

November 17. 2015

Name

Dale Gibson

Email

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Rating

FTA3

What was your Division?

FOX

Dates Served on Des Moines

Feb. 1958 until July 1961

How did you find this website?

I go to the Daisy May site once in a while.

Where do you currently live?

Farm in Knox county Ohio Gambier Mailing address

Comment

Looking at the roster of shipmates that I served with I noticed that 2 of my (deceased) buddies are not listed in Fox division. Robert G Kondrath # 1796 and James S Vass # 3305 Kondrath and Vass and I worked together in the main battery. Spot 2 over the course of 3 years 5 months that I was on Des Moines I worked in both Gun directors and both plotting rooms in the Main battery. Before I close I want to say that if I had not served on the Des Moines during my teen years (I had my 18 th my 19 th and my twentieth birthday on board) God only knows how I would have turned out. As it turned out I retired from the state of Ohio as a Maintenance Director. Thanks to the discipline and education that I received on board.

Thanks Dale Gibson

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/a19668/1953-video-how-mechanical-computers-work/>

This 1953 training film has you covered. Forty minutes long (all of them good, I promise), it provides a slow, coherent, and exhaustive explanation of *exactly* how gears can do math, all framed in the context of the Navy's now-ancient but still mind-blowingly impressive fire control computers.

Well Dale,

I hope you can learn something from this film.

But, it is probably too late.

Jerry "Manny" Manriquez

Jerry

You are right it's too late. I ran forward main battery and after main battery plot for 2 years, And in all that time I only recall one time that we had a problem with

one of the Mark 1 Able analog computers. In FMBP our 1st class PO Harold Ratka (Deceased Oct. 2015) used a 24" screwdriver and went in and made an adjustment. it was fixed and we had no more problems. Back in the nineteen eighties they considered bringing the Des Moines & Salem out of moth balls instead they refurbished the Iowa and the Wisconsin, An Admiral was asked are you planning on replacing the fire control computers with modern digital ones ? He replied NO they might be faster but they are no better. They were amazing machines. The reason they brought the BB back instead of the Cruisers was there was not enough room on the after deck and down below, to install the Cruise missile systems.

Dale
