

Continental Breakfast

Thursday
November 4
Hampton Ballroom
7:30 am

Continental Breakfast

Friday
November 5
Hampton Ballroom
7:30 am

Continental Breakfast

Saturday
November 6
Hampton Ballroom
8 am

Breakfasts



Hangar Luncheon

Friday, November 5
Naval Air Station
Ceremonial Hangar—Noon

Hangar Luncheon

Navy V-12 Program

On July 1, 1943 the United States Navy contracted with Montana School of Mines for the training of United States Navy Apprentice Seamen. An accelerated program consisting of three complete college years of two terms each was accomplished during the college years 1943-1944 and 1944-1945. During these three college years several hundred United States Navy V-12 trainees were given courses in basic and deck engineering. In addition to the V-12 trainees, the United States Navy maintained on the campus a complete administrative and medical staff. A number of V-12 trainees completed their work for their degree under the Navy agreement to allow students to complete their work in their major fields.

MONTANA SCHOOL OF MINES

REGISTER OF STUDENTS, 1943-44

Engineering Freshmen

NAVY V-12

Name	Address
Ambrose, Dean E.	Dill
Amison, Donald D.	Providence, R.
Archer, Lee A.	Dallas, Tex
Aten, Charles E.	Council Bluffs, Io
Aubineau, Gaston C.	Los Angeles, Californ
Augustson, Anders Evert	Casca
Baarson, William W.	Hele
Balman, James H.	Salt Lake City, Uta
Barnes, Lynn P.	Arco, Idal
Barnes, Mervyn L.	Bellingham, Washingto
Bartlett, Dan H.	Butt
Batts, Herman M.	Detroit, Michige
Beloy, William C.	Aurora, Minnesot
Bennyhoff, James Allan	Quincy, Californi
Benton, Philip H.	Bell Springs, Californi
Berglund, Burton E.	Grass Rang
Bigley, Arthur C.	Ramse
Billington, David	Fairvie
Bingham, Richard Oscar	Ogden, Uta
Bird, Wesley E.	Peck, Kans
Black, James S.	Livingsto
Black, Raymond Lee	Idaho Falls, Idah
Boggess, Paul F.	Covington, Kentuck
Bohlig, Richard Q.	Ophei
Boyd, Carl J.	Galt, Californi
Brace, William M.	Seattle, Washingto
Branflick, Robert A.	Baltimore, Marylan
Breidenfeld, Jerry H.	Lewistow
Brentlinger, Keith N.	Selma, Californi
Bretsen, James M.	Seattle, Washingto
Brown, Darrell E.	Cataldo, Idah
Brown, Harold D.	Ogden, Uta
Burtness, Waldo C.	Bayfield, Wisconsi
Busch, Robert J.	Vallejo, Californi
Bush, Henry H.	Madison, Wisconsi
Burd, James Lee	Long Beach, Californi

Register of Students

Name	Address
Callaghan, Thomas T.	San Francisco, California
Cannon, Bryant W.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Caple, John A.	Lewiston, Idaho
Card, Kenneth B.	Ennis
Chase, Frank W.	Haverhill, Massachusetts
Child, Benjamin W.	Yuba City, California
Clarey, William A.	Oskaloosa, Iowa
Clausen, Clayton J.	Selma, California
Clements, Hughie L.	Lanett, Alabama
Cofer, Wallace D.	Kingman, Arizona
Coleman, Yale	Lewistown
Combellick, Glenn R.	Billings
Cooper, Robert L.	Corcoran, California
Corcoran, Joseph C.	Great Falls
Coulson, Robert N.	Mill Valley, California
Couse, Harold C.	San Jose, California
Cox, Perry E.	Columbia, Tennessee
Cramer, John A.	Billings
Cuffe, Marshall J.	Sacramento, California
Cutler, Dale E.	Kalispell
Cwirko, Walter A.	Brooklyn, New York
Daugharty, Duane A.	Libby
Davey, Michael E.	Columbus
Davis, James R.	Clearfield, Utah
Denny, Earl W.	Helena
Doady, Patrick J.	Roundup
Doyle, James A.	Beaverton, Oregon
Doyle, John R.	Lynwood, California
Drayton, Leslie H.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Dunn, William E.	Fairview
Eads, Robert Heather	Pacific Grove, California
Eakle, Raymond B.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Eakright, Marvin	Glendive
Eastwood, Ivan G.	Hillsboro, Oregon
Egan, William J.	Butte
Eggett, Melvin E.	Oakland, California
Elwood, John R.	San Mateo, California
Emerson, George E.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Emrick, James R.	Conrad
Eneboe, Leo D.	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Enquist, Edwin R.	Murray, Utah
Erchull, Henry F.	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Esp, Henry Lee	Lodge Grass

