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USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war



Letter from the President:

This *Newsletter* will only be 6 pages long. The main reason is a lack of information from different sources and from our membership.

If you are attending the Buffalo Reunion bring some of your pictures from the time you served with some background information. I WILL RETURN THEM TO YOU as soon as I copy them into the computer. Send them to me via email or regular mail and I will also return those to you, ASAP.

To share your experience with your fellow shipmates will remind them of those times we served on the Compton. Some of those times may not be the best of memories but, we all went through both good and not so good times.

Write down an incident or story that occurred while the ship is at sea or in port. My address is listed on the column to the left of this letter.

I will also take many more pictures and write down names and information. Don't be offended if I asked you for info that I should know. If not, I have to send the picture to Joe Napoli for his ID and embarrass myself for forgetting who or where.

Shortly, we will be attending our 2013 reunion in Buffalo, Bob Ott, our sponsor, has promised us warm weather with all remnants of winter long gone. If not we will find a suitable punishment up to and including "Keelhauling" him across the swimming pool.

Very Truly Yours,

Jack Heidecker  
Shipmate



**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**  
**Phone # 1 716 681-2400 or 1 716 681-8067**

**All American Tour—\$80.00 per person**

*Reunion sponsors: Bob and Chris Ott*

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

**free onsite Parking—including RV's**  
**The hotel provides free courtesy transportation if arriving via plane or train**

**716 681-2400—provide your name or confirmation number**  
**courtesy phones are only available at the airport**

**Note of interest—One of the largest malls in this region is located within**  
**a short walking distance of the hotel!!!**

### [2013 Annual Reunion Form; Buffalo, New York](#)

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/guest \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Years aboard \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enter above info as you would want it on your name tag.**

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_ (Print additional names on rear of form if necessary.)

Meal Selection: Roast Pork Loin \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast Marcela \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$50 per person)

Number taking tour \_\_\_\_\_ (@\$80 per person) Total Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

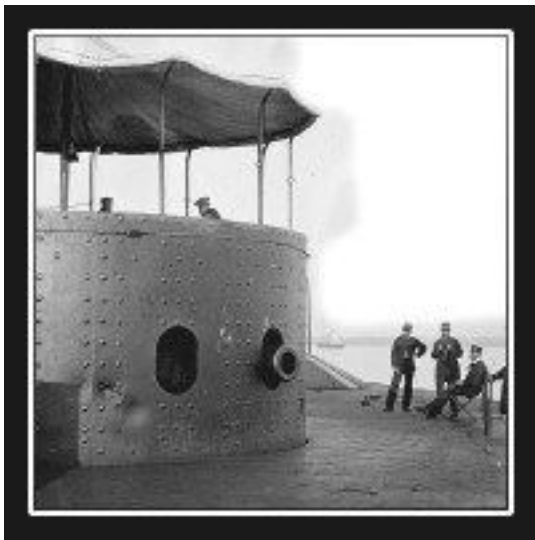
**Mail form and check to: USS Compton Assn., PO Box 6621, Monroe Twp., NJ, 08831-6621.**

**Make check out to USS Compton Assn. Please respond by March 23rd.**

**Print any additional names of your guest (s) on a separate piece of paper when returning this form.**



**Bob DiMonte, Compton Southern Region Officer, in his additional responsibilities as President of the Lexington CV16 Association, at their recent Branson reunion. Looks like they have a tougher dress code than the Compton.**



**Civil War “Iron Clad” notice the battle damage**



**Luther Carlisle checking in at the Virginia Beach Reunion or checking out???**

**Shipmates on duty near the end of her service life. Fred Gilbertson, LTJG (1969-70) Jack O’Neil, MM2 (1969-71) Phil Prekel, EM2 (1968-71)**

*We the People*  
*are the rightful masters of both Congress*  
*and the courts, not to overthrow the*  
*Constitution but to overthrow the men who*  
*pervert the Constitution.*  
*Abraham Lincoln*



## 26 Oct 1942—Guadalcanal

The U.S. Navy was not the most powerful fighting force in the Pacific. Not by a long shot. So the Navy basically dumped a few thousand lonely American Marines on the beach at Guadalcanal and high-tailed it out of there.

Nimitz, Fletcher and Halsey had to ration what few ships they had. I've written separately about the way Bull Halsey rolled the dice on the night of Nov. 13, 1942, violating the stern War College edict against committing capital ships in restricted waters and instead dispatching into the Slot his last two remaining fast battleships, the South Dakota and the Washington, escorted by the only four destroyers with enough fuel in their bunkers to get them there and back.

Those American destroyer captains need not have worried about carrying enough fuel to get home. By 11 p.m., outnumbered better than three- to-one by a massive Japanese task force driving down from the northwest, every one of those four American destroyers had been shot up, sunk, or set aflame. And while the South Dakota – known throughout the fleet as a jinx ship -- had damaged some lesser Japanese vessels, she continued to be plagued with electrical and fire control problems.

"Washington was now the only intact ship left in the force," writes naval historian David Lippman. "In fact, at that moment Washington was the entire U.S. Pacific Fleet. She was the only barrier between Admiral Kondo's ships and Guadalcanal. If this one ship did not stop 14 Japanese ships right then and there, America might lose the Pacific war. ..."

