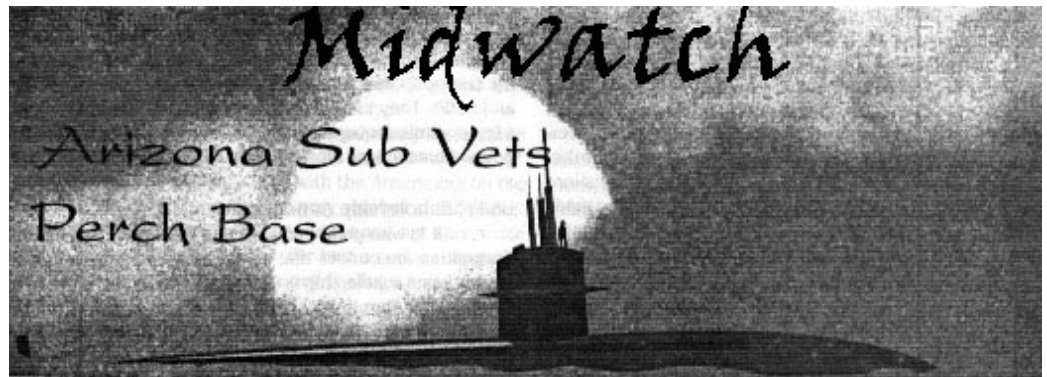





December 2003
Volume 9 - Issue 12



<http://perch-base.org>

What's "Below Decks" in the Midwatch


ITEM	PAGE NO.
Title Page	1
We Won 2nd Place! - Veterans Day Parade Pictures	2
Sailing Orders(upcoming activities)	3
List of Base Officers	3
"From the Wardroom"	4
SubVettes November Meeting Minutes	4
Meeting Minutes - November	5
"This Old Boat . . ."	7
Shipmates Column	7
This Month's "Eternal Patrol"	8
Chaplain's Column	9
Submarines in History: Pearl Harbor, First Person	10
Storekeepers Page	12
Christmas Party Details	13
Mailing Page	14



Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

DECEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Sealion	SS195	Dec. 10, 1941	5 men
USS S-4	SS109	Dec. 17, 1927	34 men



SPECIAL STORY - PEARL HARBOR REMEMBERED
Exclusive "First Person" Story
See Page 10

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 10, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided at \$3 a head

We Won Second Prize!

The Perch Base Float came in second in the Military-Historical Category



Base Commander Glenn Herold and Vice-Commander Adrian Stucke accept the second place ribbon from VA Hospital Parade organization staff.

Parade Photos - The gang doing what it seems to do best . . . wait!





BASE OFFICERS

COMMANDER:

Glenn Herold
839 North Rogers
Mesa, AZ 85201-3849
(480) 962-6115
duke7@cox.net

VICE COMMANDER:

Adrian Stuke
739 West Kilarea Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85201-6814
(480) 892-3296
adrianstuk@aol.com

SECRETARY:

Edgar Brooks
517 Eagle Crest Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301-5424
(928) 778-4069
etbrooks62@aol.com

TREASURER & MEM. CHAIR:

Bob May
10015 W. Royal Oak Rd. #341
Sun City, AZ 85351-6100
(623) 875-1212

COB:

Douglas LaRock
6400 E. Thomas Rd. #2001
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-6070
(480) 659-4134
sewerpipesailor@hotmail.com

STOREKEEPER:

Jim Nelson
9503 W. Spanish Moss Ln.
Sun City, AZ 85373-1741
(623) 972-1044
sub489@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP/WEBMASTER:

Ramon Samson
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252
(623) 815-9247
rsamson@bnswest.net

CHAPLAIN:

Warner H. Doyle
13600 W. Roanoke Ave.
Goodyear, AZ 85338-2236
(623) 935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ben Acosta
12914 W. Alvarado Rd.
Avondale, AZ 85323-7142
(602) 935-7752
Benvirg@juno.com

HISTORIAN:

James W. Newman
3422 North 51st Place
Phoenix, AZ 85018-6120
(602) 840-7788
jimnewman@qwest.net

MIDWATCH EDITOR:

Chuck Emmett
7011 West Risner Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85308-8072
(602) 843-9042
chuckster41@earthlink.net

Sailing Orders



YEAR END CELEBRATION
December 13
Annual Perch Base
Christmas - Hanukka Dinner

Luke Air Force Base
Desert Star Enlisted Club
1730 - 2200 hours

Next regular meeting
Jan. 10, 2004
America Legion Post #62
10995 N. 99th Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345

From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

We are bringing another year to a close, where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday we were having the work party on the float. Now the Veterans Day Parade is history, and we had a great time. For you that missed it, plan on next year!

