

# USS WARRINGTON

## DD843

*"We don't remember months or days  
We remember "Moments"*

December 2010

copy one 2011

Dear Shipmates, Wife's and Friends of the USS Warrington DD843. Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the Christmas Holiday's.

For all of you who came to Newport, Rhode Island for our Seventh Annual reunion, It was a trip to reality. I, for one was shocked because of the fact I couldn't recognize anything about our home port. I could have been in Oshkosh, Nebraska as well as Newport. "Whew" I didn't see anything that brought a glimmer of the time I spent up there.

Newport went from a Navy town to a wonderful resort for all to visit. I couldn't find the gate we used to come out of and the wonderful square was all gone. No more YMCA, and all the bars that used to line the streets coming out of the gate. Geez, I would have been happy to see a Marine, remember those guys who used to make sure that we were dressed to code. (whatever that was) They would check our passes and make sure everything was ship shape. (Used to drive me nuts) We would ride the motor whale boats in on those cold winter days and they were there ensure that we didn't have on our wool hats and turtle neck sweaters underneath our blue's. I guess you all remember how cold it was! Anyway, after 55 years of leaving Newport I was disappointed in my return.

I would tell my wife many tales about Newport and couldn't wait to go aboard the **USS Kennedy** to show her the radio shack were I used to work. Another disappointment! The radio shack was nothing like the Warrington. **Rich Angelino**, the curator of the Kennedy has been in contact with me for the past two years and he opened many of the compartments for our shipmates to visit.

We had our Memorial Service aboard the **Battleship Massachusetts**, with the honorable James Warrington, who had an outstanding service to remember our departed shipmates. We did the pledge of allegiance, sang "God Bless America" and "nick" gave a small speech and honored the wife's **George Ellinwood and Nancy Smith**.

Afterward we had a wonderful lunch aboard the Battleship and settled down to remember our days aboard our ship. It was a long time since I had a dinner aboard a ship in Newport, Rhode Island. By the way, they have a bridge that connects Newport to Connecticut. Remember we would take a ferry across the Bay, and if we didn't make it in time we had to drive all the way up, thru Providence and down to the highway to get to any state west of Newport. There were some tough days but these were very happy days in my life. I loved the **Warrington** and all the happiness she brought into my life.

"nick"

## SOME NEWS FROM SHIPMATES

**Judy Held** wrote that her and Jack will be moving once again, and hopes this will be the last time, to Long Beach, Mississippi. (Nice to see them in Newport)

**Anita Purcell** writes, "nick" My husband **Jack Purcell** passed away last October, but I would like to attend the Saturday Night Banquet/Farwell Breakfast in Newport along with **John J Demmer** ( an 843 alumnus) and his significant other, **Carol Hurn**. ( Met Anita, John and Carol, but didn't spend enough time communicating with them. Thanks for coming and hope to see you all again

**Tom Perry** wrote, "nick" Good to hear from you again. You are the one of the radiomen that were aboard from mid 1954 to 1956. Someone was supposed to mail me an application but I never received it. What has your life been after the Navy? I will keep in touch and will join the Warrington Association. (Tom give me a call sometime and we can chat) "nick"

**Lt Pete Regnier** wrote, "nick" I spoke to **Jim Honigschmidt** after he returned from the latest Warrington reunion and commented about the good time he had and how great it was to see you and Pinky again. Sorry I wasn't able to make the reunion this time and was really looking forward to getting back to Newport. I wanted to personally thank you for the tireless work you have done for the Warrington Association. I would never had the chance to re-establish contact with Jim, Capt Zirps, **Capt Petree, Ed Oneil, Gordon Stofer** or many of my old shipmates, plus, I would never have gotten to meet and spend time with your and other Warrington members who served before I got On board. It's been an enriching experience that I will never forget. You have brought a lot of old friends together, something you can really be proud of. Please say hello to Pinky for me, and look forward to when we can get together again.

