

THE LINDSAY LETTERS

AUGUST 1991

ISSUE #2

Our new masthead shows a reproduction of K-338 from an actual photo. On close examination you can make out the pennant number. Any idea about the time this was taken? Let us know.

Nearly a 1st Reunion Anniversary date. Many things have happened since September '91. First and foremost is the loss of Vern Nordin in February. A telegram was sent to Doris on behalf of all shipmates. Please keep in touch with her. In a recent letter she expressed the closeness that she felt with everyone as a result of the Reunion.

Others reporting to Sick Bay, include Rocco Leonzio. He needs your encouragement and prayers. Both Jack Tarbutt and Ivan Chamberlain came through their operation ok. Wally Muloin also had a successful eye operation. Ivan covers more in his report.

As a result of September '91, our crew has made every effort to keep in touch. It is particularly noticed by the number of letters and postcards from such places as Texas, North Dakota (Norman Sidorchuk) Paris, France (B. Churchill) visits by Art Moger to everyone wintering in Florida and who live in the Maritime - phone calls, meetings and such. Keep it up.

Earlier in the year, Jack Tice started to add to the end of any letter sent to a shipmate "May the good Lord continue to watch over the Lindsay crew, wherever they may be". Many have started to use this expression - those that haven't, please do so. It is another form of bonding our great crew. Part of togetherness.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE REUNION COMMITTEE by Ivan Chamberlain

Please let me express my heartfelt gratitude for all the GET WELL cards and phone calls that I received during my 19 day stay in the hospital and since. It certainly felt good to know that all those people out there were thinking about me. A very special thanks to Jack Tice and Jack Tarbutt and Janet for being so kind to my family and me. As the operation took place in Hamilton, they made it their business to call and visit numerous times. I can report that I am now home and trying to get control of my water works and as soon as that happens, I will be on the road again but for now, I am still convalescing at home.

By now all our crew members should be aware of the passing of our friend and shipmate Vern Nordin. That was quite a shock to most of us but we can be thankful for one thing and that is that we held the reunion when we did. I believe Vern knew he was a sick man and both he and Doris were determined that he should attend the reunion. He did and the memories of him will remain vividly etched in my mind forever.

I received a letter dated December 14, 1990 from Helen Simpson in Ottawa and thought I would pass the information along to you. Helen and Jim intended to be at the reunion here in St. Catharines but were unable to do so because of Jim's condition. They did however meet us for that one night in Lindsay as some of you will remember. Since that time, Jim's condition got worse and Helen was forced to put Jim in a home. He has alzheimers and it was getting too difficult for Helen to handle.

Elsie and Rocco Leonzio have just recently returned home from a trip to Florida and also Las Vegas. Rocco didn't say that they came home rich but they had an enjoyable time.

Jim and Ruth Coleman are still in Mesa, Arizona for the winter. They came home to Maple Ridge B.C. for Christmas and got hit with all that snow that the west coast received this year. When they went back to Mesa, they both had colds and the weather was not good so they were trailer bound which does not make for a good holiday. Jim likes to get out and golf but at last report he was not able to golf because of the weather and not swim because of an ear infection. Hope things have changed for them now.

Norm and Stephanie Sidorchuk have returned home after a month in Texas and I am sure that they must have had an enjoyable winter holiday. Both are in good health I believe.

Tom McGuinness has had a slight stroke but I spoke with him on the phone and he says he is coming along reasonably well. He says he is curling which he enjoys but I told him to take it easy.

Bernie Churchill and Marion had put their travel plans on hold while the war in the Persian Gulf was taking place. They didn't say where they intended to go but I can only assume they planned to go that way. Wherever you go folks, take care, you are too old to fight and too young to die.

Alec and Sheila Cameron had a trip to Vancouver and Las Vegas in October last year and are planning to travel for 6-8 weeks in February. At the time of writing, they had not determined just where they were going. Have a good trip folks.

Mrs. Thompson says that son John and wife. Jenny has moved to Victoria from Vancouver and during December were busy getting things fixed up around their new house.

Wes Bohrson spent some time in Tuscon Arizona in January and has returned home again. I spoke with Wes by phone and other than his legs, he is feeling OK. He is planning a bus tour to the east coast in the future so he tells me.

Gerry Barney, Bob Casement, Art Moger and their wives are spending their winter down in Florida. I understand that plans are underway down there for them to get together and spend an evening together and have dinner. Maybe it has already occurred and I think that is terrific. Just wish I could join them. Anyway folks, we are all thinking of you and we are as jealous as hell. Have a good holiday.

