

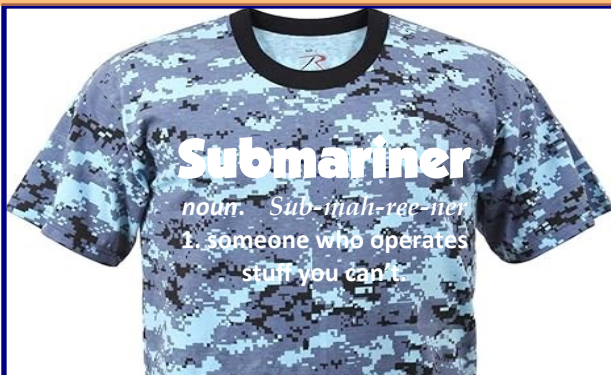
**NOW HEAR THIS --- AGENT ORANGE**

If you have any medical condition that might be related to Agent Orange, hospitals and doctors in the civilian medical arena likely have little, if any knowledge. The VA, although flawed in the response, and probably care, is the best place to have anything related diagnosed and treated. Information I've promulgated is meant to encourage anyone suspect to get educated about the details. We didn't have it on board, nor was it any part of our duties, but those who were in the Tonkin Gulf and Thailand had exposure.

Consult the past issues of *Clever Boy*, search online and ask questions. If you have ailments they may be due to Agent Orange, in addition to treatment, the Congress has passed laws specifying disability payments as a benefit. Even if you are not already getting care from the VA, call your closest facility and tell them you want an appointment to be evaluated for Agent Orange exposure and your conditions. It is free and mandated by law that they at least check you out.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/24/va-plans-outreach-screen-3-million-more-veterans-toxic-exposures.html>

More info on page 3



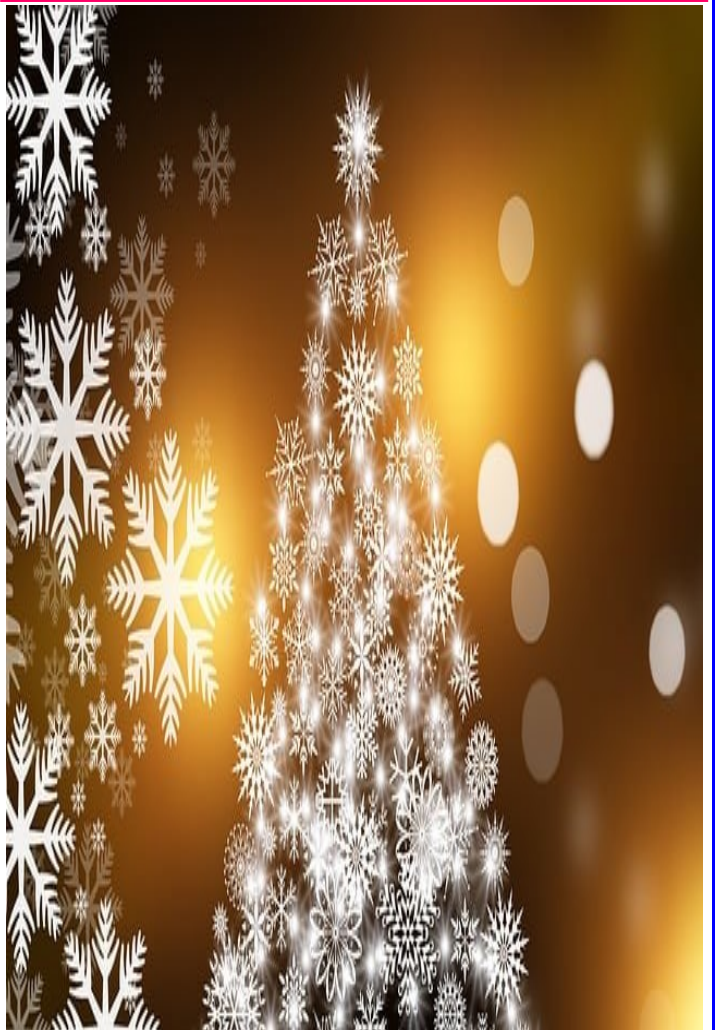
**PUT THIS ON YOUR XMAS LIST  
SEE PG 4**

**AHOY SHIPMATES**



**WISHING ALL A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**MAY THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH**



## USS SABALO SS-302

BALAO (SS-285) CLASS DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE

IN COMMISSION: 1945-46 & 1951-71

A Proud Workhorse of the Fleet

*She made her missions.*

*We did our best.*

*We served our country.  
This has been done.*



### REALLY BIG SABALO - 28 Aug 2023

The Massachusetts surf is just about the last place you'd expect to find a **silver king**, but this unusual catch was caught at night and released without harm.

A 5-foot tarpon was landed on a Cape Cod beach, hundreds of miles from where anyone would think to fish for them. Tarpon certainly aren't unheard of in the Northeast. One documented catch was years back and there are rumors of others. They have been caught as far north as Nova Scotia. New Jersey even has a tarpon category in its state records, currently a 53-pounder caught off Sea Bright in 1982. {The Atlantic Tarpon is alternately known in Spanish as "Sabalo".}

<https://www.saltwatersportsman.com/howto/tarpon-caught-on-cape-cod/> & More about the history of Tarpon fishing: <https://www.sportfishingmag.com/game-fish/the-evolution-of-tarpon-fishing/>



Roy Owens—L & Tom Wilhelm—R | They met at Tom's place in Hamilton, MT back in August while Roy (my bro—ed.) was touring Glacier Natl Pk and other places. It was just an overnight with two old QM's swapping b.s. [[Tom lost his wife, Jeanne 15 Aug 2023 to a long battle with Alzheimer's]]



The CO of USS Scranton SSN-756 (on extreme left) and 5 members of the crew pose on a locomotive at Steamtown Natl Hist Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Story on page 5





Vol. III No. 16 November 2023

**CLEVER BOY** is a privately authored and published newsletter of the **USS Sabalo Association**. An informal group for the preservation of the submarine's history, the assemblage of the list of all who served in her, chronicling her exploits and missions, and celebrating the memories of those who manned her.

"Clever Boy" was the radio call sign for Sabalo, and NXYO was her flag identification code.

CB is currently distributed via online and hard copy to ~280 veterans of the U.S. Navy submarine, USS Sabalo SS-302.

 Online viewers—Follow the links with each item for the full story.

 Hard copy readers only get the first two pages in color. On the Sabalo web site all pages have color possible.

WEB SITE: <http://ussabalo.org> For more information about the men who served in her, the ship's details and exploits, and copies of past **Clever Boy** newsletters beginning from 2009

**Editor: Jeff Owens**

ETN2(SS) Aboard Mar 67-Aug 69  
273 Pratt Hollow Rd  
Nicholson, PA 18446-7866  
570-942-4622 [owensj@epix.net](mailto:owensj@epix.net)

**Editor Emeritus:**

Ronald D. Gorence, QMC(SS), Ret.  
Abd 302 Jul66-Feb70 (Final Patrol-Apr 2018)

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS EITHER USPS OR EMAIL.**

If you can no longer receive email, please remember to communicate so that you can be switched to receive a hard copy. The cost of those who receive hard copies is supported by donations.

*If you have no interest in this newsletter, please communicate so funds can be conserved.*

## THANKS TO RECENT DONORS

(with rank/rating & dates aboard 302 -may have been higher later)

Burtner, Ken YN2(SS) Nov61-Aug63  
Hudson, Bob EN2(SS) Feb70-Mar71  
Hutchinson, Jerry CS3(SS) Sep60-?63  
Losby, Harold ENC(SS) Dec65-Feb70  
McPolin, Paul SK3(SS) Aug60-Sep61  
Patrick, John ST2(SS) Mar67-May69  
Ouellette, Pete EN2(SS) Jun63-Sep69  
Ross, Jonathan EM3(SS) ?70  
Schneider, Michael LT Sep63-65

## **AGENT ORANGE -THE PACT ACT AND YOUR VA BENEFITS**


<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

VA Plans Outreach to Screen 3 Million More Veterans for Toxic Exposures

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/24/va-plans-outreach-screen-3-million-more-veterans-toxic-exposures.html>

"Every Veteran enrolled in VA health care will receive an initial screening and a follow-up screening at least once every 5 years. Veterans who are not enrolled and who meet eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening."

**Repeating links for how to file for disability:** <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/> Download the form with instructions, then file it online according to the directions found on above page. <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21-526ez/>

[[Everyone has had some exposure if they drank water made in the Tonkin Gulf. Congress has set certain rules that specify where the exposure is considered to be significant. Some deployments of Sabalo have already been proven to be within the rules.  Searching to prove the remaining places, especially the '67-68 WesPac are still in process. — ed.]]

 **MAILBAG** 

[rank/rating as aboard, may have diff later]

Eml recd 24Jun23 - Hi Jeff, Just a quick thanks to you for your amazing newsletters! I read each one with interest, loving the scope of what is there. I've been on your roster for some years, and wanted to mention that I was a member of the Sabalo crew on her last WestPac. I joined the boat fresh out of Sub School at Pearl Harbor on March 21, 1970, and departed during her decommissioning process at Point Loma, San Diego a few days after our September 15, 1970 return from WestPac. What an adventure that WestPac was, visiting Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, Guam, and the Philippines. Drank my dolphins in Hong Kong at a knock-off dive full of my shipmates. It was called Playboy Club. We "sank" a US aircraft carrier in an exercise. The CO of the carrier swore we were lying, so our skipper shot a flare from the after torpedo room, and proved we were right there. Our skipper then unlocked one of our torpedo tubes which turned out to be full of beer, and every one of us got a bottle of the stuff. Also, stood shore patrol in a tough section of Olongapo, and played my bagpipes in Bangkok. Great officers and crew. All the Best, DBF **Jonathan M. Ross EM3 (SS)**

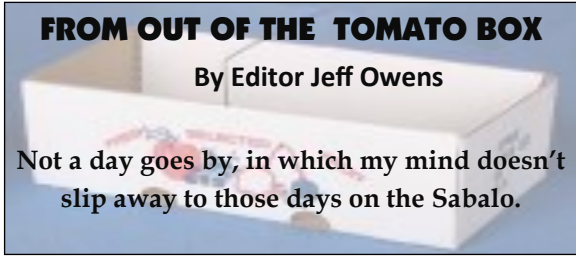
Eml recd 23Jun23 fm **James Robertson CS2(SS) Dec69-Dec70** Thanks Jeff, still alive and sorta kicking. DBF

**MORE MAILBAG ON PAGE 12**

**FROM OUT OF THE TOMATO BOX**

By Editor Jeff Owens

Not a day goes by, in which my mind doesn't slip away to those days on the Sabalo.



**Marking Time**

Sometimes I look back on my life and I'm seriously impressed I am still alive.



"Cherish each hour of this day for it can never return." ...OG MANDINO  
\* \* \*

When I say, "the other day", I mean anytime between now and 15 years ago.

🕒 A minute varies depending on which side of the bathroom door you're on.

*i'm late!  
for a very  
IMPORTANT date!*

"I'm late! I'm late!  
For a very important date!" ...  
The White Rabbit in  
*Alice In Wonderland*



This issue was supposed to be broadcast in September, but I admit to getting busy with other things, including life things that old age brings. See one story next page for explanation.

**T-SHIRT**

(PIC ON PG 1)

**Submariner**

*noun. Sub-mah-ree-ner*

1. someone who operates stuff you can't.

**Hurry! We may be able to get these by Xmas**

I'm planing a T-shirt order. If you want one or more get on the list ASAP. Design is borrowed from similar found on the 'net. Planning for 2 variations: white lettering on navy blue or on Rothco blue digital camo (similar to the Navy blueberry) Expected price \$20 +shipping

Sabalo Sailing List Stats -as of 23 Nov	
Total shipmates listed	1453
Known Deceased	892
Known USPS address	324
Receives Clever Boy by email or hard copy & <b>contact since Jul 2018</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>AWOL- Known address but Not heard from since July 2018</b>	<b>70</b>
Known address but has declined or does not receive Clever Boy	61
Lost Contact—last known address NG & unable to relocate	11
Never located / Lost Contact	237

**EVERYONE'S AN AUTHOR**

Many times guys have told me, "I have some stories I'll relate sometime". The insinuation is that there was a great or notorious experience or episode to relate for posterity. Unfortunately, most have failed to get around to that promise; many have passed.

So-o-o, why don't you take time right now to write one page with one of the tales of submarine life, no matter how wild, or filed with b.s., and submit it for publication in the CB. The story will be then preserved until somebody destroys the archives of the internet.

Looking forward to getting so many, there will be more pages in the next issue.

**A Man and a Woman**— 1. A girl is said to be grown up when she starts wearing a bra. A boy is grown up when he starts removing it. 2. We all love to spend money buying new clothes but we never realize that the best moments in life are enjoyed without clothes. 3. Having a cold drink on hot day with a few friends is nice, but having a hot friend on a cold night after a few drinks is priceless. 4. Breaking News: Condoms don't guarantee safe sex anymore. A friend of mine was wearing one when he was shot dead by the woman's husband. 5. Arguing over a girl's bust size is like choosing between Molson, Heineken, Coors, and Budweiser. Men may state their preferences but will grab whatever is available.

## USS Scranton Men Visit Scranton

I am a charter member of USS Scranton Base - USSVI. In 2006, when forming the Base, we decided to name it after the boat with the idea of recognizing it for their service and to promote the submarine force to the local communities of northeast Penna.

Shortly thereafter we made contact with the CO & COB to tell them about our Base and how we might help them in ways the Navy doesn't. Since that time we have enjoyed their fraternity and invited many of them to Scranton. It was simpler at first because they were based in Norfolk. However, they were assigned to homeport in San Diego, and the last few years the lines of contact have been a little frayed.

Despite this, recently the Base and the City of Scranton entertained the CO and 5 crewman for a visit and many activities and tours for four days 9-12 Sept. [pic on pg 2]

Organizing transportation from San Diego and around town was accomplished by a committee of local parties, including numerous political offices and base members. Fund raising was also an integral aspect. Three men had most of their expenses covered by local donations, and three others with some local funds and they also had substantial funds from the Navy under a program called 'Namesake City Liason'. We are proud to do this which isn't something done by many other namesake cities. (FYI- the Los Angeles Class 688 boats number 62. They were all named after U.S. cities, one, the Providence was later changed to the Hyman Rickover; abt 25 remain in commission.)

**I'm Late**—All of this planning and execution took a lot of my time during June-Sept. With this getting priority, I let attention to *Clever Boy* wait on the back burner. Then, as I began to get onto gathering material, I was rear ended on I-81 and now have neck and back pain along with medical matters and car repairs to contend with. --That's my excuse, and I'm sticking to it. -ed.

## \* T.I.N.B.S. - WAR IS HELL - TALES FROM YANKEE STATION

**A CLOSE CALL !! - Flooding in the forward torpedo room.** [So many tales, I can't remember if this one has ever been in print before.] Our ops in the vicinity of Yankee Station were simple and mundane. ASW games, more properly called 'exercises', consisted of 'we chase them', then 'they chase us'. The details actually came from a play book, just like football stuff. The parties that be would select an exercise with a code number, and then the vessels would perform according to instructions regarding course and speed, etc. Sometimes more than one surface ship would track us, or in a more difficult scenario, try to find us. After the programmed amount of time, participants would communicate via underwater telephone - "Gertrude" it's nickname-, and surfacing would take place in such a way that collision chances would be nil.

These games-drills-exercises would commence in the morning and be suspended in the evening. Overnight the Sabalo would have evolutions and battery charging. One time we ended mid evening, and at first things expected to be done for the day. The captain ordered the charge and blowing sanitariums. The latter is where the problem started.

A certain 3rd class TM was the forward room watch and had lined up the blow for No. 1 with inboard vent. Then with little notice, rig for dive was announced, and we were set to begin one last exercise before the day was over.

While the blow was secured, the overboard discharge was still open as we dove. Quietly water flooded in, filled the tank, and then the water flowed unnoticed via the still open vent into the room bilges. Meantime the watch had assumed a position sitting in the room door and was reading a book. Because there was a down angle, the water flooding in was going forward. In control the diving officer was getting confused because the trim seemed off and the planesmen couldn't keep the bubble. This was odd because it was less than half an hour since the last dive. Pumping forward continued and the down angle seemed under control.

Suddenly the forward room watch noticed water below us spot in the hatch and called "flooding in the fwd rm". Whatever he did at that point, I Don't know, but as the diving officer made the necessary commands to go up, and the boat finally got a steep up angle, the water rushed aft, and the room watch had failed to do the most important thing which is to secure the watertight door. Thousands of gallons of water shifting aft caused some of it to flood through the open door into the forward battery and officer's quarters and ward room, and dangerously, some into the battery well. To be noted—this water had just flushed the sanitary tank and torpedo rm bilges.

Gaining control and pumping to the maximum and reaching the surface, all was restored with no machinery casualty. The mess in the officer's quarters and the water in the battery well - a minimum, had to be cleaned up.

The final outcome was merciful punishment on the room watch. He didn't have mast or punishment, but had to do a lot of cleanup (except for the battery tops which fell to the EM's & IC's and a ton of rags making them unhappy. The captain did have a major complaint beyond having to remove and replace all the carpets. Removal of which was mainly accomplished by pissed off stewards. In the skipper's personal locker in his stateroom was a brand new pair of white shoes. TM3 was ordered to purchase a new pair. He remained in the Navy and retired in 1987.



## HEADLINE NEWS

Follow links for full story

**FEEDBACK NEEDED**—Your editor searches far and wide for topical info to pass along. **If you see some cool stuff, send it in for inclusion.**

### Navy Officially Ends Its 'Up or Out' Policy that Forced Sailors to Advance or Separate - 21 Nov 2023

Under the previous policy, sailors of any rank could serve at their current level for only a limited time before the Navy would move to discharge them with the presumption that they were not performing well enough to stay in the service.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/21/navy-officially-ends-its-or-out-policy-forced-sailors-advance-or-separate.html>

### Here's the 2024 Pay Raise for Vets and Military Retirees

Retired military pay, VA disability pay, federal retirement and Social Security payment increases coming in 2024. Military retirees and disabled veterans will see their monthly checks increase by 3.2% for 2024, for (COLA) due to inflation.

<https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/allowances/cola-for-retired-pay.html>

& <https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html>

### Big Bonuses, Relaxed Policies, New Slogan: None of It Saved the Military from a Recruiting Crisis in 2023

*Of the five Defense Department service branches, only two met their active-duty enlisted recruiting goals for fiscal 2023.*

The Navy stats: "For active-duty enlisted sailors, it reached 30,236 of its 37,700 goal, almost 20% short. It also recruited 2,080 officers, almost 18% short of its 2,532 officer goal. It also missed its reserve goals by a wide margin, hitting 3,000 enlisted reservists, or almost 45% short of the 5,390 it wanted. Reserve officers also fell short by 40% hitting 1,167 of the 1,940 goal."

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/13/big-bonuses-relaxed-policies-new-slogan-none-of-it-saved-military-recruiting-crisis-2023.html>

More Links on recruiting issues: [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#)

### Navy Fires Commander of Ballistic Missile Submarine over Loss of Confidence

The commanding officer of the USS Alabama sub's blue crew -- Cmdr. Michael Lyle -- was relieved by Rear Adm. Nicholas Tilbrook "due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command." [As of 31 October 10 Navy CO's of both sea and shore commands have been relieved.]

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/25/navy-fires-commander-of-ballistic-missile-submarine-over-loss-of-confidence.html>

### How New House Speaker Mike Johnson Voted on Veteran and Military Issues

The man who became speaker of the House on Wednesday after three weeks of GOP infighting has a solidly conservative voting record that includes opposing both the sweeping toxic exposure bill for veterans passed last year and the Pentagon's abortion policy.

On veterans issues, last year he voted against the [PACT Act](#), considered the biggest increase of veterans benefits. Johnson also voted against a year-end package of smaller veterans and military family measures last year.

He voted in favor of amendments to the NDAA and Pentagon spending bill that would have stripped Ukraine funding from the bills and against a stand-alone bill last month to provide Ukraine \$300 million.

More: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/25/no-pact-act-yes-defense-bills-new-house-speaker-mike-johnsons-voting-record-military-and-vets-issues.html>

### Navy releases list of 39 ships to decommission in FY-23 -

16 Aug 23—"Out of the 39 ships, 17 have been marked by either House or Senate committees to be saved in FY-23, according to a list released Friday. The plan will be adjusted based on "subsequent execution year decisions made by leadership or as required by final congressional action," the Navy states."

<https://insidedefense.com/insider/navy-releases-list-39-ships-decommission-fy-23>

### A ship that marked the first two years of service in August has been put on the US Navy's retirement wish list, the service's

ship newest inactivation schedule has revealed. The ship in question is the USS St. Louis (LCS 19), a Freedom-class littoral combat ship that will be one of nine ships in its class that the navy wants to retire in fiscal year 2023.

It should be noted that the service's plans are still contended, with the Senate Armed Services Committee blocking the inactivation of USS Sioux City (LCS 11), USS Wichita (LCS 13), USS Billings (LCS 15), USS Indianapolis (LCS 17), USS St. Louis (LCS 19), as well as Whidbey Island-class dock landing ships USS Germantown (LSD 42), USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44), USS Tortuga (LSD 46), USS Ashland (LSD 48), expeditionary transfer docks USNS Montford Point (T-ESD 1) and USNS John Glenn (T-ESD 2), and Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69).

<https://defbrief.com/2022/08/16/one-of-the-39-ships-on-the-us-navy-retirement-list-is-barely-2-years-old/>



### 2023 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION WAS 27 Aug—3 Sep in Tucson, AZ

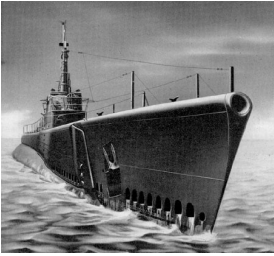
<https://www.ussvi.org/2023-ch?erid=187406>

**No one from Sabalo reported attending. If you did send the details.**

**2024 Convention Scheduled---in Cleveland** from 19-24 Aug, hosted by the Cod

Base. A Facebook website is now launching

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/codbaseussvi/>



## **THE OLD BOATS**

### **U.S. Submarine Production in WWII**

\_\_\_ excerpted fm <https://247wallst.com/investing/2023/08/26/this-was-the-most-used-american-submarine-in-wwii/>



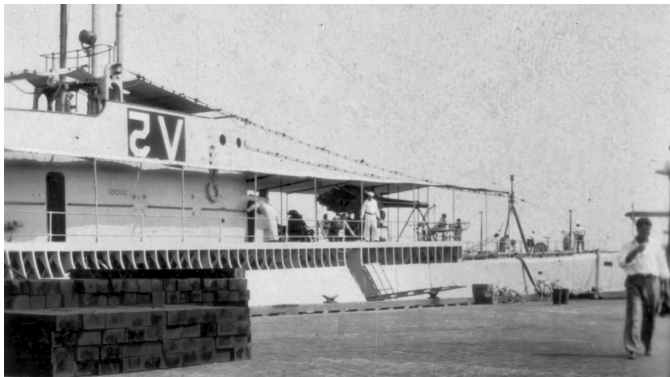
(USS Bowfin above)

The two most produced classes of submarines on this list are the Gato-class and the Balao-class.

The Gato-class submarines hold the distinction of being the first mass-produced wartime submarines. The U.S. produced a total of 77 Gato-class submarines, mostly after 1941. These diesel-electric submarines were designed for prolonged operations and were used for patrol, submerged attack, and fleet support. The Gato-class submarines helped in disrupting enemy supply lines in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans throughout the war. (Also see, [a battle with Japan during WWII was the largest in U.S. naval history.](#))

The Balao-class submarines sought to address some of the Gato-class shortcomings. Developed over the course of WWII, specifically between 1943 and 1945, the U.S. produced at least 120 Balao-class subs.

**Pics with data about the submarines of World War II. –  
In reverse order of number produced**

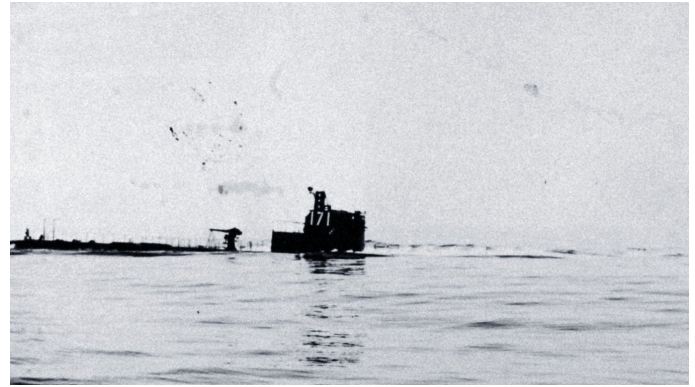


V-5 (Narwhal)-class | No. produced: 2

> Notable submarine(s): USS Narwhal (SS-167), USS Nautilus (SS-168) | entered service: 1930, No. of personnel: 89

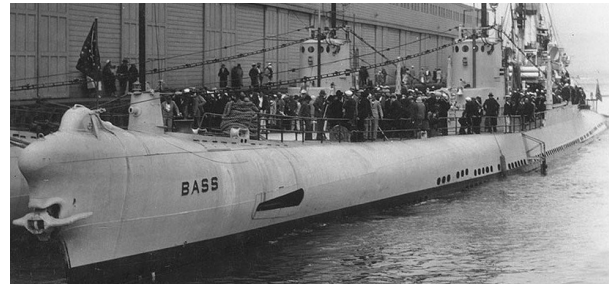
*[On the subject of why quals are tough:]*

"A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials." ....SENECA



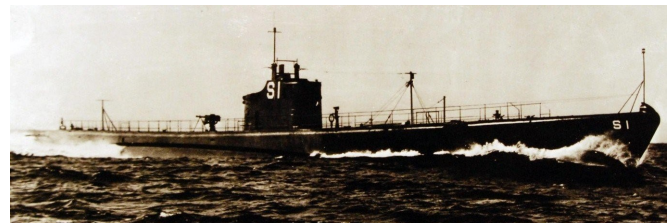
V-8 (Cachalot)-class | No. produced: 2

> Notable submarine(s): USS Cuttlefish (SS-171) - entered service: 1934 | No. of personnel: 48



Barracuda-class | No. produced: 3

> Notable submarine(s): USS Bass (SS-164) / (V2-2 (SF-5) | entered service: 1925 | No. of personnel: 88



Salmon-class | Number produced: 6

> Notable submarine(s): USS Salmon (SS-182) - Year entered service: 1938, No. of personnel: 59



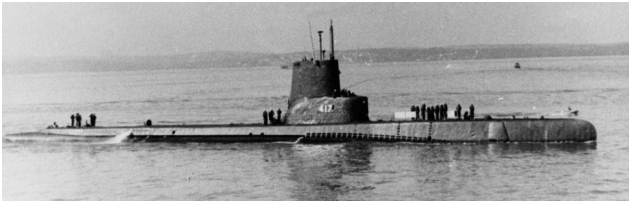
Porpoise-class | No. produced: 10

> Notable submarine(s): USS Porpoise (SS-172) | entered service: 1935 | No. of personnel: 56

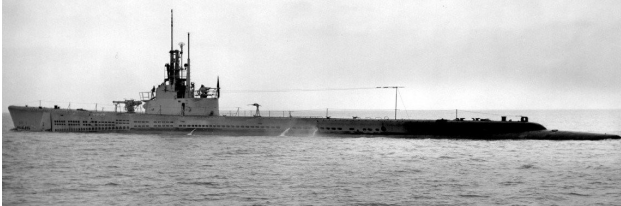
**"Remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for." ...EPICURUS**

Especially for those who have actually been 'under sail', or anyone who may feel the serenity of calm seas and smooth sailing: [The Soul of a Sailor – a song by Kenny Chesney](#) [clickable link]

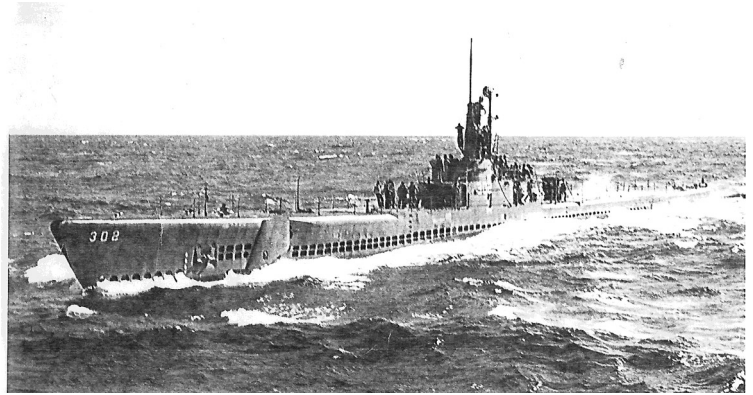
## **THE OLD BOATS—CONTINUED**



**Tench-class | No. produced: 29**  
 > **Notable submarine(s):** USS Tench (SS-417) entered service: 1944 | No. of personnel: 81



**Gato-class | Number produced: 77**  
 > **Notable submarine(s):** USS Gato (SS-212), USS Ray (SS-271), USS Cavalla (SS-244) > Gato entered service: 1941 | No. of personnel: 80



**Balao-class | No. produced: 120**  
 > **Notable submarine(s):** USS Bowfin (SS-287), USS Balao (SS-285), **MOST NOTABLE: USS SABALO (SS-302)**  
 > **YEAR SABALO ENTERED SERVICE: 1945 | NO. OF PERSONNEL: 80**

### **ON THE SUBJECT OF—BEEN THERE—DONE THAT [ed.]**

Recently, one of the local TV stations asked me during a televised news item to comment on submarine safety in relation to the events of the sinking of the mini-sub Titan.

One of the comments I made when asked was about what life underwater in subs was like. I was immediately reminded of something told to me by Ed Heisterman early on Sabalo while qualifying in the forward engine room. **“Hours & hours of boredom, interrupted by five seconds of sheer terror.”**

Ed responded: “Yes I remember saying that. I originally formed that opinion when watching “Das Boot”. Watching the movie made me think back to when we were running submerged in the Gulf -bored, bored, bored - then WHAM WHAM! A Navy fighter bomber jettisoned two bombs, one to port and one to starboard (someone told me, can’t remember who). Cork popped from the pressure hull, light bulbs broke, etc. Cleaned up the mess ,then back to bored, bored, bored. **“Das Boot”** did a great job showing that angle of submarine life. “



### **The Search Continues**

#### **– Editor’s Notes**

While a lot of current activity is about keeping up with those not heard from in a while, some other, more limited efforts continue to locate the about 230 men on the rosters that remain not found.

It now seems to be the situation, that the result of their death now becomes an internet presence as data becomes more and more digitized for reference. Four cases of this recently are John Huskey, Armando Blanco, Wilbert Novitsky and Samuel Christian, who's data appears on the Eternal Patrol list.

On the better side of the search, the whereabouts of two shipmates from my time aboard recently responded to search efforts, and have been added to the mailing list. **Jeffery Fletcher ETN2(SS) Mar68-Jan69** now living in Ridley Park, PA. Also **Gerry McDonald YN2(SS) Aug68-2q69**, now living in San Diego is newly found, and for whom more is needed about his time aboard and Navy career.

\* Along with this issue of Clever Boy, there is one final effort to gain contact with some stragglers and never located men. Many post cards and sample newsletters of past issues are going out in the next couple weeks.





## Movie Night in the After Battery

**OPERATION MINCEMEAT** Two British intelligence officers hatch an outlandish scheme to trick the Nazis about the invasion of Sicily and alter the course of World War II. Based on a true story of deception.

It is based upon [Ben Macintyre's](#) book on the British [Operation Mincemeat](#) during the [Second World War](#).

(released in USA May 2022) 2 hr 7 min Available on Netflix [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Mincemeat\\_%28film%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Mincemeat_%28film%29)

[I watched this and found the suspense and intrigue really good. ★★★★★—ed.]

See also: [The Man Who Never Was](#), 1956 film based on [Ewen Montagu's book](#) of the same name about Operation Mincemeat

**Operation Pacific** 1951- In the South Pacific, submarine XO Duke Gifford (John Wayne) and the crew of the "Thunderfish" are attacked by the Japanese during a rescue mission, and their torpedoes malfunction. When on shore, he is eager to win back his ex-wife (Patricia Neal). Full plot summary: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Pacific)

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKu1UDjGpzY> Avail on many platforms—google it; also in 2 parts on YouTube

**Battle Stations** 1956 — The crew of a U.S. Navy ship in WW II goes into battle against the Japanese fleet. A rebuilt WWII carrier (Essex Class) sails back to the Pacific theater to rejoin the war in early 1945, a carrier the Japanese think they sank. So if she shows up again, they will go after her with a vengeance. And they do, nearly destroying her again, ending that mission for her, but she is able to limp back to the states. The captain is tough, he knows the added risk for his ship, but shows he also has a heart by not relieving a pilot of flight duty, one who committed a serious mistake by not taking a wave-off as instructed. Lot of action shots, many appearing to be actual war footage. The usual character sub-stories. Partly plays like a documentary about the navy, and the carrier in particular. Starring Wm. Bendix, Richard Boone, Claude Aikins =This is a post WWII propagandist style flick with dialog promoting Naval might and the successes during the war.

Maybe a bit of a recruiting film also. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFWxnxiwsY> 1hr 20min

This movie took inspiration from the 1944 [documentary film The Fighting Lady](#). Watch it also on YouTube

**FEEDBACK PLEASE**—Although many readers express appreciation for the newsletter, and some say they read every page, I receive very little feedback about the actual content of each issue.

Do you watch the movies? Does info about the VA help? What are the favorite columns? Is data and information about other navies useful? In general, a few notes from you guys would help choose more of various subjects



### *Surfin' Submariner*

#### ***WTF is a nautical mile?***

#### **Quartermasters & Navigators: Take note - a test will follow**

It is probably known by all that a 'statute' mile is 5,280 feet, and a 'nautical' mile is 6,000 feet. **But why is that?**

Nautical miles, and their related speed measurement—'knots - nautical miles per hour', are so deeply entrenched in worldwide marine and aviation use, they easily survived the conversion to the metric system.

A nautical mile is 1/60°. aka: an arcminute. As navigation is in degrees by astro observation, (astrolabe and sextant), and degrees of latitude, longitude and great circles are cited in sexagesimal divisions of degrees, the arcminute was about the smallest angle that could be typically measured. And the arcminute - an angle - was essentially renamed nautical mile.

This video is really a history of navigation that explains why the nautical mile is the standard for both maritime and aviation navigation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=CF5USQdV1wI>

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

#### **The Tragic Story Behind A Perfectly Preserved WW2 U-Boat Wreck**

In 2005, the wreck of German U-Boat **U-455** was discovered in the Ligurian sea, just off the coast of Italy. The wreck was in almost perfect condition, leading researchers to question why this wreck was here in the first place. This documentary follows the amazing story behind how this U-Boat met it's tragic end. 52 min.

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mngwJh\\_hS2k](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mngwJh_hS2k) [Did I previously feature something about this boat? - ed.]

## → **What the foreign Navies are doing**

### **This Chemical Killed 118 Men...**

The complete story of the loss of KURSK. Included is information about notes the trapped crewman wrote while waiting for oxygen to run out. A new fact uncovered is that it wasn't just the torpedo explosion, but also that a scrubber canister caused a flash fire and consumed the O2.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=OMgPOueYvfA>

*[The lack of training will boggle your mind. —ed.]*

### **Did China Really Lose a Nuclear Submarine?**

23 Oct 2023 - Reports have circulated saying a Chinese submarine crashed in the Yellow Sea on Aug. 21 with the loss of all 55 aboard. Citing "a secret UK report," it identified the vessel as a type 093, dubbed by NATO a "Shang class" submarine.

*Military authorities privately say it's fake news.*

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/13/did-china-really-lose-nuclear-submarine.html>

Original story: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12589429/chinese-sailors-trap-yellow-sea.html>

### **"Israel Just Revealed A Dangerous Nuclear Submarine"**

*[Bogus headline by ignorant news media. -ed.]*

Sub is the INS Drakon, built in Germany and launched in 2017. It is still undergoing fit out and sea trials. The Drakon is a Dolphin Class batch - 2 Submarine; no different to the two other batch -2s in their fleet. The IN has three older Dolphin Class batch 1s totaling 5 active subs plus the Drakon, none of which are nuclear powered. [They do have the capability to carry Tomahawk cruise missiles which can have nuclear warheads. Video does have a clear explanation of this, and all of Israel's submarine fleet. - ed.]

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1jLQI6ELL-8>

### **Taiwan's 1st Submarine**

Taiwan just launched its 1st locally built submarine, the Hai Kun or Narwhale class.

Their sub fleet has three boats. One is an old Tench Class. In the 80's Taiwan bought 2 Zwaardvis-class submarines from the Netherlands. When Taiwan wanted a follow up purchase of 2 more Dutch submarines, the Netherlands (under heavy pressure from the PRC) sadly refused. The operational status of these 3 is not known conclusively.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfTaNIPb2Z8>

### **3 South Africa Navy Personnel Die After They Are Swept Off a Submarine Deck During Supply Operation** - 21 Sep 2023

Three South African navy personnel from the SAS Manthatisi died and a senior officer was in critical condition after seven crew members of a submarine were swept off its deck by big waves.

The accident happened as an Air Force Lynx helicopter was attempting what's known as a "vertrep" — or vertical replenishment — on surface off the coast of Cape Town, the S.A. D.O.D. said.

All seven submariners were recovered, but three were pronounced dead. A crew member from the helicopter who was dispatched as a "surface swimmer" to assist in the rescue operation was also recovered and is in the hospital alongside the four surviving submariners.

The SAS Manthatisi is one of three German-built Type 209/1400 Heroine-class submarines in the South African navy fleet and had returned to the water earlier this year after undergoing maintenance work.

### **UK is Building The New Submarine that is Totally Different than any Other Subs on Earth**

HMS Dreadnought & HMS Valiant, and 2 others in the class, are under construction, and are claimed they will be the most stealthy submarines ever built in the world. They will be 504 ft long and have a crew of 100.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=QG8MZo-JvIk>

### **Borei - the new Russian strategic submarine**

Project 955 Borei was initiated back in the 1990s for the future replacement of the Delta IV and Typhoon submarines. Despite many problems and serious delays, the project entered the implementation stage and gave the Russian fleet a new generation of strategic submarines equipped with all modern equipment and weapons. Borei's main weapon is 16 SS-N-32 Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

There are now 6 Borei in service: 3 early Borei and 2 updated versions of Borei-A. A total of 10 submarines are scheduled to be delivered, which will become the main strategic carriers of sea-based nuclear weapons in Russia for the coming decades.

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5xi\\_C86muNA&pp=QAFIAQ%3D%3D](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5xi_C86muNA&pp=QAFIAQ%3D%3D)

### **"Russian Nuclear Submarine Generalissimus Suvorov Leads the World"**

The Generalissimus Suvorov is the 6th Borei-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (Project 955A). The submarine was named after Alexander Suvorov.

The sub was commissioned 29 Dec 2022, and will be stationed at its permanent base in the Kamchatka Peninsula as of August 2023 as Moscow is trying to step up its military presence in the Pacific. Generalissimo Suvorov, which entered service at the end of 2022, can carry up to 16 nuclear-tipped Russian Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles. She is 557 ft long and has a complement of 130.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=U7c9vHfxUF8>

**The former chief of Australia's navy is under fire** after it was confirmed he used an at-sea submarine as the location for proposing to his girlfriend. The incident happened last year, just before Vice Adm. Michael Noonan retired from the service, but members of Australia's government are criticizing the decision to bring a civilian onboard for personal reasons.

*[I'm thinking this is a 'tempest in a tea pot'. Me thinks he pissed off somebody for another reason. —ed.]*

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/australian-naval-chief-submarine-proposal/>

## 988 Veterans Crisis Line

988, this three-digit number is used to access both the National Suicide Hotline and Veterans Crisis Line. Veterans can also call the Veterans Crisis Line directly, at 877-267-6030, or call any VA facility and press 7 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line. VCL text messaging (838255) and Live Chat are also available.

## VETERAN'S DISCOUNTS

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

More links: [North Face](#); [Outback](#); [HomeDepot](#) & 16 Companies with Military Discounts on Mattresses

<https://www.military.com/discounts/companies-offer-sweet-military-discounts-mattresses.html>



## VA NEWS



Vet Resources e-newsletter—Subscribe <https://news.va.gov/vetresources/>

[Veterans Integrated Services Networks \(VISNs\) - VA—Main Pg](#)

**ABOUT VA HEALTHCARE-VISN 4**—<https://www.visn4.va.gov/VISN4/about/index.asp>

VA Healthcare—VISN 4 is a fully integrated network of 9 VA campuses, 44 outpatient clinics, 1 mobile clinic, and 17 vet centers covering 83 counties in Pennsylvania and Delaware and parts of Ohio, West Virginia, New York and New Jersey.

In fiscal year 2021, VISN 4 served 319,939 Veterans from across the Nation. With an operating budget of more than \$2.9 billion and a staff of 16,072, VISN 4 is working hard to transform toward personalized, proactive, patient-driven health care.

**APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE- Apply now!** & [another link to MAP of the 21 coverage areas](#)

**Veterans Burial Allowance Benefits Explained**

<https://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/burial-allowance.html>

**Talk with a VA nurse!** If you have questions about your medications or need to schedule or change an appointment, call the main number of your local VA medical center and then:

Press #1 for pharmacy services (7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET every day)

Press #2 for scheduling & administration (available 24/7)

Press #3 to speak to a nurse (available 24/7); tele emergency care/urgent care providers are available 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET every day

**VA DISABILITY CLAIMS BACKLOG STATS**— During 2022, the VA processed more than 1.7 million disability compensation and pension claims. As of early August 2023, the number of pending claims totaled 1,043,961 -- with 274,148 considered to be "backlogged," or older than 125 days.

**1 in 3 PACT Act Claims Have Received a 0% Disability Rating, Prompting a VA Review** -21 Sep 2023

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/21/va-reviews-ratings-schedule-after-high-number-of-0-disability-awards-under-pact-act.html>

⇒ [Check the status of a disability claim you have filed](#)

⇒ [VietNam-era deck logs](#)

## Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 & PACT Act of 2022

**Pact Act applicable to** "Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976," ***There's no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits.***

<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

[https://www.va.gov/Blue\\_Water\\_Navy\\_FAQs.pdf](https://www.va.gov/Blue_Water_Navy_FAQs.pdf)

**Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange Exposure**

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/blue-water-veterans.asp>

**MAILBAG**

[rank/rating as aboard, may have diff later]

PC recd fm **Jim Adams ENFN-3(SS) Aug63-Jul64** "Out of retirement & back to work. [new eml add—ck web site roster]"

Eml recd from newly located **Jeffery Fletcher ETR2(SS) Mar68-Jan69** now living in Ridley Park, PA  
So sorry to hear about Joe Lyons. Thanks for the information regarding him and putting together the website. I hope all is well with you.

Eml recd 14 Jul 2023 Hi Jeff,  
I guess it's about time to respond to your request for information regarding my service on the SS302.  
First of all, I want to commend you on your tenacity in researching the various crew members of the Sabalo. Yes, I was on the Sabalo for a period of two years from 65 to 67. Started out as a fireman wound up **CS3(SS)**. Many sea stories I could tell and will later. Right now I'm preparing for a two month long trip. It may be during that trip. I can send you some more information but yes, I'm alive well and full of good memories of the USS Sabalo. **Larry Gille CS3 (SS) Mar65-1q67**

Eml recd \* Jul 2023 Mr. Owens,  
**Randall (Randy) Paul Hawk SK3(SS) Jul66-2q68** sunset July 5th, 2023. I would forward the newsletter to him and he'd read it stem to stern. Thank you for all that you do, (dau)Casey Hawk

Eml recd 3Aug23- Jeff, Thanks for looking out for all of us.. The Navy made a decision that all personal with 6 months or less has to be discharged. They had run out of money for the war and had to make cuts. This was just before the boat was to leave for WesPac. I was sent to the processing center that was swamped. I had to scramble to find a job to provide for my new pregnant wife. I was looking forward to the cruise but life sometimes makes a sharp turn. Thanks again, **Frank Miller EM2(SS) Jun68-Oct68**

Eml recd 4Aug23-Hi Jeff, I have not opened one of your e mails to me for quite a while, as I was receiving dozens of e mails "from your name" but not from your e mail address, so I knew these were bogus and probably full of malware. Anyway, this is all new to me. You have given the mortality rate of those on the Sabalo for the 67-68 westpac cruise but does it appear that the cruise in 1962 has experienced higher than normal mortality. As I recall in 1962 we did stop for a week or so in Guam, and also a little longer than that in Bangkok. I remember us cruising up a rather narrow river for a long time when we headed for Bangkok. Considering that was over 60 years ago, and I was 19 yrs. old, I would think there are probably only a handful of us still living. I will be 80 years old in a few weeks, and even though I have had heart disease.....A-Fib. as well as cancer....Prostate (removed). I am not sure what, if anything could be achieved by mailing in a "intent to file report." Wife, and I are still reasonably active, with typical old age ailments. Am I missing something? **Monroe "Tim" Williams Jr. SN/SS Oct61-Sep63**

Eml recd 4Aug23— I was on the Sabalo for the 1970 West Pac but I am now 79 and do not have any medical problems. Just lucky I guess. Thank you for the information. I am fortunate. I went to work for a power company. I have good insurance and do not have to deal with the VA. We were made big promises but the medical care is just not there for all vets. **Daniel Gross EM1(SS) Feb70-Apr71**

*My reply: Continued best wishes for good health as long as you can. Replies are beginning to come in from those who haven't had such luck. And likewise a few I've corresponded with in the past have already passed on, some making futile attempts for care and benefits from the VA. —ed.*

Eml recd 4Aug23— Thank you Jeff for the excellent info for vets like us. Bottom line is not to get discouraged by the VA claim denials and keep filing with any information such as the info you provided. I served in Vietnam as a Naval advisor and still had my share of denials, so file anything that comes close to service connection even it's not in the military service record. Regards, **Apolinario "Ray" Reyes EN1(SS) Oct65-Jul67**

Eml recd 9Aug23 fm **Dieter Dauber RM3(SS) Oct61-Feb62**—He and Linda have moved to Simpsonville, SC

Eml recd 9Aug23—**Chuck Neinas S1c(SS) Jul53-Nov53** checks in -"Difficult to believe I was on the Sabalo in 1951-2," [Chuck was actually qualified on the Tilefish in 1952, so the memory has slipped, but he's 91, so that's a great thing to reach that age.-ed.]

### **T.I.N.B.S. - WAR IS HELL -- TALES FROM YANKEE STATION**

**HOT AS HELL** (not quite) Every time I think of complaining about "hot", I remember that time in Tonkin when the aft half of the boat's a/c was o.o.c., 95 deg at night in the boat with 105+ daytime, and humidity probably 99%. (You lucky one's in officer berthing & the forward torpedo room probably had no idea. For those who don't remember there were two systems, one forward & one aft.)

I remember one of the electricians telling me the story: They had removed the armature of the motor and taken it to the shop in Subic. The thing was heavy and required a hand truck to bring it in. The check in was a metal stand-up desk (I was also at the place a couple times myself). The armature was left on the floor a few feet away, and the check in person put a big red tag on it. He told the guys who brought it, that it would be worked on immediately, and then flown out to us on station and delivered by helio. During our time on station a number of messages were sent and the return was that it was being given top priority,

Well, it didn't come, and when we got back to Subic, some of the electricians ( I was with them for some reason I can't remember) went to the shop, and there was the armature in the exact place where it had been left. No one there could offer explanation of why it was not even moved, or why it was ignored.

## 📞 RECENT TELCONS (

**Correction** Re: **Don Nelson** is getting 70% disability for multiple conditions. — Although he has filed for additional considerations, his current level is 10% for hearing loss.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telcon ~1 Nov 23 fm **Bob Hudson EN2(SS)** in 302 Feb70-Mar71 — Bob had asked about contact info for one of his chiefs on the boat. I gave him contact info for **ENC(SS) Ray McClure**, who lives in Woolwich, Maine. He got to calling him on 6 Nov and they talked for “a while”. They had a great conversation. Bringing together old shipmates is what it’s about. and Bob said it was a long conversation about the Sabalo and the Navy. Bob retired in 1988 as ENCM .

Another EN chief I forgot to mention to him is **Tomas Antonio**. Tom was in 302 Mar70-May71 and retired in 1973—ENC(SS), Tom (92 yrs old) lives in the San Diego area (USSVI member) and because he wasn’t located early enough, missed our reunions there.

**TO ALL SABALO VETS:  
 WHY DON'T YOU TRY CONTACTING SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO IN YEARS. It's great food for the soul. [Call me for contact info for your shipmate-ed.]**

**VA Suggests "Buddy Check"**

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/13/va-asks-veterans-call-10-vet-friends-national-buddy-check-week-starting-monday.html>

Here’s how it works:

>Ken Burtner sent eml to Frank Redford,

Isn't it amazing we're still kicking. 1959 - 1963 and Hawaii and the little yeoman shack for the two of us. You, a seasoned yeoman and me, green behind the gills startup. My papers say I exited a YN3(SS) but I passed the YN2 test before I left the reserves. What are you up to these days? I'd be interested in hearing, if you have time.

> I asked - Ken-Did you ever get to speak with Frank? Jeff - I did and we had a interesting phone call.

Thanks for asking. Ken

& this from Frank: Jeff, Tip of the hat for your efforts, time be "darned!"

☞ **DO IT TODAY !!**

**BINNACLE LIST** ☞ *Send your health reports so shipmates can know how you're doing.*

Eml fm **Pat Byers EN3(SS) '68-70** 17 Mar 23 I sure do remember [Ernie Larry Hall]. Sorry to see shipmates starting to pass, I myself am under going Chemo so one never really knows, I am hopeful. it is what it is. My condolences to the Hall family. He sure was a nice guy and great shipmate.

[Re medical problems] I have not consulted with VA. I drew a unique cancer a one in a million , it's called Angio Sarcoma. Very rare and aggressive. No idea how I got it, I have had excellent health my whole life until whenever this developed. They think they got it in time, last MRI says it didn't spread but it's at the very corner and under my right eye. The Chemo treatments have shrank it a lot, but the staff at Huntsville Cancer Center out of Salt Lake think Surgery is now the best chance. I had one already and removed what they could up to the eye. It's a complicated surgery but I have confidence in surgeon. You said you believe yours was due to Ancient Orange but I don't remember me being exposed to that. Hope your cancers are gone for good, only us Cancer patience can fully understand what it fully means to have the big C.

\* \* \*

**New Boots and a New Winter Parka Part of Latest Uniform Tweaks for Sailors**

"I-Boot 5" is an updated and improved version of the Navy's current utility boot -- the I-Boot 4. the black, leather safety boots have been a staple of sailors' uniforms since the Navy rolled out the original, blue Navy working uniform in 2009.

Also, the Navy is working on an improved black fleece liner - a garment that sailors either wear by itself or underneath the Type III parka.

There were also several updates on efforts to make women's uniforms fit more comfortably. An improved maternity service dress blue coat was supposed to be released in the summer of 2023, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/21/new-boots-and-new-winter-parka-part-of-latest-uniform-tweaks-sailors.html>

I thought I didn't have anything for the "Reader's Puka", then I found this— [Learn how to serve S.O.S. to all your friends \[ed.\]](#):

**SUBMARINE CUISINE** by Edward Monroe-Jones (Author), Robert Brown (Contributor) - publ by Submarine Research Center - Bangor, WA May 21, 2020

"*Submarine Cuisine*" is a fascinating collection of genuine recipes from the galleys of the subs of the US Navy. For submariners facing long dangerous patrols in crowded conditions, mealtimes are one of their few pleasures, and US Navy submarines enjoy the reputation of serving the best food in the fleet! These authentic recipes have been contributed by veteran submariners whose service experiences range from World War Two 'pig boats' to patrols on modern day ballistic missile submarines. To assist the home cook, these recipes have been adjusted for smaller quantities, so you won't have to cook for a boatload of hungry submariners - unless you want to! Along with delicious recipes, "Submarine Cuisine" features fascinating stories of what it's really like to be a member of the 'Silent Service'. This book will provide hours of enjoyment to both the adventurous home chef and the naval buff. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will be donated to the USO.

Available on Amazon: [Kindle \\$6.19 or Paperback \\$10.99](#)



## **ON THE SUBJECT OF WOKE B.S. —**

### **The Rise of Wokeness in the Military**

“Complaints by veteran soldiers about younger generations who lack discipline and traditional values are as old as war itself. Grizzled veterans in the Greek phalanx, Roman legions, and Napoleon’s elite corps all believed that the failings of the young would be the ruin of their armies. This is not the chief worry of grizzled American veterans today. The largest threat they see by far to our current military is the weakening of its fabric by radical progressive (or “woke”) policies being imposed, not by a rising generation of slackers, but by the very leaders charged with ensuring their readiness.”

<https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/the-rise-of-wokeness-in-the-military/>

\* \* \*

“Recruiting woes are dogging much of the military. This year, the Army missed its recruitment goal by 10,000, while the Navy fell short by 7,000—continuing a trend from the past year.”

“While many conservatives have blamed this on the Pentagon’s “woke” policies, the Defense Department has officially pointed to other reasons,

#### **Today's Military Pay**

Check the 2023 chart for yourself: (SEE *Headline News for 2024 rates*)

<https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/charts>

Example: E-5 with 4 years = \$3199/mo. --that is roughly \$20 per hour based on a 40 hour work week.

There is a current problem with meeting recruitment needs in all branches.

The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25, but 21 states have a higher minimum. In California it's \$15.50/hr; set to increase to \$16.00 on 1 Jan 2024. A few states are even higher. And overtime is 1.5 times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 8 per day and 40 per week.

If a person in California works 60 hours in a week (likely equivalent to a Navy sailor) they would make 35% more than the E-4 above.

So a skilled person with 4 yrs experience has a worth to the government less than a minimally skilled person. Who's creating the problem?

Without extensive deduction it is easy to see why recruiting goals based on income potential certainly work negatively.

including competition with corporate America, a “disconnected” American youth, and the pandemic.” ...*Epoch Times*

#### **The Last Skirt Mandate in Marine Corps Has Been Nixed After Female Troops Advocated for Change—22 Sep 2023**

The Marine Corps published an update to its uniform regulations that will allow female staff sergeants and above to wear high-waisted evening dress slacks as an alternative to long or knee-length skirts. The change was made ahead of the Marine Corps birthday season in which formal occasions are plenty. Junior enlisted and company-grade officers have been authorized the dress blue slack option for years,

#### **Should Transgender Men Register for the Draft? Lawmaker Says Yes 'If They Want to Be Treated Like Men'**

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/07/should-transgender-men-register-draft-lawmaker-says-yes-if-they-want-be-treated-men.html>

#### ***WHAT IS “WOKE” AND HOW DID IT ORIGINATE?***

18 minutes of how it happened, was invoked and has had effect!

<https://www.prageru.com/video/unwoke>



## SHIP'S STORE

### **Sabalo Patch**

\$ 11 includes 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail



**Battle Flag Posters—**  
**REDUCED PRICE \$20** includes shipping (16 1/2" x 21" fits std 16x20 frame) - *a number of you guys asked for these and never responded, so I am just trying to get back some of the money I spent to get them!*

— [https://usssabalo.org/Ship's\\_Store.html](https://usssabalo.org/Ship's_Store.html) See web site for current items available. If you are looking for something specific, not on the web site, please contact me.



### **Bali Hai [A lot of hands on 'research' made this article possible]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vur1rBxGP6I> click the link and let music play while you read

**THE MUSIC** -Imagine Sabalo pushing through clear blue waters, adventure just over the horizon. Watch the Musical South Pacific (real men don't go to musicals). Brings back memories - link for full length viewing | [Instrumental Version](#) | [ORIGINAL VERSION](#) | [1958 MOVIE VERSION](#) |

"Bali Ha'i" (fm Wikipedia), also spelled "Bali Hai", is a [show tune](#) from the 1949 [Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific](#). The name refers to a mystical island, visible on the horizon but not reachable, and was originally inspired by the sight of [Ambae](#) island from neighboring [Espiritu Santo](#) in [Vanuatu](#), where author [James Michener](#) was stationed in [World War II](#). Bali Ha'i" was based on the real island of [Ambae](#) (formerly [Aoba Island](#)). Ambae is located in [Vanuatu](#) (known as [New Hebrides](#) at the time the song was written) MUSIC: Just a few of the many versions: [Perry Como](#) | [Peggy Lee](#) | [Instrumental](#) | [Instrumental2](#) | [SouthPacificMovieVersion](#)

Several commentators have noted that the opening melody of "Bali Ha'i" bears a resemblance to the "bride motif" in [Franz Waxman's](#) musical score for the 1935 film [Bride of Frankenstein](#). The two melodies share an identical three-note pattern **Music – let it play for the three notes** [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=bride+of+frankenstein+soundtrack](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=bride+of+frankenstein+soundtrack)

**THE DRINK** -Never had one, but bought the ingredients (**come on over and I'll mix one up for you – really – seriously**)

*\*I did drink some [Bali Hai wine](#) in my college time, post Sabalo. It was cheap and sweet, thus popular in the mid-sixties to early 70's. Haven't seen a bottle empty or full since, on the internet or otherwise, We used to mix it with a cheap bourbon called [Ten High](#) to boost the "flavor".*

**Mr. Bali Hai** is a [tiki drink](#) served in a special mug at the Bali Hai restaurant on [Shelter Island](#) in San Diego, California.. The drink has had different recipes over the years, but a prominent version from the 1970s calls for 1 1/2 oz of dark Jamaican rum, 1 oz light Puerto Rican rum, 3/4 oz coffee flavored brandy, 1 1/2 oz unsweetened pineapple juice, 1 oz lemon juice, and 1/2 oz of sugar syrup.. The [mug](#) has the same name as the drink, Mr. Bali Hai, and comes in the shape of a headhunter's head with a removable lid

**Variations:** I like to include some recipes in the CB for nostalgia and because they taste good. Here's more on how to make [Bali Ha'i—ed](#).

(Wikipedia) Although the Mr. Bali Hai cocktail is synonymous with the Bali Hai restaurant, the drink is still served at other tiki establishments where it retains its noted coffee flavored profile.

Because coffee flavored brandy can be harder to find, when made at home the drink is often crafted instead with more common rum-based coffee liquors, such as [Tia Maria](#) or [Kahlúa](#).

A newer version being served at the Bali Hai uses blackberry brandy instead of coffee brandy. The new flavors as first described on a 2007 menu include: pineapple juice, sweet & sour, blackberry, Ron Rico light rum, and Lemon Hart 151 proof rum.

**CHEERS !!**

[a lot of clickable links in this article]

On Eternal Patrol



SAILORS  
REST YOUR OAR



**Blanco, Armando**, d.27 Apr 1999, ag 61, El Paso, TX, was EM3(SS), was TAD in 302 Mar59-May59 ; later EM2 (SS); Bur. Fort Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, TX

**Burnett, Victor Allan**, d. 12 Aug 2016, Lewistown, MT, Qual on Queenfish 393; was IC1(SS) in 302 ?71; later ICC (SS); Ret., 1975. Bur. Montana State Veterans Cemetery

**Callaway, Donald Wayne**, d. 28 Apr 2005, ag 57, Bronx, NY, h.t. Ashdown, AR, was YN3(SS) in 302 Sep66-Jul68; later YN2(SS)

**Christian, Samuel Lawrence**, d.23 Sep 2002, ag 60, San Diego, CA, was EM2(SS) in 302 Jul64-Sep65; later EMCS(SS), Ret., also in Razorback; Bur. Holy Cross Cem., San Diego

**Cofer, Horace Gorrell**, d.6 Nov 2022, ag 84, Kerrville, TX, was LTjg in 302 Jan61-Sep63  
Obit w/pic: <https://www.kerrvillefuneralhometx.com/obituaries/horace-sonny-cofer-2022>

**Escalante, Daniel Arthur**, d. 21 Sep 2019, Denver, CO, ag 88, was ENFN in 302 Apr54-May55; TRF to Coucal ASR-6; Bur. Ft. Logan Nat'l Cem.

**Hart, Gary Fadden**, d. 16 Jan 2020, ag 77, Chapala, Mexico, was EMFN(SS) in 302 Nov61-Jun62; later CWO4, Ret. '80  
Obit: <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000343284/>

**Hawk , Randall (Randy) Paul**, d. 5 Jul 2023, Mesa, AZ, was SK3(SS) in 302 Jul66-2q68

**Huskey, John Robert**, d. 15 Nov 2023, ag 82, Vidalia, GA, was MM1(SS) in 302 Aug 63-Dec69; later CWO2, Ret. Aug'80  
Obit w/pic: [http://southeastgeorgiatoday.com/index.php?Itemid=101&catid=13%3Aobituaries&id=96601%3Aamr-john-robert-huskey-usnr-vidalia&option=com\\_content&view=article](http://southeastgeorgiatoday.com/index.php?Itemid=101&catid=13%3Aobituaries&id=96601%3Aamr-john-robert-huskey-usnr-vidalia&option=com_content&view=article)

**Labrador, Danny Dela Cruz, Sr.**, d. 2 Jan 2021, San Jose, CA, ag 95, was SD2(SS) in 302 Sep53-1q54; later CPO, Ret. 25 yrs service ; also in SS-565 +?  
Obit w/pic: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/san-jose-ca/danny-labrador-9990691&ved=2ahUKewjX-pS54YmCAxU6JDQIHbbYDu0QFnoECAkQAg&usq=AOvVaw0n2Q41kGwv41Ri03u68sN5>

**Novitsky, Wilbert Michael**, d. 15 Nov 57, ag 23 (brain hemorrhage), Yokosuka, Japan, was PH3\* in 302 for northern cruise of Nov54-Jan55. \*Photographers Mate

**Power, Stacy Barton**, d. 23 Sep 2022, ag 95, Charleston, SC, was CSC(SS) in 302 Oct56-Aug58, & also May59 –Aug59 as COB; later CSCM(SS), Ret. 29 Jul 1969; earlier was WWII vet serving on LSM's and CV-45; post war was cook on President's Truman's yacht AGC-369; also was in SS-525, SS-351, SSBN-625  
Obit: <https://obits.postandcourier.com/us/obituaries/charleston/name/stacy-power-obituary?id=36603604>

**Robisch, Herbert Eugene**, d. 15 May 2023, ag 95, Medford, OR, was LT in 302 Sep58-May61; was Ops & XO in 302; later CO of Bluegill SS-342 1963-65; later CAPT, Ret. 30 Oct 1974

**Williams, William Franklin "Willie"** d. 3 Jul 2023. ag 87, Waterford, CT, was LT on 302 Dec68-Dec70, later LCDR Ret. w/22 yrs, was ENC before commission, also in 490, 426,603, AS-9, &made the round the world trip of the Trton.  
Obit w/pic: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/theday/name/william-williams-obituary?id=52395227>



A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know will never sit in.  
... ancient Greek proverb





## WANT TO BE CALLED “MISTER SUBWAY ...”?

"**Subway** is looking for its biggest fan, and there's no better way to prove your fandom than a legal name change. All one has to do is visit [SubwayNameChange.com](http://SubwayNameChange.com) between now and 11:59 p.m. on August 4 to enter the contest. You'll be asked to enter your full name, birthdate and email address. The promotion is free to enter, on the condition that you agree to legally change your first name to "Subway."

<https://www.military.com/off-duty/offbeat-news/2023/08/01/military-members-can-avoid-dfac-forever-changing-their-name-subway.html>

## NAUTICAL TERMINOLOGY —

It has been noted that the [U.S. Navy Style Guide](#) indicates, "a Sailor is stationed "on," "at," "is serving with" or "is assigned to" a ship. A Sailor does not serve "in" a ship."

However, **it is old custom to say a sailor served "IN" a ship.** This is the way I learned it while in English class at the NY State Maritime College way back in 1961, and I will continue to try to maintain that custom.. I do slip up from time to time. —ed.

Here's one site that agrees with me: [https://www.answers.com/Q/Do\\_you\\_serve\\_in\\_a\\_ship\\_or\\_on\\_a\\_ship](https://www.answers.com/Q/Do_you_serve_in_a_ship_or_on_a_ship)

## ❑ ❑ Something wrong or missing on your DD-214? ❑ ❑

If you believe an error or injustice exists in your military record, you may complete and submit a DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record. Website: **Request Correction of Military Records**

<https://www.defense.gov/Contact/Help-Center/Article/Article/2742476/request-correction-of-military-records/>

The Navy accepts applications via email. These methods are preferred and will streamline your application process and allow for timelier responses. You may also mail your completed application and any supporting evidence to the appropriate address on page 3 of the DD Form 149 but be sure to first check the website below to find the full & most up-to-date instructions and information

**Board for Correction of Naval Records** <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/bcncr/Pages/default.aspx>

**ANOTHER CLOSE CALL—** Earl Meggison checked in 29Jun23 (age - 81, ETN3(SS) Apr60-Aug62) -I wanted you to know the "Sabalo Newsletter" was excellent and I "recirculated" it to Fla's "Tang Base", Sub Vets, in St. Petersburg/Tampa, FL. Where It received great reviews!

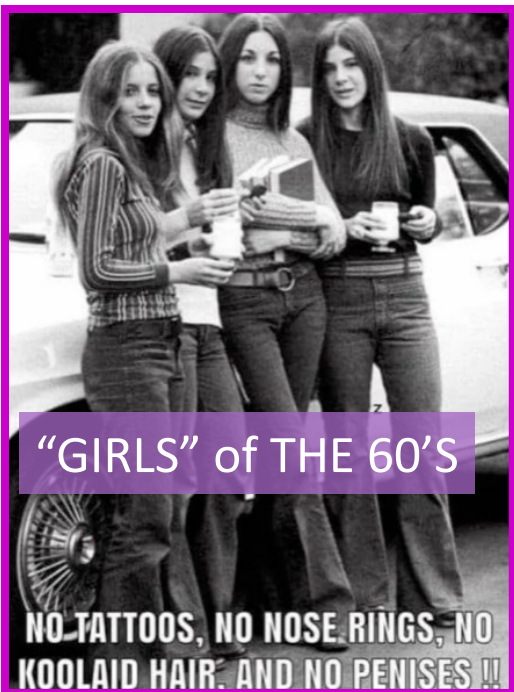
Although the "nuke Boats" are truly amazing, we are the last of the old Diesel Boat Sailors and still have a lot of knowledge to contribute to those newly qualified sub sailors, as to what it takes and their mental state of mind, when the 1MC's announce "Green Board", Dive, Dive, Dive...

I remember(1960) returning home from a West Pac Run, when the Sabalo lost control of a dive off the Philippines, and as we approached 'crush depth', maneuvering room announced the 'stern tubes' were severely leaking and going to blow...That was my first exposure, in making an emergency surface... our training kicked in, but it was the 'mental attitude' of the whole crew

**USS PENNSYLVANIA SSBN-735**—At 561 feet long, the USS Pennsylvania is the biggest submarine in the US Navy. The vessel carries a crew of 155 men and a deadly nuclear arsenal. This video investigates how this submarine was made possible through a series of six historic engineering breakthroughs. Also explored are the inner workings of six landmark submarines, including the tiny Turtle and colossal German U-Boats. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Esapb0gT3w> 46 min

| [00:00](#) Introduction | [03:11](#) Breathing Underwater – Turtle Submersible Vessel | [13:23](#) Manoeuvrability – H L Hunley | [19:48](#) Torpedo – U-66 German U-Boat | [25:32](#) Power – USS Nautilus (SSN-571) | [32:08](#) Nuclear Strike – USS George Washington (CVN-73) | [39:49](#) Stealth – USS Pennsylvania (SSBN-735)

**Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.** .... Henry Van Dyke



"GIRLS" of THE 60'S

NO TATTOOS, NO NOSE RINGS, NO  
KOOLAI HAIR. AND NO PENISES!!

Some of my friends exercise every day. Meanwhile, I'm watching a show I don't like because the remote fell on the floor.

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

*"A part of me, my sailor's soul,  
will always be underway" ...anon*

#### Humor in a Strange Place

While googling something else, the question asked on a post was:

["Do Navy sailors get laid?"](#)

At first I was in disbelief at the answers and related posts.

Google it yourself and I think you will find it humorous and amazing. -ed.

*"We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves;  
otherwise we harden."*

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

*"Oh honey, I could never marry a submariner.  
I like to sleep with the windows open."*

...quote from the movie, *Operation Pacific*

## LEFT IN THE WAKE

**Veteran's Day** has passed as I write this, and even though, I add this personal message. [ed.]

**How I came to enlist in the Navy.** It is a tale with a number of starts and stops which would be more than one chapter of my life, so I won't regale it all here.

Those of you who served during my time on Sabalo may remember one of my nicknames, "Tom Thumb". This is because part of my left thumb was amputated in a water skiing accident about one year before I enlisted.

It was mid-1965 and the draft ordered by President Johnson was taking thousands per day for Viet Nam [1.9 million draftees in all.]. I was a full time college student at the time, but one day during lunch hour, I went to the recruiter and signed up. During my physical, the question of my thumb injury came up. I had to be examined by a special doctor who said to me that 'there's hundreds of men in the other room who wish they could have this because it could exempt them from service.' I told him, that it was my patriotism that was influencing my decision. He finally granted medical exemption, and that began my four year enlistment.

Many details are involved in the whole story, but I still hold those feelings. Yes, the argument about the need and justification of the Viet Nam War has meaning, but for those who served, most feel the bond of duty and sacrifice of the others who served, especially the fallen.

I recently received something important about patriotism, which must be passed on. Share this link. Maybe the younger generations will understand - ***Freedom Is Not Free.***

**"I Fought For You"** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgYLr\\_LfhLo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgYLr_LfhLo)