

Scuttlebutt

**A quarterly publication of the USS Samuel
B. Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association**

Volume 20, Number 1

January, 2021



The excitement builds as Reunion 2021 in Boston comes more and more into focus. By the time you are reading this Scuttlebutt, you should have received a flyer containing information about and a sign-up sheet for this anticipated event. Some of that information is reprinted here-in.

A large turnout is anticipated for this get-together and the hotel has indicated they are nearly sold out for our dates. Therefore I urge each of you to book your rooms early. There will be no charge for cancellations made up to 3 days prior to reservation date so there is no downside to early booking.

I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, and Valentine's Day and are eagerly looking forward, despite the pandemic, to St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring and Memorial Day weekend. I know I am.

In this issue you will find many of the columns you have come to love. Offerings that rekindle memories of good times long ago and keep you dreaming the dreams that prolong youth. There will also be a follow-up on the story we ran last issue on the last remaining survivor of the DE-413. There will be, if space permits, some destination information on the Boston area that may prove valuable in planning your trip. And, as always, there will be a couple of surprises.

Honor Roll

Add

Robert M. Bader (53-55)

Philip D. Eckland (52-53)

Harry C. Free (53-57)

Bruce Gadansky (64-67)

William V. Hennessey (46-48) plank owner

Lester “Butch” Manzi (67-69)

William Rost Jr. (60-63)

Robert O. Samsel (49-53)

Stanley S. Skorupski (55-57)

From the President's Desk

Here we are, sitting on the edge, the start of 2021. Holidays are behind us and the New Year has begun. First and foremost; By the time this issue of the "Butt" gets to each of you, your copy of the up and coming October reunion package should have, as promised, been delivered. While the situation in regard to the pandemic remains somewhat unclear, there are hopeful signs on the horizon. It is expected that by October things will be pretty close to normal. Keeping that in mind, the reunion is on track to be held as scheduled. As noted in the reunion bulletin, no one should have reservations about planning or attending. **"All monies will be returned if the Pandemic precludes holding the reunion. Register without fear."** See everyone in October!!

Recently I was reading an article in which, from out of the blue, the writer made reference to the naval term "head." It got me to thinking about all the Navy words and expressions we learned to use and how some words and expressions have remained with us after all these years.

For me, as I am sure for most of you, it started the very first day of boot camp. I remember getting a welcoming lecture from a polished petty officer, who at the time I thought to be at least a Captain or an Admiral. Our remodeling started with something like; "You are now sailors, and you will start acting like one. You will no longer be looking for the bathroom, you will be looking for the head. The floor is now the deck, etc., etc."

Thus it began. We all started using new "Navy" nouns and verbs. Our changeover was starting. By the time we went home on our first leave we were definitely a different person and to impress others we used some of our new vocabulary. Thinking we were cool we said things like what's for chow or I'll be back by 1600. When we reported to our first duty station our vocabulary continued to grow with new words like gee dunk, 48 hour pass, your %^#\$\$A, mid-watch and so many more. Over time these words and expressions became part of everyday life and there was no hesitancy about using them. This continued until our enlistments were up and we reentered civilian life. Yet some of the words stayed with us and are even used by people who were never in the military. In actuality, many words have their origin in the military.



General Joseph Hooker

During the Civil War there was a Union General by the name of Joseph Hooker (See photo left). He was an unusual General who had a tendency to insure that his troops were well treated and well paid. As a result, they were not afraid to cut loose when off-duty. That fact brings me to this little tale. His command's reputation ensured that wherever they traveled, civilian entrepreneurs would follow peddling their wares. Among those plying their trades at this time, in this place, were a sizable number of ladies of the evening. Wherever the company traveled the ladies traveled. They were ready to set up wherever the boys were sent. This became so normal that the ladies became known as "Hooker's Followers." Gradually the word followers was dropped.

Thus the term "Hookers" was born. How many knew that? Another everyday word with military origins.

