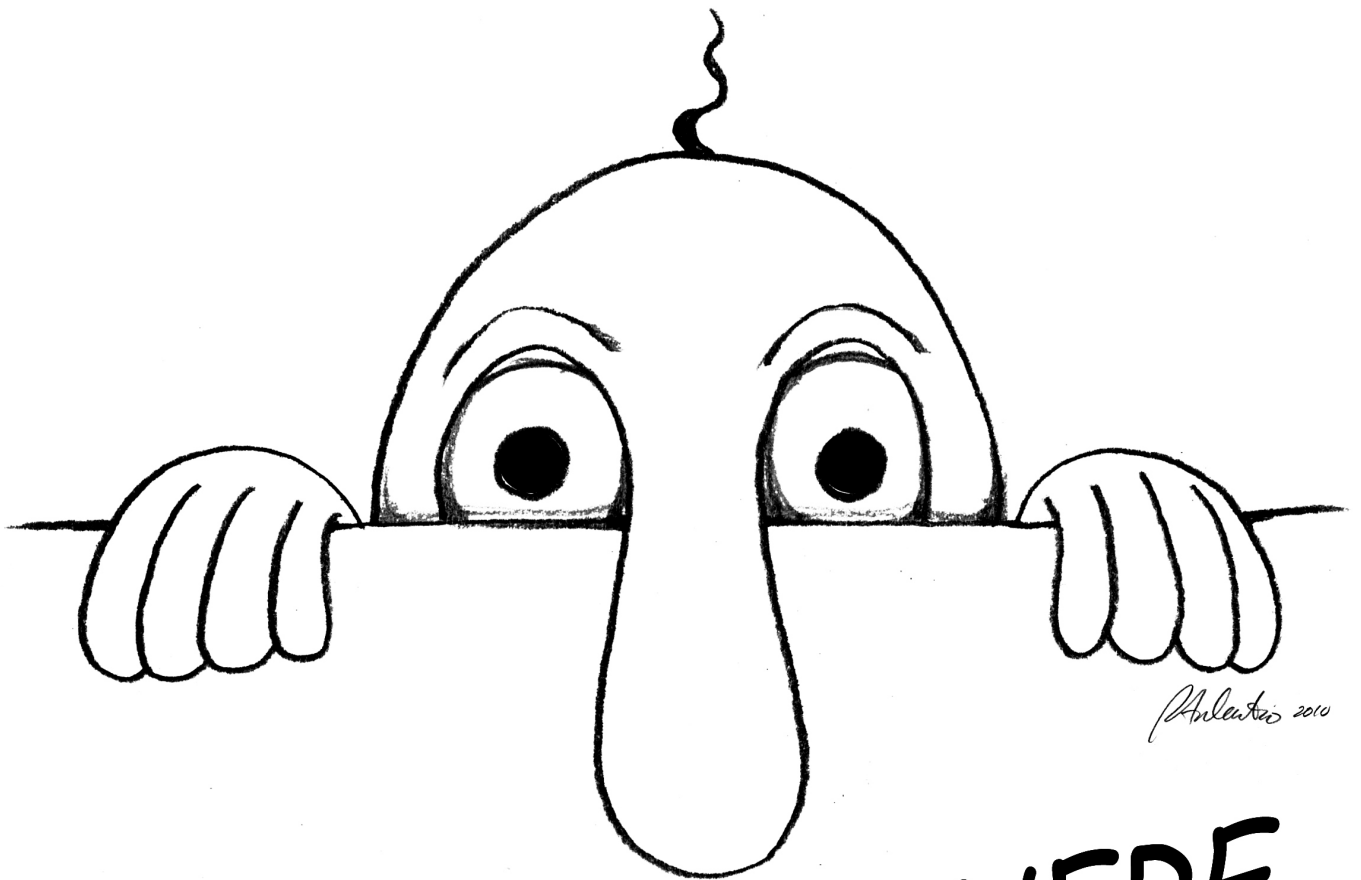


LST534

Newsletter

July, August, September, 2010

Volume 13 Issue 3



**KILROY WAS HERE**

# LST534 Newsletter

Veterans knew Kilroy  
Statesmen knew Kilroy  
Family members knew Kilroy  
But just exactly “who” is Kilroy?

