

Sea Poacher Association



*Dedicated to the men who served
on this great fighting ship!*



Volume 5, Issue 3

July 2007

406 History During WWII

(Editor's Note: The following was given to us by Ralph Cobb, LTjg, 44-45. Ralph was part of the Commissioning Crew and served on all four war patrols.)

SS406/A12
Serial 60
U.S.S. SEA POACHER 9SS406)
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

13 October 1945

From: The Commanding Officer
To: The Secretary of the Navy

Subject: Ship's History – USS SEA
POACHER (SS406)

Reference: (a) ComSubLant Ltr. A12/(4417) of 25 September 1945
(b) CinCLant Dispatch 050142/59 of October 1945.
(c) CSS-22 Ltr. FC5-12/A12-1/A15 Serial 92, of 9 October 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Subject history.

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c) copies of enclosure (A) are forwarded herewith.

C.F. Leigh,
(signed)
W.W. GASKINS,
By direction.

Copies to: CinCLant
CinCPac
ComSubLant
ComSubPacAdCom
Com. Three
CSS-22

22 February 1944

Keel laid at Portsmouth Navy Yard, Kittery, Maine.

20 May 1944

Launched. Mrs. J. H. Spiller acted as sponsor.

31 July 1944

USS SEA POACHER was commissioned by Captain C. H. ROPER, U.S.N.S., on the order of Rear Admiral T. WITHERS, U.S.N., Commandant of the Portsmouth Navy Yard. Lieutenant Commander Francis M. Gambacorta, U.S.N., assumed command and Lieutenant Commander R.K.R. Worthington, U.S.N., became Executive Officer and Navigator.



14 August 1944

Ship formally accepted for Navy by Board of Inspection and Survey.

16 August 1944

Commenced initial underway trials, shakedown, training and made first dive.

3 September 1944

SEA POACHER departed Portsmouth, N.H., and arrived N.O.B., Newport, R.I., where contract torpedo firing trials were conducted until

6 September 1944

When the ship departed Newport and proceeded to U.S. Submarine Base, New London, Conn., arriving the same day. One

day was spent in New London loading exercise mines and on

8 September 1944

SEA POACHER departed New London enroute to Provincetown, Mass.

9 September 1944

Made an experimental, submerged mine plant and returned to Submarine Base New London, Conn. Until 19 September 1944 the SEA POACHER was engaged in training exercises, further shakedown of equipment, loading stores, etc.

Until 19 September 1944 the SEA POACHER was engaged in training exercises, further shakedown of equipment, loading stores, etc.

20 September 1944

The ship left New London, Conn., on her way to Pearl Harbor, T.H.

29 September 1944

Arrived N.O.B., Balboa, C.Z. Several days were spent conducting training exercises. After loading stores, ammunition and torpedoes, on

9 October 1944

Departed Balboa, C.Z., enroute Pearl Harbor, T. H., and reported to Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet for duty in Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.

25 October 1944

Arrived U.S. Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, T.H. Twenty-five days were spent in this area conducting training exercises, affecting minor repairs, installing new equipment and finally loading the ship for her first war patrol.

19 November 1944

SEA POACHER left Pearl Harbor, T.H., enroute **First War Patrol** (Ed. Note: The complete copies of all four war patrols can be found on the web site: www.seapoacher.com) in company with U.S.S. SEA OWL and U.S.S. PIRANHA. The three vessels formed a coordinated attack group under the tactical command of Commander C. L. Bennett, U.S.N. Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. SEA OWL.

1 December 1944

Arrived in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, Marianas Islands and moored along

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(Continued from Page One)

Ship's History

side the U.S.S. FULTON. Torpedoes and stores were loaded and on

3 December 1944

Departed Saipan for patrol area.

8 December 1944

Arrived in patrol area.

This first patrol was conducted in the northern part of the East China Sea. The seas were heavy and the weather inclement at this time of year.

Many small vessels were contacted. Of these contacts only one resulted in a torpedo attack. No ships were sunk.

Though disappointment was large at the lack of success, there was no lack of excitement as the anti-submarine efforts of the enemy kept all hands alert. Besides a never ending stream of marauding aircraft the ship was attacked twice by torpedoes which were fortunately and skillfully avoided by the timely action of the O.O.D's, Lieutenant W. R. Lillioff, U.S.N.R., and Lieutenant P.E. Lacouture, U.S.N.R.

Besides normal offensive patrol, on 19 December and 6 January the SEA POACHER acted as Life guard Submarine during the first China Based B-29 raids on Nagasaki and Nagoya. No rescues were effected.

25 December 1944

Christmas was celebrated with a traditional turkey dinner while the SEA POACHER was submerged near Kusakaki Shima.

8 January 1945

U.S.S. SEA POACHER, U.S.S. SEA OWL and U.S.S. PIRANHA were relieved on station by U.S.S. SILVERSIDES and U.S.S. TAUTOG, and departed for Guam.

13 January 1945

Arrived Port Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands and moored alongside U.S.S. SPERRY. Patrol was unsuccessful for award of combat insignia.

14 January 1945

Ship's crew and officers left ship for Camp Dealy Rest and Recuperation Center and refit was commenced by Submarine Division 101 Relief Crew and U.S.S. SPERRY. During the rest period the crew was victorious in an athletic tournament played with the U.S.S. PIRANHA and U.S.S. SEA OWL. A suitable plaque was presented to the ship.

17 January 1945

Lieutenant Commander R. K. R. Worthington, U.S.N., Executive Officer and Navigator, was detached from this vessel. Lieutenant Commander Worthington had previously distinguished himself as Executive Officer on the U.S.S. SILVERSIDES. Shortly after leaving USS SEA POACHER he became Commanding Officer of the USS BALAO and was awarded the Navy Cross for his first war patrol on that vessel.

Lieutenant W. R. Lillioff, U.S.N.R., third officer, became Executive Officer and Navigator.

28 January 1945

The crew returned to the ship. Several days were spent in training, loading torpedoes and stores and getting the vessel ready for sea.

7 February 1945

SEA POACHER underway for **Second War Patrol.**

12 February 1945

Arrived in area and commenced patrol.

This patrol was conducted in the area along the northeast coast of Formosa and in the Southern Islands of the Nansel Shoto. The SEA POACHER was a unit of a coordinated attack group with the U.S.S. SCABBARDFISH and U.S.S. PLAICE. Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. PLAICE acted as Tactical Commander.

This patrol was entirely uneventful. No contacts worthy of torpedo fire were encountered and fourteen days spent as a life guard submarine resulted in no rescues.

14 March 1945

Departed area enroute Saipan.

19 March 1945

Arrived Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, Marianas Islands.

20 March 1945

Departed Saipan enroute Midway Islands, T.H.

27 March 1945

Arrived U.S. Submarine Base, Midway Islands, T.H., and moored alongside U.S.S. AEGIR. Patrol was not successful for award of combat insignia. Refit was undertaken by Submarine Division 241 Relief Crew and repair facilities on board U.S.S. AEGIR. The crew and officers left ship for Rest Center at Gooneyville.

During this refit two crew was again victorious in athletic contests, played this time against U.S.S. PLAICE.

1 April 1945

Lieutenant W. R. Lillioff, U.S.N.R., Executive Officer and Navigator was detached after long service in the Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet. Lieutenant Lillioff had previously made nine patrols on board U.S.S. GREENLING where he was awarded the Silver Star Medal. He was relieved by Lieutenant W. W. Gaskings, U.S.N.R.

