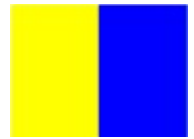
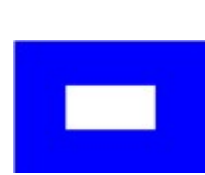
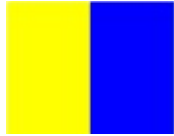


SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION



DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED ON THIS INCREDIBLE SUBMARINE!

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2015

EDITOR: LANNY YESKE LTJG 1961-63

PUBLISHER: BILL BRINKMAN EM 1960-62

BRANSON AND THE 2015 REUNION

SUN NOV 8

MON NOV 9

TUES NOV 10

WED NOV 11

THURS NOV 12

**CHECK INTO
THE GRAND
PLAZA
HOTEL**



**\$90.00 per Room
per Night Plus Tax
With Hot Breakfast**



**10:00 a.m.
RED, HOT AND
BLUE SHOW
Followed by the
Vietnam Mini
Reunion at Clay
Cooper Theatre**



**6:00 p.m.
WELCOME
ABOARD
RECEPTION
HOSPITALITY
ROOM
(Open 3 p.m.)**

**Hot Buffet
Breakfast**



**10:30 a.m.
GUIDED TOUR
AND LUNCH AT
KEETER CENTER
Followed by
Tolling of the Bells
at Veterans Grove**

**Dinner Tonight
Your Call And
On Your Own**

**7:30 p.m.
THE
CLAY COOPER
SHOW**

**THEN OUR
HOSPITALITY
ROOM IS OPEN
DAY & NIGHT
FOR NEVER
ENDING
STORIES, FUN
AND GAMES**

**Hot Buffet
Breakfast**

**10:00 a.m.
BRETT FOR
VETS SHOW**



**OPTIONAL:
2:00 p.m.
THE
LETTERMEN
IN CONCERT**



**\$45.00 per Person
w/transportation**

**8:00 p.m.
SHOWBOAT
BRANSON
BELLE DINNER
SHOW—CRUISE**



**Hot Buffet
Breakfast**

9:30 a.m.

**RIDE DUCKS IN
VETERANS DAY
PARADE**

**2:00 p.m.
BUSINESS
MEETING**



**6:30 p.m.
GROUP PHOTO**



**7:00 p.m.
FINAL EVENING
BANQUET AT
HOTEL**

**Hot Buffet
Breakfast**

DEPARTURE

**ACTIVITY
PACKAGE:
\$290.00 person
INCLUDES:**

**Hospitality Room
Welcome Packets
Name Badges**

**Deli Buffet In
Hospitality Room**

**Guided Tour &
Lunch at Keeter**

**Clay Cooper
Show**

**Brett Vets Show
Showboat
Branson Belle**

**Riding the Ducks
Final Banquet**

**Transportation to
Group Activities
Reunion Website**

**All Taxes and
Gratuities**

SEA POACHER OFFICIAL REUNION BRANSON, MO 8-12 NOVEMBER 2015 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

SPOUSE OR GUESTS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ANY PHYSICAL OR DIETARY DISABILITIES? _____

OUR HOST HOTEL: THE GRAND PLAZA, 245 NORTH WILDWOOD, BRANSON, MO 65616

Call the Hotel at 417-336-6646 for room reservations. Mention the group code of SEAPOA for the reduced rate of \$90 per room per night plus tax that includes a hot buffet breakfast for two. This rate is good for both three days prior and after the reunion based on availability. If attending the early shows on Nov 8, you may want to check into the hotel on Nov 7. Rooms not reserved by 8 Oct 2015 will be released from the group block. We have Treasury funds available to assist in costs, if needed and requested.

OUR GREAT ACTIVITY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Hospitality Room and Welcome Aboard Packets with Name Badges
Red, Hot and Blue Show with Lunch and Vietnam Veteran's Show
Welcome Aboard Reception and Deli Buffet in the Hospitality Room
Guided Tour and Lunch at Keeter Center followed by Tolling of the Bells at Veteran's Grove
The Clay Cooper Show and the Brett for Vets Show
The Showboat Branson Belle Dinner, Show, and Cruise on Table Rock Lake
Ride the Ducks in the Veteran's Day Parade
Final Banquet with Entertainment
Silent Auction, Vocal Auction, Sapo Game, and All The Rest
Transportation to all Group Activities, Reunion Website, and all Taxes and Gratuities.

Activity Package: # of Attendees _____ times \$290 per person = \$ _____

The Lettermen in Concert _____ # of Attendees X \$45 pp = \$ _____ **Total Due = \$ _____**

If attending the FREE Red, Hot, and Blue Show Your # of Attendees: _____

Fifty percent of the Total Due by 8 Sep 2015 with the balance on 8 Oct 2015.

No refunds after 1 November 2015 on the Activity Package.

MAIL THIS FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Gatherings Plus P.O. Box 1023 Branson West, MO 65737

Check out the reunion details at website www.reunionpro.com. Then click on the reunions link, type in USS Sea Poacher, click apply and then click on the second Sea Poacher logo.

Questions? Contact Joe Murdoch at jdmurdoch13@comcast.net or

Bill Brinkman at seapoacher@austin.rr.com

WHY WAS SEA POACHER INCREDIBLE?

