

# CALVERTSION

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

*"The Ship and Men of Distinction"*

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

**VOL. NO. 64 – 2011**



## Comments from the Commander

I am sad to report that another Officer in our organization has passed away. David Wallace was the Master of Arms for many years. He didn't miss many reunions. He went by the name of "Big Wally" when he was aboard the Calvert. He will be missed.... Our next and maybe final reunion is ready. In the newsletter is the info you have been waiting for. You guys in the Northwest should consider coming as we may never be this close again. Bring your wife, girlfriend or both as they will have a great time and so will you. There is a great program of events planned so you can choose what ever you want to do or do all. If you have friends that would like to come that's OK too. We always welcome new and old friends.....As I said before we do not have anyone to host the 2012 reunion. If you are thinking about please contact me ASAP. You would only have a year to plan it but that's enough time. I will help you as I HAVE HELPED OTHERS IN THE PAST. Give it some thought.. Some one asked me how long I have been putting out this newsletter. This is number 64 and it comes out twice a year so that would be 32 years. We have had a reunion or minireunion all those years. The wife and I have been to places I would have never thought of going. I have gotten letters from wives after their husbands had died telling me how much they enjoyed them. One said, "Charley always went hunting or fishing and I stayed home. Then he found out about the reunions and I came along and had a great time. I want to thank you". We found out many years ago that if the wife has a good time she will let you go again.....When I put this newsletter together the last thing I do is this front page. Going back I just realized that I didn't have enough room for donations. I will have to publish them in the next newsletter. Sorry about that.....Will close for now. I am looking forward to Spokane very much and hope to see you there. Till then...john l. cole



# mail call



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



Some weeks ago a shipmate wrote and asked me if I could send him photos of USS Calvert. I dug into my memorabilia and found three or four photos which I immediately printed and mailed to him.... And now, just last week, it occurred to me that other shipmates might like to add some Calvert photos to their diaries or journals. So I turned to and dug into my collection once again and brought out my 8 x 10 glossy copies, all of which I reduced to fit on one page..... Maybe you could run these photos on an inside page of the next Calversion. I arranged the pictures so that the middle fold will not mar them .... Some of the pictures do not flatter her but I still think she was a beautiful ship. I recall how glad I was to get back to her after being strafed on the beach at Sicily by Junkers [July 10, 1943].. Our LCVP had broached and ultimately took a beating from the waves. My boat crew and I were stranded on that beach overnight and we slept in our own fox holes. I remember the candy bars I had brought with me melted in my shirt pocket. But the Army fed us their evening chow [K rations] before we climbed under our kapok Mae Wests. In the morning they gave us breakfast. We were rescued and brought back to our ship, but then we were sent back to the beaches as a salvage party.

I enjoy reading the newsletter so much. Some of the letters make me feel young again. Keep up the good work and continue in good health.

Hal Winter QM 3/c  
113 Locust Lane, #12  
Schoharie, NY 12157

My wife and I are excited about attending our first Calvert reunion in Spokane this year. I only found out about these reunions last year, but we were unable to attend in Denver. We got married in June 2010, and she was moving from Conn. to Fresno, Ca.

I am also looking forward to seeing members of the Deck Division and members of the Boat Group who were there during my time between December 1961 and August 1963.

I was fortunate to play on the Calvert's softball team in 1963, and I am hoping some members of that team will be in Spokane. I remember some of the team members, but only last names in most cases.

Lt. DeBolt was our coach, and I remember Stan Holliday, Leonard Rivera, Charles Lee, RAT Tucker, Ed Piceno, Schmidt, Lowry, Ferguson Thomas, Carter, Wiggins, Gump, Johnson, Hanson, Plemons, Wells and McElhannon. I remember most of the names because I kept score for the team and had stats for each game. I wrote summaries of each game and sent them to a good friend in San Diego.

Hope the see many of them in Spokane.

Mr Alan M Sherian  
2918 N Blackstone Ave  
Fresno CA 93703-1014

Please note that Sailors interested in Naval History will receive one free 56 page U.S. NAVY CRUISER SAILORS ASSOCIATION magazine by contacting Mr. Ronald J. Maciejowski, 55 Donna Terrace, Taunton Massachusetts 02780-2824. Telephone (824-0789. E-Mail: clcanavy@aol.com.