Ken Friedman

Bird Droppings

When we first came up with the idea of a newsletter for DD823 veterans, we looked at many different names before arriving at the word “Scuttlebutt.” In retrospect, it was just a natural that we should name it thus. For, according to my books on nautical terms, a scuttlebutt is a cask on deck used for the crews drinking water, and kept over the scuttle for drainage. Lately, a scuttlebutt has become a drinking fountain. Because much unauthenticated information was exchanged around the drinking fountain, the rumor mill aboard ship came to be known as “scuttlebutt.” And so, my fellow shipmates, we all became participants in conjecture, rumor and spreading the word on upcoming events, itineraries, personnel and just about anything else you can think of. I remember hearing scuttlebutt on upcoming cruises, destinations, schedules, officer appointments and just general news. Some of it was even right. I think you all know what I mean when you think of the way we got word of just about anything. From my time aboard, I remember hearing the scuttlebutt on upcoming liberty ports, upcoming exercises, or hell, just about anything. We of course heard all kinds of information (or disinformation) prior to official notice via the Plan of the Day, Captain’s announcements, or something in print. There was nothing quite like scuttlebutt. For hopes were shared, plans were made, and a sort of camaraderie was formed between shipmates who all “shared” what they thought was going to happen. (Or, as Bob Kipphorn would remind me: “Have you heard the latest scuttlebutt?”) And so today you hold in your hands a communications link that still brings us all together. Information shared, memories retrieved, plans for the future. Only this time, it’s true. It’s not conjecture, it’s not a bunch of wishful thinking.

In the last issue of the Scuttlebutt, the printer’s gremlins somehow reprinted my previous column, rather than the one I had written for the holidays. So, I’m sending long to you my belated wishes for a much better 2021, and will send you my very heartwarming Christmas column next year.

In late December the Wall Street Journal featured an article on the Navy, and how the Trump Administration planned to build a bigger Navy, increasing our current fleet from 295 ships today to 355 within five years. The projection, it seems, dealt more with adding frigates and destroyers than capital ships such as aircraft carriers (the USS Gerald R. Ford carries a price tag of 1.3 billion). I don’t know what will happen to those plans, but it appears that China is on pace to build their fleet with new subs, carriers, and of course smaller ships. Perhaps those shipbuilding plans could possibly go forward after all. What occurred to me, is that with an additional amount of ships joining the Navy, they will undoubtedly need the personnel to run them.



So my friends, it’s time to ship over. Just remember, age is a state of mind. Things might seem a little different now than when you were aboard ship, but the Navy needs you. And with your level of experience (discounting the fact you know nothing about nuclear power plants, GPS reckoning, computerized weapons systems, laptops, etc.) I’m absolutely certain that we could all go back as Chiefs. I like that: Chief Eagle. Sounds almost Native American.

Yeah, that’s it. To hell with the pandemic. Let’s all go back in and enjoy those paid vacations to see the world. Maybe we could sign up en masse in Boston. I, for one, am really looking forward to seeing y’all again, when we can spin a yarn around the old scuttlebutt. Meanwhile, stay safe, and my very best wishes for a great 2021.

Chief Don Eagle

Of Ships & Shoes

“So [said the doctor], Now vee may perhaps to begin. After 300 pages. Yes?”

Thus ends Portnoy’s Complaint. After 300 pages. On the couch in an analyst’s office. So what’s my complaint? “Hey Doc., I’m fine. What? Me worry?”

Happy with the election? Unhappy with the election? Not me. Just riding out the pandemic. The mess after New Year’s? What mess? No vaccine yet? Yeah, I know it’s here but it’s not in my arm yet. So far I’ve been lucky. Or is it careful? It’ll come. What? The vaccine or the grim reaper? Definitely both, but I hope in that order! But by my next birthday which is only a few days away. Which? The vaccine or the grim reaper? Take a guess, sailor!

