



Apr 2025

## **CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR \* - ed.**

To prove eligibility for benefits for diseases resulting from exposure to Agent Orange, the Blue Water Act and the PACT Act specify the delineations for off-shore areas of Viet Nam.

Although the law specifies that the VA is supposed to provide “assistance” in finding any such proof, the only mechanism is by using persons, some volunteer and some paid, which are called Veteran Service Officers. They get some training in how the claims are to be filed, but so far I haven’t encountered any who know the full resources, or nature of submarine operations, and are specifically available to assist in individual details.

As a result, I have had to advance my knowledge of Naval records, their current existence, and how they may be accessed if they still exist. Some time back, not related to claim filing, I investigated what happened to the Quartermaster’s Logs for Sabalo and found they were disposed of during the 1980’s. At that time, the Deck Logs were not available except by visiting the National Archives in College Park, MD. A recent program was instituted jointly by the Navy and the Archives to microfilm and digitize all of the Deck Logs and Command Histories for the approximate 1,600 vessels in service during the Viet Nam time frame.

Starting in January, using the previously down loaded files of the logs (each month being a separate file) for the 67-68 & 68-69 deployments, each month was reviewed using the dates specified from other sources that Sabalo was in the War Zone, and each of the recorded position data were extracted into a table for review. The posit deck log recording rules require an entry 3 times each day at times: 0800; 1200; 2000. [note 12 hrs overnight not recorded]

The positions were then compared to the demarcation line (see map pg2) representing the Agent Orange exposure zone, as specified in the law. (see also page 15).

Most of the recorded latitudes were further north than

17° 10’N, (Con Co Island in table pg 15), plus the additional 12 miles allowed in the law, with the exception of ~20 Oct ‘67, about 21 nm off shore from South VN.

Other than the few days close to the 20th, During the ‘67-68 cruise, most ops were near Yankee Station, some were further north. **Yes, we operated closer to North VietNam than South VietNam. At one point during a special op in ‘67 we may have been as close as 3 miles to the entrance of Haiphong Harbor.** †

† This is not specifically recorded in the logs, but certain personnel have reported this. This also means that the other ship’s firing actions we witnessed were directed into North VN. As for reasons being close to No. VN, when we passed through Pearl Harbor, we picked up a 2nd Class CT for special ELINT. He didn’t reveal all of what he was looking for, but I do remember it would have been a trophy if we recorded by SONAR the ship sounds of a new [Russian Foxtrot class sub](#).

† The deck log posits don’t have all movements recorded. The details of any specific near-shore incursion, or intelligence gathered, would have been reported in the official Patrol Report. These are now reported to be in control of the Office of Naval Intelligence, if still existing. My contact to them has been not answered to date.

**The conclusion of research to date, and checking all logged posits, is that nothing found indicates eligibility for Agent Orange benefits for the ‘67-68 or ‘68-69 cruises except for Thailand visit if that may be accepted,** regardless of what disease and illness many have suffered with, and also those who died from the maladies presumed to be related to A.O exposure. Additionally, the laws ignore diesel smoke, other toxic fumes from paint, oil and solvents, and additionally asbestos. Congress, the VA, and scientific studies that were used to set the exposure possibilities ignore or minimize their effects.

\*† See pg 3 for explanation of the title phrase

## USS SABALO SS-302

**BALAO (SS-285) CLASS DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE**

**IN COMMISSION: 1945-46 & 1951-71**

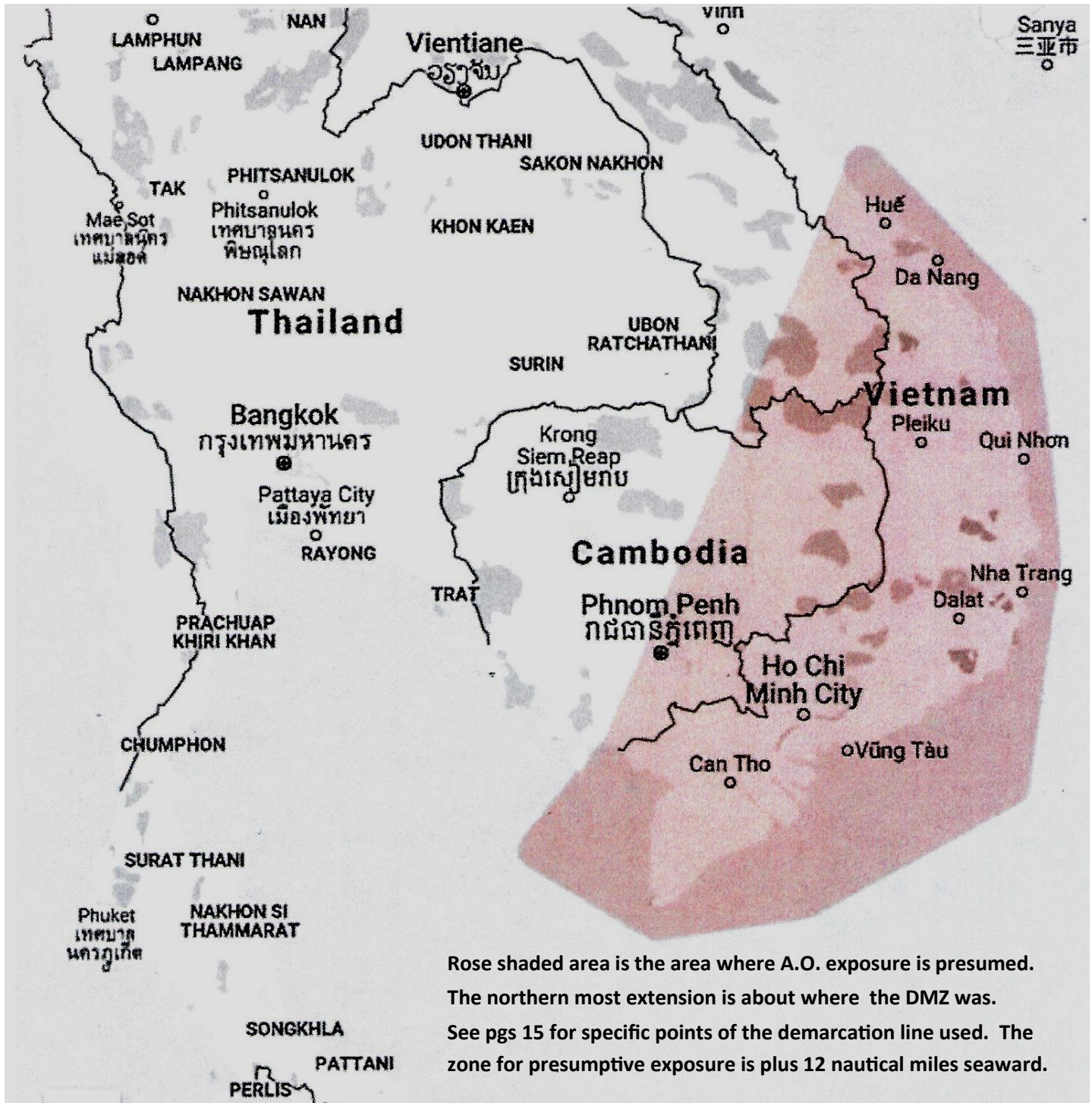
## A Proud Workhorse of the Fleet

*She made her missions.*

*We did our best.*

*We served our country.*

*This has been done.*







*Vol. III No. 19 April 2025*

**CLEVER BOY** is a privately authored and published newsletter of the **USS Sabalo Association**, an informal group for the preservation of the history of the U.S. Navy Submarine, USS Sabalo SS-302, and including the assemblage of the list of all who served in her, chronicling her exploits and missions, and celebrating the memories of those who manned her.

