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1972



THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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MYRTLE BEACH GETAWAY GOING ON NOW AS YOU READ THIS!



FPO



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 1MC.

Ahoy Shipmates. Friends and loved ones!

Once again it's time for the your eagerly awaited Bang Gang newsletter! Well perhaps NOT that eagerly awaited. As you remember from the last installment, we had a little "situation" regarding Staples and my NQP programmer. The new guy turned out to be the best one yet! You'd think that our troubles would be over, right? Not really. My new best publisher guy quit. Now, you'd think that as in the past, they would give the job to the next person in the line of command, a Staples XO if you will. That did not happen. What did happen is that they called on the duty Staples guy from another store to help fill in. So the new guy is working Port and Starboard duty between two stores and I was told I would be contacted to let me know when my billet (so to speak) would filled. I was contacted, not to let me know when to muster, but that another store's publisher guy quit and the now my new best guy is running between THREE stores. Those of you who have the digital edition can see that the problem is under control for now. I think the manager pulled some strings, maybe a little cumshaw, and we got it out. But right now this has not been fully rectified and I feel if something isn't done quickly, this sad situation will continue. The problem isn't isolated with Staples as just about every business is having a hard time getting and keeping good employees, or any employees at all. Printing, formatting, and stationery are the money makers for Staples, and other companies like it. You can hire any boot camp graduate to sell paper, pens, and the like, but the printing side takes some specialized training and there aren't that many out there. If there are, they are being hired right away, or as I think happened in this case with my former best printer guy, hired away like some running back free agent. I also feel, to my unease, that unfortunately this is going to get worse before it gets better. And for those shipmates who are keeping score in Hogan's Alley, this is the fourth publisher leading petty officer in just this year, and the year isn't over yet! Stay tuned!

Well enough of the complaint session, let's turn to more pleasant news. As you read this, several shipmates are enjoying each others company down in Myrtle Beach. Thanks to the hard work of Jennifer Wilson and aided by Vice-President Paul Schramm, about 15 shipmates, family members, and friends are frolicking in the pool of the Ocean Reef hotel, and taking advantage of all the that the Low Country of South Carolina has to offer. The site is the Ocean Reef where we had the last in person reunion, and run by Jennifer and Paul as well. So you can be sure it is coming along "swimmingly". I was supposed to join them, but I got a little medical hiccup and had a trip to sick bay this week. Nothing to worry about, just light duty as the duty Pharmacist's Mate would say. I told Paul to take plenty of pictures, so we can all see how much fun everyone had and what we missed. Hopefully we'll have plenty for the next newsletter.



This just in from our Treasurer and Storekeeper **Ike Cohen:**

I am a member of Veterans Tickets Foundation and I wanted to let you know about their great organization. They give out free event tickets to all sorts of things across the country. Stuff like football, baseball, soccer, basketball, concerts, zoo passes, plays and more! You can sign up using the following link:

<http://www.VetTix.org/ref/1888137> When you do and verify your service you will get an additional 15 VetTix Lottery Coins to start off with! Thanks everyone for your service!

Thanks Ike for this info! Also for your yeoman duty as both treasurer and storekeeper. Speaking of storekeeper, I've included the small stores page in this newsletter, just in case anyone needs some last minute holiday gift ideas. I mean, who doesn't need more challenge coins? Thanks again Ike for all your hard work.

A letter from shipmate **Robert (Bob) Sawyer:**

I am Robert (Bob) Sawyer and I rode the Bang from August 1958 through February 1961 as a TM2. I qualified on the Picuda (SS382) in 1955, then came to the Bang. I served on two more submarines, one as COB of the Skate. I did instructor duty at Advanced Undersea Weapons School and twice at Sub School.

I have not done much the last few years because my wife (Barb) has suffered from cancer. She had Multiple Myeloma which many people last 5 years. She battled it for 11 years and had to take chemo every 2 weeks. She got to a point where there were no more kinds of chemo she could take. She has had 5 different versions of it. Last November she was taken off chemo because there was no more she could take. We hoped she would last into the New Year, but she passed Christmas morning 2020. I did not do much the first several months what with the Covid and how I was feeling. This Spring I started gardening and am feeling much better now. This get together is the first affair I will have attended since she passed. I have already registered at the hotel and have enclosed my check for one hundred dollars. I have also sent a check to Ike for the slush fund. I really appreciate all that you and the others do, Bang Gang newsletters mean very much to me.

