

# USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 Newsletter

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1  
JUNE, 2016

Dedicated in Memory of Shipmates Whit Felt and Dick Rohde

## FFG 58 and Bronze Plaque: The Story Continues

Paul Rinn, former captain of the USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG58 has been in touch with us regarding the fate of that beloved ship. Captain Rinn recently gave a speech at the Washington Navy Yard and was informed by the curator of ships that the FFG 58 has been moved to a location in Philadelphia. A significant amount of money has been allocated by the government to turn the ship into a museum. Two ports have been interested in having the ship displayed but no decision has been made as to its final location.

This is, of course, very good news for all of us in the Samuel B. Roberts “family” of ships: USS Samuel B. Roberts DE413, USS Copeland FFG25 (who, by the way, is having its second reunion in St. Louis, MO this year according to former Captain Chip Seymour), USS Carr FFG52, USS Samuel B. Roberts DD823 and FFG 58.



The second half of the story involves the bronze plaque which lists the names of all those who served aboard the DE413 at the time of its sinking. The plaque was displayed on the FFG 58 and became a reminder and inspiration for all of the sailors on board.

The plaque is currently in the possession of the Naval History and Heritage Command and will be mounted in the Navy Museum at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

Coincidentally, the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) is also in possession of the battle ensign from the DE413. We came across the story after talking with Jeff Yusen (Jack’s son). **See more on page 4.....**



## Taps

We received word of the passing of another shipmate. **Albert Rosner** died on September 21, 2015 according to his grandson, Jonathon Sargent. Thank you, Jonathon, for letting us know about your grandfather. Our sympathy goes out to you and all of the Rosner family.

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## Roll Call

To the best of our knowledge, the following is a list of the living survivors of the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413. If we have made any errors or omissions, please let us know.

**James F. "Bud" Comet**

**Herbert E. Eskins**

**E. Glenn Huffman**

**Adred C. Lenoir**

**Jack Yusen**

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## Treasury Report June 1, 2016

Starting Balance 8-15-2015	\$2,533.43
Dues, Donations Received and Deposited	<u>215.00</u>
Total	\$2,748.43

Expenses: Newsletter Printing Aug. 2015	<u>( 259.20)</u>
Including Postage	

Total Expenses	( 259.20)
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<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2,489.23</b>
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## With Sympathy.....

Two members of the DE 413 family have passed away since our last Newsletter.

**John Montgomery**, brother of Leona Harden (and also a WWII Navy veteran) died on August 26, 2015. Many of you may remember John as he attended several of our reunions with his late wife Shirley and his sister Leona (late Mel) Harden.

**Bob Bingaman**, brother of shipmate Richard Bingaman (KIA October 25, 1944), died on October 28, 2015. Bob and his wife Norma also attended many reunions.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of both of these fine gentlemen



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### News From Everywhere.....

**Fran Goodrich** reports from Pennsylvania that she is still (at age 87!) working part-time at the local library.

**Leona Harden** sends her love to all and keeps very busy with her daughter Karen's family which includes three great-grandchildren.

**Bob LeClerc** volunteers at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX and frequently encounters people interested in the DE413. Just recently, a gentleman came in wearing a Vietnam Veteran cap and had an artificial leg from knee down. As Bob proceeded to thank him for his service, he said that his father was on a destroyer escort in the war...the Samuel B. Roberts! Bob said "while I was trying to catch my breath and stop shaking from excitement, I asked his name. He replied John Harrington." Yes, the man was Red Harrington's son. Bob then took John out to show him the Pavilion and made sure he saw the Leyte room.

**Glenn Huffman** celebrated his 90th birthday in December. It was reported that the town of Bella Vista, AR is still recovering from the celebration

**Bud Comet** also marked his 90th birthday last year in June. His celebration covered two states as he spends part of the year with daughter Jamie and family in Everett, WA and the other part with son J.C. and family in Little Rock, AR.

**Jack Yusen** who also turned 90 recently, is in overall good health despite some memory issues. He currently resides in a memory care facility near his family in Seattle.

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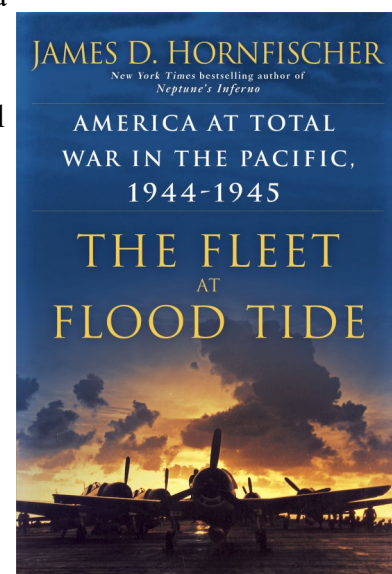
### Forthcoming in November 2016 from Bantam Books

The author of the **Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors** has a new book coming this fall. Timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, **The Fleet at Flood Tide** is an unprecedented account of the Pacific War campaign that brought the U.S. Navy to the apex of its power and supremacy and established the foundation for America as the dominant global superpower.

Distilling thousands of pages of primary-source research, here is an extraordinary narrative orchestration of the most strategically vital operation of the Pacific War: the U.S. Fifth Fleet's seizure of the Marianas, a multi-faceted exhibition of the new state-of-the-art in warfare. It was the Navy's first use of men who were the forerunners of today's SEALs. It marked the emergence of America's capacity to launch expeditionary operations worldwide. It saw the flowering of American naval aviation. And shortly after a classified aviation outfit completed its secret training, Marianas-based U.S. airpower would shock the world with a first glimpse of nuclear fire.

From the epic seaborne invasion of Saipan, to the stunning spectacle of the aerial battles of the Marianas Turkey Shoot, to the grinding fight ashore between American and Japanese troops and the largest suicide attack of the war to the devastating bombing campaign that culminated with Hiroshima and Nagasaki, **The Fleet at Flood Tide** is the broadly encompassing story of the most consequential campaign of World War II, and a deeply humane portrait of ordinary people, American and Japanese alike, caught in its vortex.

(Above article reprinted with the permission of James D. Hornfischer)





# DE 413 Battle Flag Survives

Quoted from article from the Navy Historical Foundation (5/13/13)

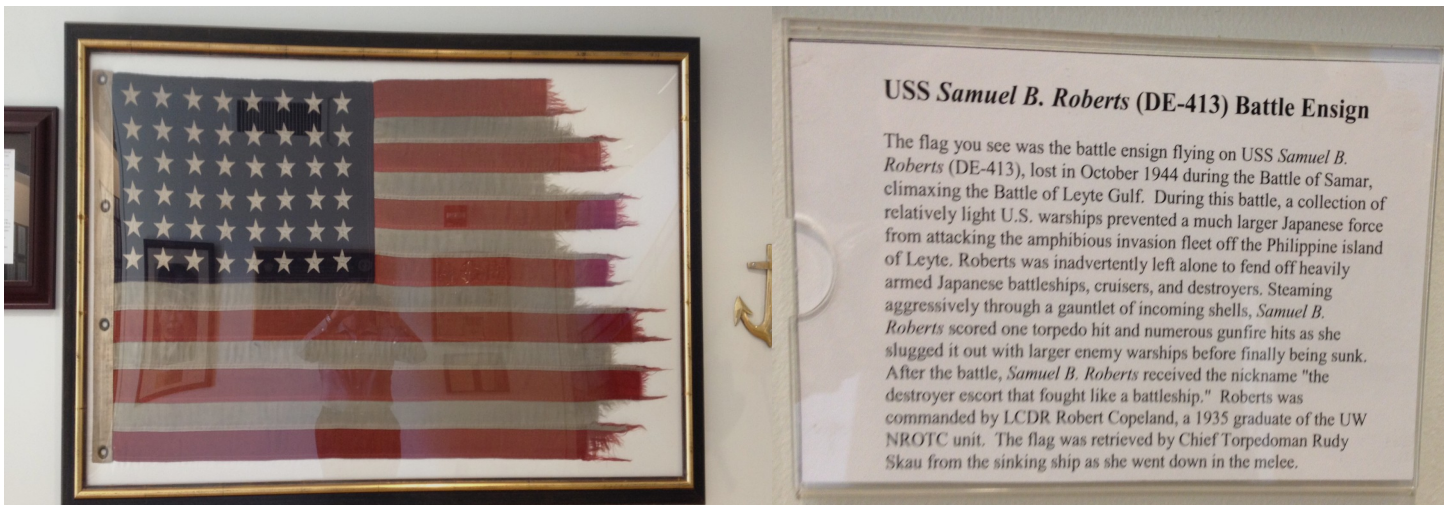
“Last month, a truly unique piece of history found a new home in the collection of the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC). The 48 star battle ensign of the destroyer escort USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE413) was transferred from a private collection to the Material Section at NHHC.”

“As her crew abandoned ship, Chief Torpedoman Rudy Skau retrieved her battle ensign, and tucked it safely away. The ship went down, and her crew floated for nearly 3 days awaiting rescue, with many survivors perishing from wounds and shark attacks.”

“Years later, Skau passed along the tattered flag to his employer, James Massick, a 1954 graduate of the University of Washington. Massick had his own personal connection to Roberts. While a student at the University of Washington, he met Captain Robert Copeland, who had commanded the Sammy B. during the battle and was a 1935 graduate of the University of Washington’s Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps and he encouraged Massick to apply for the program, which he did. Massick eventually graduated and was commissioned as an Ensign. Early In 2013, Massick contacted Captain David Melin, Commanding Officer of the school’s NROTC unit, and offered to return the priceless battle ensign to the Navy.”

The flag has now been preserved and framed and on official loan to the UW ROTC unit where it hangs in Clark Hall at the University of Washington next to the new NROTC Wall of Fame. Captain Copeland was among the first five inductees to be listed on the wall of fame.

Shown below is a picture of the flag and its explanation sent to us by Jeff Yusen. Thank you, Jeff, for relaying this great story.



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**Website: Don't forget to visit our website : [de413.org](http://de413.org)**

**Annual dues are \$10.00 per year payable to : Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association**

**c/o John T. Walsh**

**24945 Marian Avenue**

**Elwood, IL 60421**

## Do you have any back issues of “The Newsletter”?

We received an email from Jean Cooper, a librarian at the University of Virginia who is interested in our ship and its newsletter. Jean is cataloging the newsletters and would like to convert them to PDF, which means they could go on our website and become a permanent part of history. Please contact Jean if you would be willing to loan or donate your newsletters. She would like to know when the Association started and also when the first newsletter was published.

The contact information for Jean Cooper is as follows: Email: [jlc5f@virginia.edu](mailto:jlc5f@virginia.edu) Phone: 434-982-2743

Mailing Address: Jean L. Cooper

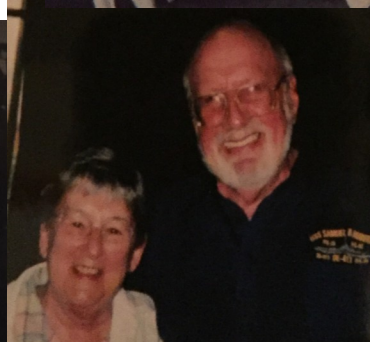
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PO Box 400108, Alderman Library, University of Virginia

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A few pictures from “the archives”





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**48 Star Battle Ensign of the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413....Story on Page 4**

