

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

U. S. S. CALVERT APA-32

CALVERSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MEN OF THE U.S.S. CALVENT APA32
"The Ship and Men of Distinction"

By the time you read this the USS Calvert will be a memory to most of us forever. Through the efforts of Chas. Skillman and Tom Glickman I found out that the Levin Metals Co. of Richmond (San Francisco May Area) Calif. had the remains. I talked to Pete Mitchell (an ex-navy man)who is in charge of salvage by phone for quite a while. He told me that I wouldn't reconize her in the shape she is in now. There is nothing left that even says Calvert. It is sad when I think of my first ship in that condition. Then when I think that she put in 35 years of service on the water that should be enough for any ship.

I have received many items of intrest that I will pass on from time to time, including a history of the ship from 1942 to 1959. I have read it and it is a very complete job done by Tom Glickman. He has a letter written in Mail Call.

Chuck Skillman wrote me and I believe he has the longest tour of duty aboard the Calvert, 1942 to 1951. After MNZ he went with her to the mothball fleet and then put her back into commission for the Korean Mar.

The first issue of the Calversion is still available and if you want one send a quarter to me and Ill send one back by return mail......

j.l.cole

Number 2 1978

Published and compiled by,

John L. Cole 504 Centenial Drive Kenyon, Minnesota 55946



USS CALVERT

NACIPAL CHAPACTERISTICS

Tim of Hull CRESCENT OFFICES	
	4
Security (Diversell 1995)	
Moximum Draft	
25' 31/2" An	
Maximum Sustained Speed 15 knots	300
Cruising Radius	· Lang
At Normal Sustained Speed 12,456 miles	
At Normal Cruising Speed 17,645 miles	44.1.
Displacement (Full Lead) 12,895 tons Finel Oil Capacity 12,604 barrels	
Fless Oil Copacity	
Fresh Water Capacity 85,665 gallons	1

NOTICE

I have not yet gotten to the point where I will turn down a gift from anybody....so......any contributions will be greatly appricated...
THANK YOU To...

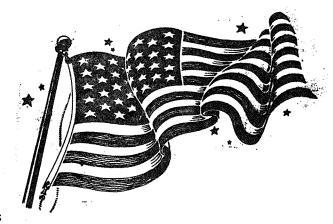
Ben Graves, Book of Stamps Jack Ferris, \$5.00- used for stamps. Louis Gilbert \$3.00-used for stamps. ALL ATTACK TRANSPORTS are named after counties. In the state of Virginia is a county named Calvert. The name originally came from an Englishman, George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore who was Secretary of State to James First, King of England.

George Calvert was born in 1582, graduated from Oxford in 1597 and obtained a land patent from King Charles I in 1632 for what is now Delaware and Maryland. He died that same year before he had an opportunity to use his land grant, and his son Cecilius Calvert became his heir and the second Lord Baltimore.

Cecilius and brother Leonard came to America with two hundred colonists and founded the village of St. Marys. Disputes and troubles arose over the management or rather mismanagement of the place, and Leonard Calvert was forced to flee. However about that time Charles, son of Cecilius Calvert became the third Lord Baltimore and the Governor of Maryland. During his regime, Maryland grew and prospered and many fine crops, particularly tobacco were raised for use at home and abroad.

The county in Virginia was named for an illustrious and good governor by the name of Calvert, and today that name is carried on by one of our country's finest ships, the beautiful APA, the USS CALVERT.

FIRST OF MAY, 1954



Deaths

The following are those who have departed from us and will be sadley missed......

ROY BLANK Chief Electrican Mrs. Louise M. Elank 9865 Lawnview Drive St.Louis, Mo. 63136

SCHUYLOR S. THOMAS MM1/C Mrs. Grace Thomas 10 Upton Park Rachester, New York.