11 April 1945

Refit completed, crew returned to ship to start training and making preparations for returning to sea.

13 April 1945

Lieutenant Commander Charles F. Leigh, U.S.A., relieved Commander Francis M. Gambacorta, U.S.N., as commanding officer of this vessel. Lieutenant Commander Leigh had made several war patrols on the S-42, and had been commanding officer of the S-42 and came to this vessel after three war patrols as Executive Officer and Navigator of the U.S.S. SILVERSIDES. While serving on board U.S.S. SILVERSIDES, Lieutenant Commander Leigh was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Training operations, last moment repairs and loading of store and torpedoes were completed and on the night of

26 April 1945

U.S.S. SEA POACHER departed Midway on her **Third War Patrol.**

5 May 1945

Arrived on station and commenced patrol.

The SEA POACHER'S Third War Patrol was conducted in the Kurile Islands. She was a member of a coordinated attack group consisting of U.S.S. PLAICE, U.S.S. POMFRET, U.S.S. STERLET, U.S.S. PIPER and USS SEA POACHER with the PIPER's Commanding Officer in tactical command.

This patrol was the first successful one for the SEA POACHER.

One large four-masted trawler (500 tons) was sunk by torpedo fire. Two fishing luggers were sunk and two others damaged by gunfire.

11 May 1945

A group of small craft was sighted on the northwest side of Shimushiru To. The largest of those, a four-masted schooner of 500 tons, was sunk in a submerged torpedo attack. An alert anti-submarine vessel, similar to an American Submarine Chaser, ran directly down the torpedo track. His attack was unskillful, and eight depth charges were not close.

15 May 1945

Shortly after daylight in a pea soup fog, four fishing luggers were engaged in a gun battle which continued spiritedly for about four hours. Two of the luggers were destroyed and the other two were left burning. The engagement started near the southern end of Uruppo To and ended close to the northern edge of Etorofu Shima. When the fog suddenly lifted SEA POACHER cleared the area because it was felt that enemy aircraft might soon pay a visit or that shore artillery might open fire. Unfortunately three members of the deck gun crew were injured when one of the automatic weapons exploded. These men were: COOLEY, R.H., SM3c, U.S.N.R.; CARTER, C.C., EM3c, U.S.N.R. and NEWELL, R. H., GM1c, U.S.N. SMITH, F.S., CPHM, U.S.N. did an excellent job of caring for the men's wounds. Commanding Officer decided to return to port due to the serious nature of Cooley's head wound and Carter's back wound. Newell was able to continue his duties as Gun Captain in spite of a

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Ship's History

wounded arm. All three wounded men were subsequently awarded the Purple Heart Medal. On Leaving the area on the evening of 15 May, an enemy radio station on southern Shimushiru To was bombarded and destroyed.

19 May 1945

Arrived at U. S. Submarine Base, Midway Islands, T.H. Cooley and Carter were transferred to the hospital and were given leave in the United States as soon as they were in condition to travel. Refit was undertaken by Submarine Division 322 and Submarine Base, Midway and was completed 5 June. During the refit the crew, again resting at Gooneyville, won its third athletic contest this time in competition with U.S.S. LIONFISH. The plaque, recording the SEA POACHER's athletic prowess, was proudly hung in the crews mess beside the two previous awards.

8 June 1945

Submarine combat awards were presented by Captain F.W. Fenno, U.S.N., to officers and crew for a successful third patrol. Captain Fenno was the Commander Submarine Squadron Twenty-Four.

16 June 1945

Letters of commendation from the Commander Submarine Squadron Twenty-Four were read by the Commanding Officer to SMITH, F.S. CPhM, U.S.N. and DAVIS, W.H., CMoMM, U.S.N. for meritorious service during the third patrol. Underway on **Fourth War Patrol**.

20 June 1945

Received instructions to proceed to Guam instead of patrol area.

25 June 1945

Arrived Port Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands.

26 June 1945

Underway enroute Saipan.

27 June 1945

Arrived Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, Marianas Islands. Departed Saipan for patrol area same date, as member of an attack group consisting of U.S. Ships THORNBAC and ANGLER with U.S.S. THORNBAC's Commanding Officer in tactical command.

The fourth war patrol was the last and most successful. The patrol was conducted off the Eastern Coast of Honsho and along the Southern and Eastern Coast of Hokkaido.

In five different gun attacks the SEA POACHER sank five coastwise cargo vessels and one armed anti-submarine vessel. It is of particular interest that four of those attacks were made at night and that despite the poor visibility the vessels were hit and stopped on the first salvo in each case.

All gun attacks were made in water of not more than ten fathoms. One of these attacks was made on two luggers in column. The other attacks were made on lone ships. The attack on the anti-submarine vessel is of particular interest. After this vessel was stopped and burning in the Commanding Officer gave the "Cease Firing" order. At a range of some 50 to 100 yards the remaining enemy crew members could be seen attempting to man the burning ship's after deck gun. The commanding Officer ordered BAILEY, W. O. SM1c, U.S.N., to open fire with 30 caliber machine gun. The first rounds hit depth charges on the Jap's stern and blew him sky high. Fortunately none of the SEA POACHER's crew were injured by the flying steel and debris, although a considerable quantity fell on deck.

27 July 1945

A fishing lugger was sunk in a daylight gun attack in good visibility. A lone survivor of this attack, a Superior Private in the Japanese Army, was taken prisoner.

Also on this patrol 19 floating mines were sunk or exploded by rifle fire and on 31 July 1945 the SEA POACHER, along with U.S.S. THORNBAC and U.S. ANGLER conducted a damaging shore bombardment of installations on

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From the President:

Bill Brinkman

seapoacher@austin.rr.com

Shipmates, I am sad to report that our Treasurer, Ken LeBlanc died May 13 of cancer.

Ken was a great treasurer and shipmate, and really loved the USS Sea Poacher.

Ken personally visited and presented the checks to the six shipmates who suffered from Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma in Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida. He did it in a manner which showed these shipmates his and our concerns for their well being and to show that he and we cared about them.

Two of these shipmates weren't even members of the USS Sea Poacher Association when Hurricane Katrina hit them. They were so touched by Ken's concern and presentation of the checks that they immediately became Life Members of the Association.

Ken also was also a proponent of our Humanitarian Fund which is set up to help shipmates in need, and for use in future disaster relief for shipmates.

Jack Merrill proposed and the rest of the Association Board members agreed to honor Ken and Gail LeBlanc by re-naming our Humanitarian fund to the Ken LeBlanc Humanitarian Fund.



Association Membership

A question has been raised about membership in our Association.

According to our By-Laws, we welcome any shipmate or family members to join the Association either as a yearly Regular member or as a Life member. (The thinking is that, in theory, that our children, wives, and grand-children can join the Association, and that the Association could then live on long after we're gone.)

The only practical restriction is that we'd only mail one newsletter per address for those who need mailed copies of the newsletter.

New Treasurer

Lanny Yeske, Ltjg 61-63, has agreed to become our new Treasurer. Lanny has done great work on establishing the Humanitarian Fund, Investigating "Non-Profit" status for the Association, and is currently working hard to get our USS Sea Poacher book ready for publication before our next Reunion in May 2008.

Bermuda/Key West Cruise

There are still cabins left for the 5 night Cruise November 3, 2007 which the USS Sea Owl SS 405 is sponsoring.

