



1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

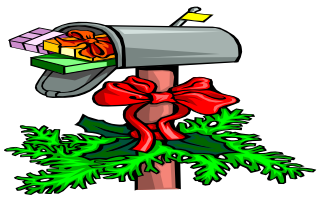
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Fall/Winter 2020 WWW.USSBANG.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG ISSUE-95



**Lieutenant Commander Anton R Gallaher assumes command
Upon Commissioning USS BANG(SS385)
4 December 1943**





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 and Friends!

Well it has been, as you all know, one heck of a year! As I write this however there is that proverbial "Light at the end of the tunnel" with not one but two vaccines that will hopefully get us out this almost year long SNAFU!

This has been a good in one aspect in regards to the newsletter and our ship's company and slush fund. We have added several "lost" shipmates the past year, with two more this issue. Most of these were referred from present "found" shipmates who either by being seen with a BANG cap or shirt, at a VFW or American Legion meeting, have sparked interest from members of BANG's past ship's company. Whatever it was, we are all thankful to all who helped find our ship and running mates!

We also had a very good quarter regards to our Slush Fund contributions which have been strong as usual. We can't thank you enough, you are the engine that drives this endeavor and besides as you know I don't come cheap! Just kidding, really I'm a kiddier! Plus if that isn't enough, this past issue saw ALL the Slush Fund checks going straight to Treasurer Ike Cohen! Looks like everyone got the memo! Bravo Zulu to all! And finally only TWO Newsletters were returned, a fantastic job well done in regards to keeping costs down. Several subscribers also switched to the digital issue, further lowering the cost. So you see 2020 wasn't a complete loss.



We even had a few letters from the shipmates:



HMCS(SS) Andrew B. McKaye writes Dear Eric my wife Jean died in September. We were married nearly 73 years. She genuinely enjoyed attending the BANG reunions from Las Vegas in the '80s to Cleveland four of five years ago. Her family was by her side at her passing. I hope to join you in Arlington.

Dear "Doc" McKaye, I know all your shipmates will join me in extending our most sincere condolences at the loss of your wife Jean, I know we all remember her at the reunions, and I do hope that we will see you in Arlington.

Patrick White, Captain Savage's Grandson writes:

I now live in Germany, and my son (Maximillian Stuart White) in the 5th grade was given an assignment in school to prepare a presentation about something *old* he has at home, and he happened upon Stu's old BANG pin (one of various old mementos that were sent to us after he passed,) It's pretty crazy to think about how Stu told me when at the Naval Academy he was all fired up to go fight Germans at sea (and was disappointed when the war ended before he got to fight in it. Now here I am and his Great Grandson, living in Germany and telling and showing these German kids about this American submarine and the man who worked on it so long ago. All the best and regards from Germany.

Thank you Patrick for your kind letter, I remember your Grandfather and Grandmother Sydney at many of our reunions. Cat. Savage was indeed an Officer and a Gentleman and the entire crew not just those who served under him miss him greatly.



Chris Clark— writes from Tempe Arizona, Thanks for another fine edition of the Bang Gang Newsletter. I was an officer on the USS Bang from 1966 to 1968, serving as Chief Engineer during Bang’s 1967 shipyard overhaul at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. My first ship was the USS Canberra (CAG-2) (CA70) before the conversion. The Canberra was the second guided missile cruiser and the only US Navy ship named for a foreign capital city. I served as a Deck Division Officer, duties included chipping rust, painting everything, manning 5-inch guns, running and maintaining utility boats, and the Captain’s Gig, and Hollystoning the teakwood main decks. I was on a MedCruise in 1963-1964, Panama Canal transit for a change of homeport from Norfolk to San Diego. President Kennedy’s assassination, and a Long Beach Naval Shipyard overhaul were memorable highlights. I received orders to Submarine School New London in Spring 1964 and never looked back. I qualified on the USS Amberjack, then on to USS Bang, two years of shore duty teaching celestial navigation at the Stanford University NROTC unit and finished my seagoing years on the USS Corporal. I am now a retired professor of education living happily with my lovely wife of 54 years in landlocked Tempe Arizona. I’d like to propose the Canberra for a future “Target for Today” feature.

