TRSMA
THE ROHNA SURVIVORS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

www.rohnasurvivors.org
November 2021

Recording Our Past for Our Future

By: Jason D. Markiewitz, TRSMA President

At the time of this writing, we are less than two months away from the 80th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor; the singular event which precipitated the United States' involvement in World War II. My grandfather (a US Navy contractor at the time) and two of his brothers (one Navy and one Army Air Corps) all survived it, and I can still recall their stories of that early morning strike. It drove my grandfather, even at age 34, to accept enlistment when his draft number was called less than a year later, and to spend the next 3+ years in the 853rd Aviation Engineer Battalion. He passed away in 2005 at age 98 and was truly a legend among men. The good part is, we all have stories like this.

TRSMA's mission has had to transform over the past few years from one focused on the "getting together of old unit buddies" to one of legacy, education, honor, and historical significance. Before the written word, civilizations' stories were passed down among the generations. We are at that precipice now with World War II stories and a seemingly insatiable appetite to re-write or even delete history. Prior to our 80th Anniversary, I ask that you all take a few moments to write or record more of your ancestors' stories and help us make a lasting impact for generations to come. It may be up to us to ensure these accounts are not lost in the sands of time or on the scrapheap of politics. I continue to be honored to be the president of this organization and look forward to seeing everyone in person again in 2022.

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By All Accounts A Great Success!

By: Deborah Sanchez, Reunion Coordinator

The many months of meetings, planning and even a few rehearsals, paid off. The first ever virtual Rohna Reunion (held on June 19, 2021) was enjoyed by many...even some in other countries! The Board members all had a role to play and our website manager, Sander Feinberg, was "the man behind the curtain" whose technical expertise made for a flawless event.

Besides finally being able to hold our annual membership meeting, which was missed in 2020 due to the pandemic, we had an opportunity to see one another again, albeit in little squares. We were also able to present a special segment honoring the founding and original Board members of the organization. This tribute was inspired by the passing of our last two founding and original Board members, Ruth Canney and Gus Gikas, in 2020.

At past reunions, we've enjoyed a guest speaker towards the end of our event and this one was no different. We were honored to have Brigadier General Daniel P. Woodward, USAF (Ret) join us. His presence and talk helped round out the gathering and make it complete. Although the hugs were virtual and no raffle was held, the 2021 Rohna reunion was, by all accounts, a great success.

If you missed it, you can still view it on our website where it has been posted ever since the reunion took place.

Presently we are planning to hold our 2022 reunion in person from June 8-12, 2022 in Salt Lake City, Utah. We will post more information about the reunion on our website in the coming months. We expect there will be some modifications and requirements based on the current health advisories at that time. Once we are certain the reunion can be held, we will make sure to get all the necessary information to all who wish to attend.

Does Anyone Know?

If you have information regarding any of the items below or any of the items in the guestbook on our website: rohnasurvivors.org, please contact Janice Pumelia at: jetpumelia@gmail.com or by mail at: Janice Pumelia, 56 Garland Court, Brooklyn, NY 11229

My great grandfather Maynard Darrow Peck served on the Rohna. He passed away in 2012. I am wondering if I can talk to one of the survivors whenever the reunion is and see if they knew anything about him or if there are any pictures or letters that he may have.

~ Preston Peck

My cousin is Staff sgt. Francis McNerney. I was wondering if there were pictures of the crew and if anyone alive that remembers him please contact me.

~ Lisa McNulty, Boston MA

I wanted to contact you regarding my great uncle John M. Eubanks who was a casualty aboard the Rohna. I wasn't sure if any of my family members had gotten in touch with the organization and I was interested in finding out more info.

~ Missy Banks

A Posting on the Guest Book

Thank You so much for letting families have some closure. My Uncle was William DeLameter. I never knew him, but was told he was a very kind person and that he loved his mom very much. My grandmother has long passed, she never knew how he died, it was a terrible shock to her, she never really recovered. William had a brother, whom we lovingly called Uncle Abbie and two sisters Dorothy and Lisle. they also have passed and never knew the truth. I first learned of the history a few years ago from my cousin Paul Abbie's son, whom has been searching for this history for awhile. I truly appreciate all the hard work that was done to bring about the truth, of these heroic soldiers, and to bring them home. May God Bless. Thank you Again

~ Sheryl Ann Dunn

Research Corner

Here are some helpful websites if you want to conduct your own research. Listing here is **not** an endorsement of any of these sites, simply a primer to help you start your internet research. Most of them don't cost a thing!

