The Monthly Newsletter of Perch Base, USSVI Phoenix, Arizona

January 2011
Volume 17 - Issue 1

What's "Below Decks" in the MidWatch

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Awards Banquet
Jan. 15
$15 per Head
Reserve Now!

The USSVI Creed guides our efforts as Perch Base.

See the next page for the full text of our creed.

Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

JANUARY ETERNAL PATROLS

USS ARGONAUT	(SS-166)	10 Jan 1943	105 Lost
Japanese Surface Attack in Java Sea			
USS SCORPION	(SS-278)	05 Jan 1944	76 Lost
Possible Japanese Mine in Yellow Sea off China			
USS SWORDFISH I	(SS-193)	12 Jan 1945	89 Lost
Possible Japanese Surface Attack or Mine off Okinawa			
USS S26	(SS-131)	24 Jan 1942	46 Lost
Collision in Gulf of Panama			

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
12 noon, Saturday, Jan. 8, 2010
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ

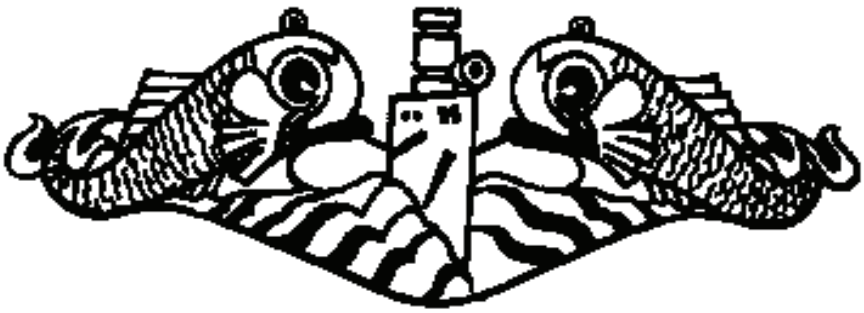
USSVI Creed

Our organization's purpose is . . .

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."



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Sailing Orders

JANUARY 8
REGULAR BASE MEETING
1200 TO 1400 HOURS
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd.,
Phoenix, AZ 85053

JANUARY 15
ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
GUEST SPEAKER
RADM BARRY BRUNNER
COMSUBGRU 10

2011 Perch Base Foundation Supporters

These are the Base members and friends who donate monies to allow for Base operation while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

Remember, if you contribute by check, it must be made out to the "Perch Base Foundation."

These are the 2011 Foundation Donors

Ben Acosta
Jerry N. Allston
Kenneth R. Anderson
Steven Balthazor
Gary Bartlett
Jerome F. Becker
Kenneth E. Becker
Richard Bernier
Ronald B. Beyer
David Carpenter
John Cash
Roger J. Cousin
Eugene V. Crabb
George L. Crider
Michael Dahl
Billy DeShong
James N. Edwards
Harry Ellis
Joe Errante
James Evans
Thomas E. Fooshee
John A. Graves
Billy A. Grieves
Michael J. Haler
Edward J. Hawkins
Harry Heller
Glenn A. Herold
Lester R. Hillman
Theodore Hunt
Davy L. Jones
L. A. (Mike) Keating
Jack S. Kimball
Richard F. Kunze
Douglas M. La Rock
Darrell Lambert
Robert A. Lancendorfer
Albert Landeck

DeWayne Lober
Burtis W. Loftin
Stephen A. Marcellino
George Marions
Raymond Marshall
Sandy Martin
Terry Martin
Robert E. May
Dennis McComb
Angus Howard McPherson
Allen H. Miller
Roger M. Miller
Danny R. Moss
Jeff A. Nelson
Jim A. Nelson
James F. Newman
James W. Newman
Royce E. Pettit
Ernie Plantz
Larry M. Rankin
Daniel J. Reel
Bruce "Robie" Robinson
Pete Sattig
Fred Saunders
Emil Schoonejans
Garry L. Shumann
Rick Simmons
Wayne Kirk Smith
Adrian M. Stuke
Donald Unser
Robert Warner
James Wall
Forrest J. Watson
John G. Zaichkin
Ronald J. Zomok

Perch Base Holland Club Members

Holland Club members are USSVI members who qualified in submarines at least 50 years ago.
They are the men who have set the example for young submariners to follow.

Year Qualified	Shipmate	Qual. Boat
1939	Billy Arthur Grieves	USS R-10 (SS-87)
1945	Harold J. Bidigare	USS Medregal (SS-480)
1940	Robert Wayne Lents	USS Sea Wolf (SS-197)
1945	Robert Richard Caraker	USS Runner (SS-476)
1940	Marion M. Turner	USS Perch (SS-176)
1945	Stanley I. Rud	USS Caiman (SS-323)
1941	Robert Norman Hanson	USS Sea Wolf (SS-197)
1947	Kenneth E. Becker	USS EX-U-2513 (U-2513)
1941	Raymond Marshall	USS Porpoise (SS-172)
1948	Jerome Frederick Becker	USS Dogfish (SS-350)
1941	Ernest V Plantz	USS Perch (SS-176)
1950	Kenneth R. Anderson	USS Greenfish (SS-351)
1943	Wayne A. Braastad	USS O-8 (SS-69)
1950	Robert E May	USS Clamagore (SS-343)
1943	Richard P. Weber	USS Ray (SS-271)
1950	James W. Newman	USS Sea Leopard (SS-483)
1944	Jack Richardson	USS Tilefish (SS-307)
1951	Edward Joseph Hawkins	USS Carbonero (SS-337)
1944	Emil J. Schoonejans	USS Burrfish (SS-312)
1952	George Debo	USS Tilefish (SS-307)
1952	Lester R Hillman	USS Blackfin (SS-322)
1955	Edward J Wolf	USS Ray (SS-271)
1952	Mel Rycus	USS Sirago (SS-485)
1956	Eugene V. Crabb	USS Catfish (SS-339)
1953	Roger J. Cousin	USS Angler (SS-240)
1956	Ray Lee Graybeal	USS Pickerel (SS-524)
1953	Harry Ellis	USS Sea Devil (SS-400)
1956	Jack R. McCarthy	USS Cusk (SS-348)
1953	Raymond C. McKinzie	USS Runner (SS-476)
1956	Ramon Samson	USS Charr (SS-328)
1953	Royce E Pettit, Jr.	USS Barracuda (K-1 and SSK-1)
1957	Walter Blomgren	USS Argonaut (SS-475)
1954	Dennis Kerton	USS Bugara (SS-331)
1957	James J Cooper	USS Atule (SS-403)
1954	Alexander Martin	USS Sea Cat (SS-399)
1957	James R Foote	USS Bashaw (SS-241)
1955	Joseph J. Hawkins	USS Becuna (SS-319)
1957	Danny Ray Moss	USS Tunny (SS-282)
1955	Robert A Lancendorfer	USS Redfin (SS-272)
1957	Robert A Sungy	USS Bluegill (SS-242)
1958	Ronald B. Beyer	USS Skate (SSN-578)
1960	Glenn Herold	USS Sea Leopard (SS-483)
1958	Harold Heller	USS Charr (SS-328)
1960	Davy L. Jones	USS Amberjack (SS-522)
1958	George Long	USS Sea Fox (SS-402)
1960	George Marions	USS Salmon (SSR-573)
1958	Roger R. Miller	USS Nautilus (SSN-571)
1960	Fred D. Saunders	USS Sablefish (SS-303)
1958	Daniel J Reel	USS Tirante (SS-420)
1960	Adrian M Stuke	USS Requin (SS-481)
1959	Edgar T. Brooks	USS Sea Leopard (SS-483)
1960	Eugene B. Veek	USS Tang (SS-563)
1959	Ronald A. Dutcher	USS Caiman (SS-323)
1960	John G. Zaichkin	USS Trigger (SS-564)
1959	Carl Scott	USS Caiman (SS-323)
1960	Ronald J. Zomok	USS Tang (SS-563)
1960	Richard A. Bernier	USS Irex (SS-482)
1960	George L Crider	USS Sea Devil (SS-400)