By the way – just to make it official — the “Perch Base Submarine Float” won Second Place for all of the Military division or displays in the parade.

“Tug-Boat Tommy,” you done good! Thanks.

Our Christmas/Hunaka Party will be on us shortly, please get your reservations to Dave Harnish before the December 3. The fee is \$18.00 per person and that includes the tip.

If you haven't sent in your vote on the proposed change in the amendments to Perch Base Constitution, and By Laws, please do so as ASAP. We would like to get the letters off to the Perch Base survivors as soon as possible. Please vote, and fax or mail them to me.

By the time this gets published we will have had a good turn out for the Navy League Dinner Dec. 7, 2003. Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations will be the guest speaker.

Hope everyone had a safe Thanksgiving, and had plenty of turkey and dressing.

Fraternally Yours
You're humble Base Commander,
Glenn Herold

WWII - Boats

Short Facts

A German freighter, running the blockade, was sunk in error by a German U-Boat in WW II.

USS Guardfish mistakenly sank the USS Extractor, a Navy salvage vessel, the only such error during WW II.

SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES November Meeting

Minutes of Meeting SUBVETTES of Perch Base

The third monthly meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base was convened at the Americana Restaurant, Peoria, Arizona at 1258 hours, November 8, 2003. There were 13 members, plus 2 guests attending the meeting. President Nancy Nelson called the meeting to order and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance. Dorothy Crider led the members in the invocation.

Nancy Nelson noted that there were new items available at the ship store, as well as raffle tickets for a holiday wall decoration and the 50/50 raffle.

Members were then led in Dedication and Moment of Silence to honor submariners on Eternal Patrol and honor those on Active Duty.

Secretary Debbie Newell read the Minutes from the October meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Brandi Hershey and seconded by Dorothy Crider.

Treasurer Debbie Newell reported on the Base's financial status as of October 31, 2003. Treasurer's report accepted as read.

OLD BUSINESS

Nancy Nelson announced that any members who had not received their membership cards and Plank Owner certificates could do so by contacting Debbie or Kay after the meeting.

Nancy then sought input regarding meeting location. After member discussion, a motion was made by Betty Weber to hold the next SUBVETTES meeting at the Americana Restaurant. Motion seconded by Kay Harnish. Motion carried. Nancy announced that the January meeting of SUBVETTES would be held at the Americana Restaurant.

Nancy advised members that the ornaments voted for at the October meeting to be used at the Christmas party were not available and that a traditional ornament will be used for the ladies place settings and the men will have an ink pen with dolphins on it. She then announced that registration forms are available for the Christmas party to all who wish to attend. It was announced that all information regarding the Christmas party was also available in

See “SUBVETTES” on page 7

November Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base

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, 08 November 2003. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Base Chaplain Howard Doyle led the members in a prayer of invocation followed by the “Pledge of Allegiance”, 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 November.

According to the sailing list, there were 34 Perch Base members at the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the October meeting as published in the Base Newsletter. The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base’s financial status as of the first day of November, 2003. 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

The Base Commander called for officers and committee chair reports:

Vice Commander – Adrian Stuke had nothing to report

Chief of the Boat – Doug LaRock reported that the Perch Memorial had been worked on and was in excellent shape for Veterans Day. A discussion followed led by the COB as to whether it would be possible to remove the torpedo and have it powder coated and if the motors and gyros were still in the fish. The COB and others are going to check on the potential cost and if it is possible to accomplish the task or if it would be better to have it sand blasted and professionally painted.

Chaplain - Howard Doyle reported that we had three members on the binnacle list. They are Don Wannamaker, Joe Bernard and Garry Shumann. The Chaplain asked that we keep them in our prayers and thoughts.

Newsletter Editor & Parade Coordinator - Chuck Emmett reported on the preparations for the Perch Base entry into the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Participants are to

meet at 0730 hours; Tuesday, November 11th at the Margaret T. Hance tunnel deck park for decorating the vehicles and float.