- 1944 - Built from keel laying to commissioning in just 158 days - a record for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.
- 1945 - Entered WWII late. On last two patrols, sank one Japanese warship and ten merchants. Destroyed two shore radio stations by gunfire as well as 20 mines. A rare submarine to have five inch guns both forward and aft.
- 1948 - Periodically visited over three years by President Harry S. Truman when residing at the Key West White House. Often serenaded by Daughter Margaret in the small distance between there and the pier.
- 1951 - Served as the submarine platform for *The Frogmen* movie with Richard Widmark, Dana Andrews, Gary Merrill, Jeffrey Hunter, and Robert Wagner, which was filmed in Key West. Later that year, the first Guppy 1A conversion done at Charleston Naval Shipyard.
- 1952 - The only submarine to ever rescue a blimp with the story featured in Life Magazine.
- 1954 - The only submarine that participated in the top secret U.S. interdiction of Guatemala.
- 1957 - The first submarine to ever transit the Corinth Canal in Greece.
- 1958 - Readied to participate in the Lebanon Civil War Crisis, although final orders never came to depart.
- 1960 - Fired upon by a Cuban gunboat for supposedly being in their territorial waters and featured in the New York Times Newspaper, Time Magazine, and other national media.
- 1962 - The only submarine to participate in the U.S. Blockade/Quarantine of Cuba during the missile crisis.
- 1963 - In another Navy first, made an emergency run to West Palm Beach and donated seventy pints of blood on behalf of the mother of Senior Cook John Harvey.
- 1964 - In a documented Mediterranean fleet exercise, the 406 sinks the Aircraft Carrier Enterprise (CVN-65).
- 1966 - Active search participant in the H-bomb incident offshore Palomares, Spain.
- 1968 - Received E award for third straight year with other E awards earlier.
- 1969 - Participated in Scorpion (SSN-589) search. Then, one of 60 units selected for 20th NATO Naval Review by Queen Elizabeth. Ordered to the Arctic Circle and received the Royal Order of the Blue Noses. Later this year, directed to be decommissioned she proceeded up the river to Philadelphia at 125 percent power with all equipment in commission. Then orders were delayed and she replaced a “broke” boat at GITMO. Later was decommissioned at Philadelphia due to the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty requirements.
- 1971 - Redesignated a fleet submarine for reasons unknown.
- 1973 - Struck from the U.S. Navy list of submarines.
- 1974 - In preparation for a possible armed conflict with Chile sold to Peru and commissioned as BAP La Pedrera (S-49). Sailed under her own power while Atule (SS-403) and Tench (SS-417) were towed.
- 1976 - Modernized in Peru with a crew of 82. Initial tasking to escort Naval Academy cadets on training missions.
- 1981 - Participated in a fully armed wartime patrol during a conflict with Ecuador. In a 48 hour period loaded and unloaded 120 torpedoes in an extraordinary series of events.
- 1992 - Decommissioned but continued as a shore side Peruvian training submarine.
- 1996 - Supposedly towed to Fundicion Callao S.A. for scrapping. Year is unknown and could be much later.
- 2003 - EM Bill Brinkman and TM Jack Merrill form the Sea Poacher Association, one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. Several years later, Jack Merrill establishes the USSVI Sea Poacher Base in Florida. Both continue to be active in 2015 with reunions, newsletters, websites, and shipmate support. A similar organization for La Pedrera exists in Callao/Lima Peru.
- 2009 - Informed of a submarine beached two miles north of Callao and in line with the main runway Lima Airport. Site visited/viewed by both Sea Poacher and La Pedrera shipmates with positive indication this is our hull.
- 2009 - Both crews meet in Lima for a Sea Poacher hosted dinner, and at Callao in a gala celebration hosted by the Peruvian Submarine Force and Admiral Carlos Zarate.
- 2014 - Positive confirmation by the Director/CEO Fundicion Callao and La Pedrera shipmates this is the 406 hull. Later, the hull is supposedly salvaged by local entrepreneurs and not the Foundry from satellite imagery.
- 2015 - Imagery suggests the hull is still there. In pieces perhaps, but large sections may extend over 150 feet.

PERHAPS THE MOST INCREDIBLE SUBMARINE THE UNITED STATES AND PERU EVER HAD?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-BILL BRINKMAN

1. Dues: We have 213 Life and 26 Regular members. If you're a Life Member or have paid your 2015 dues, thank you. If not, please pay \$10 for each year or become a Life Member for \$100. Life Members no longer get annoying letters from me or our Treasurer Hubert Jackson, receive a free patch, and we continue Life Membership status for your widow. Make checks payable to Sea Poacher Association and mail to me at 4500 Tiffany Nicole Street, Round Rock, TX 78665-9466 or email me at seapoacher@austin.rr.com with questions.

2. Address and e-mail changes: Please send us changes. Remember, we do not show your mailing address and telephone number on our newsletters or our website. When shipmates request them, we do put them in touch with you.

3. Sea Poacher Memorial Fund: When a shipmate passes on, we present to the next of kin a Memorial Plaque. The framed and matted picture of Sea Poacher underway at sunset includes a Final Prayer and service years. Funding for this stands alone, so we appreciate check contributions made out to Sea Poacher Association and mailed to me. Please indicate "Memorial Fund" on your check.

