

# Arizona Sub Vets Perch Base

## Midwatch

January 2001  
Volume 7 - Issue 1

### Arizona Sub Vets, Perch Base Officers

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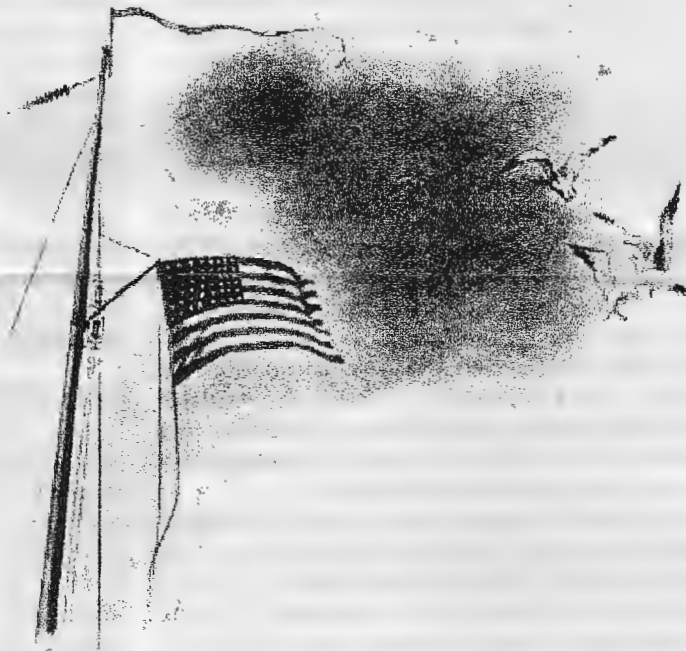
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### January Eternal Patrol Days

USS S36	(SS141)	20 Jan 1942	0 men lost
US S26	(SS131)	24 Jan 1942	46 men lost
USS ARGONAUT	(SS166)	10 Jan 1943	105 men lost
USS SCORPION	(SS278)	5 Jan 1944	78 men lost
USS SWORDFISH	(SS193)	12 Jan 1945	95 men lost

*Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol*

January's Meeting will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> at  
American Legion Post #29 in Glendale

### From the Former Commander:



As you may recall, **Don Wannamaker's** wife, Judy lost her father last month. Don informed me that due to fact that the funeral was out of state, he would not be able to prepare January's Newsletter in time and asked me if I would step in to help out one last time. So here I am!

Actually, writing the Newsletter is no easy task.....I used to start preparing it months in advance and bring the whole thing into focus within three weeks of going to press, or, about 4 weeks before you actually sat down to read it. This issue came to me out of the blue, so don't expect too much. That's the cheap mans way of getting around the fact that I have absolutely no idea of what I'm about to write. Let's see what I can bore you with this month.

As you are all aware, between members of Perch Base and that of the Arizona WII's, we were able to raise close to \$1700 toward the Luke Air Force Base Adopt-A-Family Fund this past Holiday Season. All proceeds went to families of Air Force personnel stationed at Luke that were living "hand-to-mouth" and could not afford to give their families a Christmas meal or toys for their children. I'm happy to announce that this money and the toys we bought were met with happy faces and tears of joy. As you recall, our first thoughts were to lend a helping hand to a Submariner family down on their luck, or an Arizona SUBVET that truly was in need. Neither was found that filled those requirements. Luke was then our secondary target. Well, now there seems to be a way that we can be of assistance to "Our Own" next Holiday Season. I was notified long after our commitment to Luke, by Ron Martini, (rontini@wavecom.net), that Lockwood Internet Base is starting a drive to supply Christmas Dinners for needy Submariners in the Norfolk area. Based on the success of this we are planning to move it around to the West Coast next year and then alternate it.

In December I learned that Lockwood donated \$250 to this end, and a few other Bases joined in....giving various amounts. But, from what I understand, the total amounts awarded were broken down into only \$25 food gift certificates, one per family, which in my estimation is hardly enough to purchase a turkey no less a full dinner and some toys for the truly needy. As I read more about the campaign, the more I became convinced that great improvements had to be made if it were to be successful.

To give you some idea, Perch Base awarded \$50 each to at least 15 needy Air Force families at Luke, not just \$25. In addition, we bought all kinds of clothing and toys for their children. Our USSVI bases are asking that a Submariner prove his need ( which could be very embarrassing ), Luke's "Adopt-A-Family" already knows who qualifies and no additional "proof" is required. Our USSVI bases are requesting that a donating base add a note to their gift specifying where the gift came from so that the families receiving our gift, in my estimation, feel obligated to write us in appreciation. The rules of Luke's Adopt-A-Family Foundation stipulates that all gifts and

donations remain anonymous, thereby extending the true meaning of Christmas "giving" without obligation.

I think the way Luke handled it this past year was the way to go. But, I do however feel that what the USSVI SUBVET bases are attempting to do is a beginning, and if it is modified, could bring a Merry Christmas to some of our needy Submarine Families and a way for us to consider in the future. So far, to my knowledge, nothing was said about helping former Submariners in need and I feel that too should be addressed by the Bases, especially during the Holiday Season. I will e-mail Ron Martini and a few of the other bases that got this matter underway and will turn this information over to our Acting Commander, **Don Wannamaker** and our E-board. I'm sure **Don** will relay the info to the membership in subsequent newsletters and carry the ball from there. What are your thoughts on the matter?

And now, for the Christmas/ Hanukkah Party. If you missed this one, you missed a great one. All I can say, is that you had better pencil in this year's now. To be safe, leave the whole month of December open on your calendars, it was that good. The capacity of the hall was 90 people 94 tickets were sold, so there was a waiting list. It marked the first combined Arizona USSVI Perch Base/ WWII SUBVET party and the first time we banded together under one roof to share our common heritage. The food was excellent....the mood fantastic.....and the brotherhood wonderful. **Dave Harnish** played Santa Claus and M/C the whole night and did a great job. Kudos also to his son-in-law for jumping in at the last minute as DJ. Every thing was just super.

### Dave Harnish Party Report:

The following is a report from **Dave Harnish**, who stepped in for **Don** as they were called out of town for Judy's Father's passing. The party was a resounding success. The drinks flowed freely and at a very good price and the menu was just out of this world. We had two carrot cakes with the Centennial Emblem decorating them and as we closed up last night there was only a couple pieces left. DJ duties were handled by **Dave** and **Kay Harnish's** son-in-law Ross Bergstedt.

