



1943



1972



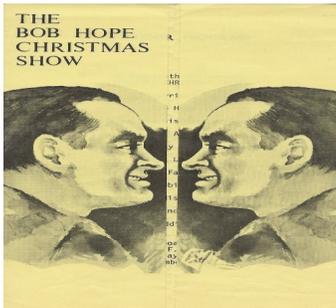
# THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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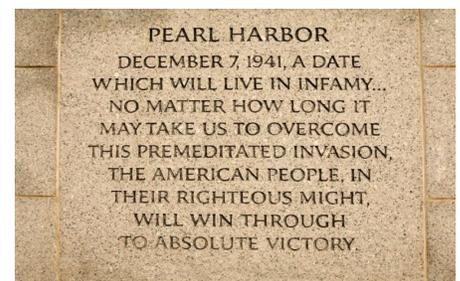
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## BACK BY SOMEWHAT POPULAR DEMAND! IT'S THE LONG AWAITED ANNUAL HOLIDAY ISSUE!



**CHRISTMAS DEPLOYMENTS LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY!**

**THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR**





# 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.

## Hello and Happy Holidays Shipmates and Friends,

Well, it's near the end of another year, a little better than the last, but still not all the way back. However we will move ahead "full on four" and try to return to some sort of normalcy. So the first order of business will be to incorporate Groundhog Day with Christmas. That's right, in what has seemed like an annual occurrence, it's time to talk reunion!

We WILL be having a reunion next year, and it will once again be held in Washington DC at the Hilton Double Tree Crystal City at 300 Army Navy Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia. The Hilton people have been more than accommodating in letting us cancel twice and rebook. US Coachways has also kept our reservation open for almost three years so we are grateful for that. The dates however, will be different. They are from Monday September 19th to Thursday September 22nd with check out on Friday, September 23rd. These dates are actually better as it shouldn't have the heat usually associated with the nation's capital, and we're back to our usual weekly schedule. Tours will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, with the United States Marine Museum and Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, and Wednesday going to the Capital building and the Washington Navy Yard Museum. I am also looking into a quick tour of the Pentagon as we return on Wednesday if time permits, as it is almost next door to the Doubletree. That is still in the planning stages as we have to apply 90 days out, and like the Navy yard it is a military installation and that is always open to change.

My partner in crime Jennifer Wilson, is looking into getting a better room rate, so keep your fingers crossed. The registration form, tour descriptions, and general info on area sights will be in the next newsletter, so stay tuned!



**OUR HOST HOTEL**

Now for some important but troubling news. Our Treasurer Isaac (Ike) Cohen has informed me that the slush fund is getting DANGEROUSLY low! One of the reasons is the reunion situation mentioned above. We haven't had a 50/50 drawing in over two years, and historically slush fund donations are higher after each reunion. So Ike asked me to make an announcement to have our crewmembers and general readership dig deep and donate to the slush fund. So if you will, please send your checks to Ike at his "winter" address:

Isaac Cohen  
776 Grand Rapids Blvd  
Naples, FL 34120-4469

Be sure to make your checks out to USS BANG

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Continuing on the subject of slush fund donations, you are holding the main expense to the slush fund...the Bang Gang newsletter. Last quarter's newsletter with postage, mailing seals, and the cost to have Staples produce the newsletter amounted to \$3.19 per newsletter. I know that many people, and to be truthful, I am one of them, like to hold the newsletter in their hands. I have an aversion to digital issues of the newspaper and since I am a reader of a certain age, I guess I'll always be that way. However, before I became editor, I opted for the e-version, and lo and behold my reading world didn't end. I also know that many of our shipmates do not have a computer and are not connected to the internet; and again to be truthful there are times I'd like to join them. Upon discussing the slush fund situation, both Ike and I came to the realization that if we do not get a sizable increase in donations, we may have to cut the issues to three or even bi-annual. I would find this very upsetting for two reasons. One, I like doing this and Two, I'm finally getting the hang of it. Those of my shipmates who dragged me through hydraulics will understand that.

