




# The Snorkel Exhaust

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN USSVI



**“To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present, and Future”.**  
**“The USSVI Submariner’s Creed”**

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the **United States of America and its Constitution.**



**OUR ORGANIZATION**

**OUR FOUNDERS**

**OUR BROTHERHOOD**

**Our Mission**  
 The organization will engage in various projects that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy today.

**SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX  
 November & December 2020**

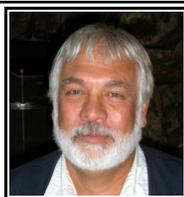
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**Scheduled Meetings**  
 Monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month via:  
**“ZOOM”**  
 (DUE TO COVID-19)  
**Meeting Starts @ 1900**



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 Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



**Marlin E. Helms, Jr.**  
**BASE COMMANDER/  
 HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR**  
 Qualified MM1(SS)  
**USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668)**  
 Qualified MM1(SS)  
**USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)**



**BASE VICE-COMMANDER**  
**Robert (Bob) Childs**  
  
 Qualified MMC (SS)  
**USS Nautilus (SSN 571)**  
 November 1967  
**USS Theodore Roosevelt**  
 (SSBN 600 - Blue Crew)  
 July 1970



**BASE SECRETARY**  
**Martin Wesley**  
  
 Qualified QM2(SS)  
**USS CUBERA(SS-347)**  
 in 1968



**WEBSITE MASTER**  
**Stuart McGlassen**  
  
 Qualified ET2 (SS) 1988  
**USS TENNESSEE (SSBN-734)**



**CHIEF OF THE BOAT**  
**Terry McBride, EMC(SS) (Ret.)**  
  
 Qualified EM3(SS)  
**USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)**  
 Qualified EM1(SS)  
**USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)**



**BASE CHAPLIN**  
**David Pope, EAWS**  
**USS T. Roosevelt (CVN-71)**  
**COMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2**  
 David is an Associate  
 Member of Smoky Mountain  
 Submarine Base



**STOREKEEPER**  
**Dick Mitchell**  
  
 Qualified ET1(SS)  
**USS CONGER (SS/AGSS-477)**



**BASE TREASURER**  
**JIM ROCK**  
  
 Qualified MM1(SS)  
**USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619)**



**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**  
**Andy Armbrust**  
  
 Qualified MM1(SS)  
**USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)**  
 in 1975



**NEWSLETTER EDITOR &  
 BASE PHOTOGRAPHER**  
**Bruce Eltzroth ET1(SU)**  
**USS SCULPIN (SSN-590)**  
 Bruce is an Associate  
 Member of Smoky Mountain  
 Submarine Base.





**SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI**  
Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Other Stuff

**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER - 2020**

**Scheduled Meetings**  
MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE **3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY** OF EACH MONTH VIA ZOOM



*Meetings and Happenings*

Due to COVID-19, your Smoky Mountain Submarine Base is looking for a new location to hold our monthly meetings, in or around the Knoxville area, when the pandemic is under control. If anyone reading this has any suggestions, please e-mail or call Marlin Helms with the pertinent information.



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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

**New Members:  
None this period**

- December 1 - Newsletter Deadline
- December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- December 12 - Army/Navy Football Game
- December 13 - National Guard Established - 1636
- December 17 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- December 25 - Christmas Day
- December 26 - First Day Of Kwanzaa

- January 1 - New Years Day
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 20 - Inauguration Day
- January 21 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- February 1 - Next Newsletter Deadline

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	13	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1					



## LOCAL HAPPENINGS



### SMB Library Books, DVD's and Magazines Ed Sandifer –ENS(SS) Base Librarian

Ed has agreed to send several books to our monthly meetings. There are over 100 books in our library - check some out!

**Tennessee Submarine Veterans License Plates**  
Make sure to take a copy of your DD-214 with you, when you go to get your new plate.



### TERMINOLOGY

[Source: <http://hazegray.org/faq/slang1.htm> | October 31, 2020]

- Ping** – (1): To transmit on active sonar, or the sound or signal made by same.  
 (2): (RM) To recognize someone or something.  
 (3): To bounce or wander around aimlessly.  
 (4): To harass someone shamelessly

**Ping Jockey** – Sonar operator.

**Pintle** – The pins upon which a ship's rudder hangs.

**Pipe Down** – Originally, a call on a boatswain's whistle sending the crew below. It has come to mean "be quiet."

**Piping Aboard** – A ceremony where the arrival of a senior officer is signified by the blowing of a BOSUN'S WHISTLE.

**Piping Hot** – Originally, meals were announced aboard ship by piping (blowing a call on the boatswain's pipe). If a meal is piping hot, it has just been served and is therefore hot.