"Clever Boy" was the radio call sign for Sabalo, and NXYO was her flag identification code.

CB is currently distributed via online and hard copy to 185+ veterans of the sub.

📄 Online viewers—Follow the links with each item for the full story.

📄 Hard copy readers only get the first two pages in color. On the Sabalo web site all pages have color possible.

**WEB SITE:** <http://usssabalo.org> For more information about the men who served in her, the ship's details and exploits, and copies of past *Clever Boy* newsletters beginning from 2009

**Editor: Jeff Owens**

ETN2(SS) Aboard Mar 67-Aug 69  
273 Pratt Hollow Rd  
Nicholson, PA 18446-7866  
570-942-4622 [owensj@epix.net](mailto:owensj@epix.net)

**Editor Emeritus:**

Ronald D. Gorence, QMC(SS), Ret.  
Abd 302 Jul66-Feb70 (Final Patrol-Apr 2018)

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS EITHER USPS OR EMAIL.**

If you can no longer receive email, please remember to communicate so that you can be switched to receive a hard copy. The cost of those who receive hard copies is supported by donations.

*If you have no interest in this newsletter, please communicate so funds can be conserved.*

## THANKS TO RECENT DONORS

(with rank/rating & dates aboard 302 -may have been higher later)

Barker, Richard EN2(SS) Aug56-Dec59

Belew, John SO3(SS) Jan52-Jun54

Robertson, James CS2(SS) Dec69-Dec70

## READERSHIP REVIEW — ARE YOU AWOL ??

If you haven't communicated in a long time, **please take a minute to send an email or call.** Possible readership has dropped below 200 and less than 130 have had any more recent message communicated that they receive and read Clever Boy. [-ed.]

### Sabalo Sailing List Stats -as of 5 Mar 2025

Total shipmates listed	1453
Known Deceased	940
Known USPS address	300
Receives Clever Boy by email or hard copy & <b>contact since 2018</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>AWOL- Not heard from since 2018</b>	<b>61</b>
Known address but has declined or does not receive Clever Boy	54
Lost Contact—last known address NG & unable to relocate	15
Never located	199

### HOW LONG WILL THE C.B. LAST?

In the above stats the possible readership is now down to 185, but some in that number have not been heard from in more than 4 years. If you read the newsletter and wish it to continue much longer, then take the time to send a note either by email or postal, or call. The number is just to the left.

Better yet check your listing, & respond using the form at the 2nd link.

[https://usssabalo.org/Roster\\_Main.html](https://usssabalo.org/Roster_Main.html)

[https://usssabalo.org/R-Form\\_Email.htm](https://usssabalo.org/R-Form_Email.htm)

From pg 1-

**What's the origin of the phrase 'Close, but no cigar'?**

The phrase, and its variant 'nice try, but no cigar', are of US origin and date from the early to mid-20th century. Fairground stalls gave out cigars as prizes, but not to those who just missed. This is the most likely source, although there's no definitive evidence to prove that.



## FROM OUT OF THE TOMATO BOX

By Editor Jeff Owens

Not a day goes by, in which my mind doesn't slip away to those days on the Sabalo.

### THIS ISSUE IS LATE.

Seems like that is now a trend. I've got a better excuse this time.

My heart attack on 20 Feb. has slowed me some, but I think with the warmer weather, and with so many things to do, I'll be getting back to speed pretty quick. The body may have other ideas, but I'm feeling positive, and so far my physical activity, while limited, seems to show good recovery. See *'my personal binnacle report'* on page 11 for more details,.

### RE MY PERSONAL EFFORTS RELATIVE TO PAGE 1

I continue to pursue my VA disability claim, but from evidence so far the '67-68 cruise isn't going to do it, and likewise for posits '68-69 trip.

My claim was originally filed October 2019, and the VA rejections so far don't indicate why the places in Thailand during the '68-69 run aren't considered, so my claim refile will focus on that.

## Marking Time

When I was young, I was poor. But after years of hard, honest and painstaking work, I'm no longer young.



I hate when doctors ask questions like, 'Are you sexually active?' I mean there are plenty of 'active' volcanoes that haven't gone off in over 50 years.

### SABALO WEB SITE TEMPORARILY DOWN

USSSABALO.ORG is not accessible as this issue goes out. It has not been renewed with the past host because they have continued to jack up the cost to the point I feel something less expensive for hosting can be found. The last increase to \$325/yr broke the camel's back. It was less than \$200 just a couple years ago.

If anyone has a suggestion on something cheaper—with no ads—please contact me ASAP. I need to get this resolved shortly. —ed.



## RECENT TELCONS (

31 Dec Tim Baldwin FTG2(SS) Oct68-Jan71, fm San Diego-nice chat about various things. He's doing pretty well and sends wishes to shipmates.

7 Jan tel msg fm Wayne Hachey TM2(SS) Feb57-Nov68 – 'no health problems, just cking in.'

8 Jan John Belew SO3(SS) Jun52-Jun54

Also had Jan calls from

Jerry Ryan SO3(SS) Jul56-Jul58

Frank Piasecki SN(SS) Feb63-?64

### A Man and a Woman-

Side by side.... a Heartwarming Story

A woman's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day.

One day when he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer. As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears...

*"You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times.*

*When I got fired, you were there to support me.*

*When my business failed, you were there.*

*When I got shot, you were by my side.*

*When we lost the house, you stayed right here.*

*When my health started failing, you were still by my side.*

*You know what?" he concluded.*

*"What, dear?" she asked gently, smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth.*

*"I think you're bad luck."*

**MAILBAG**

[rank/rating as aboard, may have diff later]

**RECENT CHECK-INS over past few months:**

Bellar-27Dec24 telcon "...recd - ok, age 86, tnx for CB."

