

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

August 2018

A message from the President



John Cecil

Greetings,

Some very sad news. The Museum lost a dedicated, energetic, loyal, hard-working volunteer when retired Chief Petty Officer Bud Farmer passed away on 14 August. Bud was a member of the Museum's Board of Directors and a dedicated Docent. Bud was not afraid of hard work. When he saw a need, he would pressure wash the porch, steps, and sidewalks around the Museum. He often single handily set up the tables for the Museum's monthly dinners and cleaned up and disassembled after the dinners.

Additionally, Bud willingly helped out with other projects in and around the Museum. Bud's contributions to the Museum will be appreciated for years to come. Bud will be truly missed by his fellow volunteers at the Museum and by all who knew him. Thank you Bud for all that you have done for the Military Sea Services Museum.

Some sad news for the Museum, but not for Millie. In September, Millie Smith will be moving to South Carolina to be close to one of her sons and his family. Millie was a founding member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Branch 173, Sebring Florida. Millie's Husband, George, was a founding member of Branch 173. George and Millie were active in helping Branch 173 open the Military Sea Services Museum in 1998 and continued to support it. Following George's passing in Feb 2007, Millie continued her support and volunteered as a member of the Museum's Board of Directors. Although we are sad to lose Millie's service to the Museum, we are happy that she is happy about being close to some of her family and that she will be well taken care of. Thank you Millie for all that you have done for the Military Sea Services Museum.

Reminder. Summer is just about over and schools are experiencing an influx of students. Kids are everywhere. Please pay close attention to your surroundings when driving. A young child can quickly dart out from anywhere and drivers must be sufficiently aware to be able to react safely.

Watch out for the School Kids! Please stay safe!

John

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Florida, 33870 Phone: (863) 385-0992
E-Mail: navmargrd@gmail.com

Hours of Operation
Open: Wednesday through Saturday
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Web site: <http://milseasvcmuseum.org/>

Welcome Aboard New Members

On 20 July 2018 Robert and Dee Holland signed up for an annual membership. Robert is a U.S. Navy Veteran and a retired owner and manager of Holland Grill Company. Dee worked at Cooper Tool Company and is retired. Robert and Dee live in Sebring, FL.

On 22 July 2018, John Dingman became an annual member. John is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam era. John is a retired Electrician Supervisor NYSOGS. John lives in Sebring, FL

A very hearty welcome aboard to our newest members! A sincere thank you to all our members for their continued support. Without member support, the Museum would not be able to pay its bills and would have to close the doors.

Memoriam

We are saddened by the passing on 14 August 2018 of Ambrose M. "Bud" Farmer, age 77 in Sebring, FL. Bud was a volunteer at the Military Sea Services Museum since 2011 and was a member of the Board of Directors. After graduating from Gary High School in Gary West Virginia, Bud joined the U.S. Navy. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer after 20 years of service. Following his Navy service, Bud worked for Dupont for 20 years before retiring. In April 2011, Bud and his wife Barbara moved to Sebring, Florida from Bassett, Virginia.

Fair winds and following seas Bud. Rest in Peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Farmer family.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ambrose M. "Bud" Farmer's memory to:
Military Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870,
Their web site: www.milseasvcmuseum.org .

Online condolences may be left at: www.stephensonnelsonfh.com

Stories Wanted

We would like to publish in the Scuttlebutt short stories of Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personal experiences, and/or short stories of sea services historical events. We are sure there are plenty of stories out there that would be of interest to Scuttlebutt readers. Please email your stories to navmargrd@gmail.com or mail to the Museum.



[Tales of an Asia Sailor](#)

Black Tot Day

[July 31, 2018davisg022](#)



Measuring out the tot
(diorama aboard HMS *Belfast*)



The grog tub of HMS *Cavalier*

Black Tot Day (31 July 1970) is the name given to the last day on which the Royal Navy Issued sailors with a daily rum ration (the daily tot).

In the 17th century, the daily drink ration for English sailors was a gallon of beer. Due to the difficulty in storing the large quantities of liquid that this required, in 1655 a half pint of rum was made equivalent and became preferred to beer. Over time, drunkenness on board naval vessels increasingly became a problem and the ration was formalized in naval regulations by Admiral Edward Vernon in 1740 and ordered to be mixed with water in a 4:1 water to rum ratio and split into two servings per day.

