

SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

April 2012

Presidents Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

Our Reunion Committee has finalized our 2012 reunion, which will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (see inside for more details), October 17-21, 2012. If you would like to volunteer to assist our reunion committee, please contact Marlene. There is an enormous amount of behind the scenes work done by the committee and any assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated. We will have a raffle at our banquet and this year we will also have another silent auction. The silent auction was well received at the last years reunion and we will have some wonderful items obtained from the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show for you to bid on! As you know, ticket sales at the raffle help tremendously with the Association finances and your support is greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate items for the raffle or silent auction you can send them to me or Marlene, or you can bring them along with you to the reunion.

I would like to announce that our **2013 reunion** location has also been finalized! We will be traveling to **Tucson, Arizona**. The details of the 2013 reunion will be one of the items on our agenda at our Board of Governors meeting at the reunion. I encourage everyone to attend. Should you have questions or comments regarding either reunion, please do not hesitate to contact either Marlene Hughes or myself. Our Board is here to serve the membership and your input, comments, suggestions are important us.

Inside the Scuttlebutt we have some information regarding the Honor Flight Network. Survivor Aaron Shlesman submitted his photo from his trip in June 2011. What a great opportunity this was for him and for all of our survivors who have been fortunate to participate. If you have photos or a written journal recap of your Honor Flight or any other recognition, we would love to hear from you! A recent addition to our website is the Carrier Life poem written by survivor, Lt. John P Sanderson. His widow, Jane Allen gave her permission for us to publish it on our website (ussgambierbay.org). And, as a side note to our second and even our third generation – let us hear from you too! We can publish you in our Scuttlebutt and/or add your contribution to our website.

We have some great items in our ships store! Please contact Marlene is you are interested in any of our items. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise benefits the Association in keeping the honor and memory alive of those who served on the USS Gambier Bay. We appreciate your support!

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support, encouragement, and open communication to not only me but to the entire Board.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Paula (LaRocco) Grond

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR ASSOCIATION AN PUBLICATION. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!!

SURVIVORS DO NOT OWE DUES

THE DUES ARE \$15.00 ANNUALLY OR \$100.00 FOR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE NUMBERED OPTIONS BELOW.

1. ENCLOSED IS \$15.00 FOR A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SCUTTLEBUTT.
2. ENCLOSED IS \$100.00 FOR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.
3. I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR A SUBSCRIPTION AT THIS TIME. PLEASE KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST.
4. YOUR SHIPMATE OR SQUADRON MATE HAS PASSED AWAY. PLEASE KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST.
5. PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST.
6. PLEASE *E-MAIL THE SCUTTLEBUTT TO ME (INCLUDE E-MAIL BELOW) TO SAVE \$\$*

NAME _____ \$ _____ CK# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

ST _____ ZIP _____ PHONE# _____ FAX# _____

RANK/RATE _____ DIV _____ E-MAIL _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

PLEASE SEND TO:

MARLENE HUGHES, TREASURER
USS GAMBIER BAY/VC-10 ASSOCIATION
2228 E GREENLEE RD
TUCSON, AZ 85719-2012

**ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY WILL BE CONSIDERED A DONATION
AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!!**

In Memoriam

Shipmates who have crossed the Bar

Louis Vilmer Jr. (1925-3/24/2012) Louis Vilmer, age 87, passed away peacefully March 24, 2012. Preceded in death by his beloved wife Magda(Bely) in 2007. He is Survived by sons David and Norman (Valerie), daughter Susan (Ralph) Bagen; grandchildren Lauren (Victor) Buhl, Lisa Bagen, Eric and Sarah Jane Vilmer. Louis served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was an active member of the USS Gambier Bay CVE-73 & VC-10 Association. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Richfield United Church of Christ, 4340 W Streetsboro Rd., Richfield, OH, 44286. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 31 at the Richfield United Church of Christ, where the family will receive friends at a reception immediately following the service.

Lou was always available at our governors meetings and took photos at numerous reunions. We are so glad he was able to make his last reunion in Omaha in 2011. He loved our entertainment and was able to dance with his daughter, Susan one last time.

He is pictured below with his granddaughter Lauren and fellow shipmate Fred Grabos at 2011 reunion.

