

Life Leisure

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PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR AND WIFE RECEIVE FINAL HONORS

Story and photos by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

A scattering of ashes ceremony was held for 79-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor and former Boatswain's Mate Chief William "Buck" Buchan on April 27 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

Buchan, who died on Oct. 11, 2000, was a 20-year-old coxswain for the USS West Virginia (BB-48) during the time of the 1941 Pearl Harbor attacks.

Buchan and his wife of 53 years, Charlotte, had their ashes scattered in Pearl Harbor during a ceremony that included full military honors, a short religious service and a three-volley rifle salute provided by

the Navy Region Hawaii ceremonial guard.

In attendance were numerous military guests, including Capt. Larry Scruggs, chief staff officer, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Earl Gray Jr., Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; and three of Buchan's four daughters.

Daughter, Lee Beliveau, said she found the ceremony to be a fitting final tribute for both her mother and father.

"I found it very comforting," she said after the ceremony. "This [memorial] is so beautiful. I am just glad they are at peace and are together now."

During the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, Buchan was assigned as supervisor of a small supply boat in charge of transporting supplies to his ship, moored near Ford Island.

With his shift ending promptly at 8 a.m. that morning, he was in his supply boat when the first wave of Japanese aircraft began to approach Pearl Harbor around 7:50 a.m.

In a 1991 article in his hometown newspaper, "Andover Townsman," Buchan recounted memories from that



horrific day.

"We were caught with our pants down, no doubt about it," he told the reporter. "I was waiting for the last boat trip and then I would be finished. If the Japanese had attacked one hour later, I could have been back on the West Virginia."

Buchan and his crew were still in their boat, tied between USS West Virginia and USS Tennessee (BB-43), when the West Virginia got hit with a torpedo.

Once the ship was hit, she began to turn on her port side, threatening to overturn Buchan and his crew's boat, still tied to the West Virginia.

"The chalk (the iron piece boats are tied to) broke and the line slid over [on] our boat," Buchan recalled. "If we didn't get our boat out from under the line, it would have sunk

us. We finally got free and headed over alongside the Oklahoma."

During the chaos, Buchan remembered seeing bodies of Sailors thrown all over the water along with flaming oil spilling from the burning ships and wreckage.

Buchan and his crew immediately started pulling Sailors out of the burning water and into their boat, whether they were dead or alive. "The majority were so covered with oil, you couldn't tell what they were," he said of the Sailors who were rescued.

According to Buchan, one of his most horrific memories was seeing the navigator for the West Virginia help-

ing survivors after he had sustained life-threatening burns.

"I doubt very much if he lived through it," he said. "He was burned so badly, the flesh was actually dripping off his arm. I don't even remember his name, but he deserves a medal."

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Buchan went on to serve in many battles all over the South Pacific during WWII.

"I was there at Pearl Harbor when it began and I was in Tokyo when it ended," Buchan recalled. "My enlistment and the end of the war with the Japanese corresponded perfectly. My enlistment was over in October and the war ended in September."

After the war, Buchan married Charlotte Griffin and became a fire fighter in his hometown of Andover, Mass., where the couple raised four daughters. Never forgetting his time in the military, Buchan was an avid model ship builder and also a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivor

and Destroyer Escort Association.

His daughters remember Buchan as the "quiet and humble" patriarch of the family who had expressed an interest in one day returning to his fallen shipmates at Pearl Harbor.

After his death in 2000, his wife decided to keep his ashes with her at the family home until she passed away on Jan. 3, 2009.

"When he died, [mom] didn't do anything with his ashes," said daughter, Lynne Buchan. "I think subconsciously she was waiting for her time so they could be together."

Thanks to the efforts of a few family members and dedicated Sailors, Buchan was not only reunited with his life-long partner, but he will forever be a part of the precious waters he once protected.



Hickam heaves Naval Station out of classic

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

Hickam withstood a spirited second-half comeback by Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA) to earn a 77-71 victory in the Hickam Air Force Base 8th Annual Aloha Classic Basketball Tournament at Hickam Fitness Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 23.

Besides Pearl Harbor and Hickam, the week-long tourney welcomed a total of seven men's and three women's teams from Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks, Tripler and Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Schofield captured this year's men's title, while the women's crown went to Hickam.

