the LCI Board of Directors, our Editor, or Nehemiah Communications.

Please take this opportunity to see the names of those brave shipmates who gave their lives during that great struggle. To those courageous men who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country – you will never be forgotten.

The LCI Association wishes everyone a Happy Memorial Day



USS LCI (G) 474 sinking off Iwo Jima, 17 February 1945. (navsource.org)

LCI 1
(Sunk Berzerte, Tunisia on 8-7-43 by a bomb, 3 KIA and 12 WIA, Sicily July 1943)

- Don N. Mace
- Russell R. Stark
- Ralph A. Austin

LCI 5
(Europe, 5 campaigns)

- John J. Gray
- Clifford H. Radford
- Frank Kopriva

LCI 9
(Europe, 5 campaigns)

- Ernest L. Fletcher

LCI 10
(Europe, 5 campaigns)

- Charles Bates

LCI 16
(Europe, 5 campaigns)

- Stoy Kay Alexander

LCI 18
(Italy/France, 4 campaigns)

- John W. Paige

- Robert J. Maher

LCI 20
(Anzio, Italy, sunk
by enemy aircraft on
1-22-44)

- Don Hamilton
- Harold R. Kalshnek

LCI 22
(Pacific, 5 campaigns)

- James A Barber

LCI 23
(Rendova Island,
Solomons, 2-KIA,
3-WIA)
(Babatngon, Leyte,
Philippines, 10-KIA,
24 WIA—Oct
23,1944—by a bomb)

- Theodore Morano
- George H. Gootee
- Loys V. Hayes
- Ruben C. Kale
- Anthony J. Pulice
- Arnold G. Retersdorf
- Harold L. Reynolds
- Antonio R. Fabian
- Robert T. Riordan
- Stanley C. Winkler
- William E. Dutro

LCI 24
(Rendova, Solomons,
2 KIA, 3 WIA by
enemy bombers
on July 4 1943—5
campaigns)

- Ernest A. Wilson
(BM2c.)
- Mahlon F. Paulson
(RM2c.)

LCI 32
(Anzio, Italy, sunk by
mine on 1-26-44)

- George L. Marsh
- Dilbert B. Mallams
- Earl W. Rubens

- Olindo P. Martello
- Jack Elkin
- Thomas J. Brown
- Paul L. Nardella
- William L. Nisbet
- Charles W. Seavey
- John F. Guethlein
- Robert H. Jackson
- Warren B. Johnson
- David A. Purcell
- Eugene L. Sales
- Herbert Stake, Jr.
- George A. Cabana
- John W. Finch
- Charles J. Gilbride
- Ralph Harding
- John E. Campbell
- Lawrence M.
Kennedy
- Hamp L. Richardson
- Ralph DiMeola

LCI 33
(Italy/France, 4
campaigns)

- Walber Kaczyski
- Merle Levell

LCI 34
(South Pacific, 7
campaigns)

- Sherman C. Wagers
- Edmund J. Baldwin

LCI 47
(Italy/France, 4
campaigns)

- Harry Ekey

LCI 65
(South Pacific, 6
campaigns)
(1 KIA at Rendova—
July 4, 1943 by bomb)
(1 KIA at Leyte Gulf—
on Oct 24, 1944 by
kamikaze)

- Hurley E. Christian
(F1c.)
- Lester E. Aiston (SC3c.)

LCI 70
(KIA, Bougainville;
Lingayen Gulf,
Philippines, 12 WIA
by kamikaze)

- D.H. Shook
- Joseph Byars
- Robert Craycraft
- Walter G. Kiser
- Densil R. Phillips
- Charles A. Poole
- George Pressley
- James O. Vincent
- Eugene Henry
Whalen

LCI 72
(South Pacific, 8
campaigns)

- John R. Mansell
- Howard O. Mizell

LCI 73
(South Pacific, 7
campaigns)

- Kenneth Talley

LCI 74
(South Pacific, 8
campaigns)

- Bernard Yank

LCI 76
(Italy/France, 4
campaigns)

- Miles Beck

LCI 82
(Sunk at Okinawa on
4-4-1945)

- Hobert G. Heaberlin

LCI 87
(Normandy, 4
campaigns)

- Howel Leary
- William Frere

LCI 88
(Normandy)
• Richard I. Frere
• Warren J. Moran
• Rocco Simone
• Wm B. Cole
(Drowned while
rescuing crew
member)

LCI 90
(Okinawa, 6-6-1945,
10 WIA by Suicide
plane that hit the
conn) (Coast Guard)
• (? Name) Ross SM 2/c

