A NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR FORMER USS YANCEY (AKA-93) SAILORS

YANCEY MEMORIES



Volume 14, Issue 4

October 2010

2010 BOSTON REUNION RECAP

Boston. Massachusetts was the location 2010 USS for the Yancey (AKA-93) reunion. Sixteen former shipmates from the Yancey and eight of their guests enjoyed the four day/ three night event on October 7-10, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Foxboro, Massachusetts. Everyone began arriving on Thursday, October 7 and the first thing most of them did after registering was to go into the hospitality room to see who else had arrived. At 5:00 pm the Welcome Reception brought everyone together for the first time and the reunion was officially underway. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served during the reception as everyone made the rounds to see and greet old friends. Five new attendees were welcomed this year and they quickly were made to feel part of the group. The remainder of the evening was free to catch up on what had been going on and to trade stories over dinner and in the hospitality room.

Friday morning provided perfect weather for the first tour of the reunion weekend. At 9:00 am the group left the hotel to tour various sites in the city of Boston. First stop was Fenway Park one of the oldest ballparks in the country. After reboarding the bus the tour continued through several Boston neighborhoods including Beacon Hill, home of the Boston elite: passing Cheers along the way we continued to the Boston Commons once used for grazing cattle, hangings and duels. The Massachusetts State House across from the Boston Commons marks the start of the historic Freedom Trail. After a brief tour of downtown Boston we departed the bus for a walking tour that led us past the childhood home of Rose Kennedy and the home of Paul Revere. Just up the street from Paul Revere's home is the Old North Church made famous for its tower that



was used on April 18, 1775 to signal the British would be attacking Lexington and Concord by sea. That battle was the start of the Revolutionary War. Next stop was Quincy Market where the group enjoyed

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Special points of interest:

- You'll enjoy all the stories from your shipmates that are in this issue.
- Be sure to fill out the New Orleans survey on page 8 so we can begin planning your 2011 reunion. It will be a wonderful experience!

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lunch and shopping before returning to the hotel.

After returning to the hotel in the afternoon, the annual business meeting was held to determine the location of the 2011 reunion and the leadership for the next year. **George Clifton** was again chosen as reunion coordinator and New Orleans, LA was selected as the 2011 reunion site. The dates of the reunion will be either the first or second weekend of October.

At 6:00 pm the social hour began and everyone returned to the Cottonwood Room for the "New England Dinner Buffet" which of course included clams and Boston Scrod. After dinner George Clifton welcomed everyone and each shipmate introduced themselves and their guests. Next was a game to test our memory of old radio commercials. While pens were being obtained Duane Malme was kind enough to entertain the group with his rendition of "I want to be a Dog"; acapella no less. Ed McLaughlin was the winner of the contest getting 11 of 20 correct. Ed was once in Radio, so probably should have gotten more than 11 correct, but still received a Boston t-shirt and a round of applause

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from his shipmates. Many of the attendees returned to the hospitality room for some more stories and reminiscing after the evening's activities.

Saturday morning, after a hearty breakfast, the historic tour of Boston continued with a trip to the Charlestown Navy Yard, home of the USS Constitution, the world's oldest floating commissioned naval vessel. The Charles-



town Navy Yard is now maintained by the National Park Service and includes the USS Constitution Museum, the USS Cassin Young (Fletcher Class Destroyer), and of course "Old Ironsides" herself. Unfortunately the USS Cassin Young was in dry dock and could not be boarded, however there was still enough to see. While some did a self guided tour of the main deck of the USS Constitution many took advantage of the guided tour which included the gun deck and the crew sleeping quarters below decks. Rather than again fight the crowds at

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

" I just returned from the reunion in Boston and can report that it was a success. The weather was great for October and I believe a good time was had by all. There were many regulars missing this year for various reasons, but it was great to see five new shipmates from the 60s in attendance. These were guys I served with and haven't seen in many years, so I enjoyed catching up and reminiscing. New Orleans was chosen for the 2011 reunion, and I look forward to seeing everyone again. Hopefully we can have a large attendance next year. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

George Clifton

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Quincy Market it was decided we would have lunch at 99 restaurant, located in Charlestown not far from the Navy Yard. After lunch an attempt was made to drive through MIT and Harvard without much success. Due to the detours and heavy traffic we called it a day and headed back to the hotel to relax and prepare for the USS Yancey Banquet.

