



1st Quarter 2015  
Jan - Feb - Mar  
Volume 1 - Issue 1



**The New Quarterly Newsletter,  
Perch Base, USSVI  
Phoenix, Arizona**

## **USSVI CREED**

Our organization's purpose is . . .

"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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

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



Visit our world-class web site at:  
**[www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org)**

# Perch Base Officers



**Commander**  
Howard Doyle  
[commander@perch-base.org](mailto:commander@perch-base.org)



**Vice Commander**  
Richard Kunze  
[vice-commander@perch-base.org](mailto:vice-commander@perch-base.org)



**Secretary**  
Marcia Unser  
[secretary@perch-base.org](mailto:secretary@perch-base.org)



**Treasurer**  
Herb Coulter  
[treasurer@perch-base.org](mailto:treasurer@perch-base.org)



**Communications Officer**  
Chuck Emmett  
[communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)



**Membership Chairman**  
Jim Andrews  
[membership@perch-base.org](mailto:membership@perch-base.org)



**Chief-of-the-Boat**  
Richard Kunze  
[COB@perch-base.net](mailto:COB@perch-base.net)



**Webmaster**  
Dan Marks  
[webmaster@perch-base.net](mailto:webmaster@perch-base.net)



**Event Coordinator**  
Don Unser  
[events@perch-base.net](mailto:events@perch-base.net)



**Storekeeper**  
Herb Coulter  
[storekeeper@perch-base.net](mailto:storekeeper@perch-base.net)



**Chaplain**  
Steve Leon  
[chaplain@perch-base.net](mailto:chaplain@perch-base.net)



**Historian**  
Jim Newman  
[historian@perch-base.net](mailto:historian@perch-base.net)

## 2013 Perch Base Operations Supporters

These are the Base members and friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operation while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.



Jerry N. Allston	Michael J. Haler	Royce E. Pettit
Kenneth R. Anderson	Eldon L. Hartman	Jerry Pittman Jr.
James C. Andrews	Harry Heller	Stanley N. Reinhold
Reynaldo F. Atos	Herbert Herman	Louis Reynolds
Steven Balthazor	Glenn A. Herold	Robie Robinson
Gary Bartlett	Theodore Hunt	Larry D. Ruggles
Richard Bernier	David L. Jones	Ramon Samson
Ronald B. Beyer	Mike Keating	Pete Sattig
Edgar T. Brooks	Richard F. Kunze	Donald Schafer
Herbert J. Coulter Jr.	Douglas M. La Rock	Edward Schafer III
Roger J. Cousin	Robert A. Lancendorfer	Carl Scott
Eugene V. Crabb	Albert Landeck	Rick Simmons
George L. Crider	Steve Leon	Robert L. Smith
Michael Dahl	DeWayne Lober	Wayne Kirk Smith
Donald Demarte	Burtis W. Loftin	Steven Kay Stanger
James R. Denzien	Stephen A. Marcellino	James Strassels
Mary L. Denzien	Daniel G. Marks	William M. Tippet
Warner Howard Doyle Jr.	Charles F. Marshall	Donald Unser
Charles R. Emmett	Raymond Marshall	Marcia Unser
Howard M. Enloe	Dennis McComb	Chris Urness
James Evans	Angus H. McPherson	James L. Wall
Thomas J. Farley III	Alan H. Miller	Forrest J. Watson
Thomas E. Fooshee	Paul V. Miller	David Wickline
David J. Fyock	Frank S. Morris	Rich Womack
John A. Graves	Jim A. Nelson	George C. Woods
Tim Gregory	James W. Newman	William Woolcott
Kelly Grissom	Jim Paper	John G. Zaichkin

Thank  
you

**Mark your schedule now for the Fall 2015 USSVI Convention in Pittsburgh hosted by the USS Requin Base. Details are in the American Submariner.**



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC.  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
PITTSBURGH, PA

**Early Notice!  
2015 Convention  
Pittsburg, PA**

COME JOIN US IN PITTSBURGH SEPTEMBER 7-12, 2015  
SPONSORED BY THE USS REQUIN BASE

WWW.USSVICONVENTIONSTEELCITY2015.ORG

2015 USSVI CONVENTION PO BOX 352 GIBSONIA, PA 15044

The poster features a scenic view of Pittsburgh, PA, with the city skyline and the Allegheny River. A yellow double-decker bus is visible in the foreground. Below the main image is a circular logo for the USSVI National Convention 2015 Pittsburgh, PA, and a photograph of five men in military uniforms standing in front of a submarine. At the bottom, there are logos for the United States Submarine Veterans and the USS Requin Base.