29 Dec I received Clever Boy today. Great work. Keep it up. I was a LT aboard the boat at decommissioning. After 14 years of enlisted and officer duty, I joined the reserves rather than serve aboard surface ships.

**Dennis Costarakis, CDR USNR Ret**

30 Dec Just so you know, I find the newsletter interesting and enjoyable. Thank you

**Donald Lunde SN(SS) Jul69-Dec70**

3 Jan I always look forward to receiving the newsletter. Wishing you all of God's blessings in the New Year.

**Ernie Yarbrough RMSN(SS) Oct68-?69**

7 Jan Jeff- just updating, still here Health very good and no major problems age 82.

**Robert Vincent (Bob) TM3(SS) Aug60-Oct62**

7 Jan tel msg fm **Wayne Hachey TM2(SS) Feb67-Nov68** "No health problems, just cking in."

30 Dec Jeff that was an outstanding newsletter. You're doing a great job for all of us. Thanks Shipmate.

**Bob Hudson EN2(SS) Feb70-Mar71**

30 Dec Hi Jeff, We are so thankful for your efforts to get the newsletter out. Wishing you and all the readers the best in the coming year.

Again, those damned software update people have no appreciation for the real things of life as somehow I find it a bit late in my junk mail though I flag it as "Not junk" every time. I think the "techno-weenies" think that all mail sent to multiple addresses is junk.

Again, the Clever Boy Newsletter had a lot that made me think of how thankful I can be when looking out into the rest of the world.

I only served a couple months (Oct 66 to Jan 67) on the Sabalo while in the San Francisco Shipyard, never going to sea on her.

I "qualified" on the Blueback SS-581, where we had the experience of 4 Russian depth charges one day, one shaking us a bit, confirming that sound does travel better under water and we heard the detonators go off before the main charges did. And being deployed to the Bay of Tonkin where as far as I know, we escaped the Agent Orange scourge with as I see it, 2 good days, days when we were able to rescue 2 pilots that were able to hang on until out over blue water.

Other than simply getting old, with all that comes with it, I am doing quite well. Unfortunately, my wife, Susan

has some serious health issues, and has an implant now that is supposed to tell her brain that the pain she is feeling is not really there. (tongue in cheek) A wife that now comes with a remote control-- every guys wish.

So page 14, and "The World is Mine" is that simple reminder that we do have so much to be thankful for, though the bucket list still includes a trip to the Blueback in Portland Oregon before I am too damned old to do it.

**Carl Jauernig EN2(SS) Oct66-Jan67**

**11 Jan eml fm Don Nelson Jan68-?69, STCS(SS), Ret,** "Anniversary - 57 years with the same beautiful woman as of 1/21/2025."

11 Jan 25 Hi Jeff, Thanks for the latest Sabalo newsletter. I recognized one of the names in the Mail Bag - Daniel Gross. He was my boss when I did a WestPac on Sabalo. Do you have his contact information? I'd like to send him a note - after 50 years! Thanks and Best Regards,

**Jonathan M. Ross EM3(SS) Mar70-Oct70**

17Jan **Jonathan also ckd in by filing out the online info form updating his data.**

**You can too by visiting this link:**

**[https://ussabalo.org/R-Form\\_Email.htm](https://ussabalo.org/R-Form_Email.htm)**

**Please check your listing on the web site, or if you have moved or changed telno, and send the updates.**

13 Jan eml fm **Fred Holcomb ETCS(SS), Ret. Oct66-Oct69:** "I've been doing well lately. I'm getting my energy back after three years of failures of various body parts. I will probably never get back to 100%, but I'm up and going. It's amazing how little physical stress an 81-year-old body can take. I'm thankful that I can walk from one place to another without adult guidance, and I can put whole sentences together that make sense." [Fred also reports he lost two of his vehicles to accidents over the past year – his truck crashed by his grandson, and he smacked up his wife's car. Luckily no injuries. – ed.]

**10 Mar James Robertson CS2(SS) Dec69-Dec70** reported in fm New Mexico with a donation. "Hope this helps. Thanks for your tireless work."

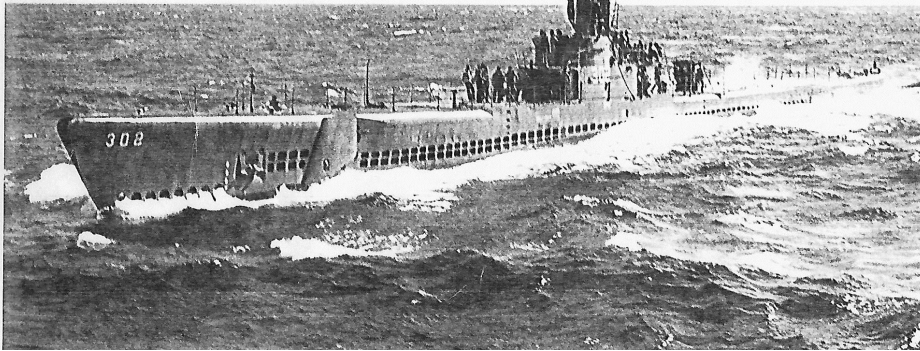
**2 Apr James MacLean QM2(SS) Sep66-Dec69** reports a new address in Utah, same phone and email.

**Jan Ken Burtner YN1(SS) Nov61-Aug63** reports he has relocated to the Vets Home in Gulfport, MS

More Mailbag on pg 7



Sabalo ca. 1952 pre-snorkel with deck guns removed

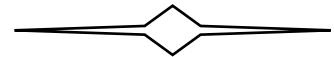


### THE OLD BOATS

Of all the branches of men in the forces, there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners. ....

Sir Winston Churchill

We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds. ... Adm Chester Nimitz



### **Congressman's Blabbermouth — Security breach cost the US Navy as many as ten submarines and 800 crewmen killed in action.**

During early World War II, boats were frequently escaping depth charge attacks. Congressman Andrew May revealed the deficiencies of Japanese depth-charge tactics in a press conference held in June 1943. He revealed the highly sensitive fact that American submarines had a high survival rate because Japanese depth charges were exploding at too shallow a depth. Various press associations sent this leaked news story over their wires and many newspapers published it, including one in Honolulu, Hawaii. After the news became public, Japanese naval antisubmarine forces began adjusting their depth charges to explode at a greater depth. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew\\_J.\\_May](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_J._May) & <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/congressman-andrew-may-caused-the-death-of-800-submarine-crewmen-during-wwii.html>

[And now they whine about the “Signal” chat as a so-called breach of security.—ed.]

### **The U-Boats**

#### **Sinking of U-85—Was it caused by a sea monster?**

During World War I, on April 30th 1918, German U-boat Commander, Captain Gunther Krech told the British Navy of the HMS Coreopsis upon his surrender of the sub and its crew, that his disabled U-boat was attacked by a sea monster. Krech and his navigator were last off and scuttled the boat which was later found on the bottom at 340 feet.