Thank you very much for your time, interest, and consideration. Wishing you fair winds and following seas,

No doubt I am about the same as all other APA-32 veterans when receiving the "Calversion". Make a rapid glance through it to see if maybe there is a "name" of someone that I remember from when I was on her, August 1950-about July 1951. — "Passing Of Shipmates", sad to learn of RM1 Robert Rahn, 50-53, having passed away 25 July 2010. He was an RM2 when I was RM3 when APA-32 homeport changed from Norfolk to Yokosuka, Japan, before Xmas, 1950. I think the 32 had about 30 Radiomen. All but three were recalled USNR, WW2 sailors. Regular Navy: RM3 Catteau, myself and an RM-Seaman. — I had enlisted at St Cloud, MN, for three years, 14 Aug 1947 at 17 soon after graduation from St Cloud Tech High. My 3rd and last year of enlistment I was on Sea Going Tug Ship, USS Lulseno ATF-156, Newport, RI. We were playing pinocle in the mess hall while Pres Truman was giving a speech, but not paying much attention to what he was saying, UNTIL he said that everyone in uniform was involuntarily extended one year for the Korean War that had recently begun a few months earlier. I was a very unhappy sailor, instead of a few weeks to go, I now had one year and a few weeks! — I was very insubordinate and refused to take my radio-trick after 14th of August! — Captain of 156 (Lt Schermerhorn) and Navigator/Signal Officer (Ltjg Garvey) approved 15 days leave home to Waite Park MN (My 1st time home since boot camp Great Lakes, December 1947 - and last leave until discharged August 1951). About only a week home on leave I received a telegram from the navy telling me that my leave was cancelled; that I had been transferred from the 156 to the USS Calvert APA-32, Portsmouth, VA; and to report to her ASAP! I left on the first train the next morning and reported aboard the 32 after the 3 day train ride from MN to VA. Often the 32 was being referred to as a "rust bucket", name at the time probably deserved! While in dry dock Portsmouth shipyard having civilians recondition her, crew began arriving more each day. Almost all EM and Officers were recalled USNR. Of about 30 Radiomen only 3 were regular navy. Only a few of the higher ranking RM3,2,1, remembered Morse Code. RM2 RAHN, Tom River, NJ and RM1 Valenti were about the only 2 RM that could copy Morse, so the few of us had to split Radio Watch which was continuous, 24 hours a day. (I still believe that any RM that says he had "forgotten" Morse Code, never really knew it in the first place. I'm 81 and haven't heard Morse for many years, yet believe I could pass high speed Morse 25 wpm right now still. Morse is like a language, once you know it, you never forget it). — About 2001 I saw Robert Rahn name in the Calversion! I immediately phoned him in NJ. "Made the day" for both of us! Hadn't seen nor heard of him since I left the APA-32 when training beach landings with 40th Inf Div, northern Japan (Sendai & Hochinohe, earlier half of 1951. — My personal landing assignment, LCVP with an army SCR-777 Radio - that never worked once away from the ship. While at sea on the USS Chukawan AO-100, my first ship right after boot camp, I had taught myself Flashing Light (Morse) and Semaphore. Since army radio didn't work, I sent semaphore messages to the 32 using two white hats. The ship responded using Flashing Light. Worked ok. The LCVP I was on had BM3 Withrow coxwain (W VA) and EN3 Duncan (TN?) and myself. No troops. Our LCVP was called "Smoke Boat" (maybe that was slang name?). Boat had a big drum of chemicals that when mixed with sea water it produced smoke that stretched out for I think thousands of yards. Troop carrying LCVPs and LCMs came through the smoke fog and prevented enemy direct fire on the troop boats. Big guns on ships far out, fired shells that when exploded on beach made colored smoke that went high in the air. Wave-commander of flanked troop boats headed for whichever color he had been assigned to land at. — While the 32 was anchored off of Sendai, a couple of our Radioman, including RMC Vogler (NJ USNR), were manning a shore-to-ship radio station ashore with the 40th Inf Div. Vogler called and told me he had an "army guy" from Waite Park, MN that wanted to talk with me (Waite Park pop. about only 1300 then). Cpl Manny Khelle (spelling) talked to me on all-navy ship-to-shore channel, 2716 kcs. Manny said, "Come ashore and I'll take you to Clap Gulch and find some cheap effing." Sorry the language, but that's what he said! I didn't take him up on it since the next morning EN1 Todd (Macon, GA) and I left for Yokosuka and transport back to Seattle for discharge. USNS Gen Hugh J. Gaffey arrived Seattle, about 1 August and I was discharged from USN 7 August, after 3 years 7 months sea duty. Stayed home in MN, 94 day drunk!, and enlisted into the army. Retired army 1989.