## COMBINED MONTHLY CALENDARS

**The following three pages (one per quarter-year month) are the new “Combined Base Calendars” showing most of the date-specific information you’ll need all in one location. Just remember this color key for each item**

**RED** = “Lost Boats” - submarines on Eternal Patrol

**BLUE** = birthdays of Base Members

**BLACK** = all other information including events

# January 2015



## PERCH BASE CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Robert HANSON
4	5 <b>USS Scorpion</b> (SS-278) 1944, 77 men lost <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Brent NELSON	6	7 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Roger COUSIN Douglas EWEN	8	9	10 <b>USS Argonaut</b> (SS-166) 1943, 102 men lost <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Angie GRAMS Eldon HARTMAN <b>EVENT:</b> Monthly meeting
11	12 <b>USS Swordfish</b> (SS-193) 1945, 89 men lost	13 <b>EVENT:</b> Jerome Becker ENCM(SS) Eternal Patrol Service	14 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Jerry N. ALLSTON	15	16	17
18	19	20 <b>USS S-36</b> (SS-141) 1942, no loss of life	21 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Mark FIELD	22 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Jerry PITTMAN	23 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> James DENZIEN	24 <b>USS S-26</b> (SS-131) 1942, 46 men lost <b>EVENT:</b> Annual Awards Banquet
25	26 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Stephen DAY	27 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Henry FERNANDEZ Rich WOMACK	28	29 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Robert WARNER	30	31 <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Frank MORRIS
1	2	<b>NOTES</b>				

Special  
for  
January

\$35  
per  
Person

**Date: January 24**  
**Time: 1800 – 1900**  
**(Muster on Station, cash bar)**  
**Dinner at 1920**  
**Menu:**

**Appetizers**

Cheese Display  
Vegetable Crudite  
Garden Salad  
w/ Ranch or Balsamic Vinaigrette  
Rolls and butter

**Dinners (your choice of . . .)**

Honey-Basted Half Chicken  
Roasted Red Potatoes  
Green Beans w/ Onion & Bacon  
(or)

Prime-Rib served w/ horseradish  
Roasted Red Potatoes  
Green Beans w/ Onion & Bacon  
(or)

Almond Dijon Grilled Salmon  
Rice Pilaf  
California Vegetable Medley

-----

Assorted cake and coffee

Arizona Submarine Veterans  
Perch Base



**2015**  
**Annual Awards Banquet**  
**January 24, 2015**

To make reservations  
contact:  
**Tim Moore**  
**(602) 574-3286**  
**seawolfssn@q.com**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**ComSub Ron 11**  
**(San Diego)**



\$35  
per  
Person

# February 2015



## PERCH BASE CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Happy Birthday: Royce PETTIT	<b>2</b> Happy Birthday: Billy GRIEVES	<b>3</b> Happy Birthday: Marty FLYNN Mary Denzien	<b>4</b> USS Barbel (SS-316) 1945, 81 men lost Happy Birthday: John MOSHER	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Happy Birthday: John SCHLAG	<b>7</b> Happy Birthday: David WICKLINE <b>EVENT:</b> Laveen Parade
<b>8</b> Happy Birthday: Jeffery EILER	<b>9</b> Happy Birthday: Jim NIEDERMEYER	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> USS Shark (SS-174) 1942, 59 men lost Happy Birthday: Dan MOSS	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Happy Birthday: Edgar BROOKS	<b>14</b> <b>EVENT:</b> Monthly meeting
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> USS Amberjack (SS-219) 1943, 72 men lost Happy Birthday: Michael DAHL Steven MARCELLINO	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Happy Birthday: Phillip WAGNER	<b>19</b> Happy Birthday: Mel RYCUS	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Happy Birthday: John F. KIRKPATRICK
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Happy Birthday: Emil SCHOONEJANS	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> USS Grayback (SS-208) 1944, 80 men lost	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> USS Trout (SS-202) Feb 29, 1944, 81 men lost <b>EVENT:</b> Avondale - Goodyear: Tale of Two Cities Parade
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

