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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944  
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Gettysburg Reunion 2015:

The 2015 annual Compton reunion will be held at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel in Gettysburg, PA. The event will be Monday April 27 thru Wednesday April 29. The hotel is a newer hotel and the facilities and rooms are excellent. The room price will be \$109 a night.

Gettysburg is the location of the Gettysburg Civil War battle and the actual battlefield has been preserved and now contains monuments to the Union and Confederate armies that fought there. Our tour has been finalized and will include a morning battlefield motor coach tour and lunch. There will be a guide on each bus. Our stop for lunch will be at the historic Dobbin House Restaurant built in 1776. Although, it will lunch time we have upgraded to a dinner menu with a larger selection.

Cost for the tour itself is \$55.00 per person.

Gettysburg is a great place to extend your reunion by visiting the surrounding scenic areas; Hershey Chocolates of course, with its factory and amusement park, Lancaster PA with its Amish heritage and tourist sites or Baltimore MD with its beautiful Inner Harbor. If you go to our website, [www.usscomptonassociation.com](http://www.usscomptonassociation.com), click on the reunion banner on the home page and you will see pictures of our hotel.

More details, on this reunion, will be in future newsletters.

Joe Napoli

Letter sent to Compton wives as the ship prepares for a long cruise—1962  
Received this from Shirley Ormsbee wife of Bill Ormsbee passed member

**U. S. S. COMPTON (DD-705)**  
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Dear MR ORMSBEE

The COMPTON is leaving on February 7th for a tour of about seven months with the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. I, as Commanding Officer of the COMPTON, would like to take this opportunity to speak to you, the families and friends of the men of the COMPTON, about the task we as Navy men have been assigned to do with the Sixth Fleet and also to give you some information that will be useful and interesting to you. In great part, the successful completion of our mission depends on you. Only with your support, understanding and cooperation can we perform to the best of our abilities; and a maximum performance on our part is imperative to the COMPTON, to the Navy, and to the Free World.

In order for you to better understand the objectives of the Fleet we are about to join, I have enclosed a sheet entitled Facts About the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, which I urge you all to read carefully. It is interesting in content and will help you to see more clearly the importance of the job the COMPTON and each man on her is doing.

Upon arrival in the Mediterranean Destroyer Division 121, of which the COMPTON is a member, will relieve Destroyer Division 222. During the month of February and March we are scheduled to visit the countries of France and Italy. Later in our tour we will probably visit Middle Eastern countries such as Turkey and Lebanon. About 55% of our time in the Mediterranean will be spent at sea engaged in extensive operations with the Sixth Fleet and the remaining 45% will be spent in ports of the various countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

While the COMPTON is in the Mediterranean the mailing address will be as usual.

U.S.S. COMPTON (DD-705)  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
New York, New York

If you wish to send a telegram to the ship, her telegraphic address will be:

U.S.S. COMPTON (DD-705)  
c/o Naval Communication Station  
Washington 25, D. C.

If a dire emergency in the nature of a close relative nearing death does occur at home, and let us all hope that it does not, for which you feel the presence of your relative on the COMPTON is needed, it is possible for him to be granted emergency leave to return home. In such an emergency you should notify the nearest Chapter of the Red Cross. They will quickly and helpfully investigate the emergency and then notify the ship in the quickest way possible of their findings. Another service that may be of use to you is rendered by both the Red Cross and the Navy Relief. If your allotment check fails to arrive due to a mistake on the Navy's part, and you need the money it is often possible to arrange an interest free loan with either of these organizations. The phone numbers of both the Red Cross and Navy Relief can be found in your local phone books or through the telephone companies information service. Remember that both of these groups exist to help you in time of need, so do not hesitate to use them if the need arises.

I intend to keep you informed of the COMPTON's Career in the Mediterranean at intervals of approximately six weeks. If you have any questions that are not answered in this, or subsequent letters, feel free to ask them of me and I will do my best to answer them.

Thankyou for your attention to this letter, and from the entire crew of the COMPTON, I would extend our sincere appreciation for your much needed support, understanding and cooperation in the past and in the future.

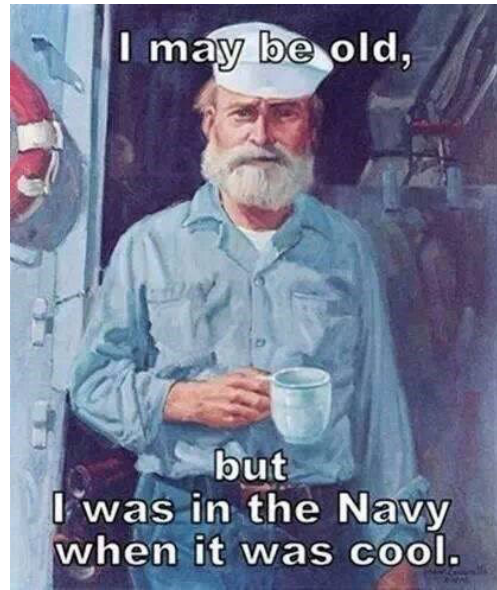
Sincerely,

*Lewis K. Worthing*  
LEWIS K. WORTHING  
Commander, U. S. Navy  
Commanding





The Compton in Boston Dry dock—a Phil Prekel photo



Almost looks like and sounds like, Ron Moody



L-R, Joe, Cappy and Taylor at the Compton meeting



Michael and Joyce Heider at the Compton banquet



Frank and Linda Milanese—always smiling



Joan Hennigan and Tony Zagame



Those who remember very conservative EM2 Bill Pearson from the early sixties with his wife Betty—This is the lovely couple today...



