

USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)

Newsletter January - April, 2005

Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

Ninth Edition: The USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter is a publication issued every four months by the USS Plymouth Rock Ships Association. If you would like to contribute an article, a piece of Navy or Plymouth Rock history, photo, memory or anything that might be of interest to you or other shipmates, you can send it as an e-mail to:

Bill Provencal, Association Secretary at:

billinp@worldpath.net

or regular mail at:

Bill Provencal
37 South Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

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



Thank You

Harry and Jeanne Andersen want to thank all the members of the Plymouth Rock Association for the flowers sent to the funeral of our daughter.

We received many cards of condolence from our shipmates and their families that helped us through a difficult time. Thank you all very much

Harry and Jeanne Andersen



National Cemetery Burial Locations on Line

More than three million records showing where veterans have been buried in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries are now available online. The nationwide grave locator contains more than three million records of veterans and dependents buried in VA's 120 cemeteries since the Civil War. The site has the same information found at the cemeteries to locate gravesites: name, dates of birth and death, period of military service, branch of service and rank, the cemetery location, plus the grave's precise location in the cemetery. The website is at www.cem.va.gov and is updated nightly with information on burials the previous day.



Ships Officers

President

Tom Wagner

tfwagner@wagnerinsuranceagency.com

513-574-9838

Vice President

Roger Lamay

roghlamay@yahoo.com

518-529-7450

Treasurer

Paul Mohawk

psawks2@rea-alp.com

320-763-6898

Secretary

Bill Provencal

billinp@worldpath.net

603-435-8603

Ships Historian

Harry T. Andersen

andycporetsnipe@aol.com

847-336-2151

Ships Storekeeper

Brad Baldwin

jpbjs11@msn.com

203-374-8213



★ ★ ★ Welcome Aboard ★ ★ ★

Recently Located Shipmates

Vito (Vic) Ramondetta, Berlin, CT e-mail address:

vicra38@aol.com

Robert Franeski, Bridgewater, NJ e-mail address:

hfarneski@aol.com

Donald Rutledge, Huntsville, AL e-mail address:

rutl9995@bellsouth.net

Glenn Bentheimer, Jefferson, WI

Francis Miskelly, Stanley, NC e-mail address:

msicnarf@aol.com

David Helledy, Magalia, CA e-mail address: dhelledy@aol.com

Ronald J. Dailey, Marion, IN

Ted Sitarz aka T. J. Martin, Niles, MI e-mail address:

tjmartin2000@yahoo.com

David Beaton, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

John M. DiCristina, Agawam, MA e-mail address:

cableguy563@yahoo.com

Jorge G. Trevino, Frederick, MD e-mail address:

jgt703@aol.com



Shipmates Who Live in the State of Maryland

George Beyerle	Baltimore
Steven Jones	Cambridge
Wallace Mason	Sykesville
Frank Migganka	Frederick
Joseph W. Parrish	Woodbine
Don Rhine	Finksburg
Jorge G. Trevino	Frederick



ARMED FORCES LIBERTY PASS		SERVICE USN	DATE ISSUED 23 Dec 59
LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL WAGNER, Thomas F.			CARD NO. 01
SERVICE NO. 492 27 27		GRADE—RATE YN3	
ORGANIZATION—INSTALLATION—BASE USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29)			
TIME LIMITS 20 HOURS LIBERTY HOURS			
SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF ISSUING OFFICER L. A. WICKS, LTJG, USN, ADMIN ASST.			
DD(N)-345 1 April 1950		16-63000-1 GPO	

Liberty Call, Wagner's going ashore!



**USS Plymouth Rock at Little Creek, VA, late 50's
Photo contributed by John Chappell**





NAVY COMMISSARY

A pert little lady went to the Navy Commissary store to do some shopping. She is bewildered over the large selection of toilet paper. "Pardon me, sir," she says to the store manager, "but can you explain the difference in all these toilet papers?" "Well," he replies, pointing out the most expensive brand, "this is as soft as a baby's kiss. It's \$1.50 per roll." He grabs another and says, "This is nice and soft as a bunny, strong yet gentle, and it's \$1.25 a roll." He grabs another and says, "This is soft as a woman's touch and smooth like skin, and it's \$1.00." He finally arrives at the bottom shelf and tells her, "This toilet paper in a plain wrapper has no name, I don't know about it, but it sells at \$.20 per roll. The little lady, asks the store manager for a couple of rolls and leaves the store.