8	9	<b>NOTES</b>				
---	---	--------------	--	--	--	--

# March 2015



## PERCH BASE CALENDAR

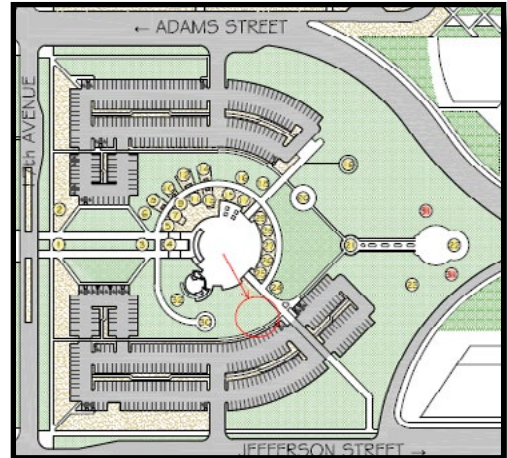
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>USS Perch</b> (SS-176) 1942, 6 men lost as POWs	<b>4</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Bernard FROMM	<b>5</b> <b>USS Grampus</b> (SS-207) 1943, 71 men lost	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Warner H. DOYLE Jr.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Glenn HEROLD Dennis McCOMB	<b>12</b> <b>USS H-1</b> (SS-28) 1920, 4 men lost	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>EVENT:</b> Monthly meeting
<b>15</b> <b>USS Triton</b> (SS-201) 1943, 74 men lost	<b>16</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Marcia UNSER	<b>17</b> <b>EVENT:</b> Paradise RV Park Parade	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Burtis LOFTIN	<b>20</b> <b>USS Kete</b> (SS-369) 1945, 87 men lost  <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Scott STREY	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Karl BERGSTROM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>USS F-4 (Skate)</b> (SS-23) 1915, 21 men lost	<b>26</b> <b>USS Tullibee</b> (SS-284) 1944, 79 men lost  <b>USS Trigger</b> (SS-237) 1945, 89 men lost	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Terry MARTIN
<b>29</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> John GRAVES Michael HINDERLITER Denny KERTON	<b>30</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> Raymond McKINZIE	<b>31</b> <b>Happy Birthday:</b> David METJE	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>NOTES</b>				






# MESSAGES TO MEMBERS


On December 17, the Arizona Silent Service Memorial received approval for our site at Wesley Bolin Plaza. The red circle in the diagram indicates our location within the Plaza. The next phase will be completion of the concept and design based upon the new site. Fundraising should commence early in 2015.





## The "Snipes Castle"

Comments of the Base Commander  
*Howard Doyle*



Another year has gone by and Perch Base was busy in almost every month starting with the Awards Banquet each January, followed by static displays, and parades; from the very small to the largest in Arizona. At most of these we had good turnouts and if you were not able to attend you missed an important part of what Perch Base and USSVI are about. In the coming year we will have about the same number of activities, and we strongly urge all members to attend. If you need assistance in getting to one of these events, just call one of the Board Members and we will help to get you to the event.

We lost several of our "old" time members, but we also gained a few "younger" [or kids as I am embarrassingly prone to call them]. If you know anyone who qualified please encourage them to come to a meeting or the FREE picnic and give Perch Base a chance.

I am looking forward to the coming year, and want to thank all of those with whom I talked to over this past holiday season; you all gave me much to consider.





The big news for January is the Awards Banquet on Jan 24. If you haven't reserved your places by the time you read this, contact Tim Moore and get your reservations in immediately. As part of the banquet will be the Silent Auction with proceeds going towards the Arizona Silent Service Memorial.

This has everything in line to be the best banquet ever. Our special guest speaker will be the Commodore of Sub-Ron 11, the San Diego (Ballast Point) boats. We get to hear from front line command out there now, facing today's world and challenges.

---

March is Base elections for the Commander. Our Commander is elected every two years and this election is staggered with Vice Commander, the only other elected officer. There are no special requirements to be elected Base Commander but it is assumed they must be a member in good standing, current on dues and active in Base events and meetings.

Also not specified, but members wishing to run for this office usually announce in February to allow fellow members time to consider their candidacy.

---

Both the Perch Base Constitution and the Policies & Procedures Manual have recently been changed. These two documents, which form the core of our guiding principles on how the Base runs, are always available online at the perch base website:

[http://www.perch-base.org/Policies\\_Procedures/Constitution-and-Bylaws.pdf](http://www.perch-base.org/Policies_Procedures/Constitution-and-Bylaws.pdf) for the *Constitution*

and

[http://www.perch-base.org/Policies\\_Procedures/Policies-and-Procedures.pdf](http://www.perch-base.org/Policies_Procedures/Policies-and-Procedures.pdf) to read the *Policies and Procedures*.

If you have a question – from a Base job description to what a vest should look like – check these documents first for an answer.

---

Our past couple of base meetings have had “gangbuster” attendance! Whatever the secret, let's keep it up. Remember, if you have any suggestions for a topic or a special “thing,” for a meeting, let the Communications Officer know ([communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)) so we can investigate its possibility.

---

## Have Your Heard . . . ? - #1

- In 1921, a United States submarine, the R-14, having run out of fuel at sea, rigged sails from blankets, hammocks, curtain rods and the ramrod of a 3-inch gun, and sailed 100 miles to port at a speed of two knots.
- More decorations for valor have been awarded, per man, to the submarine service than any other Navy Branch.
- Habitability is heavily stressed in the construction of modern submarines. Specially designed color schemes, mechanical conveniences, air conditioning, and the best chow in the Navy are supplied to make the vessels more livable. A full time staff is maintained by Electric Boat Division to work out 'human engineering' problems.
- A typical modern submarine may require as many as 2,000 working drawings for the more than 7,000,000 items used in its construction. Blueprints from these drawings if placed end to end would make a strip 250 miles long.
- The first periscope used by the United States Navy was not built for a submarine. The ironclad monitor OSAGE utilized a periscope to discover a Confederate cavalry unit taking cover behind the high banks of the Red River in Arkansas.