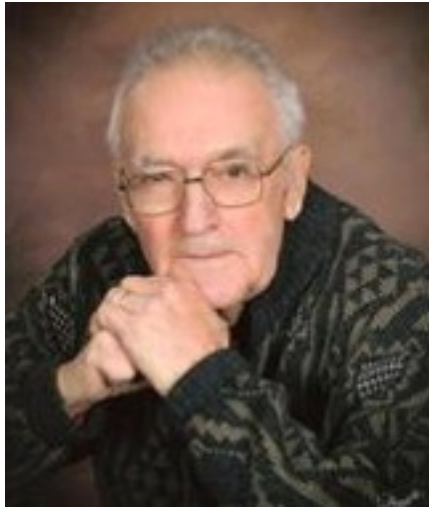


We will miss you Lou! Rest in Peace.

Carl R. Duquette (12/31/1925- 01/6/2012)

Carl Raymond Duquette, of Bradenton, Florida, 86, passed away unexpectedly on January 6, 2012. He was the son of Wilfred Joseph Duquette and Marie Anne Laure Breault Browe. Born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Carl enlisted in the Navy in 1943 as a Torpedo man. During WWII he was assigned to the USS Gambier Bay. He served bravely, and survived three days adrift in the sea when his ship was attacked and sunk in the Leyte Gulf. Carl received an honorable discharge in 1946. Later he graduated from Bryant College in 1949 with a degree in accounting. He worked overseas, in Manhattan and for the Papers Workers Union in D.C. and in Albany, N.Y. He eventually applied for an accounting position with the State of New York where he worked until his retirement in the 1990's. He relocated to Florida and became an avid golfer and took up woodcarving. He is survived by his former wife, Julia Ainsburg; children, Charles Duquette, Laurie McGinley and Yvette Piper; grandchildren, Mara and Katherine McGinley and Rachael Piper. A memorial Mass was held at the Church of St Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls, N.Y., on January 25, at 9:00 a.m.

In Memoriam



Paul Bennett (1/8/1922-2/28/2012)

Paul A. Bennett, beloved father, and grandfather, died peacefully, surrounded by his family, to be with his Savior on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at the age of 90. Lt. JG Paul A. Bennett, USNR , was born January 8, 1922 in Milnor, North Dakota. In 1941 he worked in California for North American Aviation, where he worked on the final assembly of the first Ninety-five B-25 bombers built for the Army. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy early in 1942 after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Paul served two tours of duty as a carrier-based pilot in the Pacific with Composite

Squadron VC-10 flying TBM Avenger torpedo bombers. He served on the USS Gambier Bay, until it was sunk during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Paul was awarded the Silver Star and the Air Medal for his heroic attacks on enemy ships during the battle.

He returned to college in 1946 and received a BSME from North Dakota State, was then appointed a Grad Research Assistant at Purdue University, and received a MSME degree from Purdue in 1952. While in college he married Ruth Lovas on December 28, 1946. They had 4 children. Randy (Carolyn) of Mt. Pleasant MI; Joyce (Don) Ross of Lansing MI; Cindy (Andy) Deveau of St. Johns MI; and Tim (Kris) of Spooner WI. They also had 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Paul is survived by his sisters, Alice (Don) Lee of Milner, ND and June Jorgenson of Lisbon, ND. Ruth Lorayne (Lovas) Bennett died on March 10, 2006 and son Randy in 2007.

After graduating from Purdue, Paul worked 45 years as an automotive engineer, improving the performance of petroleum products in internal combustion engines. His research resulted in a number of design changes. Most significant was his patent for developing the PCV valve, now standard emissions equipment on all cars world wide. His work earned him international recognition, and he was honored by his selection as an SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Fellow. He also worked as a consultant to the U. S. Army, engine manufacturers, the petroleum industry, and served as an expert witness in several lawsuits, before his retirement in 1997.

Funeral services will be 11:00 A.M. Saturday, March 3, 2012 at St. Johns Lutheran Church, 511 E. Sturgis St. Johns with Rev. Dr. Bryan Salminen officiating. Interment will follow at South Bingham Cemetery with military honors provided by the St. Johns Honor Guard. The family will receive friends from 2-4 and 6-8 pm Friday, March 2, 2012 at [Keck-Coleman Funeral Home](#), St. Johns. Memorials may be made to the Bennett Endowment Fund at St. John Lutheran Church.



