



NMCB-8 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

VISIT THE ASSOCIATION WEB SITE AT WWW.NMCB8.COM

DECEMBER 2006



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IT WAS THE BEST REUNION EVER

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee rolled out the red carpet the last week of September for NMCB-8. Over 200 Association members, their wives, families and friends descended on this Great Smoky Mountain resort town. Some came for the whole week; others showed up throughout the week, but all of us were there for the banquet held in the Pigeon Forge Convention Center on Saturday night.

Troy Branch and his hard working, dedicated crew toiled all week long to make the arrival for all those attending the reunion a smooth and enjoyable experience. Most attendees stayed at the Ramada Inn next to the conference center; others came in their RV's and a few stayed in timeshares and other local hotels.

Early arrivals had an opportunity to explore the many sites in and around Pigeon Forge, from Dollywood to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park just a few miles away above Gatlinburg, a bustling tourist town nestled at the foot of the mountains.

By Wednesday, most people had arrived and the motel was almost 100% NMCB-8. As usual, tales were spun, pictures shared and old times recalled, as friends and shipmates came together; for some, the first time in over 35 years.

In addition to the fun we all had meeting and talking to old friends and shipmates, Troy Branch set up two special evenings for us. In addition to the banquet on Saturday night, we also attended a wild west extravaganza at Dolly Parton's Wild West Stampede on Thursday evening. In addition to the fabulous antics of the cowboys and cowgirls and their well trained steeds, we were treated to a Cornish game hen dinner with all the fixings. Oh by the way, we had to eat everything with our fingers as no silverware was provided, but the servers were very liberal with napkins.

On Thursday, we were treated to a hilarious evening at the Comedy Barn where a series of comics and country western singers kept us rolling in the aisles. The highlight of the evening was when Arnie Cicerone was selected from the audience to sit on the stage and be ravaged by one of the comedians. Arnie held up well and his trademark grin never left his face.

It was definitely a memorable reunion and we will be hard pressed to top it in the future. If you missed it, hope to see you in 2008 at a place and time yet to be determined.

Harry Davis, Newsletter Editor

From Your President**Arnie Cicerone**

I would like to congratulate all the staff who worked on the reunion; this truly was a major success. We had a wonderful event; the weather facilities, food and the entertainment were great. (especially me on stage at the Comedy Club)! We had a terrific showing with over 200 in attendance. It is always great to see new faces at each reunion and listen to the old stories again.



I do want to thank everyone for once again putting your trust in me and electing me President. We continue to have a great group; Harry, Ken, Ron, and our past presidents and we intend to add a few new positions this year. I would like to remind everyone we have many challenges ahead and we need your help. Here are some important areas we need to continue to work on.

1. Our most important effort is to continue to publish our newsletter and we are very fortunate to have Harry Davis as our editor. Please, send Harry as many articles as you can. Start writing the stories we talk about at the reunions and send them with pictures to Harry.
2. Ron Dougal has worked tirelessly in an effort to track down new members for the Association. Let's help Ron. Please contact him with any prospective new members.
3. Ken Bingham is doing a great job as our treasurer but he needs your help. I believe most people forget to send in their dues rather than can't afford to pay them. So please take a moment and read the article on page 3 concerning dues. If we want to keep the newsletter, going we must continue to send in dues. Printing and mailing costs have continue to rise over the years. When you finish reading this newsletter, I would appreciate your checking the status of your dues, and if you haven't sent them to Ken since January of 2006, please send him \$10 for the coming year (life members excluded).
- 4 We will be upgrading the website. Recently, all past and current newsletters have been posted on the site. The last one contains colored pictures of the Pigeon Forge Reunion.
5. As we prepare for the next reunion we need to find some of our lost members. We really are a "band of brothers", what a good feeling to be together again. We may not move as fast or drink as much beer. but we still have the Seabee "Can Do" spirit. No other retired Seabee Association can compare to what we have accomplished since our inception in 1999.

On a somber note we have lost a truly great member, Capt. Gordon Gilmore. I can't express in words how much we will miss him. I only can say it was a great honor to have known and served with him. I was very fortunate to have talked to Gordon during the last reunion. He will be missed by all.