You, our senior submariners, lead us on to fulfill our mission to the younger people of America to never forget, those who went down to the sea in boats and never returned.

December 2010
Perch Base Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1205 hours, 11 December 2010. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Walt Blomgren followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in the month of December and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the Sailing List there were 30 members and guests present. Jim Denzien introduced two guests who he met at Costco. The first was Charles Hooper who spent eight years in the Navy and served aboard the Sablefish and Robert E. Lee. Next he introduced Bob Johnson who is a WWII shipmate who was a Radioman and served aboard the USS Blower SS-325. Tim introduced a new guest/member Steve Stanger who he also met at Costco. Steve was a Second Class Engineman who served aboard the USS Blackfin SS-322. Steve is also the Post Commander for the VFW in Black Canyon City. Dick Caraker introduced his son Gary who is an Air Force Veteran. Also joining us today were Bill Walcott who is a retired Senior Chief and Rich Womack (Yakima Base) who is visiting us from Roslyn, WA which is the home of the TV series *"Northern Exposure".* Other members and guests in attendance at this meeting included:

Jim Denzien	Howard Doyle	Tim Moore	Bob Warner
Jack Moore	Ed Hawkins	Rick Simmons	DeWayne Lober
Doug LaRock	Richard Kunze	Jim Newman	Mike Dahl
Chuck Emmett	Bill Woolcatt	Walt Blomgren	Herb Herman
Roger Miller	Davy Jones	Steve Stanger	Ted Hunt
Rich Womack	George Crider	Jim Wall	John Schlag
Richard Bernier	Karl Krull	Dick Caraker	Gary Caraker
Robie Robinson	(One Unreadable Name)		

As the first item of business, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the November 2010 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Jim Denzien, acting as Interim Treasurer, reported on the base's financial status as of 30 November 2010. Jim announced that he is in the final stages of turning the Treasurer responsibilities over Bob Warner who will begin presenting the Treasurer's Report effective with the next meeting. Some funds will be transferred into CD's at the Treasurer's discretion. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Jim reported that the float is now at the Goodyear Self Storage facility which was provided to Perch Base at a significant discount. A storage locker was provided at $30.00 per month and the covered storage at $40.00 per month. This is a temporary solution until something better comes along.

Tim will be vacating the Secretarial position and we need a volunteer to step up and take over that position in conjunction with the March 2011 base election process.

We are in the process of getting letters and applications out to the ladies group to invite them to join us as Associate Members. Rick will be following up on this after the first of the year.

We discussed having a silent auction to offer up some memorabilia items as a fund raiser for the base. One of the items is a WWII spyglass that came off one of the diesel boats that has been donated by Billy Grieves.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle reported that we were approached at the Veteran's Day Parade by the Naval Sea Cadets about participating with them in the Fiesta Bowl Parade. If this can be cleared with the Fiesta Bowl Committee we will send out a Flash Traffic message to all hands soliciting volunteers to assist with this endeavor. We have also been invited to participate with the Navy Operational Support Center (Navy Reserve Center) in a Family Day Christmas Party on December 18th. They have asked that we bring the float for a static display from 0900 until 1600. Members are invited to participate in this event. The location is at the NOSC on 35th Avenue south of the I-10 on the east side of the street.

Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Treasurer – Bob Warner reported that he is in the process of getting the financial reports and computer files squared away so that he can effectively assume the Treasurer responsibilities.

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren went over the binnacle which included Davy, Ted and DeWayne who were all present at the meeting and seemed to be doing quite well. He also reported that we lost shipmate Dick Weber who recently passed and is now on *eternal patrol*. Dick Weber is to be cremated and his remains will be going to Montana. Jim Nelson seemed to be doing ok the last time Walt spoke with him. Chuck went through a procedure for his back and is in some discomfort but recovering. Billy Grieves is doing fine but his wife Muriel continues to have some problems. Dan Moss had a triple by-pass procedure on the 3rd of December and Layne said he is now at home and doing quite well.

Chief of the Boat – Jack Moore had nothing to report.

MidWatch Editor/Webmaster – Chuck Emmett was not called upon.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober has some $15.00 shirts, $5.00 cups and the 2011 calendars are available for $10.00 each.

Membership Chairman – Rick Simmons reported on the re-enlistment effort. He said that we are currently at 82% base re-enlistment and 78% national re-enlistment. Rick has requested that the remaining members, who have not re-enlisted, do so as soon as possible. He also reported that he has 2011 I.D. card stickers available for the annual dues paying members. There will be a $5.00 late charge for payments received after 31 December 2010.

Historian – Jim Newman had nothing to report.

Events Coordinator – Joe Varese reported that we have the potential for a static display for the float in the East Valley on the 15th of January. Joe has volunteered to take the float to this event but a final decision is still pending. The only other event is the St. Patrick's Day event in March which is in the planning stages.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold was not present.

Old Business

With respect to the float storage issue, Steve Spanger reported that he has a canopy type cover that he is willing to donate to the base for covering the float.

