



November 2021

Published Monthly

STEEL VALLEY DOLPHINS  
USSVI REGIUN BASE NEWSLETTER



## The USSVI Requin Base supports the National 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.”

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### Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month, normally at the Baden PA American Legion. Quarterly meetings are held around our membership area.

#### Our next meeting will be

December 11, 2021 @ 1230 hours

At the Baden American Legion

### Base Location



American Legion Post 641

271 State St

Baden PA 15005

### From the Editor

Please send ideas for articles or copies of articles, with full credit information to me for consideration of submission in the SVD.

We are a SUBMARINE group. As such, the articles should be SUBMARINE or NAVY related.

Lou Hamill - [itgeek8088@gmail.com](mailto:itgeek8088@gmail.com)

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ATTEND A MEETING!

### Our Website

For additional information about what is happening at **YOUR** base, go to

<https://www.requinbase.org/>



## USSVI National Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
National Commander	Wayne Standerfer	972-298-8139	<a href="mailto:lwaynes@charter.net">lwaynes@charter.net</a>
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Junior Vice Commander	Steven Bell	704-824-3510	<a href="mailto:usnret82@carolina.rr.com">usnret82@carolina.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Raymond Wewers	479-967-5541	<a href="mailto:raywewers@gmail.com">raywewers@gmail.com</a>
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Past Commander	John Markiewicz	904-743-2924	<a href="mailto:markiewiczjohn4@gmail.com">markiewiczjohn4@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain	James Sandman	615-975-4792	<a href="mailto:Jsandman85@gmail.com">Jsandman85@gmail.com</a>
Region Director Northeast	Leslie Altschuler	917-748-2275	<a href="mailto:CdrNJNorthBase@hotmail.com">CdrNJNorthBase@hotmail.com</a>
District Commander EN3	Thomas Denton	301-845-0049	<a href="mailto:gcmfish@verizon.net">gcmfish@verizon.net</a>



## USS Requin Base Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	<a href="mailto:hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com">hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com</a>
1st Vice Commander			
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Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	<a href="mailto:nicotrafrank@gmail.com">nicotrafrank@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain			
Past Base Commander	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	<a href="mailto:jcampisi654@comcast.net">jcampisi654@comcast.net</a>
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Photographer			
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Asst. Holland Club	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	<a href="mailto:dqdiving@gmail.com">dqdiving@gmail.com</a>
Technology Chair	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	<a href="mailto:itgeek8088@gmail.com">itgeek8088@gmail.com</a>
Eagle Scout Chair	Vince Metz	412-613-5554	<a href="mailto:vincemetz007@hotmail.com">vincemetz007@hotmail.com</a>
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	<a href="mailto:dqdiving@gmail.com">dqdiving@gmail.com</a>
Master at Arms	Bat Masterson	724-869-1938	<a href="mailto:mastersoncf@aol.com">mastersoncf@aol.com</a>
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	<a href="mailto:redde@gmail.com">redde@gmail.com</a>





## Tolling of the Boats for November

### **USS Albacore (SS-218)**

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

### **USS Growler (SS-215)**

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

### **USS Scamp (SS-277)**

Probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.

### **USS Corvina (SS-226)**

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

### **USS Sculpin (SS-191)**

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner but only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor





## Binnacle List

## Eternal Patrol



## In Remembrance

Jim & Charlene Lift  
Rick Elster  
Chad Underkoffler

All hands present and accounted for

Robert Garlock  
Gary Gresh  
Paul Hoffman  
Arlow Julian Jr  
Robert LaLonde  
Don Roach  
George Stefaniak  
James Wilkes  
Larry Wizeman

## Birthdays

### Member

### Spouse

### Anniversaries

Chad Underkoffler 12/24  
Edward Zdarko 12/24  
Michael Amenti 12/29  
Frederick Koppenhaver 12/29  
Charles "Bat" Masterson 12/30

Margie Bookmiller 4-Dec  
Cindy Brown 7-Dec  
Roxane Crosby 13-Dec  
Erin Houpt 14-Dec  
Rita Ann Kalimon 14-Dec  
Lisa McGinty 15-Dec  
Louise Kielar 18-Dec  
Priscilla Hawk 24-Dec  
Brenda Winters 24-Dec

Ann & David Sawin 30-Dec  
Krissy & Josh Wissinger 18-Dec





Shipmates: What a wonderful time we all had at the Veterans Day Parade that was held in downtown Pittsburgh. Shipmates – Allen, Booky, Brown, Bouts, Bookmiller, Underkoffler, Crosby, Huey, Flaugh & Son, Hamill, Held, Loskoch & first mate, Myers & first mate, Nicotra, Masterson, Sills, and Simon. In addition, we had the honor to have lunch at the German club, with eight (8) crew members of the Laboon DDG-58, four officers and 4 enlisted.

We all know the procedure that officer's put their hats together and so we just had to put our hats with theirs, and they took it as having good fun. They all enjoy the good German food and the great glasses of German Brew. They got a big kick out of looking at all the taps, then, right in the middle, was OUR submarine beer tap handle. We all had a great time together. If and when we ever go to Norfolk, they invited us to take a tour of their ship. That would be really cool for BUBBLE HEADS to visit a TARGET!

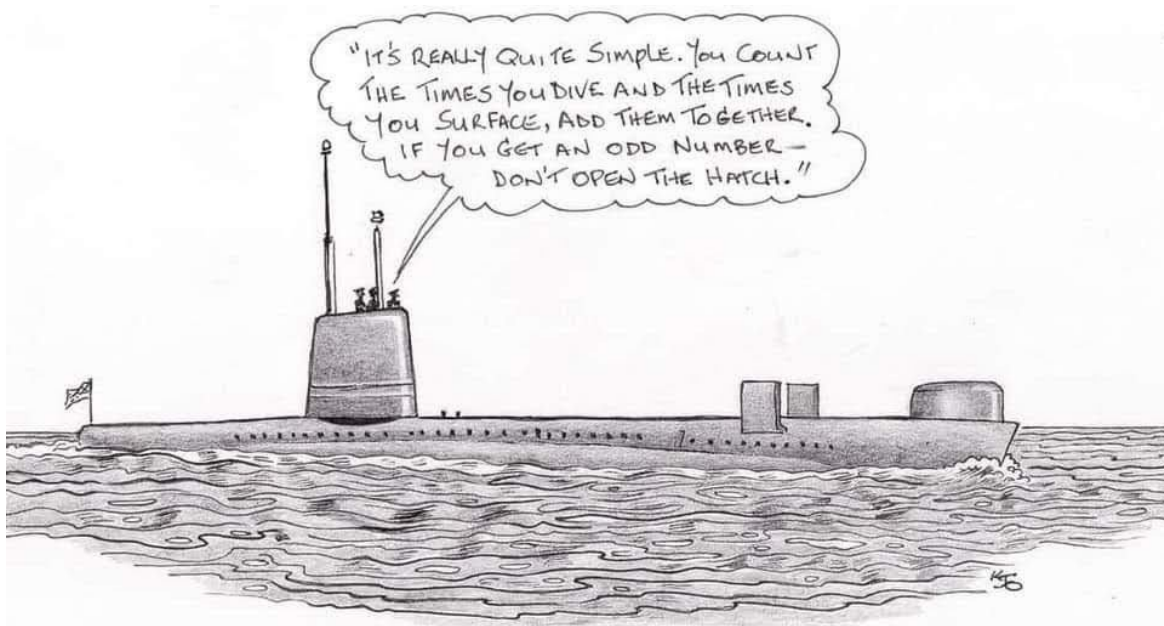
Shipmate Tom Strang, who uses a wheel chair, had to be rescued by his wife, one morning, when she woke up, and found a fire in the basement. She woke up Tom and got him in his wheel chair and out of the house. She returned and saved their little dog. They are living in a motel until their house is repaired.

The American Legion presented Carl's mom, Ruth with a certificate and bible – she greatly appreciated the kind gesture. Our next base meeting is scheduled on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. As we always do, we have male and female grab bags. If you or your first mate or guest, plan on participating, the suggested price of grab bag presents is \$20.00.

We will also conduct our base elections. There are two open positions. We have received a number of shipmates who want to apply for the open positions. These positions are very important to our organization and who ever is awarded the position, will be given different assignments throughout the year. If you are considering running for a position, you can still submit your name at the meeting.

In closing, your officers want to extend a HAPPY TURKEY DAY to all of you, first mates and families. Edie and I especially want everyone to give your first mates a hug from both of us and to take the time to enjoy your holiday meal.

THE IDAHO FUND STANDS AT \$12,659.00 with pledges of \$270.00 = \$12,928.00



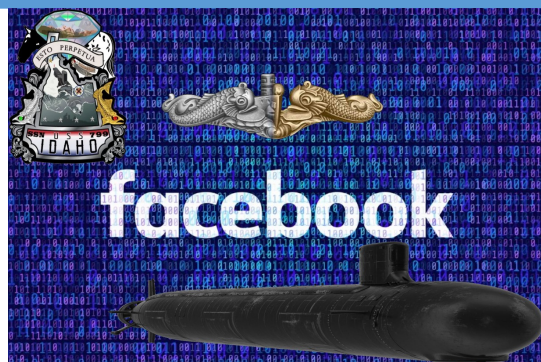




PCU Idaho SSN - 799



<https://ussidahocommittee.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/SSN799>

### USS Idaho Support Fundraiser

Nov 15, 2021

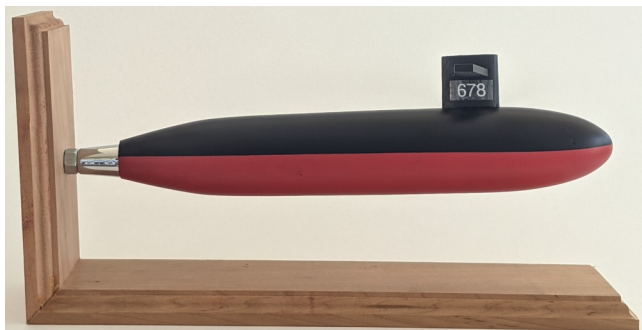
Thank You, to everyone who has helped us reach our initial goal of \$10,000. Our fundraising efforts are going so well that we decided to increase the goal to 15,000.

We are Submariners and by nature, we are over achievers. Keep it up. The crew and their families appreciate the support.



Here is the link to the customer photos.

<https://requinbase.org/customer-photos/>



If you would like to order a challenge coin holder or a Submarine Beer Tap Handle [with or without the stand]

contact [Huey Dietrich](#) or

Place your order for these and other USS Idaho items at <https://requinbase.org/product-category/uss-idaho/>





## Month in Review

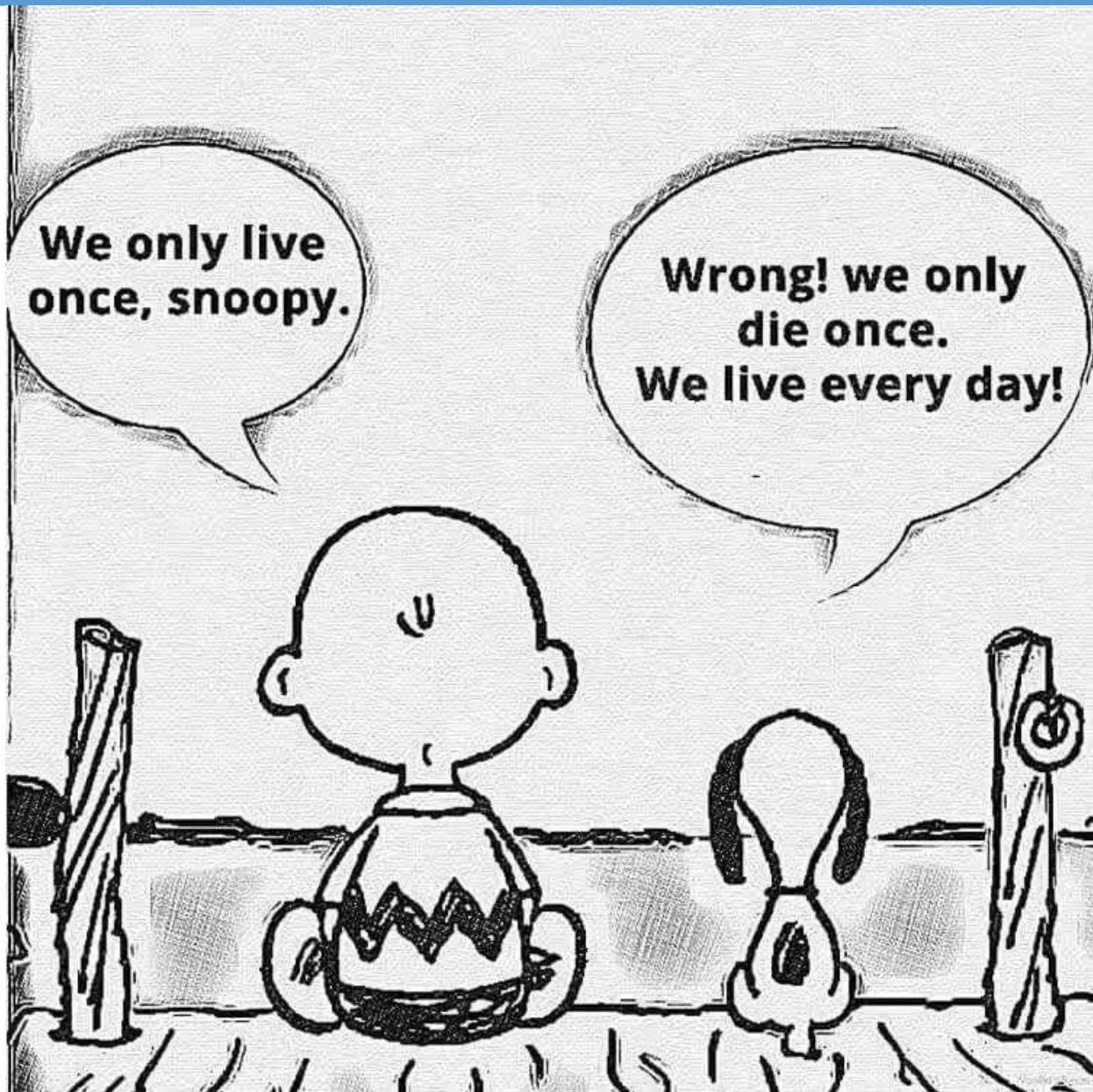
### 2021 Veterans Day Parade

What a great time, weather, and fellowship. Not only with our fellow submarine shipmates but we got to meet 4 officers and 4 enlisted sailors from the USS Laboon (DDG-58). We had a great time at the German club with them and we are looking forward to the Captains invitation to come visit them once they are out of the shipyard. Welcome aboard USS Laboon. Photos from the parade and German club are available in our [online base library](#).



The Nautilus float in its new indoor storage area.





## Store Keepers Report

Please visit our online store at  
<https://requinbase.org/shop/>

You can have your items shipped to you at home via USPS [for a small fee], or pick them up at the next USSVI meeting.





## Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2021  
Baden, PA

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich** called the meeting to order.

**Attendees:** John Bistolos, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, George & Cindy Brown, Joe Campisi, Ed & Mary Jane Derr, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Sandy Ellis, Rick & Mary Beth Flaugh, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Lou Hamill, John Held, Bill & Sandra Lindsay, Mike Markel, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Myers, Ben Nicklow, Frank Nicotra, Jim & Sandra Schwarz, Chuck Schrupp, Harry Sills, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Jack Sutherin, Chad Underkoffler, Charlie Warren, Andrew & Emma Wolbrueck. Special guest Ruth Stigers.

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich:** Quotes of the day: "Be ever questioning. Ignorance is not bliss. You don't go to heaven if you die dumb. Be better informed. Learn from other's mistakes. You could not live long enough to make them all yourself."

**Requin History:** On November 13, 1945 Requin crossed the Arctic Circle.

**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 ALBACORE (SS 218)	November 7, 1944
USS GROWLER (SS 215)	November 8, 1944
USS SCAMP (SS 277)	November 9, 1944
USS CORVINA (SS 226)	November 16, 1943
USS SCULPIN (SS 191)	November 19, 1943
USS CAPELIN (SS 289)	November 23, 1943

We also wish to remember our shipmates of the Requin Base: Robert Garlock, Gary Gresh, Paul Hoffman, Arlow Julian Jr, Robert LaLonde, Don Roach, George Stefaniak, James Wilkes and Larry Wizeman. Finally let us 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.

**Shipmate Bill Lindsay** gave the Invocation  
Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

**Secretary Jeff Simon** reported that Minutes of the previous base meeting were published in the SVD. With no objections, the minutes were approved as published.

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

**Other Reports:**

Binnacle List: Jim & Charlene Lift, Rick Elster, Chad Underkoffler  
Eternal Patrol: None  
Membership stands at 195

**Storekeeper Frank Nicotra** new items are available from BC Patch.



**Shipmate Vince Metz** reported on Eagle Scout court of honor presentations. New coordinator is needed.

### **Memorial and Ceremonies**

Veterans Day Parade Pittsburgh was held on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one members attended. At the December meeting, there will be a \$20 Male/Female grab bag

### **Old Business:**

Idaho fund donations stand at \$12,386.

### **New Business:**

Openings on the board are now First Vice and Second Vice. Shipmate Lou Hamill is Nomination Committee Chairman. See him if you are interested in applying for executive board officer positions: Commander, First Vice, Second Vice, Secretary, Treasurer. Appointed positions available include Chaplin, Eagle Scout Coordinator, Audit Committee, News Letter Distribution.

### **Good of The Order:**

Shipmate Tom Strang's house was destroyed by fire. He and his first mate are living in a motel until repairs are made. He is in a wheelchair. A motion to approve a donation of \$500 to help defray their expenses was approved by the members present.

A motion to pay the balance of expenses for the Veterans Day luncheon was approved by the members present.

American Legion made a presentation to Ruth Stigers in honor of her son Carl.

**Shipmate Bill Lindsay** gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting:** American Legion Post 641, Baden, PA at 1230 hours on December 11, 2021



The Chief wasn't convinced his message was getting through.



## Upcoming Events

12/11/2021

December Monthly Meeting

12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Baden American Legion Post 641



## Membership

Regular Members	181	Holland Club	89	USSVI Life Members	75
Associate Members	13	WWII	5	Base Life Members	50
Total Members	<b>196</b>				



## Eagle Scouts

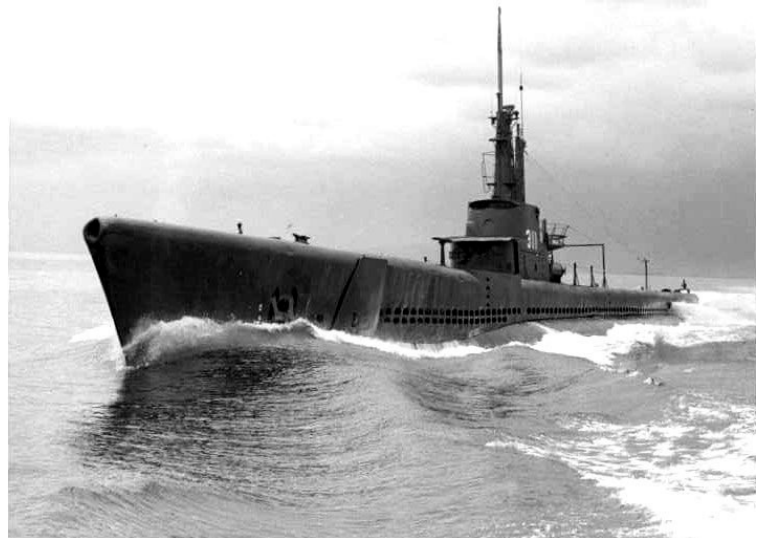
Please direct all Eagle Court of Honor requests to <https://requinbase.org/eagle-coh>







<b>Namesake</b>	<u>Archerfish</u>
<b>Builder</b>	<u>Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine</u>
<b>Laid down</b>	22 January 1943
<b>Launched</b>	28 May 1943
<b>Commissioned</b>	4 September 1943
<b>Decommissioned</b>	12 June 1946
<b>General characteristics</b>	
<b>Class and type</b>	<u>Balao-class diesel-electric submarine</u>
<b>Displacement</b>	1,526 <u>tons</u> (1,550 t) surfaced, 2,391 tons (2,429 t) submerged
<b>Length</b>	311 ft 9 in (95.02 m)
<b>Beam</b>	27 ft 3 in (8.31 m)
<b>Draft</b>	16 ft 10 in (5.13 m) maximum 4 × <u>Fairbanks-Morse</u> Model 38D8-1/8 9-cylinder <u>opposed-</u> <u>piston diesel engines</u> driving <u>electrical generators</u>
<b>Propulsion</b>	2 × 126-cell <u>Sargo</u> <u>batteries</u>
	4 × high-speed <u>Elliott electric</u> <u>motors</u> with <u>reduction gears</u>
	2 × propellers
<b>Speed</b>	5,400 <u>shp</u> (4.0 <u>MW</u> ) surfaced
	2,740 shp (2.04 MW) sub- merged
	20.25 kn (37.50 km/h) surfaced, 8.75 kn (16.21 km/h) submerged
<b>Range</b>	11,000 nmi (20,000 km) at 10 kn (19 km/h) surfaced
<b>Endurance</b>	48 hours at 2 kn (3.7 km/h) sub- merged, 75 days on patrol
<b>Test depth</b>	400 ft (120 m)
<b>Complement</b>	10 officers, 70–71 enlisted
	10 × 21-inch (533 mm) <u>torpedo</u> <u>tubes</u>
	• 6 forward, 4 aft 24 torpedoes
<b>Armament</b>	1 × 4-inch (102 mm) / 50 <u>caliber</u> <u>deck gun</u> <u>Bofors 40 mm</u> and <u>Oerlikon</u> <u>20 mm</u> cannon



### 11/01/1944

USS Blackfin (SS 322) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks auxiliary vessel Caroline Maru and transport No.12 Unkai Maru in Mindoro Strait. Meanwhile, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker No.7 Horai Maru and lands a party of three men, together with two tons of supplies, at Mamburao on the west coast of Mindoro.

### 11/02/1943

USS Halibut (SS 232), USS Seahorse (SS 304), and USS Trigger (SS 237), all operating independently of each other, attack a Japanese convoy south of Honshu and sink five enemy vessels.

### 11/03/1944

USS Gurnard (SS 254) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the Japanese freighter Taimei Maru west of the Labuan, Borneo while USS Pintado (SS 387) attacks a small detachment of Japanese warships and sinks the destroyer Akikaze west of the Lingayen Gulf.

### 11/04/1971

USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN 636) launches a Poseidon C-3 Missile in the first surface launch of the weapon.

### 11/07/1944

USS Albacore (SS 218) is sunk by a mine off the northern tip of Honshu. All hands are lost.

### 11/08/1943

USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks the Japanese army tanker Kyoikei Maru in the South China Sea off the northwest coast of Luzon while USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Tango Maru in Makassar Strait and survives counterattacks by auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 41.

### 11/09/1944

USS Barbero (SS 317) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the merchant ship Shimotsu Maru about 250 miles west of Manila while USS Queenfish (SS 393) also attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the gunboat Chojusan Maru about 50 miles west of Kyushu. Additionally on this date, USS Haddo (SS 255) sinks the Japanese tanker No.2 Hishu Maru in Mindoro Strait.

### 11/09/1956

Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas proposes the Polaris missile program to Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson.

### 11/10/1959

USS Triton (SSRN 586) is commissioned as a nuclear-powered radar picket submarine.

### 11/11/1981

USS Ohio (SSBN 726) is commissioned.

### 11/13/1976

The lead ship of the newly created Los Angeles-class submarine, USS Los Angeles (SSN 688), is commissioned.

### 11/14/1943

USS Narwhal (SS 167) delivers 46 tons of ammunition and stores, disembarks a Navy officer at Nasipit, Mindanao and embarks 32 evacuees, which include eight women, two children, and a baby, who are transported to Darwin, Australia.

### 11/14/1944



USS Jack (SS 259) attacks a Japanese convoy off Cape Padaran, French Indochina and sinks the freighter Hinaga Maru, while USS Raton (SS 270) attacks a Japanese convoy off the northwest coast of Luzon and sinks the merchant tanker No.5 Unkai Maru. Lastly, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No.7 65 miles northwest of Cape Bolinao.

#### **11/15/1943**

USS Crevalle (SS 291) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kyokko Maru off San Antonio, Zambales province, Philippines.

#### **11/15/1944**

USS Barbel (SS 316) attacks a Japanese convoy about 250 miles east of Tourane, French Indochina, sinks transports Misaki Maru and Sugiyama Maru, then escapes searches by minesweepers W.18 and W.20. USS Batfish (SS 310) sinks Japanese supply ship Kurasaki north-northwest of Cape Bolinao while USS Jack (SS 259) sinks transports Nichiel Maru and No.2 Yuzan Maru.

#### **11/15/1960**

The Polaris fleet ballistic missile weapon system becomes operational when USS George Washington (SSBN 598) gets underway with her principal armament of 16 Polaris A-1 missiles from NWS Charleston, SC.

#### **11/18/1943**

USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks the Japanese destroyer Sanae and damages the oiler Ondo 90 miles south of Basilan Island.

#### **11/18/1944**

USS Blackfin (SS 322) diverts from her war patrol and picks up captured Japanese cryptographic and technical equipment, along with other secret documents, west of Camurong River on the north coast of Mindoro, Philippines.

#### **11/18/1944**

USS Peto (SS 265), USS Spadefish (SS 411), and USS Sunfish (SS 281) attack the same Japanese convoy in the East China. Peto sinks army cargo ships Aisakasan Maru and Chinkai Maru. Spadefish sinks auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 156 and Sunfish sinks army transport Seisho Maru.

#### **11/19/1943**

USS Nautilus (SS 168) enters Tarawa lagoon for the first submarine photograph reconnaissance mission. It is later damaged by friendly fire from USS Santa Fe (CL 60) and USS Ringgold (DD 500) off Tarawa because due to the mission, Nautilus presence was unknown to the vessels.

#### **11/19/1943**

USS Sculpin (SS 191) is damaged by the Japanese and abandoned by her crew. Forty-one Sailors are taken as POWs, 21 of whom are taken on Japanese carrier Chuyo that is later sunk by USS Sailfish (SS 192).

#### **11/21/1943**

USS Nautilus (SS 168) lands U.S. Marine Corps Reconnaissance Company on Abemama, Gilberts while USS Trigger (SS 237) sinks Japanese freighter Eizan Maru in the Yellow Sea.

#### **11/21/1944**

USS Sealion (SS 315) sinks the Japanese battleship Kongo and destroyer Urakaze north-northwest of Formosa.

#### **11/22/1944**

USS Besugo (SS 321) sinks the Japanese landing ship T-151 off the northern tip of Palawan while USS Guavina (SS 362) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Dowa Maru northwest of Borneo.

**11/23/1944**

USS Bang (SS 385) sinks Japanese freighter Sakae Maru and transport Amakusa Maru, USS Redfish (SS 395) sinks freighter Hozan Maru, and USS Picuda (SS 382) sinks freighters Fukuju Maru and Shuyo Maru.

**11/24/1943**

USS Nautilus (SS 168) and USS Gansevoort (DD 608) shell Japanese positions on Abemama Atoll, Gilbert Islands.

**11/25/1944**

USS Hardhead (SS 365) attacks a Japanese convoy 60 miles west of Manila and sinks Coast Defense Vessel No.38 off Bataan Peninsula while USS Atule (SS 403) sinks Japanese freighter Santos Maru off Sabtang Island, Luzon. Also, USS Mingo (SS 261) sinks Japanese army transport Manila Maru.

**11/27/1943**

USS Bowfin (SS 287) sinks the Vichy French cargo ship Van Vollenhoven off the coast of French Indochina while USS Seahorse (SS 304) sinks the Japanese fleet tanker San Ramon Maru in the East China Sea.

**11/29/1944**

USS Archerfish (SS 311) sinks Japanese carrier Shinano on her maiden voyage 160 nautical miles southwest of Tokyo Bay. Shinano is the largest warship sunk by any combatant submarines during World War II. Also on this date, USS Scabbardfish (SS 397) sinks Japanese submarine I-365 east of Honshu.







## How the U.S. Navy Sank Imperial Japan's Last Monster-Sized Aircraft Carrier

by Michael Peck

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-us-navy-sank-imperial-japans-last-monster-sized-aircraft-carrier-74541>



The Japanese force zigged and zagged to throw off any undersea pursuers. And then came that bit of luck that often tips every battle. The Japanese ships zigged one more time, straight into the path of the Archerfish. The sub took its chance. At 3:15 am on November 29, it fired six torpedoes. Four hit.

If weight alone could determine victory, then the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft carrier *Shinano* might still be afloat.

At 69,000 tons when launched in 1944, the *Shinano* would have remained the world's largest aircraft until the 1960s. But that was not to be. Instead, the *Shinano* earned a distinction of a different kind: the title of largest warship ever sunk by a submarine.

And the submarine that accomplished—the 1,500-ton USS *Archerfish*—was one-forty-sixth the size of its victim.

The story begins in May 1940, when the *Shinano* was laid down as the third of Japan's legendary *Yamato*-class battleships. These giants were the largest battleships in history, built as part of Japan's desperate attempt to counter U.S. naval quantity with a few—hopefully—qualitatively superior warships. If all went according to plan, the *Shinano* would join her sisters *Yamato* and *Musashi* as the three queens of Second World War battlewagons.

Yet by 1942, Japan began to realize that it needed aircraft carriers more than battleships. Naval warfare was now ruled by these floating airfields, and Japan had lost its four best at the Battle of Midway. The orders came down to convert *Shinano* into an aircraft carrier such as the world had never seen.

At 69,000 tons, it was the double the tonnage of the Essex-class carriers that won the Pacific War for America, and would remain the largest until the advent of nuclear-powered carriers in the early 1960s. Its main deck, already sheathed in armor up to 7.5 inches thick, became the hangar deck where aircraft were serviced. On top was the flight deck to launch and recover planes, itself protected by 3.75 inches of armor.

Instead of the devastating eighteen-inch cannon of her two sisters, the *Shinano*'s main armament was supposed to be forty-seven aircraft, rather stingy compared to the 75–100 aircraft on large U.S. and Japanese carriers. But its weaponry was still impressive: sixteen five-inch antiaircraft guns, 145 25mm antiaircraft machine guns and twelve multiple rocket launchers with 4.7-inch unguided antiaircraft rockets.

The *Shinano*'s designers learned—or thought they had learned—the lessons from the sloppy damage control that had unnecessarily doomed several Japanese carriers. Flammable paint and wood were avoided. Care was taken to protect ventilation shafts so explosive gases couldn't seep through the ship as they had with other Japanese carriers.

But the *Shinano*'s impregnability was only skin deep. "Although he was outwardly serene, Captain Mikami felt pressing concern about the ship's watertight compartments," later wrote Joseph Enright, the *Archerfish*'s captain. "The air pressure tests that would have confirmed his hope that the compartments were watertight had been canceled in the rush to move *Shinano* to the Inland Sea."

Sailors can be a superstitious lot, and there was a bad omen when the ship was launched on October 8, 1944 from Yokosuka naval base. A drydock gate buckled, allowing a surge of water to smash the ship against the drydock wall three times. After repairs, it took to sea on November 28, the carrier took to sea with its three-destroyer escort, headed toward the Kure naval base. It carried some suicide boats and kamikaze flying bombs, but no aircraft to fly antisubmarine patrols through Japanese home waters, which were teeming with U.S. submarines.

Unfortunately, the *Shinano* ran into the *Archerfish* that night, cruising on the surface and on the prowl. The sub was on its fifth war patrol, but it had yet to sink an enemy vessel. Captain Enright decided he needed to sail to a point ahead of his target, submerge so the destroyers wouldn't spot him and fire his torpedoes. That wasn't an easy prospect in World War II, when surface ships could steam faster than submarines.

The *Archerfish* paralleled the Japanese task force. It also turned on its radar to track them, which was detected by receivers on the *Shinano*. The Japanese captain worried about a massed attack by an American sub wolfpack, but he didn't worry that much. Hadn't the *Shinano*'s sister ship *Musashi* endured ten torpedo hits and sixteen bombs before succumbing at the Battle of the Philippine Sea? Despite the numerous U.S. subs infesting Japanese home waters, the carrier's watertight doors were opened to allow the crew access to the machinery.

The Japanese force zigged and zagged to throw off any undersea pursuers. And then came that bit of luck that often tips every battle. The Japanese ships zigged one more time, straight into the path of the *Archerfish*. The sub took its chance. At 3:15 am on November 29, it fired six torpedoes. Four hit.

Still, the *Shinano*'s crew wasn't unduly worried. The ship was designed to absorb such damage, and in fact continued to try to sail at maximum speed. But water flooded through the holes in the ship's side, flowing into unsecured spaces and through what should have been watertight doors. Pumps and generators failed. Soon the carrier acquired a list to starboard that only got worse.

The *Shinano*'s escorting destroyers attempted to tow it, but to no avail. At 10:18 am, seven hours after the attack, the order was given to abandon ship. At 10:57 am the ship sank, along with 1,435 of its crew, including the captain.



A postwar U.S. Navy analysis suggested the Yamato-class ships, including *Shinano*, suffered from design flaws. The joints between the main armored belt and the armored bulkheads below were vulnerable to leakage, and the *Archerfish*'s torpedoes hit that joint. Some bulkheads were also prone to rupture. Then again, the *Shinano* was hardly the lone victim of subs. The United States lost the carrier *Wasp* to Japanese torpedo attack, and several British carriers fell victim to German U-boats.

Perhaps there was also bad luck. Bad luck into running into the *Archerfish*, bad luck in zig-zagging straight into the path of a salvo of torpedoes, bad luck that the torpedoes hit a vulnerable spot.

In the end, the *Shinano* would make history—and then sink into the cold, deep waters of the Pacific.

## Undersea Technologies are One Way to Keep Submarines Safe

by Kris Osborn

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/undersea-technologies-are-one-way-keep-submarines-safe-196375>



Northrop Grumman isn't only good for stealth bombers.

**Here's What You Need to Remember:** Part of the challenge is finding ways to minimize Navy submarine vulnerability to enemy detection and attack by simply remaining at safer depths, yet in order to achieve a high-degree of high-speed connectivity, submarines need to break the ocean surface by coming to “periscope depth,” which is closer to the surface.

Sub-hunting spy planes armed with torpedoes, maritime drones armed with missiles, high-resolution,

surface scanning cameras, and fast-moving surface ships dragging sonar sensors while conducting surface reconnaissance are all fast-growing threats to U.S. Navy submarines.

Part of the challenge is finding ways to minimize Navy submarine vulnerability to enemy detection and attack by simply remaining at safer depths, yet in order to achieve a high-degree of high-speed connectivity, submarines need to break the ocean surface by coming to “periscope depth,” which is closer to the surface.

The U.S. Navy is working with a number of industry partners such as Northrop Grumman to identify, evolve and refine new kinds of undersea communications technology.

“Today, the submarine comes to periscope depth and conducts the majority of its transmissions at this depth. Capabilities we’re developing at Northrop Grumman will allow the submarine to never have to come up to the surface, because it is at its most vulnerable when at periscope depth,” Alan Lytle, vice president of Strategy & Mission Solutions, Maritime/Land Systems & Sensors division, Northrop Grumman, told The National Interest in an interview.

Interestingly, while most people might immediately associate Northrop Grumman with high-profile programs such as its B-2 and B-21 stealth bombers, the company’s history with undersea warfare goes back nearly 100 years, including substantial World War II efforts. Years ago, Northrop Grumman was involved in adapting radio frequency (RF) technologies to undersea acoustic systems and developed the first electric torpedoes for Navy submarines.

“We have been working in the undersea domain for well over 50-years, and our support for the Navy stretches back even further,” said Jenny Roberts, director of strategy, investments & integration, Maritime/Land Systems & Sensors division, Northrop Grumman.

Roberts, who formerly worked as a director for undersea influence at the Navy’s Undersea Warfare Division, says Northrop Grumman innovators seek to align closely with the sense of mission and purpose now driving the U.S. Navy’s push to stay in front of undersea warfare technology.

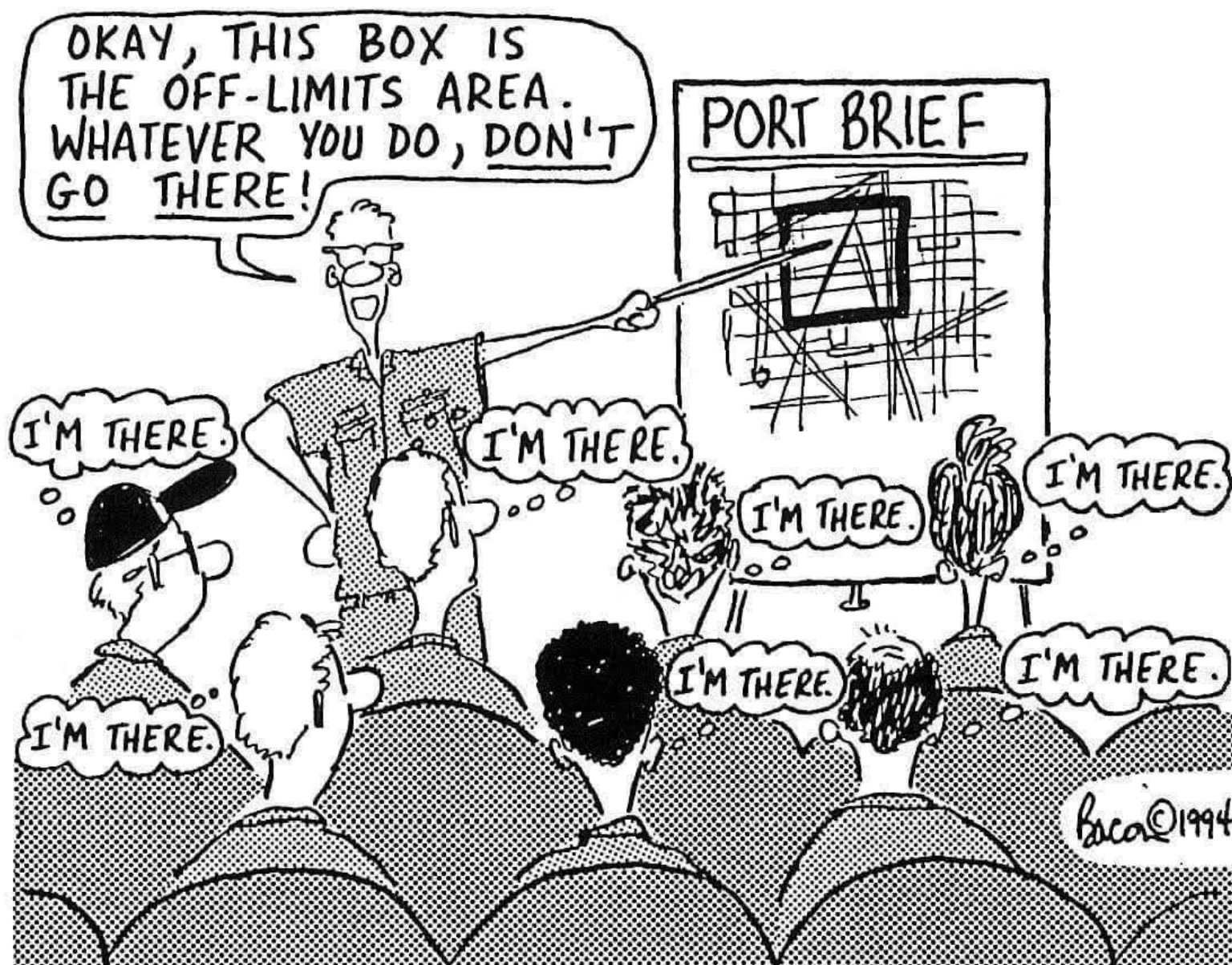
“We bring together the power of the corporation’s continuous innovation to provide capabilities our Navy customers need for mission success,” Roberts explained to The National Interest. As part of the ongoing effort to synchronize efforts with the Navy, Northrop Grumman developers are placing a special premium on innovation in the areas of undersea warfare and cross-domain networking.

For instance, perhaps a surface drone, submarine, ship, or fighter jet can identify and share time-sensitive targeting data across domains in near real-time, integrating crucial threat information exponentially faster than ever before. The ultimate goal of this is to massively truncate sensor-to-shooter timelines. Perhaps an undersea drone could identify an enemy subsea target, pass the data back to an undersea-warfare commander who in turn instantly sends coordinates to a helicopter armed with Very Light Weight Torpedoes. This innovative kill-chain concept was demonstrated by Northrop Grumman in a Navy exercise.

“To deter future conflict or to ensure we win if future conflict arises, we need to provide capabilities which expand the influence of the undersea force, including connectivity across all domains,” Lytle added.



In light of this, Northrop Grumman developers discuss their efforts to link undersea and space domains in the context of the Pentagon's fast-evolving Joint All Domain Command and Control initiative. JADC2, as it is called, seeks to engender a kind of multi-node connectivity between otherwise disparate pools of information across multiple domains.





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