



## Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum

An Oregon Based Non-Profit Charitable Organization

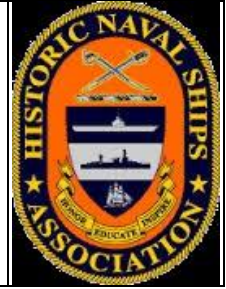
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12/3/2014



Dear shipmates and friends,

Sailors like to say that their vessel is "*Haze Gray and Underway*". This means that their ship is squared away and ready to set sail. We are proud to say that in the past year, the Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum (AFMM) and our LCI-713 is "*Haze Gray*". And with your continuing help we can get "*Underway*". 2014 was a very good year for the AFMM. Here are a few of our accomplishments:

- We Have a New Home!

The LCI-713 has been moved to a long term, centralized, safer and secure berth at the Swan Island Industrial Park in down town Portland. We are adjacent to our good friends at the PT-658 location. As icing on the cake, the Port of Portland is our new major sponsor for this new berth!



- We were the proud hosts of the 2014 LCI National Reunion We welcomed over 160 visitors from 15 states during the event. This included 43 WWII LCI veterans.
- We've continued to improve our communications via Facebook, our website and new for this year, our video additions.
  - [www.amphibiousforces.org](http://www.amphibiousforces.org)
  - [www.facebook.com/lci713](https://www.facebook.com/lci713)
- A group of 8 of our volunteers spent a week at the Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington this last August. We salvaged over \$27,000 worth of restoration materials for the LCI-713 from the former aircraft carrier *USS Ranger*.
- Our AFMM Crew has been hard at work on restoration as well. We have made significant progress in the troops' berthing compartment, crew quarters, radio room, and crew mess. We have also added new features: The spud locker, flag bag and several historical displays. Check the attached newsletter or our Facebook page for more information.
- Our Archive, which tells the history of the Landing Craft Infantry ships, has been significantly enlarged with more information from the National Archive. It is now accessible by veterans and other researchers via our historian, Dave McKay.
- We are working with the Boy Scouts of America and Sea Scouts to further their education through volunteer programs. This year we sponsored Nick Pearson's Eagle Scout Project for the construction of a Flag Bag for the 713 to WWII Navy specifications.
- Our shopping list of items we would like to acquire includes 2 Oerlikon 20mm cannons and 4 20mm gun mounts, a second deck winch, torpedo binnacle and a diesel powered stove. We now have a working list on our website and Facebook page.

This sounds like we have done a lot and we are proud of our progress. But there's more:

# Help Launch the LCI-713

The AFMM won an \$11,500 grant from the State of Oregon Historic Preservation Office. This used with another \$11,500 of your donation dollars as matching funds was used to purchase special Coast Guard approved spray-in foam and its installation. This all went into the ship's bilges to seal our hull. But sealing our aging hull is only a temporary fix. We already have the steel plate and engines required to get the 713 underway. But we need to raise about \$1,000,000 to put the 713 into dry-dock and get that new steel bottom and engines installed. *And* the AFMM must come up with at least \$10,000 per year just to meet our basic operational expenses consisting of \$8800/year for insurance required by the Port of Portland, accounting expenses and governmental fees. Any restoration funding for the 713 is on top of that. **So we need you continued help and support!**

When you donate \$100, we will inscribe your name, rank and ship on a brass plate mounted in the ship's museum display area on a plaque created for each calendar year. . Donate \$250 or more and we will permanently hang an authentic life jacket on the overhead that includes a plaque with your custom inscription. When you come to visit the 713 you will see your named jacket or plate along with the growing number of volunteer "crew" helping to keep the 713 going. Let us know when you are in Portland. Join us for breakfast and tour the ship, which – with your help – will soon get "underway".

