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Radar Picket Ships YAGRGRAM #51 WINTER 2008

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YAGR'S 14th Reunion

San Diego, CA
May 21 to May 23, 2009



Proposed Schedule of Events

The format will be the same as past reunions. We will have pre-reunion tours on **Tuesday** (May 19th) and **Wednesday** (May 20th). On **Thursday** (May 21st) we will open the hospitality room where you will pick up your reunion packets and reunion shirts if you order one. **Friday** (May 22nd) we will all go on our group tour with the hospitality room opening on our return. **Saturday** (May 23rd) the mens meeting, spouses/guests function will be held in the morning, the hospitality room will open afterwards and finally the evening banquet on Saturday night.

Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA . 92108
Room rate \$123.00 per night
Parking rate \$1.00 per day.

This rate is good for three (3) days before and 3 days after the reunion dates of May 21 - May 23. To make your room reservations call 1-800-772-8527. Mention that you are with YAGR'S when you call to get the above room rate.

It is very important that you reserve your room as soon as possible. We only have 75 rooms set aside (we now have 31 served) for our use at this time. I will be checking with the hotel on a regular basis to see if we will need more rooms added to our room block but it is not guaranteed that I will be

able to add them, especially as time goes by. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to reserve your room now!!!!

The Town and Country has a few different room types in different buildings. You can go on line to view the hotel's web page at www.towncountry.com

The location of the hotel could not be any better. Right behind the hotel is a trolley stop to get you into downtown San Diego, the seaport area and the gaslight district. Also a large mall with numerous restaurants and shops is behind the hotel.

The Town and Country covers 30 acres with numerous landscaped walking paths to take you from one location to another. It has 5 restaurants, 3 cocktail lounges and 4 pools.

Reunion Registration

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The reunion registration cost this year will be \$105.00 per person for dues paying members and their spouse/guest and \$122.00 per person for nondues paying members and their spouse/guest.

A dues paying member is one whose dues have been paid for this year. If in doubt, look on the envelope mailing label this YAGRGRAM came in. If above your name a date 5/31/09 or later is on it, you are a dues paying member. If there is no date, then you have not paid your dues. If you feel you have paid your

dues and it is not indicated as such on the mailing label, please get in touch with me.

The registration cost covers the hospitality room and bartender, group tour with lunch, Saturday evening banquet, spouses/guests breakfast, name badges, pins and printing costs associated with the actual reunion.

As always, the reunion registration refund policy is, if YAGRS doesn't have to pay for it, you don't.

San Diego, CA Optional Pre-Reunion Tours

The optional pre-reunion tours have proven to be very popular so we have set up two great tours.

Tuesday May 19, 2009

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

CITY TOUR & LUNCHEON: \$45.00 per person

Enjoy the best of San Diego - this tour includes the beauty of Coronado, the history of Balboa Park and the modern elegance of the Gaslight Quarter with its renovated buildings from the late 1800's. A one-hour stop at beautiful Seaport Village provides us with an opportunity to explore and browse on foot. We will then proceed on a scenic route to the Bali Hai restaurant on Shelter Island for a delicious harbor-side buffet luncheon complete with dessert, coffee and a million dollar view.

Wednesday May 20, 2009

6:00 PM to 10:30 PM

**SAN DIEGO EVENING HARBOR DINNER
CRUISE: \$79.00 PER PERSON**

This fun evening consists of a 2-1/2 hour dinner cruise! The meal includes a duet of steak and chicken, salad, rice pilaf, sauteed vegetables, rolls and butter, followed by a decadent dessert and coffee. Following dinner, enjoy music with dancing or stroll under the stars on the top deck. Also a cash bar is available on board.

Spouses/Guests

ATTENTION!!!!!!!!!!

All spouses/guests, your presence is requested at our Saturday morning spouses/guests breakfast.

We will once again have the Saturday morning spouses/guests breakfast, raffle and a tote bag decorating contest. The theme for this year is "nautical."

For all of you first timers, we hold this function every year as a way to give you something to do while the men are at their meeting. We have a breakfast buffet along with a raffle and this year we will be decorating a tote bag with a "nautical" theme.

For the raffle we ask that you bring an inexpensive item to be raffled off. What to bring? Something you would like to have or win yourself. Handcrafted items are also a favorite with all.

As for the tote decorating contest, go with whatever you think will be best suited to show what your idea of "nautical" is. Remember this is for fun, so go with it.

Also as a reminder, the cost for this is included in the reunion registration.



2010 Reunion Cruise

The 2010 reunion cruise is still a long way off. But, do you have your passport? It will be required. If you do not have one now, don't wait until the last minute to get it.





Jack McGee (AGR 10, 1962-1964)

The USS Outpost, AGR 10 would not be home for Thanksgiving in 1963; we had pulled picket duty and would be setting sea & anchor detail early Monday morning. What was worse, I had the 8 to 12 quarterdeck watch, so going home to Pennsylvania on the holiday weekend was getting distinctly less likely. I polled my shipmates for a replacement, and Eddie Evans QMSM from Gary, Indiana came to my rescue. For the obligatory fee, he would take my duties beginning after the quarterdeck watch on Friday morning.

I started the morning watch by posting colors on the fantail then took up my position at the brow. At 11:45, immediately upon being relieved, I scooted below, grabbed my ditty bag, climbed the ladder topside, scooted across the quarter deck, saluted the OOD who gave me permission to go ashore and after saluting the Ensign I quickly made my way down to the pier, joining the liberty party of Ron Ruffin, BMSM and Frank Higgins QMSM, both of the New York City area, and together we hustled to catch the Davisville base bus. At the gate, we sullenly greeted the marines, passed through and ran across the highway to where Al Kane of Allentown, PA waited in his car. He was our ride to freedom that weekend. Al was the sort of driver who, given the choice between driving slow or slower, ways drove fast and faster; he was the perfect chauffeur for a band of sailors on weekend pass.

As we got into the car, jabbering away, Kane said, "Shut the hell up. Something happened to the president." As Kane fired up the engine and headed out of Davisville past Quonset Point, we listened to Walter Cronkite, "... the President was shot today in Dallas ... "and then shortly after that: "From Dallas, Texas,President Kennedy died at 1:00 P.M. Central Standard Time, 2:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time."

Probably stunned, Al pulled over to the shoulder of the road and someone said, "Should we go back to the ship?" We decided

we could go on, and should listen to see if they called all military personnel back to their duty stations. They did not. For miles, not a word was spoken and we rode all the way into Connecticut almost completely silent. Finally, I remember a sort of sniffing from the giant next to me. Ron Ruffin, six-foot, five inches and 320 pounds was crying, grieving for his Commander in Chief; the President of the United States. The tableau memories of that weekend are burned forever into the psyches of every American who witnessed it on television.

Monday morning, back aboard the Outpost, we executed the casting off of lines, drifted into the channel with the aid of a tug, and very quietly and very sadly put out to sea. We were all business. Sometime that morning after Sea and Anchor detail had secured and we all went back to our regular duties, Chief Quartermaster Franklin, my division head, growled behind me, "McGee. You were on quarterdeck watch Friday morning weren't you?"

"Yes, chief, I was."

"You flew the colors upside down on the fantail. Did you know that?" His tone was accusatory. Franklin was the most professional sailor I ever met, so I felt very stupid and defensive. I never realized the more profound irony of my mistake at that time, and I'm not sure if Franklin did either. It seemed to me he was just exasperated with my incompetence.

A ship of the United States or any military station that flies the colors upside down is broadcasting a distress call for aid. Certainly, our nation and all our stations were under great distress that previous Friday. The message of the inverted colors flapping off the fantail of the USS Outpost AGR-10, a careless error by a careless sailor, could not have been more profoundly appropriate on November 22, 1963, when our President was murdered and in the following days when our country grieved.



Rear Admiral Thomas J. Patterson

Admiral Patterson passed away October 1, 2008. Tom was the first XO on the Guardian (YAGR-1) and later became her second Commanding Officer.

Those of us who had a chance to talk to Tom at our reunions walked away knowing that he was a gentleman and a true shipmate. He will be missed!



RADAR PICKET SQUADRON ONE

USS Tracer AGR-15

Shipboard Life

I will include this feature of pictures from the various ships showing onboard daily activities/life in future YAGRGRAMS as space allows.

We want more pictures. When you send me pictures, if at all possible list those people that are shown in the picture. I know this is asking a lot after all these years, but if you have a good memory!!!!

Pictures sent by Allan Wood (USS Tracer AGR-15)



Underway BBQ



GM1 KORKHOUSE



RAYBOYLAN



GARY PIERCE



A. G. WOOD





YAGR'S Exhibit Battleship Massachusetts

We have started work on the display base for the model of the YR-65. At this time it is anybody's guess when we will have the model set up on display. We still have to make the plexiglass cover and encase the base with cabinet grade plywood.

Saturday morning we had a surprise waiting for us. Chris Nardi the Battleship's curator had just got back from a MARAD warehouse where he picked up an engine order telegraph and a binnacle for our exhibit.

These items, along with the ship's helm station we have, will be used for a new display that is in the early planning stages. It will take a lot of work to get these items in shape to be included in the planned display; but once we get them all cleaned up and polished, it will be well worth the work.

As a point of interest, we figure if we had to go out and buy these items the cost would be over \$5,000.



Roland Cote (AGR-10), Dave Terry (AGR-10) John Hemminger (AGR-2)

Tom, Harry, Roland, John, Jim and Henry



photo Yvonne Cote

Thanks Joe and "RO" from the work crew of September 10 - September 14.

The following men worked during our September 10-14, 2008 work week-end: Roland Cote (AGR-10), Jack Floyd (AGR-11, YR-65), Tom Giardina (AGR-3), John Hemminger (AGR-2), Henry MacKay (AGR-12), Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) and Jim Spiegel (AGR-12).

Special Projects

Our so-called work weekend started on Wednesday, September 10, with Jim coming in from New York to join the regular Wednesday work crew. Our work schedule called for us to cut out some old support racks and fabricate 2 new ones for 3 radio transmitters in the ET shop on the USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. DD-850.

Thursday found Jim and Harry working on the project until Henry arrived, who also came in from New York. Finishing the job early Friday morning, we then moved on to the Battleship Mass to fabricate hand rails along with all fittings that would be used to mount the rails on the ladders we had made earlier for the "Women Protecting US" exhibit.



Jim Spiegel (AGR-12)



Henry MacKay (AGR-12)

the job early Friday morning, we then moved on to the Battleship Mass to fabricate hand rails along with all fittings that would be used to mount the rails on the ladders we had made earlier for the "Women Protecting US" exhibit.

Battleship Massachusetts

The State of Massachusetts, in an effort to balance its books, has made a large cut in funding to the Battleship Massachusetts. In an effort to help show our (YAGR'S) support, I would like to ask that you consider sending a donation to the ship n matter how small or large.

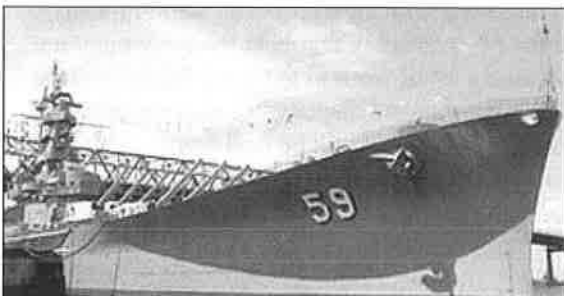
By now you must realize that I do not ask for money or donations unless there is a good reason for it. At this time, with the cut in funding to the ship, I cannot think of a better reason.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please send it to:

Battleship Cove
Captain John Casey, USNR (Ret.)
PO BOX 111
Fall River, MA 02722-0111

Please make checks payable to:
USS Massachusetts Memorial Committee, Inc.

