

USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) NEWSLETTER *THE 21MC*

Editor: email: jimc951@hotmail.com
Jim Chester, Editor

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OUR SHIPS MOTTO: TO BE RATHER THAN SEEM TO BE!
**USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) ANCHORED IN HONG KONG IN SECOND WEEK
OF APRIL 1973**



SHIPMATE COMMENTS

Tom Sabo, STG2, 69-70, Napa, CA

Jan & I visited in August [2019] to the TJ. She's in good hands & still smells just like a ship!
Thanks for all of you who make this possible!

Raymond Frakes, MM2, 59-64, Mineral Wells, TX

ENJOYED all the reunions I've been to-loved my ship, love all my fellow shipmates. Wish

smooth sailing for all, may not get to another reunion-kinda getting old. Be 80+ next reunion.

Richard Alexander, LT, 59-62, Costa Mesa, CA

Thanks for all your good work. This [donation] is to help support the newsletter, and maybe a bit more. I am a plankowner and have good memories of the very early days of the Turner Joy that might be worth sharing.

Alfred Lopez, SN, 68-72, Las Cruces, NM

I had a great time crossing the Equator, July 4, 1971 on our way to Australia.

George "Kodiak Jack" Helmstadter, HTFN, 71-74, Santa, ID

Jan 27th-1973, from that picture, sure brings back memories of the thousands of shells fired. Wow-! Operation Linebacker II – Operation Endsweep & CMDR Pidgeon

Bob Waterhouse, LT, 64-65, Guttenberg, IA

We're looking forward to Newport [Now Overtaken By Events], where our Naval Thrill began for many of us. I'm ready to tell the stories once again, and visit with some great, great sailors.

Doug Church, OS2, 72-76, Gig Harbor, WA

The TJ as a museum is doing well and expanding. We just opened [SEP 2019] up Plot I with an audio box and our new plan is to open CIC. We could always use some input from our crew members.

Ray Mason, RD1, 66-70, Windsor, VA

Thanks for all that you do and have done for the TJ

Robert E. Johnston, LTJG, 75-78, Brighton, MI

In the Fall of 2017, I visited TJ for the first time since I left the ship @ LBNSY in March 1978. I was surprised how much I remembered of the ship's layout. The highlight was seeing my name on a plaque in the wardroom of officers that had earned their Surface Warfare Qualification on TJ. The ship was in great shape and I want to thank you for your work maintaining this significant historic ship.

David E. Ginsburg, QM2, 71-75, Winston-Salem, NC.

I was on watch on the bridge one afternoon in January 1973 while we were on the Gunline @ the mouth of the Cua Viet, [River]. Suddenly the NVA started dropping mortar rounds at us. When it was over I asked the C.O. why they were so accurate? He replied with a wink, that they used the same buoy we did to range their guns. [Buoy in question was called a Carburetor, which was anchored offshore with a precise Lat & Long and had a radar reflector for our AN/SPG-53 Fire Control radar to lock on to and this gave us instantaneous exact position to expedite indirect fire control missions, allowing us to drastically reduce our Detect To Engagement (DTE) time in combat operations]

Erick O. Soderquist III, OS2, 70-72, Amity, Arkansas.

I first set foot on the TJ in Sasebo, Japan, fresh out of Radar "A" School. She was the 4th ship out in the nest. I swerved on 3 other ships after, but NONE measured up to her.

Don P. Griser, QM3, 61-62, Wallis, TX.

After serving on the TJ, I transferred to the Herbert J. Thomas. Went back to College in Texas and was recalled, but was asked to provide training for a reactivated Reserve Unit in Tyler, TX. Later went to work as a Designer/Engineer in the Oil/Gas and Pharmaceutical Industry. Retired after 52 years!

Jim Vanderheiden, FTG1, 68-74. Vancouver, WA.

Thanks for all the work with the Reunion Group and the IRS. We'll be at the next reunion!

Doug Marlitt, SN, 65-66, Gilroy, CA.

Donation in Memory of my Skipper (CDR Bob McClinton) who passed 4/12/19-My 72nd Birthday!

Don Profitt, RD2/OS2, 69-71, Roanoke, VA.

I plan on retiring from the Plumbing business in September [2019]. Maybe I can get to some of the Reunions. Got to the ones in 98 and 02.

Joseph M. Schoennauer, MS2, 79-81, Lagrange, CA.

Enjoy the Newsletters.

John W. Hart, FTG1, 65-69, Bloomington, IL.

Fifty years ago, I left the Turner Joy after four years as a member of her crew. You develop Special Relationships with your Shipmates and thanks to the efforts of many fine people, these Relationships are ongoing. If you have never attended a Reunion, consider doing so. Looking forward to Newport next year. [Now Overtaken By Events]

Jonathan (Jon) "Half Ass" Littman, SHSN, 67-68, Denton, TX.

Invite the Maddox Crew to all of our Reunions!

Noel "Mr. Brylcreem" [and Rhonda] Lane, TM2, 72-73, Lakewood, CO.

We are honored to join. Thank you for your hard work to get the ship shipshape! [This Fine Gentleman is the epitome of "A little dab will doya"!]

Bela Kamensky, RD3, 67-68, Ringoes, NJ.

Looking forward to next year(s) reunion(s) in Newport, RI. [Now Overtaken By Events!] I missed the last two reunions due to illness. Hope to see everyone.

Jim Chester, RD2/OS2, 71-73. Carson City, NV.

Now at the New Operating Norm & allows catch up on Shipmate comments! In my 29 years of Naval Service, the Turner Joy stood way out over all others!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER. Since the last 21MC was published on 6/7/2020, as of 6/19/2020, we accomplished all the State of Washington Charities Division mandatory filing 'administrative corrections to their satisfaction' and notified that we are fully **COMPLETE!** Thus we are an official State of Washington Charities Division 501 (c) 7 Non-Profit, Tax Exempt, Veterans Social Group, operating under IRS Rule 501 (a) and Washington State Veteran's Social Group! The EXCOM and Myself have finally sighed and redefined the word RELIEF.

Our New Web Site! www.ussturnerjoy.com. For those of you that have not seen our new web site; the EXCOM and myself encourage you to STOP by and visit. Right now, as far as the rescheduled future Reunion goes, we will be posting the latest News/Note:

- **OCTOBER 2020 REUNION CANCELLATION:** After extensive discussion between the TJRG EXCOM and the TJRG Reunion Committee we have weighed all the variables for the current Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic and local restriction's still largely in force in the Newport, RI area and voted unanimously for cancelling the October 2020 reunion in Newport, RI. Believe me, this vote was done with a heavy heart by all! **Stay Well and Be Safe & we are looking forward to getting together in the future when conditions FINALLY improve & America reopens; date TBD! The next reunion location will have to be determined, but have received some early recommendations about having the next one in Bremerton, WA.**
- **OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION:** When you open the website at the top of the page is a tab to click on for OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION. **Per Federal & State Law, the Public & TJRG Members must have access to these documents.** Please take a few minutes and view/study these documents.
- **REQUIRED WASHINGTON STATE VOLUNTARY DONATION DISCLOSURE.** Per the 6/19/20 feedback letter from the State of Washington Secretary of State, we must make sure all solicitations for voluntary donations have the required disclosure information as described in the Charities Solicitations Act; RCW 19.09.100. This disclosure is on our web site at the top of the page in the red bar, just click on that tab and this will bring up the State of Washington required RCW 19.09.100 disclosure to be read before voluntary donations are made. **YES, Gentlemen; more legalese!**

**UNAUDITED ONGOING FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR TJRG
MEMBERSHIP FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020 FROM 6/7/20 TO 8/4/20**

Date	Transaction/Event	Checking	Savings	Total
6/7/20	Bal TJRG Funds per last 21MC	\$ 3,169.18	\$15,692.94	\$18,862.12
5/29/20	Interest Earned per BS	.12	3.26	3.38
	Add Revenues:			
6/12-6/23/20	Membership Dues	\$ 60.00	-	\$ 60.00
	Subtract Expenses:			
6/20-6/23/20	TJRG Mailing Costs	\$ 230.85	-	\$ 230.85
6/23/20	TJRG Printing Costs	53.63	-	53.63
6/27/20	Misc. Adj. Acctg Error/Dbl Entry	60.00	-	60.00
6/27/20	Balances per 6/27/20 Bank Stmt	\$ 2,884.82	\$15,696.20	\$18,581.02
6/30/20	Interest Earned per BS	.12	3.20	3.32
	Add Revenues:			
6/30-7/27/20	Membership Dues	\$ 420.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 500.00
7/7/20	Membership Donations	-	20.00	20.00
	Subtract Expenses:			
7/7-7/13/20	TJRG Mailing Costs	\$ 45.25	-	\$ 45.25
7/7/20	TJRG Office Supplies	22.30	-	22.30
7/8/20	TJRG Postage	179.10	-	179.10
7/7/20	TJRG Printing Costs	25.20	-	25.20
7/27/20	Balances per 7/27/20 Bank Stmt	\$ 3,033.09	\$15,799.40	\$18,832.49
	Add Deposits In Transit:			
7/27/20	Membership Dues	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 60.00
7/27/20	Membership Donation	-	10.00	10.00
7/27/20	Donation for Historic Artifact***	96.98	42.97	139.95
	Subtract Expenses in Transit:			
7/9/20	Purchase, Historic Artifact***	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
7/27/20	Reimb, Hist Art. Mailing Costs***	39.95	-	39.95
8/7/20	Balances TJRG Chk Bk & Sav Ac.	\$ 3,050.12	\$15,852.37	\$18,902.49

NOTES:

*** EXCOM Approved! Reimbursed/Donation by Jim Chester upon discovery of wrong historic artifact. Different Destroyer!

ONGOING NOTE. VETERANS REGULATORY INFORMATION UPDATE-Blue Water Navy Veterans are NOW entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange. The extension of the presumption is a result of Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law By President Donald J. Trump on June 25, 2019. **The law took effect on January 1, 2020.** Veterans with questions about benefits or filing a claim can visit the VA Agent Orange website www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agentorange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/. They can also call the disability benefits call center at 1-800-827-1000.

NEED LOCATING DATA (Mail returned NO forwarding address):

Crewmembers if anyone knows: Please provide date of information, up to date contact information and phone number and known e-mail address to: jimc951@hotmail.com!!!

John Peterson, of Johnstown, CO

Frances Rowan, of Grants Pass, OR

Don Frazier, of Snohomish, WA

Cecil Elliott, of Jonesboro, GA

Andrew Loyal, of Aiken, SC

Billy Joe Sanders, of Pensacola, FL

Ray Thompson, of Spencer, Iowa

John Peterson, of Johnston, CO

Robert Wroblewski, of Dexter, MI

Larry Nader, of Surprise, AZ

Wesley C. Cox, Jr., of Plummer, ID

Robert Jones, of Plymouth, MA

Anthony Sweat, Of Asheville, NC

Rudolph Halek, of Westlake, OH

“ATTENTION ALL FUTURE REUNION ATTENDEES”

DO NOT FORGET TO SEND YOUR PICTURES TO BRIAN SONCRANT

For a little FUN, we will be having a photo wall of all attendees coming to the next scheduled USS Turner Joy (DD-951) Reunion, when conditions allow. We are asking everyone who plans on attending the next reunion to mail a 4” X 6” photo of themselves; one photo of yourself when aboard the USS Turner Joy & present photo. We need your Name, Rank/Rating, your TJ Division & dates when you were aboard USS Turner Joy. Please include the state you’re currently residing in! Any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (586) 322-0328. Please Mail all photos and information to: Brian Soncrant, 8152 E Kilarea Ave., Mesa, AZ 85209-5118. These trips down memory lane are so great! I urge all TJRG crewmembers to send their pictures to Brian Soncrant, because at some point in the future we will have another great reunion.

**ROUSING TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN SAILORS WHO MANNED COMBAT
INFORMATION CENTER (CIC) ON THE USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) DURING THE
TONKIN GULF INCIDENT OF AUGUST 2-5, 1964.**

GENTLEMEN OF THE 63-65 ERA; DOES THIS PICTURE LOOK FAMILIAR?

**Ronnie
Stephens**



FRONT ROW: STEPHENS RDS, KOPLIN RDS, STEPHENS ETRN, JAMES RDS, FUHR RDSN, ESERT RDS
MIDDLE ROW: ASLETT ETRN, DYKES RDS, ANMAN RDSN, KNIGHT RDS, RICKMAN SN
BACK ROW: HEDSPETH RDS, DUNCAN RDSN, ROSALSKI SN, SMITH RDS, PLZAK SN, MEVEGY ETRN,
SCAMUS ETRN

LOOKING FOR HISTORICAL CORRECTIONS IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Gentlemen, the aforementioned picture was donated by the widow of Ronnie Stephens, who loved the USS Turner Joy and his contributory role in U.S. History. At the request of Chad James, I am working on the REAL STORY for the Tonkin Gulf Incident and deeply involved as a highly qualified retired Surface Warfare Naval Officer, providing knowledgeable and experienced critical thinking to a set of vast false narratives that has been distorted, fabricated, invented, had glaring omissions made in the name of producing false [politically motivated] conclusions that events [erroneously] never happened and worse yet, reached erroneous conclusions based upon 'their own openly stated biases'. These authors and those so-called historians have greatly altered and grossly distorted the actual events and do not even come close to understanding how the Chain of Command worked in 1964 and have further [grossly] distorted how Sensitive Information (SI) and how it was used in 1964. Later in the Officer portion my Navy career, I had gone to the advanced schools for the latest Command and Control, had been a participant in the 1980's Revolution and Evolution of how we do business in the modern era and had a key role in using Sensitive Compartmentalized Information (SCI) [Levels I and II and Level III as needed]. Believe me, it was a steep learning curve. The March 29, 2019 21MC Newsletter eludes to this huge transformation. Chad and I have gone over all the evidence in detail from official documents, as well as declassified documents all the way up the Chain of Command to President Lyndon B. Johnson, which are massive and he has collected this impressive evidence over 40 years. Furthermore, we have exhaustively gone over the 1986 narrative of Marolda and Fitzgerald and the 1996 book, by Edwin Moise and the 2005 article by Robert Hanyok along with many other authors who are so called historians where they consistently have reached erroneous conclusions that everything the survivors claimed was false. I have also seen many video tapes of the participants of the Tonkin Gulf Incident and they were very impressive. Jack Barry in his video tape "honestly stated" that everything in the evidence and all the real pieces of the puzzle fit [like a custom glove] and come together accurately. In my professional opinion, Jack Barry was 100% right! May I offer a 'hearty BZ' to Jack Barry! Furthermore, I have personally seen 'original letters' from Edwin Moise categorically stating that he thought all the sailors in the Tonkin Gulf Incident were involved in melodrama and he was going forward with his bias agenda no matter what. So, when this book finally hits the street, with all the official evidence, disproving all these false agendas and slanted versions; well all I can say is 'Stand By for Heavy Rolls'. Long ago, when I was still on Active Duty, I went to my first reunion in Silverdale, WA in AUG 1996. On the Puget Sound boating excursion at the reunion, I chatted with the late Bob Barnhardt extensively and he asked me to help in setting the record straight, if the opportunity ever presented itself. I gave him my word and now that opportunity is upon me and feel honored and privileged to help set the record straight. Historical Accuracy is all we care about! It amazes me how many people write about Naval Operations, which are complex, and how little they really know! Chad and I hope to finish this book in the months ahead and get it published. I am excited to work on this project, but not half as excited as Chad James is, now that he gets the chance to keep his word to Bob Barnhardt before he passed. If anyone from the Tonkin Gulf Incident has pictures from that historic Naval Engagement, please e-mail them to Chad at: chadjamesproducts@gmail.com. Probably, a JPEG attachment would be best, but please clear that with Chad! Lastly, I wish to thank Chad's charming and supportive wife, Karen, for her great support and hospitality she has also shown me.

TAPS: It is with 'GREAT REGRET' we report the following shipmates who have passed on:

Robert W. Dunham, RD2/OS2. 69-73, Milton, WI and his loving wife Rhea and another lady passenger were killed in a private plane crash in Minnesota on March 21, 1975. Bob and Rhea, both age 25 at the time, left behind three children. RD2/OS2 Don Profitt is trying to track down his children so we can tell them about their Dad. Bob and Rhea are interred at Milton Cemetery; Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin. On his grave marker under his name is US Navy, Vietnam. Bob Dunham and I worked together on two WestPac's [1971 and 1972-1973] and he was a top notch RD2/OS2. During the intense 1972-1973 combat cruise and all during Operation Linebacker II, Intense Gunline Operations until the Paris Peace Accords and later on Operation End Sweep, Bob Dunham along with Steve Champeau until he departed for Honorable Discharge [left JAN 23, 1973] were my right-hand men and relied on them heavily. Doug Church who was an OSSN at the time also helped me/us significantly. Thank You Doug! Bob, Steve, Doug and I often poured over the battle planning for all the extensively involved coordinated Strike missions back in ECM II, always looking for a tactical edge in the heavily defended North Vietnam, so we could all have a better chance of surviving and properly serve those who worked for us. Their extreme professionalism served the Officers and the rest of the Crew very well. I remember when Bob Dunham left the ship via highline in mid-March 1973, to return to the USA for Honorable Discharge. Little did I know, he had ONLY two years left to live. Even though he has been gone 45 years, those of us that knew and loved Bob are deeply saddened, but we also appreciate him for his great contributory role. Bob's contribution to the success of the USS Turner Joy and its missions are a stalwart example of Naval Professionalism, during an era when the chips were down. I shall always miss Bob!

James Curtis Hayes, age 83, ETR2, 59-62, Ridgecrest, CA passed away peacefully on May 6, 2020. Jim later went to work as a civilian Electronics engineer for the US Navy and eventually received a BS degree in Electronic Technology from Southwestern University in 1983. During his 50 years at China Lake, Jim worked on many key projects to enhance the weapons readiness and countermeasures for the United States Navy. Jim is survived by his loving wife; Yolanda, a brother, Charles and his Sister Jeanne, his children and grandchildren. Jim will later be laid to rest at Bakersfield National Cemetery once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Paul James Duffley, age 81, DK1, USN(Ret), 71-72 Alvord, TX passed away February 20, 2020. After his retirement from the Navy, he was a manager for a Service Insulation Company and later formed his own company making cabinets in Midland, TX. He is survived by his loving wife, Jacqui who brought love and light into his life for 13 beautiful years. He also leaves behind his children and many grandchildren from a previous marriage!

Patrick Gruver Murray Stockwell, age 22, GMG2, 63-65, was killed on his motorcycle on May 22, 1965. This was reported by his loving widow, Patricia on June 11th, 2020. Where he is interred is unknown! He was one of the Gunner's Mates during the Tonkin Gulf Incident Naval Engagement.

Frankie Knight, BT3, OB circa 69-71, exact age at passing unknown ~ late 60's/early 70's. Reported by his Boiler Technician (BT) and Machinist Mate (MM) Friends. Could not find obituary on the Internet, not known where he is interred.

CORRECTIONS FROM PAST 21 MC NEWSLETTERS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

August 25, 2019 21MC. Due to extreme fatigue, with FOG OF WAR issues we all had/have, and lack of sleep for 3-4 days, we have refined the battle narratives for more historical accuracy. The Combat Pictures of the USS Turner Joy engaging an NVA Regiment in the Open, just below the Qua Viet River, with all guns (3" and 5") took place between 1127H and 1156H [Not 1400H] at General Quarters on January 27th, 1973 [last day of the war before the cease fire] after brief surface Naval Engagement with at least two Komar PTG's and one other PT boat from 1037H to approximately 1120H. Four A-7 Attack Planes from the USS America (CVA-66) broke up the attack and they returned to North Vietnam. While attacking the NVA Regiment in the OPEN the 'first time', we expended 295 rounds of 5" 54 caliber & 187 rounds of 3" 50 caliber in just 2 minutes & 30 seconds. We engaged the same NVA Regiment later [second time] at General Quarters at approximately 1400H, using all three 5" 54 caliber guns & NOT using the 3" 50 caliber, & this time we fired 161 rounds of 5" 54 caliber using all three 5" gun mounts in one (1) minute & twenty (20) seconds. Secured from General Quarters at 1412H & ordered 3,500 yards out to sea to avoid blast overpressure damage from 9 B-52's attacking the remainder of the NVA Regiment at approximately 1430 H, filmed by BMC Masters & also filmed by HT2 Kenny Roice. Copies of this B-52 Strike were distributed at the AUG 1996 reunion in Silverdale, WA, courtesy of BMC Masters.

Our goal is historical accuracy & we are always OPEN to refining our battle record for accuracy, ONCE PROOF SURFACES that is accurate and verified!

June 7, 2020 21MC. The picture of the Rest and Relaxation names all the participants except one sailor, who was listed as Steve ????. He is now identified as EN3 Steve Kirkpatrick, who currently lives in Mira Loma, CA.

The Last Shot Painting by Dale Byhre! The painting is essentially historically correct, except for two minor issues, one of which is a FOG OF WAR Issue & the other is a historical correction issue. The FOG OF WAR issue was that the gun barrel was quickly painted after removal of the shell casings for the firing of the last round at 0759 and 15 seconds H. The painting shows the customary burnt paint about one-half the length of the barrel, which we were all use to. That is the FOG OF WAR issue & has been verified by pictures of MT 51 which shows the barrel painted; picture provided by Steve Penner by & by some GMG's. The second minor correction issue was the enemy counterbattery round that impacted just off the starboard bow at approximately 0754H about 1,200 to 1,400 yards ahead just before the cease fire. This was hardly noticed by Bridge personnel, but someone took a picture of that last enemy counterbattery round. There is a picture of this enemy counterbattery round making a disturbance in the water in the 72-73 cruise book & this was verified by many Officers and other key tactical personnel. Some non-tactical members remember it different! The painting shows the enemy round disturbance in the water adjacent to the bow just as we fired the last round, which is correct. During my discussions with Dale Byhre, during the historical correction time in 2018, I stated there was not any cascading water left, but he recommended a slight modification showing a bit of cascading water, mainly for historical correction purposes and NOT for any other reasons. This was my judgment call! Dale did a very fine job & we congratulate him. Prior to the third historical correction attempt in 2018, which was FINALLY successful, the official history of the 1972-1973 combat operations of the USS Turner Joy was routine operations with intermittent Naval Gunfire Support. That was far from the truth, and now this is accurately corrected!