Don't get us wrong: We like \$10 and \$20 dollar bills too. And why not tuck in a book of Forever stamps and help us defray our approximate \$1000/year in postage costs? P.S. Don't forget that the AFMM is a non-profit charitable organization. Your cash, check, money order or credit card contribution can be claimed as a tax deduction. *You can make a secure online donation via credit card on our website:*

[www.amphibiousforces.org/Donate/member-donate.htm](http://www.amphibiousforces.org/Donate/member-donate.htm)

We wish you all fair winds and following seas,



Rick Holmes, AFMM President

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Cut Here and return your contribution)

**Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum**  
**Rick Holmes, President**  
**PO Box 17220**  
**Portland, OR 97217**

Dear Rick: Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help get the LCI-713 underway.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Vet (Y) or (N) \_\_\_\_\_

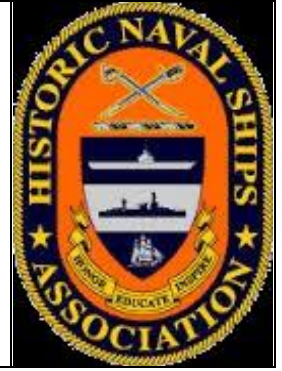
LCI or Ship affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Branch/rank \_\_\_\_\_



# Amphibious Fleet News

A publication of the Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum

December 2014



**Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum**  
An Oregon Non-Profit 501(c)(3) charitable Organization  
PO Box 17220  
Portland, OR 97217

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## We have a new Home!

We are very proud to announce that the Port of Portland is now a major sponsor and is providing that long sought home for the 713. We are now located at a Port of Portland Berth in the Swan Island lagoon in downtown Portland and we are directly adjacent to our good friends the PT-658's base of operations. Our members and guests now get a double treat when arriving for a visit.



**The 713 underway at 15 knots on 9/12/14, on the way home. (Haha, Someday with your help!)**



**Your LCI-713 dressed up for the reunion while moored at her new Port of Portland Berth.**



## 2014 LCI National Reunion

We arrived at our new home just in time to host the 2014 LCI National Reunion, which was sponsored by the Northwest chapter. It was a two day event, with the first day being filled by an excursion including a ride on the Chehalis-Centralia Steam train followed by a visit to a turn of the century Grist Mill at Cedar Creek. We had over 160 visitors on the 713 during the reunion, which included over 40 WWII LCI veterans. The 713 was looking great and everyone had a very good time. We even had Gordon Smith's LCI-43 Navy bean soup on hand, made up by Rich Lovell. Elizabeth Bauman was in the Galley serving up the soup and a cup of Joe. Within an hour every drop of soup was gone.



**Above: LCI Veterans attending the 2014 Reunion dinner**  
**Left: Reunion LCI Veterans boarding the ship thru the bow ramp with the assistance of WWII Living History Actors.**

## “At Your Leisure” TV show by Chad Booth

Mid October, 2014 Television Producer Chad Booth came on board the 713 for interviews and ship photography. This culminated in a web based video production featuring the 713. This is the first of many in a series of promotions for our organization. Thank you Chad and company!



**Chad, interviewing WWII LCI Veterans Gordon Smith, Tom Barnett, Dave McKay and Bob Blegan**



**Bob Blegan came over to Portland from Salt Lake for the interview. He's shown here at Swan Island with the 713 in the background.**

## USS Ranger (CV-61) Open House



In early August 2014 the AFMM Crew participated in an open house at the Bremerton Washington Naval Shipyard. In conjunction with several other museums: The USS Midway, The USS Iowa and USS Turner Joy amongst others, we went aboard the decommissioned USS Ranger to secure materials, parts and equipment for the 713 restoration effort. It was particularly difficult, because we had to look for WWII items on a post WWII ship. Since we have all the documents and specs for our LCI, we were able to obtain **\$27,000** worth of materials. Thank you US Navy!

## AFMM Director killed in Crash

It is with great sadness that we report to you the loss of AFMM Director, Chuck Kellogg. Chuck passed away as a result of injuries sustained in an auto accident on September 7, 2014. Chuck was an Army veteran of Korea and has always been first and foremost all about honoring veterans. He was a major supporter of the AFMM, generously supplying his time, his experience and his resources toward the restoration of the LCI-713. His history with LCIs goes back to WWII where his father was superintendent at the Albina Shipyard in Portland, Oregon, which built LCIs. Chuck was instrumental in recruiting the Port of Portland as an AFMM sponsor which paved the way for our new home. The LCI-713 is now moored on Port property, directly adjacent to the PT-658 base at Swan Island in Portland. Chuck will be sorely missed, not just as an AFMM Director, but also as a close and dear friend to us all.



