

CALVERSION

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. 52 — 2005



Comments from the Commander

Its getting that time again to think about sending in reservations for the upcoming reunion at Richmond Va. Bert Cohee has been working hard to find things that all of us would be interested in. Inside the newsletter is all the information you will need to plan your trip. There are two nice day trips that should be very nice. Because of the length of the day trips we will be having our group business meeting on Friday evening around eight. This will give everyone a chance to eat after the day trip. There will be a complete plan of the day available upon your arrival at the reunion site. Don't forget to make room reservations.....Hal Winter sent me what he had written about his time on the Calvert. It was almost a book. I wish I could have put it in the newsletter except it was too long. Great story but it would have used up all the pages of the newsletter. I sent the story back to Hal and he in turn sent it to the Naval History Center in Washington D.C where it can be used by anyone for reference work. I also send them copies of the Calversion which they save for future reference too. At least what I put in each issue may some day be of some help to someone looking for anything on the Calvert.....Storekeeper Bud Ruth (he's the guy in Florida that still needs roof work after last years storms), and I keep looking for things that ships store can sell to you guys. There is a new item, a AmSport Duffel Bag with embroidered in gold, USS Calvert APA 32, on the side. Its made out of lightweight, durable canvas, and should last a long time. They on special this time for \$15.00 which includes shipping. Price is right so order yours today..... Joe Evans Jr. sent me some info on a couple Naval History books by Samuel Eliot Morison that mention the Calvert. The first is Called "Sicily-Salerno-Anzio, January 1943-June 1944" and the second one is "New Guinea and the Marianas, March 1944-August 1944". There is not a lot about the Calvert only how we fit into that part of the war. Check with your local library as they may have it or know where to get it. If you have trouble drop me a line and I'll give you what I have.....That wraps it up for another issue. Hope to see you all in Richmond. Its the time Lila and I get to see old friends and meet new ones. Try it some time you might like it. Till next issue.....j.l.cole



mail call



U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



I wrote some years ago of my time aboard the Calvert, but I don't think I told the following of her history.

My three year enlistment was up on 13 Aug 50. A few weeks earlier, the end of July, Pres Truman extended everyone one year beyond their ETS. So, instead of three weeks to go, I had one year and three weeks to go. I was on an ATF in Newport, RI and I went home on a 15 day leave to Waite Park, MN. While on leave, I received a telegram from the Navy cutting my leave to only 13 days. Plus, I was transferred from the ATF to the USS Calvert and reported aboard her at Portsmouth, VA. I was an RM3.

What a "rust bucket" was APA-32. She had just been taken out of a nest of mothballed ships anchored in the Chesapeake Bay. She had been nested there since the end of WW2. Still had camouflage paint and all internal equipment that was on her from the war. She went into drydock at Portsmouth where civilian workers replaced all radio equipment and all other obsolete intern. components of the ship. They chipped and repainted the ship inside and out etc.

I believe it was late October 50 or November the 32 was taken out for her shakedown cruise and then "recommissioned" a ship of the Navy. We all became "plank owners" of the "new" Calvert. (Calvert distilleries donated a TV set (TV was rather rare in 1950), ash trays, and a few smaller items. All had on them, "To the men of distinction, of the USS Calvert"). Especially fitting, since most of the about 400 man crew were USN Reservists called back to active duty. We had about 30 Radiomen. Only three of us were Regular Navy. Me, RM3 Catteau, and RM Striker Cooper. Most of the USNR RM were 1st Class, one RM Chief (Vogler), and one RM2 (Rahn). Rahn was one of the USNRs that hadn't forgotten Morse Code. RM1 Moxley was another of the USNRs that remained qualified enough to stand RadioWatch.

In November '50 the Calvert went to San Diego where she met up with two other APAs. One was the USS Lenawee APA-131. We stayed there a few weeks. The end of November, the APAs, LSTs, and other smaller ships went to San Francisco where the California National Guard 40th Infantry Division, with all equipment loaded on to the ships.