In Memoriam



Franklin A. Engel (7/11/1922-07/17/2011)

Franklin A. Engel, age 89, of Canton, Michigan passed away Sunday, July 17, 2011. He was the third son born to parents Frank and Agnes on July 11, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan. He married Dolores on January 23, 1943 and was a loving husband for 67 years until Dolores passed away on May 14, 2010. Franklin was father to Joyce (Steve) Andree, David Engel, Bonnie (Robert) Jaglowski, and Neal (Donna) Engel. Proud grandfather of Deborah (Derwin) Clay, Scott (Jennifer) Hovarter, Pamela Friedinger, Lori (Matt) Hoener, Frank (Jill) Engel, Jody (Michael) Bartnicki, Jaclyn (Sebastian) Iovannitti, Steven Engel, Sarah (Robert) Pogorzelski, great-grandfather of 11, and great-great-grandfather of two.

Franklin proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a survivor of the sinking of the USS Gambier Bay in the battle of Leyte Gulf. After Franklin's military service, he worked for General Motors for 30 years. Upon leaving GM, he and Dolores retired to Mission, Texas.

Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 from 2-9pm. A Christian funeral service will be held on Wednesday from Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, 43300 West Twelve Mile Road, Novi, Michigan at 11:00am with Pastor Jerry Yarnell officiating, followed with full military honors. Franklin will be laid to rest next to his beloved wife Dolores at the Oak Chapel Mausoleum. The family request memorials be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

Roy Cowan (8/28/1926-2/23/2012) Obituary will be in next issue of Scuttlebutt
Leonard Jay Thompson (12/17/1925-03/17/2010)

Wayne Galey (October 2004)

Ralph Wilderman (03/03/2006)

Freida Caritheres (08/19/2008)

I just became aware of the last four obituaries



2012 Reunion in Milwaukee

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

OCTOBER 17-21st CALL 402- 496-0850 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW.

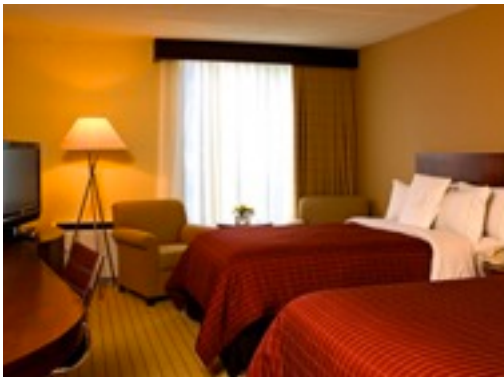
Specify the Group Name USS GAMBIER BAY/VC-10 REUNION



Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

- Starwood Preferred guests (SPG)
- Alflere Restaurant and Lounge on site
- Smoke Free Hotel
- Check in 3PM Check out 12PM

GUEST ROOM FEATURES



- Sheraton Sweet Sleeper Bed
- 389 rooms with complimentary wireless internet access, 32" Flat screen TV, Free daily Newspaper, & hairdryer.
- The rate for a standard room is \$89 & 13.10% tax= \$100.65
- Complimentary Hospitality Room

SHUTTLE SERVICE



- Complimentary Shuttle service within 5 miles of hotel
- Complimentary Shuttle service available to/from Milwaukee Airport between the hours of 7am to 10pm
- Complimentary Parking
- Conveniently located at I-94 and adjacent to Brookfield Square Mall
- Indoor Pool

Remember to make your reservations early!