NAVSTA, which recorded a 3-3 record during the tournament's pool-play format, entered the classic's championship round as the No. 3 seed and had high hopes of squaring off for the title.

However, against its old nemesis Hickam, NAVSTA dug itself a huge hole in the second half after it saw a four-point, first-half deficit balloon to a dozen in the early minutes of the second.

Although NAVSTA managed to stage a dramatic rally to pull to within one point on a long-range splashdown for three by Chief Electrician's Mate Troy McCloud with under six minutes to go in the game, the comeback would fall short as Hickam ousted its rival in the first round of the title series.

"Hickam was one of the teams that was worrying me because we've always had trouble getting over the hump at them over here," said McCloud, who was hobbled with a groin injury, but

still scored eight points against Hickam. "We did improve, but not enough to get over the hump."

Lt. Jason Jones was instrumental in helping NAVSTA whittle down Hickam's 12-point advantage as he connected for a game-high 22 points, which included four three pointers, two field goals and a near-perfect 6-for-7 from the free-throw line.

Jones admitted that it was frustrating to come so close, but lose to the team's base counterpart once again.

"It's not something that we're not doing, we're busting it out there," pointed out Jones. "I don't know if it's a mental thing or what, but we just can't over the hump."

Led by guard Staff Sgt. Carlos Ramer's 12 points in the first half, Hickam battled its way to a slim 38-34 lead going into intermission.

Even though NAVSTA scored the first basket after the break to cut the lead down to two, Hickam's tough 1-2-2 zone defense slowed down NAVSTA's offense while Ramer and his teammates pushed the ball up-court as their advantage grew to double digits.

As the second half neared its midway point, Ramer came off the right wing and threw down a thunderous tomahawk dunk to complete a two-on-one fast break that burgeoned Hickam's lead to a dozen at 59-47 with 11:37 left to go in the game.

"Our coach was like, 'Yeah, take it to the rack,'" said Ramer about Hickam's second-half success. "Our aggressive ball handling going toward the basket cre-



Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Aaron Jackson of Naval Station Pearl Harbor drives the lane for two of his 14 points against Hickam at the Hickam Air Force Base 8th Annual Aloha Classic Basketball Tournament at Hickam Fitness Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 23. Hickam sent NAVSTA packing by beating them, 77-71, in the first round of the tourney's championship series. NAVSTA finished the week-long event with a record of 3-4.

ated a lot of fouls so we were in the bonus early with about 15 minutes left to go."

Ramer's throw down seemed to awaken NAVSTA, which began to methodically eat away at Hickam's lead.

Four minutes after Ramer's dunk, Jones swished four straight free throws to pull NAVSTA to within four points, which led up to McCloud's dramatic trey.

"That was clutch," said Jones of his teammate's bulls-eye from the arch. "I was feeling that this would be the one, but we didn't get it."

Ramer, who led Hickam scorers with 14 points, explained that he and his teammates worked too hard to let the game get away.

While the Hickam guard pointed to better conditioning and team defense as the main reasons for the victory, the game may have been won at the free-throw line where NAVSTA shooters struggled to find the mark.

NAVSTA converted only 19 of 45 attempts from the charity stripe, while Hickam went 27 for 43 – including several clutch shots will clock ticking down.

Still, although Jones shared his disappointment about losing to Hickam, the sharp-shooting guard said that the stiff competition at the classic should produce dividends for NAVSTA in the coming weeks.

NAVSTA begins the defense of its Pearl Harbor Ashore Intramural League title on May 5 with a second-round playoff game at Naval Station Gym, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Although it was a negative (loss to Hickam), it's a positive direction that we're going in that we know that we can keep up with the best," said Jones. "I think we're going to get it back."

Ten-run inning leads Kunia over Allen's

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

The Kunia Cavemen, a team comprised of players from Navy Information Operations Command-Hawaii (NIOC), broke open a close game by scoring 10 runs in the bottom of the third to storm past Allen's, 16-8, in an Ashore Intramural Softball League matchup at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 27.

By defeating Allen's, Kunia kept pace among the leaders at the top of the standings in improving its league record to 6-0, while Allen's, a squad of Naval Supply Corps officers, dropped its third game against one win.

