
USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Warwick Reunion 2017

This year we are returning to the Newport area by holding our reunion at the **Crowne Plaza Providence/Warwick** in Warwick, RI. Our 2010 reunion, at that hotel, was one of the largest in our history and those who attended know that the Crowne Plaza is a first class hotel. The room rate is **\$119** per night and includes a daily hot breakfast right in our hospitality room. The reduced rate is available three days prior and after the actual reunion. Coupons will be issued for breakfast in the restaurant on days when the Hospitality room is not open.

Our guided bus tour will be to Boston. We will see the historic sites such as the Old Church, Quincy Market and the Boston Navy Yard. The destroyer USS Cassin Young and the USS Constitution can be visited at the Navy Yard. Many of us who served on the Compton spent some time in Boston. We will have our group lunch at Maggiano’s restaurant.

The reunion will be held on **Friday April 21, Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23, 2017**. As usual our tour will be on Saturday and our meeting and banquet will be on Sunday. The banquet menu, agenda and registration forms can be found in this issue.

Shipmates must make their own hotel reservations; mention the **USS Compton** to get the reunion discounted rate. The block of rooms will be held until **March 20, 2017**, be sure to make your reservations early, cancellations can be made up to 24 hours prior to arrival.

Crowne Plaza Providence/Warwick
801 Greenwich Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886 **401-732-6000**



USS Constitution and
USS Cassin Young DD793
Charlestown Navy Shipyard



The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our WEB site

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 _____ Chicken _____ (@ \$50 per person)

Number taking tour _____ (@\$75per 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 and make hotel reservations by March 20.

3 course plated dinner:

Garden Salad

Sliced London Broil with a Peppercorn sauce

or

Boneless breast of chicken with sage apple stuffing and merlot sauce.

(Vegetarian dish, Pasta Primavera, available with prior notice)

Both with potato, vegetable, rolls and butter and coffee or tea.

Dessert: New York Style Cheesecake

Banquet starts at 6:00pm so that we can take group pictures.

Meal will be served about 7:00pm.

Music will be provided by a DJ for dancing after the meal.

There is an interesting Navy Website—www.hullnumber.com where you may find fellow sailors. The Compton is listed under the destroyer section of this website and there are Compton members already listed. If you served on other ships you may also register with that ship and can find interesting facts and friends on this site.

Warwick 2017 Reunion Agenda

Friday April 21

12:00 noon Hospitality room, TIVERTON, open, reunion registration.*

Saturday April 22

7:00am-8:30am Hot Buffet Breakfast in the Hospitality room
8:00 am gather for group tour.

8:30am Busses leave the hotel for the driving tour of Boston and Navy Yard.

10:00am Hospitality room open for those not taking the tour.

1:00pm Tour lunch at Maggiano's Restaurant.

4:00pm Tour leaves the Boston Navy Yard for the return trip to the hotel.

Sunday April 23

7:00am-8:30am Hot Buffet Breakfast in the Hospitality Room.

9:00am Hospitality room open.

10:00am General Meeting and Memorial Service in the BRISTOL room.

6:00pm Gather at the ROTUNDA banquet room for group photographs.
The professional photographers will take our pictures and offer them for sale later in the evening.

7:00pm -11:00pm Banquet plated dinner in the ROTUNDA Room. (*Casual dress as always.*)

Monday April 24

7:00am-8:30am Hot Buffet Breakfast in the Hospitality Room. Have a safe trip home.

*Hospitality room open Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The Tin-Canners Waltz

*My feet no longer hit the ground
Since I went to sea from Newport town*

*For forty-two months I went up and down
And side to side being tossed around*

*Sometimes on my feet, sometimes on my ass
Through hatches and scuttles avoiding the brass*

*Chased my chow cross the table many a time
And skated the decks on the upchucked slime*

*So many were sick from the sea's angry toss
Stood four hours on and four hours off*

*Even the fish were tossed from their home
And land on our decks amidst the sea's foam*

*So I left the steel decks after forty-two
Put my feet on the ground in "62"*

*I looked back at my "Greyhound" a tear in my eye
And said see what you done! You made me cry*

*I am no longer a bawdy man of the sea
I'm leaving you now cause it has to be*

*But, I'll always carry a part of you
Where my feet hit the ground you'll be there too*

*That funny walk "The Tin-Canner's Waltz"
That kept me upright and secure*

*Just doesn't work on the concrete
My feet miss those steel deck of yours*

Charlie Gray—MM3 (59-62)

USS Compton DD705 and the USS Stewart DD224

Those of you who are Tin Can Sailors recently had the opportunity to read an article in their newsletter about the USS Stewart (other articles by Joe Napoli and Mike Taylor were also published). The Stewart, was a four stack WW1 destroyer that was abandoned in a dry dock in Surabaya early in WW2. She was in need of repair when the Japanese overran the area. The Japanese repaired the ship and used it during the war. At the end of the war, the US Navy reclaimed the ship. As an act of disrespect and spite, the Japanese sailors defecated throughout the ship and left it full of rats.

The following letter was written to Joe Napoli by shipmate James Williams RM2/c who was a witness to the events involving the return of the USS Stewart and the part that was played by the USS Compton and its crew.

Hi Joe,

Thanks for sending that copy of the Compton article in the TCS newsletter. I did subscribe to the publication. The first edition that I received reminded me of something you guys should know. I am sure you read the story about the USS Stewart DD224.

