



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## The Impact of a 72 Year Old Discovery

Monday, August 07, 2017



15 days ago my status and blog asked "Can I do it again?" as I described my chorale's upcoming 7 day singing tour of Canada. The answer – YES! Even though our schedule didn't allow time for SP beyond logging in to keep my streak alive, the residual "Spark Effect" was enough for me to return home without weight gain. More about that another time.

I returned home to find a package containing nearly 200 negatives from 1945, all from the WWII Cruiser the USS Philadelphia.

They were found in a suitcase in the attic of a man who died recently. They were sent to me by his son. He found me online because I created and maintain the website of the USS Philadelphia. (link at end)

The Philadelphia was my Dad's ship and I've written before about how in our travels I try to visit the places described in his war diary, walk in his footsteps and recreate the photos that he took.

Getting images from 72 year old negatives is quite a task, testing the limits of my technological/photo editing ability. So much of the time I would have spent on Spark is currently dedicated to restoring those pictures.

Why the hurry? It's been 72 years after all.

In 9 days the remaining crew of "The Philly" will hold their 54th reunion. I want to have this new discovery available for the men and their families, both attendees and those who are only connected virtually because they are not healthy/strong enough to travel. My father died in 1997, but I will continue to attend the reunions as long as the remaining sailors vote to continue "one more year"

Here's an example of the images I'm restoring. The note on this set of negatives was "Navy Day 1945" The ship had returned to Norfolk to be refitted as a troop carrier to bring the soldiers home from Europe and the ship was open to visitors

I chose this photo to post here because of the sailor walking toward the camera

Hi Dad!

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Here is Dad again, the sailor on the extreme right.



There were thousands of men who served on the Philadelphia during the war. How did he wind up front and center during a ceremony?

Dad told me that he didn't see the war as much as listened to it on an extreme lower deck wearing headphones during battles as part of his "Damage Control" duty.

After each battle it was his job to type the report for the Captain. Dad was a welder by trade but could also type 60 words per minute so he was assigned to the office.

This was a disappointment to him but the Navy had a lot more men who could weld than could type. He accompanied the Captain during inspections and typed those reports too as well as any daily addresses to be read over the ship's loudspeaker.

In retrospect I'm glad he wasn't assigned to the machine shop. You just never know how things will work out.

My website tribute to the USS Philadelphia  
[www.brigs.us/Phila](http://www.brigs.us/Phila)

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**SHARON10002**



What a wonderful heartwarming project. **THANK YOU!** to your dad for his service, and you for preserving history so many were a part of.  
1395 days ago



**ANAKIE**

Thank you for your time and persistence in this project.  
1397 days ago





**CHERIRIDDELL**

This is wonderful .Thank you for your labor of love .The website is phenomenal !  
1397 days ago



**VISUALLYRICS**

....I'm a bit late to read this as my PC has been in the shop for a few days. So glad I saw this!

What a wonderful blog....and website! Thank you for your labor of love....what a blessing!  
1397 days ago



**NUMD97**

Lovely. What a gift! I am sure you are aware, but just in case...There are special photo development places that specialize in handling very old negatives. It's not like taking them to "One Hour Photo".

Wonderful thing you are doing for these men and their families by maintaining the website. Before it all crumbles, I really should digitize my dad's 16mm reels from his station during WWII in Italy.

Thanks for the lovely tribute and the reminder.  
1398 days ago



**CGEM61**

OH my goodness, thank you! Thank you for doing the page! Just the pictures here are phenomenal! You don't get see that everyday! How special. I'm showing your page to my daughter, it's very exciting what you are doing! You can still spark while you do it, your habits are with you.



You just may not be online as much!  
1398 days ago



**BJAEGER307**

How cool! I have a friend who is into this type of history as his dad was a sailor also. I will have to direct him to your web page and see if there is anything that might pertain to his dad.  
1399 days ago



**PACEKA1**

How exciting! What a wonderful find for you. I have been learning so much about WWII and Norway - things I never knew before. Can't wait to get home and do some more research!  
1400 days ago



**SHAWFAN**

What a wonderful project to take on for the love of your father and for those still alive today to remember those days. Also, to keep alive the history of even one ship of that war for posterity's sake.  
1400 days ago



**HARRIETT14**

You are so lucky to have those pictures. My DH was also in WW11 but has very few pictures. He was stationed in the Philippines. My brother was in Germany. I don't have any pictures of him at all. I know that your Dad would be very proud of you.  
1400 days ago



**KRISY82**

Wow-what an awesome project to take on. Enjoy! :)  
1401 days ago



**YELLOW09RED**

This is great. Thank you for sharing this important time.



