



Where History Comes Alive

BATTLESHIP NORTH CAROLINA

Scuttlebutt

January 2010

New Power Plant Program

Calling all Navy engineering enthusiasts! Join us for an in-depth program on the Battleship's power plant. Learn in detail about the ship's eight Babcock & Wilcox boilers, four sets of General Electric turbines and reduction gears, steam and diesel powered service turbo generators, along with electrical distribution and water distillation.

Our program features classroom presentations and behind-the-scenes tour of engineering spaces. Discover what it took to propel a 36,000 ton heavily armored battlewagon bristling with massive firepower and 2,300 fighting men across the Pacific.

Our special presenters will be John Whitley and Kirk Binning. John C. Whitley, a chemical engineer, works for International Paper. A long time volunteer guide on the

Battleship interpreting the ship's machinery spaces, he portrays the role of a WWII Boiler Technician in the ship's Living History Crew. John also serves on the Board of the Friends of the Battleship.

Kirk Binning recently retired from Los Alamos National Labs and the U.S. Navy Reserves as a Chief Warrant Officer (CWO4) specializing in engineering repair. His Naval career focus was as an engineer aboard nuclear powered submarines. Kirk began volunteering on the Battleship in early 2009 and has organized the engineering papers in the archives and interprets Machinery Space #4 to the public.



NEW Winter Program

Power Plant Program
Saturday, February 6th
12:30 to 5 PM
Adults only (18 and above)
\$50 / \$40 Friends member
Reserve and pay in advance by calling 910-251-5797 ext. 3001
Program limited to 30

Hidden Battleship Tour, January 23 & March 13

Join us on Saturday, January 23rd, for a behind-the-scenes exploration of un-restored areas of the Battleship. The guided tour includes the bow (officers' country and boat-swain locker), third deck (Radio II, brig, after gyro, storage rooms, ammunition handling, Engineer's office, torpedo area), engine room #1 or #3, the reefers, and up inside the fire control tower to the top of the ship. The Azalea Coast Radio Club will be in Radio II to explain their

work on the ship's radio transmitters.

The tour is limited to ages 12 and above with no exceptions. The four hour tour will include climbing over many knee-high hatches and going up and down narrow ladders, so be prepared. Wear warm, casual clothing (blue jeans) and soft soled shoes.

You choose between a morning or afternoon time slot: 8:30am-12:30pm or 1:30-5:30 PM. Group size is limited so everyone has a great ex-

perience! Price: \$45 regular, \$35 Friends member or active duty military. Call 910-251-5797 extension 3001 to make and pay for your reservation.

The next Hidden Battleship tour will be on Saturday, March 13th. (We only conduct these tours in the cooler months.) Many Friends' members have taken this tour so please be sure to tell your friends, neighbors, colleagues about this special opportunity. It makes a fine birthday gift too!



New Treasures for Battleship Collections

335 items were added to the Battleship's collections last year. We send our thanks to the following people who generously donated items to the Battleship. * indicates BB-55 company member.

John Barron*: Pair of variable density goggles in original container.

Kirk Binning: Reprint of The Bluejacket's Manual, 1902.

Barbara Bonifant: U.S. Navy blankets and seabag that belonged to her father, Paul Peter Urdzik, Fireman 1/c.

Loretta Broas: Fragment of Japanese plane shot down on August 24, 1942. (Widow of crew member Edward Broas.)

Norwood Bryan: Book "Useful Tables From the American Practical Navigator," 1938; USN necklace that belonged to donor's Mother.

Alan Cashmir: The Bluejacket's Manual, 1917.

Robert Chapman: Tickets issued to school children who contributed dimes to the Save the Battleship campaign in 1960-61 from the Englewood Elementary School, Rocky Mount.

Matt Dooley, YN1 (SS), USN: Pair of submarine dolphin pins.

Charles Emerson: Civil and state flag of the Empire of Japan (1870-1999).

Rob Flory: U.S. Navy infrared telescope US/C-3A, built by RCA, circa 1944.