C.M.STEWART MM 3/C 43-45 6525 Brownfield Drive Baton Rouge, La. 70811

mail call

DEAR JOHN,

I have just read in the Navy Times where you are putting out a newsletter and feelers for the organization of a reunion of CALVERT personnel. I served in CALVERT from July 1956 until October 1959 as the only Chief Storekeeper on board. I retired in September 1967 as an SKCM and have pretty much worked for the Navy as a civilian since that time. First in San Diego with the Fleet Assistance Group, Pacific and since November 1975 with the TRIDENT Refit Facility in Bangor, Washington. I am interested in the newsletter and might be able to attend a reunion if the timeing was right. However since we are in a developmental stage here, advance planning is difficult. Gerald G. Channel

We've already heard from B.D. Parker, he only received three answers so "Good Luck". I was Ch. Pharm. Mate - 38 years Naval Reserve. Geo. W. Merrill

Can't tell you how pleased I was to read that the old Calvert may have a reunion. I reported aboard on commissioning day (8 Oct.1942) in the Portsmouth shipyard assigned "E" Div. as an EM3 and Gyro electrician. Remained aboard until summer of 1951. That's right, I put her out of commission in Portsmouth, Va. in Feb. of 1947. Stayed in the Reserve Fleet with her until she was recommissioned in the fall of 1951 for the Korean War. Then went to West Pac with her where I transferred to the AGC-7 Mt. McKineley. I retired from the Navy about 6 years ago (1 Dec. 71) to be exact with 30 yrs. 2 mo. service. The leading PO, (later chief) of "E" Div., Roy Blank died in 1958 but his wife Louise who lives in St. Louis, has kept track of several of the Calvert's WWII sailors. I will write her and give her your address and info on the reunion. Did you know of Dan Parker was also trying to drum up a reunion? Sure hope it takes place. Looking forward to the news letter. I last saw the Calvert in Danang, Vietnam harbor in 1966. Went aboard. She hadn't changed much. Understand she is out of commission again up in the San Francisco area. Chas. F. Skillman

This is in reply to the notice on Reunion in the Navy Times this week. Please mail me the newsletter and organization of reunion for the U.S.S. Calvert (APA-32). I was Supply officer of the ship in 1944 and 1945. Carroll R. Jones

I was with the original crew when the ship was commissioned at Portsmouth, Va. I'm "pretty" sure the date was Oct. 1, 1942. Most of "us" came down from Philadelphis to go aboard the ship before it was even commissioned. I'll be retiring March 14,1978 - Mandatory with the Co. I work for, but I suppose I'd stay till they carried me off if it wasn't that way. Mel Waite sent me this form. Take care & I hope something does happen so that your plans will be successful! Were you with any of the guys who stayed at the Caldonia hotel in Seattle in summer of 1945 during during her stay in Bremmerton, Wn?! I wasn't but know several who did. Glen E. Malin

I was reading Navy Times for 15 May 1978 and I came across the notice about a newsletter and organization of a reunion for the U.S.S. Calvert APA 32. I would like some information on this, I did serve aboard for about 4 years as a B.T. Joseph R. Topolski

I received your copy of "Calversion" - also heard from my good old friend Ralph Shethy out in San Diego in reference to your efforts - Sorry, I'm late in answering---- Noticed the name of Vincent Swabowski, whom I've seen on occasion. Most of the names on your "Information Center", do not seem to "ring a bell" with me, though a few do seem familiar. I was chief yeoman on the Calvert. We, part of the crew of the USS Harry Lee, transferred to the Calvert in 1942. I left the Calvert late in 1945. Now for a few names as I remember them - but first, as I mentioned many of the Calvert crew were Harry Lee crew members (about 50%). The Harry Lee has been holding reunions in the Boston area periodically - about every 3 years and we do get a good group together. At our next reunion I will get many more names. Mext reunion due next year. Frank Danca

I'll send you 2 former Calvert members addresses, and I'll send these other forms to one former member in Boston. I exchange Kmas cards with 3 former members in the Boston area but will send the forms to one. As we had quite a few from that area, he should know them. Are you near Fergus Falls, I have a sister living there? Good luck with your undertaking, hope you don't have it when the weather is like you are having now. From all reports you sure have been getting plenty snow. Hope I have been of some help. Our youngest son-in-law retired from the Mavy 20 years a Lt. C,dr., 2 years ago and is teaching in a college in Norfolk. Ralph F. Sheehy

Above is the list that we have-a couple we have not heard from for 2 years. Thanks for your interest and keep us posted. Larry Rawls