Left, Chuck with Trish Kellogg at the St Helens Maritime Festival  
Above, little Chuck at the launching of LCI 1018.

**Restoration: Here are a few of the items we've been working on this year!**



**Spud locker built by Jerry Gilmartin and proudly displayed by Tom Barnett**



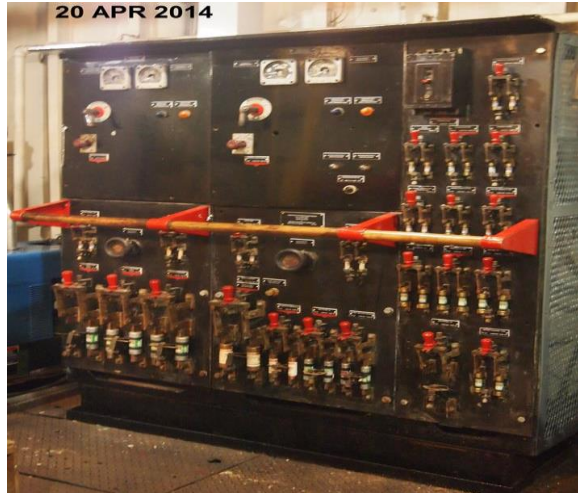
**Check out all those bunks! We completed Troop 1 thanks to a trade with our friends on the 1091!**



**Surgical and Tool Displays, by Rich Lovell**



20 APR 2014



**How bout that switchboard!**



**Nick Pearson and Gordon with our new Flag Bag from Nick's Eagle Scout project. Thanks to our own Jerry Gilmartin as Nick's AFMM sponsor.**



**Crews Tables Jerry and John built, Dave and Mark installed**



**Getting Crew Quarters Finished Up!**

### **Living History Actors**



**Photo shoot with Living History Re-enactors**

If you are a fan of Living History, Actors check out the next issue of the LHGminimag magazine. It will feature the LCI-713! We'll post links on Facebook and the Website when available.

Pictured is Grace to be featured as the magazine's centerfold.

Thank you Bryan Heim Photography!

### **A bit of History: Taranto Subs by Gordon Smith QM 1/C LCI (L) #43**

If you look at a map of the entire country of Italy which lies in the Mediterranean Sea, you will see that it resembles a large boot. On the underside of the boot next to the heel, is the town named Taranto. That is where this story centers.

Taranto is a beautiful town. It has a canal on the western end which enters into a very large body of water. This body of water was what I would call, "The San Diego of the Italian Fleet" It is called this in my mind as many major ships of the Italian Navy moored there in the sunny south just as many of the United States Navy berthed in sunny San Diego.

The canal going into this large water basin is graced by many arched bridges.

Going back into history of World War II, the Italians were weary of war, had hung their own Dictator, Mussolini, and surrendered on September 8, 1943.

However, the Italian Submarine Fleet did not surrender! They remained at sea to continue their devastation of American and British shipping as long as they had fuel, torpedoes and supplies.

It was close to December 31, 1943, almost four months later, that my ship, the LCI #43, happened to be in Taranto. Our small ships were not named but numbered as Landing Craft Infantry. Yes, we did have some leave during the daylight hours. Since my Christian background kept me away from bars and I also retained a high respect for women, it was my habit to roam an area to see what was to be seen.

On this particular day of roaming I happened to cross one of the arched bridges. In looking below into the canal, to my utter amazement, here was the Italian Fleet of Submarines sailing in to surrender!

My emotions were similar to viewing a nest of wasps, spiders or snakes! The hairs on my arms rose with the spectacle of my enemy that I had been fighting for almost a year slithering below!

They crept in a solemn single file with all of the bunting they could display. The crews were lined up in formation with their dress uniforms.

Yes, it also so happens that in my roaming, I did purchase Post Cards whenever they were available. So, this event with the Odds of a Lottery can be viewed as if a camera were on hand!

