



USS Cusk Newsletter

Summer 2018



"...Single up all lines!"

2018 Cusk Reunion: Our 2018 Reunion was held April 2nd to the 6th at the Red Lion Richland Hanford House Hotel in Richland, Washington. Steve "Willy" Wilson (EM1(SS), 67 to 69) was our reunion coordinator and he did a fantastic job! Thanks so much, Willy!

Lodging was in this very comfortable hotel on the bank of the Columbia River, the weather was fantastic and the camaraderie even better. Once again, the jokes and sea stories were in abundance and everyone had a wonderful time. In attendance were Don & Becky Birch, Jim & Joan Hughes, Alan Kallas & Yvette Weight, Tom & Patrice Roseland, Dan & Carol Mallery, Mark & Kay Markham, David



Courtyard area at the Red Lion Inn



Columbia River and walkway next to our hotel

Meyer, Dave & Pattie Meyers, Jerry & Cathy Rhoads, Richard & Joanne Specht, Joe Tattersall, John Troutman and Susan Heilman, Rick & Teresa Wagstaff, Gary & Sandra Wood, Gino & Editha Rillamas, Willy & Weezy Wilson. Willy did an incredible job on everything. From initial greeting and welcome package at hotel check-in to the banquet on the last night, everything was perfect. Thanks so much to Willy and Weezy for all their hard work.

There were several great events scheduled including the Water to Wine Cruise, the USS Triton memorial, visits to nearby wineries, several

luncheons and dinners, and an indescribable, stunning tour of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and Hanford Reactor.

Water to Wine Cruise: One of the reunion highlights was luncheon cruise down the picturesque Columbia River aboard a beautiful yacht. The service and food were excellent and the boat was equipped with a comfortable dining room and bar.



Our Water to Wine Cruise Ship



Joe Tattersall with Jerry & Cathy Rhoads



John Troutman, Susan Heilman and Jim & Joan Hughes



Kay & Mark Markham and Rich & Joanne Specht



Great food, stories and companionship



Gary & Sandra Wood and Gino & Editha Rillamas



Alan Kallas & Yvette Weight





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Manhattan Project National Historical Park and Hanford Reactor: The Hanford Reactor site was definitely the highlight of the reunion. Without exception, everyone was astounded by this massive government project which created the weapons that ended World War II. Starting with a letter from Albert Einstein recommending the project (we each received a copy), this incredible facility was built and became capable of producing weapons of mass destruction in just four years.



Pre-Tour briefing at Hanford Visitor's Center



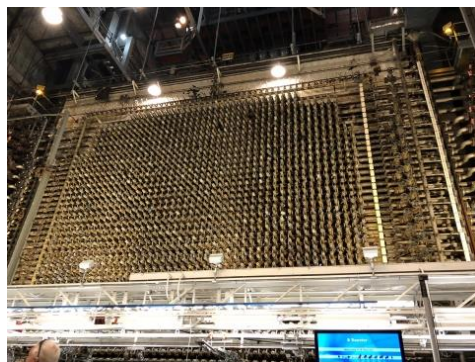
Exterior of Reactor Building



Our tour guide was a former submariner



Scale model of Hanford Grounds & Buildings



Reactor Core



Room housing the Reactor Core



Main Control Room



Control Room reactor monitoring



Some of the reactor pumps and valves



14 Hands Winery



Bus ride to the Hanford Site





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Email Conversations: During a recent email exchange with Nelson Kirsch, I was explaining why I send hardcopies of the Cusk Newsletter to all crew members because it helps me keep track of everyone. I explained that, except for rejects by the post office, no one ever tells me when they move, change email address, depart on Eternal Patrol, etc. His reply...

"Good point Tom, in fact, over the years it does appear that you know more about what's going on with crew members before they themselves know. So tell you what, if/when you see my Final Patrol notice, shoot me an email as a heads up before you post it!"

*Cheers,
Nelson"*

Which Military Branch is the best? A Soldier, a Sailor, an Airman, a Coast Guardsman, and a Marine got into an argument about which service was "the best." The argument became so heated that they failed to see an oncoming truck, and were run over and killed instantly. Soon the five servicemen found themselves at the Pearly Gates of Heaven.

There, they met Saint Peter and decided that only he could be the ultimate source of truth and honesty. So, they asked him, "Saint Peter, which branch of the United States Armed Services is the best?" Saint Peter replied, "I can't answer that, however, I will ask God what He thinks the next time I see Him. Meanwhile, thank you for your service and welcome to Heaven."

Sometime later they see Saint Peter and remind him of the question they had asked when first entering Heaven, and if he was able to find the answer. Suddenly, a sparkling white dove lands on Saint Peter's shoulder. In the dove's beak is a note glistening with gold dust. Saint Peter said to the five servicemen, "Your answer from the Boss. Let's see what He says." Saint Peter opens the note, trumpets blare, gold dust drifts into the air, harps play crescendos, angels sing, and Saint Peter begins to read the note to the five servicemen.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE DESK OF THE ALMIGHTY ONE

TO: Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines

SUBJ: Which military service is the best?

Gentlemen:

All branches of the United State Armed Forces are honorable and noble. Each serves America well and with distinction. Being a serviceman in the United States military represents a special call warranting special respect, tribute, and dedication. Be proud of that.

Sincerely,

GOD, TMCM(SS) USN Retired

From the Cusk's Deck Log: Historical excerpts randomly selected from the Cusk's Deck Logs stored in our National Archives in Maryland. This first entry is from Monday, 26 January 1959 just outside of Pearl Harbor. Most Cusk veterans will remember those long days when we would submerge and surface over and again, and go to Battle Stations multiple times in one day. Whether or not the last torpedo fired was ever found is not known.

