


The Compton at war

USS Compton Organization

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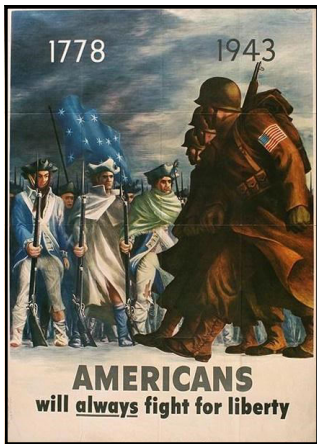
Washington Reunion

Another year has passed and Compton shipmates once again gathered for our annual reunion. This time it was held in McLean, VA, a suburb of Washington, DC. The event was at the Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner hotel and it exceeded our expectations. Everything was first class and the hotel staff was always at our beck and call. Our hospitality room was open each day of our reunion and it was well used. Shipmates spent many hours remembering old Navy days. On Saturday night the hotel treated us by providing a spread of food in the hospitality room. It was enjoyed by shipmates and guests.

Our tour was held on the Saturday of the reunion. The weather was pleasant and sunny, perfect for the tour. Our group needed two large busses to see the sights of Washington, DC. In the morning we went to the World War 2 memorial where we had the pleasure of seeing Senator Bob Dole— as he greeted veterans. We also met a Tuskegee Airman who flew the P-51 Mustangs during WW2. Our bus drove by the Capital, the White House and monuments, stopping later at the Korea Memorial which contained nineteen statues of troops, it was quite a sight. We had lunch at the Phillips Flagship Restaurant; everyone agreed that it was a fantastic buffet. After lunch we went to the Washington Navy Yard and had the opportunity to go aboard the destroyer USS Barry and visit their museum. We ended the tour by having our memorial service at the Navy Memorial and placed a Compton memorial wreath at the statue of the Lone Sailor.

On Sunday morning, we held our general meeting at the hotel and discussed Association business and future reunions. Special thanks go out to shipmate Jerry Sample who provided memento flashlights.

That evening we held our banquet where we enjoyed gathering with old friends, fine food and music. While in the hospitality room, later in the evening, we heard that the terrorist, UBL, had been dealt with by Navy



The 2012 Compton reunion at Virginia Beach/Norfolk

Save the dates; the last weekend in April of next year, April 27, 28 & 29, 2012, for our annual reunion. This reunion will be special, it is a military weekend in Norfolk, and we will attend the Virginia International Tattoo performance. It is a patriotic show with military music and marching bands that is held once a year. This is an event that will be an experience to remember!

We will again stay at a Crowne Plaza hotel, the one in Virginia Beach, just outside of Norfolk. Details will be in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

See page #8 for additional information on the Virginia Tattoo experience...



John Cupp advising former Senator Bob Dole at the WW2 Memorial!!!



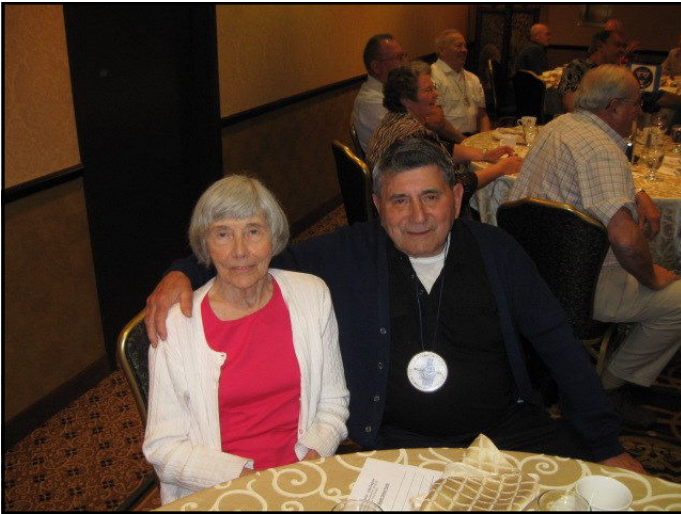
Chaplain Charles Jakob on left and Compton Association President Jack Heidecker presents a wreath to honor all deceased Compton sailors. This presentation occurred during our memorial service at the Naval Memorial Center...



Compton Association Secretary—Mike Taylor is leading his shipmates to the next WW2 exhibit, or running away from them...