One day after the surrender we were piped "all hands on deck for rat guard" duty. The Stewart was being tied up next to us by the Japs. After they were done tying her to us they left in whale boats laughing their heads off holding their noses. It didn't take long to find out the Stewart was full of shit and rats. Then the word went out that they were looking for volunteers to take her back to the States for a great ceremony. The only Navy ship recaptured from the enemy.

The Compton's Executive Officer became the Captain of the Stewart. The volunteers would be home in a few weeks (in time for Christmas). At the time, The Compton was flagship of DESRON 69 and I was the flag radioman. About two weeks later, I was hitching a ride on a DE., we stopped at Guam to refuel and there sat the Stewart. Now I am reading it took many months to tow her to the States. At least they brought her home to die.

Jim RM2/c



**USS Stewart DD 224
Prior to WW2**

Return to the United States Navy

In an emotional ceremony on 29 October 1945, the ship was recommissioned in the United States Navy at Kure. Although officially called simply *DD-224*, she was nicknamed by her crew "*RAMP-224*," standing for "Recovered Allied Military Personnel". On the trip home, her engines gave out near Guam, and she arrived at [San Francisco, California](#) in early March 1946 at the end of a towline.

DD-224 was again struck from the Navy list on 17 April 1946, decommissioned on 23 May 1946, and sunk a day later off San Francisco as a target for aircraft.

Annual USS Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year. If you received an envelope with this newsletter the dues are 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 has expired or will soon expire...

Compton Association Members, who additionally, contributed to our Association.

Michael Close	Herb Sellers	Paul Meyer	Jack Henderson
Joseph Briemann	Steven Bednarz	Michael Close	Boyd Crannell
Eugene Grabowski	Neil Franc	Keith Streissguth	William Collier

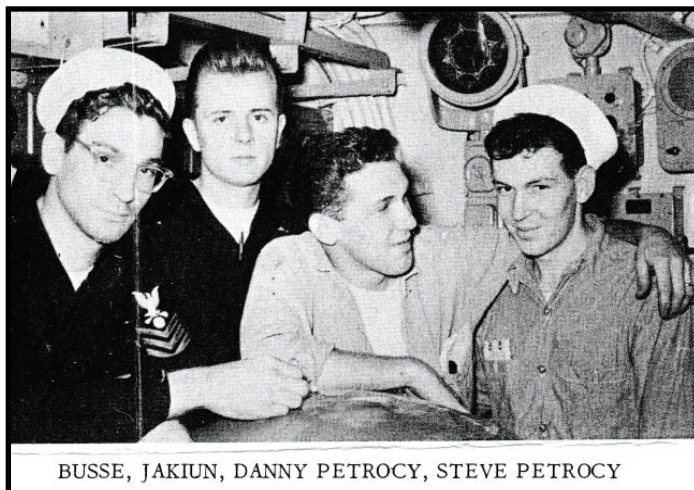
Goodies from the Internet

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom - until they are flashing behind you.

When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90 % of their body... men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

Money talks ...but all mine ever says is good-bye.



Memories from the 1960 Med Cruise—IC team


**It's never too late to be what
you want to be.
Unless you want to be younger,
then you're screwed.**



SQUID

noun. [skw-id] see sailor

1. A port jumping, beer drinking, tail chasing, foul mouthed, salty sea dog that can be found on any US war ship defending freedom. Thrives on salt air, angry women and mid-rats.



This picture may be the last "broadside" shot ever fired...

THE
PURPOSE
OF THE
**UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION**
IS TO
LIMIT THE POWER
OF THE
**FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT**
NOT THE
**AMERICAN
PEOPLE**
facebook.com/theRepublicanRevolution



Russ Welch (L) Dick Post
Engineering is under control



Charlie Gray on left and his brother in
1944 at Grammy's house in Michigan.
Their dad was then serving on a subma-
rine in the Pacific Theater.
According to Charlie they were "home on
leave" for this pix!!!



Engineering backup team
Egeland, Muse and Turner
1960 Med Cruise



Joe Nowakowski SH3 (1960-63)
What happened to my golf ball?

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



Obituaries: USS Compton DD705



Owen D. "Doug" McLoughlin, SO2, Sanford, FL passed September 15, 2016. Owen was honorable discharged from the US Navy in 1955. He served on the Compton during the last year of his enlistment and previously was on the USS Harveson DER-316 for three years. Owen was an active Compton Association member and a \$50.00 donation, in his memory, will be made to "Tin Can Sailors".



CDR James M Ford Jr. Sandpoint, Idaho, passed on October 26, 2016. CDR Ford was born in San Diego, CA on March 19, 1929 and was commissioned as an Ensign in 1949. CDR Ford was Captain of the USS Compton from September 1969 to June 1971. As an active Compton Association member, a \$50.00 donation to TCS will be made in his honor.

George Messick, SO2, passed September 27, 2016. George served the US Navy aboard the Compton from 1950 to 1954. he was born May 8, 1932 in Georgetown, TN. Mr Messick was a successful restaurateur owning 15 Tops Bar B Q's in Tennessee and surrounding states.



Herman White, SN, passed December 8, 2016 in Louisville KY. Herman was an active Compton Association member and attended several reunions. A \$50.00 donation in Herman's honor will be made to "Tin Can Sailors".

Walter W Fredrick, RD2, passed December 17, 2016 in Gloucester MA. Walter was born November 6, 1927 and was 89 years old. He served on the USS Compton from 1946 to 1947. Walter was a former Compton Association member and a \$50.00 donation in his honor will be made to Tin Can Sailors.