**Herman Gross, ET2 53-56** wrote, Well Guys, I waited pretty long to make a decision and it has been made for me. This reunion should be the best considering the venue but Shirley and I just can't make it again this year. We've been hit with a recent death of our son-in-law and now Shirley is laid up with knee surgery. In addition two of our kids have lost their jobs and need all the monetary assistance I can give them which rules out the expenditure like the reunion inadvisable. Thankfully I'm doing great and will be 79 this Sept 4th. I'll be thinking of you all. Shirly and I have agreed to make the trip ourselves sometime and the good lord willing. Regards to all, Herman Gross. ( Herman sorry we didn't see you this time but look forward to other Warrington reunions. "nick")

Capt **Jim Honigschmit** wrote, Thanks again for another successful reunion of the Warrington crew. I enjoyed visiting our home port and seeing you and Pinky again. I know that assembling the crew of the Warrington every year is a passion for you and brings back many good memories of your days as a Warrington warrior. I spent a long time talking to **Bill Jurgens** (your division officer) who had many good stories about your experiences on the "W" when you were shipmates. I had many of the same flashbacks in my discussion with Chief Fuller was was my GQ phone taker on the Warrington. You have created a legacy of reintroducing us to good memories in a growing crew of former Warrington members that we all appreciate. "You have been and always will be the face of the Warrington that got us all back together. You can take pride in what you have done for all of us. (Thank you Captain, the praise is nice but the love of "my ship" will always stay in my heart, and seeing my shipmates is the reason I pursue the dream that we should never forget that wonderful ship and shipmates)

Heard from a **John Dognazzi**, who is looking for **John L Green BT2**. He believes he came aboard ship in 1962 and he would like to communicate with him. (John is not a Warrington member, but he still is a shipmate).

**Valerie Guagliano**, daughter of **Alvin Cameron** AKA "Al the Sailor" called me from Bermuda to ask if her Dad and Brother in Law, **Anthony Gallo** would be coming to the reunion in Newport. Al took a bus from New York to join all his shipmates in Newport. ( I wanted to meet Al and Anthony but not being up to par didn't get around like I would have liked to. Looked thru the album from Newport and didn't see their pictures either. It would have been nice if their pictures were in the album for all to see. ok ✓

I would like to thank **Captain Honigschmit** and **Capt Zirps** for all the work they did to get us admission to the Newport War College. They co-coordinated everything with **Steve Stasiuk** to ensure we had a "great visit" This trip was the best one on the tour. I think I went to radio school there while aboard the Warrington. I was privileged to shake hands with Admiral Nolan, he was the third Admiral I ever shook hands with. One in Washington DC at our reunion and one aboard ship when I served with **Captain Mendenhall**. ( Next time you see me, ask me about the last one) I enjoyed visiting the Big Castles that we used to look at when we were leaving port in Narraganset Bay, after all those years I finally saw the homes on the hill. My wife was shocked by the rough seas in Newport. I used to tell her about the Warrington boncing up and down up there. And boy was it cold

## MORE NEWS FROM SHIPMATES

I Have an e-mail from **Joe Papotto** that I received on November 15, 2009. (Sorry) Joe, but don't remember if I told you that I had put some picture of the ship in the newsletter but don't know if you belong to the association then. But here's what Joe said:

Hi Nick, I'm the guy who was sleeping in when the collision occurred. It's been over 50 years so I don't quite remember you. I'm just learning how to use the computer after all these years. I've been telling this story about the collision for a long time, but I've never seen any proof of the incident. I've tried to get info from the computer but it never was recorded. I would appreciate sending me any info about it. Thanks for bringing back old memories. God Bless, Joe Papotto.

Joe, I had pictures and will put them in the next newsletter. Since my health has been on the upswing I can be back to my old self. My body is a little worn but my mind is still intact. I remember you and have to tell you that many of the officers are still kicking. **Lt Jurkens, Lt Close, and Lt Taborsky** came to the Newport Reunion. I hope you can make it to one of our reunions, because I've talked about you many times with other shipmates. Like **Clyde Stewart, Denver Smith** to name a few. Yes, us radiomen knew more of the crew than the crew knew of us. **Lt Jurkens** had businesses in Tampa for years and he told me that Captain **Weilding** lived there also. **Captain Mendenhall** was Captain during the collision. Thanks for writing and sorry for the delay in getting back to you.