On Washington's bridge, Lieutenant Ray Hunter had the conn. He had just seen the destroyers Walker and Preston blown sky high. Dead ahead lay their burning wreckage. Hundreds of men were swimming in the water and the Japanese ships racing in.

Hunter had to do something. The course he took now could decide the war, Lippman writes. "Come left, he said. ... Washington's rudder change put the burning destroyers between Washington and the enemy, thus preventing her from being silhouetted by their fires.

The move made the Japanese momentarily cease fire. Lacking radar, they could not spot Washington behind the fires. ... Washington raced through burning seas. Dozens of destroyer men were in the water clinging to floating wreckage. Get after them, Washington! one shouted

Sacrificing their ships by maneuvering into the path of torpedoes intended for the Washington, the captains of the American destroyers had given [ADM] China" Lee one final chance.

Blinded by the smoke and flames, the Japanese battleship Kirishima turned on her searchlights, illuminating the helpless South Dakota and opened fire. Finally, as her own muzzle blasts illuminated her in the darkness, Admiral Lee and Captain Glenn Davis could positively identify an enemy target.

The Washington's main batteries opened fire at 12 midnight precisely. Her radar fire control system functioned perfectly. During the first seven minutes of 14 Nov 1942, the "last ship in the U.S. Pacific Fleet" fired 75 of her 16-inch shells at the battleship Kirishima. Aboard Kirishima, it rained steel. At 3:25 a.m., her burning hulk officially became the first enemy sunk by an American battleship since the Spanish-American War. Stunned the Japanese withdrew. Within days, Japanese commander Yamamoto recommended the unthinkable to the Emperor -- withdrawal from Guadalcanal....

From the Navy News sent to us by Compton member Mike Flynn.

LOS ANGELES -- A U.S. Navy honor guard paid tribute to the late actor Ernest Borgnine with a full-honors military sendoff at Forest Lawn Memorial-Park and Mortuaries cemetery in Hollywood, Calif., July 14.

The honor guard honored Borgnine's lifetime of service and contributions to the Navy and its cause.

"Ernie, as you may know, loved and adored the Navy, and the sea, and all of you," said Tova Traesnaes Borgnine, the late actor's wife. "I know Ernie's looking down on us right now and blessing all of you and all of your fellows across the world for all you do for our country, for our people, and especially for us today."

After serving in the Navy for ten years, Borgnine left the service at the end of World War II as a Petty Officer 1st Class. Ten years later, he won an academy award for his performance as the lead in "Marty."

He went on to star as the title character in the hit '60s sitcom "McHale's Navy." In 2004, then-Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry D. Scott awarded Borgnine with an honorary advancement to chief petty officer.

"When Ernie was promoted to honorary chief ... there was never, of all the honors - even Ernie's academy award - never anything that meant as much to him," said retired U.S. Navy Capt. Kathi Dugan, one of Borgnine's closest friends. "He had tears in his eyes."

When Borgnine was making his final arrangements, requesting military honors at his funeral was definitely his idea, said Dugan.

Dugan quoted Borgnine as saying, "'I don't know if I've earned [a military funeral], but I can't think of a more appropriate way for me to leave this world than with my Navy men and women'."

The Navy portion of the ceremony was organized by Builder 2nd Class Marco Valdovinos, the funeral honor guard district coordinator attached to the Navy Operational Support Center in Moreno Valley. Valdovinos says that his 30-member contingent of Reserve Sailors have officiated at more than 1,450 ceremonies this past fiscal year.

"This veteran has a great history of contributions to our community, to our nation and to the service," Valdovinos said. "To me, it's a tremendous honor. There's nothing greater for me, to be able to serve in this capacity. To render one final salute to our fallen veteran - it is just great." Borgnine thought so highly of the Navy that he asked in his will that attendants to his funeral donate to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society in lieu of bringing flowers.

One attendant from the press donated a thousand dollars that day.

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# Buffalo New York—Reunion Adgenda

## Tuesday, April 23

12:00 noon, arrival and check-in. Hospitality Room will be open.

## Wednesday, April 24

All American Adventure bus tour 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tour includes Niagara Falls State Park, Goat Island, Luna Island, Whirlpool State Park and Terrapin Point. A guided tour through the Power Vista and a stop at the Three Sisters Trading Post for souvenirs.

Lunch will be at Como Restaurant with an Italian Buffet.

Per Person tour rate is \$80.00—includes transportation, guide service, buffet lunch and gratuities.

Bus Tour is on the American side only—a passport or a super state license is required to go into Canada.

## Thursday, April 25

Annual Compton meeting (room to be determined) 10:00 AM.

The Memorial Service will immediate follow our meeting.

Hospitality room will be open after meeting.

Dinner Dance: ballroom and time will be announced at the meeting.

Pictures: 6:00 PM—Dinner and cash bar 6:30 PM

## Friday, April 26

Have a safe trip home—stay healthy and fit

### Info from a member:

I am reading an E book called “ Little Ship Big War” by Edward Stafford. Received book through Barnes and Noble. It is regarding a DE during WW2. It mentions escorting the battle ship Texas along with a brand new USS COMPTON on page two hundred seventy seven. I have enjoyed the book tremendously and it is well written. Bob Norstrom

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

### *Obituary: USS Compton*

Robert “Butch” Calpeter passed November 2012 at the Veteran’s Medical Center in Syracuse, New York. Butch graduated from high school in 1956. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Compton and the USS Arcadia.