The evening began at 5:30 with the pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session followed by a prime rib dinner. The last item on the agenda was the Memorial Service to remember those USS Yancey shipmates who had passed away, especially those since the last reunion. Edmund McLaughlin, George Clifton and Paul Dunn led the service. As the names from the Honor Roll were read, a bell was tolled in their memory followed by Taps and a hand salute. It was now time to bring the banquet to a close, and there were mixed feelingshappiness for such a wonderful reunion experience and sadness that it was now close to an end. Many had to say their good byes tonight because of early travel plans on Sunday morning, so there were many hugs and handshakes and farewells before leaving the banquet. Others lingered on to make the most of the remaining time here. Sunday morning's breakfast was the final chance for good byes for those who didn't have early travel plans, and a few more minutes to tell another story or to listen to an old friend tell about his family. Reunions bring up old memories and old feelings and sometimes it's hard to let them go, but there will be next year! See you in New Orleans.

Submitted by George Clifton

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2010 REUNION **ATTENDEES**



Norman & Connie Boyd George Clifton John & Althea Desmond Paul Dunn Elton & Ada Fauber Eugene Foss & Cristi Mantegna Walter & Toby Gillespie Kenneth Groom John Karlis Bob & Ruth Kroc Duane & Betty Malme Edmund McLaughlin **Bob Smiley** Paul Smith Jr. **Bill Welfare** James & Eleanor Young

Total Members: Guests: 8 GRAND TOTAL 24

16



The Yancey Memories was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families 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.

Thomas Nau (1962-64) MMC E Div Died September 20, 2010

Clifton "CJ" Brandt (1961-64) SF1/HT1 Repair Died October 9, 2009

Samuel Ancona (1943-46) BM1 Died February 8, 2010

Ulysis "Sid" Harmon (1951-54) SH2 S Div Died July 5, 2010



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.

> Terry O'Connor 58 W Wisconsin Rd Brookfield, CT 06804-3741 203-775-1018

PUBLISHED BY: Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc PO Drawer 11399 Hickory, NC 28603 828-256-6008 (voice) 828-256-6559 (Fax) DinamIrs@charterinternet.com Karenmlrs@charterinternet.com www.mlrsinc.com/yancey

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

SHIPMATE REUNIONS

Editor's Note: In an e-mail I asked for stories about the first time you saw someone at a reunion (or some other location that you knew in the Navy. Thanks to those who responded. Here are their stories:

Kenneth Groom:



I can think of about 3 instances where met someone from my Navy time both

before and after I was discharged.

The first I recall was at Treasure Island (San Francisco) right after boot camp when I was waiting to report to the Yancey. I was from a small town in Kansas with a population of about 3,000 at the time. Since I was fresh out of boot camp, my appearance reflected my short time in the Navy. My white hat was shaped like a bucket with no so called "wings", typical of a "boot". I had already

met a couple of my hometown acquaintances when a ship from Guam came in with some sailors who had been on Guam for some time-and their appearance showed it. It was a shock to me to notice that everyone in the Navy didn't appear as I did just out of boot camp.

The hometown friend I was to meet was an example of what I saw. These guys had gone native (Continued on page 4)

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and adjusted to the climate and the remoteness of Guam. To start with, their shoes had the toes cut out for better ventilation. Their dungarees were sometimes cut off and their shirts varied from sleeveless to Hawaiian shirts. Their white hats were



sometimes reversed to resemble an upside down bucket and at other times bent in unusual shapes. All

clean mind you, but not what I expected. I think they might have realized that Treasure Island had a lot of people out of boot camp there and wanted to put on a show for us. Later, when I was on the Yancey and in the Far East, for extended times, I began to understand what happens when life gets a bit boring and routine. Some of the same dress appearances that I saw in Treasure Island that day, seem to take on a mutation.

The second encounter I had with old friends came after I was discharged. I was going to school in Wichita, KS, and going with my future wife who was working in Tulsa, OK. She would catch the bus now and then to visit me in Wichita. While I was at the bus station, a sailor got off the incoming bus. He had served on the Yancey with me and lived not far from Wichita.

The third encounter that I remember was in 1981. My wife's mother had passed away here in Washington State and we were back in Tulsa renting a car. I was wearing a suit and no longer had a crew cut. While I was waiting for the paperwork, I saw a fellow ex-sailor who had worked in the ship's office next to me. It is im-

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portant to note that the ship's office usually had 3 or 4 sailors working in that office about the size of a bathroom (say 500 sq ft.) I said, "Aren't you Bob D?" and he said, "Yes." I then introduced myself as Ken Groom—my civilian name. If I had used my nickname "K.D.", he probably would have recognized me. He asked me where I was now living and I said Seattle. He made a few remarks and then we went on our way. At the time, I was busy with the funeral arrangements and didn't pursue it anymore.

Marshall Lundberg:

This vignette comes from a chance meeting rather than a reunion, but it is not without humor.