Storekeeper - Jim Nelson reported on the new shirts he received and the ordering of vests as well as the many new items he has for sale.

Past Base Commander - Dave Harnish reported on the Christmas/Hanukkah party on the 13th of December at the Luke AFB Enlisted club. The cost is \$18.00 per person and reservations with choice of entree must be to him by December 3rd. Reservations can be made by e-mail, snail mail or by phone. This is very important as a roster of those without base privileges must be submitted to the Base Security office and each person’s identity will be checked with photo ID in order to enter Luke AFB.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Base Commander – Glenn Herold called for all members to complete the ballot in the current issue of the “MIDWATCH” and return them as soon as possible in order to put the issue of the surviving members of the USS Perch SS-176 honorary membership to rest.

Western Regional Director - Dave Harnish reported on the state of the USSVI dues structure and some possible future actions by the USSVI BOD. He also requested that anyone with any input on this subject to please contact him.

Base Commander - Glenn Herold reported the particulars for the annual dinner being held by the Board of Directors for the U.S. Navy League - Phoenix Council. The dinner will honor the Phoenix area Pearl Harbor Survivors and the USS Stethem (DDG-63) Sailors of the Year. It will be held on December 7, 2003 at the Luke AFB Officer’s Club. There will be a cash bar that opens at 1800 hours and the dinner/program will commence at 1900 hours. The dinner menu consists of a choice of Petit Filet or Baked Chicken, salad, potatoes and desert. Dress for the evening affair is; Business Attire for civilians, Service Dress Blue or Service equivalent for the military, and the Pearl Harbor Survivor’s uniform for the guests of honor. Cost to attend is \$35.00 per person. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Base Commander - Glenn Herold or Member Larry Rankin not later than 30 November. The Special Guest and Speaker will be Admiral Vern Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations.

See “MINUTES” on page 6

(continued from "MINUTES," page 5)

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nothing additional was offered for the good of the order.

50/50 DRAWING

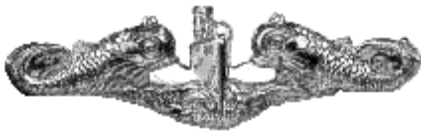
The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Dick Weber.

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 Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1410 hours.

Respectfully submitted by acting recording secretary
Dave Harnish



SUBVETTES (continued from page 4)

the Midwatch newsletter.

Nancy then asked that if anyone knows of a member in ill health or in need of attention to please notify Sue Caraker, our Head Cheerleader.

NEW BUSINESS

President Nancy Nelson notified members that an issue has arisen regarding the age limit of SUBVETTES members. She advised members that National President Ella Blado and made several suggestions, with the most recent being an age limit of 12 without voting privileges until the age of 18. Nancy made note of the efforts given by our young members, Heather Newell and Brandi Nelson. Kay Harnish suggested that we accept the most recent offer by the National organization. A unanimous vote was made in support of an age limit of 12 without voting rights until the age of 18.

Nancy then offered for discussion the use of excess monies in the SUBVETTES account. Betty Weber suggested leaving a balance for emergencies and deciding on a percentage to be used for charitable donations. It was realized that more time needed to be available to

address this issue and a motion was then made to table the discussion until the January meeting. Motion seconded and carried by a majority vote.

Nancy notified members that the Veterans Day Parade is Tuesday, November 11, on Central Avenue in Phoenix, starting at 11:00 a.m. Nancy announced that she and Vice President Kay Harnish would be riding in the parade. She encouraged all members to attend and notified all who were interested in helping with decorations to arrive at 7:30 a.m.

Nancy announced that she had packets available with information regarding the National Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York for anyone interested in attending.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Nancy Nelson announced that name badges are available for order. Brass badges are available for \$20 and white plastic ones are available for \$13. Nancy also announced that new vest order forms are available.

Nancy announced that, with the exception of Lifetime members, annual dues need to be paid to Debbie Newell, base secretary before the end of the year.

A discussion was held regarding the time set for SUBVETTES meetings. Nancy Nelson announced that the time of the January meeting would be put into the next Midwatch Newsletter.

Nancy Nelson gave Happy Birthday wishes to members Mildred Hillman (November 25) and Kathryn Otreba (December 12)

50/50 DRAWING

Brandi Hershey conducted the 50/50 drawing and Marge Robinson was the winner. The winner's share of the draw was \$8.

