

# CALVERTSION

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

*"The Ship and Men of Distinction"*

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## Comments from the Commander

We had a very nice time in Spokane. Tom and Shirley Upchurch did a great job. One of our trips was to Farragut to see the old Navel training base there. It was built in 1942 on a 400 acre wooded site. Trees were cut down and sawed into boards to build the camp. Five camp sites were built and each had a large quanset building in which the men drilled. A total of 750 buildings were built. The camps could train 30000 recutes at one time. When it closed in 1946 it had trained 293,381 seamen. After the war it became a college. That lasted only a few years because of declining enrollment. In the 60's the Boy and Girl Scouts used it for their Jamboree's. Today all that is left of the base is a water tower, an anchor, and a visitors building to mark the place. The whole area is again covered with trees. It is now a state park. The Navy is not compleatly gone from the area. One of the lakes near by has a secrete submarine base. There they are testing for propeller vibrarions so that subs underwater can be identified by their propeller pitch. But, don't tell anyone that I told you.....In the newsletter is a copy of a letter sent by the Calvert to Stephen Straka parents telling them what the ship did for their son on his 21 birthday. When I was on there in the 50's it was just another day. You were lucky if anyone wished you one. But that was during the Korean War, Sorry I forgot, it was a Police Action according to Harry Truman, President.....Our next reunion will be held in Philadelphia, Pa. in

October, 10,11,12,and 13 of 2012. It will be at the Embassy Suits Hotel with a room rate of \$129.00. This is higher than usual but I am told that rates of 135 to 150 are in nearby hotels. There is a free suttle from the airport and the hotel has a free "Happy Hour" each evening from 5 to 7. We will have more reunion information in the July newsletter. Also information on events planned for the reunion. Lila and I are looking forward to going to Philadelphia.....Well thats about it for this newsletter. We hope the New Year brings you all lots of Joy and Happyness all Year long. Till next time.....j,l,cole



# mail call



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



We want you to know how much we enjoyed our first Calvert reunion in Spokane. It was a memorable experience and we value the wonderful time spent in reminiscing and sharing with new acquaintances. We're looking forward to next year.

Thank you for the newsletter, for all that you do for the Calvert crew, and for your fine leadership. Annette, Alan Sherian



The photo above came from Eugene Hanson who found it while going through some old boxes. He was on the Calvert in 45- 46 retireing in 1964. The only man he can remember is Worthington GM2. Eugene Hanson

WHILE CLEANING OUT MY TOP DRESSER DRAWER I FOUND THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES & LETTERS HIDING BEHIND SOME STUFF. THE FIRST IS AN ARTICLE FROM *STARS & STRIPES* ABOUT OPERATION LONE EAGLE. IN THE BACKGROUND IS THE *USS CALVERT*. THE SECOND IS A CALVERT FAMILY GRAM ABOUT THE WEST PAC DEPLOYMENT

ALSO INCLUDED IS A LETTER SENT TO MY FAMILY. THE FAMILY WAS CONCERNED ABOUT MY 21<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY. THE LETTER FROM COMMANDER, A. MAJOR, ExO. SAYS IT ALL. AND THE SKINNY KID IN THE PHOTO IS ME. AT THE TIME I WAS TOTALLY SUPRIZED AND HUMBLLED BY HAVING LUNCH WITH , CAPTIAN RENFRO. IT PROVES THE SHIPMATES WERE ALL FAMILY.

I AM PRESENTLY CONVERTING ABOUT 1,000, SLIDES TO DIGITAL PHOTO'S TO BE PUT ON A CD AND HOPEFULLY SHARED WITH INTERESTED SHIPMATES.



STEPHEN STRAKA  
MM2 1962/1965  
"A" DIVISION  
7153 W. PARKVIEW DR.  
PARMA, OHIO 44134

This is the second of a series of letters written by the officers and men of USS CALVERT to be sent to our families or friends to keep them informed of our activities, accomplishments, and, when possible, plans for the future.