There is so much to complain about. Isn’t that what sailors do? Wardroom officers are exempt except about the XO and Welsh Rarebit. Pandemic numbers are bad and getting worse. Vaccine roll out is so slow. “Who’s on first? What’s on third?” Medical workers? Essential workers? Who’s essential? First responders? Nursing homes? Old age is getting older. Now they’re talking about the elderly getting it next. How old is elderly? Did I hear someone say 65? What, are they kidding? Sixty-five! That’s the Youth Group! Hey, bud. Do I have a complaint? Remember that birthday I mentioned? I my feel like I’m still a sixth grader but my last significant birthday was a few years ago and it was after my diamond anniversary. But I still have no complaints. I have my toilet paper. I have my warm house. And occasionally I get an email. Christmas was fun, courtesy of Zoom. The heat is still on in winter. Who’s the a.....e who said, “Oh wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?” Spring? The vaccine in my arm? Sure! Spring training? Sure! Opening day? Sure! Who’s on first? Nahhh. Surely I’ll get it by then. I mean the vaccine.

I am writing this in January. You all know the lead time set by the editor, the proofer, the printer, and the postal service. All before, at last, my column reaches you. Will the vaccine in my left arm beat the Scuttlebutt to my mailbox? “What? Me worry?” Not a chance. I have no complaints like poor Arnold Portnoy. The inauguration is behind us. The signs are all over the neighborhood since a year ago February, “Everything will be OK.” And they will be. Everything, that is. The signs tell me, “Everything will be OK.” Maybe I’ll get vaccinated in the new presidents first hundred days. Still trying to be lucky and careful – about the COVID thing. I’m not worried.



I have a ship reunion to go to in October. Seems like a long way away. Surely I’ll get my shot in the arm by then. I need it because Boston may have a rule that’ll say something like, “Do not enter unless vaccinated. If you approach the Hub of the Universe unvaccinated, a ten day quarantine is mandatory.”

Do we have lots to complain about? Think about it. Probably not. Blessings abound. I am just having fun writing about these strange days we live in. And at least it’s living. Could be worse. We could join those daily COVID statistics. Think of the words of the immortal Dionne Warwick, “I say a little prayer for you.” I think I’ll join the others who I know are praying for their shipmates and say a little prayer for you.

Now think back to what you just read and what you did not hear in all the blathering – anything bad about how bad 2020 was! The way I think about 2020 is that I made it through. Intact. With gratitude and without complaint. I made it through. See you in Boston.

Jim Antenucci

Roberts Biannual Reunion

October 4-8, 2021 Boston, MA

Schedule

Venue – Best Western Adams Inn located in Quincy, MA, (617) 328-1500.

Monday, Oct. 4

- 1:00pm – Registration begins, Hospitality Room open**
- 6:00pm – Cocktail Hour**
- 7:00pm – Welcoming Buffet**

Tuesday, Oct. 5

- 8:00am – Salem, MA tour**
- 11:00am – Gloucester, MA tour**
- 2:00pm – Thomas E. Lannon sail**
- 4:00pm – Seaside Dinner**
- 6:00pm – Return to Hotel, Hospitality Room open**

Wednesday, Oct. 6

- 9:00am – Charlestown Navy Yard/USS Constitution tour**
- 3:00pm – Assn. Picnic at Hotel**
- 7:00pm – Assn. Auction**
- 9:00pm – Business Meeting**
Hospitality Room to remain open following picnic

Thursday, Oct. 7

- 9:00am – John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum tour**
- 6:00pm – Cocktail Hour**
- 7:00pm – Formal Banquet**
Hospitality Room open from noon on

Friday, Oct. 8

- 11:00am – Depart**

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Jim Norton @ (802) 893-8045.

Agent Orange Update – The VA recently updated their list for Vietnam era veterans that may be eligible for the **Presumption of Agent Orange exposure**. Roberts was previously identified but this new listing provides specific dates and locations.

More information can be found on the VA's website: www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-agent_orange.asp. You can also call the Agent Orange Help Line at 1-800-749-8387 or send an e-mail to GW/AOHelpline@vba.va.gov.

Presumptive means the government takes for granted that certain conditions were caused by exposure to Agent Orange regardless of the duration exposure. If you have qualifying illnesses, contact the VA and get help and compensation.

Letters from Charlie Ens. Charles Fox

28 Oct.

Dear Mom & Dad

Last night I came across a poem by John Updike about the scenery hereabouts.

