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The Compton at war

USS Compton Organization

Jack Heidecker – President  
54 Mt Top Court,  
Hazle Township PA 18202  
570 450-5545  
[Jack555@ptd.net](mailto:Jack555@ptd.net)

Ed Capozziello—Vice President  
1161 Laidlaw Ave,  
Franklin Square NY 11010  
516 458-0497  
[ecap6407@optonline.net](mailto:ecap6407@optonline.net)

Joe Napoli – GM/Treasurer  
129 Mallard Dr.  
Monroe Twp, NJ 08831  
609 409-7678  
[jsnap29@verizon.net](mailto:jsnap29@verizon.net)

Mike Taylor – Secretary  
PO Box 148, Elizabeth WVA 26143  
304 275-8995  
[tudorboats19@yahoo.com](mailto:tudorboats19@yahoo.com)

Charlie Jakob - Chaplain  
6368 Gillespie Street  
Philadelphia PA 19135-3223  
215 624-8084

Compton Board of Directors:

Joe Bonaventura - East Region  
760 Linden Ave.,  
Pennel PA 19047  
215 757-6220  
[joepa29@comcast.net](mailto:joepa29@comcast.net)

Bob Ott - North Region  
3404 Dickens Rd  
Blasdell NY 14219  
716 826-2535  
[reott\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:reott_1999@yahoo.com)

Paul Woodbury – South Region  
3603 Pin Oak Court  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
561 626-1093  
[pjwoodbury@bellsouth.net](mailto:pjwoodbury@bellsouth.net)

Jim McKelva – West Region  
412 S Fielder Road  
Arlington TX 76013-1751  
817 792-3273  
[jasmck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jasmck@sbcglobal.net)

Editor/Publisher—Jack Heidecker

All correspondence,  
pictures and articles should  
be sent to:

Jack Heidecker  
54 Mt Top Court  
Hazle Township PA 18202

[jack555@ptd.net](mailto:jack555@ptd.net)  
570 450-5545

Save the dates; the last weekend in April of 2012,  
April 27, 28 & 29 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 patriot-  
ic show with military music and marching bands that  
is held once a year. This is an event that will be an  
experience to remember! The reunion room rate will  
be \$99 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, a premium  
military weekend in the Hampton Roads area, and  
\$89 a night three days prior and after the weekend.

We will again stay at a Crowne Plaza hotel, the one in  
Virginia Beach, just outside Norfolk.

If you have access to a computer—type in a search  
for the ‘Virginia International Tattoo’ for impressive  
information on this special military event.

A full and complete schedule of the Virginia Beach reunion  
will be in the November Newsletter.....

**The Ship's Company**  
 of the  
**U. S. S. COMPTON**  
 Cordially invites  
*Mr. John Koos, Sr.*  
 to attend the commissioning ceremonies  
 on board the U. S. S. Compton  
 November 4, 1944, at twelve o'clock  
 Navy Yard, New York  
  
**R. O. STRANGE**  
 Commander, U. S. N.  
 Commanding, U.S.S. Compton  
  
 THIS INVITATION AND ALL INFORMATION  
 CONCERNING THE COMMISSIONING  
 MUST BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

Copy of original invitation to the  
 commissioning ceremony of our ship....  
 Thanks to Compton shipmate and  
 "plank owner" John Koos Sr. for sending us  
 this copy...



**Brothers Olson—Michael and William**  
 meet at the reunion...  
 They look as if they were just drafted...



**Past Vice President Bud Foley**  
 thought he was retired from the  
 Compton Association. We slipped him a  
 "Mickey" raised his arm and re-upped  
 him as a Vice-President Emeritus



**Fred Summerville—center and Joe Nowakowski—right**  
 looking spiffy—Dal Trader on the left is wondering if they  
 are for real and from the Compton....



