
USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war

Virginia Beach Reunion Review

It's amazing, we met once again and none of us got any older! Compton shipmates and guests, 107 in total, got together at the Crowne Plaza in Virginia Beach for our annual reunion. It was a pleasure to stay at the Crowne Plaza, the hotel was very nice and they provided everything we needed without delay. In fact, we got more than we bargained for; we did not expect free breakfast every day. Our hospitality room was well used during the reunion and the sea stories never stopped.

As usual we had our tour on the Saturday of the event, although this one started in the afternoon. We had a large group and we again needed two busses. We drove through Norfolk and stopped at Dumar's, a famous ice cream parlor and drive in, where we all had an ice cream treat. The Dumar family claim to have invented the ice cream cone in 1904. From there we went to the museum at the Mac Arthur Memorial, then to the Mac Arthur Center where we ate supper. We then attended the evening show of the Virginia International Tattoo at the Scope Arena in Norfolk. The military and patriotic show was fantastic. Everyone was in awe of the military bands from various countries. They also had bagpipes, Irish dancers and acrobats on bicycles amazed the crowd. It was the highlight of the reunion.

On Sunday morning we held our general meeting at the hotel. We spoke on several topics and of future reunion locations. It was announced that the reunion next year is going to be hosted by Bob Ott and will be held in Buffalo, New York. Bob went over details, which will be published in our newsletter, and described the tour which will include the Niagara Falls area. The annual election took up no time at all; all the officers agreed to serve another year. Bob DiMonte, of Pensacola Florida, was elected Southern Regional Officer.

After the general meeting we held our memorial service, Chaplain Charlie "Jake" Jakob presided at the service which included reading the names of all the Compton shipmates who have passed on.

Later Sunday evening we had our banquet. After gathering for group pictures we enjoyed a nice meal with our shipmates. This year we did something different, we had a guest speaker, retired admiral Michael Nowakowski. The admiral is the cousin of our shipmate Joe Nowakowski. We also recognized our honored guest, "plank owner" Wayne Thornburg, who attended with his son Douglas. We then danced the evening away.

2013 Buffalo, New York reunion info on newsletter page #8

WEB SITE: www.usscomptonassociation.com



L-R, Capecci, Clendening, Pietromonaco, Overby, Turner, Adams, Young, Guzzy, Zmoilli and Bill Judge....
Gitmo 1957



Circa—1957 Compton on refresher “depth charge” training off Guantanamo Bay Cuba—picture from Bill Judge



Arthur Mills and John Carroll, circa 1957

To PRESIDENT JACK
AND MEMBERS OF THE
USS COMPTON
ORGANISATION
May God bless you
with happiness and peace
on this day
and the days to follow.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY
THIS WONDERFUL TIME
OF YEAR 2012.
BEST WISHES
FROM MARY & ANGUS
WALSH OAM

Easter Card from Angus Walsh
Australian Navy and honorary member
of the Compton.



See the USS Sullivan at the 2013
Compton Reunion in Buffalo NY.



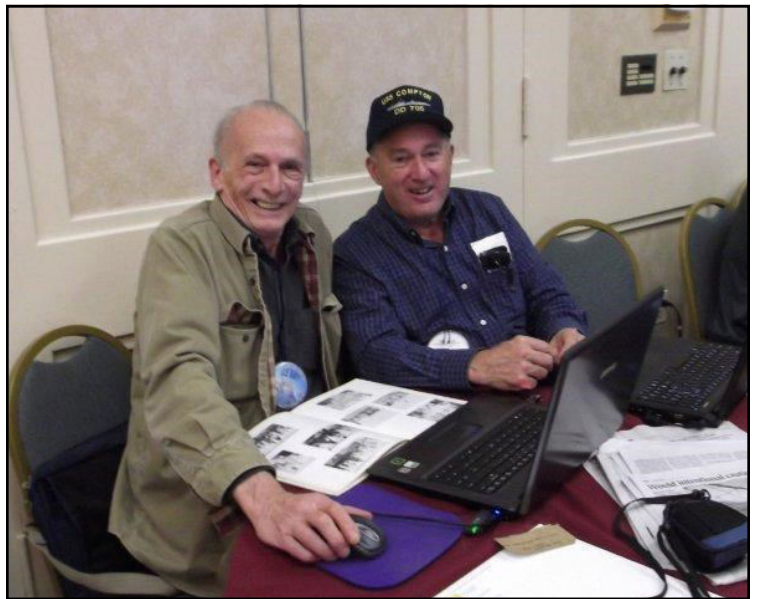
“Standing Guard”
Picture taken at the Minneapolis National Cemetery
A lone eagle guarding our troops!!!



