



USS SPRINGFIELD

Newsletter

<https://usspringfield.org/newsletter.pdf>



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Please send any additions, corrections or questions to Dave Schantz at the address or email above

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

February 2024
Volume 24 Issue 2

The "Sea Stories" that I ask for each month are an important part of being able to put a newsletter together. The feedback I'm getting is that you enjoying getting them more regularly than you have in the past. ...and I don't mind putting them together as the newsletter is a way of keeping in touch and passing along information about our shipmates. A special thanks to those who have sent those that you have been reading ..but your help is needed for future issues. Just a few paragraphs on something you experiences while on Active Duty, how you got assigned to wherever you got assigned,, something about the camaraderie, an few paragraphs on what the Operations, Engineering, Staff Divisions do. A paragraph or two on what went on in the ward room, the gal- lery, etc.

Barry Probst, President/Treasurer, US Sixth Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Association, his wife Patricia and Valerie Blouin, President, Association Les Américains et la 6e Flotte à Villefranche-sur-Mer are hard at work and doing a great job in finalizing plans for the 2024 reunion in Buffalo N.Y. . More detailed information will be arriving shortly. Looking forward to having a great re-union.

USS SPRINGFIELD MEMBERSHIP

Welcome back Bruce Peltzer SN X Div 72-74 , Robert G. O'Brien YN2 STAFF 70-72 and Life Member MT1(SS) Raymond "Rocky" Rockers FN E&B Div 48-49 ("Rocky" was stationed aboard the USS Croaker submarine that is now in the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park where we will be having our reunion.)

Welcome aboard to Thomas Martin GMM3 GM Div 72-73 , Dennis Dillon SH3 S3 Div 70-72 and Dennis Byrne ETN3 OE Div 73-73

(If you are in touch with shipmates not currently on our roster, your help in bringing them aboard would be great.)

A big thank you to new Life Members—John 'Roy' Coleman ET1 OE Div 70-74, Neil Beck BM1 Boat Div 71-73 and LT(JG) Richard Miles Commissary Officer 64-66 , to Michael Hughes FN Boat Div 70-72 & Bill Schillinger SK3 S1 Div 59-62 (all Life Members) for their generous dona- tions, and to 2024 Annual members Peter Long FTG3 G Div 62-67 , L. Gene Herring SK3 S1 Div 70-72, Armand Bedard PC3 X Div 59-62 and Dennis Byrne ETN3 OE Div 73-73,

It's time for dues payments. Annual membership is \$20. Life Membership is \$100.

Dues are needed for the Bluejackets ongoing expenses. While we are a not-for-profit-all-volunteer organization, we still have expenses to meet in keeping our organization viable. Your support is appreciated to the max.

Please make your checks payable to: USS Springfield Bluejackets Inc. and mail to: Keith Rivard-Treasurer , 160 Tommotley Dr, Loudon, TN 37774-2120 or call 865 388-2478 to charge.

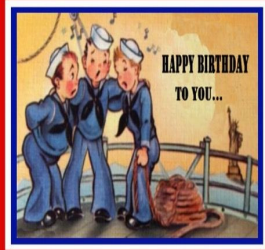
IN REMEMBRANCE



Our Deepest Sympathies and Prayers are with the Family and Friends of the Shipmates we learned to be deceased since our last newsletter who include: Walter Baldwin SN S-1 Div 62-64, Arthur Wynne GM3C 2ND 44-46, Lewis Zinn SN OI Div 60-63, Thomas J. Cowan CS3 S2 Div 63-65, Charles'Bud' Smith BTCS B Div 65-67

I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy. - John F. Kennedy

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



February: Thom Bailey SK3 S-1 Div 62-64, Harold R(Skip) Bangs SN(QM) NAV Div 60-61, Joseph Bawiec SK3 S1 Div 69-71, W. F. (Bill) Beasley GMMC GM Div 63-72, Neil J Beck BM1 BOAT Div 71-73, Jim Bonnette SN 1ST Div 63-64, Stephen R. Brown FN E Div 62-62, Lawrence Brown HT3 R Div 70-72, Rex Carpenter CPL MAR DET Div 60-62, Robert Coveney LTJG ENGINEERING Div 72-74, John Gola SM3 OR Div 71-73, Richard Jamieson HT3 R Div 70-72, Don A. Kessler Sr SN BOAT Div 60-62, James C. Moore BT1 B Div 64-66, Ken Oglesbee ENS 3RD Div 70-73, Reg Ritter EN3 A Div 64-66, David J. Swanski RD3 OI Div 59-62, Jerome Delaportas IC3 E Div 69-71 & Bill Hardy GMM2 GM Div 63-65

*Did we miss your birthday? Make sure we include you so we can wish you **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** in future issues. Let us know when it is and we will be sure to do so!*

