



USS Virginia Base Deep Water Gazette

Second Quarter 2015

The Little Base That ~~can~~ Does



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.

Base Commander

Greetings fellow undersea warriors and welcome to the sixth edition of our quarterly newsletter. As I am wont to do with my opening paragraph I continue to thank John Mosticone for volunteering to produce these, which are very much appreciated. It's hard to believe it's already spring and this is our 2nd Quarter 2015 Newsletter. We finished out last year by retaining all members (although one member changed over to an Internet Base) and we had several new members transfer in from other Bases. I once again encourage all members to recruit other submariners and also join your shipmates at meetings as often as you can.



BASE RECEIVES 2014 DISTRICT COMMANDER'S AWARD!

At our January 10th meeting our District Commander, Steve Bell, presented USS VIRGINIA Base with an award that reads "For your initiative and tireless efforts in



promoting the ideals and benevolence of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and its programs. The various efforts that your base has accomplished have excelled and are an example for all to follow. You can be proud of all your accomplishments during this past year."

NEW HOLLAND CLUB MEMBERS!

At our February 14th meeting it was my honor to induct member **Bill Besley** into the Holland Club. Bill qualified on the USS Torsk (SS-423) in 1965 as an EN2(SS). Bill was joined by his son and grandson for the occasion.



The following month at our March 14th meeting it was my pleasure to induct member **Steve DuBosky** into the Holland Club. Steve qualified aboard the USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641 in 1965.



CONGRATULATIONS BILL & STEVE!

DOUG BLAHA SHINES AS OUR
“PRESENTER IN CHIEF”

Recognizing that a common recommendation for improving recruitment and attendance throughout the USSVI community is to include presentations at our meetings, member Doug Blaha has single-handedly grabbed that bull by the horns and has been routinely providing us with a variety of very interesting slide-show enhanced presentations. Thanks Doug – and WELL DONE!

**SUB VET FLAG PURCHASED FOR
DONATION TO THE VIRGINIA WAR
MEMORIAL**

Storekeeper Bob Kutzenberger charged ahead on a suggestion from our Nominating Committee Chairman, Thurman Register, which the



membership approved, to purchase and customize a USSVI flag which we will present to the War Memorial Board of Directors at their April 14th meeting. The War Memorial curator will have it treated to be fire retardant and then will hang it in the memorial flag room. Once that work is completed we plan on scheduling a special meeting at the memorial to formally recognize and celebrate this project.

Greenboard/Straightboard and all the best!

Mac

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin McDermott".

LT, USN (Ret)

Boats Lost This Quarter



APRIL

USS Pickrel (SS-177) was lost on 3-Apr-1943 with the loss of 74 crew when it was sunk within lume of Shiramuka Light off Honshu. (AKA Shiranuka Light)

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

Remarks: *Ros discusses date discrepancy.*

USS Grenadier (SS-210) was scuttled 22-Apr-1943 after serious damage by aircraft near Penang, ~ 10 Miles West of Lem Voalan Strait 61 crew were taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

Remarks: *No losses in the scuttling operation, all crew rescued by Japanese forces.*

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was lost on 18 April-1944 with the loss of 80 crew when it was sunk off Saipan near Maug Island.

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

Remarks: *Loss declared after 14 May 44.*

Ostlund says his research shows loss northeast of Iwo Jima. On 18 April. WDR date spread 4-7-44 to 5-12-44

USS Snook (SS-279) was lost sometime after 8-Apr-1945 with the loss of 84 crew when it was sunk within 100 miles East of 18° 40N; 111° 39E, near Hainan Island

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

Remarks: *R states missing after 8 April. Ros states could have been later up to late May.*

WDR gives date spread of 4-8-45 to 4-20-45

USS Thresher (SSN-593) was lost on 10-Apr-1963 with the loss of 129 crew and yard workers when it was sunk while on sea trials near Isle of Shoals.

Sources: *Personal*

Remarks: *On line handling party when boat left Portsmouth. Dived regularly for survey.*

MAY --

USS Squalus (SS-192) was lost on 23-May-1939 with a loss of 26 crew, 33 rescued when it flooded and sank off Portsmouth, NH.

