

PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR

makes final journey to
PEARL HARBORBOATSWAIN'S MATE 1ST CLASS (RET.)
GERALD "Jerry" LUDVIGSON

USS TENNESSEE (BB 43)

Story and photos by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

To many who knew him, Pearl Harbor Survivor Gerald "Jerry" Ludvigson was many things: family man, life of the party and a real "character" who loved to dance and beat his grandkids at card games.

But one name he carried throughout his life, especially after surviving one of the deadliest attacks on American soil, was "survivor."

"He was really proud of his [Navy] service," said his son Gary Ludvigson, also a Navy veteran. "To many, he was known as 'survivor.' It was the name of his boat. It was on the license plate of his car. It was even his CB handle (a moniker used for CB radio communications) when he was out fishing. That was just dad," he added.

On Sept. 29, retired U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Ludvigson made his final voyage to Pearl Harbor when his ashes were scattered near the USS Utah Memorial in a private ceremony with full military honors. In attendance were four of his five children and their extended families.

Born June 22, 1920 in Gunnison, Utah, Ludvigson was born into a family of farmers. In order to escape an inevitable life of farming, he skipped his high school graduation with a buddy to sign up for the U.S. Navy in 1939.

In a family home video, Ludvigson shared that he almost didn't

pass his Navy physical due to a problem with one of his toes.

"I almost didn't pass because of a corn that kept a couple toes from touching the ground," he said on the video. "I remember the doctor had stepped on my foot and asked if it hurt. I said 'no,' but it damn near killed me. He didn't know that though. He just looked at me and said 'you're in kid.'"

Upon joining the Navy, Ludvigson was assigned to the USS Tennessee (BB-43), where he served as the brigmaster and master-of-arms of the ship.

The ship deployed to Pearl Harbor in 1940 and was moored starboard side of USS West Virginia (BB-48) and nestled between USS Arizona (BB-39) and USS Maryland (BB-46) on Dec. 7, 1941.

On that fateful Sunday morning, the then-21-year-old said he and crew members had just come in for breakfast after cleaning the quarterdeck when the first wave of Japanese Zeroes hit Pearl Harbor at five minutes to 8 a.m.

"All of a sudden, we heard these sirens, then our [commanding officer] came on over the intercom saying 'All hands man your battle stations,'" he recalled via home video. "At first, we all thought it was a drill on Sunday morning and we were cussing like hell."

Upon realizing this was not a drill, Ludvigson and other shipmates raced to their battle station, located inside one of the ship's gun turrets.

He said he manned the machine guns located in the gun

turret, but was unable to fire because many of the guns inside the turrets were damaged and inoperable due to several torpedo hits. Plus, the ship's close proximity to other Navy vessels inside the harbor made her virtually defenseless.

"I didn't actually see anything inside the gun torrent, but I could hear and feel the explosions outside the ship," he recalled. "The West Virginia was next to us and got the brunt of it. She took three or four torpedoes and then [eventually] sank."

Ludvigson said his most vivid memory of that day was the rolling smoke and burning fuel debris billowing out of USS Arizona's stern, which carried over onto his ship.

"When we finally went outside, we had to immediately start putting out fires on our deck brought on by all of the burning debris," he remembered. "The smoke from the [USS] Arizona was so thick you couldn't see nothing. It just rolled right over us."

Surprisingly, Ludvigson recalled that the scariest moment for him on Dec. 7 had nothing to do with the Japanese, but rather being the recipient of "friendly fire" from the Marines who "shot at everything that moved."

"After [the attack], I had to take a motor launch across the canal to pick up the dead and wounded and haul them off to Hospital Point," he said. "The channel was still pretty dark with smoke and fire and our biggest worry was whether or not the Marines were going to shoot us when we came down the channel."

Within 17 days, the USS

Tennessee was underway for Bremerton, Wash. for repairs from the damage sustained during the attacks. The trip proved to be a memorable one because it was there where Ludvigson met his wife of 56 years, Zona Dub, a shipyard worker. She predeceased him in 1998.

After six years of Navy enlistment, Ludvigson and his wife separated from military life and made a home in California where they raised five children. After retiring, he enjoyed a lengthy and fulfilling career in construction.

Ludvigson never lost sight of the invaluable lessons he learned as a Sailor, even incorporating a few military-inspired traditions into his own family life. In fact, his children recall their father whistling "Reveille" to wake them on Saturday mornings to do chores.

"He definitely had his ways," his son, Gary, remembered. "Of course, coming from the military, he thought all of us kids had to have crew cuts. He gave me one until I was 19 years old. A lot of nicks in the ears," he chuckled.

Ludvigson's daughter Susan said her father would be pleased with the family decision to scatter his ashes near his fallen shipmates at Pearl Harbor.

"Deep down, I think he would be very touched by the whole thing," she said. "But knowing Dad, he would probably just smile and say 'keep the damn thing short and sweet.'"



Charlotte storms back to beat Chafee in OT

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

USS Charlotte (SSN 766) overcame a 12-0 deficit at halftime to beat USS Chafee (DDG 90), 25-19, in overtime during a Morale, Welfare and Recreation Intramural Flag Football Afloat Division game at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 26.

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Geoffrey Giorno of Charlotte caught the game-winning touchdown on a four-yard pass from Lt. Tom Weiler, who scrambled out of the pocket before finding Giorno in between two defenders.

"It was a basic post-to-corner route," said Giorno, who scored two touchdowns in the game. "I had been running it all day and I was open a lot."

The winning score represented a complete turnaround for Charlotte, whose offense sputtered in the first half.

On its first offensive series, Charlotte lost the ball after Weiler was picked off by Operations Specialist 1st Class Phillip John of Chafee. The team went four-and-out on its next set.

Meanwhile, Chafee quarterback, Operations Specialist 2nd Class Solomon Pulu, guided his team 68 yards for the first touchdown of the game before extending the lead to 12-0 on a seven-yard scoring toss to Cmdr. Larry Gonzales near the end of the first half.

Following the break, Charlotte immediately got back into the game when Weiler led the team on a 15-play scoring drive that covered 65 yards.

The drive ended when, on fourth and goal-to-goal, Weiler's tipped pass fell into the hands of an alert Giorno. Charlotte converted on its point-after to pull to within five points at 12-7.

During the drive, Charlotte was three-for-three on fourth-down attempts which, according to Weiler, was due to a change in the team's game plan.

"We just tried to hit our linemen a little more," said Weiler, who used the team's linemen as a safety valve when his receivers were covered. "That helped us convert a lot of third and fourth downs."

With Charlotte closing in, Chafee came back to regain its 12-point advantage as the team marched 65 yards on only five plays with John plunging into the end zone from one yard out. Chafee



Lt. Tom Weiler of USS Charlotte (SSN 766) eludes a tackle before zipping a pass downfield during an Afloat Division flag football game against USS Chafee at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 26. Weiler led a second-half comeback as Charlotte beat Chafee, 25-19, in overtime.

added its point-after to go up, 19-7.

However, Charlotte kept its momentum going and, after starting on its own 15, the team needed only four plays to score a TD to inch back to within six points at 19-13.

The touchdown came on a 41-yard bomb from Weiler to Fire Control Technician 1st Class Eric Suskey.

Still, with time running down, the game appeared to be in Chafee's control as the team took possession of the ball on its own 15.

Instead, four plays later, Chief Sonar Technician (Submarine) Marcus Holloway of Charlotte came up with a huge play that quickly turned the tables on Chafee's fortunes.

On third down, Holloway picked off a pass from Pulu and brought the ball back to the Chafee 38 with only two minutes left in regulation.

As time was winding down, Weiler came up with another clutch toss on fourth down as he lofted a pass to Chief Culinary Specialist Chuck Gant, who was wide open at the 16 – giving Charlotte a fresh set of downs.

Two plays later, with only 30 seconds left on the clock, Weiler zeroed in on Lt. Jimmy Kepper who hauled in the tying

touchdown in the back of the end zone. Charlotte failed to convert its point-after – sending the game into overtime.

In overtime, Chafee received the nod to start first at the Charlotte 10-yard line, but was kept out of the end zone after Gant intercepted a Pulu pass at the goal line on third down.

Charlotte then got its turn from the Chafee 10-yard line and, after advancing the ball six yards on three plays, found itself facing fourth-and-goal on the four-yard line.

That's when Weiler delivered the game-winning toss to Giorno. "There is no better feeling than to win a game like that," said Giorno following the catch.

The win improved Charlotte's record to 2-0, while Chafee saw its mark fall down to 1-1.

Suskey said the undefeated start has given Charlotte a big boost as it prepares for the rest of the season. And he believes that the team just might accomplish something that has never been done in the Navy league's history.

"We want to go undefeated. That's our goal," said Suskey. "We want to be the first submarine team to win this league."

Armed Forces Hawai'i shuts out Columbia

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

The Armed Forces Hawai'i women's softball squad opened up its winter season by beating Columbia, 12-0, in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation Women's Softball League game at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 26.

The league is open to women 18 years and older, who are active duty, reservists, retirees, family members or Department of Defense employees.

Armed Forces Hawai'i's next game will be against Hawai'i Marines on Oct. 3, starting at 4 p.m., while Columbia, which saw its record fall to 0-2, will search for its first win after enjoying a bye this weekend.

Against Columbia, Armed Forces Hawai'i's bats started off hot and remained that way for the duration of the game.

The team collected four runs in the first, second and third innings, before the game was called due to the league's 10-run mercy rule.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces Hawai'i pitcher, Maj. Joyce Gill, a full-time Air Force reservist, was enjoying a solid day on the mound as she allowed no runs through three innings.

Gill explained that, unlike Columbia, which is filled with inexperienced players, Armed Forces Hawai'i is a veteran squad with many of its players involved in leagues outside of the military bases.

While the team's players love to compete, Gill stated that the women come out each game to have fun and enjoy each other's fellowship.



Armed Forces Hawai'i hurler, Maj. Joyce Gill, a full-time Air Force reservist, delivers a pitch during a Women's Softball League game against Columbia at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 26.

"We pride ourselves on good sportsmanship," noted Gill. "Every one of our players has a great attitude and we all get along."

Like Gill, Shannon Withrow, who is the head coach of Columbia, said having a good time at the ballpark is the main reason why many of her gals commit themselves to play in the softball league.

However, said Withrow, it would be nice to win a game and she feels that time will come soon for Columbia.

Withrow, who is in her first-year at head coach, oversees a team that is stocked with players that are brand new to the sport.

"We have a lot of potential," pointed out Withrow. "This was only our second game together and I've seen a 100 percent improvement. We've just got to learn to work together more, but we're getting closer. We're going to win our next game. It's coming."

Ageless Allen's supply another decisive win

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Despite having to play back-to-back games, the Allen's softball squad came from behind to bounce Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT), 12-2, in a Winter Softball League (WSL) game at Millican Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 26.

Allen's, a team that is mostly comprised of Naval Supply Corps officers, improved its division-leading record in the American League of the WSL to 4-0 after sweeping Afloat Training Group (ATG), 25-6, and COMPACFLT.

"It was a beautiful day to play," said Capt. Bob Bronson of Allen's, who is also a Supply Corps officer at U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM). "And when you come out to play on a great field, it just

motivates you more."

For the day, Bronson was perfect at the plate – rapping out four singles in four at-bats.

Although COMPACFLT broke out in front with two runs in the top of the first inning, things began to unravel for the team after fielding miscues in the bottom of the second opened the door for Allen's to rally from behind.

COMPACFLT's left side of the infield accounted for four errors and Allen's took full advantage of the gifts by crossing home four times, despite having only one hit (a leadoff single by Bronson) in the inning.

"We were just flat all around," said COMPACFLT shortstop Blake Wawrzenski, who spent eight years in the Navy and recently departed military service as a lieutenant. "It was just one of those days. We had too much



Capt. Bob Bronson of the Allen's softball team strokes one of four singles during a Winter Softball League game versus Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) at Millican Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 26.

defensive errors."

Allen's tallied another run in the bottom of the fourth before breaking the game wide open with six runs in the fifth. The team's final run in the bottom of the sixth ended the game an inning early due to the league's 10-

run mercy rule.

In the fifth, Allen's led off the inning by slashing six singles in a row to score four runs, before another infield error by COMPACFLT allowed two more runs to cross the plate.

"These guys (Allen's) nick-

el and dime everybody," said Wawrzenski. "They got some really good bats."

Meanwhile, Cmdr. Donald Tyer, pitcher for Allen's, was busy tossing a gem in posting five shutout innings after giving up two runs in the first inning.

Tyer, who is stationed at PACOM, said that he stuck to the basics in keeping COMPACFLT hitters off-balance.

"I was just throwing strikes," stated Tyer. "They (COMPACFLT) were hitting balls hard, but we were just making the plays. Our guys played good defense. They backed me up out there."

Tyer said that although the team was a bit tired after winning its game against ATG, Allen's entered its contest versus COMPACFLT feeling comfortable and ready to go.

While the team has the oldest players in the league, Tyer noted that many of the

players maintain their youthful zest for softball by competing in other leagues throughout the year.

"I think the average age on the team is forty," said Tyer. "That's why the rest of the guys don't like losing to us. We're definitely the oldest team out there."

Age, however, isn't the only thing that unites the players to come every Saturday and battle against their younger fellow members of the armed forces.

Bronson related that they chose Allen's as the team's name to remind them that they compete together as Navy Supply Corps officers.

"This is a camaraderie thing," admitted Bronson. "The history behind our name comes from the fact that all Navy Supply Corps officers have to go to training in Athens, Ga. and across the street from the school is a bar called Allen's."

Historic Makalapa homes undergo renovations

Ryan Wilson

Communications Coordinator, Forest City Residential Management, Inc.

Makalapa is one of Forest City's most beautiful and historic neighborhoods. Brilliant white homes surrounded by lush greenery have stood for almost 70 years. This is a place that doesn't just serve as housing for senior Sailors; it serves as a link to the past.

"We manage history," said Pat McGlamery, West Airport resident services manager. "Forest City has made a commitment to these historic neighborhoods. We're preserving the history, the grandeur and the importance of these homes for future generations," explained McGlamery.

Forest City is now making Makalapa even better. They have upgraded all of the homes and are converting the duplexes, except one, into large, single family homes. Some of the interior work has included reconfiguring the



Photo courtesy of Forest City Residential Management

Two construction workers demolish the kitchen of a Makalapa home.

kitchens, installing new appliances, and adding air conditioning.

Richard Montoya, Forest City's project manager for historic homes, said it's a challenge to preserve the original design of the homes while bringing them up to modern standards. But he said the work is also very rewarding.

"It's neat to keep these historic homes in service. There aren't any other homes like

them in Hawai'i," Montoya said. "And we get to preserve the craftsmanship that went into building them."

Forest City is also improving the landscaping and the irrigation system. The yards and open spaces in Makalapa are receiving special attention because they are an integral part of this community. Massive trees and lush greenery shade the streets and lanais and contribute to the neighborhood's

calming atmosphere.

Makalapa's history is as rich as its plant life. The homes were built between 1940 and 1941. Workers used prefabricated components and an assembly line building technique that facilitated the rapid expansion of the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex after war broke out in Europe in 1939.

The home designs are significant because they are some of the last examples of Charles W. Dickey's work. Dickey was one of Hawai'i's most accomplished architects and helped to define the Hawaiian regional style of architecture.

Makalapa was home to most of the Navy's junior officers directing the war in the

Pacific after Dec. 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan.

Makalapa has housed some of the Navy's most important figures. Adm. Husband E. Kimmel was the first resident of Makalapa Drive in 1941. He was relieved by Adm. Chester Nimitz in 1942, who entertained visiting dignitaries such as President Franklin Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt, General Douglas MacArthur and Walter Dillingham at his residence. More recently, President George W. Bush stayed at Makalapa. Now, the residents who call Makalapa home have a stake in the neighborhood's legacy.

"They become part of the

history of those homes," McGlamery said. "Our residents truly appreciate the importance of these beautiful homes and each resident is preserving their own piece of history by taking quality care of their home."

Forest City has invested \$58 million in historic home renovations and an additional \$24 million in civil work at the historic neighborhoods which include Makalapa, Nob Hill, Luke Field, Hale Ali'i, Hospital Point, Marine Barracks, Pearl City Peninsula, Maloelap, Manana and Hele Mai.

(Some information from a 2003 historic housing included inventory survey done by Helber Hastert & Fee, Planners and Mason Architects, Inc.)

Skylark CENTRAL

WORD SEARCH
Find these 48 Languages spoken in EUROPE

Image courtesy of wikimedia.org

L U X E M B O U R G I S H S G N S S S
W F M I T O I V K O E L A I N U L C R
E N G L I S H S L R M N I O U I O E O
G N G I E N A H B S A A H L B T V O M
N C G A L I C I A N A I N O T S E N A
E S U L U A A A A N R D N I C N N L N
I F O B H N B E L A R U S I A N E A S
N S L A A A H L S I N H R M A N I A C
L F I N N I S H U N G A R I A N H N H
A T B I E N L N T A R E I N D N S S E
T O F A R O E S E U G U T R O P I D H
V R L N C D W L S H R N R R A L M C C
I H N L I E I S I T I K W N O G E R T
A N S I D C I E L I E E I P H Z L A U
N N H I U A E C N L G S D S C E F U D
A A S E N M B L A I H A E S H L I N B
I H I G N A I L A T I A A T L N N T G
U A R S S I D N I N A V O D L O M A I
C A I Q I M M I B A D L I A S A V N G
S C U O E R C R O A T I A N D R M A U
K E E R G N F E I I T H C N E R F N K

WHO SAID IT?
 "MOST FOLKS ARE ABOUT AS HAPPY AS THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS TO BE."