REPLENISHMENT AT SEA

In searching the internet on refueling and replenishment, while coming across a bit of information on these operations, most were specific to a particular ship. I was hoping there would be one on light cruisers or ships similar to ours, but had no success. I did find that there is a complete 69+ page chapter of the Naval Ship's Technical Manual that covers about every aspect of Replenishment. I thought it was a bit much for our purposes so I put together the paragraphs that follow. I hope I captured the gist of the operation in a way that helps to bring back some of the fond memories of our time aboard,



If you served any time at sea, while aboard pretty much any ship, you experienced times when the ship was alongside another and at times alongside two other ships. During my first months aboard the Springfield on the way north from the shakedown cruise after its recommissioning in 1960, we came alongside an Oiler to take on fuel. I was in the 2nd Division at the time. As part of the I believe we sent a "Shot Line" to the Oiler to start the process and then somehow we got back a messenger that about 10 or 12 us used to bring the fuel hose over to our ship. It was a heavy haul. (At the time I weighed all of 145 lbs.)

This was the first of many refueling and replenishment operations as both the 2nd Division and S1 Division were keys parts of both operations. This first one was done in the Atlantic in what I remember to be fairly rough seas as I remember getting splashed, quite wet and cold. We were at the forward refueling station. Afterwards, the Captain gave an order to give a shot of rum.

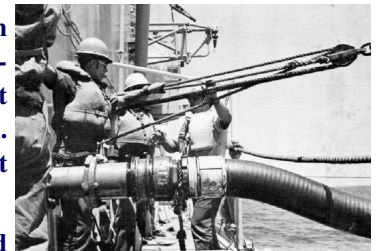


Photo # NH 98214 - Underway replenishment operations on board USS Springfield, Sept. 1972



Of course this was just one of many times we had ships alongside. While in the Med there are times when we would have a supply ship on one side of us and an Oiler on the other and on at least occasion, we had an Oiler on one side and a Destroyer on the other. In that instance we were taking on Fuel from the Oiler and supplying fuel to the Destroyer.

In one instance, sadly, as we alongside a Supply Ship replenishing our ship, a "Vertical Replenishment" operation, where supplies are transferred from the Supply Ship to another ship, was also taking place. As I was stationed at the supplies receiving station on the Springfield, I watched as the copter's rotor while positioning to pick up a load from the Supply Ship, hit a stack and came crashing down killing one sailor and injuring another.

Certainly not a favorable memory, but certainly one that shows that there are dangers in the jobs we do at sea.

One other side-by-side ship operation was the high-lining of personnel. I took this ride twice while coming back to the Springfield from a TAD Assignment in Naples. One from a Destroyer to a Supply Ship another time from the Supply Ship to the Springfield. I also manned the lines a number of times as we transferred personnel to or from the Springfield. At one time we were transferring an Admiral to our ship and the combination of a little slack in the line and a unexpected wave got the Admiral a bit wet. The story has it that the XO returned from a leave, he was quick to ask the Captain if he was "dunking any Admirals lately."



David Schantz SK3 S1 Div 60-62

SEA STORIES

The men of the FOX Division on the Springfield were responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment of the fire control system which includes radars, missile directors, computers and consoles which show the status of the target and the missile at all times during a missile shot and, of course, standing watch.



...and it is while on watch, that John Johnson FTM3 Fox Div 65-67 and others had what he refers to as "THE LONGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE". He writes:

I'm hoping that the Statute of Limitations will keep me out of the brig for the story I'm about to tell..

And I apologize to the thousands of sailors who were impacted by this event. Here we go...

THE SCENARIO

It's 1966, plus or minus a year. I'm aboard the USS Springfield, COM 6TH Fleet. I'm an FTM 3 in Fox Division. We are cruising with 15 or 20 ships, maybe more, playing war games, somewhere in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. I was standing the Mid Watch and the time



is somewhere around 0200 hrs. 4 or 5 of us are in the Missile Fire Control workshop on top of the Missile house, hanging out between rounds.

Somebody had a life vest that had a one-cell flashlight clipped to it. A discussion began with someone wondering how visible the little light could possibly be if your life depended on it. Now the wheels of creativity of a handful of 19ish year old minds start to spool up.

Fox Division happens to have a supply of bright pink weather balloons and a tank of Helium. By attaching large aluminum balls, we used them to calibrate the manual Rangefinder along the rail. So let's clip a flashlight to a balloon, release it and see how far we could see it as it shot

up in the sky. We were ingenious enough to attach TWO of them in case one was pointed away from us. Damn we're good!!! MacGyver eat your heart out!!!

Being the lead design engineer, I partially inflated the balloon, (didn't want it lift off at supersonic speeds) somebody clipped on the lights and I walked to the rail, 20 feet or so above the water line. I lean over the rail, do a NASA style count-down and release the finest scientific research device in the US NAVY!