Charles Foster*: Magazine clippings about BB55; Map and guide City of Honolulu; Flyer advertising "Independence Day War Bond Drive, July 3-6 1943."

Frank Glossl: Book "Power Plant Instruction for the Naval Training School/The Principles of Operation and Maintenance of Steam Power Plant Machinery and Auxiliary Equipment," 1943.

Thomas Goss: Photographs of BB55 and the USS NECHES (AO47), refueling, November 1944.

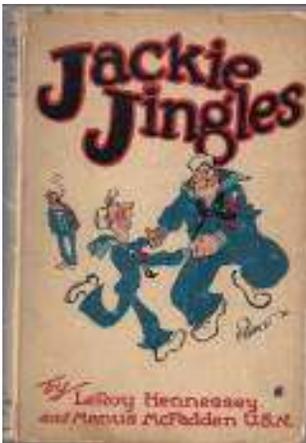
Donna Hargett: Japanese currency issued during WWII. (Daughter of crew member Earl Fredrick Porath)

Elaine Herzog: Enlisted dress blue uniform, for educational collection.

Tony Joyce: (Donation included) Account statement, Robert Morgan, Actg. Boatswain in A/C with U.S. Ship North Carolina, September 27, 1824; two 1831 letters from John Rodgers, Navy Commissioners Office; letter

from John Saunders, USS North Carolina, January 13, 1841; The Bluejacket's Manuals, 1917 and 1918; Watch Officer's Manual, 1917; "Seamanship Department Notes," U.S. Naval Academy, November 1917; "Jackie Jingles," by LeRoy Hennessey and Manus McFadden, USN, 1918; "A History of the Transport Service," by Vice Admiral Albert Gleaves, USN, 1921; "The Admiral/The Memoirs of Ablet Gleaves," 1985; "Commodore John Rodgers/Captain, Commodore and Senior Officer of the American navy 1773-1838/A Biography," 1910; 4 books on Naval history; Postcard of the departures, arrivals, distance run by the Cruiser North Carolina during 1914 and 1915; "Uncle Sam's Ships," sheet music, 1917; "Our Navy," June 1918; "U.S.S. North Carolina Regulations on Transport Duty," Dec. 1918 and June 1919; signal trainer; advertising premiums featuring ACR-12; Letter from Fred Fields on the USS North Carolina in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 1911; postcards from ACR-12; advertising pennants featuring the Armored Cruiser North Carolina; U.S. Navy blue wool flat hat with gros-

(Continued on page 3)



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grain ribbon marked NORTH CAROLINA; Cap that belonged to Herbert Arthur Moss, Armored Cruiser North Carolina; 1908 photograph of the crew of the Armored Cruiser North Carolina; Safety Razor, Gillette, US Service Set Gillette type U.S.A. 1918-1919; Bowers Army and Navy Lighter; WWI Navy posters; seven telegrams sent from the Armored Cruiser NC in August 1919; typed letter on "United States Ship North Carolina" stationary, October 6, 1941; U.S.S. North Carolina Telephone Directory, February 1946; book "The Jamestown Exposition Illustrated," 1907. Includes photograph of the launching of the USS North Carolina (ACR-12); *and more treasures!*

Dorothy Kissee: Tarheel newsletter, August 1941; Program of Ship's Smoker Featuring Elimination Championship Boxing Bouts, February 18, 1942. (Widow of crew member Charles Kissee.)

Jay LeBoff: Book "How to Navigate Today," 1943.

Mark McAllister: Book "Battleships and Battle Cruisers 1905 - 1970," and series of books by Zane Grey.

Jim McKee: Tarheel newsletter, August 1941.

National Museum of Nuclear Science and History: Clothing, medals, membership cards that belonged to Clay Ross, officer on BB55.

John Norton: Watercolor painting of the NORTH CAROLINA by Paul N. Norton.

Gretchen Odum: Photographs of U.S. Navy ships and inside the Anti-Aircraft Training Center, California. (Daughter of BB55 officer Clay Ross.)

