

VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #49

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2009



Past VWOA President
Paul Anselmo
1984-1985

Paul Anselmo & Ed Pleuler Jr. in 2004

The VWOA was informed by Walter Prang that VWOA Life Member and long time mentor and friend Paul Anselmo had become SK. Both Paul and Walter expanded the training operations of the American Radio Association. Paul Anselmo was an active participant of the VWOA Board of Directors since 1973 and a 1981 recipient of the:

Marconi Memorial Gold Medal of Service

He announced his desire not to be renominated to the Board of Directors either as an Officer or Director in 2005.

We will miss his enthusiastic attitude, even when given from his bedside, in supporting all the actions embarked upon by the VWOA Board of Directors during his long term of service .



**Paul Anselmo AE2S
SK 06/23/09**

MARCONI MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL OF SERVICE

PAUL ANSELMO

The role of the "wireless operator" or "sparks" has been slowly changing over the years. The wireless operator became the radio operator, then the radio officer, and now is the radio electronic officer. One man who played a large part in this upgrading from "buggy whips to tank antennas" is Paul Anselmo who, since 1959 has been the Director/Instructor of the American Radio Association Technology Institute for Maritime Electronics.

The Institute is a joint labor/management endeavor to technically upgrade radio officers by keeping them abreast of advances in electronic technology. Since its founding, the Institute has provided both theoretical and "hands on" training for more than 1000 radio officers. Before attending classes, radio officers are required to complete correspondence courses in theory. The basic training for radio electronic officer rating is 12 weeks. The Institute also offers 21 additional weeks of training in advanced electronics.

Paul was born on February 23, 1922 in Istanbul, Turkey. He came to the United States as a youngster of 8 years and was educated in the public schools of New York City. He received further education in Electrical and Radion Engineering at the Hebrew Technical Institute and Cooper Union School of Engineering. During his 16 years of sailing as a radio officer he also took correspondence and resident training courses sponsored by the U.S. Maritime Service Institute.

Paul obtained his Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator License in August 1941 and immediately began his sea-going career as a radio officer. He sailed continuously throughout World War II on these vessels: SS Falcon * SS Gulfqueen * SS Adabelle Lykes /C1 * SS Santa Cruz * SS Napier * SS James W. Nesmith * SS Henry Middleton * SS Tyson Lykes.

Following the war, Paul switched to passenger vessels and sailed on the following: SS Gripsholm * SS Ancon * SS Uruguay * SS Brazil * SS Marine Carp * SS Excambian * SS Independence * SS Constitution.

When not occupied with his duties at the Institute, Paul enjoys hobbies of fishing, chess, photography, and operating his Amateur Radio station AE2S. He holds First Class Radiotelephone and Radiotelegraph licenses with Radar Endorsements, Amateur Extra Class license and U.S. Coast Guard Radio Officer license.

The Veteran Wireless Operators Association salutes Paul Anselmo for his contribution to Marine Communications through the education of Radio Electronics Officers.



WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER

----- Original Message -----

From: [stig jokinen](#)

To: [Wendell R Benson](#)

Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2009 4:57 PM

Subject: R/O stories

Hello again Wendell!

Another story from the years at sea came to my mind.

You remember that we talked about the differences being a radio-officer in US and Nordic ships. YL Birgitta G. has described them so exhaustively in her book, that I feel I have no reason to point out these again. The fact that we in Nordic ships also acted as ships pursers is vital to this story.

In ports a Nordic radio-officer had to accompany a sick sailor to a health-center or to visit a doctor as an interpreter.

In late August 1967 we arrived in the Algerian port of Annaba, formerly Bone. Our engine room apprentice had for several days, complained about an irritating skin rash on his right leg. The ships captain arranged a doctors appointment via the brokers office to be on arrival.

A very worn out taxicab, a Dodge from the 50's, picked up me and the patient and took

us on a very bumpy ride through the dusty desert. The ride took several hours.

After a, in my mind, an eternity we finally arrived to a building complex, in the middle of the desert, that looked like a hospital in French colonial style built in limestone. Fair enough, this was the local hospital.

I was horrified by the first sight as we entered the building. All along the entrance and on the surrounding patio there were people sitting and lying around moaning and giving suffering sounds.

Blood and excrements on the floor, I wondered if we had done right getting this appointment.