We left San Diego on 11 June and steamed for Pearl Harbor. Underway we followed maneuvering rules for wartime merchant convoys, conducted naval maneuvers, and held many general quarters, abandon ship, and fire drills. All of those exercises were designed to further prepare us for any duties assigned while a part of the SEVENTH Fleet in WestPac.

CALVERT arrived in Pearl Harbor 19 June, off-loaded cargo, reloaded for Operation "Flying Disk", a logistics amphibious exercise, and went to sea the next day. With a near capacity load of Marines, over 750, we plowed the waters off the Hawaiian Islands before landing our waves of Marine loaded boats over the beach. As soon as our boats were recovered, we got underway and returned "all ahead full" to Pearl Harbor for "Liberty call".

Many members of the crew used these next four days to swim at Waikiki, others toured the island of Oahu, and many men visited the Arizona Memorial which stands in honor of the heroic men who died that DAY of 7 December 1941.

On 30 June the squadron broke apart, and the ships were all detached to proceed onward to their various ports in WestPac. CALVERT alone headed for Yokosuka. Just prior to detachment, the ships of the squadron formed in a column, with CALVERT hauled out to starboard, and all steamed by rendering honors for the last time to Commodore ERLY who will be relieved by Captain P.C. STIMPSON after CALVERT arrives in Yokosuka.

With this great amount of operations and military protocol, we still found time to have many extra activities. The most outstanding event was a charcoal cookout on number four hatch. The Supply Officer claimed that each man ate an average of four hamburgers and hot dogs.

The cruise book committee has shifted into high gear in anticipation of a really fine book. Soon to be on sale, this book promises to be the best of its kind ever published; it will tell you the full story of our cruise.

Our softball team was reorganized in Pearl. Unfortunately, at this time their record is 0 wins 2 losses, but prospects are for much improvement. Also a voluntary honor guard, the only one in the Squadron, has been reorganized by our Marine Combat Cargo Officer. They performed for the Commodore's arrival on board, and will be a colorful addition to the change of command ceremony.

We now have an honorary certificate for those persons who are highlined to or from CALVERT. It is an engraved, colored, parchment signed by the Captain over the ship's seal and serves to inform all that the bearer is a member of the brave "Order of the Highline". Captain RENTRO, Ensign ZSCHAU, and Chief Gunner's Mate FRAZIER are the first recipients of this certificate.

The Fourth of July was a great day for CALVERT. We enjoyed a "smoker" complete with talent, boxing, and free cigars provided by our Welfare and Recreation Fund. Immediately after the smoker, we held swim call; stopping the ship and putting boats in the water for safety. It was quite an unusual feeling to be swimming 1,000 miles from land. Unfortunately, a school of whales decided to join our party so we ended our swim quite abruptly.

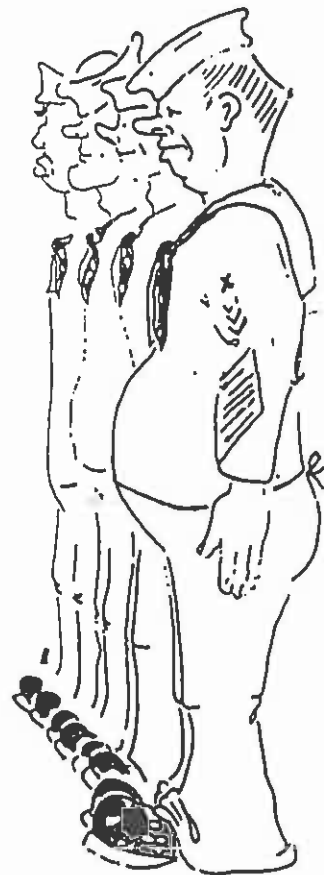
CALVERT crossed the 180th Meridian and entered the Realm of the Golden Dragon on 2 July. This was the day omitted from our calendars, causing some confusion as those crew members with the midwatch stood two 2-hour watches. It all ended well with all now officially in the Realm of the Golden Dragon.

