


The Compton at war



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Letter from the President:

Returned from our annual “dry land”
cruise at the Crown Plaza Hotel in
Warwick RI.

At this reunion, we had 127 members
and guests. It was the largest
membership turnout at a recent
Compton reunion.

A great time was shared (and time was
erased) with all those past Compton
memories.

Also, a main topic at your “Regional
Directors” meeting was how to find
and/or retain other Compton sailors,
who are not current members of our
organization. I am sure that you have
buddies who served with you on your
ship that are not part of the Association.

Email, phone or mail one of your
officers with their name and address and
we will contact them and see if we can
stimulate their interest to join their other
shipmates.

Information and dates for the 2011
“Compton Reunion” are also in this
Newsletter.

At our next reunion, join and re-up with
your fellow shipmates who will be anx-
ious to reminisce and share other
re-called memories.

Jack Heidecker

2011 Reunion, McLean VA.

Our 2011 reunion will be held
at the Crowne Plaza, Tysons
Corner at McLean ,VA, a sub-
urb of Washington. The dates
of the reunion are: Thursday
April 28 thru Monday May 2.
The room rates are \$87 per
room and will be available 3
days prior and after the actual
event. The hotel is located
very close to a large shopping
center and free shuttles are pro-
vided for shopping by the hotel.
Our tour options have not been
researched as yet but should in-
clude points of interest in Wash-
ington, DC. More information
will be provided in future
newsletters

DUES

Envelopes for dues for first six
months of 2010 are included with
this Newsletter, if they are due.

These dues support publication of
your Newsletter and donations to
special naval causes...

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take "God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance
Jay Leno



Warwick Reunion Review

Wow!

What a reunion! A record breaking 127 people attended the event in Warwick, RI. We returned to our home port state— in force. The hotel, the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings, was a beautiful facility located on a large rural campus. The guest rooms, banquet room and hospitality room were first class. The staff was professional and friendly and all our needs were met without delay.

On the Saturday of the reunion we went on our tour. Two large busses were needed to take us through Providence sightseeing and then to Fall River to see the Naval museum ships on display. Then, on the return trip to the hotel, we toured past the mansions and downtown Newport. While at Fall River we had the opportunity to visit the destroyer Joseph P. Kennedy and the other ships on display. We gathered for lunch in the officers' mess aboard the battleship Massachusetts and enjoyed a buffet meal. After lunch we went to the bow and a professional photographer took a beautiful group picture of the crew. The 16 inch gun mount was the background. Even the weather was perfect.

Sunday morning we met for our memorial service conducted by Charlie Jakob and later our general meeting. Sigward Pohl, who came from Germany with his wife Brigit, spoke to our members and presented us with photographs of the USS Compton which we have never seen before. Sigward served on the Compton in 1962 as a Midshipman from the German Navy.

Sunday evening we attended our banquet. Shipmates renewed friendships. We have not been up north for some time so we saw some new faces at the event. Everyone appeared to have a good time and the DJ did a fantastic job, he had us dancing right up to closing time. Shipmate Duane Linden made a video of the Compton and it was shown, on a large screen, at the banquet. Later each member was presented with a DVD of the video presentation along with a memento of the reunion.

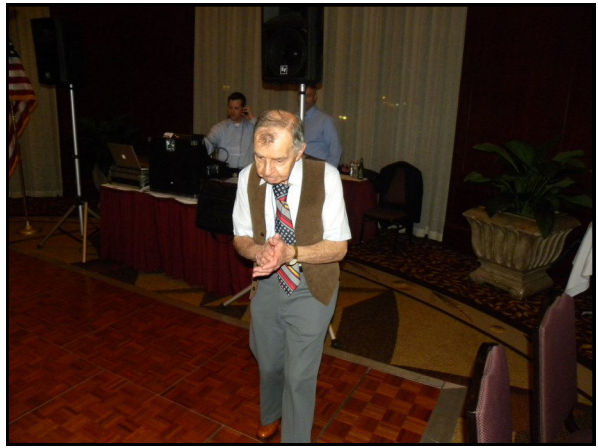
An added treat this time was the group breakfast held in the hospitality room. It was great to start each day by sharing a meal with old friends.



Phil and Eileen Prekel
Good gracious Phil—What did you say to her??



Linda Beckstrom and Gloria Breitenbach
There were lots of hugs at this reunion



Our Chaplain—Charlie Jakob
 He is doing his 4 corner war dance at the dinner
 Jake did a great job at the Memorial Service...