Sources: *R, D, SFLM*

USS Lagarto (SS-371) was lost on or shortly after 4-May-1945 with the loss of 88 crew when it was sunk in off Malay Coast in or near the Gulf of Siam 7° 55N; 102° 00E.

The Lagarto has been located and the US Navy is aware of her location and the condition of the hull.

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

Remarks: *Diveable water of less than 200 feet*

USS Stickleback (SS-415) was lost on 30-May-1958 when it sank off Hawaii while being towed, after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). All the crew were taken off prior to sinking.

Sources: *R, D, SFLM*

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was lost on 27-May-1968 with the loss of 99 crew when it was sunk while in transit from Med, West of Azores.

Sources: *R, SFLM*

Remarks: *Regularly dived for survey HMC Saville from Seadragon was Doc on Scorpion.*

JUNE --

USS O-9 (SS-70) was lost on 20-Jun-1941 with the loss of 34 crew when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth NH, 42° 59' 48N - 20° 20' 27W

Sources: *R, D, SFLM*

Remarks: *Depth 400 feet. Reported dived 2001. Visibility nil, side scan sonar images only.*

USS S-27 (SS-132) was lost on 19-Jun-1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island, 400 yds off island Near St Makarius Point (near Constantine Harbor), all the crew were rescued.

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM*

Remarks: *Diveable water*

USS R-12 (SS-89) was lost on 12-Jun-1943 with the loss of 42 crew when it foundered off Key West, 24° 24' 30N - 81° 28' 30"W

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

Remarks: *Reportedly dived, no published report seen yet.*

USS Herring (SS-233) was lost on 1-Jun-1944 with the loss of 80 crew when it was sunk within shore battery range of Point Tagan, Matsuwa Island, in Kurlies.

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

USS Golet (SS-361) was lost on 14-Jun-1944 with the loss of 82 crew when it was sunk near 41° 04N - 14° 13E

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*

Remarks: *R states NW of Honshu*

USS Bonefish (SS-223) was lost on 18-Jun-1945 with the loss of 86 crew when it was sunk in Toyama Wan; Near Suzu Misaki; 37° 18N - 137° 25E;

Sources: *R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR*



**District
Commander
Steve Bell**



I think it is safe to say that spring has sprung. I am sure there will be another cold snap for us all to contend with. Let's hope it is mild and short.

I am sure most of you are aware that the Southeast Regional is just around the corner. If you are planning on going and have not registered or reserved your hotel, it is time to do that. The members of the Snug Harbor Base have worked pretty hard at getting things together and it is looking like it has high potential of being a grand time.

It is also not too early to start finalizing your plans for the National Convention that will be happening in early September. The Pirates will be playing home games on the Thursday and Friday of the week of the convention. They will host the Brewers. Chance for the baseball fans to see a game. The 2015 NFL schedule is not out yet, so not sure if the Steelers will be playing during our stay there. Even so, I expect that getting tickets for a Steelers game might be a little difficult.

Any day now our Regional Director, Dick Kanning, should be coming out with the ballots for the upcoming District Commander election. At present there is only one candidate that I am aware of. And that would be Dave Campbell from the Tarheel Base. I think Dave will do an outstanding job in that position, should he get it. I ask you for your support for him and to submit your vote when that opportunity presents itself. Dave is both a gold and silver dolphin wearer. A fine person. I am stepping down (or taking a break) as I have been going all head full for almost six years now. I have been a Base Commander for the last six years, as well as three years as the NC Subvets Commander and three years as the District Commander. I just need a break. Besides, new folks with new ideas are always good.

Enjoy the spring, as I sure hope to. We will all blink our eyes and we will be in the heat of the summer. So take advantage of the spring weather when you can. Stay safe. *And make it a point to attend a base meeting.*