Those of you that attended the last meeting heard me ask you to look at the Perch Base website's Glossary for additions and improvements. I am thankful for one suggestion that I received, but I'm still looking for additional input. The Glossary fulfills the third part of the USSVI Creed by educating others about the services of our submarine brothers, but I also like the second part of the USSVI Creed that the Glossary provides a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. For example, take a look at the Glossary entry for "[Spooks.](#)" I expect you will chuckle when you read this and other Glossary entries. If you have any ideas for additions, changes or pictures that you think might fit, please pass them on to me at [webmaster@perch-base.org](mailto:webmaster@perch-base.org). The Glossary is visited about 750 times each month, so I value any comments you may have. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dan Marks, Webmaster

---

Welcome to 2015, Shipmates! This is the inaugural issue of the new MidWatch with a scheduled quarterly distribution. It promises to be another outstanding publication. It will also be the last time I write as a member of the Board of Directors, (I have probably been a member for too long.) In March we will elect a new Base Commander and I will be able to become a regular member of Perch Base again.

**Past-Commander's  
"Wizdom"**  
*Jim Denzien*



2014 has seen some changes in the personnel who are responsible for our base: a new vice-commander; resignation of our membership chair; resignation of our storekeeper; resignation of our treasurer. We have been fortunate to have base members who were willing to step up and assume those positions. A BRAVO ZULU to those who have served and to those who have stepped up!

2015 will see many activities: our annual Awards Dinner; Memorial Day; the 20th anniversary of the founding of Perch Base (in June); and a National Convention to name a few. Make a resolution to attend as many of these events as you can and support the base. I plan on attending as many as possible and I hope to see many of you there also.

Fair winds and following seas to all!

Jim Denzien

Past Base Commander





Greetings, Shipmates!

I wish each of you and your respective families a Happy New Year! It is good to be back with the base membership and, in particular, as your Base Chaplain. I greatly appreciate the support and affection shown to me and my family during my personal struggles of 2014.

It is important to remember four of our shipmates departed on eternal patrol during 2014: Milton McNeill, Ken Becker, Reynaldo Atos and Jack Richardson. May we never forget their sacrifices in serving our great country's submarine force.

As stated at a recent base meeting, the Officer Board was created to serve the base membership. The members of the board take this charge seriously and seek your input and support. Service to any group, however, takes its toll on the individual desiring to make a difference. I respectfully request you consider supporting the base's mission by providing relief to those who have diligently served on the board so they can enjoy the simple benefits of "blending into the crowd," after their tour of duty.

May God bless each of you with good health and a positive spirit!

-Steve Leon, Perch Base Chaplain

## Perch Base CLASSIFIEDS

Your chance to advertise for free! Items from Base Members to other Members, and almost anything is fair game. Exceptions: alcohol, drugs, illegal, commercial items or anything in general poor taste. Send your ad to:

[communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)

**Classified Size Limit:** Four lines of 10 pt Arial font, one column wide. Pictures may be included – and are encouraged – but make the picture a separate "jpg" or "png" file. If we can't format your ad as a Word document, it won't run.



*(This card is from the store that graciously gives us space to stage and park for the November Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Give them a thought if you need tires or service.)*

Perch Base extends its thanks to Adam Stadnik and the Firestone Company for allowing us to use their parking lot for staging, parking and, after the parade, de-staging at the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, Nov.11, 2014.

### **For Sale:** Camping Related Gear - *almost all you need to hit the great outdoors!*

3 lanterns: 1 propane, 2 battery powered; 1-5g water container; 1 propane stove (2 burner); 2 sleeping bags; 1 portable rollup table; 1 portable toilet; 1 screened dining enclosure (12' by 9'); 1 sunshade (14' by 14'); 1 folding grill stand (portable kitchen); 1 folding table and bench set

**Contact Jim Denzien at :**  
**623-547-7945 or 602-332-3925**

# LEST WE FORGET . . .

The new three-month calendars list those boats that never returned on the dates they entered our honored history. But to help us honor them all, one submarine will be detailed here to help us remember them all. Sailors, rest your oars, we have the watch.

**FEB. 29, 1944**  
**81 MEN LOST**



USS Trout (SS-202) was a United States Navy Tambor-class submarine, serving in the Pacific from 1941 to 1944. She received 11 battle stars for World War II service and three Presidential Unit Citations, for her second, third, and fifth patrols. Trout also delivered ammunition to the besieged American forces on Corregidor and brought out 20 tons of gold bars and silver pesos from the Philippine currency reserve to Pearl Harbor.

