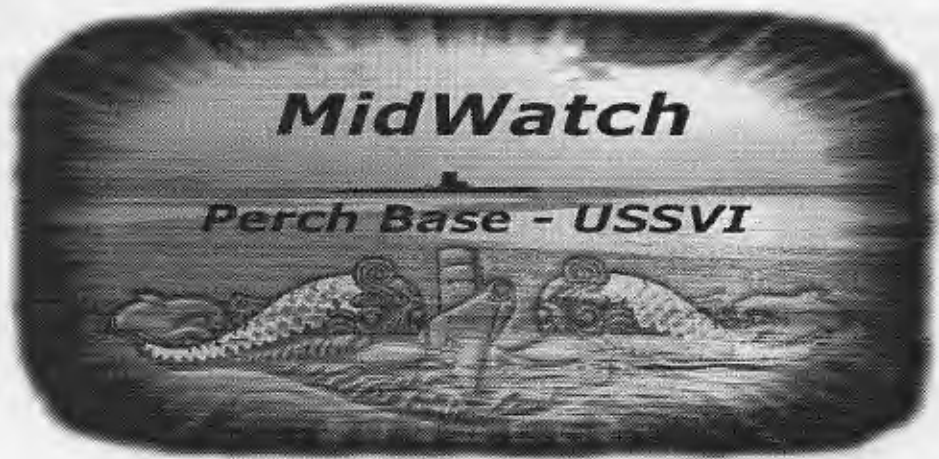




August 2005  
Volume 11 - Issue 8

**What's "Below Decks"  
in the Midwatch**



<http://perch-base.org>

ITEM	PAGE NO.
Title Page	1
2005 Booster Club Members	2
Sailing Orders(upcoming activities)	3
List of Base Officers	3
"From the Wardroom"	4
June Meeting Minutes	4
Shipmate-to-Shipmate	6
From Beyond the Wardroom	8
Longevity Pin	8
White Mountain Base	9
2007 Convention Cruise Raffle	9
Old Glory, the American Flag	10
Eternal Patrol: U.S.S. Harder (SS-257)	11
Mailer Page	15



**Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol**

**AUGUST ETERNAL PATROLS**

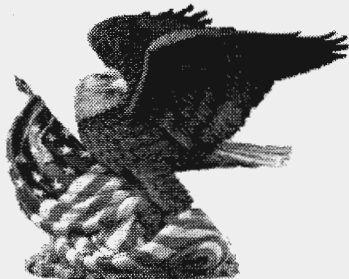
<b>USS Bullhead</b>	<b>SS332</b>	<b>Aug. 6, 1945</b>	<b>84 men</b>
<b>USS Flier</b>	<b>SS250</b>	<b>Aug. 13, 1944</b>	<b>78 men</b>
<b>USS Grunion</b>	<b>SS216</b>	<b>Aug. 16, 1942</b>	<b>70 men</b>
<b>USS S-39</b>	<b>SS144</b>	<b>Aug. 16, 1942</b>	<b>none lost</b>
<b>USS Harder</b>	<b>SS257</b>	<b>Aug. 24, 1944</b>	<b>79 men</b>
<b>USS Cochino</b>	<b>SS345</b>	<b>Aug. 26, 1949</b>	<b>(see note)</b>
<b>USS Pompano</b>	<b>SS181</b>	<b>Aug. 29, 1943</b>	<b>76 men</b>

**NOTE:** Although Cochino lost no men in its sinking, 7 men from the USS Tusk were lost in the rescue of Cochino's crew.

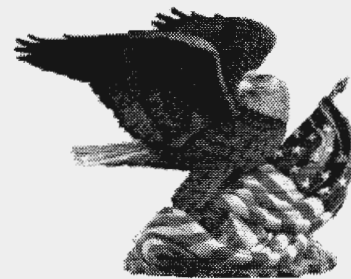
**NEXT REGULAR MEETING - August 20, 2005**  
**American Legion Post #62**  
**11001 N. 99th Ave.**  
**Starts at 1200 hours**  
**Lunch provided - Donation Suggested \$3**

The Perch Base USSVI cannot support itself financially on the dues collected from its members.

