

USS Johnston (DD821)



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October 2009

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New USS JOHNSTON DD-821 book in the works!

Progress is being made on our new book; ***The Real Story of the USS Johnston DD-821—as told by the officers and sailors who served aboard her***. As this newsletter goes to press, we have stories from over 50 former DD-821 officers and sailors. Currently, we have commitments from another 30. We are hoping to have over 100 contributing authors by the time the book goes to press early next year. The stories are wide ranging from personal experiences to historical facts.

Some of the authors include: Dana Beyerle (QMSN), Art Damm (F1/c), Larry Dencer (ETC), Dwayne Heitzman (BTC), Ralph Hocking (DC2), Duane Mallast (RD3), Mike McCaffree, Jr. (Admiral), George

Nugent (Ensign), Joe Oliver (MM3), Harold Olsen (MM3), John Mingo (Captain). The list goes on and on.

As I (George Sites) put the book together as Editor, I have the privilege to talk to, exchange emails and read each of the stories in advance. I also get to see all the photos. Quite frankly, I can't wait for each of the next stories to arrive. This really is one of the more interesting projects I've ever taken on.

If you have not submitted

your stories yet, please either email them or snail mail them to George Sites asap!

george.sites@gmail.com

George A. Sites

5653 Haydens Reserve Way

Hilliard, OH 43026.

The current plan is to have the book ready in time for the 2010 reunion. Get your stories in now so they are shared with your fellow shipmates.



As you look at different pictures throughout this newsletter, see if you can figure out who they are.

The identities will be in the USS Johnston's new book!

2010 Dues are due!

Dues are important to the USS Johnston DD-821 Association. In addition to paying for the newsletters, it supports the Johnston website, the Tin Can Sailors Association and the Naval Historical Society.

We are in the process of applying for “not for

profit” status with the Federal Government as a Military Association.

The association strives to keep the dues low as we know times are tough for many of us especially during the present economic down-turn.

We currently have less

than one-quarter of the known USS Johnston officers and sailors as paying members. Our roster has about 450 names at this time. Over 4000 served on the Johnston. At only \$15.00 per year, can you think of a better bargain. Help keep the memory of the USS Johnston DD-821 alive by joining now!



RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE?



HOW ABOUT THESE?



REMEMBER THIS EVENT?



Its in the new Johnston book!

2010 USS Johnston DD-821 Association Reunion just around the corner!

Just a friendly reminder, the 2010 USS Johnston DD-821 reunion is just around the corner. You surely don't want to miss the great time we will have in San Diego this time around. It is a beautiful time of year to visit San Diego and your board has put a lot of effort into the arrangements. Make sure your hotel arrangements are made through the "Town and Country Resort" directly at 1-800-772-8527 and be sure to mention the USS Johnston Reunion to get the special rate of \$99 per night. Using Expedia or another similar service will not get you the special deal. You will definitely pay more using these services and you will have to pay \$14 per day to park if you have a car. Your reservations must be made by January 15, 2010 to receive our special rate.

We also want to remind you to send in your Reunion registration form no later than January 8, 2010. We need this info since the Association has to guarantee a certain number of attendees to receive the special rates for the Hotel and the tours.

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

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Note to our members: Following our reunion this year, Johnston Captain John Mingo wrote this letter to the Captain of the USS Gonzales DDG- 66 which we toured.

May 8, 2009

Dear Captain Fort,

My wife and I extended our Virginia visit and did not return to our home in Illinois until yesterday. Otherwise, I would have corresponded with you sooner. Nonetheless, on behalf of the USS Johnston men and their families, I wish to express our utmost appreciation for a splendid visit to the USS Gonzales.

The detailed planning was obvious from the moment your Operations Officer met us at the sentry station and escorted us to your ship at dockside where eight immaculately dress visitor guides awaited our arrival. We were extremely pleased that you took the time and effort to personally greet and introduce us to the USS Gonzales. The planned visit was sufficiently comprehensive to make our group aware of the complexities of a U.S. man-of-war. The Johnston men were impressed with the tremendous improvements in electronics for both offensive and defensive purposes. They were pleased to identify several pieces of equipment which we recalled from our days aboard the Johnston. Upon our visit to the crew's mess hall, several men were heard to shout "look at the gedunk stand". Some family members who never had the opportunity to visit the interior of a naval ship were awed by the many cables, valves, dials, gauges, etc. I believe they have a greater appreciation for the job their men faced aboard a ship.

On the return to our hotel there were numerous accolades regarding our visit to your ship. All considered the visit the highlight of our reunion. I fully agree with that conclusion. I would be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding performance of your visitor guides. They were polite, knowledgeable, informative and eager to please the visitors. "Kudos" to all of them.

In closing I wish you every success in your new assignment in August. From my personal experience you may find your command of the USS Gonzales the highlight of your naval career. Good luck and thanks again.

Sincerely,

John Mingo, Captain USN(ret.)

We Love to Cruise!! Come join us!!



**Worldwide Cruise
Headquarters**

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Donna and I cruise numerous times a year. We love it so much that we started a home business. Currently we have 4 trips scheduled through 2011 with more to come. (New England Fall Foliage / Caribbean / Australia-New Zealand) Whether you want to join us or wish do go somewhere else, let us help you plan it. We can get the same military / senior / special rates you see online or advertised in other places. To be honest, there are a few exceptions to that, but 98.965% of the time we can offer the same deal.

Donna and John Argonti 805-927-9677
johnarg@juno.com / donnaarg@att.net

Fellow shipmates, this is something new we are trying for the newsletter. We will be offering our shipmates the opportunity to have an ad in our newsletter (space permitting—one per newsletter) as a way to help offset the cost of printing, etc. We are suggesting a \$50 donation for the ad.

John Argonti (the above ad) was a sailor aboard the Johnston in the years 1966 to 1968 as an FTG2. John has provided a great story for the Johnston book about Vietnam with some really cool pictures.