The evening started with the playing of the CD by Tommy Cox and the first track "Big Black Submarine". It starts off with the diving alarm so all thought it was the correct way to get the cocktail hour going. The last song played for the evening was also from his CD and was "Sailors Prayer" which ends with the surface alarm. It just seemed to be the right thing to do. **Dave Harnish** was dressed as Santa and greeted all with a "Ho Ho Ho" and "where is my drink?" The hand carved dolphins (Carved by Shipmate **Ed Brooks**) were won by CDR. **Royce Pettit** and brought in \$245.00. We also had a 50/50 drawing which totaled \$150.00 and was given out in three drawings of \$50.00 each. **Jim Strassels** was given a plaque thanking him for his support of our endeavors with the adopt a family program at Luke Air Force Base. At the head table were

**Jack Richardson** and his wife **Joan, Dick Caraker** and his wife **Susanne** and **Roger** and **Lee Cousin, Jack** is the 2nd National VP of the WWII SUBVETS. **Dick** is the President of the Pig Boaters chapter of the WWII SUBVETS. and **Roger** of course, our Commander. Also in attendance was **Ginger Elkens** the President of the Pig Boaters Ladies Auxiliary. There were numerous door prizes and as would be the case we did not keep track of the winners. The prizes were of such a variety that even describing them would be a complete story of itself. **Red** and **Dorothy Crider** of the Pig Boaters handled the 50/50 raffle and **Dale** and **Iris Vaillan Court** handled the raffle of the Dolphins and yours truly was MC. The table decorations and all made for a wonderful setting that made this a party to set the standard by. **Don** and **Judy Wanamaker** just out did themselves with this one. **Joy Bernard** did the blessing for the meal and we also did a toast to **Gary Patterson**.

#### A Special Tribute:

As stated in the party report, our Shipmate **Ed Brooks** hand carved the Dolphins from Maple. These Dolphins are approximately . 30" in length and 10" in height. **Ed** spends a average of 40 hours in bringing them to life. These are one of a kind, and in these days of slam bam, thank you ma'am products, that don't happen often. Perch Base thanks **Ed** for this gift he provided and extends this special "BZ's"

#### A Special Christmas Gift:

Submitted by **Dave Harnish**. The Luke AFB Adopt-a-Family program for the year 2000, was a huge success thanks to all that donated items, to **Don** and **Judy Wannamaker, Dave** and **Kay Harnish** and their granddaughter **Ashley** and her friend **Amanda**. The two teenagers wrapped and labeled all the gifts for the program. Judy did the organization of the paperwork while she and Kay did the shopping for the gifts. Included in each of the twelve boxes was a money order made out to the base commissary. Also Included were gift certificates for McDonald's for each of the children plus donated food items and other gifts. Shipmate Jim Strassels was honored at the Submarine Veteran's Centennial Christmas/Hanukkah party, held at Luke Air Force Base NCO Club, with a plaque recognizing his fundraising work.

Perch Base raised \$260.00 from the **Luis Tejera** lottery of which \$200.00 was used for the Adopt-A-Family program. The WWII SUBVETS raised \$265.00 and their Wives auxiliary, The Dolphinette's, raised an additional \$100.00. A Merry Christmas was given to 12 needy military families and all who gave should feel a special holiday warmth. All in all it was a very rewarding venture and hopes are, we can out do ourselves next year.

#### Meeting Location:

January 13th's Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 29, 6822 No. 58th Avenue, Glendale, one block south of Glendale Avenue. Take I-17 (if it's open) to Glendale Avenue - west to 58th Ave.,

south 1 block. The Legion is on the left. Parking is available in the lot behind the post. From the West Valley, take Glendale Avenue and follow the rest of the directions. The building is the one on the West Side of the parking lot. Lunch will served between 1200 and 1300 at a nominal cost.

#### Year 2001 Calendar of Events (Mark your Calendars )

NOTE: Right now, these are only my concepts of possible events. Dates and events are subject to review and approval by the Acting Commander and the E-board.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Jan 13     | Meeting at American Legion, Glendale AZ., E-Board & lunch 1200.  |
| Feb 10     | Meeting (Same as above).   |
| Mar 10     | Joint AZ USSVI/WWII SUBVET PICNIC at Phoenix Encanto Park *Tentative* (if not, a meeting will be held at the American Legion, Glendale, AZ. (See Below). |
| Apr 14     | Meeting at American Legion, Glendale AZ., E-Board & lunch 1200.  |
| May 12     | Meeting (Same as above).   |
| May 28     | Memorial Day - Joint AZ USSVI/WWII SUBVET Services at National. Cemetery. All are asked to attend.   |
| Jun 9      | Meeting at American Legion, Glendale AZ., E-board & lunch 1200.  |
| July 14    | Meeting ~ Location (TBD) See Below.  |
| Aug 11     | Meeting or Picnic ~ Location (TBD) (See Below).  |
| Sep 8      | Meeting at American Legion, Glendale AZ., E-Board & lunch 1200.  |
| Sep 10 -16 | USSVI Convention, Peoria, IL.  |
| Oct 13     | NAVY DAY. Meeting at American Legion, Glendale AZ. E-Board & lunch at 1200 or joint AZ USSVI / WWII Picnic (TBD). (See Below).                           |
| Nov 10     | Meeting at American Legion, Glendale AZ., E-Board & lunch 1200.  |
| Nov 12     | Veterans Day Parade...joint AZ USSVI/WWII to march...all asked to attend.  |
| Dec (TBD)  | Annual joint AZ USSVI / WWII Christmas/ Hanukkah Party. There is no December Meeting !!!   |

For years, Perch Base has been holding a meeting and an annual picnic in Prescott in July/August. What was once an excellent show of membership support has been declining over the years. Oddly enough, the decline has been more from those living in the Prescott area rather than from those who travel some distance in hopes of making these events successful. Last year, only 3 members of more than 20 living near Prescott attended our Prescott meeting. The year before, only 3 from that area attended the annual picnic at Prescott's Thumb Butte. For that reason, a decision must be made whether or not to continue this effort.

Last years Picnic in Phoenix's Encanto Park was

a huge success. More than 65 people joined in the festivities and fun was had by all. If there was any problem, it was from the heat of April's early summer and lack of shade. It is for this reason that a March or October date is being suggested for this year, or perhaps, both dates should we decide to hold two picnics in this area. The membership will decide this issue as soon as practical. If you have any questions or suggestions to make on these issues, please feel free to contact your Base Acting Commander.

