CALUERSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MEN OF THE U.S.S. CALVERT APA 32

"The Ship and Men of Distinction"

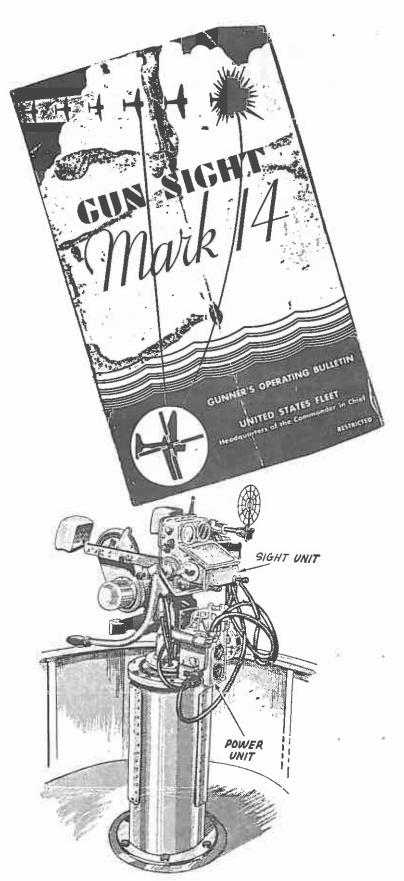
Published and Compiled by John L. Cole 506 Red Wing Ave. Kenyon, Minnesota 55946 Telephone 507-789-6344

VOL. NO. 30, 1994

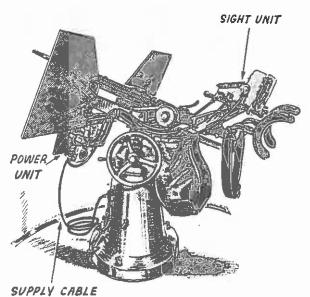


Comments from the Commander

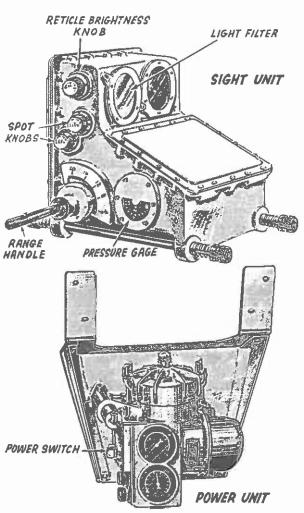
Just a few things from under my white hat......Got a invite to Oscar Woodys 80 Birthday party- Best wishes Oscar.... I have included a couple of names that I missed in the donation list last issue this time.....There are times when I have nothing to put in an issue and I really hunt for things to fill in. Now I have about 5 letters that I havent room for. Will save these, so if you wrote me a nice letter and its not in this issue watch the next one, it might be there. Thanks to all.....Received a letter from Ruth Brown asking me if I knew her father Delmar Beryl Walters. He was a seamon first class and was on the Calvert from August 42 to October 45. She said that he married her mom when he was 40 years of age and never talked about his navy time. Now he has Parkinsons- Alzheimers and what he knows is lost forever. If any of you knew Delmar, would you please contact Ruth Brown, 3137 westerville Rd. Lot 103, Columbus, Ohio. 43224, or phone (614) 475-8297. Also let me final stages of the Mini Reunion in West Virginia. He has received about 65 reservations and has asked me to remind those who are thinking of comming, to get their reservations in right away. See back of newsletter for info. He also said to bring a jacket as its cool in the evenings.......Many times its the wife that does the writing. When I see this I think someone died, which in some cases its true. Most of the time its just a nice thank you note. I just received a letter from Mrs John Stratton, and its one that I want to share with you. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did......George Mackey sent me a newsletter from the Clay-Stanton Asso, for me to look at. Over the years I have contacted editors of Reunion Groups and we share info. about the Anfibs O.R. Gordon was one of many that really liked the "turk" story that Ed O'Brien didand many have added to it. It really makes good copy for the newsletter.....Mel Waite sent me a copy (12 pages)of a summary of the Calvert daily log. It was taken from his personal note book he kept between 43-46. Any body got any ideas? Almost to long for a newsletter........Got a nice letter from Sterling Wesp who found his "Best Man" through a computer name finding service. Rudy Kohlruss was also a mailman on the Calvert from 42-45. For those who didnt have hair Sterling was the ships barber..... I guess I have rambled long enough. Been working on the 95 National Reunion and it looks like Minneapolis, Minn. in July, the weekend of the 22. We will be at a Days Inn, one block from the Mall of America. That should make a few wives very happy. Till then ,keep your bottom dry and belly full......j.l.cole....