Talked to **Joe Tetreault** and he gave me **Howie Geist** telephone number. I told Howie how come you go to Jacksonville and don't come over to see me! He told me that he would come and surprise me some day. Sure have a hard time finding Howie. Gee's seems like we have quite a few shipmates from the other coast of Florida.

**Lt D'Amico, George Ellinwoods** wife, **Howie Giest Jack Holley** and some others who's name's I can't remember. I should get them all together and have a Warrington Florida Reunion. I think **Steve Futak** will be moving South soon, and by the way I have an article Steve sent me about his travels. He and his wife Joan are world travelers. (Steve is the sheriff chasing you) haha. By the way **Jack Holley** lives on the other coast and while we were in Newport Jack bought me a set of "dog tags" Don't know where mine went.

I would like to hear from more of our officers and shipmates about travels, babies, grandbabies and such. I hear to much about our shipmates passing and that is a depressing matter. **"SO WRITE"** tell me something good that happened to you and your family.

I have to say thank you to our officers who try so hard to find other officers to get together at the reunions. Thanks to **Lt Jurkens** and **Captain Honigschmit**. Thanks to **Captain Zirps** and hope to see Captain Petree again soon. **Captain Petree** has had his problems and we all wish him the best. Can't get in touch with him, So please give me an e-mail Captain to say your well. God Bless.

A LETTER FROM JOHN RAND  
(The Warrington collision in 1955)

Dear Nick, I was aboard the Warrington that faithful night in January 1955 and as there may not be many shipmates left that were ther here is the complete story as I remember it.

In January of 1955 ( I cannot remember the date) the Warrington and the USS Powers, DD839 were engaged in our usuall activity which was chasing submarines about the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. The ships position was approximately 80 nautical miles from Puerto Rico.

At one time I knew the ships exact position but that information has long since left my memory. At about 3030 hrs. the collision alarm was sounded followd immediately by the work, "now belay that" Not too many of us moved as the collision alarm sounded frequently. I was in my bunk (top) studying my "First and Chief manual. At the time I was a second class pipefitter hoping to become a First Class Pipefitter in February of 1956. Shortly after the first collision sounded the alarm sounded once again. I started to get out of my bunk but the alarm was rescinded before I could do so. My berthing compartment was occupied by members of the supply department, Boiler Tenders and members of the Repair Division.

Joe Papotto also lived in that compartment. At about 2110 the collision alarm sounded once again but for reason I cannot understand this time was different. Something told me to leave the compartment immediately. I leaped from my bunk and I hit the deck running for the up ladder. The IMC then said "all hands stand by for collision port side" I ran up the ladder to the after fan room and out the port main deck door and saw the bow of the Powers which was about to collide with us.

I turned around and ran out the starboard door just as the IMC said "all hands clear the port side" and then, "stand by for collision" I grabbed the K gun rack and held on tight. The Powers collided with us, port side at frame 178 causing the ship to roll to starboard perhaps 10 degree or so. She penetrated the main deck for about three feet, through the skin of our ship opening up a hole

Exactly in the shape of the stem of the Powers and into the berthing compartment below. Just then "General Quarters" was sounded and we all manned our battle stations. My battle station was at Repair 2 forward and as soon as condition able was set the Chief in charge of Repair 2 **BMC Westbrook** (deceased) ordered me to go aft to see if I could assist wherever I could.

In charge of repair three was one of the most talented, intelligent, personable po it has even been my privilege to serve with in the US Navy ME 1 **Obadiah B Stultz** (deceased) better know as Obie. Obie intently disliked being referred to as Obadiah and had been know to inflict severe bodily harm on at least one other ME-1.