**Carrol and Jim McKelva**  
 She takes good care of that Texan...





**Outside picture of the beautiful Crowne Plaza in Virginia Beach, VA—A great place to begin one of the most satisfying and special reunion that the Association can offer. This “Virginia Tattoo” has a world wide attendance due to its spectacular salute to the military...**



**Our mates from the sixties—representing their men at our dinner dance...**



**Korean War Memorial—Washington D.C.**  
 Freedom is not free.” Here, one finds the expression of American gratitude to those who restored freedom to South Korea. Nineteen stainless steel sculptures stand silently under the watchful eye of a sea of faces upon a granite wall—reminders of the human cost of defending freedom. These elements all bear witness to the patriotism, devotion to duty, and courage of Korean War veterans.  
 The 19 statues represent the percentages of army, navy and marines, who went on a standard patrol. This above statue represents the navy corpsman on that patrol.  
 Below picture—all nineteen statues on patrol...



**An elderly man was stopped by the police at 1 a.m. The officer asked, "Where are you going at this hour of the night?"  
 "I'm going to a lecture on the subject of alcohol abuse and the effects that it has on the human body."  
 "Oh really!', and who is giving this lecture at 1 o'clock in the morning?"  
 "That would be my wife."**

## **LUCKY COINS:**

Received a complimentary letter from Compton Association member, James S. Ely, Jr. Esq. and will only use that part of the letter which should be of interest to our members.

**From: Jim Ely, Jr.:**

I have read the recent Newsletter, enjoyed the photo on the first page with the Compton's single mast installed from its original commissioning. It reminded me of the two or three months the ship spent at the Philadelphia Navy Yard following our cruise in November 1951. Among the various changes to the ship, the one I most remembered was the removal of the single mast and the installation of a tripod mast with more electronic equipment. For your information, when they lifted the old mast, I was on the ship and saw the base of that mast and underneath it on the deck where the mast stood, was quite a few coins that were placed there when the ship was made. I took one of them, maybe a quarter, but I am not sure where I spent it. No doubt we put more coins down when it came time to place the tripod mast in its place.

**Editor:**

(This letter was forwarded to Rick Rickard, our Association historian, as Jim had another question for Rick to answer. Rick would not let an opportunity to also answer the above question of why the coins were under the mast and inform us as to the reason).

**From Rick:**

After you received a letter from member Jim Ely in which he mentioned the coins under the single stick mast when it was removed and replaced with a tripod mast, you also mentioned something about an article talking about why coins were placed there. The following information is from the University of Oslo in Norway and it gives the origin of that custom.

It is titled: Ship-mast coins. It reads as follows: " Sailing vessels would often be provided with one or more lucky coins when they were built to ensure favorable winds for swift sailing and good profits. The coins were usually placed under the boat's mast.

The following description of the procedure comes from Storfjord in Troms: When they made a new boat, they placed a coin in the garboard seam. They made a hole the size of the coin in the seam and wound a piece of burlap around the coin before inserting it in the hole. This was done to ensure large profits from the new boat and for good fortune in general. When they later started building housing on board the boats, they placed a coin in the housing structure. The owner of the boat was supposed to insert the coin and it was to be done in secret. Many people believed that foreign coins had a more powerful effect than domestic coins. Placing a coin under the ship's mast is a tradition that dates back to the Roman times and perhaps even further back."

In my previous message, "Garboard" was mentioned. It is the wooden planking (Strake) that runs longitudinally adjacent to the keel of a wooden sailing vessel.

**I totally take back all those times, I didn't want to nap when I was younger.**





**Michael and Joyce Heider**  
That is one serious pose....



**Jack and Laurel O'Neill**  
Doing a little "spooning"...



**Ginny and Neil Franc**  
attending their first Compton reunion



**Richard and Vera Post**  
A gentleman helping his wife to sit down



**Joe Nowakowski**  
Put your hands down  
were not the Shore Patrol

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. 'Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer.' said his mother.

'I don't need to,' the boy replied.. 'Of course, you do.' his mother insisted. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.' 'That's at our house.' Johnny explained. 'But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!'