In 1974 I was stationed in Newport and attending school in San Diego. In an errand to the Navy Exchange, I ran into a former Yancey shipmate while standing in the checkout line. Here's how it happened:



So, CPO Watson noted that it was difficult to see me as a lieutenant when he had known me as an ensign.

I responded that..."He could then well imagine my difficulties in seeing him as a Chief!"

Ken Groom:

I left the Yancey when I had one more year to serve. Because I was

ready for something new, I volunteered for a new assignment. It was the re-commissioning of the aircraft carrier, Hancock in Bremerton, Washington. I was a third class Yeoman at the time. I had never been to the Northwest before and had not been on a ship so large. I was to report in on New Year's Day. I arrived in Seattle late on a rainy evening by train. After retrieving my bulky sea bag. I went to a taxi and asked to be taken to Bremerton. The taxi driver said he could only take me to the ferry station and get to the shipyard that way. The ferry ride took about 1 hour, so I struck up a conversation with another sailor. He had already been part of the Hancock crew. So, he help me get situated in the barracks we were staying in until the ship was ready to be manned.

I was assigned to the administrative office when I arrived. Since there was a very small skeleton crew when first reported, we had the job of setting up the publications and office functions. We were located next to the Personnel Office and got to know almost everyone there. The Lieutenant that I worked for was in charge of several offices including the personnel office. A Chief Warrant Officer was in charge of the Personnel Office. His name was Eugene Tripp. He had come up thru the ranks and had been a Yeoman at one time. I found out later that Mr. Tripp had been a prisoner of war in Japan. He did bring it up on several occasions.

About 10 years ago I was reading some books about Wake Island and the events that took place there when WW2 started. One of the books I read referenced several interviews of individuals that were captured at Wake Island. To my surprise there was an interview with Eugene Tripp, a yeoman assistance to the commander at Wake Island. I

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wanted to know more.

I read several other books on the subject and one included a photo of Eugene Tripp when he was in boot camp. I then went to my computer and looked up his name in "The White Pages". I was able to get his address and later his phone number. I wrote him a letter and later called. Sure enough it was the same man. He was living in Suffolk. VA and was in his 90s. He remembered my name and we had several conversations by letter as well as phone calls. I put him in touch with another sailor that had worked in his office. He sent me a copy of his debriefing that was taken after his release from a Japanese prison. He had been sent to Japan on one of the so called "hell ships". I remember that he was put to work in a camp where they worked in a vegetable garden.

I have since lost contact with him, for I fear that he is not now alive.



Dina,

I am sorry to report that **Delbert L. Perry** has been in a nursing home for over three years. Unfortunately, he does not remember anything. We both enjoyed many of the Yancey reunions and the great people we met at them, but obviously that is no longer possible. Please extend my best wishes to anyone attending who would remember Del.

Dorie Perry (Mrs. Delbert)

YANCEY STORIES

John Pitman , Captain, SC USNR (Ens, jg, and LT during the adventures mentioned below):

As a newly assigned Supply Corps Ensign, one of my major duties was Disbursing Officer. I tried my best to follow the rules. One of those rules was to pay (we had cash paydays in the good old days), in the least num-



ber of bills. On YANCEY was one B M 1 E d e n bach, the very defi-

mock tantrums I

ever witnessed

from an adult.

He carried on

about the condi-

tion of the \$20

and

manded a better

one. I guessed

de-

nition of an old salt. He saved a lot of his pay and sent a good portion home. As a result, all he asked for on payday, every payday, was \$26.00. At one of the first paydays BM1 Edenbach turned in his pay chit, the clerk checked it and passed it to me. I counted out \$26.00 in three bills, a 20, a 5 and a 1. Well, the 20 was a well worn bill, truly ready to be recycled. The 5 & 1 were in decent condition. I passed the three bills to the second counter who gave them to Ed (as he was affectionately known on Ed threw one of the best board).



he was testing the new Ensign. So I firmly stated that he would take it or leave it, but that was his pay, no exchanges, and gently ordered him to move on. He snarled and carried on so that most of the crew was aware of this minor incident.

bill

Another duty of my position was Ships Store Officer. On payday, I would hustle to the store immediately after pay was completed and collect the significant amount of cash from the register. On the payday mentioned above, as I was counting out the cash from the register, I noted that Ed and his band of hearties were just outside watching me through the glass. Yup, you bet, there was that sorry \$20 bill. I held it up to examine it, and you could hear the laughing outside of the store. I collected and put it in the safe with the rest of the \$250,000 I carried in cash.

As I did my job over the next two weeks, I thought about that 20. So I went through the safe, found it and set it aside. Then I searched for the worst, nastiest looking 5 and 1 dollar bills, and paper clipped them together for future use.

Yes, you got it, at the next payday, Ed turned in his pay chit requesting \$26.00, it was passed to me, and I retrieved the three bills that were at the bottom of the cash drawer, in a paper clip. The look on Ed's face was priceless. Another tantrum, another order to move on. Needless to say I found it in the Ships Store a couple of hours later, much to the amusement of the crew. And I did it again, and so did Ed. It continued for the entire cruise, until the mock tantrums went away.

During that time, YANCEY had a BM2, soon to retire, as a Mess Hall Master at Arms. He tried hard, but his career was at an end, and a tougher hand was required to keep the mess hall spotless. When the BM2 retired, I went to the Exec and begged for BM1 Edenbach, citing problems in the mess hall and his experience and that he was respected by all hands. Against noteworthy complaints by the First LT, Ed was assigned to the Food Service

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crew. I will only say we had fun harassing each other, all within the bounds of propriety. And, the Mess Hall never again failed an inspection, even when I was just looking extra hard to tease Ed.

I was subsequently reassigned to NAS NEW YORK. Ed appeared on deck with many others in full dress blues to see me off. That memory still brings tears. They were a wonderful crew, every department and division, every last sailor.

While at NASNY, my Mess Hall Master at Arms retired. The XO called me into his office, and told me he had the strangest request he ever received: A BM1 was transferred in for the Security Department, but requested to be assigned to the Mess Hall as Master at Arms. I was floored at such a request. Then I learned it was BM1 Edenbach!! I was beyond delighted. Once again I had a sharp mess hall, and happier crew.

Where ever you may be Ed, God bless. I will never forget you.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



 Balance after 07/10
 \$40.40

 Funds received since 07/10
 \$315.00

 Funds available for 10/10
 \$355.40

 Funds expended for 10/10
 \$207.98

 Balance for 10/10
 *\$147.42

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.

*Funds will be needed for the January issue. Please send contributions to ML&RS, Inc at our address on page 3.

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WHAT IS AMERICA TO ME? BY ED MCLAUGHLIN

This is a question we don't consider often enough, if at all. But today, a kind of soul searching is needed. Our understanding of America will profoundly shape our actions – and those actions will leave their mark on America and the rest of the world. How we see our country and our role as citizens will either lead us to protect, defend, and nurture her – or sit idly by as our precious Heritage slips away.

At this moment in our history, when we face so many challenges at home and abroad, we need to consider anew this crucial question.

What is America to me?

Who are we as Americans? Who do we want to be? What traditions and principles do we need to preserve as we move forward? What of our American experience is worth fighting for? (And just because you might not wear a military uniform, don't think you are exempt from answering that last question). These are questions that should be deeply thought about and discussed by all Americans and all those who wish to be.

To me, America will always be a land of unbridled opportunity, unrivaled beauty, and unlimited possibility. It is a place where each of us has a shot to reach our potential. Rooted in truth, decency, and timeless values, America is ever forward looking; constantly innovating while inspiring the rest of the world. Echoing John Winthrop (and the Bible), Ronald Reagan captured it best when he described America as "the shining city on a hill."

Granted, I get choked up when I hear the National Anthem, and when I see folks with their hands over their hearts in respect. Whenever I spot a veteran standing at attention before a passing flag in a Memorial Day parade, tears inevitably well up in my eyes. It is an emotional reaction to a great truth: many have sacrificed for what those stars and stripes represent, and the sacrifice continues. How can one help but be moved and humbled by the long trail of blood and sweat that established our "city on a hill" and defended her promise around the world.

Our challenge now, as engaged citizens, is to translate our emotions into clear principles, practices, and habits that rise above the political or cultural winds of the moment. What can we do, personally, to expand the greatness of our country? What steps can we take to extend the sacrifice of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom to make choices?

I believe that our work needs to begin deep within ourselves. We the people must refine ourselves, as individuals, before we can refine our communities and our nation. No one else will do it for us. Not the government, not the media, and certainly not the "international community." We are the ones who will either stand up and defend what we know to be true, or permit others to twist and destroy the last, best hope of mankind. What is at stake is our way of life, our ideals, and our very future. It seems our political leaders feel they must apologize to the world for our success as a country. We have nothing to apologize for. We have offered our sons and daughters, our might and our money to all who need support. Most times we don't even get a "thank you" for our efforts.

Remember your pride in America!

Remember to vote!

Submitted by Ed McLaughlin



NEW ORLEANS WILL BE THE SITE OF THE 2011 REUNION

New Orleans is a great choice for your 2011 reunion. The city is ready for visitors again, and will welcome you with open arms! Here is a brief description of some of the major New Orleans attractions. Please look them over and then take the time to fill out the survey and tell us what you want at the reunion. This is your opportunity to be heard.