I can't seem to remember any of the members that was aboard the U.S.S. Calvert. You see I was only ships company about 30 days before commissioning and then made one trip with it to Casa Elanca and Safi in 1942. On my return trip to the states I was transferred again for new construction and wound up on destroyers the rest of my tour of duty. I do hope that you reach your goal, what ever it may be. Angelo Varalli

This was a certain surprise, as the Calvert was my first ship. It probably was the reason I made the Navy my career. I served on board in "A" division from March 1958 to Aug. 1960. I was separated luckly as an FN enginman stricker. I only remained a civilian for a short while, and reentered the Navy in September of that same year. I am presently awaiting a medical board here in Bethesda twenty years later. Your news letter and organization of possibly a reunion was certainly of interest to me. I don't know just how long it will be before I am separted, possibly a few weeks, so if you would please forward the news letter to Clearwater, Fla. I sincerly hope your response is as you hoped, and you are truly our best shipmate. Tom Miller

John, I found a lot more of the men who served aboard the Calvert, between 1942 and 1945, when my husband left it, than I realized I had. Some of the addresses are quite old and you may have trouble locating them now. I really enjoyed reading the Newsletter, a couple of them I knew. My husband, Roy Blank, was Chief Electrician. When the war ended he went ashore in Seattle, Wash. When the ship was pulling out for China or Japan. Don't know if Chuck Skillman told you anything about himself or not. He was 1st Class Electrician at that time and made Chief when Roy left. After that he went steadily up and finished as a full Commander when he retired after 30 years in 1971 or 72. Regular Navy at that. I spent some time with he and his wife Mary in California that fall. Both boarded the Calvert in Philly when it was first Commissioned in 1942 and served aboard until after the war ended. Roy passed away 18 years ago last Oct. Heart attach. I still hear from some of the couples in Boston or the suburbs, rather, Florida and Ohio. Cas Mitchell in La. I saw last year. Hear from them regularly. Thanks loads. Louise Blank

Was so pleased to receive the news letter and realy excited about a reunion. I have copied the information sheet and will send it to those of the last known address I have. I hope more guys see the notice in the VFW Magazine. I was a little up tight that I had missed it as that is one of the first things I check when I get the magazine or Minn. Oversear. The newsletter set me to thinking about those years on the Calvert. I broke out all the albums and books I had and surprising how many names I remembered. I will inclose a few things that might be used for fillers on the news letter.

When I read that the Calvert was out of commission and sent to scrap it was almost the same feeling I get when I read in the paper that an old friend has passed away. I only wish I could have some how obtained a piece of the hull or something to have. I sit and wonder what has become of some of the guys that I was so close to those four years. For a while like most have done I kept in touch with some of the guys, then it was just Christmas Cards. I do know that D.C. Daubenspeck was killed in a car accident a little over ten years ago. Daube was a cook on the Calvert and went into a Bakery after. He was on the way to work about 4 AM and was hit broadside. At Daubes wake I seen Dick Yurek but have since lost track of him.

I seem to think of the Calvert most at Holiday time as I remember the couple Christmasses spent in the Far East. A few times on New Years Eve I have had a few and start calling all over the country. Ny wife gets worried and is happy that I have not been able to contact too many.

If and when a reunion is planned I will be glad to do all I can to help.

For any of my friends that may read this, I am married have two daughters and one son, 15, 14, and 10 years old. I didn't meet the greatest girl in the world until I was 30 so we got a late start. After discharge I went to RailRoad Telegraphers School and worked in California for a short time. Came back to Minnesota and went to the U. of M. and went to work for the Post Office in 1957. I am the Manager of the Mail Bag Depository in St. Paul, MN. At present I am being considered for a new position of Transportation & Equipment Specialist. If I get the job I will be doing some traveling around the North Star Region and may get to see some of the old buddies. I will be 47 in Oct. so have a few years to go before retirement.

I sure hope this will bring a lot of the old gang out of the woodwork.