Charles Paty*: Books on Naval history; Handbook of Seaman's Ropework, 1940; newspaper clippings on the crew reunions and photograph of a Battleship crew members gathering, April 1966; Compact discs containing scans of letters, postcards and envelopes sent home in 1941-1944.

Allan Pellnat: RCA Victor Model U-12 superheterodyn combination radio and phonograph.

Ken Rittenmeyer: 48 star U.S. flag; book "Jingleman Jack Aviator," 1929; book "Your Wings," 1942.

CDR Wes Schlauder, USN: Commemorative coins issued for SSN-777; US Navy officer's working uniform shirt, identification tag, and a booklet created for visitors to SSN-777. (Donor is Commanding Officer, SSN-777)

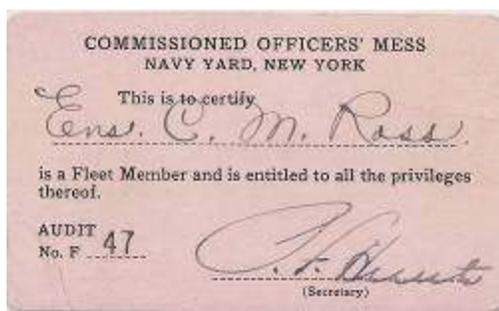
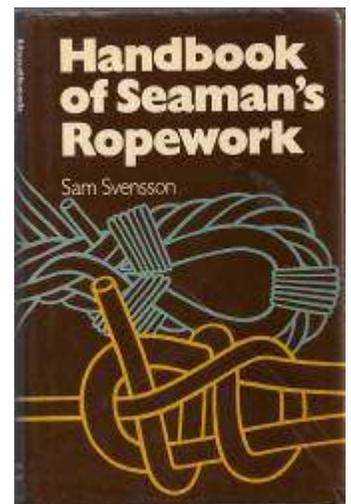
Charles Sullivan: Photograph of BB55 officer Lt. John A. Burns. (*shown right*)

Ralph Swift*: Scrapbooks, Naval history books, identification tags, belt buckles, WWII service commemorative medals.

James Vogt: "Navy Day Program/U.S.S. North Carolina 1945."

Linnea Westenberg: Books on Naval history. (Daughter of crew member Leo Drake.)

Peter Wilberg: 1941 print of the NORTH CAROLINA leading the fleet as planes pass in formation overhead.



January in Kwajalein by Paula Curtis-Burn

In January, many of us are typically recovering from the holidays, and specifically from New Year's revelry. Not so for the men of the BB55. They were part of an American Task Force bombing Kavieng Island, the point of the Damocles sword shape of New Ireland, off the coast of New Guinea. After a few days moored at Havannah Harbor they were on their way again.

On January 20th, NORTH CAROLINA, along with Destroyers STERRET and LANG, were ordered by Admiral Spruance to peel off from the main task force and head to Kwajalein. Kwajalein was the largest coral atoll in the Pa-

cific. It was 66 miles long and 20 miles at its greatest width. 97 islands and islets circled the lagoon which Samuel Eliot Morison described as an "upper jaw" with several teeth missing.

NORTH CAROLINA was sent to Roi-Namur, the only inhabitable islands in the Kwajalein. Namur housed Japanese revetments with stores, torpedo warheads and bombs as well as living quarters for the 4,000 Japanese Marines who defended the islands. Roi housed a strategically important airstrip. The Japanese High Command wanted these two islands defended to the last man.

Aboard BB55, LT. Commander

Richard C. Walker, Air Defense Photo Officer, suggested to Captain Frank Thomas to request an aircraft carrier to send a fighter plane to take pictures of the islands. Circling at high speeds, the plane took oblique photos, developed aboard the carrier and flew them to BB55. These pictures enabled the officers to number the targets, then send the information to the Fire Control director operators and Sky Control.

BB55 bombarded the island every two hours throughout the night of January 29th, which prevented the Japanese from repairing the airfield during the overnight hours.