A couple weeks later, she's back at the commissary store and seeks out the manager. She tells him "Hey!, I've got a name for your plain wrapper toilet paper." Call it CPO paper. "Why," he asks. "Because it's just like the Chiefs in the Navy, SLICK, TOUGH, AND IT DOESN'T TAKE CRAP OFF ANY ASSHOLE!"



Paid Association Members for 2004-2006 **As of December 15, 2004 we now have 118 paid members**

The 2004-2006 dues are now due, please send dues to Paul Mohawk, Treasurer. Make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are payable on a bi-annual basis (every two years) at \$20.00 and are due on the year of the reunion (are due on an even year 2004, 2006, 2008, etc). *Should a member or prospective member pay at any other time, dues will be credited from the preceding even year.* The dues help to support the association with planning and having the reunion, newsletter printing and mailing, general postage and the cost of maintaining our website on line. Paul Mohawk's address is: 2505 Conifer Avenue, Alexandria, MN 56308

Alardyce, John	Andersen, Harry	Baldwin, Brad	Balf, Sue	Bell, Joe
Bello, Raph	Bena, Joe	Bentheimer, Glenn	Berry, John	Bierce, George
Bild, Bob	Britt, Ben	Brusky, David	Buchanan, Richard	Buiak, Peter Jr.
Bullington, Calvin	Caldwell, Tim	Casillas, Greg.	Chappell, John	Clark, Robert
Conboy, Bill	Crowl II, Martin	Cummings, Bob	Cypher, Hal	Cyr, Dennis
Czarnetski, Bruce	Czarnetski, Jon	Dailey, Ronald J.	Dalfonzo, Sam	Dortch, David
Dussault, Andrew	Edwards, Maurice	Edwards, R. A.	Eldridge, Marguerite	Farneski, Robert
Fisher, Jack	Fisher, Jay	Formaro, Frank	Forton, Andrew G	Freeman, James
Gee, James	Gibson, David	Goodman, William	Gorse, Peter	Greco, Sal Jr.

Gregory, Peter	Guertin, Jerry	Haines, Ira	Hart, Ed	Hartson, George
Haws, Joe	Helledy, David	Hill, Edward Jr.	Hofman, Timothy	Hopper, Richard
Howland, John	Ishmael, Harry	Jennings, Seeley	Jepson, Norm	Johnson, John
Joyce, Ed	Kane, Thomas	Kaderka, Leonard	Kellar, Harry	Krolak, Ray
Kuhns, Jimmy	Lamay, Roger	Larson, Jerry	Lillig, Bernie	Luttrell, James
Madill, Shorty	Mathis, Richard	McAvoy, John Sr.	McCull, Wade C.	Miskelly, Francis
Mohawk, Paul	Moyer, Larry	Murtha, Jerry	Musella, Rocco	Nichols, Bob
O'Neil, Thomas	Pihl, Walter C.	Power, Rand	Provencal, Bill	Purvis, Anthony
Ramondetta, Vitto	Raniszewski, Louis F	Reed, John	Robertson, Allen	Robinson, Jim
Rose, Chris	Schneider, James	Scott, Bill	Shanahan, Robert	Shewchuk, Richard
Shober, Robert	Sims, Bill	Smith, Larry	Stackhouse, Norman	Stark, Peter Jr.
Stovall, Jack	Stull, John III	Swart, Mike	Swathwood, David	Swearingen, Ronald
Tesh, Sam	Trevino, Jorge	Viaene, Robert	Vranesevic, Robert	Waggoner, Bernice
Wagner, Paul	Wagner, Thomas	Ward, James	Warwick, Robert	Watkins, Richard
Wells, Andy	Welsh, Mike	Ziemba, James		

Any paid Association member (2004-2006) who is not on this list and who have paid their dues, please contact Paul Mohawk at 2505 Conifer Ave., Alexandria, MN 56308, or e-mail: pshawks2@rea-alp.com
For those wishing to join the Association and help us out financially you can obtain an application that can be printed on the ships website at www.ussplymouthrock.com All paid dues members receive a hard copy of the newsletter.