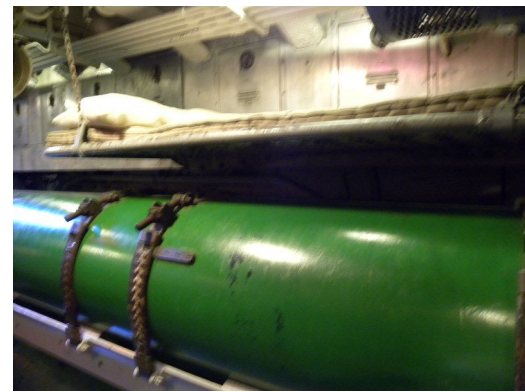
Joe and Rose Napoli
 I know Joe is an important part of our
 Association—but, is that his bodyguard???



Ron Moody is getting better—
 Look where I found him—guarding the treats
 and next year no more wheelchair



Don Rivette checking the cruise book
 And looking for his old shipmates...



The submarine sailor I admire the most—
 is the guy who slept over this torpedo...



Mary and Chuck Elliot
 Former dance instructor with non-dancing husband...
 Where is her dancing partner Captain Mike Elliot?

"How To Simulate Being A Sailor" (unknown author)

1. Buy a steel dumpster, paint it gray inside and out, and live in it for six months.
2. Run all the pipes and wires in your house exposed on the walls.
3. Repaint your entire house every month.
4. Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of the bathtub and move the shower head to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you turn off the water while you soap down.
5. Put lube oil in your humidifier and set it on high.
6. Once a week, blow compressed air (or use a leaf blower) up your chimney, making sure the wind carries the soot on to your neighbor's house. Ignore his complaints.
7. Once a month, take all major appliances apart and then reassemble them.
8. Raise the thresholds and lower the headers of your front and back doors so that you either trip or bang your head every time you pass through them.
9. Disassemble and inspect your lawnmower every week.
10. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, turn your water heater temperature up to 200 degrees. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, turn the water heater off. On Saturdays and Sundays tell your family they use too much water during the week, so no bathing will be allowed.
11. Raise your bed to within 6 inches of the ceiling, so you can't turn over without getting out and then getting back in.
12. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Have your spouse whip open the curtain about 3 hours after you go to sleep, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and say "Sorry, wrong rack."
13. Make your family qualify to operate each appliance in your house - dishwasher operator, blender technician, etc. Re-qualify every 6 months.
14. Have your neighbor come over each day at 0500, blow a whistle so loud Helen Keller could hear it, and shout "Reveille, reveille, all hands heave out and trice up."
15. Have your mother-in-law write down everything she's going to do the following day, then have her make you stand in your back yard at 0600 while she reads it to you.
16. Submit a request chit to your father-in-law requesting permission to leave your house before 1500.
17. Empty all the garbage bins in your house and sweep the driveway three times a day, whether it needs it or not. Have someone repeat loudly, "Now sweepers, sweepers, man your brooms, give the ship a clean sweep down fore and aft, empty all ****cans and butt kits over the fantail!"
18. Have your neighbor collect all your mail for a month, read your magazines, and randomly lose every 5th item before delivering it to you.
19. Watch no TV except for movies played in the middle of the night. Have your family vote on which movie to watch, then show a different one. Repeat the same movie several nights in a row.
20. When your children are in bed, run into their room with a megaphone shouting that your home is under attack and ordering them to their battle stations, shouting, "Now general quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations!"
21. Make your family menu a week ahead of time without consulting the pantry or refrigerator.

(Continued in next Newsletter)

Excerpts and an Update on our Sumner class, sister ship, USS Laffey DD724

January 12, 2010 – Newly repaired Laffey gets temporary home while Patriots Point decides where to exhibit ship – by Allyson Bird – The “Post and Courier” newspaper.

With two tugboats pushing her through the Cooper River, the decommissioned destroyer Laffey floated out of emergency repairs and into a new limbo Monday afternoon.

Dick Trammell, executive director at the ship’s keeper, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, said the ship now rests atop a new, thicker hull. It has some new internal walls and some new framework and experts who helped preserve the Confederate submarine Hunley weighted in with long term protective coatings for the ship’s interior and exterior.

A dehumidification system will keep the rust down on the inside and a process using electrical currents will work to do the same on the outside. Trammel said divers will inspect the Laffey annually.

But, the question of when the ship will return to Patriots Point and where the attraction will exhibit – it remains unanswered.

The Laffey moved from Detyens Shipyards to the State Ports Authority’s Pier November near Veterans Terminal a donated temporary home.

Patriots Point turned over custody of the Laffey’s neighbor, the cutter Ingham, to a Coast Guard museum in Florida the day after the Laffey moved to dry dock. That left the Laffey’s and Ingham’s old parking spaces open.

