

# YANCEY MEMORIES

Volume 16, Issue 2

April 2012



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION

*Editor's Note: For the April issue of the Yancey Memories newsletter, I sent out an e-mail requesting that you send in a story about a deployment that you remember. From the internet I found some examples of cruises or deployments that the USS Yancey had been a part of. Some of the ones I found were as follows:*

- Tokyo Bay during Japanese Instrument of Surrender
- Operation Highjump 1947
- Cuban Missile Crisis 1962
- Dominican Republic 1965

*We received only two stories which I really appreciate. Please send in your story for the next issue. Here are the two stories:*

From **Leo McCluskey:**

I remember the Dominican Republic very

well. That morning we had set the Special Sea and Anchor detail in preparations for entering San Juan for a Liberty Call. The members of OI division that were not required to be at their stations were standing around in their dress whites waiting for the ship to anchor and they could go ashore.

Since I had no assigned station for entering port, I was checking the Operations station to ensure all was well. The Radioman on watch came into CIC and said I should see this message. It was an Op-Immediate to the ship directing us to detach from our assigned duties and proceed to Santo Domingo and commence evacuating Americans from the island and transport to San Juan.

Naturally the CO came on the 1MC and passed the word to the ships'

company which brought many unkind words with regard to the lost liberty call and the change back into working uniforms and all that goes with a complete change of plans.

The ship proceeded to Santo Domingo and anchored in Hiena Bay. We launched our Mike boats and proceeded to embark approximately 550 civilians for the trip to San Juan. This influx of civilians made for some hurried constructions on the Fantail.

I remember the 1st class mess was turned over to a group of single ladies. I don't remember who was moved into the Chief's quarters but another group of ladies were placed in the wardroom.

As I remember the crew made do with all the accommodations very cheerfully, rendering what assistance was

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**USS YANCEY  
2012 REUNION  
OCT. 4-7  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
HANDLERY HOTEL**

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*"Our Reunions Work So You don't Have To"*

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required.

One woman gave birth during the trip and promptly named the child Yancey. The Captain authorized cigars for the crew and the cooks whipped up a huge cake for the celebration.

We made one more trip to evacuate people and I believe that we ended up taking some of the rebels on that trip.

One funny thing that comes to mind is that two days before the notice of our trip to Santo Domingo, the 1st class corpsman Richard Healy took me down to a storage section that was loaded with supplies for just such an arrangements as this. I remarked about all the baby food and other supplies that would be required in the event we had to embark civilians. Little did I know that a week later we would be into that supply storage area to break out these same supplies.

The ship was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for this evaluation.

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From **Jack Snow, RM SN 64-65:**

I was a member of the ship's crew in 64-65 and aboard for the Dominican Republic mission. I well remember giving up our bunks and berthing spaces for the women and children so we could camp out under the stars; the makeshift "priviceys" erected over the fantail along with the consternation it caused some of the officers with the VIPs greeting us as we tied up pierside at San Juan.

Yes, the birth of Stephen Yancey Paez was a major celebration (his middle name in honor of "YA-YA".) The off-loading/on-loading of cargo and supplies for the return trip to Santo Domingo, where we then ran them into the beach via LCMs and LCVPs while the Dominican Republic Air Force P-51 Mustangs flew their missions over the area.

Upon our second arrival at San

Juan, with the last of our evacuees, we off/on loaded cargo and supplies when an officer in starched whites stopped a couple of us on the work party and called us out for the condition of our uniforms (of course HE wasn't one of the crew doing without showers, laundry services, etc.).

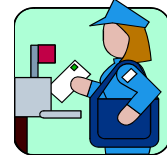
Shortly after our return to homeport Norfolk, VA, I received my requested transfer orders to Vietnam. (I volunteered for it—the starched necked officer in San Juan had nothing to do with it.)

When I first reported aboard Yancey during her yardwork period at Charleston, I had my "young sailor proud" picture superimposed on a color picture of the Yancey for my mom, and she had it on the mantle back home. Two of my uncles were visiting for a family event, and both went wide-eyed when they noticed it. They asked my mom about it and when she told them it was indeed the Yancey. They told her that as young Army infantrymen, they had shipped out together aboard her for the Korean War in the early 50s. That was a somewhat unique family connection.

At the conclusion of Henry Diebel's article he thought Yancey had been sold for scrap. She was sunk off one of the Carolinas in 1990 as an artificial reef, and sport divers can dive on her. "She still proudly serves."

*Note to clarify:* The "YA-YA" came from the eight LCMs she carried with two facing port and two facing starboard, fore and aft.. They were identified (for assembly prior to assault and for beachmaster recognition) by "YA" painted on the drop ramp, so two together was "YA-YA"—but you probably already knew that, right?

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## MAIL CALL

Editor USS Yancey Memories,

One late summer weekend in 1964, we were all shipshape and starched for a Captain's Inspection when another ship close by "blew stacks," causing some soot to settle on our decks. Operations Division not on watch were assembled on the signal bridge too far and too late for dockside disposal. A couple of us assisted the signal's crew and quickly swept it up and someone grabbed a large envelope from the desk, we dumped in the soot, and the envelope was sealed and tossed into the tray, barely in time to form ranks as the CO, XO, OPS Officer, Eng Officer and a clipboard carrying Yeoman topped the ladder. Everything was going well until the XO spotted the envelope. Of course he noticed what we in our haste had not. It was stamped "Confidential Classified Material." He grabbed it up while speaking in his 'XO voice,' "What is this classified material doing in the open?" As he was ripping it open (probably to prove his point), yup—black soot all over his/our/CO's/etc. starched whites.

