



# YANCEY MEMORIES

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We finally have confirmed information for the 2018 reunion in Dallas. The reunion dates are Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> through Monday October 29<sup>th</sup> with the banquet again being on Sunday. The host hotel will be the DFW Airport Marriott South. The tour schedule is set and posted on our website as well as the link to register. I hope with the reunion being west of the Mississippi this year that we will see a few more and new attendees. Those with no internet access and interest in attending can contact me and I will gladly send the information by mail.

Sadly we lost another of our regular reunion attendees with the death of Norman Boyd in January. I first met Norm at our 3rd reunion in Pensacola Florida and looked forward each year to seeing him and his wife Connie. He will surely be missed.

Mark the reunion dates on your calendar or register early. Enjoy the Spring and Summer and hopefully we'll see you in Dallas in October. And as always feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

George Clifton

## Dear Yancey: We Get Letters...well emails

Recently I was doing a little reminiscing and clicked on your old ship the USS Yancey. During February 1947 the Yancey, the Merrick and the ice breaker North Wind called into the port of Dunedin New Zealand on their way from Antarctica to the U.S., and several of us decided to bike to the port and have a look at the ice breaker. We were walking along the wharf and on our right before we got to the North Wind was the Yancey along whose rail were lined several of the crew. Boys being boys they naturally whistled on the two pretty girls who were with us, so we stopped and began to chat to the sailors. The afternoon passed and as we left to head back home several of the lads said that they would like to see us again while they were in port, and so we invited them to visit us in Dunedin, at the top end of the harbour. Four lads from the ship came to my home and had a meal with my parents and I. Harry Person from Gallatin Ten, Allan Shappell Lima Ohio, and M.Dene Jones from Dallas. Tex. Winfred Blair Jones .

Continued on page 3

## Yancey Profile Captain Frank Tofalo.....excepts from 2017 correspondence

VADM Joseph E. Tofalo

Commander, Submarine Forces

Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Admiral Tofalo,

We have never met and when I saw your name the other day, I could only wonder "Is this man related to Frank Tofalo?" When I saw your picture, I was not in doubt. Your father was the Commanding Officer of my first ship. the USS YANCEY (AKA-93. After my commissioning at OCS Newport in March 1965, I went through a couple of schools and reported aboard....I would think of him many times over my career. And long after that. He was a very rich example of what a commanding officer should be. He was an exceptionally good ship handler. He was punctilious in the nicest way but there was no doubt about his standards and expectations. Best of all, he had a marvelous sense of humor!

All the best,

Marshall B. Lundberg

Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Marshall,

What an absolute treat to have received your letter--you made my day! I have forwarded it on to my siblings so they can share in it too....Regarding dad's ship-handling, every time I moored the submarine I commanded, taught a prospective JO or CO how to do the same, and even when I dock my own personal boat today, I always hear Frank saying, "never go any faster than you are willing to hit the pier!" Simple counsel, but when you break it down, it captures a myriad of issues from controllable and uncontrollable forces, to command and control of the engineering response.



As for his sense of humor, it was lightning quick, sometimes dry, but always witty. At the dinner table one night, Mom spilled Dad's evening cocktail, a scotch on the rocks (he always drank Cutty Sark scotch and used Old Spice brand after-shave for the simple reason that they both had a ship on the bottle!) to which Frank said to mom, "Peggy, I'd rather see a church burn." I almost choked on my own drink, as he caught me so off guard with his quick, almost pre-planned response.....To share a little more of that Tofalo family Navy heritage, I've attached a favorite photo of mine. It's of dad as a young LT on board USS PORTLAND at the end of WWII. There were a handful of smaller surrender ceremonies that took place across the Pacific simultaneous to the main ceremony in Tokyo Bay. One of those was on the USS PORTLAND at Truk Island—Frank went aboard the PORTLAND as an Ensign, and came off a LCDR just four years later. You'll see Frank there on the left as the Officer of the Deck, with the ceremonial spyglass (marking his office) under his arm, receiving the Japanese party aboard to surrender. Imagine what was going through everybody's mind. Very proud! Very respectfully and warm regards,

J.E. Tofalo

VADM USN Commander, Submarine Forces

## The Adventure of the Wayward Bell—Part 1



The picture was sent to us by a crew member, it shows a Yancey shore party in July of 1962 carrying a large bell, the ship was anchored near Rockland, Maine, the party was thrown by Captain Keating, we understand there was beer, initially a lot of beer. We have mixed reports about where the bell came from and which way it was going. We made contact in Rockland with a retired Navy MMC who volunteers at the Historical Society he is doing some additional archival research for us in the next few months.

