



The Sumner Sentinel ©

March - April 2020
Volume VII Number 2

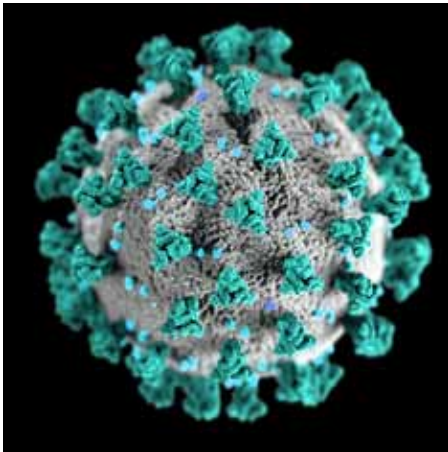
Now it's all about Masks and Ventilators

Wow!
A "little" bug called a halt to the big Sumner-Moale experiment for 2020.

Well maybe not so little.

And just when there seemed to be some positive news for Blue Water sailors, along comes this global virus.

And unfortunately since my mayor, governor and President have issued "Stay At Home" mandates, there will only be e-mail versions of this newsletter's edition.



Covid-19 Virus

But if anyone wants to print an e-mail and send it to someone they know, feel free to do so.

Well if it wasn't enough already to make Vietnam sailors suffer from the effects of Agent Orange, along comes the Coronavirus and nails everybody.

That said the editor wanted to pass on some information from shipmate Gary M. Whitehead of Valdosta, Ga.

"I wanted to touch base with you about the Blue Water Sailors Law that went into effective Jan. 1.

I have been granted a service connected disability for my heart disease which on the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions," he penned.

I would like to share this with our shipmates and maybe the widow's of our shipmate's that have passed away due to the conditions. I'm thinking of the RM Pete that passed away from diabetes.



Agent Orange Warning

Our shipmates need to contact their County Veterans Service Officer to file their claims. They need the following documents:

- DD-214
- Marriage license to current spouse.
- Social Security Number; Data of Birth of

See Agent Page 5

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Hope this letter finds everyone doing well.

I hope we all still have that “Sumner Sprit” that will help us pull through this Coronavirus Pandemic situation we are



Frank DiBello

all caught up in. No matter what is thrown at us, we must all keep our heads up high and keep a positive attitude. There is an old saying that says “out of everything bad, something good will come out of it “

I want to share something with you that a uncle told me when I was a child.

I was in his back yard helping him when I stepped in a fresh pile of dog mess his large German Sheppard had just dropped in the grass. I was complaining about the situation when Uncle Lee sat me down and explained there was something good out of this situation.

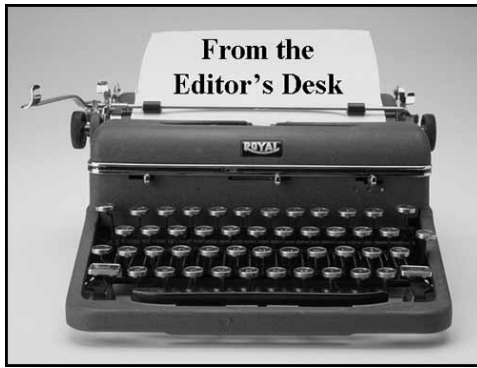
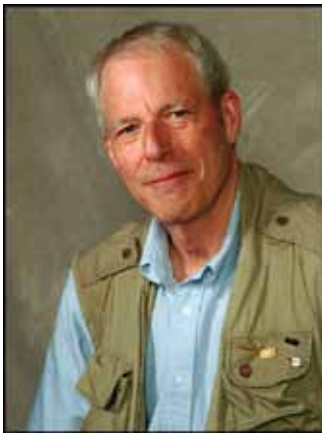
“ Son that mess you stepped in was nourishment for the dog, and after his body finished with it, he deposited it onto the grass which will fertilize and nourish the grass to grow and provide nutrients for something else to grow. So, you see, even though it seems like a bad situation to you now, it really has some good for something else.”

I hope this analogy isn't too crude for y'all, but it is part of life. Right now we are all wondering where we are going and what's going to be after this pandemic is over, but I feel sure there is going to be something good for all of us that will rise out of this situation.

Hang in there and keep positive. Hopefully we can all look back on this in 2021 in Texas and have some good stories to share with each other.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Frank DiBello



By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

I was born about three years before the keel of the USS Allen M. Sumner (the ship I was destined to serve on) was laid at Kearny, New Jersey so that was in the time of ration stamps.

For most Americans it was a time of doing without instead of filling a shopping card with



**Rationing means
a fair share for all of us**



200 rolls of toilet paper and gallons of hand sanitizer.

I'm sure it would be hard for today's generation not to be able to have anything and everything it wanted.

Nowadays we just read in the history books about the sacrifices made during World War II such as General Motors and Ford converting assembly lines from producing cars and trucks into tanks and airplanes.

It was all done to defeat a common enemy. The common enemy then was defeating the grasp of a dictator.

Today it's the grasp of a virus,

America experienced rationing for the first time in World War II. Some products that were rationed during World War II were sugar, meat, coffee, typewriters, fuel oil, gasoline, rubber, and automobiles.

Food rationing probably affected most Americans the most. Each American was issued a book of ration coupons each month.

Every American was issued a series of ration books during the war. The ration books contained removable stamps good for certain rationed items, like sugar, meat, cooking oil, and canned goods. A person could not buy a rationed item without also giving the grocer the right ration stamp.

Civilian hospitals received only small amounts of penicillin during the war, because it was not mass-produced for civilian use until after the war.

See Rationing Page 7

USS ALLEN M. SUMNER SHIP STORE ORDER INVOICE

Qtn.	Description	Price
	Sumner Ball Cap (Blue w/gold embroidery) - Specify All Cloth or 1/2 Mesh)	\$15.00
	Scrambled Egg patches <u>for Officers only Commanger & Above</u> /with hat purchase	Free
	White Golf Shirt Embroidered w/Ship Patch (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL) Add \$10 for 2XL/3XL	\$25.00
	White T-Shirt w/Ship on Front (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL)	\$20.00
	All Sweatshirts (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL)	\$25.00
	Sumner Ship's Patch (Specify Sui Generis or Woody Woodpecker)	\$ 5.00
	Sumner Hat/Lapel/Tie Tac Pin	\$ 6.00
	Sumner License Plate bracket/holder	\$ 5.00
	Homemade Reunion 2000 Video (CNO Visit) DVD or VHS Specify which	\$ 8.00
	Zippo Ziplite battery pack (Flashlight Replacement for Unused Lighter	\$ 2.50
	Sumner Commemorative Challenge Coin (Approximately 1½ inches in diameter)	\$10.00
	US Navy Tabletop Drink Coasters (6 for \$20.00)	\$ 5.00
	Handkerchief (US Navy or 692)	\$ 5.00
	Navy Pin for wives	\$ 5.00
	Sumner shaving/toilet kit bag	\$10.00
	US Navy rear window stickers (or Retired) Specify which	\$ 5.00
	MIA/POW money clip	\$ 6.00
	Petty Officer window sticker	\$ 3.50
	USS Cooper (Dive to)/Return to Ormoc Bay (Battle of) DVD (Runtime: 80 minutes)	\$ 8.00
	For additional items go to www.dd-692.com Click the "reunion" tab then the "Ship Store" line	
Total Enclosed		

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 (A/C) _____ PH # _____ E-Mail _____

Send Orders To:
 Sumner Assn.
 301 Park Lane
 North Syracuse, NY 13212

See Next Page for New Shipping Charges for Ship's Store Items

New shipping charges associated with ship's store purchases

Up to \$10.....	\$ 4.00
\$10.01 to \$25.00.....	\$ 7.00
\$25.01 to \$50.00.....	\$ 8.00
\$50.01 to \$75.00.....	\$10.00
\$75.01 to \$100,00.....	\$12.00
\$100.01 to \$200.00.....	\$14.00
\$200.01 to \$300.00.....	\$16.00
\$300.00 and over	\$20.00

Checks made payable to Sumner Reunion Association.

Orange spouse(no birth certificate required)
Continued from Page 1 d. A list of previous marriages and how those marriages ended (divorce, death, etc.)

They need dates and places that the marriages ended (no copies required).

If they can get letters from their doctors stating they have a diagnosis of their conditions.

The VA will be in contact with them after their claims have been filed.

I wish everyone good luck. These claims are not granted over night.

PATIENCE!!

God Bless,

VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence said "If we can afford to send veterans to war, it's unacceptable that we can't afford to take care of them when they return home wounded, ill or injured," he said.

"Agent Orange made Vietnam veterans sick, and even the former Institute of Medicine agrees when it concluded that there isn't any scientific basis to treat Blue Water Navy veterans any different in regards to Agent Orange exposure than their peers who served on the land or inland waters of Vietnam," he said.

Refunds and Cancellations

By Pete Drooms, Treasurer

Pete Hart, Don Hayden and myself had been working hard to get everything to come together for the Nashville Reunion.

I can only say how I feel, I am disappointed that we are not able to get together this year and renew our friendships and the camaraderie that we have with each other. But when you look at the situation we also have to say this was the right and proper thing to do. Everyone's safety is the most important thing, especially as we unfortunately all fall into that older population.

With that in mind, I have been in contact with each concern that we had an agreement with for the reunion. I have cancelled all agreements with everyone without any problems with the companies..

RVNA Insurance has already refunded us for

the Event Insurance, The hotel has been cancelled and we are clear with them as we had not been required to make any down payment. Be sure to remind everyone to cancel their Room Reservations.

Grey Line Bus Company is in the process of sending us a refund check which as of today has not arrived but should be coming. I will stay in contact with them. Mission Barbeque who was going to be our banquet supplier has also cancelled. I had written them a down payment on 1/14. I spoke to them when I cancelled and they checked with their main office who had not seen the check.

In the middle of January I had not received several bills of my personal business and that was also the time frame that the check had been left out for the mailman to pickup and take as he left my mail.

Membership Form

If you would like to become a member of the USS Allen M. Sumner DD-692 Association or the USS Moale DD-693 Association but you cannot afford the \$15 dues, send what you can (if anything) as we will not deny a shipmate membership because of a hardship. And no one else needs to know.

Dues (checks) for the Sumner go to Pete Dromms, Reunion Association Treasurer at 301 Park Lane, North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143.

Dues (checks) for the Moale go to Richie Dedovich, 1012 Avery Meadows Way, Deland, FL 32724

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Served on Sumner from _____ to _____ on Moale from _____ to _____

Rate or Rank on Sumner _____ Rate or Rank on Moale _____

Checks made out to: USS A. M. Sumner Association and Mail to:
Pete Dromms, Treasurer
301 Park Lane
North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Checks made out to: USS Moale Association and Mail to:
Richie Dedovich
1012 Avery Meadows Way
Deland, FL 32724

Edit Desk

Continued from Page 3

A triage panel at each hospital decided which patients would receive the penicillin.

Now we are trying to produce face masks and ventilators.

Thank goodness there was no pandemic to contend with. Fighting the enemy on two continents was bad enough.

A national speed limit of 35 miles per hour was imposed to save fuel and rubber for tires.

To get a classification and rationing stamps, one had to appear before a local War

Price and Rationing Board which reported to the Office of Price Administration (OPA).

Each person in a household received a ration book, including babies and small children who qualified for canned milk not available to others. To receive a gasoline ration card, a person had to certify a need for gasoline and ownership of no more than five tires.

Sugar was the first consumer commodity rationed followed by coffee - about a half-pound per week.

Even pets were not exempt.

As of March 1, 1942, dog food could no longer be sold in tin cans, and manufacturers switched to dehydrated versions.

And, as of April 1, 1942, anyone wishing to

purchase a new toothpaste tube - then made from metal - had to turn in an empty one.

To receive a gasoline ration card, a person had to certify a need for gasoline and ownership of no more than five tires.

All tires in excess of five per driver were confiscated by the government, because of rubber shortages.



An "A" sticker on a car was the lowest priority of gasoline rationing and entitled the car owner to 3 to 4 US gallons of gasoline per week. B stickers were issued to workers in the military industry, entitling their

holder to up to 8 US gallons of gasoline per week.

C stickers were granted to persons deemed very essential to the war effort, such as doctors. T stickers were made available for truckers.

Lastly, X stickers on cars entitled the holder to unlimited supplies and were the highest priority in the system.

Clergy, police, firemen, and civil defense workers were in this category.

A scandal erupted when 200 Congressmen received these X stickers.

Can you imagine?



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