4. Newsletter Input and Policy: Lanny and I agree WE ARE NOT running old submarine articles of those sunk in WWII or other older events unless related to 406. While important they can be found elsewhere. What we want are personal stories from members. Can relate to time on board, later jobs, sea tales, or what you are doing now. Some stories are not easy to write so do your best with inputs. There is a slight backlog at 12 pages per issue which is good.

5. U.S. Navy in 1915: From Ron Godwin. Here is an incredible 100 year old film beginning with a submarine ride at full speed. Silent, black and white, and outstanding quality. Check it out www.filmpreservation.org/preserved-films/screening-room/u-s-navy-documentary-1915. Eleven minutes of footage and you will not be disappointed.

6. Eternal Father: From Charles Roberts. Go to Internet *Eternal Father Strong to Save - You Tube* and click on the first reference for a ride on a destroyer and recall why we joined the submarine force. Other clips are also good.

7. Sixty-Nine More: Thanks to Jack Merrill for an in depth look that found 69 more Sea Poacher shipmates on Eternal Patrol. With obituaries for 13, these are printed here and the next issue. So 95 shipmates (to date) will be cited at the Branson Reunion Tolling of the Bells, and all will be listed in the January 2016 Newsletter Eternal Patrol Pages.

8. Wyoming Episode and Move On: Yes, 12 enlisted and what seems to be a team are under criminal investigation with the secret shower photos of three women officers. The first female officer on a fast attack is already on the Virginia Class Minnesota and joins over 100 officers now on submarines. Enlisted will be reporting in 2016.

9. The Ship That Would Not Die: From Hubert Jackson. Here is incredible footage of the Destroyer Laffey (DD-724) of the April 1945 Kamikazi attacks that we did not know existed. Laffey was toured at our Charleston Reunion. Go to <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4zpk7hvrghcd7gd/D-qPNsG9ym#lh:null-Laffey%20Enhanced%20vo%203.wmv>

10. Sea Poacher War Patroller Birthdays: In January, David Green FN 45-46 celebrated his 90th, and Lester Murray EM 44-48 had his 96th. Hubert and Linda Jackson, Bill and Lin Brinkman, and Don and Avis Waldrop surprised David by appearing at his party in Lufkin, TX (Left Photo). Cards were also sent by 15 shipmates. Ken and Jean Manion presented a birthday cake and card to Lester in Swansea, IL on January 28th (Right Photo). Both were presented with Submarine Cartoon Plaques. And not to be ignored, Leo Carr EN49-50 served on the Ling (SS-297) in 1944-45 during new construction and turned 91 on February 11th in Gautier, MS.



KEN MANION EM 1963-66

NEW SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER

In line with Lanny's duties as Newsletter Editor, he was promoted (?) to Secretary leaving open the position of Special Projects Officer and Board Member. However, President Bill Brinkman asked Ken Manion if he would do it. Ken agreed and was unanimously elected by the Board. A few notes on Ken and wife Jean who have participated in all of our reunions since 2006. After high school, he worked as an Apprentice Electrician before joining the Navy in 1962. Following boot camp and EM School at the Great Lakes Naval Station, he went directly to Submarine School in New London and then reported to Sea Poacher which was in a Key West floating dry dock. After a 1963 Mediterranean cruise and 1964 Charleston Shipyard, he married Jean in St. Louis, MO. Upon return to Key West, they bought and lived in a trailer, once owned by Larry Weinfurter, on Stock Island. Rich and Karel Earl lived in the same trailer park.

Upon receiving his dolphins, he was sent to Maneuvering to become a Controllerman and eventually became a Senior Controllerman. He recalled a problem with the DC lights blinking and it taking forever to find a partially blown fuse in the battery well. This was very rare and in his 43 years as an Electrician, he only ran into this twice. Ken remembers the first time on Sea Poacher when he was asked to make coffee. He asked for instructions and did his best to follow them. However, all of it was spit out, and Ken was informed to never make coffee again. He laughingly said it broke his heart. He also had a reputation for using lots of cat-sap on his food. On one occasion, a shipmate replaced it with hot sauce, but it did not bother him and no more pranks were pulled.



Another memory was a 1963 trip to GITMO. Several Marines came to Sea Poacher and asked for food. He negotiated a helicopter ride around the perimeter of the base. It was 30 minutes long, and they sat in the open door



with their feet hanging out the helicopter just like "Jarheads." Following another trip to the MED in 1966, Ken and Jean decided to leave the Navy. They sold their trailer and returned to St. Louis where he resumed another 39 year career as a Construction Electrician in high rise buildings in downtown St. Louis. Jean was a Legal Secretary for a time and then spent 20 years as a Legal Ad-

ministrator. With 3 children and 5 grandchildren, Ken and Jean celebrated their 50 wedding anniversary last year. Now retired, he has taken up the hobby of Model O-gauge trains. He has a layout in his home at South Saint Louis County that covers nearly 500 square feet, and Ken welcomes anyone to come and see it anytime.

We are absolutely delighted to have Ken and Jean join us in Sea Poacher Board activities. With no assigned duties for our new Special Projects Officer, but there will certainly be some in the future. If any of you have any suggestions, do let us know!