**Chaplains Corner:**

Usually by this time of year our "snow bird" members start coming back to roost and indeed this has happened again this year, all that is except shipmate **Ken Anderson**. It has come to my attention in a round about way that Ken's wife, Noreen has undergone a hip transplant in Chicago and although mending quite well, is not ready to make the trip back to Arizona just yet. Speaking of wives, **Bubba Loftus'** wife, **Gail**, has undergone a major operation which they thought was lung cancer. As it turned out it was a huge mass but it was benign. At the time of this writing Gail is in ICU and is expected to make a full recovery. She is expected home in a few days. On the **Gary Patterson** scene, I called him today as I do at least 3 times a month and was told that his last MRI showed him to be cancer free. Keep up the prayers, however, until he is out of the woods all together. Shipmate **Ron Kloch** is also doing better after exploratory surgery, but his weight loss is still of some concern, he too could use a few well chosen prayers. Please guys, keep your Chaplain informed of illnesses. It's his job to keep the Base informed. And besides, like chicken soup, a few prayers couldn't hurt.

The new Perch Base Chaplain is Shipmate **Warner H. Doyle Jr.**, phone number (623)-935-3830, e-mail: d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net. Please direct information to **Warner**. Thank You.

Requiem to Lost Perch Base Shipmates on Eternal Patrol:

<b>Roger Holtz</b>	10/3/96
<b>Joseph Gutierrez</b>	01/08/97
<b>Jack McKean</b>	03/28/97
<b>Joseph Schwartz</b>	12/12/99
<b>Luis Tejera</b>	08/03/00
<b>Bobby Moore</b>	10/22/00

*Lest we Forget ..... Sailors Rest your Oars*

Base and National dues for 2001:

Please make checks payable to Arizona Perch Base and mail, along with any Booster donation to Treasurer **Bob May** (address on cover). Members who joined after October 1st are paid up til January 2002. However if they wish to donate to our Booster Club, it would be most appreciated.

Perch Base Booster Club 2001:

The Perch Base Booster Club resets itself, like our dues, every January. For those not privy of what the Booster Club is, it's made up of concerned members like yourselves who give extra and generous financial support toward keeping this Base afloat for the year. As you must realize, your \$10 Base Dues do not even come close to paying the costs associated with running this Base. It doesn't even cover the costs of printing our monthly Newsletter. Additional funds are needed to enable us to pay for postage, materials, assist in giving toward the needy, and a gift to the American Legion for allowing us to meet at their facility. These funds also help pay something toward seasonal holiday parties or picnics, funerals, get well flowers, get well or sympathy cards, and a slew of other expenses. It's obvious that we need your help. No set amount is ever asked. Whatever the size of your donation, \$100 or \$10, or more, the amount you give is confidential. In return, your name will appear in every issue of *Midwatch* under Booster Club for one year as a token of appreciation. In 2000, we had 49 members contributing. Let's make 2001 another banner year. Makes checks payable to: Arizona Perch Base, indicate Booster, and send it to our Treasurer.

*Perch Base Thanks You*



Perch Base Booster Club for 2001:

I wish to thank the following members for their additional financial support during 2001. **Jerry Allston, Ken Anderson, Jerry Becker, Ken Becker, Joe Bernard, Harold Bidigare, Wayne Braastad, Mike Breitner, Tom Burke, Jim Clewett, Roger Cousin, Stephen Day, Warner Doyle, Harry Ellis, Billy Grieves, Warren Grossetta, Dave Harnish, Bill Hatcher, John Hellem, Glenn Herold, Les Hillman, Ron Kloch, Doug La Rock, Bob Lancendorfer, Bob May, Denny Mc Comb, Roger M Miller, Joe Mullins, Jim A. Nelson, Jim Newman Sr, Tom Patterson, Scott Prothero, Larry Rankin, Frank Rumbaugh, Ray Samson, Bob Sothern, Adrian Stuke, Don Wannamaker, Kenny Wayne, Jerry Yowell.**

I apologize if I missed anyone's name, but whoever writes the Newsletter next month will surely pick it up. Once again, I thank you for your above and beyond contribution. It's men like you that make this Base work.

Perch Base Membership List 2001:

The latest Arizona Perch Base Membership List will be available, complete with e-mail, home addresses, and phone numbers, at the next meeting. A copy is available through the Membership Co-Chairman, **Ray Samson** (see front cover).

### Welcome Aboard New Members:

We have recently received a slew of new "raw recruits" join our base and wish to welcome them aboard:

**Jerry Nelson ICCS(SS)** wife Sandi, 10359 Clear Dr. Sun City, AZ., 85351, 623-875-9047, e-mail JandSNelson@earthlink.net. Qual'd on **USS CARBONERO (SS337)** Other boats....**SABALO (SS302)**, **GROWLER (SS577)**, **STERLET (SS392)**, **PATRICK HENRY (SSBN599)(G)**, **CASIMIR PULASKI (SSBN633)(G)**.

**Michael Breitner MM1(SS)**, wife Dyanne, 276 Durian St. Vista, CA., 92083-6254, 760-758-4926, e-mail mjbreitner@aol.com Qual'd on **USS PLUNGER (SSN595)**.

**Daniel Adley (Active)**, 2000 E. Main St. #16, El Cajon CA., 92021-3676, 619-441-2818, e-mail AdleyDP@aol.com, Qual'd on **USS GRAYLING (SSN646)** Other boats, **PARGO (SSN650)**, **GATO (SSN615)**, **SEAWOLF (SSN21)**, **HELENA (SSN725)**; current Duty Station.

**John Kish MMC(SS)**, Phoenix Veterans Home, 4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix, AZ., 85012-1832, 602-248-1550. Qual'd on **USS BALAO (SS285)**. Other boat..**SEA OWL (SS405)**.

*A special welcome aboard to you John*

**Bob Bailey TM2(SS)**, 355 Country Club Cir. Apt. 25, Prescott, AZ., 86303-5563, 520-541-1855, e-mail mbailey@cableone.net Qual'd on **USS BATFISH (SS310)** Other boats, **USS CORPORAL (SS346)**.

**Wayne "Kirk" Smith ETCM(SS)** wife Janice 1905 San Juan Capistrano, Sierra Vista, AZ., 85635-9684 520-459-7963 e-mail jksmith@theriver.com. Qual'd on **USS DANIEL WEBSTER (SSBN626)**. Other Boats Served on **USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN636)** 76-81, **USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN707)** 84-87, **USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN640)** 87-89, **USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN622)** 89-90, **USS SAM HOUSTON (SSN609)** 90-91.

Thank You for joining, and would hope to meet you soon. I bet you all have some no s\*\*ters to share. Please send them to **Roger Cousin** or **Ray Samson**, whose information is on front cover.

### Small Stores:

**Dave Harnish**, our Storekeeper, is maintaining an excellent supply of SUBVET T-shirts, hats, memorabilia, jackets, etc., at very reasonable prices. All these items are on display at our meetings. Take a look and order something today. The Base Thanks You.

### Still Some Left ... Submarine Tapes:

John Clear (**SS315**) has now made available the third tape in his series "Silent Service Stories". This new film is only \$20.00, including S&H. You can call John at (360)-437-1143, or e-mail him at sealbtdt@continent.com. His address is: 180 Robin Lane, Port Ludlow, WA 98365. The stories are of the **USS TAUTOG**, **BERGALL**, **TINOSA**, and the **ASPRO**. Also included is a tape which was made for the Navy in 1940, titled "Submarines at Sea". This one has terrific footage of several boats that were later lost in World War II.

### 2001 SUBVET Calendars:

Perch Base USSVI 2001 Submarine Calendars are still available in limited supplies from Don Wannamaker. The cost of these suitable-for-framing calendars is only \$8.00 each, plus \$2.00 for shipping. Make checks payable to "Perch Base USSVI" and send to Don as soon as possible.

### Minutes from the December Meeting *By Carl Scott:*

I am happy to announce that I will not have to bore you with the December Meeting Minutes. Why? Because we had no meeting in December...just one hell of a good Holiday Party. Watch out for my column in February.

### Lost Boats and Crews for January:

**USS S-36 (SS141)** January 20, 1942 - No Men Lost.

On her first patrol, **USS (S-36)** did not sink any ships. She was lost on her second patrol. These are the details: She started her patrol on December 30, 1941. During the patrol, she made a daring and successful attack on a small transport displacing 5,000 tons that was moored in Calapan Harbor, Mindoro, P.I. After this attack, she was ordered to proceed to Surabaya, Java, N.E.I., by COMSUBAF. At 0404 on January 20, 1942, she suddenly grounded on Taka Bakang Reef in the Makassar Strait, west of Southern Celebes. Her forward battery compartment flooded, and the salt water combined with the battery acid, generating chlorine gas. The situation was grave, so grave that her C.O., Lt. J. R. McKnight, sent a plain language message that the boat was aground and sinking. **USS Sargo (SS188)**, nearing Surabaya, got this message and for five hours attempted to relay it without success. She then turned back to help **S-36**. When Headquarters at Surabaya became aware of the grounding, a PBY was dispatched to evaluate the situation. By the time the plane arrived, McKnight was more optimistic about being able to save his boat, if he could get some assistance. None of the crew was transferred to the plane, and when it departed it flew to Makassar City to request assistance from the Dutch authorities. They complied with the request and the next morning a launch arrived from Makassar. McKnight

realized he would not need all the people he had on hand and sent two officers and 28 men into the launch, keeping the remainder behind in hopes that **S-36** could be hauled clear. Work though they might, conditions on the sub worsened, and when Dutch steamer *Siberoet* arrived in the afternoon of January 21, 1942, the C.O. decided to abandon **USS S-36** and destroy her. All the remaining officers and men were saved, and they arrived at Surabaya on February 25 in *Siberoet*.

**USS S-26 (SS131)** January 24, 1942 - 46 Men Lost.

**USS S-26**, led by LCDR E.C. Hawk, was lost on January 24, 1942 in the Gulf of Panama about 14 miles west of San Jose Light in three hundred feet of water. There were three survivors, two officers, one of whom was the Commanding Officer, and one enlisted man. These people were on the bridge at the time of the collision; the fourth person on the bridge, an enlisted man, was lost. **USS S-26** was proceeding from Balboa, C.Z. to its patrol station in company with **USS S-21**, **USS S-29**, **USS S-44** and an escort vessel, PC-460, at the time of the disaster. At 2210 the escort vessel sent a visual message to the submarines that she was leaving the formation and that they could proceed on the duty assigned. **USS S-21** was the only submarine to receive this message. Shortly thereafter PC-460 struck **S-26** on the starboard side of the torpedo room and the submarine sank within a few seconds. Salvage operations were started immediately under Captain T.J. Doyle, USN, Commander Submarine Squadron Three and Submarine Base, Coco Solo, Canal Zone, and attempts at rescue were made, but without success. The submarine was not raised. She had previously made one war patrol, but had inflicted no damage on the enemy.

**USS ARGONAUT (SS166)** January 10, 1943 - 105 Men Lost.

While operating in the area southeast of New Britain between 5 degrees and 50 east during her third patrol, **USS ARGONAUT** (LCDR J.R. Pierce) intercepted a Japanese convoy returning to Rabaul from Lae, on 10 January 1943. An U.S. Army plane, which was out of bombs, saw one destroyer hit by a torpedo, saw the explosion of two other destroyers, and reported other vessels in the group. After a severe depth charge attack **USS ARGONAUT** was forced to surface and the destroyers, according to the plane's report, circled and pumped shells into her bow, which was sticking up at a considerable angle. This action took place in 5 degrees to 40 'S, 152 degrees to 02 'E. Further efforts to contact **USS ARGONAUT** by radio were fruitless. It is quite certain that **USS ARGONAUT** met her end in this action. Japanese reports made available since the end of the war record a depth charge attack followed by artillery fire, at which time the "destroyed top of the sub floated." **USS ARGONAUT's** first patrol near Midway had resulted in no damage to enemy

ships, but her second was a most successful one. It was conducted following a complete modernization at Mare Island. Her mission had been to cooperate with **USS NAUTILUS (SS168)** in transporting 252 Marine officers and men to Makin Island for a diversionary raid against enemy shore installations. In the early morning of 17 August 1942 the raiders disembarked in small-boats. After nearly two days ashore, the Marines returned and the submarines transported them back to Pearl Harbor, **USS ARGONAUT** arriving on 26 August.