Thank you Mr. Clark for your letter, Your request is granted and you’ll find the Canberra as this issue’s “Target for Today” We served together on the Bang, and I must say you were a good officer. It was always a given that when you had OOD duty, you would always come topside to check on things. In those cold nights tied up in NLON and standing midwatch, (I always seemed to be topside midwatch!) it was sort of comforting to know that if we had to be there you’d be there to! In way of thanks, here’s a blast from the past!



Lieutenant Clark and TM3 John Springer go through the Officer’s Qualification Run-Through. Don’t ask me what they are doing!

William (Bill) Kielbasa promised some more sea stories and he wasn’t fooling! Here is his latest installment:

It was in late July when I saw her silhouette outlined against the setting sun, low slung and sleek hiding in the shadows. At eleven years of age, that seductive image set my future into motion for she promised uncommon adventures and daring exploits...if I had the courage to pursue her! The USS CHAD (SS235) was berthed at the Naval Reserve Training Center in Salem MA that year and was replaced with the USS SEA DOG (SS401) when I signed up with the Naval Reserve and volunteered for submarines in 1966. I went to Sub School NLON/ Basic Electricity/Electronics Great Lakes/ Sonar Technician Key West then active duty onboard BANG in May ’68. After losing Thresher in ’63 and the loss of Scorpion during my *first week at sea!* Brought home the danger and responsibilities of submarine duty. As A Non Qual I got the message! Each of us plays a serious role in keeping the Boat and its Crew safe and sound. We entrust each other with our lives. Not much of a “sea story” but something I remembered as part of a grown up while on the Bang!



Au Contraire Bill, great story and to help it along, I also joined SUBDIV 1-11 in Salem, ENCS Bryant was the COB, and he’s still with us at the Marble head Subvets, still taking names and

kicking butt! LCDR Lunquist was CO if I remember, he went on to become XO of the Sailfish SS 572. I also enclosed a “Blast from the Past” for you! Here is the USS SEADOG(SS401) tied up in Boston in 1965.

Finally from *The American Legion Magazine*, “The last *Civil War* pensioner died May 31, 2020! How you may ask? Seems that Irene Triplett 90, who was born in 1930 the daughter of a Confederate soldier who deserted to the Union second marriage. He was 90, his bride was 20. Irene suffered cognitive impairments qualifying her for a life-long pension as a helpless adult child of a veteran. So there. Now for all of you who may think, “now we can get back to lowering our deficit,” please be advised that according to VA records, there at present 33 spouses and 18 children who still receive VA benefits related to the...wait for it, *the Spanish-American War* fought in 1898!



TARGET FOR TODAY



NOVEMBER



BRAVO



LIMA



SIERRA

This issue of the Bang Gang Newsletter features the USS Canberra (CAG-2). The Canberra was a Baltimore Class Heavy Cruiser ordered 01 JUL 1940 as the Pittsburgh. She was laid down 3SEP 1941 and renamed Canberra (CA70) 16 OCT 1942, to commemorate the HMAS Canberra that was lost in the first battle of Savo Island, which also claimed the USS Juneau (CL52) of Sullivan Brothers fame. She was launched on 19APR 1943 at Bethlehem Steel Co. Shipyards Quincy, MA. She was commissioned 14 OCT 1943. Reclassified CAG-2 4 JAN 1952. On 1 MAY 1968 she reclassified as CA70. Decommissioned on 16FEB 1970 and stricken 31JUL78. She was sold for scrap 31JUL 1980.

Her vitals:

Displacement 13,600 tons,

Dimensions 673' 5"

Armament 9x8"/55 12x5"/38AA 40x40mm 24x20mm 4 aircraft

Speed 33knots and a crew of 2000



TOP ROW - COMBAT ACTION RIBBON (2) MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION (2)
SECOND ROW-NAVY EXPEDITION MEDAL AMERICAN CAMPAIGN ASIA PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL
THIRD ROW-WORLD WAR II VICTORY NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
FORTH ROW-VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL(4) PHILIPPINES UNIT CITATION REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM UNIT CITATION
FIFTH ROW-REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION MEDAL PHILIPPINE LIBERATION VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL



PORT SIDE VIEW OCTOBER 1943



DAZZLE PAINT STARBOARD VIEW

Photo # NH 98388 USS Canberra leaves Camden, N.J., for post-conversion trials, 14 May 1956



