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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944  
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

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All Newsletter, pictures and articles should be sent to:

Jack Heidecker  
“Compton Newsletter”

**COMPTON CORNER**

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy. May is just around the corner, and with that, our 20/21 reunion will soon be here.

If you have not already done so, please make your reservations to the Embassy Suite in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York, and send in your registration forms. Several members contacted me about the hotel rate, the best rate is the \$149/night. I negotiated that rate last year, and there have been several promotions, during the year, that lowered the rate. There are cheaper rooms available, but our rate is for a two room suite. I believe this is the best rate and I think you will be more than satisfied with the hotel and the staff.

New York State is opening up, and the entire state, by May, should be open for business. The tour should be exciting as we follow the steps of our patriots who fought for our freedom. The battle of Saratoga was the first major battle that the colonists won and took the field. They showed the world that they could defeat the greatest army in the world bringing many counties to aid and assisted us, in our fight for Independence.

Our business meeting will have many items to discuss, including election of Officers, 2022 reunion site and our memorial service.

Our entertainment this year will feature a DJ who is also a karaoke master. Everyone will have an opportunity to show their talents. Time to start practicing—those vocals.

It’s been a long time since we have been together, 2020 is a year we will not forget. I’m looking forward to seeing you again.

May you have a safe and enjoyable trip to New York. May God watch over us and keep us safe, and may he continue to protect the men and women of our armed forces.

Fraternally,  
Bob DiMonte



The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 49 past newsletters from February 2009 to the present on our below listed Internet Website...

# **Hey Compton—What is so special about this reunion???**

*It is a very special place!!!*

## **A Crucial American Victory**

Here in the autumn of 1777 American forces met, defeated and forced a major British army to surrender. This crucial American victory renewed patriots' hopes for independence, secured essential foreign recognition and support, and forever changed the face of the world.

## **1777: An End to the Rebellion?**

Since the opening shots on April 19, 1775, the British had wanted to bring an end to the rebellion in the American colonies. They believed that 1777 could be the year.

British General John Burgoyne had believed, since his 1775 arrival in North America, that the Lake Champlain - Hudson River Valley was "precisely the route an army ought to take" should invasion become necessary. That belief formed the backbone of the British plans to invade New York --a daring scheme to utilize three separate armies in an effort to isolate New England, the perceived heart of the rebellion, and then focus on crushing that seat of discontent.

## **The Battles of Saratoga**

on September 19, 1777, Burgoyne had split up his 7500-man army into three columns to sweep around where he believed the Americans might be. One column of British troops would move west about 2 miles inland and begin to move south. A second column of British troops moved about a mile inland before moving south. The third column, made of German troops, moved along the river road and defended British supplies.

About noon on the 19th, scouts from the center column encountered Colonel Daniel Morgan's American light infantry and riflemen at the farm of John Freeman, a loyalist who had gone north to Fort Edward to meet up with Burgoyne's army. Thus began the fighting, which grew very fierce, as the battle swayed back and forth, each side taking and retaking the field.

As some of the American troops began to circle around the left side of the Breymann Redoubt, American General Benedict Arnold arrived on the scene. Caught up in the flow of American soldiers, our 13000-man army was able to push the British back. As the British withdrew, one of their beloved Generals, Simon Fraser, was mortally wounded by one or more of Morgan's riflemen.

After a week of negotiations, Burgoyne surrendered to Gates, on October 17, 1777. The American victory demonstrated that American troops could fight a European army, on their own terms, and win. It also convinced the French to ally themselves with the Americans and declare war against England. Later, the Spanish and Dutch did the same.

**Because of the incredible impact caused by the American victory in the Battles of Saratoga, they are known as the "Turning Point of the American Revolution", and are considered by many historians to be among the top 15 battles in world history.**

USS COMPTON DD-705

May 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Annual Reunion Registration Form

Embassy Suites Saratoga Springs, New York  
86 Congress St., Saratoga, NY 12866  
(518) 290-9090

The Compton rate will be honored 1 day-Pre/post reunion  
Breakfast is included in this rate.