GUN SIGHT MARK 14 MOUNTED ON GUN DIRECTOR MARK 51



GUN SIGHT MARK 14 MOUNTED ON 20 MM GUN



GUN SIGHT MARK 14

Editors Note... Tom Sawyer sent me a large box of things that he had saved from his time in the Navy. The above information came from Tom. I really appricate it when I get things like this. It also remindes you of some of the things you thought you had forgotten....

mail call



U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)

C/O PLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



DEAR JOHN:

I THINK THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME I HAVE WRITTEN, BUT I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW I ALWAYS ENJOY GETTING THE "CALVERSION" AND READING ABOUT THE OLD CALVERT AND HER CREW. I SERVED ON THE CALVERT FROM SEPT 1952 TO DEC 1953 IN THE SIGNAL GANG. SOME OF THE NAMES THAT CROP UP IN YOUR NEWLETTERS ARE NAMES I REMEMBER FROM THOSE DAYS.

WHEN I REPORTED ABOARD ENSIGN PAPPAS HAD THE DECK, AND HE KNEW THERE WERE TWO PEOPLE COMING TO THE CALVERT FROM CLASS A QM SCHOOL. SINCE HE WAS SIGNAL OFFICER AT THAT TIME AND I WAS THE FIRST OF THE TWO TO REPORT ABOARD, HE IMMEDIATELY ASSIGNED ME TO THE SIGNAL GANG SO HE COULD BE SURE HE GOT A BODY. CAPT. J.A. ROBBINS WAS THE SKIPPER AT THAT TIME AND CMDR CHARLES BEST WAS THE XO. CAPT ROBBINS WAS LATER REPLACED BY CAPT LELAND FREIBURGHOUSE. (I GOT SO I COULD HOLD A STEADY LIGHT ON WHOEVER WAS SENDING THAT NAME IN MESSAGES TO US!). I DO REMEMBER CAPT ROBBINS SENDING US HIS INITIALS IN MORSE CODE WITH THE SPOTLIGHT ON HIS CAR WHEN HE WANTED THE GIG TO COME PICK HIM UP WHEN WE WERE IN PORT IN SAN DIEGO. I'M AFRAID I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF THE OTHER OFFICER'S NAMES NOW.

SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SIGNAL GANG THAT I CAN REMEMBER ARE FRANK "POP" KELLINGTON (QMS2 THEN), ROBERT L. "WILLIE THE WRANGLER" GOODWIN QMS3, BUNNY FIFE QMS3, CHUCK HRUBY QMS3 (HE LATER TRANSFERRED TO THE NAVIGATION GANG AND MADE 2ND CLASS), WILLIAM "SCOTTY" MAC GREGOR, EMERSON TYREE, PAGE, HOLLY JONES, SMITTY WHO MADE BM3 WHILE A SIGNALMAN STRIKER AND WENT BACK TO THE DECK FORCE AS THE COXSWAIN OF THE OFFICER'S MOTORBOAT. I'M SURE IF I SCRATCH MY HEAD AND DIG INTO THE BACK OF MY MIND I WILL THINK OF SOME OTHERS.