Steve Bell

Commander, District One, Southeast Region

Meeting Minutes

March 2015

- Meeting was held at Anna's Restaurant & Pizzeria
 - Spaghetti, pizza and salad were on the buffet menu
- 14 members and 7 guest were present
- Due to John Lamsens being UA there was no 50/50 Drawing.
- Base Commander Kenn McDermott called the meeting to order
 - Kenn McDermott lead the Pledge of Allegiance, USSVI Creed and Tolling of the Boats, assisted by Base Storekeeper Bob Kutzenberger on the bell & Treasurer Jim Lencalis on the computer
 - 8 Boats were lost during the month of January with the loss of 425 crewmen
 - Birthdays for the Month of March
 - Mickey loses
- Submariner & now author Rick Campbell donated a signed copy of his book "Trident Deception" to the Base to auction off.
 - Steve DuBosky outbid (\$20) all others. Al Ptaszniak was the auctioneer.
- Sadly Bill Besley's wife Sheila, who had been injured in a motorcycle accident, suffered botched surgery and then had a bad reaction to one of her medications, was killed in an auto accident on February 28th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill.
- Steve DuBosky was inducted into the Holland Club.
- Ladies were excused

- Bill Anderson brought up the Field Day of the Past. Cost \$100 for a 20'x20' space plus tickets (\$23 for 3 day pass) - Approved
- Jim Lencalis read the Treasure's Report - Approved
- Bill Anderson read the Secretary's Report - Approved
- Doug Blaha gave a presentation on the World War II invasion of Norway, titled "Old is Good"
- The meeting was adjourned

Respectfully
Bill Anderson
Base Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT

February 2015 to March 2015

Balance as of 14 February: \$3921.02

DEPOSITS: USSVI dues: \$20.00

USS Virginia Base dues \$20.00
TOTAL: \$40.00

EXPENDITURES:

Postage stamps \$9.80
USSVI dues payment \$20.00
TOTAL: \$29.80

PAYMENTS PENDING

Boat Sponsorship \$30.00
TOTAL: \$30.00

Increase for this report period: \$576.70

Note: The February report did not include a our \$200.00 donation to the SOY program as an expenditure. That amount was included in the February balance.

MEMBERSHIP:

We have one new member, **Paul Massey**

James C. Lencalis

James C Lencalis
Treasurer

COB's Locker

"Field days will continue until moral improves"
Our Base COB position is presently open and we are looking for an able body submariner to fill the position. Please contact the Base Commander if you feel you have a few minutes to contribute at the meetings.



Chaplin's Corner



RECALL NOTICE:

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been identified as "Subsequential Internal Non-morality," more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to

correct this defect. The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E.(BEST Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list, and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention!

- GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee mail'!

Because HE Lives!

Welcome Aboard

Paul Massey

Holland Club



Welcome to the Holland Club

Holland Club Members

Pat Rodgers	1951 SS-482
Warren Rucker	1951 SS-523
"Doc" Smith	1956 SS-476
John Leonard	1957 SS-339
Mickey Martin	1957 SS-352
Bill Hiesley	1957 SS-403
Paul Benton	1958 SSR-269
Dick Brown	1959 SS-424
Ron Irons	1959 SS-394
Dave Kratch	1959 SS-405
Richard Moore	1960 SS-269
Thurman Register	1961 SS-523
Bill Wellner	1961 SS-422
Dick Kanning	1962 SS-240
Kenn McDermott	1962 SS-385
Bob Stolarz	1962 SS-395
Tom Chaffee	1963 SS-331
Bill Lewis	1963 SS-272
Ron Randolph	1963 SSBN-617
Al Ptaszniak	1964 SSBN-610
Sanford Harvey	1964 SS-488
Doug Blaha	1964 SSN-584
Bob Kutzenberger	1964 SS-214
Bill Besley	1965 SS-423
Steve DuBosky	1965 SSBN-641

Base Eternal Patrol

Jack Winn (founding Commander)
Sid Padgett (WWII sub vet)
Bob Mitchell FTC (SS), USN (Ret)

Upcoming Events

04/11 base monthly meeting
05/09 base monthly meeting
06/13 base monthly meeting
09/07-12 National Convention

Crew Birthday this quarter



Michael E.	Martin
Thurman B.	Register
Patrick E.	Rodgers
Robert	Mayfield
John M	Mosticone
Douglas D.	Blaha
Cary L.	Carroll
Thomas	Critelli
Peter E.	Fortier
Christopher	Knaggs
Warren P	Rucker

Elected Officers:

Commander – Kenn McDermott
kennmcd@pewterguy.com 434-286-2529
Vice Commander – Pete Fortier
p4tier@comcast.net
Secretary – Bill Anderson
ftb1ss@comcast.net
Treasurer – Jim Lencalis
j.lencalis@comcast.net

Appointed Officers:

Newsletter Editor - John Mosticone
jmosticone@gmail.com 540-672-4398
Ways & Means - John Lamsens
jlamsens@verizon.net
Nominating Committee - Thurman Register
thurman@tbrinc.com
Storekeeper - Bob Kutzenberger
kutzb@comcast.net 804-556-6932

Ships Store

Be sure to visit our Ships
Store at:

<http://ussvirginiabase.org/ship-s-store.html>





Base Bulletin Board

New Jersey Submarine Memorial

New Jersey South and Jersey Shore Bases plan to erect a Black Granite Submarine Memorial Stone, which will be located at the New Jersey Submarine Veterans Memorial-Mathis Plaza in Toms River, New Jersey. Projected cost of our memorial will be \$8,000. We are seeking donations from each of you to help fund this project.

USSVI Charitable Foundation – Memorial Funds has approved this project for matching funds up to \$1,000. They have established a separate Submarine Memorial Fund, where other USSVI members can donate directly to support our project. Remember, we are a non-profit 501c organization, so your donations will be a tax-exempt donation.

This Memorial Stone will list the 65 U.S. submarines that have been lost since 1900. 52 of these submarines were lost during WWII. These 65 lost submarines are still on the U.S. Navy's Register as ships on Eternal Patrol. During World War II, the U.S. Navy's submarine service suffered the highest casualty percentage of all the American armed forces, losing one in five submariners. Some 16,000 submariners served during WWII, of whom 375 officers and 3131 enlisted men were killed.

I have attached a letter, which includes a sample newsletter article that you may place in your base newsletters. Our fund raising is well

underway, but we still need help from our fellow Submariners. I have also included a copy of our February Base Newsletter, Hogan's Alley.

The USSVI 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 of America and its Constitution." Our memorial project will bring about the perpetual remembrance of our fellow shipmates who gave their All in the serviced of our country.

When you look at the history of the US Submarine Service, you will see that it all began here in New Jersey.

I thank you for any support from you and your members in helping us finish this project in time for dedication this Memorial Day, 11 November, 2015.

Sincerely,

John Theotonio
Base Commander, New Jersey South

RAO Bulletin Update 15 February 2015

VA Prescription Tracker

24/7 Online Access to Status

Veterans can now track the status of most of their prescriptions online, thanks to an innovative idea by a Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) employee. The new 24/7 service allows online tracking for most prescriptions mailed from the VA Mail Order Pharmacy

(<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>). The Prescription Tracker was recommended by VA employee Kenneth Siehr, a winner of the President's 2013 Securing Americans Value and Efficiency (SAVE) Award. Siehr's idea focused on the use of technology as a way to save money and improve the services VA provides to its patients. "Our nation's

Veterans deserve a first-class pharmacy and quality customer service as a part of the exceptional health care available from VA,” said Siehr, the National Director for Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacies. “It is an honor to be part of serving Veterans and to have been recognized for an idea that enhances our services to them.”

More than 57,000 Veterans are currently using the service through My HealtheVet , an online feature that allows Veterans to partner with their health care team. The number is expected to grow as VA starts to educate Veterans about the new feature. Later this month, the tracking feature will include images of the medication that dispensed. Over the next year, a secure messaging alert will be added so that Veterans know when a medication was placed in the mail. “VA prescription refill online is an excellent example of how one employee looked at the process of VA prescription tracking through the eyes of our Veterans and came up with an idea that better serves Veterans,” said Interim Under Secretary for Health, Carolyn M. Clancy. “This idea is both innovative and transformative, and it is certainly one, when put into action, improves customer service for America’s Veterans.” [Source: VA News Release | Feb. 04, 2015 ++]

USSVI 2015 National Convention

Welcome to Pittsburgh, Shipmates

Sept 7 – 12



USSVI Requin Base Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

is your host for the 2015 USSVI National Convention

Our annual convention is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of submarine veterans in the U.S. This event offers attendees the environment, the

setting and the unique opportunity to meet with fellow submariners to exchange ideas, reminisce and keep up to date on important information.

Details about the convention, available services and calendar of events can be found on this site.

We are ready to show you why we are proud to call Pittsburgh our home.

Reading Locker

"DOLPHINS" - the Submariner's Insignia



"Life is simple - either you're qualified or you're not!"

