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All Newsletter, pictures and  
articles should be sent to:

Jack Heidecker  
“Compton Newsletter”



Commissioned November 4 1944  
Decommissioned—September 27 1972



Compton returns home to Newport

COMPTON CORNER

WOW, we made it to “2022”! If you are reading this, you survived Covid 19, the Delta and Omicron variants, higher gas and food prices and vaccines and boosters. Good bye 2021.

With all the uncertainties facing us, our country is still truly blessed. No wars, no natural disasters and we still have our reunions to share our memories and friendship. Let’s continue to be optimistic and count our blessings.

The Compton association is solid, even though we have lost some of our members. Our organization is strong and on a sound financial footing.

Spring is right around the corner, and in a very few weeks, we will be together in Williamsburg, Va. All contracts have been negotiated and signed. The tour will take us to the Colonial town of Williamsburg where we will experience how the early settlers lived and thrived. After lunch we will visit the Yorktown Battlefield where General Washington, surrounded the British and with the aid of the French Fleet, forced General Cornwallis to capitulate and surrender his sword, ending the British occupation of the American colonies.

It’s time to make your hotel reservations and complete the registration form. I am looking forward to seeing everyone and experiencing another fun filled and exciting reunion.

Wishing you and your loved ones, a safe and Happy New Year and a safe trip to Williamsburg.

Fraternally Yours,

Bob Dimonte



The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 52 past newsletters from February 2009 to the present on our below listed Internet Website...

# USS Compton DD705—2022 Reunion

## Compton information

Members name Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_

Spouses /Guest name \_\_\_\_\_  
Use back for additional Guests

Meal Selection: NY Strip steak\_\_\_ Chicken\_\_\_ Crab Cakes\_\_\_ @ \$65 per person

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Roasted and sliced New York Strip Steak with Bordeaux Sauce  
Chicken Piccata with Lemon Beurre Blanc  
Jumbo Lump Crab Cake with Dijonnaise Cream Sauce

All entrees come with a Cranberry Walnut salad with red onions and mixed greens , roasted red potatoes, vegetable medley and New York Cheese Cake

## Tour Registration

Number taking tour \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85 per person Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch is included

Grand Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tour cut off date is April 4, 2022

Please mail above information and checks payable to: **USS Compton Association**  
**P.O. Box 6621**  
**Monroe TWP., N.J. 08831-6621**

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**

## Hotel Registration information

The Double Tree Hotel, 50 Kingsmill Rd, Williamsburg VA 23185, will be our host.  
**(800) 222-8733.**

The hotel rate is \$125/night and includes daily breakfast for two.  
This rate will be honored three days pre/post reunion.  
Cutoff date to register—April 4, 2022

## USS COMPTON DD-705

2022 Reunion Agenda  
Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2-5, 2022

- Monday 1200 hospitality room opens, registration begins—rooms A&B
- Tuesday 0845 muster in the lobby for Colonial Williamsburg tour  
0900 bus departs hotel  
0930-1215 tour Colonial Williamsburg  
1230 Lunch at Toby's/Carrot Tree  
1330 Windshield Tour of the Yorktown battlefield  
1630 return to hotel—Hospitality Room opens
- Wednesday 1000 Business meeting and Memorial Service—rooms 2&3  
1800 cocktail hour, hospitality room will remain open  
1845 hospitality room closes, muster in the banquet room for group picture  
in room—Harrison  
1900 Invocation and presentation of the Colors
- Dinner followed by entertainment and dancing—cash bar
- Thursday Breakfast

Have a safe trip home.

# Cold War Compton



Joe Napoli and Charles Coale

By Joe Napoli

When I go out and wear my Compton hat or jacket someone will always say “thank you for your service”. I acknowledge the greeting but think I didn’t do much. For those of us that made the 1962 Mediterranean cruise that is not exactly true. We did more than we realized at the time.

Before we left Newport a storage container type structure was secured on our 01 deck. That structure contained electronic equipment for the Beach Jumper unit that was assigned to the Compton for the cruise. The Beach Jumper unit consisted of about 5 enlisted men and one officer. One of the enlisted men was a member of our Association as well as the officer, Charles Coale. Both are now deceased. The function of the Beach Jumper unit was secret at that time.

Over the past few years I had conversations with both of our member Beach Jumper shipmates. Some suspicions I had were confirmed and I learned things that were a surprise to me. During the cruise I was a Radarman and worked in CIC (Combat Information Center) where I was aware of the operations we were involved in. A lot of information went through CIC because all voice communications between ships, over the radio, were handled by Radarmen. Radiomen only handled teletype and morse code.