Register of Students

Name	Address
Evans, Carl G.	Missoula
Faddis, James W.	San Francisco, California
Farley, Robert E.	Pocatello, Idaho
Fielding, Teddy Roosevelt	Honolulu
Flamm, Norman D.	Huntley
Fletcher, Charles W.	Wibaux
Frasier, Elmer L.	Clearfield, Utah
Fredericks, Charles G.	Sacramento, California
Fredericks, Ithel E.	Montpelier, Idaho
Funkhouser, Emil Glenn	Tracy, California
Gallagher, David A.	Altadena, California
Galt, Bruce C.	Hughson, California
Gelvert, Donald W.	Fresno, California
Gill, Robert E.	Sacramento, California
Goebel, Charles L.	Manhattan Beach, California
Goedecke, Arne G.	Glendive
Grant, Clifford O.	Fresno, California
Grant, Willard J.	Springville, Utah
Gray, Robert W.	Berkeley, California
Green, Brice F.	Noxor
Grimsby, Alvin E.	Seattle, Washington
Hagen, George L.	Boise, Idaho
Hanley, Clarence F.	Helena
Hanley, Gerald H.	Butte
Hardy, Herbert J.	Visalia, California
Harris, Doyle V.	Forrest City, Arkansas
Harris, John R.	Burlingame, California
Harris, Richard David	Modesto, California
Harris, Richard Green	Tocoee, Utah
Harvey, Frank	Whitefish, Montana
Haslett, Samuel M.	Piedmont, California
Hassett, Merritt V.	Goshen, California
Hayes, William S.	San Gabriel, California
Hayler, Frank A.	Newton, Iowa
Head, Merwin	Malta
Hendrix, Tommy	Mexico, Texas
Henken, Aaron	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Hermann, Johann Henry	Fairfax, California
Hinsch, Kurt W.	Brooklyn, New York
Hoffstedt, Donald J.	Waymart, Pennsylvania
Holland, Robert J.	Butte
Hoppe, Wilbur S.	Missoula
Howald, Carl W.	Billings