Immediately after the troops were loaded, we sailed for our new home-port, Yokosuka, Japan. The convoy was designated Transport Division 13 of Task Force 90. Skipper of the 32 was Capt Hurd. APA-32 became flagship of TransDiv 13. Capt Hurd became Commodore Hurd, TransDiv Commander. (The Navy hasn't a one-star Admiral. Being wartime, the senior Captain becomes Commodore. So the Calvert flew a one-star Blue flag indicating she was flagship of Div 13).

A two-star Army General came aboard the Calvert when the 40th Div loaded at San Francisco. So the Calvert also flew a two-star Red flag. The army operations center, with many VHF voice radios was located amidship, above our radio room.

Off the coasts of Japan, we began practicing troop beach landing operations. LCVPs and LCMs etc. I was assigned to an LCPV "smoke boat" with an army portable radio. The radio was heavy and bulky. Especially, when crawling down the net into the LCPV with the rough seas causing the LCPV to rise and fall 20 or so feet.

In July, we went north to Hiroshima and Sendai where troops of the 40th Div were training for the soon-to-come landing in Korea. (My involuntary year extension was up and I left for discharge with Enginman 1st, Todd, from Macon, GA and another 1st Class who was manager of WMCAs in Baltimore). Discharged at Seattle on 7 Aug 51.

I got home to Waite Park about mid-night by train from St Paul. The next morning I went to the Legion bar. A soldier from St Cloud that was in the 40th Inf Div and whom I met just weeks earlier the day I left Sendai to go home, was sitting at the Legion bar! He beat me home. He had an arm in a sling. Just days after I had left the ship at Sendai the 40th Div took part in the Korean landing. He was wounded immediately. The hospitals in Japan were packed with wounded. Those not too badly wounded were flown home on convalescent leave instead of being hospitalized. (Some years later I learned that at age 32, he had fell off a barstool at the Waite Park Legion and died of a heart attack).

Ronan P Weber, US Army Retr'd, MSG E8
1043 Stoneshire Drive
Highlandville, MO 65669

I was on the Calvert from either late 1953 or early 1954, until the summer of 1954. I was a Personnel Man (PN3). (later made it to PN1 while stationed at the USN&MCRTC in Columbus Ohio) At the time, on the Calvert, D.J Bainton, LTJG, was the Personnel Officer. I was transferred shortly before the ship sailed for WestPac to participate in the movement of civilians from north to south and south to north shortly after the French lost "French Indo-China." At that time, there were two PN3s on board and the ship received orders to transfer one PN3 for duty at the Receiving Station, Seattle. I was senior in grade and it was my option to go or stay. Panconi was the other PN3. I asked him what his preference was. He had never been to WestPac, and wanted to stay on the ship. I had made one trip on the USS Askari (ARL-30). I had no burning desire to return. Therefore, I took the transfer.

Most of the time I was on board, we were in various Yards in the San Francisco Bay area.

One of my most memorable memories of the Calvert was the rats we had on board. In fact, I left the ship shortly before it was moved to Treasure Island for fumigation. The crew was moved to barracks for several days while the fumigation was in progress. I remember watching movies in the mess hall. Periodically, there was a clattering of chairs as someone made a dive for a rat moving along a bulkhead. A bounty of one carton of cigarettes had been placed on each rat tail turned-in. As you may know, the Calvert was designed as a merchant ship and had most of its pipes and wires hidden by false overheads. That was a perfect hiding place for rats. I often wondered if the dead rats stunk-up the ship for sometime after the fumigation.

As I said earlier, I did serve on the Askari. Between the Askari and Calvert, I served on the USS Bellatrix (AKA-3) for about six months. It was home ported in Long Beach. It was one of the few diesel powered ships of its kind. Therefore we generally operated alone because most ships of its class were powered by steam turbines. We could not stay in formation, because we could not go as slow or as fast as other AKAs or APAs. A really bad situation for night maneuvers

I wish I had more to share, but my time on the Calvert was short.

