



USS CHAMPLIN DD-601

THE SEAWEED

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45 Oak Avenue Smithtown N.Y. 11787

Well here we go again. As you know by now, Bill Gustin has retired as Editor of the Seaweed. A big Thank you Bill for all you have done. I will do my best to keep the Seaweed going. First of all I will need help from all you guy's. Most of you must have a story to tell, so send it to me and I will put in our paper. Second, I have no computer, so it's all done on my typewriter. I may very well be the oldest guy in the crew at this point. I am sure some younger guy can take over for me in one year. So think about it.

Now for some new's. Doris DiSanto has moved to Clearwater, FL. Caesar is still in the nursing home in Smithtown. Doris cant get him in a nursing home in Florida until she has been a resident of Florida for at least 3 months. In the meantime I will try to go see Caesar as often as I can.

Some year's ago, I became the owner of a "16X "20 picture of George Misdrom. The picture was painted by Dwight Shepler when he was aboard the Champlin.. I just recently located Florence Misdrom. Georges wife. George has passed some year's ago. I told Florence about the painting and she said she would love to have it. So I sent the painting to her. I also invited her to attend our reunion in D-C. If you would like to welcome her to our reunion group, her address is Florence Misdrom FL. 1-93 W.13th. street. Bayonne NJ 07002.

As I said before, I may be the oldest guy in the crew, reminds me of a story. The older we get, the fewer things seem waiting in line for, Eventually you will reach the point when you stop lying about your age, and start bragging about it. Hey! only in America do they make older people walk to the back of the store for a prescription, and sell cigarettes in

the front of the store.

HEY ! How many guy's remember the first reunion? I still remember about tw in the morning, sitting or laying all ov Raleigh Hollingsworth room with the bat tub full of ice with beer wine wiskey & a few sodas. Having a great time and all the talk of what we did after the war. Now at 9:00pm most of the guy's say goo night, a few will have one more coke, and Lou Gilbert and I will have one more fo the road. We stay up until the wee hour's of the night, about 10:30. What has been happing to our crew?

Hey! only in America do people order a double cheeseburger, large fries and a diet coke. Now about our reunion in Washington DC. If you missed it, you missed a rootin, tootin, SHOOTIN good time. If you dont believe me, ask Norm Prewitt.

A big Thank You to Becky Medvedeff for a great job, also Phyliss Prewitt for all her help.

In attendance at the reunion were the following, The Bermans, Joe Black, Dolson's Ecklund and Son, Estes's, Lou Gilbert, Sid Hotard and Family, Barbara Glass, Bill Gustin & Bev. Doris Higgins, The Lerner's, C. Meehan, The Maitres, Mortons, The Prewitt The Robertsons and Granddaughter, Suters, Styles, Tricaricos, Valentines, And Bob Feeny One of our Irish Friend's.

We all have our reason why we attend the reunions and why we dont. I would like to hear from some of the people, why they dont attend.

This is the welcome address by our Pres Dick Berman.

Welcome everyone and thank you for being part of our 26th. reunion. To coin a phra: we are part of the greatest generation although we didn't know it at the time.

It took us some 60 year's to get to this day and here we are. For all of us gathered here today and those of us here in spirit we dedicate a memorial to our ship. She had an enviable record during her service. She harbored us, she shaped us, she made men of us. Long may she sail in our memories. Shipmates, wives, friends---the CHAMPLIN.

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At our Saturday morning meeting we took a vote to see where we would be for our next reunion. It was no contest, it was clear that we will be in Colorado next year.

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Also at our meeting I recited a poem called Freedom. I was asked by a few of our people to include it in our Seaweed. So here it is.

I watched the flag pass by one day.  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it, and then he stood at ease.  
I looked at him in uniform,  
So young so tall so proud, with hair cut square, and eye's alert.  
He'd stand out in any crowd.  
I wonder how many men like him,  
Have fallen through the year's  
How many died on foreign soil.  
How many Mothers tear's.  
How many pilots planes shot down.  
How many died at sea.  
How many foxholes were soldiers graves.  
No freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of tap's one night when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play,  
And I felt a sudden chill.