There have been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on charitable cash donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



## ***2005 Booster Club***



<b>Ben Acosta</b>	<b>Jerry Allston</b>	<b>Ken Anderson</b>	<b>Kirby Anderson</b>
<b>Ted Asbell</b>	<b>Gary Bartlett</b>	<b>Ken Becker</b>	<b>Joe Bernard</b>
<b>Dick Bernier</b>	<b>Ron Beyer</b>	<b>Ed Brooks</b>	<b>Jim Edwards</b>
<b>Harry Ellis</b>	<b>Chuck Emmett</b>	<b>Ray Graybeal</b>	<b>Chuck Greene</b>
<b>Billy Grieves</b>	<b>Kelly Grissom</b>	<b>Bob Hanson</b>	<b>Dave Harnish</b>
<b>Ed Hawkins</b>	<b>Glenn Herold</b>	<b>Dave Herrington</b>	<b>Les Hillman</b>
<b>Davy Jones</b>	<b>Ron Kloch</b>	<b>Bob Lacendorfer</b>	<b>Doug LaRoch</b>
<b>George Marions</b>	<b>Dale Martin</b>	<b>Terry Martin</b>	<b>Bob May</b>
<b>Denny McComb</b>	<b>Ray McKinzie</b>	<b>Paul Miller</b>	<b>Roger M. Miller</b>
<b>Roger R. Miller</b>	<b>Tim Moore</b>	<b>Tom Moore</b>	<b>Joe Mullins</b>
<b>Bon Nance</b>	<b>Jim Nelson</b>	<b>Jim F. Newman</b>	<b>Jim W. Newman</b>
<b>Joe Otreba</b>	<b>Ray Perron</b>	<b>George Petrovitz</b>	<b>Royce Pettit</b>
<b>Clair Prokupek</b>	<b>Scott Prothero</b>	<b>Robbie Robinson</b>	<b>Stan Rud</b>
<b>Frank Rumbaugh</b>	<b>Ray Schaeffer</b>	<b>Rick Simmons</b>	<b>Wyne Smith</b>
<b>Jim Strassels</b>	<b>Adrian Stuke</b>	<b>Jim Thomson</b>	<b>Tom Tilley</b>
<b>Jim Wall</b>	<b>Dick Weber</b>	<b>Jerry Yowell</b>	<b>John Zaichkin</b>
<b>Mike Haler</b>	<b>Darrell Lambert</b>	<b>Nick Pappas</b>	<b>Kenny Wayne</b>
<b>Ed Wolf</b>	<b>Roger Cousin</b>	<b>Alex Martin</b>	<b>John Cash</b>
<b>Roger Cousin</b>	<b>Joe Errante</b>	<b>Tom Fooshee</b>	<b>Mike Haler</b>
<b>Steve Hough</b>	<b>Mike Keating</b>	<b>Darrell Lambert</b>	<b>Burt Loftin</b>
<b>Allen Miller</b>	<b>Nick Pappas</b>	<b>Ernie Plantz</b>	<b>Ray Samson</b>
<b>John McVeigh</b>	<b>Mike Simpson</b>	<b>Joseph Hawkins</b>	<b>Larry Rankin</b>
<b>Bob Gilmore</b>			



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# Sailing Orders



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**NEXT REGULAR MEETING  
August 20, 2005  
American Legion Post #62  
11001 N. 99th Ave.  
Starts at 1200 hours**

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*Win a trip on the 2007  
Convention-Cruise to  
Alaska  
See Page 9 for details.*

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## From the Wardroom

Dear Shipmates,

It is with a great deal of pride that I have the distinct privilege of writing this month's *From the Wardroom* article. On this sixtieth anniversary of VJ Day, my primary objective in writing this piece is to recognize the achievements of our World War II brothers... those with whom we share time on a monthly basis at our Perch Base meetings and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice and remain on eternal patrol. We honor you and thank you all for your service to our country. You have been an inspiration to those of us who followed in your footsteps in the past and have set the standard for those who are currently serving and will continue to serve in the future. I have read countless numbers of stories of your heroics, close encounters and sacrifices, and will always marvel at your unselfish contributions and deeds.

Sixty years ago today, on 6 August 1945, the B-29 Super Fortress Bomber Enola Gay embarked on the mission that marked the beginning of the end of World War II. There are only three crewmembers remaining today including 90 year old retired General Paul W. Tibbets who piloted the plane named for his mother. Sixty years ago this historic event and the end of the war were headline news. While you and I are familiar with and can relate to these events on a more personal level, I am finding that our children and grandchildren do not have the same familiarity. As time goes on, these events will continue to fade from our memories. My purpose in making these statements is to emphasize the importance of our mission in perpetuating the memory of all of those who have served before. When I think about how very, very fortunate we are to be able to live the kind of life style with which we are blessed living in this country; I can't think of anything more important or worthwhile than remembering and honoring those who made it possible. To my WWII brothers and sisters...

***I salute you!***

Faternally,

Tim Moore, commander, Perch Base USSVI

## July Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 16 July 2005. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Tim Moore.

