



USS FISKE

DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER



Volume 30 - Number 4 - November 2014

Fiske Honors Historical Events

Stories on Page 7



President's Letter

Shipmates,

In my Historian's article on page 4, I write of my visit in France to the US cemetery above Omaha Beach. A few weeks later in the south of France, I stood on the corniche above the harbor of Monaco. It was a pilgrimage of sorts, since I hadn't visited that place in 53 years. In 1957, Fiske had entered that inner harbor, and in May of 1961, she was there again as the Monacan Gran Prix – won by Sterling Moss – raced around the harbor.

Memories make up much of the reasons that we gather every two years. They contribute to who we are and what made us the way we are. I felt renewed as I stood there overlooking that harbor. Just as I expect to feel renewed next September when we gather in Gettysburg. We are all Fiske sailors and that is our greatest common bond. I hope that everyone that is able to attend does so. I know that I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Now I'd like to pass out some kudos to the people that make the Fiske Association the success that it is. First up is our 2015 Reunion Host and Treasurer, James R. Rapson.

Featured In This Issue page

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James' fiscal acuity and firm hand give us the strength to do all we need to do for all members.

Without him we would not be on the firm financial ground we enjoy.

Secondly, our Webmaster, Steve Gilbert,

.....continued on page 5



On the Road to Gettysburg... with James Rapson, Treasurer & Reunion Host

How quickly the months go by! We are down to less than a year until the 2015 Reunion in Gettysburg, Pa.

The final details are being worked on as this is being written and the sign up form is being smoothed out. I anticipate that the form will be in the Spring 2015 newsletter and we will be able to accept reservations then.

As a reminder, all hotel reservations will be made directly with the hotel and please wait until the Group Code is published in the Spring before you make your reservations. That Group Code ensures that you will get the Association rate.

At the present time there are only two organized events being planned: one is a Battlefield tour on Friday and the second is the "Tea with Mamie" on Saturday for the Ladies while the Business Meeting is being held.

Experience tells me that with as much as there is to see in the Gettysburg area, that smaller groups work out best and we anticipate that

.....continued on page 6



From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

It's hard to believe how fast time flies! This edition marks the beginning of my 4th year as your Editor; having assumed the position on short notice in November, 2012.

That said, with all the duties that go with running Ship's Store, and the sundry tasks as your 2nd Vice President, I can truthfully report that this assignment is one that affords me the greatest creative freedom. I see it as the perfect opportunity to present serious business, mixed with other articles and a little humor; all that, with the intent to make it worthy of your interest, and not something that reads like a boring corporate report.

As Editor, my goal has always been, and shall continue to be, one of inclusion. With one exception, we include articles from our entire team. As your elected Officers, and those who agreed to serve as Appointments to the President, we owe it to you to be transparent in all we do to keep the Association on an even keel.

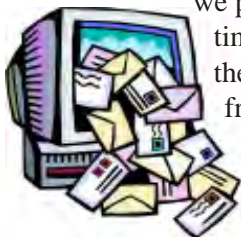
We represent you and the memories of the Fiske to the best of our abilities. Note that we work exceptionally well together, despite the fact that none of us lives close to one another; we live in Idaho, Florida, South Carolina, Rhode Island, North Carolina, New York, and New Jersey. In addition to the elected officers and appointments, we also have an active Board of Directors - equally spread about.

Now, with winter approaching and the end of the "off" year, our teamwork really starts to kick in with plans for the next reunion - only eleven months away. With the heavy lifting and ground work already done by James, and our former 1st VP, the remaining task list is quite long.

It's also been said that if one wants something to be done, the task(s) should be given to busy people - believe me - we are all busy! Consider the fact that none of us even lives close to Gettysburg, yet, it promises to be one of the all-time best times we've ever had.

Response thus far has been amazing - so - if you have plans to attend and would like to lend a hand, please contact any one of us. We promise not to overwork you, we promise to appreciate the generosity of your time, and most of all, we promise to give you the most special reward of all: the warmth of friendship and camaraderie of your fellow shipmates. Until next, time I wish you fair winds and following seas.

- Sandie



U S S F I S K E

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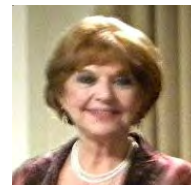
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Update Your Profile by Contacting Steve Gilbert at
WEBMASTER@USSFISKE.ORG

No email? Write to
Steve at the address on
the top of this page.