(Continued on page 6)

Area Students Create 5,923 Holiday Cards for Veterans



Josefina's teacher introduced the project to her. She likes both paper crafts and helping people. It was the perfect project for her, so thank you for sponsoring it! I'm sure she'll want to do it again next year.

Tammy Stone-Gordon, in response to her daughter's creation of 50+ cards

All we can say is WOW! Our Holiday Cards for Veterans project is now in its fourth year and this year exceeded our wildest expectations.

The first year the holiday cards were part of a local high school student's senior project. The next year a local Junior Girl Scout Troop stationed in the snack bar helped visitors create cards.

Last year in an effort to have enough cards to send to all the veterans in the four VA hospitals in North Carolina, we emailed area schools asking them to create cards. The response was outstanding!

Over 3,000 cards from 14 schools and one church were collected. Cards were sent to nine veterans hospitals in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

THIS YEAR we emailed the schools, sent a press release and received television coverage (www.news14.com and search "Battleship"). **The result: 25 schools, one church and one young woman created 5,923 cards. The Battleship shipped the cards to 25 VA hospitals in 8 states:**

947 cards to 4 hospitals in NC

361 cards to 2 in SC
1,095 cards to 3 in VA

800 cards to 4 in TN
600 cards to 3 in GA

950 cards to 4 in WV
620 cards to 3 in KY

550 cards to 2 in MD

We wish to give a tremendous thank you for a job well job to the following schools in New Hanover and Onslow County (Camp LeJeune area) for making this successful, heartfelt event possible:

Alderman Elementary
Ashley High School
Bellamy Elementary
College Park Elementary
Hoggard High School
Jacksonville Elementary
Mary C. Williams Elementary
Murray Middle School
Myrtle Grove Middle School
New Hanover High School
Noble Middle School
Ogden Elementary
Parsley Elementary
Pine Valley Elementary
Rachel Freeman School of Engineering
Snipes Academy
Sunset Elementary
Trask Middle School
Williston Middle School
Winter Park Elementary
Wrightsville Beach Elementary
Church of the Servant, Episcopal
Miss Josefina Gordon

What will next year bring?



Thank YOU Friends Members!

We would like to thank the members of our "Friends."

Admiral: \$1000

Charles Murray
PPD Development

Commodore: \$500

Margaret De St. Aubin/Wren
Foundation Inc.
William E. Oakley

Captain: \$300

Nick England
Robert Ruffner/Clancy &
Theys Construction

Commander: \$150

John Arnold
Norwood E. Bryan, Jr.
William Collinson
Joseph Corbin
George W. Currie
Christina Davenport
James W. Garey
Vernon Griffin
Estelle Hamby
Sion and Helen Harrington
Egbert M. Herring, III
Leslie G. Hollenbeck
Barry H. Kilfoil
K. Corey Keeble/Royal Ontario
Museum
James C. Lorentzen
Mrs. John L. McCain
Richard D. Moore
Charles and Sue Paty
Charles D. and Judy Pierce
Bill Usher

Sallie Bett Severa
Southwest Elementary School,
Jacksonville NC
Jay Weitzel
Sidney Welvang
John Whitley

Lieutenant Commander: \$75

Robert Abbotts
Dr. & Mrs. R.D. Almkvist
Darrell Adams
Doug & Jane Anderson/Port
City Paranormal
Carlisle A. Bateman
Leo Bednarczyk
David Bone
Sally and Don Brauer
Erica Coyne
Matt Craven / James Hagood
Dave Derry
Skip Dixon
Albert R. Dunn
Capt. Thomas W. Durant, USN
(Ret) & Janet Durant
William W. Edwards
Edward Eickmeyer
Milton Glazzard
Gene Gallagher
Becky Hill
Capt. Wilbur D. Jones, USNR
(Ret)
Charles Love
Clara Monroe
Steve Moore
Philip Simon
Larry C. Steffee
Shannon Tittle
Joseph Toriello
Thomas Van Arsdale