SEA POACHER SHIP'S STORE

Our Ship's Store page has been recently revamped and if you are interested in ordering something, go to our website www.seapoacher.com and click on Ships Storekeeper to find the order form. To make room for additional shipmate articles, we have opted to run this page in every other issue of the newsletter so it will appear in the July 2015 issue. Also, the USSVI website has other submarine items if interested.

STUCK IN THE MUD IN PANAMA

The below 1948 new angle photo shows Sea Robin, Sea Poacher, Sennet, and Sea Owl alongside the Orion. There is a fifth submarine astern Sea Owl but not identified. Forwarded to us by Roy Purtell, this is a story from Lewis Harris FT 1948-50 on Sea Owl as related by his son Wade.

The ASR Kittiwake and the Sea Owl were sent on a drill offshore Panama. Sea Owl had settled on the bottom in 160 feet of water, and released a recovery buoy from which the Kittiwake was to take action. Lewis heard the propeller wash from her and the dropping of three anchors to stabilize the ship. A connected telephone rang stating that they had been "found." Lewis heard the lead-weighted boots of the divers that were sent down to investigate. This was long before SCUBA. After a while, Sea Owl was told the drill was over and they would soon be surfacing. Lewis decided to take a shower since he was off duty. He could hear compressed air and after a bit the bow of Sea Owl started to lift up, up, and up...until he was resting against the back of the shower. Then the stern broke free and she surfaced. She had been sunk 17 feet into the muck. Lewis found the entire thing rather amusing and sent a comical letter back home. His brother Eddie responded that while it was all a great tale, their Mom became worried sick that he had been knocking on death's door...so perhaps it was best if Lewis not include such details in future letters.



SEA POACHER DIVE ANALYSIS?

We had #5,000 in 1962. CO Bill Gibson with the #2,000 dive card wrote: "For the useless but interesting information department: I note Sea Poacher made 250 dives per year to reach the 2,000 dive mark and 300 per year to achieve 5,000 dives. The reason for the difference, most likely, is that during the war only one dive per day would be the norm. Also the long conversion to Guppy cut out a lot of dives." Bill Brinkman chipped in noting that in peacetime, more dives are made for training. A "School Boat" in New London like Sea Owl (SS-405), typically made 16 dives/day for enlisted and more for officers. Bill made 1,500 dives in just three years. Actually, SPIKEFISH (SS-404), commissioned on 30 June 1944, was the first to make 10,000 dives. When decommissioned on 2 April 1963, she had made 10,802 dives and her last Skipper I believe was our own Dick Fox (CO two weeks later). Anyone have any records to top that? If one considers Sea Poacher/La Pedrera dives in total over our 52 years of service, we probably surpassed Spikefish and likely all other submarines. Very interesting! Any thoughts on this?

U-BOAT FOUND OFF CAPE HATTERAS



Found by NOAA in late 2014, after a five year search, was the U-576 just 240 yards from the wreck of the merchant Bluefields. The submarine was badly damaged in 1942 and was returning to port in France when she came upon a 19 ship convoy bound for Key West. With no sinkings on this patrol, she attacked and sank one/damaged two before being sunk by surface gunfire and aircraft dropped depth charges. Her entire crew of 45 was lost, but the Bluefields lost no one. It's estimated that 90 vessels including 4 U-boats were sunk during the first half of 1942 offshore North Carolina alone.

SEA POACHER'S SNAKE CHARMER

Have you ever been concerned about finding a live snake in your home toilet? Your Editor has, as an 'Urban Myth,' but never heard of it ever happening. That is until September 8 to our own Bill Brinkman in Round Rock, Texas, whose 10 acre estate includes a main house with detached guest house which houses the Central Texas Sub-Vets Meeting Room, and a large studio building for storage. There is also a huge pond with island. Bill and Lin have been in the Austin area for nearly 40 years where he retired from the University of Texas Research Center.

