

One last lonely voyage

... the clouds were shedding tears for the farewell of the USS Franklin, for all who had known her and for the shipmates whose spirits she was about to join.

On 17 February 1947 the commission pennant was hauled down and presented to Commander Gary. It would never again fly from her mast. The *Franklin* was reserved for future use. The last Stars and Stripes to fly from BIG BEN was lowered, folded and presented to John Stites. Stites, Otherwise known as the "Old Timer," was the 44th man to report aboard BIG BEN in September 1943. Today, he is a retired senior chief machinist mate.

The end came for the gallant *Franklin* in 1966, when she was stricken from the Navy Register and sold for scrap. The Portsmouth Salvage Company bought her on 27 July 1966 for \$228,000 and was given three years to salvage her. The armor plating was to be returned to the government. The federal government offered the carrier's bridge to Norfolk, Virginia. The city planned to build a museum to house it. Unfortunately, the museum and memorial to the ship were never built, and the *Franklin* would die within a few miles of where she was born. She was towed from Bayonne, New Jersey to a berth at Sewells Point, Virginia. There she waited for over a year while the Salvage Company constructed a berth at Money Point some 11 miles away to receive the 27,000 ton gray hulk.

Finally, it was time for the last voyage of the old warrior. Five tugs were assembled under the command of Mr. James A Williamson of the Curtis Bay Towing Company. With one tug ahead and one astern and both made fast to the ship by hawsers, the voyage began. The three remaining tugs stood by to push at Williamson's command.

Slowly, at some five knots, the convoy cruised past the waterfronts of Norfolk and Portsmouth. They passed the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and *Franklin's* sister ship the *Randolph* CV-15 and traveled up the southern branch of the Elizabeth River.

No ship this big had ever made the journey this far, and passing under three bridges was the biggest obstacle. They passed under the Norfolk and



sale

FRANKLIN AIRCRAFT CARRIER

PLEASE NOTE!
The Franklin is a 25,800 ton aircraft carrier of the Essex Class. It is truly a floating city... complete with machinery and equipment of every description. Following its heroic service in World War II, the Navy completely refurbished and equipped the carrier. It was reconitioned and then placed in mothballs. Most of the equipment is unused... much of it in original packing cases. The ship is rapidly being dismantled to be sold for scrap metal. We must move the vast amount of equipment as soon as possible. Space does not permit us to list but a tiny portion of the equipment on board the ship. We suggest that you call or wire us immediately for your needs.

Also thousands of other items in stock

- Motors & Generators
- Condensers
- Steel and Brass Valves
- Metal Working Machinery
- Winches and Anchor Windlass
- Galley and Laundry Equipment
- Watertight Doors
- Seaplane Tender - Powered
- Fairbanks Morse Model 38D8-1/8
- Converted LSM Barge
- Approximately 200 Ft. x 35 Ft.
- Buoy Tender - Steam
- LCM Landing Crafts
- Electric and Hand Hoist and Dollies
- Buoys 5 Ft. Diam.

What do you require in new or used machinery? Jacobson Equipment carries an unconditional 30 day warranty. All equipment is examined and if necessary reconitioned by our own mechanics in our own plant.
Pick up the phone NOW and request what you need... they compare your savings. Foreign inquiries also invited.

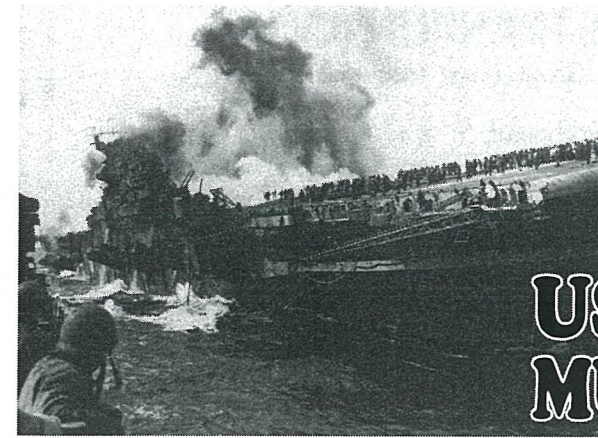
One of the Largest Salvage Firms on the East Coast

THE JACOBSON CORPORATION
Division Portsmouth Salvage Co.
P. O. Box 7594 Portlock Branch Chesapeake, Va. 23324
Phone 703-543-2066

The Portsmouth Salvage Co. advertises the Franklin's being scrapped in 1968.

Portsmouth Railway Bridge and the Jordan Bridge with ease. Ahead was a swing bridge with a 109-foot clearance. The beam of the *Franklin* was 97 feet, which allowed only 5 feet on each side. In 15 minutes they cleared the bridge with only a brief scrape when a drain pipe caught a couple of planks on the catwalk. Past the Naval Ammunition Depot at St. Juliens Creek, the convoy slowly turned 90° around Money Point and made its way to the *Franklin's* final berth. Just before she was docked, a workman found a letter amidst the debris strewn around the hangar deck. The mimeographed letter had been signed by Chaplain Gatlin, and was addressed to the family of one of the men who had died on March 19. The letter was dated 19 April 1945.