Trout is credited with sinking 23 enemy ships, giving her 87,000 tons sunk, and damaging 6 ships, for 75,000 tons. During her first ten patrols she made 32 torpedo attacks, firing 85 torpedoes, including 34 hits, 5 confirmed premature detonations, 5 confirmed duds, and 25 suspected duds. She was also involved in six battle surface actions and was attacked with depth charges eight times.



## Origins

Trout was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the trout, any of certain small, fresh-water fishes, highly esteemed by anglers for their gameness, their rich and finely flavored flesh and their handsome (usually mottled or speckled) coloration. Her keel was laid down on 28 August 1939 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 21 May 1940 sponsored by Mrs. Walter B. Woodson, and commissioned on 15 November 1940 with Lieutenant Commander Frank Wesley "Mike" Fenno, Jr., as captain.

## Initial operations

On 2 July 1941, following "shakedown" operations along the east coast, Trout and sister ship Triton (SS-201) departed New York City, bound for the Pacific. After transiting the Panama Canal and stopping at San Diego, California, the submarines arrived at Pearl Harbor on 4 August 1941.

Trout conducted training operations with Submarine Division 62 until 29 November when she stood out of Pearl Harbor to conduct a simulated war patrol[5] off Midway Island.

## Wartime operations

### **1st patrol — America enters the war**

On her defensive station, Trout patrolled submerged during daylight to avoid detection by ships or aircraft. On the morning of 7 December, she received word of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. That night, the surfaced submarine observed two destroyers shell Midway Island. She was about ten miles distant and proceeded toward the enemy ships at full speed, but they retired before she arrived. Frustrated in being unable to fire a shot, she continued her now-unrestricted war patrol until 20 December 1941 when Lt.Cdr. Fenno returned the ship to Pearl Harbor.

### **2nd patrol — to the Philippines**

On 12 January 1942, Trout stood out of Pearl Harbor with 3500 rounds of 3" AAA ammunition to be delivered to the

*(continued on next page)*

besieged American forces on Corregidor. She topped off with fuel at Midway Island on 16 January and continued westward. On 27 January, near the Bonin Islands, she sighted a light off her port bow, closed to 1,500 yards (1,400 m) of the vessel, and fired a stern torpedo which missed. She closed to 600 yards (550 m), discovered that her target was a submarine chaser, and, as she had been warned to avoid small ships, resumed her course for the Philippines.



On 3 February, Trout rendezvoused with PT-34 off Corregidor and was escorted to its South Dock.

Trout unloaded her ammunition cargo, refueled, loaded two torpedoes, and requested additional ballast. Since neither sandbags nor sacks of concrete were available, she was given 20 tons of gold bars and silver pesos to be evacuated from the Philippines. The specie came from twelve Philippine banks emptied of their assets, absent the paper money, all of which had been burned to prevent it from falling into Japanese hands. She also loaded securities, mail, and United States Department of State dispatches before submerging shortly before daybreak to wait at the bottom in Manila Bay until the return of darkness. That evening, the submarine loaded more mail and securities before she was escorted through the minefields out to open water. Trout set a course for the East China Sea which she entered on 10 February.

That afternoon, Trout launched a torpedo at a freighter from a range of 2,000 yards (1,800 m) but missed. The submarine then closed the target before firing two more which both hit the freighter. Approximately 25 minutes later, her sonar heard four explosions

that were the boilers of Chuwa Maru blowing up as she sank. That evening, Trout was returning through the Bonin Islands when she sighted a light. She changed course, closed the range to 3,000 yards (2,700 m), and launched two torpedoes at the ship. Both missed. In the time that lapsed between firing the first and the second torpedo, an enemy torpedo passed down Trout's port side. As the submarine went to 120 feet (37 m), another torpedo passed overhead. Trout came up to periscope depth and fired a third torpedo at the target and blew it up. Sound picked up another ship running at full speed, but there was no opportunity to attack it. Trout was credited with sinking a small patrol ship of approximately 200 tons. When she reached Pearl Harbor on 3 March 1942, the submarine transferred her valuable ballast to the cruiser Detroit.

Trout received a Presidential Unit Citation for this patrol. Commander Fenno received the Navy Cross and Army Distinguished Service Cross, and all crew members were awarded the Army Silver Star.