Register of Students

Name	Address
Howe, Henry Rowley	Billing
Hurlbut, John O.	Miles Cit
Hutchison, Marvin S.	Bakersfield, Californi
Jelleff, Charles R.	Miles, Californi
Jensen, Hans J.	Berkeley, Californi
Jensen, Lyle V.	Beresford, South Dakot
Johnson, Carl A.	Stockton, Californi
Johnson, Harold Grigsby	Aberdeen, Washingtc
Jones, Robert A.	San Anselmo, Californi
Kaye, Alan J.	San Francisco, Californi
Kelley, John R.	Pasadena, Californi
Kellington, Edward C.	Butt
Kidder, Hugh G.	Kalispel
Kiff, John W.	Ringlin
Kipps, Harry J.	Los Angeles, Californi
Kitchen, Charles C.	Long Beach, Californi
Kleinberg, William	Seattle, Washingtc
Konen, Orvelle	Lewiston, Idah
Kovacevich, Emil A.	Anacond
Kuzmer, Loren K.	Auburn, Washingtc
Lager, William Arvid	Seattle, Washingtc
Lane, Eugene W.	Burlingame, Californi
Lange, Fred Jr.	Tulare, Californi
LaPeire, Edwin A.	Palo Alto, Californi
Larson, Alfred J.	Ogden, Uta
Lasater, Roy W.	Billing
Lathrop, Herbert J.	Miles Cit
Leake, Lewis A.	Salt Lake City, Uta
Lewis, Vincent I.	Grand Junction, Colorad
Lieber, Carl H.	Long Beach, Californi
Lilly, Walin F.	Manhattan, Montar
Lind, Murray C.	Butt
Livingston, Richard W.	Salt Lake City, Uta
MacLean, Donald H.	Berkeley, Californi
McCarthy, James Lee	Great Fall
McCarthy, Robert J.	Butt
McCulloch, Glenn S.	Anaheim, Californi
McGuire, Richard P.	Enni
Madsen, Richard E.	Twin Falls, Idal
Martin, James A.	Upper Lake, Californi
Mason, John A.	South Pasadena, Californi
Maxon, Ivan B.	Greybull, Wyomir
Mead, Merrill Hutton.	Palo Alto, Californi

Register of Students

Name	Address
Means, James McDonald	Malvern, Arkansas
Mellis, Alan R.	Payette, Idaho
Miller, Melvin E.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Minnick, Richard E.	Redlands, California
Minter, J. B. Alvan	Taft, California
Morrow, Vernon A.	Nipomo, California
Mourich, Frank L.	Bearcreek
Mullikin, Manson Patrick	Sunburst
Murphy, William	San Francisco, California
Musselman, Harry R.	Seattle, Washington
Nagle, James W.	San Francisco, California
Nash, Sherman M.	Rio Linda, California
Neal, Gordon G.	Pocatello, Idaho
Nelson, Clarence W.	Seattle, Washington
Nelson, Richard A.	Hanford, California
Ogilvy, Robert E.	Detroit, Michigan
Olsen, Robert L.	Lovell, Wyoming
Olson, Roy Kenneth	Grass Range
Ormasa, John	Richmond, California
Osmanson, Roger Clare	Fort Dodge, Iowa
O'Sullivan, Eugene T.	San Francisco, California
Ozanne, Francis S.	Butte
Page, George C.	Great Falls
Parker, Guy R.	Firebaugh, California
Pascoe, Robert J.	Butte
Pattison, Robert K.	Ashtabula, Ohio
Payne, Carl C.	Billings
Perro, William L.	Anaconda
Pett, Ray W.	Bingham Canyon, Utah
Pfeifer, Lloyd E.	Piedmont, California
Pitts, Earl W.	Sandpoint, Idaho
Powell, Donald P.	Whitefish
Pritchard, David N.	Missoula
Prouty, Donald L.	Bellingham, Washington
Fyfer, Frederick L.	Summer, Washington
Rabe, Fred N.	Fresno, California
Reid, William A.	Great Falls
Replogle, Bert K.	Lewistown
Reynolds, Kenneth L.	San Bernidino, California
Rhoades, Paul S.	St. Ignatius
Rhodes, Keith H.	Havre
Richards, Warren B.	Los Angeles, California
Rimel, Ira W.	Wibaux

