



1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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BOB GUNNY TORPEDOMAN
WAR PATROLS 2,3,4,5,6
2FEBRUARY 2023

THE LAST OF THE FIRST

SAILOR REST YOUR OAR, WE HAVE THE WATCH





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 once again Shipmates, significant others, and loyal subscribers!

Well, the new year is upon us, and for much of the nation, it has certainly roared in like a lion. California and much of the West has received a lot, and in some areas, too much of their much needed rain, and the rest of the country, including down here in "sunny" Florida has seen some very cold days.

This issue is a little later than usual, because I wanted to wait until we could receive information on this year's reunion. Both Paul Schramm and Jennifer Wilson have been working overtime on securing a suitable site for the gathering. This is a situation that is becoming trickier and trickier as time goes on. We had planned on New London for this year's gathering, and with the help of past hosts Ralph and Claire Gates, our intrepid team set out to plan this year's muster. Then fate raised it's ugly head. In the past, even though Connecticut had a law that prohibited Liquor in rooms, the hospitality department, looked the "other way" and allowed it. Since the arrival of covid, however, this isn't the case. Liquor sales are the largest profit margin for most hotels, and after over two years of little or no sales, the hotel industry (among others) is now making up for lost time, and profits. So it was back to the drawing board, and once again our all-star team came through. We have a date and a venue for this year's reunion! Here are the particulars:

HOTEL: The Crown Plaza in Providence RI. (Part of the Holiday Inn chain)

DATES: OCT 2-5 2023

RATES: 139.00/NT PLUS TAX. INCLUDES BREAKFAST

The hotel is right off Rte 95 and adjacent to TF Green Airport in Providence, and the hotel provides a free shuttle. There is plenty of free parking, and an indoor pool, which will come in handy in October! There is also a state of the art fitness room, which I will probably never see. This is just a quick intro to the hotel and I will have a more detailed description in the next issue along with a registration sheet. Here are some pictures of the hotel











SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRESIDENT, BILL FENTON FOR PROVIDING THE PICTURES OF THE REUNION FOR THE NEWSLETTER. IT WAS A LONG AND ARDUOUS TASK TO CONVERT THE IPHONE PICTURES TO JPEG.,BUT BILL PERFORMED THE JOB IN 4.0 STYLE. JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU WHAT A UCONN NAVAL ROTC EDUCATION CAN DO!

BRAVO ZULU MR. PRESIDENT!



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.

DICK FLANAGAN RM 56-58

JOHN DONLON LT 58-59

CONYAL CODY EMC 58-61

RICHARD WOLFE MM 60-63

BOB GUNNY TM 44-45

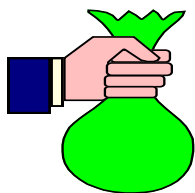
DOMENIC IAMMARINO MMFN 71-72

LEIGH SALMON SO3 55-57

WP 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BILL JOSEPH MANCUSO EM 55-58

SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OAR



THANK YOU!

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



JIM AND HARRIET SCHULTZ

WILLIAM AND KATHLEEN POWELL

BYRON BANG

LARRY BUCKMASTER

PETER DAVIS

BILL FENTON

I INVITE ALL READERS TO VISIT THE LUCKY BAG TO READ ABOUT MR. BANG'S INTERESTING SLUSH FUND DONATION

WELCOME ABOARD AGAIN!
NEW FOUND SHIPMATE

DONALD STUART YOUNG EM2 54-57

4674 CHESTNUT HILL ROAD

CENTER VALLEY, PA. 18034





John Donlon— Captain John Donlon departed on eternal patrol 26 December 2022. He graduated from the Naval Academy class of '52 and spent the next couple of years on destroyers. He attended submarine school in 1950 and served on *USS SENNETT* (SS408), and *USS SEADOG* (SS401) before returning

to Submarine School in 1952 as an instructor in the Officer course. He resumed sea duty in 1958 on the *USS BANG* (SS385) and a year later served as the XO of the *USS HALFBEAK* (SS352). Captain Donlon completed the Advanced Nuclear Power School in 1960, and served as XO of the *USS TINOSA* (SSN 606). He assumed command of the *USS SHARK* (SSN 591) in 1963. After detaching from *SHARK*, he attended the Polaris Command Course at Dam Neck, VA and then commanded the *USS WOODROW WILSON* (SSBN624) from 66-68. He commanded SUBDIV 42 from 68-69 and served as CO of the sub tender *USS L.Y. SPEAR* (AS 36). Captain Donlon served his last tour of duty as Chief of Staff, Commander SUBGRP TWO until his retirement in July 1979. He then spent fifteen years as a logistics engineer for Electric Boat.

Richard H Wolfe— (No Photo) Richard deployed on Eternal Patrol 27 December 2022. Richard served on the *BANG* from 1960-1963 when he was honorably discharged. He was a truck driver for Harder's Express in Claverack, NY. He was also a life member of the Melville Fire Company, and a member of the Philmont Rescue Squad, and the Philmont American Legion.