CALVERSION, Vol 63 - 2011, reference good article of "Dad's career as a signalman" and "Fox" explanation. Close, but not exactly accurate. "Fox" is indicated in Message Heading (addressees). -F- means, "Do Not Answer". -F-/"Fox" navy messages tell the Radioman and addressees that Heading will be sent twice and text only once and you are expected to copy it accurately. If portion of a "Fox" message missed for some reason, Radioman gets on another transmitter (ship to shore) and is sent the missed words, groups, etc. — Not all messages are sent in 5-letter coded groups. Many/most are sent in Plain Language, except when in war zones. Even then if in direct contact/sight of enemy, messages are often sent in plain language, since any message a few minutes old is worthless any way. — I, too was

ashore with the 40th Inf Div. Vogler called and told me he had an "army guy" from Waite Park, MN that wanted to talk with me (Waite Park pop. about only 1300 then). Cpl Manny Khelle (spelling) talked to me on all-navy ship-to-shore channel, 2716 kcs. Manny said, "Come ashore and I'll take you to Clap Gulch and find some cheap effing." Sorry the language, but that's what he said! I didn't take him up on it since the next morning EN1 Todd (Macon, GA) and I left for Yokosuka and transport back to Seattle for discharge. USNS Gen Hugh J. Gaffey arrived Seattle, about 1 August and I was discharged from USN 7 August, after 3 years 7 months sea duty. Stayed home in MN, 94 day drunk!, and enlisted into the army. Retired army 1989.

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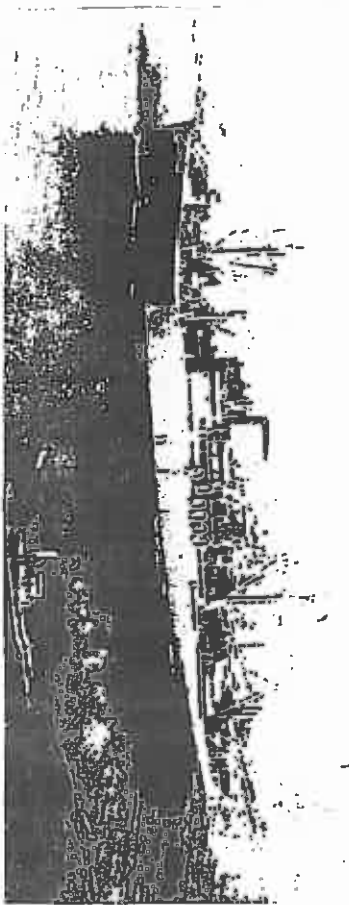
Radio Call Sign, USS Calvert APA-32 was NEQS. Call Sign of USS Missouri BB-63 was NEQB. "S" is three dits. "B" is dash and three dits. So it was not unusual for those two ships, Far East, Korean War, to copy the other ship's messages.

Roman P. Weber  
1043 Stoneshire Dr.  
Highlandville, MO 65669

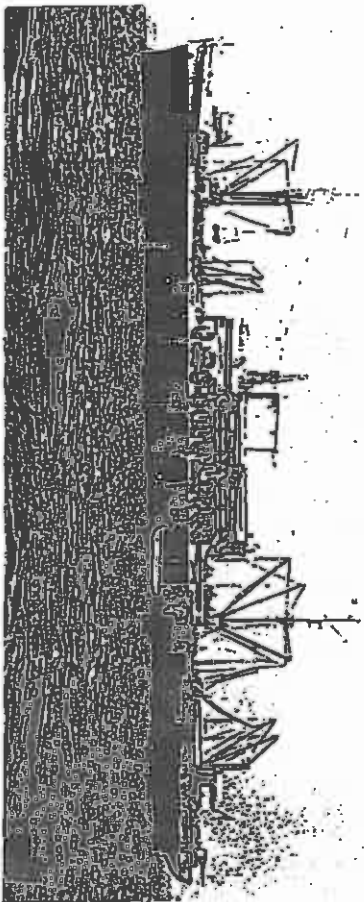
**APA 32**

WE MOURN THE  
PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

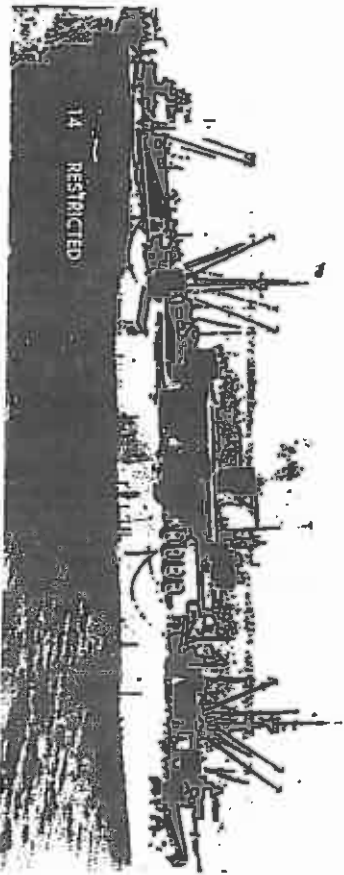
W.E. Poche 44 2010  
Don Grooms S1/c 42-43 September 8 2007  
Leonard Hanscom FC2 44-46 January 29 2011  
Donald Bainton LTJG 52-54 June 13 2010  
Franklin Eggert ACON 17 43 2011  
Bill Leroy Morgan June 26 2010  
David Wallace EN3 51-53 February 25 2011  
Lyman Sutton QMC 53 August 30 2008



Hampton Roads, 24 December 1942  
APA 65 became APA 32 in Feb. 1943

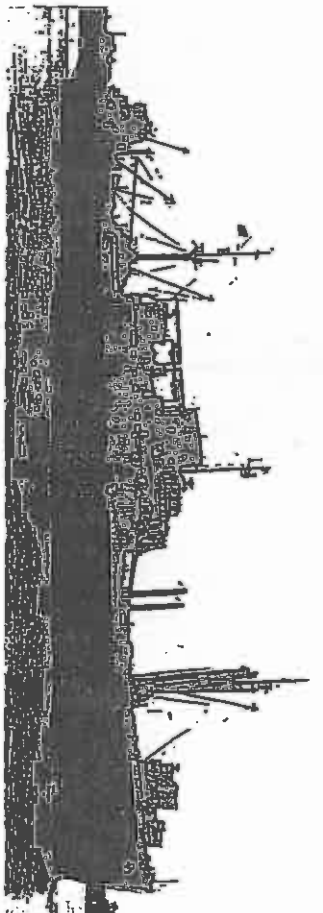


March 1943: At anchor during maneuvers  
off Cove Point in Chesapeake Bay

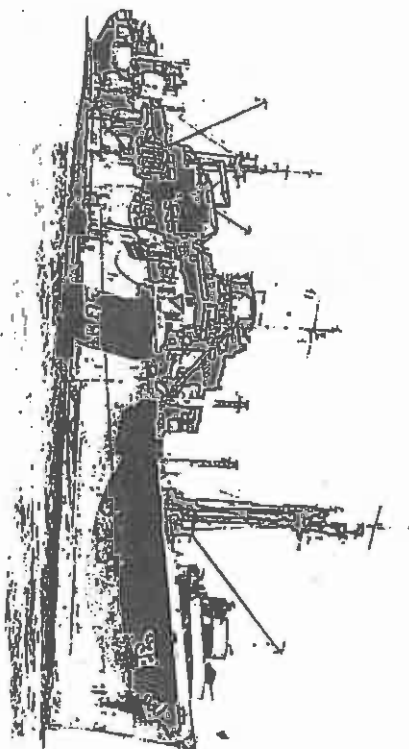


May 1943

Photos from Hal Winter



17 August 1944: Underway in Hampton Roads



1956

# the old crew

Photos from Captain N.F.Stein  
Taken in Japan and Hong Kong  
in 1952-1953.



**U.S.S. Calvert/U.S.S. Harry Lee Reunion Itinerary  
Spokane, Washington September 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Spokane Airport Ramada Inn & Indoor Water Park  
8909 Airport Drive P.O. Box 19230 Spokane, Washington 99219-9230  
Hotel Phone (509) 838-5211 Fax: (509) 838-1074 Attn: Joan Berg

Welcome to Spokane and the Spokane Airport Ramada Inn. The Itinerary below gives the events planned for September 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2011. The Reunion Reservation Form for tours and meal functions are to be sent to Thomas Upchurch by August 20 2011. If you have any questions about tours of meals please call Tom or Shirley @ (509) 482-2620.

**Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>— Check In.** Meals on your own (in restaurant @ hotel)

2:00 p.m. Hospitality Room #101 opens for registration and welcome packets. Complimentary soft drinks, beer, bottled water and snacks provided. Hours will be posted on door (#101) during the reunion.  
Hospitality Room closes @ 10:00p.m. Every night.

**Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> -- Itinerary for day**

6:00-10:00a.m. (Breakfast on your own) @ Hotel Restaurant or coffee, tea, juice, donuts/rolls in the Hospitality Room #101.  
8:00 a.m. Registration in Room #101  
10:00 a.m. Bus Departs for Riverfront Park (Carousel, Gondola rides over Spokane Falls, Train ride around the park, Imax Theater, lots of places to shop, see downtown) Lunch on your own (many local restaurants)  
1:30 p.m. Load bus for sightseeing tour of Spokane ending with catered picnic supper in Manito Park Gardens. Cost for all day \$65.00 per person (tour, transportations, supper & gratuities.)  
7:30-8:00p.m. Return to hotel

**Friday September 16<sup>th</sup> Itinerary for day**

Breakfast on your own in Hotel Restaurant or in Hospitality Room.  
8:00a.m. Board bus for Cataldo Mission and Farragut Idaho  
9:00-9:30a.m. Cataldo Mission / 9:30am. Depart for Farragut / 10:30a.m. Arrive Farragut  
11:30a.m. Lunch (Box lunches and drinks)  
12:30p.m. Depart for boat cruises (Lake Coeur d' Alene)  
1:30p.m. Board cruise boat / 2:00 -4:00p.m. Boat trip around lake / 4:30p.m. Depart for Hotel  
6:30p.m. Get acquainted for dinner in Inland Empire Room. Way Out West Buffet includes: Baby Back Ribs, B.B.Q. Chicken, Relish, Fresh Veggie Trays, Fresh Fruit and Cheese Platters, Assorted Salads, Baked Beans, Corn, Roast Red Potatoes, Corn Bread, Butter and Honey, Beverage and Dessert.  
Cost for day is \$95.00 (includes, Tours, Boat, Bus, lunch, Dinner, Tax and Gratuities.

**Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> Itinerary for day**

Breakfast on your own in Hotel Restaurant or Hospitality Room.  
8:00am – 4:00p.m. On your own to visit or take a free shuttle to Quest Casino.  
4:30p.m. Business Meeting U.S.S. Calvert/U.S.S. Harry Lee Associations.  
5:30p.m. Memorial Service @ Pool Side  
6:30p.m. Banquet Dinner in Inland Empire Room ---Choice of Roast Sirloin of Beef w/ Mushroom Sauce or Chicken Cordon Bleu (Crumb Crusted Chicken Breast stuffed w/ Ham and Cheese), Garden Salad, Veggie, Rolls, Beverages and Dessert. Price \$35.00 per person, includes tax and gratuities. Banquet Program, visiting and Entertainment. End of Reunion

**Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:00-10:00 Breakfast on your own.

Leave for home, have a safe trip and Thank You for Coming!

U.S.S Calvert/U.S.S. Harry Lee Reunion Registration Form  
Spokane, Washington 14-17 September 2011

Reservation must be received by 31 August 2011

(Please Print)

Name of Person(s) attending \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) Home \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Ship Affiliation: U.S.S. Calvert ( ) U.S.S. Harry Lee ( )

When do you expect to arrive? Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Check how you plan to travel to Spokane: Auto ( ) Air ( ) Other ( )

<u>Tours, Meals, &amp; Events</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Thursday September 15

River Front Park, \_\_\_\_\_

(City Tour, Manito Garden) \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation & Guide \_\_\_\_\_

Picnic Supper (Meal, Tax, Grat.) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$65.00

Friday September 16

Bus Tour to Cataldo Mission, \_\_\_\_\_

Farragut, Idaho (Bus Admission) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Coeur d' Alene Boat Trip \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch (Box) Sandwich, Chips & ect. \_\_\_\_\_

Get acquainted party (Buffet) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$95.00

Saturday September 17

Enjoy each others company Priceless

Banquet Dinner \$35.00

Select: Sirloin Beef ( )

Chicken Cordon Bleu ( )

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Thomas Upchurch and indicate U.S.S. Calvert or U.S.S. Harry Lee Reunion 2011 on lower left corner of check. RESERVATION (S) MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2011.

Mail check and form to: Thomas Upchurch, 3008 N. Hamilton St., Spokane, WA 99207 Phone (509) 482-2620.



**Spokane Airport Ramada**

8909 Airport Drive

P.O. Box 19230

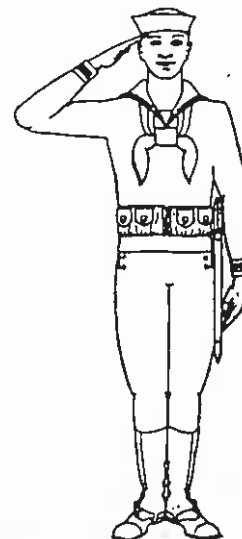
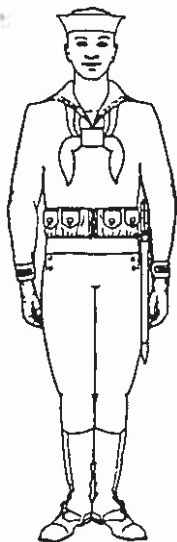
Spokane, WA 99219-9230

Phone: 509-838-5211

Toll Free Phone: 866-691-2384

Fax: 509-838-1074 % Jean Berg

Email: jeanberg@ramadaspokaneairport.com



**U.S.S. CALVERT/HARRY LEE**

**Reunion**

**Spokane, WA September 14-17 2011**

**\$72.99 single or double occupancy rate +10.7% +\$2 Tax**

Complimentary Shuttle to Spokane International Airport and Northern Quest Casino.

**Group Cut Off Date is 15th August 2011**

**RATE CODE CGCALV**

**You must ask for this code, when making your reservations.**

**Guest Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrival Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Departure Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**One Bed? Two Beds?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Guests** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card to Guarantee** \_\_\_\_\_ **xp:** \_\_\_\_\_

AX/VS/MC/DS

**Write conformation number here** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note,**

All rooms are non-smoking.

Rate is available three days prior and three days after reunion.

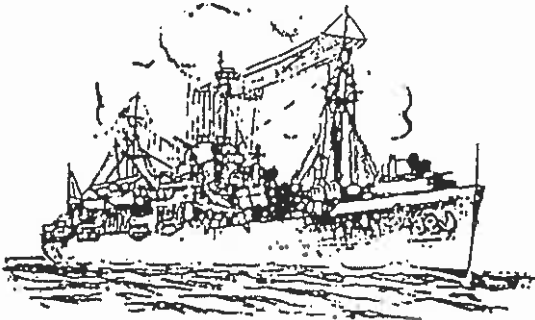
Use courtesy phone at baggage claim for airport pickup.

# CALVERT ASSOCIATES

506 Red Wing Ave.  
Kenyon, MN 55946

Pre-Sorted  
StD Mailing  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Kenyon, MN 55946  
Permit # 12

Return Service Requested



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

STERLING  
2100 BENT CREEK BLVD., STE. 116  
MECHANICSBURG PA 17050-1831

FUNCK  
BM1 42



Post Card sent in 1918