

September 2016



The official newsletter of the USS Requin Base of the USSVI Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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



Meetings held on the second Saturday of the month normally in Leetsdale at the VFW Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

Make a difference, get to a meeting!

---- Pride Runs Deep ------

Next Meeting: 1230 October 15th at the CRANE ROOM, 3009 Wilmington Road, New Castle, Pa 16105

2015 USS Requin Base Officers

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Pride Runs Deep				



Binnacle List

Aaron Ellis Bernie Sigler Judy Elster Bob McPherson, Bill & Donna Greenlee



Huey and the donated "Terrible Towels".

Requin Base Meeting Minutes September 10, 2016 Leetsdale, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Greg & Maggie Bayne, James & Jennifer Beacher, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, Tom & Deneen Calabrese, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Rick Elster, Peter & Stephanie Foster, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Ron Goron, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Ric & Joan Guntag, Lou Hamil, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, Shawn McGinty, James & Sandra Messer, Frank Nicotra, Chip Porter, Harry Sills, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Robert & Dorothy Stahl, George Stass, Carl Stigers, Jack Sutherin, Don & Dolly Taskey, Mike & Tina Wyckoff

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: "Good ideas are not adopted automatically they must be driven into practice with courageous patience"

Requin History: September 18, 1945 Requin arrived at Staten Island, New York, to begin what would be in the words of Commander Cutter, "a dull and boring assignment" essentially becoming a target for sonar school ships. September 30, 1963 Requin completed her 5000th dive. September 4, 1990 Requin arrived at the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace. We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation.

Boats Lost:

USS S-5 (SS 110)	September 1, 1920
USS GRAYLING (SS 209)	September 9, 1943
USS S-51 (SS 162)	September 25, 1925
USS CISCO (SS 290)	September 28, 1943

We also wish to remember our shipmate of the Requin Base, Donald Miller, Marion Irons, and Don Lennox. Finally, we honor remember all the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

Chaplain Carl Stigers gave the Invocation.

Chief Of The Boat Clyde Porter led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Base Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the last meeting were published in the SVD and the base website. With no objections, the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits are available upon request. With no objections, the report was approved.

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on small stores available.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Aaron Ellis, Bernie Sigler, Judy Elster, Bob McPherson, Bill & Donna Greenlee

Membership stands at 182 plus 39 sailors from the USS Pittsburgh.

Carl Stigers continues to participate in Eagle Scouts presentations. Volunteers are desperately needed to assist in this program. **Old Business:**

Last month, base members visited the USS Pittsburgh in Groton CT.

Only 11 base members voted in this year's National Elections.

New Business:

Northeast Regional meeting in Saratoga Springs New York on October 8, 2016. As a result, the Requin Base meeting is being changed to October 15, 2016.

Members wishing to be nominated for a base position should contact Huey Dietrich.

The Leetsdale VFW is now asking \$100 per month for the base to hold meetings and store memorabilia at their facility.

For The Good Of The Order:

Bill Lindsey reported on his experiences while attending recent National Convention in Reno. At the convention Huey Dietrich was awarded District Commander Of The Year. Also, Huey Dietrich and the Requin Base were each awarded the Robert Link award. 100 Steelers Terrible Towels were donated by Little Earth Productions for the crew of the USS Pittsburgh.

The Eastern Chapter of WWII Submarine Veterans will be disbanding at the end of this year.

The SubVettes organization has also disbanded.

Rick Elster spoke about the suicide of his shipmate Chief David Ringhand.

Chaplain Carl Stigers gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Saturday October 15, 2016 at 1230 hours. Crane Room, 3009 Wilmington Road, New Castle PA 16105.

COMMANDERS COLUMN:

NEXT BASE MEETING

Our next base meeting will be held on October 15, in New Castle, Pa. The name of the restaurant is the **CRANE ROOM**, 3009 Wilmington Road, New Castle, Pa 16105. The meeting will convene at 12:30 hours. We have been at the Crane Room before and they really treat us like royalty. Shipmate David Cochenour made the arrangement and the food is always soooooooo good. KU-DOS David.

DUES

The dues collection process is underway for 2017. I am waiting on the 2017 USSVI calendars to arrive. They should be here by the end of September. September dues collection is for base officers and committeepersons to start the process. The members that live in Pennsylvania will receive their dues packet in the mail for October collection. The out of state members will receive their dues packet for the December collection.

A few months ago, I asked if anyone did not want to receive their 2017 calendar, to please let me know and it would **not** be sent to you. I am helping the base treasurer, BOOKY, who has been under the weather. Its a big undertaking. If you receive your calendar in error, please return it and deduct the postage from your dues check. No harm - Done. This is the only fund raiser that the base uses to raise money to cover our base expenses and to balance our base BUDGET.

BASE ELECTION ARTICLE XII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The Commander, First Vice-Commander, Second Vice-Commander, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected by a majority vote of the members in good standing at the regular meeting held in the month of December.

Section 2: A nominating committee will be appointed in the month of October to solicit nominations and will present the slate of nominees to the membership at the November meeting.

Section 3: Additional nominations may be made by any member on the floor of the meeting prior to the election.

Section 4: Any vacancy in office shall be filled by the REQUIN Base Commander appointment, with approval of the Board of Directors, to complete an unfulfilled term.

BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Bence 9/04 Barbra Boutelle 9/13 Jill Campisi 9/11 Bunty Cantwell 9/11 Huey Dietrich 9/19/44 Mike Gasparovic 9/15/66 Janice Johnston 9/15 Blain Kuhn 9/25/44 Sal Molitierno 9/18/25 Earl Riley 9/17/45 Robert Watson 9/21/25 Carol Cochenour 9/08 Yvonne McKenzie 9/30 Nancy Stewart 9/10 Mike Bonn 9/23/40 Thomas Burdin 9/29/45 Pat Cantwell 9/14 Wil Carlton 9/21/36 Phil Elias 9/04/50 David Howton 9/25/55 Bob Krautstruak 9/18/24 Pam Lucas 9/01 James Ross 9/17/24 Richard McCarthy 9/27/57 Judy Larson 9/18 Trudith Stroede 9/14

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Jodie Ewald 9/8 Mark & Adrians Hoag 9/20 Charles & Patricia Hilgendorf 9/17 Scott & Eva Holzwarth 9/29 Ed & Sandra Morgan 9/28 John & Lois Stewart 9/13

LETTER OF RESIGNATION - North East Regional Director

In the past few months, I have had several health issues that have caused me to seek medical advise. It was my hope that I would receive medication that would return me to good health. Last Thursday my Neurologist informed me that I have Parkinson's disease or MSA (Multiple Systems Atrophy). Both of these diseases are progressive diseases of the nervous system-and in early stages, both act the same; the outcome is also the same. I do not feel that I can continue to serve as the NE Regional Director. At this time, I need to focus on my health. I am receiving medication to alleviate the symptoms, but there are no guarantees.

Therefore, I humbly resign as NE Regional Director and, most highly recommend Les Altschuler for NE Regional Director.

Respectfully, Michael J. Naughton

I talked to Michael and wish him all the luck in the world and that we will add him to our prayer list. The E-Board voted and approved Les Altschuler as the new NERD.

USS PITTSBURGH NEWS

The PITTSBURGH is underway for its seven (7) month deployment. We had a great visit with them during their last week end in port. I made a promise to the XO that we would make his wishes come true - and we did. A friend of mine (Ron Redpath), the Chaplin of VFW Post 99, inquired about getting 100 Pittsburgh Steelers Terrible Towels. The XO wanted them for the crew when they entered a port of call and for the Navy Submarine Birthday Ball. Well, Ron did better than we ever dreamed of - He was able to get the towels as a donation at no cost. Below is the letter that I sent to the Donor.

Dear Ms Demarco:

On behalf of the veteran submariners of the Requin Base, I would like to take the opportunity to say a heartfelt "THANK YOU" for your generous donation of one hundred (100) terrible towels for the crew of the USS PITTSBURGH SSN720. The Pittsburgh is a Fast Attack Nuclear Submarine that spends the majority of her time under water.

We were in Groton Connecticut in early August visiting the Pittsburgh. This was their last week end, in the home port of Groton, before they embarked on their seven (7) month deployment. We spent two (2) days with the crew touring the boat, and having lunch eating <u>PittsBURGERS</u> (sliders). LCDR David Nichols, the executive officer mentioned that he wanted to procure 100 terrible towels for the crew. They would be used for various functions - entering foreign ports and the Navy Submarine Birthday Ball.

Upon hearing his desire for the 100 towels, I mentioned to him, that the Requin Base would make his wishes come true. Again "THANK YOU" for your kindness and generosity that will make the officers and crew of the "PITTSBURGH" a very happy group.

PRIDE RUNS DEEP:

Huey Dietrich - Commander Requin Base

NATIONAL USSVI ELECTION

As the Commander of North East District Three, I wish to report that out of 516 members of the District, ONLY 31 voted in the last election. The Requin Base has 152 Primary/non Associate eligible to vote. Out of the 152 we had only 11 shipmates who voted which is 7.2%. (Very disappointing)

NATIONAL SUBVETTES

At the National Convention, which was held in Reno, NV. The ladies of the USSVI who made up the Sub-Vetties have suspended their charter and have closed down. The President and Vice President were stepping down and no one wanted to take their place.

SUSPENDING OPERATIONS

Eastern USA Chapter U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War11 votes to suspend operations.

A personal note from J. Deen Brown, Commander, Eastern USA Chapter U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II.

Following the closure of the national organization, the activities of the Sub Vet's of WW-ll was extended for four years by the loyal support of this chapter's members. In addition to continuing to provide a forum for fellowship and information, the chapter has been in the forefront of supporting and maintaining the National Submarine Memorial- East. The Memorial continues to be a popular attraction for families, school groups, tourists, and the military. Its historic appearance is in pristine condition thanks to the City of Groton and especially the SubVets Inc., Groton Base volunteers who keep it in such great condition. With our collective future support, it will remain a focal point for the memories of those who rode the boats during WW-ll and will continue to be available for all to visit, remember our shipmates on eternal patrol, and show their respect in their own heartfelt way.

NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS FOR 2016

At our September Base meeting, shipmate Robert Lindsey, from Monongahela, Pa., accepted three awards at the National Convention, to bring back to the base and make personal presentations as follows:

ROBERT LINK AWARD

Robert "Bob" Link was the first National Commander of USSVI. This is the USSVI version of a "Letter of Commendation" from the National Commander. A nomination may be made for a Member or a Base.

We received them both, as a base and as a member.

- 1. The Requin Base won this award for all the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication that the members stepped up to host a most successful and rewarding National Convention, in 2015. Without the total cooperation from the members of the base, this would not have been possible.
- 2. As your Base Commander, I have also been selected to receive the Robert Link award. This is what team work is all about and everyone stepped up and worked to make all the USSVI members, family and friends feel welcome. I could not be more proud than I am, that the base was recognized for all their efforts. KUDOS to the Co-Chairs, who were the back bones of our convention committee - Rick Elster & Joe Campisi. I share this award with them and the rest of the committee, members and base......

DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

"Awarded to the one District Commander that exemplifies and demonstrates and outstanding example to his peers, and through his efforts and performance of duties in service to his Base Commanders, provides guidance, organization and assistance with his District and establishes new Bases as needed to serve the needs of the membership."

Selection is made by the DCOY Committee.

I was both humbled and sincerely appreciative of this great honor. Being District Commander of Year (DCOY) is a privilege that I will not take lightly. To be selected amongst my peers from all over the United States, makes me want to stand up and shout a heartfelt THANK YOU. Not only to my fellow District Commanders, the DCOY com-

mittee, but to all the members of North East District Three and the base officers that

make being a District Commander so satisfying working with all the fine members.

This only makes me to want to do more and more, that we all can be so privileged being a member of USSVI.

As the DCOY, I am a voting member of the Board of Directors for the next year, until a new DCOY is named.

ODD'S & END'S

1. On August 19, the PITTSBURGH casted off all lines and are headed east bound on their deployment. YNC(SS/IW) Jose C. Almonte sent the following information:

I would like to reach out to you and all the other SUBVETS and Thank You for the tremendous courtesies you have provided PITTSBURGH.

I would like to inform you that Machinist's Mate Nuclear Second Class David Morales qualified submarines on 17 August 2016, joining the few elite to wear dolphins.

2. A special Thank You to Comrade Ron Redpath and VFW Post 9199 for ALL their help and assistance on procuring the 100 Steeler Terrible Towels for the PITTSBURGH. KUDOS Ron and VFW Post 9199.

3. We will be processing the applications of the crew of the PITTSBURGH in October. Once it is complete, we will publish the list of supporters and the amount that each contributed. I do not list names and the amount of who contributes to the functions of the base, but in this case, I feel its important to be transparent on the monies that were donated, especially with the cash given to us. I realize that some members can't contribute as much as others. This is not to embarrass anyone, it is only to be accountable to the members on how much money was collected and from whom. I have mentioned this at our base meeting and no member had a problem with it.

So many other organizations have had problems with their funds and not being held accountable. I believe, we as a your base officers, be held to a higher standard and always be accountable to the membership for handling of all YOUR assets.

4. Congratulations to our Past Base Commander, Ellis Moses, of the Carolina Piedmont Base, who also won the Meritorious Award-- KUDOS MO!



Base Command Huey Dietrich with his awards from the National Convention. He was unable to attend so was awards at our meeting.

After a 7-year Search, a Missing German U-boat is Lost no Longer

Michael E. Ruane, The Washington Post, August 31

OCRACOKE, N.C. – The sonar "target" first appears as a green and yellow streak on Randy Holt's computer screen. Up ahead, nothing can yet be seen through the dark water 700 feet below the ocean surface.

Holt's submersible, Nomad, glides over the sandy bottom, fighting the current and searching. With each sonar sweep, the image grows more distinct on the screen. "Very good," Holt says. "We're real close to this thing."

Then he spots something outside and switches off the lights: "See the shadow?" A large black silhouette emerges

from the gloom. "Yeah," Holt says. "This is our U-boat."

It's the German submarine U-576, resting on its side, right where it sank in 1942. Its wooden deck plates have rotted away after 74 years underwater. But its hull, conning tower and deck gun — nicknamed "Peterle," little Peter — are still there.

The encrusted hatches are all closed. And almost certainly entombed within are the skipper, Hans-Dieter Heinicke, and 44 German sailors, including one Herbert Sprissinger, who perished on his 20th birthday.

On Aug. 24, after a seven-year search, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) got the first look at U-576 since the sub went down in a wild battle off North Carolina's Outer Banks on July 15, 1942.

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, along with the University of North Carolina's Coastal Studies Institute and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, had been looking for the sub since 2009 in the area where the battle had taken place.

With the help of sonar and other devices, it was found in August 2014. One of the merchant ships it sank in the battle had been found nearby the year before.

But last month was the first time anyone had actually seen the sub since it was shelled and depth-charged to the bottom that Wednesday in 1942, eight months after the United States entered World War II.

In partnership with a marine research outfit called Project Baseline, the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute and SRI International, scientists made a series of dives from the 146-foot vessel Baseline Explorer.

Operating from within the thick plastic bubble of two-person submersibles, they studied the wrecks of the U-boat and its victim, the Nicaraguan freighter Bluefields, which had a huge torpedo hole in its side. (The crew of the freighter survived.) On one dive Thursday, a reporter went along.

The Unterseeboot 576 rests about 35 miles east of here, out in the Gulf Stream, where German subs savaged merchant shipping during the war, sinking scores of vessels and killing hundreds of people.

It's in 721 feet of water, well below the "crush depth," where the enormous pressure would collapse its inner hull, NOAA experts said.

It's an eerie, lonely place. The seafloor is barren. And the few fish around the wreck have a sickly gray pallor.

Inside the 2³/₄ -inch-thick sphere of the submersible, the only sounds were the whirring of the carbon dioxide scrubber, the occasional hiss of air, and Holt's voice as he radioed depth and bearing to the surface.

"It's sort of unreal," said NOAA maritime archaeologist Joe Hoyt, the chief investigator on the project, who was among the first to glimpse the boat on Aug. 24.

"I knew the story, [but] the moment that we get in there and it comes out of the gloom at you . . . it was humbling," he said.

At that great depth, the boat remains substantially intact. "It's all there, just as it went down in 1942," he said.

"One of the things we're looking for is what happened to the crew," he said. "Did they try to get out the escape hatches? Did the ship flood catastrophically? Were they on the seabed for some period of time, disabled with air still in the sub?"

"All the hatches we were able to see ... were dogged down, closed," he said. "So, you see those hatches closed and the moment you kind of see that ... you're immediately aware that it's a tomb."

"There's 45 guys inside of that thing," he said. "And no matter the exact circumstances of their demise, it had to just be horrifying."

'A dangerous situation'

On the afternoon of July 15, 1942, Kapitänleutnant Heinicke had to make a crucial decision.

He was in a crippled, unlucky boat that had been damaged and nearly sunk by an aircraft attack a day or two before. The attack had affected a ballast tank and hampered the boat's ability to dive and surface. Heinicke had signaled his

superiors that the boat could not be repaired.

"Under normal circumstances, that's the end of the operation," said retired National Archives expert and U-boat historian Timothy Mulligan. "If you can't dive, or if you dive and you don't know you're going to come back to the surface . . . you're in a dangerous situation."

Heinicke was 29, the son of a German cavalry officer who had been killed on the Eastern Front in World War I. He was an experienced, observant commander who had been in the Navy for almost a decade.

He was on his fifth patrol with a year-old boat but had bagged only three ships and was plagued with engine trouble. One of his victims, the armed British freighter Empire Spring, had gone down off Nova Scotia with all 55 hands aboard, according to the website Uboat.net.

Another, the Norwegian vessel Taborfjell, sank off Cape Cod so fast that only three of its 20-man crew survived. But in the case of the American freighter Pipestone County, torpedoed off Cape Henry, Va., in April 1942, Heinicke

surfaced near the lifeboats. He gave the survivors provisions and apologized for sinking the ship. There were no fatalities. U-576 had a young crew. No one was older than 29, according to a crew list provided by NOAA. Seaman Egon Gab-

lick was 18. Heinz Beckers, Kurt Bauer, Willi Steuer and Erwin Schlussler were 19.

The oldest on board was another kapitänleutnant, August Bohnenkamp, who would have turned 30 in November. On the 29th day of the patrol, the damaged sub was headed east, perhaps toward home. Heinicke reported that he had made 16 miles, running on the surface in moderate seas.

"That's the last communication," Mulligan said.

At some point after that, the boat encountered an irresistible target.

It was an Allied convoy, designated KS-520 — 19 merchant ships and five escorts, bound from Hampton Roads, Va., to Key West, Fla.

Heinicke had spotted another convoy a few days earlier, but had lost contact with it.

He had also found one back in the spring, a group of seven troop transports. It was a potential feast for a U-boat. But he had been out of torpedoes and could do nothing.

Now he had to decide: Should he take the hobbled U-576 into battle or continue toward his home base in France? "What does he do?" Mulligan said in a recent interview. "He tries to go after the convoy."

Heinicke got into position and fired four torpedoes. Two hit and damaged the Chilore, an American freighter, according to NOAA. One hit and damaged the big Panamanian tanker J.A. Mowinckel, and the fourth sank the Bluefields.

But after firing the torpedoes, the U-boat inexplicably bobbed to the surface in the middle of the convoy. Patrolling airplanes and gunners on one of the convoy ships pounced.

The Navy seaplanes dropped depth charges, one of which slid off the sub's hull before exploding, according to National Archives records Mulligan examined.

Debris flew up. The U-boat headed down, and black oil spread over the water.

Three days later, German headquarters asked U-576 to report. There was no reply. Headquarters tried to reach the boat again on July 19 and again on July 21.

Nothing was heard.

'Torpedo Junction'

Few people realize that desperate fighting raged just off the East Coast during World War II as U-boats torpedoed Allied shipping and U.S. forces fought back, NOAA said.

German subs sank 600 ships off the coast, often using the glow from U.S. towns to backlight their targets at night, according to historians.

The heavily traveled area off Cape Hatteras, N.C., was such a grim killing ground that it became known as "Torpedo Junction."

It is what NOAA calls an oceanic battlefield. And the federal agency said it is working to determine exactly what happened there, just as historians would on a land battlefield.

NOAA is also considering expansion of its nearby Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, which protects the wreck of the famous Civil War vessel, to include the U-boat, the Bluefields and other historic shipwrecks in the area.

An estimated 90 vessels — including U-576 and three other subs — were sunk there between January and July 1942, NOAA said. And 1,600 men — 1,100 of them merchant seamen — were lost.

This week, the U-boat project had to be suspended because of bad weather, said David W. Alberg, supervisor of the Monitor sanctuary. He said the scientists hope to be back at the site this weekend.

The submarine is still technically the property of the German government, and the United States has agreed to care for it. NOAA's aim is to conduct an underwater laser scan of both wrecks and produce exact 3-D models for posterity.

Last Thursday, as the submersible drifted through the dark water around the boat, Holt noted that the sub's forward and aft dive planes were set as if the stricken vessel was struggling to surface.

It was one of the few outward clues to the sub's end. There was also a patch of the outer hull that was peeled away near the front of the boat. Holt said that might be where a depth charge exploded, fatally weakening the structure.

It may have been that the crew sealed off flooded compartments but the boat was too heavy to rise, he said. "Maybe they just waited it out till the end," he said.

An hour and a half after submerging, Nomad was cleared to ascend, and it slowly rose toward the surface and the sunlight, leaving U-576 behind in the dim underwater battlefield where it met its end.

USS Lapon (SSN-661), a Sturgeon-class attack submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the lapon, a scorpionfish of the Pacific coast of North America.

The contract to build Lapon was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia, on 24 October 1963 and her keel was laid down there on 26 July 1965. She was launched on 16 December 1966, sponsored by Mrs. Charles D. Griffin, wife of Admiral Charles D. Griffin (1906–1996), and commissioned on 14 December 1967, with Commander Chester M. "Whitey" Mack in command.

Upon commissioning, Lapon reported to Commander, Submarine Force, United States Atlantic Fleet for duty, with her home port at Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia. The Lapon's crew successfully passed an Operational Readiness Review in early 1968 after completing training programs in SuBaseNLon. In the spring Lapon deployed on a SpecOp for which it received its first MUC. In late summer Lapon returned to NNS&DD Co for post shakedown availability. In 1969, Lapon participated in a training exercise before CNO, CinCLant and ComSubLant to demonstrate the feasibility of trailing another submarine. Following that exercise

Lapon deployed on a second SpecOp and received a second MUC. Later in 1969, while under the command of Commander Chester "Whitey" Mack, Lapon successfully tailed a Soviet Navy Yankee class ballistic missile submarine for a period of forty-seven days. Lapon followed the Yankee for the Yankee's entire deterrent patrol and only broke contact when the Soviet submarine turned to go home. Lapon was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for the feat and Mack became famous in the submarine community for this noteworthy success, personally receiving the Distinguished Service Medal.

Lapon was on routine deployment in the Med when the Yom Kippur war broke out on 6 October 1973. Lapon had been scheduled to make a three-day liberty run from La Magdelena, Sardinia to Athens, Greece, but instead deployed to the eastern Med when it monitored Soviet submarine activity, remaining at sea for 44 days. Returning to La Magdelena food stores were so low the crew had begun eating different kinds of meals. Because of the hasty departure when the war broke out, there were only three movies aboard. Two were terrible, and shown only once. The third movie was the 1971 release "Dirty Harry" which was shown twice a day for the entire deployment. Lapon set a record for most Soviet submarines trailed during the period, and the crew was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation.

Deactivated on 1 October 1991 while still in commission, Lapon was decommissioned on 8 August 1992 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton, Washington, and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register the same day. Her scrapping via the Nuclear-Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program began on 1 March 2003 and was completed on 31 August 2004.

Lapon's sail was preserved as a war memorial at American Legion Post 639 in Springfield, Missouri. It was dedicated on 3 July

