



February 23 Mini-Reunion Update

Dear Classmate and/or Spouse

Feb 3, 2023

Register Now!

In you haven't registered yet, please do so now. Click on the Registration button below to register or copy and paste:

[*Registration button*](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

50 Already Registered!

Classmate Panelists

As we mentioned a couple of weeks ago, two of our classmate panelists will be Steve Grossberg and Ted Tapper. For the second classmate panel we have five classmates who will tell short "war stories" from their service in the Armed Forces following graduation. They are **Denny Denniston, Henry Eberhardt, Peter Stuart, Al Ward, and Rick Reed.**

Denny Denniston grew up in Mobile, Alabama. After Dartmouth he served two years as Communications Officer on the USS McCaffery, a Destroyer in the US Navy, after which he returned to Hanover for two years to obtain his MBA at Tuck. He then spent 40 years in commercial banking in NY City with Chase, National Westminster, Bank of New York and then managed the NY Branch of a foreign bank.

As a seagoing US Naval Officer on the bridge of the McCaffery, Denny Denniston made a split second decision to commit a court martial



offence that saved his Captain's career. His tale is reminiscent of The Caine Mutiny.

Henry Eberhardt, due to the Berlin Crisis of 1961, was drafted into the Army but fortunately at the same time was accepted at OCS in Newport, Rhode Island. Following commissioning, Henry was assigned as Communications Officer of the USS Mazama, an ammunition ship based in Mayport, Florida, and made several deployments to the Mediterranean. He also served in the Pacific as Operations Officer of the destroyer USS Stickell including deployments to the Gulf of Tonkin to provide long range gunfire support for our troops in Vietnam.



After eight years of active duty and promotion to Lieutenant Commander, Henry joined the Navy Reserve and was Commanding Officer of a reserve

unit in Hanover, which included Captain Eddie Chamberlain and Commander Ralph Manuel

Henry will relate a terrifying story when he was on the ammunition ship in the Atlantic. As the Mazama was heading home after participating in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the ship went to General Quarters when a fire was reported in Hold #2, which is where the nuclear weapons were stored.

Peter Stuart served aboard the USS Fremont, an attack transport ship from 1961-1963 in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean fleets. He was then assigned to a destroyer for two years based in Japan and with action off the coast of Vietnam. After returning to the States he continued in the Navy Reserve while in law school and beyond. He became a Navy lawyer and served voluntarily at the Submarine Base and the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut, before retiring as a Commander.

Peter will tell us about his experience as a movie actor in the 1962 movie, *The Longest Day*, about the D-Day

landing in Normandy during WWII. As 10 landing craft from his attack transport ship are heading to the shore in Sardinia (a substitute for Normandy), the back of Peter's head may be seen as he commands the landing fleet. Besides Peter, other actors in this film included Henry Fonda, Sean Connery, and Peter Lawford.



Al Ward graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1965 and was inducted into the Air Force, serving from 1967 to 1969, stationed at Malcolm Grow Hospital at Andrews Air Force Base in DC, where he was chief of VIP services. Patients included active and retired generals (e.g., Curtis LeMay), other ranking officers, and diplomats and their families. Meanwhile, wounded soldiers from Vietnam were placed in make-shift wards and essentially hidden from the public.

Unlike the other panelists his was the least “military” experience; no basic training and often “out of uniform”. Like most physician enlistees he entered as a Captain, the lowest ranking for doctors in the military, and was often outranked by the nurses he worked beside. As a result physician Captains were seen as little threat in the “rank hungry” D.C. Air Force medical corps, making for some interesting duty assignments.

Serving in the “informational blackout” of the U.S. Capitol also prevented him from knowing much about the “true” nature of the Vietnam war. Only after discharge would he learn the facts.



Rick Reed, a History major, member of Psi U, freshman tennis and varsity squash captain, had no thoughts of military service upon venturing into the wide wide world upon graduation. One year later, after working as a sales management trainee selling life insurance, in desperation he escaped to Naval OCS in Newport, Rhode Island. Having survived the rigors of OCS, Rick was assigned to the USS Graffias, a WWII era refrigerated food stores ship home ported in Sasebo, Japan. After a strange series of events, he was promoted to be the ship's Navigator, normally assigned to a Commander-level officer, not a lowly Ensign.



As the Graffias was steaming near the Philippines enroute to their home port in Japan, the ship received orders to head to the Gulf of Tonkin, to support an aircraft carrier task force. Two destroyers had reported being attacked by North Vietnamese patrol boats, so Rick's ship had to set a fast westward course towards Vietnam while zigzagging to avoid potential torpedo attacks. Rick will relate his experience during the engagement, and his subsequent take on this pivotal event in the early stages of the Vietnam war.