Members name Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Use back for additional guests \_\_\_\_\_

Meal selection: Filet Mignon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_ Halibut \_\_\_\_\_

@\$65.00 per person Total \_\_\_\_\_

Number taking Tour (Lunch Included) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_  
@\$90.00 per person

Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Cut Off date is April 3th, 2021.

Please mail check and form to: **USS Compton Assn., P.O. Box 6621  
Monroe TWP., NJ, 08831-6621**

Grand Ballroom 7:00PM

Choose one of the following:

1. Grilled Filet Mignon with  
Wild Mushroom Demi Glaze, Onion Risotto, Roasted Asparagus
2. Pan Seared Halibut with  
Butter Pecan Apple Sauce, Steamed Rice, Broccoli
3. Wellington Farms Chicken Breast  
Saltimbocca

All Entries come with Dinner Rolls & Butter, House Garden Salad with Balsamic Dressing, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaf Coffee, Hot water with Teas, Juices and Sodas.

Lemon Meringue Pie with Blueberry Sauce

# USS COMPTON –DD 705

2021 Reunion Agenda  
Saratoga Springs, New York

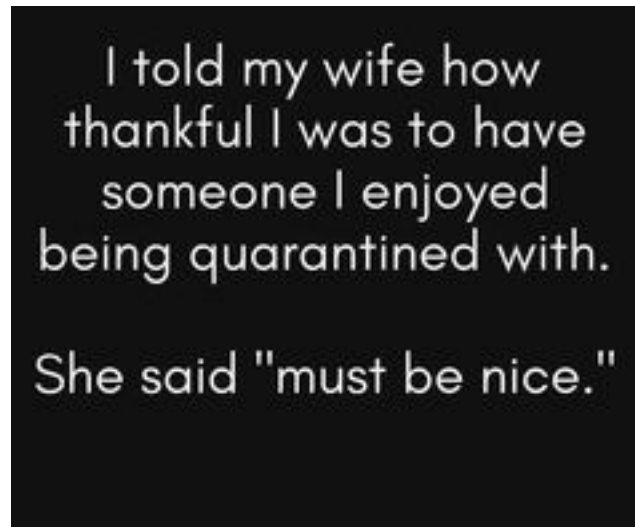
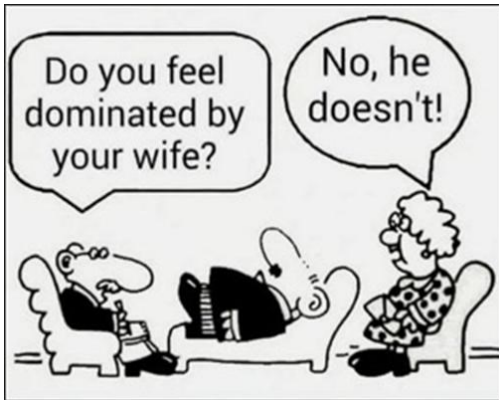
May 3 -5, 2021

<b>Monday</b>	12:00	Hospitality room opens	Big Red & Peerless Rms
<b>Tuesday</b>	08:15 AM	Meet in the Lobby	
	08:30	Bus departs for Saratoga Battlefield	
	11:15	Departs for Dutch Apple Cruise and lunch on the Hudson River	
	1200-2PM	History cruise tour of the River and Albany , NY	
	2:15 -4PM	General tour of Albany and {time permitting}, photo stop at NY State Capital building. Depart for Hotel	
	TBA	Hospitality room opens	Big Red & Peerless Rm
<b>Wednesday</b>	09:00 AM	Hospitality room opens	Big Red & Peerless Rm
	10:00	Business meeting	Skidmore Room
	6-7PM	Cocktail Hour	Skidmore Room
		Note: We can utilize the Hotels complementary bar until 730PM, then cash bar	
	7:00PM	Banquet	Grand Ballroom
		Gather for group picture	
		Invocation and presentation of the colors	
		Music, Karaoke and Dancing—special songs by “Tenor Bob”	
<b>Thursday</b>		Breakfast and depart for home	
		Be Safe and Be Healthy—See you next year	

Fellow Compton sailors: please send me your pictures from your days on our ship. I promise to send them back the very next day, after I receive those special memories.