Shipmate Joe Bernard led the members in a prayer of Invocation followed by the standard ceremonial opening.

According to the sailing list, there were 24 members at the meeting. As a special introduction, Ray Samson asked Shipmate Ken Becker to tell the members of his experiences in the Submarine Service having qualified on a captured German U-Boat in Key West, Florida. Ken detailed his experiences to the delight of all the members.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the June meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

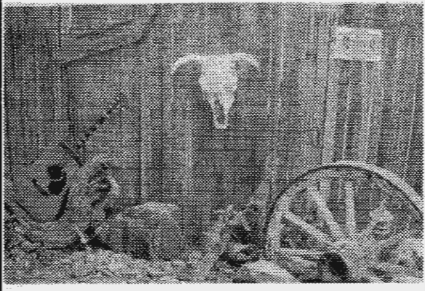
Treasurer (Jim Denzien) reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of July, 2005.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**Base Vice Commander** – Stan Reinhold was not at the meeting.

**Base Chief of the Boat** – Bob Gilmore announced that the new American Legion Post 62 was getting ever nearer completion with a project completion of September, 2005. Bob also briefed the members on the celebration to be held



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Jim Wagoner  
(928) 684-6870 -home  
(760) 791-5861- cell  
e-mail stosh@axs.net

by Post 62 on July 31 which will include fund raising activities.

**Base Chaplain** – Howard Doyle was not at the meeting. Shipmate Joe Bernard relayed a message from Dorothy Crider thanking the Base for the support and prayers during the trying times associated with Shipmate Red Crider's departure on eternal patrol.

**Membership Chairman** – Ramon Samson had nothing new to report regarding membership and that there was no change in status of the Web Site.

**Ship's Storekeeper** – Jim Nelson announced that the ship's store now has some new products including decals commemorating WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War. Jim also announced that the Ship's Store sold many items at the Overgaard Independence Day celebration.

### OLD BUSINESS

Dave Hamish (USSVI Western Regional Director) announced the results of the recent elections for the District Commander positions in the Western Region. Of most importance was the fact that Shipmate Glenn Herold was elected as District Commander for District One; followed by Dave Linker for District two; Jim Dunn for District three; Bob Wester for District four; and Rocky Rockers for District five.

Dave also announced that there will be a Western Region meeting in Reno, Nevada that will take place on March 6 thru 8, 2006. In addition, the Southwest Districts of USSVI have been invited to participate with the Southwest Caucus of SubVets – WWII holding meetings in conjunction with theirs in Laughlin, Nevada. These meetings take place in April of each year.

Base Treasurer – Jim Denzien reported to the members that a \$100 commemorative brick has been purchased in support of the USS Lapon submarine memorial. The inscription on the brick will pay tribute to Perch Base members who have departed on eternal patrol. Jim also reported that Perch Base contributed a total of \$322 in support of the Gilbert fund. Tom lost his home and belongings in one of Florida's hurricanes and is now waiting for a organ donor and a heart transplant.

Tim Moore reminded the members of the efforts to sell books from the Perch Base Library. Anyone who contributed books to the library and would like the book or books returned should contact Ray Samson. Otherwise, the books are to be offered to members and the general public at a price to be determined. The library listing is contained on the Base Web Site.

Dave Harnish informed the members that the USSV Charitable Foundation is now giving a special patch to those that contribute more than a base amount to the Foundation's different funds. Dave showed the members the patch from the Scholarship Fund.



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Termite Control

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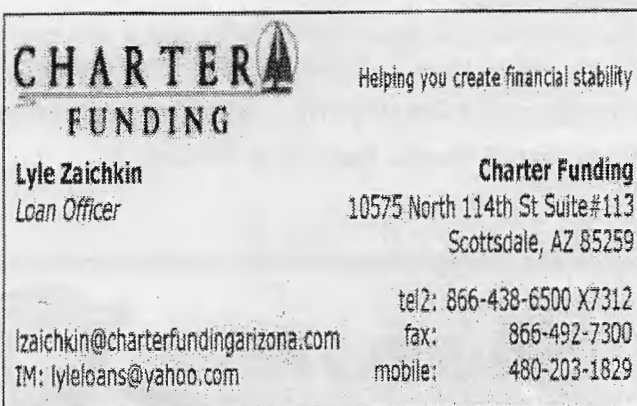
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lzaichkin@charterfundingarizona.com  
IM: lyleloans@yahoo.com

### NEW BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced the formation of an adhoc committee to explore ideas for rehabilitation, replacement and use of the Perch Base Parade Float. Dave Harnish will serve as Chairman of the committee with Mike Keating as a charter member. Other members with an interest in the project should contact Dave Harnish.

Members were also informed that the Board of Directors had voted to restrict the floats use to local events. Towing the unit more than short distances causes too much damage.

Tim also announced that he will be attending the August reunion of the USS Sea Wolf along with Stan Reinhold

and John Cash. The event will take place over the days of August 11 thru 14 and is held in Silverdale, Washington.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Members were asked to show their thanks to Jane Reinhold (Mrs. Stan Reinhold) for standing in for her husband and providing lunch for the members. Jane received a rousing round of applause from the members.

Tim Moore informed the members that Shipmate Billy Grieves second article of submarine action in WWII was published in the latest issue of the "American Submariner".

Mike Keating informed any members interested in submarine model construction can buy supplies and parts from [www.ironbottomsound.com](http://www.ironbottomsound.com) on the Internet.

Dave Harnish reminded members to review and update their personal data by going online at the USSVI website, if they see any discrepancy in the information they receive from the USSVI National Office. Otherwise, contact Perch Base WebMaster – Ray Samson for assistance.

### **50/50 DRAWING**

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was John Zaichkin.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Joe Bernard and the meeting was adjourned at 1347 hours.

Signed: Edgar T. Brooks, Perch Base Secretary

*Shipmate*



*Shipmate*

#### **Our Fellow Vets Can Use Our Help**

Our fellow veterans who reside in the Veteran's Home here in Phoenix could use our assistance. For any of you who are willing and able to participate in some volunteer work, your help would be greatly appreciated. Resident's activities include:

1. Bingo every Saturday at 0900.
2. Card playing (poker, etc.) every Monday at 0930.
3. Movies the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1400.

Volunteers help in moving residents from their units to Liberty Hall for these activities. They also play cards with the residents and help serve ice cream, pop corn, etc.

Extra help will especially be needed this coming March 30. Beginning March 30, and every 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday thereafter, we will be going to a local casino. The time for this event will be from 0930 until 1430. Again, extra help here would be especially appreciated.

For details regarding volunteer services, contact:

Carrie Langford, CTRS  
Recreational Therapy Program Manager  
Volunteer Services  
Phone - 602-248-1575  
E-mail - [clangford@azvets.com](mailto:clangford@azvets.com)

Thank you for your assistance!

*The following has been recieved from Dorothy Crider,  
Shipmate Red Crider's widow.*



**To: U.S. Submarine Veterans  
Perch Base-USSVI and wives**

Your support and respect was deeply appreciated by myself and family at Samuel(Red) Crider's interment.

I was presented with the flag in the chapel at the funeral home.

He deserved more honors, but we followed his wishes.

Thank you all for coming.

Sincerely,  
*Dorothy B. Crider*

## From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

Hope you all are having a great summer. The recent rains have been really welcome.

### Our September Birthday Babies are:

Edna Lidman – 9/4  
Sue Caraker – 9/8  
Sue Shumann – 9/20  
Judy Wannamaker – 9/21  
Lee Cousin – 9/29

See you all at our next meeting at the Chowhound Restaurant on August 20, 2005, at 12:30 pm.

BEST WISHES, Nancy Nelson, president, SubVettes of Perch Base

### Longevity Pin

*The information, within the box, describes the USSVI Longevity pin. The Perch Base executive board has voted to begin awarding the pin to eligible members at the annual Christmas party.*

### Recognizing USSVI Member Longevity

Building and maintaining Base cohesion is an ongoing and never-ending process. Scheduled meetings, memorial services, shared trips, picnics, parades and projects all help us to grow closer as a Sub Vet family, enjoying each other's company, while we honor our fallen heros and support our current day submarine forces.

All our members have many demands on their time in their busy lives, yet many willingly set aside the time to actively participate in USSVI related activities and functions. While many members are relatively new to USSVI, we have others who have maintained faithful allegiance for 5, 10, 15, 20 and more years.

**RECOGNITION** When a member achieves a milestone year, it is altogether fitting and proper to recognize and acknowledge his longevity in USSVI with the presentation of a longevity pin award in front of his Base peers. Make a bit of a fuss over these longer term members and make them feel special and appreciated.



In a survey taken several years ago, the overwhelming sentiment from the membership was for these USSVI Longevity Recognition devices to be made available and some bases are currently thanking their longer term members by awarding them the pins in ceremony at base meetings or at special events.

The USSVI Longevity lapel pins and patches are readily available through the National Storekeeper. At a Base cost of \$ 2.50 ea, it is a very inexpensive way for the Base to say "**Thank You**" to those members who have stayed the course in USSVI and helped to make it what it is today.

The Longevity pins are available in 5 year increments starting at 5 years longevity. Any Base that needs a "Join Date" listing for their members need only contact the National Office ([ussvi@telebyte.net](mailto:ussvi@telebyte.net)) and it will be provided to you.

Contact National SK Huey Hahn for more information and pricing details at [subhuey@aol.com](mailto:subhuey@aol.com)



**White Mountain Base**



White Mountain Base did not have a July meeting so no newsletter information was published this month. There will be a regular meeting at the Heber American Legion on Saturday, August 20th at 11:00 AM.



**From:** Bremerton Subvets  
**To:** COMMANDER John Gardner  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 16, 2005 3:45 PM  
**Subject:** Please Pass to Base Commander

Dear Base Commanders,

In order to expedite the sale of the 2007 National Cruise Raffle Tickets, we offer your base the opportunity to make \$1 a ticket on the sale of each \$5 ticket.

Please contact me, **Bud Berg**, the 2007 Convention Chairman, at [crberg@comcast.net](mailto:crberg@comcast.net) or (360) 698-1199 and I will get the tickets to you.

V/R

Carl Berg  
 Bremerton Base 2007 National Convention Chairman

00355  
winner

No. \_\_\_\_\_


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## U S Submarine Veterans

With Cruise and 2007 U.S. Subvets Convention  
 Available for Purchase at \$5.00 (includes \$1.00)

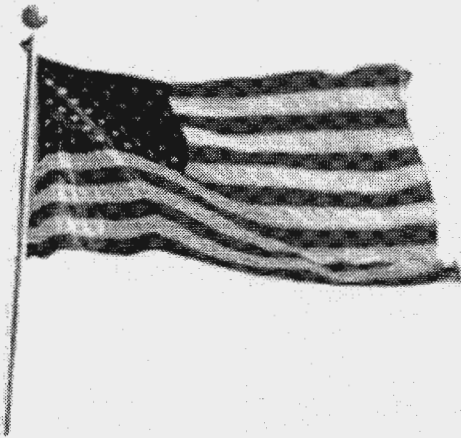


\$5

First Prize: Veranda Suite for 2 plus \$600 Cruise Cash  
 Second Prize: \$600 Cruise Cash  
 Third Prize: \$300 Cruise Cash  
 plus, all winners receive free  
 Convention Registration

\* Cruise Cash is US Currency disbursed upon arrival of the cruise ship.

# OLD GLORY: AMERICA'S FLAG



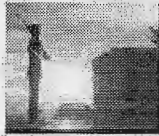
## Flag Holidays

Memorial Day is a flag holiday, one of 17 days specifically designated in the code on which citizens are encouraged to display the flag, if they're not in the habit of doing so daily.

Flag holidays are as follows:

1. New Year's Day - Jan. 1
2. Inauguration Day - Jan. 20
3. Lincoln's Birthday - Feb. 12
4. Washington's Birthday - third Monday in February
5. Easter Sunday - (variable)
6. Mother's Day - second Sunday in May
7. Armed Forces Day - third Saturday in May
8. Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) - last Monday in May
9. Flag Day - June 14
10. Independence Day - July 4
11. Labor Day - first Monday in September
12. Constitution Day - Sept. 17
13. Columbus Day - second Monday in October
14. Navy Day - Oct. 27
15. Veterans Day - Nov. 11
16. Thanksgiving Day - fourth Thursday in November
17. Christmas Day - Dec. 25

The code also urges citizens to display the flag on additional days that are proclaimed by the president of the United States, on days that commemorate the date in which their state was admitted to the union and on specific state holidays.



## Eternal Patrol August 24, 1944

Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

### The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest is part of an outfit known as the best.

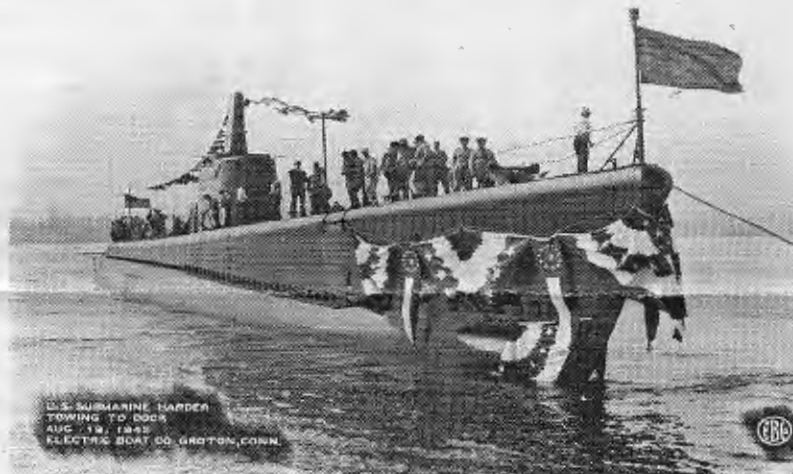
Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.