## “Kilroy was Here”

From the Statue of Liberty to the moon, somebody got there first.

Joseph Stalin was perplexed, “Who is Kilroy?” the Soviet strongman sputtered to one of his aides after emerging from a bathroom break during the Potsdam Conference with American and British leaders in July 1945. Somebody had scribbled “Kilroy Was Here” in the world leader’s private potty, perhaps with a crude cartoon drawing of a bald head peeping over the top of a fence, showing two little eyes on either side of a long, U-shaped nose.

If true, that would be a good story—along with the one about Adolph Hitler being convinced that Kilroy was a cunning spy whose message was really an open challenge, meaning “just try and catch me.” Versions of the story claim Hitler diverted critical operations of the Abwehr from intelligence gathering to pursue the elusive Kilroy.

Kilroy is a familiar image, but his specific origin is something of a mystery. In the broadest sense, he reflects the age old human impulse to seek immortality—“I was here” - by scratching graffiti on flat surfaces, chiseling symbols on temple stones, or carving initials into trees. But specifically Kilroy was an American creation, emerging during World War II and flourishing through the Korean War. During those years, “Kilroy Was Here” was something of a national joke—a sort of declaration that U.S. servicemen were everywhere—and, at the same time, a kind of deflating message to the same servicemen, telling them

that they weren’t seeing anything new, no matter how exotic their surroundings. Indeed, the image was not as significant as the places where it could be found.

## Origin remains a mystery

It has been said, for instance, that “Kilroy Was Here” has been found on the torch of the Statue of Liberty and atop the Arc de Triomphe in Paris; on the Marco Polo Bridge in China and on huts in Polynesia. In more recent years, legend has it, “Kilroy Was Here” has been discovered written in the dust on the moon—presumably by an astronaut or by the robot Gort from the movie *The Day the Earth Stood still*.

There are, however, theories about the origins of Kilroy that have some credibility. Perhaps the most well documented origin, as reported by the New York Times in 1946, credited James J. Kilroy, a welding inspector at the Bethlehem Steel shipyard in Quincy, Mass., with starting the craze during the frantic ship-building days of the war.

According to this account Kilroy used an indelible crayon to mark completed welds to prevent unscrupulous welders from erasing chalk markings in order to get paid twice for their work. His phrase “Kilroy Was Here” was discovered by astonished Navy repair crews when sealed compartments were opened for repairs to warships.

And there are plenty of other theories about Kilroy’s origin. One claims it was a practical means of marking homes that had been cleared of German snipers during the village-by-village European fighting in 1944. Another claims the phrase had political meaning as in “Kill Roi” using the French word for “king”.

Yet another theory says Kilroy was actually Richard Kilroy O’Malley, a well-traveled war correspondent for the Associated Press whose work took him around the world. More fanciful theories name Kilroy as Rosie the Riveter’s sweetheart and even as an ancient Irish man known as “Kilroy, son of Hiere.”

The ubiquity of Kilroy is obvious. He shows up in everything from “Popeye” cartoons to the title for a 1983 concept album (“Kilroy Was Here”) by the rock group Styx. Kilroy was an omnipresent character in Tennessee Williams’ play *Camino Real*, and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov used him metaphorically as a time-traveling character in his story collection *Earth Is Room Enough*. In his 1965 novel *Seymour: An Introduction*, J.D. Salinger refers to Earth as this “splendid planet where...Kilroy, Christ and Shakespeare all stopped.”

Clearly, Kilroy is more than a joke, though he has often been used for humor. By another assessment, he represents American restlessness and the human capacity to explore, discover, and leave a mark before departing. In this sense, “Kilroy Was Here” expresses both sadness and yearning, arrival and departure, the desire to seek and the transitory nature of experience.

*Article by David Hawley in the History Channel Magazine-January/February Issue.*

# LST534 Newsletter

## NEWS



### WE'RE GROWING!

We found another shipmate. Or should I say he found us. Michael Pascocello served on LST534 in the Pacific Theater as storekeeper. Records show that Pascocello lived in Staten Island, NY. His son Donald found us through our website [www.LST534.com](http://www.LST534.com). Donald tells me his father was one of the shipmates injured when the ship was attacked in Okinawa. Michael Pascocello died in 1976, but his memory lives on in the hearts of the LST534 family.

### OUR VERY OWN CENTENARIAN?



How many of you folks know a centenarian?? Well, our very own **NORRIS LONG** turns 100 years old on December 5, 2010.

I'm telling you this in July as we want to celebrate Norris' 100th in North Carolina.

We do not have all our plans made just yet. But if you plan on coming to welcome Norris into his centenarian year, let me know.

I plan to go down and fill his room with 100 balloons! Or something really dramatic. Any celebration ideas are welcome.

Call me at 1-800-237-1224.

### A KISS IS JUST A KISS .... OR NOT



**Edith Shain Story**

A nurse famously photographed being kissed by an American Sailor in New York's Time Square in 1945 to celebrate the end of World War Two has died at the age of 91.

The V-J picture of the white-clad Edith Shain by photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt captured an epic moment in U.S. history and became an iconic image marking the end of the war after being published in Life Magazine.

The identity of the nurse in the photograph was not known until the late 1970's when Shain wrote to the photographer saying that she was the woman in the picture taken on August 14 at a time when she had been working at Doctor's Hospital in New York City.

The identify of the sailor remains disputed and unresolved.

From then on the photograph also made its mark on Shain's life as the fame she garnered led to invites to war related events such as wreath laying, parades and other memorial events.

"My mom was always willing to take on a new challenge and caring for the World War II veterans energized her to take another chance to make a difference," her son Justin Decker said in a statement.

Shain, who died at her home in Los Angeles, leaves behind three sons, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

*Article from the Times Herald Record*

## HOLIDAYS

### July

- 4 Independence Day
- 24 Parents Day

### August

- 7 Purple Heart Appreciation
- 21 Senior Citizen Day



### September

- 6 Labor Day
- 9 Rosh Hashanah
- 18 Yom Kippur
- 23 1st Day of Autumn



## BIRTHDAYS

### August 16

Luther Lyles  
2407 Reynolds Rd  
Wauchula, FL 33873

### August 23

Sammie Porter  
5813 Seminole Ct.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

### September 1

John Stanley Primmer  
19410 East Cameron Road  
Rockford, WA 99030

### September 11

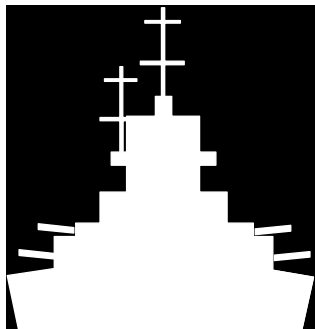
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LST534

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### Just for Fun

**Just for Fun is a column meaning just that—FUN!**

HUSBANDS—YOU GOTTA LOVE THEM:

I haven't spoken to my wife for 18 months. I don't like to interrupt her.

Marriage is a three-ring circus: Engagement ring, wedding ring and suffering.

The last fight was my fault. My wife asked "What's on the TV?" I said "Dust!"

*Jokes from the Scuttlebutt*

### Nautical Terms

In memory of James Richard Drew who contributed to this column until his passing.

Scope—Technically, the ratio length of anchor rode in use to the vertical distance from the bow of the vessel to the bottom of the water. Usually six to seven to one for calm weather and more scope in storm conditions.

Sea Cock— A through hull valve, a shut off on a plumbing or drain pipe between the vessel's interior and the sea.

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