

# CALVERTS ION

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

"The Ship and Men of Distinction"



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VOL. NO. 13 1984

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## COMMENTS . . . .

. . . . from the

**Commander**



I have a few things I want to say about the reunion and then I'll stop. We had over fourty Calvert men at the San Francisco Reunion. I expected a lot more but the west coast was poorly represented. I don't know why, and I doubt that it will ever be back in the west coast again. I know that things come up that can't be helped but the guys from the east wanted to see some of their western buddies. I felt bad about the light turnout. It was a fun trip for those that made it. Ed and Mary did a 4/0 job, we owe them a lot.....Enough Said... One of the good things that happened at our meeting was the passing of the hat for future reunion funds. A total of \$371.00 was collected. When all the bills were paid, Ed O'B sent me a check for 594.37 that was left from the funds taken in. We got a few brakes from the hotel that they didn't charge for. For example, If your cash bar dosen't take in enough money you have to pay a minimum charge, Chairs wernt charged for, etc. So now in our reunion slush fund we have \$965.37. I have an account open in Hoyt and my name and this money will help the reunion host with pre-reunion costs that may come up...Also I was asked to print the names of the members of the association. I had to reduce the size of the names as they normally took up ten pages, or all of one news letter. So if you have trouble reading any address just drop me a line and I'll help you out. Please don't give these address out as we don't want to get on junk mailing lists....I corrispond with Sherman Dickson of the Clay-Stanton Association and he sent me their reunion book that he made for their gettogether. It was really nice. I also got one from M.G. Wamsley. He attended our party and is host of the Bayfield APA 33 Reunion in August 1984 in San Francisco. In his book he has a page on the Calvert which I would like to thank him for. By corrisponding with different APA Reunion Groupes, we all learn a lot that helps us to have better reunions and newsletters.... I send out over 400 newsletters twice a year at 20¢ each. I am hoping to get a bulk mail stamp so I can cut postage costs. It also costs about 120.00 to 150.00 to just have the newsletter printed. My son, wife, and I then collate, staple, fold, adress, and stamp each newsletter. It is a labor of love and I love to do it. I also appricate any letters you guys send me, and try to publish all I have room for. I really like letters that tell of happings of the Calvert and her crew. Thanks and keep it up.....j.l.cole

## REUNION BUSINESS MEETING

Calvert Associates Meeting, San Francisco, California. September 17, 1983

Meeting was called to order by John Cole, Commanding Officer of "Calvert Associates" in the Regimental Room of the Marine Memorial Hotel at 9am.

1. Election of officers was held for the coming years. Upon a motion from the floor the existing officers be carried over for two more years. John Cole as Commander and Hoyt Worthington as Executive Officer. Motion Carried.

2. Minutes of the last meeting in Atlanta, Ga. were read and approved.

3. Amended Article #2 of Associate Constitution, ( Membership.) To Read- The persons eligible for regular membership are all individuals who formerly served on the U.S.S. CALVERT and who were separated honorably or are still on active duty in the Military Service. Motion Carried.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Next reunion in two years, 1985 in Denver Colorado area with Jim McFetridge as Host. Jims Address, 2671 South Yarrow Lakewood, Colorado 80227

2. Reunion Pot was started by those present and \$371.00 was collected by passing the hat. This will be used to help Reunion Host with expenses prior to the reunion.

3. Motion by Norman Bell that a donation of \$2.00 a year to cover cost of newsletter was presented. Motion approved by the group assembled.

4. Ken Bottger made a motion to include list of names of members in the next copy of the Calversion. Motion carried.

5. George Mackey made motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Movies shown by Chaplin Elliot of Calvert in Pacific after the meeting.

Al. Bradbury Acting Sectary.

SEAHAWK

October 18, 1958

## Calvert Treats Orphans

Little Shunji, 7, gives a smile of appreciation to SDC Norman H. Bell for his gift of a "Davy Crockett" raccoon-skin cap. The chief was one of thirty-four men from the high speed transport USS CALVERT who went on a party-visit to the Ai-ji-no-le ("Home of Affection") Orphanage in Tokyo, Oct. 10. The 63 boys and girls who live in the orphanage received toys, clothing, medical supplies, and a \$100 monthly donation from the CALVERT, which has been supporting the orphanage since December, 1956. The following Sunday, CALVERT played host to the orphans when they toured the ship, took a boat ride, ate in the crew's mess hall, and watched movie cartoons. The CALVERT, commanded by Capt. Walter L. Phaler, has given more than \$2,000 (720,000 yen) to the Tokyo orphanage.