History of the Submarine Dolphins

The insignia of the U.S. submarine service is a submarine flanked by two dolphins. Dolphins, attendants to the Poseidon, Greek god of the sea and patron deity to sailors, is sometimes referred to as the sailor's friend. They were also chosen to represent the Submarine Service because of the characteristic way in which dolphins dive and surface.

On 13 June 1923, Captain E. J. King, Commander, Submarine Division Three (later Fleet Admiral and Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet, during WW II), suggested to the Secretary of the Navy via the Bureau of Navigation (now known as BuPers) that a distinguishing device for qualified submariners be adopted. He submitted a pen-and-ink sketch of his own showing a

shield mounted on the beam ends of a submarine, with dolphins forward of, and abaft, the conning tower. The suggestion was strongly endorsed by Commander Submarine Division Atlantic. Over the next several months the Bureau of Navigation solicited additional designs from several sources. Some combined a submarine with a shark motif. Others showed submarines and dolphins, and still others used a shield design. A Philadelphia firm, Bailey, Banks & Biddle (BB&B), which had done work in the field of Naval crests, was approached by the Bureau of Navigation with the request that it design a suitable badge. Two designs were submitted by the firm, one of which was the 1926 class crest from the Naval Academy. These two designs were combined into a single concept. It was a starboard angle on the bow view of an "O" class submarine, proceeding on the surface, with bow planes rigged for diving, flanked by dolphins in a horizontal position with their heads resting on the upper edge of the bow planes. On 20 March 1924, the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation recommended to the Secretary of the Navy that the design be adopted. The recommendation was accepted by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Acting Secretary of the Navy. His acceptance is dated March 1924. Today the original BB&B design is used by many manufactures without modification, while others choose to take some artistic license, especially in updating the class of submarine depicted.

The submarine insignia was to be worn at all times by officers and men qualified in submarine duty attached to submarine units or organizations, ashore and afloat, and not to be worn when not attached. In 1941 the Uniform Regulations were modified to permit officers and men qualified who were eligible to wear the submarine insignia after they had been assigned to other duties in the

naval service, unless such right had been revoked.

The officers' insignia was a gold metal pin (gold plating over "sterling" silver, or bronze), worn centered above the left breast pocket and above the ribbons and medals. Enlisted men wore the insignia, embroidered in silk, white silk for blue clothing and blue silk for white clothing. This was sewn on the outside of the right sleeve, midway between the wrist and elbow. The device was two and three-quarters inches long.

In 1943, the Uniform Regulations were modified to provide that: "Enlisted men, who are qualified and subsequently promoted to commissioned or warrant ranks, may wear enlisted submarine insignia on the left breast until they qualify as submarine officers, at which time this insignia would be replaced by the officers' submarine pin."

In mid-1947, the embroidered device shifted from the right sleeve of the enlisted men's jumper to above the left breast pocket. On 21 September 1950, a change to the Uniform Regulations authorized officers the option of either a gold bullion embroidered sew-on insignia, or gold plated pin-on insignia. Enlisted submariners were given the option of either a silver bullion embroidered sew-on insignia, or a "sterling" silver (or silver plated), metal pin-on insignia for the dress uniform. This was in addition to the silk embroidered insignia sewn on the undress uniform.



The Monk

by

Paul Benton

© 1997 Paul D Benton

I just noticed that the anniversary of the loss of Thresher approaches. How easily we forget. I recall that I had just reported from San Diego to the Sub-Base FFT Nautilus that same day, and went over early to Bank Street to look for some diversion. There had been a hint of rumor on the Sub-Base about a Sub overdue to surface, but as you all know that has been rumored before when a boat is late surfacing, or tardy with her on surface message. By the time I got to Earny's, there to my wondering eyes, was Bernie Bank Street, the Mayor of New London, whom I had not seen in several years. I mentioned the rumor, but both of us had seen this on two occasions on the West Coast, so neither of us were very concerned. We were drinking "Depth Charges" and cheerfully shooting the shit with other acquaintances, when someone came in with the bad news. As the word was relayed down the bar, silence swept over the room. Gruff men stood with their mouths agape in disbelief. The party was over and most of the drinkers were cold sober as they left. I would like to say that we all raised our glasses in a final toast "to those already dead, and to the next to die", but it didn't happen. We just walked out. I had been away from New London quite awhile and had lost track of my East Coast shipmates, so I did not know of anyone in Thresher.

