

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION GUNBOAT RIDERS

VOLUME 2 - NUMBER 1

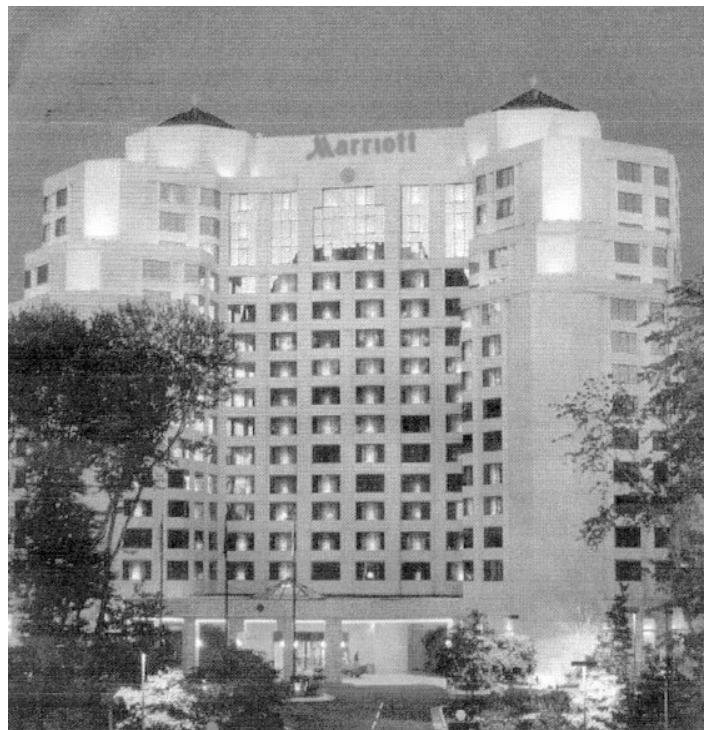
SPRING EDITION 1999

Terry W. McManuels 1673 Kilt Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 479-2261

"OUR SECOND YEAR BEGINS"

This is the first 1999 edition of "GUNBOAT RIDERS" newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. Since the beginning, I had planned to solicit note worthy or perhaps some not-so-worthy information from the crew members of all the ships and staffs that may be shared and perhaps enjoyed by other crew members. I am certain that there are many war stories out there that would produce some fond memories or maybe just a bit of humor. So, if there are any interesting stories out there that you feel would be enjoyed by the rest of the crew, please feel free to send them to me in what ever format is convenient for you. I can edit in most readily from Word Perfect files, and they can be sent to me via e-mail.

My e-mail address is macs@visi.net.



FAIRVIEW PARK MARRIOTT HOTEL

1999 REUNION FAIRVIEW PARK MARRIOTT

Most of the plans are finalized for the Second Annual Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion. Our Reunion will be hosted by the **Fairview Park Marriott Hotel** in Falls Church, Virginia. This is an absolutely gorgeous hotel, the staff is quite professional and friendly, the food and service excellent, and the rooms and common areas as well as the outside grounds are well kept, clean and very well maintained. The dates for the 1999 reunion are from Wednesday August 11 through Sunday August 15. The Cut-Off date for all reservations is July 1st.

Reservations: Hotel and Tour reservations will be limited to a first come basis. There is no question in my mind that any reservations made after the cutoff dates will be subject to limited availability. Also remember, we have always had a very liberal cancellation policy. Better to reserve and cancel than to miss out on an activity.

1999 Reunion Prices: For anyone that has been in the Washington Area in recent years, you are already aware that it is very expensive. Although you may note increases in prices over last year in Peoria, believe me, the overall prices are very reasonable for this area with a group our size.

The **Fairview Park Marriott Hotel** is located at 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. The hotel is about 20 miles from Dulles Airport and 14 miles from National Airport. Fairview Park Drive is located on I- 495 at Exit 8 (Route 50).

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Patrol Gunboat Association

ABOUT THE HOTEL

The **Fairview Park Marriott Hotel** is providing special Guest Room Rates for our Reunion at \$89.00 per night, plus tax for Single, Double, Triple or Quad occupancy. This rate is based on our primary arrival date of Wednesday, August 11. The standard rate is \$184.00.