Leonard Bronk MM2
On the fantail of the Compton, (circa 1958)
Picture submitted by: Larry Farnham

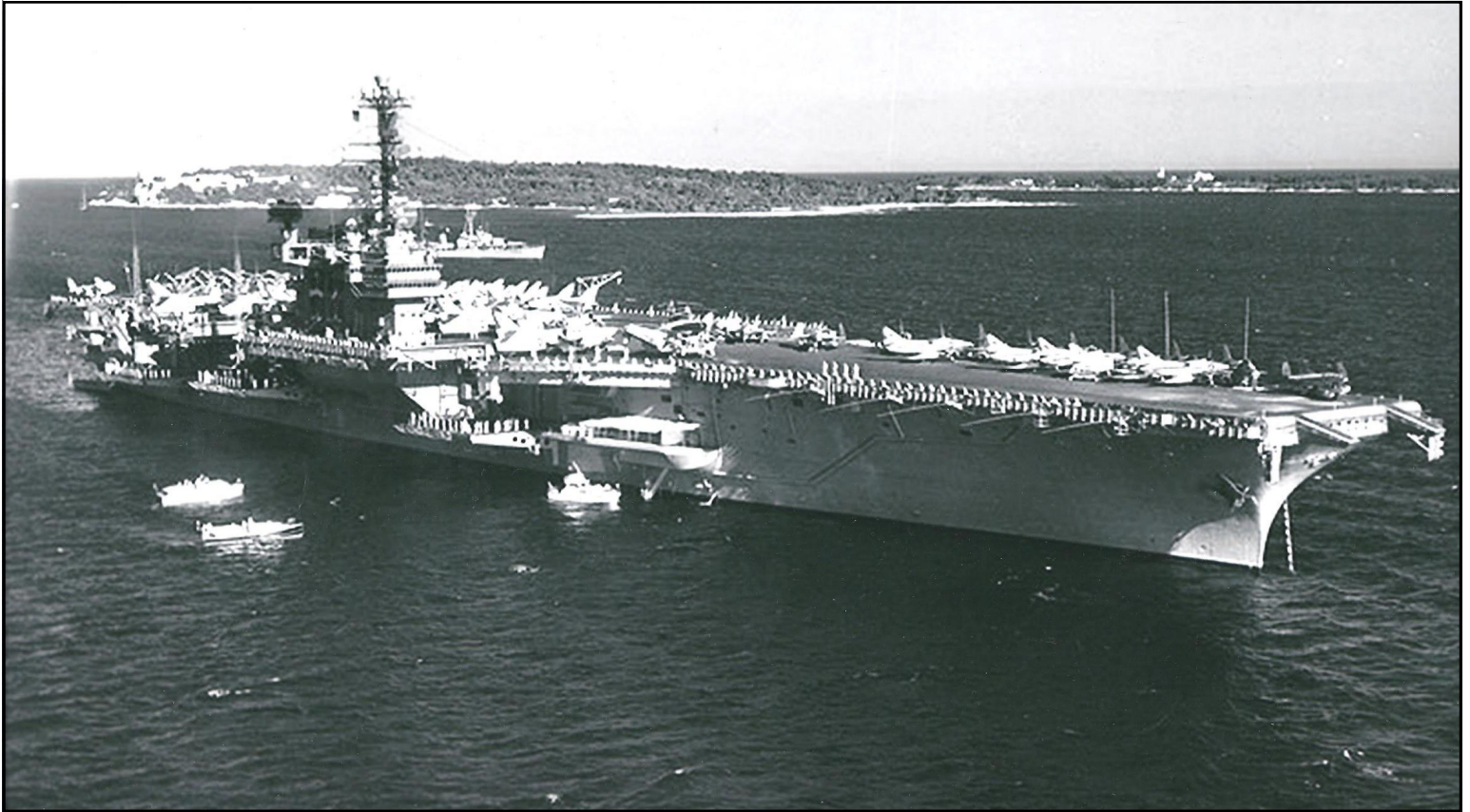


Swim call of Portugal—circa 1960
LtJg Jim Evans on left and
unknown Compton officer on right...