Arnie**THE REUNION**

By Charlotte Heppel

THERE WAS A TIME
IN LATE SEPTEMBER
THERE WAS AN EVENT
WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

THERE WAS LAUGHTER AND SADNESS
AND JOY AND TEARS
FOR THINGS GAINED AND LOST
OVER ALL OF THESE YEARS

THIS WAS FOR ALL THE MEN
WHO MADE IT HOME
IT WAS HEALING FOR THE ONE'S
WHO HAVE FELT SO ALONE

HERE'S TO THE ONE'S
WHO SACRIFICED ALL
THEY WERE REMEMBERED THIS WEEK
WITH A MOMENT OF SILENCE AND THEIR NAME ON
THE WALL

THERE WAS FRANK AND JOHN AND TROY AND AL
SQUEEKY, BEAR AND MIKE
ALL COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MEN
AND YET SO MUCH ALIKE

THANK YOU FOR SHARING
THIS PART OF YOUR LIVES
WE DON'T OFTEN SEE
AS GIRL FRIENDS AND WIVES

EACH OF YOU HAS
A SPECIAL PLACE
PREPARED BY GOD
IN HIS WONDERFUL GRACE

THAT WAR HAS MADE OUR YOUNG MEN OLD
A POLITICAL WAR NOT MEANT TO WIN
THIS WAS A TIME FOR RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS
WHEN OUR OLD MEN SEEMED YOUNG AGAIN

THANK YOU EACH AND EVERY ONE
FOR THE SACRIFICE YOU HAVE MADE
FOR A COUNTRY AND A NATIONS DEBT
THAT CAN NEVER BE REPAID.

EDITORS NOTE: *Charlotte Heppel is the wife of John Heppel from Alpha Company. She wrote this wonderful poem after the Pigeon Forge Reunion. They live in Chesapeake, VA.*

GORDON GILMORE PASSES AWAY

Captain Gordon Gilmore, CEC, USN (Ret) passed away on November 25, 2006. Gordon was the first President of the NMCB-8 Association He was the driving force behind getting it up and running in 1999. A memorial service with military honors was held in Bakersfield, CA on December 11th and a burial service with full military honors was conducted at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery, Dallas Texas on December 14, 2006.

AN "MCB-8" PLANK OWNER WRITES

By John A. Wahl

To all of the members of NMCB-8 (you don't know how hard it is to remember to include the "N") I would like to say I really enjoy getting the Newsletter. It always brings back many memories.

But most of the articles I have read seem to be from "newbies" and not the old corp. If I may, let me tell you about "Eight" in the very beginning. Most of the crew (CP and CN) consisted of young draft eligible men who had been working in the construction industry when the Korean thing broke out. We did not like seeing the pictures of American soldiers with their hands tied behind their back and a bullet in the head. If we were going to have to serve, let it be in something that you knew something about. The other group of men that made up "8" seemed to be about equally divided between 2nd and 1st class PO's that were career old timers or reservists that had been called up. As far as the "Chiefs" went, the bulk were reservists that had been called back in.

Officers were either brand new CEC Ensigns and JG's or again officers from reserve units that had been called up.

The news stories about "Gitmo" that we have seen lately on TV or in the papers takes us back to our first tour of duty outside of the "states" (as the lower 48 were called at that time). A party from "8" went down to Texas (I believe) and helped get a barracks ship re-commissioned and ready for towing to Guantanamo. That was our home on that first cruise. Bunks, toilets and showers were aboard the "Apple" as we called it. Chow, however, was something different. We ate at the base chow hall, and that was an experience. The officer in charge of the chow hall was a Prince. At that time almost all of the ships from the Atlantic fleet came down to Gitmo to do exercises. Some of it was at sea, but a certain percentages of their crew would be sent for training at the shore base. He, the officer, was able to get any ship that sent in people for training to turn over funds for their meals. Now he got a full ration, but the guys who came in either did not eat at the chow hall, or went back to their ships for supper. Consequently he had extra money, and he spent it. At least 3 kinds of meat for breakfast, and the same for lunch and supper! The food just overflowed from your tray.