We are part of the world's largest Naval Command and probably history's most powerful. It is the Pacific Fleet's job to keep a firm grip on the Pacific's vast sea area, as well as to establish and maintain control of all essential sea lines of communication for the U.S. and its allies. It must also be prepared to deny use of these to any enemy. CALVERT is ready to assume her share of this responsibility.

The items listed below I got from Paul Griffith. There were actually 53 but I didn't have room to print them all. I thought they might tickle your funny bone. Enjoy.....

**To all Sailors wherever ye may be: and to all SALTS, SEA LAWYERS, SWABS  
SQUARE-KNOT ADMIRALS, GUN DECKERS, AND ALL THE OTHER ASSORTED SCAVENGERS OF THE SEVEN SEAS  
HONORED MEMBER OF THE FIRST AND THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS CREW WHICH DISTINGUISHED ITSELF FOREVER**  
After leaving the Navy, how to live in the style to which you have become accustomed:

1. Buy a dumpster, paint it gray and live in it for 6 months straight.
2. Run all of the piping and wires inside your house on the outside of the walls.
3. Pump 10 inches of nasty, crappy water into your basement, then pump it out, clean up, and paint the basement "deck gray."
4. Every couple of weeks, dress up in your best clothes and go the scummiest part of town, find the most run down, trashy bar you can, pay \$10 per beer until you're hammered, then walk home in the freezing cold.
5. Perform a weekly disassembly and inspection of your lawnmower.
6. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays turn your water temperature up to 200 degrees, then on Tuesday and Thursday turn it down to 10 degrees. On Saturdays, and Sundays declare to your entire family that they used too much water during the week, so all showering is secured.
7. Raise your bed to within 6 inches of the ceiling.
8. Have your next door neighbor come over each day at a.m., and blow a whistle so loud that Helen Keller could hear it and shout "Reveille, Reveille, all hands heave out and trice up".
9. Have your mother-in-law write down everything she's going to do the following day, then have her make you stand in the back yard at a.m. and read it to you.
10. Eat the raunchiest Mexican food you can find for three days straight, then lock yourself out of the bathroom for 12 hours, and hang a sign on the door that reads "Secured-contact OA division at X-3053."
11. Submit a request form to your father-in-law, asking if it's ok for you to leave your house before 3 p.m..
12. Invite 200 of your not-so-closest friends to come over, then board up all the windows and doors to your house for 6 months. After the 6 months is up, take down the boards, wave at your friends and family through the front window of your home...you can't leave until the next day you have duty.
13. Shower with above-mentioned friends.
14. Make your family qualify to operate all the appliances in your home (i.e. dishwasher operator, blender technician, etc.).
15. Walk around your car for 4 hours checking the tire pressure every 15 minutes.
16. Sit in your car and let it run for 4 hours before going anywhere. This is to ensure your engine is properly "lighted off."
17. Empty all the garbage bins in your house, and sweep your driveway 3 times a day, whether they need it or not. (Now sweepers, start your brooms, clean sweep down fore and aft, empty all sh-tcans over the fantail)
18. Repaint your entire house once a month.
19. Cook all of your food blindfolded, groping for any spice and seasoning you can get your hands on.
20. Use eighteen scoops of budget coffee grounds per pot, and allow each pot to sit 5 hours before drinking.
21. Have your neighbor collect all your mail for a month, read your magazines, and randomly lose every 5th item.
22. Spend \$20,000 on a satellite system for your TV, but only watch CNN and the weather Channel.
23. Avoid watching TV with the exception of movies which are played in the middle of the night. Have the family vote on which movie to watch and then show a different one.





*Pacific Stars & Stripes*  
13 Oct. 1962

## Operation Lone Eagle



← U.S.S.  
CALVERT  
APA 32

A marine rests atop his tank at White Beach, Okinawa, after the 1st Tank Bn. made a 25-mile drive down dusty roads from Camp Hansen as part of the U.S. Seventh Fleet's amphibious exercise.