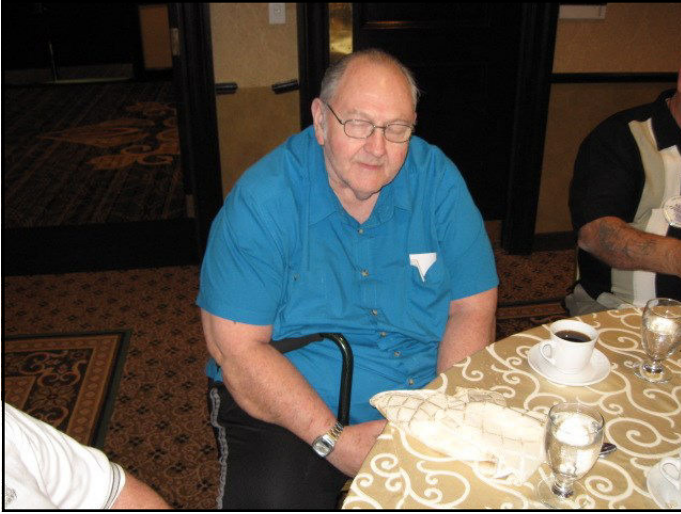
Herman White and Ernestine Hall posing for a picture at the Navy Memorial during the Compton's Washington tour. What a great smile she has...



Catherine and Joe Bonaventura
He forgot his “Just For Men” or he finally is showing some snow on top—not bad for a sailor from the forties



Ed Capozziello wondering if they changed the size restrictions for service on a ship—Nancy will explain to Cappy that it is a monument.



Barry Marple—Compton Association Webmaster
Is he napping or mentally working on our website?
He does a great job for our Association!!!



Sally and Jerry Sample
on our bus tour in Washington DC.
The Compton reunion attendees each received a metal LED Compton engraved flashlight from Jerry as a memento of this reunion...





This ensign is the last US flag flown over the Compton and was removed during its decommissioning ceremony in 1972... We displayed this flag during our meeting and then returned it to the naval archives...



Brass Plaque removed from the USS Compton, mid ship passageway, at the time of the decommissioning ceremony in 1972—loaned to our association from the naval archives...

Very interesting WW II Trivia

You might enjoy this from Col D. G. Swinford, USMC, Ret and history buff. You would really have to dig deep to get this kind of ringside seat to history:

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW II was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940); highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. So much for allies.

2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.

3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, your chance of being killed was 71%.

5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hirooyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.

6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THIS ONE.....

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).

8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but they decided it wasn't worth the effort.

9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

10. Among the first 'Germans' captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

AND I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST....

11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the assault on the island. It could have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

Our Navy, Then and Now!!

Then - If you smoked, you had an ashtray on your desk.

Now - If you smoke, you get sent outside and treated like a leper.

Then - Mail took weeks to come to the ship.

Now - Every time you get near land, there's a mob topside to see if their cell phone works

.

Then - If you left the ship it was in Blues or Whites, even in home port.

Now - The only time you wear Blues or Whites is for ceremonies.

Then - You wore bellbottoms everywhere on the ship.

Now - Bell bottoms are gone and 14 year-old girls (or "funny boys") wear them everywhere.

Then - You wore a Dixie cup all day, with every uniform.

Now - It's not required and you have a choice of different hats.

Then - If you said "damn," people knew you were annoyed and avoided you.

Now - If you say "damn" you'd better be talking about a hydro-electric plant.

Then -The Ships Office yeoman had a typewriter on his desk for doing daily reports.

Now - Everyone has a computer with Internet access and they wonder why no work is getting done.

Then - We painted pictures of pretty girls on airplanes to remind us of home.

Now - We put the real thing in the cockpit.

Then - If you got drunk off duty, your buddies would take you back to the ship so you could sleep it off.

Now - If you get drunk off duty, they slap you in rehab and ruin your career.

Then - They collected enemy intelligence and analyzed it.

Now - They collect our pee and analyze it.

Then - If you didn't act right, they'd put you on extra duty until you straightened up.

Now - If you don't act right, they start a paper trail that follows you forever.

Then - You slept in a barracks, like a soldier.

Now - You sleep in a dormitory, like a college kid.

Then - You ate in a Galley. It was free and you could have all the food you wanted.

Now - You eat in a Dining Facility. Every slice of bread or pat of butter costs, and you can only have one.

Then - If you wanted a quarter beer and conversation, you could go to the EM or Officers' Club.

Now - The beer will cost you two dollars and someone is watching to see how much you drink.

Then - The Exchange or Ship's Store had bargains for sailors who didn't make much money.

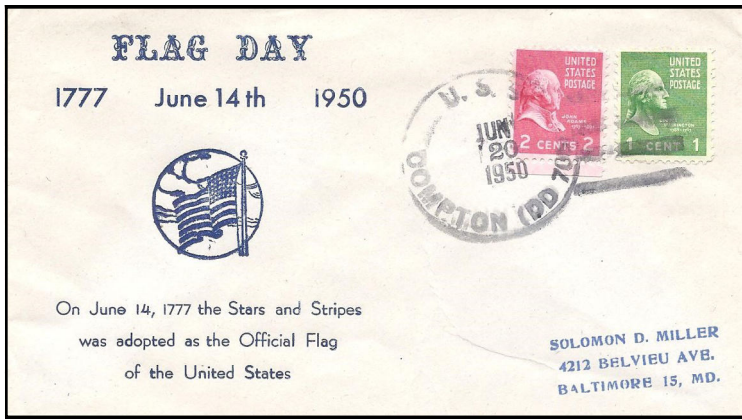
Now - You can get similar merchandise, and a whole lot cheaper at Wal-Mart.

Then - If an Admiral wanted to make a presentation, he scribbled down some notes and a YN spent an hour preparing a bunch of charts.

Now - The Admiral has his entire staff spending days preparing a Power Point presentation.

Then - We called the enemy things like "Commie Bastards", "Reds" or whatever is important at the time, because we didn't like them.

Now - We call the enemy things like "Opposing Forces" and "Aggressors" so we won't offend them.



**Envelope sent from the Compton—6/14/1950
postage was 3 cents.....**



**Steven and Edwina Bednarz
All the way from California to be with their
shipmates—a fun couple!!!**



**USS Compton DD705—Memorial Service—Washington Navy Memorial
Charles MacKay, Tony Zagame and John MacDougall reading the names of those known Compton
sailors who have passed away. Also, a special prayer was said to honor those Compton sailors—who
are deceased and unknown to our association.
Unseen is Gerry Pierce, who struck a memorial bell after each name was mentioned...**

USS Compton Jackets:

Shipmates have been asking where they can get USS Compton windbreaker jackets. We had ordered them a few years back but the company changed hands. Recently we contacted them, NavalShopping.com, to see if we could once again get Compton jackets at reduced prices. The new owner, Bonnie Upton, agreed to provide the jackets to our members with a \$10 discount. She also offers a 15% discount on all other products they sell. Shipmates were sent a letter from the company last November announcing our partnership. If you go to www.navalshopping.com you will see the Naval products they offer for sale. Enter the code COMPTON in the order form for the jacket and you will receive the discount. Enter the code **COMPTON%** for all other purchases and you will receive a 15% discount. If you do not have a computer they can be contacted at **1-800-866-6434**.

The Compton's reunion attraction in 2012

The Tattoo Experience: You have to see it to experience why audiences are so passionate about the Virginia International Tattoo! Once you experience the pulse pounding beat of the drums...the heart-swelling spectacle of precision drill teams and marching bands...the call of the pipes, the swirl of the dancers, the roar of the crowd—you will understand why the American Bus Association has put our Tattoo on the must see list of the most exciting events in the world. No wonder groups from across the United States and around the world return to the Virginia International Tattoo!!!!

Shipmates who joined the Compton Association in the past year:

Francis Davis 60-61 ETN3	Gary Marquart 57-60 GMSN
David E Meyer	Russell Morrill 65-67 MM3
Darl Servey 61-63 BTFN	Bill Rader SOM3 44-45 (Plank Owner)
Michael Ferriter	Richard Volpocelli 1947 SN
Joseph Brielmann 63-65 BT3	Eugene Wurzler 57-59 FT2

Email changes: Richard Post—dickcwp@gmail.com

Compton Obituaries

**Lewis Fugate—Compton “plank owner” and association member, died 12/28/2010,
Lewis was 85 years old when he passed away**

David D. Davis, RDSN, died—February 14, 2011. he was born in Utica, NY and joined the navy in 1950 and served on the USS Badger and the USS Compton.

Richard G Egger Sr. served on the Compton in 1951, as a DKSN. He died around February 2000 in Mt Prospect IL. There is no other information available for this shipmate. (info per Rick Rickard)