10 min video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuGZpx0EU\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuGZpx0EU_U)

#### **That Time a Navy Destroyer Landed Atop a German Sub in WWII on Halloween 1943**

An unbelievable story of how the USS Bone DD-215 had a wild, hour-long surface battle with U-405 causing both ships to go down with loss of all 49 German sailors and then when Bone abandoned ship 27 men were lost to the frigid waters. The Borie's crew was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, and Navy Crosses were bestowed to [Hutchins](#), Machinist's Mate 2nd Class [Irving Saum](#) and posthumously to [Lt. Morrison Brown](#), the Borie's engineering officer. The destroyer received three battle stars for her WWII service. Below links plus more by Googling.

<https://www.military.com/history/time-navy-destroyer-landed-atop-german-sub-wwii.html>  
& <https://www.kentstateuniversitypress.com/2010/sailors-journey-into-war/>

So many truths seem to be rushing at me as the result of things felt and seen and lived through.  
Oh, what I think I must tell this world.

...Lorraine Hansberry, playwright, writer

## MAIL BAG

**20 Jan Ed Heistermann MM1(SS) reports from Captain Cook, Hawaii:** Paula [wife] had a shoulder replacement mid-December. The surgery went well but developed a blood clot that knocked her for a loop. Finally getting over all the complications from that. Has had 3 good days in a row, so progress.

Weather here is what we call fair. That means gets down to 60 at night, 82 in the day but more clouds than our spoiled little bodies would like.

**17 Nov 24 Jerry Hamilton LT May67-Mar69**  
Thanks for your continued effort to send the newsletter out!

27 Feb 25 eml recd- Jeff, I wanted to let you know that my Dad, **(Arnold) Kent Dummar [EN3(SS) Sep66-?69]**, passed away on Jan. 15, 2025. I loved printing the Clever Boy, and giving to him. He really enjoyed reading them and sharing stories with me. Thank you for the excellent job you do for the newsletter. And thank you for your service. Chris Dummar. (son) ckdummar@yahoo.com

**7 Feb Note fm Richard Barker EN2(SS) Aug56-Dec59:** He makes ID of one pic in Dec '24 CB pg2 upper right, :Red

head\* in T-shirt (center rear) is Pharmacist's Mate & next to him is electrician "Shakey" Cox. I know most in the 2 top pics - don't remember names.

"Dutch Schultz from Oregon was always dropping things, so I bought him a two-handled coffee cup. He dropped it & broke it. Great memories."

[[\*Red Head? Now that's Good memory, the pic is black and white. The 2 men are **Cox, Forest EM1(SS) Aug56-Dec59** and either "**Pharmacist Mate**" Eastman, **John HM2(SS) Aug57-May60** or maybe Ellis, **Melton HM1(SS) Nov59-May60**. Rpb't 'Dutch' Schultz was **EN3(SS) Jul55-4q58**. -ed.]]

Another ID re pics on pg 2 Dec 24 issue: (lost the email, so if you are the one who sent info let me know):

Pic on lower right—man on left at the helm is **Baxter, Lowell 'Les' ETR2(SS) Oct56-Aug60**

**Born in the shops of the Devil,  
Designed in the brains of a fiend;  
Filled with acid and crude oil,  
And christened "A Submarine".**

Verse from poem "A Submarine"

[https://pigboats.com/index.php?title=A\\_Submarine](https://pigboats.com/index.php?title=A_Submarine)

## HEADLINE NEWS

Follow links for full story

**FEEDBACK NEEDED—Your editor searches far and wide for topical info to pass along. If you see some cool stuff, send it in for inclusion.**

**Navy Secretary Nominee, a Trump Donor with No Military Experience—27 Feb 2025**

John Phelan, a businessman with no prior experience in the military or defense policy, tapped to be new Navy secretary, said he will lean on his business experience to fulfill Trump's priority of "shipbuilding, shipbuilding, shipbuilding."

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/02/27/navy-secretary-nominee-trump-donor-no-military-experience-glides-through-confirmation-hearing.html>

**Over \$151 Million Taken from Soldiers' Paychecks for Food Costs Spent Elsewhere by the Army**

The money is collected in what amounts to a tax on troops -- taken from their Basic Allowance for Subsistence payments, roughly \$460 per month that is automatically deducted from the paychecks of service members.

It's unclear what specifically the additional funds

taken from soldiers are being spent on, but they do not appear to be going toward feeding soldiers. Major expenses such as dining hall infrastructure and food service worker salaries come from separate funding sources and, when pressed repeatedly by Military.com, Army officials declined to provide additional financial data.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/investigations-and-features/2025/02/14/over-151-million-taken-soldiers-paychecks-food-costs-spent-elsewhere-army.html>

**Supreme Court Upholds VA Court Decision Not to Review 'Benefit-of-the-Doubt' Evidence in Veterans' Claims - 10 Mar 2025 [excerpt]**

"In a 7-2 decision, the court ruled that the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is not required to review the Department of Veterans Affairs' application of the "benefit-of-the-doubt" rule in most decisions. The standard requires the VA to approve veterans' claims when the supporting evidence, either for or against approval, is close."

Dissenting Judge Brown wrote, "The court today concludes that Congress meant nothing when it inserted [into law] in response to concerns that the Veterans Court was improperly rubberstamping the VA's benefit-of-the-doubt determinations and also that the Veterans Court is not

## SUBMARINES - EXTREME TECHNOLOGY—BIG ↗ BIGGER ↗ BIGGEST

At 561 feet long, the **USS Pennsylvania** is the biggest submarine in the US Navy. It can dive deeper than a thousand feet, sail for 20 years without refueling, and remain submerged for up to 6 months. The vessel carries a crew of 155 men and a deadly nuclear arsenal. The film investigates how this submarine was made possible through a series of six historic engineering breakthroughs. We explore the inner workings of six landmark submarines, including the tiny Turtle and colossal German U-Boats. Each features a major technological innovation that allowed engineers to build bigger submarines, including the development of underwater breathing, torpedo's, missile launch systems, and stealth technology. Using computer-generated imagery this film reveals the incredible stories behind these machines and the inventions that have allowed them to grow in size. Six ingenious leaps forward enabling submarines to evolve, from BIG, to BIGGER, into the US Navy's BIGGEST.

<https://youtu.be/1Esapb0gT3w?si=HAgQyuMt0KXdQuXh> vid 46 min.



### 2026 USSVI Convention Announced Corpus Christi, Texas 6-12 Sep- REUNION ANYONE ! *Duh -probably not.*

Terry Bolen, Sabalo vet (May-Dec70 LTjg in 302; later Capt., Ret.) is Boat Reunion Natl. Coordinator for any boats planning a reunion.