Besides members of the crews of the USS Sea Owl and USS Medergal who are taking the 5 night cruise on the Carnival Celebration, we currently have eight USS Sea Poacher shipmates and wives and friends booked for this cruise (Bob & Carol Acor, Bill Brinkman, Walt & Jean Brinkman, Richard & Nancy Clubb, Carroll & Jan Lawson, Jack & Sandra Merrill, Jon & Gayce Nagle, Larry Reiche, and Ed Thompson, with friend Mary Lorenz).

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Membership Roll

The following is a list of paid-up members. Are you on this list? If not, why not?

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Robert Abbott	Richard Earl	Carroll Lawson	Salvatore Rosina
Bob Acor	Jack Easley	Frank Lederer	John Savory
Charles Ahler	Daniel Eberhardt	Ted Lee	Herman Scallan
Dewey Akins	Leon Eggleston	Jim Lemerman	Bob Schindhelm
Paul Allers	Jack Ensminger	John Love	Karl Schipper
Peter Amunrud	Garl Eubank	Nathan Lundy	Russell Schondorf
Dave Andres	Frank Evans	Bill Luttrell	Ron Schnars
Ted Anthony	Buster Flaskas	J.J. Lynch	Donald Schwartz
Charles Auclair	Dante Fortini	John Mach	William Sharp
Vernon Barnett	Richard Fox	John Majzun	Harry Sherman
Robert Beers	Ron Fraley	Ken Manion	Rick Smock
Harvey Benson	Harold Gall	Mark Markham	John Snook
Truman Bernhardt	Larry Garrett	Robert Matheny	Fred Socha
Doug Bishop	Arthur Geddes	Jim McClanahan	Richard Stickney
Kenneth Bonnell	Ron Godwin	David McCollum	Marty Stokes
Bob Bradley	Billy Gorsuch	Tilden McCommas	Chuck Strand
Bill Brinkman	Dave Green	Carl McCutcheon	David Strunk
Jim Burgett	Eugene Guibault	Jack Merrill	Tom Sugden
Russ Burrows	Paul Gusler	Ty Merritt	Robert Sumner
Frank Calderone	Carl Hale	Eddie Montz	Chester Taylor
Bobbie Calvert	Dave Harms	Joe Murdoch	Ed Thompson
Dick Carney	Ray Heckroth	William Murphy	Ron Thompson
Leo Carr	Bill Hellmer	Lester Murray	Tommy Thompson
Kent Carroll	Robert Henry	Gary Nagle	James Tryon
John Chaich	Darrell Hickman	Jon Nagle	John Tulodeski
Richard Clubb	Dick Holtz	John Nicholas	Al Turbeville
Ralph Cobb	Robert Horne	Jack Nims	Tony Tuttobene
Cal Cochrane	Harry Huggins	Charles O'Baker	Ed Urban
Lawrence Colwell	Carol Humphries	Paul Ogg	Don Waldrop
Bill Cook	Hubert Jackson	Ron Patterson	Arne Weinfurter
Robert Cooley	Richard Jennison	Tom Polen	Larry Weinfurter
James Cooney	Gerald Joseph	Jim Powers	Ray Wengrzyn
Gerry Coutu	Ivan Joslin	John Rabuse	James Weston
Bill Crisman	Mike Kassinger	Charles Rager	Olin Williams
Alfred Dickey	Allen Katen	Dewey Reed	George Wyse
William Dietrich	David Keffeler	Larry Reiche	Lanny Yeske
William Donnelan	Ken Kile	David Richter	Bruce Young
Merlyn Dorrhelm	Terry Kleinweber	Luke Riley	Jerome Young
Bill Dukacz	Richard Laake	David Ringland	
Daniel Dybala	Troy Law	Robert Ritz	



MEMBERS

Russell Bauer	John Dubbs	William Parhamenko
Rodney Benefield	Richard Ferris	Dale Peterson
Richard Bernotiet	Ralph French	Roy Randall
Ray Binns	James Gentry	Mark Richwine
Stanley Bissen	Lyle Gillette	Robert Roth
Donald Blomquist	Max Harrell	Martin Ruch
Fredrick Brattain	Mike Heberling	John Saell
Diedre Bridewell	Jimmie E. Hickman	Bennie Sheldon
William Buckley	Wayne Holmgren	Delvin Smith
Warren Burkett	Jerry Houchens	John Sohi Jr.
Neil Cabe	Gerald Keffer	Ron Spooner
Rick Carlson	Phillip Kinney	Harold Stanley
Frank Caulfield	Ray Krivacy	Gary Stark
George Childs	George Lockwood	Glen Suttle
Don Cipra	Jerry Loveless	Harold Swan
Dennison Compton	Peter McCormack	Terry Tague
Harold Cook	Daniel McLaren	James Thompson
James Deming	Mark Mordecai	Fred Vavra
Ray Dicalre	Joe Musgrave	Andrew Viers
William Docekal	Thomas Nein	Ed Voloka
Charles Donnelly	Julius O'Bannon	Don Wilkinson
William Dougherty	Charles Owen	Billy Williams
William Douthit	Roy Palmer	Lee Yonts

If your name does not appear here . . . Why not??? Please help support your association!!!! Dues are \$10 per year or \$100 for a life membership. Please make check payable to "Sea Poacher Association" and Mail to: Bill Brinkman, 4500 Tiffany Nicolle St., Round Rock, TX 78664-9486

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From the President:

Inside cabins are \$355 each (double occupancy) and Ocean view cabins are \$405 each.

Contact Kayla Davidson, of Cruises Only, at 800-244-7447 EXT 38225 or at Adavidson@nlg.com

Tell her you're with the USS Sea Owl Group 15722117. Check out "5 Nights Bahamas" on <http://www.cruisesonly.com> for detailed information of the cruise on the Carnival Celebration (stops in Key West and Nassau.)

New on Web Site

Shipmates, check out our web pages www.seapoacher.com as we've just added the captain's War Patrol Reports #1, 2, 3, and 4.

Our thanks to Ken Johnson (USS Sea Owl Ltjg) for obtaining them from the Submarine Museum in Groton, CT and myself, Lanny Yeske and Jack Merrill for re-typing them. We thanked Ken by sending him a framed Service Certificate for his years on-board USS Sea Owl. For those of you going on this year's November 2007 Cruise (see #4 above), be sure to thank Ken also.

Also, thanks to Jack Merrill, for putting in the graphics and pictures of our WW II crew in the war patrol reports.

Also, check out JJ Lynch's 2008 reunion information. Be sure to fill out the King's Bay Security forms and get them back to JJ if you want to visit a SSBN during our May 2008 reunion in Jacksonville.

ALSO – This newsletter is going out to ALL shipmates. We hope those who are not members will join us and help make the many events that we have planned a great success.

Treasury Report May 2007

Bill Brinkman, Acting Treasurer

May 1, 2007 Beginning Balance	22155.22
General Fund Deposits & credits	142.00
General Fund Withdrawals	
Memorial Fund Deposits & Credits	50.00
Memorial fund Withdrawals	60.00
Humanitarian Fund Deposits & Credits	
Humanitarian Fund Withdrawals	
Reunion 2008 Deposits	0
Reunion 2008 Withdrawals (General Fund)	
May 31, 2007 Ending Balance	22267.22

General Fund Monthly Activity

Deposits, Receipts and Credits	
May 22, 2007 \$ 142	
Ship's stores \$42.00 (3) hats	
Life Member \$ 100 Kleinweber	
Total deposits, receipts and credits \$142	

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance	949.58
Ending Balance	939.58
Deposits, Receipts and Credits	\$50.00 (Bennie Sheldon)
Total Deposits, Receipts and Credits \$50.00	
May 22, 2007 Ck # 1251 \$ 60.00 Jack Merrill	
Memorial plaques for Bergs and LeBlanc	
Total expenses and Withdrawals \$60.00	

Ken LeBlanc Humanitarian Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,125
Ending Balance	\$ 1,125



Robert Austin Bergs

XO

1955

February 2007



SARASOTA, Florida – Robert Austin Bergs, embarked on his eternal patrol February 27, 2007.