AFT 8" TURRET GONE MISSILES ADDED

Photo # NH 98398 USS Canberra fires a "Terrier" guided missile, February 1957



WHAT WE DO



TRANSPORTING, ESCORTED BY BOSTON CAG1
WORLD WAR II UNKNOWN SOLDIER



IN BARCELONA

SHOULDER PATCH PHOTO –COURTESY OF AI GRAZEVICH

SHIP'S PATCH COUTESY OF MIKE SMOLINSKI

ALL OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF NAVSOURCE.ORG

Photo # NH 68555 President Eisenhower practices his golf game on board USS Canberra, March 1957



GOLF IS WHERE YOU FIND IT . PRESIDENT EISENHOWER ON THE FANTAIL

Photo # NH 68551 President Eisenhower visits galley on board USS Canberra, March 1957



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TOURS GALLEY IN 57



USS Canberra CAG-2
San Diego - August 1968

Photo by Larry Backun

HOME PORTED IN SAN DIEGO 1968



CANBERRA REDESIGNATED AS CA 70



Photo # USN 1122618 Cleaning an eight-inch gun on USS Canberra, March 1967



FIELD DAY SKIMMER STYLE



WE ARE VETERANS

WE ARE VETERANS

WE LEFT HOME AS TEENAGERS FOR AN UNKNOWN ADVENTURE

WE LOVED OUR COUNTRY ENOUGH TO DEFEND IT AND PROTECT IT WITH OUR LIVES

WE SAID GOODBYE TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND EVERYTHING WE KNEW

WE LEARNED THE BASICS AND THEN WE SCATTERED IN THE WIND TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE EARTH

WE FOUND NEW FRIENDS AND A NEW FAMILY

WE BECAME BROTHERS AND SISTERS REGARDLESS OF COLOR, RACE OR CREED

WE HAD PLENTY OF GOOD TIMES AND PLENTY OF BAD TIMES

WE DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP

WE SMOKED AND DRANK TOO MUCH

WE PICKED UP GOOD AND BAD HABITS

WE WORKED HARD AND PLAYED HARDER

WE DIDN'T EARN A GREAT WAGE

WE EXPERIENCED THE HAPPINESS OF MAIL CALL AND THE SADNESS OF MISSING IMPORTANT EVENTS

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHEN, OR EVEN IF, WE WERE EVER GOING TO SEE HOME AGAIN

WE GREW UP FAST, AND YET SOMEHOW WE NEVER GREW UP AT ALL

WE FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM, AND AS WELL, THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS

SOME OF US SAW ACTUAL COMBAT AND SOME OF US DIDN'T

SOME OF US SAW THE WORLD AND SOME OF US DIDN'T

SOME OF US DEALT WITH PHYSICAL WARFARE, MOST OF US DEALT WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

WE HAVE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED AND DEALT WITH THINGS THAT WE CAN'T FULLY DESCRIBE, AS NOT ALL OUR SACRIFICES WERE PHYSICAL

WE PARTICIPATED IN TIME HONORED CEREMONIES AND RITUALS WITH EACH OTHER, STRENGTHENING OUR BONDS AND CAMARADERIE

WE COUNTED ON EACH OTHER TO GET OUR JOB DONE AND SOMETIMES TO SURVIVE IT ALL

WE HAVE DEALT WITH VICTORY AND TRAGEDY

WE HAVE CELEBRATED AND MOURNED

WE LOST A FEW ALONG THE WAY

WE TOLD AMAZING AND HILARIOUS STORIES OF OUR EXPLOITS AND ADVANTURES

WE SHARE AN UNSPOKEN BOND WITH EACH OTHER, THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T EXPERIENCE AND FEW WILL UNDERSTAND

WE KNOW THAT BEING A VETERAN IS SOMETHING THAT HAS TO BE EARNED, AND IT CAN NEVER BE TAKEN AWAY

IT HAS NO MONETARY VALUE , BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT IS A PRICELESS GIFT

PEOPLE SEE A VETERAN AND SAY "THANYOU FOR YOUR SERVICE"

WHEN WE SEE EACH OTHER , WE GIVE THAT LITTLE UPWARDS HEAD NOD, OR A SLIGHT SMILE THAT SAYS WE SHARED AND EXPERIENCED THINGS THAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE NOT