As I said I will contact as many as I can and put them in touch with you John and don't forget anything I can do to help...call me....612 644-6430. I will enclose a couple bucks to help with postage, maybe we should have a reunion membership fee to cover costs of organizing. Louis J. Gilbert

Saw the notice in Navy Times concerning my first ship, the USS Calvert (APA-32) or the "SAW JU NEE" as I always refer to her. I served on board in 1st Div. and as an HN striker in 1954 and 1955. Would appreciate any information you can provice about the Calvert, and I would also be interested in attending a reunion if my finances and leave balance agree at that time. I believe the CO at that time was Capt. FJE Hilles and the KO was Cdr. Lewandoski. The other people I remember were Ens. Doiz, Ens. Drohan, Dr. Natsuda, HMC Wells, BM2 Hastings, HM 3 Flynn, HN Willis, Hm. John Jones - sure puts me in a nostalgic mood sitting here thinking. I am on active duty, stationed at Naval Regional Medical Center, Camp Lyeune, N.C. I've been performing the duties of Command Career Counclor for the past 4 years and am due to transfer to sea-duty in May of 179. Let me know if I can be of any assistance in your endeavors. Dennis J. Monroe

I am enclosing a Xerox copy of a ship's history covering the period of keel-laying thru 31 December 1959. As CALVERT's Navigator in that year, I was responsible for preparing the annual update of the ship's history. As SAN JU NI MARU was in overhaul at Hunters Point from January thru March of 1960, I, not having many stars to shoot, devoted most of my time to updating the entire history as best as could be done at that time. Items considered were old histories, a spare war diary or two, some research in Morrison's massive writings, and a few copies of Karig's works. Additionally, I had some correspondence from former COs that helped to fill in a few gaps. Needless to say I realized at that time and still feel that the twenty some odd pages are not a complete history for the period I attempted to cover. I had many leads that I decided not to follow, such as the poker games decapitation of a member of the first of the 187th Airborne that allegedly occurred in the bottom of No. 4 hold during the transit from New Guinea to the Philippines.

I joined CALVERT in 1957 after completing OCS at Newport (I was commissioned under the Intergration Program having originally enlisted in 1947. At the time of my appointment to OCS I was an ETC. Simply stated, I am in my 32nd year in the Navy and have no intentions of giving it up - yet).

My first assignment in CALVERT was as 3rd Division Officer. My LPO was George S. Davis, EM1, and we had about 12 others in the Div. In 1953 I was assigned as the Gunnery (4th) Division Officer. The Division Chief was "Fritz Murray, FTS, and the two GM1s were YARSKI and MATZKE. (Matzke and I had served together six years previously when we put LAWS (DD-559) back in commission). My last year in CALVERT was as Navigator - the LPO was Fob Marx, QM1. I finally left CALVERT in June 1960 to return to destroyers. Over the years I have sort of lost touch with the crew members that I knew although I am sure that a few are still around this earth and a few may yet be in the Navy.

My tour as a student at the Army War College ends next month and I have orders to Morfolk as the Force Operations Officer for Commander, Maval Surface Force, Atlantic Fleet. (In 1975 the three 'surface' type commands, Amphibious, Cruiser-Destroyer and Service, were combined in each Fleet. So we no longer have COMPHIBLANT/PAC, COMCRUDESLANT/PAC, and COMSEWLANT/PAC - just COMNAVSURFLANT/PAC. Having operated in both Fleets under the new organization, I find it is not too bad and in some cases simplifies things at bit.)

By the way, I had the opportunity of watching Levin break ships for a period of nine months. They do not use a drydock. Instead, they moor the ship to a pier, remove the superstructure then start on the hull above the waterline and machinery. As the hull lightens, they move the ship from the pier and beach her. As they continue the cutting process, they pull the hull further up onto the beach until finally, a cherry-picker crane picks up the last piece and drops it into a waiting gondola. It is a rather heart rendering experience particularly for one who has served at sea. I am very happy that I was spared the agony of watching CALVERT go through such an ignoble finale. Again, thank you for your response and the CALVERSION. Hope that your other sources can help you fill out the missing years of the ship's history and perhaps fill or correct my futile efforts covering the first seventeen years. Tom Glickman

