

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: George H. Mellen, Jr., Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2012.020

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1966-2013

Extent: 0.1 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): George H. Mellen, Jr.

Administrative/Biographical History:

USS *Anchorage* (LSD-36) was a dock landing ship of the United States Navy. She was lead ship of the Anchorage-class as well as the first ship in the Navy to be named after the city in Alaska. In the ship's 34 years of service, she completed 19 deployments in the western Pacific and became the most decorated dock landing ship on the west coast.

In 1996, following completion of a deployment during which she supported Operation Southern Watch in the Persian Gulf, *Anchorage* entered drydock for its final drydock planned maintenance availability during which it received numerous systems upgrades and modifications. In July 2003, Anchorage returned to its home port at San Diego, California after supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She was decommissioned on 1 October 2003. On 17 July 2010, Anchorage was used as a target during RIMPAC for Maverick and Harpoon missiles fired from US Patrol Squadrons VP-5 and VP-40.¹

USS *Anchorage* (LPD-23), a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, is the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for Anchorage, Alaska. Its keel was laid down on 24

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "USS Anchorage (LSD-36)." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 17 May. 2013. Web. 16 Jul. 2013.

September 2007, at the Avondale Shipyard in New Orleans, Louisiana, then owned by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems. The ship was launched on 12 February 2011. She was christened two months later, on 14 May. The ship was formally delivered and accepted by the US Navy on 17 September 2012. Anchorage was commissioned 04 May 2013, in Anchorage.²

Ensign George H. Mellen, Jr., served as Repair Assistant in the Engineering Department aboard the U.S.S. *Anchorage* (LSD-36) and was part of the color guard.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 57 photographs, black-and-white and color, taken during Mellen's tour of duty on the U.S.S. *Anchorage*, along with an invitation and program from the ship's commissioning on March 15, 1969. Also included are "Subpoena and Summons Extraordinary, the Royal High Court of the Raging Main" issued to Mellen, along with the Plan of the Day for March 2, 1971, the day of the court summons. An addendum sent in July 2013 includes digital photographs from Mellen's trip to Anchorage in 2012; digital photographs and invitation from the 2013 commissioning ceremony; a digitized copy of the *U.S.S. Anchorage LSD-36 Plankowner's Book, 1968-1970* downloaded from navysite.de; a digitized copy of a 6:00 minute movie shot by Navy sailor Arthur Gregg, dated Subic Bay, 1966; digital images of the U.S.S. *Anchorage* leaving New Orleans en route to Anchorage, and then leaving Anchorage to begin her tour of duty, 2013; a digitized copy of a portrait of Ensign Mellen, circa 1969; one print photograph, a color group portrait of U.S.S. *Anchorage* plank owners (.57); and Mellen's military identification card and "Imperium Neptuni Regis" card dated 1971.

Arrangement: Arranged by format: 1. Photographs. 2. Printed materials. 3. Digital files.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

George H. Mellen, Jr., Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2012.020

² Wikipedia contributors. "USS Anchorage (LPD-23)." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 9 Jul. 2013. Web. 16 Jul. 2013.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by George Mellen, Jr., in August 2012. Addendum received July 2013.

Processing Notes

Laminated news clipping taped in to first page of commissioning ceremony program needs to be removed and preservation copied. Digital files from thumb drive sent in July 2013 copied to servers. Thumb drive placed in accession files.

Separated Materials

Objects donated by George Mellen transferred to Collections, accession 2012.024.001-008.

RELATED MATERIALS

B2012.005 U.S.S. Anchorage Collection

2012.024.001-008

SUBJECTS

Mellen, George H., Jr.

Anchorage (Ship : LSD-36)

Anchorage (Ship : LPD-23)

Queen Elizabeth (Ship)

United States. Navy – Boats

United States. Navy – Military life

Landing craft

Aircraft carriers

Manila (Philippines)

Hong Kong

Victoria Harbor (China)

Dover (England)

Sydney Harbour (N.S.W.)