Operation Lone Eagle. Transports in the background loaded men and equipment for the simulated beach assaults and other maneuvers. "D" Day is Oct. 18. (S&S Photo)

S&S Okinawa Bureau  
**BUCKNER BAY, Okinawa.** — Some 20,000 sailors and marines were to set sail from Buckner Bay about 5 p.m. Saturday in Operation Lone Eagle Task Force, the U.S. Seventh Fleet's biggest amphibious maneuver of 1962.

The Seventh Fleet will conduct anti-submarine, anti-air and resupply drills in waters surrounding Okinawa during the four-day sea phase of the operation.

The two-week training drill, commanded by Rear Adm.

Francis J. Blouin, began Wednesday. It ends Oct. 23. Blouin is commander, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Seventh Fleet.

Since Wednesday, Marines and sailors have been loading tons of weapons, rations and supplies aboard more than 80 warships involved in Lone Eagle.

The submarine hunter-killer team is headed by Rear Adm. Thomas A. Christopher aboard the aircraft carrier Hornet. Eight destroyers will join the task force at sea.

The Hornet has two squadrons of S2F-3 Trackers and a squadron of HSS-2 Skyking Helicopters.

Navy Patrol Bg. 4, based at the Naha NAF, will join in anti-sub

drills with its P2V-5 Neptune Patrol bombers.

The super-carrier Kitty Hawk and four destroyers, will help provide protection next Thursday when some 4,000 Leathernecks of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade "storm" Okinawa beaches.

The brigade—the 9th Marines, Marine Air Group 11 and other support units—is commanded by Brig. Gen. John F. Dobbin, assistant commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Iwakuni MCAS, Japan.

The landing will be followed by several days of guerrilla warfare in the mountainous and jungle-like terrain of northern Okinawa.



U.S. S. CALVERT  
3300 CALVERT DRIVE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

ON REPLY REFER TO

30 June 1962

Mr and Mrs Stephen J. Straka  
3177 W. 58th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr and Mrs Straka:

Your telegram addressed to the Bureau of Naval Personnel has been forwarded to CALVERT for action, and I am pleased to be able to inform you that it arrived exactly on your son Stephen's birthday. I talked with him that day, and showed him your wire, and he seemed pleased to know that you were thinking of him on his birthday.

CALVERT regularly and routinely arranges to celebrate the birthdays of all men on board with a party, birthday cake and ice cream, etc., suitable for the occasion. The party is not necessarily held on the day of the man's birthday, since this would require probably a daily party, and our schedule of operations precludes this. Instead, as operations permit, and generally about once each week, those men who have had birthdays during the week are brought together to celebrate their birthdays jointly. Such a party has been held today for about 12 men, including Stephen.

Today's party was somewhat more elaborate than usual. It started at 1130 A.M. and included a special lunch at which both Captain RENFRO and myself attended. Dessert was a beautiful birthday cake and ice cream. I have enclosed some pictures of the party in order to give you some idea of what it was like.

As you know, CALVERT is now deployed in the Western Pacific as a Unit of the Ready SEVENTH Fleet and as the Flagship for Commander Amphibious Squadron FIVE.

As we travel about the Orient in the course of our regular operations, Stephen will have an opportunity to visit ashore in several countries, and be able to experience for himself how other people and other nations live. This experience will be both interesting and educational for him, and I hope he will find time to write to you often to tell you about it. He is a fine young man of whom you may be justly proud, and we are pleased to have him as a member of CALVERT's crew.

Sincerely,

A. MAJOR  
Commander, U.S. Navy  
Executive Officer

# the old crew

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

These pictures were provided by Patrick Hobbins who served aboard the Calvert from 1954 to 1957.



Radarmen, ETS, of O Division



Mel Campbell, Bill Predham, O Division



G Division



## VA Offers Medallions to Mark Graves

Veterans who choose not to be buried in a national or state VA cemetery, but still want a government furnished grave marker have a new option in the form of a new VA benefit. VA



announced in June that it will begin distributing medallions featuring the various military services to note the deceased's veteran status.

