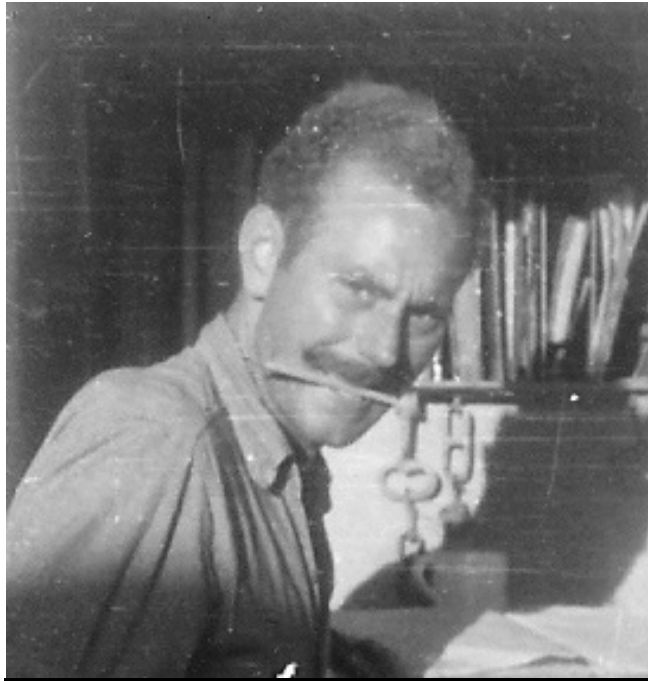


QM3 BLAKE L. O'NEIL - 14 July 54 to 55

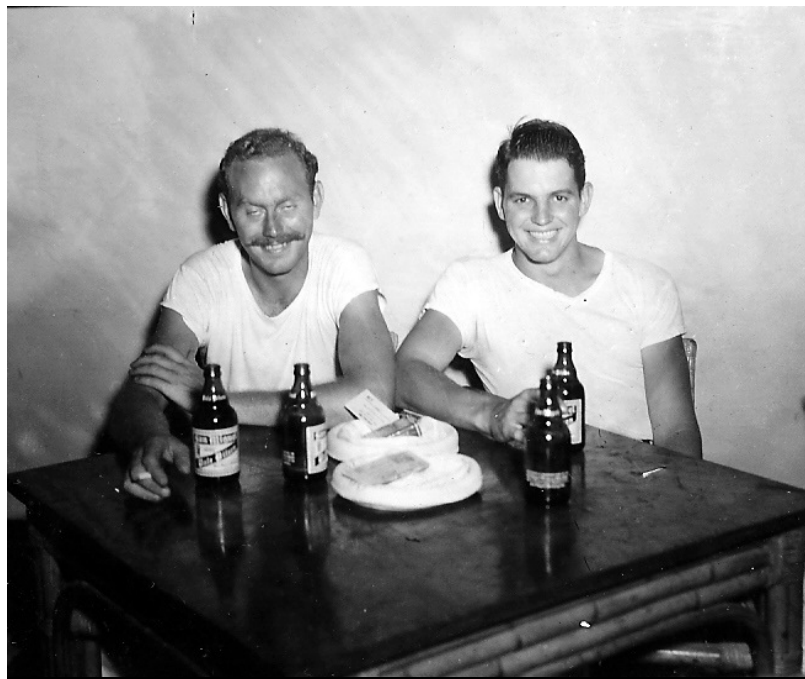


I Blake O'Neil was born 23 March 1929 at Roosevelt, Utah. I had reddish blond hair, now gray, and hazel eyes. I enlisted in the Navy at Dallas, Texas on 26 March 1954. Because I had prior military service, four years U. S. Army, I did not attend navy boot camp. I served aboard USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) in the OC Division as a Quartermaster third class. I came on board 14 July 1954 and made the Westpac cruise, which included Formosa patrol, shelling of the Tae Chin Islands, observance of typhoon Pamela, Midway Island and the gooney birds. I broke my leg on the bridge in February 1955 and was transferred to Corona Naval Hospital, California. That was the last I saw of USS FRANK E. EVANS.





