

Story #16 Vol VI USS Hazel AN-29

I will still send out a story once in awhile to keep in touch. Here is one from Bill Bingham. Bill attended one or two of our reunions. I was surprised to hear that they still at nets at the Panama Canal in 1957.....Glenn

Hi Glenn

Great story. You make it so interesting. Thanks for all your work in keeping us informed.

My time on the USS Hazel (AN 29) was also a time I would not have traded for anything. I reported aboard in the Panama Canal Zone in June of 1957 at Coco Solo on the Atlantic side.

I was coming from 3 years reserves( one night a week and two weeks active duty a year ) to active duty to fulfill my 2 year commitment . I was 20 years old and just married 6 months. I went aboard as a Gunners Mate Striker. A 1st class Storekeeper took me under his wing and I soon became a Storekeeper 3rd class.

Our job on the Hazel was to remove all the anti Submarine nets from the mouth of the Panama Canal on the Atlantic Side. I loved the tropical working hours 5AM til 1:00PM.

We had a basketball team aboard and we played the Marines stationed there on the base and the team from the USS Rail a minesweeper and the Fleet Tug stationed there. It was great duty. Even my wife was with me in Panama.

When we finished the base was closed and we went to Green Cove Springs, FL to be decommissioned in February 1958.

A Destroyer out of Norfolk was the next ship and it was a galloping grayhound. We went many places.

Bill Bingham  
Thornton, PA