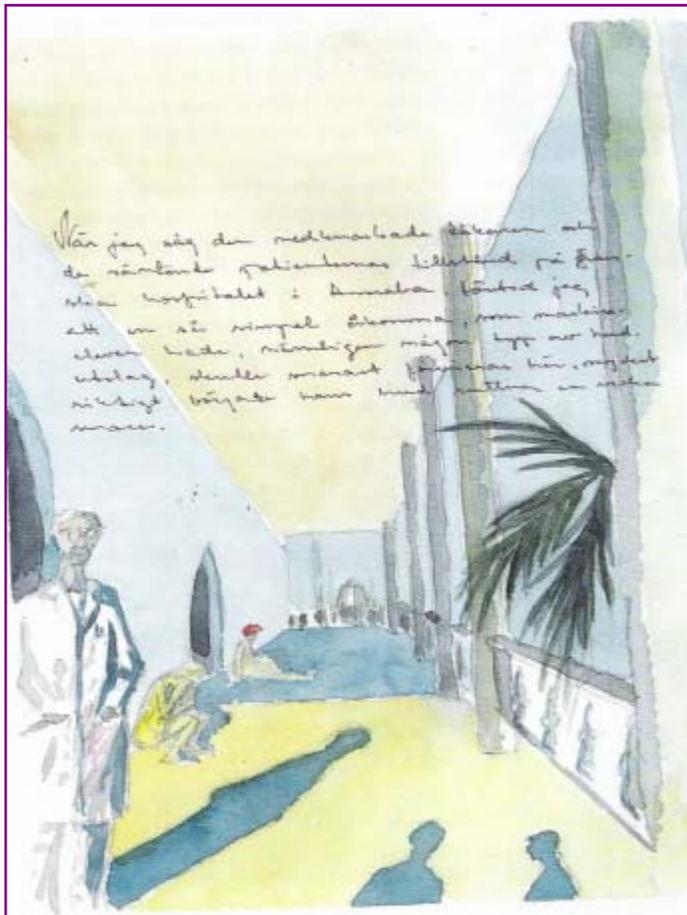
We were received by an Algerian male nurse with very poor knowledge of the English language. I tried to explain the reason why we had arrived there, showing the sailors complaint. After a minute or so, a blonde doctor with very yellow eye whites and a staring look showed up. He took a brief look at the patients affection and declared with a French accent, that this was a very common type of rash. He ordered the Arab nurse to go and get some bandage and a bottle of rubbing lotion. "Apply this lotion daily and the patients rash will disappear in a week."

From Annaba our ship sailed for Genoa in Italy. Halfway to our engine room apprentice came to my radio room complaining that his leg did not feel right.

We loosened the bandage on his leg and while doing that we could observe that the skin on his leg followed, attached to the bandage. He was repatriated to Finland for further treatment on arrival to Genoa.

73 and Sincerely,
Stig-Olof+

PS. I attach an illustration from the doctors visit.



----- Original Message -----

From: [Wendell R Benson](#)

To: [Francis T. Cassidy](#)

Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2009 8:31 PM

Subject: normandy

Nice thoughts from Stig in Finland....

----- Original Message -----

From: [stig jokinen](#)

To: [Wendell R Benson](#)

Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2009 4:21 PM

Subject: normandy

Hi Wendell!

Wish You a serene remembrance day.

We have not forgotten Your peoples
sacrifices on the beaches of Normandy!

Stig-Olof+

We received a few more pictures taken at the
June 7, 2009 Awards Luncheon, after we
published Email Newsletter #48

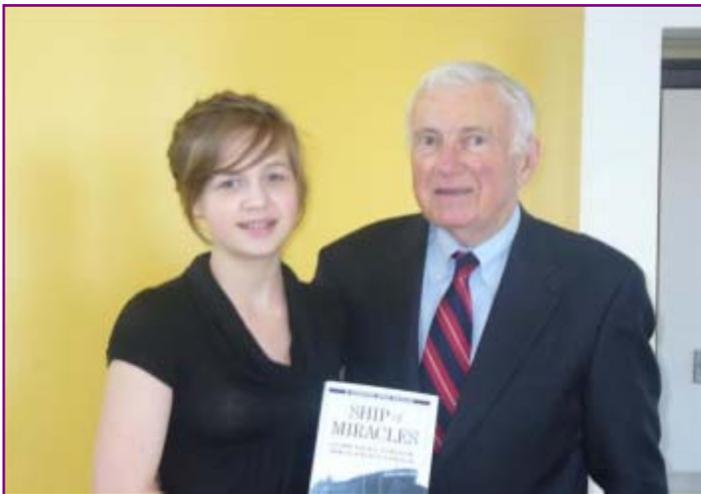
Here they are and we have been promised
more of them from others who attended the
VWOA Luncheon.



VWOA President Alan Ehrlich presents the Award Plaque to Rear Admiral J. Robert Lunney NY Naval Militia (Ret.)



A Happy VWOA President Alan Ehrlich shares a thought with Rear Admiral J. Robert Lunney NY Naval Militia (Ret.)



Rear Admiral J. Robert Lunney NY Naval Militia (Ret.) signs the The Ship of Miracles book for Margaret Mullin, the daughter of Ray & Elisabeth Mullin

We would prefer to hear from you by Email at:

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but if you must, send mail to:

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