**Ed Brimo, on right, checking out a cruise book with
Frank Caccioppoli at the reunion.**

Overheard at our reunion—two of our older members were talking.
“Do you remember that stuff they use to put in our food to prevent us from getting excited over women”?
The other sailor said—“you mean that “Salt Peter” stuff.
“That’s it” said the first sailor and “I think it’s beginning to work”...



**USS Enterprise—CVN 65 and the USS Compton in the background. circa 1962
Picture from Sigward Pohl collection**



Birgit and Sigward Pohl, he was aboard the Compton in 1962, as a midshipmen, representing the German navy. Sigward spent over 30 years serving his country's navy



Jack and Millie Hunold at the MacArthur Mall. His first words to us after AWOL from a couple of reunions—"where's the Budweiser??"

March 22, 1820:

Naval hero killed in duel

U.S. Navy officer Stephen Decatur, hero of the Barbary Wars, was mortally wounded in a duel with disgraced Navy Commodore James Barron at Bladensburg, Maryland. Although once friends, Decatur sat on the court-martial that suspended Barron from the Navy for five years in 1808 and later opposed his reinstatement, leading to a fatal quarrel between the two men. Born in Maryland in 1779, Stephen Decatur was reared in the traditions of the sea and in 1798 joined the United States Navy as a Midshipman aboard the new frigate, *United States*. That year, he saw action in the quasi-war with France and in 1799 was commissioned a Lieutenant. Five years later, during the Tripolitan War, he became the most lauded American naval hero since John Paul Jones. In 1801, President Thomas Jefferson ordered U.S. Navy vessels to the Mediterranean Sea in protest of continuing raids against U.S. ships by [Muslim]pirates from the Barbary states -- Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, and Tripolitania. Sustained action began in June 1803, and in October the U.S. Frigate *Philadelphia* ran aground near Tripoli and was captured by Tripolitan gunboats. The Americans feared that the well-constructed warship would be used as a model for building future Tripolitan frigates, and on February 16, 1804, Stephen Decatur led a daring expedition into Tripoli harbor to destroy the captured vessel. After disguising himself and his men as Maltese sailors, Decatur's force sailed into Tripoli harbor and boarded the *Philadelphia*, which was guarded by Tripolitans who were quickly overpowered by the Americans. After setting fire to the frigate, Decatur and his men escaped without the loss of a single American. The *Philadelphia* subsequently exploded when its gunpowder reserve was lit by the spreading fire. Famed British Admiral Horatio Nelson hailed the exploit as the "most bold and daring act of the age," and Decatur was promoted to Captain. In August 1804, Decatur returned to Tripoli Harbor as part of a larger American offensive and emerged as a hero again during the Battle of the Gunboats, which saw hand-to-hand combat between the Americans and the [Muslim] Tripolitans. In 1807, Commodore James Barron, who fought alongside Decatur in the Tripolitan War, aroused considerable controversy when he failed to resist a British attack on his flagship, the *Chesapeake*. Decatur sat on the court-martial that passed a verdict expelling Barron from the Navy for five years. Thus began the dispute between Decatur and Barron that would end 13 years later on the dueling grounds in Maryland. In the War of 1812, Decatur distinguished himself again when, as Captain of the USS *United States*, he captured the British ship of war *Macedonian* off the Madeira Islands. Barron, meanwhile, was overseas when his Navy expulsion ended in 1813 and did not return to the United States to fight in the ongoing war with England. This led to fresh criticism of Barron from Decatur, who later used his influence to prevent Barron's reinstatement in the Navy. In June 1815, Decatur returned to the Mediterranean to lead U.S. forces in the Algerian War, the second Barbary conflict. By December, Decatur forced the Dey (military ruler) of Algiers to sign a peace treaty that ended American tribute to Algeria. Upon his return to the United States, he was honored at a banquet in which he made the very famous toast: **"Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong!"** Appointed to the Navy Board of Commissioners, Decatur arrived in Washington in 1816, where he became a prominent citizen and lived a satisfying life politically, economically, and socially. In 1818, however, dark clouds began to gather when he vocally opposed Barron's reinstatement into the Navy. The already strained relations between the two men deteriorated, and in March 1820 Decatur agreed to Barron's request to meet for a duel. Dueling, though generally frowned on, was still acceptable among Navy men. On March 22, at Bladensburg in Maryland, Decatur and Barron lifted their guns, fired, and each man hit his target. Decatur died several hours later in Washington, and the nation mourned the loss of the great naval hero. Barron recovered from his wounds and was reinstated into the Navy in 1821 with diminished rank.