Shipbored

That line is the horizon line
The blue above it is divine.
The blue below it is marine
Sometimes the blue below is green.
Sometimes the blue above is gray
Betokening a cloudy day.
Sometimes the line below is white
Foreshadowing windy night.
Sometimes a drifting coconut
Or albatross adds color, but
The blue above is mostly blue
The blue below and I are, too.



Ens. Charles Fox

Our new captain, who came aboard in Pearl, is in the process of relieving the old captain, and will do so formally in Yokosuka. The new one – Commander Glaser – is very different. He will not, I am sure, write reams of letters off to houses of the men. He will not badger on about the crew's movie or the conditions of the popcorn machine.

We did jumping jacks at the officer's physical fitness sessions that we have been having daily while taking twenty degree rolls. Two drawings I did for the boatswain mates of a sea horse are now painted on the covers to the chain lockers in the eyes of the ship. The 2nd class boatswains mate who liked the drawing and painted it on has been receiving a lot of guff about it. "Whoever heard of a seahorse with fins." "Its got a tail like a whale's." "It looks pregnant." "What a stupid seahorse."

Charlie

Appreciation — In the last issue of this newsletter we printed a picture of Mr. Adred Lenoir, the last remaining survivor of the original USS Samuel B Roberts (DE-413). We also printed his request to receive 97 cards for his 97th birthday. Our Association took his plea to heart.

A communication from Mr. Lenoir has recently been received in which he offers sincere gratitude to all the DD-823 shipmates. He ended up receiving 690 cards, plus books, coins and other ephemera. Way to make a Robert's shipmate's day, week and year. You 823 guys are the best.

Fun Quiz - Also in the December issue we ran a little quiz (reprinted here). Jim Antenucci kindly provides us the answers.

Fun Quiz

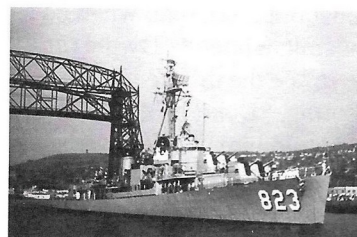
Hopefully this little quiz will provide a pleasant diversion for all you Sammy B swabbies. Jim Antenucci has provided 3 photos. Under each will be a question or questions about them. Answer the questions to Jim Antenucci at jimanten@gmail.com or Jim Norton at jijo1944@comcast.net. Correct responses will be recognized in the next issue of this newsletter. Have fun!



1



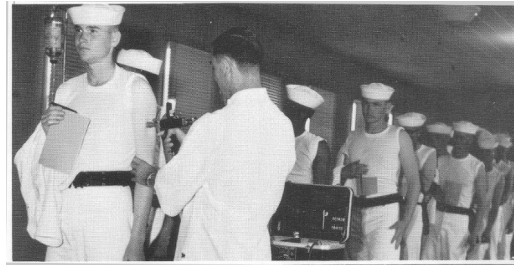
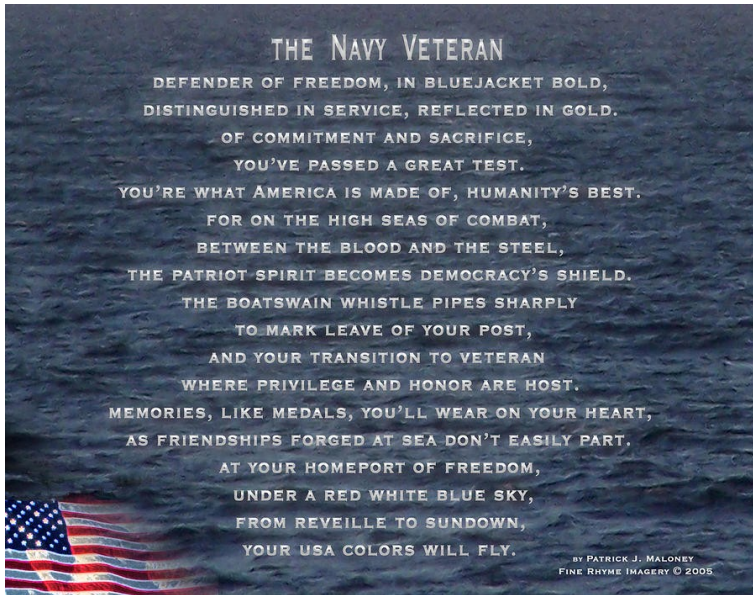
2



3

- 1 – Name of ship? Name of City? Year?
- 2 – Name of horn player?
- 3 – Where? Year?

