



YANCEY MEMORIES

Coordinator Message : **George Clifton** - clifs@ameritech.net



I'm glad to see that Winter is finally coming to an end. It was a rough one for many parts of the country so hopefully you all made it through without too much hardship. We have been working hard planning the 2019 reunion in Buffalo. The Yancey website has been updated with all the available information about tours and the itinerary. You are able to register for your room and for the reunion from the website: www.ussyancey.com . It may be a good idea to at least reserve your room now as we are expecting a good turnout since two additional ships are joining us. If necessary you can always cancel with no cost. Those without website access please contact me and I will send you the information. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. I hope to see many of you there.

This is also the time for our annual funds drive. If you can give that's great and if you can't that's okay as well. We appreciate whatever we receive.

George Clifton



2019 REUNION - BUFFALO, NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 5th through 9th, 2019

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

I thought I would pass along my "Yancey Small World Moment" for your readers. About 10 years ago I was setting in the barber's chair getting my hair cut and listening to a conversation taking place in the chair next to me. The occupant was talking about his service during and after WWII. He mentioned that he had been on a ship that had taken him to Antarctica right after the war ended, and I asked him what type of ship it was. An AKA he replied. I then told him that I too had served on an AKA and could he tell me the name of his ship? USS Yancey he replied.

We became friends from that moment on and, since he did not use computers, I printed every Yancey newsletter I could and gave them to him to read. My friend's name was Jim Borzillo and he was an electrician aboard the Yancey around 1946 or 47. Jim passed away several years back, but we were able to have many hours of conversation about our Yancey days during visits to the barber shop.

My service on the Yancey was from July 1964 to July 1965. Keep up the good work.

Gordon House, BM3

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS STANLEY MATTSON?

I was on board the Yancey in '61 & '62.

I've been looking for a close friend I ran around with while serving on her, his name is Stanley Mattson, he was an SK. I think this is a storekeeper rate, I was a Radioman. I transferred off to the Thetis Bay in '62 and lost track of him, got out in '63.

I started my search about 5 years ago but haven't been able to find him yet, was wondering if you have access to the ship's old records that may shed a light on where his home was? A lot of people are on Facebook today, including me, but he's not.

Jerry Nicholas
Oklahoma City, OK
jerry@swantrans.com

A DADS YANCEY MEMORIES TO HIS FAMILY

Recently, my mother shared your newsletter, "Yancey Memories", and I was inspired to share my father's memories with you. My father, Donald Raymond Charron, served in the Navy from 1945-1949. He memorialized some of his best memories while aboard the U.S.S. Yancey. Though his time on the "Yancey" was short, fall 1946-March 1947, he was a participant of the Central Group for Operation High Jump...We are very proud of his service to our country and hope others will find his memories interesting.

Mark D. Charron
(editors note: this is an edited excerpt from Donald Charron's 13 page memoir).

I enlisted in the Navy....to see some of the world and encounter some adventure. My orders were to report to the USS Yancey. What I was about to experience was far beyond my imagination. We were assigned to Task Force 68 with the Merrick, Coast Guard Ice Breaker Northwind, a communication ship the Mount Olympus, the sub Sennett and the USS Burton Island an ice breaker. The mission was called the U.S. Navy Antarctic Development Project of 1946-47 and would later be known as Operation High Jump. There would be two other Task Force 68 groups...including 7 other US Naval vessels....continued

A DADS YANCEY MEMORIES TO HIS FAMILY continued

(2 seaplane tenders, 2 oil tankers, 2 destroyers and an aircraft carrier).

The Yancey departed Norfolk...in late October of 1946 for the Panama Canal...upon our arrival at Port Hueneme, Ca...we began loading supplies. When finished, our cargo holes were filled to the max and our decks loaded with vehicles, sleds, weasels, and other gear....The crew were all issued special clothing, head cover, boots and gloves. We also received special sun goggles that were a must to protect against snow blindness. We had our last liberty for some time to come.

We departed...and crossed the equator Dec 9, 1946...the polliwogs were about to go through the test of becoming a Shellback. I had a very red butt for a few days. The seas were calm for 6 or 7 days as we approached the Antarctic Circle the winds picked up...the seas became heavy...we pitched and rolled for more than 48 hours. Many of the crew became sea sick, for some of us it was our first time at sea. I was one of the luck ones. I did not get sea sick. We rendezvoused with the rest of the Central group at Scott Island and refueled from the USS Canisteo; becoming the first ship ever to conduct an underway refueling below the Antarctic Circle.

Our group would be the only ships going through the 600 mile ice pack to the Bay of Whales. The days were getting longer with only about an hour of slight darkness around midnight. It was at this time that the ice pack's spectacular bright glow and brilliant colors in the distant sky came into view; the most awe inspiring sight that I have ever experienced and never will forget. The ice breaker Northwind in the lead cutting the way through the ice...forward progress was very slow and we would at times come to a complete stop. The thick ice was beginning it's squeeze on us, and we started to spring leaks...at one point it looked hopeless...the Northwind's chopper found a way out around the thick ice. It took another 6 days breaking through the ice pack before we reached the open waters of the Ross Sea. The sea (was surrounded by) a wall of Ice 70 feet high as far as the eye could see. We arrived at the Bay of Whales on 1/15/1945, where we saw many large whales surface. Deep holes were dug in the ice and large wooden timbers were buried with cable attached to moor to. Offloading the cargo began immediately as time was of importance. We would have to leave before freezing inside the Bay of Whales began....Antarctic summers are short. We worked six hour shifts, six on six off with a meal between each shift. After all the equipment and supplies we unloaded...we began working at the base camp,. Most of the work was preparing the landing strip for the R4D's that would be coming soon....the Seabees set up the camp site and the landing strip (Little America IV), The aircraft would be based here making flights over the Antarctic continent mapping millions of square miles.

There were camps and equipment from earlier Byrd expeditions buried 20 feet or more below the surface. One spot of special interest was the Snow Cruiser that the Byrd expedition of 1939 brought to the pole. When I was in grammar school we would get My Weekly Reader and I can recall seeing a photo of the Snow Cruiser. A trench had been cut down one of the entrances and we were able to enter the interior of this huge vehicle...we found chocolate, candy bars, cough drops, boxes of envelopes with pictures of the Snow Cruiser, we grabbed souvenirs. When the R4D's...landed at base camp a few days later, Admiral Byrd's plane was the first to land making the 800 miles flight from the aircraft carrier USS Philippine Sea. On February 6, 1947 the Yancey, Merrick, Mount Olympus and the Northwind departed.. All of the ships had some damage. The bows and sides...were dented and the Merrick had a damage prop, lost her rudder and had to be towed.

If you would like to read the full 13 pages of Donald's memoir email us at info@iawards.com and we'll send you back a .pdf copy of the full memoir.

USS Yancey Reunion Group



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A Newsletter Exclusively
for Former USS Yancey
(AKA-93) Sailors & their
Families

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THE WORLD IS OUR BEACHHEAD

Shipmate Who Has Passed

Johnnie Carter
1950-1954
deceased 12/20/2014.

Send us a story about your experiences aboard
the Yancey, and/or send us any pictures you
might like to share to:

George at clifs@ameritech.net or
Ric at info@iawards.com or to both.

Help us share your Yancey Memories