I am a member of the Askari Association, and I serve as secretary. Along with my wife, we publish a news letter about four times a year. FYI, I am sending you a copy of that newsletter. You might note, we pirated an item from your newsletter. I hope you don't mind. Thanks again for the Calverson. I am looking forward to the next edition.

Merril F. Davis

You have the addresses of two of my former shipmates in the '65-'66 gun gang: John M. Bowker, GMG3, and Paul Griffith, FTG2 (who sent the photos in the last issue). Damn--everybody is in the group photo but me and our First-Class Andruff. I must have been on watch--or maybe I took the picture! Anyhow, could you send the addresses of Bowker and Griffith?

In the group picture, back row, l. to r.:

Unknown
Crawford, GMGSN
Jackie Burns, FTG3
Schneider, FTG3
Dennis Keen, FTG3

Front Row, l. to r.:

McCain, GMGSN
Paul Griffith, FTG2
John Bowker, GMG3
Barnes, GMG3
Glenn Prather, FTG3
Howe, GMG2

The lad with the .50 cal. rounds draped over him is John Bowker. Burns lives near me in Shelbyville, Tennessee, and Bowker lives in Nashville. Maybe we can all travel to the '05 reunion together.

Howard "Les" Bahr, GMG3 '65-'66

SHIP STORE



New Item

New Item

New Item

AmSport Duffel Bag

22" long, 10 3/4" high, 10" wide

Three Zippered Compartments

Padded Shoulder Strap, Metal Hardware

Blue in Color, with embroidered, USS Calvert APA 32 on side

Price, \$15.00 post paid. Send order to John L. Cole
406 Red Wing Ave.
Kenyon, Minnesota 55946

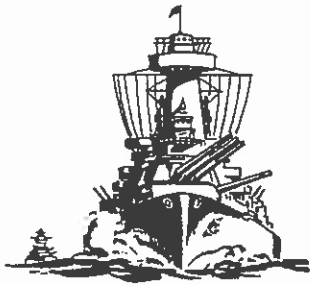
Many Thanks

To the following persons who are helping with the
Newsletter expenses; Thank You very much.....

Glenn Enderby	15.00
Stanley Edmonds	20.00
Howard Bahr	25.00
Allan Stuart	10.00
Peter Beckett	50.00
Paul Emminger	50.00
James Minnix	25.00
Loren Rindal	25.00
David Linstrom	25.00
Charles Skillman	25.00
Orville Gordon	10.00
Al Bradbury	50.00
Dick Cannon	20.00
Harold Winter	20.00

The following are in Memory Of,

Donald Woodfin, IMO....	50.00
Esther Chapman	20.00 IMO
Furman Chapman	
Orville Gordon	IMO
10.00-Joe Pribula	
10.00-John Zdanowicz	
Lois Coy	25.00 IMO
Don Coy	



SignaTours

1237 Mall Drive ♦ Richmond, VA 23235
(804) 379-6500 ♦ (888) 540-0100

**Naval Station Norfolk Tour & USS Wisconsin
USS Calvert Association Reunion
Thursday - September 29, 2005**

Norfolk, Virginia, is a world-class city. As the Virginia Waterfront's commercial and cultural center, the city is alive with theatre, festivals, gardens, a new \$300 million dollar mall, and the world's largest naval installation. One of the newest addition to Norfolk's attractions is the USS Wisconsin Battleship. Don't miss out on this exciting day tour!

Once arriving in Norfolk, enjoy a *Naval Station Norfolk Tour*. Home port to more than 100 ships of the Atlantic fleet, it is the world's largest naval installation. You will enjoy a guided tour by Navy personnel, passing by the Atlantic Fleet training centers, awe-inspiring aircraft carriers, formidable cruisers and destroyers, versatile amphibious assault vessels and sleek submarines. A strip of preserved historic homes from the 1907 Jamestown Exposition is included on this hour tour.

