



## September 2020

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### Annual Meeting

As announced in the August *Scuttlebutt*, the Board of Directors has set **September 19 at 10:30 a.m.** for the 2020 Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* Annual Meeting.

The agenda for the meeting, which will be conducted via Zoom, includes the election of new board members, an overview of the past year's activities, a look ahead to the coming year, and a presentation by Ken Rittenmeyer about the activities and challenges of the group of volunteers who provide maintenance and preservation on board the Showboat.

All current Friends members are invited to attend and can access the meeting by clicking on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85750995919>

You can also join the meeting by using the Zoom application on your computer or portable device and entering **Meeting ID: 857 5099 5919**.

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### What's Happening on the Showboat?

**Below Deck Tour Route Reopens** - Under Phase 2.5 of Governor Roy Cooper's plan to ease COVID-19 restrictions, the Battleship *North Carolina* welcomed visitors back to the full public tour route on Saturday, September 5.

Procedures remain in place to help ensure the safety of staff and visitors, including:

- Offering only self-guided tours of the full public tour route.
- Requiring visitors to wear a cloth mask over their nose and mouth.
- Limiting the number of visitors allowed in the gift shop and closing the visitors center.
- Welcoming only non-cash (credit card) payments.
- Providing hand sanitizer and hand-washing facilities.
- Cleaning high-touch public areas and restrooms frequently.
- Using protective barriers at sales desks.

Adult admission will be \$14, with visitors offered the group, child, military or ADA rate as applicable.

Only topside areas have been available to visitors wanting to explore the Showboat since May 26. Access to below deck spaces has been restricted since mid-March.

**Hull Repairs Continue** - Visitors have also been able to get a look at the work being accomplished on the hull as the teams from Atlantic Coast Industrial cut away, prepare, and replace plates of steel on the forward portion of the hull. The work will continue through the fall.



**Volunteer Cleaning and Maintenance Teams** - The work continued on the Showboat during August as the volunteer cleaning and maintenance teams made sure the Battleship is everready for visitors. The Thursday cleaning team headed by David Holloway ensures that areas available to the public are not only clean but also safe. The Wednesday maintenance team coordinated by Ken Rittenmeyer took full advantage of the relative emptiness below decks to preserve and paint spaces that are difficult to work in when there is a steady stream of visitors wandering the decks. However, the teams admitted they were anxious for visitors to once again, be walking the freshly painted decks of the Showboat.



One of the projects the Wednesday crew had been working on over the past several weeks was the removal of unnecessary cabling from some of the ship's spaces. Volunteers spent hours cutting and stripping the insulation off copper cabling and prepping the material for recycling. The effort literally paid off August 12, when volunteers delivered approximately 600 pounds of the stripped copper cable to the recycling center and were able to return to the Battleship with a check for \$1,364 which they presented to Captain Bragg.

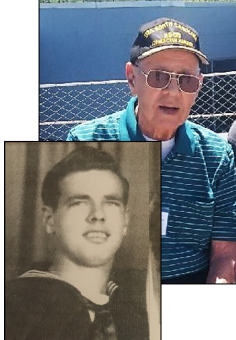
**USS North Carolina Wreath Placed at World War II Memorial** - In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific on September 2, retired Navy Chief Mike Resser, a volunteer with the Living History Crew, placed a wreath honoring USS *North Carolina*, her officers and crew at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The *North Carolina* wreath was the only combatant-specific wreath on display at the memorial during the commemoration.



**Voices From the Past** - Fred Cuddy was barely 18 years old when he joined the Navy in 1942. In fact, he had turned 18 the day after the attack at Pearl Harbor. By January he was in Basic Training, and just a few short months later found himself off the coast of Maine having reported for his assignment aboard one of the nation's newest battleships, USS *North Carolina*.

On August 1, Cuddy, now 96, spent over an hour sharing his Showboat experiences with a group of volunteers during the weekly session of the Saturday Morning Coffee Hour.

Cuddy served aboard *North Carolina* for about three years, arriving just before the ship was ordered to the Pacific in 1942, until about six months before the end of the war. First assigned to Third Division as a Kingfisher catapult and crane operator, he later moved to C&R (Construction & Repair) Division in the forward Bos'n locker.



Whenever the ship would go to General Quarters, Cuddy would report to his battle station as the powder elevator operator in Turret III. He recalled the constant call from above to "keep 'em coming," whenever the ship was firing its 16-inch guns.

Cuddy spent most of the hour answering questions and describing what daily life aboard the Showboat was like. One of the events on *North Carolina* he remembered well was the day the ship was hit by a torpedo.

He recalled that there was nothing special about that September afternoon, in fact, it was just a "regular day", at least until there was suddenly a BOOM! Immediately the ship went to battle stations and as he descended

the ladder to his position five decks below in Turret III, the same thought kept running through his mind, "It's a long swim to the top if we get hit again!"