DURING THE TIME I WAS ABOARD THE CALVERT WE MADE TWO TRIPS TO THE FAR EAST, ONE FOR SIX MONTHS AND THE SECOND FOR A LITTLE OVER A MONTH. WE GOT A BATTLE STAR ON OUR KOREAN MEDAL DURING ONE OF THOSE TRIPS. WE ALSO TOOK SOME MARINES TO HAWAII FOR MANUVERS ON THE BIG ISLAND IN JULY OF 53. WHAT A GOOD DEAL THAT WAS-WE SAT IN HILO FOR THREE WEEKS WHILE THE MARINES WERE RUNNING AROUND INLAND AND ACTED AS SUPPLY SHIP FOR THEM. WE ALSO GOT SOME OF OUR PRACTICE LANDINGS FILMED AS PART OF THE "YELLOW STAIN INCIDENT" IN THE MOVIE "THE CAINE MUTINY", WHICH WAS FILMED IN HAWAII THAT SUMMER.

A GOOD PART OF THE TIME! WAS ABOARD THE CALVERT WE WERE THE FLAG SHIP FOR COMTRANSDIV 13 (I THINK). THERE WERE SOME SIGNALMEN ASSIGNED TO THE FLAG, BUT MOST WERE PRETTY INEXPERIENCED. LESS EXPERIENCED THAN WE WERE. FRANK KELLINGTON WAS OUR LEAD SIGNALMAN, GOODWIN, FIFE, AND HRUBY WERE WATCH SUPERVISORS, AND WHEN HRUBY WENT TO THE N DIV I TOOK HIS PLACE AS I MADE 3RD CLASS ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

I'VE ENCLOSED A FEW PICTURES OF THOSE DAYS AND WROTE NAMES AS I CAN RECALL ON THE BACKS OF THEM.

AFTER I LEFT THE CALVERT I WAS RELEASED TO INACTIVE RESERVE DUTY AND STAYED IN THE RESERVE FOR SEVERAL MORE YEARS. I WAS RECALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN 1961 AS A SIGNALMAN 2ND CLASS AND WAS ABOARD THE USS LAWS DD558 FOR A YEAR AND THEN RELEASED BACK TO INACTIVE DUTY. JIM MORROW, QMS3

Who could forget MOG MOG - that incredible spot of Paradise in the South Pacific ?

Let me tell you all a shaggy dog story of MOG MOG, Fubar and a "Leather Medal" award.

"FUBAR", the Calvert's four-legged Mascot of unknown ancestry joined the Calvert at N.O.B.Portsmouth Va., in the summer of 1943 upon our return from the Sicilian invasion.

He too made the operations against the Gilbert Is., the Marshall's, the Marianas, Lae New Guinea, Manus, Biak and the Phillipine landings at Leyte and Linguyan, unscathed through all aside from being terrified at the sound of our ship's guns.

On arrival in MOG MOG in February 1945, Fubar joined a Liberty Party that went ashore to cavort in nudity beneath the palm trees with green beer can in hand amid those peculiar looking funnel-like pipes jutting from the sand. MOG MOG was one of the few if not the only place in the Soutth Pacific where enlisted men could fraternize with officers. When garbed with only a beer can, who knew another's rank!

One lad approached me to report the snatching of Fubar by a Marine from an encampment on the other side of MOG MOG. I assumed my rank by getting dressed, and commandeering a jeep and driver, proceeded to the Marine Camp to rescue Fubar from the clutches of the Unites States Marine Corps. The Two beers on an empty stomach under the hot sun were responsible for my brief show of bravado in the face of the verbal fire of the irate kidnappers.

At sundown, Fubar and I managed to catch the last running boat to make the voyage across the lagoon for the Calvert anchored some nine miles away. The boat was a 26 foot motor whale boat loaded to the gunnels with sailors in varying degrees of intoxification and undress. As we bounded across the briny in an ever increasing head sea and wind to unload semi-concious, unconcious and /or seasick cargo at ship after ship, darkness fell and Fubar took shelter inside my life jacket where he fell asleep. The Calvert was the last stop on our water taxi's route.

Upon arriving at the Calvert's gangway long after dark, the Officer of the Deck (a real smart ass whose name I've forgotten) called up Side Boys to pipe Fubar and I aboard.

The next day, to my discomfort and to the glee of the crowded Wardroom, the Captain presented me with a "Leather Medal" for efforts above and beyond the call of duty to rescue Fubar.