Intellectual curiosity helped Bob Bergs overcome the hardship of growing up during the Depression to graduate from the US Naval Academy, command a submarine and pursue a career as a lawyer.

Shortly after moving to St. Armands Key in 1965 upon retiring from the Navy as a commander, Bergs began a 37-year legal career, helped establish the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church and narrowly lost a bid to serve on Sarasota City Commission in his only run for public office.

"He was very curious about the world. He loved learning," said his son, Robert L. Bergs of Sarasota.

The elder Bergs, was in declining health for the past year. He was 82.

Bob was born March 19, 1924, in St. Louis, Robert Austin Bergs was raised by his mother during the Depression. His father had died before Bergs was born. He is survived by his wife Carol.

An academic standout, Bergs was accepted into the Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1942 and by 1945 began a 20-year naval career that included working with Rear Adm. Richard Byrd in the Antarctic, for which Bergs received a Polar Exploration Medal.

He later served on several submarines, including the Key West-based USS Sea Cat (SS399), which he commanded in 1961 to protect US interests in the Caribbean. He also served as Executive Officer of the USS Sea Poacher (SS406) in 1955.

Bergs was chosen to attend George Washington University's law school during his military service and graduated with high honors in 1955. Before retiring from the military he worked on legislative affairs in the Pentagon for the Secretary of the Navy.

Drawn to Sarasota by its weather and upscale charm, Bergs set up a solo family law practice on St. Armands Key and became active in civic affairs.

In addition to cofounding the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church in the mid-60's, he served as president of the St. Armands Residents Association and was a cofounder and past president of the Keys Sertoma Club.

He ran for the Sarasota City Commission in 1969 and lost by fewer than 10 votes to Tony Saprito. The acrimony of the race discouraged him from seeking public office again, his son said.

"He had moral certitude about him. He saw things in black and white," Robert Bergs said.

Although exacting and feisty at times, Bergs also was biblical scholar who enjoyed poetry, supported humanitarian and environmental causes, and collected and restored antique woodworking tools.

He predeceased by wives, Dorothee R. and Betty B., and a son John Robert.



Kenneth L. LeBlanc

ET

1960

May 2007



LeBLANC, Kenneth Luke LeBlanc, 69 years old of Ponchatoula, LA, died Sunday, May 13, 2007 at his residence. Kenneth was born Sunday, May 30, 1937 in New Orleans, LA. He served in the Navy as a submarine Master Chief for 20 years serving on the U.S.S. Seawolf, U.S.S. Skate, U.S.S. Sea Poacher, U.S.S. Plunger and the U.S.S. Sturgeon.

Mr. LeBlanc retired as a nuclear Engineer for Waterford III. Surviving are wife, Verna Gail LeBlanc; daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Michael Brooks; grandson and his wife, P.F.C. Adam and Lori Hebert; great-grandchild, Hailey Hebert; sister, Jacqueline Foley. He was preceded in death by parents; Luke LeBlanc and Edwina Walker LeBlanc, son; Kevin Kite LeBlanc.



Burt L. Levin

LT

1957-1958

March 2007



NEW LONDON, Connecticut – Burt Lewis Levin LCDR Ret, USN passed away on March 30, 2007 surrounded by his loving family.

He was the loving husband of Grayce LaBonne Levin.

Burt was born April 10, 1931 in Brooklyn, New York to Sam and Molly Levin, he graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point in 1953.

He sailed as a Deck Cadet and a Third Mate in cargo ships off of South America, the Caribbean, Northern Europe and the Far East.

In 1954 he was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. He operated off Korea on an aircraft carrier and served on three diesel submarines, the USS Sea Poacher (SS406), USS Pickeral (SS524) and the USS Tirante (SS420), during the cold war in the Western Pacific, North Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

In 1968, Burt served a tour of duty in the Mekong Delta of South Vietnam. Levin, a decorated Veteran received the Department of Defense Joint Service Commendation, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Air Medal and numerous other awards and citations.

After retiring from active duty, Levin designed and developed submarine tactics for several different government agencies and defense contractors. He was an accomplished artist and author. In the past few years, Burt had been active in town politics, a member of L.O.T., a New London tax advocacy group.

He is survived by his son David M. Levin of North Hyde Park, Vt., his daughter Amy Levin Dyer of New London and his daughter Sara Ellen Devlin of Hollis, NH. He is also survived by his daughter-in-law Elizabeth Levin and sons-in-law Joseph Dyer and Craig Devlin, along with his grandchildren Brendan Dyer, Daniel Dyer, Connor Devlin, Grayce Dyer, Hugh Devlin, Margaret Devlin and Theodore Levin.

Our Memorial Plaque for Ken LeBlanc's next-of-kin was presented by Eddie Montz and below is Ken's wife Gail's thank you:

Dear Bill, On behalf of Ken's family and myself, I want to thank you and the Association for the magnificent plaque that was presented to me last Saturday at the Sub Vets Fledfish base meeting and luncheon.

Ken's picture on it makes it extra special. My daughter, and I both shed tears over that.

For a job well done, we thank you.

Sincerely,
Gail LeBlanc

FINAL PATROL

Eduardo Abans, SD 68-69 - January 2000
 Samuel W. Acree, ET 57 - October 2003
 Bruce M. Adams, MoMM 44
 Horace Adams, EN 63-64 - November 1987
 Raymond E. Adcock, SN 47 - December 1974
 Frank R. Alvis, LCDR, 53 - November 1987
 John Austin, EN 60 - 1970's
 Willie Austin, EM, 49-56
 Robert P. Ayer, EN 60 - 1978
 Don Barnes, EM 44-49 - May 2001
 Wayne Elton Barton, TM 47-48 - 1997
 Raymond Bassett, FT 64 - July 2000
 Irwin Battle, MoMM 45-46 - July 2000
 Harold R. Baumgartner, SK 63-64 - April 2006
 Ray Bayans, EN 49 - November 1983
 Richard Baybutt, FN 44-46 - December 2002
 Robert Bergs, LT, 57-58 - March 2007
 Joseph Beuchler, TM 59-61 - September 1975
 Reynold A. Binder, MoMM 46-47 - June 1993
 Powell Blair, Pritc, 45 - April 1992
 Charles Blanco, SD 48-49 - June 1994
 Salvatore Biangiardi, EN 61 - June 2002
 LuVern Blankenhagan, EM 59-60 - September 1998
 Jesus Blas, SD 49-50 - January 2000
 Gerald O. Bludau, MM 61-62 - February 1986
 Federick Boczon, EN 48-50 - May 1993
 John S. Bour, EM 48-4250 - July 1974
 Joseph Bole, ET 50-51 - 1985
 John Bornowski, TM 54-57 - December 1991
 Joseph D. Boscarelli, CS 50 - October 2000
 W. D. Boulton, 44
 George Bracey, TN 59-59 - USS Thresher
 Norris Bradley, SN 44-45
 Norman Breeden, TM 49-50 - November 1993
 Henry B. Brengleman, EM 49-54 - September 1988
 Charles Breyman, HM 55-58 - November 1993
 James Bridewell, ET, 63-67 - 1993
 Jim Brink, Ens 44 - September 2003
 Josephino Bugarin TN 50-54
 Everett N. Burbes, IC 51-52
 James Burke, EN 44-46
 George Butkis, EN 62-63 - October 2003
 Richard Byom, QM 51 - April 1976
 Louis Cafone SN 44-45 - June 1981
 Nicholas G. Camera, EM 47 - July 1993
 Olie L. Carden, EN 50-57 - February 1990
 J.B. Carson, TM 53, 56-59 - April 1999
 Clarence Carter, EM 45 - September 2003
 Vinton Carver, QM 55-56 - December 1990
 Murry Cherry, TM 48-49 - April 1984
 Robert Chestnut, EN 59-62
 Edwin Chubb, YN 49-51 - July 2006
 Howard A. Coffman, HM 59-56 - 2004
 Raymond Conahan, SA 49 - 20 October 2001
 Quebert Cormier, EM 69 - March 2000
 Arthur Cornish, MoMM 45-48 - 2001