(U.S. Navy photo by John Reed, PH2)

U.S. FLEET ACTIVITIES, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN



# mail call

Dear John,



Dec. 1983

## AND THE CHRISTMAS BEAT GOES ON

VOLUME XIV

All the vets that we know seemed to be on the go,  
And reunions the plan of the year.  
The Calvert, the Haven, the Nurse Corps as well,  
We showed up and we drank up their beer.

Reunions are fun if you stay on the run  
And ration your intake of cheer,  
But if you forget, and you will that's a bet,  
You can land on your can or your ear.

We met Bos'n's a pair at the Haven affair,  
Seeing Marshall and Barton was grand,  
The surprise of our life was Jim Hart and his wife  
From the Calvert . . . How well she was manned!

So we partied and played and the longer we stayed  
In Frisco and Tahoe as well,  
We knew at a glance as we cinched up our pants  
That our diets were going to hell.

We still believe that living well  
Is a virtue, not a vice,  
And life in the slower lane ain't bad,  
As a matter of fact, it's nice.

So...Share our joy this Christmas season,  
And count your every blessed reason,  
May God who lent his only Son  
Bless us, and you, and everyone.

This is part of a two page Christmas poem that I got from Madge and Frank Shermanski which I think you will like. This part had to do with the Calvert....jlc

I am sorry I couldn't make the Reunion this year. I had already taken my vacation by the time I found out about it. I am planning to make the 1985 one, if something doesn't happen. My experience with the Calvert would fill a two ince book! I am an ex Army G.I. Drafted into the Army the last of W.W.II, and served in Europe. Then I served from 1950 to 1954, aboard the U.S.S. Calvert. I remember going through the Canal Zone in February of 1951 on our way to San Diego, Ca. which we had made our home port. For three years I made three tours to the Far East aboard the Calvert. Then I was transferred to the U.S.S. Bexor A.P.A 237, which was staying in the states until I received my discharge in April of 1954. I saw three skippers come aboard the U.S.S. Calvert while I was there. I don't remember our first skipper's name, but Capt. Robberson was our second and Capt. Freiborghous was the 3rd. At first, I was in the boat group and went through amphib training at Little Creek. Lt. Groggens was our boat group commander and I have a picture of this group. Gm/ 30.C. NORRIS 50-54

My sincere thanks to Lila and all the ladies for their lovely card and gift order. I ordered a really nice push button phone. It's beside the bed and I use it all the time. It was so thoughtful of all the ladies and I really am pleased. I am sure all the "girls" had a great time shopping and have a lot of remembrances of San Francisco. Maybe we should organize a Calvert wives Club and have our meetings & plan our own reunion-- at the same time -- think about it -- we can discuss it at Denver. Thanks again to all the Ladies & expecially Lila Cole. MARY O'BRIEN