A must-see New Orleans attraction is the National WWII Museum. Lest we forget, on D-Day, June 6, 1944, ordinary



people were doing the extraordinary. Sacrifice is the only word that comes close to expressing what the men and women did on the morning of June 6. 1944.

More than a half century ago, after three years of war against Germany

and Japan, the allied Nations - US, Great Britain and Canada-launched "Overlord", the largest military operation the world had ever seen. Although a beachhead was established in Normandy, and the successful landing was the

first step in the destruction of Hitler's Third Reich, it was not without great human cost. The museum's exhibits tell the rest. The exhibits include displays depicting "War Clouds", "America Goes to War", "Preparing for the Invasion", "Aid and Sea Assault", "D-Day-The C-47 on display in lobby



Beaches", and "Victory in Europe". This is a must see!

Experience the thrill of a Louisiana Swamp. It's more than just a boat ride. You will be entertained, educated and given a "visual encounter" (how's that for fancy words) that well may be the highlight of the three days. The Captain will



talk about history, the Cajun way of life and the plants and animals along the way. You reminded are to stay under the boat's canthe opy SO snakes falling from the cy-

press trees don't land on you and to keep our hands out of the swamp water- the alligators love fingers!

The Creole Plantation "Laura" is where the first Tales of Be're Rabbit were first recorded. Relive 200 years of the charmed and tragic lives of slave, women and children who



lived in Laura's slave quarters, manor houses and Creole Cottages.



New Orleans "proper" is filled with places to see and things to do. There is of course the French Quarter with all of its history and charm.

Then there's Jackson Square (the oldest section of the city). It has always been an open area and the heart of the French Quarter. It was once used as military parade grounds, and later as a market place for fish, fowl and produce. Jackson Square faces the Mississippi River, and is bounded by the St. Louis Cathedral, the Cabildo and the Presbytere on Charles Street. Surrounding Jackson Square is a pedestrian mall and an iron fence that has been used for decades by artists who display their work.

The infamous Bourbon Street has captivated tourists for years. Music great Louis Armstrong got his start here. Legend has it that if it can be placed in a bottle it can be sold in the street. That of course would not interest old sailors.

Bourbon Street begins at Canal and continues downtown, roughly paralleling the Mississippi River. The street is home many bars restaurants, strip clubs, as well as T-shirt and souvenir shops.



We're a bit hesitant to mention this area, the seductive colonial **Red Light District.** but there really is a lot of history here. Your guide may be able to tell you of some famous ladies who reportedly got their start in one of the houses of "commercial affection."



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The French Market is a bustling place where even the most discriminate shopper can feel at home. This open-air mall features shopping, dining and music in a tradition that is uniquely New Orleans, yet still reminiscent of some European markets.

The **Creole Mansions** on Esplanade Ave will give you a feel for the Creole lifestyle of that day. Esplanade Ave was also known as "Millionaire's Row" for the Louisiana-Creole District. A visit to this historic street is an impromptu lesson in the history of New Orleans as you traverse past the French Quarter, the old New Orleans Mint building, the Faubourg Treme locale and the New Orleans Fairgrounds.





The **City of the Dead** will terrify you. Among the ancient tombs you will discover ones like Marie Laveau's (the famous voodoo priestess).

The **Garden District** features some of the most magnificent homes in New Orleans. View the former homes of Jefferson Davis and author Anne Rice as well as others.





The Superdome, home of the NFL's New Orleans Saints, has hosted six Superbowls—more than any other facility of its kind. The stadium covers 13-acres and reaches 27 stories at its peak, 273 feet above street level. The Dome covers the world's largest steel-constructed room unobstructed by posts.

Now, please fill out the survey to the right and tell us which of these attractions you would like to see on your reunion agenda. We appreciate your input.

USS YANCEY 2011 NEW ORLEANS SURVEY

In order to give you the best possible reunion at the best possible price, please help us by answering a few questions about the reunion format and activities.

ABOUT THE REUNION

Do prefer breakfast all three mornings?

Or only on Sunday morning?

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes _____ No _____

PLEASE CHECK THE ATTRACTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ON THE REUNION AGENDA

 National D-Day and
Pacific Museum

- Louisiana Swamp Cruise
- Creole Plantation
- _____ French quarter
- _____ Bourbon Street
- _____ Red Light District
- French Market
- _____ Creole Mansions
- City of the Dead
- _____ The Garden District
 - ____ The Superdome

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> RETURN BY: Dec. 13, 2010