As the carrier's bow was nudged into her berth, rain clouds which had held off for the voyage opened up. One might wonder if the clouds were shedding tears for the farewell of the USS *Franklin* CV-13, for all who had known her and for the shipmates whose spirits she was about to join.



USS FRANKLIN CV13 MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

A NOT FOR PROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

1987 **22nd** ANNIVERSARY 2009

EXPANDED BOARD HAS 6 NON-CREW

On November 15, 2008 all thirteen candidates for the Board of Directors were elected and are to serve until our next election in November 2009:

The Board consists of —

Robert E. St. Peters, President
Ray C. Bailey, Vice President
Beth C. Rowland, Secretary
Robert Ladewig, Treasurer
Robert E. Baines
Prentice H. Baptiste
Sheila Hartley

Jeannette Haugk
Harry Munzing
Sam N. Rhodes
Frank Turner
Janice Stuart
Melissa Yates

Board Membership Is Open to All Museum Members

Board membership is no longer restricted to crew members. In fact, in the interest of perpetuating the Museum we have to have younger people on the Board. So, if you are interested, follow these criteria:

A) be at least twenty-one years of age, B) be a current paid up member of the Museum Association, C) make an effort to attend the reunions, D) submit a 250 word essay on why you wish to serve on the Board including any experience or ability you can offer. This essay is to be mailed to Ray C. Bailey, 3511 Byrd Street, San Diego, CA 92154-1611

MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2009

Board Election Procedure

This is the procedure for electing candidates to the Board of Directors which was approved in June at the reunion in Kansas City.

OCTOBER —

During the second week of October a ballot will be mailed with a separate listing of the candidates and their profile. The ballot will be mailed only to each person who has paid their 2009 annual dues.

NOVEMBER —

The ballot will be identified as such and the mailing address will be listed with the election date to be Saturday, November 14, 2009. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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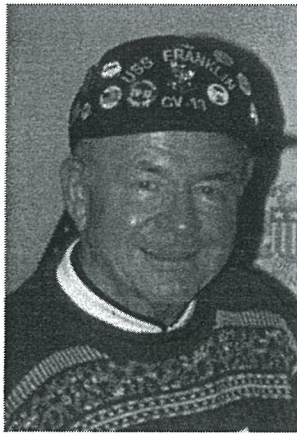
NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

In Memoriam

DOTTIE BAILEY, wife of vice president Ray Bailey, passed away on July 30, 2008 following health conditions. She was an active participant at reunions assisting Ray in filming the activities. Cheerful and buoyant, she will be remembered fondly by many museum members.

LOU CASSERINO, a member of the Board of Directors for several years, died after battling serious illness on November 11, 2008. He was a co-chairman for the Pensacola reunion and was an enthusiastic promoter of the Franklin lithographs. Lou was not bashful, always ready to voice an opinion and so he will be remembered by his shipmates.

SAUL GILL, a long standing member of the Board died after struggling with serious illness on June 28, 2008. Saul was an active member of VFW Post 7327 in Springfield, VA and at his behest they made donations of more than \$12,000.00 to the Museum Association. Saul was a soft-spoken shipmate, greatly respected and is deeply missed.



the prez sez . . .

Perhaps this is a bit late but we do want to express our thanks and appreciation to Annette Bowns . . . granddaughter of shipmate Leonard Hall . . . for chairing the 2008 reunion in Kansas City. Not widely known is that Annette planned her won wedding at the time she was putting our reunion together. The reunion ended at noon on Sunday and that afternoon she was exchanging vows! Talk about a challenge.

Rob Florenza has worked diligently these past months planning a memorable reunion in New York city . . . complete information and reservation details are explained on an enclosure "flyer" and you are encouraged to sign up early.

The election was successful, all thirteen candidates have been elected to the board. Directors and officers will meet on Thursday evening in New York with a full agenda to be discussed.

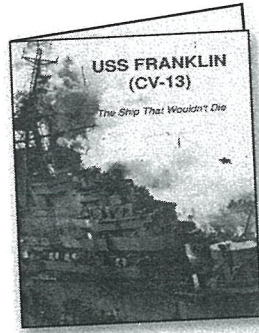
And we move along into our 22nd year, determined to keep the USS Franklin and it's valiant crew part of the nation's history.

Bob St. Peters

Have A Story To Tell?

We are anxious to include noteworthy activities or events which would be of interest to Museum members. Yes, you may include pictures. Send your information to —

Robert Ladewig
331A Oak Hill Road
Lake Barrington, IL 60010-1686



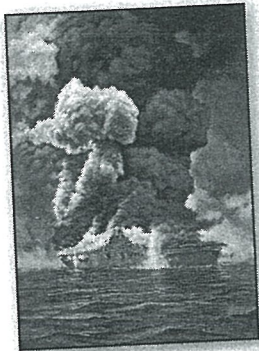
USS FRANKLIN (CV13) The Ship That Wouldn't Die

- Hard bound, 9" x 12½"
 - 160 pages of photographs and information
- This book was put together by many of the crew. It is a history of the ship as remembered by the crew and official records. It includes hundreds of personal accounts of the event . . . especially the attack on March 19, 1945.