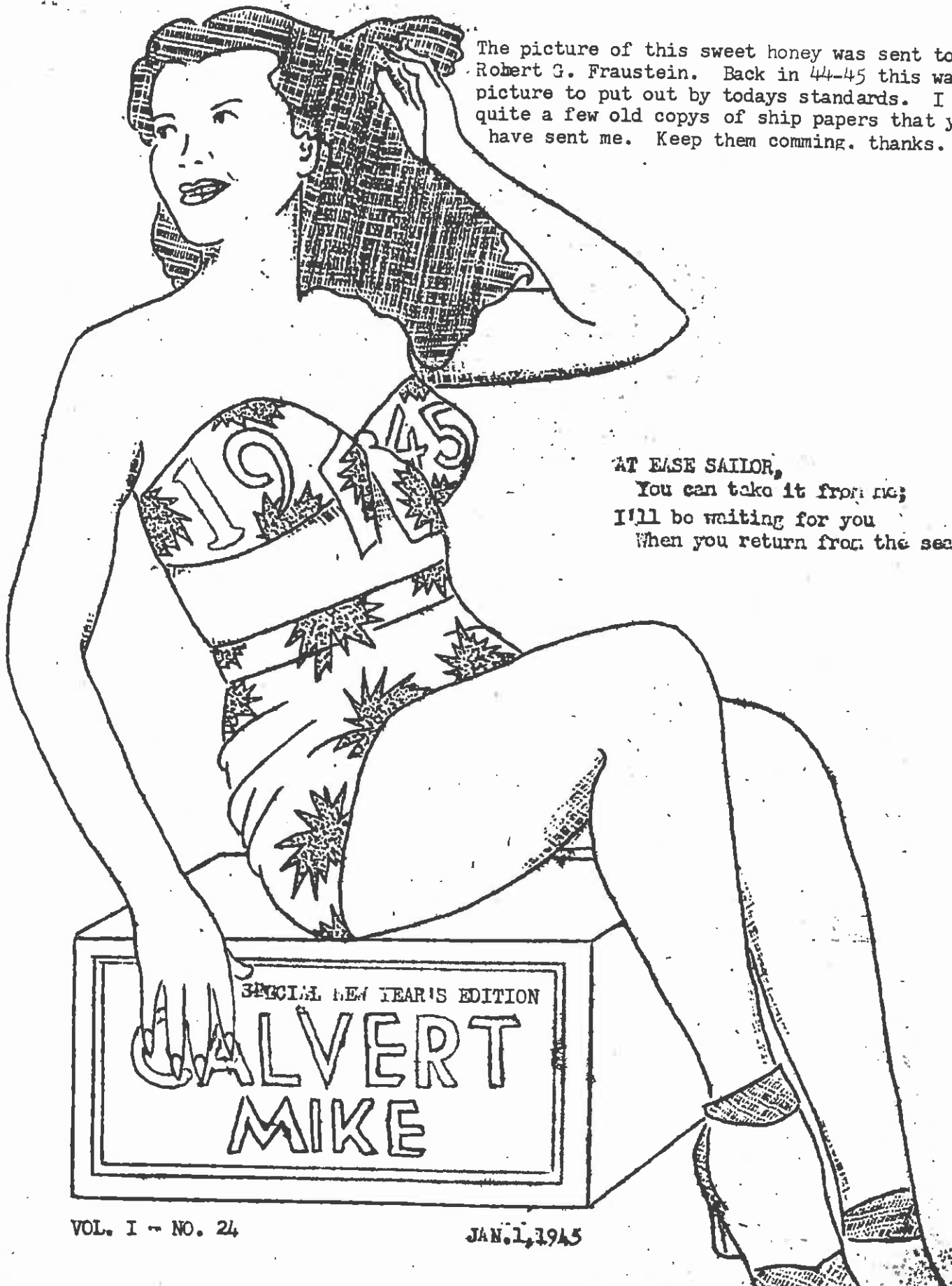
While I was not a crew member of that beautiful ship I still feel impelled to write and wish you the happiest of reunions. My unit was Co. B, 152nd Engr (C) Bn, your Shore Party for the Gilbert Islands' operation. Some of the most pleasant memories I have of my three-year sojourn in the Pacific go back to your ship and crew. If there is anyone on your roster living in hailing distance of my address I would appreciate your telling me of them or asking them to get in touch with me. My phone number is 215-586-9516. Again, may the happiest of reunions accrue to the finest ship and crew my unit and I were to know throughout the war. WILLIAM J. GURDY - 230 Clifton Ave. Sharon Hill, Pa. 19079

TO ALL HANDS, yes I know this is the title of a fine book by the late John Mason BROWN all about the Sicilian Invasion & the part that U.S.S. Calvert & U.S.S. Ancon took part in that long ago historical event. I'm sure that seeing that title will get the original crew members to take another good look & those that came later will do the same & compare the times they had aboard with some of the 'sea stories' they've heard at one of the 3 CALVERT reunions we've had. Incidentally, as time goes on these sea stories seem to get better with age and there seem to be always two versions, one for the 'gang' and another for mixed company. And along the same line of thinking, my wife Mary tells me she knows my stories as well & perhaps better than I do & could tell them just as well, what I'd like to know from the other shipmates of around my age, does this happen to you???? Mary & I want to thank all hands who attended our 3rd CALVERT reunion, we had a ball and hope that all of you who attended had much the same experience. We had wonderful co-operation from all of the Marines Memorial Club personnel as well as some of our own CALVERT Family. The bus trip to Lake Tahoe was well received and gave the participants a different view of some of the Mountainous parts of California, not only that but we heard that some of the gang did pretty good on the 'one armed bandits' We had wonderful weather and by scheduling the various events with plenty of 'FREE' time in between it gave all hands a chance to do some of their own personal sightseeing or visiting with friends, received many good reports from those who attended about what a good time they had, made all our time & effort expended on the reunion well worth while, thanks again for coming, we'll see all of you in Denver in '85, MARY & ED O'BRIEN (O'B).