If you have not experienced lunch aboard the *Spirit of Norfolk*, you are in for special treat. This popular, two hour lunch cruise inventively combines a delicious buffet lunch with live music and a water tour of the Norfolk Harbor, the historic Elizabeth River, and the impressive Norfolk Naval Base. Take a stroll on the outdoor decks or relax in climate-controlled luxury, with panoramic sightseeing windows, as Norfolk's waterfront passes by - making this lunch a memorable one!

In the afternoon, travel to the *Hampton Roads Naval Museum* and the *USS Wisconsin*, the last and largest battleship ever built by the U.S. Navy. The main deck is open for touring up to the O-3 level. Docents, many of which served aboard the *Wisconsin*, will be located throughout the ship to answer any questions. The Hampton Roads Naval Museum is dedicated to the study of 225 years of naval history in the Hampton Roads region and is responsible for the historic interpretation and day-to-day operations of the battleship *Wisconsin*.

Your Tour Cost Includes:

Round Trip Motor Coach Transportation ♦ Lunch Cruise aboard the *Spirit of Norfolk* ♦ Guided Tour of the Naval Base ♦ Hampton Roads Naval Museum ♦ Tax and Gratuity for Lunch
Refreshments served aboard the coach ♦ Driver Gratuity

Total Cost Per Person:
\$69.00

Departs: Holiday Inn-Airport 8:00 AM

Returns: Holiday Inn-Airport 6:30 PM

Deposits or payments made by individuals canceling their tour three (3) business days prior to departure or less are "Non-Refundable." In addition, no refund for ticket portion of cruise cost if cancellation is made within two weeks of the tour date.



SignaTours

1237 Mall Drive ♦ Richmond, VA 23235
(804) 379-6500 ♦ (888) 540-0100

**A Monumental Day in Washington!
with the USS Calvert Association
Friday - September 30, 2005**

Whether visiting Washington for the first or fifteenth time, there is always something new and exciting to discover. This day tour is no exception and it has something for everyone. Historical monuments from the past and present preserve history and time with their greatness. Washington's skyline is remarkable to say the least, and this tour will highlight the newest memorial in our nation's capital, the World War II Memorial. Come see all the sights and enjoy a day in Washington that is nothing less than extraordinary!

This tour is quite unique, as it is accompanied by Retired Air Force Intelligence Officer and Certified Master Tour Guide, Carol S. Bessette. Her knowledge of Washington is remarkable as she educates and entertains you throughout the day! Your first stop of the day is at the new *World War II Memorial*, beautifully situated between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. Dedicated on Memorial Day Weekend 2004, the purpose of the Memorial is to "honor all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms." Here you will view large "Pacific" and "Atlantic" pavilions, flowing water and fountains, and many engraved inscriptions throughout the memorial. There will also be time to visit the Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam and Korean War Memorials.

A delicious buffet luncheon is mid-day at the *Vantage Point Rooftop Restaurant*. Located on the top floor of the Holiday Inn in Rosslyn, its large panoramic windows offer outstanding views of the city and surrounding landscape.

Travel in the afternoon to *Arlington National Cemetery*. This famous national shrine, encompassing approximately 612 acres, honors many national heroes and more than 240,000 war dead, veterans and dependents. Here you will board the Tourmobile, allowing you to stop at all major sights including JFK's grave, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where you will be able to witness the remarkable "Changing of the Guard," and the Arlington House, which for 30 years was the residence of Robert E. Lee. ****For those 65 and older this tour is free but you must bring identification with you. If you are under 65, there will be a charge of approximately \$6.00 to ride the Tourmobile.**

Tour Cost Includes:

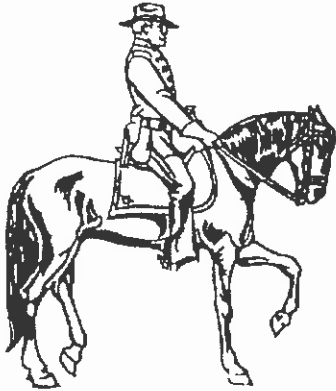
Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation ♦ Professional Guide Service ♦ Buffet Lunch at the Vantage Point Restaurant
Refreshments served aboard the coach ♦ Tax and Gratuity for Lunch ♦ Driver and Guide Gratuity

**Total Cost Per Person:
\$69.00**

Departs: Holiday Inn-Airport 7:30 AM

Returns: Holiday Inn-Airport 6:30 PM

Cancellations made within three (3) business days of departure are "Non-Refundable." In addition, all deposits or payments are subject to any non-refundable or cancellation charges imposed by vendors.



SignaTours

1237 Mall Drive ♦ Richmond, VA 23235
(804) 379-6500 ♦ (888) 540-0100

**Celebrate Richmond's Past & Future
USS Calvert Association Reunion
Saturday - October 1, 2005**

While many cities choose to pave over the past, the streets of Richmond are a constant reminder of our nation's sometimes turbulent, always fascinating history. Sit back and relax as you board the coach for an educational day in Richmond. Learn what makes this city so historic and learn of the new renovations that make for a promising future.

Enjoy today a *guided, riding tour of historic Richmond* with a costumed professional tour guide. From the comfort of the motorcoach, your knowledgeable guide takes you by Richmond's graciously restored neighborhoods including: Shockoe Slip, a cobblestone restaurant district; Church Hill noted for its unique cast iron patters; and the famed *Monument Avenue*, one of America's most beautiful boulevards, built as a tribute to Southern heroes. Enjoy the quiet beauty of *Hollywood Cemetery*, final resting place of U.S. Presidents Monroe and Tyler, Jefferson Davis, "Jeb" Stuart and 18,000 Confederate soldiers. Tour *St. John's Church*, the site where Patrick Henry gave his stirring "Give me liberty or give me death" speech in favor of independence. Visit *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*, known for its beautiful stained glass windows and history that dates back to 1845. This church was at the center of Confederate Richmond - General Robert E. Lee and President Jefferson Davis both attended services here. Time permitting, walk through and hear the history of the historic *Jefferson Hotel*. Opened in 1895, The Jefferson Hotel is one of only 24 hotels to carry both the Mobil Five Star and the AAA Five Diamond ratings.

Enjoy a buffet lunch today at *The Downtown Club*, a first-class, private social and business club located on the 20th floor of the River Front Plaza Building in downtown Richmond. Enjoy beautiful views looking east down the James River. On the menu today: *house salad, Salmon with roasted red-pepper marmelaide, grilled breast of Chicken with a light mushroom cream sauce, starch and vegetable, chef's selection of dessert, tea and coffee.*

Your Tour Cost Includes:

Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation ★ Professional Guide Service ★ Lunch at the Downtown Club
Tax and Gratuity for Lunch ★ Driver and Guide Gratuity ★ Refreshments served aboard the Coach

Total Cost Per Person:
\$63.00

Departs: Holiday Inn-Airport 9:00 AM

Returns: Holiday Inn-Airport 5:00 PM

Cancellations made within three (3) business days of departure are "Non-Refundable." In addition, all deposits or payments are subject to any non-refundable or cancellation charges imposed by vendors.



U.S.S. CALVERT

National Crew Reunion



Richmond, Virginia

September 28 thru October 2, 2005

Rate: \$80.00 inclusive of Tax and Full Breakfast Buffet for 2ppl
Guests will receive breakfast vouchers at check in

Please reserve the following accommodations:

_____ Room(s) with two Double Beds for _____ people
_____ Room(s) with King Size Bed for _____ people
_____ Room(s) with Handicapped Features for _____ people
_____ Non Smoking _____ Smoking



Call Toll Free 800-964-6886 or 804-222-6450 to make your reservations asking for the USS Calvert Reunion block.

