



1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

Published to perpetuate the memory of USS BANG (SS-385) and her Crew

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SUMMER/FALL 2009

WWW.USSBANG.COM

ISSUE-53



1925 **Donald F. Kersbergen** 2009



LOST AND FOUND



This column is dedicated to informing you of any additions, deletions, or corrections to our active roster.

It has been brought to our attention that the following shipmate has passed away and will be placed on Eternal Patrol.



Donald F. Kersbergen, TM (43-44) WP1,2,3,4



SHIPMATE, REST YOUR OARS!

The following shipmates have changed their mailing address.

Please let us know when your address has changed or you may not receive the next Newsletter.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Davenport	John J	1338 Jambalana Dr	Holiday	FL	34691-6748		68-70
Hill	Donald W	414 NW Knights Ave #807	Lake City	FL	32055-7247		68-71

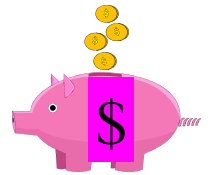
The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all your help in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Fischer	Marshall L	PO Box 151	Onamia	MN	56359-0151	(320) 532-4238	60-62
Lipsky	Richard D	5206 Old Washington Crse	Hollywood	SC	29449-5877	(843) 852-5043	60-62
Skorka	William J	25 Mellen St	Chicopee	MA	01013-2813	(413) 594-8486	60-62
Vyskocil	Daniel E	1394 Texas Drive	Xenia	OH	45385-4852	(937) 372-2981	60-62



THANK YOU!

Since our last publication, the following shipmates have generously donated to our slush fund.



**Joe Burdeshaw
Billy Cromie**

**Lillian Kersbergen
Andy McKaye**

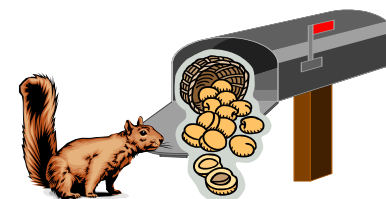
**Merle Meyer
Neil Tierney**



THE INTERNET CONNECTION CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

Marshall Fischer marsh_di@scicable.com
Richard Lipsky carol.lipsky@att.net
Alan Moquin moquin132@comcast.net





This column is dedicated to all the letters we receive from you. Any info about yourself or others you want to share with your shipmates will be published here. Think of this as a combination of the bulletin board in the Crew's Mess and the IMC.

Editor's Notes and Ramble: Hi Shipmates!

This will be the last reminder you will receive before our Reunion next month is a reality. Please mail your Registration Form to Gene NOW If you are planning on attending and have not already done so. Even if you can only stay a day or two, take advantage of our low, low room rates and let Gene know your plans so he can prepare the Hospitality Room for your arrival. Your shipmates would love to see you again.

I received the following note from one of "The Kersbergen Girls", Don's daughter Carla Prothe. Along with the note she included Don's obit and her Mom's new mailing address.

"It's with a heavy heart I notify you of our father's passing.

Dad enjoyed your Newsletter for many years before Alzheimers took his fondest memories of serving our country. His burial service with military honors was comforting to all of us.

Please accept our donation to your Newsletter."

The Kersbergen Girls

Anyone wishing to send their condolences to Lillian and Family may do so to the following address:

Lillian Kersbergen
PO Box 273056
Fort Collins, CO 80527-3056
Or
www.allnutt.com

Donald Frank Kersbergen finished his journey here



on Earth Saturday, July 11, 2009 at the age of 84. He was born on June 5, 1925 to Frank and Mable Kersbergen in Rock Valley, Iowa. He attended his first 10 years of school there and then graduated from Luverne High School, Luverne, MN in 1942.

Donald "Don" joined the US Navy in 1942 at the age of 17. He honored his country aboard several submarines as a

torpedoman in the Pacific from 1943 to 1946 where he participated in six war patrols during World War II. Donald was honorable discharged with a Good

Conduct Medal on June 8, 1946.

After serving in the Navy, Don returned to Luverne, MN and worked at Kersbergen Produce, a family-owned business. It was in Luverne he met his wife of 61 years, Lillian and together they had four daughters. Donald also farmed and ranched in Luverne prior to moving to Colorado.

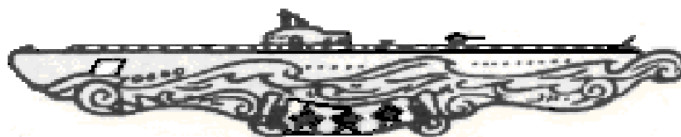
In 1960, the family moved to Greeley, CO where Don and Lillian established the "88 Cent Store". It was there that Don fulfilled his dream of owning his own business and converting the 88 Cent Store to Don's Hobbies. With his wife and daughters at his side, he created a home away from home for avid slot car racers and model train, remote-control plane and model car enthusiasts. He was grateful for the many customers that also became his treasured friends. Years later, Donald sold his business and retired.

Don was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Greeley, serving as an usher for many years. Don and Lillian celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in November, 2008. Their love and commitment to each other carried them through the last eight years as our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather slipped away from us while living with Alzheimer's.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Lillian; their four daughters, Roxie Kersbergen, Dawn (Gary) Shaffer, Darcy (Edward) Gavaldon, and Carla (Powell) Prothe; grandchildren, Kari (Nicolas), Rachel, Spencer, Ronda (Eric), Emily, Jordon, Lauren (Nene), and Ashley; and great-grandchildren, Elysia, Talia and Caleb.

The family would like to thank everyone for the care and support received by the wonderful staff at Columbine West Nursing Home in Fort Collins for the last five months, as well as Pathways Hospice. Without your care and support, the journey would have been much more difficult.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Pathways Hospice in care of Allnutt Funeral Service, 650 West Drake Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526.



*Along the shore I spy a ship
As she sets out to sea;
She spreads her sails and sniffs the breeze
And slips away from me.*

*I watch her fading image shrink,
As she moves on and on,
Until at last she's but a speck,
Then someone says, "She's gone."*

*Gone where? Gone only from our sight
And from our farewell cries;
That ship will somewhere reappear
To other eager eyes.*

*Beyond the dim horizon's rim
Resound the welcome drums,
And while we're crying, "There she goes!"
They're shouting, "Here she comes!"*

*We're built to cruise for but a while
Upon this trackless sea
Until one day we sail away
Into infinity.*

TILL WE MEET AGAIN SHIPMATE!!!

he and wife Barbara's first grandchild—Everett Luis Arellano, born 8/28/09 at 10:58 a.m. Weight 7 lbs. 8 oz., 20 inches long. Looks like Grandpa will now have new meaning to the words "changing" the "bottle". Congratulations to all!!!



The writings and material within this Newsletter are the sole responsibility of its Editor and in no way reflect the opinion of its readers, the Bang Gang.Phil Beals

I had a nice phone conversation a while back with **John Lawton**, an ElectriciansMate (60-63), and he related an incident that happened to him while serving aboard BANG in Portsmouth Shipyard.

The Marine contingent at the prison circulated the word that their ranked company boxer was looking for an opponent to sharpen his skills on. After a lengthy discussion about this in the "Pump Room" with his shipmates, John decided to accept the challenge. Once the date was set, posters were put up all over Portsmouth and even a crew from a Boston TV station showed up to film the bout.

John wound up beating the champ and to commemorate it, the Yard-birds made him a metal star shaped badge engraved with the words "Bang Buster".

John wishes he could locate a copy of the filmed bout but can't remember the TV station's call letters. Any shipmates out there that remember John's fete and can assist him in his endeavor by remembering the TV station's name or how to locate one of the posters, please contact him at:

**142 Bell St
Reno, NV 89503-5618
(775) 742-3181
smg@charter.net**

Lou Arellano, a SonarTech (71-72) sends us good news in the form of an announcement of the birth of

Andy McKaye, a HospitalMan (54-57), "Because I remain in the twentieth century and am a computer illiterate, my conscience has been bothering me. Enclosed is a contribution to help pay for my "snail mail". Jean and I won't join the Crew in October. Holland-America Cruise Lines made an offer we couldn't refuse so we'll be sailing in the Mediterranean. Looking forward to 2010. Hang in there and keep us together."....*Andy, you don't know how much I envy you. The 20th century was a great time to live. Wish I could return. Thank you for your donation, hope you and Jean had a wonderful time sailing the Med and I will see you in 2010.*

Cornelius Tierney, a QuarterMaster (54-56), "Enclosed is a donation for the Slush Fund—please use it as you see fit.

I have been curious about a couple of our alums—Max Hemsley, QM2 and "Buff" Buffington, QM2. Both served aboard BANG during parts of or all of '54 thru '56. Do you have any record/communications with either of them?

I really enjoy the Newsletter. Thank you for keeping it going.".... *Thanks for the donation Neil. We have been unsuccessful in our attempts to locate Max Hemsley and Glenn Buffington was with us for a while but passed*

away between '98 and '99. Hope you and Louise can get over to Virginia Beach for the Reunion—even if it is only for a day or two. It would be great to see you again.

Joe Burdeshaw, a FirecontrolTech (64-65), "Enclosed is my check for the purchase of some small stores and a donation to the Slush Fund. I served aboard BANG as a FTB3 in the deck gang from 4/64 to 12/65. I have some pictures that may be of interest to former crew members. I will e-mail them to you." ...*Thanks, Joe, for your donation and small stores purchase. I enjoyed the pictures of BANG you sent me.*

Merle Meyer, an IC electrician (64-67), "Here are a few photos of BANG I thought might be of interest. I am also enclosing a small donation to the Slush Fund. Sorry, Marilyn and I will not be able to make the reunion this year. Maybe next year."...*Merle, thank you for your donations to our Slush Fund and our photo library. Hope all is well with you and Marilyn.*

Billy Cromie, an ElectriciansMate (64-71), "I hope you and yours are well. I remember **Jack O'connor** from the '67 yard overhaul but for some reason (CRS maybe) I don't remember the accident he was in. Also during that Philly Yard overhaul in '67 I was paid a visit by one of our plankowners, "**Rosie**" **Rosenfeld**. A great story which I will relate to you at the Reunion."...*Billy Cromie can't remember something! Oh My! Sounds like you are preparing to run for office..... See ya in Virginia Beach.*



Australian submarine cooks earn far more than the SAS

By Ian McPhederan

June 08, 2009 12:00am

THE highest paid non-officer in the military is not an SAS (Special Assault Service) sergeant fluent in three languages taking out Taliban bombmakers in Afghanistan - it's the guy cooking food on a submarine.

A senior sub-sea chef with more than six years experience under his belt earns up to **\$200,000** a year, the same money as a junior admiral.

The cooks receive a base pay of just \$58,806 a year but when all the submarine and critical trades allowances are tallied up, the figure jumps to almost \$200,000.

Such is the reluctance of qualified cooks to live and work in a steel pressure tube deep under the sea, preparing three hearty "comfort" meals a day for up to 58 people, that even \$4000 a week can't attract enough starters.

Like many of the "submarine critical trades", the ranks of cooks dwindled during a mining boom that offered similar pay, a solid dose of sunshine every day and more regular family time.

The only daylight submariners see during lengthy underwater exercises is if the skipper decides the ocean's surface is calm enough and free from the "enemy" for a deck barbecue.

Submarine cooks are employed in a category known as "individuals critical to the navy" so they attract a bonus of \$50,000 a year just for turning up.

An experienced cook also gets a capability bonus of \$40,000, a seagoing allowance of \$22,254 and submarine service allowance of \$26,703.

Three cooks - one a leading seaman and two able seamen - work the subs' cramped galleys and are usually the most popular people on-board a Collins Class submarine.

During one six-month deployment on board HMAS Rankin, the cooks prepared 22,000 meals in their small, steamy galleys.

A submariner pay scale provided to *The Daily Telegraph* explains just why "cash" did not show up in exit surveys as a key reason for leaving the submarine service.

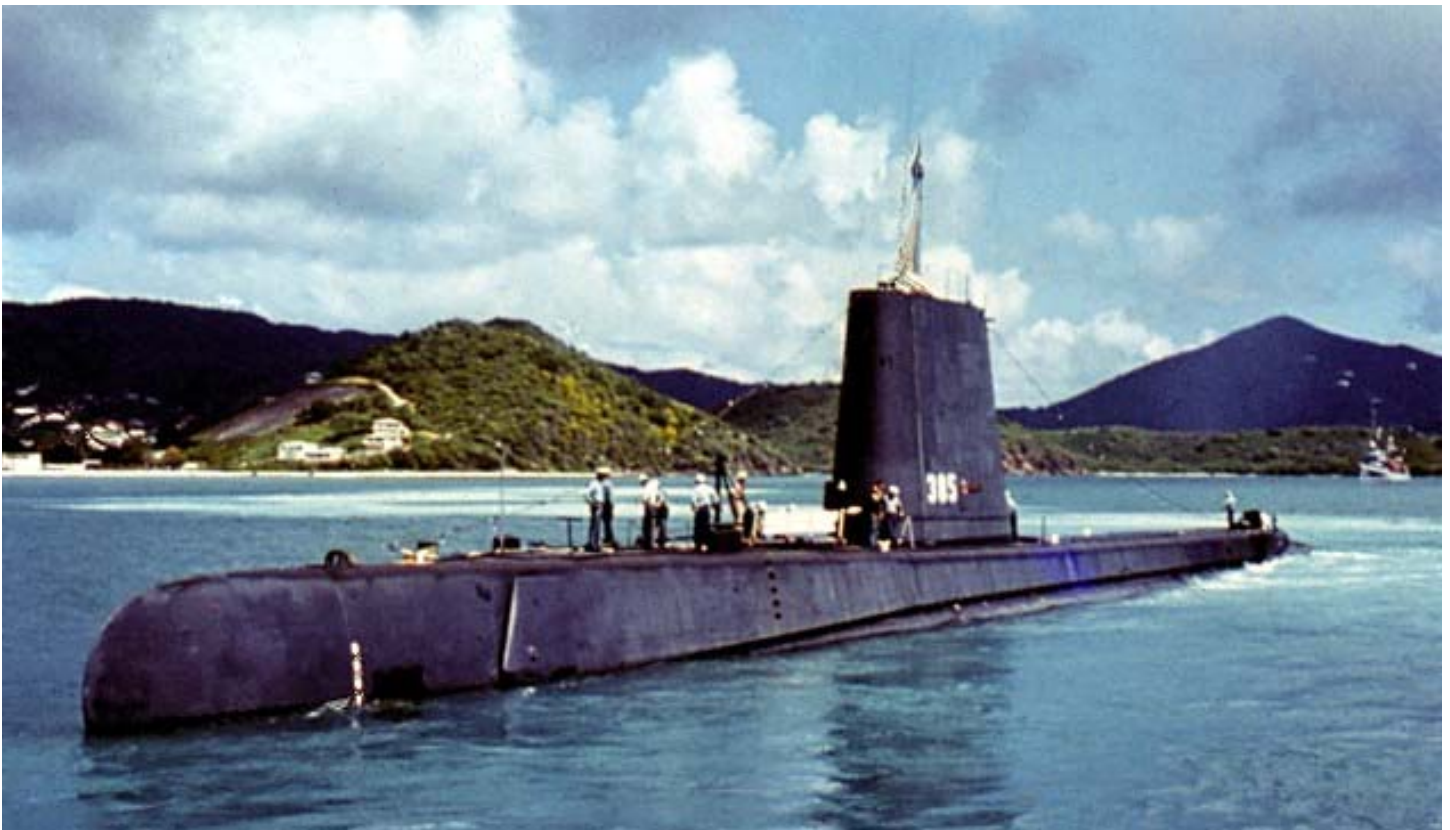
The commanding officer of a sub at the rank of lieutenant commander with more than six years experience would earn close to \$250,000 a year after allowances.

The salaries make submariners the elites of the Australian Defence Force, paid even more than highly trained SAS soldiers operating deep behind enemy lines in Afghanistan.

The three-star Navy chief Vice-Admiral Russ Crane gets a base salary of \$242,000 a year while a navy captain with six years experience gets just \$139,000 - or \$60,000 less than the cook on a sub.

NEXT TIME I'M GOING AUSSIE.....





ST THOMAS '65 ???

I think these photos were taken in St. Thomas in the Fall of '65.
That is Skylark in the background of the top photo.
I don't know why I was not onboard.

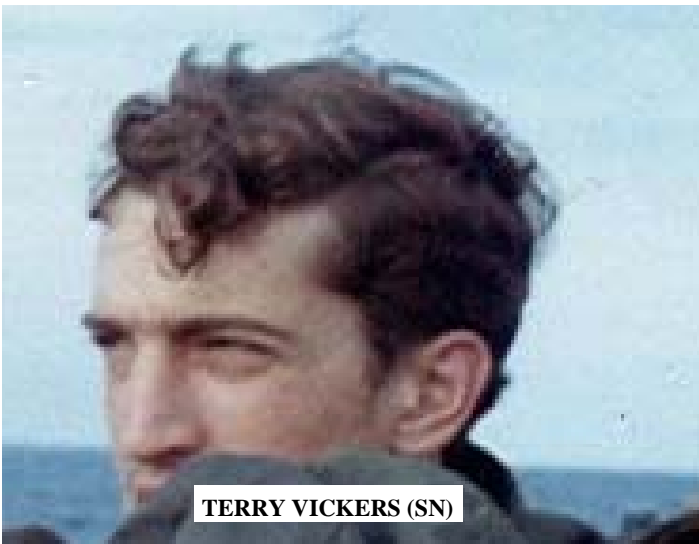
Joe Burdeshaw FTM (64-65)



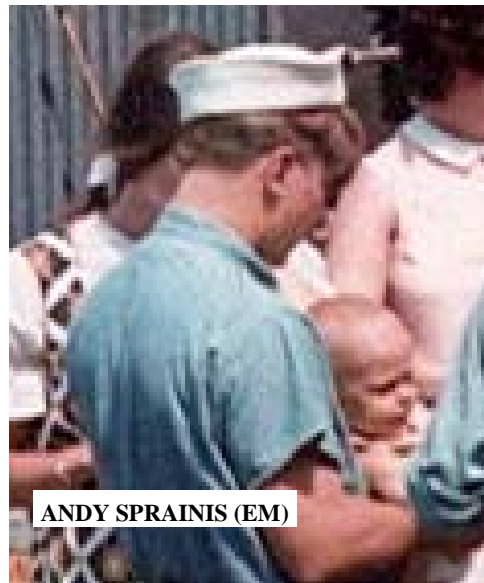
BOBBY REESE (ENC)



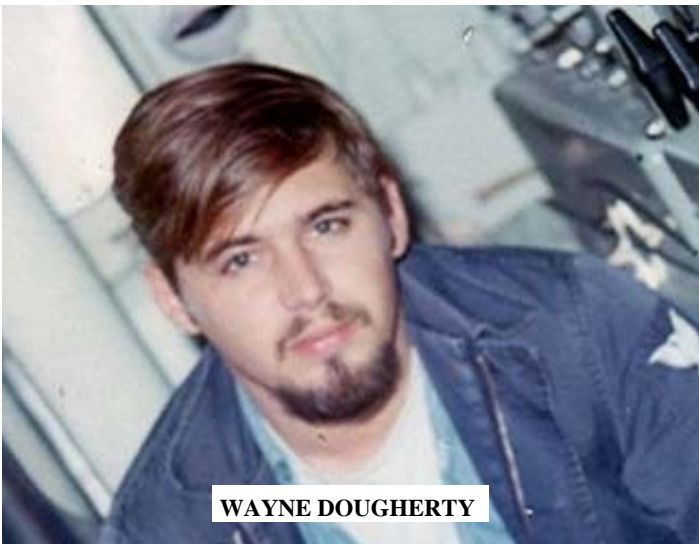
LARRY MEAIKE (SK)



TERRY VICKERS (SN)



ANDY SPRAINIS (EM)

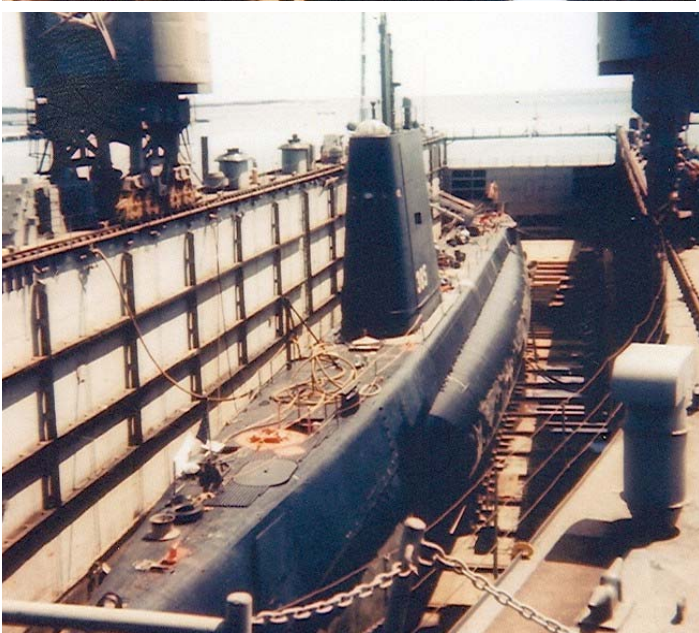
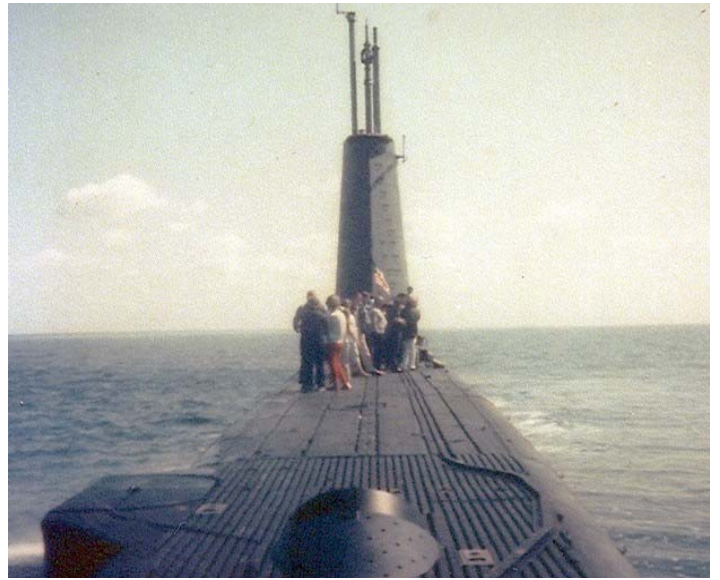
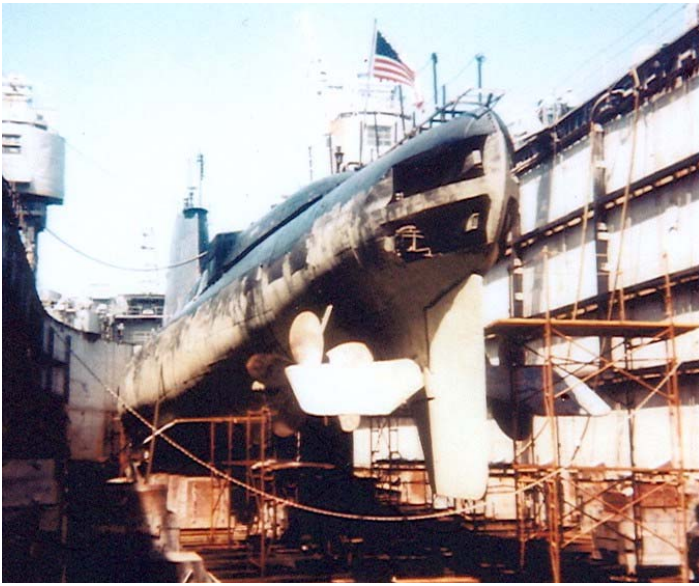


WAYNE DOUGHERTY



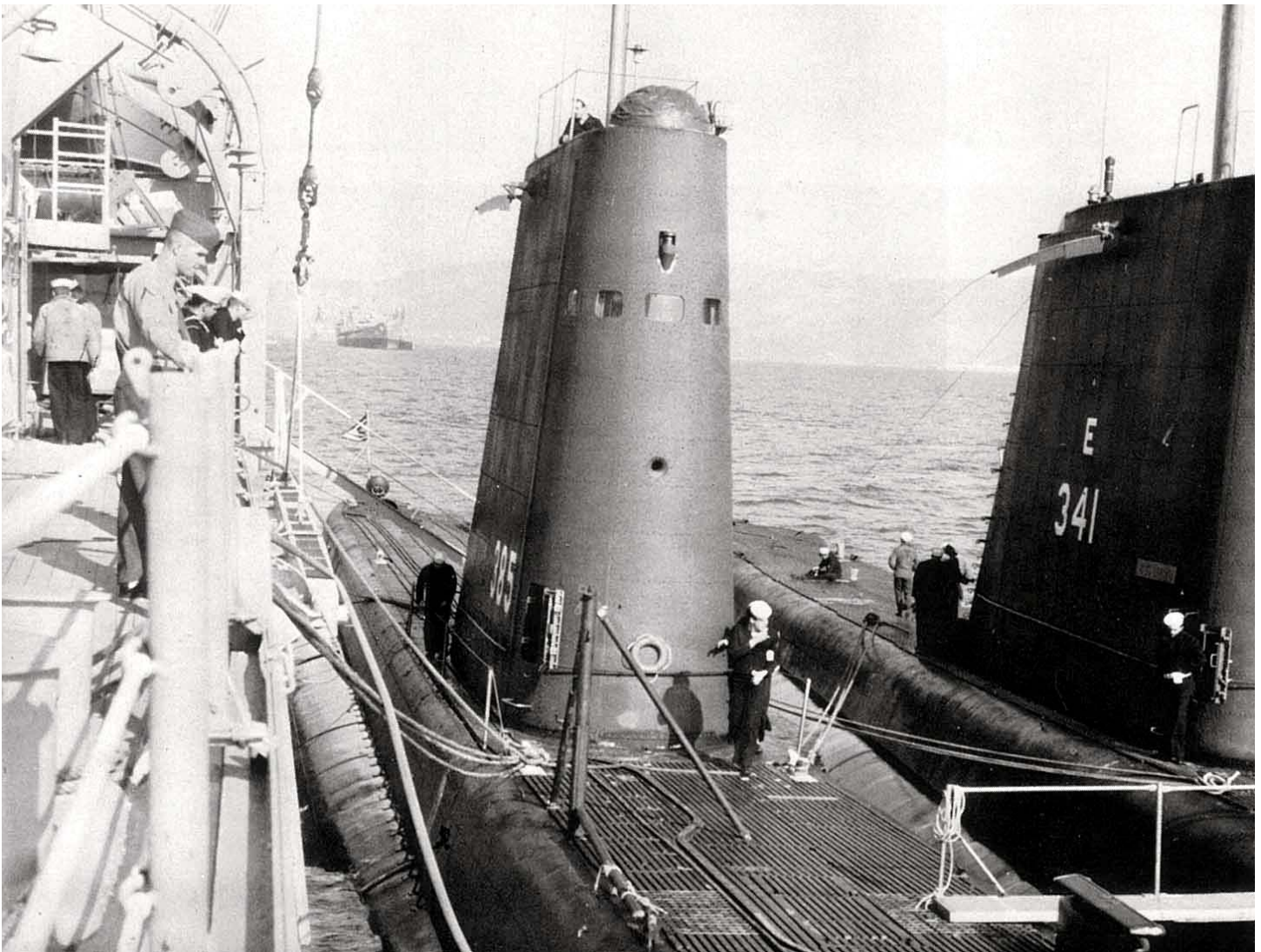
ROY ARMENTROUT (EN)

Thanks to **Bill Fenton**, **John Monroe**, and **Ike Cohen** who assisted in identifying the "UNKNOWNs" in the last publication. Also thanks to **Glen Armbruster** for informing me that I had erroneously labeled one of the photos as him. Well, at least I got the ARM part right. - **Phil....**



I don't remember the dates or any names to go with the faces. The ones of BANG in drydock were in New London and the one with civilians on board was taken in Long Island Sound.

Merle Meyer, IC (64-67)
ANYONE RECOGNIZE THE MELON EATERS???



MED CRUISE '65 ???

BANG and CHIVO 1964-65 alongside Little Rock CLG-4 . I presume this was in the MED.
Phil, maybe you can publish in the newsletter and someone will know more about it.— **Bill Fenton**
Looks like they're wearing peacoats and foul weather jackets. Must have been cold — **Phil...**

The origin of the US Navy Submarine Service Insignia dates back to 1923.

On 13 June of that year, Captain Ernest J. King, USN, later to become Fleet Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations during World War II, and at that time Commander Submarine Division Three, suggested to the Secretary of the Navy, via the Bureau of Navigation (Now Naval Military Personnel Command), that a distinguished device for qualified submarines be adopted.

He submitted a pen-and-ink sketch of his own, showing a shield mounted on the beam end of a submarine, with dolphins forward of, and abaft, the conning tower. The suggestion was strongly endorsed by Commander Submarine Divisions, Atlantic.

During the next several months the Bureau of Navigation solicited additional designs from several sources. Among the designs were a submarine and shark motif, a submarine and shield, and submarine and dolphins.

A Philadelphia firm, which had done work for the Navy previously, was approached with the request that it undertake to design a suitable badge. Two designs were submitted by the firm, and these were combined into a single design.

It is the design in use today: a bow view of a submarine, proceeding on the surface, with bow planes rigged for diving, flanked by dolphins in a horizontal position with their heads resting on the upper edge of the bow planes.

On 20 March 1924, the Chief of Navigation recommended to the Secretary of the Navy that the design be adopted. The recommendation was accepted by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., acting Secretary of the Navy.



REUNION UPDATE

2009

Greetings everyone! The following shipmates have mailed me their reservation form indicating their attendance at this year's Reunion along with spouse, family, and friends:

1. **Paul Anderson (62-63)**
2. **Phil Beals (56-59)**
3. **Marv Christenson (56-58)**
4. **Richard Cornell (62-65)**
5. **Bill Cromie (64-71)**
6. **Ed DeLong (63-66)**
7. **Eric Ericson (67-68)**
8. **Len Fagotti (63-66)**
9. **Bill Fenton (68-71)**
10. **Richard Gahan (58-62)**
11. **Deane Hadfield (57-60)**
12. **Charlie Heater (52-55)**
13. **Jim Klein (64-66)**
14. **Ed Kracker (43-45)**
15. **John Kraft (68-70)**
16. **Ben Laporte (57-60)**
17. **Dale Larson (55-57)**
18. **Joe Leonardi (57-59)**
19. **Gene Lockwood (65-71)**
20. **William McNeil (66-68)**
21. **John Monroe (69-72)**
22. **Ed Moran (60-62)**
23. **Ron Plumlee (70-72)**
24. **John Regish (56-58)**
25. **Harry Ross (64-66)**
26. **Stu Savage (56-59)**
27. **Paul Schramm (70-71)**
28. **Lenny Sciuto (69-71)**
29. **Lamarr Seader (62-65)**
30. **Lee Sivil (55-58)**
31. **Tom Stewart (51-52)**
32. **Wayne Thalasinis (57-60)**

To all you last minute decision makers, the last minute has arrived. This will be your final reminder of this year's Reunion. I have set a September 20th deadline for trip and banquet reservations in order for me to provide the vendors with the head count they need to make their preparations. It makes no difference how many days you plan to stay, I still need to know you are coming so that the Hospitality Room

supplies will be adequate. Even if you can only visit for a day, we'd love to see you—but, why not take advantage of the great room rate I have secured for the "Gang". Where else can you get a beach front room with an ocean view for **\$56.37** per night for the duration of your stay. And, that includes a **free** Deluxe Continental Breakfast, **free** Internet access, **free** parking, **free** newspaper, enclosed heated swimming pool, and each room has its own refrigerator, microwave, and DVD player. Call now (1-800-437-2497) to reserve your room and don't forget to mention "**BANG GANG**" to get our fantastic room rate.

Please note that it is not necessary to sign up for the daily trips in order to attend the Reunion. I offer them as a way for those who are unfamiliar with the area to do some site seeing as a group and, also, for those who just want to get away from the Hospitality Room for a while because the Sea Stories are beginning to get repetitious. Both bus trips and the harbor cruise are very educational and I feel would serve as a great history lesson to all youngsters who are attending as guests. They don't teach this stuff in schools anymore.

The temperature in October is great and a good time to get outside and walk the beach or do some investigating of the locale on your own.

Our **Banquet** this year, besides offering a bang-up bill-of-fare which I'm sure will please your palate, will also feature some professional entertainment for young and old alike.

Remember the "Bang Gang" guarantee! I will gladly refund your payment for whatever part of the Reunion you missed attending.

Gene & Ronnie Lockwood

512 Windsor Gate Cir.

Virginia Beach, VA 23452-2129

(757) 340-8488

gvlockwood@cox.net

U. S. S. BANG (SS - 385)

66th Anniversary Reunion
Virginia Beach, VA
Monday - October 19th 2009
through
Thursday - October 22nd 2009



Your Hosts
Gene & Ronnie Lockwood





HEADQUARTERS



**Surfside Oceanfront
Inn and Suites**

**13th St & Atlantic Ave
Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

\$56.37/night Reservations 1-(800) 437-2497
Website—www.virginiabeachsurfside.com

-  MONDAY OCTOBER 19th - Check In - Hospitality Room opens at 12:00 noon.
-  TUESDAY OCTOBER 20th - 9:15 a.m. - Mariner's Museum & Fort Monroe.
-  WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21st - 9:15 a.m. - MacArthur Memorial & Doumar's
5:45 p.m. - Dinner Cruise - Casual Dress
-  THURSDAY OCTOBER 22nd - 8:30 a.m. - Business Meeting — Election of Officers
5:30 p.m. - Banquet – Beer & Wine Included – Entertainment



Clip & Mail to



Gene Lockwood—512 Windsor Gate Cir—Virginia Beach, VA 23452-2129

Yes, I/we plan to attend the reunion.

RATE/RANK: _____

NAME: _____ YEARS ABOARD BANG: _____ to _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE NO: (____) ____ - ____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

SPOUSE'S / GUEST'S NAME(S): _____

ARRIVAL DATE: ____/____/____ DEPART DATE: ____/____/____ E-ADDR: _____

NUMBER TAKING MARINERS MUSEUM TOUR: _____ @ \$44.00 per person. = _____

NUMBER TAKING MACARTHUR TOUR: _____ @ \$36.00 per person. = _____

NUMBER TAKING DINNER CRUISE TOUR: _____ @ \$64.00 per person. = _____

NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET: _____ @ \$50.00 per person. = _____

Please specify entrée choice(s): _____ - Chicken _____ - Steak _____ - Fish
(Indicate how many)

HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER SHIPMATE + 10.00

Make check payable to **USS BANG**

TOTAL _____

PHIL BEALS, EDITOR
BANG GANG NEWSLETTER
PO BOX 385
NIVERVILLE, NY 12130-0385



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For In GOD We Trust.**

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PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