Oh, well, we really didn't need liberty that weekend after all, and I guess it was worth it for all the laughs we have gotten from the incident over the years.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jack Snow**  
 RMSN 64-65

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## WELCOME MAT

The following shipmate has been located since the last newsletter. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

**Mike Monteiro**

mikemonteiro@comcast.net



## TAPS

The Yancey Memories was notified of the following shipmate's death. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of the deceased. Anyone who knows of a deceased shipmate, or learns of one, please notify ML & RS, Inc so their names can be included in TAPS and be added to the Honor Roll.

**John Kerr**

(1952-55) RM2 O Div  
Died January 21, 2012

## E-MAIL FROM GRANDPA

O.M.G. I'm so rich. Silver in my hair. Gold in my teeth. Crystals in my kidneys. Sugar in the blood. Lead in the rear. Iron in the arteries and an inexhaustible supply of natural gas. I never thought I'd accumulate such wealth!

## A Word from Your Coordinator

I hope everyone is enjoying the unusually mild winter weather we are having in most of the country this year and that it continues through the summer.

I just wanted to remind everyone to sign up for the reunion as soon as possible this year or at least let us know that you plan to attend. Four of us have already made flight reservations in anticipation of a great reunion in San Diego. The reunion we had there in 2001 was one of our best with a great attendance. So enjoy your summer and look forward to receiving more information in the next newsletter.

George Clifton

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Balance after 01/12

**\$349.92**

Funds received since 01/12

**\$30.00**

Funds available for 04/12

**\$379.92**

Funds expended for 04/12

**\$132.86**

Balance for 07/12

**\$246.34**

The newsletter is being mailed only to those who returned the coupon for USPS service. All others can access the newsletter on line at [www.mlrsinc.com/yancey](http://www.mlrsinc.com/yancey).

Send your contributions to Premier Reunion Services at our address on the cover of the newsletter. Be sure to state that is for Yancey Memories.

## NAME HAS CHANGED, SERVICE REMAINS THE SAME

Effective Jan 2, 2012, Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc was sold to Premier Reunion Services, LLC. 2012 will be a transition year as we switch from the old name and contact information to the new. We will continue to use both names and post office boxes for this year, but you can start using

the new one right away!

Other than the name and mailing address change, you should not notice any differences in the service you receive. We pledge to continue providing you with the best possible reunion at the best possible price!

**Premier Reunion Services**  
dba Military Locator & Reunion Service

Dina Coffey  
General Manager

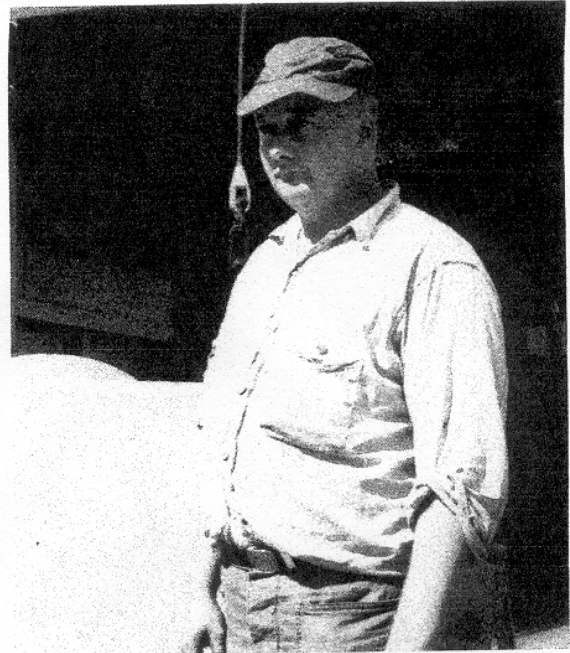
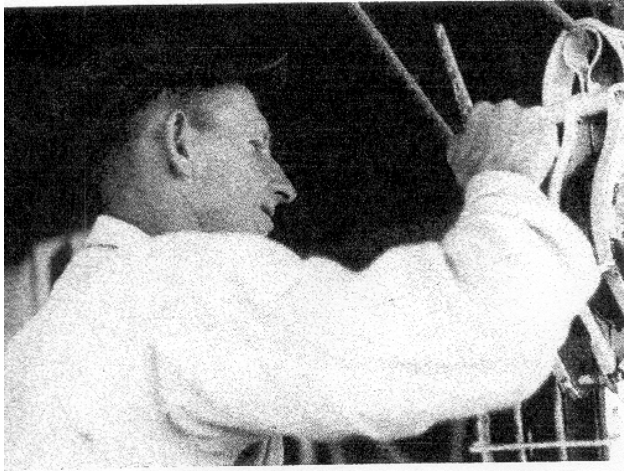
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# FROM THE USS YANCEY AKA 93 MED CRUISE 1962

Submitted by Phil Messer EN2 Then, Retired 1979 as ENCM



L. Gilliland, SN

W. Hastings, SA

F. Last, SN

H. Marler, SN

V. Newsted, SN

C. Russell SN



L. Souders, SN

T. Stankus, SN

W. Suchy, SN

C. Claxton, SA

R. Kohl, SA

J. Valente, SN