I have at long last taken delivery of the thesis that we ordered printed and will be getting all the orders fulfilled very shortly and on their way. Hope everything arrives in good shape.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

What happened in June 8, 1944 at approximately 17:55 hours? Answer - we picked up a downed pilot from the U.S. Army Air Corps who had problems with his aircraft while flying over the English Channel and had ditched close to us. He was 1st. Lieut. Robert W. Meade, Service #0-689878. He had been flying a Thunderbolt and his plane's fuel line was cut in a dog fight over France. He was later awarded the Purple Heart for his action. According to a fellow officer who used to fly with him Meade took quite a ribbing on how he received his injury. The fact of the matter is that we put away our sea boat to affect the rescue and to the best of my recollection the senior officer in the boat was Lieut. L. Brockington, our gunnery officer. Also on board was Les Leek, Bob Leshien, Roland Boucher, the late Vern Nordin, US Johnny Forest, Norman Cox and myself. Now if your memory is better than mine, please let me know but I am just going by the picture of rescue. We brought him aboard and remembering some 46-47 years later is a long time. I wouldn't want to offend anyone by my making a mistake. After he was brought aboard, he was taken to sick bay and was attended by Johnny McNab who was our sick bay tiffy. During the meantime, someone had the audacity to swipe his .45 cal Colt semi-automatic pistol in the confusion. He was conscious enough to know it was gone and the search was on. It appeared later and was returned to him intact.

He was treated for shock and immersion and a cut under his right eye. The cut was caused by me hitting him with the boat hook just as I tried to get hold of his life vest which was only half inflated. He was just about totally under water when we got to him because of this under inflation and as I reached out to grab him, a wave pushed him towards us which caused me to hit him under the eye. As the blood spread over the surface of the water, it looked like I had put his eye out. Such was not the case thank God. He was later transferred to a hospital ship at Omaha beachhead. I searched for months to try and find him and to have him come to our past reunion only to learn that he was deceased. A friend of his contacted me after reading a notice in an air force officer's magazine. He stated that Robert Meade was in the 371St. Fighter Group of the 406th Fighter Squadron and his friend recalled his bailout. He said Robert was a great guy who loved to fly. His friend later served with Robert at Elgin AFB in Florida and was also stationed at the Pentagon with him. In 1960-61, Robert had surgery for intestinal cancer and had died. His friend, L. D. Damewood, was very helpful and cooperative and wrote to me from Tuscon, Arizona with all this information. Thanks for allowing me to refresh your memories on a part of our past. Your shipmate,

Ivan Chamberlain

REFLECTIONS

Do you remember years ago when we were all boyish, brash and bold and were full of vim, vigour and vitality. We served together in the finest ship in the Navy. We were in a new and strange environment at war with an enemy and the sea and most times with both at once. But, we were unafraid. Being young and cocky we believed that we could go on and on forever. At the Reunion it was noticed that we all reflected on those times together in somber tones. The intervening years had mellowed us. This was especially so when we spoke of missing shipmates. It was quietening. Remember the list of names that was read at our dinner. We know each and every one as a friend and shipmate. Our reflections caused us to realize that as each day and each year goes by that the list can only get longer. It suddenly dawns on us that we cannot go on and on forever. We are mere mortals. If you ever have an opportunity to pass through the town of Lindsay again, please stop by the town hall. Go in and take one more look at the ship's bell. Our ship no longer exists. Many shipmates are missing. There is only the bell left. It will go on forever because it is immortal. Say a silent prayer for all those who served with that bell. Imagine if you will that the bell is a crucible that has become the guardian of all our spirits. One day our list will stop growing. Vern Nordin is now the most recent. It is the end. The crucible will be full. At that time we will once again be able to muster the full ship's company.

Oh yes - would the last one to leave, please sign the log and turn the lamp down to low. Thanks, I know you will.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As you are aware, the Buffer has been acting as publisher of the Newsletter. It has been rewarding. Letters from so many and even phone calls come from all over. It was a chance call from Wes Bohrson that alerted us to Vern Nordin's passing. It becomes more difficult to try and do the things we would like to do because of physical restrictions. However, we'll try and put another letter out in 6-8 months. Keep in touch. Maybe we could find another volunteer out there. You were all "volunteers" in the past - except for Wally Muloin.

THE BUFFER WHO GOT NO RESPECT

At last year's Reunion Jack Tice was delegated by the chairman to certain duties. Try as he might, Jack could not get any attention. People ignored him on all sides. Jack noticed, however, that the chairman was getting all kinds of attention all the time from everyone. The difference seems to be that the chairman always had a clipboard in his hand. Jack borrowed a clipboard from the hotel manager and the situation changed. Wally Muloin gave him a bosun's pipe. Things went well - but Jack had to return the clipboard at the end of the reunion.

Last Christmas Jack wrote his annual letter to Santa (been doing it since age 5) and mailed it in the special box provided in Eaton's Toyland. He asked for a clipboard and a whistle (with a stainless steel "pea" that won't rust). Christmas morning Jack was up early to check his stocking (which he had hung with care) but it was empty. All Jack got for Christmas was a phone call from Bob and Helen Casement in Daytona. While this pleased him very much, he did feel let down by Santa. As the days went by, he became very depressed and started to call his friend Ivan. Every day he'd phone Ivan (on his new white phone presented at the dinner) complaining about not getting his clipboard and whistle (one with a stainless "pea" that won't rust) from Santa. Finally in desperation Ivan said he would personally buy him a clipboard and a whistle (with a stainless steel "pea" that won't rust) on one condition. Jack must promise not to attend any further committee meetings or future reunions. Jack rejected the offer on those terms. Ivan and Jack are no longer friends. A few weeks later Jack received a parcel in the mail from an anonymous source. It contained a clipboard (with a chrome clip and an elastic band to hold down the paper) and a shiny new whistle (the kind with a stainless steel "pea" that won't rust). Jack was so elated that he carried his prized possessions everywhere he went. He even started to wear his reunion cap (which has HMCS Lindsay on the front).

