
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@comcast.net

Mike Taylor – Secretary
733 California SE
Albuquerque NM 87108
505 206-6905
tudorboats19@yahoo.com

- Chaplain

Compton Board of Directors:

Joe Bonaventura - East Region
Rest in Peace—our brother
Thank you for your service

Phil Prekel—Northeast Region
39 Perrin Drive
Wayne NJ 07470
973 839-1639
phillipprekel@optimum.net

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

Jim McKelva – West Region
Rest in Peace—our brother
Thank you for your service

Editor/Publisher—
Jack Heidecker

All correspondence, pictures
and articles should be sent to:

Jack Heidecker
54 Mt Top Court
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jack555@ptd.net
570 450-5545



The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Baton Rouge Reunion

Our next reunion is going to be in Baton Rouge, LA., as decided by a vote of our members at our last reunion. The dates of the reunion are; Friday April 29, Saturday April 30 thru Sunday May 1. As always the discounted reunion room rate is available 3 days prior and after the actual event.

We will stay at the Radisson Baton Rouge Hotel. The hotel gets good reviews online at TripAdvisor.com. The room rate is \$95.99 a night plus tax. Included in the room price is a breakfast daily for two. You must call and make your own reservation by calling 225-236-4000. The reservation cutoff date is March 29, 2016.

We have contracted for a day long motor coach tour on the Saturday of the reunion. Our first destination will be the Cajun Pride Swamp Tour. The local Visitor’s Bureau said that the tour is a “must” for those visiting the Baton Rouge area. It also gets rave reviews on TripAdvisor. (CajunPrideTours.com) After the swamp tour we stop at Ralph and Kacoo’s Restaurant for lunch which is included in the price of the tour. Quite a large selection of entrees are offered and you can choose at the time of the meal.

After lunch we are off to the USS Kidd (DD-661) (Fletcher class) Veterans Memorial and museum. The USS Kidd is located on the Mississippi River. (It is also right next to the Belle of Baton Rouge Casino) The price of the complete tour, with lunch, will be \$75 a person.

On the Sunday of the reunion we will have our General Meeting, Memorial Service and later our banquet at the Radisson Baton Rouge Hotel. At the banquet we will be entertained by a local Cajun dance troupe, Les Danseurs de Baton Rouge, they come highly recommended and promise to put on a fantastic show.

WEB SITE CHANGE NOTICE

Barry Marple, our Webmaster, has retired and Pat Prekel, son of Compton member and Northeast Director, Phil Prekel has taken over the Webmaster duties. Although, you can enter the current website via the existing method—the new website is listed below.

WEB SITE: www.usscompton705.com

2016 Annual Reunion Form; Baton Rouge

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: Beef _____ Fish _____ (@ \$50 per person)

Number taking tour _____ (@\$75 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 29 2016.**

Baton Rouge Banquet Menu

"Dining with a Cajun flair"

Assorted Appetizer Selections
Starter - Gumbo soup with rice

Entrée - Choose one: Pot Roast or Fried Catfish
Vegetables and Roasted potatoes

Dessert - Local flavor Bread Pudding

All meals come with rolls and butter, Ice Tea and Coffee.

Special Diet Meals—available upon request

**Old "gobs" of the Compton gather
Year after year come spring
We still have that walk peculiar
It's known as a "Tin Canner" thing**

**A mustering of the "old sea dogs"
Silently piped we come
Our ranks not quite as orderly now
For we march to a different drum**

**There's only a slight resemblance
To what we were back then
Still every year come spring time
We find our youth again**

Author unknown:

**for three short days we're sailors again
our ship's in our hearts and minds
Raucous and bawdy just as we were
in the years we left behind**

**No 1 MC, to interrupt
with siren, pipe or gong
Memories flow and sea stories grow
but, to listeners they're never too long**

**each year as we "seaman" assemble
we confirm what we always knew
though years and miles separate us
we'll always be Compton's Crew**

Why I never went to a reunion.

It's too expensive.

Not true. We do not use reunions as fund raisers. No registration fee is ever charged. We negotiate with hotels to provide free services and meeting rooms as not to add costs for our members. Refreshments at the hospitality room are provided by the Association. Hotel room rates are discounted.

It's too far away.

Not always. We change the location every year to a different part of the East Coast so chances are good that a reunion will be near everyone within a span of a few years. We have members attending from as far away as California, Oregon and Texas every year. We have even had members attend past reunions from Germany and Australia.

I won't know anyone.