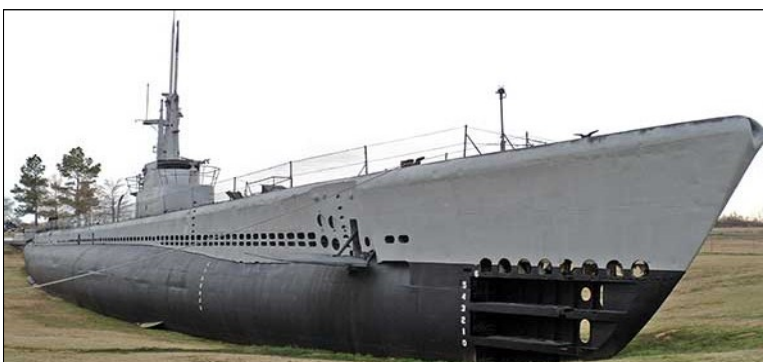
Approaching the pond that day, Bill watched 12 white egrets and a blue heron fly away. There were also the usual leaping minnows, turtles and snakes on the island. They also have a coyote that shows up periodically. Then entering the studio, he made a trip to the bathroom, and there curled up in the privy was an ugly looking snake that he said first looked like a python. It was apparently asleep and its head could not be seen. Poisonous? Performing now like the great serpent hunter Marlin Perkins, Bill used a plunger to keep it in the head and then poured in septic tank conditioner, anti-freeze and bleach. He then put a heavy weight on top of the commode to keep it from coming out and went to Home Depot. They recommended a plumber's snake (and more chemicals) which he purchased. Returning to the scene, there was no villain in the privy. Bill then used the artificial snake to try and force the real snake out. Wearing thick gloves and assuming the transgressor had small fangs, Bill was ready to grab him with his special sidewinder handling tongs (also used for the BBQ grill) should it reappear and place it in a plastic container. Wifey Lin was bravely (but reluctantly and unhappily) stationed outside near the drain vent to see if anything exited. Nothing happened. Bill assumed it had either gotten away, died, or was flushed into the septic tank. But it is not over. He hit the area with a second round of chemicals, and it was again a heroic man (now with wet pants) versus an unknown potentially dangerous intruder. With the shower six feet away, Bill considered the two drains were connected, and the reptile might use that route for escape. So the shower drain was filled with more bleach (nearly depleting the supply from Home Depot). A final treatment was given to the John. And lo and behold, a few minutes later up pops six inches of viper from the royal seat. Grabbing the varmint with the BBQ tongs there was still an unknown amount of now mad and hissing viper in the commode and a tug-of-war struggle began. Bill lost and the rascal disappeared again down the head. Jigger turned on the shower to prevent any resurface as the chemicals were gone.

Another waiting period and the menace again appeared, but this time Bill lets it come out to its full length of three feet, grabs it with the tongs, drops it on the deck accidentally, and finally places it into the plastic storage bin with lid fastened. Photos were taken before he released the non-poisonous rat snake back at the pond. Bill said he will forever be careful opening the studio bathroom door to see if there is an anti-freeze soaked bleached serpent there and from now on will only use water closets in the main house. He has also sealed a panel which allows mice to enter as that might be why the thing showed up. A drain pipe with an open hole, and only a short slither into the head, has also been sealed. Bill has no clue as to why the varmint was in the water closet except they have had a two month drought and perhaps it enjoyed the swim! Had this been your Editor, you would not be reading this article, and you could look for his Eternal Patrol Notice! Speaking of our Association President...



JIGGER VISITS THE SUBMARINE KILLER

The USS Batfish (SS-310) completed seven war patrols and is credited with sinking 14 ships that included three Japanese submarines in an amazing 76 hour period in February 1944. She was then known as the "Sub Killer" and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Her other exploits included sinking a destroyer, minesweeper, bombarding a Japanese village, and rescuing downed aviators. In 1972 Batfish was towed up the Arkansas River to Muskogee, Oklahoma as a museum and rests high and dry there. She was visited by Bill in August 2014 as shown below. He says she looks really good. Check the Internet for details on her history and voyage to Oklahoma.



THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF TULLIBEE (SS-284)

The last thing Cliff Kuykendall (GMC-SS) remembers hearing before the explosion was a crewmate saying: "Well, there they go. We'll see what happens now." When he came to- a few minutes later, he's not sure - he watched helplessly as his submarine Tullibee slowly sank into the Pacific. He thought: "Oh my God, I just lost my home, and it is my home, and it's a long way back to Wichita Falls, TX. *Thanks are due to Leo and Helen Carr and the Sun Herald Newspaper, Biloxi, MS 5 Nov 2014 for this article written by Patrick Ochs and highly condensed by your Editor.*

Cliff, honored as the 2014 Mississippi Gulf Coast Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshall, was 19 years old at 0315 on 26 March 1944, when Tullibee launched two torpedoes at a Japanese transport ship. Instead, the first ran a circular route and struck the submarine itself. He was the ONLY survivor of a crew of 80. "The concussion was terrific. I was the starboard lookout. It was a real dark night and drizzling," he recalled as he stood in front of the Tullibee Memorial in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. He remembers looking and could see the stern gradually going down. He fought his way to the surface and said he swallowed so much water that he could taste salt and diesel fuel for at least a year later. He had facial wounds and many of his teeth were gone. Cliff said he could also hear voices for about 10 minutes. Then nothing! He floated for seven hours, alone, except for an empty Sunkist orange crate that bumped into him. He credited shipmate, Louis Hieronimus EM1, for saving his life. Louis had forced Cliff to don a lifebelt before going on lookout. This kept him afloat long enough to be spotted. Unfortunately, it wasn't by the Americans.

About 1000, he saw a destroyer coming at him, flying the Japanese flag. They circled me and then opened up with a machine gun. Fortunately, they never got a lethal shot in, but bullets were flying all over the place. The Japanese brought him aboard, pulling him up with a net because he was too weak to climb. That's when he had his third brush with death in less than 24 hours. A Japanese officer, holding a sword, called him a coward for not drowning himself rather than being captured. The officer swung the sword over Kuykendall's head four times, missing each time. Each time he swung it - there were two Japanese sailors holding me up - I collapsed and fell to the deck and the sword passed over my head. It was intentional, because I knew if that sword hit my neck it would chop my head off.