LCI 91
(Normandy, sunk on
6-6-44, WIA 9)

- James E. Atterberry
- Leslie Fritz
- Ernest Johnson
- Stanley Wilczak
- Bernard L. Wolfe

LCI 94
(Normandy, 4
campaigns, 1 WIA)

- August B. Buncik
- Fletcher Burton, Jr.
- Jack DeNunzi

LCI 193
(Sicily, 4 campaigns)
• Raymond J. Doherty

LCI 209
(Normandy, 5
campaigns)
• George McAllister

FLOTILLA 2 STAFF
(Bermuda, two men
drowned on 2-27-43)

- John J. Gray
- Clifford H. Radford

LCI 211
(Normandy, 4 campaigns)

- Gervese J. Keefe
- Charles Veneseke
- Loren B. Owens
- Otis H. Merrill
(Bermuda drowning on 2/27/43)
- Alton J. Wright
- Oliver E Burton

LCI 212
(Normandy, 4 campaigns)

- Stafford (Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- J. A. Ryman
(Bermuda drowning on 2-27-43)
- W. A. Light (Bermuda drowning on 2-27-43)
- Peter James

LCI 213
(Normandy, 4 campaigns)

- Lonnie L. Albert
(Bermuda drowning on 2/27/43)
- Vincent G. Farrell
(Bermuda drowning on 2/27/43)
- Leroy R Chamberlain
(Bermuda drowning on 2/27/43)
- Allen C Jensen
(Bermuda drowning on 2/27/43)

LCI 214
(Normandy, 4 campaigns)

- Charles F. Kennedy
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- Richard A Kapff
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)

- Jack T. Twigg
(Bermuda drowning on 2/27/43)
- Adam T Picozzi
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)

LCI 215
(Normandy, 4 campaigns)

- Grant R. Redding
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- Thomas L Leonard
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- Robert C Gragg
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- James L. Riley
(Bermuda drowning 2-27-43)

LCI 216
(Normandy, 4 campaigns)

- James A. Hayes
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- Robert L. Jones
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- Maurice Boutell

LCI 218
(Normandy, 5 campaigns)

- David H. Muth
(Bermuda drowning 2-27-43)
- Earl L Roberts
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)

LCI 219
(Normandy, sunk on 6-11-44)

- Russell L Bloom
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)

- Lawrence R. Wallar
(Bermuda drowning 2/27/43)
- Johnson B. Wiles
- Cornelius B. Dorcey
- Lester R. Bumps
(bronze star)
- Albert Combs
- Cyril J. O'Connor Jr.
(bronze star)
- Rolen C. Sikes Jr.
(bronze star)

LCI 232
(Sunk at Normandy on 6-6-44, 4 campaigns)

- Howard J. Dague
- Roger Huskisson
- Walton K. Ellis
- Leland A. Glover
- Wilbert E. Henke
- Roger F. Johnson
- George A. Kelley
- Robert A. Mett
- Mack Penawell
- Frank J. Petricca
- Charles O. Rector
- John H. Shroves
- Frank Souza
- Raphael Weinstein

LCI 237
(Europe, 1 KIA on 10-27-43 by mine explosion off Taranto, Italy)

- Clyde H. Roberson
(bow lookout)

LCI 319
(Europe, Coast Guard, 4 campaigns, Normandy—4 purple hearts)

- John C. Scheurman
(Silver Star)

LCI 321
(Europe, Coast Guard, 4 campaigns)

- Edward Rybicki

LCI 339
(Sunk at New Guinea on 9-4-43)

- Fay B. Begor

LCI 341
(1 KIA on 9-6-43, New Guinea)

- Robert W. Rolf (Navy Cross)

LCI 342
(Southwest Pacific and Philippines, 7 campaigns)

- James Earman

LCI 344
(Pacific, 6 campaigns)

- Robert Pumphrey
- Jack Lanbert
- James Palmer
- Edward Woodzien

LCI 347
(Saipan on 6-15-44, 5 campaigns)

- Garland Eddington

LCI 365
(4 campaigns, 7 KIA and 15 WIA on 7-16-44 at Guam)

- Charles Martin
- Andrew Lesezynski
- Edward W. Nemeth
- Clifford Mossman
(bronze star)
- Thomas Wilkenson
(bronze star)
- John J. Gibbs (bronze star)
- John F. Harrison

LCI 366
(Pacific, 5 campaigns)

- William J. Barry
- James F. MacWatty
- Carmelo R. Sidoti
- Richard C. Steyer
- Robert W. Unger