Board of Governors & Officers 2011-2013

1. Paula Grond, President
13632 Carpantino Ave
Bellflower, CA 90706
Telephone: 562-866-1192
E-Mail: pk_grond@yahoo.com
2. Chris Stammen, Governor
4846 State Route 705
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E-Mail: cstammen@embarqmail.com
3. Marlene Hughes, Treasurer
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Telephone: 520-326-0747
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5. Jeanette Grabos Hall, Governor
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Telephone: 949-760-0387
Fax: 949-721-1412
12. Mark Heintl, Governor
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Telephone: 419-678-8168
E-Mail: heinl_22@hotmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

Date; January1, 2012
Marlene Hughes, Treasurer

USS Gambier Bay-VC10 Association, Inc.
For the period January 1, 2011-December 31, 2011

Balance on Hand December 31, 2010 \$10,612.74

Receipts

Donations	\$705.00
Reunion Income	\$6,387.15
Life time Memberships	\$100.00
Subscriptions	\$240.00
Sales	\$1,215.00
Div Income	\$6.62

Total Receipts \$8,653.77

Disbursements

Supplies	\$41.71
Refund-Reunion Registration	\$930.00
Sales tax-Tee Time	\$29.38
Bank charge-checks	\$41.50
Phone Calls	\$7.40
Printing	\$923.35
Misc Expense	\$566.19
Reunion Expense	\$5,123.27
Postage/ Shipping	\$175.02
Clothing-tee shirts	\$471.40
Copies	\$22.10
Returns	\$30.00

Total Expenses \$8,361.32

Balance in Savings \$8,453.09

Balance in Checking \$2,452.10

Total on hand December 31, 2011 \$10,905.19

Respectively Submitted,
Date January 1 2012
Marlene Hughes
Treasurer

Honor Flight Network

In June 2011, Aaron Shelsman recently had the privilege of participating in an Honor Flight out of Chicago. Below is a photo of Aaron at the World War II memorial and at his home state of Illinois. As you can see Aaron is proudly wearing his USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 cap.



We missed seeing Aaron & his family in Omaha due to his getting sick just before the 2012 reunion. Hopefully you can make it to Milwaukee this October.



The inaugural Honor Flight took place in May 2005 with six planes flying out of Springfield, Ohio and carrying twelve World War II veterans. In May 2008, Southwest Airlines was named the official commercial carrier of the Honor Flight Network. In 2010, Honor Flight has safely transported 22,149 veterans to see their memorial, AT NO COST TO THEM. With the continued support of our grateful Americans, Honor Flight will have transported more than 75,000 veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to see the memorials that were built to honor their sacrifice to keep this great nation free!

If you would like to find out more about submitting your application to be part of an upcoming Honor Flight in your area or you are interested in volunteering to be a guardian on a flight, please visit the Honor Flight website at www.honorflight.org.

E-Book Project UPDATE: “In the words of the men of the Gambier Bay”

Dear Gambier Bay Association Members,

During the October reunion in Omaha, I volunteered to edit and publish an E-Book compilation of Gambier Bay articles, photos and stories as another way to preserve and pass on the legacy of Gambier Bay survivors and their family members for future generations. My inspiration for this project evolved from my desire to publish the account written by my father, Lt. Robert G. Young, who served as Gunnery Officer on board the USS Gambier Bay. Then in reading Norm Loate's well written story as well as John Hagerty's piece entitled "The Next Generation", I began to envision the potential for creating an "E-book" anthology “in the words of the men of the Gambier Bay” and their family members.

In December, I wrote an article for the Scuttlebutt to determine the degree of interest among members in sharing any material (stories, memorabilia, letters, photos, etc.) that could be used to produce an E-Book with recollections by survivors and family members of their Gambier Bay experiences. Since then, I was delighted to receive emails from Andy Deveau, the son-in-law of Paul Bennett, one of the Gambier Bay's TBM pilots who launched his plane off the deck just before the ship sank. Andy encouraged Paul, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, to write his Gambier Bay recollections which Andy then emailed me. Many thanks to Paul and Andy for contributing an excellent story for inclusion in the E-Book project.

Marlene Hughes tells me that she has several write-ups of other survivors that she will be submitting for the project. If other members are interested in contributing family recollections of Gambier Bay experiences, please let me know as soon as possible. If there is enough participation, I am willing to edit, format and publish an E-Book online that could then be made available to association members at favorable rates.

Please feel free to contact me directly by email at young23@me.com, phone at 707-479-1196 or mail at 3637 Sonoma Ave., #104 Santa Rosa, CA 95405.