So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol

Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.



### U.S.S. Harder (SS-257) 79 men lost



dp. 1870 (surf.), 2424 (subm.); l. 312'; b. 27'; dr. 15'3" (mean);  
s. 20.25 k. (surf.), 8.75 k. (subm.); td. 300'; a. 1-3"/50; 6-21" tt. fwd., 4-21" tt. aft.;  
cpl. 6 officers - 54 enlisted men; cl. GATO

Keel laid by the Electric Boat Company, Groton, CT, 1 December 1941;

Launched 19 August 1942; Sponsored by Miss Helene M. Shafroth;

Commissioned 2 December 1942; Lcdr. Samuel D. Dealey in command;

Decommissioned 24 August 1944 - lost

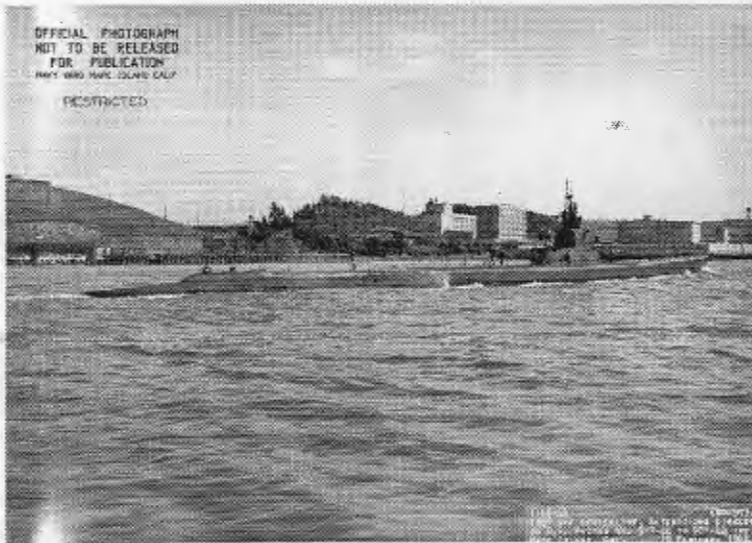
Following shakedown off the East Coast, HARDER sailed for Pearl Harbor; and, after a short stay there, she departed on her first war patrol 7 June 1943. Cruising off the coast of Japan, the submarine worked her way inside a picket line and sighted her first target 22 June. She made a radar approach on the surface and fired four torpedoes at the two-ship convoy, sinking one. She returned to Midway 7 July.

HARDER began her second war patrol 24 August from Pearl Harbor; and, after touching at Midway, she headed for the Japanese coast. While patrolling off Honshu 9 September, she attacked and sank Koyo Maru and later that night ran by an escort ship at a range of 1,200 yards without being detected. Two days later the submarine encountered a convoy. After running ahead to improve her firing position, she sank cargo ship Yoko Maru with a spread of three torpedoes. Continuing her patrol, HARDER sighted two more ships 13 September, but she was forced down by enemy planes while firing torpedoes. Escorts kept the submarine down with a severe depth charge attack which lasted for over 2 days and almost exhausted her batteries. After evading the Japanese ships, HARDER detected her next target 19 September; a torpedo sent Kachisan Maru to the bottom almost immediately. Though running in bad weather, HARDER continued to find good targets. On 23 September she sank a 4,500-ton freighter, and a 5,800 ton tanker, off Nagoya Bay. Her torpedoes expended,

HARDER turned eastward 28 September. After shooting up two armed trawlers the 29th, she touched Midway 4 October and arrived Pearl Harbor 4 days later.

For her third war patrol HARDER teamed with USS SNOOK I (SS-279) and USS PARGO I (SS-264) to form a deadly and coordinated attack group. Departing 30 October for the Marianas, HARDER encountered a target 12 November. Promptly dispatching this one, she surfaced and sighted a trawler-escort damaged by the explosion of one of her own depth charges. Submerging again until sunset, the submarine sank the damaged ship with gunfire, then turned her bow toward Saipan in search of new targets. Sighting three marus on the 19th, she radioed her companions and closed for attack. After passing close by an escorting destroyer, HARDER fired six torpedoes at two ships, sinking Udo Maru. As depth charges began to fall, she pressed the attack, two more torpedoes finished Hokko Maru. She surfaced to periscope depth after nightfall to finish off the third maru. Shortly before midnight, she fired several more shots at 6,000-ton Nikko Maru; but she stubbornly refused to sink. A brave, but doomed, enemy crew kept the cargo ship afloat until HARDER had expended all torpedoes, many of which ran erratically. Rough weather the next day finally sank the damaged maru. HARDER returned to Pearl Harbor 30 November, then sailed to Mare Island, Calif., for overhaul.