**Piping TAB** - On submarines, a book that has all the systems drawn out. Used as a study guide. TAB stands for Training Aid Booklet, and actually there are two, one for piping systems and one for electrical systems. The system's bibles. Aka 'The Mickey Mouse Book'.

**Piss** – (RAN, RNZN) Beer.

**Piss Ant** – Yard worker. See also Sand Crab.

**Pisscutter** – Garrison cap.

**Pissed** – (1) (US) Angry.

(2) (UK) Drunk.

**Pissing Contest** – A behavior similar to that displayed by two male dogs when they meet. A heated argument.

**Pistol** – (1) (Aviation) An aircraft gun, whether built-in or in a pod.

(2) In older usage, refers to the exploder/detonator of a bomb or torpedo.

**Pit** – (1) (Aviation) The back seat of a two-seat aircraft. Where the GIB sits.

(2) (RN/RCN/RAN) Rack (bed).

**Pitch** – Dynamic movement of a ship or aircraft about a transverse axis i.e. when bow or nose moves up and down. See also TRIM.



VETERANS  
INFORMATION FOR  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN  
BASE MEMBERS



In Service to America

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078, meets at The Fellowship Church located at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, in Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6PM (1800 Hrs.)

### ANNUAL NATIONAL / BASE DUES TIME

It is that time of the year. Annual National and Base dues are now being collected. Pay dues at the base meeting. This is a good time to consider a life membership. Less annual money out of your pocket and you will save money in the long run.

Dues are as follows: **National**

\$25/yr (Oct-Dec \$30 to include the next year)

\$70/3yrs

\$115/5yrs

**Life membership**

\$100/76+ years of age

\$200/66 to 75 years of age

\$300/56 to 65 years of age

\$400/45 to 55 years of age

\$500/under 45 years of age

**Smoky Mountain Base**

\$15/year (\$10 after Aug 1st)



### 2021 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION (ORLANDO, FLORIDA)

Our 2021 USSVI National Convention will be held from August 31, 2021 to September 4, 2021 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, FL. The room rate is \$105.00/night plus tax. This room rate is valid plus or minus three days of our convention, based on room availability.

The hotel is providing the following concessions:

- Complimentary basic high speed internet access in guestrooms and public areas.
- The hotel does not charge resort fees. All ancillary items are charged upon usage.
- Complimentary self-parking for all attendees, within the hotel's inventory (free valet parking with a valid handicap parking permit).
- Twenty-five percent (25%) discount will be offered at the Shingle Creek Spa for all attendees (exclusive of tax and service charge, and not applicable to Spa Packages)
- Twenty-five percent (25%) off of green fees at the Shingle Creek Golf Club, exclusive of tax and service charge.
- Twenty-five percent (25%) discount on dining outlets excluding room service, Headwaters, 18 Monroe Street Retail Items, ParTake, and Smooth Java. This discount is not valid on alcoholic beverages or pre-packaged grocery items and is exclusive of any applicable taxes, service charges and/or gratuities.



## BASE COMMANDERS REPORT MARLIN E. HELMS, JR. MM1(SS)



### Shipmates:

Calendars are here, we will have to figure out how to deliver them to those who are not currently attending in-person functions. It's that time of the year for annual dues. (See page 4 for dues required this year.) Membership expires 1/1/21 and national has not been giving any buffer time, they have terminated membership at the start of the year for the last couple of years. We have one event coming up in December, the Army Navy game is December 12th at 3:00. We intend to meet at Just1More again. We have a work party December 4th to prep the float to park in front again. I will be looking into the Secret City Festival and will keep everyone informed on it's status as well as the Tolling of the Boats

Fraternally,  
Marlin Helms,  
Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Base Commander



## NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT—BRUCE ELTZROTH - ET1(SU)



Our October 2020 meeting was held as a "ZOOM" meeting again due to COVID-19. There were 7 attendees, which was a little lower than the previous "ZOOM" meetings. Page 11 has the story of the recently found wreckage of the USS Grenadier (SS-210). Our November "ZOOM" meeting was the same as October except there were only 6 members in attendance. Page 12 has the Obituary of former SMB member Larry Durham (RM2-SS) and also a "Looking Back" – at the 688 Class Submarines, courtesy of the Undersea Museum. Once again we have a shortened newsletter due to COVID-19.



## PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - ANDY ARMBRUST - MM1(SS)



Nothing NEW to report this issue. Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman - (865) 300-3934



## STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL - ET1(SS)

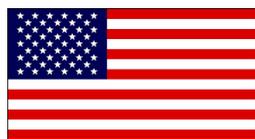


2021 Calendars have arrived, you can pick them up at the next meeting. Cost \$9.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$10.00 to cover postage. Makes a nice Christmas present. Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. Smoky Mountain Base battery quartz wall Clocks - \$15.00.

**Remember all purchases support YOUR BASE!**



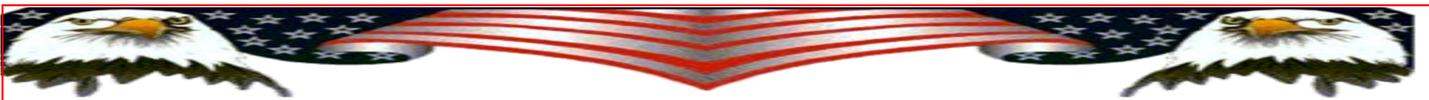
## SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK



### Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

On Oct. 26th our bank balance was **\$1,245.75.**

As of Nov. 19th, we have a balance of **\$883.44.**





**Secretary's Report/Meeting Minutes  
Martin Wesley**



**The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base**

**Date: November 19, 2020**

Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander  
David Pope presented the Invocation  
Meeting called to Order at 1905 hours  
Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Marlin led the tolling of the bell for lost boats.  
Meeting Minutes – None



**Treasurer's Report** – \$ 883.44 in the treasury.

**Committees :**

- Newsletter – Bruce Eltzroth – November/December news letter coming. Please send any articles or input to Bruce.
- Library – Ed Standifer – Books will be distributed at meetings when possible.
- Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell – One word, calendars - the cost has gone up, more later from Dick, or Marlin.
- Membership – Marlin Helms – 52 members
- Webmaster – Marlin/ Stuart McGlasson – The Golden Corral has been removed from the Web site.
- Social Committees – Andy Armbrust

**Old Business:**

Reminder 2021 dues are due before Dec. 31st; Marlin will notify everyone where to send the dues.

**New Business/Good of the Order:**

- A discussion was held on places for the Base to hold our monthly meetings now that Golden Corral has closed. Several places were discussed and Marlin and others are still checking for places to meet, so far The Caroline Ale House on Kingston Pike near Cedar Bluff looks best. Marlin plans to have a board meeting at the Carolina Ale house to check the accommodations and see if it is possible to hold our meetings there or another place.
- The November meeting was held as a "Zoom" meeting.
- Next Meeting: 1900 hrs, Thur. December 17, 2020 at Location to be determined.
- Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Accepted unanimously.



**Meeting Adjourned at 1940 hours.**

<b>"Tolling of the Bell" November/December</b>	<b>USS Sculpin (SS-191) – November 19, 1943 - 63 Men Lost</b>
<b>USS Albacore (SS-218) - November 7, 1944 - 86 Men Lost</b>	<b>USS Capelin (SS-288) - December 9, 1943– 76 Men Lost</b>
<b>USS Growler (SS-215) - November 8, 1944 - 85 Men Lost</b>	<b>USS Sea Lion (SS-195) - December 10, 1941 - 4 Men Lost</b>
<b>USS Scamp (SS-277) - November 16, 1944 - 83 Men Lost</b>	<b>USS F-1 (SS-20) - December 17, 1917 - 19 Men Lost</b>
<b>USS Corvina (SS-226) - November 16, 1943 - 82 Men Lost</b>	<b>USS S-4 (SS-109) - December 17, 1927 - 34 Men Lost</b>



**Pre WW-II Lost Boats**



<b>USS F-1 (SS-20)</b>	<b>December 17, 1917 19 Men Lost</b>	<small>USS F-1 Photo and write-up courtesy of Wikipedia.</small>
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On 17 December 1917, while maneuvering in exercises off Point Loma, San Diego, California, USS F-1 and USS F-3 collided, the former sinking in ten seconds, her port side torn open forward of the engine room. Nineteen of her men were lost; the remaining five were rescued by the submarines with which she was operating.