WE SPEAK HIGHLY OF OUR BRANCH AND POKE FUN AT THE OTHER BRANCHES

WE KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IF NEEDED , WE WILL BE THERE FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND STAND TOGETHER AS ONE...IN A HEARTBEAT

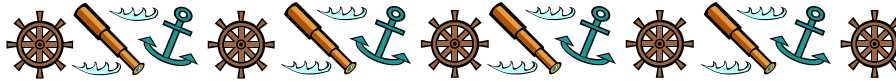
WE TRY TO REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES AND FORGET THE BAD

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE STAND TALL AND PROUD, FOR WE HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE CALLED A VETERAN.

REPRINTED COURTESY OF BOB HARTSHORN USS WAHOO(SS565)



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.

Michael Gothie LT 63-66
George Maynard Demmons TM 65



SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS

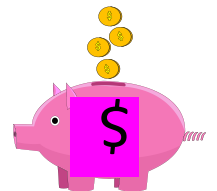
The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY ST	ZIP CODE	PHONE	YOB
Ostmann	Frank	3223 W. 3600 S	Heber City, UT	84032-3673		68-70
Nicely	Jord	24 John St.	Waterbury, CT	06708-3515		71-72



THANK YOU!

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



Merle Myer	Martin & Karen Wilson	Eloise N. Clarke
David Blaha	Don Craig	Kathleen Seader
Ike Cohen	Andrew McKaye	

THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESS

Edward T. Elliott 11735 Summer St. Trempealeau, WI 54661-8243



Michael Towers Gothie Sr. Lt. Michael Gothie Sr. deployed on Eternal Patrol on October 27, 2020. He was born in Lewisburg Pa. on August 3, 1939, the son of Lt. Daniel Shinton

Gothie (USNA class of '32 and Mary Beck Gothie. Following his father's death in the early days of World War II in the South Pacific, Mike was raised by his stepfather Dr. Kenneth Leiby alongside his children in New Hope, Pa. Lt. Gothie graduated from Phillips Exter Academy and the United States Naval Academy class of '61 and spent 16 years of combined active and reserve duty in the Submarine Services. Lt. Gothie served as Engineering Officer aboard the USS BANG (SS385) from 1963-1966. Lt. Gothie graduated with an MBA from the Darden Business School, University of Virginia in 1969 and went on to work as an investment banker on Wall Street and the Controller of Fairfield Land Developers of Little Rock, Arkansas before settling in Noank where he started and ran his own CPA firm for 35 years before passing it



George (Bud) Maynard Demmons Jr. Deployed on Eternal Patrol on December 8, 2020 after a long fight with cancer. Bud was born on

May 1, 1937, in Newton, MA. To George Demmons Sr. and Louise (Macdonald) Demmons. Bud traveled the world and served onboard five submarines and on one deployment went to the North Pole aboard the USS BILL-FISH(SSN 676). George served as a Torpedoman's Mate on the USS BANG (SS 385) in 1965. He completed is career as a Navy Recruiter in Concord and Dover NH, and had his retirement ceremony aboard the USS COSTITUTION, surrounded by his family and friends in 1981. After retirement, George worked for Craig Supply in Durham, NH until 1986 when he moved to Pittsburg, NH. George was an avid outdoorsman spending many happy days fishing with his family and friends on Lake Chibougamau in Quebec and camping across New England and Canada.





THE LUCKY BAG

Well Shipmates and Friends, as I said at the beginning, this past year has been one heck of a ride. While we are somewhat hesitant to look back at all that transpired, and in terms of being able to move about freely, what DIDN'T happen, let's look to the future.

One of the most disappointing things that didn't take place was our annual reunion. I, along with Jennifer and our President Bill Fenton came to the difficult decision to postpone our annual get together until 2021. I know I thought long and hard about this, but after seeing the ups and downs of various states and municipalities in combatting the disease, I think we came to the right decision. The District of Columbia area was particularly hard hit, as was Northern Virginia, so in retrospect, while disappointing, we really would not have had as an enjoyable get together if we had gone ahead. I want to thank all those, and there were many, who agreed with this course of action and wrote or called with their encouragement. It was really appreciated. But as many of us heard during our deployment in the Vietnam era, "There is light at the end of the Tunnel"! With now two vaccines having been formulated and distributed even as I write this, we can hopefully be trading "sea stories" (rated "PG" of course) in the Hospitality Room next August!

