



March 2005
Volume 11 - Issue 3

**What's "Below Decks"
in the Midwatch**



<http://perch-base.org>

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol
MARCH ETERNAL PATROLS

USS F-1	SS21	Mar. 25, 1915	21 men
USS H-1	SS28	Mar. 12, 1920	4 men
USS Perch	SS176	Mar. 3, 1942	6 men (as POW's)
USS Grampus	SS207	Mar. 5, 1943	71 men
USS Triton	SS201	Mar. 15, 1943	74 men
USS Tullibee	SS284	Mar, 26, 1944	79 men
USS Kete	SS369	Mar. 20, 1945	87 men
USS Trigger	SS237	Mar. 26, 1945	89 men

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - March 19, 2005
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided - Donation Suggested \$3

The Perch Base USSVI cannot support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There have been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on charitable cash donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.

2005 Booster Club

Ben Acosta	Jerry Allston	Ken Anderson	Kirby Anderson
Ted Asbell	Gary Bartlett	Ken Becker	Joe Bernard
Dick Bernier	Ron Beyer	Ed Brooks	Jim Edwards
Harry Ellis	Chuck Emmett	Ray Graybeal	Chuck Greene
Billy Grieves	Kelly Grissom	Bob Hanson	Dave Harnish
Ed Hawkins	Glenn Herold	Dave Herrington	Les Hillman
Davy Jones	Ron Kloch	Bob Lacendorfer	Doug LaRoch
George Marions	Dale Martin	Terry Martin	Bob May
Denny McComb	Ray McKinzie	Paul Miller	Roger M. Miller
Roger R. Miller	Tim Moore	Tom Moore	Joe Mullins
Bon Nance	Jim Nelson	Jim F. Newman	Jim W. Newman
Joe Otreba	Ray Perron	George Petrovitz	Royce Pettit
Clair Prokupek	Scott Prothero	Robbie Robinson	Stan Rud
Frank Rumbaugh	Ray Schaeffer	Rick Simmons	Wyne Smith
Jim Strassels	Adrian Stuke	Jim Thomson	Tom Tilley
Jim Wall	Dick Weber	Jerry Yowell	John Zaichkin
Mike Haler	Darrell Lambert	Nick Pappas	Kenney Wayne
Ed Wolf	Roger Cousin	Alex Martin	John Cash
Roger Cousin	Joe Errante	Tom Fooshee	Mike Haler
Steve Hough	Mike Keating	Darrell Lambert	Burt Loftin
Allen Miller	Nick Pappas	Ernie Plantz	Ray Samson



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Sailing Orders



NEXT REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2005
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours



NATIONAL CONVENTION
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
29 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2005

From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

This will be my last newsletter to you as your Base Commander. So I would like to thank each and every one of you for your help and support over the past years. Your help and support has been immeasurable to me. We have come a good way, and we have a good way to go, but with you're continuing support of Perch Base, we will continue to grow and prosper.

We have had several shipmates to step up for the nominations to fill the offices that have opened up. Tim Moore our Vice Commander, has been nominated for Commander, Stan Reinhold was nominate for Vice Commander, and Jim Dezien for Treasurer. Our very own Master Carver and Craftsman, Ed Brooks has agreed to stay on as Base Secretary. Ed, I along with your shipmates, salute you for your never-ending support and effort on behalf of Perch Base.

Nominations are still open so please step up if you have someone you want to nominate, or let a shipmate know that you would like to be nominated.

Shipmates Bob May is the only treasurer this base has ever had, since it was chartered ten years ago. Now Bob is stepping down. Bob, you have watched this base grow and prosper. Your talents, time, and advice have been of great value to us all. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Bravo Zulu we salute you.

Dave Harnish, you have backed me up, and helped me with your sage advice in so many ways, a thank you, just doesn't seem to be enough. May God bless and keep you.

I thank all officers, and board members for your support to the base, USSVI and myself. It has been your help and support that has made the past years so very rewarding to me. Thanks, again for giving me you friendship and support.

Your humble friend and shipmate,

Glenn Herold, commander, Perch Base

February Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, Feb. 19, 2005. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Base Chaplain Howard Doyle led the members in a prayer of Invocation. The members were then led in the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a reading of the "Purpose of the Organization", dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony for submarines lost during the month of February.