Each guest room features a hair dryer, iron/ironing board, coffee maker, and remote control TV. An indoor/outdoor pool, saunas, whirlpool, health club, exercise room, and jogging path offer opportunities for guests to relax.

Handicapped accessible and nonsmoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when you make your hotel reservation. Parking is complimentary for hotel guests. Check in time is 4:00pm; check out is 12noon.

Hotel Dining: The Hotel Restaurant serves American style favorites for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the **Club Lounge** offers cocktails in a comfortable library atmosphere.

A food court connects to the hotel just beyond the restaurant. Among the choices is the **Yorktowne Delicatessen**. We are currently working with the manager to arrange for the Yorktowne to be open for an early breakfast and lunch for our group through the week and limited hours on the weekend. There is also a **North China Cafe** that is open for lunch and dinner.

Some of you may need a small refrigerator in your hotel room for medical needs. These are not normally provided by the hotel. If this is a necessity, please advise the hotel when you make your room reservation. They may be able to make arrangements for a rental for you at an additional cost.

The hotel has one wheelchair for use on site. Health Care Concepts (703) 750-0914 rents standard wheelchairs at \$16.00 per day or \$26.00 per week. Please call them should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion. They do not deliver rentals.

Detailed directions to the hotel will be included in the June Newsletter.

FROM THE ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Please send originals or copies of Commissioning Programs, Change of Command Programs, or any ship photo's that you may have to the Association Historian. Include your name, address and phone number so that I may annotate each item with it's source. Please send any items that you wish to donate to:

Dave Donaldson
2603 Woodcock road
Sequim, WA 98382
(360) 683-5268

e-mail: rctfdd@tenforward.com

If you want the item returned, please make sure to include your mailing address and I will send it back to you.

Airport Shuttle Service

We are currently researching Shuttle Service from both National Airport and Dulles Airport. This information will be provided in the next newsletter along with prices and contact telephone numbers.

We do know that from National Airport, you can use the Metro service. Take the Orange Line to the Dunnloring Metro Station where the hotel will pick you up. If you are a Metro rider, this would be your least expensive mode of transportation.

NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

Following is a list of new members that have been located since the last newsletter was published.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Contacted</u>
Ayers, James L.	Beacon	02/17/99
Bailes, John E.	Welch	12/28/98
Brown, Michael R.	Graham County	01/27/99
Clark, Vernon E.	Grand Rapids	01/04/99
Cogar, William E.	Grand Rapids	03/20/99
Connor, Peter W.	Asheville	01/24/99
Flint, Michael G.	Grand Rapids	03/21/99
Glidewell, Jackie D.	Tacoma	03/20/99
Hanley, Paul W.	Grand Rapids	03/22/99
Harlow, William J.	Tacoma	03/06/99
Hawkind, Donald L.	Canon	12/28/98
Hawkins, Stan	Crockett	01/05/99
Keevey, Patrick M.	Graham County	01/24/99
Mashtare, Terry L.	Beacon	12/08/98
McAloney, Robert	Asheville	01/21/99
Patin, Alton R.	Asheville	03/21/99
Perkey, Russell J.	Beacon	12/09/98
Rager, Scott A.	Tacoma	12/18/98
Ramsey, Robert L.	Beacon	01/13/99
Seaquist, Larry R.	Beacon	03/22/99
Seech, Zachary	Defiance/Chehalis	02/22/99
Skripac, Steven A.	Gallup	12/23/99
Smith, Charles	Antelope	01/16/99
Spears, Steve	Marathon	01/11/99
Thivener, Richard	Asheville	03/21/99
Tscherne, John E.	Ready/Graham	01/29/99
Vesey, Richard L.	County	03/21/99
Williams, Robert R.	Asheville	12/21/99

Recreational Vehicle Information

For those of you that are planning your trip to Falls Church in a RV or motor home, you may park in the hotel parking lot if you are a registered guest. No hookup service or dumping of gray water is available. If you plan to stay at a park and need full hook up service, there are facilities available in the area.