Karen Emmett won the drawing for the Christmas wall decoration.

All outstanding business being concluded, a motion was made by Marge Robinson and seconded by Marygrace Veek that the meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base be adjourned. Motion carried by a voice vote.



This Old Boat . . .

EDITOR: Well, we scored 100% on last month's "This Old Boat . . ." with NO CORRECT ANSWERS!

Last month's picture was of the U.S.S. Plunger (SS-2,) the United States' second submarine. The first submarine ordered by the Navy was the SS-1, named the USS Plunger. After it failed its sea trials and the contract was canceled by the Navy in 1900 and the funds were used to order a second submarine, also named USS Plunger, from Holland in 1900. The SS-2 successfully completed its acceptance trials and was commissioned on 19 September, 1903.

The SS-2 spent its first years helping to develop weapons and tactics for submarine warfare, underwater communications devices and ship design. One of the high points in this period was a visit by President Theodore Roosevelt, the first presidential visit to a US submarine. Included in his itinerary were a trip to the bottom of Long Island Sound, a drill on loss of all power, and conning the boat through practice torpedo runs. Upon disembarking, President Roosevelt remarked that "Never in my life have I had such a diverting day nor can I ever recall having so much enjoyment in so few hours as today." So impressed was he, in fact, that he authorized by executive order the forerunner of modern submarine pay - the payment of one dollar to each man for each dive made.

The SS-2 was decommissioned at the Charleston Navy Shipyard on 6 November 1909 with Ensign Chester W. Nimitz, commanding.

OK, I'm still on a roll. This one should be easy, but I found a view of this boat that should make it just a bit harder. As usual, send me the answer by e-mail (chuckster41@earthlink.net).



Do you recognize this old boat? Send your answer to the editor
chuckster41@earthlink.net

SHIPMATES COLUMN

EDITOR: This is just about the end of the small facts, or "factoids," on submarines in World War II throughout the newsletter as "WWII Boats - Short Facts." The response to these has been favorable but this issue will most likely exhaust my supply.

So, shipmates, please continue to provide me with stories and leads. They're very good and you have my thanks.

EDITOR NOTE: I received the following note and picture from Ed Brooks, our most talented carver and Secretary. This just has to be shared with our shipmates and members.

I took the nearly completed carving to the November meeting, but arrived there as the last few members were leaving - so not many people got to see it. I will be mailing



it to Glasgow in the next few days, so won't get a chance to show anyone except in photos. However, I am sending it in the name of Arizona Submarine Veterans (USSVI and SVWWII).

In the way of background information, one of the USSVI members in the State of Washington invited a Mike Edwards (Royal Navy Submarine Veteran) to our national convention. We engaged him at one of the tables in the Hospitality Suite and he told all of us about their SubVet organization. One of the things they do as a charitable cause is provide support for handicapped children so they can enjoy summer camp. Their last contribution was a specially equipped canoe with seat belts etc. so the kids could get out on the water.

I asked Mike to send me a set of the Royal Navy dolphins and I would try to replicate them in a wood carving which I would send to him so they could auction/raffle them to raise money for the kids. He did and I did. So, the carving is about ready to launch. This is what the near finished product looks like.

Eternal Patrol Dec. 17, 1927

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

U.S.S. S-4 (SS-109) 34 men lost



- Keel laid down by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME, December 4, 1917;
- Launched: August 27, 1919; Sponsored by Mrs. Herbert S. Howard;
- Commissioned: November 19, 1919 with LCDR Percy K. Robottom in command;
- Lost December 17, 1927;
- Salvaged: March 17, 1928;
- Decommissioned: March 19, 1928;
- Recommissioned: October 16, 1928;
- Decommissioned April 7, 1932;
- Struck from the Navy List January 15, 1936;
- Scuttled March 15, 1936

Following acceptance trials and a visit to Havana, Cuba, from 14 to 19 January 1920, and subsequent operations along the Gulf and New England coasts, USS S-4 (SS-109) departed New London on 18 November 1920 to rendezvous with her assigned division, SubDiv12, and SubDiv18 off New Hampshire. The two divisions were about to embark on a historic voyage which, at that time, was to be the longest cruise undertaken by American submarines. Assigned to SubFlot3 of the Asiatic Fleet at Cavite in the Philippine Islands, they sailed via the Panama Canal and Pearl Harbor and arrived at Cavite on 1 December 1921.

