


The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

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All Newsletter, pictures and
articles should be sent to:

Jack Heidecker
“Compton Newsletter”

THE COMPTON CORNER

I hope this newsletter find you all in good health and looking forward to our next reunion.

It’s only been a few short months since our last reunion in Tampa, where we learned of the downturn in our association’s finances. Our Treasurer, Joe Napoli, laid out, how this happened and the corrective actions needed in setting it right. Since then, the association members stood tall in donating to an almost non existing treasury and making us solvent and able to pay our bills.

We own a huge thank you to Joe and his efforts in getting us back on our feet.

Reunion 2020, is set and it will be in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York. The Embassy Suites, will be our host hotel, we will keep the same format, as in past reunions.

April 26, Monday
April 27, Tuesday

Registration
Tour of the Saratoga Battlefields, high lights of the capital city of Albany and a historic cruise on the Hudson river with lunch.
Business meeting , memorial service, and Banquet

April 28, Wednesday

Some of the amenities of the hotel, all rooms are two room suites with microwave, refrigerator and two TVs. Complimentary evening cocktail reception from 1730 (530pm) to 1930 (730pm). A cooked to order breakfast. WiFi and parking are also complimentary. All costs and pricing have been contracted .

The hotel will honor our negotiated rate 1 day pre and post reunion.

Our association has been blessed with many members willingly to serve, Our past president, Jack Heidecker, has served for many years and he, along with Joe, and the Executive board truly deserve our thanks. Please tell them how important they have been to our organization. If you have not visited our WEB site, you need too. Phil Prekel, our WEB Master has done an excellent job.

I sincerely hope you can attend this reunion and share your time with your fellow Compton shipmates. Have a Happy and Safe summer, looking forward to our upcoming reunion.

Bob DiMonte

President, USS Compton Association

The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 41 past newsletters from February 2009 to the present on our below listed Internet Website...



Joe Brielmann welcoming John MacDougall and the rarest of photos with the Bednarz's in the background and not in a restaurant setting...



Joe hosting at the BBQ with Al Haley and Eddie Capozziello



Garth Elliott and wife Jenette



Joyce Heider with Frank and Linda Milanese



Carol, "Doc" Eames, Joe and Evelyn Haley
"Doc" giving medical advice???



Rosie and Bill Judge



Edwina Bednarz, John and Judy MacDougall



Fred and Kathy Summerville and Jack and Laurel O'Neil



The DiMonte triplets:
L-R, Connie Dimonte, Joe "Napoli" DiMonte and Rosemary Dimonte.
They are related!!!. Their names end in vowels.



Now I know I am in the Italian section.
Nancy and Compton VP Ed Capozziello.
Is Eddie holding his breath???



Hap and Diane Nehring



Dave and Marcia Wheat



SARATOGA, NEW YORK

A Crucial American Victory

Here in the autumn of 1777 American forces met, defeated and forced a major British army to surrender. This crucial American victory renewed patriots' hopes for independence, secured essential foreign recognition and support, and forever changed the face of the world.

1777: An End to the Rebellion?

Since the opening shots on April 19, 1775, the British had wanted to bring an end to the rebellion in the American colonies.

They believed that 1777 could be the year.

British General John Burgoyne had believed, since his 1775 arrival in North America, that the Lake Champlain - Hudson River Valley was "precisely the route an army ought to take" should invasion become necessary.

That belief formed the backbone of the British plans to invade New York --a daring scheme to utilize three separate armies in an effort to isolate New England, the perceived heart of the rebellion, and then focus on crushing that seat of discontent.

The Battles of Saratoga

on September 19, 1777, Burgoyne had split up his 7500-man army into three columns to sweep around where he believed the Americans might be. One column of British troops would move west about 2 miles inland and begin to move south. A second column of British troops moved about a mile inland before moving south. The third column, made of German troops, moved along the river road and defended British supplies.