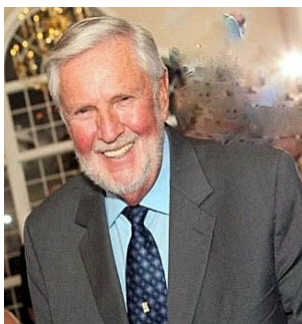
Leigh O Salmon—Shipmate Leigh Salmon embarked on Final patrol 4 February 2023 at his home in Abilene Texas. Leigh served on the *BANG* as a sonarman third class from 1955-1957. He worked at Revere Copper and Brass, first in production then in sales. He also worked for many ears in furnace and mobile home repair. An avid outdoorsman he loved to hunt, fish, trap and walk. In his later life he took up golf and woodworking, giving away most of his woodworking to friends and loved ones.



Conyal Cody— Shipmate Cody deployed on eternal patrol 19 May 2019. Born on April 19, 1929 in Orange New Jersey and graduated from East Orange High in 1958. He enlisted in the Navy and served honorably for twenty years. Conyal served aboard the *BANG* from 58-

61 as an EMC. Conyal received his Bachelor's degree from San Diego State in 1972. He taught elementary education in San Diego and East County School districts. Conyal also worked for Teledyne Ryan as an electrical Engineer, and as a Electrical Building Inspector for the city of San Diego.





Richard Joseph Flanagan—Our beloved shipmate Richard singled his lines and shoved off on Eternal Patrol on January 9, 2023. A resident of Lake Grove NY, Richard was man who enjoyed life and by his very presence enriched the lives of all those around him. Richard served on the BANG as a Radioman from 1956-58. He and his lovely

wife Christine attended many reunions and it was always an highly anticipated treat when Richard and his lovely tenor voice would spontaneously break into several Irish ballads and regale us with a few “truthful” Irish tales. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.Boyd-CaratozzoloFuneralHome.com for the Flanagan family. Our treasurer and store keeper Ike sent this along this heartfelt remembrance, “From the USS Bang Gang, he was a great person to be around with his wonderful, cheerful personality and smile and happy go lucky self who threw in his big Irish voice for wonderful effect. We always kidded about me calling him Father Flanagan and he calling me Rabbi Ike. We will miss him, may he rest in peace.



Bill Joseph Mancuso—Shipmate Bill deployed on Eternal Patrol 5 December, 2022. Bill served aboard BANG as EM from 1955-1958. After leaving the Navy, Bill worked for Dow Chemical as an operator for 33.7 years. He obtained his airplane pilot license in 1966, built several steel hull shrimp boats and motor homed the



US through 47 states. He is survived by his wife Barbera, three children, four grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.



Robert (Bob) Gunny— Our last beloved WWII crewmember deployed on eternal patrol 2 February 2023. Bob was a TM on the BANG, from 1944-45 and rode on war patrols 2,3,4,5,and 6. Bob was frequent attendee to our reunions, enjoyed swap-



ping war stories with his WWII shipmates. He continued attending the reunions until his beloved wife Betty became too ill with Alzheimer’s and could no longer attend. After the war Bob was a structural engineer and graduated from USC, which accounted for his love for all USC sports. Bob’s son Gerald attached a note to his obituary, expressing on behalf of the family, their humblest appreciation and gratitude to all those associated with the BANG and all those who sailed on her. It meant so much to Bob. Gerald, I know I speak for the entire surviving crew of The USS BANG when I say it was an honor and a privilege to have known your father. May he rest in peace, and I’m sure he has already hit heaven’s beach with all this shipmates.

Domenic A Iammarino— Shipmate Dom departed on Eternal Patrol on 30 January 2023. Dom served on the BANG from 71-72 as an MMFN. He was a member of the crew in the turnover to the



Spanish Navy in 1972. He attended Indiana University, and after being honorably discharged from the Navy, he worked for several different companies, mainly in food service. Several of the companies he worked for were General Foods, Borden, and the Dial Corporation. He retired in 2020 and spent his last years around the house spoiling his children and grandchildren. Dom hosted the Cleveland reunion and those in attendance still marvel at the Rock ‘n Roll Museum and USS COD tours. He loved Cleveland sports, and he and I would have spirited discussions on the Browns seemingly endless “parade” of QB’s. Dom also served on the USS JALLAO (SS368). Dom was a member of the USS COD Subvets Base.



THE LUCKY BAG

Well shipmates, significant others, and valued subscribers—

Another newsletter has come and gone! This one was a little late, as I mentioned on the FPO page, because we wanted to get the reunion information out to all. We cannot praise Paul and Jennifer enough for their hard work in securing a new location in place of New London. The hotel situation is becoming more and more dicey year after year. Plus the fact that we are taking away a good chunk of their liquor sales at a time when sales are most important to the higher-ups, can mean that this situation is sure to get worse. Perhaps it may get better as time goes by and the profit margins return. We'll have to see. One way we can get a better "deal" so to speak, is to have more shipmates attend the reunions. We do have a pretty good turnout with our Eastern get togethers, but I for one think that there is also an untapped source of attendees in the territory west of the Mississippi. Many shipmates may not be able to attend back out East due to the cost of travel, distance driving, or medical issues. If you'd like to see more reunions closer to your home, you might want to scout around your area for a suitable sight. However we have a fine location, and we'll still be able to tour our old "home away from home" again.

