
USS Compton Organization

Jack Heidecker – President
54 Mt Top Court,
Hazle Township PA 18202
570 450-5545
Jack555@ptd.net

Ed Capozziello—Vice President
1161 Laidlaw Ave,
Franklin Square NY 11010
516 458-0497
ecap6407@optonline.net

Joe Napoli – GM/Treasurer
129 Mallard Dr.
Monroe Twp, NJ 08831
609 409-7678
jsnap29@verizon.net

Mike Taylor – Secretary
PO Box 148, Elizabeth WVA 26143
304 275-8995
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.,
Pennell PA 19047
215 757-6220
joepa29@comcast.net

Bob Ott - North Region
3404 Dickens Rd
Blasdell NY 14219
716 826-2535
reott_1999@yahoo.com

Bob DiMonte – South Region
1048 Meadson Ave
Pensacola FL 32506
850 492-3483
bobdimo@cox.net

Jim McKelva – West Region
412 S Fielder Road
Arlington TX 76013-1751
817 792-3273
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
570 450-5545



The Compton at war



2014 Members' choice reunion



I call this the “members’ choice reunion” because we took a vote, at the Virginia Beach reunion, and the winning location was Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

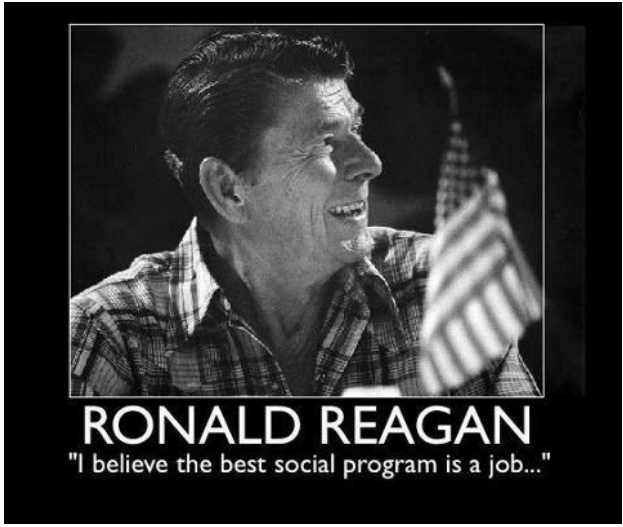
The facility we selected is the Landmark Resort on South Ocean Blvd. Check it out at: www.landmarkresort.com, they have a lot to offer. One of our ship-mates visited the Landmark Resort on his way home from the Virginia Beach reunion and found that it will suit our needs.

The event will start on Friday April 11 and run through Sunday April 13, a bit earlier in April than usual to avoid Easter and Easter week. Room rates are very reasonable and start at \$54 for an interior room to \$96 for the top of the line Oceanfront suite. Eight price options are available and a resort fee of \$7 a night is added. As always, reunion prices are available prior to and after the actual reunion. Members must make their own reservations at 800-845-0658; ask for the USS Compton reunion rates.

On the Saturday of the reunion we will have our bus tour. Proposed is an afternoon pick up at the hotel and then going to a local award winning restaurant, the Giant Crab, www.giantcrab.com for a buffet dinner. After the meal we head to the Alabama Theatre, www.alabama-theatre.com, to see a show.

On Sunday we will hold our Memorial Service and general meeting at the resort, in the morning, and later that evening our banquet.

Save the date; more information will be provided in future issues of this newsletter.



**What did Eddie Capozziello volunteer for?
Giving their approval to Cappy is Michael Heider in the
background Ron Erwin and Richard Post who is
hiding so as not to volunteer for anything!!!
Buffalo Navy Yard...**



**The walkway down to the massive power of the
Horseshoe falls from the American side of the
Niagara River...**

**Nikola Tesla—the genius who designed the first
alternating current power plant on the Niagara River
guards the entrance to the plant...**



**Compton Vice-President
Ed Capozziello looking like he is
about to go to Captain's Mast..
At least he found a suitable hat rack.**

Here are a couple of photos that are related to the article Memories of Eugene Wurzler. The first one is of the American city he mentioned which was Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia. The second photo is of one of the softball games we played as we drank (free) beer and soda on an English naval base on Bahrain. We were on guard duty to protect oil shipments and spent a month there until we were relieved by another destroyer, possibly the Dickson (or we relieved her, I don't recall).

As a signalman we challenged all ships that passed inquiring as to their cargo and destination. We never got coherent responses from the Soviet block ships.

When we transversed the canal I was given large recon camera and had to hide under the canvas cover of the 3 inch mount and shoot pictures of any Soviet activity. I had to record the time, latitude, longitude, and subject of each photo. Going through the canal I saw 3 soviet planes on the airstrip. Coming back there were over 20 planes.