I have the recollection that Chips Emory manufactured the medal itself, while Charlie Schooler cooked up the impromptu award ceremony.

I leave it to our knowledgeable readers to apply their recollection of shipboard obscenity to decipher the meaning of "FUBAR"

On our return to Seattle from Ulithi and MOG MOG in April 1945, the loveable pooch was rigged out in a Dress Blue Middy Blouse complete with Hash Marks and a full array of campaign ribbons when he was walked on the dock. You see, because he had spent most of his life aboard the Calvert and didn't know what a bush or a tree or a hydrant was, let alone another dog; he had to be dragged ashore on a leash.

Some one out there may recall the collection of native boats that llocked around the Calvert Ecllowing the initial landing at Ta cloban in Letve Galf. A strange collection of Phillipine arts and crafts came aboard the ship undetected by anyone in authority, in cluding a Rooster. We sailed the next day. The following morning at dawn, Chief Quartermaster Mel Waite and I had just finished taking morning Star sights. It was a beautiful day about to break - clear as a bell smooth sea-no wind when all of a sudden the Chief looked at me with a strange expression to ask, "Did you hear what I think I I responded, " Yes, but I was afraid to say what I had heard." Then the Captain came out in his pajamas to the wing of the bridge to ask "Gentlemen did you hear something strange just now?" [was about to say "No Sir!" when we all heard it loud and clear, " Cockle Doodle Do", ringing across the upper structure of the ship. Yup- we had a rooster aboard. Contrary to all the efforts of the Chief Master at Arms and his squad, the rooster was never found but for a lot of mornings he sounded revellie aboard the Calvert. Bill Marks, Lieut, USNR (ret) Plank Owner & Navigator

MY HUSBAND JOHN W. STRATTON DIED JULY 17, '93 AFTER A 4 1/2 YEAR COURAGEOUS BATTLE AGAINST CANCER. HE WAS A FIGHTER AGAINST THIS DREADED DISEASE, ENDURING MANY SURGERIES, MAKING THREE TRIPS TO THE MAYO CLINIC IN ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA, AND READING EVERYTHING HE COULD FIND SO HE COULD BETTER UNDERSTAND THIS DISEASE. I PRAY THAT SOON WE WILL CONQUER THIS ENEMY AS OUR NAVY HELPED TO CONQUER THE ENEMY DURING WORLD WAR II.

HE WAS SO VERY PROUD OF THE TIME HE SERVED IN THE NAVY AS I WAS SO PROUD OF WHAT HE DID AND SO GRATEFUL THAT HE RETURNED TO ME A HEALTHY MAN. WE WERE FORTUNATE TO CELEBRATE OUR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY JAN. 31, 1993 EVEN THOUGH THIS "CELEBRATION" TOOK PLACE IN A HOSPITAL ROOM.

I HAVE SEVERAL ITEMS THAT REMIND ME OF MY HUSBAND'S NAVY SERVICE. ON THE WALL OF OUR STUDY IS THE BIG FRAMED CERTIFICATE THAT "ENSIGN JOHN W. STRATTON" RECEIVED WHEN THE U.S.S. CALVERT CROSSED THE EQUATOR ON NOV. 15, 1943. THE CALVERT WAS EITHER ON THE WAY TO THE INVASION OF THE GILBERTS OR ON THE WAY BACK TO PEARL AFTER THE LANDING ON TARAWA. ALSO ON THAT WALL WE HAVE A FRAMED PICTURE OF THE U.S.S. OGLESTHORPE ON WHICH HE SERVED FROM JUNE 1945 UNTIL THE JAPANESE SURRENDERED AND HE WAS ABLE TO HEAD FOR HOME. OTHER ITEMS OF GREAT INTEREST TO HIS GRANDSONS ARE HIS SERVICE REVOLVER AND SERVICE RIFLE ISSUED TO HIM WHEN HE WAS LEFT ON SAIPAN WITH THE MARINES. EVERYTHING WAS EXPENDABLE, SO THESE THINGS HE BROUGHT HOME WITH HIM.