Sorry-----Not enough roon to publish all the letters----Thanks

information center

Ben Graves BM3 53-56 P.O.Box 666 Mc Kinney Texas 75069	J.E. Claar BTR2 50-51 R. D. 1 Duncansville, Pa. 16635
Vincent Szwabowski BM2 128 Alpine Terrace Arlington, Mass.02174	Kenneth R. Redden 357 Broad St. Milan, Tennessee 38358
Frank Danca YOC 42-45 58 Converse Ave. Malden, Mass. 62148	James F. Flynn MM-BT 58-60 P.O.Box 361 Salem, Mass. 01970
Michael G. Lesniak CM1 43-45 Foley, Minnesota 56329	Harold C. Love SF3 44-46 R.2 279 Peterson Rd. Morth Muskegon, Michigan 49445
Royce Edwin Bartlet BM3 52-56 811 Wayne St. Dallis, Texas 75223	Richard R. Morse BT1 51-54 R.2 Lakeland Galesberg, Ill. 61401
Albert J. Posey Vet. Adm. Domiciliary, Sect. #4 White City, Oregon 97501	Hebert A. Stout SN 51-55 RFD 2 Straw Planes, Tenn. 37871
Robert L. Fox QMSN 52-54 940 Fix Road Monroe, Michigan 48161	Richard R. Brink BT3 50-52 755 Devonshire Rd. Valpariso, Indiana 46383
Jasper W. Vickers EN2 43-46 215 Stratton Ridge Road #130 Clute, Texas 77531	Howard M. Tilley END3 50-51 2914 Brighton St. Philadelphia, Pa. 19149
Richard M. Smith 50-51 Midfield Farm Box 690 R.5 Old Johnny Cake Road Woodlawn, Maryland 21207	Richard K. Dickson P.O. Pox 2243 Milan, New Mexico 87021 Gerald G. Channel SKCM 56-59
Harry M. Gramentz EN3 53-55 2528 220 St.W Farmington, Minnesota 55024	Rt. 4 Box 494 Poulsbo, Wa. 98370
James E. Nash 913 Whitney Drive Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124	Marshall W. Lee W.O.Carp. 42-45 6307 Eluffton Rd. Fort Wayne, Indiana 46809
Jack Ferris BT2 50-54 Star Route Box49	Charles F. Skillman CDR-USN Ret. 42-51 13632 Cork St. Garden Grove, Calif. 92644
Carl L. Talbert R.5 Box 380	Vernon D. Reed EN2 51-54 Burlington Jct. Missouri 64428
Albemarle, N.C. 28001 John L. Cole BT2 50-52 504 Centenial Drive	Mounty D Crowdes EN 51-54 5704 Blue Midge Blvd. Raytown, Missouri 64133

Kenyon, Minnesota 55946

	Ralph F. Sheehy CSC 42-45 4036 Kansas Apt.5 San Diego, Calif. 92104	Michael Moschella CBM 42-45 27 Bixby St. Revere, Mass. 02151
	John P. Beckwith BT3 51-54 R.R.1 Weatherby, Missouri 64497	J.H. Brown CCS 42-45 2015 Sea King Drive Houston, Texas. 77008
•	Johnny T. Barlow BT1 53-56 Rt. 2 Adamsville, Tenn. 38310	George W. Merrill CWO4 43 Patriots Park Apt. 19 3 Freedom Circle Portsmouth, N.H. 03801
	Angelo A. Varalli EM2 42 161 Geneva St. Lyons, New York 14489	Tom D. Miller FN 58-60 1915 Granada Ct. Clearwater, Florida. 33516
	Arthur E. Shaffer F1 50-51 6 Grant St. Titusville, New Jersey 08560	W.P. Nelson BTC 42-43 6 Hayes Rd. Apt. 26 Roslindale, Mass. 02131
	Melbourne A. Waite BOSN 42-46 Cove Marina Box 1732 Fort Meyers, Fla. 33902	John P. Lusk 53-54 % A.G. Edwards Inc. 309 N. Washington ElDorado, Arkansas 71730
	Glen E. Malin CWT 42-45 290 La Plata Rd. N.W. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107	Tom W. Glickman CDR-USN 57-60 5253 Pleasant Hall Court Virginia Beach, Va. 23462
	Barney D. Parker RM1 43-45 939 S. Meadow Lane Mustang, Okla. 73064	Albert (Charley) Noble CH-MOMM 43-45 120 Naperville Rd. Clarendon Hills, Ill. 60514
	Randell A. Smith MM3 44-45 3532 Porter Ave. ElPaso, Texas. 79930	Dennis J. Monroe USN HMC 54-55 5738 Carolina St. Camp Lejuine, North Carolina 28542
	Vincent H. Stewart MML3 43-45 4255 Eve Read Simi Valley, Calif. 93063	Joseph R. Topolski BT1 4 Misima Place Lexington Park, Md. 20653
	Dawn A. Renninger Strasburg, Va. 22657 Larry B. Rawls CBM 42-44	Louis J. Gilbert M2 51-54 1712 Holton Ave. Falcon Heights, Minnesota. 55113
	1160 25 Ave. N. St. Petersburg, Fla. 33704	Bob Miller RM2 51-55 R #4 Box 283 Dexter, Mo. 63841
	Carl C. Allen CRT 42-45 2707 Evans Drive Silver Springs, Md. 20902	Edward F. Pease RM3 51-54 1340 Greenbrier Dr. San Carlos, California 94070
	Carrol R. Jones supply Officer 44-45 1114 West 25 St. Odessa, Texas 79763	Lester Green 187 E. Lincoln St. Oregon, Wis. 53575
	John Zdanowicz CBM 42-45 31 Swan St. Beverly, Mass. 01915	Al Loehr SKD3 46-47 203 - 16 Ave. North St. Cloud, Mn. 56301

Sure wish These guys would send Their Forms back

Eugene Del Gaizo 375 Woburn St. Lexington Mass. 02173

Ed Dame 16 Glencliff Rd. Roslingdale, Mass.

Russell D. Arnold 1526 Newton Ave. N Minneapolis, Minnesota 55400

Neal Hutchison 145 Wyleswood Drive Berea, Ohio 44017

Willian Fox 3027 Bluefield St. Menphis, Tenn. 38128 Joseph E. Greguire 20 Nelson St. New Bedford, Mass.

02740

Steve Bero 4525 N. Mobile St. Chicago, Ill.

Bayard Maxwell 58 Summer St. Saugus, Mass. 01906

Louis Anthony 85 Main St. Sougus, Mass. 01906

James King 49 Adams Ave. Everett, Mass. 02169

Frank Mahoney 8 Fairfield Rd. Wilmington, Mass.

Charles J. Mitchell P.O. Box 535 Marrero, La. 70072

- Official Orders -



Almost a year has gone by since I started out to find the Calvert crew. As of now I have almost 70 some addresses of old crew members. I am sure that I can find more if I put a notice in the American Legion Mag., but, a reunion date must be set before they will accept a notice for publication.

If you are all willing, I would be happy to host a reunion here in Minnesota. I have contacted four hotels-motels in Rochester, Minnesota that would be willing to help host a ships reunion.

The date would be the second or third week of July 1979. The exact date would be set by the end of the year and that would give everybody a chance to plan to attend if they wanted to....

I sure would appreciate hearing if anybody would be interested in coming before I put in a lot of work. Also if you have any suggestions I would appreciate them.

More to follow.... till then think Rochester, Minnesota, July 1979....

Reunion News

Do you have an address for the fellowing names? All mail has been returned.

Robert Wanio...Cleveland, Ohio
Melvin Knight...Carteret, New York.
Henry Dittmer...Portland, Oregon.
Maxie Arndt...Cleveland, Ohio.
Charles Grafunder...Waterford, New York.
Frank R. Schmidt...Broklin, New York.
Stephen Blond...Union City, New Jersey.
Marty Flynn...Lynn, Mass.
John Piacentini...Providence, R.I.



I am still looking for addresses of former ship USS Calvert. If you have them to me or send the former to those you know. Return all forms to JOHN L. COLE FORMERLY OF THE U.S.S. CANOTHE TO THE U.S.S. CANOTHE CENTENNIAL DRIVE KENYON, MINNESOTA 55946	mates of the e any please send form on the bottom	AJZ	
PLEASE PRINT NAME SERIAL NO.			
DIVISION_ PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS	RANK		