

USS RANKIN NEWS

ISSUE #9 • THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS RANKIN ASSOCIATION • MARCH 2008



AKA-103

1945-1947

1952-1968

LKA-103

1969-1971

GOLD E

1960-1961



2008 – Skip Sander at the Helm / Main Control Room of The USS Rankin Association

USS RANKIN REUNION

**OCT 30 to
NOV 2, 2008**

**Stuart / West Palm
Beach, Florida**

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

This month marks the Fifth Anniversary of our Association's active beginnings. We got started late in February 2003, but did not really get rolling for a month or so after that.

We're proud to have our fifth reunion at the site of the Rankin's final resting place.



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The envelope that brought you this newsletter also brought a green paper about our Annual Fund Drive. We hope you will read that paper carefully and make whatever contribution you think is suitable.

We have no annual dues or initiation fees, so our funding depends 100% on contributions from shipmates. Thankfully, these contributions have been generous over the years, so we can run an operation that every Rankin sailor can be proud of.

Every year we are more and more convinced that we have one of the best, if not *the* best reunion and reconnection groups for a ship of the Rankin's size. Our web site is second to none, and our reunions have been nothing but spectacular. Any member can get a personalized directory of all his shipmates, including current contact information where we have it, not to mention a wide assortment of hats, shirts, ship's pictures, etc. And every year we mail four newsletters like this one, with

a copy to every shipmate, family member or friend in our database. We hope you like them.

2007 was the first year we made one fund drive mailing instead of several, and it worked out very well. By going to one bulk mailing at nonprofit postage rates, we saved hundreds of dollars in postage and made the accounting for contributions a lot easier. We plan to continue that system, and to print a list of all contributors in the Annual Fund Drive newsletter. You can see a list of 2007's contributors on page 4 of this one.

Our policy is to provide full and honest disclosure of all financial information. Every month, Skip Sander sends a detailed financial report to all the other board members. It accounts for every penny received and spent that month, as well as showing our bank balances and how we are doing in comparison to prior years. If you'd like to see a copy of the current report, just let us know. There is a five-year financial summary on page 2 of this newsletter.

2007 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

Thanks to generous contributors and good financial management, the USS Rankin Association is in excellent financial condition.

Our financial story started in early 2003, when George Berninger, John Feeley, Jack Raso, Bob Reynolds, and Skip Sander chipped in \$25 each to buy stamps and whatever else the newly-formed organization might need. As other shipmates were found, they were invited to chip in their own \$25.

One thing led to another, and over the next five years, USS Rankin shipmates contributed over \$58,000 to the group.

A full year-by-year summary of

these contributions, plus other revenues and all our expenditures, appears at the bottom of this page.

Over the five years, about 70% of our expenditures have gone to keeping in touch with members: web site and computer, postage, office supplies, printing and copying, and telephone expenses. The rest is spread over a wide range of categories. We try to spend money frugally, and usually we succeed.

Here's what we had in the bank as of December 31, 2007 :

\$12,950.57 in savings accounts
 \$3,966.62 in checking accounts
\$969.81 in a memorial account
\$17,886.00 Total

The savings accounts were built up by contributions from Shareholders—shipmates who sent \$100 specifically for savings—and are large enough now to tide us over any hard times we're likely to encounter.

The checking account has gone down substantially since December 31—we spend about \$900 a month just staying in business and doing things like producing these newsletters (so please send some money).

The Memorial Account is funded by contributions from the families and friends of deceased shipmates. It funds expenditures in memory of the ship and her men.