Register of Students

Name	Address
Roddy, Neil E.	London, Ohio
Rodgers, Frank O.	Healdsburg, California
Roe, Raymond R.	Hollywood, California
Root, Alanson H.	Los Angeles, California
Russell, John O.	Los Angeles, California
Sadler, Daniel R.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Sassano, Anthony	Billings
Schafer, William C.	Miles City
Schmotzer, Joseph F.	Youngstown, Ohio
Scholz, Kenneth W.	Chattaroy, Washington
Schwartz, Edwin	Startup, Washington
Schwenk, James E.	Corcoran, California
Sebastian, Robert J.	Joplin
Shiells, Daniel A.	Pasadena, California
Simonds, James B.	Berkeley, California
Sipila, Walter A.	Renton, Washington
Smelser, Russell J.	Willamina, Oregon
Smith, Walter J.	San Francisco, California
Snyder, LeRoy Jr.	Inglewood, California
Spindler, William W.	Sacramento, California
Sorensen, Carl E.	San Jose, California
Stavros, Leo H.	Idaho Falls, Idaho
Stewart, Charles A.	San Francisco, California
Stoll, James L.	St. Ignatius
Stookey, William C.	Tacoma, Washington
Strom, Donald E.	Pocatello, Idaho
Studabaker, David J.	Berkeley, California
Styer, E. Gilles	Wolf Point
Sullivan, Emmett T.	Butte
Tappon, Wayne L.	Los Angeles, California
Taylor, William H.	San Francisco, California
Tester, Donald K.	Gooding, Idaho
Thom, George J.	Los Angeles, California
Thomas, Richard R.	Riverside, California
Thomas, William C.	Glendale, California
Thompson, Boyd W.	Rexburg, Idaho
Thompson, Leo R.	Lewistown
Tidball, Ralph M.	Billings
Tisinger, William H.	Houston, Texas
Torgerson, Lester J.	Lewiston, Idaho
Forlumenke, Edward A.	Fall City, Washington
Tucker, Melvin P.	Monarch
Tueller, Charles A.	Clearfield, Utah

Register of Students

Name	Address
Tuttle, Burt J.	Huntington Park, California
Tyrrell, Donald M.	Porterville, California
Urbick, William P.	Port Costa, California
Van Bronkhorst, John	Conrad
Vedrine, John H.	Whitefish
Vertin, James R.	Los Gatos, California
Vivian, Howard C.	Oakland, California
Vlack, Russell C.	Los Angeles, California
Von Bargaen, Clarence R.	Tenn, Idaho
Walker, David D.	Anaconda
Walters, Warren J.	Thornton, Idaho
Walton, Howard D.	St. Louis, Missouri
Warren, Max A.	Portland, Oregon
Webb, George H.	Canoga Park, California
Webster, Richard J.	Ross, California
White, Paul E.	Portland, Oregon
Williams, Leslie W.	Twin Falls, Idaho
Williamson, Bartholomew B.	Belt
Willoughby, Waldo W.	Worden
Wilson, William M.	Missoula
Wood, Franklin K.	Monterey, California
Woodward, Warren R.	Washington, D. C.
Woolley, William G.	Portland, Oregon
Woolslayer, Lawrence H.	Vallejo, California
Worf, Donald E.	Kaycee, Wyoming
Wray, Clayton J.	Clearlake Oaks, California
Wyche, James C.	Sherman, Texas
Yorton, David M.	San Francisco, California
Zevely, John B.	Stevenson, Washington

CIVILIAN

Boyle, John A.	Butte
Brolin, William A.	Anaconda
Cronin, Frank J.	Butte
Darragh, Robert D.	Butte
Kenck, John E.	Butte
Zenneally, Thomas F.	Butte
Lazzari, Bernard J.	Butte
Nagel, Wilfred E.	Butte
Simacek, Thomas A.	Moccasin
Thomas, George A.	Butte