LCI 396
(7 KIA and 20 WIA on 1-18-45 at Peleliu—bow blown off)

- James R. Wirtz
- John P. Mannino
- Bobby G. Ozbirn
- Delonda J. Self
- Robert J. Calvert
- Oliver E. Cole
- Charles V. Foxx

LCI 408
(Normandy)

- Raymond Aubin

LCI 422
(Pacific, 3 campaigns)

- William Jenkins
- Jack G. Johnson

LCI 438
(Iwo Jima, 5 campaigns)

- Robert R. Meili

LCI 439
(Pacific, 5 campaigns)

- Jessie J. Marzie
- Dewey L. Mayes
- Donald Rhodes
- Lawrence M. White

LCI 440
(Pacific, Eniwetok on 2-22-44 by friendly fire—5 campaigns)

- Paul M. McGawan
- Robert F. Graham
- Joseph Mercoli
- Thomas F. Smay
- Robert Zielinski

- Earl L. Miller
- Fred J. Spicer
- W. Edward Pappen

LCI 441
(Iwo Jima, 4 campaigns)

- William T. Connors
- William E. Griffin
- Jack D. Starbuck
- Julian R. Scott
- Clinton E. Snider
- Glenn O. De Long
- Moses Trexler

LCI 442
(Eniwetok on Feb 22, 1944 by friendly fire, 6 campaigns)

- Paul D. Mayes
- Gordon McCuiston
- George W. Meckley
- Fleet F. Willis
- Floyd E. Wright
- Alexander W. Finney

LCI 449

- (Iwo Jima—Feb 17, 1945, 5 campaigns)
- Byron C. Yarbrough
 - Frederick Cooper
 - William G. Corkins
 - Lawrence Bozarth
 - Edward P. Brockmeyer (USMC, silver star)
 - John T. Flock
 - Bruce Goodin
 - Clarence J. Hoffman
 - William H. Hudson
 - Robert R. Minnick
 - Ralph Owens
 - Lareto F. Paglia
 - Carl F. Park
 - Howard W. Schoenleben
 - William Tominac
 - Glenn H. Trotter
 - Charles E. Vogel
 - Frederick F. Walton

- Leroy Young
- Lee C. Yates
- Harry L. McGrath

LCI 450
(3 campaigns, Iwo Jima)

- Jack H. Musselman

LCI 457
(4 campaigns, Iwo Jima)

- Willard D. Helvey

LCI 466
(2 campaigns, Iwo Jima)

- Thomas E. Coppinger
- Huey P. Hester
- Charles E. Barton
- Glenn A. Foldessy
- Robert E. Pipelow
- Horace J. Long

LCI 468
(Hit by torpedo plane on 6-18-44 at Guam—bow blown off—sunk later)

- Dean L. Beemer
- Leslie G. Foss
- Dewey A. Hayhurst
- Joseph A. Hunter
- Lyan S. Long
- Robert G. Marquis
- Robert Barnett
- Robert G. Davis
- J.B. Gladdis
- Hollis W. Hicks
- Steven A. Karko
- Woodrow B. Maggard
- Ralph E. Parks
- Ralph E. Spaugh

LCI 471
(Iwo Jima, 2 campaigns)

- Jessie L. Adamson
- James F. Bernethy
- Richard Cano

- Louis P. Hagan
- Billie J. Harris
- Troy L. Morehouse
- William P. Morrissey
- Donald Nygard
- Richard H. Pond
- Jerry A. Terracciano
- James W. White

LCI 473
(Iwo Jima, 2 campaigns)

- Joseph Edward Davis
- Dominick S. Gonzalez

LCI 474
(Sunk on Feb 17, 1945 at Iwo Jima)

- Daryl G. Huish
- Fred H. Gray
- Donald S. Rappold
- Lester H. Welch

LCI 475
(Pacific, 4 campaigns)

- Leo P. Selan

LCI 559
(Pacific, 3 campaigns)

- Donald M. Gross

LCI 568
(Okinawa, 3 campaigns)

- Edward L. Kolodziej
- James M. Sweatt

LCI 580
(Pacific, 4 campaigns)

- George C. Thomas

LCI 600
(Sunk on 1-12-45 at Ulithi by an enemy sub)

- Seth Bailey
- Glen De Quaisie
- Edwin Janacek

LCI 621
(Pacific, 2 campaigns)

- Raymond Carter

LCI 682
(Pacific)