See you in Myrtle Beach, Bill Judge, SMSN, 1957-58



E-mail from Skip Loken, Corona CA., my Father served aboard the Compton in 1945, transferring from Naval Station Ulithi to aboard, serving as a Signalman 2nd Class.

COMMENTS: Remembering my father's stories of the ship and the love for his crew. It is a remarkable portion of our Nation's Proud Naval History.

My Father told of a story, where DD-705 had been on patrol, in and around Okinawa, I am assuming during the time in May or June, where the Compton had been suddenly detailed to provide support in the Straights, and the destroyer that took her place and was lost.

I have searched and searched for a Ship's Log, which might show dates and movements North East of Ulithi and off the Coast of Japan. In my research I was shocked to learn of just how many of our brave destroyers were lost to Kamikaze attacks, of 1 plane, 2 planes, 2 and even 4 planes attacking one ship. My Heart and Prayers go out to those Brave me aboard the US Destroyer, which took the place of the Compton that fateful night in 1945. God Bless them all. However, I have not been able to determine the path or activity patrol assignments of the Compton to determine the name of the lost ship, which took over her patrol.



Joe Napoli on duty in CIC—1962



Look at this—Joe Napoli is working and Ron Moody (L) and Mike Decker are playing baseball!

USS Compton Decals

As I am sure you noticed, you received a USS Compton decal with this issue of the newsletter. We have been trying to have decals made for several years now but were unable to find any that were reasonable in cost.

At a recent reunion shipmate Ed Brimo brought a decal that he obtained in the past. That sparked our interest and a renewed search started. We found a vendor that could get us decals at a price that would permit us to distribute them to our members at no cost. In fact, it was the same vendor that provided the USS Compton travel mugs that we had as reunion mementoes in the recent past. After a little enhancement with the art work we came up with the decal which we are sure our shipmates will enjoy displaying.

Joe Napoli

I've reached the age, Where "Happy Hour" is a nap...

US Navy – then and now.

- T If you smoked, you had an ashtray on your desk
N **If you smoke, you get sent outside like a Leper, if you are lucky**
- T Mail took weeks to come to the ship, unless you were on a submarine
N **If the ship is near land, there is a mob topside to see if their cell phones work.**
- T If you left the ship it was in blues or whites, even in home port
N **The only time you wear blues or whites is for ceremonies.**
- T You wore bell bottoms every wear on the ship, but not on submarines
N **Bell Bottoms are gone and 14 year old girls wear them everywhere.**
- T You wore the “Dixie Cup” hat all day, with every uniform
N **It’s not required and you have a choice of different hats.**
- T Say “DAMN”, people knew you were annoyed and avoided you.
N **Say “DAMN”, you better be talking about a hydro electric plant.**
- T The ship’s office yeoman had a typewriter on his desk for doing daily reports
N **Everyone has a computer with Internet access and wonder why no work is done.**
- T You had pictures of pretty girls on your locker to remind us of home
N **Now we have the real girls with us on the ship.**
- T Your girlfriend was at home, praying you would return alive
N **She is on the same ship, praying your condom worked.**
- T If you got drunk off duty, your buddies would get you back to the ship.
N **If you get drunk off duty, they slap you in rehab and ruin your career**
- T Our top officers were professional sailors and commanded respect.
N **Our top officers are politicians first and demand respect**
- T We collected enemy intelligence and analyzed it.
N **They collect our pee and analyze it.**
- T If you did not act right, they put you on extra duty until you straighten out
N **If you don’t act right, they start a paper trail that follows you forever**
- T Medals were awarded to heroes who saved lives at the risk of their own
N **Medals are awarded to people who show up for work – most of the time**
- T If you wanted a beer and conversation, you went to the Acey/Ducey club
N **The beer cost \$3.00 and someone is watching to see how much you drink**
- T The Exchange had bargains for sailors who didn’t make much money
N **You can get cheaper and better merchandise at Wal-Mart**
- T We called the enemy things like “Commie Bastards” and “Reds” – we didn’t like them
N **Now we call them “Insurgents” or “Opposing Forces” so we don’t offend them**
- T We declared victory when the enemy was dead and all his things were broken
N **We declare victory when the enemy says he’s sorry and won’t do it again**
- T A commander put his butt on the line to protect his people
N **A commander puts his people on the line to protect his butt**

Thank God I was in the “OLD NAVY” and proud of it!!!!

It's the cup of brandy that no one wants to drink.

On Tuesday, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the surviving Doolittle Raiders gathered publicly for the last time. They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans. Now only four survive.

After Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded, something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around.

Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised. Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier. This had never before been tried -- sending such big, heavy bombers from a carrier.