The next morning I got a copy of the sailing list and scanned down the names. Although a name here and there was familiar and I thought that I probably had known them from somewhere, I had not been tight shipmates with any of them. Then there he was- the "Monk"- to his mates. We had met while wasting time awaiting a seat in Nuke School, then we had been in the same class- 60-1. He and I along with an ex BM (all PO2's with me the only SS in the group) became inseparable. The Monk was a riot when he played straight man to Sampson the ex BM. Especially after a trio of Depth Charges each. Sampson would do a slow burn as the Monk turned a joke on him and we laughed like a couple of school kids, not macho submariners. Christ, he was a funny guy. We mostly hung around Nick the Greeks on State Street that winter during weeknights, but me and the Monk would go home some weekends. He lived in Naugatuc, Connecticut with his parents. I met them once, nice people, but life had not been

kind to them, since they had lost their youngest child from Cancer, the Monk was their oldest.

The last time I was over with him, school was coming to an end and it was a June night on Bank Street. Monk was going to Windsor locks and I to West Milton for prototype training. We went up to the "Six Guineas and a Ghost" Night Club (Lamporelli's to some of you) but it wasn't much going on. We were a bit somber and couldn't even piss-off Sampson. Then we went down the street to The Tropics, where it wasn't any better, but where we saw (at that time) the ugliest woman in the world. Me and Monk decided to go back to the barracks, it was just one of those slow nights. Sampson went off alone. Monk always talked about how he wanted to get his dolphins and I used to tease him by rubbing mine. I had a pair of rare and coveted "pin on's" (heavy with sterling) which I used to frequently rub in the noses of the "two prong" wearers.

We started back sitting silently in Monks '59 Chev convertible. I guess we were three sheets to the wind, because when a popular song "The Green Fields of Summer" played on the radio we both began to sing along. I can still remember some of the verse "Was so good to be young then, to be close to the earth, and to be by your wife at the moment of birth. The green fields of Summer are calling me home".

Being overcome by a strong sense of comradry, Monk said that he couldn't wait to get qualified so he could wear the Twin Dolphins. Just as overcome, I told him that I would give him his first pair. I unpinned my own Dolphins and offered them to him. Looking like a child being offered ice cream by a stranger, he shook his head no. I held them out a second time. Beaming he nodded- yes. I couldn't pin them on him, he did not rate them yet, but the occasion needed a pinning. I pinned them on center of his dash board just above the radio. They didn't look bad there either. When we parked the car Monk said that they would stay there until he could wear them. We shook hands, I think that was the last time that we were over together.

Monk left a young wife and a baby boy behind. I guess it's been a long cruise for the Monk and his mates. Perhaps my sterling silver pin-on's are down there with them. The ancient Greeks believed that so long as a man's name was spoken on Earth, he would be immortal. Over the years, while contemplating my own mortality, I have compiled a list of some mates, both submariners and skimmers, who are now part of that great mystery. Alone with a heavy crystal glass doubleshot with Scotch Whiskey, and with

appropriate ceremony and respect, I toast each one aloud. First on this year's list- John Sage Regan MM1 (SS).

"...And all I ask is a merry yarn
from a laughing fellow rover,
And a quiet sleep and a sweet dream
when the long trick's is over."

WWII Invasion of Norway.

Sea stories... in true sea story fashion these are "no shers"**

Norway and Sweden have been neighborly rivals for centuries and continuously in competition if not in armed conflict. Way back in the past there was a conflict concerning a small, uninhabited island that could be viewed from both the coasts of Norway and Sweden. Both claimed it as their territory. First one country would raise their flag on it then the other would rip the flag down and raise their own. Finally Norway had enough and sent a large military force to claim the Island and build a military garrison. The Flag could clearly be seen on a clear day from Sweden.

This really stuck in the craw of the Swedish King and he vowed to reclaim the territory. He began assembling a large, 1000 man army for the purpose of righting the wrong. While his men were training for the assault they were also monitoring intelligence reports on the expected strength to be encountered.