JOHN WATSON STRATTON JOINED THE NAVY V-7 PROGRAM IN DEC. 1941 SHORTLY AFTER THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR. HE REPORTED TO MIDSHIPMAN SCHOOL AT UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AS PART OF THE FIRST CLASS HELD THERE. ENSIGN STRATTON WAS ASSIGNED TO THE NEW FORMED AMPHIBIOUS FORCE ATLANTIC FLEET AT LITTLE CREEK, VA. THERE HE TRAINED TO LAND MARINES IN SMALL BOATS (36' TO 50') AND LATER WAS STATIONED IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA. AFTER TRAINING WAS OVER HE RECEIVED ORDERS TO REPORT TO THE BOAT GROUP COMMANDER ABOARD THE U.S.S. CALVERT IN PORTSMOUTH, VA. THIS WAS SOMETIME DURING LATE SUMMER OR FALL OF 1943.

THE CALVERT HAD JUST RETURNED FROM NORTH AFRICA AND WAS ORDERED TO JOIN THE PACIFIC FLEET WITH BASE IN PEARL HARBOR. HE WAS IN THE SUCCESSFUL LANDING OF THE ARMY'S 27TH DIVISION ON MAKIN ISLAND IN THE GILBERTS. THEY WERE RESERVES FOR THE MARINES WHO WERE LANDING ON TARAWA. THIS WAS IN NOV. 1943.

HE WAS ALSO ON THE CALVERT FOR THE INVASION OF KWAJALEIN ATOLL IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. WITH HELP FROM PLANES & DESTROYERS THE SMALL BOATS MOVED IN UNDER A HEAVY CURTAIN OF FIRE AND UNLOADED THE TROOPS. THE LANDING WAS ON OUR FIRST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY JAN. 31, 1944.

THEN ON JUNE 15, 1944 THEY LANDED THE 2ND & 4TH MARINES ON THE BEACHES OF SAIPAN IN THE MARIANAS. THE LANDING WAS MADE AND CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY. HE LEFT THE CALVERT WHEN THEY HIT SAIPAN TO HELP FORM A BOAT GROUP THAT WOULD REMAIN ON THE ISLANDS WITH THE MARINES AND UNDER THEIR COMMAND. THE NEARBY ISLAND OF TINIAN WAS INVADED WITH LANDING CRAFT FROM SAIPAN AND HE SPENT 7 MONTHS ON TINIAN.

IN DEC. 1944 HE RETURNED TO PEARL FOR REASSIGNMENT. IN FEB. 1945 HE WAS GRANTED A 30 DAY LEAVE DUE TO THE DEATH OF HIS GRANDMOTHER. HE WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO A NEW SHIP THE AKA-100 WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED THE U.S.S. OGLESTHORPE ON JUNE 6, 1945. HE SERVED ON THIS SHIP TILL THE JAPANESE SURRENDERED AND SINCE HE HAD ACCUMULATED ENOUGH POINTS HE WAS ELIGIBLE TO LEAVE THE SERVICE. LEAVING THE OGLETHORPE AT ENIWETOK AND AFTER TWO WEEKS OF WAITING HE FINALLY CAUGHT A RUSTY OLD STANDARD OIL CO. TANKER HEADED FOR GALVESTON. IT WAS A LONG SLOW VOYAGE HOME BUT HE FINALLY ARRIVED BY TRAIN IN RUSTON, LA, DEC. 1, 1945. I WAS HAPPY HE WAS AT HOME FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR FIRST CHILD, JOHN ERIC STRATTON ON DEC. 27.

THANKS TO HIS SHIPMATE JOE VILLIEN OF ABBEVILLE, LA, HIS NAME WAS PLACED ON YOUR MAILING LIST. HE READ WITH INTEREST THE COPIES HE RECEIVED AND WISHED WE COULD HAVE ATTENDED THE SPRING REUNION IN ST. LOUIS. WHILE IN THE NAVY HE PROMISED TO TAKE ME TO HAWAII WHICH HE DID IN SEPT. 1985. THIS TRIP BROUGHT BACK MANY MEMORIES AS WE SAT UNDER THE BANYAN TREE AT THE MOANA HOTEL ON WAIKIKI BEACH AND REVISITED THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF WAIANAE WHERE HE WAS DOCKMASTER. WE ALSO TOOK A TRIP IN 1981 TO FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA AND DROVE THROUGH WHAT'S LEFT OF THE AMPHIBIOUS BASE THERE.