Maybe if a dozen guys would come , we might get a hospitality suite.

### BINNACLE LIST *Send your health reports so shipmates can know how you're doing.*

- ◇ **13 Jan Eml fm Fred Holcomb ET1(SS) Oct66-Oct69** "I've been doing well lately. I'm getting my energy back after three years of failures of various body parts. I will probably never get back to 100%, but I'm up and going. It's amazing how little physical stress an 81-year-old body can take. I'm thankful that I can walk from one place to another without adult guidance, and I can put whole sentences together that make sense. "
- ◇ **31Jan Don Nelson ST2(SS) Jan68-?69** Had a fall that put him in a wheelchair, but he's getting around some now
- ◇ **7 Apr John Wade EN1(SS) Jul68-?69** [responding to news of my heart attack] Hi Jeff so glad you made it through OK just went through the similar thing 3 stents then 8 months later was having trouble breathing Dr thought a stent had collapsed so back to the Hospital ER ER. Dr said no problem with stent but your saying here you have major blockage and could die before you get Home A few days later triple bypass alls well now still have some breathing issues but caused by inactivities. Getting stronger as time goes by. Heart condition for me 100% with VA raised by Agent Orange. Hope you heal fast getting' old ain't for sissies
- ◇ **9 Apr John Wade**—Glad your walking I went to rehab, and it damned near ruined my hip replacement> Finally went to ortho Dr, and he said quit with the rehab. Now for my 100%: I filed for AO back in 2002, but denied of course, and you have to file every year if you want to keep it open anyway. Reason being I can't prove was in the waters of Nam. Finally got a good VSO and he found out I was stationed in Guam, and they stored that shit there. My VSO in Texas refiled under the PACT Act in 2022 finally got 0% rated, and after that 3 stents in 2023 and bypass in Sept of 2024. Day before having surgery, got a letter from VA rating 100% Total and Permanent.

### WHAT THE FOREIGN NAVIES ARE DOING

**China Bankrupts Itself Building a Fleet; \$100 Billion Type 093 Submarines Now Just "Scrap"** - 20 min vid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GS6bLz4go4E>

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has invested billions in building a powerful navy, but its efforts are now under global scrutiny. U.S. intelligence has fully exposed China's Type 093 nuclear-powered attack submarine, revealing critical details—including its unique acoustic signature, which now serves as an "underwater fingerprint" for tracking. At the same time, China's military-industrial system is facing internal turmoil. In one case, a senior scientist compromised national security by leaking classified information on laser transmission, electromagnetic catapults, and stealth materials— just for the sake of paying off a 1,000 yuan (137 US dollars) gambling debt. [vid has more info than just analysis of the 093 including facts about destroyers and cruisers.-ed.]

**Why New Chinese AIRCRAFT CARRIER is A Complete DISASTER** 24 min vid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WklQehUA-o8>





## Movie Night in the After Battery

72 Metpa (72 Meters)

Russian w/subtitles [20 bucks on Amazon](#) 1hr55m 2004 Rare & Obscure

Full Review & Plot: <https://www.millionmonkeytheater.com/72Meters.html>

## READER'S PUKA



### 8 Great Military Books of 2024

<https://www.military.com/off-duty/books/2024/11/22/best-military-books-we-read-2024.html>

"Expectation of Valor: Planning for the Iraq War" by Col (ret.) Kevin Benson

"I Will Tell No War Stories: What Our Fathers Left Unsaid About World War II" by Howard Mansfield

"Send Me: The True Story of a Mother at War" by Joe Kent and Marty Skovlund Jr.

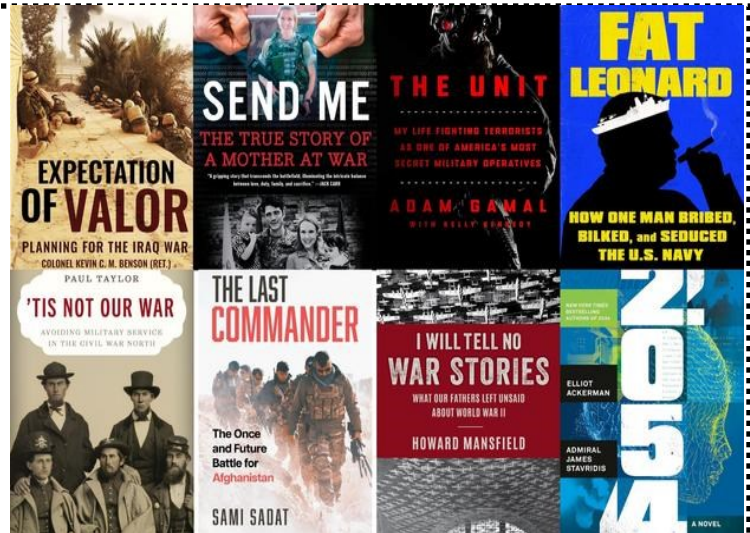
"'Tis Not Our War: Avoiding Military Service in the Civil War North" by Paul Taylor

"The Unit: My Life Fighting Terrorists as One of America's Most Secret Military Operatives" by Adam Gamal and Kelly Kennedy

"2054" by Adm. (ret.) James Stavridis and Elliot Ackerman

"Fat Leonard: How One Man Bribed, Bilked, and Seduced the U.S. Navy" by Craig Whitlock

"The Last Commander: The Once and Future Battle for Afghanistan" by Sami Sadat



## SURFIN' SUBMARINER

**The Submarine that Secretly Tormented Russia** <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=NFUwyCbKPZU>

During the Cold War, the US Navy launched the infamous Ivy Bells project to spy on the Soviets. The legendary USS Halibut submarine was chosen for this mission. Yet, not everyone was on board with the idea.

Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, excluded from the intelligence network of the Navy and the CIA, created a spy submarine: the NR-1. The NR-1, designed to perform deep-sea tasks, had advanced computer and sonar systems and various tools for recovery operations, exploration, and research. Despite being marketed as a rescue submarine, she was primarily used for covert missions. Nevertheless, the submarine conducted various missions, including search operations, object recovery, and oceanographic research. And she did it all while holding the title of the smallest nuclear submarine in US military history...

**TOKIO JOKIO** - 1943 WW2 Banned Cartoon (gets a little hard to see the last couple minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxEr3bbazIM>

**History of the China Fleet Club in Hong Kong** See pg 10 for info and pics about the fleet club in Yokosuka.

<http://www.gunplot.net/chinafleetclub/chinafleetclub2.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_Forces\\_Overseas\\_Hong\\_Kong#China\\_Fleet\\_Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Forces_Overseas_Hong_Kong#China_Fleet_Club)

**Lest We Forget—Sabalo to Tailhook** - A biography of Admiral Frank Kelso

Kelso, from small-town Tennessee, had his first submarine tour in 1958 aboard the USS Sabalo (SS-302) as a Lieutenant (j.g.), and over a 37 year career led eventually up to his positions of Chief of Naval Operations and Secretary of the Navy. ...from U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings March 2017 By A. Denis Clift

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2017/march/lest-we-forget-sabalo-tailhook>

## SHIP'S STORE

### **Sabalo Patch**

\$ 11 includes 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail



**Battle Flag Posters—**  
**REDUCED PRICE \$20** includes shipping (16 1/2" x 21" fits std 16x20 frame) - *a number of you guys asked for these and never responded, so I am just trying to get back some of the money I spent to get them !*

- [https://usssabalo.org/Ship's\\_Store.html](https://usssabalo.org/Ship's_Store.html) See web site for other current items available. If you are looking for something specific, not on the web site, please contact me.



### **T-SHIRT**

#### **Submariner**

*noun. Sub-mah-ree-ner*

1. someone who operates stuff you can't.

**\*\*\* Hurry! LAST CALL! \*\*\***

Still taking orders to get enough for a batch of a dozen. If you want one or more get on the list **ASAP**. Design is borrowed from similar found on the 'net. Planning for **2 variations**: white lettering on navy blue or on [Rothco blue digital camo](#) (similar to the Navy blue-berry camo) Expected price ~\$20 +shipping



## **VA NEWS**

### **HEADLINE NEWS — Two Veterans Will Argue to Supreme Court that VA Disability Claims Aren't Getting 'Benefit of Doubt' 15 Oct 2024**

In the case *Bufkin v. McDonough*, the plaintiffs challenged decisions by the VA and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims denying benefits for health conditions. They argue that the Veterans Board of Appeals, and later, the appeals court, failed to apply a "benefit-of-the-doubt" rule that should have resulted in disability compensation awards. By law, veterans are entitled to receive the benefit of the doubt when the presented evidence, either for or against approval, is close. <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/10/15/supreme-court-hears-case-questioning-vas-commitment-favoring-veterans-benefits-decisions.html>

The court heard verbal arguments 16 Oct 2024. also see SCOTUS final ruling in Headline News section.—ed.

Some clickable links—call if you want a hard copy of the info

Apply for VA health care- <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>

<https://vaclaimsinsider.com/va-disability-rating-calculator/>

[Retirees, Civilians, Want to Live in Base Housing? Yes, You Can!](#)

{From what I read—on many bases who would want to? Lack of maintenance, mold and old age have made many units unlivable.—ed.]

### **Personal Binnacle Report- For the first time my personal health report is included in some detail.**

On Thursday, 20 Feb, I had a heart attack. Not really knowing what was happening, I didn't call for ambulance or go to hospital until Friday late morning. The VA emergency care was deficient and after some blood draws, they sent me home with a few prednisone pills which may have been the worst because it masked the pain. So without a diagnosis, I was told to go home and call my VA cardiologist Monday morning. Finally getting a callback about 11AM, I was told to immediately return to the ER.

This time a test, which should have been done the first time (Triponin), quickly revealed the heart problem. Arrangement was made for me to be transferred to the Scranton CMC Hosp. for a heart catheterization to determine exactly what was blocked. This procedure finally occurred at 2PM on Tuesday.

The result was the installation of a stent in the left circumflex artery which branches off the left coronary artery and encircles the heart muscle. This artery supplies blood to the outer side and back of the heart, and further branches to the shoulder muscles, chest muscles, and hip muscles as the branches get smaller to each area. The artery had a 100% blockage. Extent of damage is yet to be determined.

Other than weakness and fatigue I have no outstanding pain or incapacitation except to say that my strength is greatly affected. I was told not to lift anything with the right arm for 10 days.

It is some pretty amazing technology. The doc showed me a video of his work after he was done. I have a tiny mark on my wrist to show for where he went in, but that's it. It was only a local anesthetic, and I was fully awake the whole time.

Sent home Thursday Feb 27th with multiple pills. Some rehab in the future to be determined. Feeling OK & Laying low at home in the meantime.

⇒ **FOLLOW UP 3 Apr:** Doing well, some heart pains from time-to-time, Doing extra walking (at least 1/2 mile/day). Now, if only my knees weren't shot.

### **We all seem to be feeling the 'old age thing'.**

#### **A shipmate responds with some very kind words and advice:**

The VA failed you, but God was looking after you, Jeff. I will pray for your recovery and strength.

This past week I attended a class reunion. There were 20 or so with an average age of 81. I read to them from Psalm 90:10, "The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years." I then told them that we are on borrowed time. Then, I admonished them that if they were not right with God, there's not much time left.

As I get older, my body keeps telling me that it is coming to completion of its earthly function. Moving on, I make do with what I have and trust God for the rest.

Peace, my friend, **Fred Holcomb** Matthew 6:20

Full text of Psalm 90:10 King James Version

***<sup>10</sup> The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.***

### **History of CLUB ALLIANCE—Enlisted Men's Club, Yokosuka Naval Base**

{Click links for articles, pictures and details.}

***From around 1947 to 1980, Club Alliance was the largest U.S. Navy enlisted club in the world.***

Initially, the first location (1882) of Club Alliance was for petty officers of the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN). It was reconstructed numerous times due to damages incurred by earthquakes. The EM Club belonged to the IJN until 1945, when the Allies occupied Japan and Yokosuka.

[By 1949 many changes in the civilian and military buildings](#) in 'Yoko' had been made, but it was not until the beginning of the Korean War in 1950 that the former IJN base began its transformation into a strategic base for the U.S. 7th Fleet. During the early occupation era, Yokosuka was an almost-sleepy backwater port for the U.S. Navy, serving primarily as a Marine Barracks, a naval hospital, and a ship repair & maintenance facility for the U.S. fleet in the Pacific. Cont. on pg 13







## SAILORS REST YOUR OAR



**Alexander, Robert E.**, d. 17 Feb 1974, ag 52, San Diego, CA, was HMC(SS) in 302 May 51-Aug 52; also in DE-11, AK-30, SS-196, 384,352, 334—enl 24 Sep 1940, WWII, Korean & Viet Nam Vet;

**Antonio, Tomas Laluyan**, d. 15 Nov 2024, National City, CA, ag 93, was ENC(SS) in 302 Mar '70-May '71, later ENC(SS) Ret. 25 Jul 1973, w/20 yrs

Obit w/pic: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/bonita-ca/tomas-antonio-12078843>

**Crossley, Richard J.**, d. 21 Aug 1964, ag 25, Dayton, OH, was SM3(SS) in 302 Aug 60—Sep 62

[his info recently found] - [SM=Signalman, up until some time in the 50's the boats still had SM's who sometimes did QM duties]

**Dummar, Arnold Kent**, d. 15 Jan 2025, Draper, UT, ag 79, was EN3(SS) in 302 Aug 66- ?69

Obit w/pic: <https://www.mcmillanmortuary.com/obituaries/arnold-dummar>

**Harris, Wilbur Cook**, d. 7 Sep 2022, ag 79, Columbus, TN, was MM3(SS) in 302 Sep 63-Apr 64; later MMCM(SS), Ret. -Obit: <https://www.holleygamble.com/obituary/wilbur-harris>



**Herold, Robert Lee, Sr. 'Bob'**, d. 29 Sep 2024, AG 91, Middleburg Heights, OH, was QM3(SS) in 302 Oct 54-Dec 55. Obit w/pic: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/middleburg-heights-oh/robert-herold-sr-12228692>

**Hoatson, Lee Frank**, d. 22 Jan 2025, ag 80, Sutherland, NE; was EM2(SS) in 302 May 68-Aug 68

Obit w/pic: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/nptelegraph/name/lee-hoatson-obituary?id=57347613>

**Holliday, James Franklin, Jr.**, d. 19 Nov 2014, ag 70, Dillon, SC, was QM3(SS) in 302 Jun 63-?64

Obit: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/clarionledger/name/james-holliday-obituary?id=12657664>

**Lange, Eldon Edmund**, d. 27 Oct 2024, ag 91, was EN3(SS) in 302 Feb 56-Jul 57

Obit w/pic: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/bartlett-tx/eldon-lange-12045908>

**Rieboldt, Arthur Richard**, d. 18 Aug 2021, ag 92, Puyallup, WA, was QM2(SS) in 302 TAD Feb61-2q61; also in 377, 524, 322, 331, 323, 254, 334, 395, 611, 633,350, 324. Retired 1971 QMC(SS)

**Schreurs, Robert John, Jr.**, d.8 Mar 2024, ag 83, Omaha, NE, was ETR3(SS) in 302 Sep 60-Mar 61; later ETR2(SS); USSVI-HC Obit w/pic: <https://www.campbellaman.com/obituaries/robert-schreurs>

**Wahlstrom, Clarence A. 'Wally'**, d. 19 Oct 2022, ag 90, Cottage Grove, OR, was TMC(SS) in 302 Feb 68-Oct 68 ; later TMC(SS), Ret. 1969, was USSVI-MAL-HC



**Wayte, Arthur Morris**, d. 8 Oct 2013, ag 86, was YN1(SS) on 302 Apr 59-Jul 60

**Woods, John David**, d. 5 Nov 2024, ag 88, Madison Hts., VA; was EN3(SS) in 302; and also in 395, 625 & 630; later ENCM(SS), Ret. w/22 yrs Obit w/pic: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/newsadvance/name/john-woods-obituary?id=56723332>

**Navy Lingo- TORPEDO** Originally, the word torpedo referred to any explosive charge, including the type of [weapon](#) now known as a [mine](#) (q.v.). During the [Napoleonic Wars](#) the American inventor [Robert Fulton](#) experimented with a [naval mine](#) and called it a torpedo, apparently [deriving](#) its name from a fish that emits an electric discharge that incapacitates its enemies. During the 19th century some naval vessels used the spar torpedo, which was simply an explosive charge attached to the end of a long pole or spar; it exploded when it touched the hull of an enemy vessel.

The modern torpedo was developed by [Robert Whitehead](#), a British engineer. In 1864 the Austrian Navy asked him to work out an idea for an explosive-carrying, self-propelled boat that could be steered from its launching site by long yoke lines. After building a model of the device, Whitehead rejected the scheme as impracticable and began work on an idea of his own. By 1866 he had a successful torpedo. work on an idea of his own; By 1866 he had a successful torpedo. See pg 14 for more about torpedoes



#### CLUB ALLIANCE cont. fm pg 11

The club in the 60's & 70's was just outside the main gate and a 1/4 mile walk down the street.

[In 1980, after the relocation of the main gate](#) a few yards to the east, construction began for a new Club Alliance. By 1983, a totally new facility was completed on Base, and its still claimed to be the world's largest EM club. it has several eating places, discos, cocktail lounges, NEX retail store, full service florist, porcelain coffee mug decorating service, dollar-yen exchange window, game room, movie theater, etc., all run by [Navy MWR](#).

With completion, and with frequent demands for returning the old facility to the Japanese public, the building was transferred to Yokosuka City in 1983, and remained until it was demolished in 1989 for new construction and development in the Shiori area. Accounts on just exactly what was constructed on the old site vary on whether it is now the site of a hotel and/or a department store



NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND — SABALO RELTED PHOTOS

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/search.html?q=uss+sabalo>



### **Damn the Torpedoes! Full Speed Ahead!**

Originally the term torpedo was applied to a primitive explosive charge suspended by a float just below the surface of the water, like a contact mine. During the American Civil War, the entrance to Mobile Bay in Alabama was protected by numerous torpedoes. In August 1864, Admiral David Farragut led a squadron of Union ships into Mobile Bay. When one of his ships struck a torpedo and sunk, the other ships began to falter and turn back. That's when Farragut shouted his famous words, "Damn the torpedoes . . . full speed ahead!"

The first submarine to sink a ship with a torpedo, this time an explosive attached to a spar, was the CSS Hunley. She attacked and sunk the USS Housatonic on February 1864 in Charleston, SC.

In 1866, Robert Whitehead, an English engineer, invented the first effective self-propelled torpedo. French and German inventions and improvements followed closely. As early as 1885, a successful wire guided, short range torpedo was being used throughout the British Empire for harbor defense. By 1900 the term torpedo was only used to describe self-propelled projectiles that traveled under or on water, and it no longer included mines and booby-traps.

Torpedoes were widely used in WW I both against shipping and against submarines. Twenty U-boats were sunk in WW I by torpedos. Also in WW I people began thinking about dropping lightweight torpedos from aircraft.

On 17 August 1915 two Royal Navy seaplanes armed with aerial torpedos took part in the Gallipoli campaign. Flight Commander Edmonds torpedoed and sank an Ottoman transport ship a few miles north of the Dardanelles. His formation colleague, Flight Lieutenant Dacre, was forced to land on the water owing to engine trouble but, seeing an enemy tug close by, he taxied up to it and released his torpedo, sinking the tug. Without the weight of the torpedo Dacre was able to take off and return to the seaplane tender.

In the years between WW I and WW II, financial stringency caused nearly all navies to skimp on testing new torpedoes and technologies. The Japanese, an exception, continued testing and developing their Type 91 aerial torpedo, later used at Pearl Harbor, and the type 93 "Long Lance" torpedo.