### 3rd patrol — into Japanese waters

The submarine's third war patrol, conducted from 24 March to 17 May 1942 took her to Japanese home waters. On 9 April, Trout was patrolling between Ichie-Zaki and Shioni-Misaki when she sighted two small cargo ships. She launched two torpedoes at each target, but all missed. The next day, she launched one torpedo at a small steamer and missed again. On 11 April, she attacked a large freighter with two torpedoes. One hit the target but did not sink it. Between 16 April and 23 April Trout provided cover for the Doolittle Raid task force. Finally, on 24 April, the submarine hit a 10,000 ton tanker with two torpedoes off Cape Shiono, and it headed for the beach. A sweep of the periscope showed a cargo ship going to the aid of the tanker. Trout launched one torpedo and missed. She then closed to 500 yards (460 m) and fired another torpedo that hit with a tremendous explosion. When last seen, the cargo ship, too, was heading for shallow water. Four days later, the submarine attacked a 1,000 ton patrol vessel or minesweeper with a torpedo which sank it in two minutes. On 30 April, Trout attacked two ships off Shimo Misaki but missed both. On 2 May, the submarine sank the 5014 ton cargo ship Uzan Maru. Two days later, she fired a spread of two torpedoes at what was thought to be a freighter. The first torpedo missed, but the second hit forward of the bridge, sinking the converted gunboat Kongōsan Maru. The submarine was then subjected to a six-hour depth charge attack before she could clear the area.

Trout received her second Presidential Unit Citation for this patrol.

### 4th patrol — Task Group 7.1

Trout stood out of Pearl Harbor on 21 May 1942, as a unit of Task Group 7.1, the Midway Island Patrol Group



U.S. Navy  
Presidential Unit Citation

*(continued on next page)*

consisting of 12 submarines. Her station was south of the island as nine of the submarines were positioned fan-like to the west of Midway Island in preparation for the Japanese attack. At 08:12 on 4 June, Trout sighted a Japanese fighter plane preparing to attack from astern. She went deep and heard a series of light explosions. On 9 June, Trout passed through a large oil slick and some debris before rescuing two Japanese from a large wooden hatch cover. She returned to Pearl Harbor on 14 June without firing a torpedo.

### **5th patrol — the South Pacific**

On 27 August, Trout, now under the command of Lt.Cdr. Lawson Paterson "Red" Ramage, proceeded via the Marshall Islands to the Caroline Islands and began patrolling the southern approaches to Truk on 7 September. She was detected by three patrol craft on 10 September, apparently triangulating her position using radar, and was forced to go deep for one and a half hours while attacked by 45 depth charges. The next day, she sighted a large transport, but escorts forced her to go deep and clear the area. On 21 September, the submarine fired three stern torpedoes at a naval auxiliary. The first torpedo broke the ship in half, and the next two hit the aft section. The victim was subsequently identified as Koei Maru, a converted net tender of 900 tons. A week later, Trout picked up a carrier group consisting of a light aircraft carrier, two cruisers, and two destroyers. The submarine closed to 1,500 yards (1,400 m) and fired a spread of five torpedoes. She heard two timed explosions and saw the carrier Taiyō slow, with smoke pouring out of her starboard side near the water line. Trout heard high-speed screws approaching and went to 200 feet (61 m) as a pattern of ten depth charges shook her severely.

On 3 October, with one week remaining in her patrol area, Trout approached to reconnoiter Otta Pass, the southern deepwater entrance to Truk. Six miles west of South Islands, she came to periscope depth to obtain a navigational fix. Just as the periscope was lowered, there was a violent explosion, close aboard, that shook the ship violently. The entire crew was stunned by the shock. One man was thrown from his bunk, and another was knocked off his feet. Trout emergency dived to 150 feet (46 m). As she passed 80 feet (24 m) on the way down, another bomb exploded without effect. Since both periscopes were out of commission, the submarine headed for Australia for emergency repairs and arrived at Capricorn Wharf, New Farm (Brisbane) on 13 October 1942.

Trout received her third Presidential Unit Citation for this patrol.

### **6th patrol — the Solomon Islands**

Trout's sixth war patrol began on 26 October 1942 and took her to waters around the New Georgia Islands. On 13 November, she was patrolling 80 miles (130 km) north of Indispensable Strait when she was ordered to intercept the Kongō-class battleship Kirishima en route to shell Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. On the morning of 14 November Trout located Kirishima and its escort force in the process of refueling but was unable to maneuver into an attack position. Stalking the force, Trout attacked when the Japanese came under air attack in the afternoon and fired a spread of five torpedoes with a depth setting of 25 feet (7.6 m); all missed; and she cleared the area. The patrol ended when the submarine returned to Brisbane ten days later.

After provisioning and off-loading her torpedoes, Trout departed Brisbane on 25 November for Fremantle, Western Australia, where her squadron

was then based, arriving 2 December 1942.

### **7th patrol — Borneo**

On 29 December 1942, Trout stood out to sea to patrol the South China Sea off North Borneo. The submarine contacted a large tanker off Miri on 11 January 1943 and launched three torpedoes from a range of 2,000 yards (1,800 m). The first two hit the target amidships, but the third exploded prematurely. Four minutes later, there was a heavy explosion from the direction of the target. Since postwar examination of Japanese records shows no sinking, the damaged ship must have managed to limp back to port.