HE WAS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH USNR FROM JAN. 29, 1943 THROUGH JAN. 2, 1946 AND DISCHARGED AS LT. SR. GRADE. ANOTHER ITEM I HAVE IS WHAT HE CALLED SHORT SHORTER ONE DOLLAR BILL WITH THESE NAMES WRITTEN ON THE SIDE AS BEST I CAN MAKE OUT: JOHN L HIPP???, JARRELL ALFRED, R.M. PAGE JR., W.A. HASNIA???, AND LEO SIGUNICK. ON THE OTHER SIDE MY HUSBAND HAD WRITTEN ATC#145 C-54 HAT4000 SAIPAN-OAHU, HAWAII. I WONDERED IF ANY OF THESE NAMES OF THESE MEN WERE ON YOUR MAILING LIST. PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR WRITING SO MUCH BUT WHEN I THINK OF MY HUSBAND THE MEMORIES KEEP COMING. LEFT MY SCHOOL TEACHING JOB AFTER WE WERE MARRIED AND FOLLOWED HIM TO NORFOLK, FT. PIERCE, NEW YORK AND TO SAN DIEGO. WE SPENT THREE WONDERFUL WEEKS AT THE BEAUTIFUL EL CORTEZ HOTEL WHILE THE CALVERT HAD REPAIRS AND THY PICKED UP MORE MARINES, THEN LEFT JAN. 14, 1944 FOR THE INVASION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. AGAIN THANKS FOR A "LISTENING" EAR WHILE I REMEMBERED MY HUSBAND AND OUR NAVAL EXPERIENCES.

SINCERELY,

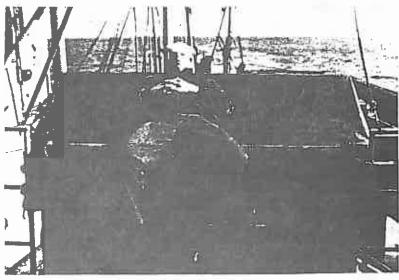
MRS. JOHN W. STRATTON

P.S. I'M REREADING WITH GREAT INTEREST VOLS. NO 26, 27, 28, & 29 THAT MY HUSBAND RECEIVED - THE LAST ONE CAME AFTER HIS DEATH. MY HUSBAND WAS ON THE CALVERT WHEN THE PHOTO YOU PRINTED IN VOL 27 WAS MADE. TOM SAWYER SAID THAT PICTURE WAS MADE NOV. 14, 1943 AND MY HUSBAND CROSSED THE EQUATOR ON THE CALVERT THE VERY NEXT DAY.



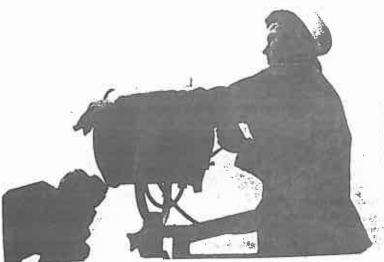
the old crew

U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)



