



The Sumner Sentinel ©

September - October 2020
Volume VII Number 5

Battleship Texas Gets a Makeover

Editor's Note:

Since we didn't go to Nashville, our bylaws dictate we go to the Houston, Texas area in 2021.

It was on the bow of the Battleship Texas, BB-35 that Sumner shipmates held a memorial service in 2014.

It is hoped that the Texas will be "ship shape" in time for our annual reunion in May.

In a Operations Project Update from the Battleship Texas, Travis Davis,

Vice President of Ship Operations Battleship Texas Foundation wrote:

Social distancing and alternate work schedules reduced our ability to continue our primary task of getting the ship ready for the shipyard and the operations transfer. However, that did not stop our indomitable crew from getting critical work accomplished.

One of the three Texas Historical Commission (THC) permits that was approved in March was for the removal of all the anti-aircraft guns, 5" guns, signaling searchlights, and Mk 51 gun directors for restoration.

While practicing proper social distancing, our staff spent the last month loosening bolts and preparing these objects for removal.

It was a good

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A 44mm gun mount being moved from Taylor Marine Construction's barge to shore.

Credit Battleship Texas Foundation

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Greetings to all

I hope this message finds y'all doing well and coping with this Covid pandemic without too much difficulty. I



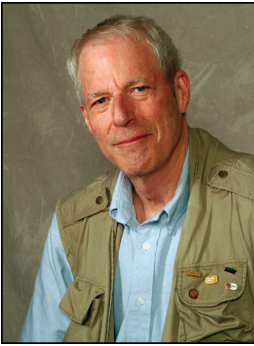
Frank DiBello

know that it has directly affected some of our shipmates. Be sure to keep our Summer family in your prayers as we all know cards and calls are always appreciated. Ron is doing a great job of posting information on our Binnacle List when we notify him of anyone having any illness.

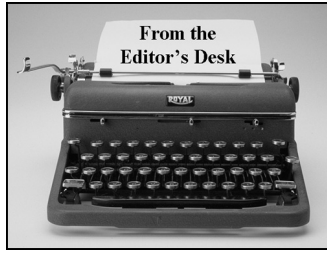
On a sadder note we have lost a great shipmate - Terry Conaway. Terry always had a smile for everyone and will be greatly missed. Please don't forget Kiyoko and keep her in your prayers as she goes through this sad time. The two of them were a great couple and always made me feel like it was a blessing to have known them.

Be sure if you have any changes of email, home address or phone numbers that you let Don Hayden know. He is doing a great job of keeping membership information up to date. If we don't keep him informed, then he can't do a great job.

Fair Winds and Following Seas To All



By Don Hayden
TM3 (1961-62)



About
10

years ago one
of our local
photography

guild past presidents came out with a list of things which might disqualify a person as a professional photographer.

It was a list that started out "You might not be a professional photographer if . . ."

First up on the list was "if your camera rings during a portrait session."

Back then cell phone cameras were pretty limited, but now, holy you know what!

I now have an LG 4g smart phone with which I can take photographs which rival those of my Nikon D5300.

Just like my Nikon, the cell phone can photograph in automatic.

But also like my Nikon, it can shoot in manual and has all the bells and whistles of the SLR:

Things like histograms, white balance and even the capacity of

shooting in RAW.

Really? Are you kidding me?

The front lens of the cell phone is rated at 18 megapixels while the back (or is it the other way around) is 8 megs.

My Nikon is rated at 24 megapixels, an ISO range from 100 to 12,800.

The cell phone only goes up to 2700 ISO - definitely not needed for portraits.

Another comparison :

Nikon shutter speeds - 30 seconds to 1/4000th

LG 4g shutter speeds - 30 seconds to 1/6000th

I'm not sure my old eyes can blink that fast.

With attachments you can mount one of the communication wonders on a tripod just like an SLR.

Plus I can take video, just like on my Nikon.

But like I have always said: It's not just about the equipment. It's the person holding it.

My first digital SLR was a Fuji S1 Pro with an effective pixel count of 3 million.

And with it I was able to produce quality photographs up to 20x24.

thing we did. We reached

out to Taylor Marine Construction (TMC) the week of April 20 to schedule the gun removal for later in the summer. TMC offered to donate their services if they could do it the following week because they were in the neighborhood.

So, we scrambled to make sure we had our permit in hand, insurance in place for the guns, and a myriad of other things in time for the guns to be craned off the ship last Wednesday.

The great folks at Taylor Marine and our team spent three days craning eight 40mm guns, ten 3" guns, eight 20mm guns, nine Mk 51 gun directors, and two 24" signaling searchlights off the ship.

Once the 5"/51 guns are off, their



deteriorating foundations will be repaired, and they will be completely restored.

We are also excited to announce that through the kind donation of trucking services from CPS Houston and the donation of cranes from Certified Crane and Rigging Service, we got all the AA guns and the ship's propeller moved to a secure location for restoration.