The USS Rankin Association – Five Year Financial Summary

Account Description	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	5 Year Total	
Receipts							
Contributions from Members	\$2,025.00	\$15,257.50	\$11,858.77	\$11,679.00	\$14,837.50	\$55,657.77	82.5%
Contributions for Reunion	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	1.6%
Contributions to Memorial Fund	0.00	225.00	150.00	839.79	170.00	1,384.79	2.1%
<i>Total Contributions</i>	<u>\$2,025.00</u>	<u>\$16,582.50</u>	<u>\$12,008.77</u>	<u>\$12,518.79</u>	<u>\$15,007.50</u>	<u>\$58,142.56</u>	<u>86.2%</u>
Merchandise Sales	0.00	4,198.00	1,970.37	524.55	479.98	7,172.90	10.6%
Income from Reunion Activities	0.00	186.00	200.00	126.00	0.00	512.00	0.8%
Income from Outside Activities	0.00	210.00	60.00	375.00	200.00	845.00	1.3%
Interest and Dividend Income	0.70	4.69	48.44	154.84	564.54	773.21	1.1%
Total Receipts	<u>\$2,025.70</u>	<u>\$21,181.19</u>	<u>\$14,287.58</u>	<u>\$13,699.18</u>	<u>\$16,252.02</u>	<u>\$67,445.67</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Expenditures							
Accounting Adjustments	\$0.00	\$228.00	\$3.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$231.17	0.5%
Cost of Sales - Merchandise	\$0.00	\$2,543.53	\$2,056.34	\$172.16	\$323.70	\$5,095.73	10.3%
Cost of Sales - Packing & Shipping	0.00	234.91	140.11	24.75	80.90	480.67	1.0%
<i>Total Cost of Merchandise Sales</i>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,778.44</u>	<u>\$2,196.45</u>	<u>\$196.91</u>	<u>\$404.60</u>	<u>\$5,576.40</u>	<u>11.3%</u>
Web Site & Computer	264.83	2,566.75	3,656.56	3,090.66	3,309.34	12,888.14	26.0%
Searching for Shipmates	10.00	1,581.19	92.50	498.85	238.30	2,420.84	4.9%
Memorabilia	0.00	0.00	0.00	282.25	231.98	514.23	1.0%
Postage	423.45	4,270.48	2,347.23	2,285.27	1,615.93	10,942.36	22.1%
Telephone	0.00	971.68	118.51	234.12	513.83	1,838.14	3.7%
Copying & Printing	190.98	527.98	131.40	478.86	272.17	1,601.39	3.2%
Office Supplies	153.61	1,470.87	2,438.23	1,420.44	2,303.94	7,787.09	15.7%
Office Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.00	1,270.59	1,355.59	2.7%
Reunion Expenses	0.00	1,397.40	200.00	650.91	284.93	2,533.24	5.1%
Outside Activities Expense	0.00	155.05	0.00	0.00	300.00	455.05	0.9%
Bank Fees	2.00	10.74	1.00	12.00	1.00	26.74	0.1%
Miscellaneous	34.94	384.60	324.35	411.86	235.37	1,391.12	2.8%
Total Expenditures	<u>\$1,079.81</u>	<u>\$16,343.18</u>	<u>\$11,509.40</u>	<u>\$9,647.13</u>	<u>\$10,981.98</u>	<u>\$49,561.50</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Receipts less Expenditures	<u>\$945.89</u>	<u>\$4,838.01</u>	<u>\$2,778.18</u>	<u>\$4,052.05</u>	<u>\$5,270.04</u>	<u>\$17,884.17</u>	<u>26.5%</u>

SHIPMATES ON PARADE

One of the most distinguished men to serve aboard the Rankin was Lawson P. "Red" Ramage, who was her captain from April, 1953 to July, 1954. He is remembered as a good captain, a war hero, and a serious drinker when on liberty.

He's our only Medal of Honor winner, and one of the most famous submarine heroes of WWII. Wherever submarine exploits are memorialized, you'll likely see the story of Red Ramage and the USS Parche. Those who attended our 2007 reunion saw it in the Nautilus Museum in New London.

Red died in 1990, and his life is best captured in his obituary from the Washington Post: Lawson P. Ramage, 81, a retired Navy vice admiral who as a World War II submarine commander won the Medal of Honor and two Navy Crosses, the Navy's highest awards for gallantry, has died.

Adm. Ramage served 43 years in the Navy before his retirement in 1970 as commander of the Military Sea Transport Service. He spent much of his career as a submariner, beginning in 1935. He was assigned to Pearl Harbor as radio and sound officer for the submarine commander of the Pacific fleet when the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, brought the United States into World War II.

He was assigned his first sea command, the submarine Trout, in June 1942. There he directed war patrols in the Pacific from Aug. 27, 1942, to Feb. 25, 1943. During that time, three enemy ships totaling 19,725 tons were destroyed and another 51,600 tons of enemy shipping, including an aircraft carrier, were damaged.

Later on the Trout, he won the Navy Cross for valor in action at

Midway, Truk, the Solomons and in the South China Sea. The Trout's crew was also awarded a Presidential citation.

He won a Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for gallantry, for action in waters off Taiwan on July 31, 1944. According to the citation accompanying the award, Adm. Ramage, as commander of the submarine Parche, penetrated the screen of a heavily escorted enemy convoy, then engaged the Japanese in 46 minutes of surface combat operations, during which he sank two transport ships and two tankers, and seriously damaged a freighter. In this period the Parche fired 19 torpedoes, 15 of which hit enemy targets.