In the 19th century, there was a change in the attitude towards alcohol due to continued discipline problems in the navy. In 1824 the size of the tot was halved to a quarter pint in an effort to improve the situation. In 1850, the Admiralty's Grog Committee, convened to look into the issues surrounding the rum ration, recommended that it be eliminated completely. However, rather than ending it the navy further halved it to an eighth of a pint per day, eliminating the evening serving of the ration. [2] This led to the ending of the ration for officers in 1881 and warrant officers in 1918.

On 17 December 1969 the Admiralty Board issued a written answer to a question from the MP for Woolwich East, Christopher Mayhew, saying "The Admiralty Board concludes that the rum issue is no longer compatible with the high standards of efficiency required now that the individual's tasks in ships are concerned with complex, and often delicate, machinery and systems on the correct functioning of which people's lives may depend". This led to a debate in the House of Commons on the evening of 28 January 1970, now referred to as the 'Great Rum Debate', started by James Well beloved, MP for Erith and Crayford, who believed that the ration should not be removed. The debate lasted an hour and 15 minutes and closed at 10:29pm with a decision that the rum ration was no longer appropriate.

31 July 1970 was the final day of the rum ration and it was poured as usual at 6 bells in the forenoon watch (11am) after the pipe of 'up spirits'. Some sailors wore black armbands, tots were 'buried at sea' and in one navy training camp, HMS *Collingwood*, the Royal Naval Electrical College at Fareham in Hampshire, there was a mock funeral procession complete with black coffin and accompanying drummers and piper. The move was not popular with the ratings despite an extra can of beer being added to the daily rations in compensation.

Thank you CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage, USN (Ret) for this interesting piece of British history

Tales of an Asia Sailor



[Seaman Apprentice Doug Hegdahl](#)

by [davisg022](#)

Taken from War History Online

Man Overboard

20-year-old Doug Hegdahl only wanted to see the world that was why he signed up for the US Navy but then, fate had other plans.

A few months after joining, Doug found himself on the gun line of *USS Canberra* off North Vietnam. The night of April 6, 1967 saw the cruiser shelling North Vietnam and in a bid to get a clearer view of the bombardment, Doug went above deck and was blown overboard by a 5-inch gun mount blast.

He stayed afloat South China Sea for about 12 hours until some Cambodian fishermen spotted him and fished him out of the water. The fishermen who found him treated him kindly but when he was turned over to Vietnamese militiamen, they clubbed him repeatedly with their rifles before taking him to the infamous *Hanoi Hilton* prison camp.

Meanwhile, his shipmates failed to report him going missing for two days in a bid to cover him. Because their commanding officer was left in the dark about Doug Hegdahl going overboard, nobody looked for him.

The Incredibly Stupid One

Initially, his Vietnamese captors believed Doug Hegdahl to be a commando or an agent as his story about being blown overboard was too far-fetched for them. The US Navy apprentice soon realized the he would be better off if he played the “fool” card so . . . he did.

It took a few days of slapping before he convinced his captors he was nothing but an illiterate, foolish US Navy apprentice who had little value to them. His bumpkin attitude, his youthfulness and his country accent did the trick.

US Navy apprentice Doug Hegdahl was only 20 when he entered the Navy in a bid to see the world. When his captors asked him to write anti-US statements, Doug Hegdahl agreed to do so but added that he couldn't read or write. Seeing him as someone they could manipulate for their own interest, the Vietnamese militiamen assigned someone to teach him how to read.

But after many attempts, they gave up perceiving Hegdahl as a lost cause as he appeared to be too stupid to learn. Ultimately, Doug Hegdahl was given the moniker *The Incredibly Stupid One*.