Lieutenant: \$45

Leo Bostwick
Robert and Rhonda Clark
Eric Eschert
Gene Gallagher
Frank & Ann Glossl
Thomas Farmer
Ronald Fascher
David Gibboney
Robert and Sheila Goolsby
Chuck and Sandra Gore
Brigadier General David
Grange, USA (Ret)
Fred J. Hall, Jr.
Tom and Karin Hamilton
Reginald L. Harris
Ralph Harwood
Jayson Homer
Saunders Jones
John R. Jordan
Bobby Melvin
Jason Z. Miller
Keith Nixon
Billy Patterson
Ashmead P Pipkin
J. Fred Rippy
Don and Yvette Slawter
Edwin Southern
Samuel O. Southern
Wilmer Taylor
Alan Tapscott
James Ursic
Henry R. Weber
L. Bruce Whitaker
Ray Wycoff

Lieutenant(jg): \$35

Brad Aikens
Emory Bass
Joseph Benedek, Jr.
Capt. Walter M. Bullard,
USNR (Ret)
Robert G. Carnegie
Charles S. Carter
Lee C. Clayton
Marc J. Cohen
Capt. Frank Conlon, USN
(Ret.)
W.L. Deaton Jr.
Randall J Egsegian
Herbert Gant
Don Hall
Geoffrey Heath
Barbara Hennrich
David Hill
Milford Kirby
Larry Malaby
Candance Paty Martin
Richard McGowan
Vernon C. Porterfield
Richard Riano
Ronnie Rhodes
Pamela Schrader
Bryon Wyche Schulken
Samuel Soles
Randal Stone
John Andrew Stratton
Wayne Woodard

Current Friends' Members as
of 12/31/2009



We are seeking nominations for Board of Directors for Friends of the Battleship.

Nominees will serve a two year term ending with the 2011 FY and may serve three consecutive terms. We are seeking individuals who are willing to contribute their time and talent in the following areas: fundraising, promotions, and creating and implementing Friends only programs. Board requirements: active Friends' membership, attend regular board meetings (typically four to six times per year), and support and serve as an active member on committees. For more information and/or application, contact Kim Sincox at museum@battleshipnc.com or 910-251-5797 ext 3006.

January in Kwajelein *continued*

The purpose of the heavy bombardment was to avoid a repeat of the slaughter of Marines on Tarawa. The Tarawa invasion was supposed to have been a cakewalk because of the constant bombardment and shelling by U.S. planes and ships, but the enemy was well-defended and offered considerable resistance. The U.S. Marines immediately lost 1,000 men.

William B. Hopkins wrote in The Pacific War, "The scale of pre-invasion bombardment [of Roi-Namur] was of unprecedented magnitude." Later, it was said that the revetments and ordnance going off made it look like an atomic bomb as the explosions sent a mushroom cloud of smoke to the sky. This was no Tarawa. When the U.S. Marines landed, everything was destroyed and the few remaining Japanese were shell-shocked and easily taken.

The Showboat's part in this battle began at 1537 hours on January 29th when bogeys were spotted at 105 miles out. At 1645 Chuck Paty was in the chow line when Air Defense was sounded and Paty heard the five-inch guns firing. He ran to Radio One just in time to hear the captain order him to send a message to the Aircraft Carrier INTREPID. The order was for "plain language over TBM" (voice circuit radio for emergency situations.). Paty's voice trembled and his heart pounded as he relayed the message. This was his first ever voice transmission. Within 45 minutes the Fighting Squadron Six was there.

At 1819 hours, just before the bombardment began on the island, a merchant ship, the EIKO MARU, was spotted in the lagoon. Black smoke indicated she was getting underway. Pilots on return from the island saw the freighter and couldn't resist strafing it. Because of their own noise, they almost missed a transmission from the Showboat that said, "SALVO." The pilots were wondering why they felt like all the antiaircraft guns in the area had opened up. The first salvo was short. Lt. Com-

mander Harrison, pilot from Combat Air Patrol on the Intrepid, volunteered to stay behind and spot for the BB55 gunners.