At one point, with "terrific shellfire passing close overhead," he sent his men below but remained on the bridge of the submarine. He avoided being rammed by an on-rushing Japanese transport by less than 50 feet by swinging the stern of the Parche out of the way as the submarine crossed the bow of the transport, which he then sank with four torpedoes, while being caught in an enemy crossfire.

The Parche's crew received a Presidential Unit Citation, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt personally presented Ramage, then a commander, and six other Army and Navy heroes with the Medal of Honor on Jan. 10, 1945.

He won his second Navy Cross as commander of the Parche from March 29 to May 23, 1944, when he sank four enemy ships totaling more than 30,000 tons.

Adm. Ramage was born in Monroe Bridge, MA. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1931 and served aboard destroyers before being assigned as a submariner.



Lawson P. "Red" Ramage

His post-World War II assignments included command of a four-submarine operation conducting cold water temperature tests in the Arctic. In 1947, he was assigned in Washington as a guided missile specialist in the office of the assistant chief of naval operations.

Later assignments included service on the staff of the commander of the submarine force of the Atlantic Fleet, command of a submarine squadron and then of an attack cargo ship, and an assignment as special assistant to Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, chief of naval operations.

He also commanded a cruiser division in the Mediterranean, was deputy commander of the submarine force of the Atlantic Fleet, then in 1964 became commander of the First Fleet in Coronado, Calif., where he trained forces for service in Vietnam. Before his final assignment, as commander of the Military Sea Transportation Service, he was deputy commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Ramage's decorations also included two Distinguished Service Medals, a Silver Star and a Bronze Star.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

These 272 shipmates made financial contributions to the Association during calendar 2007. Their generosity is our lifeblood—without it, we couldn't have these newsletters, our web site, our online obituaries, and all of the other things that make the group worthwhile. All 1,289 of our living members give them a Bravo Zulu and a Thank You!