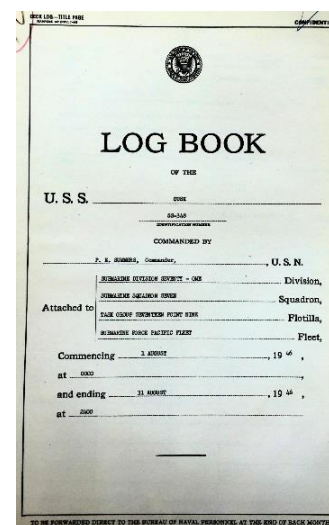
12 – 16 Underway as before. 1159 All Stop. Lying to on station. 1212 Submerged on course 201° T. 1213 Exercised the crew at Battle Stations Torpedo. 1233 Fired MK 14-3A Torpedo serial #64514. 1238 Surfaced course 320° T. 1352 Set course 000° T, speed 12 knots. 1417 All Stop, lying to on station. 1422 Submerged on course 180° T. 1424 Exercised the crew at Battle Stations Torpedo. 1446 Fired MK14-3A Torpedo serial #92173. 1451 Surfaced on course 022° T and commenced maneuvering on various courses at various speeds.

Conducting search for torpedo.

(Signed) P. K. Clark, LT, USN

The next entry is from Friday, 29 November 1968. The Cusk is in Subic Bay and has received emergency orders to get underway to the west to avoid a typhoon. Days later, after returning from this emergency departure, the Cusk will take on stores and fuel, and leave Subic Bay and beautiful downtown Olongapo for the last time. Ahead, beginning in December and lasting until mid-January, is a very long classified patrol in North Vietnam and nearby hostile waters.

08-16 Moored as before. 1230 Stationed the Maneuvering Watch, completed all preparations for getting underway. 1256 Underway in accordance with CTU 95.0.9 Emergency Sortie. Enroute from Subic Bay, R.P. to sea for the purpose of





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typhoon evasion. Steering various courses and speeds to conform to the channel. 1334 Secured the Maneuvering Watch. Course 246°, speed 10 knots.

(Signed) J. S. Reed, LTJG, USNR

HR 299, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017: This is a very important new VA benefit bill now working its way through Congress. It recently passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate this fall. It makes all U.S. Navy ship personnel eligible for medical benefits for ailments related to the effects of Agent Orange while off shore in Vietnam.

Cusk Service Awards: The following is a list of all the medals and service awards received by the Cusk for her service in Korea and Vietnam. These service awards are listed in the unclassified edition of OPNAV NOTICE 1650, which is the CNO's "Master List of Unit Awards and Campaign Medals" awarded to all U.S. Navy ships. The actual ribbons are shown below with their official title and the dates they were earned. In some instances, the dates have been consolidated where there may have been a two or three day gap between award periods.



Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea) - 12 August to 18 October, 1964



Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation - Gallantry - 9 September to 10 November 1965, 19 July to 19 August 1967, 15 to 16 November 1968, and 18 January to 1 February 1969



Vietnam Service Medal - 9 September to 10 November 1965, 19 July to 19 August 1967, 15 to 16 November 1968, and 18 January to 1 February 1969

Eternal Patrol: These are our shipmates who have departed on Eternal Patrol in the past year. Additional information, pictures and obituaries (where available) may be found on the Cusk website at www.usscusk.com/Eternal.htm.

Name & Rank	Served aboard Cusk	Departed
William J Weisensee, LT	1965 - 1967	11 August 2018
William P Hrbacek, ETR2(SS)	1959 - 1963	17 July 2018
Hermenegildo B Ferrer, SD2(SS)	1967 - 1968	8 June 2018
James Gauthier, TMSN(SS)	1958 - 1959	13 April 2018
Richard N Charles, LTJG	1959 - 1960	2 February 2018
Larry D Franklin, LTJG	1961 - 1962	14 January 2018
Bertice G Dollar, SA	1963	30 December 2017
John J Tracey, TM2(SS)	1952 - 1954	11 November 2017
Theodore W Beals	1950 - 1951	3 October 2017
Ron Shook, STC(SS)	1959 - 1961	12 July 2017
Phillip L Williamson, TM1(SS)	1945 to 1946 (Plankowner)	5 July 2017

SAILORS! REST YOU OARS!

Cusk Reunion 2019: Willy Wilson has once again volunteered to manage our next Cusk reunion. It's tentatively planned for the fall of 2019 and we need your help deciding where and when. Willy has suggested going to Little Rock where the USS Razorback resides (which is almost exactly like the Cusk inside). They have a great reunion package and are renowned for treating submarine veterans royally. He has also suggested Branson, Missouri or perhaps Manitowoc, Wisconsin as alternate choices. A fourth option would be a 7-day "Fall Foliage Cruise" out of Boston or New York to popular areas in New England and Canada. If you are interested in attending our next Cusk reunion, please let me know which option you would prefer. We need your response to this unofficial poll soon so please take a moment to send me an email at usscusk@att.net or mail a letter or card to Tom Roseland, 1635 Sea Shell Drive, Merritt Island, FL 32952.

Cusk Newsletter, Webpage and Reunion Funds running low: Shipmates often ask if they can contribute to the cost the Cusk Newsletter and webpage. The newsletter costs about \$400 per issue, and the Cusk Webpage is \$175 per year. Fortunately, I've never had to ask for any funds before now because so many of you have sent me contributions over the years without being asked to do so. Now for the first time, I need to at least mention that there are no more funds available. There is no obligation, but if you would like to make a contribution, you may send a check made out to me at the address above. Please do not feel obligated. Any contributions are strictly voluntary and regardless, I very much enjoy maintaining the Cusk website, keeping the crew up to date, and publishing newsletters, and I intend to continue doing so as long as possible. Thanks in advance, Green Board and following seas to all.

