
It may be recalled that the Wendover, Utah, base was the later staging and special training area for the "Enola Gay" and the other B-29 bombers that were to cause the end of World War Two. Thought that the foregoing might be of interest.
Best regards,
William (Bill), Hogan. 827-049

Cheektowaga, NY
Dear Bud

I sailed back to the USA on the Liberty Ship Frederick Lykes in November of 1945. The following was taken from the ship's daily mimeographed newsletter, "Westward Ho."

Lt Clyde Tatman has one more new experience to add to the score he will be able to tell his wife and only child when he gets home to Seattle, Washington. His tale is that of an appendix operation aboard ship and he has an inch and half scar to prove his story.

Friday evening At 1808 hours the Lieutenant entered the operating room in the medical ward of the U.S.A. Transport

Frederick Lykes. An hour and fifteen minutes later Tatman was lying comfortably in bed showing no apparent ill-effects of the ordeal he had gone through, For Majer Robert Walsh, Ship's Surgeon, this is the seventh operation that he has performed while aboard this troop ship within the past twenty-five months. This case was the first recorded for the present trip. Tatman, becoming ill Thursday, the day before, it was decided to operate Friday because of the acute nature of the appendix.

The Frederick Lykes was built by the Maritime Shipping Commission. as a cargo vessel in 1940 and was converted into a Troop Carrier in 1943.

The ship's master is William B. Cowan. The ship was named after a partner in the firm of LYKES Bros., pre war shipping owners of a fleet engaged in South American trade. Tonnage is 11,000 tons, cruising range, 12,300 miles at a cruising speed 17 knots. Overall length is 492 feet, depth 9 feet and equipped with a DeLaval Steam engine of 8500 horsepower though a 4-bladed propeller, 21 feet 15 inches in diameter, cruising shaft speed of 85 RPM. It carries 11,100 barrels of fuel. This voyage's passenger list was the largest in Lykes history. Included were 3319 enlisted men, 173 officers, 26 warrant officers, 19 nurses and 9 WAC's for a total of 3546 plus the ships crews of 148 making a grand total of 3594.

John J Jacobs 827 Sq.

An Editorial

Your editor was prompted to write an editorial after seeing the plans for the WWII memorial. Copies of the editorial were sent to three major newspapers.

I was appalled at the starkness of the proposed WWII memorial. The outcry of critics who lambasted the earlier proposals for the memorial are justified. You have to ask yourself. Does the present design remind you of World War Two? Or is it just an arrangement of stones in a bare ellipse with stylized pillars supporting nothing, not even the plain grassy ramps, It does however remind one of ancient Roman ruins. There is nothing anywhere in this memorial symbolic of the World War Two, not even a Sherman tank or the white uniform of a Navy Wave.

The events of World War Two at mid century were gigantic in scope, effecting the lives of millions of people for good, or evil. Nowhere on the blank walls of the proposed memorial are the depiction's of wartime events. Nowhere does one find information on turning points (Battle of Midway), nor do we see maps, (Battle of the Bulge) photographs (Hiroshima), letters, (Einstein's letter to Roosevelt about the possibility of an atomic bomb) and documents giving the visitor a historical telling of what the war was all about (documents from the National Archives) and the changes that took place as a result of the war (GI Bill) and the British loss of empire.

The war was too vast involving millions of people at home and overseas, 12,000,000 million servicemen under arms in the United States alone. How can one look at a waterfall, a pleasant view if you will, and be reminded of the sacrifice of the common soldier. There is no reminder of the tragedy of Pearl Harbor, or the slaughter at Iwo Jima. There is no reminder of the invasion of Europe (D Day), or Air Corps bombers falling out of the sky, (Ploesti & Schweinefurt) and nothing at all of the atomic bomb. Where are the battle flags of the combat units?

How many people know that the automobile factories (Wil-

low Run Bomber Plant, Chrysler- built tanks) Packard engines) production of war materials of all types backstopped basic industry by increasing production to numbers that the Germans did not even believe possible as they rolled recklessly across Europe unknowing of what was to fall on them. The English based 8th and the Italian based 15th Air Forces darkened the skies with automobile company built bombers (Ford) and engines (Buick), guns (Oldsmobile) that shook the earth and put fear in the hearts of the enemy.

The Veterans of the War need to have an anchor where their children, and grandchildren, and those who will follow can visit a place to learn of the experience of their own mid century soldiers who offered their lives as forfeit to do battle with an unspeakable evil. For many the reward was injury or death.

How does this cold stone and silent memorial tell of all this? It does not. Conventional war of global proportions with its huge battle fleets on land, sea, and air is just about obsolete because of the atomic bomb. The history of World War II has drawn great interest from the general population and children and grandchildren of WWII veterans. A library would be more appropriate in that it would address the problems as described above. It could be a place of research, of study where one can feel the experiences of those who fought the war and those who lived and died as well.

Thus the memorial becomes a living memorial in that it is alive inside, a place to contemplate, and a place to study and learn. This is in keeping with the trend set by the Holocaust Museum in Washington. It is a place to study and learn about the biggest mistake of mankind. One can put on the Holocaust and wear it like a piece of clothing and walk in the shoes of those citizens who were politically unwanted.

I propose a World War II Library modeled loosely after a presidential library. The exterior architecture is not important, the contents inside are what matters. It may not be necessary then to beautify the exterior with stone architecture, or a waterfall.