You can go to the Battleship's web page at battleship@battleshipcove.org for more information



Dues

Are you caught up on yours?

Dues for the June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009 dues year are now being collected. Dues are \$17.00 Per Year.

If not, this is the time to send them in. When writing your check, make it out to YAGR'S and send it to me (address on page #1).

If you have paid your dues and did not receive your membership card and latest crewmen list that is sent with it, let me know.

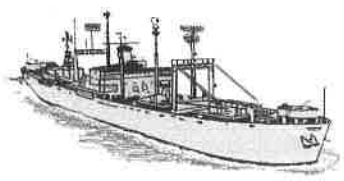


YAGR'S Mailing List

In an effort to keep the cost of the YAGRGRAMS down, I have removed another group of men from our mailing list since the last YAGRGRAM went out. Most of the cuts are people who have not responded to my request to return the information form that was sent to them.

Others that were cut are men who returned the request form years ago, but, we have not heard from them again.

If you have received a request form with this YAGRGRAM, PLEASE RETURN IT!!!



Launching of the Edwin H. Duff USS Interdictor AGR-13

THE WAINWRIGHT LIBERATOR
PUBLISHED BY J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. FOR THE BUILDERS OF SHIPS FOR FREEDOM
VOLUME 1—NO. 59 THE WAINWRIGHT LIBERATOR, JULY 7, 1945

J. A. JONES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY'S 100th SHIP, BUILT AT WAINWRIGHT YARD, SLIDING DOWN THE WAY.

Results of Bond Drive To Be Announced Next Week	Jones First Ship Pass The Century Mark To Be Launched Monday, July 9, 1945	NEWS TOPICS	Miss Wainwright To Be Crowned Friday
Due to the large amount of work of checking all the big Bond rallies that were held the last few days of the Seventh War Loan (Continued on Page 5)	J. A. Jones Construction Co. Monday, July 9, will have its one hundred and one launching—the (Continued on Page 5)	General Eisenhower said Congress that "the American fighting man has never failed to recognize his dependence upon you at home." "I am grateful," he said. (Continued on Page 5)	The winner of the "Miss Wainwright" contest will be crowned Friday night, July 14, 1945 at the Panama City Beach Casino. All other contestants in this contest will serve as maids of honor. This (Continued on Page 5)



CHRISTENING OF THE SS EDWIN H. DUFF BY MRS. EDWIN H. DUFF OF WASHINGTON, D. C. ASSISTED BY DAVE GREENE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS.

S. S. EDWIN H. DUFF LAUNCHED AT WAINWRIGHT YARD

J. A. Jones Construction Co., Inc., launched their 100th ship, the SS EDWIN H. DUFF, Friday morning, June 29th. Father Joseph M. Baker gave the opening invocation at this launching.

Daniel W. Bateman, General Manager of the yard, made the principal address and stated that the launching of the 100th ship created another record for Wainwright Yard in that there was no other six way shipyard known to have produced one hundred ships. Further, Mr. Bateman brought out the fact that at each change in type of vessels constructed, of which there had been five, and as each contract neared completion there were a number of rumors around the yard and in town that Wainwright Yard would close. In

each instance it has been demonstrated that this was not the case but that additional contracts had been secured, prolonging the work in the yard.

The reasons for this are attributed to the fact that the workers have made a sincere effort at all times to produce ships in the least possible time and for a minimum amount of manhours. This spirit of reducing cost by the workers combined with management's desire to perpetuate Wainwright Yard have resulted in a very friendly attitude of the United States Maritime Commission for Wainwright Yard. This is demonstrated through the recent award of four ships.

