



YANCEY MEMORIES



COORDINATORS MESSAGE

As I write this all signs seem to be pointing towards life returning to some semblance of normal. The Corona vaccine is being given to more each day and especially to our most vulnerable age group. I've gotten both shots and hope all of you have as well. Based on this, plans have been made for the 2021 Reunion to take place in Annapolis, Maryland September 20 through 24. All of the information is available on the USS Yancey website, www.ussyancey.com. It looks like a great itinerary and I suggest as last year

make hotel reservations as soon as possible. You can always cancel hotel reservations several days before. It is important to tell the hotel that you are with the Amphibious Ships Reunion to get the negotiated room rate. As always feel free to contact me with any questions. I hope to see many of you there. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. We appreciate the stories you send us about your time on the Yancey and in the Navy. Remember this newsletter is for you and about you, the more stories you submit the better.

George Clifton

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THE YANCEY REPURPOSED

A little background, the USS Yancey was named in honor of Yancey County, NC, the county was named in honor of Bartlett Yancey, Jr. (February 19, 1785 – August 30, 1828) a Democratic-Republican U.S. Congressman. The USS Yancey was decommissioned for the final time in January 1971, and struck from the Naval Vessel Register in January 1977. After being stripped of salvageable materials, the ship was sunk as an artificial reef off the North Carolina coast in 1990. The ship is intact and rests on her starboard side at a depth of 160 feet (49 m)....and we have pictures.....

MIKE "O" BOY OLEARY & THE BLACK EYE

I was stationed on the USS Yancey from June 1966 till January 1968, along with my brother Skip. We deployed on a Med Cruise in November 1966. In early March of 1967, we were headed to Malta. It was announced that there was going to be a "Boxing Smoker" between men on the ships in our Task Force, including the Marines and would take place on the USS Spiegel Grove (LSD-32). There were four of us from the Yancey that signed Dickerson, Snider, Shope and myself. We now had almost a whole week to train in our time off. I had no experience in boxing so I didn't realize that by saying I weighed 154 pounds (actually I weigh 140 pounds) I would be fighting a guy bigger and heavier than myself. Inexperience at its worst. My brother Skip was the corner man give me water, fix my cuts, encourage me and during the fight if he saw a weakness in my opponent, he would point it out to me. My opponent had no weaknesses. The fights were to take place in the "well deck" of the Spiegel Grove, they constructed a ring in the well deck, they also built bleachers for all the C.O.'s and X.O.'s of Task Force and the Marine Brass. There were other bleachers all around the boxing ring for the Sailors and Marines. The Spiegel Grove made up "programs" I was in the sixth bout, they named me "O" BOY OLEARY", I was matched to fight a "lifer" Marine named "DYNAMITE DILLDINE". His body



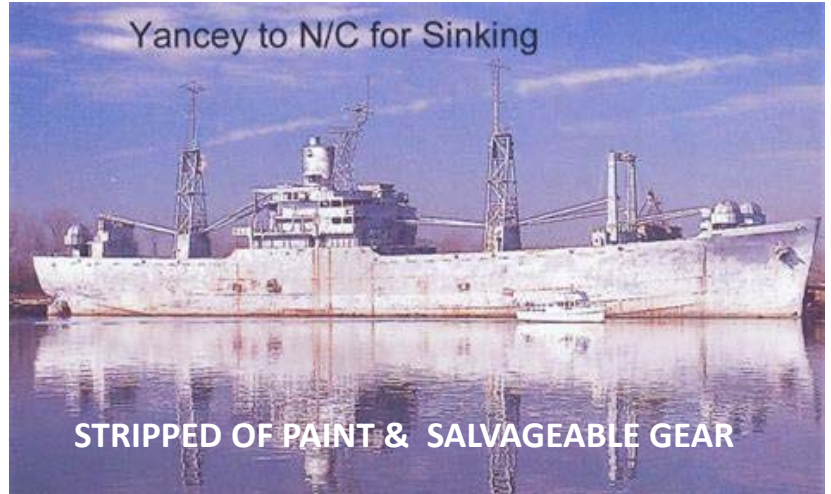
was solid muscle, even his eyebrows had muscles. We were to fight 3 rounds of 3 minutes each. If there was no knockout a panel of judges would decide the winner. The bell rang and I went out into the middle of the ring I walked into a buzz saw. He hit me so hard that I could not believe that one person could hit another person so hard and NOT KILL them. He knocked me down 3 times in the first round. The second round was not much different except I think he only knocked me down twice, I was gaining experience or maybe his arms were getting tired of hitting me. The second round ended and I went back to my corner, there I was met by my corner man, my brother Skip, he had a big smile on his face, I didn't think this was too funny so

I said why are you looking so happy. He explained, "this is great I am going to get to go home on emergency leave to escort your body home because this guy is going to KILL YOU". So much for support and encouragement. The third round was pretty much like the first two, I got knocked down everyone cheered, I got back up and got knocked down again. The bell rang ending the fight. The ref raised Dynamite Dilldine's hand and he was declared the winner. We shook hands and laughed. I went into the mess decks to change my clothes. The ranking Marine, who I believe was a full bird, came down from the bleachers and first shook my hand and said that was the best fight he had ever seen at one of these boxing smokers. He kept saying "great fight, great fight". He then went over and congratulated his Marine. I went to Dynamite Dilldine and we shook hands again. (Continued on page 4)



THE YANCEY REPURPOSED continued...

In 1997 a local NC diver Paul M. Hudy posted some pictures of the Yancey and noted she is very large and quite an impressive site in clear water.



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

Shipmates Who Have Passed

Lyle Nelson
YN1 51-54
Deceased 12/7/2020

John Mesamore
Deceased 2020

Gerald Stein
EM3 44-46
Deceased 4/5/2018

MIKE "O" BOY OLEARY & THE BLACK EYE

My left eye was blackened and starting to swell shut, however, Dynamite Dilldine right eye was blackened and had a cut over it and it was bleeding. It was a great fight, great experience: I can really appreciate what kind of shape, training, and strength you need to be a boxer. My boxing career ended with that fight, not because of my inability to box but it was that my hands got damaged in the fight because the referee kept stepping on them. Mike O'Leary - MOL5142@AOL.COM

NEW USS YANCEY REUNION GROUP CREW MEMBER

Welcome aboard Robert Morris, Yancey BM 1966-1970, Robert lives in Medford, NJ
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