Do you have a New Home Address or Email?
Contact James Rapson above

The USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. is a Not for Profit Corporation under the IRS Code 501 © 19 rules and incorporated in the State of New Jersey. This newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to all members of the Association.

Notable Quote



"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

Abraham Lincoln,
16th U.S. President

SEPTEMBER - 24-27 2015

SAVE THE DATES!



GETTYSBURG, PA

15th BI-ANNUAL REUNION

Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil
GMG3
1959-1963

"Lord, guard and guide the men who fly, and those who on the ocean ply; be with our troops upon the land, and all who for their country stand: Be with these guardians day and night, and may their trust be in Thy might."

Author unknown



May God richly bless each of you and keep you safe always.
God's speed!

- Frank



Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite
SOG2 1959-1961

Shipmates,

It is always a great pleasure to announce the names of new members who have joined our Association. We are happy to have you - and welcome aboard to the following shipmates:

| | | |
|---------------|------|---------|
| Michael Walsh | BM3 | 1970-71 |
| Barry Bothan | SN | 1962-64 |
| Tom Moffatt | QMSA | 1964-66 |
| Joel Mann | BT2 | 1968-71 |
| Carl McDaniel | TM3 | 1965-66 |

On a more somber note, we must also announce the passing of three of our shipmates:

Phillip March - BM2, 1947-51
Ron Bailey - FT3, 1952-55
Edward Scott - CS2, 1949-51

Their names will be read to the tolling of the bell from the *Honor Roll of Deceased Shipmates* at the Gettysburg Reunion banquet.

All About Dues , A Friendly Reminder....

For the benefit of new members, our only source of income is from paid dues, contributions, and proceeds from Ship's Store. Your dues pay for this newsletter, Association business, postage, shipping, charitable donations and more. As our membership hovers around 600 shipmates, we'd be rolling in the dough if every one was paid up.

That has never happened, but we never drop anyone from the roster if they cannot pay; we are fortunate that our Treasurer ensures that every penny spent is a penny well spent; so, at only \$10.00 a year, we ask that you try to stay current so we can remain viable.



Helpful Hint: Did You Know?

If you have a computer, reading the newsletter is easier on your eyes if you get it by email!

Why? Because you can adjust the view to make it much larger! You can even print your own copy! It's in full color too!

It also saves the Association the cost of printing and postage. Don't be an old dog who doesn't want to learn new tricks! Try it - you might just love it! If you don't know how to view it, we're willing to bet that a grandchild or good friend will show you how in a jiffy!



- Jeff

- Editor

Ship's Store

with 2nd Vice President,
& Ship's Storekeeper, Sandie Siciliano



ETN2 1975-1980

These are just some of the items we have in stock. You can view the complete ship's store on the website. Please use the order form on page 8.



All shirts and caps are \$12.00 each.

Shirts are blue or gray.



Ball caps come in a beautiful stone beige, or navy. Or choose our new bucket cap in navy.



Remember, ALL caps are embroidered with your choice of DD or DDR-842.



Patches - \$5.00 for small, \$7.00 for large. Supply is very limited, small DDR is sold out.

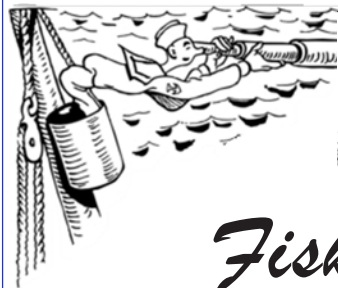
SUPPORT SHIP'S STORE!
Assorted Souvenirs Grab Bag!
FROM 2007-2013 REUNIONS

GRAB YOURS NOW - YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!

WORTH MORE THAN THE SALE PRICE!



A Surprise Selection of Keepsake Reunion Items
\$10.00



Fiske Mates

Featuring ST1 Ronald G White, 10-4-65 - 10-18-67



ST1 Ron White (center) shown here with buddies STG3 Huber, and ET3 Shields

This issue's Fiske Mate, ST1 Ron White, shares his memories from the 1967 Mediterranean Cruise, and how the Fiske became trapped in the Red Sea when the Six Day War between Israel and Egypt resulted in the blockade of the Suez Canal:

"The whole purpose of this cruise was to "show the flag" as we steamed around the Mediterranean; playing war games, visiting friendly ports, etc. That was our intention.

The CO announced that our port visit to the island of Malta would serve as an important event in promoting and strengthening maritime partnerships with European nations. Few of us really cared. The only question in our minds was "were the girls friendly?" Later, some said 'yes', others didn't comment. The whole episode is sort of hazy to me so I can't go into any detail. Probably just as well.

Intentions aside, Egypt and Israel had different ideas. Due to escalating conditions between them over who would control the Suez Canal, our Malta liberty was brought to a close and Fiske was ordered to transverse the canal. *Now!* But since some of the crew was still on the island, we

waited until the following day to leave.

Leaving Malta behind, we made for Port Said, the point where all ships wanting to transit the Suez had to wait. This included the USS Dyess (DD-880) which transited some days after us. Port Said was a fueling station for ships that passed through the Suez. There was no liberty - just get in line and wait - a favorite past time it would seem. The Captain then took the opportunity to remind us that the next few days (*days? little did he know!*) would be used to "protect US shipping interests and also monitor all ship traffic in and out of the Persian Gulf."

As we left Suez Port, we headed through the Gulf of Suez for the Red Sea, our patrolling area. And there we stayed. The big difference between the Panama and Suez Canals is that the latter has no locks because it's too flat. Therefore when it was Dyess's turn everyone was surprised at the greeting received from the citizens along the banks.

The tension between the UAR and Israel was known, but it was felt that the "flag-showing" missions were far removed from expressions of hostility. No incidents marred her transit, although protesters followed the ship in boats wherever they could and shouted jeers from the banks along the canal. Subsequently all military objectives along the canal were bombed by Israel, thereby cutting us off from the Sixth Fleet.

The Red Sea turned out to be our Med Cruise."

WANTED: Fiske Mates to appear in this column. Contact the Editor.



Gilbert E. Beyer,
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

Ship's Log Entries...

Historian's Report

A majestic ship was she, hat sailed the seven seas, we were her crew, we saw it through, and logged our history.



In late August I had the privilege of visiting the beaches of Normandy where so many of the 'Greatest Generation' fought and died. It is one thing to see the grainy old newsreels or the B&W photos in a book. It is entirely another thing to stand on the very sand on which they landed.

The landings spelled the beginning of the end for the Thousand Year Reich. Once those beach heads had been established it was no longer a

matter of 'if' but 'when' Nazi Germany would be defeated. Yes, it took almost another year to end the war, but that end became a certainty the moment that the walls of *Festung Europa* were breached. Granted the *FISKE* was not a part of the vast armada that made the landings possible; but, she would have fit right into the pictures taken that day of destroyers defending the LST's and troop ships from air attack, or shelling the German shore batteries with her 5" mounts much closer to shore than the

battleships and cruisers.

It was a thrill to be there a few short months following the 70th anniversary of that memorable date in June. The tour company I was with had a nice ceremony at the US cemetery above Omaha Beach with flowers, the National Anthem and Taps. I pray the heroics and sacrifices made that day - and every other day between December 7th, 1941 and August 14th, 1945 - never be forgotten.
- Gil

President's Message.... con't from page 1

deserves a round of applause. If you've read the newsletters lately you'll understand. Steve has provided invaluable guidance on creating strong passwords - essential in today's internet world - and given excellent advice on how best to navigate the pitfalls we 'seasoned citizens' will encounter on the internet. Thanks to Steve for everything.

Next up we have our Secretary, Jeff Kovite, who is essential in keeping us all informed of our membership - the comings of new crew members - the passing of Shipmates, and general business.

It should be noted that you don't have to be an Association member to be placed on the Honor Roll of deceased Shipmates. If anyone served on board Fiske they are eligible to be on the Honor Roll. If you know of anyone that has passed and served on board Fiske please let Jeff know.

Last, but by no means least, we have our Newsletter Editor/Second Vice-President/Ship's Storekeeper and all around good person, Sandie Siciliano. The content and success of



US Cemetery at Normandy, Fiske in Monte Carlo Harbor 1961, and Monte Carlo Harbor today.
- Top and bottom photos by Gil Beyer

our newsletters is due almost exclusively to her hard work. Some might call her a nudnik*, but her efforts and creativity keep us on the straight and narrow, and produces the excellent product you see before you.

I'll close now with a call to start making plans to join with us in September 2015. We're planning on having a great time and want everyone that is able to come and join us at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- Gil

Note: When President Beyer was asked to speak about his duties as President and Ship's Historian, he would only say:

"I really don't want to toot my horn. I figure I have the best job around by being supported by excellent people."

We want you to know that by his calm and laid back leadership, the Association is sailing with fair winds and calm seas, and when decisions are to be made during any lively debate, it is he who makes the final call. BZ!

- Editor (and resident nudnik)
* - Yiddish for "pain in the butt"



Steve Gilbert
YN3 1958-1960



with Web Master, Steve Gilbert

What's Up With the Web?

Recently I received an e-mail from a shipmate who asked that his e-mail address be changed. So far, so good. However, in checking the web site, roster, and asking for help from the Association, we determined that we had nothing on file for this guy.

Hence, this article will be geared to those who visit the web site, get an invitation from a shipmate, or read our newsletter and would like to join up.

We want everyone who served on board the Fiske to become a member of our association and, if possible, attend our upcoming reunion.

Initially, in order to get reliable communication with you, we need a number of pieces of information:

- √ Your Full Name
- √ Your Mailing Address
- √ Your Rate On board
- √ Months or Years On board
- √ Telephone Number
- √ Email Address

The information above will get you into the Association, but the most complete way is to fill out the online profile worksheet on the website:

WWW.USSFISKE.ORG

As space is limited here, we'll illustrate how easy it is to create or update your profile in the next issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any questions, I am just an email away!

- Steve



James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg - 1964-1967

The Treasurer's Report

This time the Editor has sent the Master-at-Arms searching the various compartments, spaces and voids of the ship in search of the Treasurer and his late newsletter article. So far, I have been successful in avoiding the Master-at-Arms but I fear he has recruited the entire ship's company to chase me down.

That said, I wish to thank all of the shipmates who have sent in not only their dues monies but an additional contribution to help support the Association. This, coupled with the Ship's Store sales and their contributions, have kept us ahead of expenses and in reasonably good financial condition.

As is my usual course each month, the Officers and Directors get a financial report outlining the most current status of our finances showing where we receive our funds, where we spend them and the balance of the checking account. In keeping with full disclosure to all members, a copy of any monthly report can be sent to you via email upon your request. It is a simple series of "mouse clicks" for me

and you will be up to date of the latest status of *your* Association.

The other item that I would like to emphasize is the correctness of the Association name and address file. Should you move, have a temporary winter address, change your telephone to cell phone only or change your email server – please send me a note or email so that the Association files are always up to date.

Each quarter we receive 8-10 "snail mail" returns and 20+ email returns from our newsletter mailings. Approximately 60% of our newsletters are sent via email and we would like to increase that to nearer to 80%.

Each email that we send represents that much more savings for the Association and gets the newsletter to you that much quicker. If possible, take a minute and send me your email address if you are not already on the list or have changed your address.

Again, the Officers and Directors thank you for your support. Until the next newsletter may you always have fair winds and following seas. - James

Road to Gettysburg, con't from page 1

directly to the reunion so transportation may not be an issue.

If you have any special needs or requirements, please email me and we will see if we can resolve any issues in advance. For those who golf, there are several major courses nearby which you can make arrangements with directly. During our reunion weekend, there is an Apple Festival

within 15 minutes of the hotel, along with many more activities to enjoy.

As we get closer to the reunion, a simple Google of Gettysburg, Pa will most likely bring up many more activities than we could list here.

Until next time, keep thinking "reunion" and start making your plans for a great time in Gettysburg!

- James

U.S. Naval History



The War of 1812

and America's Navy

www.history.navy.mil

'America's Navy: Keeping the Sea Free Since 1812.'

Congress and President James Madison supported a declaration of war against England on June 18, 1812. Our small U.S. Navy took on the world's most powerful fleet and, through successful ship-to-ship action, proved its importance to our national security.

The War of 1812 was indeed the second war of independence, as freedom of the seas was the core cause. Britain threatened American rights by prohibiting U.S. exports, blockading U.S. ports, and impressing American Sailors into the Royal Navy. Outmanned and outgunned, the U.S. Navy had only 15 warships, 62 gunboats, and 1,000 officers and men. In contrast, the Royal Navy had

Did You Know?

From the Editor

That the United States declared war for the first time in its young history to protect "free trade and Sailors' rights" and that the Star Spangled Banner was written 200 years ago in 1814?

600 ships and 130,000 men.

Major events during war included the destruction of the *HMS Guerriere* which earned the *USS Constitution* the nickname of "Old Ironsides"; the Battle of Lake Erie, where Oliver Hazard Perry uttered the famous phrase "*We have met the enemy and they are ours*", a defeat in Maryland, which allowed the British to burn the nation's capital and the White House in September 1814; the Battle of Baltimore, in defense of Ft. McHenry that inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the Star Spangled Banner; the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814, and unofficially ending with the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815.



2014 Marks the 200th Anniversary of America's National Anthem

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER FLAG



The original Star-Spangled Banner, the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the song that would become our national anthem, is among the most treasured artifacts in the collections of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.



- Made in Baltimore, Maryland, in July-August 1813 by flagmaker Mary Pickersgill, it was Commissioned by Major George Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry.
- Originally 30 feet by 42 feet, today it measures 30 feet by 34 feet. This is because in the late 1800s, souvenirs, or relics, of important events and people in American history became highly prized and collectible objects. The Star-Spangled Banner, historic and celebrated, was subjected to this practice.
- There are fifteen stars and fifteen stripes (one star has been cut out).
- The flag was raised over Fort McHenry on the morning of September 14, 1814, to signal American victory over the British in the Battle of Baltimore; the sight that inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner".
- The flag was preserved by the Armistead family as a memento of the battle, and first loaned to the Smithsonian Institution in 1907; it was then converted to permanent gift in 1912 and has been on exhibit at the National Museum of American History since 1964. SOURCE: Smithsonian Information - PO Box 37012 - SI Building, Room 153, MRC 010 - Washington, DC 20013



On September 17, 1787, America's Founding Fathers signed a revolutionary document that - 227 years later - endures as the bedrock of our democracy and a beacon of freedom around the world. Since its creation, over one hundred countries around the world have used it as a model for their own.

It is a living document and one of the world's oldest surviving constitutions. And, while the Supreme Court continually interprets the Constitution so as to reflect a rapidly changing world, its basic tenets have remained virtually unchanged since its inception. As sailors in the service of our country, we gave our best to ensure that our children and grandchildren would remain free.

Make your selection from items shown throughout the newsletter



Sandra Ehlers Siciliano
ETN2 (USNR)

MissChopin@TampaBay.RR.com
(813) 920-6833



SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM

Fiske Challenge Coins



\$13.00 ea or 2 for \$25.00

PERSONALIZED MUG
Black, White, Cobalt Blue or Green
SUPPLIER DROP-SHIPS \$25



Personalized Mug: Name or Nickname Color: Rate: Years: DD (or) DDR \$25.00
Please print clearly to avoid errors

| Item # | Quantity | Description | Color | Size | Price | Total |
|--------|----------|-------------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Shipping: Please help us keep it free! Contribute any amount here if you can, with our thanks: \$ _____

SHIP TO: Make checks payable to the USS Fiske Assoc., Inc.
Please print clearly to avoid errors!

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

| | | |
|-------|----------------|-----|
| Name | Street Address | |
| City | State | Zip |
| Phone | Email Address: | |

MAIL TO: Sandra Siciliano, USS FISKE - Ship's Store Keeper - 6528 Steeplechase Dr. - Tampa, FL 33625

THE ONLY OFFICIAL FISKE SHIP STORE IS ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.USSFISKE.ORG

Your assistance will help us reduce the cost to print and mail notices with postage at .49 cents per ounce each!

2014

Clip this out and return with your check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.

Dues

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Email: _____

NOTE: For Members who are either current or paid ahead, the amount will be recorded for the next open year.

Send To:

USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.
c/o 244 Park View Avenue - Warwick, RI 02888

Email: jrrapson@cox.net - Phone: (401) 781-5879



A contribution in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated.