



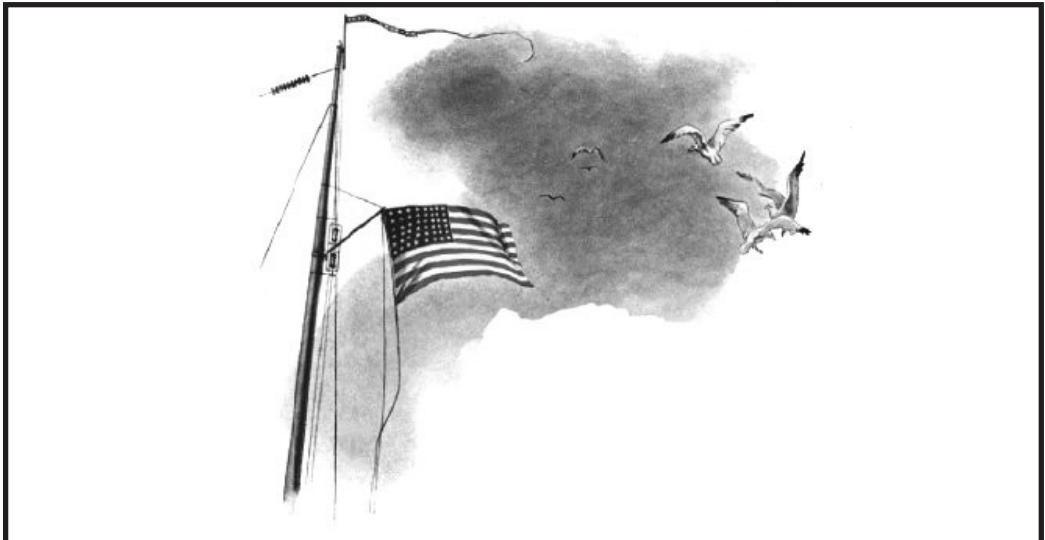
January 2006  
Volume 12 - Issue 1



<http://perch-base.org>

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

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**Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol**

**JANUARY ETERNAL PATROLS**

<b>USS Scorpion</b>	<b>SS278</b>	<b>Jan. 5, 1944</b>	<b>76 men</b>
<b>USS Swordfish</b>	<b>SS193</b>	<b>Jan. 12, 1945</b>	<b>85 men</b>
<b>USS Argonaut</b>	<b>SS166</b>	<b>Jan. 10, 1943</b>	<b>105 men</b>
<b>USS S-36</b>	<b>SS141</b>	<b>Jan. 20, 1942</b>	<b>none lost</b>
<b>USS S-26</b>	<b>SS131</b>	<b>Jan. 24, 1942</b>	<b>46 men</b>

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 21, 2005**  
**NO MOVE YET! - SAME LOCATION**  
 American Legion Post #62  
 11001 N. 99th Ave.

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, 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 additional donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival.

Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



## *2006 Booster Club*



A. H. "Bob" Nance	Adrian Stuke	Allan Miller	Billy Grieves
Bradley L. Butler	Bruce "Robie" Robinson	Butch DeShong	Charles Greene
Dave Harnish	David Carpenter	Doug LaRock	Edgar Brooks
Chuck Emmett	Edward Hawkins	Edward J. Hawkins	Emil Schoonejans
F.J. "Ted" Asbell	Frank Rumbaugh	Gary Bartlett	George L. Crider
George Long	George Petrovitz	Glenn Herold	Harold C. Lister
Harry Heller	Jack R. McCarthy	James Denzien	James L. Wall
James W. Newman	Jerry N. Allston	Jim Nelson	John Cash
John Messersmith	John T. Hellem	John Zaichkin	Joseph Bernard
Kenneth Becker	Kenneth R. Anderson	L. A. "Mike" Keating	Lester Hillman
Mel Rycus	Paul V. Miller	Ray Samson	Raymond Marshall
Raymond Schaeffer	Reynaldo Atos	Richard Bernier	Richard Simmons
Robert A. Lancendorfer	Robert A. Sungy	Robert Lents	Robert May
Roger Cousin	Roger M. Miller	Roger R. Miller	Ron Kloch
Ronald Beyer	Royce Pettitt	Stanley Rud	Stephen Day,
Stephen Hough	Terry Martin		



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# Sailing Orders



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**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 21, 2005**  
**American Legion Post #62**  
**11001 N. 99th Ave.**  
***SAME LOCATION!!***  
**Starts at 1200 hours**

---



## From the Wardroom

### *Happy New Year!!*

Dear Shipmates,

It's hard to believe that we are already into the New Year and 2005 is history. None the less, it's time to establish our priorities and prepare for the challenges we will be facing in 2006. One of the first things you all need to think about is the upcoming election for base officers. If any of you know of any members who you think might be good candidates for any of the positions, first find out if they are interested in running and give them the opportunity to investigate what the position is all about. I would like to also add that I am extremely pleased with our current crew and hope they will consider running again and keep the continuity we have established this past year, moving forward. Also, I want to encourage all current members to "re-up" for 2006. Let's keep our membership thriving with a 100% renewal rate this year and also consider joining the Booster's Club. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

For those of you who missed it, we had a great time and a very successful Annual Awards Banquet in December. Good food, good friends and a good time were had by all. There were a number of highlights that evening but one that was especially meaningful for me was having the honor to announce the commendation and read the Shipmate of the Year commendation letter. Like last year, we had co-recipients again this year. Our co-winners this year were Frank Rumbaugh and Dave Harnish. If memory serves, I think that is two in a row for Dave. I know you all will join me in congratulating these two fine shipmates. They certainly deserve these awards and it is a privilege for me to be associated with them. I want to thank both of you, Dave and Frank, for your many, many contributions to our local organization and the USSVI.

While I am sure we will have a number of worthwhile projects in which we will participate this year, two that I would like to continue to pursue include; programs to promote membership growth and participating with and supporting the Phoenix Society in pursuing the acquisition of the USS Phoenix SSN-702 sail and rudder and hopefully establishing a memorial at Steele Indian School Park. I think you all would agree that a submarine memorial in Phoenix is a most worthwhile project.