With Kunia clinging to a 4-1 advantage, the Cavemen got off to a great start at the plate in the bottom of the third by clubbing four straight hits to open the inning.

The consecutive string was halted by a pop out to first, but Kunia immediately got back on the hit parade by following up with three more hits and a walk.

With the bases loaded, Navy Lt. Jeff Murse broke the game wide open when he connected on a seeing-eye hit that skirted through the infield and made it deep into the outfield, before Allen's outfielders were able to track the ball down.

The shot knocked in all three runners, while Murse, who led off the inning with a single, raced all the way to third.

"I just tried to hit it hard somewhere," said Murse about his base-clearing hit. "I hit it on the ground, but it made its way through so I was kind of lucky."

For the inning, the Cavemen batted around the order and knocked in 10 runs on 10 hits with two bases on balls.

Cmdr. Donald Tyer, pitcher for Allen's, said that once Kunia started putting the ball



Army Master Sgt. Scott Vanhoozer blasts a line shot during Kunia's 10-run third inning in the team's 16-8 victory over Allen's in an Ashore Intramural Softball League game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 27. Kunia, a team comprised of players from Navy Information Operations Command-Hawaii (NIOC), improved its league record to 6-0.

through the holes, things seemed to snowball into a big inning.

"They hit some hard balls that found gaps and we made one or two errors so that kind of gets you down," said Tyer. "We let a couple of outs get away from us and the next thing you know, that one inning decided the game."

Gaining a 13-run lead, said

Kunia pitcher Master Chief Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) Bill Kronenberg, let him relax on the mound and go after the Allen's batting order.

Although Allen's came back to rally for six runs in the top of the fourth inning, Kronenberg retired the side in order in the fifth and posted a goose egg in the seventh

to end the game.

"It feels good because you know that you don't have to throw all strikes," said Kronenberg. "You know that you got a lot of guys hitting the ball behind you."

While Kunia seems to be running on all cylinders early in the season, Tyer said that Allen's is still trying to work things out as they integrate

four new faces on the team.

However, after rallying for six runs in the fourth, Tyer stated he believes that things are about to turnaround.

"We're normally just as good as those guys (Kunia), but we're struggling this year," admitted Tyer. "I think we're definitely on the upslope. To play an undefeated team and take them to the

last inning, that's our best game so far."

Meanwhile, both Murse and Kronenberg agreed that if Kunia keeps slugging away, like it has done all season long, then the team should continue to rack up wins.

"I think we can hit. That's our strong point," noted Murse. "As long as we keep hitting, we'll be alright."

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements:

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Crommelin bounces back to rally past Chicago

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

Timely hitting and a vacuum-like infield helped USS Crommelin (FFG 37) come from behind to defeat USS Chicago (SSN 721), 9-5, in an Afloat Intramural Softball League game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 24.

The triumph improved Crommelin's league record to 2-1 as Chicago saw its mark drop to 1-3.

While Crommelin eventually distanced itself from Chicago in gaining the four-run victory, the team had an ominous start as a dropped fly ball in left field led to two runs for its foe in the first inning.

Chicago tacked on another run in the top of the second to take a 3-0 advantage early in the game.

However, in the bottom of the inning, Chicago fielders opened the door for a comeback, when two errors helped Crommelin to a four-run outburst and a one-run lead.

Crommelin batters aided its own cause in the inning by stroking a one-out, two-run single and a two-out, one-run single.

"We're a defensive-oriented team so we don't usually score a lot of runs," said Crommelin third baseman, Ensign Josh Riley, whose sterling play at the hot corner anchored his team's airtight infield. "When we fell behind, we knew that we had to pick it up. Our defense picked it up big time after the first two innings and that allowed our offense to rally by taking advantage of their mistakes and putting the ball in play. When we got runners on base, we're able to get them in."

Clinging to a one-run advantage, Crommelin made a pitching change in the top of the fourth inning to try and preserve the lead.



Operations Specialist 1st Class Steven Manning of USS Crommelin (FFG 37) slides under the tag of USS Chicago (SSN 721) Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Justin Harmon after slamming a triple, while Chicago shortstop Logistics Specialist Seaman Jerry Acosta looks on during an Afloat Intramural Softball League game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 24. Crommelin got past Chicago, 9-5, and improved its record to 2-1.