Enough about this year, which definitely received just "one star" on anybody's rating scale, and look to the future! The reunion will be held Wednesday August 25th through Saturday August 28th at the Hilton Doubletree Crystal City Hotel, Arlington Virginia. The tours will be the same and hopefully I can reschedule Vice Admiral Breckenridge. If he is free, he will be there. I will be in touch with the hotel and bus companies to firm up the dates we agreed on when we postponed, and also I'll be looking to add some added features such as perhaps a trip to see a National's baseball game? That's still in progress as the schedule isn't out yet. In any rate the next Newsletter will have more info. So as they say in broadcasting, "Stay tuned"!

Now for some news about what our Navy is doing these days. According to Geoff Ziezulewicz of the *Navy Times*, they are bringing back the Atlantic Fleet. Citing a changing geopolitical world Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite said that US Fleet Forces Command will be renamed US Atlantic Fleet. It is a nod to the increasing concern about Russian ships operating off the East Coast. So, I can hopefully reply for all of us who deployed on weekly ops way back when, by saying, "Glad you're back, but we never left"! A point of interest, RADM Breckenridge's last duty was Deputy Director Fleet Forces Command. Talk about your sea stories!

Now I'll leave you with this seasonal tale:

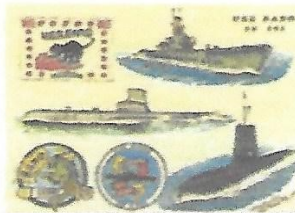
A freshly commissioned, and newly arrived Ensign reports, as ordered, to the bridge, "My compliments Captain", he says in his neatly pressed uniform, "the supply officer said you wanted to see me"?

The Captain stared steely eyed at the young Ensign, and replied, "I asked him to send up some turkey from the wardroom"!

Happy Holidays everyone and here's hoping for a much better year when we meet again in DC. Until then I'll see you in the Newsletter next year! All the best, and hopes for fair winds and following seas!



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



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\$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 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick, NJ 08724-2426

Note: License Plates are no longer available.

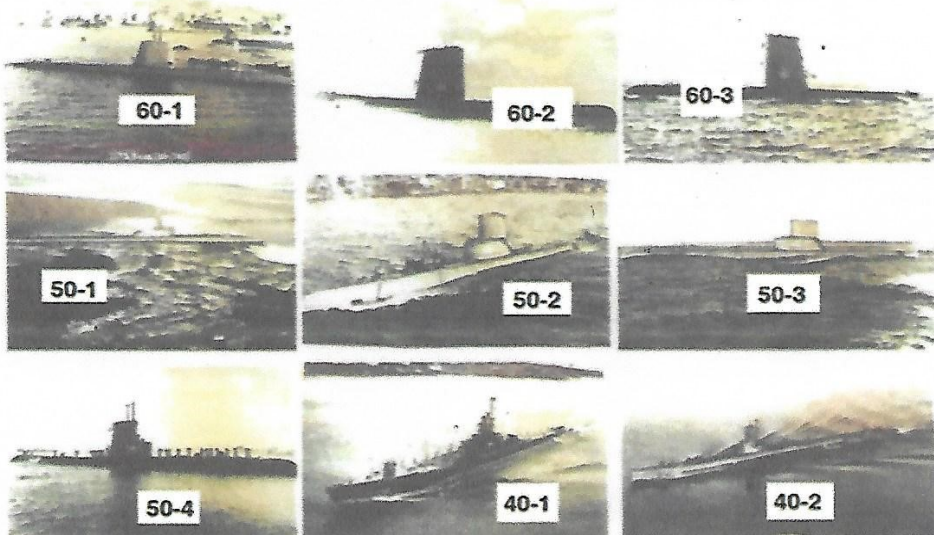


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea.
State Your Choice



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



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\$15.00



#3 40's



#4 40's



#5

75th Anniversary
Challenge Coins

\$15.00



75th
Anniversary
Hat/Lapel Pin
\$5.00



Bang Trilogy
Mouse Pad

\$12.00

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PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

