

CALVERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MEN OF THE USS CALVERT APA32

"The Ship and Men of Distinction"



Published and compiled by John L. Cole 504 Centennial Drive, Kenyon, Minnesota 55946

1978



How It All Happened.

A good friend of mine, Mr Howard Held of Kenyon Minn. (Owner of Cheverolet oldest Dealership) has been attending reunions of the 11 Airborn for many years. He said that his group started because one man got things going. Well that got me thinking as I have threatened to do something since I left the Navy, in 1954. So I put a notice in a service publication and the responce I got was great for a first try. I sent back forms to all I heard from and the start had begun. As I want to share with you what I know, here is what I have so far. My thanks to Mr. Ben Graves for the first answer and help. Any materials sent should be coppies as I do not want to be responsible for originals in case they are lost. If you enjoy this newsletter let me and your Navy buddies know about it.....

John L. Cole

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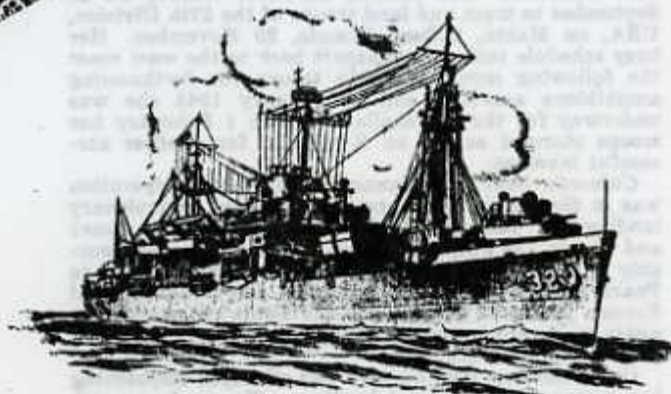
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V*F*W Magazine

VETERANS OF

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need to contact orthopedic st...
Mr. Stader or others recalling my back p...
—P. O. Jines, 155 Queen St., Prescott, Ariz. 863...
USS Boise (Selly Invasion)—For claim, must
contact shipmates aboard during passage between
Gela and Messina Straits.—Leno Cirineff, Box 242,
Matheny, W. Va. 24860.
USS Biddle—... from former
ship... N. Catamarine, 1...
... Ohio 44035.
USS Buck, USS Cooper—Seek to contact sur-
vivors.—Frank Capece, Shelton, Ct. 06484.
USS Calvert—Like to contact former members.—
John Cole, 504 Centennial Dr., Kenyon, Minn.
55946.
USS Canfield (WWII)—Like to hear from for-
mer shipmates.—Bob Winchel, 1233 8th St.,
...
USS Charlette (ComDestDiv 102)—Seek to con-
tact Jack St. Clair.—Peter Evangelos, 551 Stevens
St., Lowell, Mass. 01851.
USS Chicago, 8rd Div. (Aug. 1959-Jan. 1961)
—Like to contact shipmates, especially tho-
—t 3, including Jack Waite, WHB—
—W. E. Swanson, B...



U. S. S. CALVERT APA-32

American Naval Fighting Ships

USS *Calvert* (APA-32)

VOLUME II • 1963

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION • WASHINGTON

Calvert

A county in Maryland.

I

The first *Calvert* (No. 2274), a motor boat, served in the Navy during 1917-1918.

II

(AP-65: dp. 8,889; l. 491'; b. 65'6"; dr. 25'8"; s. 16 k.; cpl. 558; a. 1 5", 3 3"; cl. *Crescent City*)

The second *Calvert* (AP-65) was launched 22 May 1942 as *Del Orleans* by Bethlehem-Sparrows Point Shipyard, Inc., under a Maritime Commission contract; sponsored by Mrs. M. G. Fitch; acquired by the Navy 30 September 1942; and commissioned the next day, Captain D. W. Loomis in command. She was reclassified APA-32, 1 February 1943.

Calvert began the consistently superior service which was to win her a Navy Unit Commendation when she sailed from Norfolk 25 October 1942 for the invasion of North Africa. She competently landed her troops at Safi, French Morocco on 8 November, and 6 days later sailed for Norfolk to train troops in Chesapeake Bay for other invasions. On 8 June 1943 she departed for the Mediterranean and her second major assault landing, at Scoglitti, Sicily, where she skillfully put her troops ashore on 12 July.