I wondered how many times tap's had meant when a flag had covered a coffin of a brother or a friend.  
I thought of all the children,  
And the Mothers and the wives.  
Father's son's and husbands  
With intruped live's.  
I thought about a grave yard at the bottom of the sea.  
And unmarked graves in Arlington.  
No Freedom isn't free.

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Please excuse Mistakes

I forgot to mention in attendance was Norman Glass Junior, Great young man.

The following was sent in by Joe Black.

As dusk sifted over Fedala, and Patton's staff gathered at the Miramar for Thurs. supper, Captain Ernst Kals eased U-130 down the Moroccan coast from the northeast in water so shallow the submarine hull scraped bottom. Kals knew the Americans well. He had won the Knight's Cross after sinking nine ships in a two week spree along the east coast earlier in the year. U-130 slipped at dead slow between the beach and the American minefield. The unseen feathered the sea like a shark's fin. Shortly before six pm. the U-boat fired four torpedoes from her bow tubes, then she nimbly pirouetted to let fly a fifth from her stern tube. Each hit home. U-130 which had sunk twenty-five Allied ship's escaped for four months. Then she was cornered off the Azores and destroyed with all hands. Sunk by the USS CHAMPLIN.

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The above was taken from a book written by Rick Atkinson "ARMY AT DAWN". The war in North Africa. 1942-1943.

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Always remember this, you served in the greatest Navy in the world, so you owe it to yourself to be in the Navy Memorial and also the WW II Memorial. If you need an application, let me know and I will get one to you.

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About ten year's ago, I wrote to the Secretary of the Navy, to see about having a ship named after our Captain John Jackson Shaffer. At that time I was told that not many ship's were being built, but his name would be put on the list. I just wrote to the Secretary again, to see where he stood on the list. I received a letter from Capt. Amen/Rebecca E. Brenton, saying that his name remains in consideration. Well I don't think I will ever be here when they name a ship after Captain Shaffer. I am going to send the Secretary the name and address of Captain Shaffer's Granddaughter, so if and when it happens they can get in touch with her. I will keep you posted.

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Just a reminder, DUE'S are due, so if you haven't paid them, do so now. A good deal at \$15.00, make payment to Norman Prewitt. If you want the new's, pay your due's. Also don't forget, I need your help with a story about life aboard the Champlin.

U.S.S. CHAMPLIN REUNION GROUP  
ANNUAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

The annual meeting of the Champlin Reunion Group was held at 10:00 a.m. Sept. 24, 2005 in the Ramada Inn in Laurel MD. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Berman at 10:02a.m. We pledged Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Jerry Estes gave the invocation. The minutes of the 2004 annual meeting as published, in the Seaweed, stood approved as published. Motion to accept Lerner / Styles MSA.

The Treasure, Norman Prewitt advised we have a balance on hand of two thousand one hundred ninety six dollars and thirty five cents. (\$2,196.35) Motion to accept Lerner/Styles.MAS.

Unfinished Business;

1. George Styles accepted the position of Historian and will publish the Seaweed for one year..

2. No shipmate in distress was reported.

New Business,

1. Larry Suter will host the Mini-Reunion at Wildwood May 15-19 2006 at the Ocean Beach Hotel. Cost \$195 to \$215.

2. Discussion of the website. Bill Gustin had to return home due to illness. The reunion group would like the website to be retained. Norm Prewitt to contact Bill Gustin to see if he will continue with the website if the Champlin Group pays the cost.

3. Discussion of reunion 2006, choices, the Poconos, Fall River and Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs was the choice. The date September 13-17 at the Embassy Suites. Norman and Phyllis Prewitt to host.

Joe Black made a motion to have Branson Mo. as backup. Dolson seconded the motion. No vote was taken.

4.