The opportunity to talk to former crewmembers like Fred Cuddy provides valuable insight and context to many of the stories the Showboat tour guides, docents, and ambassadors relate to visitors. As one participant noted as he thanked Cuddy for his time, "I'll be a better tour guide thanks to the time you have spent with us today."

In recognition of the time the former crewmembers have spent on Zoom with volunteers over the past several weeks, the Friends Board of Directors recently authorized making former crewmembers honorary members of Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* and provided each of them with a Friends polo shirt as a token of appreciation.

And speaking of shirts...



Fred Cuddy wearing his honorary Friends polo shirt.

**Don't Forget, Every Thursday is Battleship Thursday** - Show your support for Battleship *North Carolina* every Thursday by wearing your Battleship ball caps and shirts as you go about your business around town.

Don't have any gear? Stop by the Battleship Gift Shop and take advantage of the 25% off you receive by being a member of Friends. Just show the cashier your membership card when you check out.

## This Month in Showboat History

**Torpedo Strike - September 15, 1942**, USS *North Carolina* was operating southeast of the Solomon Islands as part of Task Force 17, centered on the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* (CV 8), and in company with Task Force 18, centered on the aircraft carrier USS *Wasp* (CV 7). The force was tasked with ensuring safe transit for a group of ships carrying a reinforcement regiment of Marines to Guadalcanal.



USS *O'Brien's* bow is hit by a torpedo. Smoke can be seen billowing from USS *Wasp* in the background.

Showboat's port quarter, was rocked by an explosion as a torpedo struck her bow. One minute later, *North Carolina* was shaken as a torpedo struck forward on the port side, abreast Turret I.

At approximately 1445, the Officer of the Deck aboard *North Carolina* noticed smoke coming from the deck of *Wasp* some 12,000 yards to the southwest. It was unclear the reason for the smoke, with the possibility of an incident on the flight deck as a likely scenario since *Wasp* had just completed flight operations. Just over three minutes passed when a message is received over the tactical radio indicating a torpedo was sighted by one of the ships in the force but the precise location and target was uncertain. At 1451 the destroyer USS *O'Brien* (DD 415), operating 3,000 yards off the

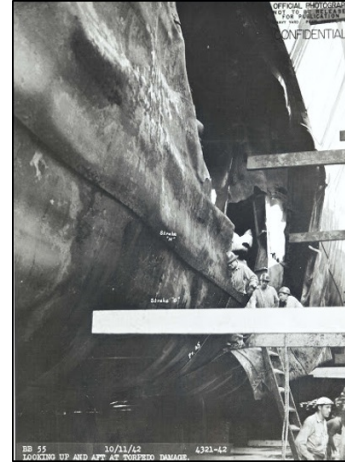


As the violence of the exploding torpedo settled, damage control teams immediately went to work to mitigate the damage. The ship immediately took on over 1,000 tons of seawater through what turned out to be an 18 foot high by 32 foot wide hole centered 20 feet below the waterline. Swift action by the damage control team in counter-flooding spaces on the starboard side corrected a five and one-half degree list to port in about five minutes allowing *North Carolina* to maintain her station. Eventually the Showboat transited to the small island of Tongatabu for evaluation and temporary repairs, before steaming on to Pearl Harbor for repair, arriving there September 30.



Burial of torpedo victims at Tongatabu Cemetery. Tongatabu.

Along with the damage done to the Showboat, five members of the crew were lost in the attack. **Seaman 1/C Albert Geary** was washed over the side when the exploding torpedo created a wall of water that cascaded over the deck. Four other sailors, **Shipfitter 2/C Oscar Stone**, **Shipfitter 2/C Ingwald Nelson**, **Seaman 2/C William Skelton**, and **Gunner's Mate 3/C Leonard Pone**, were killed in spaces below decks and were buried at the Army Cemetery in



A view of the damage caused by the torpedo hit.

It would later be revealed through analysis that *North Carolina* had been hit by one torpedo of a six torpedo spread launched at the carrier USS *Wasp* by the Japanese submarine *I-19*. Three of the torpedoes hit *Wasp* causing extensive damage and necessitating the carrier to be abandoned and scuttled; a fifth torpedo found *O'Brien*, doing structural damage that one month later would cause the destroyer to sink as she transited to San Francisco for repairs; and the sixth torpedo apparently running out of fuel before finding a victim.

You can read some of the personal accounts about that day [by clicking here.](#)

**A Cake for the Kidd** - In the early morning hours of **September 12, 1943**, while transiting to Pearl Harbor, USS *North Carolina* accidentally hit USS *Kidd* (DD 661) with two "star shells" from her 5-inch mount while conducting firing exercises. There was minimal damage to *Kidd* and no personnel casualties. Three days later, while *Kidd* was alongside for refueling, *North Carolina* sent a cake decorated with a Purple Heart, along with some ice cream, over to *Kidd*, in acknowledgment of the incident.