Register of Students

Sophomores

NAVY V-12

Name	Address
Anderson, Richard W.	Glendiv
Barnes, Claude R.	Coeur d'Alene, Idah
Berry, John W.	Anacond
Blaes, Frank E.	Ogden, Uta
Blair, Arden F.	Riche
Bokenkamp, Harry J.	Clay City, Illinois
Bornhoft, Arlie	Tyler, Minnesot
Brown, John L.	Butte
Bryan, Bruce W.	Pachuca, Mexic
Bryner, Dean L.	Salt Lake City, Uta
Burrows, William H.	Nanton, Albert
Campbell, Hugh P.	Helena
Clark, James Otis	Pisgah, Iowa
Cobb, Eugene F.	Geys
Conrad, Halden L.	Great Falls
Crea, Lewis A.	Fenn, Idaho
Egan, Edmond F.	Butte
Fogarty, Francis C.	Great Falls
Foltz, Walter W.	Nampa, Idaho
Foulger, Kenneth D.	Ogden, Uta
Hanks, Clair S.	Tetonia, Idaho
Harwood, Charles W.	Rigby, Idaho
Hedding, Floyd R.	Union Center, Wisconsin
Hett, Gaylord C.	Wilton, Wisconsin
Hunter, Harry M.	Albany, New York
Keenan, Paul C.	Los Angeles, California
Ker, Keith M.	Idaho Falls, Idaho
Leeds, John P.	Havre
McCullough, David W.	Sonnet
McElwain, Frank C.	Deer Lodge, Montan
McMurray, Port	Oakley, Idaho
Malstrom, Leonard W.	Leslie, Idaho
Miller, Jesse H.	Portland, Oregon
Monson, Clifton O.	Poplar
Moran, James H.	Great Falls
Nash, Robert S.	Great Falls
Norman, Jack T.	Glendiv
Paulson, Boyd C.	Salt Lake City, Uta
Quanmen, Wallace R.	Lindsa

Register of Students

Name	Address
Reynolds, Frank R.	Butt
Rickard, Charles A.	Washougal, Washingto
Robinson, Francis W.	Fort Bonto
Roebuck, William T.	Billing
Rothwell, James G.	Los Angeles, Californi
Scruton, Robert J.	Walkerville
Siemer, John W.	San Anselmo, Californi
Smith, Delbert Deane	Butler, Missouri
Stefanoff, John J.	Montagu
Swecker, Milton N.	Billing
Thompson, Gordon C.	Havr

CIVILIAN

Canty, John J.	Butt
Dugdale, Raymond	Butt
Nordquist, Jack W.	Anacond
Saterdal, Alfred	Norwood, Massachusett

Juniors

NAVY V-12

Alexander, John D.	Milwaukee, Wisconsi
Bergis, Robert R.	Oswego, Orego
Boyd, Clinton V.	Butt
Bronken, Paul B.	Boise, Idah
Campbell, Donald C.	Denver, Colorad
Canik, Ferdinand F.	Lake Charles, Louisian
Dugdale, Lawrence L.	Huron, South Dakot
Garber, John A.	Chewelah, Washingto
Jacobson, Arthur W.	Glasgo
Lear, Maurice Peter	Chotea
McClintock, William W.	Blanco, Colorad
McKenzie, Tom M.	Butt
Mathews, L. Paul	Phoenix, Arizon
May, Sherman L.	Portland, Orego
Mitchell, Ralph F.	San Francisco, Californi
Mueller, Alfred B.	Butt

Register of Students

Name	Address
Richards, Paul G.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Samuelson, Rodney L.	Eugene, Oregon
Scharrer, Joseph David	Great Falls
Skiles, Gerald W.	Burley, Idaho
Spackman, Edwin D.	Butte
Strand, Kenneth Byron	Salt Lake City, Utah
Stunkard, Bruce W.	Sidney
Zimmerman, Don E.	Salt Lake City, Utah

CIVILIAN

Christman, Charles	Butte
Glow, Byron B.	Missoula
Derzay, Charles R.	Anaconda
Dwyer, Cornelius P.	Butte
Frankovich, Frank J.	Butte
Gambill, Robert W.	Seattle, Washington
Hutchinson, Jesse J.	Gull Lake, Sask., Canada
Kane, John G.	Butte
Kentta, Harold	Butte
McCarthy, George D.	Butte
McCoy, Jack B.	Anaconda
McDonald, Bernard T.	Anaconda
Paine, William R.	Livingston
Wilson, Thomas L.	Butte

