

USS MC CAFFERY DD/DDE-860

SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION SPRING 2021

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On 1 January 1973, McCaffery was underway at Picket Station Alpha in the Gulf of Tonkin.
Commanding Officer - CDR S.W. Coulbourne

On 2 January, McCaffery was operating at various speeds and courses to maintain a three to five mile distance north of Bainbridge (DLGN-25). On 3 January, McCaffery was steaming at 16 knots in company with Cochrane (DDG-21), and Mason (DD-852) while maintaining shore bombardment. She fired as many as 144 rounds from her five-inch guns in a sustained barrage. On 16 January, firing ceased from the 51 mount for a short time due to a hot barrel which fouled the bore. The bore was cleared with no casualties. A short time later, a fire occurred in the upper handling room of the 52 mount. The fire was extinguished with no casualties. On 19 January, McCaffery left the Gulf of Tonkin for Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and arrived on 20 January. While McCaffery was moored at a buoy with two other ships, a Chinese Nationalist ship (LST-209) drifted into her starboard bow with no apparent damage. McCaffery remained moored until 31 January, when she got underway for the Gulf of Tonkin. McCaffery conducted exercises along the Vietnam coast. On 8 February, she proceeded to Subic Bay, Philippines,

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From The Editor: Hello shipmates, spouse's and friends of the McCaffery. Welcome back, Hope you all are weathering the virus impact to us and our great country. In this issue you will find some interesting articles sent / phoned to me by shipmates about personal experiences before and while serving on the Mac. If any one has a story to tell, send it to me.

2021 should show improvement from the past year with more vaccines available. Get yours as soon as possible. Respectfully, James Bell - Editor

Presidents Message:

Hello Shipmates.

Vaccinations: I hope that you are well and safe and that you have received your Covid vaccinations. If you are having trouble getting your shots, contact your local VA. The VA is giving shots to veterans, and that is where I got both of my shots.



Reunion: I have been informed by the Tin Can Sailor Association that the reunion planned for this Fall in Baltimore has been cancelled because of the Covid pandemic. TCS was concerned that they might become a "super spreader", and cancelled the reunion to be safe rather than sorry. TCS told me that the next opportunity for a reunion will be San Antonio in the Fall of 2022. I am planning to go to that one, and will publish info on that as soon as I get it. I am disappointed that we cannot get together for a reunion this Fall, but everyone's health is too important to take a risk. Hang in there and we will get together in San Antonio a year and half from now.

In the meantime, for those of you who enjoy good books about WWII in the Pacific, Ian Toll has written a trilogy on the war in the Pacific that are great reads (Pacific Crucible; Conquering Tide; Twilight of the Gods). Also Jeff Shaara has written several books about WWII. And, in addition to his magnificent book Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors, James Hornfischer has written Ship of Ghosts about the USS Houston, a cruiser that was sunk in the Battle of Java Sea in early 1942.

Again, sorry that the Baltimore reunion has been cancelled. Looking forward to San Antonio.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Doug

Ships Store: USS McCAFFERY MERCHANDISE :

Blue Polo Shirts s-m-l-xl \$20.00, xxl \$24.00, xxxl \$26.00 , white T's at \$8.50 with pic , blue T's with Tin Can Pic on back \$20.00 (limited supply) , Pic's can be found on TCS web and Mac web.

Jackets \$35.00, xxl , \$38.00 Caps \$17.50 , Lic Plate Holders \$8.00 , Patches . "Drive Them Into The Sea" & "Hedgehogs" \$5.50 each/two for \$10.00. USS McCaffery Shoulder Patches \$2.50.