Elections will be coming up in March and the only two positions are the base Commander and base Vice-Commander. Jim will be running for Commander and Howard will be running for the Vice-Commander position. Jim went on to re-iterate that we want to encourage members to consider volunteering for base positions. The best way to familiarize yourself with how the base and the USSVI function is to work your way up through the various positions such as Treasurer, Secretary, and then stepping up to Vice Commander and Commander. Again members are encouraged to actively participate in base operations.

Jack Moore reported that RADM Barry Bruner, COMSUBGRU 10 in Kings Bay, GA will be in attendance as a guest speaker at our Annual Awards Banquet. We met the admiral at the Navy Days event at the Peoria Sports Complex last spring. RADM Bruner is from Casa Grande, AZ and is a graduate of ASU. The cost for the banquet will be $15.00 per head with a deadline for getting payments in of January 8, 2011 which coincides with our January meeting. We will accept payments at the door on the day of the event at $20.00 per head. There will be a no-host bar cocktail hour commencing at 1730 followed by the evening's festivities. Chuck will send out a Flash Traffic message with the particulars. Payments should be made out to Perch Base and sent to Jack Moore. Vests are encouraged with business casual being optional dress.

New Business

Chuck reported that we now have a promotional 2-page flyer about the history of submarines to hand out at static displays. This is currently under review and once a final decision is made by the board, the flyer will be printed for future use. We also have a new temporary tattoo and some stickers to hand out to kids who visit with us at static displays. We are also developing a video that we would like to incorporate for use at static displays.

For the benefit of new members, Jim reported that Perch Base has taken on the responsibility of the SOS (Save Our Sail) project. The Navy has authorized us to procure the sail, sail planes and upper rudder from the USS Phoenix SSN-702. The Phoenix is a Los Angeles class fast attack submarine which has been decommissioned and sitting in Bremerton Naval Shipyard waiting to be scrapped. We have received approval to erect the sail as a permanent memorial at the Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix. This program will be pursued after the first of the year. The Navy has said that they are anticipating scrapping the submarine in the 2012 to 2013 timeframe. There is information about this project on our website.

Other upcoming events include the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) event in February. We will be visiting the kids in the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Details will be announced to the membership when the plans are finalized. Any member who actually reads these minutes will be eligible to enter a raffle for a prize which will be awarded at the January meeting. To be eligible for this raffle, you must be present at the meeting and ask Tim for a raffle ticket.

Jim announced that there will be another VHP (Veterans History Project) event which is in the planning stages for March 2011 in Tempe. This is a Library of Congress sponsored project done through the City of Tempe. Initially this was a project aimed at interviewing WWII vets to gain their perspective on the historical events that took place during the war. There are countless numbers of untold stories that need to be told and documented for historical purposes. After the WWII stories have been told and documented, the VHP will pursue, Korean, Cold War, Viet Nam and other stories up to and including Desert Storm and our current involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have been invited to participate in the Salute to Veteran's Parade in Riverside, CA in April. We have participated in this event in the past and received a promotional flyer announcing the upcoming event. A decision has not been made whether or not we will participate. The membership will be advised when a decision is made.

We are looking at the possibility of having a picnic in early April in conjunction with the Submarine Birthday. If we do not have another All Arizona Base event, then we will probably do something for Perch Base. The Command Master Chief for NRD Phoenix is a submariner and suggested that we do something together for the submarine birthday in April.

Good of the Order

Jim announced that he will be taking on the responsibility of Eagle Scout Coordinator for the Western Region of the USSVI.

It was announced that we have one laptop and one desktop computer available for any of our shipmates who may be in need. Anyone interested should contact Bob Warner.

We also still want to get more sea stories for the *Now This Ain't No Sh*t* column in the MidWatch.

Tim announced that he met with a lady by the name of Kathleen Lewis who is CEO and founder of Packages from Home. Tim will get the Packages from Home website information so we can have a link on our website and see what interest our membership might have in supporting this worthwhile effort. Our troops need simple things like soap, toothpaste, socks, etc.

Walt announced that we would like to solicit more participation from our members in Perch Base sponsored events. We need new ideas for the present and future on what we intend to do as a base. We need the membership to provide constructive feedback and things that will make this base better and promote future growth.

In closing, Jim encouraged the members to attend the Annual Awards Banquet. Not only will we have RADM Bruner as a guest speaker, but we will also be conducting a Holland Club ceremony which will include some 14 new members. Longevity pins will also be handed out to those who qualify and participate.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Walt Blombren who won $48.00 of the $96.00 contributed for the drawing.

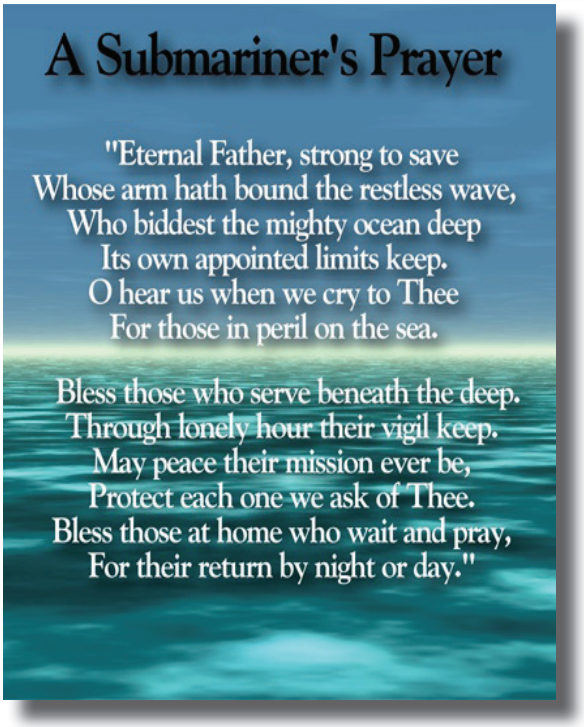
Adjournment

All outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1310 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

Chaplain's Column



National Chaplain
Carl Schmidt
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Dear Perch Base members,

The United States Submarine Veterans, USSVI National Chaplain, National Officers, and USSVI members send our sympathy and condolences to all the base members of the Perch base.

Richard P. Weber (SS) on November 13, 2010 is now with the Supreme Commander and his shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

Let us take comfort from these words:

Timothy Chapter 4 verse 6:8

For I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,

The righteous judge shall give me that day, and not to me only, but unto all

That love his appearing.