**USS SCORPION (SS278)** January 5, 1944 - 76 Men Lost.

Departing Pearl Harbor on 29 December 1943, **SCORPION** (CDR. M.G. Schmidt) stopped at Midway to top off with fuel, and departed on 3 January 1944 to conduct her 4th war patrol. Her assigned area was in the northern East China and Yellow Seas. On the morning of 5 January, **USS SCORPION** reported that one of her crew had sustained a fracture of the upper arm and requested a rendezvous with **USS HERRING (SS233)** which was returning from patrol and was near her. The rendezvous was accomplished on the afternoon of 5 January but heavy seas prevented transfer of the injured man to **USS HERRING**. The latter reported this fact on 6 January, and stated "**USS SCORPION** reports case under control." She was never seen or heard from again after her departure from the rendezvous\*.

On 16 February 1944, **USS STEELHEAD (SS280)** and **USS SCORPION** were warned that they were close together and that an enemy submarine was in the vicinity. When no report was received from her by 24 February 1944, Midway was directed to keep a careful watch for her, and **USS SCORPION** was directed to make a transmission. Neither of these measures proved fruitful, and **USS SCORPION** was reported on 6 March 1944 as presumed lost. No information has been received from the Japanese that indicates **USS SCORPION's** loss was the result of enemy antisubmarine 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 were discovered from captured Japanese *Notices to Mariners* at much later date. In the meantime several submarines had made patrols in this area, crossing and re-crossing 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. In her first three patrols, **USS SCORPION** sank ten ships, for a total of 24,000 tons, and damaged two more, adding 16,000 tons. Her first war patrol was in the approaches to Tokyo in April 1943. Here she sank two freighters, four sampans and two patrol craft. In addition, she damaged a freighter. On her second patrol, conducted in the Yellow Sea, she sank two freighters. Her third patrol was made in the Mariana Islands, and resulted in damage to a tanker.

**USS SWORDFISH (SS 193)** January 12, 1945 - 85 Men Lost.

**USS SWORDFISH**, under CDR. K.E. Montross, left Pearl Harbor on December 22, 1944, to carry on her thirteenth patrol in the vicinity of Nansei Shoto. She topped off with fuel at Midway on December 26<sup>th</sup> and left that day for her area. In addition to her regular patrol, **USS SWORDFISH** was to conduct photographic reconnaissance of Okinawa, for preparation of the Okinawa Campaign. On January 2nd, **SWORDFISH** was ordered to delay carrying out her assigned tasks in order to keep her clear of the Nansei Shoto area until completion of carrier based air strikes which were scheduled. She was directed to patrol the general vicinity until further orders were received. In the last communication received from **SWORDFISH**, she acknowledged receipt of these orders on January 3rd.

On January 9, 1945, **SWORDFISH** was directed to proceed to the vicinity of Okinawa to carry out her special mission. It was estimated that the task would not take more than seven days after arrival on station, which she should have reached on January 11th. Upon completion of her mission, **USS SWORDFISH** was to proceed to Saipan, or to Midway if she was unable to transmit by radio. Since neither place had seen her by 15 February, and repeated attempts to raise her by radio had failed, she was reported as presumed lost on that date. In the report of her loss, mention was made that **USS KETE (SS369)**, which at the time was patrolling the vicinity of Okinawa, reported that on the morning of January 12th she contacted a submarine by radar. It was believed that contact was with **USS SWORDFISH**. Four hours later **USS KETE** heard heavy depth charging from this area, and it was believed that this attack might have been the cause of **USS SWORDFISH'S** loss. Japanese information on antisubmarine attacks does not mention the attack heard by **USS KETE** on January 12, and records no attacks in which **USS SWORDFISH** is likely to have been the victim. However, it is now known that there were many mines planted around Okinawa, since the Japanese were expecting an Allied invasion of that Island. The majority of the mines were planted close in. It is considered about equally likely that **USS SWORDFISH** was sunk by depth charge attack before she reached Okinawa for her special mission

or that she was lost to a mine at that place.

**USS SWORDFISH**, in the twelve patrols before her fatal thirteenth, sank twenty-one ships, amounting to 113,100 tons, and damaged an additional eight, totaling 45,800 tons. Her first patrol began the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and was conducted west of the Philippines. **USS SWORDFISH** sank four freighters, varying from 3,900 tons to 9,400 tons, and damaged a fifth. At the time, this was the most successful patrol in the war. She conducted the second patrol in the lesser Philippine group and among the small islands between Celebes and New Guinea. Here she sank three medium freighters and a tanker. She also evacuated President Quezon, his family, Vice President Osmena, Chief Justice Santos, and three officers in the Philippine Army from Corregidor and took them to Panay, where they boarded a motor tender. **USS SWORDFISH** returned to Manila Bay and evacuated eleven more Philippine officials.

**USS SWORDFISH'S** primary mission on her third patrol was to deliver 40 tons of supplies to the beleaguered Corregidor. However, on April 10, 1942 COMSUBAF told **USS SWORDFISH** to neglect her special mission and patrol offensively. **USS SWORDFISH** made no attacks on this patrol, but did perform reconnaissance of several islands. The South China Sea area was the scene of this ship's fourth patrol, where she sank a freighter and a tanker, and damaged two other freighters. She returned to the South China Sea for her fifth patrol, but did no damage to the enemy. **USS SWORDFISH** went to the area west of Bougainville for her sixth patrol, and sank a medium freighter and damaged a second freighter. She went again to the Solomon's for her seventh patrol and sank a freighter.

On her eighth patrol **USS SWORDFISH** covered the Palau-Truk-Rabaul areas during August and September 1943. Here she sank a freighter and a transport, while damaging another freighter-transport. Her ninth patrol was cut short by material defects. On her tenth patrol, in the same area as her ninth, she sank a freighter-transport and two medium freighters.

**SWORDFISH** covered the Marianas on her eleventh patrol where she damaged two freighters. On her twelfth patrol, conducted in the Bonins, she sank a freighter and two small trawlers, while she damaged and sank the Japanese destroyer Matsukaze in a night submerged attack as the enemy ship was bearing down for an attack.

**USS SWORDFISH** was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the period of her first, second, and fourth patrols.