These spots both prove vulnerable to storm waves and require moving piers to bring a vessel in and out for work. Trammel said the Laffey most likely will move to the starboard side of the Yorktown.

The work remaining, on the Laffey, amounts to little more than cleaning, painting and restoring the small touches that turned her into a museum.

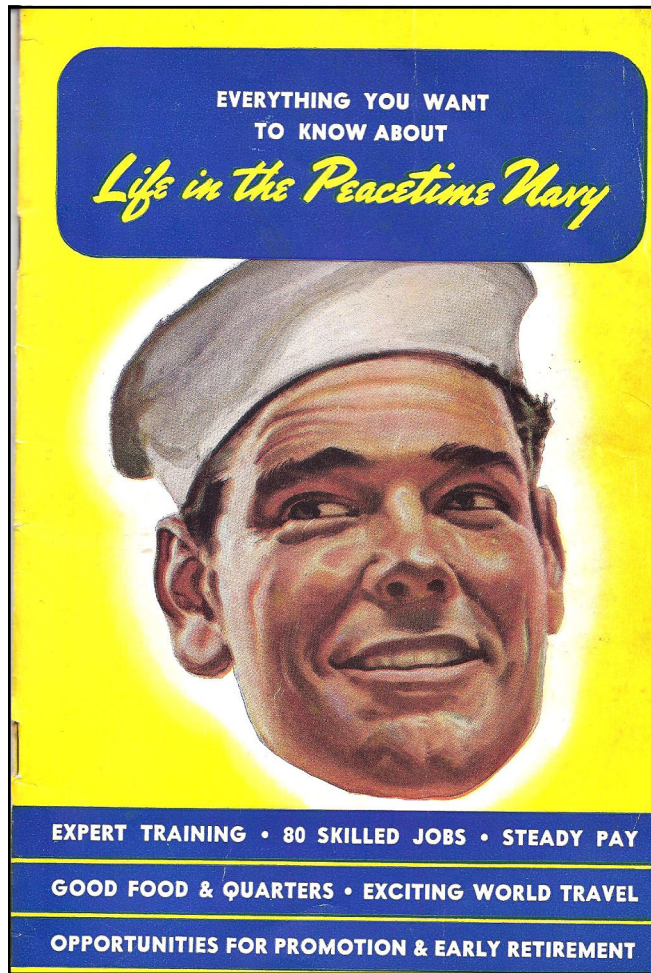
“She’s all shiny and looks really beautiful. She just needs to be painted now,” said Laffey Association president Sonny Walker, in town from Maryland. “That’ll be our job,”

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?



I took this photo this morning from our deck. This is a daily routine for the two of them, Ralph and our grand puppy. Our daughter's 9-year-old German Shepherd, *Schafer*. Whenever we're home in CT, we love and appreciate hearing Colors played in the morning and evening at the nearby Submarine Base. When *Schafer* hears the first call to Colors (five minutes before), she gets all excited to get us out on the deck. Ralph and *Schafer* stand at attention and salute the flag. Above is proof of their loyalty.

Gloria Breitenbach.



Navy recruitment book—13 Dec 1945



Compton veterans from the forties:
L to R
William Raider (Plank Owner)
Gerry Price and Herb Sellers



LtJG Karl Dietsch (ret)
Can't wait to play the market

USS Compton Reunion in Warwick, RI, Sunday May 2, 2010

Mr. President, Officers of the USS Compton Association, my dear Ladies, dear Gentlemen, Shipmates of the USS Compton,

It is a very great honour for me to be invited to this year's reunion of the USS Compton. My wife Birgit and I say our greatest thanks to everybody who encouraged us to come from Munich to Warwick to join this happy party.

It is a long time ago when I reported onboard of the USS Compton. In June 1962 I had just finished the German Naval Academy in Flensburg and had been selected together with my fellow Günter Schnez to serve onboard an American destroyer within the US and German Naval Personal Exchange Program. This was my first time for duty on a real warship and not on a training ship as before.

My orders said that I had to be in Cannes, France at latest on July 1st, 1962 as the ship would go underway on that day. Arriving in a great hurry after a long train ride of more than 24 hours from Northern Germany I had to realize that no American ship was there riding at anchor. On my way back from Fleet Landing I was asked by a Frenchman what I was doing here as the ships would come the next day. So I went to a decent hotel near the railway station as I could not afford a hotelroom at the waterfront; no credit cards at that time!