So, I'd like to make the case for as many of the readership who would like to try switching to the e-version of the newsletter send me an email and I'll put you on the digital list. If after a few issues, you still like the hard copy better, just email me again and I'll return you to the snail mail list. Now there won't be any tote bags or tee-shirts if you switch but here is what you'll get.

You'll one of the first to receive your issue, and it will be in living COLOR!

When Staples takes the order for the newsletter they set up a email link for the digital people, and depending on when Staples completes the order, the digital issue is sent out that day, or the next at the latest, again in COLOR! Your hard copy will, depending on the Staples printer and the vagaries of the US Postal Service, arrive who knows when.

Finally, if you want something to hold in your hand, you can always print it out, and it will be, you guessed it in COLOR! So consider the digital edition, you'll save us money and save a tree in the process. Well, maybe not a whole tree.



Now let's turn from serious stuff to a real nice announcement from shipmate **Len Sciuto**:

"It is now official, I am pleased to announce that this morning I signed a contract for my current events, fictional nautical (submarine) thriller: **TANGO DOWN: CHINA SEA**. If all goes well, the book should be available for sale around Easter.

Lenny gave me a synopsis of his debut novel: The SSN Tarpon is attacked and sunk in the China Sea. LCDR Rico Petrone, a navigator, is suddenly transferred to the SSN Cardinalfish, whose mission is to find the Tarpon. The nefarious Chinese battle group intends to steal the weapons and technology from Tarpon and destroy the detected Cardinalfish. Tension and fear heighten as Petrone's experience, knowledge, and skills along with his Captain's decisions, are put to the test

and critical to the survival of the Cardinalfish's ships company as she attempts to escape the Chinese onslaught. The enemy battle group, believing they are invincible, uses a mysterious, new and unconventional weapon pirated from the US military experimental weapons computer system. Petrone receives praise and admiration for his recommendations in avoiding the weapon and the numerous attacks. With Petrone navigating the way, can the Cardinalfish, facing insurmountable odds, rescue the Tarpon survivors, identify the weapon, elude the battle group, and get home in time to prevent a war?" YIKES!

Lenny will be establishing a webpage and other communication aspects, plus book signings, interviews, and conference presentations once the publishing aspects are completed. Lenny also intends to donate a percentage of the profits to both the US Navy and the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance programs for junior personnel who don't earn enough to support their families while in the service of our country.

*Thank you Lenny for providing this information, it sounds like a real page turner. I'm very happy for you and I know, as a published writer myself, you never forget your first book! Good luck!*

## **CHRISTMAS IN OTHER PLACES IN OTHER TIMES**

**One of the sure things in life besides death and taxes is that if you spend enough time in the military, you will probably spend at least ONE Christmas holiday away from loved ones. It is part of that “blank check” we all sign when we raise our right hand and take our oath. I have two examples of that responsibility. One sent in by our own President Bill Fenton and one from former Lieutenant Frank Hood formerly of the USS Seahorse (SSN 669) a Sturgeon class boat. These first hand accounts tell an interesting story of submarine sailors far from home but still performing in the best traditions of the US Navy.**

### **First from our President-Bill Fenton**

**We were on a Med cruise (Nov70-Feb-71), when we attended one of the famed Bob Hope Christmas shows old ski nose held each holiday season for our troops away from home. We were on the deck of the air craft carrier John F Kennedy (CVN 79) anchored out in Souda Bay, Crete. The fleet was anchored and no one went ashore. The next day launches from the carrier ferried us to the ship for the show. Having watched these shows on television growing up it was quite a thrill to actually attend one in person. Bob was tremendous. From where I stood, close to the stage but on the side, you could see he was reading his lines from giant cue cards held by stage hands in front of him but as the pro he was you’d never know it if you were standing in front of the stage. He must have got a kick out of our name, because when talking about the fleet being in, he specifically said we even have the USS BANG with us today.**