#### More from the Boy Down Under:

*Submitted by Glenn Herold, Received November 26, 2000.*

"Hi, this is James. My family had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal with four sailors from the USS Millius, a destroyer which is visiting Fremantle. My Dad dropped them back to the ship about 9 PM. last

night and I got to go to the ship to see them off. We live an hour from Fremantle. For Thanksgiving we had corn, chicken, salads, potato salad, tomato and onion in vinegar, and cheese. We also had buns and Mum asked them to say the Thanksgiving meal prayer in honor of the fact that they were our special honored guests. My Mum knew it was Thanksgiving so she knew that they must have been sad missing their families far from home so she made them feel like they were one of the family, that's why she made them do the dishes, then they can really feel like family too. Mum can justify anything when she wants, huh? She let them have the best beer in the house, Heinekin's. I hope that they knew how much trouble my Mum and Auntie Nicky went to make sure they felt at home. Mum said it was special to have the honor of giving hospitality to the sailors, and sharing their special meal with us. I hope they will understand mum's dry wicked sense of humor. My Mum is naughty, she made the men do the dishes cause we have a rule she never breaks at our house, cook never cleans up or does the dishes, she said it was good for men to see how women have to do dishes but they are sailors, they have to do the dishes on the ship, they explained that to Mum. She and Auntie Nicky worked hard all day cleaning the house to make sure the house was nice for the special visitors and Auntie Nicky helped Mum by buying all the food for tea, Mum was so sore Auntie Nicky did the shopping to help Mum. Luckily she only burned one apple pie, we had fruit salad, cream and apple pie for dessert and real drip coffee after (that's OK, that's mild in comparison when she does all the cooking (laughs out loud) that's why Dad eats at the hospital. The sailors were wonderful and they made me laugh and helped me to walk down to the lounge room and looked after me while they were here. They were so kind I got a special picture signed by the Captain of the USS Millius and a special tee shirt for their millennium cruise and they gave me a beautiful coin from the ship, which I will keep always in my locked box so my brothers can't pinch them. Dad did nothing to help, he found the excuse to go out til all the work was done. He took the kids to get more torches at Karrinyup Shopping Center, Mum was so mad at him. I am not well enough to go to school. I am so tired and sore, maybe next week. Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving."

"Love Always,"

"Your James, Xxxxxxxx"

#### Roger's Comments:

For those of you who are new to Perch Base, this is a continuing story of James Terrence Crofts, a young lad from Australia, who has terminal brain cancer and is treating every day as if he's going to live forever. When we were appraised of James' story (see *Midwatch*, August, October, and December issues), it touched my heart so, that I made an executive decision to appoint James as Perch Base's Guardian Angel, once he was with God. He was already awarded that distinction by U. S. Aircraft Carrier, USS John Stennis and I decided that no surface ship was going to outdo the Submarine Navy. Shipmate **Glenn Herold** has taken on the job of keeping in touch with James and keeping us in informed. This was his latest correspondence. Thanks, **Glenn**. Keep up the great work!

#### Meeting Attendance:

Last year at this time, I made a plea to the membership to make a resolution to earnestly try to make a few more meetings for the new year. Thanks to you, our numbers have increased substantially at meetings, but we can still see some bare spots in our seating capacity. So, once again, I am making the same plea, please come on out and become active in your base. Attend a few more meetings this year and be part of the happening, you'll be glad you did.

#### Letter from the Commanding Officer, USS HELENA (SSN725):

I received the following letter from CDR. Doug Prince of the **USS HELENA** and thought you might find it interesting. Commander Prince has been very instrumental in arranging Tiger Cruises for various civilians and SUBVETS living in Arizona. If there is interest of us taking a "tiger", perhaps we may arrange a cruise aboard one of the boats out of San Diego. Let your E-board know.

"Dear Roger,

The **USS HELENA** just completed the fifth month of her six month West Pacific deployment. Her performance during this deployment has been nothing short of outstanding. Here are some highlights: Conducted bilateral exercises with a Japanese submarine, Conducted bilateral exercise with the Singapore Navy in the South China Sea. Participated in the first ever Pacific region multi-national submarine rescue exercise involving the countries of Japan, Korea, Singapore and the United States."

"Visited the ports of Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan; Chinhae, Korea, Singapore and Guam. Traveled over 35,000 miles. And to some degree of minor importance, consumed over 850 pounds of coffee. **USS HELENA's** participation in the submarine rescue exercise called Pacific Reach 2000 "required" us to spend over two weeks in port in Singapore. I'm sure any former submariner who has had the good fortune of visiting Singapore can understand why my crew is in such good spirits! The young people of today still join the Navy to see the world and experience adventure and as you can see this West Pacific Deployment provided plenty of both! My relief, CDR. Timothy Bertch is onboard and my Change of Command will take place in Guam on November 29th. It has been a pleasure being associated with your fine organization, **The USS PHOENIX (SSN702) Society**. The friendships I have made with you have made my command tour extra special. I can't thank you enough for the support you have provided the **USS HELENA** and her crew. CDR. Bertch has your e-mail addresses and phone numbers and will contact you in January or February 2001".

Sincerely,  
Doug Prince,  
Commander, U.S.N.  
Commanding Officer.



## 2001 USSVI Nominations for National Office being kicked off:

I just received a communique from Stephen Russo, Chrm. Nominations & Resolutions Committee, informing us that nominations for National Officers are now being accepted through your Base Commander. These offices are for the following:

- 1. National Commander (President), one year term.
- 2. Sr. Vice Commander (1st Vice President) one year term.
- 3. Jr. Vice Commander (2nd Vice President) one year term.
- 4. National Secretary, one year term.
- 5. National Treasurer, one year term.

If any member in good standing is interested in running for one of these offices, you can send a letter stating that you would accept a nomination to a specific national office, and if elected, would serve for the specified duration. Also include your qualifications, not to exceed 100 words. Nominations must be received prior to 15 February. Send to: Stephen Russo, PNC Chrm. Nom. & Res. Comm. 132 Woburn St, Medford, MA, 02155-3421

## Nationals Adopt new Format for Changes to By-Laws & Resolutions:

The National Executive Board has adopted a ~~format for all base members to use for proposed changes to the National By-Laws.~~ This format must be strictly followed. The format is as follows:

From: (Your name, base, membership number)  
To: Chairman, Constitution and By-Laws Committee,  
Andrew Sorbie  
Subj: Proposed Amendment to:  
(or) Proposed By-Law Amendment to:  
(or) Proposed Resolution:

Intent of Author:

Whereas;

—Text—

Estimated Cost to Implement Amendment, By-Law:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your suggestion to:

Andrew Sorbie, Chrm. Constitution & By-Laws Comm.,  
106 Wilshire Circle

Monroeville, PA 15146-2043.

Submit your suggestions by 1 April 2001.

## New Soviet Torpedo:

*Submitted by Ray Samson.*

*The Russian rocket-propelled Squall torpedo that hurtles at 230 miles an hour. It travels in a semi-*

*vacuum bubble, reducing frictional drag.*

Moscow, Nov. 30 -- "As the spy trial of a former American naval intelligence officer nears its end here, American and Russian experts say the technology that he was trying to acquire, a rocket-propelled torpedo that travels 230 miles an hour underwater, represented a significant advance in submarine warfare. No similar weapon exists in Western navies, the experts said. The legal battle at the closed trial of former officer, Edmond Pope, which began on Oct. 18 under protest from the United States, appears to turn on whether the technical reports at issue were classified. Mr. Pope was arrested along with a professor at Bauman State Technical University, Anatoly Babkin, and has been held in a cell here. He argues that he was not trying to obtain classified reports about a system that in any case Russia has been offering for sale to foreign navies for at least five years. The torpedo, the Shkval, or squall in English, can break through conventional boundaries of underwater physics five times faster than any torpedo in Western fleets, and experts in both countries say its technology was at the cutting edge of cold-war scientific competition. But the first intelligence about the torpedo and its use on nuclear-powered submarines did not become public until after the Soviet Union fell. In the era after that, the torpedo, which had practical handicaps, was taken out of service. Updated models have been tested in the last few years, and the military competition is apparently continuing.

For Washington and Moscow, the Pope case has become an uncomfortable throwback to the era of spy versus spy at a time when Russia and the United States profess that they are no longer rivals, and when the United States Congress allocates \$400 million a year for destroying old Soviet weaponry and safeguarding nuclear material. Mr. Pope's business, buying Russian naval technology, was one sign of a thaw in the new era. However, the Russian Federal Security Service, backed by its former director and now the nation's president, Vladimir V. Putin, has evidently decided not to carry matters too far. This was a complete new-stage breakthrough in the development of underwater weapons, said a retired rear admiral, Valery I. Aleksin, a former submarine commander and the chief navigator of the Russian fleet. And as far as I know, it is impossible to protect yourself against this kind of torpedo, and the Americans are behind in the development of this kind of technology. Norman Polmar, a naval historian in the United States who has studied the American and Soviet fleets, agreed, saying, this torpedo was more advanced than ours in many aspects, and we were shocked when it appeared.

The important leap in science that paved the way for developing the first Squalls in the late 70's was in overcoming the forces of nature that stop a bullet when it is fired into the water. The frictional drag of water against the metal skin of the projectile rapidly saps its energy. Attaining high speed underwater has always been limited by a daunting equation i.e., the

power requirement to propel an underwater object increases at the cube of speed. In the 60's, Soviet scientists led by Mikhail Merkulov began working on separating underwater projectiles from the water around them by creating a semi-vacuum bubble in which a rocket-propelled torpedo could achieve speeds not previously thought possible. Traveling in such a bubble held the potential to reduce the frictional drag radically.

Rear ADM. Eric McVadon, retired, a career naval attaché who has collected information on naval forces around the world, said China had been interested in the torpedo. Russian press reports say China's navy has acquired one or more Squall torpedoes for research, raising concerns that Beijing continues to seek weapons that would threaten American naval forces in any confrontation in the Taiwan Strait. China, with a backward military, has also bought Russian supersonic cruise missiles and certain torpedoes that could be used to delay or prevent the intervention of American warships that might try to interpose themselves between China and Taiwan in any showdown. Antisubmarine warfare is a tough business under any circumstances, and any torpedo is formidable, a retired Navy captain, Bernard Cole of the National War College, said. But I would think it's a pretty revolutionary idea to have a torpedo that goes 200 miles per hour.

The Squall was hardly a silver bullet in the arsenal when the first version entered the nuclear submarine fleet in 1977. It could be fired only in a straight line. Its range was only about 10 miles, and it had a limited ability to home on its target. But armed with a tactical nuclear warhead, the Squall could shriek through the water at such high speed that any opposing warship could scarcely escape its nuclear blast. A retired commander of the Soviet Black Sea fleet, ADM. Eduard D. Baltin, said today that there are more efficient weapons in the Russian arsenal than the Squall due to its limited range and homing capability.

Russian press reports have persistently suggested that the Kursk submarine, which went down in the Barents Sea in August with the loss of 118 lives, was testing a new variation of the torpedo. Russian officials deny those reports. The intelligence about the Squall became public after the Soviet Union collapsed and after Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin agreed in 1991 to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons from their submarine fleets.

Jane's Intelligence Review, the military journal, noted in 1995, The Squall has no Western equivalent. It added that Britain's military research establishment was known to have explored the possibilities of unguided high-speed underwater weapons - both rocket and gas-turbine powered - but the work never rivaled the apparent success of the Russians in this field. The United States, too, pursued rocket-propelled underwater weapons, according to former American submariners. Although American research scientists have designed high-speed, even supersonic, underwater projectiles, the technology was never successfully translated into

a weapon. American submarines, nonetheless, are armed with stealth, long range sensors and an array of over-the-horizon weapons that make them a match for any submarine in the world, officials said. American intelligence experts once described the Squall as a revenge weapon, because any Russian ship that fired a nuclear-tipped Squall against an enemy ship 10 miles away might also perish from the shock wave. But Admirals Aleksin and Baltin challenged that, indicating that the double-hull construction of Soviet submarines would withstand such a force.

Over the last five years, according to Western intelligence reports, Russian designers have developed follow-on models of the Squall to carry a conventional high-explosive warhead with improved guidance and target systems. One variation was tested in the summer of 1998, and new Squall prototypes have been featured in arms shows in Abu Dhabi and Athens, defense experts said. The Russian scientist who oversaw the Squall development said today that he would not discuss its abilities. The scientist, Genrikh Uvarov, reached here by telephone, said, "I must tell you that I cannot discuss these matters with you, especially while the Pope trial is going on. But Mr. Uvarov could not suppress the pride of invention when he added, Unquestionably it was a breakthrough.

#### Roger's Comments:

Although Ray sent this article out to those of us who have e-mail, I felt it important and interesting enough to make all our members privy to this information. I was dumbfounded and felt riveted by it's content. I had no idea that a torpedo of any type was capable of such speed even in today's world, no less during the 70's. I also couldn't get over fact that Russia is willing to sell this technology to China, but that the United States seems not to be in on the bidding. If our Country, in the 90's, could spend \$400 million a year to help Russia destroy her old nuclear weapons, why weren't our Military Disposal Teams smart enough to insist that in return, they at least lend us the Squall technology of the seventies? What's wrong with us? Where are our brains?? Heck, for a hell of a lot less, we could have bought their Squall Scientists!

#### Submarine Stories:

Every submariner has dozens of personal submarine stories that he can tell. In the past, most of your friends or family members have told you to "shut up already about your submarine days". Not us! The author of this newsletter would love to have you relay some of these tidbits to him. This is what makes this newsletter what it is, your input. Who can forget some of these stories in last years newsletters? They were memorable as hell. Some were exciting....some were humorous, but they all made for great reading. I keep every issue, and often catch myself rereading them. Why not scribble down one of your experiences and if you don't wish to send it in to the person responsible for the newsletter for immediate printing because you may not feel it newsworthy, or because you feel you don't know how to "write", send it to me, Roger Cousin, I'll edit it to your satisfaction, add a few words here and there, change the grammar if necessary, then pass it on. It's your story that counts, not the wording or spelling. No one will know of miscues, promise! We need your input.

### My View on Today's Newspapers:

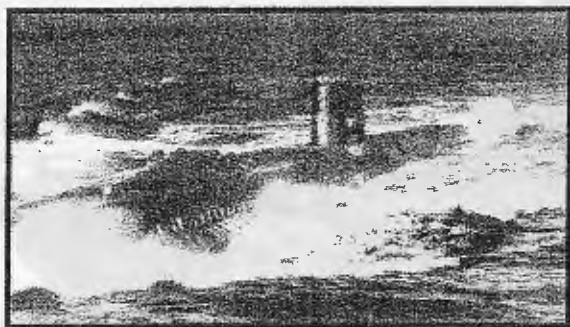
Before I put this issue to bed, I have one final thing to say, with regard to the way our daily tabloids played up the last Presidential debacle, I have decided that no matter if you are Republican or Democrat, the newspapers of our Country leave a lot to be desired. This is how I see them:

The Wall Street Journal is read by the people who run the country, The New York Times is read by people who think they run the country, The Washington Post is read by people who think they ought to run the country, USA Today is read by people who think they ought to run the country but don't understand the Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country, if they could spare the time, The Boston Globe is read by people whose parents used to run the country, The New York Daily News is read by people who aren't too sure who's running the country, The New York Post is read by people who don't care who's running the country, as long as they do something scandalous, The San Francisco Chronicle is read by people who aren't sure there is a country, or that anyone is running it, The Miami Herald is read by people who are running another country. And as for the Arizona Republic????? I'm going back to comic books!

Roger

### Dolphin Tales with a Dash of Salt:

In violation of Navy Regulations, our submarine crew had acquired a small puppy and maintained him on board as the ship's mascot during a shipyard overhaul. There was only one Shipyard Officer who would have "blown the whistle" had he known of the animal's presence. This particular gentleman took it upon himself to inspect the boat for cleanliness and safety at the end of each working day. Nothing escaped his attention, and he would become extremely vitriolic upon discovering even the slightest deviation from the prescribed standards of cleanliness or safety. Fortunately, by means of various stratagems and deceptions, the presence of this ship's mascot had been successfully concealed from his searching eyes. One afternoon, in company with the XO, this zealous Naval Officer embarked upon an unscheduled inspection of the ship. Luckily, our puppy had been safely spirited away. As our inspector stepped into the forward battery, there in the middle of the deck stood the all too obvious puddle of water (our pet had not yet been housebroken) which of course did not escape his view. He reached down, put his right index finger in the middle of the puddle and applied the standard submarine test called for under these circumstances, and quickly admonished the XO with, "you have a salt water leak, get it fixed!!!"



**USS HALIBUT (SSGN587)**

Displacement - 3845 tons (Surf) - 4894 tons (Subm).  
Length - 350', Beam - 29.5', Speed - 15k. (Surf), 24k. (Subm).  
Test Depth - 700'.  
Armament - 4-21' tt. fwd, 6 to 8 Regulus I missiles fwd.  
Compliment - 12 Officers, 99 Enlisted Men  
Class - Halibut.

Keel laid down by Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, CA, 11APR57.

Launched: 9JAN59; Sponsored by Mrs. Chet Holifield.  
Commissioned: 4JAN60 with CDR Walter Dedrick in command.

Decommissioned: 30JUN76.

Disposed of through SRP at PSNS 9SEP94.

**USS HALIBUT (SSGN587)** had the distinction of being the first submarine to be designed and built from the keel up to launch guided missiles. Intended to carry the Regulus I missile, **HALIBUT** had her main deck relatively higher above the waterline to provide a dry "flight deck" when launching missiles at sea. Her missile system was a completely automated group of hydraulically powered machinery, controlled from one central control station. **HALIBUT** departed for her shakedown cruise 11 March 1960.

On the way to Australia 25 March, **HALIBUT** became the first nuclear powered submarine to successfully launch a guided missile. **HALIBUT** returned to Mare Island 18 June 1960, and after short training cruises departed for Pearl Harbor and active service with the Pacific Fleet. During her first deployment she successfully launched her seventh consecutive Regulus I missile during a major Southeast Asia Treaty Organization weapons demonstration. Returning to Pearl Harbor 9 April 1961, **HALIBUT** began her second deployment on 1 May. During the months that followed she participated in several guided missile launching exercises and underwent intensive training.

**HALIBUT** deployed for the third time to the Western Pacific in late 1961, establishing a pattern of training and readiness operations that followed through 1964. On 4 May 1964, **HALIBUT** departed Pearl Harbor for the last Regulus missile patrol to be made by a submarine in the Pacific. Then, from September through December, **HALIBUT** joined eight other submarines in testing and evaluating the attack capabilities of the Permit-class submarines.

In February 1965 **HALIBUT** entered Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for a major overhaul, and on 15 August 1965 she was redesignated SSN-587. On 6 September **HALIBUT** sailed from Pearl Harbor for the West Coast arriving Keyport, Wash. on the 20th. On 5 October she departed Keyport for Pearl Harbor and, after an 8-day stopover at Mare Island, California, arrived 21 October.

**HALIBUT** then began ASW operations in the area, continuing into 1968. In August 1968 **HALIBUT** transferred to Mare Island for overhaul and installation of side thrusters, and other specialized oceanographic equipment. She returned to Pearl Harbor in 1970 and operated with the Pacific fleet and Submarine Development Group 1 out of Mare Island until decommissioning in 1976 after which she was disposed of through SRP at Puget Sound 9SEP94

*Compiled by SUBNET from 'Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships,' — Navy Department; and 'UNITED STATES NAVAL SUBMARINE FORCE INFORMATION BOOK.' — J. Christley*

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