**Jack Heidecker**  
**54 Mt Top Ct**  
**Hazle Twp PA 18202**  
**570 450-5545**

## Internet Goodies



First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper...it's worse when you forget to pull it down.

**If you were born in the 1930s to 1945 ,**

you are very special age group.

You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war

You are the last to remember ration books for everything

You saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans.

You saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available.

You can remember milk being delivered to your house

You are the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of grieving neighbors whose sons died in the War.

You saw the 'boys' home from the war, build their little houses.

You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you imagined what you heard on the radio.

With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside"

On Saturday afternoons, the movies gave you newsreels sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons.

Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening by Paul Harvey.

The G.I. Bill gave returning Veterans the means to get an education, VA loans fanned a housing boom.

Pent up demand coupled with new installment payment plans opened many factories for work.

New highways would bring jobs and mobility.

The Veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics.

The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.

You played outside until the street lights came on.

Polio was still a crippler.

You came of age in the 50s and 60s.

School children were ducking under desks for Air-Raid training.

Castro in Cuba and Khrushchev came to power.

You are "The Last Ones." More than 99% of you are either retired or deceased, and you feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!!!"



Three Boatswain Mates plotting their next moves from the fantail—1952  
 Crenko BM3  
 Cates BM1  
 Callahan BM3

Christmas in Bermuda—1962 Ralph Breitenbach Collection  
 2nd from left, Landis, then Breitenbach and Serina Yarwood, kneeling in the middle and Aspendon to his right.  
 Others are unknown



Breitenbach and Moeberg touring Naples



Off Cuba early sixties on Main Gun Director  
 2nd from left Ralph Breitenbach, Ostrum and Freemer

**Compton Donations—January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021**  
 Charles Mackay, Gerry Pierce, Dal Trader, Eugene Grabowski, John MacDougal, Boyd Crannel  
 Frederick Brown, Charles Elliott, Thomas Lockman, Ed Brimo, John Waltz, Doc Eames,



**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
 A VETERAN DIED TODAY."**



***Obituaries: USS Compton DD705***



**Anthony DePinto MM3** ( 1954-1957), passed on 12-29-2019 at Princeton Memorial Hospital at 86 years old. He was born on February 17, 1933 in Bari, Italy and emigrated into the USA in the early 1950's at Hoboken, New Jersey. He served on the Compton in 1954-57 and was an active member of the Compton Association. A donation to honor him was made to "Tin Can Sailors".



**Robert W Story EMFN** ( 1952-1954), from Catskill, NY passed December 25, 2020 at 89 years of age. He served in the navy during the Korean Conflict. Bob also used his naval training as an Electrician Mate and then worked as a lineman for the Long Island Lighting Company until he moved his family to the Catskills. It was an active retirement with the Central Islip Hook and Ladder Fire Co. As an active Compton Association Member, Mr. Story will also be honored with a TCS donation.



**Ronald J Leib ET3** (1946-1948), passed February 6, 2021 in the East Berlin, PA., area. After graduating from high school and then boot camp he spend the next 21 months aboard the destroyer, USS Compton DD705 while earning and receiving his honorable discharge as a Electronic Technician 3rd Class. He sure must have then taken advantage of his training, intelligence and the GI Bill from to graduated from Gettysburg College with a degree in Chemistry and Mathematics. He was awarded 4 US Patents during his lifetime.

**Annual USS Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year.** If you received an envelope with this newsletter - the dues are due now or will be due within a short period of time...look for the hand written date on your address label. This is the date when your membership has expired or will soon expire...