**In addition to Les Brown and his Band of Renown, Bob’s guests that year included catcher for the Cincinnati Reds Johnny Bench who was the home run and RBI leader and had just become the youngest player ever to win the National League Most Valuable Player award for 1970. Also along for the tour, were the Golddiggers, a four girl singing and dancing group from the Dean Martin show, Lola Falana, a singer/dancer who had recently appeared in Playboy. But the big hit of the show was Ursula Andress in a purple hot pants and boots outfit!**

**Of course the show ended with the traditional singing of Silent Night by all the cast and sailors. It made for a very moving reminder of home for Christmas for everyone. All good things must come to an end and so the launches took us all back to our ships and we hoisted anchor and went back to sea.**

**This story comes from LT. Frank Hood of the USS Seahorse (SSN 669) as told to him by Jim Terrell TM2 (SS) USS Sam Houston (SSBN 609) Blue**

**It was mid December 1964, and it was cold as one would expect Connecticut to be at that time of the year. We boarded the buses, and after a while, we were on our way to Quonset Point Naval Air Station where an aircraft waited to take us to Scotland. We were going back a few days early this time.**

**The idea was relieve the other crew so they could get home for Christmas. The faces of the men betrayed their remorse at leaving home at this time of the year. There was little of the usual horse play and chatter we normally enjoyed on these trips. Instead, the men stared out the windows reflecting on the price they and their families paid for the security of the nation. Children would rush downstairs on Christmas morning to discover a bounty of presents. Their fathers would share that precious moment, unaware that somewhere out in the world's oceans, other fathers, crammed into a cylinder of steel, kept watch over the delicate world peace. On our watch, there was peace on earth.**

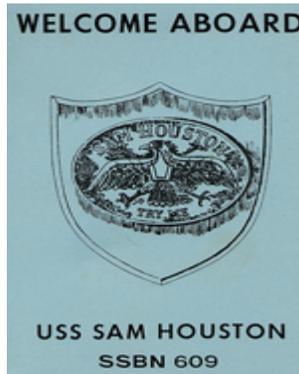
**Take-offs always amused me. I chuckled watching men who would take a boat to test depth and think nothing of it, grip the armrest so hard their knuckles turned white. They sat rigid with their heads back and their eyes closed, perhaps making peace with maker, while the palnes rotated and climbed out into the morning sunshine. In a few minutes, we had reached our altitude and leveled off. Almost immediately, I noticed a couple of guys begin to move around the cabin having conferences with first one group and then another. Soon they approached us with their proposition. They proposed that although we had our duty to do, we need not sacrifice our customs and traditions. We couldn't be home for Christmas with our kids, but we could share with others. There was an orphanage in Dunoon with children in need of what we had to give. Soon the hat was passed, monies collected and duties assigned.**

**When we arrived in Holy loch, the usual change –of-command process went forward with a greater sense of urgency than usual. Clearly, the other crew wanted to go home. In no time the process was complete and we had the boat. When the opportunity for liberty came along, we dispatched a committee to the orphanage, and they returned with a list of children who would be invited aboard for Christmas dinner. The list included their names, age, and gender. Each child was assigned a “Daddy for the Day” who was charged with escorting them, through the boat and getting them to all functions. It's funny, although I have not been able to put a name to the faces of the men who organized this event, I still remember the name of the child I looked after that day-Angus Naylor.**

**A second committee, armed with the list that indicated age and gender, went shopping for Christmas presents for the children. Soon, the local merchants became of what we were doing, and our money went much further than we estimated. Our men returned with a huge supply of presents. Instead of the usual movie, we spent one evening wrapping presents. The role of Santa Claus went to our Hospital Corpsman, affectionally known as “The Quack.”**

**A liberty launch brought the kids out, and that in itself was a thrill for them. Some were scared and others mischievous. We gave them a tour of the boat, then took them to the crew's mess where they enjoyed, perhaps, the best Christmas dinner of their lives. After dinner they were treated to a Walt Disney movie-The Amazing Mr. Limpet, starring Don Knotts. When the movie was over we took them up to the periscope stand where the Quack was decked out in an ill-fitting Santa Claus suit. He had a couple of helpers in some sort of costume. This is where we discovered that British children believed in Father Christmas, not Santa Claus. One of the guys quickly explained we had invited our Santa Claus to come over especially for them. As each child sat in Santa's lap, the Quack would ask their name and then repeat it loud enough for his helpers to hear it. This would send the helpers frantically searching among the huge pile of presents to locate the one destined for this child who was kept occupied answering the usual questions concerning their behavior during the year. When found, a present would be placed in Santa's hand. He would present it to the child while the two of them smiled at the camera. In the end each child received about three presents apiece and a picture of themselves with the most ridiculous looking Santa Claus!**