As expected, defense cuts, sequestration moves etc caused the numbers of Norwegians in the garrison to dwindle until one day a spy reported there were less than 100 men on the island. Sweden redoubled their training efforts to get ready. Next a report came in that there now may be less than 50 defenders. Excited the Swedes honed their swords and finalized their strategies but continued to wait.

Finally, a trusted spy reported there was only one soldier remaining to raise the flag each day. Confidently the Swedish King launched his assault sending 500 men to capture the territory. The din of battle could be heard for miles. Steel

against steel... cries of pain, screams went on for hours with no apparent letup.

Exasperated the King ordered his 500 man reserve into action as the second wave. As they were wading ashore, a wounded member of the first wave lying in the surf, raised himself on an elbow and waved to the second wave, crying "Go back!, Go back !, There were two!!!"

Post Cold war Intelligence Cooperation

During the Cold War, much of the real combat was between the various East and West Intelligence agencies. When the Cold war ended, a spirit of cooperation began as former secrets were shared, files were opened and face-to-face visits took place.

As the personal relationships developed, it was only logical to schedule annual conferences between CIA, MI6 and the former KGB. The spirit of competition however remained and as part of conference the host nation would propose some sort of an Intelligence challenge. One time the host placed an excavated bare human skull on the table and challenged each agency to determine its origin.

The British MI 6 took the skull into an examining room first. About 30 minutes later, they returned and informed the group that the skull was definitely Mediterranean, possibly Egyptian and circa 1000 BC.

The CIA's turn was next and of course had their pocket Carbon 14 instrument and wristwatch DNA unit with them. When they returned about 20 minutes later they reported. Definitely Egyptian, died about 1300 BC and based on the small apparent cranial volume, may have been a government official in the King Tutankhamun era.

Finally it was the former KGB's turn. They were in the examining room for hours. When they finally returned their brows were covered with sweat, their suits disheveled and ties all askew. "He was Agriculture minister in king Tut's administration and he illegally sold corn on the black market"

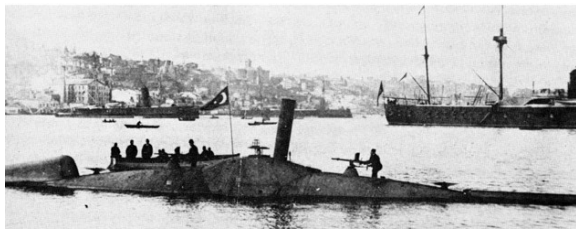
Astounded the others demanded to know how all of that was determined.

"Well it was very difficult... but he finally confessed"

For more information about the Sinking of the Cruiser Blucher as discussed at the March 14th meeting see the photos and more details in many web sites...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Dr%C3%B8bak_Sound

Did you know?



The Nordenfelt-class Ottoman submarine Abdül Hamid (1886) was the first submarine in history to fire a torpedo while submerged.

John Philip Holland built several submarines before the USS Holland, which became the first undersea craft commissioned by the U.S. Navy. The Holland was accepted on April 11, 1900 for a price of \$150,000. Today's nuclear powered submarines cost in excess of \$30,000,000 exclusive of the power plant.

The first boat known to have been navigated under water was built in 1620 by a Dutchman, Cornelius Van Drebbel. Van Drebbel is said to have developed a chemical which would purify the air and allow the crew to stay submerged for extended periods.

Alexander the Great (356 to 323 B.C.) ruler of Macedonian and conqueror of the known world in his time, is the first person known to have descended into the sea in a vessel of any kind.

Over three hundred years ago, Mother Shipton, famous English prophetess, predicted the coming of the submarine when writing, "under water men shall walk, shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk."

Records of attempts to utilize submarine warfare go back to the earliest writings in history. Herodotus (460 B.C.), Aristotle (332 B.C.) and Pliny, the elder, (77 A.D.) mention determined attempts to build submersibles.

Interests in submarines extends to royalty and presidents. The King of England and the King and Queen of Spain are among those who have made submerged cruises in submarines. As a result of a trip in an early United States submarine, President "Teddy" Roosevelt ordered extra compensation for personnel serving in the "Silent Service." President Harry Truman made a 440 foot dive in a captured German submarine. The first President to cruise aboard a nuclear submarine was President Eisenhower who rode the USS SEAWOLF out of Newport, Rhode Island on September 26, 1957.

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