Mr. Bateman stated that he was proud of the record created by

Wainwright Yard and felt confident that each worker felt the same. The cooperative spirit between the workers and management develops a team which is hard to beat.

Father Joseph M. Baker blessed the good ship, SS EDWIN H. DUFF, and immediately following the sponsor, Mrs. Edwin H. Duff, spoke briefly to the workmen and congratulated them on building such a magnificent ship to carry the name of her late husband, and told how happy she was to have the honor of christening this ship which was Jones Construction's 100th at Wainwright Yard.

Miss Helen Osberg, co-sponsor spoke that she knew Mr. Duff would have been proud of such a wonderful ship that was being launched today in his honor.

Miss Doris Deal, a Jones' employee, and also a contestant for "Miss Wainwright" presented Mrs.

H. M. Hammock, Jr., Has Leg Amputated:

RESULT OF WOUNDS RECEIVED AT OKINAWA WHILE SERVING WITH MARINES

Pvt. H. M. Hammock, Jr., was seriously wounded in the South Pacific, according to word received by his wife.

A letter from Marine Headquarters in Washington stated that Pvt. H. M. Hammock had had one of his legs amputated as result of the wounds received in action against the enemy at Okinawa Island, Ryuku Islands.

Pvt. Hammock received his training in Schumaker and San Diego, California, and has been serving in the South Pacific with the First Marine Division since September of 1944.

Pvt. Hammock was employed here in the yard, badge number 2739, with the Tank-Testers before entering the Marine Corps in 1943. He will be remembered here by his many friends as "Bill" Hammock.

V-Mail may be addressed to him at U. S. Fleet Hospital 105—Ward 5-8, c/o Fleet Postoffice, San Francisco.

CARD OF THANKS

Words cannot express our appreciation to our many friends for their concern and sympathy shown since we have received the message that our husband, son, and brother had been seriously wounded, which necessitated the amputation of his leg, fighting against the enemy at Okinawa. May God bless each one of you.

Mrs. H. M. Hammock, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Hammock, Sr.
Mrs. Lunette Gibson
Jack Hammock.

Miss Wainwright To Be Crowned Friday

(Continued from Page 1)
will bring to a close one of the closest races of its kind ever held at the Jones Yard, and all that attend this final will be pleased at such a lovely group of girls that have worked so hard in this contest.

The barnacle, bugaboo of salt-water ships, has met its master in a special paint with a heavy mercury content. Sprayed while smoking hot on the hull, it creates a surface on which barnacles cannot stick.

Duff with a bouquet of red roses. Mrs. Daniel W. Bateman, wife of the General Manager, presented Mrs. Duff with a gift from the company immediately after the launching.

Mrs. Duff and Miss Osberg will return Saturday night to their home in Washington, D. C.

This information will be used for your name tag. Use the name you want printed on your name tag

YAGR'S 14th Annual Reunion San Diego, CA May 21, 22, 23 2009

Please return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 15, 2009.

NAME _____

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

Reunion Registration		Please Print			
San Diego, CA		May 21 - May 23, 2009			
	Cost per person	X	Number of People	=	Sub Total
EXAMPLE	\$105.00	X	2	=	\$210.00
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$105.00	X		=	\$
Non dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$122.00	X		=	\$
Pre-Reunion Tours		Please Print			
City Tour With Lunch					
Tuesday May 19, 2009					
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM					
Names of People going on tour					
	\$45.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$45.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$45.00	X	1	=	\$
Dinner Cruise					
Wednesday May 20, 2009					
6:00 PM to 10:30 PM					
Names of people going on tour					
	\$79.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$79.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$79.00	X	1	=	\$
Reunion Shirts					
\$18.00 each	Small	Medium	Large	X LARGE	
Number of each, times \$18.00					=\$
\$20.00 each				XX- Large	
Number of each, times \$20.00					=\$
				Total	\$