1401 days ago



**CD4114015**

Oh, can I relate to this! I wish it was MY dad's pics. There are none. He also was in Germany "cleaning up" the mess at the end of WWII. He never would talk to me about it....said it was too awful.

You are blessed indeed!  
1401 days ago



**SUNNYCALIGIRL**

Really impressive!  
1401 days ago



**SKYDRAKE**

How absolutely wonderful. I got goose bumps reading this. My dad was on the USS Topeka. He found out about the reunions later in life and attended many of them. I am so glad you continue to participate. What an honor to your dad and the men that served with him. Have you ever thought about being an Honor Flight volunteer? You would be so perfect for it. (Like how I found something else for you to do, like you aren't busy enough?)  
1401 days ago

**HMBROWN1**

What a wonderful surprise! I a sure the people at the reunion will love it!  
1401 days ago

**POLSKARENIA**

That's wonderful thing you're doing. I love looking through my parents' old army pics from all over Europe and the Middle East, amazing memories and important times.  
1401 days ago

**GREYDOLPHIN**

It's so wonderful that the pictures will live on, thanks to the men who saved them and to you. I've been living near Pensacola, a navy town, and have a lovely young couple living across the street. He's an instructor for the Navy---helicopters. There is a training field not far from our house and we can hear those copters buzzing most of the day. The sound is annoying at times, but God bless those young Navy aviators. They keep us safe.  
1401 days ago

**SPEDED2**

What a tremendous, loving tribute to your dad. The photos and diary will no doubt be treasured by his shipmates and their families. My husband spent 25 years in the USN with the Seabees. Your tribute honors all those who serve and have served. Thank you for sharing your memories and history.  
1401 days ago

**LIZANDRASHAW**

Wow! Fantastic work and a wonderful tribute.  
1401 days ago

**PATRICIAANN46**

I can't think of a better tribute to your Dad and his shipmates. Good for YOU!!!

I have been working with my Mom (she is 93) and gathering information for the VA Death Benefit. She should have applied when Dad died in 2000, but would not hear of it. I should have been more insistent, but it just wasn't the right time for her. I had to send to Newport, RI for a copy of their Marriage Certificate which arrived this Friday. It was good for me to see it. They were so young. Mom also gave me a picture taken of a group of Navy men and their wives/girlfriends at a dance held on June 15, 1945 in the Hotel Roosevelt. As I looked at the photo, I wondered how many of them survived the war.

There aren't many WWII Veterans left and the ones who are still with us REALLY appreciate the interest taken in their lives. You are doing a wonderful thing for them.



1401 days ago

**52BINCE**

What an extraordinary story and wonderful tribute to your Dad, plus all who served and their families.  
1401 days ago

**CD17462428**

So very cool! Thanks for sharing the photos with us. My Dad was in the Army and was sent to the Philippines. He rarely spoke of it and when he did it was weather or food related. Your work honors all those who served.  
1401 days ago

**CD3409143**

Thanks I had 2 uncles that were WWII vets (one was actually my mom's uncle) both deceased now and my Dad's younger brother was in the RCAF.  
1401 days ago

**SUSIEMT**

Very good blog most interesting! I remember years ago my elderly cousin William, served during WWII, when I was visiting him, he would bring out his WWII photo album. I can't tell you how many times he would break down in tears for his old brothers in arms. He would apologize and I would say he had every right to grieve for them!



1401 days ago



**BLUEJAY1969**

What a fantastic job you did maintaining your streak and your weight! What an amazing find all those films are! You have a busy, busy time right now!!  
1401 days ago



**QUARTERMASTER3**

Great job and thanks too your dad for his service.  
1401 days ago



**TCANNO**

Hi Eileen  
My father was sent over to Boston Naval yard in I think 1943 and spent two year repairing HMS Leander. I am not sure what type of ship this was. It had been torpedoed and brought through the Panama Chanel to Boston.