Returning to action in the Pacific, HARDER reached Pearl Harbor 27 February 1944 and departed on her fourth war patrol 16 March with USS SEAHORSE I (SS-304). She headed for the western Carolinas where she was assigned duty as lifeguard ship for downed aviators. During American air strikes against Woleai 1 April HARDER received word of an injured



pilot awaiting rescue from the beach of a small enemy-held island west of Woleai. Protected by air cover, she nosed against a reef, maintained her position with both screws, and sent a boat ashore through breaking surf. Despite Japanese snipers, boiling shoals, and the precarious position of the submarine, the daring rescue succeeded, and the intrepid submarine returned to the open sea. On 13 April an enemy plane sighted HARDER north of the western Carolines and reported her position to IKAZUCHI, a patrolling destroyer. As the enemy ship closed to within 900 yards, HARDER fired a spread of torpedoes that sank the attacker within 5 minutes. Dealey's famous report was terse — "Expended four torpedoes and one Jap destroyer." Four days later HARDER spotted a merchant ship escorted by destroyers. Firing four torpedoes, she sank 7,000-ton Matsue Maru and damaged one of the destroyer escorts. Then, adding to the enemy's misery, she returned to Woleai where she surfaced

on the morning of 20 April to deliver a shore bombardment under cover of a rain squall. She returned to Fremantle from this highly varied and successful patrol 3 May.

HARDER departed for her fifth patrol in the Celebes Sea on 26 May 1944. She picked up coast watchers from northeastern Borneo, and gave a very valuable contact report on a major task force leaving Tawi Tawi anchorage, Sulu Archipelago, preparing to engage in the first Battle of the Philippine Sea. On 6 June HARDER entered the heavily patrolled Sibutu Passage between Tawi-Tawi and North Borneo and encountered a convoy of three tankers and two destroyers. She gave chase on the surface but was illuminated by the moon. As one of the destroyers turned to attack, HARDER submerged, turned her stern to the charging destroyer, and fired three torpedoes at range of 1,100 yards. Two struck MINATSUKI and exploded; the destroyer sank within 5 minutes. After attacking the second escort without success, HARDER was held down by a depth charge attack while the convoy escaped.

Early next morning an enemy plane spotted HARDER. The submarine soon sighted another destroyer searching the area for her. As before, the enemy closed the range once again, HARDER took the initiative. She fired three torpe-

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does at short range, and two of them struck amidships, one detonating the ship's magazine with a tremendous explosion. HAYANAMI sank a minute later. Following the inevitable depth charge attack, HARDER transited the Sibutu Passage after dark and steamed to the northeast coast of Borneo. There on the night of 8 June she picked up six British coast-watchers, and early next day she headed once more for Sibutu Passage.

That evening HARDER sighted two enemy destroyers patrolling the narrowest part of the passage, just a mile from Tawi-Tawi. After submerging, she made an undetected approach and at 1,000 yards fired four torpedoes at the overlapping targets. The

second and third torpedoes blasted destroyer TANIKAZE; she sank almost immediately, her boilers erupting with a terrific explosion. The fourth shot hit the second ship and exploded with a blinding flash. Within minutes HARDER surfaced to survey the results, but both ships had disappeared. Soon afterward, she underwent the inevitable depth charge attack by enemy planes, then she set course for a point south of Tawi-Tawi to reconnoiter.



Don Adams

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On the afternoon of 10 June HARDER sighted a large Japanese task force, including three battleships and four cruisers with screening destroyers. An overhead plane spotted the submarine at periscope depth and a screening escort promptly steamed at 35 knots toward her position. Once again, HARDER became the aggressive adversary. As the range closed to 1,500 yards, she fired three torpedoes on a "down the throat" shot, then went deep to escape the on-rushing destroyer and certain depth charge attack. Within a minute two torpedoes blasted the ship with violent force just as HARDER passed under her some 80 feet below. The deafening explosions shook the submarine far worse than the depth charges and aerial bombs which the infuriated enemy dropped during the next 2 hours. When she surfaced, HARDER saw only a lighted buoy marking the spot where

the unidentified destroyer either sank or was heavily damaged.