Order From: Robert E. St. Peters
1806 State Street
Alton, IL 62002-3367
Phone: 619-423-1302

\$53.00
Postage Paid

Check Payable to — USS Franklin Museum Association



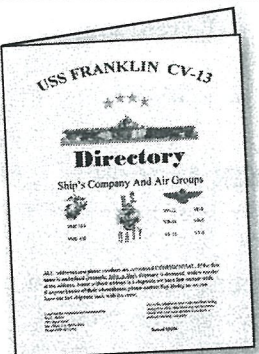
LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

- Beautiful Full Color
 - 18" x 24" . . . Easy to Frame
 - Lithographed on the Finest Paper
- Featured in our previous newsletter, the response was overwhelming. Bob Albrecht and his wife Terri made sure prints were shipped promptly since it was obvious most were meant to be Christmas presents. We have about four dozen left so if you would like a print, better order now!

Order From: Robert Ladewig
331A Oak Hill Road
Lake Barrington, IL 60010-1686

\$20.00
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108 PAGE DIRECTORY

- Over 1,400 entries
 - Lists Ships Company and Air Groups
 - Family members and friends included
- This Directory is computerized and constantly updated. Ray manages this fountain of information, each copy being hand assembled to order.

Order From: Ray C. Bailey
3511 Byrd Street
San Diego, CA 92154-1611
Phone: 619-423-1302

\$20.00
Postage Paid

Check Payable to — Ray C. Bailey

2009 DUES STILL \$10.00

Yes, the annual dues remain as originally budgeted, just ten dollars.
MAIL TO: Robert A. Ladewig, Treasurer
331A Oak Hill Road Lake Barrington, IL 60010-1686
Check payable to — USS Franklin Museum Association

In Memoriam

*The Great Commander called them home to sail the crystal sea,
Where they will steer with steady hand throughout eternity,
No longer will the high sea roll,*

*The skies will be clear and every day will be a day of happiness and cheer,
No storm shall cross their valiant prow and calm will be the sea,
In that bright place where all is well and kindly is the breeze,
They are at peace with our shipmates who have gone before.*

— Word was received that these crew members were absent from muster since the 2008 reunion —

Louis Casserino S1/c 6-Div.
Paul J. Dalton WT2/c B-Div.
William R. Dressel F1/c B-Div.
Marston R. Dringman ARM2/c VT-5
Saul A. Gill WT3/c S-Div.
Samuel J. Harry SK2/c B-Div.
Kenneth R. Hill AM3/c V2-Div.
Leo M. Jacobsen Sgt. VMF-452

John Kieliszak F1/c B-Div.
Frank Lepore MM3/c M-Div.
Lt.(jg.) George M. Orner VF-13
Richard A. Pels AMM3/c
Keith B. Roberts WT3/c B-Div.
John F. Smith MM3/c
Harold L. Thomas EM3/c E-Div.
Robert A. Williams AMM3/c

People looking for people

DID YOU KNOW . . .

EUGENE P. BUCK ART1/c K-Div.

Patricia Buck (widow) would like to hear from any of the crew who knew Eugene (aka Brooklyn).

Mrs. Patricia Buck
1112 Swan Lake Drive
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

CARL J. SPALDING RM2/c K-Div.

(aka Carl Spalinske). Edith Spalding (widow) would like to hear from any of the crew who were his shipmates.

Mrs. Edith Spalding
1110 Yardley Road
Yardley, PA 19067-7404

USS Franklin monument dedicated in West Liberty, Ohio

Shipmate Phillip R. Black, SF3/c, of the R1 Division, reports that the American Legion Post Woodard McGovern #426 of West Liberty, Ohio Dedicated a memorial honoring all veterans of the two counties.

Our fellow Museum member purchased and had a special marker honoring those shipmates who perished on March 19, 1945 also dedicated at the same time.

A big screen movie about us?

It's a possibility.



During the reunion in Chicago there was talk about making a movie of the attack on the Franklin and how the crew managed to save the ship. Peter Prato enthusiastically advised how he would develop a team . . . and he did. Peter and William Byron Hillman are partners in this venture.

In November, Bob St. Peters received a letter from Hillman, an update on the project. In October the Director of Naval Operations West read the screenplay then granted written approval and endorsement for Naval assistance.

A major agency is reading the screenplay and a well known law firm is reviewing the total package. So wheels are turning. Plan is to meet with a large production company with access to a "put deal" at one of the major studios.

So, if you think you have acting ability and want to be in this big screen picture just one bit of advice, as they say in the casting business, "Don't call us . . . we'll call you."

LOOK! WE'RE ON THE WEB!

It was just a couple of years ago that Phil Gentry designed a USS Franklin web site

www.ussfranklin.org

and it is simply awesome! Tap in and sign the log . . . you may even leave a message.