The nearest facilities are:

Lake Fairfax Park, (703) 471-5415
Bull Run Park at (703) 631-0550.

Ask for information, reservations and directions to determine which is most convenient for you.

COMMEMORATIVE BALL CAPS & COFFEE MUGS

This year we will again have ball caps and coffee mugs available at the reunion. The shipment of Ball Caps and Coffee Mugs will be sent directly to the hotel in Falls Church and will be available during registration. Like last year, ball caps will be given to those shipmates that purchase \$20.00 in raffle tickets for the Saturday Night Raffle Drawing. Commemorative Coffee Mugs will be given for each registration. I will have a limited number of extra mugs for sale at the Reunion. Any remaining hats and mugs will be available for sale on a first come, first serve basis after the Reunion.

At this time I have not completed the design which will be different from last year, but I will have all of the information in the next newsletter, due out in June.

Patrol Gunboat Association

1999 Patrol Gunboat Reunion Itinerary

Wednesday, August 11, 1999

- 12:00 Hospitality Room opens and remains open until noon, Sunday.
- 3:00 Arrival and Registration, 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm, dinner and evening on your own.

Thursday, August 12, 1999

- 7:30 Registration continues until 8:30.
- 9:00 Board bus for Navy Memorial.
- 9:30 Arrive at the Navy Memorial. Tour the Memorial and Visitor's Center and study the Wave Wall, spanning two centuries of American Naval History. See the Fountain Pools and the Sculpture Walls. Group will gather outside the Arleigh and Roberta Burke Theater to view 11am showing of the film "At Sea:", depicting the "Excitement and Adventure of Navy Life".
- 11:40 Reboard bus for lunch at Hogate's, a favorite restaurant for the locals for the past fifty years. It is located on the Potomac river and offers a great view of the river, marina and local artistry.
- 1:30 Reboard bus for driving tour of Washington. See the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Mall and Capitol Building, the Washington Monument, the White House and other notable monuments and federal buildings.
- Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 4:00.

Tour price \$47.00/person, includes transportation, escort, film and lunch.

Dinner and evening on your own. Registration schedule will be posted.

Friday, August 13, 1999

Registration schedule will be posted.

- 10:00 Board bus for trip to Annapolis.
- 11:00 Arrive at the Annapolis City Dock. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many dockside restaurants and browse in the quaint shops along the waterfront area.
- 12:30 Reboard bus for the U. S. Naval Academy.
- 1:00 First stop is at the Naval Academy visitors Center for an official welcome and slide presentation. Then enjoy a personalized walking guided tour of the Academy grounds and learn the customs of the "plebes" and midshipmen. See the Chapel, John Paul Jones Crypt and Bancroft Hall. Learn the history of the Maryland State House where the present State Legislature assembles and the site where George Washington resigned his commission as General to become President of the United States.
- 3:30 Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 4:30.

Tour price \$31.00/person, includes transportation, guide, and escort. Lunch is not included.

Registration schedule will be posted in Hospitality Room.

- 6:00 Attitude adjustment hour / cash bar.
- 7:00 Friday Night Buffet Dinner, followed by a relaxing evening of "Sea Stories".

Saturday, August 14, 1999

- 9:00 Business Meeting until 11:00.
- Registration schedule will be posted in Hospitality Room.
- 12:30 After lunch on your own, board bus for the National Air and Space Museum. Walk through twenty-three galleries showcasing the evolution of aviation and space technology. Included in the museum's collections are the original 1903 Wright Flyer, Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis, Apollo 11 Command Module and a Space Station.

***** or *****

For those who prefer, bus will proceed to the nearby National Museum of Natural History (3/4 mile). Among the most well known of the Smithsonian museums, this building focuses on human cultures as well as nature; from the famous Hope Diamond to the early history of man. Exhibits also feature countless specimens from the plant and animal worlds including extinct species such as dinosaurs.

- 4:00 Reboard bus at Air and Space Museum. The bus will then stop at the Natural History Museum to pick up remaining passengers before returning to the hotel at 4:30.