When placing an order, Send to: Ron Trippett 17 Bay View Circle ,Salem Mass 01970. / rontrippett@comcast.net

USS McCAFFERY ASSOCIATION

President

Douglas Hackett 7825 Heatherton Lane
Potomac, MD 20854 301.299.5203
doughackett7825@earthlink.net

Vice President

Rich Kuroski 6020 Bunkerhill Pittsburgh,
PA 15206 412.361.3147 rkski@verizon.net

Treasurer

Ron Trippett 17 Bay View Circle, Salem
Mass 01970. 978.887.6315 / Cell 978 996
8995 rontrippett@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

James Bell 763 E. Gaines Lane, Hernando
Florida 34442 352 513 3333
jb4813446@gmail.com

Web Master

Jerry Rose 176 Black Mtn. Drive Toccoa, GA
30577 706.886.8217 Jerewrose@gmail.com

Historian

Don Turk 10320 S W 17th Place Gainesville,
FL 32607 352.332.4555
dturkx2@bellsouth.net

Emeritus Members of the McCaffery Staff.

Bill Masiak 235 Overlook Drive Verona, PA
15147 412.826.5781 ussddd860@verizon.net

Contact information, Veterans Affairs

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/>
compensation

If you are a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, connect with our caring, qualified responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves.

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Moving, changing e mail service or know some deceased shipmate?
Notify: USS McCaffery Association,
631 Squaw Rock Road , Moosup,
CT 06354 E Mail-
desopathy860@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Listed below are the shipmates that have contributed to the publication of the newsletter. Your continued generous support is needed and greatly appreciated. When sending checks, **please make payable to James Bell** with McCaffery Association on the memo line.

Name	Year	Rank/	Scheppers, August E.	65-66	RD3
Rate			Shaw, William J.	59-62	RM3
Abercrombie, Stan	65-67	QM3	Steiner Patrick R.	61-64	ET2
Biegen Robert J.	71-73	FTG2	Thomason, John W.	66-68	SN
Brainard, Joseph P.	60-62	EM3	Trippett Ronald F.	61-63	YN3
Buell, Byron W.	61-62	LTjg			
DeCelle, John E.	57-59	SN			
Nebel, Kenneth E.	69-72	LT			
Pielli, Arthur A	60-62	FN			



Shipmate Comment's:: Peake, Thad 69-70 FTG3

I remember Capt. Al Martin and Lt Bruce Fox pictured in the last issue of the newsletter. This was at dry dock in Bidston Dock for repairs after storm damage during our 1969 STANAVFORLANT assignment. We had been at sea 25 days and were happy for liberty in Birkenhead (near Liverpool). I also remember GMG2 Jordan whose claim to fame, besides being a good Gunners Mate, was that he appeared in a war movie. He passed last year.

While aboard I was FTGSN with a suspended bust following Court Martial for having too good a time over a long weekend. Forty years later I retired as a Captain Engineering Duty Officer. Thank you for the Newsletter.

Peake Engineering (www.peakeengineering.com)
678-521-4647
PO Box 669834
Marietta, GA 30066

Creekpaum, Charles E. 71-73 SN Charles called to say that he too was on board the Mac during the battle at Brisco Bay. "I was assigned to Mount 51 as the projectile man, I recall that Womble was the powder man with Washington as the mount captain. We fired what seemed to be thousands of rounds during the event. It was some experience."

Biegen Robert J. 71-73 FTG2 . "A small contribution to our newsletter, Thanks for keeping it going. It's a credit to all the members that the Shipmates association remains vibrant after all these years."

More Shipmate Comments:

Roberts, John E. 1946 FN

The story in recent Newsletter caught my attention. There is more to the story. I was there.

McCaffery had just returned from our duties ...up to Tingtao over to Inchon then return to the great city of Shanghai on the Whangpoo River. I was 18 years old, not long out of Boot Camp. I was F/1 class assigned to throttle in Engine Room #1. As we backed to the mid river mooring our port screw hit the mooring chain and sent a shutter through the ship. Must have created great consternation on the bridge.

A day or two later we were in an upriver drydock. Stayed for more than a week. Repair work was done by local Chinese. Screw was mounted on a framework supporting a sheet metal with a woodburning fire heating the bent screw. When hot the laborers surrounded and beat on the bent metal with hand held hammers. It seems we did not pass the at sea test and were sent to Pearl Harbor for further repair.