He taught me much about my particular rate and was admired by all aboard. I asked Obie what I could do and he said, take one man, assess the damage and report back to me. I and a third class pipefitter, **J Donahue** entered the compartment which was already seriously flooding with black fuel oil and seawater. Sparks were emanating from under a foot locker and showering the entire port side of the compartment with sparks. At this point let me add the **Joe Papotto's** bunk was located on the port side of the ship at frame 178. The end of his bunk was one foot forward of where the Powers sliced into our ship. A few feet or so further aft and Joe would have been very seriously injured of possible killed.

He had abandoned the compartment as soon as he discovered the bow of a destroyer trying to occupy his bunk. I saw Joe a few minutes later and I honestly thought that he ha somehow gotten covered with white paint or flour, his face was that white and he was scared out of his wits. But just then I didn't have time to chat.

\*NOTE\* this story is quite long and will continue this in the next newsletter. By the way, I was aboard ship at the time, and it was quite scary. (THIS IS PART ONE)

## BIRTHDAYS—past and future

Lt George Taborsky .....	10/9/27
Jack Held .....	10/19/26
Bill Wieskus.....	10/8/37
Lt Bill Jurkens.....	1/14/30
Russell Clough.....	11/3/34
Walt McConnell.....	10/2/31
Neil Chatterton.....	1/15/51
Paul Gruner.....	1/6/43
Shelly Bockner.....	10/8/38
Clyde Stewart.....	12/26/34
Bonnie Stewart.....	01/04/38
James Warrington.....	09/19/26
Jerry Oliver.....	8/25/47
Ron Nichols.....	11/28/41
Nick DiSalvo.....	11/25/33
Al Cameron.....	8/17/25
Bob Schamens.....	8/20/31
Nancy Schamens.....	1/04/49
Frank Schleis.....	1/26/26
Nancy Smith...wife of Denver.....	12/11/40
Theodore Sussman.....	02/9/46

Shipmates, wives and friends, this is all the birthdays I have and I only included the birthdays for this newsletter period. I will have more names for the next newsletter.

Please send me your name, birthday, anniversary dates so I can update my files.

Send to: [jdisalvo843@verizon.net](mailto:jdisalvo843@verizon.net)

Tel.....727 734 7060

## NOTICE

### DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE WARRINGTON ASSOCIATION ARE DUE THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY

If you have received this newsletter and not a member of the Warrington Association please send a \$15.00 check to: Treasurer, Steve Zenes, 640 Lakewood Dr, Matthews, NC 28104

Steve is also our web master who does a wonderful job on our site.

## MORE SHIPMATE NEWS

**Jim Reed**, a current organization member former Association member passed a losing his battle with cancer.

Send sympathy cards to:

Mrs Jim Reed  
6 Omaha Street  
Barnegat, NJ 08005

**Jack Purcell**, a member of the Warrington Association passed away last October 2010:

Send sympathy cards to:

Anita Purcell  
58 Pinedale Avenue  
Haverhill, MA 01830

**Paul Dalier**, a Warrington member passed away from cancer. Please send sympathy cards to:

Mrs Paul Dalier  
4618 Utopia Dr  
Metairie, LA 7001

**Pete Camiolo**, a Warrington member passed away 4/27/2010. I have not been able to reach his daughter Laura Chan for more info or address. Laura has been in touch since that last e-mail informing me about his death from cancer.

**Ron Nadarski**, writes: Nick, I received the latest newsletter and was glad to hear the next reunion would be in Newport/Fall River area. When I served aboard her, that's where we operated out of. I haven't been back there since I left in 1961 and so I'm sure it has changed a lot. The other reason I was glad to hear about having the reunion in the area is because the Joseph P Kennedy DD850 is a Battleship Cove. The Kennedy was our sister ship all during my tour. We went on the 1960 cruise together after to President Kennedy's inauguration in January 1961. The other reason I'm writing is to ask you if John Murphy attended the San Diego reunion. \*note\* Ron, John Murphy passed away a few years ago. He came to the Baton Rouge reunion and died after that.