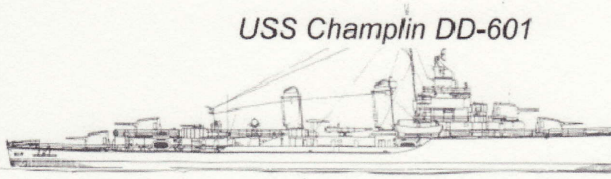


USS Champlin DD-601



# The Seaweed

---

Winter 2009

William D. Gustin - Editor

---

---

A Publication of the USS Champlin Reunion Group

---

## 2008 Champlin Reunion Group

### Business Meeting

The annual meeting of the USS Champlin Reunion Group was held during the Portsmouth, NH Reunion on 9/27/08.

The following business was transacted:

- Minutes/Treasure Reports approved
- Larry Suter elected President
- Agreed to continue joint reunions with USS Boyle Reunion Group
- 2009 Reunion – Philadelphia

### Reunion 2009 – Philadelphia!

Following business meetings of the USS Champlin, and USS Boyle Reunion Groups it was decided to continue the new relationship and continue to host reunions together.

It was agreed upon by both groups that the 2009 Reunion will be held in the Greater Philadelphia/ValleyForge region in the fall of 2009.

Dates and reunion details will be published in future Seaweeds.

## Reunion 2008

### Portsmouth, New Hampshire

*Ted Johnson gave me a call sometime in late August or early September asking if I intended to attend the Boyle/Champlin reunion. I told him I was going, and he asked if I would write an article about the reunion, inasmuch as he was unable to attend. I agreed, and here it is. . . the reunion as I saw it.*  
– William Gustin

It was a great reunion, one of the best in recent years, as far as I can tell.

It successfully addressed one of the lingering problems - the dwindling numbers of Champlin shipmates and their families able to attend the reunions. With fewer numbers attending it was difficult, no, impossible, to get a decent break on hotel/motel prices. I congratulate those who were willing to join together with another reunion group to help resolve this issue.

As with the Champlin reunions in the last several years, wives such as **Helen Medvedeff** and **Phyllis Pruitt** showed the ladies were really superior reunion organizers. And, so it was this year with the fabulous **Audry Munsey Woodard**, daughter of Maurice and Gloria Munsey, from the Boyle Group. Everything she was involved with turned out just fine. The Best Western Wynwood hotel/motel was more than adequate, it was damn good.

(continued on page 2)

## **Reunion Group Dues are Due!**

If you haven't yet paid your 2008-2009 Reunion Group Dues, they are due now. We need your continued support in order to continue to publish the newsletter, maintain the USS Champlin Website, and to support other Reunion Group initiatives.

Dues are still just \$15.00 per year. I would encourage not only Champlin Crew members to join the organization, but I would also encourage any interested family of USS Champlin Crew members to join the organization as well.

Dues should be sent to:

**Norman Prewitt  
2049 Eastridge Drive  
Excelsior Springs, Mo 64024**

Why not get out that checkbook and pay those dues today?

## **Newsletter Subscriptions**

Not a reunion group member? Want to continue to receive the Seaweed Newsletter?

Subscriptions to the Seaweed Newsletter can be purchased for just \$5.00 per year.

The Seaweed is published 3-4 times per year. Don't miss your opportunity to keep current with Reunion Group information, or to relive World War II memories of the Champlin Crew.

USS Boyle Crew are invited to join the Seaweed Subscription list - and to send in to our editors any of your memories aboard the Boyle for publication in the newsletter.

Seaweed Subscriptions should be sent to:  
(remember to include your mailing address)

**Norman Prewitt  
2049 Eastridge Drive  
Excelsior Springs, Mo 64024**

So - get out that checkbook and send in your \$5.00 today!

## **(Reunion 2008 – continued)**

Our room, a suite, was luxurious, The meals (catered I think), were extremely well done - great food, more than ample servings, well served by courteous waiters/waitresses - all top-notch.