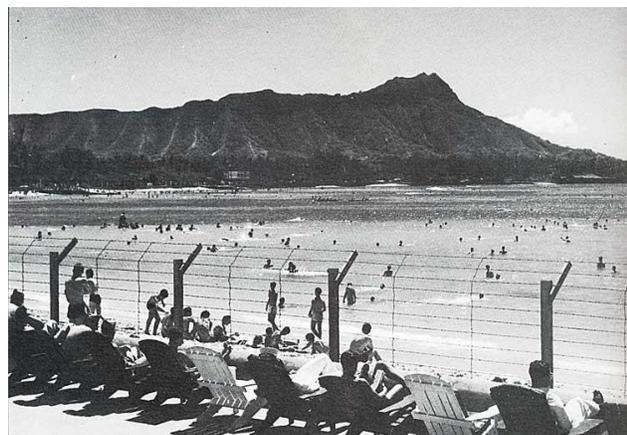
Soon it was time for them to go, and the tears began to flow. Tiny little girls held tightly to their “Daddies” and cried out that they wanted to stay. Everyone was affected. We escorted them with their presents back to the tender where the liberty launches waited to return them to the cold reality that we had given them temporary respite from. As the launch pulled away, the children waved, and all the “Daddies” waved farewell to them as I had seen them do to their own children a few weeks before. It was not lost on me that these men who wielded one of the most powerful warships ever conceived on Earth, were, at that moment, wiping tears from their eyes and for a few hours there was truly Peace on Earth.



## TWO MISTAKES IN FOUR DAYS THAT SPELLED DEFEAT FOR THE AXIS IN WWII

When Admiral Yamamoto planned the attack on Pearl Harbor he knew it had to be a knock out blow to the United States Navy. Fluent in English and a self described baseball addict, Yamamoto was assigned to the Japanese Embassy in the twenties as Naval Attaché and saw first hand the industrial power of the United States. Traveling the country, he saw the assembly lines in Detroit, the steel mills in Pennsylvania, and at the same time took in countless baseball games, many of them of his beloved, but hapless, Washington Senators. He planned a three wave attack. The first wave was to destroy the ships in “Battleship Row”, the aircraft carriers, and Hickam field. The second wave was to attack the surrounding ships of the line and those in drydock. The third was to attack the submarine base, the oil tank farm and CINCPAC headquarters, all of them a short walk from each other. He achieved the first two goals, but after the fleet came alive and many of his planes were shot down, Yamamoto cancelled the third wave. His reasoning was that he had lost the advantage of surprise, the carriers were not in port and he did not want them to surprise him. Pearl Harbor was a shambles. He ordered the fleet back to Japan. That was the first mistake.

FDR gave his famous “Day of Infamy” speech the next day. A couple of thousand miles away, Winston Churchill was listening intently. He hoped that FDR would declare war on Nazi Germany as well as the Empire of Japan. enabling him to have an ally against Hitler. FDR did not. Churchill was despondent, but he only had to wait three more days to get his wish, delivered by the most unlikely person. On December 11, Adolph Hitler gave one of his long speeches to the Reichstag. Near the end, Hitler, for the first and only time, formally declared war on a foreign country, the United States. That was the second mistake, because he told no one his was going to do that. The German High Command was apoplectic. Lieutenant Below, Naval attaché to the Wehrmacht, called Hitler, not to his face though, “clueless.” Grand Admiral Doenitz though confronted Hitler and demanded why he had not been alerted, so he could position U-Boats around the East Coast ports. The Wehrmacht Generals and Field Marshalls many of whom as Lieutenants and Captains had fought the “Yanks” in World War I, knew who they would soon be up against, and I assume the phrase “I didn’t sign up for this” in German was said many times. At end of the war, over 80% of Japan’s merchant fleet and 30% of it’s warships were sunk by those subs that weren’t attacked. Germany was overrun by the United States Army that the Generals knew would eventually destroy them. An eerie postscript, the German high Command would plan and execute more than 18 assassination attempts on Hitler during the war.



PICTURES OF WAIKIKI BEACH TAKEN A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER DECEMBER 7TH

COURTESY OF DON HALL



# 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.

**FRITZ CARLSON IC 62-63    GLEN WRINKLES EM-63-64    CARY JOHNSON SNELGROVE EMC-71**

**LINN ROGERS ENC 66-67    JOHN CLINE LT 44-45 WP 2,3,4,5,6    KENNETH C DAVISON CS2 71-72**

**FRANCES P. NOONE EN 71-72    JOHN O'MEALLY EM1 59**



**SHIPMATES, 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.**



**BURR ANDERSON JR    GARY PROBST  
MARLENE CARLSON  
SHARON SWANSON**

**IN MEMORY OF ROGER CLARK WP 3,4,5,6**

**THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATE HAS CHANGED HIS ADDRESS**

**Fritz J Carlson**-Deployed on Eternal Patrol 14 November 2021 at his home in Belvedere, IL. Born 7 November, 1939,



Fritz graduated from Irene S. Reed High School in Shelton, WA. He proudly served in the US Navy aboard the USS TUSK, USS SKATE, and the USS SKIPJACK. Fritz also served aboard the USS BANG from 1962-63. Fritz was a 32nd degree Master Mason of the Union Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M., New London Ct. He enjoyed flying planes, driving classic cars, and spending time with family and friends. He also loved being out-

doors and keeping up with his garden.



**Linn R Rogers**-Deployed on Eternal Patrol on 15 September 2020 surrounded by his loving family. Linn was born on 12 February 1930 in Kannapolis, NC. Linn spent 22 years on submarines and was a Chief Engineman on the BANG from 1966-

67. After retiring from the Navy, Linn worked at the Charleston Naval shipyard. Linn was a member of Masonic Lodge 401 as well as the Shriners. He was a member of the Submarine Veterans.

**Glenn Alan Wrinkles**-Deployed on Eternal Patrol on 6 December 2021. Born on 13 July



1944, Glenn was married to his amazing wife for 55 years. He was a graduate of Memorial High School and graduated from Nuclear School in the Navy. He served six years in the Navy and served on several nuclear submarines. Glenn served on the USS BANG as an EM from 1963-64.

After leaving the Navy, Glenn was an electrician at Alcoa where he retired after 39 years.

**Cary Jackson Snelgrove**-Deployed on Eternal Patrol on 2



December 2021. Cary, better known as "Jack" to his shipmates served in the United States Navy for 13 years 7 months and 11 days. Jack served on The BANG in 1971, he reorted aboard as an First Class EM and was made Chief before he left. Jack also served as a recruit. Jack moved around a bit after the Navy, settled in Marietta GA and on Sep-

tember 12th 1975 m'arried the love of his life Kathy.

**John F Cline**-John was born on 21 April, 1921. He deployed on Eternal Patrol on 24 August 2020. John served on the BANG from 1944-45 as an Ensign and later Lieutenant. John was a member of the crew for War Patrols 2,3,4,5,6.

**Kenneth C. Davison**- Kenneth "Skip" Davison was born on 2 September, 1949 and deployed on Eternal Patrol 7 September, 2021. He qualified in submarines aboard the George C Marshall in 1970 and was a CS2 when he served on the BANG from 1971-72.

**Frances P Noone**- Frances deployed on Eternal Patrol on 24 March 2021. Francis qualified in submarines aboard the USS S-27 (SS132) in 1941 and was a ENC(SS) when he transferred to the Fleet Reserve. Frances served on the BANG in 1951 as an EN and was part of ComCrew2.

**John O'Meally**-John deployed on Eter-



nal Patrol on 24 August 2021. Born on March 23, 1936, he lived his early life in Harlem NYC. It was there that he met and married his beloved wife of 56 years Doro-

thy. John served 23 years in the United States Navy, a career marked by merit and distinction which included over ten years of service on Nuclear and conventional submarines. John served as an EM1 on the BANG in 1959. John retired as a CWO3. He worked for Factory Mutual Engineering until 1989.





# THE LUCKY BAG

**Well Shipmates, Friends, Spouses, and Loyal readers,**

**That wraps up another quarter's USS BANG Bang Gang Newsletter. I hoped you enjoyed it. As a bit of a summary and recap, please give serious thought to donating to the Slush Fund. This Newsletter is our lifeline. We need as many as can to help us continue keeping the greatest crew updated on our boat, the "best boat on the river!" Also remember to send your check to Treasurer "Ike" Cohen and make sure you send it to his "winter" treasury:**

**Isaac "Ike" Cohen  
776 Grand Rapids Blvd  
Naples, FL 34120-4469**

**Please make sure you make your checks out to the USS BANG**

**Many thanks to our President Bill Fenton, and LT Frank Hood for their contribution to the "Deployments Long Ago and Far Away" section. BTW Frank Hood and I went to College in Indiana at the same time. Me to Hanover, Frank to Purdue. We both went to different schools together...but the Lieutenant took it seriously.**

**Also thanks to Don Hall, a long time friend of our former skipper Admiral Sinclair for the pictures of Waikiki Beach days after the attack.**

**The next issue will be all about the upcoming reunion, so get ready. It will have the registration form, area info, tour brake down and all sorts of important info.**

**The next page will have "Super" Storekeeper Ike Cohen's small stores list, just in time for that last minute stocking stuffers. Who can't use a few more challenge coins?**

**And as we celebrate the Holidays this year, let's stop for a few minutes and reflect on those active duty Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who are standing watch and keeping us safe this Holiday season.**

**Finally, from everyone at the editorial staff here at the palatial Bang Gang headquarters, here's wishing everyone the happiest and healthiest Holiday and New Year!**

**Wait! This just in...a recent American Medical Association finding has shown that women tend to put on a few extra pounds over the Holidays, live considerably longer than their husbands who mention it.**

**Take care! See you next year!**



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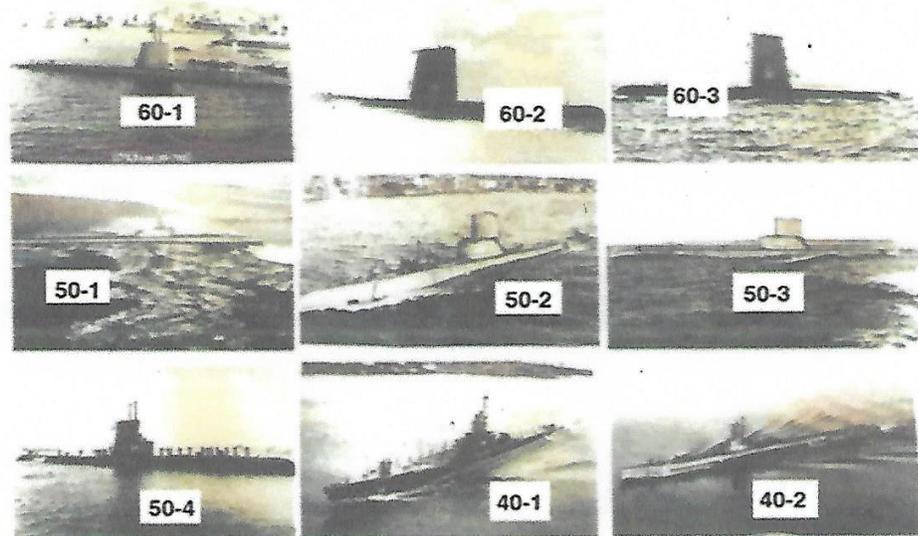


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea.  
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11x14 BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's - \$3.00 ea. State Your Choice



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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PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

