

From: "Michael G Workman" <michael_g_workman@hotmail.com>
To: Richard Retin <retinr@mail.com>, ET1 David Cross <decross@acm.org>
CC:
Subject: RE: Fallen shipmates Canopus
Date: Wed, 9 Apr 2008 21:17:52 -0400

Thanks for the help, my dad had friends on the USS Canopus and until now many of them did not know what has happened to him.

My father from 1967 - 1972 spent his time alternating between USS Canopus and Navy Guided Missile School at Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, VA.

After completing ET A school and Polaris Missile School he was stationed on the Canopus in 1967 at Rota Spain. He was on Canopus when it went to Bremerton Washington in 68 or 69, and also he was on board when it went to Mexico, through the Panama Canal, and onto Guantanamo bay, Cuba, and Charleston, South Carolina, he was also on board when it left Charleston, South Carolina for Scotland I believe in 1970. He met my mother in Scotland while on board Canopus in 1971, they were married and I was born in 1972 in Dunoon Scotland. Later my brother was born in Scotland.

My dad told me he took me on board Canopus at Holy Loch Scotland when I was only a few months old. I have a pewter mug that he got from the First Class Mess in 1972 after he departed to go to new duty station at Guided Missile School Dam Neck.

IN 1975 my dad left Virginia and was on board Canopus again at Rota Spain from 1975 - 1979. I vaguely remember being on the ship several times usually to go to the first class mess to eat with my father and the rest of my family. I liked doing this alot since the food was a break from the food we ate at home, and also I always remembered the Mess had cakes and Soda, which is another reason I liked it so much. I remember they always showed movies on the Canopus, one of them was 'Midway' and another was 'Fire on the Forrestal', US Navy kind of movies of course.

My family lived first in Chipiona, Spain, then later in the base housing at Rota. I believe on Calle del Jaen just a few blocks away from the David Farrugut elementary school. My mother did not like Spain very much, but I remember I liked Spain very much as a kid. IN 1979 my dad was once again stationed at Guided Missile School in Virginia. in 1983 he was assigned his last duty station on USS Simon Lake (a sub tender) at Kings Bay Submarine Base, he retired in 1985 with twenty years service as an ET1.

I remember the Canopus was always a big part of my family when I was a child, thier were many Canopus plaques on the wall in our house, my father was always talking about the ship, and there were many ships parties and division parties that my family went to, I remember liking these parties very much because there were always soda and snacks available which me and my brother only got occasionally at home. My family only had one car in Spain my mother would drive my dad to the pier so he could get on the ship and I remember watching him going up the brow to the Canopus from far away.

I like the Canopus website, unfortunately my father passed away in March 1996, I was in Navy Recruit Training at great Lakes and went on emergency leave. I am unsure of the exact date of his passing, the 25th or the 26th. I was very close to my father and had a very good relationship with him.

It's too bad my father is not around now I am sure he would be pleased to get back in touch with his former friends and shipmates.

So in summary he was on Canopus from 1967 - 1972, and from 1975 - 1979. Retired in 1985, and passed away in March 1996.

I will provide some more info in the future, and some photos also. Thanks.

Michael G. Workman

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