Not so. We always have shipmates attending from every crew from 1944 to 1972. No matter when you served you will meet shipmates from your time period.

My wife won't have anything to do.

Not really. The wives and female guests gather in the hospitality room as do the shipmates. They get along quite well and develop good friendships over the years. Our tours are designed to appeal to the ladies also and local shopping is always nearby.

I don't eat around as good as I once did.

Not a problem. We are all getting older. Our events are designed for our age group. Even our tours are custom made so that they have a minimum of walking.

I am single but can't travel alone.

No hassle. We always have members attending our reunions accompanied by their adult children or friends. People who come with shipmates are welcome at all of our events at the reunion.

I won't recognize anyone.

Not an issue. Everyone, shipmates and guests, are provided with nametags. The nametags also display the dates served on the Compton for shipmates.

I hate to pack.

We know. Years ago we did away with formal dress for the banquets. No need to bring suits and ties, nor gowns for the ladies, dress is always casual and relaxed.

I can't come for the entire 3 days.

No problem. Check the agenda, come for the days or events you want to attend.

- Most Sailors won't disrespect a shipmate's mother. On the other hand, it's not entirely wise to tell them they have a good looking sister, either.

Compton in Japan

I recently had the opportunity to speak with James Williams a shipmate, 90 years old, who served on the Compton during WW2. He told me a story that I had never heard even though I have attended many reunions. The story was about the Compton at the close of the war with Japan.

Our late shipmate, Joe Farry, had told us of the Compton being in Tokyo Bay prior to the official surrender party arriving. A fact the Navy never admitted. But Bill's story topped that one. (The Compton went into Tokyo Bay for repairs after crashing into a battleship, but that's another story.)

Bill told me that when the war ended members of the Compton's crew went ashore in Hiroshima after the bomb had been dropped. He went on to say they walked around in the rubble of the city and could not believe the devastation. The only building they saw standing was a hospital. They went into the hospital, where patients were being treated, and looked around. The Japanese asked that they stay out of the way of people being treated but otherwise ignored them.

Bill picked up several little tea cups in his travel through the ruins and brought them home with him. I am sure others also picked up souvenirs, the Compton must have glowed in the dark, no one knew about radiation at the time. I asked what the mission of the sailors was in Hiroshima and he said they had no mission; they were just sightseeing.

I called "Plank" shipmate Bill Rader to see if he recalled going into Hiroshima. He did remember, however he did not go on foot like Bill Williams did, his group went riding around the city in a little bus. I asked if they wore any special protective clothing to protect against radiation. His reply was "I sure did, I wore my hat!" Bill Rader also stated that many of the crew were given new Japanese rifles as souvenirs.

My father was aboard the USS Xanthus (AR-19) during the war in the Pacific and he also brought home a new Japanese rifle. I know he spent time in Okinawa but he never spoke about the war.

Joe Napoli



The twins prepare for war!!!



Below pictures from Commander Jim Garman's—USNR (ret) - collection



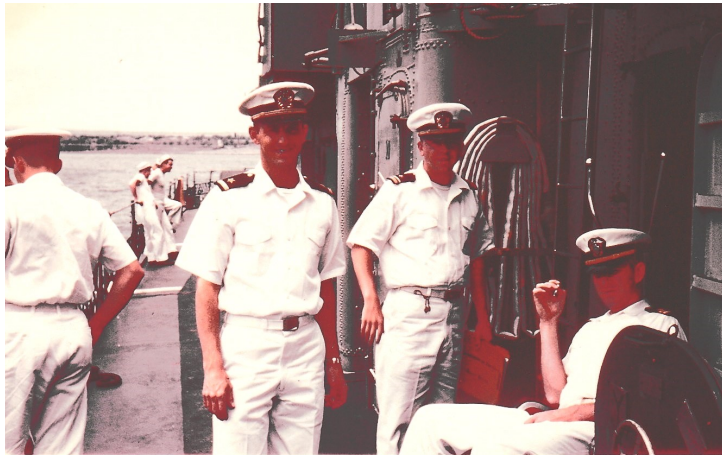
Ensign Garman starting up the command ladder



Check the Lookout nest in the background that is Captain Lewis Worthington's dog—1962



USS Compton "Change of Command" Ceremony—1964
From: Harry Dittler (ctr) to John Drake (podium)
XO LtCdr Peterson (left)



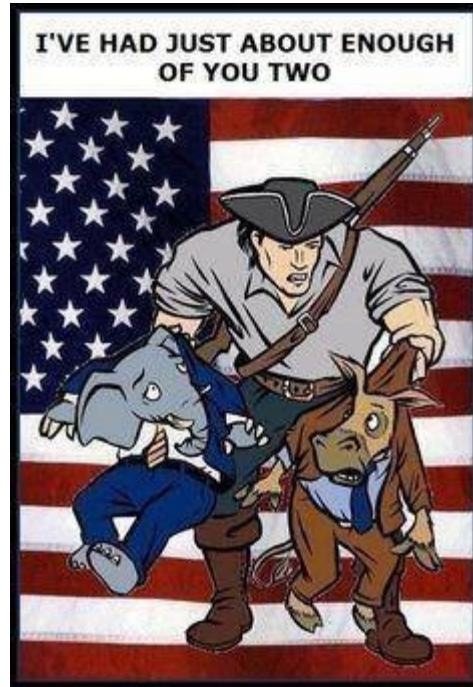
L-R, Ron Hodges (back), Chet Gorgas, Mike Nolan and Engineering Officer Lt Dick Royce (1962)
Mr. Royce (a Mustang) attended our Branson MO reunion and enlighten us with a few behind the scene stories. Especially, how the beans got into the safe and drove the Captain nuts !!!



Picture on left: circa 1962
USS Conway DD507 along side the DD705
If the lotteries existed back then—I would have boxed those numbers..



Frank Milanese with his official business look—How about that uniform still fits!



Compton Softball Team—1962 Med Cruise
L-R, Carlisle, Mike Rich, Len Ashline,
Ltjg Coale, Ed Husted and Grant Mauri



Card received from Plank owner
Bill Rader
From 72 years ago!!!



Halloween in Florida



On the left
The Compton—manned and ready for
action
Russell Morrill collection—1967



After retiring from the Navy you maybe considered going on a cruise and visiting some of your past favorite ports. Of course, we'll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for that privilege. Just to think, Uncle Sam actually use to pay us to visit those same ports years ago.

Fellow Compton sailors: please send me your pictures from your days on our ship. I promise to send them back the very next day, after I receive those special memories.
Jack Heidecker
54 Mt Top Ct
Hazle Twp PA 18202
570 450-5545

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...



New Members—Compton Association
William Robertson—YN3 1949-1950
David Wheat—RM3 1954-1955
Charles Turner—EN3 1960-1961
Milton Stone—EM1 1968-1969

Compton Members who sent additional monies with their dues
William Guzzy—a special thank you

Eugene Grabowski	Daniel Greenless	Neil Franc
Charles McDonald	Rick Rickard	Robert Haines
Rodney Bohyer		

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**

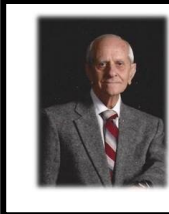
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."



John E Malski—born November 9, 1942 (On Compton Med Cruises—1960 and 1962) - 1st Division. Based on information uncovered by member Joe Nowakowski. John was murdered in the Detroit MI area on July 10, 1992.

Charles John McCarty—born August 21, 1945, served on various ships during the early sixties including the USS Compton. John was another Compton sailor who was murdered in his home in Yucca, AZ on October 12, 2015. The assailant was a 24 year old male who was later caught. There are no other details available on this crime.

Peter Rowell—passed October 12, 2015 at 80 years of age. Peter was from West Palm Beach FL and served as an EM3 on the Compton from 1955 to February 1959. After his Compton service, Peter joined the Coast Guard and retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer—EMCM. Peter was an active Compton member and a \$50 donation, in his name, was made to “Tin Can Sailors”



Ellis “Wayne” Thornburg—Plank Owner, passed November 20, 2015. Wayne was born in Springdale, Arkansas on July 24, 1925. He had lived in North Wichita, KS since 1927. Wayne was a Quartermaster on the USS Compton during the Pacific Campaign in WW2 and saw action during Okinawa and aboard our ship when it entered Tokyo Bay, at the war’s conclusion. Wayne was planning to attend the Baton Rouge Reunion and will certainly be there in spirit. A donation in his name was made to “Tin Can Sailors”. Rest in Peace our brother.

Loyal Ray Blackwood—passed December 1, 2015 in Springfield VA. He was born in 1925 in Gadsden, Alabama. Loyal Ray joined the navy in 1942 and after attending special training was commissioned in the US Navy and assigned to the USS Compton during the South Pacific Campaign. After the war, he received his JD Degree and became a JAG officer. Loyal Ray retired from the navy in 1975 as a full Captain with 30 years service.