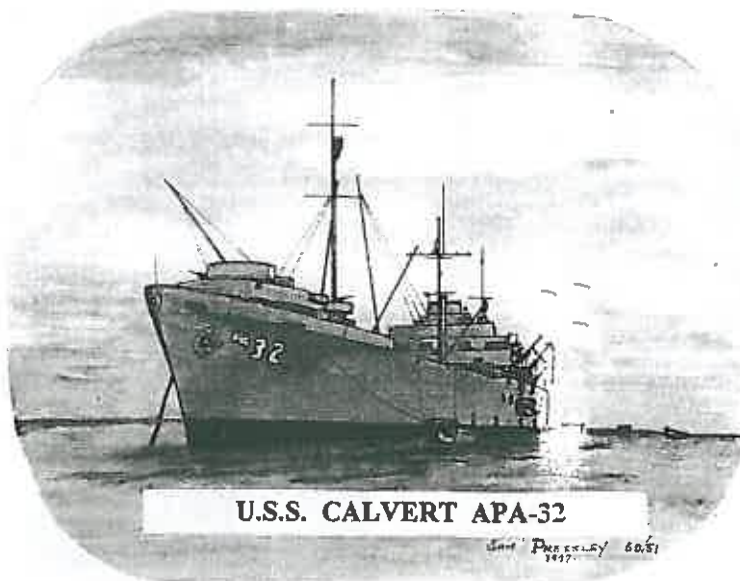
The bronze medallions—depicting a three-dimensional folded flag surrounded by a laurel wreath with the word "Veteran" on top and the service branch spelled out below—are available in three diameter dimensions: five inches, three inches and 1½ inches. VA says the different dimensions are designed to fit on various-sized headstones, grave markers and columbarium or mausoleum niche covers.

All veterans who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker are eligible for the medallion. The veteran's next-of-kin or those acting on the veteran's behalf can order the bronze medallion. After accepting a claim for the medallion, VA will mail it along with a kit that allows the family or the staff of a private cemetery to adhere the device to a headstone, marker or niche cover.

Veterans or family members interested in applying for the medallion can access [www.cem.va.gov/hm\\_hm.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp). Until a new form specifically for ordering the medallion is available, VA says applicants can use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330.

VA created the medallion in accordance with Public Law 110-157, enacted on Dec. 26, 2007, which directed VA to "furnish, upon request, a medallion or other device of a design determined by the Secretary to signify the deceased's status as a veteran, to be attached to a headstone or marker furnished at private expense."

Eligible veterans are entitled to a traditional government-furnished headstone, marker or bronze niche marker. Or they can choose the new medallion instead. VA notes veterans can't have both.



U.S.S. CALVERT APA-32

UNIT PHOTOGRAPHY 60/51  
1997





WE MOURN THE  
PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

Anthony L. Chlan 12-26-10  
Robert E. Dumas BMSN 52-55 6-15-11  
John M. Gallaway Cpt. 50-52 8-15-11  
William M. Armstrong SK3 52-54 6-12-11  
From the Harry Lee  
Alan McDonald S1/c 40-42 12-94

Those who attended the 2011 Reunion in Spokane Wa. Are listed below.

Jean, Laverne Benson  
Urban, Margaret Butler  
John, Lila Cole  
John, Margaret Collier  
Jim, Rosale Derkes  
Norman, Mary Durr  
Orville, Ruth Gordon  
William Habrat  
William, Jacqueline Haggarty  
Richard, JoNell Hickok  
Paul, Mary Kloess

Glynna Morse  
Saretta Roland  
Robert, Pat Seye  
Akan, Annette Sherian  
Don, Leoma Taylor  
John, Dorothy Tollensdorf  
Tom, Shirley Upchurch  
Bob, Doris Upton  
Ivan Vail  
Dale Willhite  
Hoyt, Sue Worthington

I would like to thank the following who made a donation to the Newsletter.