LAST ISSUE'S
WHO SAID IT?
 Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people.
 - Adm. Hyman G. Rickover

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION
 Find the these 49 words used to describe how AIR FLOWS

N A O Y E R L E R L E I M A S A W W
F L M L S S L A D S R N O S A T A T
B D A R O A P U T R A R O E K T P T
R G C E O N S A E L E P M L E W S R
A S A T S T O R M E R T I R C U T A
W M A S D A S T P P Y R S T G Y A M
A R L E V A N T E R E P W U P M C O
W L V W D N I W S S O R C H E N Y N
I L L H L A H R T U K O O N I H C T
L B B I N T C E T M D O H S S F T A
L E N R W T N O O S N O M T E S F N
I C T L L A U Q S P R A E C A E W E
W C T W B M O R Z E H U B L S E D S
A I A I E R I E T K S T B E T Y R M
E O N N R A P S I R O C C O E T A B
I Q F D S H A U T D O S R P R E Z T
A T F A Y E C U R R E N T R L C Z E
N H U R R I C A N E A E U M Y E I E
T T P O M P F M O D O L E R S R L M
O I N B B T S I O O F R E B R A B S

This Week's Trivia
 Who was Chief of Naval Operations on Dec. 7, 1941?

Last Issue's Question:
 What level of classified material does not require controlled routing?

Answer:
 Confidential

Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

Morale Welfare & Recreation

FREE FAMILY FUN AND MOVIE NIGHTS
Come out for family fun and a movie courtesy of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Forest City Residential Management tonight, Oct. 24 and 30. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com or 471-8658.

BOUNCE HOUSE DAY AT SCOTT POOL
Bounce House Day will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. Oct. 7 at Scott Pool. FMI: 473-0394.

HOLIDAY HOURS AT NAVY-MARINE GOLF COURSE
For Columbus Day on Oct. 12, the Navy-Marine Golf Course will have special hours of operation. One and 10 tee times are 7 to 8:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. FMI: 471-0142.

CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY AT SCOTT POOL
On Oct. 12, military family members and service members are invited to be an explorer for the day with trivia, activities and prizes from 1 to 6 p.m. FMI: 473-0394.

DANCE LESSONS AT THE COUNTRY BAR
Want to learn line dancing? Come out and enjoy free lessons on Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 9 p.m. FMI: 473-1743.

For more information on Navy Region Hawai'i MWR events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com

Community Calendar

October

4 ~ Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange will begin new hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., effective seven days a week.

6-7 ~ Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will sponsor a Babysitting 101 class from 8 a.m. to noon at Child Development Homes office, building 1925 at 530 Peltier Ave. The classes are for children ages 12 to 17 years old. Registration for class is encouraged. FMI: 474-1999.

10 ~ The 234th Navy Enlisted Birthday Ball will be held at the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Guest speaker will be MCPON (SS/SW) Rick West. Ticket prices include \$25 for E-1 to E-4, \$40 for E-5 to E-6, \$55 for E-7 to E-9, \$65 for retired military and \$65 for officers and \$65 for civilians. FMI: contact your command representatives.

17 ~ The 234th Navy Annual Birthday Ball for Officers will be held at the Tapa Ballroom at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. No-host social hour starts at 6 p.m. with officers' call at 6:45 p.m. This year's theme, "Honoring the Past, Protecting the Future" will pay tribute to those time honored customs of our fine Navy while celebrating the advancements made for future naval forces. FMI: Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased via your Navy Ball representative or by calling Lt. Cmdr. Wendy Threlkeld at 471-8656 or via e-mail at wendy.threlkeld@navy.mil.

17 ~ The Navy Exchange (NEX) will host an art fest from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NEX Rotunda. There will be 24 Handcrafters Artisan Alliance members participating in this one-day event. FMI: 423-3309.

Sharkey Showtimes



District 9 (R)

A group of aliens became refugees to earth as they were the last survivors of their home world. They were set up in a makeshift home in South Africa's District 9 as the world's nations argued over what to do with them. Now, patience over the alien situation has run out. Control over the aliens has been contracted out to Multi-National United (MNU), who will receive tremendous profits if they can make the aliens awesome weaponry work. The tension between the aliens and the humans comes to a head when an MNU field operative, Wikus, contacts a mysterious virus that begins changing his DNA. Wikus quickly becomes the most hunted man in the world as well as the most valuable as he becomes the key to unlocking the secrets of alien technology.

TODAY
7:00 PM The Time Traveler's Wife (PG 13)

SATURDAY
2:30 PM Shorts (PG)
4:45 PM Post Grad (PG 13)
7:00 PM The Goods (R)

SUNDAY
2:30 PM Shorts (PG)
4:45 PM The Time Traveler's Wife (PG 13)
7:00 PM District 9 (R)

SUNDAY
7:00 PM The Goods (R)