Plymouth Rock (LSD-29) underway shortly before deploying to the Mediterranean for a tour with the Sixth Fleet, 8 April 1963. Note the experimental retractable sonar fitted to her bow. Click image to see photo enlargement, US Navy photo # 1089896, from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.



Membership List Changes

Dennis (Shorty) Cyr, new e-mail: shortybm3@yahoo.com

Change of Address: Harry L. Kellar, PO Box 4085, Clarksburg, WV 26302

George Bierce, new e-mail address: gwbfac@aol.com

James Schneider, Case Grande, AZ, new e-mail address: jmsch@netscape.com

Change of Address: John Stull III, 4022 Orange Street, Seffner, FL 33584

Change of Address: Bill Conboy, 26 Barton Rd., Asheville, NC 28804, new e-mail address: w.f.conboy@charter.net

Change of Address: Thomas Hickson, Sr, 1723 19th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

Nelson Rimel, new e-mail address: gimtutu@adelphia.net

Change of Address: Timothy Hofman, PO Box 141, Penguin, Tasmania, Australia 7316

Andy Wells, new e-mail address: alwells@mchsi.com

Change of Address: Jaames Smith, PO Box 575, Burgess, VA 22432

Gerald M. Holden, new e-mail address: holden@atomic.net

Paul Mohawk, new e-mail address: pshawks2@rea-alp.com

Bill Gilliam, new e-mail address: g905@copper.net

Sam Dalfonzo, new e-mail address: samd@nac.net



SECNAV Retiree Council Website Launched

The website at www.lifelines.navy.mil/retireecouncil is designed to provide useful links on benefits, programs and related areas of interest for military retirees and their families. There are links to a number of military sites as well as ones hosted by the Social Security Administration and the Library of Congress. The site also connects to *Shift Colors*.



Known Deceased Shipmates

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

Louis E. Wade Jr., YN2, 1998	Albert (Butch) R. Kickok, MM2, 8/27/04
George Murray, LCDR. 2004	Wayne Waggoner, YNC, 4/10/04
Gary Boyer, CYN3, July, 2002	William Watkins, IC2, July 2002
Darrell Toney, BT3, 2002	Roy Mason, BTC
Natalia Frolio, BT3	Alan Stewart, EM2, 2001
John "JD" Norris, SN, 1994	Caroll H. LeDoux, 9/12/2004
Daniel J. Kubicki, BT3	



Fifth Ships Reunion

The fifth Ships Reunion was a great success thanks to the reunion coordinators Norm. Jepson and Rich. Mathis.

The reunion was held at the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson, MO. During the four days, we visited with old shipmates, took in various shows in Branson, held our business meeting and reunion supper. I have included a few pictures from the reunion, others can be seen on the ships website in the reunion page.



The Sixth Reunion will be held in Mystic/New London, CT area in late September or early October 2006.
Reunion Chairman for this reunion are:

George Bierce
67 Talmadge Hill Road
Prospect, CT 06712
e-mail: gwbfac@aol.com
cell 203-223-6965
203-758-3125

Dennis (Shorty) Cyr
119 Pinecrest Drive
Waterbury, CT 06708
e-mail: shortybm3@yahoo.com
203-753-6220





**Taking on ships stores in Montevideo, Uruguay, 1960 during Presidents Eisenhower's
Goodwill Tour to South America
Photo contributed by Tom Wagner**



SHIPS STORE



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



USS Plymouth Rock as seen through a Periscope



Photo of USS Plymouth Rock as seen through the periscope crosshairs taken in the fall of 1962, from the USS Carp (SS338)
Photo provided by Michelle Gagner