S-4 operated out of the Cavite Naval Station, with occasional visits to Chinese ports, until late in 1924, when the two divisions were reassigned to the west coast. Departing Cavite on 29 October, they arrived at Mare Island, California, on 30 December.

Remaining at Mare Island in 1925, she operated along the west coast through 1926, mainly at San Francisco, San Pedro, and San Diego. She departed Mare Island on 10 February 1927 and sailed to the Panama Canal Zone, where she operated through March and April, then proceeded to New London, arriving on 3 May. For the remainder of the year, she operated off the New England coast.

On 17 December 1927, S-4, having recently received extensive refitting at PNSY, was one of the Navy's most serviceable submarines, albeit an old one of WWI vintage. She had just completed her run of the measured mile prior to returning to the fleet and, having checked the surface for other vessels in her vicinity, her periscopes were housed as she planed up to be rammed by USCGC PAULDING, sending her back down to the oceans depths for the last time.

Paulding was making nearly eighteen knots when a lookout spotted the periscopes and shears of S-4 coming up close aboard on the port bow. The lookout reported and the OOD ordered the engines full reverse and the rudder hard to port, hopefully to pass to port over the still submerged stern of S-4. Paulding, however, struck S-4 at nearly the point of max beam halfway between the forward and aft Battery Compartment bulkheads about two feet above the battery well deck. The blow was somewhat glancing. The forefoot of the cutter telescoped and broke off in the hole torn in S-4's side. The hole in the sub was nearly four feet long and two feet high in the ballast tank and two and a half feet long by a foot high in the Battery Compartment pressure hull. About three feet of the crumpled forefoot girder was stuck in the hole, not enough to stem the blast of cold water hosing through.

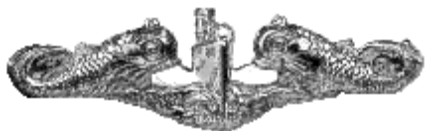
S-4 heeled far to port and started down by the bow. Paulding got on her radio and announced she had just collided with a submerged object, probably a submarine and gave her position. She then stopped and waited for the sub to surface. It didn't. The men inside the boat were thrown about by the impact. Some in the Battery Compartment started to jam whatever was handy into the stream of water to stem the flow. The inrush was, however, too great and it was readily obvious that the Battery Compartment would have to be abandoned. Six men were in the Torpedo Room and slammed the door shut, dogging it tight. The remainder of the crew that were in the Battery Compartment made their way up the steepening deck to the Control Room door and when all had made it through, the door was shut and dogged. The water continued to fill the Battery Compartment, compressing the air inside. The battery well held tight and did not leak too much. The pressure in the bubble of air in the upper aft end of the space rose to about 50 pounds per square inch flooding Control.

The initial stream of water spray and air had shorted sections of the switchboard throwing the entire boat into the dark. The commanding officer, ordered the space evacuated and when all the personnel in Control had made their way back to the Engine Room, he slammed and dogged the door. Now the crew was in serious trouble. There were fourteen men in the Engine Room with an additional fourteen in the Motor Room. The air was foul with chlorine, it was dark and getting cold fast. When at last, the noise of rushing water had stopped and the boat got quiet, it was obvious that access to Control Room was out of the question. There was no way to lift the stern of the boat as USS S-5 (SS-110) had done. The only thing left was to wait for help.

The rest of the story is a tragedy of divers struggling to save those left of the crew and failing. The boat was a pivot point in the story of submarine design. The first production model of a standard government design, she had a tragic accident which lead to better cooperation in navigation by setting aside areas for submarine operations and requiring other ships not transit these places. The death of her crew and the painful inability of the Navy to be able to rescue them became the basis for an effort to make submarine escape and salvage a viable option. The men died but the legacy they left saved the life of at least forty-six others because they used the devices invented and may have saved an untold number more because of the improved safety and navigation required after the accident.

S-4 was finally raised on 17 March 1928 and towed to the Boston Navy Yard for dry docking. She was decommissioned on the 19th.