About noon on the 19th, scouts from the center column encountered Colonel Daniel Morgan's American light infantry and riflemen at the farm of John Freeman, a loyalist who had gone north to Fort Edward to meet up with Burgoyne's army.

Thus began the fighting, which grew very fierce, as the battle swayed back and forth, each side taking and retaking the field.

As some of the American troops began to circle around the left side of the Breymann Redoubt, American General Benedict Arnold arrived on the scene to take command of the American army and was eventually wounded in the leg. He was given rightful credit for his leadership and ultimate outcome in this event before his traitorous action forever ruined his name.

Caught up in the flow of American soldiers, our 13000-man army was able to push the British back. As the British withdrew, one of their beloved Generals, Simon Fraser, was mortally wounded by one or more of Morgan's riflemen.

After a week of negotiations, Burgoyne surrendered to Gates, on October 17, 1777. The American victory demonstrated that American troops could fight a European army, on their own terms, and win. It also convinced the French to ally themselves with the Americans and declare war against England. Later, the Spanish and Dutch did the same.

Because of the incredible impact caused by the American victory in the Battles of Saratoga, they are known as the "Turning Point of the American Revolution", and are considered by many historians to be among the top 15 battles in world history.

2020 Annual Reunion Form; Saratoga, NY

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 _____ Fish _____
(@ \$65 per person)
Number taking tour _____ (@\$90 per person)

Total Amount enclosed _____

**Mail form and check to: USS Compton Assn., PO Box 6621,
Monroe Twp., NJ, 08831-6621.**

Embassy Suites by Hilton
86 Congress Street., Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
1 844 285-3958
1 518 886-1101

Rates: \$134.00 per night
(Special USS Compton Association)
(rates also—one day pre and post reunion)

Complimentary inclusions:

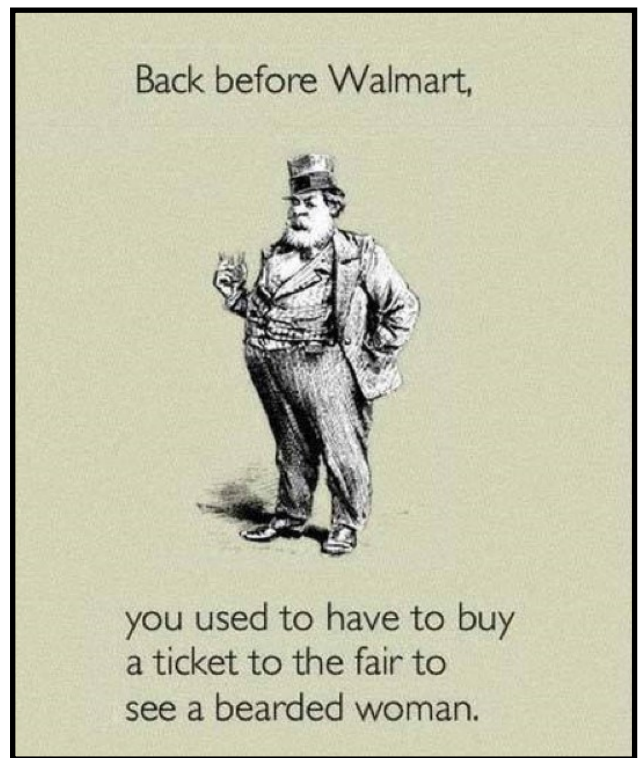
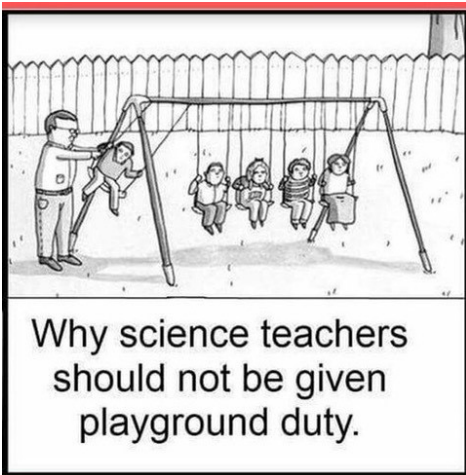
Cooked to order breakfast
Evening cocktail reception
High speed and wireless internet
Spacious suites with luxury amenities

Reservations: cutoff date, March 25, 2020

Internet Goodies

Be careful when you follow the masses
...sometimes the "M" is silent!