The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.

But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on. They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety. And those men went anyway.

They bombed Tokyo, and then flew as far as they could. Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died. Eight more were captured; three were executed. Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia.

The Doolittle Raid sent a message from the United States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid; "**Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo,**" starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon. In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story "**with supreme pride.**"

Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.

Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city. Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion, as his old friends bear solemn witness. Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac. The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.

There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death.

As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, in February, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96. What a man he was. After bailing out of his plane over a mountainous Chinese forest after the Tokyo raid, he became ill with malaria, and almost died. When he recovered, he was sent to Europe to fly more combat missions. He was shot down, captured, and spent 22 months in a German prisoner of war camp.

The selflessness of these men, the sheer guts ... there was a passage in the **Cincinnati Enquirer** obituary for Mr. Griffin that, on the surface, had nothing to do with the war, but that emblemizes the depth of his sense of duty and devotion: "When his wife became ill and needed to go into a nursing home, he visited her every day. He walked from his house to the nursing home, fed his wife and at the end of the day brought home her clothes. At night, he washed and ironed her clothes. Then he walked them up to her room the next morning. He did that for three years until her death in 2005."

(Continued on next Page)

So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain: Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid), Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. All are in their 90s. They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue.

The events in Fort Walton Beach this week will mark the end. It has come full circle; Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission. The town is planning to do all it can to honor the men: a six-day celebration of their valor, including luncheons, a dinner and a parade.

Do the men ever wonder if those of us for whom they helped save the country have tended to it in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice? They don't talk about that, at least not around other people. But if you find yourself near Fort Walton Beach this week, and if you should encounter any of the Raiders, you might want to offer them a word of thanks.

I can tell you from firsthand observation that they appreciate hearing that they are remembered.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date -- some time this year -- to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy. That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them.

They will fill the four remaining upturned goblets. And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.

Robert (Bob) Patterson

On March 10, I had a call from member Ed Pasi (MM 1/C) of Ridgeway PA. He told me that he had seen a monument in a cemetery for a man who had served on the USS Missouri. In addition to the man's name and other info, it showed that he had been a BT on that ship.

However, in addition to that, there was another inscription showing that he had been a SV-6 on that ship. Ed had no idea what that meant, nor did I.

However, in checking Google.com, I came up with many references to it. There was a couple of different interpretations to it but, in essence, here it what it means:

SV-6 USNR indicates that the man was enlisted as a "Selective Volunteer" in the United States Naval Reserve. I also found two meanings for the -6. In one case, it means that the person will be discharged six months after peace has been declared. In another interpretation it simply means that the person is in the Naval Enlisted Reserve and will be assigned to "General Duties".

It may be that a few of our World War 2 members may have some different explanation of this designation.

So in the interest of adding filler to the Newsletter to see if any of our membership can verify what I have shown I have shown above or there is a different interpretation of that designation.

Rick Rickard



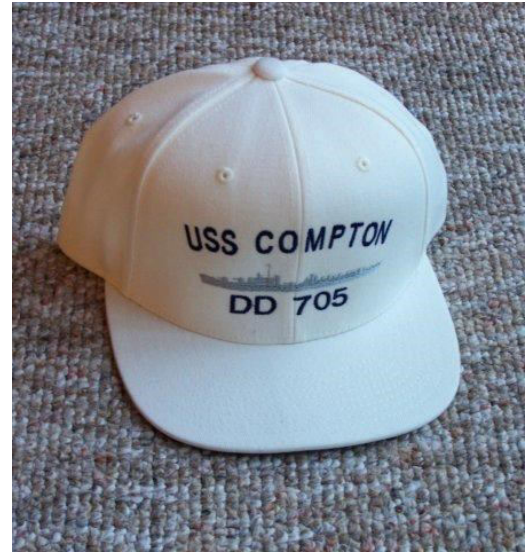
Wear that patch with pride!!!

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...



God Bless all those who served our country and a special blessing to all those whose life was sacrificed during that service!

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.



New embroidered white Compton hats . We will have them at our next reunion or you can purchase one for \$15 (includes postage), send a check to the USS Compton Assn., PO Box 6621, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831-6621.

Obituary: USS Compton DD705

Merle Miller, who died June 11, 2013. He served in WW2 on the DD705 as a Radioman First Class.



William J. "Nussy" Kowalchuk, Sr. 81, of Lopatcong Township, NJ passed away on Monday, June 3, 2013, at The Phillipsburg Care Center, Phillipsburg, NJ. Bill was born in Alpha, NJ on January 18, 1932. He is survived by his wife Joyce. They were married 61 years. Bill was an active member of the Compton Association. He served on the Compton from Oct 1950 to May 1954 and left the ship as a BT 2/C.