S-4 was recommissioned on 16 October, after repairs. She served at Key West, Florida, early in 1929 and 1930, and in the northeast during the remainder of those years. In 1931, she operated again at New London until departing there on 3 January 1932 for Pearl Harbor. Sailing via the Panama Canal, she arrived at Pearl on 29 August. On 7 April 1933, S-4 was decommissioned and laid up. She was struck from the Navy List on 15 January 1936 and destroyed on 15 March by sinking



***Need a book about submarines?
Have you checked out our base library?
It's easy. Find the book online at:
[http://perch-base.org/
perch_base_library.html](http://perch-base.org/perch_base_library.html)***



Chaplain's Column



There has been no information sent to the Base Chaplain about any member or family in sick-bay. If we have missed anyone, our thoughts and prayers are with them. Please don't let a shipmate in need go un-noticed.

*Do you have know of any shipmate who's sick or the wife or family member of a shipmate?
Contact the Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle:*

*(623) 935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net*



Submarines in History

FIRST PERSON STORY! - Pearl Harbor 1941

EDITOR: During November, Billy Grieves of the WWII Submarine Veterans sent me this story in the mail, neatly typed. I didn't know Billy was there and, for me, this remembrance brought home December 7, 1941 like no other such story has. I scanned this story into the computer and, except for obvious typos, I have not edited or changed Bill's words. They speak across the years. The photographs I selected to match the story and all are official U.S. Navy ones. "Sailors, rest your oars."

DECEMBER 7. 1941 REMEMBERED
By Billy Grieves

December 7. Pearl Harbor Day, it always reminds me of a story. There was this guy who was half Jewish and half Japanese and every December 7th he attacked Pearl Schwartz.

But it reminds me of another story too.

On October 21, 1941, the USS THRESHER (SS 200) put out to sea from Pearl on what we thought was just another training mission. We



were assigned to conduct a 48 day simulated war patrol protecting the northern approaches to the island of Midway. The southern

approaches as well as the islands of Wake and Guam were similarly patrolled. But it was our mysterious sailing orders which puzzled the crew.

We were to maintain radio silence and remain submerged throughout the daylight hours surfacing only alter dark to charge batteries. We were to keep two torpedo tubes ready for firing, fore and aft, at all times. And, if any offensive action against the island of Midway was observed, we were to attack and sink anything in sight. In October 1941, such action was unthinkable.

Four days later we arrived on station and commenced all-day dives. As tedious days lapsed into monotonous weeks, fresh provisions ran out and dehydrated substitutes, bland and unappetizing at that stage of their development, took their place on the menu. Fresh water showers were terminated as primitive waste-heat evaporators struggled ineffectually to keep up with demand. Fresh water was for cooking and drinking only.

On December 4, after 40 consecutive all-day dives, with food, fuel and fresh water critically low, a wave of relief swept through the boat as our skipper, CDR WILLIAM ANDERSON, announced that TROUT was relieving us and THRESHER turned her bows eastward toward Oahu.

But an angry sea had been running for several days and submarines on the surface do not handle heavy winds and mountainous waves with the best of facility. As our bow plunged into the swell, green water climbed the conning tower and cascaded over the bridge and periscope shears. On one such immersion, Seaman BILL GROVER, the port lookout, was washed from his perch high on the shears to the small deck on the after end or the conning tower known as the "cigarette" deck.

On Captain's orders, GROVER was carried below and laid in the Captain's bunk. In considerable pain from a broken femur he could not be left alone and Doc MILLIS, the pharmacist mate, maintained an around-the-clock vigil at his side.

In his lucid moments, GROVER talked of home and shore leave and he made a strange prediction. He said he would never live to see dry land again. He seemed particularly sad that he would never go on liberty again, never be with a girl again. Doc MILLIS made light of the remark but when word of the prediction reached the crew the reaction was that maybe GROVER was just a little hit gutless.

No one knew it at the time, including GROVER, but he had also sustained a fractured skull in the fall. Slowly his vital signs deteriorated as his brain began to swell and Doc MILLIS administered more and more morphine to ease his pain. The date was December 7, the day we were to make port, but then word came of the Japanese attack.

As we approached Oahu, air and surface contacts increased, all of them menacing. U.S. forces never gave us time to establish recognition. All submarines were treated as enemy. The mine fields around the channel had been activated and we were given a rendezvous point with the destroyer LITCHFIELD. She was to escort us through the mines and the channel. At one point we did sight the LITCHFIELD but, responding to a mistaken identity, she ran off leaving us on our own.