Blake O'Neil 1954



QM3 Blake O'Neil & "Boodie" Carr
Philippines with San Mgoo beer



Chief? QM3 Arthur L. Lindsey, QMSN Charles J. Cour, QMSN Blake O'Neil



QM3 Gilford R. Toler

I met Toler QMCM in Roosevelt Roads 1968 or 1969. He was a senior pilot.



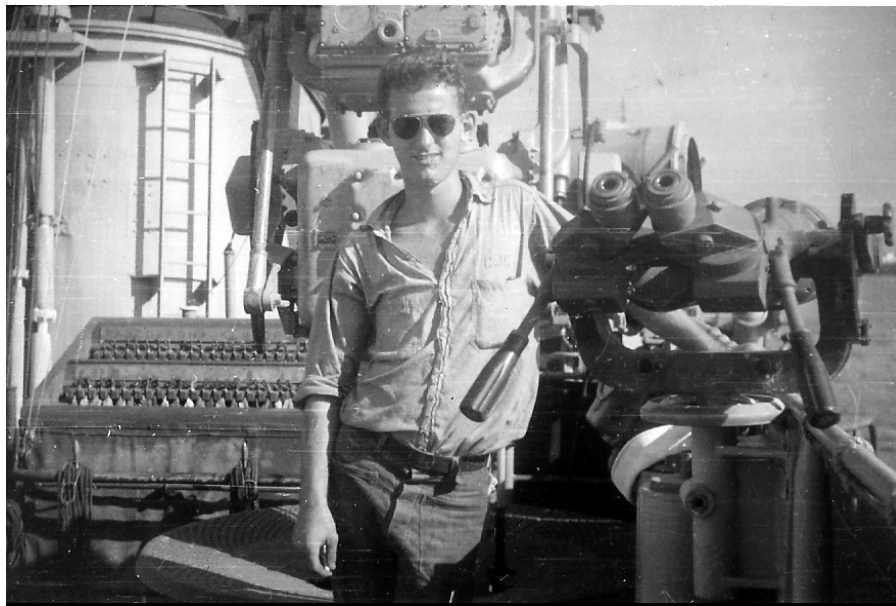
USS BLUE DD 744
USS ALFRED A CUNNINGHAM DD 752



USS McKEAN DD 784
ASTERN



MOUNT 52



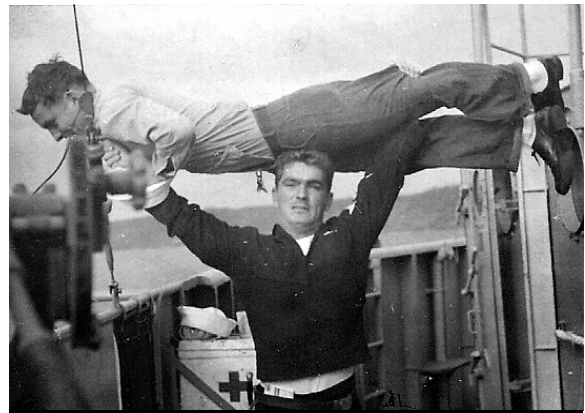
QMSN Charles J. Cour



QM3 Gilford R. Toler



Toler with McClure in Hatchway



Cour & Toler
Something they liked to do



The "Ghost" of QM1 Rafael G. Sanchez -
"Mudlumps"

Last time I saw
Sanchez, was San
Diego 1964.

On the '54

deployment we had a correspondent (news) named Homer Bigart.
This message was one I pulled out of the round file.