Thank you Bob for your kind words! I know that the Bang crew will join me in extending our most sincere condolences on the loss of your wife Barb. I'm glad you'll be attending our get together in Myrtle Beach, and I hope we'll see you at our honest-to-goodness reunion in Washington DC next year! It will be a shorter trip from God's Country up in Harpswell, Maine! As an aside for the Bang Gang, Bob included a page from an old USS Fulton newsletter that highlighted the Bang. It even has a picture of our former editor Phil Beals as a seaman. That is definitely going in the next newsletter! Thanks again Bob.

A blast from the past: According to a *Navy Times* article from August 4, 2016 the Navy was deep sixing their newest uniform, the much maligned blue and gray camo utility uniform that was given the dubious moniker of "Worst Military Uniform EVER!" Well, this October the uniform will be formally discontinued. But as one wag put it, like New England weather wait awhile and it will change again. I for one would like to see the dungarees and chambray make a come-back!

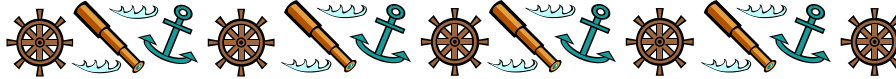
Finally, from the great white North: The Naval Submarine School has opened a new training facility at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS). In the words of the Facility, "This new training facility is intended to support the Navy's goal to enhance sailor's combat readiness by increasing access to training facilities and instructors to improve individual and team performance on our submarines." I wonder if Ernie's will build a satellite watering hole to help with another aspect of "combat" training.



BYE BYE, SEE YA, WOULDN'T WANT TO BE YA!



LOST AND FOUND



This page 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 shipmates have passed away and will be placed on Eternal Patrol.

KENNETH C COLBY TM (52-54)



SHIPMATE, REST YOUR OARS

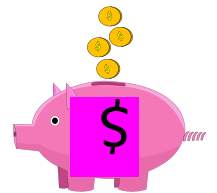
The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

NONE TO REPORT



THANK YOU!

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



**LARRY MEAIKE
ROBERT H. SAWYER
WILLIAM & KATHLEEN POWELL
CHARLES & PATRICIA ARCHER *
(SEE NOTIFICATION IN THE LUCKY BAG)**

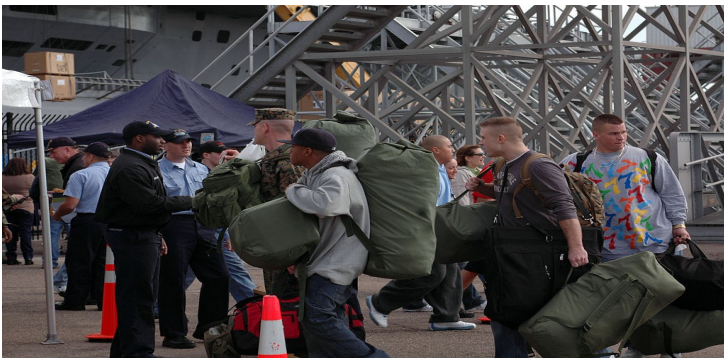
THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATE HAS CHANGED HIS ADDRESS

**ROLAND DAIGLE
5713 NANTUCKET ROW
HOSCHTON, GA 30548**



Kenneth C Colby-Deployed on eternal patrol 15 July, 2021. Ken was born in Norwood, Ma to the late Charles and Pauline Colby. He was 90 years old. Ken served on the BANG as a Torpedoman's Mate during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954. After the war he worked at the Electric Boat division in Groton CT. and then at MITRE Corp. in Bedford, Ma. In their financial accounting department for 16 years. He then served as Vice-President, Finance, and a member of the President's Cabinet at Gordon College, Wenham Ma. For 22 years, retiring in 1992. After retiring, he and his wife of 65 years, Dorothy traveled extensively across the United States and Canada and to many places around the world, including the Holy Land. A devout Christian, Ken attended several Advent Christian churches in Byfield and Haverhill, Ma. and Eliot, Me.





THE LUCKY BAG

Hello Shipmates, Friends, and Loved Ones,

As you can see, I decided to give the Surface Fleet a little time off, and the regular **Target for Today** feature is taking an extended leave period. It will be back next issue. Actually the main reason is the “four page rule” Staples publishing has for booklets and newsletters. Printing is done in groups of four and if the total does not meet that standard, you will be paying for blank pages. Summer is usually a slow time for everyone, and since a lot of people were finally getting out after a “lost” 2020, the mail bag was a little light. Plus the fillers I had were mostly “old” news, and were just that...fillers. I have a feeling the next issue will be much more interesting and “fun” filled with articles about the Myrtle Beach “get together”, next year’s reunion and the usual end of year holiday recap. Stay tuned as they say.