Approaching the mine field submerged, we sighted what was thought to be another destroyer but was identified as the LITCHFIELD. Captain ANDERSON ordered a recognition signal transmitted by sonar and we sent up a smoke flare from periscope depth. But the gunners aboard the destroyer took bearings on the flare and as we broke the surface machine gun fire was heard and a live inch shell whistled across our bow. A row of dents from projectiles that bounced off the water laced our conning tower. In our flooded condition we dove to 287 feet in 37 seconds. But, although a wave of irritation had been building among the crew over the many persistent attacks, all this was put aside that night. As Doc MILLIS sat helplessly by his side, BILL GROVER died just as he had predicted.

We spent the night evading “friendly” forces and the following day we successfully rendezvoused with the Destroyer THORNTON. As we entered Pearl Harbor, the USS NEVADA, aground at the mouth of the channel and down by the bow, greeted us with the first evidence of the attack. Rounding the bend the USS OGLALA appeared, capsized on her port side. But these did not prepare us for the shock of what came next.

Nearing the Navy Yard, a spreading cloud of heavy, gray smoke hung low over the harbor and the odor of



burning oil was everywhere. Then the battleships came into view: the ARIZONA, still burning and resting on the bottom, the OKLAHOMA, capsized and keel-up, the CALIFORNIA, WEST VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE, MARYLAND, all heavily damaged, some still smoking.

As we slowly passed “Battleship Row,” our bow sliced through a layer of black, viscous battleship oil that covered the water completely. Motor launches, working

among the wrecks searching for bodies, wore the black coating almost to their gunwales.

On our deck the men stood silently, staring at the water, each overwhelmed by an incinerating rage. Gone was the exhaustion, the frustration and the monotony of six weeks at sea. We forgot the oppressive heat, the unpalatable meals and the acute shortage of water. The irritation of these discomforts was replaced by a bitter urge to take a short break and then get back to sea and exact terrible retribution.

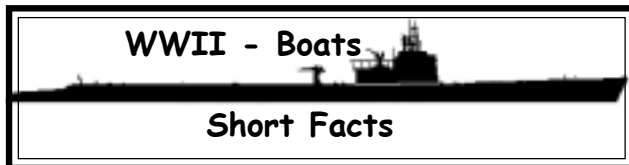


Standing there, side by side there was little conversation because for many, like me, speaking would have erupted like a sob.

Today, the world has largely forgiven the Japanese for what they did on December 7, 1941. Their industry and their business acumen are respected and their commitment to tradition is admired. The affront to America six decades ago is not recalled with the same intensity as the holocaust, for example. We are not constantly hammered with reminders of the outrage of that attack.

But when one steps aboard the memorial erected over the hull of the USS ARIZONA and is reminded that the bodies of 1,100 young American sailors are still entombed beneath his feet, his peace of mind is shattered for days after and the rage rekindled.

Forget Pearl Harbor? . . . Never.



U.S. submarines spent a total of 70,838 days on war patrols during World War II.



Storekeeper's Page



Jim Nelson, base storekeeper, has some new items available in the ships store. This includes a new, local, fast delivery source for vests and the new recommended name badges. Contact Jim for details.

Jim Nelson
(623) 972-1044
sub489@cox.net



See anything you like? These are just some of the items our Storekeeper has available. Proceeds support and base and show your submarine pride.



PERCH BASE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/HANUKKAH PARTY

*DECEMBER 13, 2003
1730 TO 2200 HOURS
LUKE AFB DESERT STAR ENLISTED CLUB*

DRESS CODE CASUAL

MENU

*Tossed Greens, Tomatoes and Cucumbers with Ranch Dressing
Sliced London broil Au Jus with Roasted New Potatoes and Chef's
Vegetables*

OR

*Roasted Stuffed Chicken Breast with Mushroom Gravy, Rice Pilaf
and
Chef's Vegetables*

*Sensational Sweets Peanut Butter Pie, Freshly Baked Rolls with
Butter
Coffee, Tea or Water*

Desert will be Base provided Carrot Cake

*No Host Bar 1730 to 2200 with dinner served at 1900. There will
be a Cheese and Cracker plate available during the cocktail hour
1730 to 1900.*

Return To:

**U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252**

<http://perch-base.org>



**Next regular meeting - Jan. 10, 2004
John J. Morris America Legion Post #62
10995 N. 99th Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345**