During its first commissioning "MCB8" went to

Guantanamo Bay; Port Lauety in French Morocco ; Argentina, Newfoundland (although a few of us lucky ones in "Detachment Fox" skipped that and went to Bermuda); back to Gitmo, and then back to Port Lauety. Most of the deployments were for 5 to 6 months, except for the second time in Guantanamo where some of us spent more than a year.

In direct contrast to the fantastic mess officer and chow we had in our first tour in Guantanamo, the Officer in Charge of the mess in French Morocco was arrested and removed from the Navy when it was found that he was responsible for food thefts and sales to outside businessmen. He was NOT a member of "Eight". As you can imagine, after the great food in Cuba, this was a terrible disappointment to all of us.

We were in Cuba one revolution before Castro. I believe that the leader was named "Batista". I remember that liberty to town was restricted for 4 or 5 days, and then you were told if you went into town, "Not to talk politics". As if any of those going in to town were going to talk politics!!

One memory leads to another, and I could probably go on for 10 pages or more. I did have to attach to this letter a short letter I wrote after I had heard that Tom Gade had passed away. I wrote it after I read Rich Berry's tribute to Tom in the February issue, but I never did send it.

John A. Wahl, BU1
MCB-8 Plank Owner, 1951 - 1955

EDITORS NOTE: John Wahl currently lives in Saint Cloud, MN. He sent in a tribute to Tom Gade who passed away in September 2005. It will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

A WORD ABOUT DUES

The reason you received this newsletter is because you paid dues sometime in the past. Some of you are life members and do not need to pay dues again. The rest of you have paid by the year. Some are up to date, many are not. So if you haven't paid dues in the past year, please help us out.

To make payment, send a check payable to NMCB-8 Association to **Ken Bingham, 1773 Tamarin Ave, Ventura, CA 93003**. Dues are \$10/year or \$100 for a life membership.

EIGHT SEABEE HONORED WITH PURPLE HEART AFTER 38 YEARS



U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe, OK, with John Hoogendoorn, Inhofe was instrumental in having Hoogendoorn honored with the Purple Heart

Blackwell, OK resident and veteran, John Hoogendoorn, received a long overdue commendation on October 31, 2006.

Hoogendoorn, was injured in March of 1968 while serving in Vietnam. Even though Hoogendoorn was wounded by a missile during a conflict, he had never received his Purple Heart. State Senator Jim Inhofe found out about Hoogendoorn’s injury and he and his staff helped get credit for the earned medal.

Inhofe flew into the Ponca City airport earlier this week to make the long overdue presentation.

“It has taken 38 years to get this Purple Heart, but it means as much to me today as it would have in 1968,” Hoogendoorn said.

John and his wife, Sarah, have four adult children. He is Line Foreman for Kay Electric Cooperative.

Sarah and several of John’s co-workers were also at the luncheon in his honor.

EDITORS NOTE: This newspaper article was sent by John North who lives in Huron, SD. John received the medal just a couple of weeks after he returned from our reunion in Pigeon Forge, TN.



NOW HEAR THIS!

I need pictures that anyone may have taken of Loren Studer, SWF2 Charlie Company. He was killed during the Phu Bai deployment on Colco Is. 5/31/68. I have been in touch with his brother and told him I would try to get some pictures of Loren for him. Please help if you can.

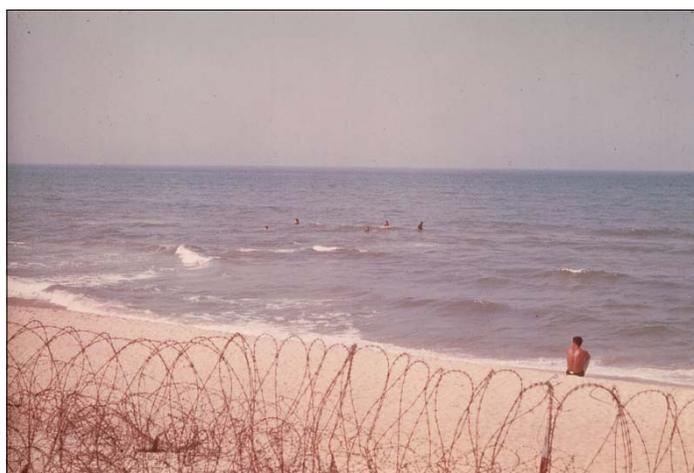
Send pictures anyway you want by email or snail mail. Originals will of course be returned to you. Thank you and let us remember all Seabees were killed while serving humanity.

Morris Burnham 389 Ivory Cir, Aurora CO 80011
MBURNHAMLCSW@YAHOO.COM

A Word From Troy branch To All NMCB-8 Members

If anyone lives close to a point of interest and might be interested in doing what I did in Pigeon Forge, please feel free to call me. I will help you with the planning based on my experiences in setting up this past reunion. If anyone is interested, please call me. at 865-428-2390

REMEMBER WHEN



Morris Burnham sent this picture. He remembers when we got time off at Chu Lai. This is a view of the beach at Rosemary Point looking into the South China Sea taken on a Sunday afternoon, when we were given a break from our 6 1/2 day work week.

"ATTABOYS" FROM REUNION ATTENDEES

..... From checking in at the trailer to the closing banquet, everything was done in a professional manner; the bag of goodies was a wonderful touch. The hospitality room was fine, particularly the tub of beer. Also, the cookout and the one running it was indeed a pleasure. As for the entertainment, it couldn't be beat both the Dixie Stampede and Comedy Barn were tops. You certainly upheld the "CAN DO" spirit of the Seabees.

Ward Williams

.....I want to let you know that our time in TN and at the reunion was a high point of our vacation. It was really well organized. Thanks for all the hard work that you personally put into making this the best yet. We are not the only ones who thought so but everyone we talked to said the same thing. This is for all the others who worked hard at your side to make this reunion run smooth.

Dan Dougal

I just want to take a minute to thank you for all the work you put into the NMCB-8 reunion. Getting together with you and the other guys from "A" Company was something I really needed. I didn't realize it, but I discovered I'm not alone in my ideas and feelings. I am also proud of the fact that no matter how crazy we are we became successful in our own right. It also brought back years of memories and gave us the opportunity to laugh at ourselves from 37 years ago. The scariest thing about the entire reunion is the youngest attendee was 57 years old.

John Heppel

.....I just want to drop you a line to let you know what a great job you did. I was really impressed with the area around Sevierville. The wife and I hope to get back down in February to look around for some land. Hope to see you and Ray when we get back down.

Bill Pitzner

EDITORS NOTE: *The above comments are excerpts from letters received by Troy Branch from some of the reunion attendees giving Troy and his crew well deserved thanks for a job well done. The below comments are from Troy himself, the hero of the Pigeon Forge Reunion..*

A note of thanks for showing up at the reunion. I'm glad everyone enjoyed themselves. That made it worth all the effort to make it happen. Don't forget my partner Ray McPeak and chef at the cook out along with Jim Daniels; the ladies in the camper, Dawn, Essie Luney and her daughter Brenda; Frank Pecjak running the raffle; Billy Boggs and Ron Dougal taking care of the hospitality room; Sally Boggs printer of signs and notices and our master of ceremonies, Harry Davis.

Troy Branch

Rich Berry from Lakewood, CO forwarded me the August 2006 newsletter and I enjoyed reading it. Rich and I served on the first assignment for MCB-8 at Guantanamo Bay Cuba under Cdr W. E. Norcross. I was a BUL 2 and he worked for me as a carpenter. Good men and we got a lot done.

In WW II I served on Okinawa with CBMU 533 and the 125th NCB. I am looking forward to the newsletters.