- Thomas H. Reese

LCI 726
(7 WIA on 6-15-44 at Saipan, 4 campaigns)

- Jerome Pruchnieski
- Robert A. Compton

LCI 807
(1 KIA on 4-1-45 at Okinawa)

- Andrew Karsen

LCI 812
(Okinawa)

- Walter Siek (Navy and Marine medal)

LCI 821
(8 WIA, 5-7-45, Palau Islands)

- Wayne A. Seath
- Lee Henley Raigins
- Robert E. Kriniak

LCI 951
(Southern France)

- Floyd Mage

LCI 974
(Sunk on 1-10-45 at Lingayen Gulf, Philippines by a suicide boat—4 AM)

- William W. Baft
- Sidney F. Brennan
- Emidue J. Falini
- Richard E. Kern
- Charles Passwater
- Thomas F. Sheehan

LCI 979
(Philippines, 3 campaigns)

- Martin J. Fleishman
- Martin F. Deem
- William C. Nordon

LCI 1060
(Mindoro, Philippines)

- Alexander J. Osowieki

LCI 1065
(Sunk on 10-24-44 at Leyte Gulf, Philippines)

- Sigurd J. Bjertness
- Wallace W. Hamlett
- Michael M. Jalad
- Floyd J. Parker
- Lester S. Tumbison
- Gordon A. Judson

"ELSIE ITEM" DEADLINES

• **FEBRUARY ISSUE**

Deadline: January 10

• **MAY ISSUE**

Deadline: April 10

• **AUGUST ISSUE**

Deadline: July 10

• **NOVEMBER ISSUE**

Deadline: October 20

ATTENTION LCI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS!

Do you purchase items on eBay?

If you are searching and buying Memorabilia on eBay relating to the LCIs in WWII, please contact me, so that we can help coordinate the effort. I am continually buying items for the Amphibious Forces Museum, LCI 713 Museum in Portland and old newspaper photographs for future publication in the "Elsie Item." I want these items to stay in the hands of the LCI groups if at all possible.

Robert E Wright Jr.,

Acting Secretary and Treasurer

(517) 548-2326

rewrightcpa@gmail.com

A Costly Drink

MEMORIAL DAY IS PRIMARILY A NATIONAL HOLIDAY on which we remember and honor the men and women who have given their lives for our country. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "it is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this." It is fitting and proper for us to observe Memorial Day not only as Americans but also as people of faith. There should be no need for our loyalty to God to conflict with our loyalty to country. The life which God gave us has an inescapable membership-character. By divine appointment we are members of a home, of a community, and of a nation. To live as God intended us to live we must fulfill our obligations in each of these spheres.

In 1 Chronicles 11: 10-47, King David, weary and spent after a hard battle with his enemies the Philistines, takes refuge in a cave near his native town of Bethlehem. Spurred by memories of his boyhood but knowing that the town is occupied by the enemy and that he is therefore longing for the impossible, the king exclaims, "O that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate." Hardly had those words fallen from David's parched lips, when three of his heroic soldiers break through the enemy lines, draw water from the well of Bethlehem, and bring the precious drink to their king. David receives the vessel from the hands of the heroes but "would not drink of it; he poured it out to the Lord, and said, 'Far be it from me before my God that I should do this. Shall I drink the lifeblood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought it.'" Brought at the price of a willingness to make so great a sacrifice, it was too costly a drink to be enjoyed selfishly. The only use worthy of it was to pour it out as an offering to God.

This sensitivity to sacrifices made for us and this sense of obligation to consecrate the results of those sacrifices constitute the right spirit for celebrating Memorial Day.

Perhaps no one expressed this spirit so concisely and yet as eloquently as Lincoln at Gettysburg. Three thoughts from his address deserve to be underscored today.

First is the appreciation of a great heritage. "Our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." The land which the fathers of our nation have bequeathed to us is the land of liberty and equality. The flag which they lifted over it is a flag which stands for freedom of thought, of speech, of conscience, of worship. And it represents the right of every citizen to enjoy these freedoms and assures an equal opportunity to make the most of God-given capacities. The fathers accepted this liberty and equality as sacred trust from the hand of God and taught us to "praise the Power that has made and preserved us a nation." Are we worthy heirs of such riches? Do we prize them so highly that we constantly thank God for them? Do we appreciate the high privilege of American citizenship and do we make responsible and constructive use of it?