I do have 100's of photographs in a case but I am not sure if there are any from WWII. I know there are quite a few after the war as he spent a lot of time in the eastern Med.

If I get the chance I will have a look and see what is there.

Dad spent 29 years in the Royal Navy retiring in 1962 as a Chief Petty Officer

I like your pictures and would love to see more.

Many thanks for this

Trev  
1401 days ago



**LIVEDAILY**

What an awesome website! Back in 1944, I can't imagine that the men who served would ever have thought that there'd be a WWW (world wide web), and that their memories would be available and of interest to others. Thank you for doing this, and keeping their memory alive!



1401 days ago



**KSNANA2**

Wonderful website! My father was in the Naval Air during the war. It lead to a very rewarding career.  
1401 days ago



**RAZZOOZLE**

You are amazing. Your dad would be so proud of you.  
1401 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**

This is just wonderful - and so very kind of you to do a rush job on the negatives for the remaining men of the Philadelphia. I only wish my father had kept a wartime diary and/or took any pictures. Those pictures and diary are priceless.  
1401 days ago



**SMILINGEYES2**

How wonderful you are preserving these memories.  
1401 days ago



**PHEBESS**

How wonderful that this man was able to find you and send on this treasure! I'm sure everyone at the reunion will be as thrilled by this surprise as you were.  
1401 days ago



**NANASUEH**

How exciting! I hope you post more of the pics as you can.



1402 days ago





**SUBMOM2**

Oh my gosh! What a find! And thanks for the link to the website. Amazing!  
1402 days ago



**HARROWJET**

What a find. I hope you manage to get them ready for the reunion. (I'm glad your trip to Canada went well.)  
1402 days ago



**PHOENIX1949**

**AWESOME Well Done!** Warm fuzzies felt re your mission.  
1402 days ago



**MTN\_KITTEN**

How incredible.

Thank you, thank you ... for what you do to keep the spirit of freedom alive.



1402 days ago



**MBPP50**

**AWESOME** What a great service you provide to our vets.  
1402 days ago



**FRAN0426**

How wonderful that the son of the former shipmate of your father sent those negatives to you. He sent them to the right person, one who would work do diligently to get photos for those who are still living. What a great tribute to your father, attending the yearly reunion with those former shipmates of your father. Hope you are able to get as many as time permits before the reunion. I am sure those living fellows will appreciate the work you are doing for them.  
1402 days ago



**BLESSEDMIRANDA**

**AWESOME I LIKE IT!**  
1402 days ago



**SYLPHINPROGRESS**

Such a trove of historic and personal value. How excellent that the man who sent the negatives cared that they live on.  
1402 days ago



**WATERMELLEN**

How thrilling! The loyalty your father showed to his country and his ship is mirrored in the loyalty you are demonstrating to him (and, by extension, to his ship mates and their families). He would be so proud of you! As always, you have your priorities in just the right place!!  
1402 days ago



**SMOKY\_TEA**

This is extremely impressive work. It is so crucial to remember history and it's a great service you are doing.  
1402 days ago



**KELLIEBEAN**

I haven't looked at your web page in a while, I will check that out. You are doing a wonderful service for these men and their families. I got a tear when you pointed out your dad. I don't know what it is that chokes me up about this stuff. I think I may have been there in a former life or something, I'm just drawn to this stuff!

1402 days ago



**MORTICIAADDAMS**

Sounds like a very worthwhile endeavor.  
1402 days ago



**1CRAZYDOG**

I think that is awesome. My Dad was on the USS Tranquility. Also found some pictures from that time and gave them to Dad.



Good luck!  
1402 days ago



**TWEDEE777**

So cool. My husband is retired Navy and I hope the next generations get to see the same kind of things. History   
1402 days ago



**1DAY-ATA-TIME**

Awesome pictures. You are indeed a special person for maintaining the website of these veterans. Even though I have never had the privilege to serve, I thank you for those who have, especially for your Dad and the sailors of the USS Philadelphia,  
1402 days ago



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