The next day I reported onboard and got to learn that the ship would stay at Cannes until July 10 for a recreation period. So my time onboard started with a holiday: Independence Day on 4th of July and then some days of leisure at the beach of Cannes! But then we went anchors away for sea duty within the Sixth Fleet. The days were filled with exercises and maneuvers. And I was among a well skilled and highly motivated crew. Everybody knew how to handle his station. I never will forget the replenishment operation at night time with the USS Compton on starboard side and the USS Independence on portside of the tanker when a small sail boat crossed our course and we all had to make an emergency turn to starboard still connected by high lines. The USS Compton proved to be a perfect working horse patrolling on the screen or doing plane guard duty 1000 or 2000 yards behind the carrier. And everything was done in a time without computer, GPS and other modern technology. Well, the high pressure steam turbine and Coca Cola already had been invented.

When the USS Compton completed her mission in the Mediterranean in Mid of August 1962 I was transferred to the USS Robert K. Huntington DD 781 and completed onboard of this ship my tour within the Sixth Fleet. But it was the USS Compton giving me a lifelong good feeling what it means to be among a good crew. Only together we can full fill a difficult task. And that I tried during my whole time in the Navy which lasted 35 ½ years.

I do not want to bore you to tears; therefore only a few words about my further time in the German Navy. After my return to Germany I served onboard of destroyers and destroyers escorts in the engineering section. We visited several times the United States and we were member in the first Standing Naval Force Atlantic Squadron being formed in 1968, which is still in operation. Later I commanded a desk ashore in Naval Procurement and in Naval Intelligence; but that is another story...!

Well, let me thank you again for being among this fine group. And to show my affiliation to the USS Compton I want to give two pictures of the USS Compton, one to you, Mr. President and one to Mr. Maurice Richard, the Editor of the Newsletter, who is not with us today. So please pass it on to him. As far as I can see these pictures are not shown in the public archives. One of the pictures shows our ship on 4th July 1962, the first day I was onboard. The other one shows the USS Compton in 1952, when Mr. Maurice Richard was onboard. It is a great pleasure for me bringing these pictures with me. And I have put scans on a CD of these pictures together with others which I took while being in the Sixth Fleet to make more copies for others who are interested.

It is great for me to be among this happy crowd and to enjoy your company!

Fair Winds and a Following Sea to everybody of you!

Sigward Pohl



QUALIFICATIONS OF THE NAVAL OFFICER

It is by no means enough that an officer of the Navy should be a capable mariner. He must be that, of course, but also a great deal more. He should be as well a gentleman of liberal education, refined manners, punctilious courtesy, and the nicest sense of personal honor.

He should be the soul of tact, patience, justice, firmness and charity. No meritorious act of a subordinate should escape his attention or be left to pass without its reward, even if the reward is only a word of approval. Conversely, he should not be blind to a single fault of a subordinate, though, at the same time, he should be quick and unflinching to distinguish error from malice, thoughtlessness from incompetency, and well meant shortcoming from heedless or stupid blunder.

Based on the letters of John Paul Jones

Compton Obituaries

Compton Chaplain Joseph Farry, Columbus Ohio, Plank Owner, Age 88, passed on January 26, 2010. Joe's accomplishments from his service to the US Navy through his service to God are to numerous to list in this publication. A short version was listed in the February "Compton Newsletter". A donation from the Compton was made to the: Joe Farry Sr. Memorial Endowment Fund

Compton sailor and Trappist Monk, Brother Edward Shivell, age 81, passed on March 10, 2010. Edward joined the navy July 21, 1948 and was honorably discharged July 1952, he joined the Gethsemani monastery near Bardstown KY in 1955. He moved to Moncks Corner, SC at Mepkin Abbey and for the last 15 years served as the monastery's cook. Brother is survived by his brother Tom Shivell.

George Donald "Pops" Terry, Plank Owner, age 85, passed on April 10, 2010 in Phoenix, AZ. George was born February 24, 1925 in Bellefonte, PA. He served in the US Navy during WWII as a fire controller on the USS Meredith until she hit a mine and was sunk in Seine Bay during the D-Day Invasion. George was then assigned to the USS Compton and was very proud to be a member of her very first crew. He is survived by his wife of 61 years and sons Phil and Ron

Robert M Platt Sr., of Courtland, Ohio died, Sunday, May 9, 2010. In 1942, after high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Corry that was sunk on D-Day at Normandy, and later served on the USS Compton in the Pacific Theater. Bob was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1954 and continued to practice law for 56 years. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, a son, Robert and two daughters, Carol L and Kerry S.

Known to be in Sickbay

Vernon Duke, ICFN, 60-63
Jack Overla, GMG3, 61-63
Lou Rainone, RD2, 52-56
Wayne Thornburg, QM2, 44-46