WANT TO STOP
DRUNK DRIVERS FROM
KILLING SOBER DRIVERS?
BAN SOBER DRIVERS
FROM DRIVING. THAT'S
HOW GUN CONTROL
WORKS.



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 Donations—May 1, 2019 to July 1, 2019

Dave Wheat, Carter Cincotta, Robert Schaefer, Ed Brimo, Ron Dodges, Bill Judge, Jack Henderson, Joe Brielmann, Steve Bednarz, Ray Greeley, Phil Prekel, Charles LaPaglia Duane Linden and Joe Nowakowski

501 (c) (19) Veteran's Tax-Exempt Organization

The USS Compton Association is now recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501 (C) (19) as a **tax-exempt Veteran's organization.** Donations to war veterans' organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return. Consult your tax advisor for additional information.

**Note sent to Joe Napoli from Birgit and Sigward Pohl
in response to their special card sent from the Tampa Reunion attendees.**

.....
Birgit and I give our greatest thanks to every member of the USS Compton family for their kind greetings from the Tampa Reunion. It is so kind that you thought about us not being able to come.

Meanwhile Birgit made further steps toward recovery from her bad medical status. First success was that we could go a few days ago for a 4 days trip to a nice place at the rim of the Alps not needing a doctor around. We hope that she will improve more so that we can go back to travel, which we love very much.

Thank you for the Newsletter and seeing the fine pictures. You must have had lots of fun, but you could not take any car home?!

We hope you and Rose are doing well. To you my best thanks for your great engagement keeping the USS Compton family alive!

**Best regards,
Birgit and Sigward**



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**

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



Obituaries: USS Compton DD705



Carlyle "Carl" Bragdon Jr. (DC2) 87 years old of Bow, MA., passed May 9, 2019. Carl was born in Bar Harbor, Maine on May 5, 1932. He served on the Compton from March 1954 to June 1955. Carl owned Cole's Appliance Center in Concord and was active until his early 80 years of age. Carl was an active member of the Compton Association and a donation in his name will be made to Tin Can Sailors.



Earl W Clay (BM3) 1953-1954, 93 years old of East Bridgewater MA., passed April 11, 2019. Earl served on our ship from December 1950 to February 1952. Besides his service to the Compton, Earl was a US Navy Corpsman in the Pacific Theatre during WW2. After his return from WW2 he helped form the semi-pro Danvers Town Football team. Earl was an active Compton Association member and last attended the Warwick RI reunion.



William I. Jenkins (RM3), 1957-1959, Born May 15, 1938 in Omaha NE, passed February 4, 2019. Bill was born May 15, 1938 in Omaha, Nebraska and passed February 4, 2019. Bill served with the Omaha Fire Department and retired as a Fire Captain in 1991. He was an active member of the USS Compton Association and a donation in his memory will be made to the Tin Can Sailors in his memory.

Eternally
I made a choice some years ago
To sail the sea no more
I don't regret the life and love
I've made on the shore.
But I'm haunted by a temptress
My first true love, the sea.
My dark and stormy mistress
I hear her call to me.

I'm torn between my life ashore
And the call to sail away.
My love, my life is needed here
I'm duty bound to stay.
Yet, often I will walk the beach
Throughout the darkest hours.
To hear my lovers' mournful call
To feel her awesome power.

Oh, cradle of all earthly life,
Great Mother of the sea.
Cast off the lines that hold
my heart
And let my soul sail free.
In the end I will return to you
My final love, the deep.
Unknown Author