Seniors

NAVY V-12

Andrews, Matt C.	Butte
Baarson, Robert E.	Helen
Burke, Harry K.	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Combo, John X.	Butte
Doherty, John T.	Raton, New Mexico
Ferry, John H.	Tucson, Arizona
Foyle, Fred A.	Cleveland, Ohio
Funk, Campbell W. F.	Kankakee, Illinois
Hallin, Thomas J.	Gardine

Register of Students

Name	Address
Helberg, Warren	St. Louis, Missouri
Larson, Kenneth H.	Ledger
Lense, Alvin H.	Chicago, Illinois
Magorien, Raymond D.	Butte
Moulton, Harry D.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Nogle, Glenn F.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Pinkerton, Dan L.	Mt. Vernon, Washington
Spain, William F.	Beverley Hills, California
Stern, William R.	Butte
Stevens, Walter I.	Kuna, Idaho
Sullivan, Robert E.	Butte
Titsworth, Richard F.	Brawley, California
Venturini, Julio L.	Huntington Park, California
Wirta, Roy W.	Mt. Vernon, Washington

CIVILIAN

Campbell, Charles V.	Bonner
Dawson, Harmel A.	Butte
Haman, Harold	Butte
Hoar, Lorimer W.	Butte
Jeniker, Frank E.	Butte
Kangas, Reino	Butte
Laird, Frank J.	Butte

Graduate Students

Andrews, Arthur J.	Faribault, Minnesota
Brinker, Willard	Massillon, Ohio

Special Students

Stevens, Edwin W.	Butt
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SUMMARY OF REGISTRATION

Engineering Freshmen:		
Navy V-12	280	
Civilian	<u>10</u>	29
Sophomores:		
Navy V-12	50	
Civilian	<u>4</u>	5
Juniors:		
Navy V-12	24	
Civilian	<u>14</u>	3
Seniors:		
Navy V-12	23	
Civilian	<u>7</u>	3
Graduate Students		
Special Students		—
Total Collegiate Registration		41



Farewell Breakfast

Sunday, November 7
Hampton Ballroom—9 am

Farewell Breakfast

NAVY⁻¹²

**Welcome Aboard
Reception**

**Wednesday, November 3
Hampton Ballroom
4 pm to 6 pm**

NAVY⁻¹²

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Reception**

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Hampton Ballroom
4 pm to 6 pm**

NAVY⁻¹²

Farewell Breakfast

Sunday, November 7
Hampton Ballroom—9 am

Farewell Breakfast

GORDON DITTEMORE

FACTOTUM
RACONTEUR
SERVANT OF GOD

102 E. SOUTH AVENUE
REDLANDS, CA 92373
(714) 793-1361

6350 Jason Lane
Centerville, OH 45459-2537
February 24, 1994

Dear Bud -

First of all, I want to thank you for the book you sent me. I'm in the process of reading it, and it's very interesting.

Enclosed is the list I said I'd send you of 1943-44 V-12ers. You'll notice there are 10 on the list from Butte. Some of them may have returned to Butte after the War, and be living there now. (You might want to check the Butte telephone directory, sometime.)

The list was furnished by the following: Pauline Peters, Director of Alumni Relations, Montana Tech Foundation, West Park Street, Butte. Phone 406/496-4278. Pauline might be helpful in tracking-down the 10 Butte V-12ers.

I've also enclosed a write-up of "what the V-12 meant to me". I wrote it so that my grandchildren would know something about their Grandfather's early life.

Keep in touch, Bud!

Pez Drayton



Hangar Luncheon

Friday, November 5
Naval Air Station
Ceremonial Hangar—Noon

Hangar Luncheon

**Continental
Breakfast**

Thursday
November 4
Hampton Ballroom
7:30 am

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Breakfast**

Saturday
November 6
Hampton Ballroom
8 am

Breakfasts

50th Anniversary Navy-Marine V-12

The Navy Hymn . . .