Melvin E. Schneider

2006 REUNION MEMORIES IN PICTURES



2006 REUNION MEMORIES IN PICTURES



CRUISE BOOKS FOR SALE AGAIN (BUT THIS TIME THEY'RE ON DVD'S)

A couple of years ago we offered individual CD's for sale that contained all five of the NMCB-8 Cruise books on separate disks, plus one WWII CD of the Eighth Naval Construction Battalion, and one depicting Operation Deep Freeze (1964) in which MCB-8 took part. In case you missed this great deal the last time we offered it, we are once again offering these cruise book for sale this time on a single DVD that will play on your computer.

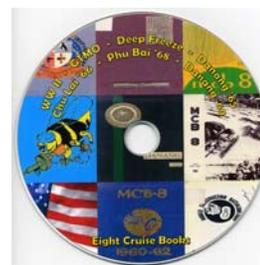
Because of the larger storage capacity, we are now offering all six cruise books on a single DVD. The cruise books were originally scanned into digital format by Ken Bingham (your Association Treasurer) back in 2000. At that time EIGHT was the only Battalion that had all of their cruise books in digital format. Subsequently, the CB Museum, at Ken's urging, set up a program to have all Seabee cruise books digitally copied on to CD's. If you buy a CD at the Seabee Museum, it will cost you \$30 per cruise book. If you purchase the whole set of EIGHT's cruise books on one DVD from your Association, it will only cost you \$30 for six cruise books in lieu of the \$180 it would cost if you purchased them individually on CD's from the Museum.

Of particular interest is the WWII cruise book. The Eighth Naval Construction Battalion saw action throughout the Pacific including Iwo Jima. Their publication *"The Pieces of Eight"* is 126 pages in length. The pictures and stories of their exploits and accomplishments are extremely interesting and enlightening.

I realize that many of you may already have your own hardbound editions of cruise books from the deployments on which you served. But for those of you who may have missed other deployments, did you ever wonder what it was like for seabees during WWII, or in GTMO during the early "60's, or down on the "Ice" in the mid-60's or what things looked like in Danang or Phu Bai? Also, the DVD would make a nice Christmas present that can be sent to friends and relatives who never quite understood what you did in the service as a "Fighting Seabee."

Currently offered are the following cruise books on a single DVD:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. 8th NCB-8 WW II (1942-45) | 5. NMCB-8 Chu Lai (1966-67) |
| 2. MCB-8 GTMO (1960-62) | 6. NMCB-8 Phu Bai (1968) |
| 3. Operation Deep Freeze (1964) | 7. NMCB-8 Danang (1969) |
| 4. NMCB-8 Danang (1965-66) | |



The DVD has a colored label showing all of the cruise book covers and comes with a slim line case. To order DVD's, send a check or money order for \$30 made out to the NMCB-8 Association for each DVD. Mail your order to **Ken Bingham 1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura, CA 93003**. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

All profits from the sale of these DVD will go to the NMCB-8 treasury to support the Newsletter mailings.



WWII

GTMO

DEEPFREEZE

DANANG 65-66

CHU LAI 66-67

PHU BAI 1968

DANANG 1969

THIS OFFER WILL NOT BE REPEATED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

NMCB-8 REUNION PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2006



Photograph by Art Locke

REUNION ATTENDEES

Jim Barnes
 Lou Beland
 Billy Boggs
 Carl Bolton
 Fred Bowser
 Troy Branch
 Bill Bricking
 Vance Bryson
 Morris Burnham
 Tom Burton
 Ray Cheely
 Arnie Cicerone
 Bill Clerke
 John Collins
 Jim Daniels
 James Davenport
 Eric Davis
 Harry Davis
 Earl Day
 Mike Dillon
 Loyd Dockery
 Ron Dougal
 Dave Duecker
 Danny Dugal

Gerry Durbin
 James Dutcher
 Dave Elbon
 Dan Epplert
 Butch Fishwick
 Dennis Fitzpatrick
 Dennis Fligg
 Gil Gilbertson
 Gordon Gilmore
 Jim Glasgow
 Don Glass
 Bill Hallam
 Morris Handy
 Larry Hansel
 John Heppel
 Joe Herbert
 Allen Hollister
 John Hoogendoorn
 Milburn Howard
 David Joyner
 George Lichoff
 Art Locke
 Jerry Malott
 Bob Mapel

