

BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



March 2013

Greetings Shipmates:

Plans are well underway for this year's reunion in Salt Lake City. Gaylen and Idonna Robison will be our hosts. They've put together a really nice reunion.

You may make your hotel reservations now. Be sure to mention you are with the Balch-Porterfield Reunion to get the reunion rate. If you're not sure you'll be able to attend, make a reservation anyway. You can always cancel if you need to.

Place: Hampton Inn & Suites
307 North Admiral Byrd Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
Tel: 801-530-0088
Fax: 801-530-3108

Dates: Sunday, September 8, 2013 to
Saturday, September 14, 2013

Room Rate: \$99.00 per night plus 12.6% tax
Room rate available 2 days before and 2 days after reunion.

Deadline: August 1, 2013

On the next page is the schedule for the week. In the next two newsletters there will be event sign-up sheets. There will be two sheets. Follow the instructions on the top of each sheet. One will go (with your payment) to Tom Hamilton, the Treasurer, and the other will go to the Robisons so they will have an accurate list of attendees.

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U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Tentative Schedule:

- Sunday, Sept. 8
 - Pick up welcome packets and name badges
 - Free day and evening.
- Monday, Sept. 9
 - Free day.
 - Welcome buffet at 6:00 pm (\$32.00 per person)
- Tuesday, Sept. 10
 - All day “Heber Creeper” train ride, including bus transportation and lunch (\$45.00 per person)
 - Free evening.
- Wednesday, Sept. 11
 - Free day and evening.
- Thursday, Sept. 12
 - Memorial service in the morning at hotel.
 - Free day and evening.
- Friday, Sept. 13
 - Business meeting, raffle and silent auction at 10:00 am
 - Banquet at 6:00 pm (\$30.00 per person)
- Saturday, Sept. 14
 - Farewell breakfast.

Not included in the itinerary, but something people might want to do: the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearses on Thursday nights and the rehearsals are open to the public. We'll have information on time, place and light rail schedule for those who might like to take that in. The Robisons also recommend Fort Douglas, which has an excellent museum.

Salt Lake City has an extensive light rail and bus system. We'll be sure to have copies of the routes and schedules available.

There is a Mission Statement on the website, but it is quite old and was put together by Pat Siler and Jeff Shaffer, the former webmaster. We'd like to develop a new Mission Statement. We'll come up with a draft document and take it to the reunion for review by the membership. We would really like to have a mission.

We'd also like suggestions on how to find crew members. We currently have 1,183 people in the database, including 416 who are deceased. We know there must be thousands of men out there who served on the Porterfield, and maybe a few still living who served on the Balch. If you are in contact with shipmates who aren't receiving our newsletters, or remember the names and hometowns of shipmates you don't have contact with, please send them to us.

A lot of guys have told us they were out and about wearing their ship's baseball cap and were approached by someone who also served aboard. So if you have a cap, be sure to wear it! If you don't have one and would like to order one, information is on the last page of this newsletter. They are also available at reunions.

If you're on Facebook, please join the USS Porterfield group page. It's a place where you can keep up with your shipmates. Lots of photos posted there. Family members are also welcome. Just type USS Porterfield in the search box and click on "ask to be added" when you get to the page. And be sure to "friend" us. Jim is James Bill Siler and Pat is Patricia Anderson Siler. If you're not on Facebook and would like to be, go to www.facebook.com and sign up. It's easy and free.

If you have news about yourself or your shipmates, or if you know of anyone who is ill or has passed away, please let us know so we can include it in newsletters.

**** IMPORTANT ****

If your address or email address has changed, please be sure to send us the change as soon as possible. Each time we send out newsletters, we get several mail and email returns. Some of the mail returns have new addresses, but many don't. When we get returns, we have to resend the newsletter to your new address, which adds to the postage costs. If we get a return with no forwarding address, we have to remove that person from our mailing list. If an email gets returned, we then have to add that person to the list of people to receive paper copies, increasing postage costs. If you have a new address for anyone on the list, please send it to us.

Fair winds and smooth sailing
Jim & Pat Siler

Navy Humor

A young ensign had nearly completed his first overseas tour of sea duty when he was given an opportunity to display his ability at getting the ship under way. With a stream of crisp commands, he had the decks buzzing with men. The ship steamed out of the channel and soon the port was far behind.

The ensign's efficiency has been remarkable. In fact, the deck was abuzz with talk that he had set a new record for getting a destroyer under way. The ensign glowed at his accomplishment and was not all surprised when another seaman approached him with a message from the captain.

He was, however, a bit surprised to find that it was a radio message, and he was even more surprised when he read, "My personal congratulations upon completing your underway preparation exercise according to the book and with amazing speed. In your haste, however, you have overlooked one of the unwritten rules. Make sure the Captain is aboard before getting under way!"

Additions to Memorial List

Daryl Crass, SN1/c, 51-52

William Stancill, P, FN2/c, 44-45

Kenneth Cronin, BT2, 53-56

Ray Wasilewski, B, GM3, 43-45

Donald J. Stabler, FCT3, 51-54

Additions to Roster

Daniel Abeyta (rate & years unknown)
No address, etc. available
dabeyta@satx.rr.com

John J. Clark, ETN3, 66
15104 180th St.
Arcadia, IA 51430
Tel: 712-689-2675
Cell: 712-830-8669
ideainc2001@yahoo.com

Howard R. Campbell, 54-58 (rate
unknown)
No address, etc. available
forhilderbrand@aol.com
Email is daughter Pam

Address, Phone, Email Additions and Changes

Burtchie Bumbalough, BT2, 66-69
129 Robertson Lane
Caryville, TN 37714
865-630-1262
Burtchie66@yahoo.com

David E Lesh, MM2, 67-69
5808 Forest Crossing
Erie, PA 16506-7004
814-864-8594
mdlesh@gmail.com

Joseph Q. Doran, P, MM1, 43-46
301 Eagle Pointe
Glen Mills, PA 19342-3374

Frank M. Paxton, Sr., MM2, 65
263 Ridgeview Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129-9145

Carol Laycock
Widow of Clifford, MM, 51-55
496 350 S Unit C
Springville, UT 84663-5815
801-515-6144

Tony Piazza, SK3, 52-54
18323 Forest Town Drive
Houston, TX 77084

The following information on asbestos exposure risk on US Navy ships came from the following website: <http://www.mesothelioma.com/asbestos-exposure/jobsites/ships/destroyers/>. There is much excellent information on this website.

Asbestos Risk on the USS Balch (DD-363)

Sailors aboard Balch were exposed to asbestos as a result of their service, as were dock workers, shipyard personnel, and maintenance crew. Because asbestos exposure is the only known cause of mesothelioma and asbestosis, there are often legal options for patients who have contracted this disease. A lawyer specializing in mesothelioma cases may be able to provide mesothelioma patients with information about their options.

The legal and medical issues surrounding asbestos exposure and mesothelioma can be overwhelming. To help navy veterans who have been diagnosed with asbestos cancer understand their legal and medical options, we have created a comprehensive mesothelioma information kit. Please fill in the form on this page and we will send you the information, free of charge.

Read more: <http://www.mesothelioma.com/asbestos-exposure/jobsites/ships/destroyers/uss-balch-dd-363.htm#ixzz2LNJfNDGa>

Asbestos Risk on the USS Porterfield (DD-682)

On Porterfield, asbestos-containing materials were employed in most compartments, in machinery, and around steam pipes. The engineering sections and boiler rooms had the largest abundance of asbestos products, but no area of the ship was completely free of the mineral. Even paints, cements, adhesives, and ropes contained asbestos fibers. Every crewman aboard Porterfield suffered some exposure to the mineral while serving. There was no way to avoid it.

Sailors stationed in the engine room or performing damage control or firefighting duties had the greatest overall exposure. It is believed that sustained exposure to asbestos poses the most danger, but no level or duration of exposure is thought to be safe. Navy veterans that served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam have a disproportionately high risk for mesothelioma cancer as a result of their shipboard exposure.

Read more: <http://www.mesothelioma.com/asbestos-exposure/jobsites/ships/destroyers/uss-porterfield-dd-682.htm#ixzz2LNKAuyic>

Contact Information

Jim and Pat Siler
835 Claybanks Drive
Callaway, VA 24067-4524
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Email Jim: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com or

Tom Hamilton, Treasurer
Phone: (home) 260-632-4019, (cell) 260-415-3555

Email: twrahamil2000@hotmail.com

Website

<http://www.balch-porterfield.org>

The Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association website was created by Jeff Shaffer and maintained by him for many years. We owe him a debt of gratitude for all his hard work. Pat Siler has taken it over and is in the process of updating the site. Please be patient while this is being done.

If there is anyone with website expertise, especially working with photo albums, I'd welcome some help setting up a page with links to the various albums that are on the site. I'd like to see a really user-friendly page so that visitors to the site can find things easily. I hope that person would be willing to manage the photo section of the site going forward, uploading new photos, etc.

This newsletter will be posted on the website along with previous newsletters.

Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale.

The price is \$12.00, which includes shipping. Please indicate which ship you were on.

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to:

Jim Siler
835 Claybanks Drive
Callaway VA 24067-4524.

Patches

We have two patches and a decal for sale.

The first patch, with the Pacific Ocean globe with Pride of the Pacific on it, was issued during the Korean Conflict (price \$4.00) and the second patch, with a seahorse and spear came out in the 60s (price \$5.00). The decal is the same design as the 60s patch, with the seahorse (price \$3.00). Please note the increase in price for the 60s patch and decal. We've had to order new at an increased price.

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler at the address above.