

Date: June 3, 2002

Battleship New Jersey Docent/Volunteer Bulletin

Vol. 1 Issue # 14

Now Hear This!

To implement the many great ideas from our recent *Jerseyman* questionnaire, we have received the Curator's approval to expand each issue into 4 pages – as required ... and we begin with this issue.



To keep download times reasonable for those that receive *The Jerseyman* online, each issue will now require two (2) separate downloads – i.e., Issue #14 (Part 1), and Issue #14 (Part 2). Please staple them together into one issue for your Docent manuals. We thank all hands for their questionnaire responses and ideas. If you have any other suggestions, please leave them for *The Jerseyman* in the new “Docent Mail” box found on the bulkhead above the Docent sign in log. Restoration volunteers will find their new “Restoration Volunteer Mail” box next to *The Jerseyman* in the First Class lounge... Please also use the mail box to leave any suggestions for *The Jerseyman* from our restoration volunteers. We will check for them each week...

Thanks!

Tom

Battle of Midway June 4-6, 1942



Midway Island 2001

(Eastern Island in foreground and Sand Island top right)

On June 4, 1942, exactly 60 years ago this week, US Naval forces engaged the Japanese Navy in *the* most decisive battle of the Pacific war – The Battle of Midway.

Four Japanese aircraft carriers, AKAGI, HIRYU, KAGA and SORYU were sunk along with Cruiser MIKUMA.

The US Navy lost the carrier YORKTOWN, and destroyer USS HAMMANN.

Japanese aircraft lost – 292 US aircraft lost – 145

Japanese casualties – 2,500 American Casualties – 307

(Source: International Midway Memorial Foundation)

(All Hands note: As the Battle of Midway took place, USS NEW JERSEY was still 6 months away from her December 7, 1942 launching...)

What about Midway Island 2002?

by Volunteer CTRCM Tom Helvig, USN (Ret.)
Volunteer Writer/Editor *The Jerseyman*

From 1968 – 1969, I was ordered by the Naval Security Group to Midway Island as Leading Chief (LCPO) on Eastern Island. Of the two islands that make up Midway atoll, Sand Island was the primary island for all air operations, public works, barracks areas, and family quarters. As you approached Eastern Island in 1968/69, you were greeted by our sign which read: “Welcome to Eastern Island – Pop. 43 men and 2 dogs.”

As the years went on, I kept personal contact with Naval Security Group shipmates that I served with on Midway, and with the “Past Residents of Midway” discussion group on the internet. In the 1990’s, all Navy operations ceased on Midway Island and it was leased to the Phoenix Corporation to develop as a resort under the Fish and Wildlife service. This arrangement did not work out, and on May 1, 2002 (only one month before the 60 Anniversary of the Battle of Midway) the last staff members from Phoenix Corporation left the island. It was only through the efforts of various veteran’s groups and the International Midway Memorial Foundation, that approval to hold a 60th Battle of Midway commemorative ceremony was approved at the last minute by the Department of the Interior (on May 23, 2002.) 60 years after this famous United States Naval victory, Midway island is now uninhabited... except for about a million gooney birds.

The memorial shown below was placed on Midway’s Sand Island by the International Midway Memorial Foundation. It describes the battle, the Commanders, and all US Navy ships engaged. (Task Force 16 with carriers USS Enterprise and USS Hornet under RADM Spruance, and Task Force 17 with USS Yorktown under RADM Fletcher.)



FLAG PRECEDENCE – Revisited...

The Jerseyman has had MANY questions asked about the precedence of flags described in *The Jerseyman* - Issue #13. “How can this be when the Navy October 13, 1775 date is BEFORE the Marine November 10, 1775 birthday date?” To put this to rest...please refer to the following from the Naval Historical Center:

”The Marine Corps has had precedence over the Navy since 1921 because the Marine Corps has been very consistent in citing its origins in the legislation of the Continental Congress that established the Continental Marines on 10 November 1775, but the Navy, until 1972 gave various responses to the question of when it was founded. At the time the order of precedence was established, the Navy was using the dates from the 1790s, when the Navy was reestablished, as its founding, and hence was viewed as a younger service than the Marine Corps. Despite several efforts to reverse the Marine Corps/Navy order of precedence in recent years, it has not occurred.” (Note from *The Jerseyman*...It was Admiral Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations in 1972, that officially authorized observance of 13 October 1775 as the Navy birthday.)

”Despite the excellent performance of the American Navy in the War of the Revolution, public interest and congressional sympathy grew cold to the need of a naval service, and by 1785 the last ship of the fleet had been disposed of. In fact, it was in 1798 that our Navy was truly “born again.” ...”It was in 1798 that a Naval Department was formed, and we may consider that this year marks the beginning of the permanent service that has been maintained ever since.” (Source: *Naval Ceremonies, Customs and Traditions* – 5th Ed.)

We add that in addition to flag precedence, the Marine Corps also precedes the Navy in marching formation. (Source: Department of Defense Directive # 1005.8 dated Oct 31, 1977.)

BRAVO ZULU!

Date: Sunday, May 26, 2002

Official number of visitors: 1,400

Number of Docents: 14

We want to recognize and thank the following 14 folks for providing 1,400 visitors with their memorable day aboard the Battleship New Jersey – a well deserved BZ! They are: Docent John Becker, Docent Paul Benner, Docent John Bader, Docent John Perry, Docent Sharlene Sullivan, Docent Ted Gallagher, Docent Anne Dobbs, Docent Tom McCorkell, Docent Richard Palazzo, Docent Jerry Donovan, Docent Ralph Bringhurst, Docent Bill Linder, Docent Rich Svitak, and Docent Rich Zimmermann.



We want to also thank our restoration volunteers (and there are many) that have been performing not only painting, shining, lifting, moving and repair jobs, but the thankless and important repeat jobs of putting up and taking down tables, chairs, tents - day after day... The Battleship New Jersey Staff recognizes with thanks all of these many restoration volunteers for their efforts, and Supervisor Harr Ruhle for his leadership. The Volunteer Affairs office is asked to keep *The Jerseyman* regularly informed so that the efforts of our restoration volunteers can be recognized and shared in *The Jerseyman*. To all the above Docents and Restoration Volunteers...



VOLUNTEER BIOGRAPHY:

Martin S. "Marty" Waltemyer

Born October 7, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio. Graduated from Emigsville, Pa., North York HS in 1943, and joined the USNR on Sept 23, 1943. Basic Training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Company #1464. Attended school for fireroom training (Fireman of boilers - US Navy ships) at Norfolk, Va. Was assigned to USS John D. Henley, DD553, being built at Chickasaw, Alabama. Ship commissioned Feb, 1944 (Plankowner), and on April 23, 1944 saw Diamond Head, Hawaii and many of the damaged ships at Pearl Harbor... "Our ship spent 18 months in the South Pacific and earned 6 battle stars."



Honorably discharged in April of 1946 and employed at US Naval Ordnance plant, York, Pa., where he helped tear apart 40mm mounts for overhaul that had originally been built at the York plant for WW2. Became a Journeyman Machinist in 1955, machining parts for 40mm mounts, and 5"/54 Mk42 mounts. Later became a Field Service Technician for the plant, visiting many ship yards to install and operationally test equipment from the York plant.

In 1963, transferred to Naval Ordnance Station, Louisville, Ky., in the Field Service Group. Sent to Bay City, Michigan to install 5"/54 Mk42 gun mounts aboard 3 Australian ships being built there. Proceeded to Long Beach and worked on USS Byrd installing 2, 5"/54 Mk42 gun mounts and one ASROC launcher. In 1966, sent to Philadelphia Naval shipyard as the Louisville Representative. In 1967, when USS NEW JERSEY was brought in for activation, turret maintenance was having trouble meeting "Dynamic Accuracy" tests. Marty volunteered to help and succeeded in solving Elevation Power Drive problems for his first experience in 16" turrets.

In January 1981, retired from the Civil Service after helping install 88, 5"/54 Mk42 Mod, 7-8, 9, 10 gun mounts aboard US Naval ships. In October 1981, hired by OSEA, Ordnance Systems Eng. Assoc., to activate 16" turrets aboard USS NEW JERSEY (BB62). Reported to Long Beach, CA., and after 12 months work, conducted Dynamic Accuracy tests on all 3 turrets, and operated all equipment, loading systems, firing systems, recoil, counter recoil, communications and Dynamic operation from gun plot computers.

In 1983 worked at Engles Shipyard, Pascagoula, MS., aboard USS IOWA (BB61), reactivating all 3 turrets for 12 months. In 1985, returned to Long Beach and worked on all 3 turrets aboard USS MISSOURI (BB63) for 14 months. In 1987 reported to Pacagoula again to work on all 3 turrets aboard USS WISCONSIN (BB64) for 22 months, and commissioned Oct 22, 1988...



"Buckler" install duty on April 5, 2001. Average age of our "Gun Crew" – 70 years.

Note: We are all aware that the visiting public enjoys our powerful display of turrets and mounts aboard Battleship New Jersey today primarily thanks to the efforts and expert guidance of "Marty Waltemyer." Hats off to you Marty... Attached photo shows Marty supervising volunteer gun crews with

Reminder: Please send e-mail addresses to Bruce Haegley - haegley@comcast.net, and bulletin comments or suggestions to Tom Helvig - THelvig@aol.com.