"The difference between genius and stupidity is--genius has its limits." ~Albert Einstein



Hospitality Room—at our reunion!!!



**Ron Moody on 4th knee operation
Has not missed a Compton reunion!!!**



**Special Compton sailors—representing the 1940's
L-R,
Gerry Pierce, Frank Caccioppoli, Herb Sellers and Wayne Thornburg (plank owner)**

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was a very remarkable man who started learning very early in life and never stopped.

At 5, began studying under his cousin's tutor.

At 9, studied Latin, Greek and French.

At 14, studied classical literature and additional languages.

At 16, entered the College of William and Mary.

At 19, studied Law for 5 years starting under George Wythe.

At 23, started his own law practice.

At 25, was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses.

At 31, wrote the widely circulated "Summary View of the Rights of British America and retired from his law practice.

At 32, was a Delegate to the Second Continental Congress.

At 33, wrote the Declaration of Independence .

At 33, took three years to revise Virginia 's legal code and wrote a Public Education bill and a statute for Religious Freedom.

At 36, was elected the second Governor of Virginia , succeeding Patrick Henry.

At 40, served in Congress for two years.

At 41, was the American minister to France , and negotiated commercial treaties with European nations along with Ben Franklin and John Adams.

At 46, served as the first Secretary of State under George Washington.

At 53, served as Vice President and was elected president of the American Philosophical Society.

At 55, drafted the Kentucky Resolutions, and became the active head of Republican Party.

At 57, was elected the third president of the United States .

At 60, obtained the Louisiana Purchase , doubling the nation's size.

At 61, was elected to a second term as President.

At 65, retired to Monticello .

At 80, helped President Monroe shape the Monroe Doctrine.

At 81, almost single-handedly created the University of Virginia , and served as its first president.

At 83, died on the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, along with John Adams

Thomas Jefferson knew because he himself studied the previous failed attempts at government. He understood actual history, the nature of God, his laws and the nature of man. That happens to be way more than what most understand today. Jefferson really knew his stuff. A voice from the past to lead us in the future:

John F. Kennedy held a dinner in the white House for a group of the brightest minds in the nation at that time. He made this statement: "This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

2013 US Compton Reunion—Buffalo, New York
Dates: April 23 (Tuesday) to April 25 (Thursday) - room rate \$94.00 + tax

Millennium Hotel
2040 Walden Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14225

All American Tour—\$80.00 per person
(full reunion information will be in the August Newsletter)
Reunion sponsors: Bob and Chris Ott

Note: Tour is in USA—Canadian trips are personal and entry require a passport or super ID state license...

Veterans of Underage Military Service:

Below is a press release which recently appeared online. Although their annual reunion has passed we thought it would be an interesting article for our shipmates to read. The organization, Veterans of Underage Military Service, is an unusual group and, I am sure, very few of us even knew existed.

View their website; www.oldvums.com for further details. The home page contains a story about the youngest US serviceman in WW2, 12 year old Calvin L. Graham, USN. The child was wounded in battle and his age was later discovered. The story goes on to say that in June of 1994 the Purple Heart was presented to his Widow. He was injured in 1942.

“Our 20th annual reunion will be held April 12-14 2012 at the Holiday Inn Opryland in Nashville Tennessee. We will register on Thursday, take a local tour on Friday, and have our banquet dinner Saturday evening, departing for home on Sunday, We expect a total of 100-150 attendees to include members and guests. Our organization is nation-wide and has about 1200 members. We are composed of men and women who entered a military service before being of legal age to do so. While we have many members who entered the service at ages 12, 13, and 14, most of us went in at 15 or 16. Read more about our organization at oldvums.com. We would like to welcome anyone who qualifies as a new member.”

John Rutledge
Vice Commander
Veterans of Underage Military Service

Obituaries: USS Compton

CPO/QMC Malcolm H. Joslyn. He died March 30, 2012 in Middletown, RI. Had served in the Navy for 24 years before retiring April 13, 1979. He served on 10 ships including the Compton

Arthur “Art” Byrne BT3, 1950-53, from Lake City, Florida, an active Compton Association member. Art passed on May 6, 2012. Information was received from Connie, his wife and best friend. He last attended the Jacksonville FL reunion.