<b>USS S-4 (SS-109)</b>	<b>December 17, 1927 40 Men Lost</b>	<small>USS S-4 Photos and write-up courtesy of Undersea Museum (WA).</small>
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On December 17, 1927, the submarine USS S-4 sank after being struck by a Coast Guard destroyer. The boat survived the accident, bottoming in 102 feet of water, but weather thwarted efforts to raise the submarine, which was then the only means of saving survivors. The death of all 40 crew members drove Charles "Swede" Momsen (Right photo) to invent the Momsen lung, a wearable escape device. Find out more about submarine accidents and rescue methods by visiting the museum. S-4 was salvaged at Boston Navy Yard (Left photo) in 1928 and remained in service until stricken in 1936.



# Lost Boats of November

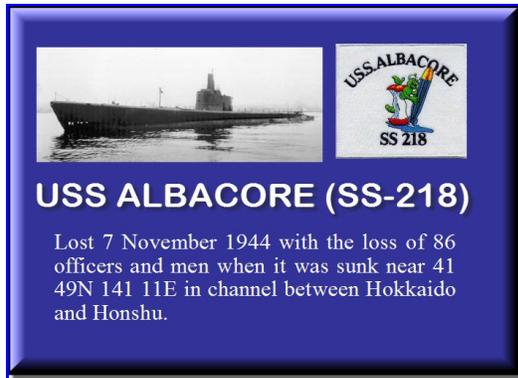


## USS Albacore SS-218 - November 7, 1944

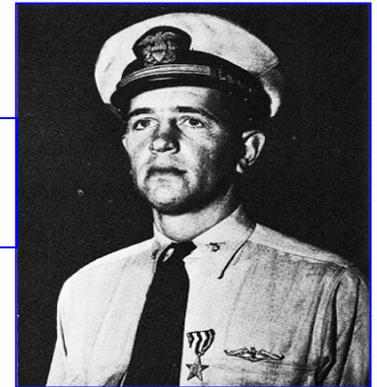
### 86 Men Lost

On October 24, 1944, the **ALBACORE**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Hugh R. Rimmer, left Pearl Harbor for her eleventh and final war patrol. On October 28, 1944, she stopped at Midway Island to top off her fuel tanks. She then headed for her assigned patrol area northeast of Honshu and southeast of Hokkaido. After leaving Midway, she was never heard from again. Based on a review of Japanese records recovered after the war, it was learned that on November 7, 1944, near the geographic coordinates 41° 49' 0.000" N, 141° 11' 0.000" E, the **ALBACORE** struck a mine very close to the shore off southeastern Hokkaido. The underwater explosion was witnessed by the Japanese auxiliary minesweeper Fukuei Maru No. 7, which was conducting an antisubmarine sweep in the area. On December 21, 1944, the **ALBACORE** was listed as lost in action; the official announcement was made on March 27, 1945:

#### SS-218-BattleStars



Lieutenant  
Commander  
H.R. Rimmer

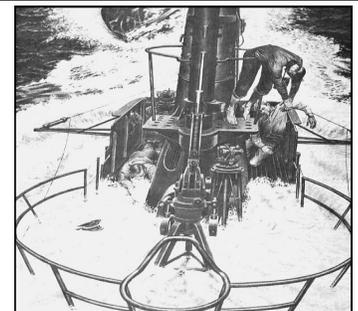
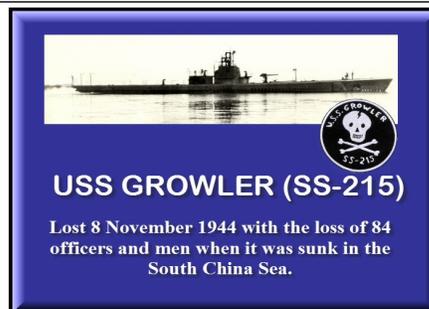


## USS Growler SS-215 - November 8, 1944

### 85 Men Lost

On October 20, 1944, a wolf pack headed by the **GROWLER'S** captain, Commander Thomas "Ben" Oakley, with **USS HAKE (SS-256)** and **USS HARDHEAD (SS-365)**, departed Fremantle. Their destination was west of the Philippine islands where they would operate as a coordinated search and attack group. This departure would mark the beginning of the **GROWLER'S** eleventh and final war patrol. On November 8, 1944, the wolf pack prepared to close a convoy to attack it. The **HAKE** and the **HARDHEAD** were on the opposite side of the convoy from the **GROWLER**. The order to begin attacking the convoy was the last communication ever received from the **GROWLER**. The two other submarines heard what sounded like a torpedo explosion and then a series of depth charges on the **GROWLER'S** side of the convoy. The **HARDHEAD** lined up and sank a 5,300-ton tanker. She was depth-charged heavily by the convoy's escorts. The **HAKE** saw the tanker sink, but was forced to evade and go deep because of the escorts, who kept her on the bottom for sixteen hours, dropping 150 depth charges. After the barrage was over later that night, they attempted to contact the **GROWLER** without success. All additional efforts to contact the **GROWLER** over the next three days also proved futile. She was listed as lost in action.

#### SS-215-Battle Stars





# Lost Boats of November



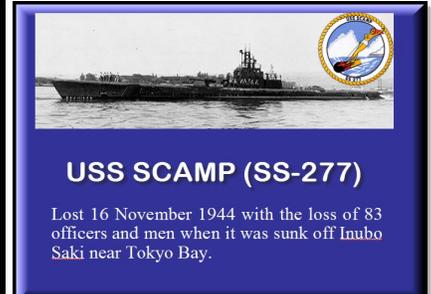
## USS Scamp SS-277 November 16, 1944

### 83 Men Lost

On October 16, 1944, the **SCAMP**, captained by Commander John Hollingsworth, departed Pearl Harbor for her eighth and final war patrol. On October 20, 1944, she refueled at Midway Island then proceeded to her assigned patrol area near the Bonin Islands. On November 9, 1944, she acknowledged receipt of a radio message ordering her to move to an area off Tokyo Bay. At that time she reported her position to be about 150 miles north of the Bonin Islands, with all twenty-four torpedoes aboard and 77,000 gallons of fuel remaining. The **SCAMP** was never heard from again. On December 21, 1944, she was reported as presumed lost on war patrol in enemy waters. The **SCAMP** was struck from the Navy list on April 28, 1945.



SS-277  
Battle Stars



USS SCAMP (SS-277)

Lost 16 November 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men when it was sunk off Inubo Saki near Tokyo Bay.



## USS Corvina SS-226 November 16, 1943

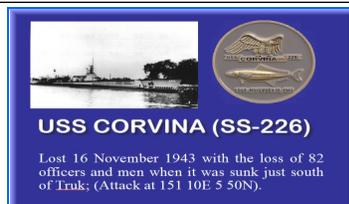
### 82 Men Lost

On November 4, 1943, the **CORVINA**, captained by Commander Roderick S. Rooney, left Pearl Harbor for her first and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol near the Japanese stronghold at Truk Atoll. In particular, she was ordered to be on the lookout for a sortie of Japanese warships, which could possibly endanger the forthcoming American invasion of the Gilbert Islands. On November 6, 1943, the **CORVINA** topped off her fuel tanks at Johnston Island and then headed for her assigned patrol area.

The **CORVINA** assumed her station south of Truk together with sister submarines **USS Blackfish (SS-221)** and **USS Drum (SS-228)**. Lieutenant Commander William Kinsella, **BLACKFISH'S** executive officer, recalled the key events as follows:

*"We were south of Truk with **DRUM** and **CORVINA** when we got a Ultra stating that a Japanese submarine was coming through the area. We were supposed to rendezvous with **DRUM** and **CORVINA**. Just after sunset we got into position where this Japanese submarine was supposed to pop up and sure enough, just at sunset, while we were submerged, it surfaced just to the south of us, not more than 5,000 yards away. It was starting to get dark, and we really could not see through the periscope well enough to ascertain that it was a Japanese submarine. Remembering that **DRUM** and **CORVINA** were in the vicinity we elected not to shoot....As it turned out, we later established contact with **DRUM** and determined it was not him. It was Japanese. We never did see **CORVINA** again....The Jap sub got her."*

Japanese records examined after the war indicated that the IJN submarine I-176 fired three torpedoes at a surfaced American submarine south of Truk Atoll on November 16, 1943. The torpedoes hit the submarine "causing a great explosion sound." The **CORVINA** thus became the only American submarine to be sunk by a Japanese submarine during the war. Ironically, she was the victim of the submarine she was sent to sink.



USS CORVINA (SS-226)

Lost 16 November 1943 with the loss of 82 officers and men when it was sunk just south of Truk; (Attack at 151 10E 5 50N).





# Lost Boats of November



## USS Sculpin SS-191 November 19, 1943

### 63 Men Lost

On November 5, 1943, the **SCULPIN** departed Pearl Harbor for her ninth and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol north of the Japanese stronghold at Truk Atoll and to attack Japanese forces sortieing from Truk's northern passage during the Gilbert Islands campaign (Operation Galvanic). On November 7, 1943, she topped off her fuel tanks at Johnston Island, and then headed for her assigned patrol area with the **SCULPIN'S** new captain, Commander Fred Connaway, at the helm.

At the direction of Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, Captain John P. Cromwell was aboard the **SCULPIN** to coordinate wolf pack operations, as necessary. If activated by Cromwell, the pack would consist of either the **SCULPIN** and the **USS SEARAVEN (SS-196)** or the **SCULPIN** and the **USS APOGON (SS-308)**. Cromwell possessed extensive knowledge of the Operation Galvanic plans and of the Ultra intelligence system. Lockwood had cautioned him not to disclose any information about Operation Galvanic to the **SCULPIN'S** crew to eliminate the possibility of it being extracted from them by the Japanese.

On November 19, 1943, while making a surface end-around run to attack a Japanese convoy, the **SCULPIN** was detected by the IJN destroyer Yamagumo and fatally damaged by depth charges. Due to the heavy damages she was forced to surface and fight the Yamagumo with her deck guns. It was a one-sided engagement. The ensuing gun battle killed Commander Connaway, his executive officer, and the gunnery officer, and inflicted additional damage to the **SCULPIN**. Command of the **SCULPIN** passed to the remaining senior officer, who ordered the boat scuttled and abandoned. After most of the surviving crewmen had escaped, the **SCULPIN** was deliberately flooded with *Captain Cromwell* and eleven other men still aboard, some dead and others there by choice. Cromwell chose to go down with the boat to prevent the enemy from obtaining the secret information he possessed. For this action, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Forty-two of the **SCULPIN'S** crew members were picked up by the Yamagumo. One badly wounded sailor was thrown back in the sea by the Japanese. Two groups of crewmen were embarked on separate aircraft carriers returning to Japan. One group had twenty-one crewmen, and the other twenty. One of them, the escort carrier Chuyo, which was carrying the group with twenty-one crewmen, was sunk by the **USS SAILFISH (SS-192)** and twenty of the American prisoners perished. The one survivor was able to grab hold of a ladder on the side of a passing Japanese destroyer and haul himself aboard it. He was eventually sent to the Ashio copper mines. On December 5, 1943, the other twenty survivors arrived at Ofuna, Japan and were also eventually detailed to the Ashio copper mines for the duration of the war.

### SS-191- Battle Stars



### USS Sculpin Memorial Plaque at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



### Captain John P. Cromwell

MEDAL OF HONOR





# Lost Boats of December



## USS Sealion - SS-195 December 10, 1941

### 4 Men Lost

Upon the outbreak of the Pacific war on December 7, 1941, the **SEALION**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Richard G. Voge, had been deployed to the Far East and was at the Cavite Navy Yard near Manila undergoing an overhaul. On December 10, 1941, Japanese aircraft attacked that facility. The **SEALION** was struck by two bombs dropped by Japanese naval Mitsubishi bombers of the First Air Corps, 21st Air Flotilla, 11th Air Fleet, flying from Tainan, Formosa. The bombs caused extensive internal and external damage and left the **SEALION** with about forty percent of her main deck underwater and with a fifteen degree list to starboard. She was destroyed on December 25, 1941 by exploding three depth charges within the submarine to prevent possible use by the enemy. Four of her crewmembers were killed during the attack. The **SEALION** thus became the first American submarine lost in World War II.

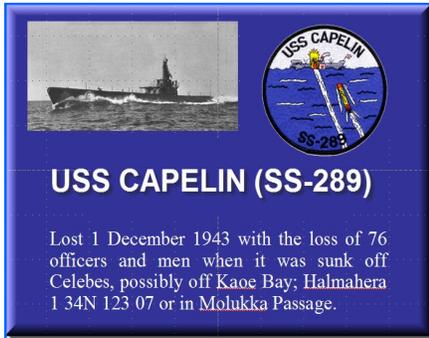


## USS Capelin - SS-288 December 9, 1943

### 76 Men Lost

On October 30, 1943, the **CAPELIN**, captained by Commander Elliott E. Marshall, left Port Darwin on her first war patrol. She was on a special mission to pick up downed aviators from an Army B-24 that went down on Celebes. En route the special mission was canceled and Marshall was ordered to patrol in the Molucca, Flores, and Banda Seas instead. On November 11, 1943, the **CAPELIN** spotted a convoy northwest of Ambon Island. Marshall reported sinking two merchant vessels in this convoy. Two escorting destroyers attacked the **CAPELIN** with depth charges, but the submarine did not take any damage. The **CAPELIN** ended her first patrol at Darwin on November 16, 1943. After undergoing a refit and repairs to a defective conning tower hatch, bow plane, and a malfunctioning radar tube, she got underway for her second war patrol on November 17, 1943, in the same areas as her first patrol.

On December 1, 1943, Lieutenant Commander Walter Griffith, captain of the **USS Bowfin (SS-287)** was returning to Fremantle after a patrol off Indochina. He sighted the **USS Bonefish (SS-223)** and the **USS Capelin** in the Makassar Strait, and then continued on to Fremantle. Commander Thomas Hogan in the **BONEFISH** was busy tracking a convoy. Later Hogan wrote: "On December 2, we sighted **CAPELIN** ... heading west about 10 miles off the coast [of Celebes]. He was about 5 miles away and dove right away. By sonar I told him who I was, about the convoy, and named him by his nickname: 'Steam.' I told him that since he was in the area I was going to leave what was left of the convoy to him and would continue on to my patrol area. He receipted for the message by sonar. I left and did not see him again." The findings of fact for the investigation into the loss of the **CAPELIN** lists the **Bonefish's** geographic position as 1° 10' 0.000" N, 123° 49' 60.000" E, when Commander Hogan sighted the **CAPELIN** to seaward at a range of about five miles.



SS-289  
1 Battle Star



## **FOUND! - USS Grenadier (SS-210)**



Divers have found what they believe is the wreck of a U.S. Navy submarine lost 77 years ago in Southeast Asia, providing closure to a stirring but little-known tale from World War II. The divers have sent photos and other evidence from six dives they made from October 2019 to March this year to the United States Naval History and Heritage Command for verification that they have found the USS Grenadier, one of 52 American submarines lost during the conflict. The 1,475-ton, 307-foot long Grenadier was scuttled by its crew after bombs from a Japanese plane almost sent them to a watery grave. All 76 of its personnel survived the bombing and sinking, but their agony to follow would be prolonged. After being taken prisoner, they were tortured, beaten and nearly starved by their Japanese captors for more than two years, and four did not survive that ordeal. The wreck lies 270 feet underwater somewhere in the Strait of Malacca, about 92 miles south of Phuket, Thailand. It was discovered by Singapore-based Jean Luc Rivoire and Benoit Laborie of France, and Australian Lance Horowitz and Belgian Ben Reymenants, who live in Phuket, Thailand. Reymenants was one of the divers who took part in the dramatic rescue of a dozen boys and their soccer coach who got trapped in a cave in northern Thailand two years ago. The Belgian has been researching possible locations for shipwrecks for many years, Horowitz said in an interview with The Associated Press, and Rivoire had a suitable boat to explore the leads he found. Reymenants would ask fishermen if there were any odd spots where they'd lost nets, and then the team would use side-looking sonar to scan the sea floor for distinct shapes.

When they dived to look at one promising object, it was a lot bigger than expected, so they dug back into the archives to try to figure out which lost vessel it could be, and then dived again. "And so we went back looking for clues, nameplate, but we couldn't find any of those," recalled Horowitz. "And in the end, we took very precise measurements of the submarine and compared those with the naval records. And they're exactly, as per the drawings, the exact same size. So we're pretty confident that it is the USS Grenadier." The Navy command's Underwater Archaeology Branch on average receives two to three such requests a year from searchers like the Grenadier divers, said its head, Dr. Robert Neyland, in an email to The Associated Press. "A complete review, analysis, and documentation may take two months to a year to complete," he said, adding that it will likely take a few months in the case of this potential discovery.

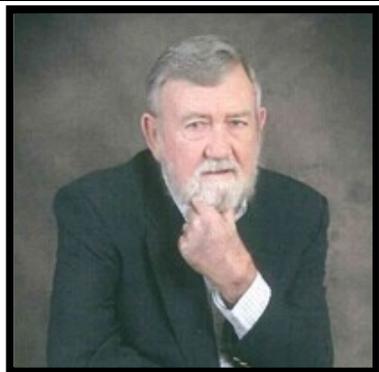
The Grenadier left Pearl Harbor on Feb. 4, 1942, on its initial war patrol. Its first five missions took it to Japanese home waters, the Formosa shipping lanes, the southwest Pacific, the South China Sea and the Japanese-occupied Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). It sank six ships and damaged two. It sailed on March 20, 1943, from Fremantle, Australia, on its sixth patrol, to the Malacca Strait and north into the Andaman Sea. The commanding officer, Lt. Cdr. John A. Fitzgerald, recorded what happened there in a report written after being freed from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in 1945. On the night of 20 APR, the submarine glimpsed two small freighters and set course to intercept them the next morning, sailing on the surface for speed. In the morning, a plane was sighted; an immediate crash dive was ordered, but the ship did not descend far enough, fast enough. Blasts from two bombs battered the sub; key parts of the vessel were mangled; power and lights were lost and a fire broke out. All hands desperately worked to fix what they could as Fitzgerald ordered the ship to stay on the sea floor. When it surfaced after 13 hours it was clear the Grenadier was too crippled to flee or fight. An effort was made to rig makeshift sails on a periscope to reach shore before blowing up the vessel, but there was dead calm. As dawn broke, two ships on the horizon were closing in. Codebooks and sensitive equipment were destroyed as preparations were made to scuttle the submarine. A Japanese plane made a run at the ship, but was fought off with small arms, dropping a bomb harmlessly about 200 yards away. The crew abandoned ship at 0830 and an hour later were hauled aboard an armed merchant ship, which took them to Penang, a major port town on the Malayan Peninsula.

At a Catholic school requisitioned by the Japanese for use as a prison, events took an even darker turn. "The rough treatment started the first afternoon, particularly with the (enlisted) men. They were forced to sit or stand in silence in an attention attitude," wrote Fitzgerald. "Any divergence resulted in a gun butt, kick, and slug in the face or a bayonet prick. In the questioning room, persuasive measures, such as clubs, about the size of indoor ball bats, pencils between the fingers and pushing of the blade of a pen knife under the finger nails, trying to get us to talk about our submarine and the location of other submarines."

After a few months, all of the crew was transferred to various camps in Japan, where the abuse continued. Four died from a lack of medical attention. "This was an important ship during the war and it was very important to all the crew that served on her," diver Horowitz said last week. "When you read the book of the survivors, that was, you know, quite an ordeal they went through and to know where she finally lies and rests, I'm sure it's very satisfying for them and their families to be able to have some closure."

[Source: The Associated Press | Grant Peck | September 20, 2020 ++]





Larry Durham- RM2 (SS)

USS Thornback (SS-418)

USS Thornback (SS-418) (underway)

(Sub photos courtesy of Wikipedia)

Larry Gilbert Durham, of Andersonville a loving husband, father, and grandfather passed away on Sunday, November 22, 2020. He served as a submarine veteran on the USS Thornback (SS-418) from 1962 to 1966, before joining IBM from which he retired after 25 years of service.

Larry was a member of the Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Sailor, rest your oars!

His preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert and Annie Durham and sister, Harriett Durham.

He is survived by his wife, Bessie Durham; daughters, Cheryl Durham and Chandra Durham Pritchett & husband Ricky; granddaughter, Bethany Pritchett; sister, Nancy Wallace & husband Ronnie; nephews, Robert and Paul; niece, Kellie; 3 grandnieces; 1 grandnephew; friends, Jody Wallace and the Liars Club and fur- baby, Dingus.

The family will have a Celebration of Life service held at a later date. Holley Gamble Funeral Home in Clinton is in charge of all arrangements. Additional info available at: [holleygamble.com](http://holleygamble.com)

**LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY**  
(Courtesy of the Undersea Museum - WA)



Left: USS Los Angeles underway circa 1976.

Right: USS Los Angeles and crew during her inactivation ceremony in January 2010.

Looking back to the beginning of an iconic class of submarines! The U.S. Navy commissioned the fast attack submarine USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) 44 years ago this month, on November 13, 1976. Los Angeles was the lead ship in a class of 62 submarines that has formed the backbone of the U.S. Submarine Force for four decades. Los Angeles served for more than 33 years, until her inactivation in early 2010. She was decommissioned in February 2011. Other 688-class submarines have followed suit, but almost half the class remains in active service today!



# USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular  Life  Associate

**OUR CREED:** "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)  
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Your E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Base/Chapter Desired: \_\_\_\_\_

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Please indicate your term preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$115.00; 3 Yr term: \$70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$25.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$30.00;  
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00;

**Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.**

How did you find USSVI?  Friend,  Boat Assn,  Local Event/News,  Internet,  Other (\_\_\_\_\_)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? (Mandatory for Associate Members) \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Applicant is:  Veteran,  Spouse of Veteran,  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ If other military service, What Branch? \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: \_\_\_\_\_ Mil Retired (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_ On Active Duty? (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

YR entered Mil Service: \_\_\_\_\_ YR left Mil Service \_\_\_\_\_ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946, June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from Aug 2, 1990 to date.

Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

(Leave this address line blank if it is the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to the appropriate base officer, or if you do not know of a base near you, mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870. Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org.