Lastly, the officers and board members welcome your ideas for new projects as well as your participation in the same. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2006. We will be meeting at the American Legion Post #62 in the old facility. Hopefully our February meeting will be in the new facility. We will keep you posted.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

## November Meeting Minutes

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

The members were led in a prayer of Invocation followed by the standard ceremonial opening.

According to the sailing list, there were twenty-five (25) members and six (6) guests at the meeting. Guests included; John Dudas (USSVI Veterans' Affairs Chairman and member Gudgeon Base), Allan Miller (transfer from Gold Coast Base), Matt Schmell, Dick Bernier, Donald Reinhold and Jack Messersmith (Commander, Gudgeon Base). All the guests were welcomed with an resounding round of applause.

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

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Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of November, 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** – Stan Reinhold was not at the meeting.

**Base Chief of the Boat** – Bob Gilmore was not at the meeting

**Base Chaplain** – Howard Doyle had nothing to report.

**Membership Chairman** – Ramon Samson was not at the meeting.

**Newsletter Editor** – Chuck Emmett was not at the meeting.

**Ship's Storekeeper** – Jim Nelson announced a reduction in the prices for certain items in the Ship's Store.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Tim Moore reminded members of the Base Christmas Party being held at Luke AFB Enlisted Club on December 10. Tim also recited the specifics for attending the party.



The members were reminded of the on-going sale of raffle tickets for free accommodations and cruise cash prizes for use on the 2007 USSVI Convention Cruise to Alaska.

Tim also announced that Jim Denzien has ordered 100 extra copies of the USSVI publication "American Submariner" to be used as a tool for recruiting new members.

The members were informed that the combined entry (Perch Base and Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station) in the Phoenix Veterans' Day Parade was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Veterans Organization Entries. He also expressed thanks to Sanderson Ford and Palo Verde for their continuing support for the parade.

Base Commander Moore reminded the members of

the goals and objectives of the local Phoenix Society and encouraged members to become a member or otherwise involved with efforts to locate the sail of the U.S.S. Phoenix in the area.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Tim Moore initiated a discussion with regard to whether or not Perch Base should have a membership meeting in the month of December. Especially since the Base Christmas Party will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Following a short discussion, a motion was made and seconded to cancel the December Membership Meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

Tim Moore announced that a Parade Committee has been formed to look at the schedule of involvement for the Base and its float, alternatives to the current float structure, and control and maintenance of the equipment. The committee Chairman is Jim Denzien with Jim Nelson and Howard Doyle as members.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Ed Brooks briefed the members on new efforts to raise money for the U.S. Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation. This included a program to recycle used cell phones and inkjet cartridges which will generate a contribution from the recycler. There is also an on-line auction of submarine memorabilia being conducted to benefit the Charitable Foundation's Brotherhood Fund.

Dave Harnish also encouraged members to be active in raising funds for the Charitable Foundation.

It was announced that the membership dues renewal letters have been mailed and everyone was encouraged to support the Base Booster Fund with additional donations.

Howard Doyle informed the members that the Pearl Harbor Arizona Memorial is seeking financial help to stabilize the sunken hull. It is continuing to sink into the silt of the harbor and it will require nearly \$300 million to complete the project. There will be a meeting of the Southwest Caucus of the Submarine Veterans of WWII in April of next year. It was suggested that Perch Base members volunteer to help at the meeting.

Dave Harnish also announced that members that are capable of attending should try to attend the USSVI Western Region/ Western Districts Meeting in Reno, Nevada on March 7, 8, and 9, 2006. The meeting will be held at the El Dorado Hotel.

**50/50 DRAWING**

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Allan Miller.

**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 1330 hours.

Ed Brooks, secretary, Perch Base USSVI



***From Behind the Wardroom - SubVettes***

**Happy New Year!!**

Hope everyone had a joyful and healthy holiday time and are excited about the New Year.

Our Annual Awards Banquet was a great celebration. It was my honor to present Kay Harnish with our "MEMBER of the YEAR" award. Thank you SubVettes, for your attendance and participation in 2005.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Chowhound on Jan. 21 at 12:30, for our first meeting of 2006.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

JoAnne Norwood – 1/24

Mary Denzien – 2/3

Delores Neuman – 2/15

Hiromi Povio – 2/26

With all my best wishes,

Nancy Nelson, President, SubVettes of Perch Base

***SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES***  
***November***

The twenty second Monthly Meeting of the SUBVETTES OF PERCH BASE convened at the Chowhound Cafe, 11101 N 99th Ave. Peoria at 12:45 hours on November 19th 2005. Our President Nancy Nelson called the meeting to order and then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our Chaplain, Sandy Bernard gave the opening prayer. We had 11 members in attendance.

Our Raffle Prize was a moving dolphin sculpture donated by Jacque Hawkins. Tickets were \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00

We are also starting a raffle on a set of Dolphins carved by Ed Brooks. These are beautiful carvings. You will have a chance to pick up some more tickets at the Holiday Awards Banquet on the 10th of December. The Drawing for this carving will be held at the banquet, Hiromi was appointed to take charge of the raffle tickets and for this drawing and Hiromi appointed Brandi Hershey (who has returned to us after a long summer) to take over the Sculpture drawing.

Since our minutes were published in the MidWatch, Nancy asked to accept them as printed. The Motion to accept was made by Brandi Hershey, the motion seconded by Hiromi Povio.

Hiromi was then asked to give us our Treasurers Report. It was read and a motion to accept was made by Layne Rumbaugh and seconded by Linda Wall.

Nancy then asked Sandy, as Chaplain, if she had anything to report? Kathryn Otreba is on the mend but is still having problems with her shoulder. So our get-well prayers go with her.

For all of you who weren't at the meeting, Nancy has informed us that Our Vice President, Kay Harnish, is in the hospital. They have found 2 very small cancer lesions at the base of her brain. She was hoping to come home today but she might need some additional tests. They will start aggressive radiation treatments Monday continuing for 3 weeks. I'm sure you'll join all joining us in wishing Kay a total and speedy recovery.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

We discussed the great turnout for the Veterans Day Parade. All of it went really well. We got some great pictures from Ramon & Chuck.

Kay has not been able to make contact with anyone at Luke to make our donation for the families left behind. So Dave volunteered to get that information for us.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Our Holiday Awards Banquet is being held at the Luke Enlisted Club On December 10th. Since you probably won't be reading this before the banquet, you'll just have to come and see first hand what we are doing, I am told that Brandi and Heather are singing and dancing again which if you were there last year you'll agree that it was wonderful.

The time is from 5:30 to 10:20. The cost is \$30 per person. The menu is the same as last year, London broil or stuffed Chicken Breast with all the fixins and dessert. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with dancing and awards following dinner. Dave Harnish is collecting the money and needs to have it in by Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We will **NOT** be having a meeting in December. We are hoping that our meeting in January will be held in the New Legion Building.

We are considering an Amendment to our Constitution regarding our meetings and the SubVets.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

I want to extend HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes to all of our December babies.

Patty Lira	12/6
Kathryn Otreba	12/11
Mary Lou Nance	12/15

### **DRAWING**

The Statue was won by Sandi Bernard. CONGRATULATIONS!

Nancy asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mary Lou Nance. It was seconded by Brandi Hershey, the motion carried. Sandy gave the closing prayer. We were adjourned at 13:30.

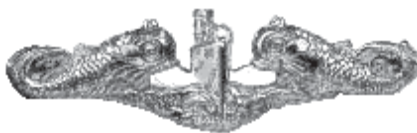
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**White  
Mountain**



**Base**

### OUR CREED:

*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 Government.*



### Commander's Corner

Commanders Corner (November)

November 11<sup>th</sup> 2005, Eager, Az Veteran's Day – bright and sunny but very windy for a parade – our float arrived without a prop, on the way over from Show Low it came off and a truck ran over it and shattered it into a million pieces. We had a turnout of 5 members and wives and an Air Force visitor. Only the men rode the float. The parade was about 3 miles, but the wind chill was in the low 30s so the watchers mostly sat in their cars. At the end of the parade the VFW of Springerville had a flag burning ceremony and then fed all the veterans and their wives – food was very good and filling.

December 9<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion in Overgaard will be our Christmas get together and December meeting at 6 pm – We need to know if you are coming and if you want FISH or CHICKEN – please let Doug Eddy know 928-535-3388.

We have the Snowflake Golf Course reserved for our Golf Tournament June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 so start thinking about sponsors – proceeds will go to the SAFE house again this year. We need all hands to help in this effort.

HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!!!!

Fraternally Yours,

Jim Clewett, Commander

Commander's Corner (December)

The year is done and what a great year – We should be very proud of ourselves with all that we have accomplished. Our Christmas Party had a good turnout 24 members and guests.

In the last month we have 3 new members (1 sub sailor and 2 associates) – Phil Caster who was a missionary in Ireland and the Indian Reservation in Northern Arizona. He was voted in as our Chaplain. John McDonald who has written 14 books and Jim Councilman who was on the Seafox (SS402). The next year should be very exciting – Our float is finished and was in the Veteran's Day Parade in Springerville – This way we will not have to borrow the Perch Base float.

Buck Biddle will be taking over the Storekeeper's Job and the next meeting will be in the American Legion in Overgaard on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. Let's hope that the weather is with us.

Last but not least dues for 2006 are now due \$10.00 for Base and \$20.00 for National – Life members only base dues.

I hope that the Holidays were GREAT FOR YOU ALL!!!!

Fraternally Yours,

Jim Clewett, Commander



## **Meeting Minutes**

Members present at the November 2005 meeting were Jim Clewett, Armand Deprins, Frank Nagle, Adam Dykman, Phil Caster, Ken Shade and Buck Biddle

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM with an invocation by Phil Caster, Pledge of Allegiance, reading of our creed, and tolling of the bell.

Phil Caster was welcomed as a new member. He is a ham operator and communicates with submariners on the SUBNET.

The float was in the Eager Veteran's Day Parade – lost the prop on the way to Eager (placed in the top 3)

Christmas Party 2006 – the location is to be determined by Ken Shade.

The Golf Tournament will be June 10<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Please let us know if you will be at the Christmas dinner on 9 December and if you wish chicken or Fish. Dinner will be served at 6 pm at the American Legion in Heber, AZ. Our December meeting will be at the same time.

Base patch – motion made, seconded and passed.

Think about whether to have the January and February meetings.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Adam who donated the \$10.50 to the treasury.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

---

Members present at the December 2005 meeting were Jim and Lorraine Clewett, Doug and Linda Eddy, Armand and Simonne Deprins, Dee LeFevre, Phil Caster (Guest Bert), Adam Dykman, Eugene Quinlan (and 2 guests), Roy Biddle (and guest), Frank and Priscilla Nagle, Sam Holcomb, Jim Councilman (and guest), Ken Shade (and guest) and Dick Jarenski (and guest).

The December meeting was called to order. All were asked to sign the sailing list. Phil Caster (new member and our chaplain) gave a blessing. Pledge of allegiance, reading of our creed, and tolling of the bell ceremony. New members and guests were introduced - Jim councilman and wife Karen. Jim was on the Seafox (SS402) for 4 years and rivers of Viet Nam, Cuba blockade as an Electrician's Mate and Diver. They own a cabin in Pinedale. Sam Holcomb was a Navy Recruiter for 14 years and Talked about his career and how tough it is to recruit today. Get addresses of Navy personnel in the area to send letters. Need to create more awareness in the area.

There were no minutes due to the absence of the Secretary.

The Treasurer reported that we have \$960, and reminded all of the Base and National dues.

Ken Shade reported that the golf tournament would be June 10<sup>th</sup>. A \$25 bench and greens fee and \$60 entry fee were voted on and passed. We raised \$1400 last year. Think about sponsors. Flyers will be the same as last year but more information on the charity. There was a suggestion to split the raffle proceeds ½ to the charity and ½ to the base treasury to build up the treasury.

New business: Dick reported on how to find Subvets at [decklog.com](http://decklog.com) online, register sub you served on and search for names. The submarine store also has a bulletin board to find submariners.

Eugene Quinlan lost his wife last month – the Base sent flowers and some attended her service.

If the weather is good we will continue to meet through the winter. The next meeting will be January 21<sup>st</sup> at the American Legion in Heber at 11 am. John McDonald (new associate member) donated some of his books, which we will raffle off. Phil Caster Joined last month and will be the Base Chaplain. Buck is taking over the Ship's Store from Doug.

We need people to run for all offices at the elections next summer.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Jim Clewett who donated the winnings to the base treasury. The calendars are in and on sale for \$8.

The books were won as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> — Buck, 2<sup>nd</sup> — (not announced), 3<sup>rd</sup> — Ken, 4<sup>th</sup> — (not announced), 5<sup>th</sup> – Dick, 6<sup>th</sup> – Buck.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.



## Eternal Patrol January 5, 1944

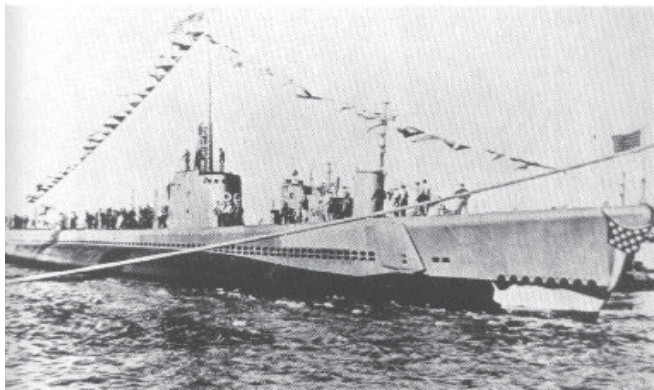
Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

### 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  
Oof our departed shipmates still on patrol  
Let them know that we who survive  
Will always keep their memories alive.



### U.S.S. Scorpion (SS-278) 76 men lost



dp. 1475 tons (surf.), 2370 tons (subm.); l. 307'; b. 27';  
s. 20k (surf.), 8.75k (subm.); td. 300'; a. 1-3"/50, 6-21" tt. fwd., 4-21"  
tt. aft;

cpl. 6 officers - 54 enlisted men; cl. "GATO"

Keel laid down by Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME, 20MAR42;  
Launched: 20JUL42; Sponsored by Miss Elizabeth T. Monagle;  
Commissioned: 1OCT42 with LCdr William N. Wylie in command.



Following further yard work and fitting out, *USS SCORPION* (SS-278) conducted shakedown operations off the southern New England coast during January 1943 and sailed for Panama in late February. In mid-March, she transited the canal, and, on the 24th, she arrived at Pearl Harbor. There, she underwent modifications which included the installation of a bathythermograph, a then new oceanographic instrument to enable her to locate and hide in thermal layers that minimized the effectiveness of SONAR equipment.

On 5 April, *SCORPION* departed Pearl Harbor for her first war patrol, a hunting and mining mission off the east coast of Honshu. On the 19th, she reached the mining area near Nakaminato. During the afternoon, she reconnoitered the coast; and, in the evening, she planted her mines; then retired to deep water. On the 20th, she sank her first enemy ship, a 1,934-ton converted gunboat. On the 21st, prior to 0100, she fired on and destroyed her first sampan in surface action, then moved up the coast to observe the fishing grounds, shipping lanes, and coast-line of the Shioya Saki area. On the night of the 22nd, she destroyed three more sampans with gunfire and continued north, toward Kinkasan To.

With the absence of shipping along the coastal lanes, she moved seaward and, on the 27th, sighted a convoy of four freighters escorted by a destroyer. At 0459, she fired four torpedoes at the first and largest merchantman; two at the second; then dived and rigged for depth charging. At 0505, the destroyer dropped her first depth charges. A half-hour later, the Japanese warship broke off her search for *SCORPION* to aid the stricken passenger-cargo ship. While *SCORPION* escaped with slight damage, the 6,380-ton merchant vessel sank.





On the 28th, *SCORPION* received orders home. En route on the 29th, she sighted and engaged a 100-ton patrol vessel, which she left burning to the waterline. On the morning of the 30th, she stalked, fired on, and finally torpedoed and sank a 600-ton patrol ship. During the hour and three-quarters fight, however, *SCORPION* received her first casualty. LCdr R. M. Raymond, on board as prospective commanding officer, was hit and killed by gunfire.

Soon after the patrol vessel went down, an enemy plane appeared. *SCORPION* submerged; survived the plane's depth charges and continued toward Midway and Pearl Harbor, arriving on 8 May.

With a 4" gun in place of her 3" gun, *SCORPION* set out on her second war patrol on 29 May. On 2 June, she refueled at Midway and, on the 21st, she arrived off Takara Jima in the Tokara Gunto. For the next week, she searched for targets in that archipelago in an effort to disrupt shipping on the Formosa-Nagasaki routes. On the 28th, she shifted her hunt to the Yellow Sea and, by the 30th, was off the Shantung Peninsula. On 3 July, she sighted a five-freighter convoy with one escort making its way through the eastern waters of that sea. By 0955, she had sent torpedoes toward the convoy and dived. As the depth charging began, she struck bottom at 25 fathoms. Two charges exploded close by. Between 1002 and 1006, five more shook her hull. Fearing that she was stirring up a mud trail, her screws were stopped and she settled on the bottom at 29 fathoms. At 1008, a chain or cable was dragged over her hull. Four minutes later, her hull was scraped a second time. Immediately underway again, she began evasive course changes and escaped further exploding charges. The hunt continued for over an hour; and, at 1149, *SCORPION* came to periscope depth; spied the destroyer 7,000 yards off; and cleared the area. Postwar examination of Japanese records shows that *SCORPION* scored five hits and sank a 3,890-ton freighter, and a 6,112-ton passenger-cargo ship.

Because of damage received during the depth charging, *SCORPION* retraced her route through Tokara Gunto; underwent a bomber attack east of Akuseki Jima; and continued on to Midway. On 26 July, she arrived back at Pearl Harbor; underwent repairs conducted training exercises, and, on 13 October, departed Pearl Harbor for her third war patrol. After touching at Midway on 17 October, she headed for the Marianas, where she reconnoitered Pagan and Agrihan Islands on the 25th and 26th, and Farallon de Pajaros on the 1st and 2nd of November. On the last date, she struck an uncharted pinnacle; but suffering no apparent damage, continued her patrol. On 3 November, she was off Maug; and, two days later, she sighted her first target, a Mogami-class cruiser. Squalls interfered, however, and she abandoned the target after a four-hour chase. On the 7th, she was back off Agrihan; and, on the 8th, she closed a freighter, which turned and gave chase. The freighter was a "Q" ship, a warship disguised as a merchantman. Unable to regain the advantage, *SCORPION* retired.



Poor weather continued to plague the submarine's hunting until, on the 13th, she sighted a freighter and a tanker escorted by three warships. Firing her torpedoes, she scored on the oiler, which went dead in the water. One of the escorts dropped depth charges, and then rejoined the formation. On the 14th, *SCORPION* patrolled near Rota; and, on the 15th, she watched for targets off Saipan.

For the next week, the submarine continued to work the shipping lanes of the Marianas without success. Heavy seas and squalls continued to shelter enemy traffic. On the 22nd, she sighted a transport accompanied by two destroyers and a corvette. She stalked the formation for 16 hours but was unable to fire. A few hours later, low on fuel, she headed home.

Departing Pearl Harbor on 29 December 1943, *USS SCORPION* (SS-278) stopped at Midway to top off with fuel, and left that place on 3 January 1944 to conduct her fourth war patrol during WWII. Her assigned area was in the northern East China and Yellow Seas.

On the morning of 5 January, *SCORPION* reported that one of her crew had sustained a fracture of the upper arm and requested a rendezvous with *USS HERRING* (SS-233) which was returning from patrol and was near her. The rendezvous was accomplished on the afternoon of 5 January but heavy seas prevented the transfer. *HERRING* reported this fact on 6

January, and stated "SCORPION reports case under control." SCORPION was never seen or heard from again after her departure from that rendezvous. On 16 February 1944, USS STEELHEAD (SS-280) and SCORPION were warned that they were close together, and that an enemy submarine was in the vicinity.

No information has been received from the Japanese which would indicate SCORPION's loss was the result of enemy anti-submarine tactics. There were, however, several mine lines across the entrance to the Yellow Sea. The presence of these mine lines and the "restricted area" bounding them was discovered from captured Japanese Notices to Mariners at a much later date. In the meantime several submarines had made patrols in this area, crossing and recrossing the mine lines without incident, and coming safely home. It is probable that these mine lines were very thin, offering only about a 10 percent threat to submarines at maximum, and steadily decreasing in effectiveness with the passage of time. SCORPION was lost soon after these mines were laid, or at a time when they presumably offered the greatest threat. She could have been an operational casualty, but her area consists of water shallow enough so that it might be expected that some men would have survived. Since we know of no survivors, the most reasonable assumption is that she hit a mine.



SCORPION earned three battle stars for her World War II service.



# Shipmate Shipmate

From: William McCance [mailto:11doc@comcast.net]

Subject: USSVI History Book

Shipmates,

We are preparing the History Book for review and I am looking for any significant Base pictures i.e., Change of Command, awards ceremonies, picnics, etc. Please include the Base Name, who is in the pictures, and any captions that you would like to add. Please e-mail them to: Randy Baumgardner, Turner Publishing Company at rbaumgardner@turnerpublishing.com as soon as possible. We still have time to submit this type of material before the book is closed.

Best regards,

Doc McCance, USSVI National Historian

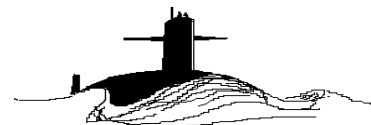
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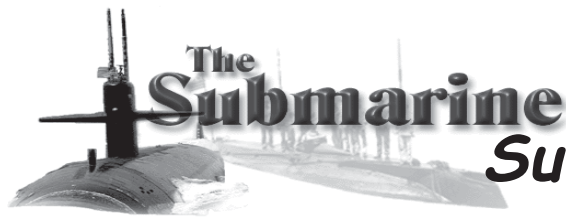
		<b>Chaplain's Column</b>		
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Do you have any information to share with shipmates?  
Contact the Midwatch Editor, Chuck Emmett at:

(602) 843-9042  
chuckster41@earthlink.net

Shipmate Joe Orteba entered Mesa General Hospital the first week in January. Joe is now on the mend and left the hospital on "lucky" Friday the 13th. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Joe.





# The Submarine

## Submarines in History

### Terror of the Seas

#### A Yankee Class submarine surfaced near Bermuda during the Cold War

*The Royal Gazette, January 1, 2006*

BERMUDA had become a front-line state in the Cold War by 1970 when the Pentagon authorized the deployment of submarine-killing thermo-nuclear depth bombs to the island, according to recently declassified US documents. At the time there had been a major build-up in Soviet submarine

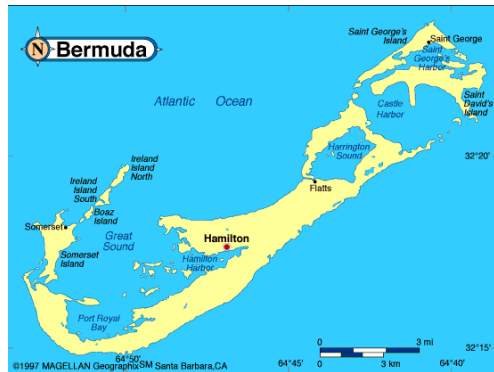


activity around the island, with up to three Yankee-class nuclear submarines stationed in a "patrol box" east of the island.

Submarine-launched Soviet ballistic missiles fired from the Bermuda area would have taken only about 16 minutes to strike military and civilian targets along the US East Coast. Soviet submarines were not withdrawn from the Bermuda "patrol box" until the late 1980s.