According to the sailing list, there were 38 persons at the meeting. New Members Denny Kerton and Dan Phillips were welcomed by the membership and asked to introduce themselves.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the January meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of February, 2005.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore reported that he had received a reply to his letter to the Arizona Veteran's Home inquiring about volunteer needs at the facility. Tim will pursue the efforts to support the Home and some of their volunteer needs. Tim also reported that he had received a reply from Author Clive Cussler in response to an invitation for him to become an associate member in Perch Base.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore announced that the construction for the new American Legion Post 62 has begun. The size of the facility has been reduced and how the spaces will be utilized is not clear.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle reported that Holland Club President Bill Britt recently lost his wife and sympathy cards are being sent from Perch Base.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that dues renewal efforts are still ongoing. More than 87% of the members have renewed their membership for 2005.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold renewed a plea for ideas to generate additional revenues for the Perch Base: ideas such as auctions, yard sales, etc. Several possible locations for such events were discussed.

(continued on next page)



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Glenn also reminded members of the 2005 USSVI National Convention in Kansas City. Hotel reservations and registration should be made at the earliest to guarantee participation in preferred events.

Glenn announced that the Perch Base will be participating in the Yarnell Spring Festival celebration and parade on May 21. Since this event occurs at the same time as the date for Perch Base meeting in May, the event may also involve a Base Meeting. Several details would need to be resolved if the two events were to be held in Yarnell.

The 2005 Picnic Committee is in the process of determining a place and date for this year's picnic. Specifics for the event are forthcoming.

Glenn Herold indicated that Perch Base had received a letter of thanks from USSVI National Junior vice Commander for Perch Base's contribution to the USS San Francisco Ashley Foundation.

Shipmates Billy Grieves and William Alton reminded members that they would be collecting submarine history from those willing to record their submarine experiences. The information will be translated from tape to MP3 format and published on a CD. Participants should prepare a brief of their experiences then follow the guide when making a tape recording.

Dave Harnish reported that even though USSVI - District 8 would not be holding a meeting this year, all members are invited to attend the District 10 meeting to be held on March 2 through 5 in California near the San Joaquin National Cemetery. The regional meeting will culminate with a memorial ceremony at the National Cemetery which includes the planting of 65 Mondel Pines (one for each submarine lost since 1900). Anyone interested in attending should contact Dave.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold announced that the 2005 Medal of Honor Convention will be held in Phoenix and Perch Base is exploring ways that the Base can show their respect and support for these esteem members of the veteran community. If it is possible, the Base will purchase an ad in the convention program to express our respect and appreciation. Another possibility is for the Base to sponsor a luncheon for the group of 80 to 90 members.

Glenn also announced that the USSVI National Convention is being held in Kansas City spanning the days between September 25 and October 1. Those who plan on attending should consider early registration and especially room reservations at the meeting hotel.

Glenn briefed the members regarding a thank-you letter received from USSVI National Junior vice Commander - Pat Householder. The letter acknowledged Perch Base for our contribution to the USS San Francisco Ashley Foundation.

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GOOD OF THE ORDER

USSVI Western Regional Director - Dave Harnish asked all Perch Base Holland Club members to assemble front and center. After which, Dave called forward Shipmate Red Crider. Red was then inducted into the USSVI Holland Club as a member in good standing who qualified in submarines more than 50 years ago.

After the induction ceremony, Red was given a Holland Club Patch, membership card, lapel pin, coffee mug, certificate, Perch Base patch and letter from Bill Britt (President of the USSVI Holland Club). The existing Holland Club members welcomed Red into their group and the membership showed him their appreciation with a resounding round of applause.

The membership participated in the first annual Perch Base Memorial Program. A short prayer was offered by the Base Chaplain Warner Doyle. This was followed by members, from the group, reading the individual names of Perch Members on eternal patrol. The ceremony culminated with the playing of TAPS on the bugle.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and John Zaichkin was the winner.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1420 hours.

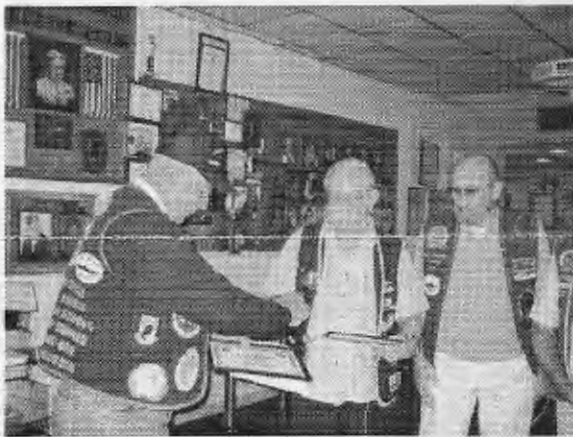
Signed: Edgar T. Brooks, secretary, Perch Base



Perch Base Inducts New Holland Club Member



"The requirement's for membership in the Holland Club is determined by Section 5 of the USSVI Constitution. Basically a member must be qualified 50 or more years, and is either, a life member and a member in good standing for one year, or an annual member in good standing for 5 consecutive years."



USSVI Western Regional Director, Dave Harnish presents Shipmate Red Crider with his certificate as the newest member of the Holland Club.



Nautical Nuances or, Did You Know?

Submarine tenders, or 'mother ships' of the U.S. Navy usually bear the names of characters of mythology, the names of submarine inventors, or the names of persons who have made contributions to the Submarine Service.

From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

I want to thank you for attending our last meeting. We took officer nominations and now have a slate to vote in at our next meeting on March 19, so please attend and cast your ballot.

We should have a fairly short meeting, leaving plenty of time for a leisurely lunch.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Der Kaffee Kuchen, 9814 W Peoria at noon. Your input, presence, opinion and vote matter to all the SubVettes.

All my best to you and yours,

Nancy Nelson, president, SubVettes of Perch Base

SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES February Meeting

The fourteenth monthly meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base was convened at Der Kaffee Kuchen, Peoria, Arizona at 1303 hours, Feb. 19, 2005. There were 14 members in attendance. President Nancy Nelson led members in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Prayer of Invocation.

Nancy then asked all members to be sure to sign in and announced that a poncho made and donated by Jackie Hawkins was the item being raffled at today's meeting and encouraged members who had not done so already, to purchase tickets.

Since the minutes of our last meeting were published in the MidWatch, Nancy asked that a motion be made to dispense with the reading of the minutes. A motion was made by Kay Harnish and seconded by Hiromi Povip to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer Karen Emmett reported on the base's financial status as of Jan. 31, 2005. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Nancy reported to members the status of the National elections. It was reported that Rita Kreul, from Groton Base, is running for President. Carol Boyle is running for First vice-President. They are still taking nominations for all offices, but they have not received any for Second vice-President or Secretary/Treasurer. Our current President, Ella Blado, is thinking about the Secretary/Treasurer office, but has not decided as of this date. If any Subvettes member would like to hold a National office, please contact Debbie Newell to get a copy of the nominating form.

(continued next page)

The following is a list of nominees for local offices:

Nancy Nelson, President
Karen Emmett, Vice President
Hiromi Povio, Treasurer
Jackie Hawkins, Secretary

A motion to accept the slate of officers as read by Heather Newell, was made by Brandi Hershey and seconded by Kay Harnish. Elections will be held at our next meeting, which is March 19.

NEW BUSINESS

Nancy announced to the members that Commander Glenn Harold had invited members to join their meeting for the "Good of the Order" portion for a Holland Club induction ceremony for Red Crider in addition to an Eternal Patrol Memorial Service for all Perch Base members who are now "resting their oars".

Nancy also notified members that we have been invited back to the Yarnell Days Spring Festival and parade this year. The dates are May 21 and 22, which falls on our regular meeting date. Information on lodging and travel was also given. Due to the date of this event, we may not have a meeting in May; however, Nancy will clarify this with the new Commander after the elections.

Members were also advised that an event that would bring together all the Arizona USSVI bases is being considered. Arrangements are still being made and no date has been chosen at this time.

Muriel Grieves notified members on the health and well-being of the following members: Sandy Bernard, possible pneumonia; Sandy Harrington suffered a broken foot and Marygrace Veek had hip replacement surgery. Members were also notified that Jackie Hawkins' husband was diagnosed with prostate cancer and Katherine Otreba has been under the weather lately. Our thoughts and prayers are with all these members and their families during this time.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Happy Birthday wishes to:

Sandi Prophet-3/1
Betty Long - 3/10
Iris Vaillancourt - 3/13
Karen Emmett - 3/14
Debbie Newell - 3/28
Brandi Hershey - 3/31

Nancy reminded members that our next meeting will be held March 19, 2005 at noon at this same location.

DRAWING

Heather Newell conducted the drawing for the poncho made and donated by Jackie Hawkins and was won by Caroline Newman.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, a motion was made by Muriel Grieves and seconded Brandi Hershey that the meeting of the SubVettes of Perch Base be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 13:24 hours.

Signed: Debbie Newell, Secretary

Eternal Patrol Roll Call

Shipmates,

It's my sad duty to inform you that Shipmate Bernard Deleman, USS Perch SS176, has passed on Feb. 5th.

I have called his USS Perch shipmates, of which 3 were unaware of his passing. Marion "Turk" Turner is sending me an obituary, for placement in Perch Base web-site. This will be passed on to appropriate personal. All Perch survivors said over and over again how grateful they were for what USSVI ~ Perch Base is/has done for them.'