Adkins, John G.	BT3	1953-1954	Falker, Raymond J.	MMFN	1964-1967
Allen, Leslie	SFP3	1963-1966	Fehr, Rev. Dr. Donald C.	RMSN	1953-1954
Allen, Paul M.	ENS(SC)	1946-1947	Fleming, F. Donald	LTJG	1958-1960
Anderson, Harry V.	BTG2	1945	Forde, Hugh J.	MMFN	1961-1962
Ashworth, James R.	TESN	1954	Fowler, Joseph	DK2	1957-1959
Ayasse, Ralph F.	SMSN	1959-1962	Frost, RADM S. David	LT(SC)	1958-1959
Baire, Ronald E.	SK1	1968-1971	Fuerstenberger, Harry	ICFN	1965
Baisden, Robert	YN3	1954-1955	Fulton, Michael M.	LT	1966-1968
Ballou, Joseph F.	LTJG	1957-1958	Gagne, Donald P.	SKC	1955
Barker, Coy E.	DC3	1962-1965	Gardner, George D.	MR2	1968
Beals, George T.	MM3	1945	Garner, Austin	RM2	1967-1970
Beaty, M. Paul	PN2	1957-1959	Gaskell, Edward P.	LT	1954-1956
Beck, Charles W.	LTJG	1954-1955	Gauthier, Leo A.	ET2	1958-1961
Beck, John W.	LT	1963-1964	George, Robert F.	Y3	1945-1946
Belmore, Brainard J.	CDR	1956-1958	Gilbert, George E.	EM2	1957-1960
Berkman, Eugene M.	LT(MC)	1963-1964	Giles, John O.	BMSN	1957-1959
Berninger, George R.	LTJG	1962-1964	Gimpel, Earl R.	CAPT USMC	1952-1953
Bieberbach, William H.	FTG2	1965-1966	Ginn, Raymond E.	MM3	1956-1958
Biersteker, Bruce J.	EN3	1953-1956	Given, Philip R.	LCDR	1970-1971
Boone, Arthur D.	BT3	1966-1969	Gladue, George A.	BMCM	1957-1961
Boyles, Eugene E.	SHSN	1959-1961	Goebel, Peter H.	RM2	1958-1960
Briggs, Wayne S.	PC3	1960-1962	Golingano, Fernando	E-4	1952-1957
Brown, James A.	BM1	1965-1967	Goodall, Leon S.	ENS(SC)	1947
Buchanan, Carl R.	YN3	1954-1955	Gordinier, Dean F.	ENS	1945
Buckner, Paul H.	EN3	1957-1958	Gorham, John P.	SN	1959-1962
Buddle, Henry J.	SN	1964-1966	Gould, Elton E.	CSSN	1956-1960
Bumgarner, Jerry E.	SN	1966-1968	Grant, Gerald M.	EM2	1958-1960
Burgess, Kevin W.	SN	1969-1971	Gully, Stewart E.	LTJG	1957-1958
Caldwell, Geoffrey F.	LTJG	1965-1967	Hack, John D.	SN	1961-1962
Calomino, Dominick	FN	1967-1969	Hadley, Nelson B.	EM2	1963-1966
Capley, Bobby W.	SFP3	1961-1965	Hakala, John M.	ETR2	1961-1963
Carrick, Marshall L.	QM3	1952	Hamlin, Jay E.	SGT	1953
Casto, Mark J.	ENS	1957-1958	Hand, William R.	LTJG	1959-1961
Cate, Edgardo E.	TN	1962-1963	Hansen, Robert A.	RM3	1960-1962
Cayo, Richard F.	BTC	1958-1962	Hardegree, Howard L.	ENS	1960-1961
Chapparone, Anthony L.	LTJG	1953-1955	Haring, Jacob A.	BMSN	1953-1955
Chism, S.	See Note 1		Hawks, Merle G.	F1C	1945-1946
Chrivia, Ronald C.	FN	1969-1970	Healey, Dennis T.	MM2	1953-1956
Coccaro, Richard C.	CAPT USMC	1970	Heenan, R. Dennis	LTJG	1952-1953
Contreras, Everardo	SN	1955	Heffelfinger, Karl W.	FT3	1960-1961
Coon, Eldred Pete	DC2	1955-1958	Hennings, L. William	LTJG	1964-1966
Couch, Ernest C.	EMCM	1968-1970	Herring, Thomas E.	SFC	1961-1962
Cramer, Charles E.	BM3	1966-1968	Hickey, William A.	LTJG	1969-1971
Crane, Roger H.	MR3	1957-1959	Hill, Michael A.	SN	1965-1966
Cromack, Dan	LTJG	1963	Hitchcock, Matthew H.	LTJG	1962
Damiano, V. Jay	LTJG	1968-1971	Hodurski, David A.	CS3	1967-1968
Dawson, Patrick F.	S1C	1945-1946	Holbrook, Hilliard B.	LT	1960-1961
Decker, John A.	SF2	1960-1962	Holly, Leland E.	COX	1945-1946
Decler, Daniel	DC3	1966-1968	Horejsi, Walter A.	QM2	1966-1967
Desnoyer, David M.	EM2	1957-1961	Houle, Michael J.	FN	1961-1962
Devault, Robert L.	SM2	1959-1962	Houser, Dennis W.	BMSN	1963-1965
Devroe, William P.	SK3	1963-1965	Hughes, Richard B.	BT3	1959-1962
Dingle, Glennie	BT3	1955-1961	Hungerford, James M.	LT	1952
Doherty, Hugh J.	SN	1959-1961	Hurwitz, Alfred Y.	S2C	1946-1947
Domurat, Benjamin W.	LTJG	1969-1970	Icardi, Edward W.	EN2	1965-1967
Dousman, Mike	FTSN	1962	Izyk, James J.	RM2	1960-1964
Drayton, Thomas A.	PN3	1961	Jacobs, John H.	LTJG	1963-1964
Dunning, Willie D.	PFC	1962	Jannie, William C.	BM3	1956-1958
Dwyer, William J.	BM3	1961-1965	Jenkins, Neil	DC1	1961-1967
Dyer, George B.	BM3	1964-1967	Jeron, David P.	EM3	1953-1955
Eckard, Larry	See Note 2		Johnson, Donald V.	CS2	1952-1954
Edmisten, Jimmie W.	EMC	1961-1965	Johnson, Luther	LT	1960-1962
Ellett, Frank T.	LTJG	1960-1961	Johnson, Verne D.	SK1	1952-1954
Engel, David M.	EN3	1963-1967	Jones, Iver L.	DC1	1954-1957
Fairbourn, Calvin R.	ENS	1945	Jones, Mallie C.	EN1	1957-1961

Jones, Vincent T.	BM2	1946-1947
Joyce, Harry H.	RM3	1945-1946
Kasid, Alfred L.	ENS	1957-1958
Keith, Robert E.	ENS	1953-1955
Kell, George C.	YNC	1957-1959
Kitzmiller, Theresa	See Note 3	
Kling, Arthur H.	COX	1945-1946
Knight, James R.	CAPT USMC	1961-1963
Kortkamp, Gary R.	LTJG	1961-1964
Kraus, Joseph	LT(SC)	1963-1964
Kristof, Gregory M.	EMFN	1965
Labbé, Charles L.	MM3	1970
Laboda, Matthew	EN2	1955
Labonte, Roger S.	HM2	1963-1966
Laskorski, Lawrence R.	F1C	1945-1946
Lathrop, Allen L.	SN	1957-1959
Lechaton, Michael	EM2	1953-1957
Len, William J.	LTJG	1962-1964
Lents, Thomas J.	IC3	1958-1959
Levine, Abraham	ENS	1946
Lewis, Raymond L.	GMG3	1960-1963
Lewis, Vincent D.	S1C	1945
Liff, Donald E.	SH3	1953-1955
Linner, John H.	LT(MC)	1945
Lint, Paul C.	RD2	1964-1967
Lobello, Thomas	RDM 2/c	1945-1946
Long, George B.	ENS	1955-1956
Long, Gordon W.	MM1/c(T)	1945
Lowery, Marvin R.	SN	1966-1968
Lytle, Pat	See Note 4	
Malik, Noble M.	DK1	1952
Maloney, William A.	S1C	1946-1947
Manders, Karl L.	LT(MC)	1953-1954
Mangen, Kenneth J.	MM2	1959-1962
Marshall, Lum C.	SA	1953-1956
Maxwell, John	FTG3	1964-1966
Mayes, Elmer S.	HMC	1962-1965
Mazzarini, John	RM2	1960-1962
McCourt, James P.	RD3	1963-1966
McCullough, Glenn E.	CS3	1968-1970
McDade, Thomas C.	SN	1961-1963
McKoy, Gaylord	BTC	1961-1964
Meinig, RADM George R.	LTJG	1958-1960
Middlebrooks, Zeda	See Note 5	
Miller, H. Edward	ENS	1962-1963
Mohun, Richard A.	LTJG	1959-1961
Montalbaine, Gary E.	LT	1961-1963
Moore, Johnnie E.	QM3	1955-1958
Moretz, Charles H.	SKCS	1968-1969
Morgan, Ernest C.	FN	1965-1967
Munch, Melvin M.	S1C	1946
Munger, Dwayne R.	EN3	1957-1958
Oertel, John N.	ENS	1967
Oroz, Dan	ENS	1966-1967
Ortolon, James C.	S1C	1952-1954
Osborn, Delbert M.	LTJG	1959-1961
Overbeck, B. Kenneth	LCDR	1964-1967
Overson, Lee C.	SN	1964-1967
Parrish, Richard G.	FN	1968-1970
Pemantel, Albert E.	CM2	1945
Peña, Manuel J.	RM3	1963-1964
Pflueger, Arthur B.	DC2	1955-1958
Plancey, Elmer J.	S1C	1945-1946
Plumb, Edward J.	BT3	1966-1968
Pontious, Harold E.	RM2C	1945
Portell, Carl B.	MM3	1945-1946
Prentice, Colm N.	BT2	1965-1969
Prevar, John E.	QM3	1970-1971
Ranes, Wayne P.	RM2	1960-1963
Raso, Jack L.	LTJG	1963-1964
Reding, Patrick G.	RMSN	1952-1954
Redler, Gary L.	EN2	1962-1965
Reed, Donald A.	ENS	1952-1953
Reedy, R. Wayne	EN3	1960-1961
Reid, Allen B.	S1C	1945-1946

Reynolds, Marty M.	ENFN	1960-1963
Rhodes, Fred R.	YN3	1945-1946
Rhodes, Robert M.	LT	1967-1970
Rhodes, Stuart C.	EN2	1968-1971
Richard, Larry J.	PN3	1965-1966
Riley, Robert E.	DK2	1962-1963
Robsahm, Leon E.	CS2	1952-1954
Roe, George E.	YN2	1957-1959
Rogan, Lawrence M.	SN	1961-1964
Rohrbaugh, Neal L.	EMC	1961-1963
Rose, Meyer H.	CDR	1967-1968
Rowland, Jack	S1C	1945-1946
Roy, Alfred J.	RM2	1962-1966
Rubino, Evan A.	LT	1956-1958
Rupp, Jean K.	See Note 6	
Saroka, Frank F.	HA	1961
Satrom, Robert E.	LTJG	1968-1970
Schiel, Frank E.	LTJG	1945-1946
Schnackenberg, Arthur T.	SN	1956-1959
Seifert, Donald J.	ENS	1947
Seigel, Jerome J.	PN2	1955-1957
Shaffer, Ross E.	RMC	1952-1953
Shaw, James W.	IC2	1952-1954
Sherer, Cecil W.	LTJG	1963-1965
Siciliano, Ercole C.	CS3	1963-1964
Smith, Charles T.	PN3	1964-1965
Smith, J. Thomas	ENS(SC)	1960-1961
Smith, RADM Vernon C.	LTJG	1956-1958
Smith, Robert D.	FT3	1952-1953
Spicer, S. Ray	BT3	1960-1963
Spicer, Tex R.	BT3	1960-1962
Steger, Edward H.	ENS	1958-1959
Stone, David L.	LTJG	1960-1963
Stringer, Walter M.	MM3	1965-1969
Stromberg, David P.	LT	1965-1967
Suarez, Emilio W.	SN	1967
Sutton, James E.	SM3	1966-1969
Swett, Lawrence B.	SHSN	1954
Tarpey, Donald A.	HM3	1970-1971
Thomas, Mark A.	IC3	1967-1969
Thompson, William M.	LTJG	1967-1970
Thomsen, Kenneth W.	EN2	1956-1959
Torgan, Alvin N.	LTJG	1963-1964
Ullmer, Thomas H.	ETR3	1970-1971
Valentine, Mervel M.	HM3	1965-1966
Vander Well, Lester N.	YN3	1954-1957
Vice, Lloyd A.	S1C	1945-1946
Vodrey, Thompson K.	ENS(SC)	1956-1957
Wade, Lewis C.	LTJG	1955-1956
Wakelee, David M.	LTJG	1952-1954
Wall, Kermit F.	BMCM	1968-1971
Walton, Edward P.	SA	1946-1947
Ware, Wilbert H.	SDCS	1957-1964
Warms, Donald E.	QMC	1953-1955
Wharton, Deward B.	PHM2	1946-1947
Whyno, Peter P.	BM3	1952-1955
Wilburn, Donald L.	LCDR	1965-1967
Williamson, Rodney M.	QMQ3	1952-1954
Wilson, James G.	LTJG	1953-1955
Wilson, Leslie J.	LT	1952
Winé, James N.	BM2	1958
Wirt, Neal H.	QM2	1960-1963
Wisnewski, Paul S.	LTJG	1961-1962
Wood, Warren H.	GM1	1955-1958
Woodward, Robert W.	MM3	1963-1965
Young, H. Stewart	ENS	1952
Zimmer, Harry J.	LTJG	1958-1960

NOTES:

- 1 - Wife of Henry George Chism, RMC, 1952
- 2 - Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.
- 3 - Daughter of Rudolph T. Sommer, LT, 1952-1953
- 4 - Wife of Charles R. "Roy" Lytle, CS1, 1957-1958
- 5 - Wife of Melvin Louis Middlebrooks, SK1, 1954-1957
- 6 - Wife of Harold P. Rupp, LT, 1952

GATOR BOOKS

There are two new books about the WWII Gator Navy. We've read them both, and they are excellent:

Combat Loaded: Across the Pacific on the USS Tate, by Thomas E. Crew, is a memoir of the WWII exploits of the crew of AKA-70. It is full of stories from crew members, and was put together by the son of one of them.

Lucky Thirteen: D-Days in the Pacific with the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II, by Ken Wiley, is a story of warfare conducted from LCVPs. Early in the war, the country turned to the Coast Guard for experienced coxswains. This is the story of one of them, and it's very well done.

Both books are available online and in bookstores, or through your local public library. If you like gator adventure, you'll want to read both of them.

We maintain a mini-library of every Rankin-related book, tape, or DVD we can get our hands on. In addition to the two books above, we have these:

Five Years of North Carolina Shipbuilding, an out-of-print history of the yard that built the Rankin.

From Normandy to Okinawa, the story of Dr. John Linneer's Navy adventures, including some exciting time as AKA-103's medical officer.

U.S. Amphibious Ships and Craft, the definitive book about all gator ships and boats.

Wolfpack, a true story of WWII submarine adventures, with many tales of Lawson "Red" Ramage.

Storm Landings, the history of amphibious work in the Pacific.

Terror and Triumph, a novel by Rankin skipper John Harlee.

Mister Roberts, the famous novel and film based on the author's adventures aboard a gator freighter.

Guadalcanal Diary, book and movie about a WWII battle.

Away all Boats, true-to-life novel and film about an APA. Everything in it applies to AKAs as well.

Sands of Iwo Jima, John Wayne movie about the battle.

Crusade in the Pacific, DVD version of the original TV series about WWII's War in the Pacific.

Ships for Victory, a scholarly history of the Maritime Commission shipbuilding program that created the Rankin and hundreds of other ships.

Many of these items are readily available at low prices, or free from public libraries. A few are hard to find. If you want one but can't find it, or if what you want is too costly, let us know and we'll help you or arrange to lend you our copy.

WEB SITE NEWS

Did you know you can use our web site to view or download all issues of *USS Rankin News*? Just go to the home page and click the link to "Our Newsletters."

There is also a very extensive collection of online obituaries of shipmates who are no longer with us. Click "Deceased Shipmates" on the home page.

And just a click away is a huge amount of "Rankin, Gator, Navy, Military and Patriotic Stuff."

THE GREAT WALL

The late Hank Donahue, BM2, 1945-1947, loved to say that while on USS Rankin liberty, he "rode a Mongolian pony on the Great Wall of China on Christmas day, 1946."

Hank's family would like to know if anyone has the details of this story, or who maybe was part of his great Chinese adventure. If you've got something, please tell us.



MOVIE STARS

A year ago, 85 year old Evan Rubino, LT, 1956-1958, became a grandfather for the first time. His twin granddaughters shared the role of John Hensley's baby on the hit TV drama *Nip/Tuck*.

Their mother, Evan's daughter Beth A. Rubino, is an Academy Award Nominated set decorator. She was nominated in 1999 for her work in *Cider House Rules*, and in 2007 for *American Gangster*. BZ!

POWERBALL!

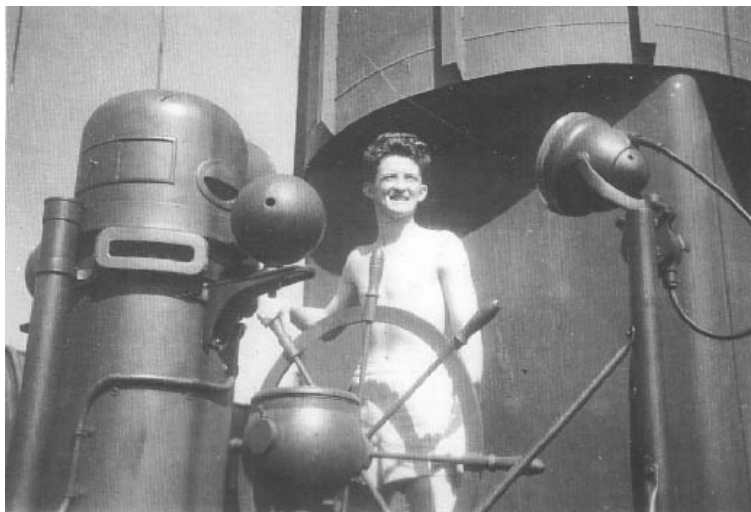
The USS Rankin Lottery Pool continues to run, and the players continue to win. There are 46 players in the current pool, up from 42 in the last one. We play every drawing in the multistate Powerball lottery. Drawings are held twice a week, with a minimum cash jackpot of \$7.5 million, and a maximum in the hundreds of millions.

Other winnings can range from \$3.00 to \$200,000, depending on the tickets we hold. Because we have so many players, we win at least one prize every week. If we win a Jackpot or other substantial prize, we'll divide the money equally among all the players, with one share going to The USS Rankin Association. (If we get lucky, stand by for a truly special reunion!)

The chance of winning a jackpot is pretty slim, but it's a LOT of fun to play. Each player gets a list of our numbers, so he or she can check for winners on the Internet. Skip Sander checks for them, too, and keeps a list on the USS Rankin web site. The web site also has a lot more detail about the pool, at:

www.ussrankin.org/lottery.htm
You might want to take a look at it.

If you'd like to play in the May through July pool, send \$25 for 25 drawings to USS Rankin Lottery Pool #3, 153 Mayer Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. All money must be received by Saturday, May 3.



1945 – SEAMAN ALLEN REID ON THE FLYING BRIDGE
In emergencies, the ship could be controlled from up here.



1963 – ENGINEERING MAIN CONTROL ROOM
Engine orders from the bridge were carried out from here.



1988 – THE BRIDGE, MINUS ITS WHEEL
Joe Macchia at the Rankin's helm, just before she was sunk.

MISSING SHIPMATES

Somehow we have lost track of these members. They have probably moved and left no new address. If you are in touch with any of them, or have any clues as to their whereabouts, please let us know.

Bareis, Robert E.	EN3	1958-1959
Blair, James M.	EM3	1966-1966
Calac, Matthew	SFP3	1965
Callagan, Mike	BT2	1963-1967
Coggins, Norbert	EM1	1958
Deloach, Dennis W.	SN	1965-1966
Dyson, Robert E.	ENS	1963-1964
Edson, Bernard	F1C	1945
Flynn, Richard L.	ETR2	1962-1965
Gillum, Harold	SN	1954-1957
Harden, Ronald E.	YN3	1970
Harkless, Robert T.	QM2	1953
Harlow, Myron W.	COX	1945-1946
Howard, Ronald E.	SK1	1968
Judy, Franklin P.	RDSN	1955
Keefe, Harrison	S2C	1945
Kernahan, Clifford D.	RM2	1968-1971
Larson, Raymond A.	RM3	1946
Lear, Franklin L.	SN	1959
Mondoro, Timothy J.	SA	1963
Monigold, Richard P.	CS3	1960-1961
Moss, Clancy	SA	1956
Parsons, Mason H.	FN	1966-1968
Reisner, Gerald L.	SN	1952-1953
Rivers, Hugh S.	S1C	1945-1946
Sage, Floyd E.	2LT USMC	1945-1946
Sawin, Dan G.	HA	1961
Schwarz, Edgar G.	RD3	1965-1967
Sese, Elias D.	TN	1955-1956
Shaffner, John A.	SN	1963-1965
Shea, Gerard A.	SN	1967
Silva, Alex R.	EN2	1959
Sisneros, Nicholas T.	BM3	1969
Smith, Billy G.	Unknown	1963-1964
Strakowsky, Leonard H. ..	MoMM1	1945-1946
Stroppel, Max H.	F3C	1945-1946
Taylor, Lewis E.	RM2	1960-1963
Via, Irvin J.	SN	1959
Villacres, Len.	CAPT USMC ..	1969
Wilder, Billy F.	SN	1956
Williams, Gary E.	MM3	1965-1967
Young, William J., Jr.	EM3	1955-1956





FLORIDA REUNION!

This year's reunion will be held from Oct 30 – Nov 2 in Stuart, Fla., 40 miles north on the Interstate from Palm Beach International Airport. The Rankin was sunk off the coast of Stuart in 1988, and the ship is of great importance to the city. One of our former shipmates, a VIP in county government in Stuart, informs us that the city is extremely excited about seeing some former crewmembers of "their" ship. They are expecting a large turnout, and we don't want to disappoint them.

Among our possible activities are a presentation to us of the Keys to the City, an anchor painting party, and a boat trip out to the Rankin, with city divers transmitting live TV to the boat so we can see what remains of the ship. We also plan to place an underwater flag on the ship, and to drop a memorial wreath in honor of the Rankin and her crew.

Possible tours to be arranged include Palm Beach and its mansions, Fort Lauderdale, the WWII amphib training center in Fort Pierce, and even, possibly, Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. We will keep you updated as the reunion weekend gets closer. In the meantime, make your plans to be in South Florida from October 30 to November 2.

OUR SHIPMATES

According to our records, about 3,900 men served on the USS Rankin between her original WWII commissioning in 1945 and her second decommissioning in 1971. An unknown number of embarked Marines were also aboard.

Rosters from the National Archives have given us the names of most of the Navy men, and if we take the time and spend the money, we can get the names of the embarked Marines, too. A few of them are already members of our Association.

We've been pretty successful in finding our former shipmates—we have about 44% of them in our current database. Of the 4,006 people in the database:

1,289 Are living members
 387 Are deceased
2,191 Are still missing
 3,867 Are shipmates
139 Are family & friends
 4,006 Grand Total

Not bad for a group that only started five years ago!

1988 – THE RANKIN SINKS

From The Stuart News, July 25, 1988. By Jim Orr, staff writer:

The USS Rankin Sunday became the huge artificial reef Martin County was waiting for, and the enthusiasm showed.

An estimated 500 private and charter boats and a dozen aircraft were on hand as the old Navy attack transport ship was sunk eight miles offshore to give the county bragging rights to Florida's largest artificial reef.

The ship took three minutes and 55 seconds to sink into 125 feet of water, after Navy demolition experts set off 240 pounds of explosives in its hull at 12:15 p.m. The sound of the underwater blast was muffled, but the sound of festive boaters was not.

The Rankin, faded gray and rust-streaked, showed its age before being bombed into its last assignment. The Japanese had no such luck in World War II, when the Rankin reinforced U.S. troops in the south Pacific.

Retired naval architect Charles Petzold of Stuart, who designed the Rankin in 1944, said he had mixed emotions over the sinking.

It's sad to see it come to an end," he said, "and then again, it's for a useful purpose."

USS RANKIN NEWS

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