Tour price \$19.00/person, includes transportation and escort.

- 6:00 Attitude adjustment hour / cash bar.
- 7:00 Second annual Patrol Gunboat Reunion Banquet Dinner, followed by raffle ticket drawing.
- 9:00 Drawing of 50/50 ticket winners. Entertainment and dancing.

Sunday, August 15, 1999

- Farewells and Departures.
- 12:00 Hospitality Room closes.

Patrol Gunboat Association

1999 FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA - REUNION

Following is this years hotel information for Falls Church, Virginia

**Place: Fairview Park Marriott
3111 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
Tel (703) 849-9400**

**Date: Wednesday, August 11, 1999
To: Sunday, August 15, 1999
(check-in time is 4:00pm ,
check-out time is 12:00 Noon.)**

Bell Captain can arrange to check baggage for guests arriving early

**PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION Guest Room Rates are \$89.00 per night for all Standard Rooms.
Note: SPECIAL ASSOCIATION RATE MUST BE REQUESTED AT TIME RESERVATION IS MADE.**

Rates are subject to a current room tax of 6.5%. Free guest parking is provided. Motor home parking is provided at no charge for registered guests. There are no hookups available, no dumping of gray water.

ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE FAIRVIEW PARK MARRIOTT BY JULY 1, 1999 TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY. THE ENCLOSED RESERVATION CARD SHOULD BE USED OR RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING THE HOTEL AND CONFIRMING THE FIRST NIGHT WITH A MAJOR CREDIT CARD.

ALL MEAL RESERVATIONS and TOUR RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE WITH THE ENCLOSED RESERVATION FORM AND FORWARDED TO ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC., c/o PATROL GUNBOAT REUNION , P.O. BOX 11327, NORFOLK, VA 23517 by no later than July 1, 1999.

FRIDAY EVENING BUFFET

Green Garden Salad
Fire & Ice Melon Salad
Three Bean Salad
Potato Salad

**Prime Rib Carving Station
Chicken, Vegetable & Beef Stir Fry Station
Broiled Flounder**

Herbed Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
Assorted Fruit Tarts, Cakes and Pies
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea
Total Price including Tax \$34.00

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

Menu 1:

ROASTED STRIP LOIN of BEEF

Bella Key Salad
Wild Rice Blend
Asparagus
Flourless Chocolate Torte
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea

Total Price including Tax \$35.00
An evening of music and entertainment.

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

Menu 2:

PAN SEARED CHICKEN ROMA w/ ROASTED RED PEPPER SAUCE

Bella Key Salad
Wild Rice Blend
Asparagus
Flourless Chocolate Torte
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea

Total Price including Tax \$34.00
An evening of music and entertainment.

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

Children's Menu:

CHICKEN FINGERS FRENCH FRIED POTATOES

Furit Cup
Ice Cream Sundae
Assorted Beverages

Total Price including Tax \$20.00

MEALS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Patrol Gunboat Association

50/50 Drawing

As of press time, there have been \$600.00 in 50/50 tickets returned. If you wish to purchase additional tickets, drop a check in the mail to me for \$10.00 for each set of 12 tickets. I will complete the stubs for you. It would help if you could send me return address labels for the stubs. Like last year, we will continue to sell tickets for the 50-50 drawing up until the day of the drawing.

Last year we sold \$1120.00 in 50-50 tickets, making the total amount of the prizes shared by the winners \$560.00. This was broken down into three prizes, \$280.00, \$168.00 and \$112.00. The purchase of 50/50 tickets is a great way to support the association. Not only does it provide support, it gives you an opportunity to cash in on big bucks at the same time. You need not be present to win. We will make our drawings for the 50/50 winners on Saturday evening following the Banquet Dinner and Raffle Table Drawing.



AMERICAN HONOR

By now, most of you have seen the movie Saving Private Ryan . But I don't suspect you have seen this column from the Midwest. This was Dick Feagler's column in the Plain Dealer.

"In a battlefield cemetery each marble cross marks an individual crucifixion. Someone - someone very young usually, has died for somebody else's sins.