By 3 August 1943, *Calvert* was back at Norfolk, a veteran of assault landings in the Atlantic, and now Pacific bound for stepping stone invasions to the Japanese homeland. She arrived at Pearl Harbor on 26 September to train and land troops of the 27th Division, USA, on Makin, Gilbert Islands, 20 November. Her busy schedule took the transport back to the west coast the following month to train troops for forthcoming amphibious assaults, and in January 1944 she was underway for the Marshalls where on 1 February her troops stormed ashore on Kwajalein for another successful invasion.

Calvert's next well-planned, well-executed operation was in the Marianas where she conducted diversionary landings off Tanapag Harbor at Saipan (15-24 June) and Tinian (24 July), an effort which added immeasurably to the success of the main assault. She returned to Pearl Harbor in August carrying 420 Japanese and Korean prisoners of war, and the following month was again westward bound to take part in the all-important invasion of the Philippines.

On 20 October 1944 *Calvert* was off Leyte dispatching her troops for the initial landings. She made a quick turn around and was back on 18 November to pour more men and equipment from New Guinea into the Philippines to ensure the Allied advance. At Cape Gloucester she embarked troops for another assault on

the Philippines (9 January 1945) at Lingayen Gulf to begin the capture of Luzon. The following month, with troops embarked at Biak, *Calvert* successfully landed her assault waves at Mindoro on 9 February. The veteran *Calvert* was now ordered to the west coast for overhaul and conversion to an amphibious flagship, arriving Bremerton 26 March.

Calvert completed her conversion as the war ended in the Pacific, and on 24 August 1945 cleared for the Philippines to lift troops to Hiro Wan for the occupation of Japan. "Magic Carpet" duty, returning troops home to the west coast, was her assignment between 7 November 1945 and 31 May 1946 prior to arrival at Norfolk where she was placed out of commission in reserve 26 February 1947.

With the outbreak of war in Korea in the summer of 1950 *Calvert* was recalled to active service and recommissioned 18 October 1950. During her two tours in the Far East she trained troops in Japan and Korea, redeployed Korean troops, and transported troops to and from Korea from the west coast. Following this war *Calvert* remained on active service with the fleet, alternating west coast operations with cruises to the western Pacific. During this service she took part in the "Passage to Freedom" operation in the summer of 1954 when she lifted over 6,000 Indochinese civilians from Communist-surrounded Haiphong to southern Viet Nam. In 1958 during the Middle East crisis and Lebanon landings by the 6th Fleet, *Calvert*, combat-loaded, stood ready with the 7th Fleet, alert for any extension of trouble in the Pacific. Alternating west coast operations with cruise to the western Pacific continued through 1960.

In addition to her Navy Unit Commendation, *Calvert* received eight battle stars for service in World War II, and two for service in Korea.

In a letter that I got from the Navy Dept. they said, "The USS *Calvert* APA 32 was sold for scrap, 11 March 1977 to Levin Metals Corporation and is no longer in existence....."

j.l.cole

Ran across your ad in the VFW magazine calling for old bunkies from the Calvert. Well can't say I remember you and you will probably say the same about me, but I thought I'd drop you a line anyway. My name is Vincent. I'm not a plank owner of the Calvert but pretty close. We were getting ready for the African Invasion aboard the Harvey Lee and the day we were to meet up with the convoy, we broke down. So they brought down the brand new ship Calvert along side and we transferred everything from the Harvey to the Calvert and joined the convoy three or four days later to make the hit. Were you there John? I was in the 3rd Division. Think we hit Safe, then Sicily later back to the States, through the canal the San Deigo and I got off at San Fransco. We have a Harry Lee reunion here in the colony's about ever 3 yrs. So $\frac{1}{2}$ of the bunch that went aboard the Calvert come to the reunion, Everyone from the bunch that you may be looking for, You should contact Frank Douka 134 Highland Ave. Maldeu, Mass. He would have all or most all of the names and addresses from the old Calvert. Vincent Shwab

Greetings from a former shipmate of the USS Calvert. Saw your notice in the July VFW magazine which I received today. I served aboard the Calvert from 43-46 in E Division as and electrician 2/c, and also as a member of the Beach Party En. Went aboard in San Diego, fresh out of boot camp and electricians school. What division were you in? I bunked in the small crews quarters just forward of #1 hole, when first aboard, and later moved to the area surrounding the offices dining room. Our work shop was just forward of #3 hole. Many a watch I have stood in the engine room an the generators and main switchboard. Also in the often steering room my battle station was a 20 mm Gun, just below the signal bridge. First action was in the Gilbert Islands. Am sure you have memory of such places as Hog Hog, Vlithi A toll, New Guinea and all the other beautiful anchorage's they found for us. HA I am in possession of several pictures of the Clavert, one in Shanghei, Cina and Kaiser ship yards in Portland Oregon. Still carry my certification card as a Trusty Shellback, dated 1 Oct. 44, signed by H.J. Monis W.T.1/c S. Bear, CEM and Capt. J.H. Warris, Commanding officer. I also have a history of the Calvert which you might be interested in. Will be happy to make you a copy of it, if you desire. I was discharged in 46 leaving the ship in San Francisco after a trip to Tiensiu, China and all points East on the Magic Carpet duty after the war. Stayed out until July 47, and reenlisted in the Air Force and remained until 1 Sept. 70, at which time I retired with 26 yrs. 19 days active duty. At present I am a Security Guard at Malco Chemical Plant. I am active in the VFW Post 8576 as post adjutant, Color Guard Commander, Post Commander and several Post Commettes, Made several attempts to find out what happened to the Calvert. Do you know? It seems so strange to write about the best ship in the Navy after some thirty odd years. The old memories came flooding back some good some bad. Would you have, or if you receive any other letters, of former shipmates in the South TX. Area? Would surely like to have their names and addresses in order to contact as many as possible. Am especially interested in the Houston, TX area. Jasper W. Vickers.

I just swa the VFW Magazine in the mail this morning, and was looking over the different re-unions and came across your name, serving abroad the USS Calvert and I am writing to you because I served aboard this ship during WW#2. I went abroad her in Sept. 43 and stayed for about 8 months and was abroad her when we went to Macon Island with the Army and also when we invaded the Marshall Islands. We were on and off the Island of Hilo in the Hawiian Islands and I was sent along with a few others to Island of Maui in the Hawiian Islan to set up a Ships Company for the Underwaters Demlition and I stayed with them for about 2 years and if there were an outfit in WW#2 that deserve any more praise than the Demolition I don't know who they are for we also supported the 4th Marine Disc. and the Uss Calvert had some of the 4th Marine Disc aboard for the invasion of the Marshall Islands. I was stationed in



Minat, ND for 4 years. 59-63 and I had the pleasure of visiting your State several times. My thoughts have been on this ship and what happened to her and her Crew for many years. I have checked the VFW and American Legion Magazine for information about her and this is the first time I have seen anything about her, so please send me any information you might have about her and crew. When I was with the underwater Demolition team, I talked to some of the men and they were in Convoys with her. I have just finished serving a year as Commander of our local VFW here in Milan TN and enjoyed it very much. I sure wish we could get a list of the crew that was aboard the USC Calvert during the 43-44, I'm sure I would remember most of them and I certainly would like to hear from all the ship-mates. Kenneth R. Redden



-----30 days cause I didnt send
my letter to John-----

sex!

Now that I have your attention remember that I still need address of former Calvert shipmates. Send them to me as soon as you can.

John L. Cole
504 Centennial Drive
Kenyon, Minnesota 55946

mail call

Dear John:

Just saw your notice in the July V.F.W. magazine. I was in the 1st division of the U.S.S. Calvert from 1952 until 1956. Would be very much interested in having a re-union or just contacting some of my buddies. I have the address of only one of the guys that were on the ship at the time I was. His name is Royce Edwin Bartlett of Dallas, TX. Sure would appreciate it if you would pass on any information you get from this notice in the V.f.w. magazine.

Ben Graves

I was a member of the crew of the Uss Calvert from June 1950 thru June 1951- Operations Division, I believe I remember you- send picture if possible taken at that time.

Richard M. Smith

I am truly sorry for the delay, got caught up in the rat race still pulling to get loose-(10 hr. days and Sat.) Hope you have had better luck with the other fellows. House misplaced my old address book too, so seems I'm not much help. We did spend several week ends at our cabin and a week in August. Aim to get up thru 10/9, but have chicken pox in the family just depends if no one has it by then. We have a phone there, if you happen to be in the area, give us a call 507-452-9458, and come on down. Rick and Glynn Morse

I hope this letter finds you and your family in the best of health. I was looking through the V.F.W. magazine and came across your Ad. I was station on the USS Calvert, from 1958 to 1960, I do not know if we were on the same ship together, But I thought you wouldn't mind, me writing to you since we both were once station on it. When you put down the ship's name you forgot to mention it number, which was- APA-32. I started out as MM, and changed to a LT from there I went to USS Page county, and from there to the USS Summit County, those 2 were LST's. I now lived in Salem, Mass- and have been for almost 19 years. I used to know a Cole, but I am not such it was you. If you decide to answer this letter I will answer any letter you would like to write to me. Almost every X-Mas I would send as X-Mas card to my old ship, the USS Calvert APA-32 last year was the first time I got it back, because it went out of Commission. J.F. Flynn

Just got a letter from Carl Talvert today with an notice regarding the death of his wife Pauline. Evidently you have moved recently, still at the base but very uncertain. Have a girl from France here with us for a month so took a weeks vacation. Wheather has been nice and we are fine, hope this find you the same. Jack Ferris

I read you Notice as in the July issue on VFW magazine wanting to contact former members of the USS Calvert. I was in the Navy from 4/25/44 to 1/25/46. I was a ship filter 3/c. On my discharge papers my service was 1.Usn Great Likee, Ill. 2.Comad, Comphile for Pac. 3.Uss Calvert (APA 32). I had earned 36 points, American Aria Victory Medal Asiatic Pacific. I've been married since 10/18/41. I Have a daughter, Bonnie, born 5/19/42, a son Van vorn 5/24/43, a daughter Vikki born 11/17/59. Also six grandsons ages 16, 14, 7, 6, and 2. In 54 years old now and I retired from a foundry July 1. After 35 years of being a core-filer. I don't no if I can make ends meet on the pension check but time will tell I'm going to spend a lot of time fishing and hunting. Maybe live off the fat of the land. Let me know if you hear from buddies who were on the Calvert when I was. Harowd C. Love

information center

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

Ben Graves BM3 53-56
P.O.Box 666
Mc Kinney Texas 75069

Vincent Szwabowski BM2
128 Alpine Terrace
Arlington, Mass. 02174

Frank Donka
134 Highland Ave.
Maldeu, Mass.

Michael G. Lesniak CM1 43-45
Foley, Minnesota 56329

Royce Edwin Bartlet BM3 52-56
811 Wayne St.
Dallis, Texas 75223

Albert J. Posey
Vet. Adm. Domiciliary, Sect.#4
White City, Oregon 97501

Robert L. Fox QMSN 52-54
940Fix Road
Monroe, Michigan 48161

Jasper W. Vickers EN2 43-46
215 Stratton Ridge Road #130
Clute Texas 77531

Richard M. Smith 50-51
Midfield Farm
Box 690 R.5
Old Johnny Cake Road
Woodlawn, Maryland 21207

Harry M. Gramentz EN3 53-55
2528 220 ST.W
Farmington, Minnesota 55024

James E. Nash
913 Whitney Drive
Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124

Jack Ferris BT2 50-54
Star Route Box 49
Silver Bay, Minnesota 55614

Carl L. Talbert
R.5 Box380
Albemarle, N.C. 28001

John L. Cole BT2 50-52
504 Centenial Drive
Kenyon, Minnesota 55946

J.E. Claar BTR2 50-51
R.D.1
Duncansville, Pa. 16635

Kenneth R. Redden
357 Broad St.
Milan, Tennessee 38358

James F. Flynn MM_BT 58-60
P.O. Box361
Salem, Mass. 01970

Harold C. Love SF3 44-46
R.2 279 Peterson Rd.
North Muskegon, Michigan 49445

Richard Morse ET1 51-54
RR.2 Lakeland
Galesberg Ill. 61401

Hebert A. Stout SN 51-55
RFD 2
Straw Plains Tenn. 37871

Richard R. Brink BT3 50-52
755 Devonshire Rd.
Valpariso, Indiana 46383

Howard H. Tillet END3 50-51
2914 Brighton St.
Philadelphia, Pa 19149

Richard K. Dickson
P.O. Box2243
Milan, New Mixco 87021



I noted your request to hear from former shipmates of the USS Calvert in the July issue of V.F.W. magazine. I served aboard the Calvert from Sept. 52 to March of 54, in the N Division. Our Division officer was Ensign Stein and Mr. Navigation officer was a Lt. Commander, later Commander, Fred Irby. I can barely remember a LTJG Nesbitt LCOR Desmond, and a jarhead attached to the engineering Division whose name I cannot recall. Our home port was San Diego from which we made Numerous trips to Inchon and Pusan, Korea with stops at Hawaii, Japan and Hong Kong. I have served aboard a carrier, USS Kearsarge, and a seaplane tender, USS Curtiss. I doubt very much if their ships are still afloat; probably scrapped years ago. However, if you were aboard during my tenure, or if you receive letters from someone who was, I would appreciate your sending me their names and addresses. Perhaps a reunion could be for the coming.

Robert L. Fox

Really glad to receive a letter from you: Have often wondered what has become of the guys that were aboard the Calvert. Have pretty much lost contact with all but a few. Would be great if a list could be comprised such as your doing and all names and addresses forwarded to each. I often look at pictures we took 25 yrs. ago and sometimes have a time remembering names. One I have of you is after your famous nose operation with the bandage on your face. So what have you done with your life after getting out of the Navy? Are you married? How big of a family? What line of work are you in?

Have you ever visited or seen anyone I know from the Calvert? Did you spend your entire enlistment on the Calvert? We would enjoy very much seeing you and your family soon if at all possible. We have traveled quite a bit throughout the US. We have never gotten to MN for some reason. I know Jack Ferris lives somewhere up there, because I've talked to and visited in Pa. also Jack has been to Claar's home.

Claar had an operation on his throat and they removed part of this voice box about a year ago. Haven't seen or heard from him in quite some time. Since I've got out in 54 I've been working at one job since. I work for Youngstown sheet and tube Co., got 23 years in now and 7 to go before retirement. I'm married have 3 children, 1 boy 22 years, 1 girl 20 and another daughter 15 who is still at home. I'm general foreman of over 150 people who work for me. Right now I'm on vacation and have to go back to work Monday. Raymond R. Brink

I saw your request for Calvert, APA 32 Contacts in the July issue of V.F.W. Magazine. There is another one of us living in Portland, Ore. which I have been in close friendship with since 1952. We were all the way from Siapan through the Philippines as H2 Division. His name is Henry Dittmer. I lost a left leg during the Korean war and am still trying to get service connection on my eye from Shrapnel in Leyte Gulf. Dittmer signed a certification for me on that so it seems assured up to now. Just drop me a letter and we will start from there. Always glad to hear from a shipmate, OK? Posey, Albert J.

Gee! it sure was a surprise to hear from someone who served aboard the Calvert. We think of all of you often. You and Morse were the only ones Dick chummed around with. We do not know the addresses of any of the crew. The only one we knew was Morse was from some place in Missouri. Dick retired in 1967 but put in 7 yrs. Naval Reserve so all together it was 30 years retirement. What did you do stay in or get out? What kind of work are you in? As for as we have 3 children all grown and one grandson. Our oldest daughter was in the Marine and married a marine lives in So. Carolina. Our son was in the Marines he lives in Houston TX. Our youngest daughter just graduated high school this year. She still lives at home. Haven't made up her mind as to what she was to do. Enclosed is a Xerox copy of a picture of the crew and some of the names I remember. So hope it will be of some help to you. If you don't have one I will be more than happy to have one made for you. If you happen to get the addresses of the rest of the crew please let us have them. Richard Dickson

*Be smart
Be sharp
Be navy*