- 1) Queen Elizabeth arriving in New York City on a warm June morning as the Roberts was standing out of port. Our ship was on a midshipmen cruise in 1963. Ports of call were Hamilton, Bermuda followed by New York City and finally Sydney, Nova Scotia. I wondered if we would have rendered a passing salute to this venerable seagoing ship for her service in World War II as a troop transport.
- 2) Anyone who guessed Kirk Douglas in Young Man with a Horn would be wrong. I am surprised the young sonarman with a horn didn't even send in his own name. Yes, our own John Rosevear always ready with the brass for BTC DelBarone's 1963 Midshipmen's cruise band.
- 3) Thought we would hear from someone in the Association who made the famous Great Lakes cruise in 1959 during Operation Inland Sea and Midshipmen Cruise. Don, Mike, Tony? We thought Charlie Fuller may have been aboard but he made an earlier Midshipmen cruise to South America in 1957. Photo not by Jim Antenucci but found on-line.



Get your Covid Shot

Echoes

On September 10, 1952 Roberts arrived in Greenock, Scotland to participate in Operation Mainbrace. Upon completion she visited Portland, England for four days, then proceeded to the Mediterranean where he took part in Operation Long Step and visited Gibraltar, Sicily, Greece and Leghorn, Italy.

Roberts departed the Med on 17 November for duty in Northern Europe. The first port she visited was Plymouth, England. She was there for Thanksgiving Day, 1952, and the officers and men of the ship participated in a memorial service at the spot from which the Pilgrims set sail for the New World in the Mayflower in 1620.

Afterwards, the ship visited Hull, England and Hamburg and Bremerhaven, Germany. She ended the year in London, England for the Christmas holidays. No wonder she was known as the **Steaming Sammy B.**

Jim Norton

**U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DD-823
SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION
2020 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ending Balance (12/31/2019).....	\$5,948.16
Deposits (01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020).....	<u>\$1,185.00</u>
	\$7,133.16
Disbursements (01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020)....	<u>\$2,596.46</u>
Ending Balance (12/31/2020).....	\$4,536.70
2020 Deposits:	
Dues.....	\$970.00
Donations.....	<u>\$215.00</u>
Total:.....	\$1,185.00
2020 Disbursements/Expenditures:	
Scuttlebutt, Letters, Envelopes, Printing & Postage.....	\$1,996.46
Best Western Inn Deposit for 2021 Boston Reunion.....	\$350.00
Eagle One Coach Deposit for 2021 Boston Reunion.....	<u>\$250.00</u>
Total:.....	\$2,596.46
Receipts on file.	

Dues — 2021 membership renewal date is January 1. The dues collected ensure this Scuttlebutt gets to you. Send your check in the amount of \$15 to USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Assn. Mail to Kevin Mckeown, 47 Long Beach Drive, Sound Beach, NY 11789.

Ship's Store — Get your Sammy B themed merchandise for Christmas from Carol Green who runs our ship's store. She carries a variety of items like hats, tees, sweatshirts, hoodies, etc. Reach Carol at egreen4392@comcast.net. Order form also available on website samuelbroberts.org. Order early!

Officers

President	Ken Giadina	giark@ptd.net
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Chaplain	Jim Cruce	virginiacruce@fairpoint.net
Webmaster	Tom Zwemke	tzwemke@gmail.com

Website/Facebook Page — Check out our web page at samuelbroberts.org. It is a source for all things DD-823. Also, you can become interactive on our Facebook page, USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association. Join now and join the discussion.



Sammy B. Scuttlebutt

A quarterly publication of the

USS Samuel G. Roberts (DD823)

Shipmates Association

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