Eternal Father strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who biddest the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep,
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

Lord God our power evermore,
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
Dive with our men beneath the sea,
Traverse the depths protectively,
O hear us when we pray to keep
Them safe from peril in the deep.

Eternal Father, grant we pray
To all Marines both night and day
The courage, honor, strength and skill
Their land to serve Thy law fulfill
Be Thou the shield for evermore
From every peril to the Corps.

Lord, stand beside the men who build
With courage, strength, and speed, and skill
Who labor dauntless every day
Their aim to please along the way.
Lord, hear our prayer for all Seabees
Where ere they be on land or seas.

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces in the sky.
Be with them always in the air,
In darkening storms, or sunlight fair.
O hear us when we lift our prayer
For those in peril in the air. Amen.



The Lone Sailor

U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

Spring 1992

RADM William Thompson, USN (Ret.), President; HMCM Jay Hood, USN (Ret.), Master Chief of the Navy Memorial

No, Virginia, V-12 is not a vitamin.

What do Johnny Carson, the late Coach George Allen, Jackie Cooper, Senator Daniel Moynihan, Carl Rowan, Pierre Salinger and Senator Howard Baker have in common? They were just a few of the 125,000 men who were enrolled in the Navy's World War II "V-12" college training program.

U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation president Rear Admiral William Thompson and Captain Bob Jones, who served as Admiral Thompson's Executive Assistant for five years are both V-12 vets. Jones has been named National Chairman of the V-12 50th Anniversary Committee, now planning a reunion to celebrate this anniversary in 1993. V-12 vets are urged to contact Captain Jones through the Navy Memorial Foundation's address for information on the celebration.

We were living in Portland, Oregon, at the start of World War II. I was a junior in high school, having spent my freshman and sophomore years in... In its Spring, 1992 issue, the "U. S. Navy Memorial Newsletter" reported that a 50th Anniversary Committee is now planning a reunion of the 125,000 men who were enrolled in the Navy's V-12 college training program during World War II. I was one of those men, and -- like most of them -- have some very special memories about my V-12 days. Here they are:

It was 1934, and I was nine years old -- the only child of divorced parents -- living with my mother, who had just remarried. The man she married was a traveling auditor for the U. S. Government. The word "traveling " was most appropriate for my step-father's occupation, because -- during the next five years -- we traveled to so many different places, I ended-up attending 14 different grade schools!

As you can well imagine, that was a most difficult time for a young boy. I was always "the new kid in school," and because we moved so often, I never had a chance to form lasting friendships.

And it didn't get any better as the years went by. In fact, I eventually attended five different high schools ... three of them during my senior year.

At some point in my early life, I got the idea that I'd like to go to the Naval Academy. I don't know where the idea came from. Maybe it was a book I read or a movie I saw. I just don't remember. But the idea became an ambition. I wanted to be an officer in the U. S. Navy! So, I studied hard, keeping my grades above average, and waiting for the day I'd get a chance to take the competitive exams for an appointment to Annapolis.

We were living in Portland, Oregon, at the start of World War II. I was a junior in high school, having spent my freshman and sophomore years in Bozeman, Montana.

In September, 1942, I started my senior year in Portland. In October, my stepfather got transferred to Long Beach, California. Two weeks later, he got transferred to Burbank, California. I couldn't believe it! Two new high schools in a little over one month! But the "crushing blow" came in November, when my stepfather came home one night and said he had been transferred to Salt Lake City.

"I'm not going! I just can't change schools again. I want to join the Army -- now. I'll get drafted in a few months, anyway."

"Les, if you'll just go to Salt Lake City with us, I promise you won't have to move again. If I get transferred, I'll leave you and your mother in Salt Lake City until you finish school."

O.K. that was it. My "guaranteed" last high school.