*Stumbling we grope and stifle here below
In the gross garb of this too cumbering flesh,
And draw such hard-won breaths as may be drawn,
Until, perchance with pearls, we rise and go
To doff our divers mail and taste the fresh,
The generous winds of the eternal dawn.*

R. H. SCHAUFFLER



Eternal Patrol March 26, 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

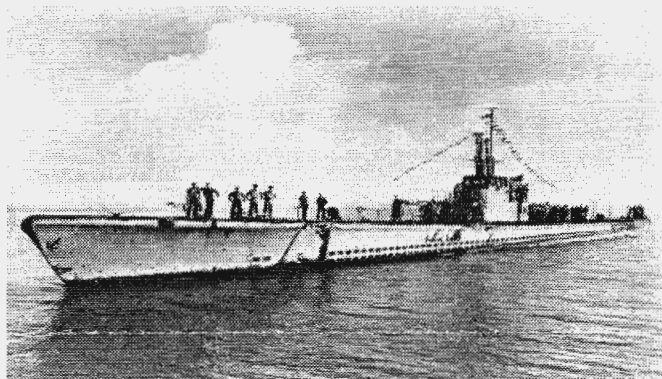
Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest is part of an outfit known as the best.

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.

U.S.S. Trigger (SS-237) 89 men lost



Departing Guam on March 11, 1945, TRIGGER, under the command of Cmdr. D.R. Connole, headed for the Nansei Shoto area to conduct her twelfth war patrol. She was to provide rescue services for carrier based aircraft, as well as to carry out a normal offensive patrol.

After having sent several routine messages en route to her area, TRIGGER reported her first action on March 18th. She stated that she had made a seventeen-hour end around on a convoy she had previously reported, and had attacked. She sank one freighter and damaged another. The other two merchantmen of the convoy and four escorts proceed west.

For some time, Allied forces had been aware of a large Japanese restricted area west of the Nansei Shoto in the East China Sea. The area had been marked "restricted" in captured enemy notices to mariners, and Allied forces were obliged to accept that the area was mined, and to keep out of it. Submarines had been warned of its presence and given its position, and were in the habit of proceeding around it to the north when patrolling the Formosa Strait and the adjacent China Coast. The convoy, which had been attacked by TRIGGER, was heading for this restricted area. It had always been strongly suspected that there were gaps in the mine lines, since the area was too big to be at once completely and effectively mined.

Immediately after receipt of TRIGGER's report of the attack she had made, ComSubPac told her to give as much information as possible concerning the subsequent movements of the convoy, in order to help establish the existence of a safe passage through the restricted area. On March 20th, TRIGGER reported that the attack she had made on the convoy had taken place northeast and that she had been held down for three hours by escorts following the attack. When last seen or heard the convoy was heading for the restricted area, but TRIGGER had been unable to regain contact when she was able to surface.

On March 24th, TRIGGER was given further orders. On March 25th she was to move west and patrol, remaining clear of restricted areas and outside the 100-fathom curve. On March 26th TRIGGER was told to proceed at best speed to form a coordinated attack group, known as Earl's Eliminators, with SEADOG and THREADFIN. The group was to be commanded by Cmdr. E.T. Hydeman in SEADOG. This message to TRIGGER required an acknowledgement, but on the same day she sent a weather report which did not contain an acknowledgement, and she never was heard from again. On March 28th, SEADOG reported that she had been unable to communicate with TRIGGER since the formation of the wolf pack. To clarify the situation for the other submarines, TRIGGER was given another assignment and told to acknowledge, and the wolf pack was disbanded on 30 March.

After many attempts to contact her by radio had failed, TRIGGER was ordered on April 4th to proceed to Midway. When she failed to arrive by May 1, 1945, she was reported as presumed lost in enemy water on her twelfth patrol, after a long and illustrious career.

Since she knew the position of the enemy restricted area containing mines, and had been told to keep clear of it, it is extremely doubtful that TRIGGER's loss was due to a mine. On the afternoon of March 28th, a two-hour long depth charge attack was conducted by Japanese planes in cooperation with other ships. Other U.S. submarines in the area heard the attack. Hour later, THREADFIN reports, "Many distant strings of depth charges and several heavy explosions heard from what was believed to be the eastward. (In the opposite direction from the location of our attacks). It sounded as though someone was getting quite a drubbing." No other submarine in the vicinity reported having been attacked, although all reported hearing many explosions.

The Japanese report of the above attack states, "Detected a submarine over eight times and bombed it. Ships also detected it—depth charged. Found oil pool of 1 x 5 miles in size the following day." Since it is extremely doubtful that THREADFIN received sufficient damage to have left the oil pool described by the Japanese, it must be presumed that TRIGGER was lost in this action. That it occurred two days

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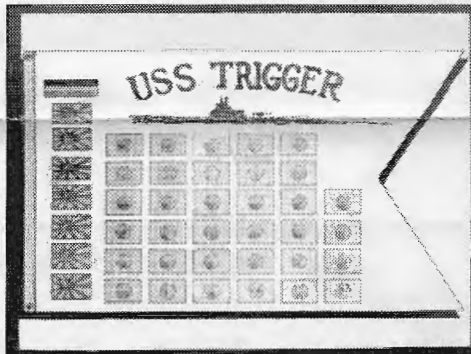
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after TRIGGER had been told to acknowledge a message, and none was ever received is not considered unusual. Conditions often forced submarines to delay transmissions for considerable periods of time.

