Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXIII, No. 22 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka June 8, 2012

CFAY Memorial Day highlights Oneida Memorial

Story and photo by Greg Mitchell, CFAY Public Affairs

Sailors, Marines and distinguished guests attended a Memorial Day ceremony at the *USS Oneida* International Peace Memorial in Kosano Park on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) May 28.

"Today I would like to thank you for attending this event and remembering the true meaning of Memorial Day," said CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David A. Owen. "We are here to honor our fallen comrades. We understand that on Memorial Day we honor the ideals and values those soldiers stood for and died defending."

Erected in 2007 by the Yokosuka Chief Petty Officer's Mess, the memorial pays respect to the *USS Onieda* and those that perished along with the Japanese who contributed to helping with rescuing 61 Sailors Jan. 24, 1870.

It was on that fateful day that the *Onieda* left Tokyo Bay, heading towards the United States. Approximately 4 miles out east, the ship encountered a collision with the British steamer (freighter) "Bombay", then proceeded to sink in approximately 15 minutes. The Bombay made no attempt to aid the stricken ship and proceeded to leave the area.

MAC (SW) Pamela Almozon kneels down by the *USS Oneida* International Peace Memorial stone located at Kosano Park, Yokosuka Naval Base Japan to read the enscribed text upon the conclusion of the 2012 Memorial Day celebration honoring those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to our nation.

In all, there were a total of 176 crew members onboard; only 61 Sailors survived the accident. Those that survived were rescued by Japanese fishing boats. There was no attempt by the United States to erect the wreck and soon after, sold the ship to a Japanese wrecking company. Once the company had the ship in its possession, its employees recovered several bones of the bodies and interred them at their own expense.

A memorial tablet was erected on the grounds of Ikegami Temple in Tokyo, where a Buddhist ceremony was conducted to pay respects to the fallen.

"Let us not forget that we are able to enjoy the liberties we have because of the brave Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who have died protecting our country and what it stood for," said Capt. Owen. "They died defending a way of life that they felt was worth dying for."

There were some in attendance that were actually surprised that the connection between the U.S. Navy and the Japanese went that far back.

"What was said today, that I was not totally aware of was, that the connection between the United States Navy and Japan has been here well before, said Chief Master-at-Arms (SW) Pamela Almozon. "Today I learned a lot by listening to the speeches and the history and so forth."

After the color guard arrived, wreaths were laid by the Marine Corps in front of the angled memorial stones, one of which tells the history of the ship while the other gives the names of each of the crew members.

It was an honor to be able to participate during today's event," said Chief Yeoman (SW/AW) Lakeisha Harris. "To memorialize our fallen comrades, some of which gave the ultimate sacrifice."

Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Owen said that the day was also one in which we should all pay respects to the current men and women in the military who are sacrificing their lives for our safety and still honoring the country.

"Each individual is continually being driven as those before to protect freedom, family, love and life," said Owen. "On this day, what is important is that Memorial Day is not about division, it is about unity; unity to observe those of the past, present and future, cherishing all that has been given and all that will continue to come."

USS McCampbell Sailors honor WWII veteran

By MCSN Declan Barnes, *USS McCampbell* Public Affairs

WHITE BEACH OKINAWA, Japan – Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) Sailors honored World War II veteran Wayne Heyart during a port visit to Fleet Activities Okinawa June 1.

Heyart, a former enlisted radioman first class petty officer, toured McCampbell and spoke with Sailors about his experiences in the Navy during World War II. During the tour Heyart visited the ship's combat information center, where Sailors discussed the differences between his former radioman rate and its successor, the information systems technician.

Heyart then participated in a pinning and re-enlistment ceremony on the ships forecastle, congratulating the Sailors and taking time to speak with the crew.

"It feels great to be back on a ship," said Heyart. "I'm thinking about re-enlisting," he joked.

Many crew members had mutual feelings of appreciation for the chance to host and honor a distinguished veteran.

"It was a true honor to have him participate in my re-enlistment ceremony," said Chief Information Systems Technician Robert Sheehan. "I really feel a connection between the battles he fought in these same seas we are in today, and now he is here as a living testament of that. Having him onboard for my re-enlistment was really special."

Cmdr. "T.J." Dixon, *McCampbell*'s commanding officer, presented the veteran with a command ball cap and a *McCampbell* coin.

"This is a special day for the *McCampbell*. Our name sake was in the same waters and same conflicts this man fought in," said Dixon. "We have a connection to the past and we are honored to have Mr. Heyart come and share his experiences with us."

During a tour of *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85), Wayne Heyart, a former enlisted radioman first class petty officer and World War II veteran, watches as *McCampbell* Commanding Officer Cmdr. Thomas "T.J" Dixon explains the communication systems in the combat station onboard the ship June 1.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew R. Cole

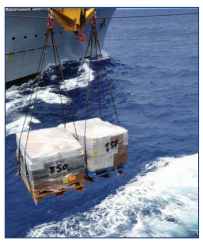
Heyart's son, Greg, accompanied him for the tour and ceremony and addressed the Sailors at the end to thank them for inviting him and his father aboard.

"It's really great to be here today. This is something my dad has talked about through the years. He's going to be 88 this year and my whole life he has talked about his service and how meaningful it was to him, and how proud he was to serve his country," said Greg. "I know the freedom I have and enjoy isn't free, it comes at a price and my father has paid that price and you all have paid a price. So from the bottom of our hearts we cannot tell you how much we appreciate all that you do and we want to thank you for this wonderful day."

The crew of the *McCampbell* stood in line to greet Wayne Heyart and invited him to come back and visit the crew.

"I want to thank all of you for welcoming me on board," said Heyart this really makes my years in the Navy that much better."

INSIDE



USS McCampbell successfully completes replenishment at sea

Sailors assigned to *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) completed a replenishment-at-sea with fleet replenishment oiler *USNS Walter S. Diehl* (T-AO 193) May 26.

Pg. 4

Zenkokai awards honor volunteers' service to Japan

The Nippon *Zenkokai* Association honored individuals and groups for their time and service to the community in a ceremony held at Meiji Jingu Shrine Sanshuden Hall May 26.

Pg. 9