

COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

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The Green Board



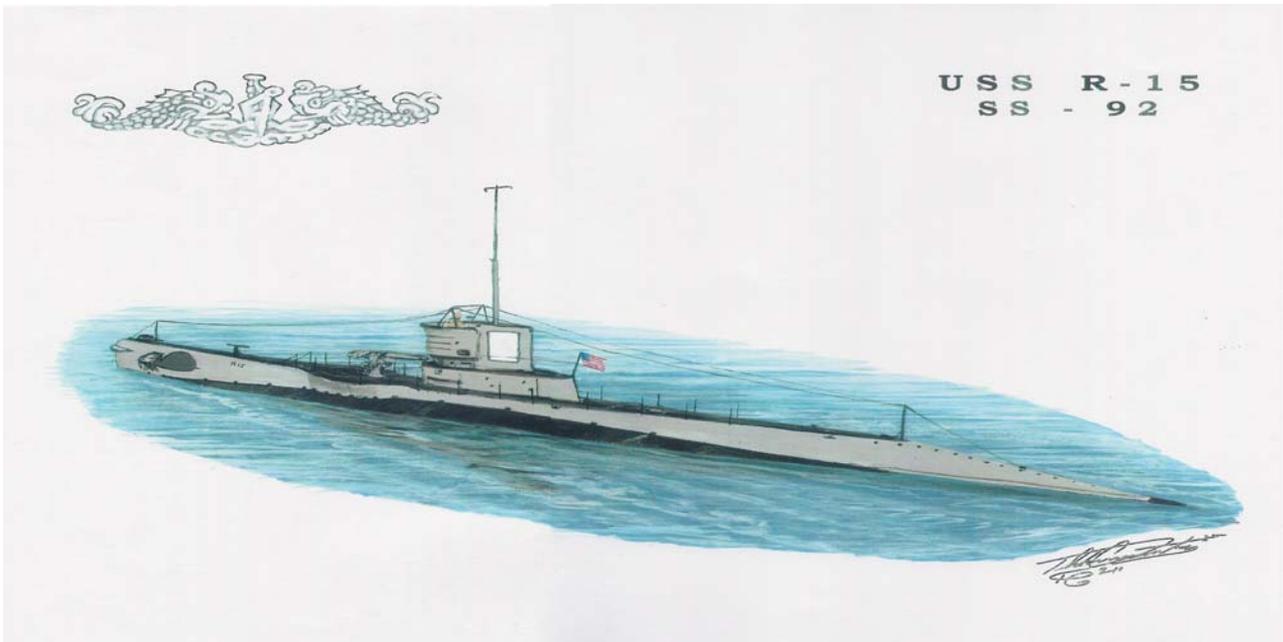
ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE



USS R-15 (SS - 92)

At left is the ship's bell from the USS R-15. It was donated to the base museum by the Larson family.

The base has acquired a sketch of the USS R-15 by artist Tom Denton. It will hang in the museum beside the bell.





Tolling of the Boats



USS S-5 (SS-110) Lost on 1 September 1920 off the Delaware Capes. All the crew escaped through a hole cut in the hull in the tiller room.



USS S-51 (SS-162) Lost on 25 September 1925 with the loss of 32 men when it was sunk after a collision with the SS City of Rome off Block Island, Rhode Island.



USS Grayling (SS-209) Lost with all hands (76 men) to unknown causes on 9 September 1943 when it was sunk in or near Tablas Strait, Republic of the Philippines.



USS Cisco (SS-290) Lost with all hand (76 men) on 28 September 1943 during a Japanese air and surface attack in the Sulu Sea.

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 and its Constitution.”

Commander's Corner

By Jim Tolson



Carle's brats are still good. Thanks to Ron Rossington for hosting Columbus Base at the 45th annual Bucyrus Brat festival and pulling our USS Columbus model in the parade. Ron Rossington is offering to mail you a 2013 WWII Submarine Calendar. It features the WWII submarines credited with some of the greatest tonnage of enemy ships sunk. Frank Lloyd also has the 2013 USSVI calendars, titled "The Victors" which also honors US Submarine Veterans of WWII.

Bill Anderson continues to successfully lead the Adopt A Highway cleanup. Saturday August 24th was a beautiful day to go for a walk along our one mile stretch of I-270. We set a new record because with five (5) Subvets and 21 NJROTC cadets, the cleanup was finished in less than an hour. Thanks to Bill Anderson, Woody Cook, Marv Pastor, and Bob McDaniel for their help. The final Highway Cleanup is October 13th.

USS Columbus (SSN-762) is back from Westpac. Cdr. Dave Youtt, CO USS Columbus emailed to tell us that he and several of the crew plan to visit Columbus in early November. Watch for further details.

During the Columbus Base meeting, Galin Brady provided an extensive report on the USSVI Convention with some help from Bill Anderson. James Williams brought back several USSVI "hand outs" that went into 50/50. Thanks to all three.

We have been getting a lot of military books donated to Columbus Base. Bill McCorkle agreed to take 4 of them and give us a book report. Bill provided a lot of background information on how lessons that weren't learned in one war are repeated in the next war. Thanks Bill.

October/ November activities include:

- October 6th Columbus Base meeting at AMVETS Post 89 at Noon.
- October 13th Saturday Highway Cleanup Muster at Don Gentile Post 532 – 0845.
- November 2 Friday, Move Honor Flight Wheel Chairs –contact Dave Creekmore
- November 5th Monday, Move Honor Flight Wheel Chairs
- November 9th (Friday) Columbus Veterans Day Parade – noon step off
- November 23rd Gahanna Festival of Lights Parade – Color Guard.

Our next meeting is noon Saturday October 6th at AMVETS Post 89, 3535 Westerville Road - our usual meeting place. The special speaker is Daphne Hawk, Franklin County Recorder. Bring your questions. Hope to see you there. The OSU Nebraska game doesn't start until 8 PM.

Today In Undersea Warfare History: September 19th

1957 - Bathyscaph Trieste, in a dive sponsored by the Office of Naval Research in the Mediterranean, reaches record depth of 2 miles

1969 - PCU SEAHORSE (SSN-669) commissioned USS SEAHORSE (SSN-669) at the Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corp., Groton, CT.



Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government. It is bestowed on a member of the United States armed forces who distinguishes himself *conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States*. Because of the nature of its criteria, the medal is often awarded posthumously.

Henry Breault TM2(SS) Boat: SS-66 Awarded October 28, 1923



Henry Breault was born in Putnam, Connecticut, on October 14, 1900. He enlisted in the British Royal Navy at sixteen years of age and, after serving under the White Ensign for four years, joined the U.S. Navy.

On October 28, 1923 Torpedoman Second Class Breault was a member of the crew of USS O-5 when that submarine was sunk in a collision in the Panama Canal. Though he could have escaped, Breault chose to assist a shipmate, and remained inside the sunken submarine until both were rescued more than a day later. For his "heroism and devotion to duty" on this occasion, Henry Breault was awarded the Medal of Honor. He received his Medal of Honor from President Calvin Coolidge, in ceremonies at the White House, Washington, D.C., on March 8, 1924. Following twenty years of U.S. Navy service, Henry Breault became ill with a heart condition.

He died at the Naval Hospital at Newport, Rhode Island, on December 4, 1941. He was buried in Saint Mary Cemetery in Putnam, Connecticut.

Citation

"For heroism and devotion to duty while serving on board the U.S. Submarine O-5 at the time of the sinking of that vessel. On the morning of 28 October 1923, the O-5 collided with the steamship Abangarez and sank in less than a minute. When the collision occurred, Breault was in the torpedo room. Upon reaching the hatch, he saw that the boat was rapidly sinking. Instead of jumping overboard to save his own life, he returned to the torpedo room to the rescue of a shipmate who he knew was trapped in the boat, closing the torpedo room hatch on himself. Breault and Brown remained trapped in this compartment until rescued by the salvage party 31 hours later."





COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES

DATE

September 15, 2012

Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Jim Tolson. COB Marv Pastor led the salute to the Flag. The invocation was conducted by the Chaplain Walt Fleak. Tolling of the Bell for lost boats of July was performed by Marv Pastor and Walt Fleak. There were 24 members and guests present. The BC welcomed everyone.

Secretary's Report – The August minutes were posted in the *Green Board*. There were no comments or corrections. The base received pictures from the Gahanna Festival of Lights Parade. They were passed around to everyone present.

Treasurer's Report- Dave reported on the state of the treasury. The donation from Helen Hoehl in memory of Gus Hoehl was used to purchase flags and carriers for our color guard and to use in the NJROTC fund.

Webmaster's Report- Cliff reported he will be putting the pictures from the Brat Festival Parade on the web site. He also will be doing some updating on the sailing list. He reminded everyone that to access the sailing list you must register with a user id and pass word. To see the *Green Board* it is not necessary to register.

Chaplain's Report- Sick Bay report –Sharon read an email from Susan Trowbridge, Ben Grimes' daughter. Ben has been doing better but has had some setbacks. Susan said she has received some help and any visits are appreciated. Sharon has received communication from George Trace and he is doing better. Joe and Mamie Murphy are now living with a daughter. Sharon passed around three cards for those present to sign. One each for Ben, George, and for Susan Trowbridge's birthday.

Membership- If you are not a life member, 2013 dues can be paid now.

Committee Reports-

Activity –

- October 6th base meeting we will have Daphne Hawk, Franklin County Recorder as a guest speaker.
- October 13th – final highway cleanup for this year –Bill Anderson. Meet at Don Gentile American Legion Post #532, 1571 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228, at 0830 and leave for cleanup locations by 0900. Bill said due to I-270 construction we will still be picking up just the first mile on both sides of the highway.
- On November 2nd we will move Honor Flight wheelchairs to storage. Some will go to the Vet on that day. On November 5th we will take those wheelchairs to storage. Dave Creekmore will send out notification as to times and locations.

- November 9th, Friday, is the Columbus Veterans Day Parade with noon as step off. Some personnel from the USS Columbus have said they want to walk in the parade with us. The BC went over some of the possible activities for when some of the crew from the USS Columbus are in town.
- November 23rd is the Gahanna Festival of Lights Parade.
- Logan Veterans Day parade – Galin will get info.

Unfinished Business – Ken Sewell’s new book “Code Name Caesar” The Secret Hunt for U-864. Books to be delivered during meeting. Cost is \$20. The only books we have are the ones preordered. If anymore are needed you will need to go to a vender like Barnes & Noble or Amazon.

New Business- Membership renewal for those non-life members. Get a check to Dave Creekmore for \$30.

Cmdr. Dave Youtt, CO USS Columbus scheduling early November to be in Columbus.

For the Good of the Order –

- USSVI Convention in Norfolk – report-base members in attendance were Bill Anderson, Galin Brady, James Williams, and Phil Philipps. Galin made a report with supplement info from Bill.
- USSVI election -1/3 (19) of Columbus Base voted electronically.
- Open discussion from the floor
 - Bill McCorkle reported on 4 military books that have been donated to Columbus Base.
- 50/50 Frank Lloyd (Sharon) won the money.

BC reminded everyone the next meeting on 10/6 at the AMVETS Post on Westerville Road. Benediction was performed by Sharon Lloyd. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Bob McDaniel
Base Secretary

Today In Undersea Warfare History: September 18th

1940: USS S-31 (SS-136) : S-31 was recommissioned at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, PA. Assigned to SubDiv 52, she operated out of New London, CT. into December, then moved south to the Panama Canal Zone.

1940: USS S-32 (SS-137) : S-32 was recommissioned and assigned to Division 52, S-32 conducted trials out of New London, CT. through November.

The following letter is a prime example of bureaucracy at its best. It was written and sent in 1942 by the CO of the USS Skipjack in an effort to get re-supply of a most important commodity. It did, however, ultimately result in the desired delivery.

Lt. Cmdr Coe was CO of the USS Skipjack when he wrote his famous "toilet paper" letter to the Mare Island Supply Office.

USS SKIPJACK June 11, 1942 From: Commanding Officer To: Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island, California

Via: Commander Submarines, Southwest Pacific Subject: Toilet Paper Reference:

(a) USS HOLLAND (5148) USS SKIPJACK req. 70-42 of 30 July 1941.

(b) (b) SO NYMI Canceled invoice No. 272836 Enclosure:

(1) Copy of cancelled Invoice (2) Sample of material requested.

1. This vessel submitted a requisition for 150 rolls of toilet paper on July 30, 1941, to USS HOLLAND. The material was ordered by HOLLAND from the Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island, for delivery to USS SKIPJACK.
2. The Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island, on November 26, 1941, cancelled Mare Island Invoice No. 272836 with the stamped notation "Cancelled---cannot identify." This cancelled invoice was received by SKIPJACK on June 10, 1942.
3. During the 11  months elapsing from the time of ordering the toilet paper and the present date, the SKIPJACK personnel, despite their best efforts to await delivery of subject material, have been unable to wait on numerous occasions, and the situation is now quite acute, especially during depth charge attack by the "back-stabbers."
4. Enclosure (2) is a sample of the desired material provided for the information of the Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island. The Commanding Officer, USS SKIPJACK cannot help but wonder what is being used in Mare Island in place of this unidentifiable material, once well known to this command.
5. SKIPJACK personnel during this period have become accustomed to use of "ersatz," i.e., the vast amount of incoming non-essential paper work, and in so doing feel that the wish of the Bureau of Ships for the reduction of paper work is being complied with, thus effectively killing two birds with one stone.
6. It is believed by this command that the stamped notation "cannot identify" was possible error, and that this is simply a case of shortage of strategic war material, the SKIPJACK probably being low on the priority list.
7. In order to cooperate in our war effort at a small local sacrifice, the SKIPJACK desires no further action be taken until the end of the current war, which has created a situation aptly described as "war is hell." J.W. Coe

Excitement surfaced when surrendered German

By Jim Woods
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Sam Lewis remembers the buzz of excitement when the German submarine U-234 arrived in the Navy yard at Portsmouth, N.H., on May 19, 1945.

At 1,650 tons, U-234 was the largest submarine to surrender in American waters and joined three others after Germany surrendered to the Allies on May 8, 1945.



Lewis

Lewis, 74, of West Jefferson said curiosity drove him to jockey for position to assist in tying the U-234 to the pier.

"We wanted to get to see something, but we didn't get to see anything."

Navy brass shooed him and other sailors from the sub, Lewis said. Rumors abounded that two Japanese had committed hara-kiri aboard the vessel.

Before Germany surrendered, the U-234 was bound for Japan with 240 tons of cargo, including 1,232 pounds of uranium oxide, according to declassified records at the Naval Historical Center in Washington.

Dr. Philip Morrison, 79, of Cambridge, Mass., a member of the Manhattan Project, said last week that Japan was not close to developing its

own atomic bomb. "I refuse to believe it until there is much more evidence," he said.

The amount of uranium on U-234 would be akin to "sending a souvenir and hoping they would do something with it someday," Morrison said.

"If they had 1,000 tons (of uranium), that would have been quite important."

Marty Melvin, 70, of Pittston, Pa., was among Marines who boarded the U-234 to remove its crew.

"It stunk of diesel fuel. Every available space was stacked with diesel fuel," Melvin recalled.

War materiel was not the only valuable cache aboard the U-234.

There were three German Luftwaffe officers, a German civilian V-2 rocket technician, parts of a Messerschmitt rocket plane and then-new armor-piercing, anti-aircraft shells, according to its cargo manifest, which was declassified in 1972.

The boat's store also included a large quantity of French brandy.

Lewis recalled that when the U-234 was in dry dock, he watched as its keel plates were removed to reveal bottles of mercury stored inside. They were used as ballast.

Capt. Johann Heinrich Fehler, the U-234 skipper, complained during the surrender that his men were treated like gangsters, *The New York Times* reported May 20, 1945. An American officer snapped: "That's what you are."

First and last patrol of the U-234

On May 10, 1945, when Germany ordered all U-boats to surrender, the German submarine U-234 was headed for Japan with a secret cargo of 240 tons of war materiel and enough fuel for a six- to nine-month trip. The cargo included uranium oxide and a rocket plane. Also aboard were a German air force general and two Japanese officers.

- 1. MARCH 25, 1945:** Loaded in Kiel, Germany.
- 2. APRIL 15:** Leaves Kristiansand, Norway bound for Japan.
- 3. May 14:** Intercepted by USS Sutton approximately 500 miles east of Cape Race, Newfoundland at 10:53 p.m.
- 4. May 15:** Stopped and boarded by USS Sutton at 8:23 a.m.
- 5. May 19:** Arrives in Portsmouth N. H. Navy yard for formal surrender.



The odyssey of U-234 began in Kiel, Germany, when it loaded its cargo and passengers March 25. After a stop in Kristiansand, Norway, for repairs April 5, the U-234 set out for Japan on April 15 with fuel and food for a six- to nine-month trip, according to records of the crew's interrogation by the Navy.

U-234 stayed submerged for the first 16 days, and its captain told the

crew he doubted they would make their destination.

Karl Pfaff, a lieutenant on the U-234, recounted in a 1954 interview for *The Portsmouth (N.H.) Herald* what happened during the voyage.

When the surrender order from German Grand Adm. Karl Doenitz was picked up May 10, the U-234 was at midpoint in the Atlantic.

Fehler, described by Pfaff as a

The Columbus Dispatch sub docked in U.S. Sunday MAY 21, 1995

"very democratic" captain, gave the crew the choice of locations to surrender: England, Gibraltar, Canada or the United States.

The United States was selected. When informed of the decision, the two Japanese navy officers aboard chose suicide by taking an overdose of the barbiturate Luminal. They were buried at sea May 11, the crew later stated.

Melvin said he remembers chatting with German sailors aboard the U-234 who told him the bodies of the Japanese were ejected through the sub's torpedo tubes.

Lt. Cmdr. Edwin Thorne, 80, of Greenwich, Conn., was executive officer aboard the USS Sutton, a Navy destroyer escort that was patrolling off the coast of Newfoundland on May 14 when it located U-234's position.

The Sutton set out to intercept the sub at flank speed, 18 knots, or about 20 mph, he said.

The Sutton intercepted U-234 on the surface about 7 hours later at nearly 11 p.m., he said.

"We put the searchlights on ... and had our guns trained on them. We decided to wait until morning to board," Thorne said last week in a telephone interview.

"I think the crew was just glad to be out in the fresh air," Thorne said, noting the sub had been below the surface for three weeks.

When boarded, the sub carried eight officers, 37 crew members and nine passengers.

The American boarding party that pulled alongside in a whale boat was heavily armed.

"We thought they might scuttle it or open up on us," Thorne said.

The only unusual incident involved a civilian passenger who had a small Beretta pistol in his pocket.

Thorne recalls that Luftwaffe Lt. General Ulrich Kessler, described by *The New York Times* as "a picture of Prussian militarism," wore a long leather coat and had an Iron Cross around his neck.

He stiffly saluted an American flag on the back of the boarding boat when he left the sub, prompting an American sailor to say: "That's OK, general, carry on."

The sailor's quip broke the tension, Thorne said.

Fehler was less formal and more friendly, Thorne said. During the trip to Portsmouth, Fehler was invited to the Sutton captain's quarters for a visit.

"He spoke fluent English because he had been in the states racing sailboats" off Long Island."

Thorne said he enjoyed swapping stories with Fehler, who later gave Thorne his personal shotgun because Thorne told him he enjoyed hunting game birds.

He said they didn't press for details about the planned mission because they figured Naval Intelligence would do the questioning.

"It was a fascinating way to end the war," Thorne said.

Gus Hoehl had this article in his Navy memorabilia.
Jim Tolson submitted it for the newsletter.



John Falter

NEWS-02: End of an era - Submarine Veterans of WWII disbands
Submitted by: Pat Householder on 9/19/2012

The National SVWWII organization, established in 1955 to honor WWII subvets and remember the submarine men lost in WWII, formally closed it's national administration at the joint USSVI-SVWWII Convention in Norfolk this year.

"There are memorials all over this country they've built," said retired Vice Adm. Al Konetzni, who has long been close with the World War II veterans even though he is not of that era. "These guys started in 1955 doing this for their buddies, so they would not be forgotten. It's a wonderful story of self-image. They said, 'Hey, we're going to do it, and we will do it.'"

Walter "Gus" Kraus, final President of SVWWII said the WWII sub veterans considered themselves a unique group and that uniqueness forged a strong bond. The end of the organization, he said, also represents the "end of an era where we were able to get together and blow our own horn, remembering the circumstances under which we fought."

"They will never be forgotten, ever, ever, ever," said Konetzni, a former deputy commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command and the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. "They gave us our traditions and our spirit. They were our leaders."

Of the remaining 2,146 WWII members, due to the passage of time and the ravages of age, only 62 were able to attend the closing ceremony.

1,102 of these WWII men are also members of USSVI.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 6th	Noon	Regular base meeting at the AmVets Post #89
Oct. 13th	0830	Last highway cleanup for the year. Meet at the Don Gentile American Legion on Demorest Rd.
Nov. 2nd	0900	Move Honor Flight wheelchairs to warehouse.
Nov. 9th	Noon	Columbus Veterans Day Parade downtown with step off at noon.
?????	????	Logan Ohio Veterans Day Parade, watch emails for details.
Nov. 23rd	1800	Gahanna Lights Holiday Parade.



October Birthdays

Richard Morin	10-02
Karla Tolson	10-02
Robert Wells	10-05
Cliff Dodson	10-09
Bill Anderson	10-22



The Conn

Base commander

Jim Tolson

Vice Commander

Tim Barker

Treasurer

Dave Creekmore

Secretary

Bob McDaniel

Chaplain

Sharon Lloyd / Walt Fleak

COB

Marv Pastor

Membership Chairman

Jim Tolson

Storekeeper

Frank Lloyd

Web Master

Cliff Dodson

Editor

Jan Creekmore

Activates Chairmen

Many Thanks to Helen Hoehl

Her donation to the base in Gus's memory was used to purchase flags and carriers for our color guard and for the NJROTC fund.

Thanks to Marv Pastor for taking care of getting the flags.

Sick Bay Report

Ben Grimes is home and doing better. Visits would be appreciated.

George Trace reported that he is doing better.

Joe and Mamie Murphy have moved in with a daughter.

Thoughts and prayers go out to these members.

Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail creek636@columbus.rr.com