At the time I suspected that the Beach Jumpers were involved in voice communications between ships. (Our call sign was “Firefly” and the USS Gainard was “Razorback”) A few of the transmissions were suspicious and were meant to confuse the ships in our task force. I guess they were trying to see if we were susceptible to possible false transmissions made by the Russians during time of war. An exercise, involving all the ships in our task force, actually had to be cancelled mid-stream due to confusing false transmissions.

The second, and more important, task of the Beach Jumpers was to protect the aircraft carrier that was operating with our task force. That directly involved the Compton and its shipmates.

To divert Russian warships, if the cold war turned hot, the Compton was to be turned into a decoy aircraft carrier. The structure on the 01 deck contained electronic equipment that would emit signals that would come from an aircraft carrier such as landing approach radar. I also remember a maneuver where the Compton was in the center of a screen of destroyers. At that time we hoisted a radar reflector on our mast. As a result, on a radar of an enemy ship, we would appear as a large ship (aircraft carrier) surrounded by a screen of destroyers. Hence, we would be a decoy aircraft carrier and draw fire from the actual aircraft carrier.

If the Cold War turned hot during the cruise the Compton, most likely, would have been sunk with a large loss of life. Mr. Coale stated that his Beach Jumper crew knew that, in time of hostilities, if they did their job properly they would all die.

Mr. Coale told me that when one of the Compton’s regular officers learned of the Beach Jumpers mission the officer threatened to throw the Beach Jumpers, and their equipment, overboard. That officer shall remain nameless.

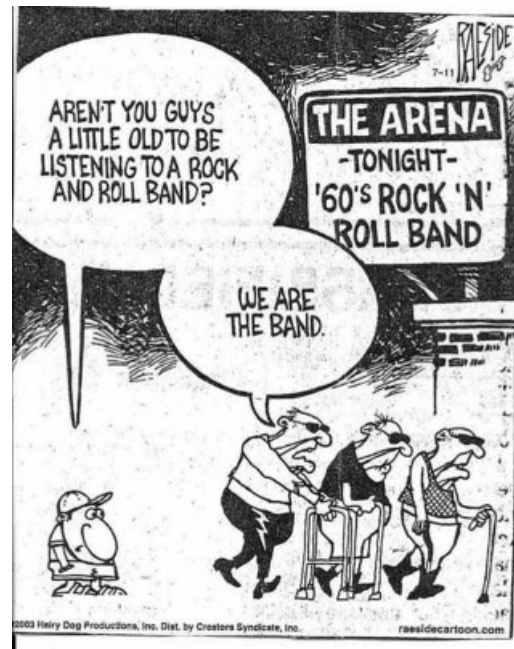
# Internet Goodies

**I love seeing  
stuck up  
females from  
highschool  
built like the  
lunch lady now.**

**Remember when  
we used to line  
up at a fair and  
pay to see a fat  
tattooed lady?  
Now they're  
everywhere!**

**Not to brag, but I just  
went into the other  
room and actually  
remembered why I  
went in there!**

**It was the bathroom,  
but still...**



Electrician wanted. Experience required, this time.



# Are Large aircraft carriers obsolete?

Opinion by Joe Napoli

The aircraft carrier has been the biggest weapon the Navy has had for decades. We all know how much the carrier task forces contributed to winning the second World War. The Carriers were always protected by a screen of destroyers which shows how important they were.

Things have changed over the past decade regarding aircraft carriers. They now have grown in size and are massive compared to the WW2 carriers. The crew of a modern carrier is about 5,000 personnel. I can't imagine how we would feel if one of these ships were sunk with such a large loss of life.

In this age of modern weapons six destroyers can no longer protect an aircraft carrier. I read a news source that stated that, in a war, one or two missiles would not be fired at such a large target. It was said that some adversaries have the capability of firing a hundred missiles at a carrier at one time. I don't know about our missile defense systems, but I am sure a few would get through.

China claims they have just developed what is called a "carrier killer missile". It is a missile launched from an aircraft and is said to be the largest air-launched missile in the world. The missile is hypersonic and can maneuver to hit a moving target. The missile goes so fast that, it is claimed, can sink a ship just from the force of its impact even without an explosive warhead.

Satellite pictures have recently shown that the Chinese have full sized mock-ups of a destroyer and an aircraft carrier. The models are on railroad tracks so their missiles can practice on moving targets.

Carriers are not submarines; they cannot hide when at sea, and I am sure they are all tracked by satellite. We have no active battleships; the carriers are the number one target.

Perhaps a new breed of aircraft carrier should be produced smaller in size.

Have an opinion? Send your thoughts to Jack for publication in our newsletter.