John Markham
 Mac McCormick
 Keith McGee
 William McIntyre
 Ray McPeak
 Leonard Mechels
 Roger Mechels
 Bryson Moore
 Mike Moroney
 Asa Morris
 Bob Neidig
 Dan Nicks
 John North
 Jack O'Leary
 Kenneth Palmer
 Joe Patterson
 Stephen Payton
 Frank Pecjak
 William Pitzner
 Jim Poole
 Jack Quinn Dennis
 John Reed
 Rick Reese
 Chuck Riley

Richard Roach
 Bill Rombough
 Bob Rosengrant
 Ron Sabbatis
 Mike Schoolcraft
 Ed Schreck
 Vin Silvestro
 Dwane Smock
 Don Swafford
 Bruce Swenson
 Don Talley
 John Teichman
 Gary Thede
 Larry Thomas
 Allan Vortman
 Lou Warzecha
 Bob Westberg
 John Whitwell
 Edward Williams
 Jack Williams
 Ward Williams
 Donald Willoughby
 Ronald Wunderlich
 Tom Zopfi

A Word From the XO

Joe Patterson relieved Tom Burton in May of 1968 and served as XO of NMCB-8 until the Battalion was decommissioned in Dec., 1969.

Seabees are everywhere.

In my recent work related travels thru Djibouti, East Africa and Europe and the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, I am amazed at the wide geographic presence of Seabee units and their great reputation for getting the job done and being great ambassadors for the USA.

As I entered Camp Lemonier in Djibouti, I asked a young Marine dressed in full body armor, with weapon locked and loaded(I suspect), if there were Seabees in the camp. His serious look turned to a wide grin....

“Yes, Sir! They are the greatest guys we have in the camp. They can do everything. We couldn’t do without them.”

Enough said.

I must admit to feeling a sense of nostalgia in recalling similar words of respect from our battlefield customers for actions performed by our NMCB Eight Main Body, Dets and Seabee Teams during our deployments in Vietnam and other areas in Asia.

My son Joe, a LCDR, MSC, USN, was an OIC of an Okinawa based USMC medical and surgical detachment sent to Sri Lanka for medical assistance for tsunami victims. Not too long after his return to Okinawa, he was detached to the mountains of Pakistan where his detachment again provided medical and surgical services for the earthquake victims. He was able to witness the great efforts of several Seabee Dets and their “Can Do” spirit during tsunami and earthquake recovery efforts. LCDR Patterson heaped great praise for Seabees in his weekly emails and several telephone calls to us from both Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The more I personally observed and continually heard from various sources the exploits of our today’s Seabees I decided to get a more comprehensive account of the broad scope of where Seabees are today and their missions. I contacted a personal friend of mine, RADM Bob Phillips, CEC, USN COMFIRSTNCD (Commander FIRST Naval Construction Division) and asked his help in giving me info on the world wide activities and accomplishments of our Seabees in 2005-2006.

RADM Phillips and his staff, in particular Daryl Smith his Public Affairs Officer, turned too and provided some great info.



Skipper’s corner

Bob Westburg relieved Jack O’Leary as CO of NMCB-8 at 1100 hours on the 16th of July, 1968 at our camp in Phu Bai, RVN. He remained CO until NMCB-8 was decommissioned in December of 1969.



In the first announcement of the “2006” Reunion, the NMCB-8 Reunion Committee predicted it would be the “best NMCB-8 reunion ever”. They were right. We flew into Knoxville and spent two days there before driving to Pigeon Forge. The weather was perfect and I was surprised how green all the landscape was. We also noticed that there were a lot of churches along the way and beautiful houses with large yards. The itinerary for the reunion was well planned. With so many activities going on in Pigeon Forge, the selection of the “Dixie Stamped” and the “Comedy Barn” couldn’t have been better. Then there was plenty of time to meet with old friends (maybe I should leave out “old”).

That area is beautiful country. One day we had time to take a hike up in the Smoky Mountains and went for a visit to Gatlinburg. I never knew that area was such a tourist attraction, and there are so many things to do.