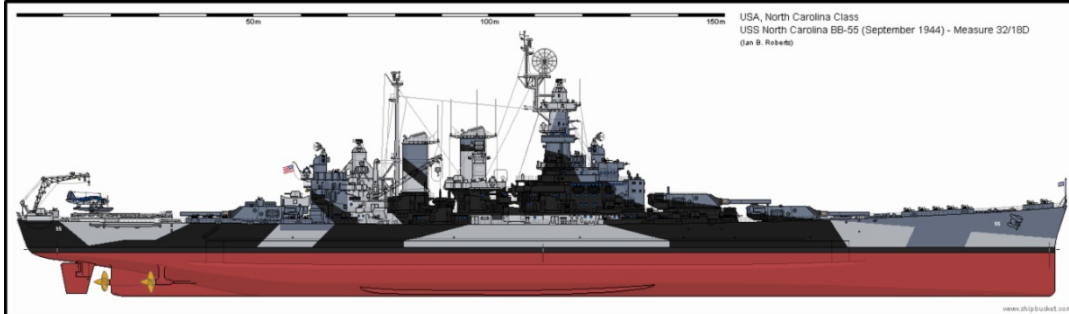
The "Purple Heart cake" boxed up and ready to be sent to USS *Kidd*.

**The War is Over!** - The war with Japan officially ends on **September 2, 1945**, as the formal surrender documents are signed on board the battleship USS *Missouri* (BB 63) anchored in Tokyo Bay. At the time of the signing ceremony, USS *North Carolina* was operating approximately 400 nautical miles southwest of Tokyo Bay.

**Wilmington Bound** - The Battleship *North Carolina* was authorized to be transferred to the state of North Carolina on **September 6, 1961**. Later that month on **September 25**, with the assistance of nine tugs, the Showboat departed under tow from Bayonne, New Jersey, underway on her last journey, this time to her new home in Wilmington.

## Did You Know?

The use of camouflage paint schemes were used to deceive more than to hide a ship at sea. Through the use of different colors and shapes painted on the surfaces of the ship, an enemy's detection, observation, and identification of a ship might be delayed or cause confusion. An aircraft carrier might be painted to resemble the characteristics of a battleship or cruiser, while a battleship might have a paint scheme that could cause it to be visually identified as a cruiser or destroyer.



USS *North Carolina* is currently painted with the Measure 32 paint scheme which was widely used in the Pacific to not only increase misidentification but to make determining course more difficult, creating a more challenging environment for targeting by submarines.

With the development of radar, the use of camouflage paint schemes became much less effective or necessary.

**Curious?** Do you have a question about something you've seen on the Showboat, or is there just something you've wondered about regarding the ship or life aboard? Send your question to [Scuttlebutt1@battleshipncfriends.com](mailto:Scuttlebutt1@battleshipncfriends.com) and we will find the answer and publish it in a future edition of Scuttlebutt (chances are, you're not the only one with the same question).

## Talk Like a Sailor

**Shoring** - The use of lumber or metal beams to reinforce a bulkhead, door, or hatch that may have been compromised due to damage and be subject to abnormal pressures and stress.

**List** - The angle a ship "leans" to port or starboard when no external forces are acting upon it (e.g. wind). Common causes can be improper weight distribution, unbalanced liquid loading, or flooding.

**Trim** - The angle of a ship off its designed fore and aft waterline. The draft of a ship "trimmed by the bow" would be deeper forward than aft in relation to the designed waterline. A ship "trimmed by the stern" would be deeper aft than forward and inclined down at the stern. As with list, trim can be corrected by shifting liquid loads or the redistribution of weight.

**Pitch** - The up and down motion of a ship's bow.

**Roll** - The motion of the ship from side to side.



Shoring reinforces a watertight door damaged in the September 15 torpedo attack. The door leads into a washroom on the third deck.

## Donate with a Smile

**Bravo Zulu** to Friends Executive Director Frank Glossl who raised \$510 through a Facebook fundraising effort to help defray the cost of preserving the forward ship's bell.

You don't have to wait for a fundraiser or special event to donate to Friends. It can be as simple as clicking on the button below.

**D O N A T E**

**A Penny Here, A Penny There** ... Just as thousands of citizens and children of North Carolina made a difference a penny, nickel, dime, or quarter at a time to help raise the \$330,000

necessary to bring USS *North Carolina* to Wilmington, you can do the same by designating the Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* as the beneficiary of your shopping on AmazonSmile.

Shopping online through AmazonSmile generates a donation of 0.5% of your eligible purchases for the Showboat. Make sure you designate the Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* as the charitable organization to receive those donations.

During the three months ending in June, nearly \$90 was donated to Friends through AmazonSmile. That may not seem like much, but it's been said, "\$90 here, and \$90 there and pretty soon you're talking real money" (with apologies to the late Sen. Everett Dirksen).



<b>Every Thursday is</b>	 <b>BATTLESHIP THURSDAY</b>	<b>Show your support. Wear your "Showboat" gear.</b>
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