We're all prepared to watch it rapidly ascend. It doesn't. It descends!! As the ship moves away from the launch site at 20 knots or so, the balloon drops down and reaches buoyancy equilibrium about 2 or 3 feet above the water. DAMMIT!!!

Dejected, we're walking back to the workshop, when klaxon horns go off. Hmmm... Then a voice comes over the 1MC, "ATTENTION ALL HANDS!! MAN OVERBOARD!!! MAN OVERBOARD!!! RESCUE AND ASSISTANCE DETAIL MAN YOUR STATIONS!!! "

Our initial thought was What a coincidence! Then it hit us! Oh crap! The Stern Watch saw lights in the water and thought it was a man overboard!

At that split second, we could.. SHOULD have immediately called the bridge and it would have been over. We didn't. We froze. We were 19 year old kids with our hands stuck in the cookie jar!

Now every ship had to wake up every sailor to do a head count! The entire US 6th fleet spent the next 5-6 hours performing zig zag search patterns with floodlights looking for the non-existent poor soul. Helicopters were launched. MY fingerprints were all over the balloon! My buddies' fingerprints were all over the lights! I'd never get to see my wife and daughter back in the states!

It was never found. All ships reported ok headcounts. The only thing that we could figure is that at some point it caught a wave and the additional weight dragged it down and out of sight.

I (we) had one opportunity to call the bridge and avoid the longest night of our lives and we missed it.

Again, my sincere apologies to all those who were dragged out of your racks that night! On the other hand, it makes for a great story 60 years later. Kudos to my co-conspirators for keeping our secret. If any of you are reading this, reach out to me. I'd love to hear from you!

John Johnson FTM3 Fox Div 65-67

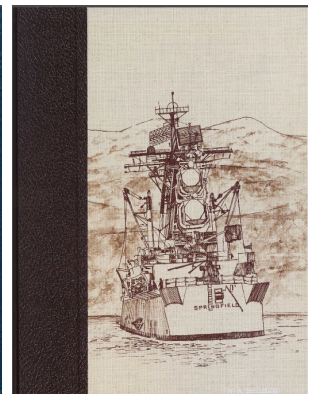
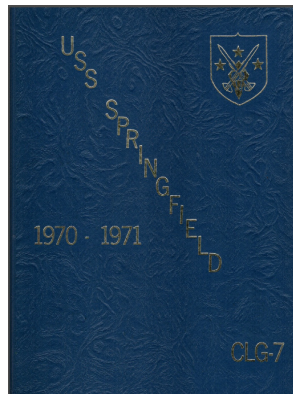
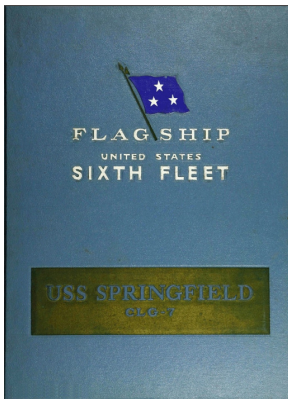
CL-66 FAR EASTERN CRUISE

The Son of James Hyde Forbes Jr. ENS 4th Div 46-48 sent photos of the CL-66's 1948049 Far Eastern Cruise, which I put into a flip book form that is now available on our web page. The link is <https://usspringfield.org/Cruise%20Books/CL66FEC/index.html> or simply under the "ship publications"/"cruise books" menu item. Check it out.

USS SPRINGFIELD

2024 REUNION

Our plan is to hold our 2024 USS Springfield Bluejackets reunion with the 6th Fleet Villefranche-Sur-Mer organization Buffalo NY home of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park where our sister ship the USS Little Rock is located on September 13, 14, 15 2024. Registration details should be available soon.



A Reminder: Cruise Books from 60-62, 65-67, 71-72 & 72-73 are on-line on our web page under 'Ship Publications'

<https://usspringfield.org/Cruise%20Books/60-62/index.html>

<https://usspringfield.org/Cruise%20Books/65-67/index.html>

<https://usspringfield.org/Cruise%20Books/70-71/index.html> &

<https://usspringfield.org/Cruise%20Books/72-73/index.html>

SHIP STORE

Now on sale in the USS Springfield Ship Store are a new Polo Shirt and T-Shirt, Coffee Mugs, USS Springfield Window Stickers, Ball Caps and more. Visit our Ship Store on-line at <https://store16038547.company.site> or usspringfield.org or if you don't have access to the internet call Keith Rivard (865-388-2478). All proceeds go to support the USS Springfield Bluejackets, Inc. Make checks payable to USS Springfield Bluejackets and mail to:

Keith Rivard-Treasurer 160 Tommotley Dr Loudon, TN 37774