Your labor of love "CALVERSION" Vol. 12 1983 arrived the other day. As usual its content evoked mixed emotions and memories of years 1942, 43, 44 & 45 as Debarkation Officer, C & R officer, Senior Watch Officer and Navigation from Dundalk Md's Sparrows Point Shipyards to Saffi, Sicily, Gilbert Islands, Marshall Is. New Guinea, Saipan, Tinian, Leyte Gulf & Linguyen Gulf. Your reprint of the BuPers letter of 9 May 1949 concerning the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the U.S.S. Calvert for her services was news to me just a few 35 years late! As Dorothy said "you'll love to buy a uniform on which to pin the commendation insignia." After we returned from the Linguyen Gulf Landing to Leyte Gulf in mid-January 1945; we took the ship to Ulithi Atoll to prepart for Iwo Jima. Instead, orders were received to depart Ulithi for Seattle, Wa. with 2 destroyers for escort. We fueled up and took off on a great circle course non-stop for Seattle. The cans broke off escort abreast Hawaii. Chief Engineer Pat Carry hooked up the "iron fireman" and we ran 19-20 Kts steady steaming for the Straits of Juan de Fuca. We traversed the Straits at nite using surface & air search radar into Puget Sound thence down to Bremerton Navy Yard before we bothered to pick up a Pilot. As some of us had experienced a leave since commissioning 2½ years before, a goodly number of us were let go for 30 days leave. I was home in New York but 5 days, when a Bu Pers telegram recalled me to Seattle for separation from the ship with orders to go to the Philipines for duty aboard the Fleet Rescue Tug "Tekesta" ATF93. That saga terminated in Shanghai, China in Feb. 1946 when I was returned to N.Y. & inactive duty. I regret my inability to attend the Frisco Reunion but certainly trust you will extend my regards to all attendees, particularly the Alumni from the days under Capt's. Whitfield, Mullinix and the beloved inebriate Sweeney - May God Bless him where ever he is, I'm sure he has a bottle with him! Whitfield had a phobia about all hands wearing that infamous CO2 life belt at ALL TIMES. He did always wear his. One dark rough nite enroute to Saffii he appeared on the Bridge in life belt, rain coat & Kapok Mae West overall. He began to yell for his binoculars & I suggested they may well be under his rain coat. In the struggle to extricate the binoculars, his CO2 belt went off. Of course the belt had not

been released to allow for expansion. It merely compressed his ample waist. We thought he was having a heart attack until we got him into the Chart room & got some of his rain gear off. If you have an opportunity to do so, please extend my invitation to all hands to pay me a visit when ever they find themselves near Asheville in western N.C. I'm in the Hendersonville area some 20 miles down I26 from Asheville.704-697-9607.  
BILL MARKS 42-45

The picture of this sweet honey was sent to me by Robert G. Fraustein. Back in 44-45 this was some picture to put out by todays standards. I have quite a few old copys of ship papers that you guys have sent me. Keep them comming. thanks. j.l.c.



AT EASE SAILOR,  
You can take it from me;  
I'll be waiting for you  
When you return from the sea.