President Berman to contact Tin Can Sailors to see if we could coordinate our reunions with other "cans" in our squadron. This suggestion was to increase our numbers so that we could get more perks.

There being no further business to conduct Suter made the motion to adjourn, Seconded by Joe Black.

Jerry Estes closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Secretary Norman Prewitt.

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Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the road's weren't paved.

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So we think we have trouble, how about this.

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Katrina brought disaster  
She caused a lot of grief  
She showed the world destruction  
and pain beyond belief.

Katrina split up families  
she knocked their houses down.  
She took all their possessions  
and pulverized their town.

Some women lost their husbands  
Some husbands lost their wives.  
Some people lost their neighbors  
Some children lost their lives.

Katrina's winds were massive.  
They took some heavy toll's

She may have caused catastrophe  
but deeply touched our souls.  
She brought us all together.

United. here we stand

Our people heard a cry for help  
and lent a helping hand.

We reassured the victims  
that help was on the way.

We're doing all that we can do  
to brighten up your day.

Katrina may have knocked you down  
but we will pick you up.

She may have taken all your food,  
but we will fill your cup.

You know you can rely on us  
We'll be your shining sun.

We are one nation under God.  
United we are one.

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From. Rick Vander Kaay rgvk abell south net.

I just received my copy of the Seaweed and I thought I should let you know that my Uncle George Vander Kaay passed away on the 20th. of May this year. He died of Leukemia. He is survived by his one son Jim Vander Kaay.

Thank you

Rick Vander Kaay.

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Without input from our crew, I have to fill the Seaweed with poems. So here is another one. I am sure it will bring back memories.

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THE U.S.NAVY BEAN

From the mess halls of the Boot Camp  
 To the dreadnaught Tennessee,  
 We feed our Country's Navy  
 On the land and on the sea.  
 First to greet the Gob at breakfast  
 With an appetizing scene,  
 We are proud to claim the title  
 Of the U.S.Navy bean.  
 Were a pest in old cavite,  
 Or the ditch in Panama;  
 When the crew is very needy  
 of a meal they get us raw;  
 For we're on the Champlin,  
 And the lowly Submarine,  
 And not a Gob has pushed a swab  
 Who hasn't eaten beans.  
 Here'e health to you and all ship's  
 cooks.  
 Whom we are proud to serve;  
 We get them many dirty looks  
 And yet we keep our nerve.  
 If the Army or Marine Corps  
 Ever look on heaven's scenes,  
 They will find the tables loaded  
 With those U.S.Navy beans!

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So this is what you get if you dont send me stories to put in the Seaweed.

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Guess Who ?



Dont remember ? It is John Russell GM 3/c

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MISSING DD 214 ?

The DD 214 is an very importment document for you,your spouse and your dependents.If you have it take it to the County Clerks office where you reside and have it put on file.If you lost or misplaced it,write a letter supplying your service number and o social security numner,branch of service, service dates,and your return address to; National personnel records center 9700 Page Ave.Blvd. St.Louis,MO.63132-5200.

If you never received your WW II Medals, you can use the same address & information.

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To request a Presidential Certificate honoring the military service of deceased veteran,the family should send a letter of which provides indentifying information concerning the veteran and his military service to. Office of the presidential Correspondence,Attn.Code VA-NCS 403 The White House.Washington DC 20500  
 GOOD LUCK

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This just in from the Rétiree Bulletin.

Good news for Veterans from the National Personnel Record Center(NRRC).The records Center has provided a website for Veterans to access their DD-214 online.This copy may be particularly helpful when a Veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment or other purposes.The National Personnel Center is working to make it easier for Veterans with computers and internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.Military Veterans and the next of kin of the deceased former military members may now use online military personnel records system to request documents.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center mailroom processing time.The requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process their request.By using this new process delays that normally occurred when NPRC ask Veterans for Additional information will be minimized

Veterans and next of kin may access this application at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

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Time flies by fast when you'r having fun. So mark it down now,save the date for our Mini reunion at Wildwood.

SEE YA, G. STYLES