Carl Munson.....50.00  
William Miller.....50.00  
Stephen Straka.....25.00  
Norman Durr.....25.00  
William Bridgeford.....25.00  
Richard Hickok.....10.00  
Robert Seye.....20.00  
John Collier.....50.00  
Alan Sherian.....100.00  
John Tollensdorf.....40.00

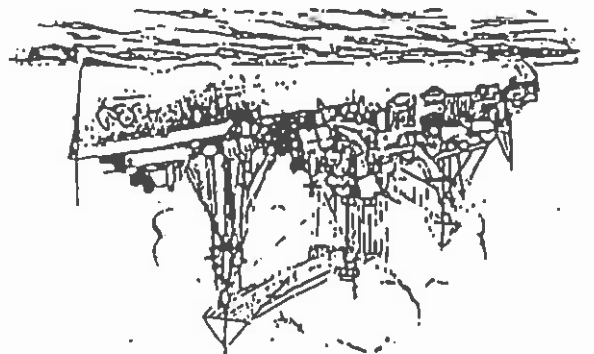
IN Memory Of..  
Ruth Gallaway 100.00 IMO Husband John



CALVERT ASSOCIATES

506 Red Wing, Ave.  
Kenyon, MN 55946

Return Service Requested



U. S. 5 CALVERT APA-32

MECHANICSBURG

PA

17050-1831

STERLING

2100 BENT CREEK BLVD., STE. 116

FUNCK

BMI 42



Permit # 12

Kenyon, MN 55946

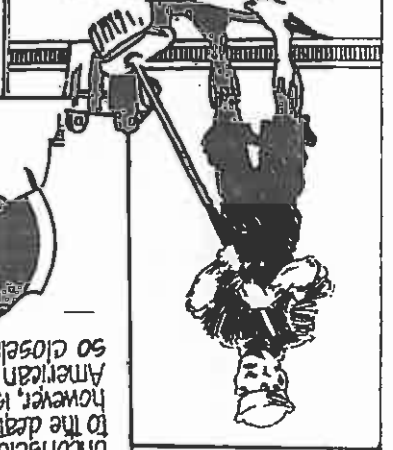
U.S. Postage Paid

STD Mailing

Pre-Sorted

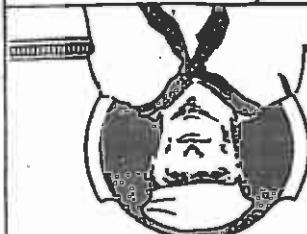
Of all the reasons given for the extreme width of sailors' trousers at the bottoms, the obvious and practical one remains the best: they were easy to roll to the knees when the owner was swabbing decks.

## BELT-BOTTOM TROUSERS



Every time an American gobs down his necktie, he is unconsciously paying tribute to the death of Lord Nelson. This however, is only because the American uniform is patterned so closely after the British.

## BLACK NECKTIECHIEFS

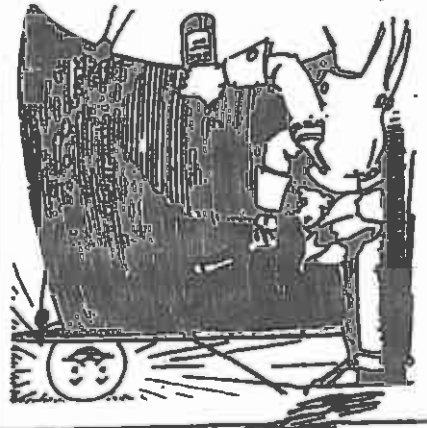


## PEA-JACKET



This short coat or jacket was originally made of Pilot-cloth (material similar to Melton cloth) and was named for the initial letter of the word. Thus it was first spelled P-jacket, not Pea-jacket.

Old Navy slang for "It's time to have a drink." It derived its meaning in the days when drunkenness was common aboard ship, so the Admiralty ordered no officer shall partake of liquor until the sun shall have risen well above the foreyard.



Thanks to  
Traditions of the Navy  
and Hal Winter