And through the very generous donation of the folks at NRG, we have a secure and fully equipped support facility for our staff and volunteers to restore these objects while the ship is in the shipyard.

And to be our base of operation during the yard period. NRG and CPS Houston have also generously offered to donate their abrasive blasting, painting, and fabrication services to us for the gun restoration project and the ship in general.



Final Muster - Terry Conaway (BT1 65-7 (shown with wife Kiyoko) died in early September from complications during an operation to remove a cancer tumor from the brain.

Battleship Texas was a “Badass” Boat

Texas is the last of the battleships patterned after HMS Dreadnought to participate in World Wars I and II. Considered the most powerful warship afloat because of her ten 14"/45 guns in five twin turrets, Texas was commissioned in March 1914 and proceeded almost immediately to Mexican waters where she joined the Special Service Squadron following the “Vera Cruz Incident”. She returned to Atlantic Fleet operations



in the fall of 1914. In 1916 Texas became the first U.S. battleship to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first to control gunfire with directors and range-keepers, analog forerunners of today’s computers.

After the U.S. entered World War I, she spent 1917 training gun crews for merchant ships that were often attacked by gunfire from surfaced submarines. Texas joined the 6th Battle Squadron of the British Grand Fleet early in 1918. Operating out of Scapa Flow and the Firth of Forth, Texas protected forces laying a North

Sea mine barrage, responded to German High Seas Fleet sorties, fired at submarine periscopes observed by multiple ships, and helped prevent enemy naval forces from interrupting the supply of Allied forces in Europe. Late in 1918 she guarded the German Fleet en-route to its surrender anchorage and escorted President Wilson to peace talks in France.

In 1919 Texas became the first U.S. battleship to launch an aircraft

and served as a plane guard and navigational reference for the first trans-Atlantic flight by the seaplane NC-4, after which she transferred to the Pacific Fleet. In 1924 Texas returned to the Atlantic and sank the incomplete

battleship Washington (BB-47) so the U.S. would be in compliance with the Naval Arms Limitation Treaty of 1922. From 1925 to 1927 Texas underwent modernization in Norfolk, VA, transitioning from coal to oil fired boilers and receiving numerous other alterations. In 1927 Texas became the flagship of the U.S. Fleet and inaugurated the use of “talking” pictures for crew entertainment. She embarked President Coolidge for a trip to Cuba in 1928.

Texas received the first commercial

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radar in the U.S. Navy in 1939. In 1940, Texas was designated flagship of U.S. Atlantic Fleet. The First Marine Division was founded aboard Texas early in 1941. That same year while on “Neutrality Patrol” in the Atlantic, Texas was stalked unsuccessfully by the German submarine U-203. Texas escorted Atlantic convoys against potential attacks by German warships after America entered World War II in December 1941. In 1942, Texas transmitted General Eisenhower’s first “Voice of Freedom” broadcast, asking the French not to oppose allied landings on North Africa. The appeal went unheeded and Texas provided gunfire support for the amphibious assault on Morocco, putting Walter



Cronkite ashore to begin his career as a war correspondent. After further convoy duty, Texas fired on Nazi defenses at Normandy on “D-Day”, June 6, 1944. Shortly afterwards she was hit twice in a duel with German coastal defense artillery near Cherbourg, suffering 1 fatality and 13 wounded. Quickly repaired, she shelled Nazi positions in Southern France before transferring to the

Pacific where she lent gunfire support and anti-aircraft fire to the landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In 1948,

Texas became the first battleship memorial museum in the U.S. Texas was placed under the stewardship of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in 1983. The ship underwent dry-dock overhaul in 1988-90 and began systematic restoration to her 1945 configuration in Measure 21 blue camouflage.

With the passage of Senate Bill 1511 in 2019, Texas Parks and Wildlife leased Texas to the Battle-

ship Texas Foundation for 99 years. Ownership remains with the State of Texas. \$35 million was given from the state’s rainy-day fund. The funds will be used for a hull restoration. Along with the restoration project, it was decided that a new location for Texas would be needed. A request for proposals for Texas’ new home port was released in early 2020.

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 (About 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 Battle of Ormoc Bay) DVD (Runtime: 80 minutes)	\$ 8.00
<p>For additional items and shipping costs go to www.dd-692.com Click the "reunion" tab then the "Ship Store" line</p>		
Total Enclosed		

Name _____

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If you are going to change your address (e-mail or physical), or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, let the editor and webmaster know.

Editor Note: I should have paid a little more attention when I bought my recent printer to realize it won't accept 8½x14 paper.

As I am not using a commercial printer I have had to change the format of the Sentinel to 8½x11 to use my home printer.

In a way this will be better as I can send a copy to every who has a physical address when it comes time to sent out issues for dues renewal.

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