Arrival Date: _____ Number of Nights _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

All Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card or a first night deposit. Total with tax per night \$80.00 (tax rate is 13%)

Credit Card # _____ Expiration: _____

**U.S.S. Calvert Reunion Reservation Form
Richmond, Virginia September 28 – October 2, 2005**

Please print

Name of Persons attending. _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

When you expect to arrive, (Day) _____ **(Time)** _____

Thursday, September 29 – Norfolk Trip

\$69.00	X	
----------------	----------	--

Thursday, September 29 – Get-Together Party

\$17.45	X	
----------------	----------	--

Friday, September 3- - Washington, DC Trip

\$69.00	X	
----------------	----------	--

Saturday, October 1 – Richmond Tour

\$63.00	X	
----------------	----------	--

Saturday, October 1 – Banquet (Your Choice)

--	--	--

Prime Rib Entrée

\$27.00	X	
----------------	----------	--

Chicken Entrée

\$25.00	X	
----------------	----------	--

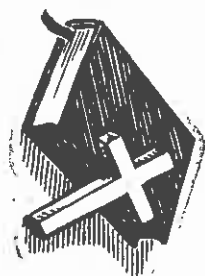
**Number
Attending**

Total

Please make check payable to USS Calvert Association and mail to,

**Bert C. Cohee
3010 Quisenberry Street
Midlothian, VA. 23112-3756
(804) 744-8062
Email: clawhammer@comcast.net**

Reunion tour reservation must be made by August 31, 2005



A Sailor's Prayer

When I woke up this morning
I didn't feel too well
Am I one day closer to Heaven
Or one day closer to hell?

Lord, put my world together
Lord, I am counting on you
To keep my world together
And to pull me through.

Lord, I've been to your altar
For the cleansing power
Lord don't let me falter
I need you every hour.

One day I'll stand before you
I'll see you face to face
I'll worship and adore you
And sing Amazing Grace.

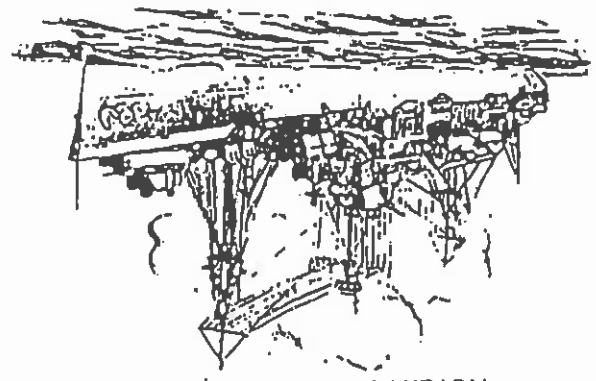
Lord, keep my world together
Until you are through with me
Then take me home to heaven
Beyond the Crystal Sea.

I've heard the old, old story
I know we are saved by grace
So take me up to glory
Up in your Heavenly place.

CALVERT ASSOCIATES

506 Red Wing, Ave.
Kenyon, MN 55946

Return Service Requested



U S S CALVERT APA-32
17025+2247 01

ENOLA
208 N ENOLA DR
STERLING

FUNCK
BMT 42

PA
17025-2247



STD MAILING
NON-PROFIT
PERMIT # 10

WE MOURN THE
PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

James P. Kelly SI/c 43-45, October 1993
Joseph P. Cusick BMT 43-46, 2005
John Lemish BM2 50-52, 1-12-2005
Donald C. Woodfin YN2 43-46, 12-24-2004
Furman t. Chapman HM2 43-45, 2-13-2004
Kenneth Huff Capt. 55-58, 12-2002
William Gallager RD2 1999