Speaking of reunions, we will probably have a registration form in the next newsletter. Paul Schramm is probably firming things up with the hotel even as you read this, guaranteeing a bunch of rooms for the reunion. My message to you is: when you get the form fill it out and send it in right away, and then make a reservation with the hotel. There were a few shipmates who couldn't get a room, and had to go to other lodgings in Washington, DC. We will, of course, have more detailed info on tours, the hotel, and the surrounding area in the next newsletter, so I'd start looking at plane fares to Providence RI (PVD).

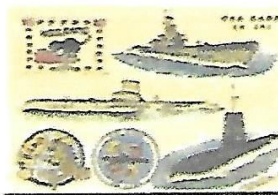
While the good news this quarter was a reunion site and date, we had a very sad and poignant Eternal Patrol page. The news is sad whenever we lose a shipmate, but with the passing of the last of the original Gang Bang, it is extremely sad. There is a book at your local library, or you can order it on www.thriftbooks.com that tells the story of the submarine war in the Pacific from Pearl Harbor to the surrender in Tokyo. It's titled *SILENT VICTORY* by Clay Blair. There is quite a bit about the BANG in the beginning, and much of about Bob Gunny, if you can find it, it is definitely worth the read. On a somewhat related point, when we were at the DC reunion, there were a lot of nuclear bubbleheads around, a Vice Admiral, and the former CO of the USS TREPANG, they both stopped and talked with us, and both said the same thing, "I always wanted to speak with a diesel boat sailor and find out what it was really like way back then." Way back then. I guess they saw the movies, and wanted to know if it was all real. I myself remember in San Diego during the tour of the SSN Albuquerque, I was in the forward torpedo room looking at the hydraulic torpedo sled, and mentioned we did that with a block and pulley set-up. The first class looked at me like I had two heads, and said "you're kidding me!" I said "nope, just like John Garfield in *Destination Tokyo!*" Way back then.

Now for the answer to all your questions, who in the world is Byron Bang? Did he serve in a A-Gang duty section? Was he a phantom JO who spent time in the wardroom? No, Mister Byron Bang found our website and ordered some small stores for the obvious reason. He just wanted to be associated with the "Best Boat on The River!" Take care gang, and remember:

Straight Board All!



Navy Blue Ballcap - \$8.00 ea.
Solid or Mesh top State Your Choice



6" Window Trilogy Decal
\$5.00 ea.

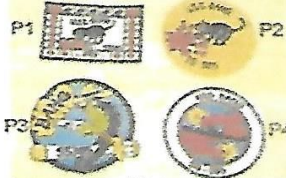
All orders are normally sold at our Reunions or shipped via USPS Priority Mail. Send mail orders to Isaac Cohen with your check payable to USS Bang and be sure to include a few extra bucks to cover the postage.

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

PLEASE CALL ME FOR MAILING

ADDRESS AT:

908-334-0027

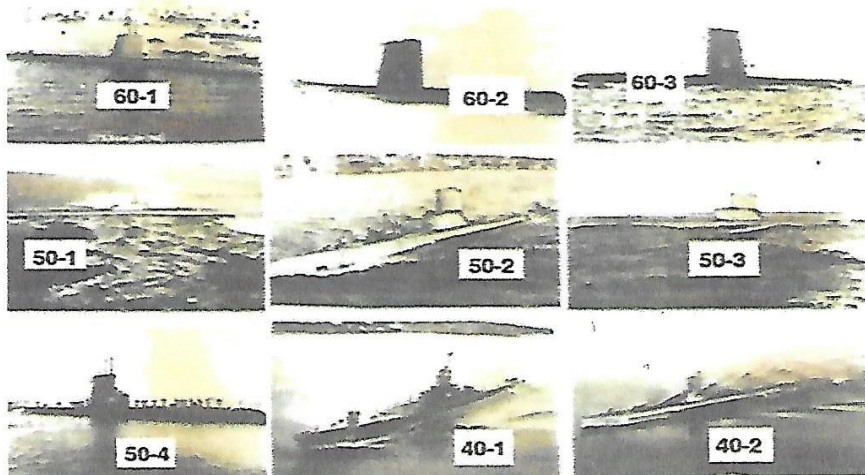


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea
State Your Choice



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



Original Challenge Coins
(Pre 75th Anniversary - Different Backs)

\$15.00

**ORDER COINS
BY NUMBER**

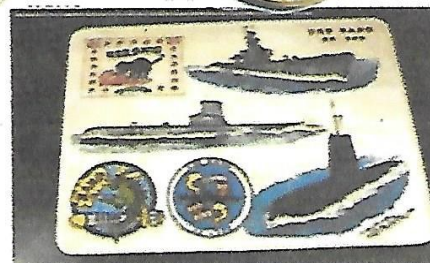


75th Anniversary
Challenge Coins

\$15.00



75th
Anniversary
Hat/Lapel Pin
\$5.00



Bang Trilogy

Mouse Pad

\$12.00

Eric H. Ericson, III-Editor
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**FIRST – CLASS MAIL
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PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