Timothy Cotter, EM, 44-46 - July 2005
 Donald Jess Coughlin, RM 54 - December 1997
 Richard H. Coupe, XO 61-63 - May 2003
 Raymond J. Cremin, EM 60 - January 2005
 Richard Crittenden, EM 58 - January 2004
 Enrique Cruz, TN, 45-49 - July 2005
 Stephen P. Cyganik, FT 45 - February 2002
 Jerome A. Davi, XO 60-61 - February 2003
 Carl Davis, CO 57-59
 Fred Davis, TM 49-53 - February 2000
 William Davis, MoMM 44-48
 Floyd Day Jr., EN 60 - April 2003
 Maurice Demers, HM 48-50 - November 1990
 Robert Demonge, TM 55-57 - August, 1996
 Kenneth Deramus, TM 57-63 - November 1989
 Alfred Des...
 John Dittmer, MoMM 47-48
 Jere W. Driver, RM 63 - March 1998
 Francis Drosch, EN 59 - 1978
 William G. Eason, TM 63
 John H. Epps, Ltjg 47
 Morris E. Ezell Jr., QM 48 - June 2004
 Dale Fate, CS 54-59 - January 1999
 Jess Favors, EM 59-60 - February, 2003
 George Fender, EN 52-July 2003
 Ernest W. Flintoff, FA 48-49 - January 1998
 Elwood H. Forni, SO 58 - USS Thresher
 James N. Forrester, EN 50-54
 Taylor Fox, TM 46 - November 1990
 Charles H. Foy, GM 45-46 - May 22, 1974
 Roy Holland Gallemore, Lt 44-47 - February 2005
 Frank Michael Cambacorta, CO 44 - December 2000
 Warden Gaskins, XO 45
 Robert C. Gaunt, TM 44 - 1953
 John Gerencer, SN 48-49 - 2000
 Raymond Jerome Gillin, ET 58-59 - March 2005
 William Goold, EN 57-60 - June 2002
 John A. Goordman, ET 54-55 - January 1990
 John H. Goss, MM 46-49 - December 2001
 Rober Gouge, EN 57-60
 Henry Guthrie, EN 63-65 - 2001
 Bobbie Joe Hammac, FA 58-62 - May 1995
 John E. Harvey, CS 59-63 - November 2004
 Lee Roy Harvey, SN 48-49 - January 2006
 Michael Hehmann ET 68-69 - 1993
 Joe Hemphill, EM 44-45
 William Henry, Ltjg 58-59
 Jere W. Hensel, TM 58
 James High, Lt. 57-60 - December 2003
 William F. Higley, SO 60-61 - October 2005
 Dale D. Holtzclaw, EN 60-61 - 1994

Scott E. Horton Jr., QM 44-47
 Ira R. Houston, RM 48-49
 Jerry Hucks, Ltjg 63-66 - June 2001
 William Hurt, MM 44-45
 Jack Johns, QM 49-50 - September 2004
 Alfred Jonas, EN 57 - February 2003
 Douglas S. Jordan, Lt, 59-61 - February 2005
 Matthew H. Jordan, EM 69
 Jerry Jorn, IC 51-54 - November 2002
 John Juricek, QM 63 - March 2000
 Donald J. Kamuf, EN 60-61 - June 2006
 Zigmund Kanaszka, EM 52-55 - 1975
 Arthur Keovil, Ltjg, 47 - August 1993
 ...gore, EM 63-65 - February 2003
 ...nosky, EM 63 - 1997
 ...King, Ltjg 53-55 - September 2003
 Gary G. Kirkpatrick, EN 50-52
 George Klarmann, IC 54 - May 2003
 Leonard R. Kojm, CO 61-63 - September 2004
 Leonard Kroll, TM 52-55
 Harry Kumanski, TM 45 - July 1993
 Stephen Kurkijan, EN 51 - November 1977
 Paul Lacouture, Lt 44
 Thomas L. Lampley, SN, 45-46 - March 2005
 Clayton, LaPlante, EN 56-58 - 2000
 Johnny Lazo, SO 61-63 - December 2002
 Robert LeBel, FN 44-46
 Ken Luke LeBlanc, ET 60 - May 2007
 Neal Ledford, EN 49-50 - April 1993
 Charles F. Leigh, CO, 45-46
 Andrew Leslie, RM 55 - January 2000
 Herman LeVaur, MM 61 - 1994
 Burt Lewis Levin, LT 57-58 - March 2007
 Jim Lofland, CS 58-61 - January 2004
 John Lorrey, MoMM 47 - December 1997
 John P. Macuszonok, EN 49-52
 Robert Madill, EM 49-50 - Jan. 1998
 David B. Maher, CO 55 - February 1982
 Stanley C. Martell, FT 69 - March 2006
 Gerald Matern, YN 46 - 1998
 Nelson "Sam" Mattingly, EM 52-56 - October 2006
 Clemens F. Maue Jr., SN 46-48 - October 2005
 Robert Earl Mauldin, RM 49-50 - January 2003
 James L. McCombs, TM 49-50 - April 2002
 Donald Roy McManis, SA 48-49 - August 2002
 William McNeil, SN 47-48 - December 1999
 Alfred W. Miller, SC 47-48 - October 2006
 Calvin Miller, Ltjg 63-67 - September 2005
 Morgan J. Minchey, TM 61-63 - May 2004
 John Minett, YN 45 - June 1989
 Frank Murphy, EN 62-65

Sailors Rest

*I have one consolation that lives with me today.
That God is near to them, in his own special way.
So, God in all Your mercy, keep near Thyself the soul,
Of every submariner, still on his final patrol.
Lord, these departed shipmates, with dolphins on their chests are part of
an outfit known as the best.
Make them welcome and take them by the hand.
You'll find without a doubt they were the best in all the land.
So, heavenly Father add their names to the roll of our departed ship-
mates still on patrol.
Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories
alive.*