William MacGregor enroute to Hong Kong

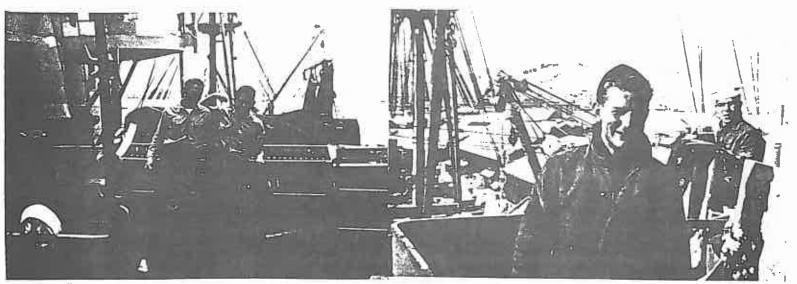
Photos from Jim Morrow QM3 52-53



Holly Jones, Sasebo, Japan 1952



R.L.Goodwin, Frank Kellington, Bunny Fife
San Diego 1952



"Smitty" BM3 and Emerson Tyree Hong Kong 1953

Jim Morrow and unknown Radioman Otaru, Japan Jan. 1953



SHIP REUNION SEPTEMBER 15-16-17, 1994 U.S.S. CALVERT THE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE P

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| Cost of Bus Tour Friday: | \$45.00 | Per Person | | |
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| Inner Entrees: | | | | |
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| RRIVAL: 9/15/94 | DEPARTURE: | 9/13/94 | | |
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| ROOM RATES: ONE PERSON \$40 | 5.00 TWO | PERSONS | \$51.00 | (Circle one) |
| CAMPING: \$15.00 FULL HOOF | K UP | | | |
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Sail to

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Dear Fellow Crew Member:

This is a letter of intent for our Mini Reunion at Pipestem State Park September 15, 16, and 17th, 1994.

Thursday, September 15 - Registration will be in the Dogwood Room of the Main Lodge from 2:00 - 5:00 P.M. This will also be our hospitality room for our stay at Pipesten.

Priday, September 16 - We have a sight seeing bus tour scheduled for WV State Capitol, Cultural Center and Museum, New River Gorge Bridge (longest span bridge in the world) and WV Coal Mine.

Saturday, Soptember 17 - Day of leisure: golfing, tennis, fishing horseback riding, and white water rafting. We will furnish transportation for those wishing to go to Mercer Mall and sight seeing.

The Hemorial Service will be in the Dogwood Room.

Dinner and Dance will be in the Cardinal Room of the Lodge.

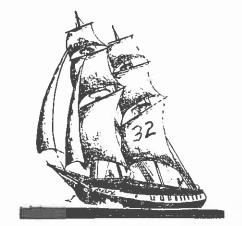
Please make your reservations as soon as possible. We have a block of 40 reserved and we need to know if we will need additional rooms.

Looking forward to seeing you at Pipestem!

Sincerely,

Temporalem

Tom Warden



MINI REUNION

Many Thanks

To the following persons who are helping with newsletter expences. Thank you very much....

| R.W.Glasco | Evertt R. Jones10.00 Joe Moffett10.00 Rolland Rogers25.00 Rolland Rogers20.00 Carl Allen20.00 John W. Straton15.00 Erich Sopp25.00 Charles Skillman25.00 |
|--------------------|--|
| Homer Taulbee10.00 | Carl Allen20.00 |
| Sandy Slessor50.00 | |
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| | |
| Hunkey Hobrat25.00 | Bill Marks20.00 |
| James Xanders20.00 | Joe Moffett10.00 |
| Tom Glickman20.00 | William Theiss30.00 |
| James Cobb10.00 | James Morrow10.00 |
| Ivan Davidson25.00 | |





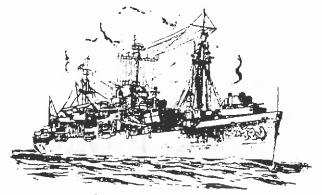


CALVERT ASSOCIATES

506 Red Wing Ave. Kenyon, MN 55946

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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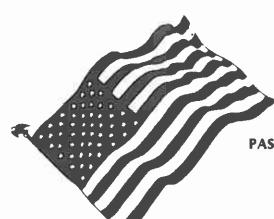


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WE MOURN THE PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

Edward D.Carver WT2 41-45 September 1,1993
Maurice D. Price BM1 50-51 December 22, 1993
William Thomas S1/c 45-46 1993
William Goudy S1/c 45-46 1993
John W. Stratton July 17,1993
Captain William M. Kaufman Setember 9,1993

USS Calvert C.O. 1959 Captain Richard J. Collins USMC 43-45 April 26, 1994