As late as 1987 the Soviet Union engaged in a large-scale submarine exercise near Bermuda involving five vessels which were among the quietest submarines in the Soviet arsenal.

The Soviet submarines were so quiet and difficult to detect that nuclear depth bombs dropped from P3-Orion patrol aircraft flying out of Bermuda were thought to be the only assured way of destroying the vessels in the event of the Cold War turning hot.



According to recently declassified documents, Dr. Henry Kissinger, then National Security Adviser to the Richard Nixon White House and later US Secretary of State, was involved in secret diplomatic talks with the British over the US military's decision to deploy thermo-nuclear weapons in Bermuda.

The British had long insisted they be consulted before US nuclear weapons were ever used from their territory. With the introduction of depth bombs to Bermuda, London wanted existing consultation arrangements to be extended to cover the island.

"That the use of nuclear weapons could precipitate a world conflagration has made leaders of Allied nations, not least those with US nuclear weapons stored on their territory, keenly interested in influencing how US presidents would use them," said Dr. William Burr, senior analyst at the National Security Archive project of Washington's Georgetown University, who has studied the declassified documents. "This is especially but not uniquely true of British Prime Ministers."

"The change of government in the United Kingdom, from Prime Minister Wilson to Prime Minister Edward Heath, in June 1970, led to the usual discussions on nuclear use consultations involving American weapons based on British soil.

"By mid-December, Nixon and Heath had agreed on a renewal of the US/UK consultation agreement – but it was one that incorporated six amendments by the British.



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“Although background documents remain classified, what prompted some of the amendments was to bring within the scope of pre-existing understandings a deployment of nuclear depth bombs at the US-leased naval base in Bermuda. “By the 1970s, with the Lulu nuclear depth bomb long retired, the Anti-Submarine Warfare weapon deployed in Bermuda would have been the B57 whose explosive yield ranging from 5 to 20 kilotons.”

One kiloton equals the explosive power of 1,000 tons of TNT. The atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima in 1945 is estimated to have had a yield of 15 kilotons. The bomb that destroyed Nagasaki a few days later had a yield of 21 kilotons.



setting forth the agreement between our governments with regard to consultation on the use of nuclear weapons in order to make these understandings applicable also to United States anti-submarine warfare weapons stored at (Bermuda),” reads a sanitized version of the letter. “I am agreeable to the amendments as proposed and shall consider the understanding existing between our governments with regard to consultation on the use of nuclear weapons, as so amended, to remain fully in effect.”

Although the word “Bermuda” is blacked out in this document, confirmation that the amendments applied to the local deployment is provided in a May, 1971 letter from Nixon to Heath which further extended the US/UK consultative agreement to cover American ballistic missile submarines based in Holy Loch, Scotland.

“I am pleased to give you my assurance that the United States government will regard the memorandum of understanding last reaffirmed in my letter of December 14, 1970 (concerning consultation between our two governments before certain forces equipped with United States nuclear weapons and operating from bases in the United Kingdom and Bermuda would use these weapons) as applying with respect to fleet ballistic missile submarines (Poseidon-equipped) in the same manner,” wrote President Nixon. Dr. Burr said although some details of the Bermuda nuclear depth bomb deployment remain shrouded in official secrecy, “certainly it was significant enough for Henry Kissinger to have maintained several folders on the ‘British-US Nuclear Matter (Bermuda Exchange)’ in his office files.”

The documents underscore that Bermuda was fully integrated into the US Cold War nuclear defense strategy, confirming longstanding speculation about the island’s role

“Details on the timing, circumstances, etc. of the Bermuda deployment are unavailable but it almost certainly related to US Naval reactions to the expansion of the Soviet sea-launched ballistic missile fleet during the 1970s in the waters near Bermuda,” said Dr. Burr.

The Yankee class submarines were first built in 1968 and began to be commissioned into the Soviet fleet in 1969 and 1970.

On December 14, 1970 President Nixon agreed to the extension of the US/UK consultative agreement to include Bermuda in a letter to Prime Minister Heath.

“Dear Mr. Prime Minister: Your letter of November 9, 1970 proposes six amendments be made to the memorandum

#### Variants:

- There were seven different versions of the Yankee subs:
- Yankee I subs were ballistic missile submarines that first saw service in 1968; 34 were built. The subs carried 16 SS-N-6 missiles, had 6 torpedo tubes, and carried 18 Type 53 torpedoes.
- Yankee II subs were ballistic missile submarines that first appeared in 1976; at least one was a converted Yankee I sub. These carried 12 SS-N-17 missiles, had 6 torpedo tubes, and carried 18 Type 53 torpedoes.
- Yankee Notch subs were attack submarines that first appeared in 1983; two to four were converted Yankee I subs. These had 6 launch tubes for up to 20 SS-N-21 missiles and had 6 torpedo tubes for Type 53 torpedoes. The vessels may have also been able to fire Type 65 torpedoes.
- Yankee SSGN subs (also known as Yankee Sidecar) were cruise missile submarines that also first appeared in 1983; one was a converted Yankee I sub. These carried 12 SS-NX-24 missiles and had 6 tubes for Type 53 torpedoes.
- Yankee SSN subs were attack submarines that first appeared in 1984; 16 were converted Yankee I subs. Some were not completely converted, although they cannot carry ballistic missiles, so they were called Yankee SSNX; 6 tubes for Type 53 torpedoes.
- One sub (K-403) has been converted to a trials submarine. This class is known as Yankee Pod.
- One sub (K-411) has been converted to a support ship for special mission submarines. This class is known as Yankee Stretch.