Come the first Sunday and Jack took everything to Mass. Of course when he went into church, he took his cap off (that's the one that says HMCS Lindsay on the front) and went to his pew. The priest didn't mind the clipboard (with the chrome clip and the elastic to hold the paper down) but he did draw the line on the whistle (you know the kind with the stainless steel "pea" that won't rust). It seems that as soon as mass was over, Jack hustled to the church door, yelling "Move it! Move it!" and blowing his whistle (the one with the stainless steel "pea" that won't rust). This caused the congregation to panic and a stampede ensued. The ushers had to overpower Jack. As he was being lead away, Jack was heard mumbling something about "getting them all on the bus". The following Saturday, Jack went to confession. The parish priest (who had been a "master at-arms" 1939-1945) admonished Jack for his unbecoming conduct and propensity in doing the unusual. Jack was given 10 days #11 and had to promise to check his prized possessions with an usher when he came to church. Jack didn't trust the ushers (who had ejected him) and decided on a different plan. He would send his whistle (with the stainless steel "pea" that won't rust) to his trusted friend in Guelph, Len Atkins. He would send it by courier each Friday for safe keeping on the week-end and Len would return it Monday. Jack also included very explicit instructions as to how Len should use the whistle (with the stainless steel "pea" that won't rust). Len followed Jack's instructions to the letter. It seems that on Saturday Len's Rabbi took umbrage at Len's actions in the Synagogue what with the whistle and all (that's the one with the stainless steel "pea" that won't rust). Len was forcibly ejected. The next day Len mailed the whistle (with the stainless steel "pea" that won't rust) back to Jack. Len and Jack are no longer friends.

Nowadays when Jack goes to church he checks everything with the usher. He also sits in the pew at the back (which is reserved for ushers) to keep a watchful eye. The priest beams a smile from the pulpit. He feels he has cured Jack of his unusual behaviour. He sees that Jack even has a new prayer book. It's blue. From the distance he can't read the title - but I'll tell you - it's titled "Call before you dig" by Bell Canada.

So help me, this is a true story!

SPECIAL GULF REPORT

To quote Admiral Thomas "The sea is a very dangerous place and our ships are very small". Where does this guy come from? The ships were 4 or more times the size of the Lindsay and the sea was flat calm. The action was rather negative. (Nothing happened). Several seaman got severe sunburn. The only thing I picked up was the new terminology which I will mention briefly.

Delivery platform = bombers; Ordinance delivery = dropping bombs; Triple A = Ack-Ack; Assets = Weapons; B.D.A. = Did we hit target?; E.R.A. = Still on E.R.A.; Some expressions were confusing and I couldn't understand them at all but will give my interpretation - EXOCET - a red sign over a door in a building to indicate how and where to get out in case of fire. SIDEWINDER - a kind of rattlesnake. SMART BOMB - one that doesn't accidentally explode if you drop it while loading the 4". HEAT SEEKER - a sailor strolling down Barrington Street, after 30 days at sea. LASER - a seaman who is not only lazy, but lazier.

We returned to Slackers to the "usual" hero's welcome.

Your special correspondent

Arnold Knackworst

(nephew of) of Norman Schwerzkopf

THE LOG LINE

Wally Muloin received a new typewriter from Dottie for Christmas. His first letter looked something like this. He now spaces his words better. Your special correspondent was delayed in producing the newsletter due to a special assignment to the Gulf. Such a hero's welcome in Slackers. Vince Callender still doesn't hear too well, but he feels better. If space permits - we'll include a special report from the Gulf.

Rumour has it that when Phil Pettit comes east to attend a wedding in June he'll want to borrow a silk and a collar. He'll also need a left shoe - black - size 10 to match his other one. (He won't need laces.)

To any and all shipmates within reasonable driving distance of Oakville, Ontario, we have a special announcement. Bob and Helen Casement will be home for a few days, on their way from Quebec to Florida, and Bob has set aside Friday, November 8th as a time we can get together. It is suggested that we meet and have dinner and a visit. Please let Ivan know by October 15th of your intentions, so that the committee can line up a spot for dinner.

Ivan reports that he still has an inventory of 6 reunion caps, 5 Lindsay crests, 2 hard bound copies of the thesis, 3 copies of the reunion pictures taken at the Howard Johnson, 5 large T-shirts and 6 mediums.

Ivan also thanks all who have contributed to the cost of the newsletter but would like to see the remaining contribute at least \$10.00. It does cost to print and mail the newsletter.

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