Colón (Panama)

Anchorage (Alaska)

Detailed Description of Collection

F1

Series 1: Photographs

.1 – [Captain's gig being loaded/unloaded from a U.S. Navy oiler]

.2 – [Three men in naval work uniforms; an aircraft carrier is in the center and a U.S. Navy oiler on the right]

.3 – [Navy personnel]

.4 – [Navy personnel]

.5 – [Man posing with a microphone in front of a TEAC tape recorder. A cap on top of the recorder is that of a naval officer]

.6 – [Man in naval work uniform sitting on the deck of a ship]

- .7 – [Five men on the deck of a ship]
- .8 – [Two men and an automobile in front of a building with the sign “La Loma Cockpit” over the door. Two automobiles are visible. The one on the left is circa 1920s, the one on the right circa 1960s. Probably Manila]
- .9 – [Man in front of a Navy oiler]
- .10 – [Two naval vessels alongside a wharf. The one with hull number 48 is probably the guide missile frigate U.S.S. Vandegrift]
- .11 – [Boat in Victoria Harbor, with Hong Kong skyline in background]
- .12 – [Warships in a harbor; a destroyer is alongside a pier on the right, with an aircraft carrier in the right center and a cargo ship, possibly a tanker, on the left. The masts of another ship, showing radio and radar antennae, are behind some buildings in the front center]
- .13 – [Street scene showing a trolley, with the sign SONY on the side, two automobiles, and the flags of the United States, Mexico[?], and Great Britain]
- .14 – [Victoria Harbor with the skyline of Hong Kong]
- .15 – [Office building]
- .16 – [Airplane taking off from the Hong Kong airport]
- .17 – [Victoria Harbor with Hong Kong skyline]
- .18 – [A junk in Victoria Harbor, with Hong Kong skyline]
- .19 – [Victoria Harbor, with Hong Kong skyline. Ship on the right is probably a U.S. Navy destroyer tender. Chinese junk in the center]
- .20 – [Navy sailor watching a Navy oiler, possibly during refueling operations at sea]
- .21 – [White Cliffs of Dover]
- .22 – [Sydney Harbour, with Sydney Harbour Bridge on right]
- .23 – [scenery]
- .24 – [Hydrofoil boat in Sydney Harbour]
- .25 – [Hydrofoil boat in Sydney Harbour]
- .26 – [Hydrofoil boat called Fair[--?] in Sydney Harbour; cargo ship in center background]
- .27 – [Sydney Harbour?]
- .28 – [Sydney Harbour?]
- .29 – [scenery]
- .30 – [Landing craft, tank, possibly in Sydney Harbour]
- .31 – [unidentified volcano]
- .32 – [unidentified volcano]
- .33 – [Two pigs roasting on spits]
- .34 – [Group of natives roasting two pigs]
- .35 – [Two aircraft carriers in harbor]
- .36 – [Harbor scene]
- .37 – [Harbor scene]
- .38 – [Harbor scene]
- .39 – Rear end of a motor driven junk [with cargo ship on left]
- .40 – Junk under sail [probably Hong Kong harbor]
- .41 – [scenery]
- .42 – [scenery]
- .43 – [Airplane taking off from Hong Kong airport]
- .44 – [Office building in Hong Kong, with Victoria Harbor in background]
- .45 – [Victoria Harbor with Hong Kong waterfront]

- .46 – [Office building in Hong Kong with Bayer sign on top. The ship in Victoria Harbor to the right may be a tanker]
- .47 – LSD36 well deck. 9 July 69. Ft. Lauderdale until 26 July 69 San Diego [well-deck of the U.S.S. Anchorage; the aircraft is a Vought F4U Corsair]
- .48 – LSD36 well deck. 9 July 69. Ft. Lauderdale until 26 July 69 San Diego [captain's gig in the well-deck of the U.S.S. Anchorage]
- .49 – Helo operations, Key West Fla. 8 July 69 [Helicopter is a Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King]
- .50 – Helo operations, Key West Fla. 8 July 69 [Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King landing on the U.S.S. Anchorage]
- .51 – Colon Harbor, Panama Canal Zone (looking west) 15 July 69 [view from the deck of the U.S.S. Anchorage, with cargo ship in center]
- .52 - Colon Harbor, Panama Canal Zone (looking north) 15 July 69
- .53 - Colon Harbor, Panama Canal Zone (looking east) 15 July 69
- .54 – Queen Elizabeth Ft. Lauderdale 4 July 69
- .55 – Colon Harbor, Panama Canal Zone (looking south) 15 July 69
- .56 – Helo operations, Key West Fla. 8 July 69 [Helicopter is a Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King]
- .57 – I don't remember the reason for the formal, "dress whites," attire, but the occasion had to be in 1970 or 1971. Those in the picture are, from left to right: CWO Robert T. Finney, USN, Damage Control Assistant; Lt. Robert J. Payne, USN, Engineering Officer; Capt. Percy S. Beaman, USN, Commanding Officer; Ens. Gary N. Childers, USN, Ship's Bos'n (in back); Lt.(j.g.) Robert W. Haagensen, USNR, Gunnery Officer; CWO Curtis L. Johnson, USN, Electrical Officer; Lt.(j.g.) George H. Mellen, Jr., USNR, Repair Officer. All pictured were members of the first crew (Plank Owners) of U.S.S. Anchorage (LSD-36)

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Series 2: Print materials

- Subpoena and Summons Extraordinary, The Royal High Court of the Raging Main, March 2, 1971
- U.S.S. Anchorage (LSD-36) Plan of the Day for Tuesday, 2 March 1971, 0° 00' latitude 165° 00' W long.
- [Invitation to 1969 commissioning of U.S.S. *Anchorage*, with guest passes and information cards]
- [Commissioning ceremony program, includes newspaper clipping from the *Virginian-Pilot*, Sunday March 18, 1969]

2013 Addendum

- Laminated card. Imperium Neptuni Regis. Lt.(j.g.) George Mellen, March 2, 1971
- Military identification card. Lt.(j.g.) George Mellen, June 7, 1971
- [Invitation to 2013 commissioning of U.S.S. *Anchorage*, with guest passes and information cards]

Series 3: Digital Files

(Files stored on server)

[Folder] Anchorage 1970 Cruise Book

[sic; *U.S.S. Anchorage LSD-36 Plankowner's Book, 1968-1970* downloaded from navysite.de; 131 files]

[Folder] Anchorage June 2012 [photographer, George Mellen, Jr.]

.P1000208 – [George Mellen, Jr., with Commander Bob Raymond in Gwennie’s parking lot]

.P1000209 – [George Mellen, Jr., taking photograph of U.S.S. *Anchorage* anchor]

.P1000210 – [U.S.S. *Anchorage* anchor, Cook Inlet in background]

.P1000212 – [George Mellen, Jr., with Bob Raymond on U.S.S. *Anchorage* anchor, Port of Anchorage in background]

.P1000234 – [Bob Raymond and Carole Mellen in parking lot]

.P1000235 – [Anchorage skyline, with Marriott Hotel, Conoco Phillips Building, Atwood Building, Inlet Tower]

.P1000237 – [Chugach Mountains]

.P1000238 – [plaque on U.S.S. *Anchorage* anchor]

.P1000239 – [U.S.S. *Anchorage* anchor, Cook Inlet in background]

.P1000240 – [Bob Raymond man standing next to U.S.S. *Anchorage* anchor, Port of Anchorage in background]

.P1000241 – [U.S.S. *Anchorage* anchor, Port of Anchorage in background]

.P1000242 – [“Racing in the Footsteps of a Legend” plaque]

.P1000243 – [“Racing in the Footsteps of a Legend” statue on Fourth Avenue, with Fur Rondy store and gift shop behind]

[Folder] Anchorage May 2013 [photographer, George Mellen, Jr.]

[47 images of interior and exterior of U.S.S. *Anchorage* (LPD-23) when in Anchorage for commissioning; .P1020090 shows George Mellen, Jr., with the bell from the U.S.S. *Anchorage* (LSD-36); .P1020124 shows George Mellen, Jr., in hold of U.S.S. *Anchorage* (LPD-23)]

.Ensign Mellen [PDF file of official military portrait, circa 1969]

.Gregg_Arthur_Subic_Bay_1966 [mp4 color movie, 6:01 duration; per donor “From what I can tell the ship was LPH-2 and the scenes were indeed taken in 1966. What makes the video interesting is that it was taken in an area that LSD-36 frequented numerous times during the late 60’s and early 70’s.”]

.LPD-23 in N’awlins [U.S.S. *Anchorage* departing New Orleans port en route to Anchorage]

.LPD-23 Leaving the Port of Anchorage [U.S.S. *Anchorage* departing Anchorage, with Mount Susitna behind]

Guide updated: July 16, 2013