I remember that it was cold and snowing in Salt Lake City the day I entered South High School in November, 1942. South was just like all the other high schools I had attended -- big, lots of students, neither friendly, nor unfriendly -- just "another school" for a lonely teen-ager.

I had been at South for about two weeks, when an assembly was called for all senior boys. The reason for the assembly: the Navy wanted to introduce its V-12 college training program ... a program that could lead to a commission as an officer in the U. S. Navy.

I left that assembly "floating on air!" This was it! The Navy V-12 Program was for me! The very thing I had always wanted -- the opportunity to be a naval officer. I could hardly wait to get to the principal's office and apply for the Program.

I stood before the principal's desk as he examined my high school records.

"As you know, Leslie, the V-12 Program requires that you not only be a good student, but also ^{be} no more than 17 years old, graduated from high school, and enrolled in a college or university. We would have to graduate you, now, in order to meet the age and college requirements, since I notice that your 18th birthday is coming up in February.

"This is the fifth high school you've attended, and although your academic record appears to be good, I would find it difficult to recommend you for the Program, since you've been in our school for only a short time, and we really don't know that much about you. I'm sorry." I could have cried. Everything I had worked for -- everything I had wanted -- gone!

As I left the principal's office, the assistant principal was just coming out of hers.

"What's the matter, young man. You look terribly unhappy!" I told her what had happened -- how very much I wanted to enter the Navy V-12 Program. She took me into her office, got my academic records and looked them over. "My feeling is that you're a good candidate for the program. Anyone who could attend as many schools as you have and still maintain a fine academic record and stay out of trouble must be a pretty decent young man. Let me see what I can do for you."

And what she did was take me to the Superintendent of Schools in Salt Lake City; persuade the Superintendent to graduate me early, and then got me enrolled in the Winter Quarter at the University of Utah.

I was in heaven! I couldn't believe it. Everything I had wanted was now mine! All the hard work in school and all the lonely times that went with traveling were finally being rewarded.

But, the best was yet to come.

It came on July 1, 1943, when I reported to the Montana School of Mines in Butte, Montana, as an Apprentice Seaman in the United States Navy.

I'll never forget that day! There were about 300 of us and, for the first time in my life, I was NOT "the new kid in school!" Everyone was new. No one knew anyone else, and I was in my glory. I went around introducing myself to as many guys as I could -- trying to be friendly, wanting to be liked, and hoping that this feeling of "belonging" -- something I had never known before -- would never end.

And it didn't. I'm sure that throughout my career I was the happiest guy in the U. S. Navy.

It was during my stay in Butte that I met the girl who was to become my wife. Winifred King and I were married on November 5, 1945 -- just seven months after I received my commission at Navy Midshipman School, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Win and I would have been married for almost 45 years, when she died on April 13, 1989.

What did the Navy V-12 Program mean to me? Everything. It meant escape from loneliness for a bewildered teen-ager ... the realization of an ambition to be an officer in the U. S. Navy ... marriage to a wonderful woman and a life of precious times with a close and loving family. Yes, it meant everything.

Oh, if only I could return to those years, just one more time.



U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

Spring 1992

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM THOMPSON, USN (Ret.), President; LCDR Jay Hood, USN (Ret.), Master Chief Petty Officer

No, Virginia, V-12 is not a vitamin.

What do Johnny Carson, the late Frank George Allen, Jack Casper, Senator Daniel Moynihan, Gov. Foy Kohan, Pierre Salinger and Senator Howard Baker have in common? They were just a few of the 125,000 men who were enrolled in the Navy's World War II "V-12" college training program.

U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation president Rear Admiral William Thompson and Captain Bob Jones, who served as Admiral Thompson's Executive Assistant for five years are both V-12 veterans. Jones has been named National Chairman of the V-12 50th Anniversary Committee, now planning a seminar to celebrate this anniversary in 1993. V-12 vets are urged to contact Captain Jones through the Navy Memorial Foundation's offices for information on the celebration.