Crommelin looked to team manager, Fire Controlman 1st Class Jeremy Spencer, to hold Chicago batters at bay and the veteran hurler didn't disappoint his teammates.

Spencer immediately set the tone as he mowed down the first three Chicago batters he faced, and even induced an around-the-horn double play to end the inning.

In the bottom of the frame, Crommelin gave Spencer a little breathing room when the team scratched out three more runs on three hits to go out in front by a score of 7-3, but Chicago capitalized on two errors by the Crommelin left fielder to pull to within two runs in the top of the fifth.

The two-run rally by Chicago did little to shake Spencer, however, as he calmly made his pitches to set down Chicago batters in order over the final two innings to nail down the victory.

Chicago third baseman, Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Justin Harmon, said that the

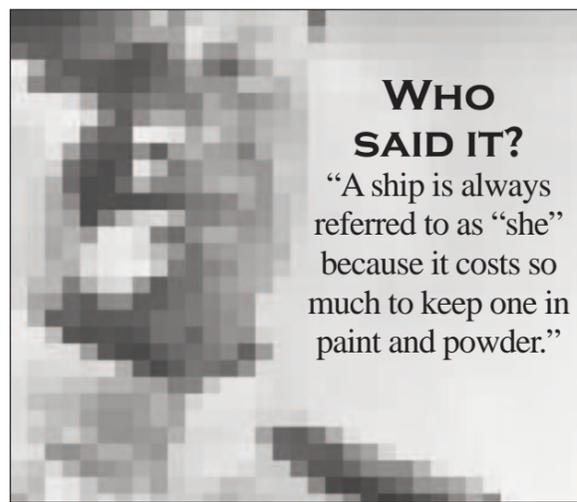
team just couldn't get its timing down at the plate. He added that having to adjust to Spencer's offerings in the middle of game only made matters worse.

"His ball was coming in a bit more flat than their first pitcher," pointed out Harmon. "We were just taking balls too early and popping up the ball."

Spencer noted that throwing to spots and communicating to his fielders were the keys to his success on the mound.

"I pitch it to where they (hitters) stand," stated Spencer. "If they are going to crowd the plate, I'm going to throw to them inside. I tell my infielders that when I throw it inside, it's probably going to go down third base."

If the ball did travel its way to the hot corner, Riley, a life-long athlete of the diamond sport, made even the hardest pickups look easy before rifling accurate throws to first for the put-out.



WHO SAID IT?

"A ship is always referred to as 'she' because it costs so much to keep one in paint and powder."



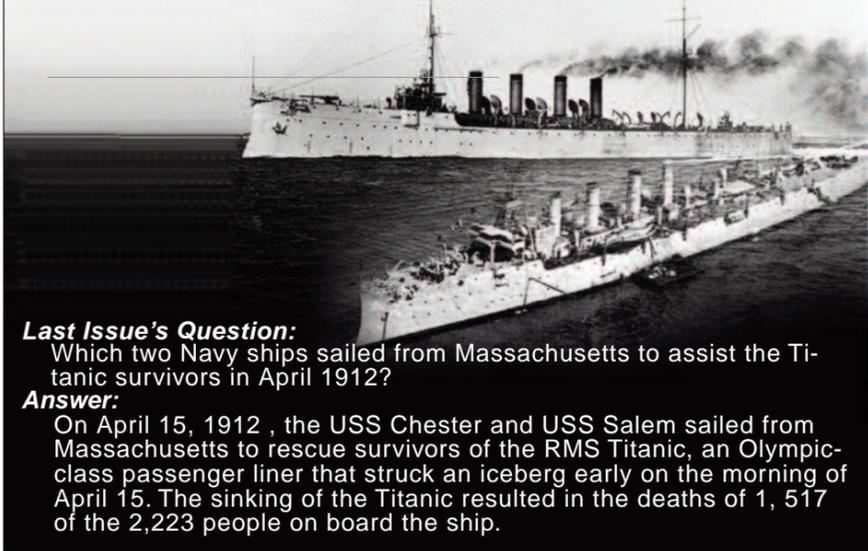
LAST ISSUE'S WHO SAID IT?

"ALL GREAT CHANGE IN AMERICA BEGINS AT THE DINNER TABLE."