DEEP THOUGHTS... The HL Hunley was the first submarine to sink a ship in wartime in the year 1864:

Named for:	A lawyer who financed it.
Power:	Hand-cranked propeller
Steering:	Hand-turned rudder
Construction:	Made from an iron boiler
Its one torpedo	90 to 130 pounds of gunpowder (equivalent to 400 to 800 popunds of TNT today
Periscope	None





Thank You's

We would like to thank the following shipmates/friends for providing pictures, information and articles to the website, the association and newsletter. Special thanks to Bill Scott for his recent cash donation to the Association

Michelle Gagner	Leonard Kaderka	Tom Wagner	John Chappell
Bob (Dutch) Shober	Bill Scott	Roger Lamay	Harry Andersen
John Alardyce	Ron Hnatovic		



Sometimes, A Game Means Much More Than the Score

This Story Appeared on AOL.com on December 4 and was Written by John Feinstein

Dec. 7, 2004

One of the questions I am frequently asked is: "If you could only go to one event in sports every year, which one would it be?"

Most people expect my answer to be The Final Four or The Masters or perhaps Wimbledon or The World Series. I love each of those events and consider myself fortunate to have covered them often through the years. But the answer to the question is simple: Army-Navy.

There's just nothing like the Army-Navy football game. Not because of the quality of the football game, but because of the quality of the people playing the football game. And because of the quality of the people who have played in the game in the past. Saturday, when Army and Navy play for the 105th time, the day will be special. Not because Navy is 8-2 and going to a bowl game for a second straight season. Not because Army is 2-8 but well on the way back to respectability under the leadership of Bobby Ross. Not because Navy fullback Kyle Eckel is a good enough player that pro scouts say he could be a third or fourth round draft pick this spring.

That's all well and good. It is also well and good that, regardless of the size and speed of the players--or lack thereof--the game will be played very hard, with great intensity and emotion and a minimum of trash-talking. The nature of Army-Navy is best summed up by a brief moment three years ago when President Bush conducted the coin toss just 10 weeks after the tragedies of 9-11. When he tossed the coin into the air, Navy captain Ed Malinowski made the call on behalf of his team:

"Heads SIR!" he said, loud and clear for everyone in the packed stadium to hear. We all smiled at that moment because only at Army-Navy would you hear a future marine tell the President of the United States, "Heads SIR!" during the coin toss.

Saturday, when the coin is tossed, Malinowski will be in Iraq. So will a number of players who were on the field that day along with many others who have played in Army-Navy games in the recent past. They will be on the minds of all of us in the stadium throughout the day. Scott Zelle, Ron Winchester,

J.P. Blecksmith and Kevin Norman will also be on our minds. All played football at Army and Navy. All graduated and went overseas to fight for their country. In the last year, all died for their country. They aren't the first and, sadly, they won't be the last. When Norman died last spring, Jim Cantelupe, his roommate at West Point, talked about what he and all of those who attend the academies know and understand about life in the military.

"You never want to think you're going to die overseas," he said. "But you know that it's possible. Every day that you're there, you're preparing for the possibility that you may have to fight for your country. You don't want to have to do it, but you have to be ready, willing and able to do it. We all are. We know that's why we're there."

If you are ready, willing and able to fight for your country, then you must accept the possibility that you may die for your country. When Pat Tillman, the one-time Arizona Cardinals defensive back died in Afghanistan last spring, much was made--properly--of the fact that he died a hero because he died fighting for his country. But what made Pat Tillman a hero wasn't the fact that he died for his country, it was that he was WILLING to die for his country.

Every player on the field Saturday will be like Pat Tillman: willing to die for his country. Sure, Pat Tillman gave up a lot of money and glory when he left the NFL to volunteer for the Army. The players at Army and Navy may not be as gifted or as wealthy as Tillman was, but they made a decision similar to his: they are all good enough students that they could have gotten into almost any college; almost all are good enough players that they could have gotten scholarships at Division 1-AA schools (at least). All could have left Army or Navy after two years, no harm, no foul and gone to school someplace else. All elected to stay, knowing--especially now--that they might very well find themselves in harm's way soon after graduation.