Audrey had made arrangements for special entertainment. The best as far as I was concerned was the very entertaining "Gerry Jean Blue Grass Pick'n Buddies", a group of seven musicians who really enjoyed what they were doing. As I understand it, five of the group normally play together, but added a couple (husband and wife) for this presentation. While named blue grass, they also did a fine job on country/western as well. The eldest musician was 82 - a fine example of dexterity and stage presence. All of the musicians took the lead on vocals at one time or another during their gig. Audrey also arranged for a wine presentation featuring a well informed lady who explained some of the ins and outs of the wine business and then distributed samples to all to illustrate her discussion.

I was told that the Isle of Shoals Tour and the Navy Shipyard Tour were also of great interest. I did not go on these tours so can't really give you my impression.

Audrey also had arranged for a special lunch at Warren's Lobster House. What a seafood house! They had the largest salad bar I have ever encountered. They certainly deserved their reputation as the leading seafood house in the area.

On Saturday, each reunion group held separate annual meetings. Then, meeting as a single body, it was decided to gather next year at a location on the north side of Philadelphia, PA. The exact location will be determined by the availability of an appropriate motel/hotel. **Audrey Woodard** has agreed to make the arrangements again.

## Meet the USS Boyle DD-600

*Having had such a successful 2008 Reunion with the USS Boyle crew – I thought it would be a good idea to meet the vessel that carried that crew.*

USS Boyle (DD-600) was a Benson-class destroyer in the United States Navy during World War II. The first USN ship to be called Boyle, she was named after Thomas Boyle, a privateer and naval officer during the War of 1812.

Boyle was launched 15 June 1942 by Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Quincy, Massachusetts; sponsored by Mrs. Margaret A. Glascock, great-granddaughter of Sailing Master Boyle; and commissioned 15 August 1942, Lieutenant Commander E. S. Karpe in command.

Boyle joined the Atlantic Fleet and sailed from Norfolk, Virginia 25 October 1942 as part of Task Force 34 (TF 34), bound for the invasion of North Africa. She took part in the landings at Fedhala, French Morocco (8–11 November), and the skirmish with French corvettes off Casablanca (10 November). Returning to the United States 30 November she patrolled off the east coast and in the Caribbean until February 1943.

Between then and 4 April 1944 Boyle made six convoy runs to North Africa and three to Ireland. On 7 February 1943, Boyle served as an escort for Convoy UGS-5 to North Africa.[1] Two days out, American cargo ship Pan Royal was accidentally rammed by both the Norwegian cargo ship Evita and the American Liberty ship George Davis. Pan Royal sank at position [show location on an interactive map] 36°40'N 67°20'W / 36.667, -67.333 with the loss of eight men. Her 54 survivors were rescued by Boyle.[2]

The monotony of convoy duty was broken by participation in the Sicilian invasion, where she served as a guide ship for the Scoglitti landings (9–15 July 1943). After serving with a hunter-killer group off New York in April 1944 she returned to the Mediterranean Sea. She patrolled in the Gulf of Naples, Italy, during May and June taking part in the bombardment of Formia and Anzio (13–18 May). Between 15 August and 1 September she took part in the Invasion of southern France. Boyle returned to New York 14 September.

Following a yard period at Boston, Massachusetts she returned to the Mediterranean 21 December 1944 and remained there on fire support and escort duty until 22 April 1945. Returning to the east coast 1 May, she sailed for the Pacific Ocean 23 May and arrived at San Diego, California, 12 June.

After cruising between San Diego and Pearl Harbor (25 June–17 July 1945) she steamed to the western Pacific, arriving at Saipan 5 August. Enroute, Boyle took part in the bombardment of Wake Island (1 August 1945). The destroyer reached Okinawa 12 August and patrolled there until 1 September when she departed for Tokyo, Japan. She arrived off Tokyo 11 September and served in Japanese, Okinawan, and Chinese waters until departing Okinawa 1 November. She arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, 8 December 1945 and remained there until being placed out of commission in reserve 29 March 1946. She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 June 1971. She was sunk as a target on 3 May 1973 off Florida.

Boyle received four battle stars for her World War II service.



## USS Champlin Web Site

The USS Champlin website is now 10 years old! And, it continues to grow. We are nearing **1,000,000** (one million) 'hits' and people to continue to visit the site daily.