**Sincerely,
Philip Young**

I want to apologize to Phil because in the last Scuttlebutt there were typo's in his article about the E-book due to my typing ability & not checking for spelling. Marlene

SHIP'S STORE

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN OUR INVENTORY:

PRINTS OF FREEDOM'S COST	\$55.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Hats	\$25.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Lapel Pin	\$8.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Button Pin (see below)	\$4.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Mouse Pad (see below)	\$10.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Luggage Tag (see below)	\$7.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Travel Mug (see below) (2)	\$22.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Coffee Mug (see below) (2)	\$22.00 w/shipping
USS Gambier BAY Polo Shirt (see below)	\$30.00 w/shipping

The polo shirts are embroidered and come in Men's & Ladies sizes S,M,L,XL-XXL is \$1.50 more
Color is Navy Blue with Yellow Embroidery. These take couple of weeks to get in once ordered.



SHIP'S STORE CONTINUED:



I was able to order more of these t-shirts which are pre-shrunk. However they are charcoal color with the name of the ship & October 25, 1944, Battle of Leyte Gulf on the left sleeve.

Price is \$20 w/shipping

5 XL, 4 Large, 1 Med Left

New items in ship's store:



USS Gambier Bay Note Cards

These are blank note cards come w/envelopes. They measure 5 1/2 X 4 1/4 inches.

Package of 12 for \$10.50 includes shipping

They feature "Freedom's Cost"



USS Gambier Bay Memo Pads

These memo pads have the name of the association along with our website name.

They measure 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches

Package of 5 for \$1.50 includes shipping

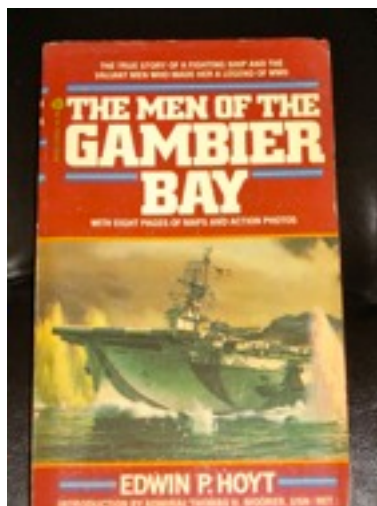


I Love the Men of the Gambier Bay Button

2 1/4 inches in circumference

42 left at \$3.00 each includes shipping

SHIP'S STORE CONTINUED:



This is the original small paperback of The Men Of The Gambier Bay. I have just 7 copies.

\$15.00 each includes shipping.

BOOKS:

THE MEN OF THE GAMBIER BAY BOOK IS OUT OF PRINT AS OF JANUARY 2009. We are still looking into having a publisher print the book by digitally copying our paperback and then having it published so we can sell it on our website and other websites to make money for the association. So look for news in the future.

No more copies of "Last of the Tin Can Sailors" left.

MAKE A DONATION OF \$50.00 YOU WILL RECEIVE A SHEET OF 20 STAMPS (THEY ARE .39 CENT STAMPS) with the picture of Freedom's Cost. (Only 3 sheets left)

The polo shirts will be made to order and will take approximately 2 weeks to make.

The shipping is included with the prices making it easier to know the cost.

Please send orders with check or money order to:

USS Gambier Bay/vc-10 Assoc.

c/o Marlene Hughes

Treasurer

2228 E Greenlee Rd

Tucson, AZ 85719-2012

E-mail-mahhome@cox.net

520-326-0747

In Appreciation

Thank you to all the names listed for your donation, buying something from the ship's store, subscription or lifetime membership. All of this helps the association spread the word about that fateful day on October 25, 1944.

Wayne Chapman
Betty Patterson

Dolores Moore
Chris Shelvik

Virgil Goad
Kate Jennings

Mail Call

February 3,2012

Dear Marlene

I am the widow of Carl Moore. I sure miss the ship's reunions and the special friends I met in the past years. I was glad to get the Scuttlebutt but saddened to the passing of Carl's shipmates.

I would like for you to send me 4 mouse pads. I am enclosing \$100.00 for the mouse pads an a donation for the reunion.

Thank you

Doris Moore (*Thank you for the donation and we all are saddened as shipmates are crossing the bar.*)

January 30,2012

Dear Marlene,

After talking with you, I find I already have one of the tee shirts. But I will send you \$30.00 for a polo shirt in Medium.

Thanks for all the work you do for the carrier group.

Chris Shelvik (SM2/c) LCI337 (*Hope you are enjoying your polo shirt and thanks for the kind words*)

November 11,2011

Dear Marlene,

Please send the following 1 USS Gambier Bay Hat and 14 USS Gambier Bay Button pins.

I am enclosing a check to pay for these items.

Merrill and I send greetings to all of the "old Timers" that we know. We still live on the farm and manage to take care of each other.

We don't have a computer so no e-mail. We enjoy reading the Scuttlebutt.

Yours

Merrill & Lois Kuster (*Thanks so much for buying things from the Ship's Store. This note should have been in the last Scuttlebutt. So sorry*)

From: William John Rigney JR. midway41@centurylink.net

subject: In Homage and Respect

To: pk_grond@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

**GOD BLESS THE GAMBIER BAY AND ALL WHO SERVED ON HER TO MAKE HER A LEGEND!
BILL RIGNEY SENDS. BT**

(Thank you Bill for these sentiments they are being passed on)

How many of you remember Kilroy? Kilroy was a legend during WWII and afterward some of the fame lingered. Here is the story.



This is interesting ... I have often wondered about Kilroy ... now I know. Great piece of history. Anyone born in the mid thirties (or earlier) knew Kilroy. We didn't know why but we had lapel pins with his nose hanging over the label and the top of his face above his nose with his hands hanging over the label too. I believe it was orange colored. No one knew why he was so well known but we all joined in. Kind of a war story, now we know.

KILROY WAS HERE. WHO THE HECK WAS KILROY? In 1946 the *American Transit Association*, through its radio program, "Speak to America" sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article.

Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts, had evidence of his identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war who worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then he realized what had been going on.

The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks.

Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long hauls to Berlin and Tokyo.

Kilroy continued

To the troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived.

Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arc De Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon).

As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo. In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. Its first occupant was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

If you check the WWII memorial in Washington DC, you will see Kilroy peeking over a wall. So, now you Know! I did take a picture of Kilroy when we were in DC in 2005.

Editor's Comments:

I wanted everyone to know I fell off a curb on March 8th and broke my right ankle. It is now in a cast and will come off April 24th, then on to Physical Therapy. It took me a while to do this edition since sitting for any length of time would make the foot swell.

Thanks to Shirley Turner for the get well card and many get well phone calls from others.

While confined to quarters I signed the contract for the hotel in Milwaukee. Bridget Hagerty(Ed Hagerty's daughter) is helping me with some of the arrangements. I will be sending out another Scuttlebutt to arrive in July with more information on the reunion. So make your reservations early, the cut off date for the hotel is September 26th.

News Flash!!!

The Association has a facebook page. Just type in USS Gambier Bay on the internet and ask to be a friend or hit like us.

I try to update things which are happening as well as others letting us know about your shipmates. Any suggestions are welcome.

Pictures

To the left is shipmate Richard Person and his wife Ruth. (Have not seen you in a few years)
On the right is survivors from the 2007 Gambier Bay Reunion.



After Memorial Service
October 25, 2007
Front: Vilmer, Feltz, Heric, Towstik, Boggs, Grabos, Turner, Amundson
Back: Phillips, Wheeler, Hagerty, Loats, Brown, Pettit, Moel

The pictured below is of the VC-10 Squadron.



Giger Ellwood Harders Gallagher Dugan Bell ? Oliver Wickersham McClendon Abercrombie
Carter Sanderson Cordner Bassett Huxtable W.H.Stewart Roby Bisbee Wheeler Crocker Weatherholt
Dahlen Courtney Cruse Phillips Seitz McGraw Gilliard ? Pyzdrowski Dillard J.Stewart

Thought you all would enjoy reading an article in the St Louis Paper about the 1st USS Gambier Bay Reunion in 1969. We are so fortunate that the founders of the Association started looking for Shipmates. Thanks to Tony Potochniak, Marty Showers and Charlie Heintl.

10A Sun., Oct. 26, 1969 ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Ex-Sailors Are Reunited 25 Years After Ordeal

By JOHN M. McGUIRE
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A tall man sidestepped a cluster of heavily engaged conversationalists, raising a bottle of beer above the crush, and confronted a shorter man Friday at the Gateway Hotel.

"You son of a gun, you didn't tell me you were coming," the tall man shouted.

The shorter man squinted through his glasses, examined the other man's name tag while standing on tip toe, and said, "Why you ... you've changed."

It was exactly 25 years to the day since the two men had been aboard the *Gambier Bay*, a thin-hulled American baby aircraft carrier, when it was sunk by Japanese ships in Leyte Gulf, The Philippines.

200 Are Gathered

This weekend, many miles from salt water, about 200 former crew members of the *Gambier Bay* are gathered. For most, it is the first meeting since they were rescued from the sea on that day a quarter of a century ago.

Officially, this meeting of now middle-aged men, some with little hair and bulging waistlines, represented the first reunion of what is called the U.S.S. *Gambier Bay* V.C. 10 Association, the latest version of a World War II veteran's organization.

The ship, in Navy terminology, was an escort carrier. It had planes, guns and 1100 men. Some of the sailors who survived the sinking—now real estate men, school teachers, owners of metal fabricating firms, and in other fields—were brought together as a result of more than a year's research by three former shipmates.

The three, Anthony Potochniak of Endicott, N.Y., Martin Showers, Akron, O. and Charles G. Heintl, Maria Stein, O., had spent their spare time dogging the Department of Defense, members of Congress and Navy officials, in an attempt to trace the 5 survivors of the sinking.

Aided By Washington

Finally, after finding help in Washington, the three were able to compile a list of 425 survivors. Letters of invitation were sent.

Much of the activity at this first reunion involved attempts to find "some of the boys you spent time on a raft with." All of the crew of the *Gambier Bay* spent at least two days and two nights in the ocean, before being rescued. Several others recall floating many more days.

Lloyd Carothers, a Portland, Ore., high school English teacher, had recollections that were at times sad.

"There were 24 of us hanging onto a piece of plank from the flight deck," he said. "Later, when we were picked out of the water, there were eight. Some lost their grip after taking in too much salt water. Others, in a delusional state, swam away to what they thought was the sound of an approaching ship."

"Everybody here loves the Navy," said another man. "There are at least 200 different and sometimes heroic stories in this room."

"Why we are here," said George LeGrath, a Milwaukee, Wis., plant superintendent, "is something the kids don't understand. It's not patriotism particularly. It's a common experience. You just want to see the guys you shared it with. We're not flag-waving."

Shipmates:

I received this article from John Hagerty (Ed's son). Thought everyone would enjoy this as well as Ed.

Fri., Dec. 8, 1944. MINNEAPOLIS STAR JOURNAL 9

AFTER 45 HOURS AT SEA IN A LIFEBELT

Seaman Hits Deck 'Like Dish Rag'

PICKED UP after floating in South Pacific waters 45 hours, Edward S. Hagerty, Jr., 19, Sic, told today how he stepped on the deck of the res-

cuing ship, only to "hit the deck like a wet dish rag."

Hagerty arrived home Thursday with the first group of Minneapolis men to return from the

sunken escort carrier Gambler Bay.

He told his mother how, after a Japanese cruiser destroyed his carrier with point-blank shell fire, he and the surviving crew members went overboard with only their carbon-dioxide inflated lifebelts to keep them afloat.

He brought his life belt home as a souvenir.

For two days and nights, Hagerty and his companion drifted, while small craft from the newly-won beachhead on Leyte searched for survivors. There were only enough life rafts to take care of the wounded men.

His most vivid recollection is of a dentist from the Gambler Bay, who treated all the wounded aboard the rafts, even before applying a tourniquet to his own badly wounded leg.

Typical of the spirit of young American sailors, Hagerty said that as soon as he finishes his present 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Hagerty, 415 Fifth avenue SE., he will try to get aboard another carrier.

All but one of the planes aboard the Gambler Bay managed to fly to safety.



EDWARD S. HAGERTY, MRS. E. S. HAGERTY
Shows mother lifebelt that saved his life in Pacific waters

I just found out Ed fell and broke his pelvis- get well soon Ed.



USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Reunion 2012 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Save the Date Oct 17-21st 2012

**Come join the Gambier Bay Association Commemorate
The 68th anniversary of the sinking of the USS Gambier Bay
Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.
Let them be aware of the strong history your ship had in WWII.**

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