The movie "Saving Private Ryan" begins and ends in the military cemetery above Omaha Beach. By sundown on D-Day, 40,000 Americans had landed on that beach, and 1 in 19 had become a casualty. The military brass purposely chose troops with no combat experience for the bulk of the assault force. The brass reasoned that an experienced infantryman is a terrified infantryman. The odds of dying in the early waves were so great that an informed soldier might be paralyzed with well founded despair. But the young and idealistic might move forward into the lottery of death.

Director Steven Spielberg made "Saving Private Ryan" as a tribute to D-Day veterans. He wanted, reviewers say, to strip the glory away from war and show the '90's generation what it was really like. The reviews have praised the first 30 minutes of the film and the special effects that graphically show the blood and horror of the D-Day landing.

Unfortunately, American movie audiences have become jaded connoisseurs of special effects gore. In the hands of the entertainment industry, violence has become just another pandering trick. But Spielberg wasn't pandering. Shocked by and

wary of his depiction, I bought a copy of Steven Ambrose's book D-Day . The story of the Normandy Invasion is a story of unimaginable slaughter. Worse than I ever knew, and I thought I knew something about it. The young men who lived through those first waves are old men now. Many have asked themselves, every day for more than 50 years, why they survived. It is an unanswerable question. The air was full of buzzing death. When the ramps opened on many of the landing craft, all the men aboard were riddled with machine gun bullets before they could step into the water. Beyond this cauldron of cordite and carnage, half a world away, lay an America united in purpose like no citizen under 60 has ever seen. The war touched everyone. The entire starting lineup of the 1941 Yankees was in military uniform. Almost every family could hang a service flag in the window, with a star embroidered on it for each relative in uniform.

In the early hours of D-Day, with the outcome of the battle still in the balance, the nation prayed. Ambrose tells us that the New York Daily News threw out its lead stories and printed in their place the Lord's prayer. I fought that war as a child , a historian on television said the other night. I knew what he meant. So did I. We all saved fat and flattened cans and grew victory gardens. But we did not all go to Omaha Beach. Or Saipan. Or Anzio. Only an anointed few did that. The men of World War II are beginning to leave us now. In my family, six have gone and two are left. We have lost the uncle who was on Okinawa, the cousin who worked his way up the gauntlet of Italy and the cousin who brought the German helmet back from North Africa.

These men left us with a simple request. You can hear that request in "Saving Private Ryan". I haven't read a review that has mentioned it, but it is what makes Spielberg's movie a masterpiece. In the film, a squad of Rangers is sent behind enemy lines to save a man whose three brothers have been killed in battle. Higher headquarters wants him shipped home to spare his mother the agony of having all her sons killed in combat.

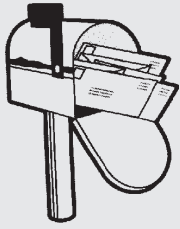
So, eight Rangers risk their lives for one man. And when one of the Rangers is mortally wounded, he asks Pvt Ryan to bend over so he can whisper to him, "Earn this." He says.

And that is the request of all the young men who have died in all the wars, from Normandy, to the Chosin Reservoir, the Da Nang, to the Gulf. Earn this.

When the movie ended, the theater was silent except for some muffled sobs. But the tears that scalded my eyes were not just for the men who had died on the screen and in truth. Or for the men who had lived and grown old and were baffled about why they had been spared. I walked out into the world of Howard Stern and Jerry Springer and South Park . Into the world of front page coverage of Monica Lewinski and the stain on her dress.....

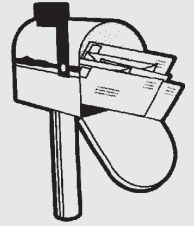
" Earn this.", was still ringing in my ears. And the tears in my eyes were tears of betrayal.

Patrol Gunboat Association



FROM THE MAILBAG

On this page, I want to print some of the comments that I have received from shipmates who either call or write to me. Due to space restrictions, I cannot include all of these comments. I will include those for which I have space in the current publishing period.