Now from the “You only had ONE job department: In the last issue, I noted another generous slush fund donation from Charles and Patricia Archer. Unfortunately I credited Charles’ “evil” twin George instead. So thank you **Charles** and Patricia for your most appreciated donation. So far in my short stint as your editor I’ve placed the Archers in the witness protection program and short changed their generous and frequent contributions. I’m surprised Patricia still calls me. Again, my apologies and thank you!

Sleigh Bells ring...are you listening?: As I mentioned, the “gala” holiday issue is coming and with it the realization that while we’ll be with loved ones, there will be military service members around the world who will be away from their families and friends. It’s the price we and they signed up for when we raised our right hand and took the oath. If any of you were away from family and loved ones during the holidays, either at sea or...as someone we all know, standing topside midwatch on Christmas Eve, why don’t you drop me a line on your memories of being on duty making sure those at home and around the world could enjoy a safe, secure and peaceful holiday season. I’ll include them in in the next issue. I already have a couple, I think you’ll enjoy them.

I’m almost done with the email list. As I said some time ago, we sometimes have an important announcement to make that the “snail mail” shipmates wouldn’t get in time to be alerted to an important development. Case in point, the cancellation of the reunions. I have received some emails from shipmates, and as before the email will be used only in an “emergency.” I’ll one last announcement to those who have changed their email to get to me by the next issue, so I can put you in the “break glass in an emergency” file. After the first of the year, I’ll use whatever email address we have on the crewmember file.

Finally... A recently retired Commanding Officer was interviewed by his local home town newspaper and the reporter asked him what was the most rewarding aspect of his long and distinguished career. The Officer thought for a moment and replied...”Those who aspire to Command always want to be responsible for a multi-million dollar ship of the line, to lead his crew into battle, and to exhibit the best elements and qualities of an officer in the world’s greatest Navy. However, I’d have to say that my most rewarding memory is that after my thirty-four years in The Navy, I finally got my own bedroom.”

Well that’s it, shipmates...see you next time. If my new striker shows up that is.



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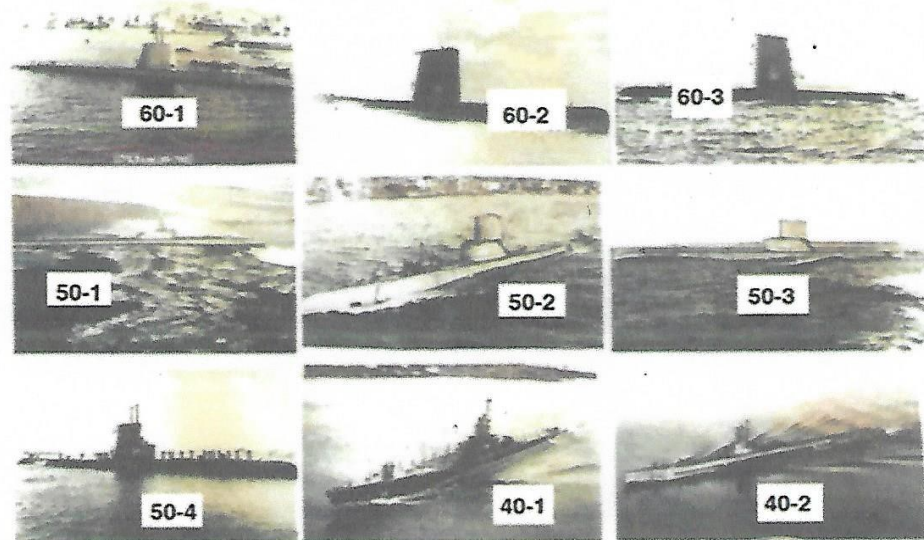


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea.
State Your Choice



1" Lapel/Hat pins - \$5.00 ea.
State Your Choice

11x14 BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's - \$3.00 ea. State Your Choice



All orders are normally sold at our Reunions or shipped via USPS Priority Mail. Send mail orders to Isaac Cohen with your check payable to USS Bang and be sure to include a few extra bucks to cover the postage.

Please include your phone number in case of discrepancies. Mail to: Isaac (Ike) Cohen

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OCTOBER 15 THRU MAY 15

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PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