We continue to upgrade the pages, add photos as they become available, and add crew biography pages as we receive information of various crew members (Norm Prewitt and George Stiles – where is your information for YOUR pages).

The most recent change at the USS Champlin website is the "Documents" page. We have taken all the historians documents regarding the Champlin and converted them to a digital format – the converted documents are now available for download directly from the Champlin website.

Included in the Documents are:

- U-130 Crew lists and Operation Reports
- U-856 – Chronological Action Reports, crew lists, Operation Reports, Survivor Interrogations
- Cdr Shaffer medical report, burial report, and investigation report into his fatal injury
- All Ships logs documents from September 1942 – December 1946

Be sure to visit our website, and take a look at some of those documents – find out who was late getting back on board – and what penalty they paid for being late...

[www.usschamplin.com](http://www.usschamplin.com)

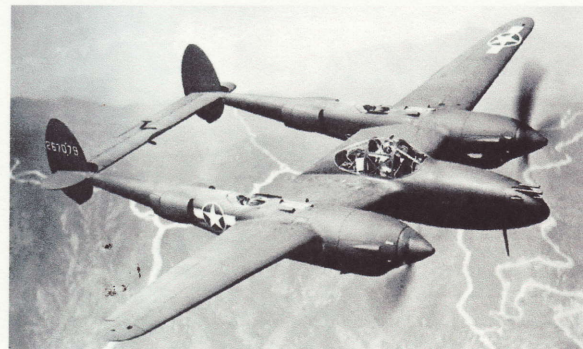
## Howard R Cole – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt A.U.S

We received the following letter from:

**Marion Cole**  
**275 Steele Road - Apt. B-101**  
**West Hartford, CT 06117-2774**

"Howard is in a nursing home - Dementia, requires that he have total care. I regret to request that you delete his name from the Champlin Reunion Group and cease sending him "The Seaweed."

I will always be grateful to the Champlin crew for rescuing Howard from the Mediterranean more than 60 years ago. Sincerely, Marion Cole"



P-38 Lightning

### USS Champlin Ships Deck Log:

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1944 2000 – 2400 watch**

**2222 as being close aboard to port, voice calling "help".**

**2252 Life raft with single survivor aboard: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Howard R. Cole, A.U.S., 0825577, 327<sup>th</sup> Base Headquarters, A.B. Squadron. Examined and treated by ships doctor. Found to have one leg broken in two places, both simple fractures, suffered from striking tail of his P38 after bailing out because of engine failure.**

## "All Hands on Deck"

Cdr Dwight Shepler USNR  
Official Navy Combat Artist



The drawing carries the following description:

### "All Hands on Deck"

"These words, passed over the loudspeakers, will forever ring in the memories of combatant sailors. With it comes the urgent and portentous "beep" of the general alarm. In the dim glow of the red battle lights men rush from the depths of the ship to their stations of a destroyer superstructure, they mount like trapeze artist the gunnery officer taking the shortest route into the director, up and over. What is it - planes, subs, or ships?"

Did you know Cdr Shepler – Official Navy Combat artist spent time aboard the USS Champlin? It is believed that some of his destroyer drawings are from sketches done while aboard the USS Champlin.

## Welcome Aboard USS Boyle

The editors, on behalf of the USS Champlin Reunion group, would like to extend a welcome and invitation to the Officers and Crew of the USS Boyle DD-600.

The Seaweed is a quarterly newsletter of the USS Champlin Reunion Group. Members of the Reunion Group receive the Seaweed free of charge. All other interested parties – non reunion group members, family, etc., may subscribe to the newsletter for a nominal fee.

All known USS Boyle Officers and crew are receiving this issue of the Seaweed – with the hope that they will be interested in subscribing to future issues.

Subscriptions to the Seaweed are available for just \$5.00 per year! To reserve your place on the Seaweed Mailing List, just send \$5.00 to:

Norman Prewitt  
2049 Eastridge Drive  
Excelsior Springs, Mo 64024

So, get out those checkbooks and write that check to Norm now!

Got the check in the mail? Welcome Aboard!

Now, for the invitation – The Seaweed can only be successful if its membership assists with suggestions for articles. The best articles for publication are those written by crew regarding their memories of their time aboard ship.