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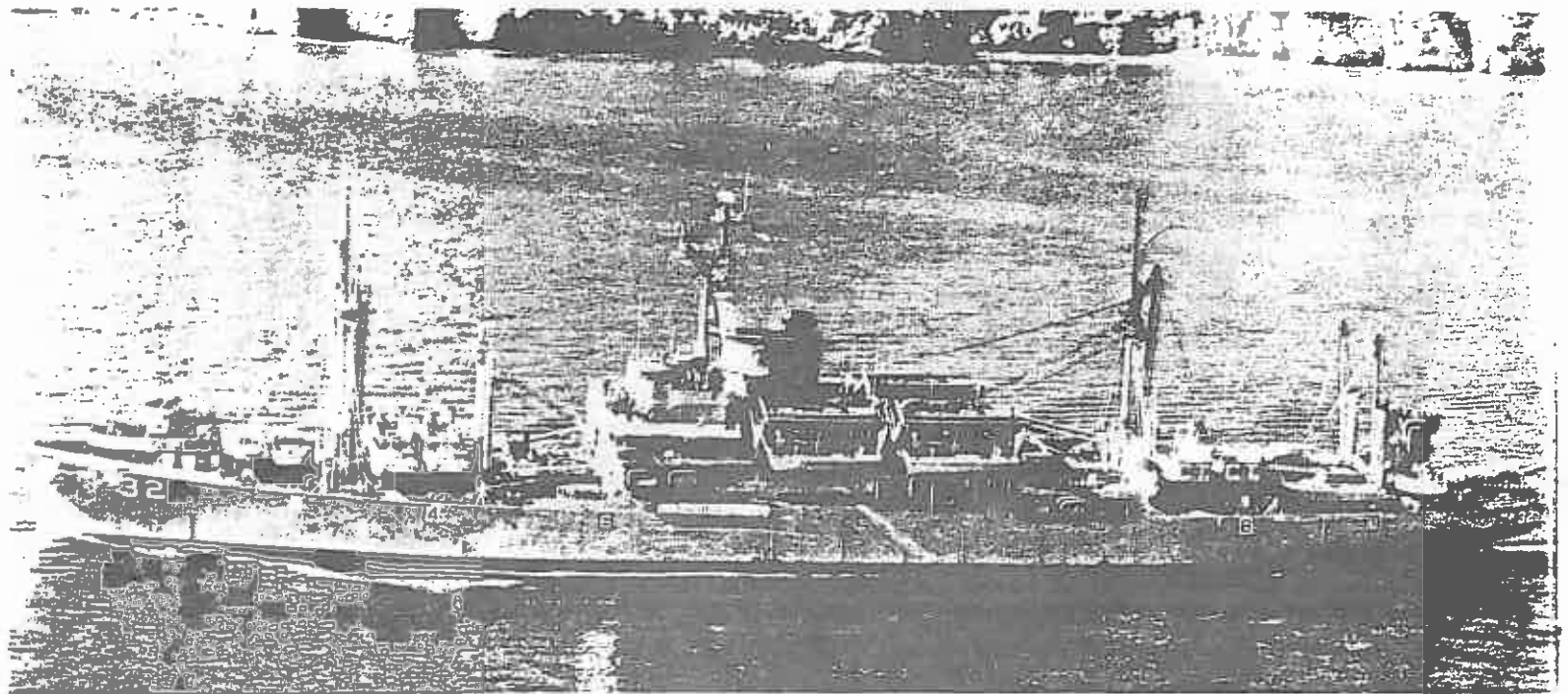
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Mrs. Robert E. Harlan  
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New Albany, Indiana 47105



# USS CALVERT APA-32



From a copy of Jim Hart Cruse Book, 1960-1962.

## FROM CALVERT...

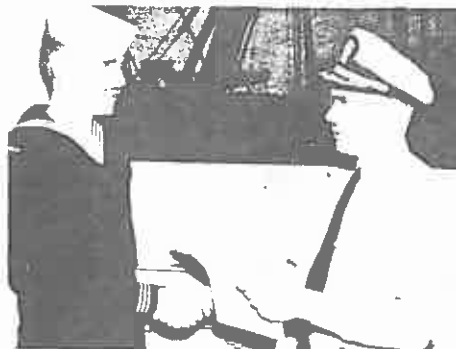
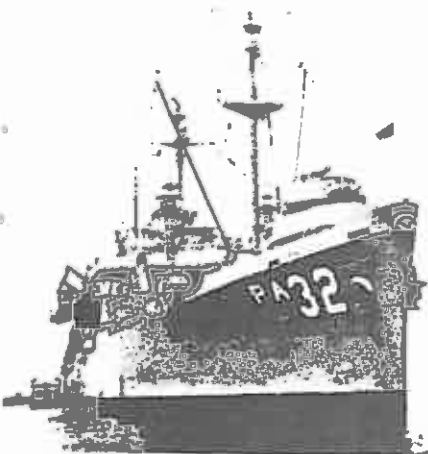
I'M AN OLD AND TIRED SHIP. FOR YOU - AND FOR MANY WHO CAME BEFORE YOU - I'VE TRIED TO PROVIDE A HOME. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE A "HOME" AS YOU - MOST OF YOU - KNOW IT BUT TO GIVE AS CLOSE TO THIS AS IS POSSIBLE HAS BEEN MY GOAL. TO MAKE IT EVEN HARDER, THERE ARE MANY PERSONALITIES OTHER THAN THE SHIP ITSELF INVOLVED.