The second thought from Lincoln is the acknowledgment of the price paid for our heritage. We remember those who "gave the last full measure of devotion," who "gave their lives that that nation might live." Memorial Day calls us to pay respect to the brave men, living and dead, who have fought to preserve the nation. And, in doing so we are compelled to count the cost of our heritage. In the long run, we appreciate most the things for which we have paid the most. Our American way of life has been purchased at a high price. We say "thank you" today to all the men and women who, like the men of David, have placed their lives in jeopardy for us. We honor and gratefully remember the men

of the landing craft who responded to their country's call in the hour of danger and whose stories of service we must preserve.

The third thought from Lincoln is dedication to the task of preserving our heritage. The great president asks us, the living, to be dedicated to the unfinished work which the heroes so nobly advanced. He pleads that "from the honored dead we take increased devotion" to the cause of responsible freedom, that we "highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, so that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom." There is unfinished work before us.

The National LCI Association is committed to preserving the history and heritage of a generation to whom we owe so much. These little ships with numbers and no names were sailed by men with names that need to be remembered and stories that need to be preserved so that future generations may know of their sacrifice and pay tribute to their service.

On this Memorial Day, here's how you can help:

Renew your subscription to the *Elsie Item*. It's time to re-up and for only \$35.00 a year you are helping shipmates stay in touch with each other through the pages of the best WW2 newsletter being published today. This publication offers an ideal way to connect with others around the coffee table, reflecting on historical moments in time that were shaped by your courageous service aboard United States LCI ships and around the world. The *Elsie Item* contains personal accounts of historical events and treasured photographs that are very important to veterans, historians and our families. Members are encouraged to invite relatives, friends or local community groups to join the USS LCI National Association so that future generations will not only understand the vital role LCI ships have played in our nation's history, but also learn about the sacrifices, camaraderie and special memories of LCI shipmates.

Make a special donation to the USS LCI National Association or remember the Association in your will or through legacy giving. All gifts are tax-deductible and each assures we will continue to be able to tell the story for years to come.

And finally, make plans to attend this year's reunion. It will be the first-ever joint reunion of the USS LCI National Association and the United States LST Association scheduled for September 17-20, 2015, at the Charleston Plaza Hotel, in Charleston, South Carolina. We hope that this event is the beginning of an association that will grow to include all amphibious forces. Reunion and hotel registration forms are included on pages 6-9 of this issue.

This Memorial Day, as we remember our country's heroes and our own loved ones, like David of old we have been entrusted with a drink that is too costly to be consumed selfishly. We need to pour ourselves out in gratitude for what we have received.

Agape,
Mike



The Landing Craft Infantry (L) Model is available now!



Mail This Form with Your Check to:
 USS LCI National Association
 101 Rice Bent Way # 6
 Columbia, S.C., 29229

Member Name _____ USS LCI (____) _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone Number (____) _____
 E-mail Address _____



Please read :This is a LCI(L). The Box depicts a Square Conn on a 1-350 hull. The actual model is a Round Conn on a 351 version hull . It has the 5 20mm guns. The ships numbers are incorrect too

Description: This Model was out of Production for 30 years. Many members remember this same model from their younger days. The new owners of the company have released this for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. This is a 1:160 model, so it is 12 inches long. Simple to paint and assemble. It does require the use of model cement which should be available locally.

LCI Model	\$25 each	Quantity _____	Amount Paid: \$ _____
Shipping:	First Model \$7	additional models \$3 each	Amount Paid: \$ _____
			TOTAL AMOUNT PAID: \$ _____

Mail your order form with a Check Payable to the **USS LCI National Assn**

I have copies of the official Pacific camouflage painting patterns if you would like to request one

Contact me directly if you would like to use PayPal for your order, or

Any other Information contact: **Robert E Wright Jr, Secretary**

At: rewrightcpa@gmail.com or 517. 548-1026

Thank You for Supporting the USS LCI National Association!

Thank You for Supporting the USS LCI National Association!

CUT HERE

Mail This Form with Your Check to:
USS LCI National Association
101 Rice Bent Way # 6
Columbia, S.C., 29229



Additional Information Contact:
Robert Wright (517) 548-1026

Member Name _____ USS LCI (____) _____

Member Phone Number _____

Member Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Member Email Address _____

BOOKS

\$ 20 Donation : *The Best of the Elsie Item Issue 70* Quantity: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____

\$ 20 Donation : *Landing Craft infantry and Fire Support* Quantity: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____

\$ 20 Donation : *Iwo Jima Recon* Quantity: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____

\$ 50 Donation : *American Amphibious Gunboats in WWII* Quantity: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____