National Archives Veterans Records
www.archives.gov/veterans

Honor List of Dead & Missing Army & USAAF Personnel
http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/arm-casualties/

Army Air Forces Historical Association
www.aafha.org

Air Force Historical Research Agency
www.afhra.org

Army Air Forces Personnel Records (Casualties) US Records of USAAF lives lost in WWII
www.usaafdata.com

USAAF General Information
www.usaaf.com

CBI Roundup (Newsletters from WWII)
http://www.ex-cbi-roundup.com

We Continue Vetting Names for our Website

We are happy to announce that with more people contacting us inquiring about loved ones, we have been informed of more possible survivors and casualties.
We are in the process of vetting these folks.
We look forward to adding their names to our rolls once we have verified that they were on the Rohna.

In Memoriam

Ardelle Baur	Widow - Martin Baur, USS Pioneer	d.18 Dec 2018
Phyllis Bettin	Widow - Harold Bettin, Survivor	d. 29 Aug 2017
Darlene Berube	Widow - Fred Panion, Survivor - Wife of Dan Berube	d. 23 May 2021
Ernest Croyle	USS Pioneer	d. 10 Mar 2013
Fred Dannenberg	HMT Karoa	d. 16 Jul 2018
Helen Deal	NOK	d. 29 Nov 2012
Hugo Della Flora	NOK	d. 14 Apr 2015
Arnetta Duckett	NOK	d. 27 Dec 2020
Mable Hall	NOK	d. 29 May 2018
Phyllis Hartner	Widow - Ted Hartner, SS Banfora	d. 7 Jan 2019
Clyde Marshall	SS Rajula	d. 4 Mar 2014
Alphonse Parelli	Survivor	d. 7 Feb 2014
Francis Taylor	Survivor - American Red Cross, Field Dir.	d. 5 Mar 2013
Aubrey Williams	Survivor	d. 2 Nov 2012

Donation Request

TRSMA is again wanting to thank you, our loyal members, for your unending generosity and support. Although checks in any amount made out to TRSMA are always welcome and can be sent to Janet Delude, 182 Covina Avenue, Long Beach, CA, 90803, may we suggest you consider making a tax deductible donation to Rohna:Classified, the documentary? This project is still in need of funding to get the film completed. Anything you can afford would be appreciated. You can make your donation by using the link at www.rohnaclassified.com

Articles & Story Submissions

Do you have a story of yourself or your loved one that you would like to share? Please submit your articles, questions, comments or stories to the Interim Editor at: debsan1951@gmail.com.

USA/UK Pieces Of The Puzzle

By: Janice Pumelia, TRSMA Secretary

Less than two weeks before our 2021 Rohna virtual reunion on June 19th I received a guest book inquiry from Ann Good of Ottawa, Canada.

It read:

Hello—I was looking at the list of Rohna casualties and my uncle Henry William Bly, private in the Royal Army Medical Corps, is not included. The best I can offer you is a link to his death certificate, but I am surprised there is no mention of the RMAC on your site. Since I see renewed interest in this tragedy I have taken on some family history research. I am now trying to get more info from British sources on the family's behalf.

Best—Ann Good, June 7, 2021

I wrote to Ann immediately, thanking her for such valuable information and put her in touch with Jack Ballo. I invited her to the reunion and she came! Ann has become a valuable resource for locating the names of British casualties and NOKs. New pieces of the puzzle may emerge due to her diligence and research. Her research may even assist Jack in the making of the documentary.

As we grow closer to November and think of Veterans Day and even more particularly Nov. 26, I will be contacting newspapers throughout the nation, forwarding them a press release informing them of the tragedy of the Rohna, the curriculum available on the website and the forthcoming documentary. YOU, too, can help us get the word out! We have placed a downloadable press release on the TRSMA website. Send it to any media outlet in your home town. Ann Good, will be doing likewise by sending the press release to UK newspapers. We thank Ann for her time energy and dedication.

Welcome, Ann, to our Rohna family. Another piece of the puzzle.....

You Can Help!

As Veteran's Day draws near you can help spread the word about the Rohna Tragedy by sending an email to your local newspaper. We now have a press release available on our website that you can download and put into your email. It gives information about the Rohna tragedy, the educational component we've developed and about the documentary, Rohna: Classified. It also gives contact information. Here's your chance to help us honor the men of the Rohna and "get the word out".

TRSMA Newsletter
c/o 4236 Hendrix Way
San Jose, CA 95124

HONORING A LEGACY

The 2021 Rohna Virtual Reunion