So, USS Boyle Crew – Send us your memories of the times aboard the Boyle! Then, when you open the next Seaweed – the Boyle will be represented.

## Typhoon Louise – Buckner Bay

On 4 October 1945, a typhoon was spotted developing in the Caroline Islands and tracked as it moved on a predictable course to the northwest. Although expected to pass into the East China Sea north of Formosa on 8 October, the storm unexpectedly veered north toward Okinawa.

That evening the storm slowed down and, just as it approached Okinawa, began to greatly increase in intensity. The sudden shift of the storm caught many ships and small craft in the constricted waters of Buckner Bay (Nakagusuku Wan) and they were unable to escape to sea.

On 9 October, when the storm passed over the island, winds of 80 knots (92 miles per hour) and 30-35 foot waves battered the ships and craft in the bay and tore into the quonset huts and buildings ashore.



Buckner Bay - grounded landing craft  
after Typhoon Louise

A total of 12 ships and craft were sunk, 222 grounded, and 32 severely damaged. Personnel casualties were 36 killed, 47 missing, and 100 seriously injured. Almost all the food, medical



Buckner Bay – Harbor wreckage  
Following Typhoon Louise

supplies and other stores were destroyed, over 80% of all housing and buildings knocked down, and all the military installations on the island were temporarily out of action. Over 60 planes were damaged as well, though most were repairable. Although new supplies had been brought to the island by this time, and emergency mess halls and sleeping quarters built for all hands, the scale of the damage was still very large.

If the war had not ended on 2 September, this damage, especially the grounding and damage to 107 amphibious craft (including the wrecking of four tank landing ships, two medium landing ships, a gunboat, and two infantry landing craft) would likely have seriously impacted the planned invasion of Japan (Operation Olympic).

-----  
Both the USS Champlin and the USS Boyle safely rode out Typhoon Louise - and many of you were aboard. What do **YOU** remember?

Send us your memories of Typhoon Louise for the next issue of the Seaweed.

**William D Gustin – Editor**  
**626 East Bluff Drive**  
**Penn Yan , NY 14527**

[wdgustin@gmail.com](mailto:wdgustin@gmail.com)

## World Cruise

Don't miss this terrific opportunity to see the world at a leisurely pace aboard an oceangoing vessel. **And**, get a regular stipend from the Ship's Owner – just for sailing with them.

### **Included in your cruise:**

All meals, non-alcoholic beverages, ship board entertainment, ice cream, free laundry services

### **Not included in your cruise:**

Shore excursions, leisure time activities, food and beverages – while off the ship

### **Ports of Call:**

Portland, Maine - Boston, Mass - New York City,  
Charleston SC - San Diego, Ca - Hawaii  
Ireland - Scotland - United Kingdom  
Sicily - Naples, Italy - Cannes, France  
Nice, France - North Africa  
Trinidad - Tobago - Panama Canal  
South Pacific Islands - Tokyo

The Ship's Owners will also pay all travelers a regular stipend/shipboard credits as long as you continue your cruise in good standing. Payment amounts dependent upon booked accommodations.

Does it sound too good to be true? Well, it might be, and it might not be.

---

You won't find this offer today at AAA, or any travel agency. But, several travelers did take advantage of this cruise offering – and got paid!

**The Ship:** **USS Champlin DD-601**

### **Travelers:**

Steve N. Anastasion Lt USN  
Sidney J Hotard Jr MM2c USN  
Alfred C Oeldemann CWT USN

***In the next Seaweed – Steve Anastasion begins a series of articles regarding his memories and experiences as an officer aboard the USS Champlin***

## **Destroyers**

### "Then and Now"

#### USS Champlin DD-601

Overall Length: **341 ft.**  
Beam (Max at Water Line): **36.1 ft.**  
Draft (Navigational): **11.75 ft.**

#### USS Roosevelt DDG-80

Overall Length: **509.5 ft.**  
Beam (Max at Water Line): **66.4 ft.**  
Draft (Navigational): **32.5 ft.**



*USS Roosevelt DDG-80*

## Did you Know?

"Out of 820 U-boats that participated in the Battle of the Atlantic, 781 were destroyed in action; "

"Out of 40,000 U-boat officers and crew that participated in the Battle of the Atlantic, more than 30,000 lost their lives."