## Jack And Pam Valentine donate their Compton Ship's Bell replica to the Compton Association...



Jack Valentine, DK2, USS Compton DD705, June 1953-June 1954

My Dear Shipmates,

At the last reunion, again we heard mention of "Where the hell is the Bell"? Well some years ago my wife and I were on vacation in Maine and saw a factory not far from where we were visiting. Snooping, we found a foundry with a wonderful gift shop displaying a lot of cast brass items. Being curious, I asked if they did custom orders. Of course, for a price! Well, I ordered "The bell" and it has been attached to a wall in our family room ever since we received it. It has an absolutely gorgeous ring! And when the kids come over it often rings loud and clear.

But, alas and alack at my age (84) my wife decided we were downsizing and moving closer to our 4 granddaughters. My wife, Pam, whom you may have met in DC, said, as we were packing, "Get that thing off the wall". Well it is on its way to you guys to hopefully ring at reunions, and tell everyone that it's THE COMPTON'S BELL and it has unfortunately shrunk through the years. Hopefully those who have gone before will love its ring because they will hear it!

Smooth sailing,  
Jack

**JOE FARRY LETTER SENT FROM TOKYO BAY, AT THE CONCLUSION OF WWII, FROM THE COMPTON TO HIS PARENTS....**

**(Chaplain Joe is deceased and was the spiritual guide of the USS Compton Association)**

**30 August 1945**

**Dear Mom and Pop,**

**You have already noticed on the envelope, no doubt, that the “Compton” and I are helping Admiral Halsey end the war right smack in Tokyo Bay. It has been a long time and a long road to travel, but we finally got here. And maybe you’d like to hear some of the details on how it feels to be here and what we’ve been doing.**

**We left Okinawa, of which you probably heard plenty and of which we’ve seen plenty, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, headed toward Japan. A couple of typhoons were apparently going the same way, but we managed to ride though the tail of one and the front end of another, not without a few unhappy moments and a number of unhappy stomachs.**

**Came the dawn on the 27<sup>th</sup> and we could see the big battle wagons, the Missouri, the Iowa and the Duke of York dead ahead, leading the parade as the fleet steamed toward Japan. And we saw a great many other ships, for we traveled up and down almost the entire line of battleships, carriers, cruisers, destroyers, DE’s, and transports. We were much impressed, and any Nips who saw that parade must have been flabbergasted for it gave them thoughts to think about, no doubt.**

**About mid afternoon on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the “Compton” slipped into formation ahead of the transport group and entered the outer harbor, which the Japs call Sagami Wan. No one had told us exactly where to anchor, since we were rather strangers to the group entering, so we picked out a good spot right between the “Missouri” and the “Iowa” and dropped the “hook”.**

**Well, we spent two days in Sagami Wan, taking a good look at the shoreline of Japan. We couldn’t see Tokyo or Yokohama, because we were still about 25 miles away, but we took a good look at Mount Fujiyama, with her peak showing above the clouds, and we looked through binoculars at the Jap houses and civilians on the beach. The houses had overhanging roofs, some of them were very brightly colored, and some of them looking very much like the houses stateside.**

**(TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER)**



## 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](http://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**.

Our special thanks to association member Duane Linden, who provided a DVD to all Washington attendees as a memento of this reunion...

**Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year—if you received an envelope with this Newsletter—they are now due or due within a short period... Look for the hand written date, on your address label... That date is when it expired or will expire...**



What to take to bed with you - not a joke.

Pretty neat idea. Never thought of it before.

Make sure the car is in range test it first from which room it works then if you hear a noise outside or someone trying to get in then press it from the room where it works

Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

## Compton Obituaries

Obituary for Cdr. Lewis Kendall Worthing. He was the CO. of the DD-705 in early 1960's. He died in Colorado Springs, CO. on July 13, 2005, at the age of 85. Information from Rick Richard

Association member, Henry Verriest passed on July 23, 2010, Henry was a Machinist Mate 3rd class. He served on the Compton from December 1955 to December 1957. A donation of \$50.00 in his memory was made to "Tin Can Sailors".