- President Ronald Reagan

This Week's Trivia

What day in April did the Navy Nurse Corps become a commissioned rank?



Last Issue's Question:

Which two Navy ships sailed from Massachusetts to assist the Titanic survivors in April 1912?

Answer:

On April 15, 1912, the USS Chester and USS Salem sailed from Massachusetts to rescue survivors of the RMS Titanic, an Olympic-class passenger liner that struck an iceberg early on the morning of April 15. The sinking of the Titanic resulted in the deaths of 1,517 of the 2,223 people on board the ship.

Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

Morale Welfare & Recreation

MAY DAY IS LEI DAY

Come to Scott Pool from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday for lei-making with tropical goodies. Prizes will be given for the most creative lei. FMI: 473-0394.

YOUTH AND MINI-YOUTH ORIENTATION

A youth and mini-youth orientation will be held on Saturday and 15 at Bloch Arena. The program is free and is designed to show parents how to help their children in the Fit Kids center. For youth, ages 10-14, orientation will begin at 9 a.m. For mini-youth, ages six to nine, orientation will begin at 10 a.m. FMI: 473-0793.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AT BLOCH ARENA

A six-week Weight Management class will be held from May 4 to June 10 at Bloch Arena. The program includes a full physical assessment, nutritional education and a motivational fitness specialist to teach and guide cardiovascular and weight training exercises, flexibility and strength conditioning. The sessions are held at Bloch Arena on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$75 and space is limited. FMI: 473-0793.

CINCO DE MAYO

A Cinco de Mayo celebration will be held May 5 at Brews and Cues club. There will be free snacks from 4 to 6 p.m. FMI: 473-1743. Single Sailors are invited to celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the Beeman Center and Instant Liberty beginning at 6 p.m. May 5. The event is free and open to all active duty single Sailors. FMI: 473-2582 or 422-7167.

For more information on Navy Region Hawaii MWR events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com

Community Calendar

April

30 ~ Listen to North Shore's teacher "Miss Jenny" Fixman read her books and CD collection to children from 11 a.m. to noon at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange. "Miss Jenny" has developed eight programs that teach all subjects through 225 original songs. This is a free event. Merchandise will be available for purchase and autograph. FMI: 423-3287.

30 ~ Navy College Hawaii will hold its annual education fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX). Representatives from 19 colleges and universities and nine education-affiliated government agencies will be available to discuss educational programs and college degrees. Service members, family members, Department of Defense civilians and anyone with base privileges are encouraged to attend the event. FMI: 473-5705, press 1, then any number between 1-5 or e-mail nco.hawaii@navy.mil.

30-May 2 ~ A Hawaii gourmet cookie roadshow will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pearl Harbor NEX. The roadshow will feature a variety of local cookie flavors. FMI: contact Stephanie Lau at 423-3287.

May

1 ~ Meet Roberta Wong, author of the book "Fancy Lei in Crochet" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pearl Harbor NEX for a lei-making class. FMI: 423-3287.

1 ~ Meet Mellie Enos, author of the book "The Guide to Making Ribbon Lei" from noon to 1 p.m. at the NEX. FMI: 423-3287.

Sharkey Showtimes



Alice in Wonderland (PG)

Nineteen-year-old Alice returns to the whimsical world she first encountered as a young girl, reuniting with her childhood friends: the White Rabbit, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the Dormouse, the Caterpillar, the Cheshire Cat, and of course, the Mad Hatter. Alice embarks on a fantastical journey to find her true destiny and end the Red Queen's reign of terror.

SHARKEY MOVIE THEATER

TODAY

Closed for renovations

SATURDAY

2:30 PM Alice In Wonderland (PG)
5:00 PM Crazy Heart (R)
7:15 PM Brooklyn's Finest (R)

SUNDAY

2:30 PM Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG)
4:45 PM Brooklyn's Finest (R)
7:15 PM She's Out of My League (R)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY

6:00 PM Our Family Wedding (PG-13)
8:30 PM Repo Men (PG-13)

SATURDAY

4:00 PM Alice in Wonderland (PG)
7:00 PM The Bounty Hunter (PG-13)

SUNDAY

2:00 PM Alice in Wonderland (PG)