HARDER reconnoitered Tawi-Tawi anchorage 11 June and sighted additional enemy cruisers and destroyers. At 1600 she headed for the open sea and that night transmitted her observations which were of vital importance to Admiral Spruance's fleet prior to the decisive Battle of the Philippine Sea. Harder steamed to Darwin 21 June for additional torpedoes, and, after patrolling the Flores Sea south of the Celebes, she ended the patrol at Darwin 3 July.

The important results of HARDER's fifth war patrol have caused some to call it the most brilliant of the war. Not only did HARDER further deplete the critical supply of destroyers by sinking three of them and heavily damaging or destroying two others in 4 days, but her frequent attacks and a rash of enemy contact reports on this fleeting marauder so frightened Admiral Toyoda that he believed Tawi-Tawi surrounded by submarines. As a result, Admiral Ozawa's Mobile Fleet departed Tawi-Tawi a day ahead of schedule. The premature departure upset the Japanese battle plans, and forced Ozawa to delay his carrier force in the Philippine Sea, thus contributing to the stunning defeat suffered by the Japanese in the ensuing battle.

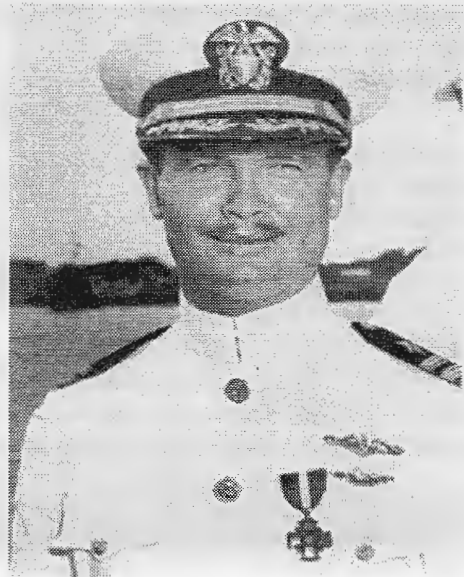
HARDER, accompanied by USS HAKE (SS-256) and USS HADDO I (SS-255), departed Fremantle 5 August for her sixth and last war patrol. Assigned to the South China Sea off Luzon, the wolf-pack headed northward. On 21 August HARDER

and HADDO joined USS RAY I (SS-271), USS GUITARRO I (SS-363), and USS RATON (SS-270) in a coordinated attack against a convoy off Paluan Bay, Mindoro. The Japanese lost four passenger-cargo marus, possibly one by HARDER.

Early the next day, HARDER and HADDO attacked and destroyed three coastal defense vessels off Bataan, HARDER sinking frigates MATSUWA and HIBURI; then, joined by HAKE that night, they headed for Caiman Point, Luzon. At dawn 23 August HADDO attacked and fatally damaged ASAKAZE off Cape Bolinao. Enemy trawlers towed the stricken destroyer to Dasol Bay; and HADDO, her torpedoes expended, informed HARDER and HAKE the following night of the attack and left the wolf-pack for replenishment at Biak.

HARDER and HAKE remained off Dasol Bay, searching for new targets. Before dawn 24 August they sighted a Japanese minesweeper and a three-stack Siamese destroyer. As HAKE closed to attack, the destroyer turned away toward Dasol Bay. HAKE broke of her approach, turned northward, and sighted HARDER's periscope about 600 to 700 yards dead ahead. Swinging southward, HAKE then sighted the minesweeper about 2,000 yards off her port quarter swinging toward them. To escape the charging minesweeper, HAKE started deep and rigged for silent running. At 0728 she heard 15 rapid depth charges explode in the distance astern. She continued evasive action that morning, then returned to the general area of the attack shortly after noon. She swept the area at periscope depth but found only a ring of marker buoys covering a radius of one-half mile.

The vigorous depth charge attack thus ended the career of HARDER, and she went down with all hands. The Japanese report of the attack concluded that "much oil, wood chips, and cork floated in the vicinity." Dubbed "Hit 'Em again, HARDER," this intrepid submarine had created havoc among Japanese shipping. Her record of aggressive daring exploits became almost legendary. All six of her patrols were designated successful. She received the Presidential Unit Citation, and in accordance with Navy custom it was presented to USS HARDER (SS-568) upon her commissioning.



HARDER received the Presidential Unit Citation for her first five patrols, and Six Battles Stars. The resolute and resourceful Commander Dealey "a submariner's submariner," was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his outstanding contribution to the war effort on HARDER's fifth patrol.



"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were Treated and Appreciated by their Nation."  
— George Washington



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