☐ **From Shipmate Albert Butler {PG-89}:** I am very excited about our Association and want to see it continue to be a success. Although I have not had an opportunity to participate in our reunions yet, hopefully I will have a chance to get more involved in the future.

☐ **From Shipmate Will King {PG-87}:** Thanks a million for organizing the reunion, it was great.

☐ **From Shipmate Robert R. Williams III {PG-90}:** I regret I will be unable to attend the second reunion since the date conflicts with my planned participation in the Ironman USA Triathlon... I will be thinking about you all. I look forward to reading the newsletter.

☐ **From Shipmate Paul McGurgan {PG-88}:** Was in Portland a few weeks ago and had dinner with Dusty Kidd, our old XO. Thanks for making the memories happen for everyone.

☐ **From Shipmate John Bailes {PG-93}:** My three years aboard Welch while homeported in Little Creek was by far the highlight of my naval career. There's nothing like a small crew.

BOMBING ETIQUETTE

The following was taken from the Opinion page of the Savannah Morning News, 23 December 1998.

"In a move straight out of a "Saturday Night Live" skit, the Department of Defense on Monday announced it was upset with politically incorrect graffiti scribbled on one of the bombs dropped on Iraq last week. Pentagon officials saw an Associated Press photo taken during the four-day bombing campaign that showed a 2000 pound laser-guided bomb on the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise in the Persian Gulf with

an inscription that said, "Here's a Ramadan present from Chad Rickenberg." The administration was not amused at this breach of bombing etiquette. "Department of Defense officials were distressed to learn of thoughtless graffiti mentioning the holy month of Ramadan written on a piece of U.S. Ordnance during Operation Desert Fox" in Iraq, chief Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said in a statement Monday. "Religious intolerance is an anathema to Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and to all Americans who cherish the right to worship freely," he added. "The United States deeply respects Islam." Imagine the nerve of some sailor insulting Moslems right before they're bombed, maimed and killed.

It is irrelevant whether the victims could read the graffiti as the bombs plummeted toward their homes. Clearly what counts is the expression of the offending thought, not the fact that people are being blown to smithereens.

Although the Geneva Convention is silent on this matter, we salute the Pentagon for insisting on politically correct bombings. We suggest in the future that all U.S. Armed Forces paint yellow smiley faces on all ordnance and adopt as its official wartime slogan: It's not personal, it's just business."

BALLCAPS AND COFFEE MUGS

Last year, I ordered 250 ballcaps from Eagle Crest INC in Jacksonville, FL. These are custom embroidered, "Made In America" ball caps, identical in quality to the ones ordered for ships and shore commands by the Navy Exchange. These hats were given to each crewmember who purchased \$20.00 in raffle tickets for the Saturday Night Raffle Drawing. I still have a few remaining ballcaps that can be purchased for \$15.00 dollars each plus shipping, as long as they last. I also have some coffee mugs left from the reunion. These cups have a "Watermark" of a PG on the front with the names of all 17 Patrol Gunboats listed on the reverse. The coffee mugs are \$5.00 each. Please include \$3.00 Priority Mail shipping. This will cover shipping for one hat, one coffee mug, or one of each. Make your check payable to Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Shipmate Richard Smoktunowicz, (PG-86) audited the Association's financial records in December, 1998. He provided us with a Balance Sheet as of 11/30/98, Income Statement and General Ledger Register. During the 11 month period ending 11/30/98, the Association took in \$6,617.00 through dues, 50-50 and raffle ticket sales, donations and sales of hats and cups. We had direct expenses for 1998 of \$6,566.81. The balance in the Association Checking Account was \$2,759.91 as of 11/30/98. There was also a remaining liability of \$2,979.72 from start up expenses and seed money. A full copy of the Audit will be available for review at the 1999 reunion. Copies can be requested at any time by contacting me directly.

The Supreme Commander

Following are names of **Patrol Gunboat Shipmates** that have met the Supreme Commander since the last edition of "Gunboat Riders". As this information is made available, I will include it in the following newsletter.

<u>Shipmate:</u>	<u>Ship:</u>	<u>Departed</u>
Willie C. Wylie	USS Gallup	12/28/96