A short time later, he heard something in Japanese over the PA system and the harassment stopped for the time being. He was dragged into a deck house and tossed onto a mat. Later a sailor came in carrying a small cup of sweet tea. He lifted my head and said in English: "Don't worry, everything will be all right." He was taken to a sea-plane base in the Palau Islands and tied to a tree atop a hill for 55 hours, while Americans bombed the island as part of Operation Desecrate. After three days of abuse/relentless torture he had revealed nothing. Cliff was put into a fox-hole behind a Japanese officer's home. Two days

later, he took me to the dock where I could see all of the hangars had been leveled and it made me feel good. He could speak English and Cliff knew he had saved his life as the others would have killed him. A Navy plane landed and the officer said: "There you go. Good luck." I looked at him and said: "Sir, good luck to you. I hope you make it." He replied: "I'll need it."

For the next 18 months, Cliff bounced among labor camps. During the final days of the War, he worked in a copper mine in Ashio. He recalled food rations increasing and American planes flying overhead. They knew we were starving. Cliff weighed only 90 pounds when recovered. Upon return to Texas, Kuykendall would often stare at

the ceiling at night and try to figure out how he survived so many brushes with death. He could never figure it out and "Why little ole me?" Never superstitious, he concluded: "To this very day, like I have told many people, I'm just lucky." Here is Cliff at the Tullibee Memorial in Ocean Springs in what had to be a very moving experience. How hard can this be? All of your shipmates gone in a matter of moments!



Cliff was discharged from the Navy in 1947, but stayed in the Army Reserve. He opted to go to Korea as an Infantryman and was badly wounded. In another fight, he received a battlefield commission as Captain. He was awarded the Silver Star, the POW Medal, and four Purple Hearts. Following his military service, he worked for the U.S. Civil Service in the intelligence arena. No details are available and would have been interesting. Cliff's story is very similar to that of Louis Zamperini in the 2014 movie *Unbroken*. He is in the process of relocating to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Our heroes just keep coming!

JOHN BORNOWSKI - TOP SECRET GUATEMALA

Before assignment to Sea Poacher as a TM1/TMCA/Ensign from 1954-57, John served on R-11 and Ling during WWII. After the 406, it was Amberjack, Sea Cat and Atule. He retired in 1964 after 22 years of service and entered early Eternal Patrol in Miami on 30 Dec 1971 at age 46. As an avid wrestler in a Kansas high school, he was later Vice President of the U.S. Wrestling Federation in Florida and a huge promoter of South Florida athletics. His son David in Wake Forest, NC provided us with over 100 photos and memorabilia but could relate only to a few asking for assistance. One item was a letter on 21 October 1955 from classic submariner Edward L. Beach, then the Naval Aide to President Dwight Eisenhower, highly recommending John for promotion to Warrant Officer, noting that his service left nothing to be desired and had the highest caliber of performance.



We tried to get information from his shipmates on several photos that follow, but obtained nothing except some great testimonials on John. Donald Wilkinson SN 1956 called him his "Sea Poacher Daddy." As a Seaman Apprentice in 1956, he had no idea what to strike for. SKI sold me on becoming a Torpedoman and I was in the FTR honeymoon rack. The Chief of the Boat, Ken Bonnell 1957-58, said the two of them used to go tarpon fishing at night in his 16-foot boat with an outboard motor. We never caught one, and if we would have, it would have been too dangerous to take it into the boat. We decided we would either tow it to shore or let it go. On his little boat it was ME and SKI. On the big 406 it was CHIEF and SIR. Ted Anthony SO 1955-57 recalled the day John made Ensign. Several of us in the Control Room asked him if we had to call him SIR from now on. I will never forget how much all us laughed on that. John was really a good person. And then Ben Sheldon EN 1956-58 chipped in saying he knew SKI well. He was respected by all and probably kept the FTR from being destroyed by his shipmates Cochrane, Calvert, Schmidt, Spivey, Pauline, and myself. Bill Buckley TM 1950-56 said he worked for John for nearly two years making TM1 during that time. While not close socially, because they lived miles apart, Bill remembered him coming in very grumbled one Monday morning. Where he lived in Miami, his home had one avocado tree which the neighbors picked leaving him with nothing every bloom. After a few years of this, John chopped down the tree. The neighbors went wild. Leo Carr EN 1949-51 also remembers John as a Torpedoman on both Ling and Sea Poacher but recalls no details. Bill Sharp SN 1957-58 said he was really a nice easy going guy. Finally, Tommy Thompson IC 1955-56 recalls John had an airplane that he flew from Miami and would stay aboard to help the non-qualified get their dolphins. He really knew submarines, was always glad to explain things and set you on the right path. He was a sailor's sailor and a pleasure to serve with. Like everyone else, Tommy was surprised to learn that John went on Eternal Patrol at such a young age from a heart attack. Now some mystery photos which most likely are 1954 and from the Bornowski files. The first with the Navy aircraft has a bunch of guys with the center bag labeled WGBS which was a NYC radio station owned by William Randolph Hearst. The center photos are of those guys who were apparently in charge of the operation and were taken aboard 406. Anyone have a story on this? My guess is that they have something to do with the Top Secret Mission offshore Guatemala. That should be CO David B. Maher in the center section? The photo on the right with John was seemingly taken in the Bahamas. Can anyone identify these people?