Zellem graduated from Navy in 1991. He was long past his five year commitment when he died earlier this year. The same was true for Norman, Army class of 1996, who steered his plummeting airplane away from a populated area and crashed into a bridge so only he and his co-pilot would die. Winchester and Blecksmith were younger, but understood--and embraced--the risks they faced.

This week, the football players at Notre Dame faced a crisis: their coach was fired quite suddenly. Should they agree to play in The Insight.com bowl? The players at Auburn may face the unfairness of finishing a season undefeated and yet not being allowed to compete for the national championship. The players at Rutgers just went through a 12th straight losing season.

Adversity? Sure. But not exactly adversity that matches what Zellem, Winchester, Blecksmith, Norman and their families have faced this year. Not exactly the adversity that many of the players who will play in Philadelphia on Saturday may be facing a few months from now.

Almost every college football team likes to post some kind of inspirational message over the door of its locker room. Things like, "Winners never quit and quitters never win." As the players exit the locker room, they all reach up and touch the sign to remind themselves to try to live up to the words. More often than not, the message changes when the coach changes. But at Army, for as long as anyone can remember, the sign over the locker room door has been the same: "I lay me down to bleed awhile but I will rise again to fight."

Think about those words. In many way they sum up exactly what our country--regardless of how one feels about the war in Iraq--has done since 9-11. They also explain perfectly the mentality of those who play football at Army and Navy. Knock me down and I will get up. Knock me out and I will still get up. Kill me and others will rise to take my place. I may lose a battle, but I will never surrender.

Perhaps that's all just too corny to even ponder in a sports world dominated today by Ron Artest and on-field brawls in so-called, "rivalry," games and multi-millionaire athletes wrestling for money with

billionaire owners. But it is what Army and Navy has always been about and always will be about.

Contributed by John Allardyce, DC2



From the Desk of Harry Andersen, Ships Historian

- 1. Would every one send me the address of the newspaper that serves their area, so I can update our mailing list to announce our next reunion in 2006.**
- 2. Would everyone send me any photographs taken at the reunion so I can add them to our historical collection.**

Thank You,

**Harry T. Andersen, Ships Historian
2544 Chestnut Street
Waukeegan, IL 60087
e-mail: andysporetsnipe@aol.com**



Bilge rat

Someone who works in the engineering spaces.

Deep Six

1) Originally, the call of the leadsman signifying that the water is more than 6 fathoms deep, but less than seven.

2) Euphemism for throwing something overboard. Also seen as 'splash', 'float check', 'float test'.

3) To deliberately throw something overboard in deep water to be lost for good. It comes from the fact that deep water is measured in "fathoms", or measurements of six feet. The depth of the average grave is also six feet

Eagles (or "Crows") on Devices

For many years the U.S. specified modified forms of the Napoleonic Eagle in the devices and insignia used to distinguish the various ranks and ratings of enlisted men and officers. This eagle was usually cast, stamped or embroidered facing left and the same practice was used by the Navy. Why the Napoleonic eagle faced left is unknown. In 1941 the Navy changed the eagles facing direction to follow the heraldic rules which faces the right toward the

wearers sword arm. This rule continues to apply and the eagle now faces to the front or the wearers right.

Head

The use of "head" in this context sounds like an anatomical joke, or the work of someone who, to put it delicately, didn't know their head from their foot. But after a dip into some maritime history, calling a ship's bathroom the head makes perfect sense.

That's head, as in the forward part of the ship, the bow. In the days of sailing vessels, there wasn't any indoor plumbing on land or at sea. Sailors took care of business while hanging over the edge of the ship by ropes or on a platform - always at the bow.

Why the bow? Because sailing ships had to have the wind coming from behind them to power their sails. Thus, if the sailor chose the stern, or back of the ship, the wind would be coming toward him. And, well ... you wouldn't *spit* into the wind, would you?



Navy Recruiting Posters