Longest married couple—60 years ,at this reunion Jack and “Saint” Millie Hunold



Former Compton officers L-R Ed Brimo, Jim Evans, Karl Dietsch, Neil Franc and Andy Kelly



Barbara and Vince Degasperis holding hands— That is still classy!!!



USS Ronald Reagan CVN-76 dwarfing the USS Arizona BB-39 Memorial while manning the rails in a salute to her honor!!

# Minutes from Myrtle Beach—Mike Taylor

- I. 10AM President Jack Heidecker opened meeting.
- II. Posting of the flags.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance given by all present.
- IV. Opening prayer by Chaplin Charley Jakob.
- V. Introduction of officers present.
  - A. President: Jack Heidecker
  - B. Vice-President: Ed Capozziello
  - C. Treasurer: Joe Napoli
  - D. Secretary: Michael Taylor
  - E. Southern Representative: Bob DiMonte
  - F. New Northern Representative: Phil Prekel
- VI. By acclimation entire slate of officers were elected for another year in office.
- VII. Treasurer's report given by Joe Napoli.
  - A. Money wise we are healthy. We maintain a balance of about \$5,000.00.
  - B. Membership is 214.
  - C. Our website is in good condition.
- VIII. Reading of 2013 (Buffalo Reunion) minutes by Mike Taylor.
- IX. Report on possible 2016 Reunion site by Joe Napoli. Ballots handed out to members with possible sites on them. Boston and Baton Rouge with blank for a write-in.
  - A. Baton Rouge, La was voted in. Southern representative Bob Dimonte gave a report on that site.
- X. Wayne Thornburg (plank owner) of USS Compton was introduced.
- XI. First time reunion members were introduced.
  - A. Malcolm Campbell
  - B. Edward Dagg
  - C. Thomas Lockwood
    - a. Gave USS Compton plaque to the association. He said, "I do not remember how I came about it."
- XII. Report on Rick Rickard was given. His wife is in poor health. We miss him dearly at our reunions.
- XIII. Ex-President Jack Hunold gave a report on the first reunion in 1989. There were nine members present.
- XIV. Next year's site at Gettysburg was reported on by Joe Napoli. The hotel we will be staying in is top of the line. It is the new Wyndam in Hershey, Pa and Amish Country is near bye for tourist.
- XV. Jack Heidecker said to send him pictures we have from the Compton Days. He will return them quickly. They will be put in the newsletter.
- XVI. Meeting was adjourned.
- XVII. Memorial Service for deceased Compton sailors followed.

Notes from—Wayne Brumagin ( edited with his permission)

I was on the Compton in 1961 and the Med Cruise in 1962. I am sure of 1961, because I was married that year and was on the Compton. I recognize the name of Bill Eames as the corpsman on the 1962 cruise and he dispensing the famous “cough syrup”.

The ship’s typewriter was the old style with a manual carriage return. It would take me over an hour to type the POD (PLAN OF THE DAY). Every time we rolled to port or starboard the typewriter carriage would return itself. I then had to readjust to where I left off and start typing again.

During GQ, I served as the Captain’s talker on the bridge relaying information from sonar, radar, gun control, etc. We had to draw information on a blackboard with all the incoming information. Also, when we fired the 5 inch guns all the windows on the bridge had to be open or they would have shattered.

We were in port in Italy and half the crew, including the Captain, was on liberty. A major storm was brewing and the Executive Officer and the remaining crew pulled out to sea. (et.al. 1961 to 1962)

Our Compton was always assigned to chase those “space monkeys” although we never caught up to them when they splashed down. I wonder if the captain had other plans.

During one storm—a wave actually bent the ship’s frame outside of the post office.

Ah, Compton memories!!!!



Speaking of the 1962—Med Cruise

The USS Compton DD 705 at anchor in Cannes France on Independence Day  
Our Compton is fully dressed in “Friendship Regalia”.

Picture—thanks to fellow Compton member—Sigward Pohl  
He and Birgit hope to be able to attend the Gettysburg Reunion.

Annual USS Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year. If you received an envelope with this newsletter the dues or due now or will be due within a short period of time...look for the hand written date on your address label. This is the date when your membership expired or will soon expire...

Special donations from Compton members  
Joe Brielmann, Jack Valentine  
Carter Cincotta, Jack Henderson



***Obituary: USS Compton DD705***

**Day is done, Gone the sun. From the lakes, From the hills  
From the sky, All is well Safely rest, God is nigh**

Elmo Simpson Allen, passed on July 20, 2014 and his funeral was at the Natchez Trace Funeral Chapel in Madison MS, His obituary listed his Compton service as during the Korean Conflict.

Commander Arvel Jerald Popp, USN (ret) of Vonore TN., passed on March 31, 2014 at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He was 75 years old. Jerry was a native of Crystal City MO, and attended the University of Missouri prior to receiving an appointment to the US Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1962. He then was assigned to the USS Compton and was on the 1962 Med Cruise as an "R" Division Ensign.

Francis Wilson—passed on April 2, 2014 in Spring Valley NY. Francis was a good friend of Compton member Emile Duchemin who gave us the following information. Francis was on the Compton from 1962 to 1966 as a BT2, re-enlisted and attended B School and passed the requirements to become a first class BT. He then served an additional six years and also passed the requirements for BT Chief. However, the E7 rating for BT was closed, at that time.

Clarence Hamby—Active member of the Compton Association. He passed on June 23, 2014 in Ferguson NC. Clarence served on the Compton as a GMSN from September 1955 to November 1957. A donation in his honor was made to Tin Can Sailors.