LCI Caps

\$ 25 Donation LCI Association Cap WWII _____ add \$6 shipping = **\$31**

Size: S \M _____ L\XL _____ Cap Amount Paid: \$ _____

LCI Clothing

\$ 25 Donation LCI Sweat Shirt _____ add \$6 shipping = **\$31**

Size: L _____ XL _____ Sweat shirt Amount Paid: \$ _____

\$ 50 Donation LCI Association Polo Shirt _____ add \$6 shipping = **\$56**

Service Branch: Navy _____ Coast Guard _____

Shirt Color: Navy _____ White _____

Size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ Polo Shirt Amount Paid: \$ _____

\$ 100 Donation LCI Association Jacket _____ add \$12 shipping = **\$112**

Optional Embroidered Last Name and Ship Number on Jacket add \$10 Total= **\$122**

Service Branch: Navy _____ Coast Guard _____

Jacket Color: Navy _____ Khaki _____

Size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ Jacket Amount Paid: \$ _____

Total for all Items Ordered: \$ _____

(Allow us 3 weeks to Produce and Deliver your order to you)

USS LCI National Association, 101 Rice Bent Way, Columbia, SC 29229; (803) 865-5665

Support Your USS LCI Association

All profits from the items on this page helps support the USS LCI National Association

**Let everyone Know:
I Proudly Served on a U.S. Navy LCI**



The Landing Craft Infantry in WWII



New Item

The Best of Elsie Item Issue 70 \$20

All the editors favorite articles for the first 69 issues of the Elsie in one Collector Issue. Stories from your shipmates in 84 pages.

Landing Craft Infantry and Fire Support \$20

This book contains one of the great description and many illustrations of the versions of the Landing Craft Infantry, including Square and Round Con, Gunboat, Rocket and Mortar. 47 pages

Iwo Jima Recon \$20

Dick Camp tells the story of Iwo Jima on February 17, 1945 with extensive details on the UD Teams and the LCI(G)'s courageous actions to protect these men. 127 pages

American Amphibious Gunboats in WWII \$50

This book which was written by the historian of the LCS(L)(3) Association includes the best published history of the development of the LCI Gunboats and their actions in WWII from the Solomons to the final battle at Okinawa. About 230 of the books 370 pages are devoted to the LCI(G) operations in the Pacific.

Promote your USS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION membership by wearing:

The USS LCI National Association WWII Service Cap \$ 25

The USS LCI National Association WWII Service Polo Shirt \$ 50

The USS LCI National Association WWII Service light weight insulated Jacket (add optional Name & Ship) \$100

NEW : USS LCI National Association WWII Service Sweat Shirt \$ 25

USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

CUT HERE

Our membership is open to anyone who served in Landing Craft, Infantry, during WWII or anyone else interested in our small ships and the men who served aboard them.

Please complete this form and mail it to the address indicated below with your first year's dues.

DUES ARE \$35.00 PER YEAR, June 1 through May 31.

I. For Application as a LCI Veteran:

Name _____

Which LCI did you serve on? _____ What was your Rank/Rate? _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____ / _____

E-mail Address: _____

Alternate/Relative's E-mail Address: _____

(This is so we have a family member or friend we can contact if we cannot reach you)

Name of Alternate Contact: _____ Relationship to contact: _____

Occupation or Former Occupation: _____

II. For Application as a Relative or Interested Person:

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____ / _____

Are you related to someone who served on an LCI? Yes No

If so, what is the relationship? *(i.e. father, grandfather, uncle, etc.)* _____

What is/was his name? _____

On which LCI did he serve? _____ Email Address: _____

(If unknown, or if you do not have a relative who served on an LCI, leave blank)

Please send this application with your check (**\$35**) made payable to:

USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Mail to:

USS LCI National Association
c/o Nehemiah Communications, Inc.
101 Rice Bent Way, Unit #6
Columbia, SC 29229

Your Officers and Board of Directors

Please feel free to contact any of the officers or directors listed below for whatever comments, questions or help you may have. We're here to serve you!

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*Attention LCI Veterans!
Want to tell your story?*

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morrisza23@gmail.com
Twitter: @Zach_Elsieltem

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MORE GREAT 2014 PORTLAND REUNION PHOTOS!



"The spirit of man has awakened and the soul of man has gone forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the greatness of man's spirit that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal beyond his own brief span. [...] We are all of us children of earth—grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace—that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best—not only in our own lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march, toward the clean world our hands can make. Amen."

**Franklin Roosevelt,
Flag Day Address (June 14, 1942)**

*Photos courtesy of
Lynne Flanders*