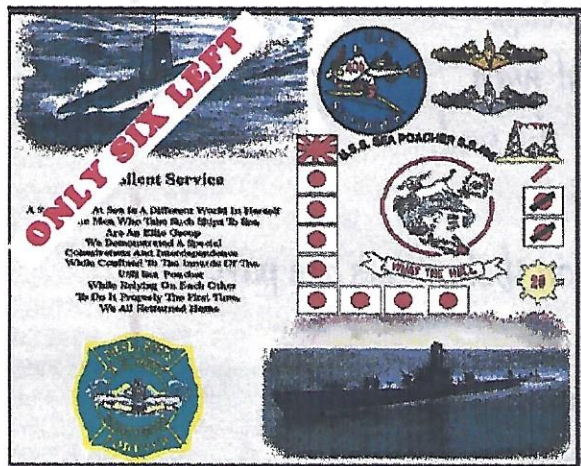
Rudolph Myers, QM 58-60 - 1993
Charles Napier, QM 50-53
William Nelson, EM 52-54 - January 2002
Bobbie Newell, GM 44-46
Edgar Nies, RM 49 - Sept. 2002
Bliss Nisonger, TM 44 - 2000
Constantine Pappas, SC 44-45
John Park, CS 63-65
Nando Passerine, TM 53-54 - July 1980
Robert Pearce, LTJg 62-63 - May 2005
Thomas H. Polk, CO 55-57 - April 1996
Marshall Poole, EM 60-61 - September 2006
Rudolph Poteet, FT 53 - December 2006
William Porter, EM 44-46
Tracey Price, EM 44-46
Paul Purkrabek, LTjg 47 - November 2003
Allen K. Rhodes, TM 49-52 - February 2004
Burton E. Rider, EN 51-53 - March 2003
Henry Robertson, EN 48-50
Horace Rogers, TM 58-59 - June 1993
James O. Rogers, LT 53-56 - 2003
John Ross, SN 44-47
Bruce Rounds, SN 44-46

Charles Russell, Lt. 59-61
Frank Rutzen, FN 55-57 - November 1999
Ernest Sabol, LTjg 57 - June 2003
Richard Sanders, IC 68-68
Louis Sardo, QM 60-61 & 64 - April 2004
William G. Sargent, EM 63-64
Henry Schmidt, CS 55-57
Herman Schoenberger,, TM 57-59
Sid Schorr, SN 45 - March 2003
Harold R. Schwartz, TM 57-59
James W. Scott, QM 60
Phillip Clayton Sears, TM 57-58 - September 1982
Walter Seifert, EN 60-62
Vernon Seiple, SO 61-63
Edwin W. Sharp, EN 67 - July 2002
Edward Shook, EM 64-68
Robert Silvis, SC 45-46 - May 1999
Thomas Strick, EN 63-67
Norman Skiles, RM 58-59 - October 2003
Frederick S. Smith CP 44-46 - 1961
James L. Smith, TM 63-64 - 1991
Ebrue G. Smojicie, EN 44-51
Nolan (Dave) Spence, ET 54-56 - October 2000

Yaber Staggs, EM 67-68 - September 1989
Lawrence Stahl, XO 59-61 - April 2000
Peter Stea, EN 53 - May 2002
Ezra Swartz, MoMM 46-47, August 2001
James Symanek, SA 68-69 - July 1970
Melvin Syme, TM 44-45
William N. V. Tackett, EN 51-55 - February 2005
Frank J. Taggert, FT 56-59
Joe Tasillo, FA 52 - March 1993
Arnett B. Taylor, XO 53-57 - October 2002
Charlie Thieme, MM 44-47 - 2003
Richard Todd, SN 45
Gordon Townsend, RM 57 - June 1982
Theodore M. Ustick, CO 49 - May 2000
Warren Vanderwerker, EM 57-63
Robert E. Van Meter Jr., EM 60-62 - August 2003
Peter Wallin, QM 56-59 - March 1991
Charlie Wentz, YN 56-58 - June 1999
Ross Wesner, LTJg, 62-65 - August 2006
Carl Wheat, ET 46-49 - March 1992
Ellis White, Lt 44 - June 2004
Wayne White, EN 61-62 - April 1962
Jesse Wiles, RM 61 - November 1999
R. K. R. Worthington, XO 44 - February 1996
Fred Yarborough, TN 48-50 - 1990
Lester Young, EN 60-62 - February 2000
Melvin Zimmerman, GM 60 - September 2000
Theodore Znuj, MM 44-46

Your Oars . . .

Sea Poacher Ships' Store



INTRODUCING:

Our latest fund raising effort. This nice looking 2008 calendar is made up of three sections: 40's 50's & 60's. The selling price is \$10.00 plus shipping for a total of: \$12.00. One hundred percent of the profits go to the Ken LeBlanc Humanitarian Fund.



SPECIAL OFFER:

\$2.00 off if you buy a shirt along with either an Afghan or coffee cup or Tankard as we use the shirt to protect the coffee cup/tankard during shipping:

Afghan + Shirt =	\$ 70.00
Coffee cup + shirt=	\$ 34.00
Tankard + shirt =	\$ 40.00



Service Certificate

Certificate includes a picture of the boat in the configuration as you served aboard and also includes a list of all the shipmates with whom you served. Printed on high gloss photo paper. 11x14 frame subject to availability.

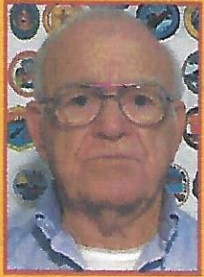
Framed and matted \$35.00
Unframed \$10.00
(Postage included)



Item

Item	Quant.	Price	TOTAL
2008 Calendar	—	\$12.00	—
Afghan	—	\$50.00	—
Ships' Patch	—	\$5.50	—
Ballcap	—	\$14.00	—
Coffee Cup	—	\$14.00	—
Golf Shirts - Sizes M, L, XL & 2XL	—	\$22.00	—
Etched Glass Tankard	—	\$20.00	—
WWII & Reunion 2003 Video	—	\$14.00	—
Framed Service Certificate	—	\$35.00	—
Unframed Service Certificate	—	\$10.00	—
Reunion 2006 Video	—	\$10.00	—
TOTAL			—

Please make check payable to Bill Brinkman and mail to: *Bill Brinkman, 4500 Tiffany Nicole St., Round Rock, TX 78664-9466.* Prices includes shipping!



From My Perspective

Ken Bonnell, RM 57-58

thecob@tecinfo.com

Call on God to answer problems

Probably one of the surest and quickest ways to get an argument started is to express one of two opinions; there is a God or, there is no God. Instantly you will have opponents, and while spirited debate is indeed a delight to the mind and soul, it is unfortunate that religious disagreements often end in anger, bitterness and, all too often, violent conflict.

For me it is simple faith. I believe there is a God, I believe He exists. He? Yes, for me, it is He. Those in disagreement, while hopefully maintaining a calm and gentle nature, may certainly use whatever comfortable label they prefer, be it She, It or even Big Sky Dude

Some have ridiculed and scoffed at my simplistic faith in something I cannot prove to their satisfaction. Others get upset when I suggest they too hold just as strong and simple a faith as mine, although in direct opposition, and they cannot prove theirs, either.

Okay, enough sermonizing. But it was necessary to set the stage to share with readers an event in my life that not only gave my faith a jump-start, but also makes me suggest to others that there is most certainly the possibility, even if it's not the 100% proof they would like, that my God does exist and has interceded on my behalf.

Three times it has happened; this is one of them.

In 1957, while stationed on a U.S. Navy submarine in Key West, FL, I

was promoted to Chief Petty Officer. This promotion meant abandoning the traditional enlisted white hat, bell-bottomed trousers and jumper uniform and wearing the more civilian-like regular trousers, shirt, tie and jacket.

Using the authorized clothing allowance, I went to a store in Key West to be measured and fitted for my new uniforms. The two brothers who owned the store were being visited at the time by a young nephew from New York City and they asked if the boy might take my order to get a little experience in how to handle customers.

I agreed and the teenager did a fine job.

Some months after that, I happened to mention to another Chief Petty Officer that my money was almost gone, payday was a couple weeks off and there wasn't a whole lot of food at our house. He said, as though telling me to take an aspirin for a headache, that whenever he had a problem that seemed to have no solution, he handed it over to the Lord and forgot about it.

Not being at the time what one might call an actively religious person, I probably would have, with a pitying sigh, just shook my head at such innocence. But this calm advice came from a man whose submarine, while on a World War II patrol, had been detected and trapped in shallow waters by Japanese destroyers and unmercifully depth-charged for what must have seemed like an eternity.

During some point in all the explosions, he desperately promised God that if his life was spared, he would lead, if not a perfect life, certainly a better one. The tortuous pounding gradually lessened and finally ceased when the enemy ships at last gave up and sailed away.

Oh, yes, there are those who would call it just a lucky break, a random fortune of war. For my shipmate, he believed it was God's intervention.

"Ken," he said, "the Bible says that even one problem is too much for one man. Give it to God, Ken, believe He'll take care of it and then put it out of your mind."

That night, lying in bed, feeling a bit foolish and embarrassed, I told God about my problem and even not knowing if He'd do anything, the talking made me feel better and I dropped quickly off to sleep.

And??? Next time, folks, next time.

Introducing our Sea Poacher Association's latest fund raising initiative.

The 2008 Sea Poacher Calendar is hot off the presses. It contains pictures from the past, broken down into three sections, one for each decade. It has a lot of notable dates in Sea Poacher's history plus a some facts about the boat and the Sea Poacher Association.

This is our first effort, so let's make it a success. Buy for your friends and children and also **sell some**. The price is \$10 + shipping with the profits going to the Ken LeBlanc Humanitarian Fund to benefit those shipmates in need. (See the Ship's Store ad in this issue and also on the Sea Poacher website).

We are also interested as to what you think of it and how we can improve it in the future, and what you would like to see included.





**From the
2008
Reunion Host:
JJ Lynch**
j2bubba2@earthlink.net



**From the
Web Guru:
Jon K. Nagle**
jondryvac@aol.com

A whoop whoop whoop sound on the sound powered phone in the after battery. " I was told by EMC (SS) Jess Favors (COB 59) that anything other than a whoop meant some sort of a problem. "Well I answered it and it was the Hotel Wyndham River Walk reporting that only 9 folks have reserved rooms starting on the 21st of May and 14 rooms on the 22nd of May. The Tour of SubBase Kings Bay is on Thursday the 22nd and I have about 66 security forms that you folks have filled out for the trip. I am not a rocket scientist just a Ships Cook but the numbers tell me there are folks out there that need to make reservations or my house will be full. Help me with making reservations as soon as possible as there are other organizations that are using the Whyndham and we want to have room for all of our folks. I have just secured the bus transportation so all the arrangements are set for a memorable reunion.

I have just contacted one of our shipmates, Noal Bailey EN1(SS). He lives about one hour drive from Jacksonville and I plan on a trip over to see him considering I am 66 and was 18 when I first went ashore with him in Gibraltar, he must be an old fart. I consider myself one but hope to have him there with us to tell sea stories.

I have searched the Jacksonville area for services that just might be needed for some of our shipmates. I have a list of Churches, Hospitals and Kidney Dialysis clinics. Please send me your requirements (Log req.) and I will set things up or forward the info to you.

Just to review the plan for this deployment, you should arrive on the 21st of May and 0830 quarters 22nd May at the entrance of the hotel for the bus ride to St. Mary's, Georgia, where the SubBase Kings Bay is located, with a base tour and boat tour. The River cruise on the 23rd May and 24 May Tour of St. Augustine.

This is a No S__tter, The Hospitality room will be open most of the time WELL all of the time if there is one or more shipmates that want to Shoot the S__t. Just like the Mess Decks you will have to pour your own what ever that is.

I would like to communicate on the internet but Al Gore has not sent me all of your addresses. Should you have a shipmate that needs info let me know some way and I will do what ever it takes.

SHOULD YOU KNOW OF A SHIPMATE THAT IS HAVING TROUBLES GETTING TO THE REUNION, LET OUR PRESIDENT "Sweet William" OR OUR EDITOR "Jackson" KNOW, WE WANT AS MANY FOLKS AS POSSIBLE TO ATTEND.

Memorial Fund

When a shipmate passes on the USS Sea Poacher Association presents, to their next of kin, a Memorial Plaque to commemorate their service to Sea Poacher. The plaque is a framed and matted picture taken from the bridge of Sea Poacher during the Cuban Crisis and superimposed over it is the Final Prayer as it appears on Page 7. It also indicates the years the individual served aboard. We decided that funding for this project should stand alone, so we are accepting contributions which may be made out to Sea Poacher Association and mailed to Association President, Bill Brinkman. Indicate "Memorial Fund".

In case you haven't seen the web page lately, new articles, stories, pictures and SOUND are being added almost daily. We now have all four war patrol reports, in detail, on the site along with newly submitted pictures of the Med run. You also will find the straight poop on the upcoming reunion in 08 plus the security form required to tour the nuke boat. JJ is doing a bang up job and "08 will be Great!

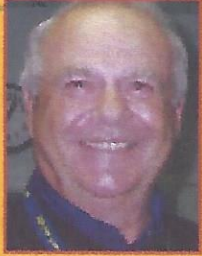
To submit your stuff just click on the "web designer" or e-mail me at jondryvac@aol.com or call me at 707-580-5419.



Photo courtesy of Jack Ensminger, TM 61

There were about 25 Tri-State Base Shipmates and wives attending BJ's birthday celebration. We called the gathering a "mini-reunion" with BJ Calvert's shipmates in the 50's. He was very appreciative and he hasn't lost his sense of humor.

BJ and Alice had just celebrated an anniversary, I think the 48th.



From the Treasurer:

Lanny Yeske

doctoryeske@yahoo.com

LAST CALL FOR "WE REMEMBER SEA POACHER" BOOK INPUTS

Okay, the goal was 80 shipmate chapters with 400 pages and to have it ready for the May 2008 Reunion in Jacksonville. We are getting there with 66 chapters and 370 pages as of mid-June 2007. Here are the authors to date:

1940s: Gambacorta, Leigh, Cobb, Nosinger, Gaskins, Cooley, Smidutz, Green, Ezell, Ferris
Late 40s-early 50s: Donnelly, Dubbs, Helmer, Carr, Amunrud, Abbott

1950s: Buckley, McKinney, Parhamenko, Matheny, Luttrell, Schenker, Anthony, Powers, Sheldon, Eberhardt, Wilkinson

Late 50s-early 60s: Schipper, Godwin, Love, Armstrong, Snook, French, Acor, Stahl, Lee, Joslin, Lynch, Davi

1960s: Henry, Kamuf, Poole, Brinkman, Sumner, Riley, Ensminger, Allers, Deuley, Lawson, Merrill, Yeske, Joseph, Hicks, McCollum, Nagle, Weinfurter, Dybala, Socha, Saeli, Ringland, Dukacz, Huggins

1969-74: Reserve Fleet by Yeske 74-96: Juan del Campo from Peru.

If you are not listed, why not? It is not that difficult to just jot some notes on the computer and email, or by hand and send through regular mail to me. I will do all the editing and formatting and give you a chance to review it before publishing. You can write as little as one paragraph, or become a prolific writer where we have many chapters of over 10 pages.

We already have several contributions from widows on behalf of their Sea Poacher husbands who have "rested their oars." Some other inputs were via an obituary. Some of you may not even know that you have contributed, but you have done so from previously published articles in the public domain. I consider these fair game and have properly credited the source.

(Continued from Page Three)

Ship's History

Southern Hokkaido. This bombardment was conducted shortly after noon in good visibility, and on leaving the scene the SEA POACHER was forced to submerge by an attacking aircraft. The plane dropped two bombs.

In addition to routine area patrol the SEA POACHER participated in two anti-picket boat sweeps, clearing the way for Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet which was closing in to bombard Honshu and Hokkaido. The sweeps, 7-9 July and 15-16 July, were made in company with U.S. Ships THORNBACK, ANGLER, CERO, KINGFISH, MORAY, AND CARP. Three days were spent on life guard duty near Tokyo. No opportunity for rescues presented itself.

1 August 1945

Departed area for Midway.

6 August 1945

Arrived U.S. Submarine Base, Midway Islands, T.H.

7 August 1945

Departed Midway for Pearl Harbor.

11 August 1945

Arrived U.S. Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, T.H., and repair was commenced by Submarine Division 104 and the Submarine Base. Officers and crew spent the night at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

24 August 1945

Lieutenant William J. KIRNS, U.S.N.R., Executive Officer and Navigator,

There are also at least 15 of you with promises to contribute and every once in a while someone who I have been remiss in contacting comes in with an unexpected wonderful chapter. Keep those coming.

So do we have enough to publish this book? You bet! There are several hundred stories already of heroism, sadness, elation, crying, hilarity, and you name it that have never before been told. There are also some VERY embarrassing stories, but we are not including any names or dates, so you will remain anonymous unless cornered or if one of your shipmates decides to be a detective. That will likely happen at the 2008 Reunion, once the book is distributed.

INPUTS FOR THE BOOK TOTALLY END ON 1 OCTOBER 2007.

Why? Well, we are going to try and self-publish this thing with a lot of reduced costs. It will still be a major hard back coffee table book, but we will try to have it fully formatted for the printer. So, anyone with an input after 1 October will totally upset page numbering plus the table of contents, index, and other sections. And it is just too much work to redo it and would significantly increase publisher costs to revise.

So there are still three full months for you to make a contribution or to add to one already submitted. My email is doctoryeske@yahoo.com or regular mail to 1063 MacArthur Place, Forest, VA 24551. I will acknowledge receipt of every input.

For those of you who have already contributed, your chapter will be sent to you by email or U.S. Mail later this month for review and editing. This must be completed no later than 1 September 2007. If I hear nothing from you, I will presume you concur with the article and will go with what I have written.

We also need an estimate of how many books you want to order. So also include that number with your editorial comments. Once we reach October 1 and final book layout, the Association officers will decide on a printer/publisher and ascertain the costs involved. This is highly dependent upon the number of copies printed and I have no idea if it will be 200 or 500 copies. A SWAG (Scientific Wild A** Guess) would be \$25 a copy to cover printing and shipping, but don't hold me to this. Anyway, these will make great 2008 Christmas gifts (not 2007) to sons, daughters, parents, or ex-wives if she was with you on Sea Poacher at the time and still communicates with you. So start thinking about how many copies you are going to order, and we will start taking firm orders and check payments in early October. For those of you who are not going to contribute to the book, but still want to order a copy or two, please let me know how many also in early October.

and Horton, S.E., QM1c, U.S.N., Pointer on forward deck gun, were awarded Commander-in Chief, Pacific Fleet letters of commendation for their excellent service on the SEA POACHER's Third War Patrol. These letters, with Ribbons, were presented by Commodore M.E. Comstock, U.S.N., Deputy Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet. At the same ceremony, Davis, W.H., CMO/MM, U.S.N., was awarded a Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet Letter of Commendation for meritorious conduct during a was patrol which he made while serving on board U.S.S. POGY.

6 September 1945

Combat insignias were awarded to the crew and officers of the successful Fourth Patrol

7 September 1945

Departed Pearl Harbor, T.H., enroute Balboa, C.Z., flying Homeward-Bound Pennant.

22 September 1945

Arrived Balboa, C.Z.

24 September 1945

Departed Balboa, C.Z.

30 September 1945

Arrived U.S. Submarine Base, New London, Conn.



USS Sea Poacher (SS406)
Association
 Bill Brinkman, President
 4500 Tiffany Nicole St.
 Round Rock, TX 78665
 seapoacher@austin.rr.com

Sea Poacher web site: <http://seapoacher.com>

Fred Socha
 4745 Grove Court
 Canton, MI 48188-2342

The Misaligned Falcon

by Bill "Duke" Dukacz

These events occurred sometime during April 1968 at the Key West Naval Base.

The Sea Poacher XO LCDR George Blessing passed the word, the COMSUBRON-12 (commander of SUBRON-12 Key West) and staff was to make a "walk through" (inspection) on our boat.

When the engine gang heard this... there was a lot of swearing. We had just pulled the upper crank and pistons from main engine #3. As you can guess the aft engine room was one big oil spill, not to mention ten large and heavy pistons on the deck and a crank shaft swinging on chains overhead.

The group was comprised of aft engine room gang EN1 Jerry Ping, MM2 Bryan Parker, EN3 Ken Banks and I along with some help from the forward engine room gang EN1 Jim Morgan, EN2 Jim McAdams, EN3 Jim Malcuit and FN John Porter.

How the hell was the commander to walk through this grease pit in dress whites? As you can guess, there was a lot more swearing. Swearing was part of the team problem/solution process.

Some ideas were kicked around. Then Jerry came up with a brilliant solution. We'll clear the deck by hauling the pistons to the warehouse on the upper base! You could see the light bulbs were going on all over.

It had to be done quickly, the inspection was tomorrow. We didn't have a truck available to haul the pistons. Jerry Ping said "We'll use my car". We all said, ok... let's go!

Next thing you know, all of us were waiting for Jerry to bring his car down to the pier. I figured he had a big Buick wagon or something. Here he comes down the pier in an old rusted Ford Falcon. A Falcon? The trunk on it was no bigger than a suitcase! This was not good.

We all proceeded to haul the ten pistons (weight 120 lbs. with connecting rod) up the engine room hatch onto the deck and then over to Jerry's Falcon on the pier. We got five pistons into the trunk. What is sight! The rear bumper was about three inches from the ground. The Falcon looked like a surface ship that had been torpedoed in the stern. It had a serious list.

Jerry and Bryan jumped into the Falcon. Jerry hit the gas. A blue cloud of oil spewed out the tail pipe. The car hesitated and then emerged from the



What the Falcon must have looked like before Jerry got his hands on it. Wonder what it is worth today?

cloud. It headed up the pier. It was on its way to the upper base when it hit a speed bump. The rear of the vehicle lifted over the bump and then slammed down onto the ground. Sparks flew... the noise was horrendous.

One hub cap shot out and was rolling around on the road.

We could see the Falcon made the rest of the trip to the warehouse in a blue haze. The rest of us still topside... just looked at each other. Then there was a roar of laughter.

COMSUBRON-12 did show up the next day... but never did a "walk through".

If you are having any kind of get together with your Sea Poacher shipmates and would like to share please forward the information and any pictures to seapoacher@hotmail.com 16 W. Pearl St., Barrow, FL 38830 or email to: seapoacher@hotmail.com