It was a pleasure to see so many members of NMCB-8 from many times. The opportunity to converse about old times and the comradery was special. I look forward to the next reunion. I would like to express a special thanks to the 2006 Reunion Committee, Troy Branch, Ray McPeek, Ron Dougal, Frank Pecjak, Billy Boggs and their wives.

It is with deep regret that I heard the news that Gordon Gilmore had passed away on November 25th. I remember him as a major player in all of our NMCB-8 reunions including our last one in Pigeon Forge. The reunions won't be the same without him. My condolences and prayers are with his wife Donna. **Bob**

Continued from previous column

As we launch into this info, I must admit that the array of acronyms in today’s NAVY is a tad bewildering. **Joe**

EDITORS NOTE: *There is not enough space in this issue of the newsletter to spell out the efforts of the modern day Seabees and their impact around the world. In the next and following issues, more of Joe’s research into what the Seabees are doing around the world will appear as installments.*

Continued in next column

Seabee Memorial, Washington, D.C.



IN MEMORIAM

In remembrance of those who served with us.

Capt. Gordon Gilmore, CEC, USN (Ret) passed away on November 25, 2006. He was the founding President of the NMCB-8 Association. His hard work and dedication to EIGHT helped make this organization what it is today.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

I am 94 years of age, residing with my wife, 90, in a retirement community in Arvada, CO. One of the residents handed me a recent copy of the NMCB-8 Newsletter. It was the first Seabee publication I've seen.

I enlisted in the USNR(CB) in 1942 as a yeoman, second class at Denver CO. When called to active duty I had my boot camp at Davisville, RI. When I was assigned to active duty it was at various Seabee installations in the United States. I've forgotten their names.

I was assigned to Headquarters Company as Chief Yeoman (AA) with the 8th US Naval Construction Brigade. We had three "numbered regiments and several battalions under each regiment.

As the war continued, we were groomed for our assignment: to build the Yonabaru airstrip on southern Okinawa and to go in as soon as the marines had "secured" the island. It was to be operational by some date, possibly May 15th. On that date an airplane did land and take off, but the strip was far from operational. No fuel, no repair facilities.

Our construction materials were coral, not a stable material, and we had lots of heavy equipment to pack it and get it ready for the strip. The war was over before the strip was used.

After I was discharged, I returned to my previous career—education, school administration, etc. I never ran into a Seabee that I know of. Your organization is the first I've learned about. I was fascinated by U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Eight and your "Seabees Can Do".

Do you know of any other associations of Seabees I might contact for possible membership?

Sorry this letter is so long. I wanted to establish my duty, or organizational structure, etc. It is not a crank letter.

Otto G. Ruff

EDITORS NOTE: I received this letter from Mr. Ruff in October, 2006. He was given a copy of the newsletter by Forrest Rickard who served in WWII as a member of the 8th Naval Construction Battalion. He happened to live in the same retirement community as Mr. Ruff. Otto Ruff is now an honorary life member of the NMCB-8 Association.

NMCB-8 SEABEES' ASSOCIATION

241 Windrose Drive
Port Ludlow, WA 98365

President Arnie Cicerone
Treasurer Ken Bingham
Past Presidents Gordon Gilmore
Ken Kerr
Rick Reese
Recruiting Ron Dougal
Newsletter Editor Harry Davis

Web Page: <http://www.nmcb8.com>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SEABEES "CAN DO"



NMCB-8 ASSOCIATION ROSTER UPDATE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone & E-mail: _____

The mailing list and roster for the NMCB-8 Association needs to be continually updated. Only through a current roster can we ensure your receipt of the newsletter and information of current and future reunions. If you have had a change of address within the past two years, you can update this information by filling out the above form. Please include your e-mail address, if you have one.

Detach the form at the dotted line and return to: **Harry Davis, 241 Windrose Drive, Port Ludlow, WA 98365.** If you have e-mail and want to make your update electronically, please do so. Send updates by e-mail to ***nmcb_8@msn.com***. **Thanks for your support !**

