
USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Baton Rouge Review

Another year gone by and another reunion where shipmates and guests enjoyed the gathering. Baton Rouge is now history and is added to our large list of past reunions. Although we had to watch the weather things went well. A thunderstorm caused us to cut our tour short and we were not able to visit the USS Kid. We did, however, get to go on the Cajun Swamp Tour and eat lunch at Ralph and Kacoo’s. We all went on one large boat through the swamp for a very enjoyable and informative experience. The lunch at Ralph and Kacoo’s was fantastic. We had the local version of bread pudding for dessert which was quite different from the way it is made on the East Coast.

Shipmates and guests took advantage of the Hospitality Room during the three day event. Snacks and beverages and plenty of sea stories to go around. We welcomed first timers Milton (EM1 1968-69) and Helen Stone and hope to see them at many future reunions. Sigward and Birgit Pohl also attended. They came from Munich Germany and made the reunion part of a motor tour of the mid-west. Sigward was a Mid-shipman with the German Navy when he made the 1962 Mediterranean cruise on the Compton. They had previously attended the Warwick, RI reunion.

Instead of a DJ, at the banquet, we were entertained by a troupe of Cajun dancers. Shipmates and guests joined the dancers for an enjoyable evening. The banquet menu included some Cajun foods such as crawfish meat pies, catfish and gumbo. Of course some “normal” items were also on the menu.

Joe

This Newsletter is available in color—on our WEB site



Congratulations to our new officers:
Chaplain: Doc Eames (L)
Western Region: Jerry Sample (R)



WEB SITE: www.usscompton705.com

Baton Rouge Reunion Photos



Sigward and Birgit Pohl



Paul Lightfoot and Wendy Pauk



Swamp Tour—Joe Napoli and his date



**Carrol McKelva and her sister Joni Ward
honoring Jim with their presence**



I think they all made it back?????



Helen and Milton Stone—first timers

Once I was a NAVY MAN!

I like the Navy. I like standing on deck on a long voyage with the sea in my face and ocean winds whipping in from everywhere -- the feel of the giant steel ship beneath me, its engine driving against the sea. I like the Navy.

I like the clang of steel, the ringing of the bell, the foghorns and strong laughter of Navy men at work. I like the ships of the Navy -- nervous darting destroyers, sleek cruisers, majestic battleships and steady solid carriers.

I like the names of the Navy ships: Essex, Midway, Hornet, Enterprise, Sea Wolf, Iwo Jima, Wasp, Shangri-La, and Constitution -- majestic ships of the line.

I like the bounce of Navy music and the tempo of a Navy Band, "Liberty Whites" and the spice scent of a foreign port. I like shipmates I've sailed with . . . the kid from the Iowa cornfield, a pal from New York's Eastside, an Irishman from Boston, the boogie boarders of California, and of course a drawling friendly Texan.

From all parts of the land they came -- farms of the Midwest, small towns of New England -- from the cities, the mountains and the prairies. All Americans, all are comrades in arms. All are men of the sea.

I like the adventure in my heart when the ship puts out to sea, and I like the electric thrill of sailing home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting on shore.

The work is hard; the going rough at times, but there's the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the never-may-care philosophy of the sea. And after a day of hard duty, there is a serenity of the sea at dusk, as white caps dance on the ocean waves.

The sea at night is mysterious. I like the lights of the Navy in darkness -- the mast-head lights, and red and green sidelights, and stern light. They cut through the night and look like a mirror of stars in darkness.

There are quiet nights and the quiet of the mid-watch when the ghosts of all the sailors of the world stand with you. And there is the aroma of fresh coffee from the galley.

(Continued next page)



Real Compton brothers—Bill (left) and Ed Dagg
Both were BT rated and Bill was a BT2 they both served
on the Compton 1965-68.
Bill passed and his obit is listed on page 8



The Original Compton Beach Boys:
L-R, Rick Rickard, Walt Bohner, Paul Lightfoot and
Kneeling Ernest Mitchel
Boca Chica D.R. - 11/14/1953

I like the legends of the Navy and the men who made them. I like the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, and John Paul Jones.

A man can find much in the Navy -- comrades in arms, pride in a country. A man can find himself. In years to come, when the sailor is home from the sea, he will still remember with fondness the ocean spray on his face when the sea was angry.

There will still come a faint aroma of fresh paint in his nostrils, the echo of hearty laughter of the seafaring men who once were close companions.

Locked on land, he will grow wistful of his Navy days, when the seas belonged to him and a new port of call was always over the horizon. Remembering this, he will stand taller and say, "ONCE I WAS A NAVY MAN."

Author Unknown

If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven. Will Rogers



License plate of Andy Kelly LtJg 1968-1970

WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE

I NOW KNOW WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE. NOT TO TELL STORIES OR LOOK AT OLD PICTURES. NOT TO WEEP OR LAUGH.

COMRADES GATHER BECAUSE THEY LONG TO BE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ONCE ACTED THEIR BEST; WHO ONCE SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED, WHO WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR HUMANITY.

I DID NOT PICK THESE MEN, THEY WERE DELIVERED BY FATE AND THE MILITARY. BUT I KNOW THEM IN A WAY I KNOW NO OTHER MEN. I HAVE NEVER GIVEN ANYONE SUCH TRUST.

THEY WERE WILLING TO GUARD SOMETHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN MY LIFE. THEY WOULD HAVE CARRIED MY REPUTATION... THE MEMORY OF ME.

IT WAS PART OF THE BARGAIN WE ALL MADE, THE REASON WE WERE ALL WILLING TO DIE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AS LONG AS I HAVE MEMORY, I WILL THINK OF THEM ALL, EVERY DAY.

I AM SURE THAT WHEN I LEAVE THIS WORLD, MY LAST THOUGHTS WILL BE OF MY FAMILY, AND MY COMRADES.

SUCH GOOD MEN!"



The two wartime buddies who met off the coast of Japan and the Norfolk Reunion and are now with the "Eternal Father"..
Emery "Rip" Jordan and Angus Walsh

- In the traditional "crackerjack" uniform you were recognized as a member of United States Navy, no matter what port or part of the world you were in. Damn all who want to eliminate or change that uniform.



13 billion dollar U.S. aircraft carrier is about to hit the open seas.

It's the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), the most expensive and most advanced warship ever built. The ship was christened in November 2013 and is scheduled to be commissioned this summer.

The Naval behemoth can house more than 4,500 people and weighs 90,000 tons. The CVN-78 is the lead ship in the Ford class of aircraft carriers, replacing some of the U.S. Navy's existing [Nimitz-class carriers](#). At first glance, both classes have a similar-looking hull, but the Ford class introduces a series of technical innovations designed to improve carrier's operating efficiency, and reduce operating costs and crew requirements.



The USS Zumwalt, the Navy's new guided missile destroyer, makes it way down the Kennebec River on Monday as it heads out to sea.

Engineers and technicians at Bath Iron Works are going to focus on propulsion, mobility and safety to ensure the future USS Zumwalt is shipshape before the next trials, in which the Navy will perform a pre-delivery inspection.

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...

Don Armstrong (1959-60) Collection



Don posing in "After Steering"
If you want excitement be in there during depth charge practice.



Rifle practice at sea!
Pick a wave and shoot it.



Don at the 3 inch Mount
the Compton at sea



High line with the
USS Grand Canyon AD28
It actually left port!!

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.
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Obituary: USS Compton DD705

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



Death Is Nothing At All

Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.

All is well.
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

Henry Scott Holland (1887-1918)

William E Dagg—born 2 February 1943—passed 5 January 2005
Bill was a BT2 on the Compton in the mid to late sixties and was from the Cleveland Ohio area



Angus Walsh OAM (Metal of the Order of Australia), born January 2 1925 and passed January 8 2015. Angus was a special friend of former Compton member, Emery "Rip" Jordan from Boothbay, Maine, who passed October 14, 2013. They met in Tokyo Bay at the end of WW2 and renewed their friendship at the Norfolk VA Compton Reunion in 2006.

David A Petruzzi—TEM3 (Teleman-Mailman), born January 9 1927 passed April 15 2016 in Columbus Ohio. David served on the Compton from January 1950 to December 1951. He was a former Compton Association member and attended 6 reunions. The last was in New Orleans in 1998.

James C Fahey—FN, passed May 2 2016 in Hebron IN. He was 78 years old and an active Compton Association member serving on the Compton from January 1957 to 1960. Jim and his wife Karen attended many reunions, the last was the Jacksonville Reunion. A donation in his name will be made to "Tin Can Sailors".