



YANCEY MEMORIES

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I hope everyone is healthy and enjoying the hot Summer. First I want to thank those that contributed to the annual fundraiser. Your generosity is what allows us to print and mail these newsletters.



Please read the information about the Dallas Reunion as it is the last information you will receive prior to the reunion. It's extremely expensive to print and mail 300 registration requests as we did in the past and it's not cost effective. Since there are now more than two ships attending the reunion the name has been changed to Amphibious Ships Reunion for simplicity sake for the hotel and reunion service. However I will continue to call it the Yancey Reunion and advertise it as such. I think this will be a great reunion and I hope to see many of you there.



WELCOME TO DALLAS BIG THINGS HAPPEN HERE

The 2018 Reunion at the DFW Marriott South

2018 USS Yancey Reunion

Don't miss the Amphibious Ships Reunion in Dallas Texas October 25th thru October 29th. Our host hotel is the DFW Marriott Airport South. Our Friday agenda includes Fort Worth City Tour, Bureau of Engraving and Printing and NSA Fort Worth. Saturday we go on a Dallas City tour including a visit to the Bush Presidential Library. Sunday we visit the JFK Museum, 6th Floor Book Depository and Historic Grapevine. Sunday evening the reunion concludes with the Banquet Dinner. The fully stocked hospitality room will be available for those not going on tours. When you call the hotel refer to the reunion as Amphibious Ships Reunion as that is the name the hotel and reunion service have our group under.

This is the last notice you will receive regarding the reunion so go to www.ussyancey.com Home Page under "Click Here to Register" to get more detailed information and register. It's necessary to call the hotel direct for a room reservation but you can register for the reunion on line or by mail. For those that plan to attend and need a paper copy just email clifs@ameritech.net or call 708-425-8531 and I will send you a copy.

The Adventures of the Wayward Bell—Part 2



To continue the story from the last edition of Yancey Memories we've been getting help from several sources including a local resident of Rockland, Maine who tells us the picture on of the Yancey Shore Beer Party was not in Rockland but nearby in Owls Head, which is where the bell was found it's several miles from Rockland. We do not know how or when the bell wound up there and don't know for sure where it is today, though there is a good possibility that its the bell on display in the Rockland Lighthouse Museum.

Yancey crew member Jerry Nicolas shares his first hand account.

The story starts in Norfolk, VA (home port), we were taking on supplies for our trip, I was standing on the main deck leaning against the railing watching everything when I noticed they were loading several pallets of beer in cases. This was very unusual as I've never seen this before, I talked with some of the other sailors about it but they were as much in the dark as I was as to why the beer was loaded. Nothing was ever said about it, no rumors were floating around, so we all forgot about it.

When we got to Rockland, ME it was announced we were going to have a beach party, thus the reason for the beer. We could land on the beach in our liberty boats, the same boats that carried the Marines to the beaches in WWII. Not everyone could leave the ship at the same time so we set up different waves, about 30 to 40 in the first wave, which I was a part of, when we got drunk and too sunburned then they would come back and the second wave was to go ashore. We never made it to the second wave. We had no way to chill the beer so we drank it hot, after you got a little tipsy, it didn't matter if the beer was hot or cold. It was all canned beer, no glass bottles, didn't want to take a chance on having broken glass on the beach. Some of the guys played volleyball, some football, some went swimming, some just walked along the beach, some did nothing, just sat in the sand and drank the beer.

The Adventures of the Wayward Bell—Part 2...continued

After 2-3 hours of steady beer drinking about 5 or 6 of the guys got bored and decided to go exploring, there was this hill, it was about 30' high so they climbed up it. It was close to the water, about 100' or so from the waters edge so it was permissible to go this far, no one could leave the beach and go into town though. Once they got to the top they saw the bell, it was pretty good size, couldn't tell how large it was, it was buried deep in the sand. so they decided to dig the sand out from around it. They used sticks and their hands, it was all sand so it was pretty easy digging. Once they got the hole large enough they could see it was about 2' tall, it looked heavy but no one had any idea how heavy. So they went to the next step, let's lift it up out of the hole, and they did this too, keep in mind, it was only about 5-6 of the guys, and drunk on top of it, how they were able to lift it up is anybody's guess. So then they had to go to the next step, let's see it roll down the hill, and they did it. They rolled it over to the edge of the hill, one little shove and away it goes. When one of them hollered out "Geronimo" I looked up and saw the bell come rolling down the hill, landing on the beach, but didn't go in the water. Those guys were pretty proud of themselves, they came running down the hill telling everyone else, look what we found. So all of us had to walk up close to it, inspect it, touch it, and congratulate the ones who dug it up.

About this time our stay on the beach was up, it was time for the 2nd wave to come ashore to get drunk, so in comes the liberty boats with a bunch of sober sailors, the drunk ones got in the boats and went back to the ship. Of course the drunk swabbies had to tell the sober ones the bell story, so we were a little delayed in loading up the boats. Then the word spread all over the ship, the Captain got wind of it, canceled the beach party, sent the boats after the sober sailors who never had the time to get drunk. When they got back on board ship, the Captain got on the intercom, he was one mad bugger. he reamed everyone out up one side and down the other, saying now he has to go into town to apologize in person to the Mayor and the citizens of Rockland. When he gets back he'll decide on what punishment to award everyone that was on the beach party.

The next morning he got on the intercom again, he was a little calmer this time. He told us the Mayor and city council met him at the Mayors office, before he could apologize on behalf of his crew, the Mayor congratulated him on his sailors getting that bell off the top of the hill. They have been trying for years to get that bell down, they wanted it in town to put on display. They have had men out there with shovels several times with no luck, even brought a dozer to the site, dug around it, hooked a chain to it, couldn't budge it, so they gave up on it. The whole town was proud of these 5-6 drunk sailors and was forever in their debt. This is what saved our butts, their gratitude. But he said we're not getting off the hook that easy. The entire wave, all 30-40 of us had to go back on the beach, get some timber (the townspeople furnished this), pick that bell up, carry it into town and place it where the Mayor wanted it. Then the ones that dug the bell up had to give the Mayor their personal apology. That same day, after everyone got back on board, we pulled anchor and went back to doing what we came there to do.

That's the way it happened, hope you enjoyed the story.

If you have a Yancey story share it with us, we would be happy to research the info and help you with the story, contact us at clifs@ameritech.net



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

We Are Sad To Report The Passing of Crewmates:

Billy Lucky
1952-1956
Deceased 4/10/2017

Allen Marion
1955-1956 BT2
Deceased 11/29/2017

Karl Orth
1956-1957 BT2
Deceased 1988

William V. Oliver
1944-1946 S1/C
Deceased 10/2017

Tyrell White
1961-1963 MM2
Deceased 3/10/2015

ANOTHER BELL STORY

In doing the Rockland bell story we found the current home of our USS YANCEY Ships Bell ,it's now located at the Naval Air Station in Meridian , Mississippi. The picture is from 2012, our bell was used to honor of the Navy's 237th Birthday as a reminder of the history, heritage and accomplishments of the Naval Service.