Presuming we are talking about Sea Poacher's Top Secret deployment offshore Guatemala, your Editor has collated the stories stemming from Don Schwartz TM54-55, Edwin Thompson EN53-55, and Glenn Trumble ET54-55 on it. Here we go. It was a quiet and peaceful sunny day in Key West on or about 20 May 1954. Most of the boats were in port with duty sections busy charging batteries, filling water tanks, jamming air, and refueling with 2/3 of the crews scattered over a wide area enjoying liberty, leisure, and the pursuit of happiness. Suddenly a courier from HQ rushed aboard Sea Poacher and demanded to see the Duty Officer immediately. We were told to get ready for a war patrol ASAP, and sealed orders were to follow. Provisions, fuel, water and ordnance (small arms including helmets) were to be loaded for a 90 day deployment. The entire crew was to be recalled post-haste. Some could not be located or contacted, so a recruitment effort was launched to bring aboard a full complement including borrowing ratings from the other boats. We suspected it was CIA related when we were ordered to paint over our numbers.

Within 24 hours and early morning, we were steaming down the channel with sealed orders embarking on a mission we knew not where nor for what purpose. There was some type of political uprising in Latin America and when Captain Maher opened the orders, we were to patrol the channel between western Cuba and the Yucatan to prevent any outside intervention into Guatemala. We were to challenge all marine traffic going in and out of the area to determine their identification, what cargo was being carried, and where they were bound. Support was also provided by two destroyer escorts at the north and south end of the channel. Aircraft were also involved. We flew no flag, and with no numbers we were a pirate ship. We showed no running lights at night. The spooks from Sea Poacher!

Some shrimp boats that we had stopped and cleared, sailed on to Tampa Bay and alerted the news media about being challenged by an unidentified submarine. So much for our Top Secret Mission. One German freighter became alarmed and rang up flank speed to run away only to be stopped by one of our DEs. The freighter had a legitimate destination bound for Texas. They also told tales about encountering an unidentified submarine. A few days later, a mail ship arrived and transferred some welcome correspondence from home. One wife sent a newspaper article showing Sea Poacher steaming down the channel and a full story about where we were and what we were doing.

For about six weeks, we stopped and questioned about 100 ships that appeared to be heading for Guatemala. Aircraft would spot them far out, and if they appeared to be heading that way, they would inform us, and we would track, stop, and question them looking for arms. Sea Poacher answered to no one. We had no idea what nation's flag the merchants would be using. Radio was not used with all stopping and questioning done by light using international code. There was a machine in the Radio Room hooked up directly to the CIA. We all wondered what would have happened had we come across a ship carrying arms. There is a story that one of the ships we were after, gave up trying to reach Guatemala and pulled into Key West while we were still on patrol. Upon our return to Key West, we were shown newspaper articles stating a Russian submarine had been terrorizing ships at sea.

In a recent telephone call from Don Schwartz to your Editor, Don (a lookout and mess cook during the operation) added that one night they picked up a merchant ship and flashed a light at it. A much brighter light was returned to Sea Poacher. It turned out to be one of our DEs who may have opened fire on us with its 5 inch gun forcing us to crash dive. They were also challenged by Mexican and Cuban aircraft. Don also commented that upon challenging a combined merchant/passenger ship, they began manning lifeboats until flashing light rectified the situation.

Ed Thompson provided an article on the mission *Navy Ships Tracking Red Arms Cargoes in Caribbean Area. The GILMORE Globe Newsletter, USS GILMORE, Submarine Tender, Key West, FL, Vol. IV, No. III, 1 July 1954*. So here's the story therein. Both the State and Navy Departments have confirmed reports that units of the U.S. Navy in the Caribbean are now maneuvering under special orders to "observe and report" questionable shipping in that area. The new order stems from the delivery of an arms shipment to Leftist-controlled Guatemala from behind the Iron Curtain. The reasons for the move are twofold: delivery of the arms to Guatemala and constant reports that other shipments are en route. "What this amounts to is that the Navy is keeping a sharp eye peeled," a State Department official said.

This was called Operation PBSUCCESS (Presidential Board Success), and was a CIA organized covert operation that did overthrow the democratically-elected President of Guatemala in 1954. The new government put forth a number of policies that the U.S. Intelligence Community deemed to be communist in nature, and, suspecting that the Soviet Union was pulling the strings, subsequently fueled a fear of Guatemala becoming a "Soviet Beachhead in the Western Hemisphere." Within the CIA and the Eisenhower Administration, this was a major concern that found no shortage of believers, given the intensely Anti-Communist McCarthyism prevalent at the time. The Operation, which was put into motion late in 1953 and concluded in 1954, planned to arm and train an ad-hoc "Liberation Army" of about 400 fighters under the command of an exiled Guatemalan army officer, and to use them in conjunction with a complex and largely experimental diplomatic, economic, and propaganda campaign. I guess it ended the way we desired.

ESCAPE TANK TRAINING 1945

We all did it, but for the most part it was from 50 feet. From that depth it was not all that easy. Some could not adjust to the pressure, and there were more than just a few broken ear drums. But we happily (?) did it.

However, it was even more difficult in World War II. John Bornowski and his shipmates had to do it from 100 feet. His 28 Sep 1945 Certificate from Neptunus Rex reads: "From this day forward be it known that he is a man of good lung, stout heart, and steady nerve. Be it known, too, that he is not one to flinch or waver when in deep water; nor does he wilt nor take on anything but resolute demean when under pressure. For, be it known on this date he did descend in his God-given nakedness to a depth of seventeen fathoms, did there acquaint and disport himself in boudoir with the sirens of the deep, and thence, by diligent use of line and lung, made good escape and did return from these stygian depths to the surface world from whence he sprung. Henceforth, he bears the mark of courage.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

MICHAEL J. HEBERLING, JR. MoMM2 1946-47. A WWII veteran, he also served on Stingray (SS-186), S-42, Cobbler (SS-344) and two submarine tenders. He entered Eternal Patrol on 6 Feb 2015 at Sequim, WA. No details.

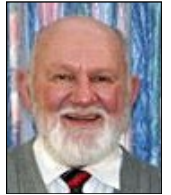
BILL DIGGS CRISMON, TM 1946-48. At age 89 departed for Eternal Patrol on 29 Dec 2014 in Aurora, Colorado. He is interred in Fort Logan National VA Cemetery in Denver, CO. Bill enlisted in 1943 and served on Sturgeon, Ling, and Sea Poacher, before leaving the service in 1948. No photo or other details could be found.

VICTOR J. OKERBLOM, QM 49. Entered Eternal Patrol on 21 July 2014 at age 92. He served 20 years in the Navy and made WWII patrols on Flounder and Nautilus. Victor then worked as a Technical Writer at Port Hueneme. As an active member of MENSA, he received a commendation from President Kennedy for his Article *What Can I Do For Freedom?* Victor is interred at Los Alamos National Cemetery.



HAROLD A. LAMBERT, YN 65. At age 71, Hal passed away on 13 December 2013 in Sayre, PA. Following Sea Poacher/Sea Cat, he worked in the Pentagon and then graduated from Rochester Business Institute. He owned hot dog stands, chocolate shops, and ice cream parlors, before becoming a Sales Executive for TV stations. Hal also served on school councils and boards, and was chosen as Business Person of the Year. Later he was involved in the adoption of over 80 Greyhound dogs.

LAWRENCE E. HANSBERRY, FT 66. Entered Eternal Patrol on 5 July 2013 in Portsmouth, NH at age 71. Following a 20 year career in submarines, he taught submariners of the Saudi Arabian Navy. This was followed by becoming a Department Head at Tidewater Technical Institute, and then returning to Kittery, Maine where he owned a computer business that including teaching software. He was active in the Congregational Church serving as a Deacon, committee chairs, and singing with the choir.

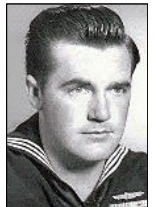


BUEL C. GRIFFIN, RM 61-63. Griff entered Eternal Patrol on 9 November 2012 at age 87 in Bella Vista, AR. He is interred at Martin Cemetery in Trenton, MO. No photo or other information could be found.



WILLIAM E. PRUITT, EM 60. At age 71, Bill passed away at Moncks Corner, SC in September 2012. Retiring as an EMC (SS), he would become the State Senior Vice Commander of the VFW, Commander of VFW Post 9509, District 1 Commander. He was also a member of USSVI, Fleet Reserve, and Military Order of the Cooties. As a real estate broker he loved his job as a repo man as stated in his obituary.

CHARLES JIM NEWMAN, QM 69. He passed away on 20 November 2012 at age 87 in Falls County, TX. After studies at Texas A&M, he volunteered for submarine duty and made three WWII patrols on Tilefish. After the War, he went back to Texas A&M and graduated. Jim became a teacher, general manager of a ranch, and a line driver for Central Freight with another retirement. He kept in close contact with his submariner shipmates. He is on Eternal Patrol in Mooreville Falls, TX.



EARL W. STARR, RM 51-54. The "Earl of Softball" went to play on God's Team on 5 March 2011 at age 80, leaving his wife of 51 years Rosemarie on third base. Following Sea Poacher, he graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. He then went to Prudential and retired after 28 years plus another 13 years with John Alden. Earl played and coached softball for 29 years. One of his dreams was to become a police officer which he also accomplished.

ROBERT L. BAKER, ET 60. We just learned of his passing on 6 Sep 2010 at age 74. He served 24 years and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He then spent 20 years with Nonpareil Corporation and retired in Arizona. He is on Eternal Patrol in Blackfoot, ID. No photos or other information could be found.

WALTER W. HURST, JR. FN 47-49. Walter entered Eternal Patrol on 31 May 2009 at age 80 in Baton Rouge, LA. He was a 50 year Master Mason of Baker Lodge 441 and the Scottish Rite. He had retired as an Electrician with Local Union 99 and was an active member of Riverside Baptist Church. Walter is interred at Resthaven Gardens.

SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION

Bill Brinkman, President and Publisher
4500 Tiffany Nicole Street
Round Rock, TX 78665-9466
seapoacher@austin.rr.com

NAVY SEALS AND SUBMARINERS-IT TELLS THE STORY

Democracy is like two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for dinner.
Liberty is a well-armed lamb who has contested the vote-Ben Franklin. From Jack Ensminger!