"I am now 93 with many memories of 1946 on USS McCaffery." John. (Pictures provided by John Roberts from 1946)



Thomason, John W. 66-69 SN (Picture last edition)



"I would like to share a story with you, one that a lot of people have never heard.

I met my close friend and shipmate, Larry Durance, in 1965. He was standing in line behind me while taking our physicals to join the Navy. Standing there in our skivvies shooting the bull, probably nervous as all get out. Any way we left for boot camp together, good ole Great lakes, same company, AO129, went to Transient barracks Charlestown S.C. together to await orders.

Larry's orders came in first, he was given the USS McCaffery, DD860 Virginia. We went over and tied one on that nite as he was leaving the next morning, we said our good byes. My orders came two days later, yup, the USS McCaffery, Mayport Florida. I came home to Tampa before reporting aboard. Well low and behold who else do you think is home, ole Larry Durance. So we tied another one on. It seems the McCaffery was in Virginia when Larry got his orders and back in Mayport when mine came in. We spent our entire enlistment together. He got out one week later than I did but's that's another story: Ha! Ha! "

Scheppers August E. 65-66 RD3:

"Hello!! I enjoy getting the Mac newsletters. It sorta keeps me in touch with my old shipmates. I have not made the last three reunions because of health issues. I don't foresee making any more and have arthritis all over and have trouble getting around. Accept my donation for the newsletter as it keeps me in touch with the old crew. Best of health to everyone."

Steiner, Patrick R. 61-64 ET2 "I'm looking fwd to the reunion in Baltimore"

Sorry Patrick, I too was planning to attend, see you In San Antonio 2022. Jim bell

Shipmate Comments: (Cont)

Shoemaker, William G. 65-68 BT2 shoeflyranchok@gmail.com

SHOEFLY RANCH
Rt. 2 Box 305918-637-7175
NOWATA,OK 918-637-6844 74048

2-14-2021

Will try and keep this short. From Navy & college, Joined Tucson police department and retired from as a Sgt. I went to Corporate Flying. I am typed in all Lear Jets, Hawker400-500-700, Gulfstream IV. Drove around the world 10-12 times in both directions and in about every country except Viet Nam again which we flew by and could see, no loss.

When the chance came to start Ranching again I could not let it go bye. Rancher a man who owns ranch land. Cattlemen a man who owns cattle. We raise Angus cattle, good mama's and good milkers. Good attitude and easy to work. If they don't like us, they are gone, too old to put up with a cranky cow or mean bull. Started the ranch in 1999 and basically retired this year with cows and ranch leased out. Still live here and get to see the babies come in the spring. We would of never been in the cattle business without the babies, We do sell beef by the whole , delivered to the butcher for processing. Sell it by rail weight. Nice to know what condition our food is in and where it came from.

2015-2016 1 was found to have 90% blockage on Heart. No heart attack just blockage. Triple bypass and all went good except my Medical for flying was pulled and ended my flying days. I always wanted to fly , in fact the Navy told me when I joined I was going to fly helicopters, ya right and the moon is blue cheese. Come to find out it was caused by agent orange. I did an inland waterway operation on PCF97 while in Viet Nam and think that was where I was exposed. My Brother Dennis Shoemaker was also exposed. He is in a nursing home in Pa. Can't walk, and Diabetic.,

Anyway I would tell my shipmates to research the agent orange and see if any medical problems they have fit and contact their local VA to get assistance.

They put me on disability not a lot but anything helps.

It is currently snowing hard. 3-4 inches with 10 more to come. Cold 6* and wind 20 miles per hour. Cattle all down in the woods I hope out of the wind.

I am proud of my service to our Country and most would call me a strict conservative. Anyone who served should be proud. My dad in B-17 WWII and 2 brothers, one battle Bulge, the other on the Last day light raid on Berlin, lost his life. Look at the mess our Country is in and can only say it's our own fault. Military still the greatest in the world, and deserves our support and prayers.

Fairwinds & following seas shipmates.



Former Captains : Ben Sarver and James B. Ferguson.

Any stories ?