**The Best Torpedo in WW II** - The Type 93, or "Long Lance," was fired by Japanese cruisers and destroyers. It is considered to be the best torpedo of WW II. It had a longer range than any other torpedo, it was faster than other torpedoes, and it had a larger warhead than other torpedoes. The type 93 was reliable and often surprised target ships that thought they were out of range. One of the longest ranged torpedo hits in history was scored by the Type 93 when the heavy cruiser Haguro launched a torpedo from 22,000 yards at the battle of the Java Sea in 1942.

The Japanese type 95 torpedo was a submarine version of the long lance torpedo and slightly smaller. It still had about three times the range of the MK-14 and was the fastest torpedo in common use by any navy during WW II. Its warhead size was the largest of any submarine torpedo.

**And the Worst Torpedo in WW II** - The U.S. Navy's mark 14 torpedo was possibly the worst torpedo in the early years of World War II. Initially, the mark 14 would often run about 10 feet deeper than the set depth, causing it to pass underneath its target. The magnetic detonator would frequently detonate prematurely, causing the torpedo to explode before reaching its target. The contact detonator would often fail to detonate the warhead, or would jam when it hit the side of a target ship. And finally, the Mark 14 would sometimes run in a large circle instead of straightening out, which could cause it to return and strike the firing ship. Bottom line, the Mark 14 had an estimated failure rate of 50–80%. — The Navy eventually solved some of the problems with the Mark 14, including the depth control valve and the firing pin weight of the contact detonator. However, the magnetic detonator remained a problem, and was eventually abandoned in favor of the contact mechanism.

**A HOLLYWOOD FOOTNOTE** - Hedy Lamarr, 1914-2000, a beautiful Austrian born, American actress developed and patented a radio guidance system for Allied torpedoes in WW II using frequency-hopping technology to defeat the threat of jamming by the Axis powers. Although it was not pursued by the Navy, in the 1960s her invention led to the various spread-spectrum techniques incorporated in Bluetooth technology, GPS and versions of Wi-Fi.

... Contributed by: Fred Holcomb ET1(SS) {Matthew



**Navy Lingo- TORPEDO** Originally the word torpedo referred to any explosive charge, including the type of [weapon](#) now known as a [mine](#) (q.v.). During the [Napoleonic Wars](#) the American inventor [Robert Fulton](#) experimented with a [naval mine](#) and called it a torpedo, apparently [deriving](#) its name from a fish that emits an electric discharge that incapacitates its enemies. During the 19th century some naval vessels used the spar torpedo, which was simply an explosive charge attached to the end of a long pole or spar; it exploded when it touched the hull of an enemy vessel. The modern torpedo was developed by [Robert Whitehead](#), a British engineer. In 1864 the Austrian Navy asked

## **SPEFICATIONS RELATIVE TO THE MAP ON PG 2**

### **Public Law 116 - 23 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019**

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-116publ23>

[Blue Water Veterans](#) who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in Public Law 116-23 are eligible for the Agent Orange Registry. Note: Inclusion in the Agent Orange Registry does not verify eligibility for benefits.

### **38 U.S.C. 1116A – PACT Act - Presumptions of service connection for veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam** <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2023-title38/USCODE-2023-title38-partII-chap11-subchapII-sec1116A>

(d) Determination of Offshore.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of this section, the Secretary shall treat a location as being offshore of Vietnam if the location is not more than 12 nautical miles seaward of a line commencing on the southwestern demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia and intersecting the following points:

<b>Points Geographic Names</b>	<b>Latitude North</b>	<b>Longitude East</b>
At Hon Nhan Island, Tho Chu Archipelago Kien Giang Province	9°15.0'	103°27.0'
At Hon Da Island southeast of Hon Khoai Island Minh Hai Province	8°22.8'	104°52.4'
At Tai Lon Islet, Con Dao Islet in Con Dao-Vung Toa Special Sector	8°37.8'	106°37.5'
At Bong Lai Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°38.9'	106°40.3'
At Bay Canh Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°39.7'	106°42.1'
At Hon Hai Islet (Phu Qui group of islands) Thuan Hai Province	9°58.0'	109°5.0'
At Hon Doi Islet, Thuan Hai Province	12°39.0'	109°28.0'
At Dai Lanh point, Phu Khanh Province	12°53.8'	109°27.2'
At Ong Can Islet, Phu Khanh Province	13°54.0'	109°21.0'
At Ly Son Islet, Nghia Binh Province	15°23.1'	109° 9.0'
At Con Co Island, Binh Tri Thien Province	17°10.0'	107°20.6'

LINKS TO AID PLOTTING - see pg 16

### Wanna Try Some Plotting Yourself? - Here's some links to aid PLOTTING

Google Earth can be used to plot points and measure distances. Zoom in to see the islands—small and vague. Also here's some links to other plot aids:

[LINK 1](#) | Interactive map to plot one position [LINK 2](#) | [Link 3](#)

✂ ["SHIP LOCATOR PROGRAM"](#) This program requires Google Earth be loaded on your machine.

- First download Google Earth to your computer if you don't have it (free); install it; Verify that it works and then close it
- [Download the .KMZ file](#)
- Re-open Google Earth and bring VietNam into view. The Territorial Sea line should show as a yellow which is relative to the line specified in the table on pg 14 plus 12 miles seaward as specified in the PACT Act.
- You can also Download the [Theater of Combat lines](#) here. This shows the area considered the Combat Zone, the same area for award of the Vietnam Service Medal.

## LEFT IN THE WAKE

***"Ask yourself,  
how old you would be if you didn't know the date you were born?"***

A line from this song: *Don't Let The Old Man In*  
link- <https://youtu.be/yc5AWImlfE?list=RDND0YawXjW8U>

**WHY** → ***"Never lose the childlike innocence that allows us to ask 'why' so often when we were young. Cherish it as a gift. Too many of us push it out of our minds in an attempt to cast off childish things in favor of adulthood.***

***It's the dreamers who do big things. That has always been the case. "***

<https://generalaviationnews.com/2025/03/04/the-tenacity-of-why/>

Truth-tellers are not always palatable.

There is a preference for candy bars.

[Gwendolyn Brooks](#)

When I sleep, let me dream all the time so  
that not one little piece of living is ever lost.

*...Betty Smith*

"Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable." ...Sydney J. Harris

Harris (September 14, 1917 – December 7, 1986) was an American journalist for the Chicago Daily News and, later, the Chicago Sun-Times. He wrote 11 books and his weekday column, "Strictly Personal", was syndicated in approximately 200 newspapers throughout the United States and Canada.

### **988 Veterans Crisis Line**

**988**, this three-digit number is used to access both the National Suicide Hotline and Veterans Crisis Line. Veterans can also call the Veterans Crisis Line directly, at 877-267-6030, or call any VA facility and press 7 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line. VCL text messaging (838255) and Live Chat are also available.

**Ed. Note:** Not sure how the DOGE cuts will affect this, but the VA side took a big personnel cut.