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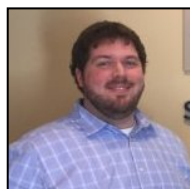
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Website: <http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/the-ship/oral-history/>

Introducing the Battleship New Jersey (BB-62) Oral History Program Newsletter

We are volunteers interviewing and recording US military veterans' stories aboard the Battleship New Jersey. This is the first issue of a newsletter produced by the Oral History Program of the Battleship New Jersey in Camden NJ. Our goal is to publish at least once a quarter. We hope you find it interesting and informative. If you have comments or questions, please send them to us at the email address given above. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, email us at the same address.

New Volunteers



Ben Kuntz

A hearty welcome aboard to our new BB-62 Oral History Program volunteer, Ben Kuntz, a 2014 graduate of William Patterson University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in History. Ben works in the safety industry full time, but gives some of his spare time to our program as well as to the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia.

Our program needs more volunteers. We have openings for interviewers, videographers, post-production processors, transcribers, editors, and office help. Visit our website for more information or contact us.

Recent Interviews

Howard Brooks, interviewed January 14, 2016 on BB-62; WWII U.S. Navy veteran; survivor of the sinking of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) in the battle of Sunda Strait; captured by the Japanese and interred in POW camps; became part of forced labor on the Burma railroad (*Bridge on the River Kwai* movie).

Wallace Gustafson, interviewed February 25, 2016 by Skype/Internet from Willmar, MN; WWII U.S. Navy and USS *Missouri* veteran; communications officer on Adm. Halsey's flag staff on the USS *Missouri* (BB-63); present for the signing of the Japanese surrender in September 1945; former Minnesota state legislator; age 91; still practicing law in Minnesota.

Bernard Jameson, interviewed April 5, 2016 by telephone from New Carlisle, OH; U.S. Navy Korean War veteran and Battleship *New Jersey* crew member.

Scheduled Interviews

Kent Deasy, scheduled for interview April 26 2016 in our Moorestown studio; USMC, Battleship *New Jersey* MARDET (Marine detachment); Korean War.



Finding Interview Candidates

Among about 12 candidates being sought for interview are: a WWII Army nurse Corps veteran, a battleship NJ veteran in WWII, a Hospital corpsman, a USMC vet, a Korean War BB-62 vet, an engineering crewmember aboard BB-62, a veteran of the USS *Teddy Roosevelt* (CVN-71), a crewmember aboard a Spruance class destroyer.

If you are a US military veteran or know someone who might like to be interviewed, contact us. Your military story does not have to be of combat, have high action, or be very dramatic. We are just as interested in stories about everyday life in the US military.

Transcribing Interviews

As part of our program goal of transcribing current and future interview recordings (and many of the past 300), we are seeking volunteers to transcribe the recordings, i.e., listen to the recording and type it, word for word. A digital transcript can then be searched on computers in our archive and in our affiliated libraries, the Library of Congress and the New Jersey State Library. We currently have five volunteers doing this work. If you would like to help make our recordings more useful to researchers, please contact us. We also need volunteer editors of the first drafts of transcripts.



Volunteer Transcribers

Volunteers currently working on transcribing our recordings include: Hugh Tsung, Ben Kuntz, Kevin Perry, Flora Gottardi, and Jim Rossi. Thank you. We know this is slow and tedious work.

Commercial Transcribing Services

We are about to start testing some commercial transcribing services. While this is expensive (\$150-\$300 per hour of recording), we are hoping to obtain donations to support transcription of our recordings. If you would like to donate funds to transcribe one or more recordings, please contact us.

Presentations -- Fundraising, Volunteer Seeking and Publicity

In order to generate publicity, acquire volunteers, and raise funds to support the oral history program, Ron Gottardi gives US naval history talks to clubs, libraries, nursing homes, and other organizations. Most of the programs include excerpts from our oral history archives. Seven programs are offered, including: *The Battleship New Jersey*, *BB-62's Oral History Program*, *Adm. Halsey's Catastrophic WWII Typhoon Error*, *The Philadelphia Navy Yard Builds Battleships*, *Proposed Museum and Diorama of the Philadelphia Navy Yard*, and *Pearl Harbor – Day of Infamy*. A new program is based on the exhibit *The Artist Goes to War: the U.S. Navy Art of Charles Rossetti* which appeared on the Battleship New Jersey in 2013. Rossetti was an aircraft ammunition handler aboard the USS *Ranger* (CV-4) in the North Atlantic in WWII. The presentation includes a reenactment of a 1944 CBS radio news broadcast about the USS *Ranger* and a false report of its sinking by the German high command. For more information on these presentations, visit <http://www.trghistoric.com/presentations.php> or contact us.

Other News

OHMAR Conference On April 14 and 15th, 2016, Ron Gottardi attended an annual meeting of OHMAR, (Oral History Middle Atlantic Region) at the Hagley Library and Museum in Wilmington Delaware. This is a chance to meet with other oral historians in the region and learn and discuss new trends and developments in the field. This year's program featured technology and included presentations on the University of Kentucky Libraries Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History's OHMS (Oral History Metadata Synchronizer) system, which 200 oral history institutions in 15 countries have adopted. For more information, visit <http://www.oralhistoryonline.org/> or <https://ohmar.org/>

Donations Help us sustain this program by donating. Contact us for info on how. Help us make history. If you can't donate, please consider volunteering.



Contact Us and More Info

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Oral History Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oral-History-Program-of-the-Battleship-New-Jersey/851648378211099?ref=profile>

For video excerpts of our oral history interviews, visit <http://www.trghistoric.com/ohp/links.php>

For more info on the Battleship New Jersey, visit <http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/>

Permission is granted to send this newsletter in its entirety to others you think might be interested.

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Thanks to all our volunteers and donors for helping us make history.