Ten days later, off Indochina, Trout launched two torpedoes at a cargo ship from 700 yards (640 m) and watched as the unidentified ship sank immediately. On 29 January, the submarine launched three torpedoes at a destroyer believed to be the Thai Phra Ruang (the former R class destroyer HMS Radiant) and watched each run true to the target. However, all proved to be duds. On 7 February, she sighted tanker Misshin Maru moored off Lutong, Borneo. She made a submerged approach, launched two torpedoes at the target, heard one explosion, and observed smoke rise from the stern of the tanker. However, no sinking upon this occasion was confirmed.

*(continued on next page)*



One week later, Trout launched two torpedoes at what she thought to be a tanker as it emerged from a rain squall. The first torpedo blew off the target's bow, but the second one was a dud. As the enemy ship was still steaming at eight knots, the submarine surfaced for battle with her deck guns. Trout opened fire, but soon seven of her men were wounded by enemy machine gun fire. She then swung around and fired a stern torpedo and watched Hiroshima Maru turn her stern straight up with her screws still turning and slip under the waves. The patrol ended when the submarine arrived at Fremantle on 25 February 1943.

### **8th patrol — laying mines**

Trout was next ordered to plant naval mines in Api Passage, off the northwest coast of Borneo. She got underway on 22 March 1943 and, on 4 April while en route from Balabac Strait to Miri, fired a spread of three torpedoes at a naval auxiliary. One hit the target amidships, raising a 20-foot (6 m) plume of water into the air, but the warhead did not explode. Trout fired a fourth torpedo; but the ship saw its wake, turned, and dodged it. The next day, she launched three torpedoes at another ship with no results. Trout planted 23 naval mines in Api Passage on 7 April and 8 April and then began patrolling the Singapore trade route. On 19 April, she launched four torpedoes at a freighter but scored no hits. Later in the day, she fired a spread of three torpedoes at a tanker and missed. Trout sighted two trawlers on 23 April and battle surfaced. Her deck guns soon stopped the first ship dead in the water and set it on fire; they then turned the second one into a burning wreck. Since there was only one torpedo remaining, the submarine headed for Fremantle, where she arrived on 3 May 1943.

### **9th patrol — special missions**

The Trout was now under the command of her former executive officer, Lt.Cdr. Albert Hobbs Clark, a "plank owner" (member of original ship's complement). From 27 May to 20 July 1943, Trout performed a special mission during an offensive war patrol. On 9 June, she missed a transport with three torpedoes. She then landed a five-man U.S. Army team at Labangan, Mindanao. On 15 July, the submarine fired a three-torpedo spread which destroyed the tanker Sanraku Maru. She contacted three small coastal steamers on 26 June and sank two of them with her deck guns. On 1 July, she sank Isuzu Maru with four torpedoes. Eight days later, Trout picked up a party of five American officers including Lt.Cdr. Charles "Chick" Parsons and Lt.Col. William E. Dyess at Pagadian Bay on Mindanao and headed for Fremantle.

### **10th patrol — sub to sub**

Trout stood out to sea on 12 August to patrol the Surigao Strait and San Bernardino Strait en route back to Pearl Harbor. On 25 August, she battled a cargo-fisherman with her deck guns and then sent a boarding party on board the Japanese vessel. After they had returned to the submarine with the prize's crew, papers, charts, and other material for study by intelligence officers, the submarine sank the vessel. Three of the five prisoners were later embarked in a dinghy off Tifore Island.



On 9 September, she fired three bow tubes at a Kaidai class submarine off Surigao Strait. Thirty-five seconds later, there was a loud explosion which apparently stopped the target's screws. Trout's sound crew reported a torpedo approaching her port beam, and she went to 100 feet (30 m). After she heard a second explosion, Trout came to periscope level, but found no sign of I-182 which she had sunk. On 22 September, one of the remaining Japanese prisoners died of self-imposed starvation and was buried at sea.

The next day, the submarine sighted two ships with an escort. One was a freighter with a deck load of planes, and the other was a passenger-cargo. Trout fired a spread of three torpedoes at each of the targets. She saw and heard two hits on each. The freighter Ryotoku Maru sank stern first. Though depth charged afterwards and kept down for five hours, Trout surfaced and gave chase to the damaged transport, finding and attacking it with three more torpedoes before her escort could return.

As the transport was being abandoned Trout proceeded close aboard and passed 12 to 15 life boats. The enemy ship was ablaze and low in the water with her bow nearly awash. Sound heard a heavy explosion from Yamashiro Maru and, seven minutes later, Trout could see no trace of her. That night, the submarine set a course for Hawaii and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 4 October 1943.