#### General characteristics:

- Length: 128.0 m (420 feet)
- Beam: 11.7 m (38 feet)
- Draught: 9 m (29 feet)
- Displacement: 7,760/11,500 tons
- Speed: 28 knots
- Hull: Low magnetic steel
- Crew: 114
- Compartments: 10
- Armament:
- 6 torpedo tubes
- roughly 16 liquid-propellant ballistic missiles

during the superpower stand-off. Suspicions that US military bases in Bermuda had been earmarked for the deployment of nuclear weapons were first raised in 1985 when American military researcher William Arkin leaked a copy of a 1974 US nuclear weapons deployment plan. The October 7, 1974 Top Secret White House document, National Security Decision Memorandum 274, was titled "Nuclear Weapons Deployment Authorization for FY75". Signed by National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger for President Nixon, it gave presidential approval for stockpile dispersals world-wide.

That plan indicated as many as two-dozen nuclear depth bombs were to be deployed in Bermuda in times of "advanced readiness" – a military euphemism for a major crisis with the Soviet Union.

In keeping with standard policy, the US at the time refused to either "confirm or deny" contents of the leaked document which also covered US nuclear weapon dispersals to American bases in the Philippines, Canada, Portugal and Iwo Jima.

The host countries involved – including Bermuda – had all been unaware of the deployment plans. The fallout from the report, first given widespread exposure by Bermuda's Royal Gazette and later picked up by The New York Times, was world-wide with governments demanding explanations from Washington.

**Lois Keating**  
*Office Manager*



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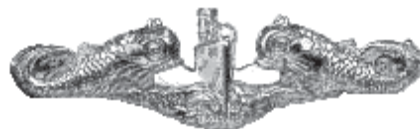
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Soviet submarines are thought to have been withdrawn from the Bermuda patrol box by the time the Soviet Empire finally collapsed in 1989/90. The Yankees, almost 450 long and carrying crews of more than 100, were the first class of Soviet subs to have comparable firepower, in terms of ballistic missile batteries, to their US counterparts. Yankee subs were quieter than their predecessors and had smoother lines that made them more efficient in the water. They were armed with 16 ballistic missiles, each carrying multiple, independently-targetable nuclear warheads.

Although there were no confrontations between US forces stationed here and the Soviet submarines operating off the island's shores, the final years of the Cold War were not without drama

for Bermuda. In October, 1986 the Yankee class K-219 got into trouble several hundred miles east of Bermuda. Smoke and steam were seen issuing from one of the 16 missile tubes on the vessel by US P-3 Orion patrol aircraft flying out of the Bermuda US Naval Air Station.

The sub was on a regular patrol in the Bermuda area when an explosion occurred in one of the loaded missile tubes. The subsequent damage caused the missile compartment to leak and the submarine was forced to surface. Then fire broke out in the damaged missile tube. While the crew was trying to deal with that problem, an electrical short tripped off the emergency systems and one of the submarine's nuclear reactors shut down. The second reactor had also to be shut down and the vessel was left without power. On October 6 the K-219 sank, four crewmembers died. The cause of the explosion remains unknown. A rescue operation coordinated out of Bermuda saw the surviving crew members rescued and taken to Iceland.

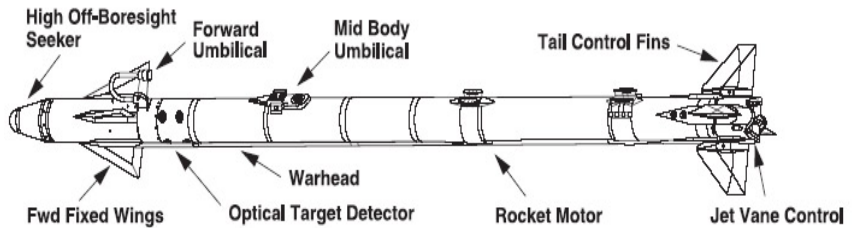


# Submarines . . . of Today

## AIM-9X Land-Launch Demo Advances Sub Payload Capability

By Team Submarine Public Affairs, NAVSEA Newswire, 5 Jan 06

WASHINGTON - The Navy successfully conducted a research and development (R&D) land based test at an Army range in New Mexico, leveraging the Sidewinder AIM-9X missile, an air to air missile used on tactical fighter aircraft, to proof out critical missile adaptation features for submarine use. Among the test objectives achieved in November 2005 were the ability to vertically launch the missile from zero velocity and to lock-on after launch. The test was a collaborative effort between the Joint Program Office for Air to Air



Missiles, Raytheon Missile Systems and Team Submarine Advanced Research. Capt. Mark Bock, program manager for Team Submarine's Undersea Defensive Systems Program Office, led this effort.

The land launched test involved detecting, tracking and destroying an unmanned helicopter drone. The target was not visible to the missile at launch. The missile turned and acquired the target several miles down range, remaining locked on until intercept.

Many "firsts" were achieved during this demonstration. Aside from the zero air speed vertical launch, this test was also the first AIM-9X launched from an Army Chaparral trailer, the first AIM-9X to engage a target below 3,000 feet, or 300 knots, and the first launch using a commercial off the shelf fire control system.



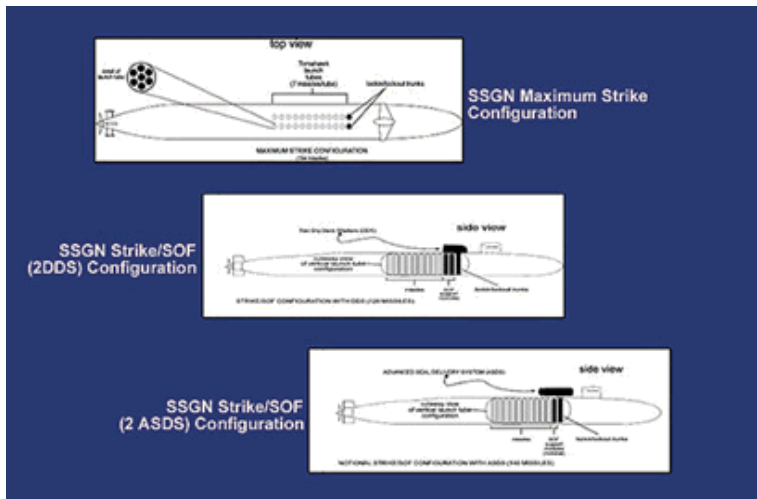
Because the AIM-9X missile is a good choice for research and development (R&D) of small missile payloads for the guided missile submarines (SSGNs) and attack submarines (SSNs), the results can be extended to other missile payloads and different platforms such as the Littoral Combat Ship.