**USS Compton (DD 705)**, an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer was launched on 17 September 1944 by the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Kearny, New Jersey and commissioned on 4 November 1944. She was named for Lewis Compton, who served in active duty in the Navy during World War I and Assistant Secretary of the Navy from 9 February 1940 to 13 February 1941. During its activity, she carried a complement of 336 officers and enlisted on board and she made numerous deployments to the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Cuban Blockade and Guantanamo Bay. USS Compton served her country for 27 years, 10 months and 13 days of active, until decommissioned on 17 September 1972. She received one battle star for World War II service.



Official Compton Photo



Boston Shipyard circa 1962



Some interesting facts for those of us who were born between 1930 - 1946. Today, we range in ages from 75 to 91:

We are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900s.

We are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years. Some among us are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.

Our parents and some of you saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans.

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

We can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.

Some of us are the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of grieving neighbors whose sons died in the war.

We saw the 'boys' home from the war to build their little houses.

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

With no TV until the 50's, we spent our childhood "playing outside".

There was no little league for most of us, and there was no city playground for kids.

The lack of television in our early years meant, that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.

On Saturday afternoons, the movies gave us 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).

Computers were called calculators; they were hand cranked.

Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage and changing the ribbon.

"INTERNET" and "GOOGLE" were words that did not exist.

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on our radios in the evening.

As we grew up, the country was exploding with growth.

The Government gave returning Veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. 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.

Our parents were suddenly free from the confines of the Depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

We weren't neglected, but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad we played by yourselves until the street lights came on. They were busy discovering the post war world.

We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves and felt secure in our futures though depression poverty was deeply remembered.

Polio was still acrippler.

We came of age in the 50s and 60s, and we are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland. The second world war was over, and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease.

Only our generation can remember both a time of great war, and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better.

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

Source: unknown

Sent from: Compton member, Ralph Breitenbach



Eternal Father, strong to save,  
 Whose arm doth bond the restless  
 wave,  
 Who bids the mighty ocean deep  
 Its own appointed limits keep;  
 O hear us when we cry to Thee  
 For those in peril on the sea.  
 Upon the terrace dark and rude,  
 And bid its angry tumult cease,  
 And give for wild confusion peace;  
 O hear us when we cry to Thee  
 For those in peril on the sea.  
 3 O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
 Thy children shield in danger's hour;  
 From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,  
 Protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
 Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee  
 Glad hymns of praise from land and  
 sea

**Obituaries: USS Compton DD705**



**Willie Thompson, Sr MM3** passed on April 15, 2021 in Kannapolis, North Carolina at 83 years of age. Willie served on the USS Compton from 1955—1959. He was an active Association member and last attended the Myrtle Beach Reunion in 2014. The Compton memorial donation, in his name and honor, was made to “Tin Can Sailors” to remember his service as a destroyer sailor and his dedication to the United States of America.



**William Guzzy SN** passed October 2021 in Pompano Florida. William was born on September 8, 1938. FYI—Joe Napoli was contacted from Florida that Mr. Guzzy was deceased, I cannot actually confirm this information, through social media, and must assume it to be true. He served on the Compton in 1958 to 1962 and was an active Compton Association member. A memorial donation, in his name was made to Tin Can Sailors.



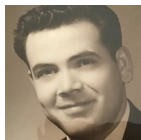
**Milton R Simonds Sr., Lt Cmdr.** Passed November 19, 2020 in Bucks County PA. He was born in the year of our Lord 1930 in Nashua, NH. After graduating from Tufts College with a degree (cum laude) in Engineering he was assigned to the USS Compton as a Ensign. During his Compton’s duty in the early fifties, at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, he met his future wife Bettie Anne McPhillips. Mr. Simonds was very active with VFW Post 6393, Yardley PA including All State Post Commander.



**Francis “Frank” John Halpin** was born March 30, 1941 in Bridgeport, Connecticut and passed August 24, 2021 in Independence, Kentucky. He graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1964. Frank is listed as serving on the following ships. USS Essex CVS 9, USS Davis DD 937, Vietnam Coastal Group and the USS Compton DD 705.



**Rev Kenneth R Bieber Sr.** was born in Detroit MI on June 16, 1943 and passed October 12, 2021. as a Naval officer during the Vietnam conflict he was assigned to the following units, USS Brush DD 745, USS Advance MSO 510, USS Compton DD 705 and the USS Damato DD 871. After a civilian career, he received a call to the ordained ministry and graduated in 1985 as a Anglican priest.



**Charles Russell Minor BT2 (1955—1956)** passed December 4, 2021. in West Palm Beach, FL He was born September 2, 1936 in Ironton, Ohio. He retired from the Ford Motor Company after 35 years and spent the last 20 years in his Florida sanctuary. Charles was an active Compton Association member and last attended the Myrtle Beach Reunion. Our memorial donation will be made in his honor to TCS.