TRIGGER is credited with one freighter sunk and another damaged on her final patrol. This makes a total of 27 ships sunk, for 180,600 tons, and 13 ships damaged, for 102,900 tons, during the ship's entire career.


In her second patrol to Empire in the area south of Honshu, TRIGGER sent a freighter to the bottom, and damaged two large tankers and a



freighter. TRIGGER's third patrol was a mining mission as well as an offensive patrol; it, too, was in the Empire. She saw a large freighter blow up and sink when it hit a mine she had laid, and also sank two freighters by torpedo attacks. Also on January 10, 1943, TRIGGER torpedoed and sank the Japanese destroyer OKIKAZE near Honshu. TRIGGER covered the Palau-Wewak (New Guinea) traffic lanes on her fourth patrol and succeeded in sinking one freighter and damaging two more. Again in the area south of Honshu, TRIGGER on her fifth patrol sank a large freighter and damaged an aircraft carrier and a tanker.

Her sixth and seventh patrols were in the East China Sea. On her sixth she sank three good-sized tankers and a freighter, doing damage to another freighter. Her seventh resulted in the sinking of four good-sized freighters, one tanker, and one large transport. The eighth patrol of this vessel was made in the Carolines on the Truk-Guam route,

and she sank a large freighter-transport and an escort vessel. She sank four freighter- transports as well as a patrol vessel near Palau on her ninth patrol; she also damaged a large tanker, two freighters and a sampan. TRIGGER's tenth patrol, as her last did, covered the Northern Nansei Shoto area. She received partial credit for sinking a small tanker, which was sunk cooperatively with SALMON. TRIGGER's eleventh patrol was in the Empire, but resulted in disappointingly few enemy contacts and no attack opportunities. This ship was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for her fifth sixth and seventh patrols.



**Nautical Nuances
or,
Did You Know?**

Modern submarines can travel faster submerged than they can on the surface. They can fully submerge in less than a minute.

Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat, was an avid submarine enthusiast. He built several submersible warships, one of which was known as the Nautilus.

The rig for dive in a modern submarine requires the crew conduct more than 225 individual and operational checks.

The submarine was not generally recognized as a legitimate instrument of warfare until the Civil War.

Our Fellow Vets Can Use Our Help

Our fellow veterans who reside in the Veteran's Home here in Phoenix could use our assistance. For any of you who are willing and able to participate in some volunteer work, your help would be greatly appreciated. Resident's activities include:

1. Bingo every Saturday at 0900.
2. Card playing (poker, etc.) every Monday at 0930.
3. Movies the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1400.

Volunteers help in moving residents from their units to Liberty Hall for these activities. They also play cards with the residents and help serve ice cream, pop corn, etc.

Extra help will especially be needed this coming March 30. Beginning March 30, and every 5th Wednesday thereafter, we will be going to a local casino. The time for this event will be from 0930 until 1430. Again, extra help here would be especially appreciated.

For details regarding volunteer services, contact:

Carrie Langford, CTRS
Recreational Therapy Program Manager
Volunteer Services
Phone - 602-248-1575
E-mail - clangford@azvets.com
Thank you for you assistance!

Shipmate

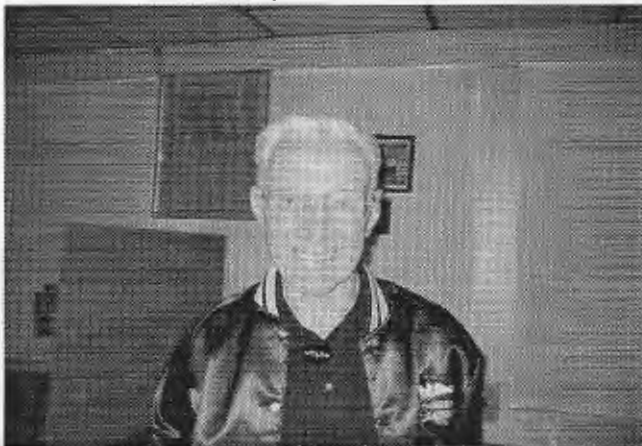


Shipmate

Meet the Shipmate

Each month, we will highlight one of your shipmates -- one of the crew of Perch Base.

Billy Grieves



BILLY GRIEVES enlisted in the Navy, April 3, 1939 at the age of 18. While in boot camp at Newport, RI, the submarine, U.S.S. SQUALUS (SS 192), was lost in the Atlantic off the coast of Portsmouth, NH. Training completed, Bill was one of 12 volunteers sent north to help raise the SQUALUS. As the salvage progressed he became more and more fascinated with submarine life and when SQUALUS was towed into port at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, he volunteered and was accepted for submarine duty. In due course he was assigned to the U.S.S. R-10 (SS 87), a school boat at New London, CT. Not satisfied with this duty he requested new construction and was transferred to the brand new



submarine, U.S.S. THRESHER (SS-200). THRESHER went into commission Aug. 27, 1940. After several months of trials, testing and training to coordinate the crew with this new submarine, THRESHER joined the fleet at Pearl Harbor in April, 1941.

In the course of the war he participated in 13 war patrols in the Pacific; 11 aboard THRESHER and 2 aboard U.S.S. LIZARDFISH (SS-373). He served as a TM 1/c in charge of the forward torpedo room and he was awarded the Submarine Combat medal and 2 Bronze Star medals. He was honorably discharged from the Navy Oct 10, 1945 with 6 ½ years service.

He then served 27 years in the Detroit Fire Department retiring with the rank of Lieutenant. This was followed by 10 years service as an industrial fire fighter with the Ford Motor Co. He married the former MURIEL JEANNE BACH in 1947 and reared two daughters. Bill and Muriel reside in Sun City West.



Nautical Nuances or, Did You Know?

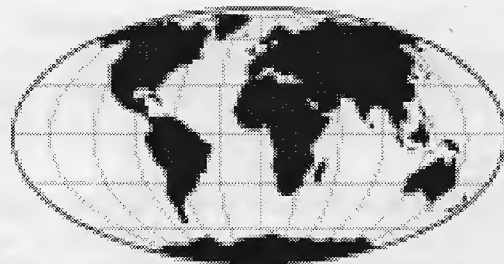
During their wartime operations submarines have engaged in some unusual maritime actions. One undersea craft slugged it out with the infantry and field artillery while other submarines destroyed a zeppelin, a bus, and a railroad train.

In their history, submarines were called by many names such as 'eel boats', 'plunging boats', 'devil divers', and 'pig boats'. Technically, and by size, the submarine is a ship, but it has been called a boat since its earliest days, and the term is steeped in tradition. Submariners almost invariably call their ships 'boats'.

Among the 'first' that Electric Boat Division has introduced into American submarines, have been the marine Diesel engine, the perfected use of the storage battery, the combination of battery and internal combustion engine, and the world's first adaptation of nuclear energy to propulsion in the USS NAUTILUS.

The USS SEAWOLF join the Electric Boat built USS NAUTILUS and SKATE in writing new chapters in the achievements of man when the nuclear powered submarine came to the surface at 11:45 a.m. on October 6, 1958 after being continuously submerged for 60 days.

Around the World



Senior Chief Submariner Awarded Bronze Star



Commander, Submarine Group Two, Rear Adm. Mark W. Kenny, right, presents Senior Chief Electronics Technician Jason Taggart with a Bronze Star with Combat "V" award citation, as Taggart's wife, Jennifer, and Commanding Officer, USS Dallas (SSN 700), Cmdr. Gard Clark, look on during an award ceremony on board Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn.

Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Kyle McCloud

Release Date: 3/4/2005 5:00:00 PM

By Journalist 3rd Class Steven Feller, Commander, Navy Region Northeast Public Affairs

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) — Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Jason D. Taggart made his log entry into the Submarine Force history books, when he received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" March 4 at the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, Conn.

Currently a crew member aboard USS Dallas (SSN 700), the Welleville, Ohio-native earned the award during his tour as the Coalition Military Assistance Team's (CMAT) Personnel Security Detachment (PSD) team commander from August 2003 to March 2004 in Iraq.

During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Mark W. Kenny, commander, Submarine Group 2, praised Taggart for his work overseas.

"Our (Submarine Force) record of success comes from the ideals that our submariners all embody courage, commitment, innovation and initiative in the face of new missions and challenging environments," said Kenny. "Senior Chief

Jason Taggart represents all of these ideals, and today, we add his unique chapter to our story."

Taggart said he was sent to Iraq because his experience as a communications specialist was something the military needed. Eventually Taggart's expertise would play even further when the need arose for more security detachments.

"They (military leaders) looked and saw I had law enforcement experience and offered me a job to take over as Personnel Security Detachment team commander," he said. "I accepted the job and started the first of my two five-man teams."

As team commander, Taggart was responsible for the formation, training and deployment of the PSD Teams. He completed more than 200 missions from Iraq's border with Turkey and Syria all the way to Kuwait. During these missions, Taggart twice discovered roadside Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), cleared the area, set up security and waited for Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams to declare it safe. In one incident, Taggart was wounded by an IED and continued his duties, refusing to leave the area until the mission was complete. Taggart was also involved in four separate firefights.

For most submariners, getting into firefights, securing areas around roadside bombs and logging thousands of miles across Iraq are not something they envision doing while patrolling the seas. But for Taggart, this experience was expected.

"That (experience) was a goal," said Taggart. "Throughout my military career, I volunteered to go to many places. When I was on shore duty, I went to Japan and Korea; and I once completed two NATO operations on Chilean submarines. I've been trying to do something different than just submarines."

While earning the Bronze Star is a very rare experience, especially for a submariner, Taggart's humility illustrates his complete focus on the mission, and not accolades.

"I was going there to do the job I was assigned to do," said Taggart. "It was quite a surprise when I learned about the award."

Since September, Taggart has been spending his days aboard Dallas as the 3M coordinator.

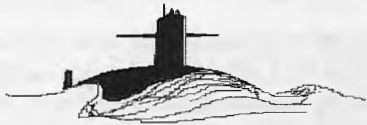
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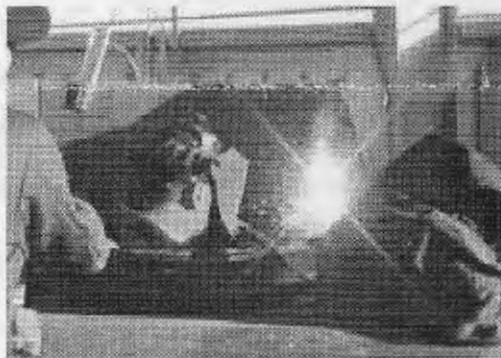
According to Dallas Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Gard Clark, and Dallas Chief of the Boat, Senior Chief Fire Control Technician (SS) John Jors, neither are surprised Taggart earned the award.

"Based on my experience working with him, I wasn't really surprised to find out he was getting the award," said Clark. "He's just an overall great example of the U.S. Navy Sailor and a senior chief petty officer. He was in a leadership position over there, in combat, and (what Taggart did) meshed with my picture of who Senior Chief Taggart is. I'm very impressed."

"From the day he stepped aboard Dallas," said Jors, "he was a real go-getter. He takes the tasks



Sub Tender's Welders Take to the Sands of Kuwait to Help Plate Army Vehicles



Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Croft, a damage controlman, welds an armor plate onto the turret of an Army vehicle at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, where 15 sailors are using their Navy skills to help protect troops on missions in Iraq

STARS AND STRIPES

By Ben Murray, Stars and Stripes
European edition, Wednesday, February 9, 2005

On first hearing it, the concept may sound too ironic to be true: a team of sailors assigned to duty in the middle of the desert, spending their days working on Army vehicles.

Uh huh. And the Air Force's best pilots have been signed up for submarine duty.

But for 15 crew members from the Navy sub tender and maintenance vessel USS Emory S. Land, who are currently working at Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait, the idea is as real as the sand in their conspicuously blue coveralls.

Since late January, the team of metal workers and hull technicians has been working 24 hours a day in three shifts to weld armor plating onto its newly adopted fleet, the hodgepodge of vehicles used by the Army to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The program is a first for the Land, and came about late last year when the Army put out a call for more welders to uparmor its convoy vehicles. The request was forwarded to the Navy.

Because the Land, based in La Maddalena, Sardinia, was relatively close by and its welders were scheduled to have some free time on a mainly humanitarian mission last month, the ship was a logical place to find the needed help, said the ship's repair officer, Cmdr. Brian McGinnis.

"The mission of [Fleet Maintenance Activity] is to fix things. The Army had vehicles that needed to be fixed. It's only natural that the closest asset to where the work is [needed] go and perform the job," McGinnis said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

With that green light, the 15 volunteers from the Land quickly became fish out of water in a soldier's world, where, "we stick out like a sore thumb," in their Navy uniforms, said Lt. j.g. Christopher O'Leary, who was deployed with the welders.

"It has prompted people to ask us questions like ... 'Who'd you piss off to get sent here?'" he said.

Reached by e-mail last week, O'Leary responded to a list of Stars and Stripes questions posed to the Land welders about the life of a desert-dwelling sailor.

For the most part, the transition to life off the ship has been pretty easy, O'Leary said, thanks in part to the busy schedule and a take on their surroundings that makes the place seem a little more like home.

"We don't call it the desert, we call it the bottom of the ocean, which is currently all dried up," he said.

The work of cutting metal and bonding plates together is familiar to the crew members, he said, and after some tutelage from members of the 276th Maintenance Company, which is also working at the camp, the welders took to the job, "like we had been doing it all along," O'Leary said.

The hardest part has been learning Army lingo and the names of all the new vehicles they're armoring, he said.

"I thought the Navy had a lot of acronyms," he said.

As strange as the setting is for the sailors, getting sent to faraway locations to fix vehicles — from surface ships to

(continued next page)

submarines, and now Army Humvees — is the fleet maintenance crew's bread and butter, McGinnis said.

"For us, this is just another fly-away to go fix something. Only this time, it's not a vessel tied up to a pier, it is a vehicle parked in the middle of the desert," he said.

O'Leary said the sailors see the mission in a similar way, and consider it "an awesome opportunity," though an unexpected one.

"Never in a million dreams did we think we would be on dry land fixing Army vehicles," he said.

But even with desert sand under their feet, working in Kuwait gives the sailors the same sense of accomplishment they feel while working on the Emory S. Land, O'Leary said.

"The mission is unique only because it is a different location than we are used to," he said. "We know that what we are doing will save soldiers. No different than the work we do on ships and submarines. Those repairs also save sailors."



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Florida Reaches Milestone

From Naval Sea Systems Command

USS Florida (SSGN 728) undocked Feb. 10, achieving a major milestone in the overhaul and conversion process for the guided-missile submarine (SSGN) program.

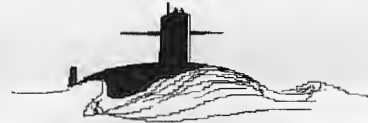
The milestone was achieved one week ahead of the scheduled date of Feb. 16.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard and General Dynamics Electric Boat are jointly overhauling and converting Florida at NNSY. Florida is the second of four ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) being converted into state-of-the-art, multimission, guided-missile submarines. Florida's conversion is more than 49 percent complete, and the boat is scheduled to return to the fleet April 1, 2006.

"General Dynamics Electric Boat, which is in charge of the conversion, and NNSY have accomplished this im-



portant milestone ahead of schedule," said SSGN Program Manager Capt. William Hilarides. "The continued progress on the SSGN Program is the result of a dedicated, professional team from GDEB and NNSY working together to deliver a key capability to the Navy on a compressed schedule."



Pride Runs Deep

U.S. Navy Submariners are the best in the world. Their skills are unmatched. Their training is unsurpassed. Their dedication is unquestioned. Their service is invaluable.

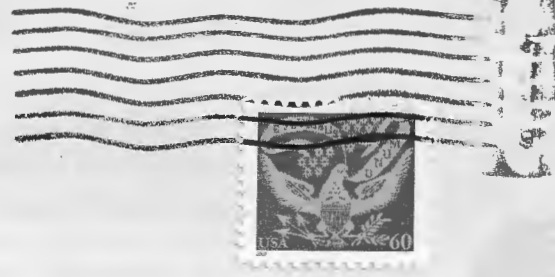
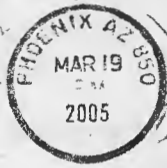
As a member of this elite force, you will experience life in a way unknown to most. You'll be challenged by many. Submarine Service. There is no better way to experience your life!

NAVY

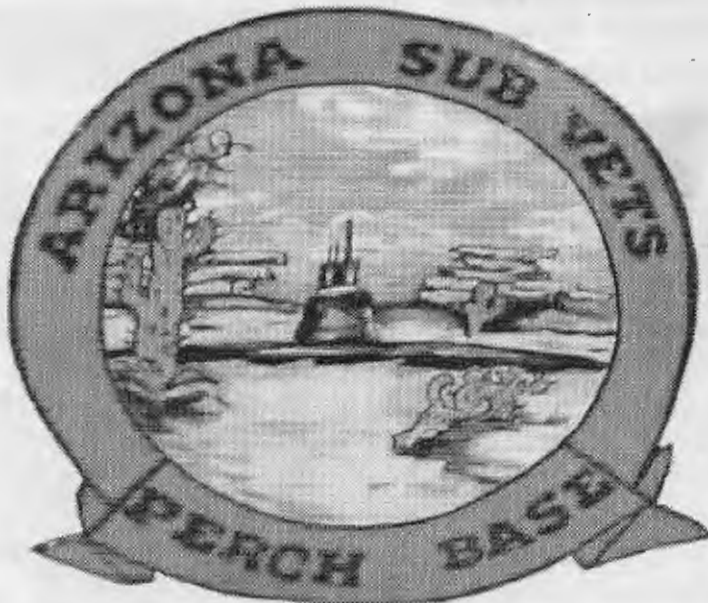
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