The next step in this R&D process is to analyze the vertical launch thrust characteristics of gas production and temperature in support of encapsulation for an underwater test.

According to Capt. Bock, planning for in-water testing of the capability is currently underway.

"The 'encapsulation' technique will be the forerunner for deploying air breathing payloads like unmanned aerial vehicles from submarines in the future," he said.

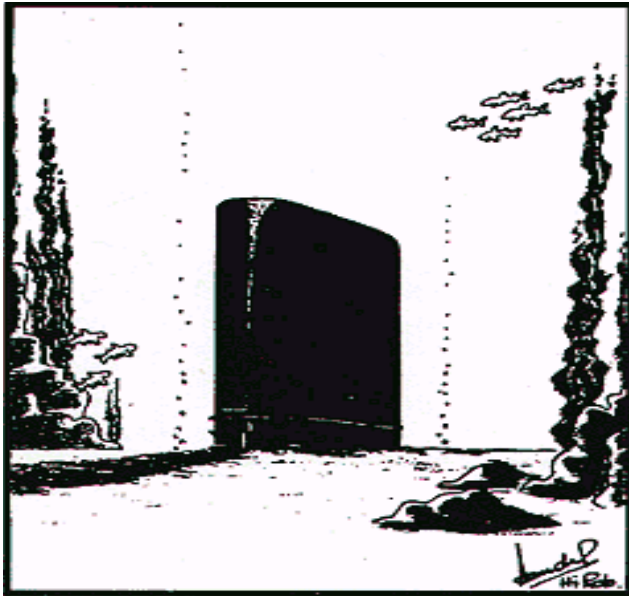
The most mature of these encapsulation technolo-





gies, the Stealthy Affordable Capsule System or SACS, will be leveraged for the next phase of risk reduction testing. This effort, led by the Northrop Grumman Corporation, will demonstrate the capability to encapsulate and perform submerged launch of the AIM-9X from a launch fixture representative of a submarine Vertical Launch System that is currently used for Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The long-range research goal is to be able to field any existing Department of Defense missile payload onboard submarines rapidly and at low cost.



' WOULD SOMEONE LIKE TO CHECK THE ECHO SOUNDER AGAIN ... '

# The Lighter Side

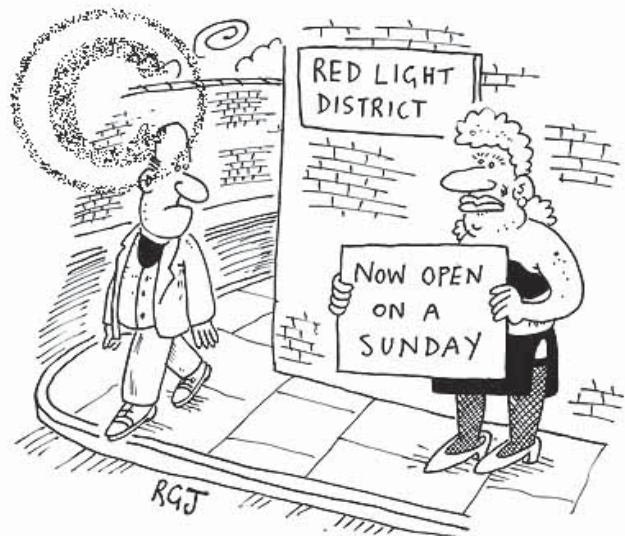
## GOLF'S TATTOO

It was 1939. I was a Seaman 2nd, torpedo striker on the R-10 at New London. Degaussing had just been developed and all ships must install the process. This was accomplished at the Norfolk Navy Yard where a buoyed cable was placed around the hull and the hull was then given a negative polarity which repelled magnetic mines. It was R-10's turn for the treatment.

We left the placid waters of Long Island Sound in our tiny boat, transited the high seas of the Atlantic to Chesapeake Bay and tied up at the degaussing dock. The crew was granted liberty.

East Main Street in Norfolk was nothing then like it is now. East Main Street was the "Red Light" district. It contained numerous "houses of ill repute" and bars. As the night progressed, several of us found ourselves assembled in a large bar and dance hall on East Main Street. The dance floor was in the center of the room surrounded by rows of tables. We didn't have much money then, school-boat sub pay was only \$20 a month, so we pitched in and shared pitchers of beer. Then the subject of tattoos came up. Goff, a Machinist's Mate, was unique. He had a tattoo of a fly on his most private part. He used to brag that it looks like a fly now but sometimes it looks like a butterfly. The waitress overheard this.

Bending down she asked Goff if she could see his tattoo. "Sure", he said, "a pitcher of beer?" The waitress went straight to the bartender and shortly returned with the pitcher. They



retired to a back room and Goff dropped his thirteen buttons. The waitress came out laughing hilariously She proceeded directly to the next waitress, who went to the next one, and the next one, each delivering a pitcher of beer. The table filled and we spent the whole night free of charge thanks to Goff's tattoo.

Now let's jump ahead about forty years. When the war ended I left the Navy after six and a half years on the boats and became a Fire Fighter with the City of Detroit. Subsequently, I retired from the Detroit Fire Dep't as a Lieutenant after twenty six years because Ford Motor Co. needed firefighters and were compelled by their insurance company to hire professionals. In our fire house conversations, the guys were extremely interested in sea stories and Goff's tattoo was among them. I stayed ten years with Ford and then retired again.

My retirement party was a lavish affair in a nice restaurant with our own room. It was well attended including some of the wives and some of the nurses we worked with at the local hospital. After a nice dinner and an evening of humbling compliments we were about to close.

It was then one of the nurses stood up and yelled, "Bill, will you show us your butterfly?" The firemen had told the nurses it was I who had the tattoo. I was stunned. What could I say? So I stood up again and said, "Okay . . . pitcher of beer."

**Editor: Thanks to Billy Grieves for the preceding first person (?) story.**



**Return To:**

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