USS Canberra

Tales of an Asia Sailor- Cont'd

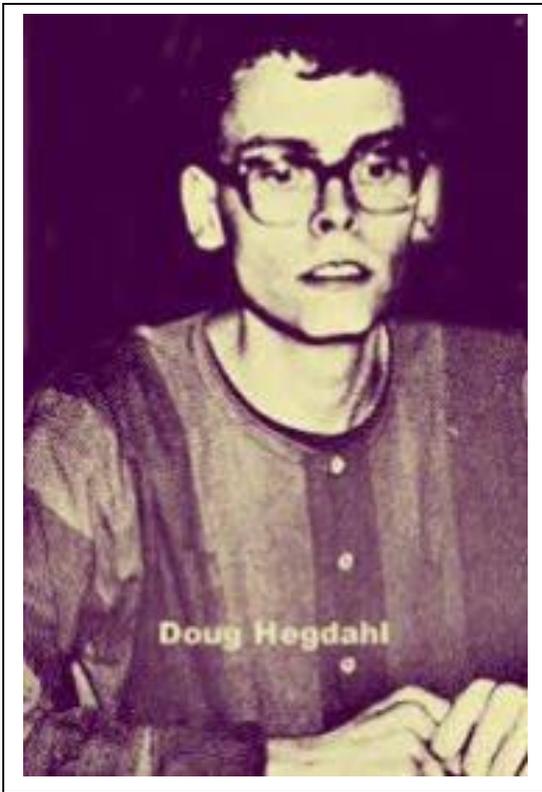
Sabotage

It wasn't long after Doug's arrival in the prison camp when fellow POWs saw his potential. Not only was he able to play the "fool" card very convincingly, he was also able to do small acts of sabotage. On top of that, Doug Hegdahl had a very impressive memory.

With the help of US Air Force officer and fellow POW, Joe Crecca, Doug Hegdahl was able to memorize the names, other personal information as well as capture dates and methods of capture of some 256 fellow POWs to the tune of the old nursery rhyme *Old McDonald Had A Farm*.

Among the small acts of sabotage he did was putting small amount of dirt in the gas tanks of five trucks. After he was finished with them, all the five vehicles had to be towed out of the prison compound.

Another prison feat Doug Hegdahl did, as shared by his cellmate and senior officer Lieutenant Commander Richard Stratton, was when he was able to convince his captors he was in need of a new pair of glasses. When they did take him to Hanoi for the fitting, the Navy apprentice went on to memorize the route they took from the prison camp to the city.



Release

Doug Hegdahl was one of the three POWs released from Hanoi on August 5, 1969. Very convinced of his "illiterate fool" act, his captors believed that releasing him – a propaganda move for the North Vietnamese – would do them no harm. On the other hand, fellow POWs – who initially made a pact not to accept early releases – saw a great advantage if Doug Hegdahl was indeed released earlier.

"You are the most junior. You have the names. You know first hand the torture stories behind many of the propaganda pictures and news releases. You know the locations of many of the prisons," his cellmate Dick Stratton told him.

However, Doug was reluctant to accept the early release his captors were offering him. He feared that coming home early would result in his being dishonored from service. In the end, Stratton had to directly order him to comply with the early release.

Fighting Without Bullets

And how right his fellow POWs were in making Doug Hegdahl an exception to the pact they made about early releases!

The information Doug had etched in his memory with the help of a nursery rhyme proved to be very valuable that Ross Perot sent him to Paris to confront the North Vietnamese Peace Talk Delegation about the fate of those servicemen who went missing in action.

Doug Hegdahl memorized many names of servicemen that the government did not have. Furthermore, he was a firsthand witness of the brutalities that occurred inside the prison camps where the POWs were interred. These brutalities were largely unknown, kept in secret until the Navy apprentice brought them out to the light.

In the end, Doug Hegdahl fought the Vietnam War but not with bullets. He was able to make a very important strike against the enemy without ever firing a gun.

Tales of an Asia Sailor- Cont'd

Post Vietnam War

After returning to the United States, Doug Hegdahl became a Survival School instructor for the US Navy's SERE [Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape]. He teaches in the institution until today.

And of course, [he can still memorize the wealth of information](#) he committed to memory some four or five decades ago using the tune of *Old McDonald Had A Farm*.

[davisg022](#) | June 21, 2018

Thank you CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage for this story of a true U.S. Navy hero.

Quotable Quotes

As I look back upon the long, tortuous trail from those grim days of Bataan and Corregidor, when an entire world lied in fear, when democracy was on the defensive everywhere, when modern civilization trembled in the balance, I thank a merciful God that he has given us the faith, the courage and the power from which to mold victory.

---General Douglas MacArthur, 2 Sep 1945 aboard USS Missouri

The atomic bomb was no great decision. It was used in the war, and for your information there were more people killed by fire bombs in Tokyo than dropping of the atomic bombs accounted for. It was merely another powerful weapon in the arsenal of righteousness. The dropping of the bombs stopped the war, saved millions of lives.

---President Harry S. Truman

We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds.

---Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

The Marines fought almost solely on esprit de corps, I was certain. It was inconceivable to most Marines that they should let another Marine down, or that they could be responsible for dimming the bright reputation of their Corps. The Marines simply assumed that they were the world's best fighting men.

---Robert Sherrod

Adaptability is a characteristic of the American fighting man that has enabled this country's Armed Forces to emerge triumphant in every major war we have fought. Adaptability is synonymous with the operations of the United States Coast Guard.

---Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

Did You Know That

The U.S. Navy only ever had one admiral of the Navy. By Congressional Act of 24 March 1903, Admiral George Dewey was promoted to Admiral of the Navy with date of rank of 2 March 1899. Admiral of the Navy Dewey held this rank until his death on 16 January 1917.



BLACK SEA (Aug. 18, 2018) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) is underway alongside the Romanian navy corvette ROS Admiral Horia Marcellariu (F 265) in the Black Sea, Aug. 18, 2018. Carney, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its fifth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of regional allies and partners as well as U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan U. Kledzik/Released)

Anniversaries

23 Aug 1775. George III, King of Great Briton and Ireland declared the American colonies to be in a state of open and avowed rebellion.

7 Aug 1782. Inception of the Purple Heart. Purple Heart Day is celebrated annually on the anniversary of the inception of the purple Heart.

4 Aug 1790. Congress created the U.S. Revenue Marine Service, later became the U.S. Coast Guard.

19 Aug 1812. USS Constitution defeated HMS Guerriere off the coast of Nova Scotia.

5 August 1864. Battle of Mobile Bay. Rear Admiral David Farragut orders, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

23 Aug 1914. Japan declared war against Germany during World War I.

29 Aug 1916. United States Marine Corps Reserves (USMCR) established. The USMCR has played a critical role in the Marine Corps total force by augmenting, reinforcing and supporting active duty Marines during military operations since World War I.

19 Aug 1934. Adolf Hitler, already Chancellor, elected president of Germany in an unprecedented consolidation of power.

7 Aug 1942. U.S. Marines (1st Marine Division) conducted the first Allied offensive of WWII at Guadalcanal.

2 Aug 1943. PT-109, commanded by LT John F Kennedy, was rammed by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri and sunk in the Solomon Islands. Two sailors were killed and 11 survived.

Anniversaries –Cont'd

6 Aug 1945. First atomic bomb "Little Boy" dropped on Hiroshima, Japan from B-29 named Enola Gay. Enola Gay was piloted by COL Paul Tibbets, U.S. Army Air Corps. Tibbets retired as a U.S. Air Force Brigadier General in 1966.

9 Aug 1945. Second atomic bomb "Fat Man" dropped on Nagasaki, Japan from B-29 named Bockscar. Bockscar was piloted by Major Charles Sweeney, U.S. Army Air Corps. Sweeney retired from the Massachusetts Air National Guard as a U.S. Air Force Major General in 1976.

14 Aug 1945. VJ day is declared-Victory over Japan. Japanese agreed to unconditionally surrender.

4 Aug 1947. U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps established.

23 Sep 1779. CAPT John Paul Jones aboard Bon Homme Richard tells HMS Serapis: "I have not yet begun to fight."

17 Sep 1787. U.S. Constitution approved.

10 Sep 1813. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry commanding his squadron from the USS NIAGARA defeated and captured the entire British squadron in the Battle of Lake Erie.

14 Sep 1814. "Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key.

1 Sep 1939. Germany invaded Poland. World War II began.

9 Sep 1942. The Japanese submarine I-25 launched a single engine floatplane piloted by Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujita near Cape Blanco, Oregon. The floatplane dropped two 168 pound incendiary bombs deep into the Oregon forest about 9 miles from Brookings, Oregon. The Japanese hoped the bombs would start massive forest fires. However they did not take into account earlier heavy rains, consequently the bombs did little damage. The I-25 was sunk almost a year later on 3 Sep 1943 by the USS PATTERSON (DD392) off the New Hebrides Islands.

2 Sep 1945. Japan signed the formal surrender agreement on board the USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay. World War II, the most devastating war in human history, was over.

18 Sep 1947. U.S. Air Force established. Happy Birthday to the greatest Air Force on earth.

11 Sep 2001. Nineteen Al-Qaeda Islamic Terrorist flew two hijacked commercial planes into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. The fourth hijacked commercial plane headed to Washington, D.C. crashed into a field near Shanksville, PA while courageous passengers fought to overcome the hijackers. The attacks resulted in nearly 3000 killed and at least 10 Billion dollars in damage to property and infrastructure.

11 Sep 2002. The first Patriot's Day. In the aftermath of the Terrorist attacks on 11 Sep 2001, President George W. Bush designated 14 Sep 2001 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance for the victims of the attacks. On 30 Nov 2001, Congress passed a joint resolution that the President declare 11 Sep of each year as Patriot Day. President Bush signed the resolution into law on 18 Dec 2001. On 2 Sep 2002, President Bush proclaimed 11 Sep 2002 as the first Patriot Day--a Day of Service and Remembrance.