Richard Rest Your Oars We Have the Watch

Fraternally,
Carl Schmidt
Carl Schmidt ETC (SS) USN ret
National Chaplain USSVI

ETERNAL PATROL PREPARATIONS

Shipmates, while we hope your day and those of your shipmates is far off in the future, we must nevertheless prepare. Please copy this notice (in the box immediately below) and place it with your will or important papers.

IMPORTANT

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-2978 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support.
Please ask them to contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well (they can look it up in their membership records).
This information can alternatively be E-Mailed to the National Office at "office@ussvi.org".

Shipmates Running on less Than a Full Battery Charge

The Chaplain is happy to report that, other than normal wear and tear on old shipmates, no one has been reported in full drydock, which means they're up and running and answering all bells.

Do you know a shipmate who is on the lee side of a fair wind? Someone who could use the help of a shipmate? Remember, we are the "**Brotherhood** of the Phin."
Contact our Base Chaplain if you know of any way we can help:

Walt Blomgren
5120 W. Gelding Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85306
(602) 309-4407
chaplain@perch-base.org

Perch Base January Birthdays

David Jones	Jan. 2
Bob Hanson	Jan. 3
Brent Nelson	Jan. 5
George Marions	Jan. 6
Roger Cousin	Jan. 7
Bob Bailey	Jan. 10
Jerry Allston	Jan. 14
Jim Denzien	Jan. 23
Stephen Day	Jan. 26
Bob Warner	Jan. 29

What's New Online

The Web Page (www.perch-base.org) continues to be a comprehensive tool for use by both Base members and the casual visitor. If you don't visit it frequently, you should.

But, did you know Perch Base has a Facebook page? Hey, 500 million people (Facebook users) can't be all wrong and besides, that's a potential audience we just can't ignore. If you haven't found us, just open your own Facebook account (you do have one don't you? If not, you should. It's not just for kids anymore) and search for Perch Base. Post us a message. Let us know how we'rte doing.

Shipmate to Shipmate

Now, This Ain't no Sh*t . . .

We're still looking for stories! All of us have heard the one about the difference between a fairy tale and a sea story. The fairy tail starts, "Once upon a time," and a sea story starts, "Now this ain't no sh*t!" Well, that's what we are looking for; sea stories. And they only need to be as true as a sea story ALWAYS is!

So send something in. Here are the rules (or not, whatever):

1. We can use your name or not: your choice just let me know.
2. Grammar and spelling DO NOT COUNT. I will edit and change just enough to make it somewhat readable!
3. Remember, this is from "boat" sailors to "boat" sailors. BUT, since this publication may fall into skimmer hands (or worse, decent civilians!,) I may have to substitute punctuation marks in place of letters in certain words, as in the title.
4. There is absolutely no limit on how many you can send in. I will publish AT LEAST one each month as we get them.

So send them to:

Chuck Emmett
communications@perch-base.org
or
7011 West Risner Road
Glendale, AZ 85308.

Shipmate to Shipmate
Stories that are
"Absolutly, positively, the truth!"

After boot camp, EN/A school and BS (before submarines,) I was serving on the USS Sturdy (MSO 494) out of Charleston, SC. She was a wooden ship with aluminum men. We had to be non-magnetic. When I reported aboard she was in Puerto Rico.

Not long after joining the ship we were loading fresh food and getting ready for an ORI. While loading, one of the cooks named Sullivan, dropped a case of eggs. Needless to say they were scrambled. Of course everybody teased him about that.

During the ORI, we stopped drills for noon chow. I was standing in the passageway in the chow line when Sully came slamming out of the galley and headed down the passageway. Someone asked him where he was going. His reply was, "I've got my Jesus shoes on and I'm going for a walk." Of course that got a laugh.

Luckily a bos'uns mate saw him step on a chock then the rail and over the side. He went running toward the bridge screaming, "Man overboard, starboard side. This is no *#*#ing drill."

The response was perfect. A turn to starboard, all stop and so forth. We came around and pulled right alongside of Sully and someone threw him a life ring on a line.

He ignored this and started swimming away. He had on an apron with food on it and we were worried about sharks so one of the guys jumped in and fought with him and got him back aboard.

They took him below to get dry clothes and he pulled a knife out of his locker and tried to stab himself. He was sedated and put in a wrap around dinner jacket with the sleeves that buckle in the back.

After things settled down Oscar the dummy was thrown overboard for a man overboard drill. Needless to say everything went wrong. The officers evaluating us said they would count the real thing and not the drill.

Further Sturdy adventures!!!!!! After returning to Charleston we went on a sweep operation in a dummy minefield just of the coast.

This proved that we set off more mines with the ship itself than with the sweep gear. We went back in port and picked up UDT teams to recover the mines we didn't set off during the exercise. If I remember right they used charts and sonar to locate the mines. It was a nice day and some of us were on the fantail goofing off. We had stopped to pick up a mine and we started kidding about having an old barnacle encrusted mine with a swastika on it pop up.

Much to our surprise a mine that looked like those in WW2 movies popped up. It had horns sticking out all around it and plenty of barnacles on it. The skipper promptly moved the ship off a ways and sent the UDT team to check it out.

Turned out it was a dummy from a sweep operation years before. About this time we, looked further out to sea a saw spectacular sight. Lo and behold there was a sub surfacing. They dove and surfaced several times. I told my buddies I was volunteering for sub duty. As they say, the rest is history. About a month later I was in sub school.

Submitted by Charlie Hooper

A Very Special Advertisment

Shipmates, Goodyear Self Storage & RV has given Perch Base a very favorable rate for both our equipment storage locker and, now, (soon) covered storage of our USS Phoenix float.

This has solved a critical and important issue for the Base,

Show that we appreciate their generosity, Please consider this ad partner for any of your storage needs and -- tell your friends.

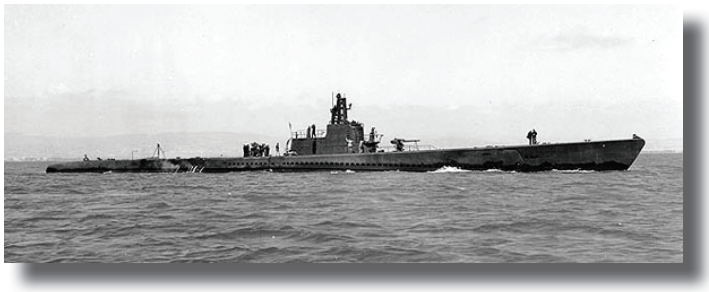
Eternal Patrol
January 12, 1945

Editors Note: Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.

The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest
Is part of an outfit known as the best.
Make him welcome and take him by the hand.
You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.
So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll
Of our departed shipmates still on patrol
Let them know that we who survive
Will always keep their memories alive.

USS Swordfish (SS-193)
January 12, 1945



Sargo-class diesel-electric submarine

Displacement: 1,450 tons (surf), 2,350 tons (sub)
Length: 310' 6", **Beam:** 26' 10", **Draft:** 16' 7½"
Propulsion: 4 × GM Model 16-248 V16 diesel engines
2 × 126-cell batteries, 4 × GE elect. motors two shafts
5,500 shp (surf), 2,740 shp (sub)
Speed: 21 knots (surf), 8.75 knots (sub)
Range: 11,000 nautical miles at 10 knots
Endurance: 48 hours at 2 knots (sub); **Test depth:** 250'
Complement: 5 officers, 54 enlisted
Armament: 8 × 21" torpedo tubes
(four forward, four aft), 24 torpedoes
1 × 3"/50 caliber deck gun, four machine guns

USS Swordfish (SS-193), a Sargo-class submarine, was the first submarine of the United States Navy named for the swordfish, a large fish with a long, sword-like beak and a high dorsal fin. She was the first United States Navy submarine to sink a Japanese ship during World War II.

Her keel was laid down on 27 October 1937 by the Mare Island Naval Shipyard of Vallejo, California. She was launched on 3 April 1939 sponsored by Miss Louise Shaw Hepburn, and commissioned on 22 July 1939 with Lieutenant Chester C. Smith in command.

Following shakedown and post-shakedown repairs at Mare Island, Swordfish operated out of San Diego, California, until early 1941, when she set sail for Pearl Harbor. On 3 November, Swordfish, in company with three other U.S. submarines, departed Pearl, and on 22 November, arrived at Manila, Philippine Islands. The submarine remained at Manila until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. The following day, she set sail on her first war patrol, conducted off the coast of Hainan, China. After damaging several enemy vessels on the 9th, 11th, and 14th, Swordfish sank her initial victim of the war on 16 December. Hit amidships by one of three torpedoes, the cargo ship Atsutasan Maru erupted in a cloud of smoke and flames and disappeared beneath the waves. On 27 December, Swordfish embarked the organizational staff of the Submarine Asiatic Command Staff at Manila and headed for Soerabaja, Java, arriving on 7 January 1942.

Swordfish departed Soerabaja on 16 January for her second war patrol, conducted in the Celebes Sea and in the Philippines. On 24 January, she torpedoed and sank a cargo ship off Kema, Celebes Islands. On 20 February, she submerged in the entrance of Mariveles, Luzon, only to surface after dark to take on board the President of the Philippines and his family. She departed through a minefield and arrived at San Jose, Panay, Philippine Islands on 22 February, where the President and his party were transferred to a motor tender. Swordfish then returned to Manila Bay and embarked the High Commissioner of the Philippines, arriving Fremantle, Western Australia, on 9 March.

Swordfish got underway from Fremantle on 1 April for her third war patrol, with her primary mission being to deliver 40 tons of provisions to the besieged island of Corregidor. However, Corregidor fell to the Japanese before the mission could be carried out and the submarine was ordered to patrol in the vicinity of Ambon Island. The only ships sighted were beyond effective range, and the submarine returned to Fremantle on 1 May.

Departing Fremantle for her fourth war patrol on 15 May, Swordfish was in the South China Sea on 29 May where

she sank a 1900-ton cargo ship and was in the Gulf of Siam on 12 June where she torpedoed and sank another cargo ship. The submarine returned to Fremantle on 4 July.

Although her fifth war patrol, conducted in the Sulu Sea, and her sixth war patrol, conducted in the Solomon Islands, were unproductive, during her seventh war patrol Swordfish sank a 4122-ton cargo ship on 19 January 1943. Returning to Pearl Harbor on 23 February, the submarine underwent overhaul until 29 July, when she got underway for her eighth war patrol.

On 22 August, she sighted her first target of the patrol, and quickly sent the cargo ship to the bottom, the victim of two torpedo hits. A convoy was intercepted on 5 September, and Swordfish damaged a large tanker before sinking a cargo ship. The submarine concluded this patrol at Brisbane, Australia, on 20 September.

Swordfish's ninth war patrol lasted only three weeks. Shortly after reaching her assigned patrol area, material defects were discovered, and the submarine had to return to port.

On the day after Christmas 1943, Swordfish departed for her tenth war patrol, conducted in Tokyo Bay. On 14 January 1944, she sank a passenger-cargo ship and two days later sank a converted gunboat. On 27 January, she fired two torpedoes at a converted salvage vessel which broke in half and sank. Swordfish terminated her tenth patrol at Pearl Harbor on 7 February.

Photo # NH 98516 USS Swordfish at San Francisco, California, 13 June 1943

Circles mark recent alterations, among them a mounting for a 20mm gun, and spreaders for radio antennas. Note that the submarine's hull number is outlined on the side of her conning tower.

Swordfish put to sea on 13 March for her eleventh war patrol, conducted in the Mariana Islands. Although several enemy ships were damaged during this patrol, no sinkings could be confirmed; and the submarine returned to Majuro on 29 April.

Swordfish's twelfth war patrol was conducted in the area of the Bonin Islands. On 9 June, the submarine found Japanese destroyer Matsukaze clearly illuminated against the horizon and sank the enemy ship with two torpedoes from her bow tubes. On 15 June, she torpedoed and sank a cargo ship. The remainder of the patrol was unproductive, and the submarine terminated her twelfth patrol at Pearl Harbor on 30 June.

On 22 December, Swordfish departed Pearl Harbor to conduct her thirteenth war patrol, in the vicinity of Nansei Shoto. She topped off with fuel at Midway on 26 December and left that day for her area. In addition to her regular patrol, Swordfish was to conduct photographic reconnaissance of Okinawa, for preparation of the Okinawa Campaign.

On 2 January, Swordfish was ordered to delay carrying out her assigned tasks in order to keep her clear of the Nansei Shoto area until completion of carrier-based air strikes which were scheduled. She was directed to patrol the general vicinity of 30°N; 132°E until further orders were received. Her acknowledgement of those orders on 3 January was the last communication received from Swordfish.

On 9 January 1945, Swordfish was directed to proceed to the vicinity of Okinawa to carry out her special mission. It was estimated that the task would not take more than seven days after arrival on station, which she should have reached on 11 January. Upon completion of her mission, Swordfish was to proceed to Saipan, or to Midway if she was unable to transmit by radio. Since neither place had seen her by 15 February, and repeated attempts to raise her by radio had failed, she was reported as presumed lost on that date.

In the report of her loss, mention was made that Kete (SS-369), which at the time was patrolling the vicinity of Okinawa, reported that on the morning of 12 January she contacted a submarine by radar. It was believed that contact was with Swordfish. Four hours later Kete heard heavy depth charging from this area, and it was believed that this attack might have been the cause of Swordfish's loss.

Japanese information on antisubmarine attacks does not mention the attack heard by Kete on 12 January, and records no attacks in which Swordfish is likely to have been the victim. However, it is now known that there were many mines planted around Okinawa, since the Japanese were expecting an Allied invasion of that Island. The majority of the mines were planted close in. It is considered about equally likely that Swordfish was sunk by depth charge

attack before she reached Okinawa for her special mission or that she was lost to a mine at that place.

Swordfish earned eight battle stars for World War II service.

HOW SUBMARINE TACTICS DEVELOPED

Part 1 of 2 Parts

EDITOR: This article has been reduced and slightly modified from the original Document:
U.S. Naval Administration in WW II – Submarine Commands – SUBMARINE TYPES & CHARACTERISTICS (K)
Declassified and Released by the Naval Historical Center
John's Big Sub Book #1 – Assembled and Provided by St. Marys Submarine Museum, Inc. ©

Submarine Operational History World War II

There are 4,873 available records of submarine torpedo attacks conducted during the World War II. An examination of the statistics of these attacks shows several interesting trends. Approximately 43% of all attacks were day time attacks conducted from the periscope. For the years 1944 and 1945 however, the number of day submerged periscope attacks was exceed by the number of night surface radar attacks. Moreover in radar attacks the number of ships credited as sunk was 39 per attack, as against 32 per attack for the day periscope attacks. Contrary to accepted professional opinion prior to the war, sound attacks conducted from deep submergence proved to be of negligible importance.

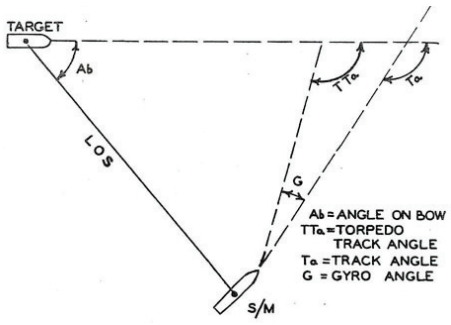
Prewar training in night periscope attacks had been extremely limited and elementary. From the very beginning, however, the night attacks assumed considerable importance. By 1944 the number of night attacks by all methods was exceeding the number of day attacks, and on a number of occasions submarine commanders were deliberately passing up opportunities for day attacks in favor of night attacks on the surface.

Despite these trends, the day submerged periscope attack remained the fundamental method of torpedo attack throughout the war. Prior to the war, this method of attack had absorbed practically all the training efforts although over valuation of anti-Submarine air screens caused considerable emphasis to be placed on sound shots from deep submergence. Fire control instruments were developed as adapted to the periscope attack. Interior communications systems were arranged, conning towers were laid out and fire control parties were trained around the control figure of the Commanding Officer at the periscope.

This was a very fortunate state of affairs. The periscope attack, taken over the period of the whole war was not only the most frequent form of attack, but the problems presented by it were fundamental to the torpedo fire control problem. With good instruments for the conduct of a periscope attack only slight adoptions of means and methods were required to fully exploit new developments. American submarine torpedo fire control instruments and methods were certainly second to some. They were so far ahead of the Japanese that the latter's equipment appeared to be a product of the dark ages.

PRE-WAR DEVELOPMENTS

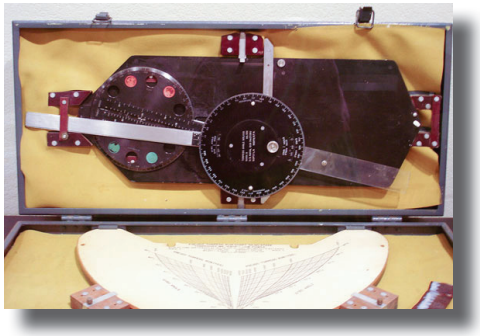
At the end of the First World War, torpedo fire control onboard American Submarines was very crude. About the only instrument in use was the "Is-Was" or Submarine Attack Course Finder. The accepted general method of attack was to get within 500 yards of the target and fire a straight bow shot on about a ninety-degree track. Gyro angles could not be set on torpedoes after they were loaded into the tubes. In 1930 it was considered an achievement to get the torpedoes to run straight and hot when fired at periscope depth.



By 1925 submarines had "out-side gyro setting devices" by means of which the gyro angle could be set on the torpedo after it was loaded into the tube. The only means of computing the periscope angle was a series of tables. It was therefore necessary to pre-decide what gyro angle was going to be used, compute the required periscope angle, set the gyro angles, set the periscope to the computed angle and fire when the target passed the cross wire. In practice the angles used were usually zero or 90 degrees with a strong preference for the former. To hit with an angled shot it was necessary to

know the range and submarines were very weak in range determination. By 1925 targets were zigzagging, some of them screened, speeds were generally low and prescribed within narrow limits for each practice. A sound shot was required at a target on a straight course, and sound was generally useful during an approach, particularly in obtaining a turn count of the target's propellers. Penalties were assigned for firing inside 500 yards and firing ranges were generally about 1,000 yards.

By 1930 targets were running faster and were better screened. Air observation was being used. The "banjo" angle solver (forerunner of the Mark VIII) had been introduced. Angled shots other than zero and 90 degrees were frequently; being resorted to. The few ships that had them, had definitely proved that stern tubes were here to stay.



A "banjo" angle solver in its case.

In 1938 air screens were used for some practices. The opinion that submarines would have to fire by sound from deep submergence when air screens were present was already being formulated. There was an increased emphasis on sound shots. A big advance had been made in that the executive officer was required to fire some practices. Fire control instruments were still crude. A good many home made instruments, many of them very ingenious, were in use to solve such problems as range vs periscope angle, distance to the track, etc. A few Submarines had "Stadimeter Range Finders" built into the periscope. It was still hearsay to talk about firing spreads.

Even when it was discovered that the torpedo warhead, then in use, would counter-mine at two hundred yards, submarines were required to fire each salvo to hit. To do so and still space the torpedoes two hundred yards apart, required the rapid solution of a rather complicated problem based on the assumption that a target, after it had received one torpedo hit, would continue on its course and speed until it had collected the other three, properly spaced 200 yards apart.

Torpedo Data Computers were about to appear. To escape air observations, it was considered mandatory that submarines run deep between periscope exposures. Firing by sound from deep submergence was encouraged. It was considered that a submarine running deep and attacking without any periscope exposures reduced its chances of hitting by about one half but also reduced its chances of being observed by one half.

It was apparent soon after the war commenced that both the danger from an air screen and the accuracy of sound shots had been greatly overemphasized by the artificiality's imposed by peace time training.

The torpedo data computer had come into its own. The instruments continuously computed the hitting gyro angle and either transmitted it to the torpedo room or automatically set the angle on the torpedo. This was revolutionary in submarine tactics. Previous to that time it had been necessary to maneuver a submarine into position and on a predetermined course in order to launch torpedoes on a selected track with a selected gyro angle. Essentially, now, the submarine achieved last minute maneuvers after a favorable firing position had been obtained. The torpedo was angled to fit the condition of fire.

WAR TIME DEVELOPMENTS

During the whole of the war the standard doctrine for making a submerged daylight periscope attack under went very little change. When a submarine established contact with smoke or masts on the horizon the first problem was to determine the direction of movement by a few observations of the change in true bearing. When this was done, the submarine came to the "normal approach course" closing the target track on a course at right angles to the true bearing. The approach phase ended when the submarine had obtained a position from which an attack could be delivered. As much of this approach phase was possible was to be conducted on the surface, taking advantage of higher surface speeds. In actual practice the great majority of periscope attacks were preceded by submerged approaches.

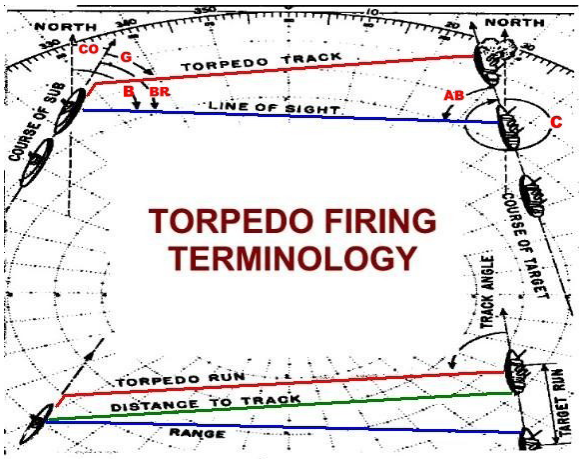
During the approach the submarine tried to get within a 1,000 yards of the target track, at a range equal to about

seven and a half minutes of the targets run and within two minutes since the last zigzag. From such a position, barring unforeseen accidents, an attack was assured. The submarine then maneuvered to obtain the best possible firing position. Ideally this was with the submarine on a course for the optimum track angle (a little more than 90 degrees), with small or zero gyro angles and with a firing range of about a thousand yards.

But, When sufficient data became available for statistical analysis on war time torpedo shots, the analysis brought forth the following surprising conclusion:

1. The percentage of hits was more or less constant for track angles between 80 and 120 degrees and ranges between 1,000 and 3,000 yards. Within this region the average score was 35% hits.
2. The percentage of hits was independent of the gyro angle for value of the gyro angle between 0 degrees and 40 degrees.

The effect of gyro can easily, be explained. As the accuracy of angled shots depends upon the accuracy of range estimates, and as the submarine range estimates were known to be weak, it was generally considered best to use as small a gyro angle as possible. It was however discovered that it was perfectly safe for a submarine to take a single ping range with super sonic just before firing. This greatly reduced the range error. What errors inherent in angle shot that still remained were just about equal to incidental errors introduced by the scurry and hurry of trying to reduce the gyro angle by late changes in the submarine's position.



The tendency for percentage hits to hold up with increased range is more difficult to explain. Actually a falling off in percentage hits with range in periscope attack is partially obscured by the stronger tendency of night radar attack accuracy to hold up with range. In any case the falling off in hits with the range is much less than would be expected. It can only be assumed that control errors mount rapidly; with the increased tension of reduced range and that the incidental errors are a function of rate and change of bearings.

The statistics upon which these conclusions are based on admittedly full of errors of observation, particularly in regards to the number of hits obtained. If however, the conclusions are approximately correct, they indicate that many harsh endorsements on early patrol reports were based upon erroneous tactical conclusions. It may well be that an officer in contact with the enemy is better able to reach correct tactical conclusions than is one with more data but with less opportunity to observe.

NIGHT SUBMERGED PERISCOPE ATTACKS

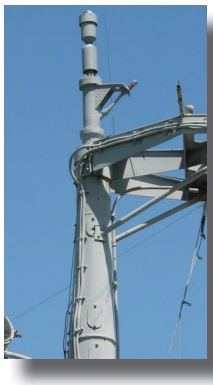
At the beginning of the war it was possible to use the periscope only on very bright moonlight nights. Periscope development for some time had been directed towards producing an instrument for day attacks, and in some respects the desired data for day periscopes was different than that for night periscopes. In peace time, periscopes got very little night use. Therefore considerable effort had been made to create a long scope with a very small diameter head. Both of these made it much more difficult to obtain an instrument with a high light transmission.

The earliest effort to improve the light transmission of periscopes was directed towards "light treating" the optical system with anti-reflection film. This increased the percentage of light transmitted though the optical systems of the periscope. The earliest treated periscopes appeared about the middle of 1942 but for a long time, light treated periscopes were at a premium. A true night periscope with a larger head and a shorter optical system was not available until late in 1944. This was the periscope in which the ST radar was mounted. Meanwhile, working from the other direction, much had been done toward perfecting a gray camouflage painting of very low moonlight visibility, enabling the submarine to close the range until she saw the enemy and with reasonable assurance that the enemy could not see her.

It was generally preferred that the entire attack be completed on the surface, thus retaining the ability to maneuver and attack again. When light conditions prevented this it was desirable to track until the course and speed had been established and then run up ahead to submerge on the enemy's track. This usually insured a sufficiently reduced range to obtain periscope contact at night. Progress in camouflage tended to reduce the number of night periscope attacks in favor of night surface attacks, but good camouflage made it possible to secure the accurate data the

periscope attack depended upon, before it was necessary to submerge.

RADAR ATTACKS



Air search radar (SD) was installed on some submarines at the beginning of the war. It had little or no effect on the offensive tactics of submarines, being used only to supplement the lookout in early detection of airplanes. By the fall of 1942 the SJ radar was in use in a few submarines. With this radar it was possible to obtain very accurate ranges and reasonably accurate bearings on surface targets. Its operation was independent of the condition of visibility. Its effect on submarine tactics was profound.

The first general effect was to increase the proportion of night attacks. That this should be true is self evident. Many targets that would have gone on by undiscovered at night were picked up by radar. Moreover, given an equal number of contacts by night and by day, a night time surface approach should insure developing a greater proportion of the contact during darkness.

The SJ radar was installed in only a few ships by the end of 1942. That year can practically be considered a pre-radar year. The percentage of night attacks during 1942 was 30% of the total of all attacks. In 1944 the percentage of all torpedo attacks conducted at night was 87%. As experience with radar increased, the natural tendency of higher night approach speeds, to develop more contacts, was augmented by the preferences of many commanding officers for a night attack. It's therefore sometimes occurred that an opportunity for a day periscope attack was deliberately passed up, in order to attack later during the night.

The earliest forms of radar attacks were conducted such like the day periscope attacks with little or no change of tactics. It was considered best when conducting radar approaches to close the range until the target was picked up visually. The radar was a great aid in picking up the target and tracking. Also for the first time the submarine had an efficient and accurate ranging device, available for tracking. Prior to this time, the periscope stadimeter with all its limitations as to accuracy was the only ranging instrument on use during the tracking phase. It was of course useless at night. Ping ranges on super-sonic could be used sparingly in the attack phase, but the short range of the instrument and the grave danger of disclosing the submarine presence and position severely limited its use.

NIGHT CAMOUFLAGE

The development of effective night camouflage for submarines tended to decrease the night submerged approaches in favor of night surface radar attacks. Submarines went into World War II painted and unrelieved black. This had proved by experiment to be the best color for defeating air observations of a submerged submarine. In July 1943 experiments began with night and surface camouflage of submarines. The results of these experiments had far reaching effect on submarine night tactics. In their new smoky grey paint jobs submarines operated boldly on the surface while they had the enemy in full view. Thus many attacks what would ordinarily have required submergence to escape detection, were begun and finished on the surface.

Studies showed that a submarine remaining on the surface undetected until after the attack was usually subjected to less effective counter attack. A surfaced submarine was also much more effective, being able to maneuver faster to counter and any enemy defensive maneuvers, and also being able to obtain position for repeated attacks. The effect of these camouflage studies can hardly be over emphasized and it was greatly appreciated by all submarine personnel who ever had occasion to maneuver a submarine on the surface in the presence of the enemy.

This camouflage plus the undeveloped state of Japanese radar made it possible for submarines to trail for long periods, seeking the most favorable moments for attack. In the later days of the war enemy radar was worrisome but Japanese radar development always lagged far behind that of American Submarines. In evaluation of the effectiveness of any tactic, that fact must firmly be born in mind.

Attacks From Ahead

Once the time and place of attack was determined and the tracking and approach phases were over, nearly all commanding officers favored an attack from ahead or on the bow. Such an attack developed rapidly, allowing a minimum of time for the submarine to be sighted or anything else to go wrong. When the speed of the target was relatively high, the bow approach helped keep the situation under control for no maneuver of the target was capable of leaving the submarine too far out on a limb. These bow approached usually resulted in hits in the head

of the convoy column. The Japanese were prone to panic under these conditions, with much confusion among the escorts and convoy.

Submerged Radar Approaches

Submerged radar approaches did not meet with general favor. During the years 1943 and 1944 only seventy one submerged radar attacks were made. Now, however, during the seven and a half months of war of 1945 there were 61 submerged radar approaches, indicating that that was some tendency to increase.

The reasons for these conditions are not difficult to discover. For the bulk of wartime submarine radar work the SJ radar was the instrument in use. This radar could not be raised or lowered. It was mounted on top of the periscope shears. Therefore when submerged to “radar depth” the submarine was barely awash. In such condition the look-outs were limited to radar and periscope, she suffered all the mobility limitation of a submerged submarine, she was extremely vulnerable to depth charge attacks or ramming, and she had lost her surface speed.

Therefore under most conditions submarine commanding officers preferred to remain on the surface when ever possible, and usually submerged only when the visibility was sufficient for us of the periscope. Efficient camouflage helped to eliminate that twilight zone when it was too dark for a periscope attack and to light for a surface attack.

In the last weeks of the war ST radar commenced to come into use. The introduction of the ST, housed in a periscope of excellent light transmitting qualities, made the submerged use of radar more feasible, both by night, or by day. As Japanese radar became better, the field of the submerged radar approach widened out. If the enemy radar had approached ours in efficiency there is not doubt that most of the bold night attacks would have been impossible. Against a better equipped enemy, therefore, different tactics would have had to have been devised.

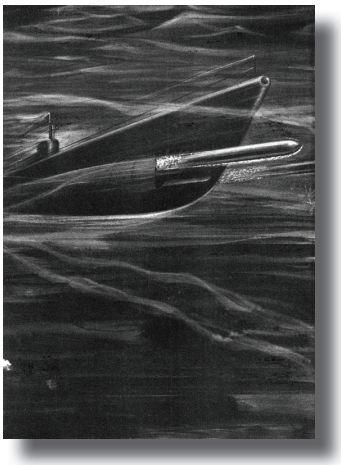
The ST radar antenna mounted on #1 scope. Note the SJ radar in the foreground

In most of the earlier attacks in which radar was used submerged, it was used after diving, but before the target could be picked up in the periscope. When visual contact was obtained the submarine submerged to a safer depth.

So long as submarines exacted a toll of only a percentage of the sea traffic, Japanese was planners could devise ways and means of continuing. If fifty percent of the men and supplies got through it was only necessary to double the number started. It is true that the cost might break down the country in the end but many things could happen before that time. When submarines commenced total annihilation of a convoy, a new principle was involved. There was then no percentage and the amount of reserve made on difference. The submarine was becoming not an instrument of attrition but an instrument for control of the sea.

Submarines achieved that status. They were never capable of complete throttling of the traffic into or out of an area. But in 1944 they approached it. They did so because radar superiority permitted them to operate on the surface and use their high speed to make repeated attacks. Radar superiority was transient. It will probably never exist again to the degree that it did in 1944. But if submarines can be given high submerged speed and endurance they may again become the force that controls the sea.

(END OF PART I - PART II NEXT MONTH)



Return To:

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Glendale, AZ 85308
E-Mail: communications@perch-base.org

http://www.perch-base.org

NEXT MEETING
12 noon, Saturday, January 8, 2011
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, 85053
(1/2 block northwest, 35th Ave. & Thunderbird)