From Wikipedia: “Yancey participated in Operation Phiblex in the spring of 1962, operating off Roosevelt Roads and Vieques, Puerto Rico. She later paid a port call at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, before she returned to Roosevelt Roads and reloaded equipment and embarked Marines slated to return to Morehead City, North Carolina. Subsequently returning to Norfolk on 2 May, Yancey touched briefly at Charleston, South Carolina, to take on additional landing craft before returning to the Tidewater region to spend the remainder of May. *Subsequently visiting Boston, and Rockland, Maine, Yancey* participated in amphibious boat exercises a Provincetown, Massachusetts, before she got underway on 24 July for Davisville, Rhode Island. There, she loaded a Seabee unit and their equipment and headed eastward, bound for Rota, Spain. Offloading one Seabee unit and onloading another, Yancey then paused briefly at Gibraltar before touching at Lisbon on the return leg of her voyage to the United States. Disembarking the Seabees and unloading their equipment at Davisville, Yancey headed back to Norfolk, reaching her homeport on 18 August 1962.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Dear Yancey: We Get Letters...well emails....continued

...That evening our group attend church and told our minister's wife about these boys and she said to bring them up to the Manse on Tuesday evening, we did and they duly arrived carrying an overnight bag loaded with all sorts of candy and cigarettes , most of which we had never seen before. One of our group was a milk bar proprietor and he arrived with five gallons of fresh milk which the lads had requested we get , as they had not tasted fresh milk since leaving home . During the next week -end we went with a couple of them to watch a local team play the ship's team at base ball , something we had never seen . Following this we visited the ship at port Chalmers , and so long as we did not go below decks with the girls we were welcome on board by the skipper. We were introduced to peanut butter and fresh bread in the galley which was also something new to us, ( the peanut butter not the bread )

Kind regards, Allan Smith,  
62 fern Drive'  
Halswell Christchurch , New Zealand . [alnjoan62@gmail.com](mailto:alnjoan62@gmail.com)

If anyone knows M. Dene Jones , Winfred Blair Jones , or Calvin McCain Allen would like to hear from them.

USS Yancey Reunion Group



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# THE WORLD IS OUR BEACHHEAD

## We Are Sad To Report The Passing of Crewmates:



Norm Boyd  
EMC 1961-1963  
Deceased 1/26/2018

Robert Dinwiddie  
BM3 1952-1956  
Deceased 5/5/2013

Bill Fields  
1955  
Deceased 11/16/2017

Harry Person  
S1/C 1945-1947  
Deceased 4/19/2009

Robert Hughes  
LTJG 1944-1945  
Deceased 3/9/2018

### Jack-of-the-Dust

Summer 2017 issue of "Sea V Ten", the USS Yorktown CV 10 Association magazine.

A 1944 issue of the Blue Jackets Manual contains the following: "He (the Supply Officer) is assisted by such commissary stewards, cooks, bakers, butchers, and jacks-of-the-dust as are necessary for the purchase, stowing, issuing, and preparation of foods for all hands."

"So what is a "jack-of-the-dust"? "As it Turns out that "jack-of-the-dust" is an obsolete enlisted rating of the Navy and was used in the Navy Supply Corps. The term has its origin in the Royal Navy of the early 1800s when ship's stewards were known as "jack-in-the dust", referring to the dusty atmosphere created by issuing quantities of flours and dried biscuit." "The US naval rating was discontinued in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the term survived as a formal title until World War II. "Jack-in-the dust" is still used today on some ships as an informal title for a culinary specialist in charge of the canned goods storeroom."