On 15 August, 1973 Lieutenant Commander **James B. Ferguson**, USN, relieved Commander Samuel W. Coulbourn, USN, and became the McCaffery's nineteenth (and last) commanding officer.

On 1 October at 0955, Rear Admiral J.R. Doyle, COMCRUDESGRU 12, arrived on board for the decommissioning ceremonies, which were held at 1030. The ship's log ended on 1 October 1973. McCaffery was sold for scrap to Northern Metals Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who took possession on 11 July 1974.

SOURCE: USS McCAFFERY -- 1945-1974 by Edward W. (Bill) Maslak

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McCaffery assists new British sub in shakedown

The USS McCaffery returned home June 2 after having completed a highly successful assignment as escort for the British nuclear submarine HMS Revenge during demonstration and shakedown operations (DASO) at Cape Kennedy.

The Revenge is the newest of the British Polaris submarines. She was put through the same rigorous series of tests that the U.S. Polaris vessels undergo during this period of weapons checks.

These tests are climaxed by the actual firing of a Polaris missile.

This was the McCaffery's third such assignment this year. The Mayport destroyer has learned to handle the large numbers of guests and observers on launch day with relative ease.

The Revenge held her launch on June 1 and the McCaffery and Cdr. Alan F. Martin, commanding officer, hosted nearly 200 guests.

These included Rear Admirals McIntosh and Dunlop of the Royal Navy.

One of the most interested spectators was Mrs. Basil Watson, wife of the Revenge's skipper, whose comment when informed of the launches' success was, 'Oh, that's beautiful!'

It was indeed a spectacular launce, and the McCaffery worked well with the British the entire time.

The countdown was perfect and the Mayport ship and her visitors witnessed their third successful Polaris shot in as many attempts this year.

The McCaffery returned to Cape Kennedy for the Revenge's second DASO on June 8.



Jacksonville Naval Museum Featuring USS Orleck Proposed at Shipyards Pier:

A small patch of the city-owned Shipyards property along the north bank may soon become home to Jacksonville Naval Museum.

Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association is seeking conceptual approval from the Downtown Development Review Board for a new museum featuring Navy destroyer ship USS Orleck at Pier 1 within the Shipyards property. The museum would consist of the Orleck itself stationed at the pier, acting as a floating Navy museum focusing on the "US Navy Cold War Experience," with a walk-over ramp leading to a temporary, prefabricated guest services building located along the Riverwalk – which would eventually be expanded to accommodate the project.

The guest services building would feature a ticket and gift shop as well as restrooms and administrative offices. In addition to the building, plans show a brick memorial walkway and a flag plaza on the site.

The DDRB proposal builds on a previous agreement with Downtown Investment Authority to relocate USS Orleck from Lake Charles, LA, to downtown Jacksonville. The Orleck, a gearing class destroyer, named for Lt. Joseph Orleck who was killed in action during World War II, saw most of its action during the Vietnam War before being sold to Turkey where she was named TCG Yüçetepe (D345).

The Turkish Navy then transferred her to the Southeast Texas War Memorial and Heritage Foundation, where she was converted into a museum ship under her original name of the USS Orleck. It's been used as a museum off and on since 2000.

The proposal cites the city's large veteran and active-service military population, the need for more tourist attractions downtown, and job creation as some of their arguments in favor of the project.

The museum's building will be temporary so as to be relocated if its location interferes with the eventual development of the Shipyards property, but the site will also be prepared so as to allow for a permanent building to be constructed at a later date.

Approval is still to be gained from the Jacksonville City Council, but the Mayor is firmly behind the project, and it does not seem that the Council will veto the plan.

The last two pieces of the puzzle that need to fall into place is the health of the USS Orleck and to arrange to have her towed to her new berth.

The USS Orleck is currently berthed in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she is already acting as the home to a floating museum, so she will have to undergo a dry dock inspection to ensure that she is sound enough to withstand being towed to Jacksonville.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day 2021 National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. There are 5 objectives with Vietnam Commemoration and the other four are:

Highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war

Pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens

Highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war

Recognize contributions by our Allies