*from "u-Boat Commander, a Periscope View of the Battle of the Atlantic" by Peter Cremer, published by Naval Institute Press*

**U.S.S. CHAMPLIN (DD-601) 2009 MINI-REUNION  
C/O LOUIS GILBERT  
276 FARMERS AVENUE  
LINDENHURST, NEW YORK 11757  
(631) 957-1132**

---

March 9, 2009

Dear Shipmates and Friends,

It is time to start planning for our Mini-Reunion again. For 2009 we have made arrangements with our friend, **Leon**, to return to **The Ocean Holiday Motor Inn**, 6501 Ocean Avenue, in Wildwood Crest, NJ, 08260. Should you need additional information, Leon can be reached at the hotel at 1-800-321-6232.

This year the reunion will start at 2:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** until the morning of **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. This year's **double occupancy rate is slightly higher due to gas and other items rising**. The rate will be **\$245.00 per person, single occupancy is \$295.00 per person and trip occupancy is \$230.00 per person**. Please note your choice of bed or any other special needs such as handicapped room when sending your deposit check to the hotel, as well as your return slip to me.

As always, our accommodations include a Hospitality Room, a block of rooms with your choice of beds, TV, refrigerator, etc...as well as 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners (which include entertainment at some dinners, plus music for our banquet night). *To cover the cost of the Hospitality room, there is a charge of \$5.00 per person for the entire reunion. Please pay when you arrive. If you do not drink or do not plan to take advantage of the room, there is no additional charge.*

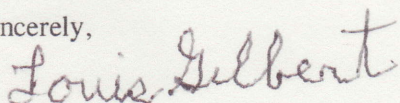
Daily activities will include a trip to Atlantic City (with some comps) followed by a dinner and entertainment. In addition there is general shopping and sightseeing in Cape May. Some of the amusement park in Wildwood may be open, although it's a little early in the season. Please send me your intent to come as soon as possible as well as send your \$100.00 deposit **DIRECTLY TO THE OCEAN HOLIDAY MOTOR INN**. **\*\*\*Mention Triple, Double or Single occupancy with your deposit.\*\*\***

The Hotel would like to have the entire per person fee by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. A full refund will be provided if notified at least two weeks before the date of the reunion.

If you **ARE** planning to attend, please use the cut off portions on the bottom of this sheet and mail them back to the appropriate addresses. (One to the hotel and one to me)

**IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING TO ATTEND**, please give me a call at home (631) 957-1132 so I know for sure. Your prompt replies and payments will make my task much easier.

Sincerely,



Louis Gilbert



## Reservation Forms for USS Champlin Mini-Reunion 2009

Fill out the reservation forms and mail to the indicated address

---

**Intent to attend:**            **Louis Gilbert/2009 Mini-reunion**  
**276 Farmers Avenue**  
**Lindenhurst, NY 11757**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupancy:                      Single \_\_\_\_\_ Double \_\_\_\_\_ Triple \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Will you use Hospitality Room? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you play Golf? \_\_\_\_\_

----- Cut here and mail -----

**Deposit for:**                      **Ocean Holiday Motor Inn**  
**6501 Ocean Avenue**  
**Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260**

For:    **The USS Champlin 2009 Mini Reunion**

Date:    **May 11 – 15, 2009**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupancy:                      Single \_\_\_\_\_ Double \_\_\_\_\_ Triple \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Amount:                \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**2008 USS Champlin – USS Boyle Reunion Attendees**

**Sitting** - Robert Townsend, Stanley Poslosky, Frank Bean, Hal Medvedeff, Richard Berman, Thomas Morton, Omer Green and Robert Maitre, Sr. **Standing** - Walter Paliwoda, Joseph Howard, Larry Suter, Robert McAfee, Sr., Norman Prewitt, Ralph J. Thomas, Louis Gilbert, Bill Gustin, Sidney Hotard, Maurice Muncey, John Cartos and Conrad Petrillo

---

William D Gustin – Editor  
USS Champlin Reunion Group  
626 East Bluff Drive  
Penn Yan, NY 14527