N E W S

HERE IS THE FIRST STORY SUBMITTED BY THE NEWS CORRESPONDENT,
MR. BIGART:

HOMER BIGART SENDING FOR NEWYORK HERALD TRIBUNE

ABOARD DESTROYER FRANK E EVANS NOV FOURTH DESTROYERS OF
TASK FORCE SEVENTY TWO PATROLLED EAST CHINA SEA OFF TACHEN
YESTERDAY AFTER RACING FROM FORMOSA STRAIT TO SUPPORT CHINAT
GARRISON OF INVASION THREATENED ARCHIPELAGO

EVANS SUMMONED FROM ITS USUAL PATROL BEAT SPED NORTHWARD
TUESDAY NIGHT IN RESPONSE CHINAT APPEALS AFTER SERIES RED AIR
ATTACKS SEEMED PRELUDE LONG EXPECTED INVASION STRATEGIC NORTHERN
ANCHOR OFFSHORE ISLAND CHAIN

GRAVITY OF MISSION WAS HEIGHTENED BY COMMUNIST INTRODUCTION
AIR POWER IN STRUGGLE FOR ISLANDS. INITIAL RAID MARKED GRIM
TURNING POINT ACCENTED NATIONALIST WARNING POCKET WAR MIGHT
SPREAD UNLESS UNISTATES PROCLAIMED INTENTION PROTECTING
QUEMOY TACHEN

WITH RUNNING LIGHTS EXTINGUISHED TO ELUDE ENEMY OBSERVATION
EVANS PLOUGHED THROUGH HEAVY SEAS TO RENDEZVOUS WITH OTHER
DESTROYERS AND FORM PROTECTIVE SCREEN EAST OF TACHEN. ONE
THIRD HER GUNS CONSTANTLY MANNED

TWICE YESTERDAY ENEMY PLANES WERE OVER TACHEN. THEY DID
NOT APPROACH WARSHIPS. CRUISING 23 MILES EASTWARD DESTROYERS
SIGHTED NO PLANES ALTHOUGH SEVERAL QUOTE BOGIES UNQUOTE
APPEARED ON RADAR SCREEN

QUOTE WE AVOID INCIDENTS IF WE CAN SAID COMMANDER JOHN
DAWSON CHASE. QUOTED OUR MAIN JOB IS TO OBSERVE AND REPORT
MOUNTAINOUS TACHEN AND SATELLITE ISLANDS CLEARLY VISIBLE
AGAINST SETTING SUN BUT NO FIRES NOR SMOKE COLUMNS VISIBLE

ENROUTE TACHEN WE CHALLENGED SEVERAL QUOTE SKUNKS UNQUOTE
--UNIDENTIFIED SURFACE CRAFT-- MEETING ONE BIG CONCENTRATION
OF OVER 100 FISHING JUNKS NORTH OF QUEMOY. BUT MOST INTER-
ESTING SKUNK WAS ENCOUNTERED ON FIRST NIGHT OF PATROL MIDWAY
THROUGH FORMOSA STRAIT

SKUNKS NAVIGATION LIGHTS SIGHTED 12 MILES OFF PORT BOW
AROUSSED EVANS CURIOSITY

CLOSING TO WITHIN 9 MILES EVANS USED FLASHING SIGNAL
QUOTE WHO ARE YOU

SKUNK DELIBERATED FIVE MINUTES THEN REPLIED RATHER
HAUGHTILY QUOTE HER MAJESTYS WARSHIP CRANE. WHO ARE YOU
EVANS BLINKED OUT HER INDENTITY. QUOTED GOOD NIGHT
SAID SKUNK

QUOTED HAPPY VOYAGE SAID EVANS.

NEXT DAY EVANS ENCOUNTERED BRITISH MERCHANTMAN EMPIRE
ORWELL WHICH CONTINUED NORTHWARD COURSE AFTER REVEALING
IDENTITY. EVANS WASNT STOPPING ANYONE. UNISTATES WARSHIPS
ARENT ENGAGED IN BLOCKADE DUTIES

TONIGHT EVANS OTHER WARSHIPS OFFBROKE PATROL TO FLEE
TYPHOON PAMELA NOW TEARING WESTWARD OVER BASHI CHANNEL OFF
SOUTHERN AND FORMOSA ENDIT BIGART.

"Great cruise, great ship, great crew."

Blake O'Neil, QMC(SS) retired.

Blake currently resides at 1117 E. Aspen St., Cotton Wood, AZ
86326. You can reach him at 928-639-1789.