



FLOTILLA



NEWSLETTER OF THE LCT FLOTILLAS OF WORLD WAR II

HONORING THE MEN WHO SERVED ON THE LANDING CRAFT OF THE U.S. AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

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18TH ANNUAL REUNION

OMAHA, NEBRASKA & APRIL 19-21 2001

Attention on deck. . .the LCT Reunion for 2001 will be held at the **Doubletree Hotel** just west of Downtown Omaha, Nebraska, April 19-21. You should have already received a notice in the mail. Be sure and mail in your \$25 and a meal choice as soon as you can, the balance of \$100 is due by 1 March, 2001.

Omaha should prove to be an "admirable" site with scheduled tours of the SAC Museum and Freedom Park. Our hotel is just a free shuttle away from the **Old Market District** with its elegant restaurants, pubs, art galleries, antique shops and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Freedom Park is a National Historic Landmark featuring several WW2 Naval vessels as well as the USS Marlin, a 1950's era submarine, and a Douglas A-4D Skyhawk fighter jet from the USS Enterprise.

A real treat for vets of the Amphibious Forces will be the LSM-45, a 302' landing craft that hauled Sherman Tanks and infantry to the Pacific island invasions 1944-45. The LSM was moth-balled after 40 years of service with the Greek Navy and then undertook the 7,000 mile voyage from the Med across the Atlantic and up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to its final home in Omaha.

Here's how an WW2 LSM matched up to an LCT-Mk6. . .



Another WW2 relic at Freedom Park is the **USS Hazard**, a minesweeper that served with distinction in the PTO and won 3 battle stars for action in the Philippines, East China Sea and at Okinawa.

The nearby **SAC Museum** features a superb collection of aircraft, missiles and other aerospace artifacts as well a movie theater and traveling exhibits. The museum is also restoring warplanes for display.

During your free time and for those wanting to extend their stay, other area attractions include **Boys Town** (Father Flanagan's dream-come-true for abandoned boys), and the **Belle of Bellvue Riverboat** which offers cruises along the Missouri River. The **U.P. Railroad Museum** highlights the history of the westward movement of the transcontinental line from Omaha, and the **Wildlife Safari Park** has a guided tram tour through the natural habitat of native elk, bison, wolves and waterfowl.

The weather in eastern Nebraska in late April is usually quite nice but be prepared for rain and even stormy weather. Temperatures normally average around 60° at this time.

We will print a detailed *map* of the Omaha area in our next edition of the **FLOTILLA**--due out just before the Reunion. For those of you with computer and internet access, be sure to keep up-to-date on all LCT Flotilla developments and news on our very own website at:

<http://ww2lct.org>

Hope to see you all in Omaha. . . .