IN ADDITION, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A FIGHTING MACHINE. THEY'VE MADE ME THIS; IT IS ALIEN TO THAT FOR WHICH I WAS BUILT, MAKING IT OH-SO-EASY TO FIND FAULT. DURING YOUR STAY IN ME I'VE HEARD MANY REMARKS MADE - GOOD AND BAD. IN THE YEARS TO COME I HOPE YOU CAN REFLECT BACK AND NOT THINK TOO BADLY OF ME. I HAVE NEVER PRETENDED THAT I OFFERED LUXURY, BUT HAVE TRIED TO BE DEPENDABLE.

I - NO SHIP - WILL EVER BE MORE DEPENDABLE THAN THE MEN IN HER. THE FAULTS YOU MAY HAVE FOUND IN ME ARE MADE UP OF AGE, WEAR-AND-TEAR, EXTREME DEMANDS AND SOME ABUSE. FORTUNATELY I WAS BORN AT A TIME WHEN SHIPS WERE BUILT WITH GREATER CARE, WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIALS THAN ARE SOME TODAY. I'M VERY PROUD OF MY RECORD - WHICH YOU HELPED TO MAKE. MY DAYS ARE NOW NUMBERED BUT I'VE OUTLIVED MANY OF MY SISTERS.

AS YOU GO YOUR WAY I OFFER FROM THE PEN OF A POET WHOSE NAME NOW SLIPS MY MIND;

SHIPS ARE MADE OF WOOD AND STEEL  
OF MANY THINGS FROM TRUCK TO KEEL.  
BUT 'TIS THE SIMPLE TRUTH I PEN),  
THE HEART AND SOUL OF SHIPS ARE MEN.



something  
new

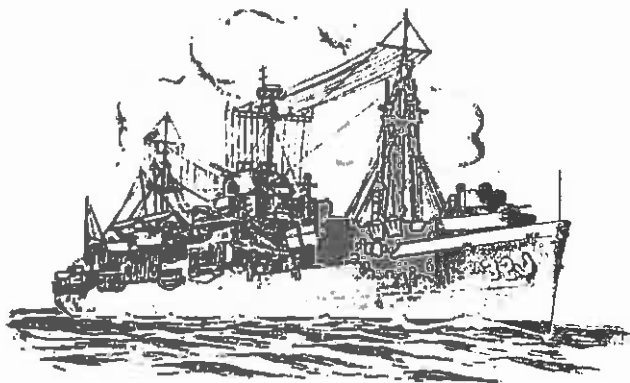


At the July 18 1981 Reunion in Atlanta a new patch was perposed. The above design is the approved patch. Its red with gold letters and a black border. This patch is available now at \$4.00 each postpaid from your Commander. It will look great on any jacket and will identify you as a member of the Calvert Associates.

CALVERT ASSOCIATES  
KENYON, MN. 55946

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

3rd CLASS  
PERMIT NO.  
10



U. S. S. CALVERT APA-32

William S. Funck  
208 N. Enola Dr.  
Enola, Penna. 17025

## Many Thanks

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

Robert E. Lea	20.00
Mildred E. Levett	10.00
Hoyt Worthington	20.00
Steve Schuster	20.00
Bill Marks	10.00
Glen Malin	15.00
Leonard Hanscom	20.00
O.C. Norris	15.00
Robert L. Huber	50.00
Frank R. Schmitt	10.00
Carl Allan	20.00
James Maienschein	5.00
George Gildez	50.00



## WE MOURN THE PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

Joseph E. Evans LT 43-45 November 1983

Jack Simpson S1/C 42-44 January 1984