

**Hank Huber, LTjg** attended the 2019 reunion and reunited with Russ Judah, LCDR USN Ret. Hank recalls the ASW Officer of the Frank Knox was a naval aviator who lost his flight qualification and was sent to the Frank Knox as the ASW officer. His name was Harry Carter and he reported aboard January 11, 1951. Carter wrote a book titled “The Life and Loves of a United States Naval Aviator”. In his book Carter writes about the skipper of the Frank Knox in 1951, Captain Caldwell, who was “a master of ship handling” according to Harry Carter. Huber and Judah echo high praise for Captain Caldwell.

Huber recalls Carter as older and did not stay on the ship very long before moving on to another command. Huber served as the ship’s DCA (damage control assistant) before moving on to the weapons department. Before Huber the DCA was Russ Judah!

Huber recalled another more somber memory. In August 5, 1952, at 0530, USS Boxer CV-21 suffered a fire in an aircraft fuel tank aboard ship. The resulting fire killed 8 and damaged 18 aircraft. The fire raged on the carrier’s flight deck for 4-5 hours before being extinguished. In addition to the 8 dead, 1 missing 1 critically injured and 1 seriously burned 70 were overcome by smoke. Sixtythree men went over the side to escape the flames and smoke. Huber begins his story here: “The Frank Knox was joining the formation when fire broke out. As the fire spread crew members fighting the fire were trapped in spaces behind the hanger deck and were driven by the heat 63 jumped overboard into the dark and frigid waters to save themselves”. Huber was in CIC at the time. His first notice of trouble was “man overboard” from the ship’s speakers. In response to “what’s going on” he was told that a fire on the Boxer was forcing men into the sea. The Frank Knox rescued 5 men according to Huber’s notes. Most of the other men were rescued by helos or picked up by the other escort with Frank Knox. Men from Boxer were seen throwing life preservers to shipmates in the water. Huber notes differ from the internet version – Huber reports 56 men overboard from Boxer, 7 were lost. Boxer’s damage control personnel fought the fire with the overhead sprinkler system, causing significant water to cascade down into the lower levels of the ship, causing it to list. Huber estimates the list of 11-12 degrees. The Admiral shifted his flag to another carrier and the Boxer made a trip to Yokosuka Japan for repairs.

Huber attended the 2019 Reunion in San Diego and reconnected with another wardroom officer, Russ Judah. Huber left active duty and later became a professor at Michigan State University. Escorting Huber to the 2019 reunion was Huber’s grandson, Brian. They were great company, enjoyed by all.



**CREWS BATTLE A FIRE ABOARD  
THE USS BOXER'S. WATER CAUSE THE SHIP to LIST**



**USS *Boxer* (CV/CVA/CVS-21, LPH-4)** was one of 24 [Essex-class aircraft carriers](#) of the [United States Navy](#), and the fifth ship to be named for [HMS \*Boxer\*](#). She was launched on 14 December 1944 and christened by the daughter of a [US Senator](#) from [Louisiana](#).