The submarine was then routed back to the United States for a modernization overhaul at the Mare Island Navy Yard. She was ready for sea in January 1944 and returned to Submarine Division 162 at Pearl Harbor late that month.

*(continued on next page)*



## The last patrol

On 8 February 1944, the submarine began her 11th and final war patrol. Trout topped off with fuel at Midway Island and, on 16 February, headed via a great circle route toward the East China Sea.

Japanese records examined after the war indicate that one of their convoys, Matsu No. 1, was attacked by a submarine on 29 February 1944 in the patrol area assigned to Trout. Carrying the 29th Infantry Division of the Kwantung Army from Manchuria to Guam, Matsu No. 1 consisted of four large transports escorted by three Yugumo-class destroyers of Destroyer Division 31: Asashimo, Kishinami, and Okinami. The submarine badly damaged one large passenger-cargo ship and sank the 7,126-ton transport Sakito Maru. Asashimo detected the submarine and dropped 19 depth charges. Oil and debris came to the surface and the destroyer dropped a final depth charge on that spot, at the position 22°40'N 131°45'E. Coordinates: 22°40'N 131°45'E. The submarine was using Mk. XVIII electric torpedoes, and it was also possible that one of those had made a circular run and sunk the boat, as happened with Tang.

On 17 April 1944, Trout was declared presumed lost with all 81 hands, including Commander Clark and his executive officer, Lt. Harry Eades Woodworth, both of whom had made all 11 war patrols.

---

## Have Your Heard . . . ? - #2

- The first boat known to have been navigated under water was built in 1620 by a Dutchman, Cornelius Van Drebbel. Van Drebbel is said to have developed a chemical which would purify the air and allow the crew to stay submerged for extended periods.
- Alexander the Great (356 to 323 B.C.) ruler of Macedonian and conqueror of the known world in his time, is the first person known to have descended into the sea in a vessel of any kind.
- Over three hundred years ago, Mother Shipton, famous English prophetess, predicted the coming of the submarine when writing, "under water men shall walk, shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk."
- Records of attempts to utilize submarine warfare go back to the earliest writings in history. Herodotus (460 B.C.), Aristotle (332 B.C.) and Pliny, the elder, (77 A.D.) mention determined attempts to build submersibles.
- The United States submarine USS TRITON was fitted with twin reactors and was considered the longest submarine ever built until the advent of the OHIO class. The TRITON was designed for a surface displacement of 5,900 tons. Large submarines of other countries have been the Japanese I-400 (5,220 tons), and the French SURCOUF (2,880 tons).
- The USS NAUTILUS was the first submarine with a satisfactory single plant that can be used for main propulsion both surfaced and submerged.
- During their wartime operations submarines have engaged in some unusual maritime actions. One undersea craft slugged it out with the infantry and field artillery while other submarines destroyed a zeppelin, a bus, and a railroad train.
- An Irish-American schoolteacher, John Philip Holland, built several submarines before the USS Holland, which became the first undersea craft commissioned by the U.S. Navy. The Holland was accepted on April 11, 1900 for a price of \$150,000. Today's nuclear powered submarines cost in excess of \$2-billion, but that includes the fuel.
- Dollar for dollar and man for man, the submarine is the country's most economical weapon. Comprising only 1.6 percent of the Navy's World War II personnel, the submarine service accounted for 55 percent of all enemy shipping destroyed.
- Leonardo da Vinci, the Florentine Renaissance inventor and artist, developed plans for an underwater warship but kept them secret. He was afraid that it would make war even more frightful than it already was.
- Many instances of submarines being 'caught' by fishing vessels are on record. The NAUTILUS, world's first nuclear powered vessel, was caught in a fish net and towed the fishing vessel several miles before the situation was cleared up. There is one instance of a submarine being captured by an abandoned balloon, and on another occasion a submarine rescued a blimp and towed it to safety.
- A church in Kyoto, Japan calls its congregation to worship with a bell from a submarine. The bell, from the submarine USS RAY was purchased for the church, and was transported to Yokosuka, Japan by another submarine, the USS RONQUIL.
- For entertainment on U.S. submarines movies, television, ice cream machines and stereo music players are available. The USS SEAWOLF also had an electronic organ. There have been instances of boxing matches held onboard, and the crew of one submarine had a kite flying contest from an anchored submarine.
- Modern submarines can travel faster submerged than they can on the surface. They can fully submerge in less than a minute.
- Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat, was an avid submarine enthusiast. He built several submersible warships, one of which was known as the Nautilus.

**Return To:**

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
7011 West Risner Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308  
E-Mail: [communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)

**Base Meetings,  
2nd Saturday of Each Month**  
12 noon, 11 a.m. (no host bar)  
Dillon's at Arrowhead  
59th Ave just north of Loop 101