The merchant ship attempted to return fire with her 3 and 4-inch guns but they were no match for the Battleship. The second salvo hit the freighter, which sank in the lagoon's mud. The following day divers from BB55 boarded the sunken vessel and recovered valuable Japanese charts of depths and channels of every lagoon in the Pacific.

The Japanese sent bombers from Bikini Island to try to stop the bombardment. BB55 was forced to play hide and seek. When bogeys were spotted, the Battleship ran for the nearest rain squall, safely concealed until the bomber departed. Using the CAP photos, Ensign Rudy Speights in Sky 4 directed the five-inch mounts to a small house on the west end of the island. They repeatedly failed to hit the house itself, but the Marines on shore sent congratulations because the trenches surrounding the target were completely wiped out.

On January 31, 1944, NORTH CAROLINA, along with newly arrived SOUTH DAKOTA and ALABAMA, continued the bombardment of Roi airfield and then moved 60 miles northwest of Roi Island. On February 2, 1944, BB55 along with STERETT and LANG detached to return to Task Force 58.

[The information contained in this article came from the following sources:](#)

Crew Memories in the Archives: C.J. Baker, John Kirkpatrick, Charles Paty, Richard C. Walker
"WWII History" Magazine, July 2006
"Morning Press News," December 5, 1943, Published by the Executive Officers Office.

Business Office: Director: Capt. Terry Bragg, USN (Ret.)
Maintenance Director: Roger Miller; Comptroller: Elizabeth Rollinson
Brooke Laton, Candy Edwards, Kim Mintz
Maintenance: Robert Hall, Terry Kuhn, Steve Lewis, Phil Southworth, Gary Pietak, Jason Boyd
Museum: Kim Sincox, Mary Ames Booker
Programs: Danielle Wallace, Shelly Robinson, Christine Jamet, Julia Yannetti
Promotions: Heather Loftin
Ship's Store: Leesa McFarlane, Cathy Shipman, Devin Buie, Tara Banks, Sabrina Porter, Joy Lynch, Joanna Zazzali
Night Watchmen: Danny Bradshaw, Bill Parr, Brian Gibson
Webmaster: Randy Drew

Battleship NORTH CAROLINA, PO Box 480, Wilmington, NC 28402; 910-251-5797; www.battleshipnc.com



Enlist Today!

Friends of the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA is a non-profit organization whose funds support exhibits, interpretation, educational programs, artifact acquisition, and restoration projects. Projects include:

- Purchase of an 1827 painting of the Ship of the Line NORTH CAROLINA by Nicholas Cammillieri
- Restoration of a rare 26 foot U.S. Navy Motor Whaleboat
- Commission of models of the submarine NORTH CAROLINA and the Confederate ironclad NORTH CAROLINA with custom display cases
- Display mounts and artwork for the SSN-777 exhibit
- Exhibit hall window banners

The Battleship NORTH CAROLINA receives no funding from federal, state or local governments for its operations. The Ship is maintained through revenue generated from admissions, museum store sales, rentals, programming, and Friends memberships.

Membership Levels

Lieutenant (jg), Individual 35.00

Lieutenant, 2 Individuals 45.00

Lt. Commander 75.00

Parents and children under 18 years of age or grandparents and grandchildren under 18 years of age

Commander 150.00

Lt. Commander benefits plus five guest passes

Captain 300.00

Lt. Commander benefits plus 10 guest passes

Commodore 500.00

Recognition signage in the Visitors Center and 25 guest passes

Admiral 1,000.00 (call for details)

Benefits include: Free Admission for One Year; 10% discount in the Ship's Store; Discounts on special programs/tours; Monthly newsletter, *Scuttlebutt*

To Enlist:

Print this form and send with check payable to the Friends of the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA or call 910-251-5797 with your Visa or Mastercard information

Name:

Address:

City/State:

E-Mail Address:

Phone:

Enlistment Level: