

USS Sabalo (SS-302), Philadelphia, 1945

USSABALO.ORG

Call Sign: *Clever Boy*

USS Sabalo Association

Jan. 2011



### ● From the Tomato Basket:

Since I started the process of tracking down Sabalo vets some of you have had me on the phone for quite a while swapping stories. I never get enough of submarine tales. And I like to repeat a few myself. Some of the more memorable have been posted on our web site. I know there are thousands more out there; many involve episodes of danger and others complete frivolity on the 302.

We need more of these tales, not just for publication in our news letter for the Sabalo readership, but for posterity. Your editor and I will be glad to enjoy them in uncensored form, and if it's possible they'll be revised for public consumption.

Recently there was an exchange among a few men from the period 67-69 regarding the specific sonar configuration on board at the time, and as a result corrections have been made to info on the 'History' page on the web site. There is a lot more that is missing about movements, and configuration and equipment changes that occurred over her life. Maybe you can help by reviewing what pertains to your time on board and add something to the record. Every little bit helps to complete the Sabalo story.

Thanks to all of you who took the notice of Ron's email hack problem to send a line. I was surprised that a few would actually send money should it be a real emergency. One man suggested that the scam would have been almost totally believable if the scammer had used Olongapo as the location where Ron might be hung up. The suggestion was that I start taking names for men who would join a rescue party and fly there to get him out of trouble! With him as the first volunteer, and me as the second, I bet there's more who would go if they could. It wouldn't bring back the old times, but walking those streets again, one might hear the sounds of the past, and pick up the faint aroma of 'monkey meat' cooking on those sidewalk hibachis.

The transfer of data from my 3 x 5 card file into the Excel spreadsheet created by Ron is still underway. When I started, I didn't have all the software I do now, and so I used the old way. Translating all my scribbling has taken some time, but New Year's resolution is to have it all done by 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of 2011.

*Jeff Owens '67-69, Webmaster*



**Heard on the UQC:** Forgive my lapse in attempting to avoid politics, but I've felt compelled to include a couple of articles elsewhere in this issue about major changes to our [~~Brotherhood~~] [~~Fraternity~~] submarine service.

Most of us can remember the UCMJ poster above our after thunder-jug that contained the warning: "...penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete... offenses," Well shipmates, that stark warning we once laughed at will be truly laughable — because soon it will be applicable *only* to cigarettes—thanks to our well-meaning leaders in Washington who have now invited females to serve aboard Submarines, and since this is simply a matter of fairness, then DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) and LGBT (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Trans gendered) must be OK too. What absolutely blows my mind, is that in the future, people with the disgusting habit of smoking need not apply for the all-volunteer Silent Service.

Except for this little tantrum and the articles that caused it, I'll attempt to fill the rest of this issue with more enjoyable material and a few comments about English usage: e.g.: *Congress is investigating several alleged cases of Harassment and Hate Crimes said to be running rampant throughout the submarine community. It seems there are still some who persist in using offensive language like, "Blow the forward group," or referring to 'suction' in the Torpedo Room bilges; Nancy and Harry have pledged to apply appropriate pressure wherever needed. [Ed]*

**Non-qual, trying hard to learn to boat: "Why is the fastest hand on this clock called the second hand?"**

## Thank You! To our Clever Boy Publication Donors:

The remaining cash will be adequate for the balance of 2011

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**OK hotshot: If the TBT was on the bridge and the TDC was in the conning tower, where was the TBL?**  
Answer below

### Mail Call:

- 12 Oct 2010 Roy Owens recently heard from from Terry Heisterman "We left Beaumont, Texas in June and are presently in Calgary, Canada. [My job with Fluor has me] assigned to some oil sands work a couple of hours above Fort McMurray. Jani and I reside in Calgary for now, and I will be through with the project by Spring of 2011."
- 27 Oct 2010 From Dave Brower, RM2(SS) aboard Oct68-Dec70 "Hi Jeff, A personal invitation for you to check out my recent blog, where you'll see some amazing beauty of Colorado that my friend Allan and I found on a recent motorcycle trip ...in our backyard. <http://www.PoppaUnplugged.com> Have fun and I hope you'll subscribe to my weekly blog so you don't miss a thing along the way." David Brower , Voice Actor/Audio Producer
- 7 Dec 2010 Dave Follo [TMC(SS) aboard Oct68-Jun69]; now living in Kapolei, HI] reports running into former CO (abd Jun68-Jun69), John P. Woods at the gym a couple times a week.
- From: Dick Everly Sat, 28 Aug 2010 My new e-mail is sanibelone@centurylink.net. I'm in a Senior Home now with 2 cancers. Taking chemo weekly. Thanks, Vernon R. Everly
- Hey Mate, 10/8/10 Just got through reading every word. Thanks for a trip down memory lane. My adventures on Sabalo as an 18 yr old fast running, loose living boat sailor will always be with me. Thanks for a chance to refresh some of those days in my minds hard drive. Keep up the good work, it is appreciated! John Woods ENCM (SS) Ret.
- Wow, what a great newsletter! How much of a bio do you have on me? If you have a form to fill out send it. I was on Sabalo (302) from April '55 to September '58. Did several unique things - like escape from boat at 175 feet depth with no breathing apparatus, just an uninflated life vest (for use on surface) , and my bathing suit. I would volunteer for anything. Never did mess cook, tho. Had just qualified for QM2 when I got off Sabalo, but never put it on. Got out, tried college again and finally came back in as a NAVCAD. Did not like being a pilot so went back thru training to become an ASW Tacco and flew ASW missions for the next 18 years with a two year break in Viet Nam (67-69). Retired 1978 from Pt Mugu, CA as LCDR (good enuf for gov. work). We will keep in touch. How about a list of Sub Vets Near ZIP 85704. Cliff Franks,,BA, MA, D.Div.
- On TV here in N.E. Penna. I saw a commercial for "1<sup>st</sup> American Law Center", and the spokesman, although he was only on screen for a few seconds appeared familiar. Via e-mail I asked Brian Collins (aka LT Brian Baumruk aboard 66-69) if it was him, and he verified that he is still doing TV work along with other work which is listed on his web site, OVATION.TV (rptd by J. Owens)
- Coincidence? (Your last issue about stand BDW):: Roy was recently asking me for info about paralleling two generators for use in elk camp (rifle season hunt with Mick Ray TM and others next week). They want to be able to use a microwave oven. Wow, that's roughing it?!! Anyway, I delved deep into the memory banks of available knowledge on the subject and related how we knew that from quals and standing below decks watch, 'you know those panels in control room with the synchronizer lights, etc. the response was silence, and then dah, no'. Anyway the idea was abandoned upon further research into the technical aspects. There's a copy of the quals manual/ sub school book online ... Jeff

### What have we learned in 2,064 years

**"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public**

**TBL??** It was the big transmitter in the Radio Room, the TBL-12., An LF/HF radio made by Westinghouse before the days of miniaturization. It weighed 804 lbs. pic at: <http://www.maritime.org/tour/radio.php?pano=fl>) Jim Gellert RM3(SS) aboard Sabalo in '62 ["Large phenolic coils inside the TBL just happened to be wine bottle size, but were *never* used as a hiding place because of the DANGER HIGH VOLTAGE sign!" —vouched for by an experienced RM]

**LIFE ISN'T ABOUT WAITING FOR THE STORM TO PASS. IT'S ABOUT LEARNING TO DANCE IN THE RAIN.**

**For the Really Adventurous:** The next International Submariners Association (ISA) annual Conference will be held 23-27 May, 2011 (Mon-Fri) in Istanbul, Turkey: (I paid \$20 for Life Membership) *“The Turkish Submariners Association extends an invitation to our fellow Submariners and their guests from all around the world to attend the 48th International Submariners Congress in May 2011. It is our honour to share with you that in 2011, Turkish Submariners will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Submarine Service. You are most welcome to join the congress and explore this marvelous city, blessed with natural beauty, cross cultural prosperity and historical legacy of thousands of years’ history. More info at: isausa.org*

***WOMEN WILL NEVER BE EQUAL TO MEN TILL THEY CAN WALK DOWN THE STREET  
WITH A BALD HEAD AND A BEER GUT AND STILL THINK THEY'RE SEXY.***



### **The World's a-changin'**

*Editorial opinion of a sad Catholic Diesel Submarine Vet and a warning that ladies and children might wish to skip this and the two related articles following.* RonG I've been a Catholic since birth but when I was in the second grade, I spent about a week with horrible nightmares because I'd fallen in love with a seven-year-old Protestant girl — the penalty? Burning in eternal Hell! I eventually got over it and since I pretty much agreed with most Christians about things like lying, murder and bearing false witness, I've stuck it out with them.

Recently, when I heard Secretary Gates/Admiral Mullen testifying in front of Congress, stating the opposite of what I'd been reading about several military personnel polls rejecting repeal of DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell), I wondered what could have been inside their minds...were they lying, dim-witted, power hungry?

I was truly amazed at how easy it is to lie to us Americans these days, until I remembered many years ago when the *infallible* Catholic Church simultaneously solved recruiting problems and made a giant step toward Political Correctness: they decided that not having sex with another man was the same as not having sex with a woman, so a Priest's vows of chastity seemed to cover both restrictions. Perhaps it was just coincidence, but in the next few years, the Church almost went bankrupt fighting thousands of child molestation charges. Déjà vu! Will the Silent Service take as many years to recover from well-intentioned stupidity?

Imagine the effect on morale and productivity when Joe Smith (I almost wrote *Joe Blow*) has been submerged for a month hot-bunking with a lesbian who salivates and grunts louder than he does when the female ensign with the D-Cups is singing in the shower. It's a new world out there shipmates!

Take it a step further: suppose the ships sailing list consists 10% female, 90% male, including the following eight crew members, who either feel threatened or protected by repeal of DADT.

- Bruce Johnson, Homophobe, Engineman 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Male
- Jonah Blessing, Devout Christian, IC Electrician 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Male
- Billy Joe Washington, Constitutional Conservative, ETCM(SS), Male
- Bashfulla Hussain, Devout Muslim, Electronics Technician (Nav) 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Male
- Cydney Chomps, Transvestite, Electrician's Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Legally female
- Ronny Romper, Lesbian, Electronics Technician (Nav) 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Female
- Rich Smith, Homosexual, Hospital Corpsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Male
- Gaylord Peters, Bisexual, LtJg, USNA, Male

Congress hasn't a clue. Neither do I—but I'd love to watch if it weren't for the fact than my shipmates will be the sacrificial lab rats as National Defense is decimated in the name of Political Correctness. [Ed]

***"When I joined the military it was illegal to be homosexual, then it became optional.  
I'm getting out before Obama makes it mandatory." GySgt Harry Berres, USMC***

This year, both Groundhog Day and the State of the Union address occur on the same day. As the Associated Press has pointed out, "It is an ironic juxtaposition of events: one involves a meaningless ritual in which we look to a creature of little intelligence for prognostication while the other involves a groundhog.

## Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

problems with members of the Afghan security forces ...from Sara Carter, *Washington Examiner*:

In late 2009, U.S. and British forces ordered a study of Pashtun male sexuality... worried that homosexuality and pedophilia among Afghan security forces and tribes could create cultural misunderstanding with allied troops....

The study... described unease by U.S. Marines and British soldiers who felt they were being propositioned, or who were outraged by apparent acts of pedophilia by Afghan soldiers and police... 12 of 20 Pashtun interpreters ... had contracted gonorrhea from homosexual encounters.

"... Marines and soldiers ... have refused to work with Afghan military or police," said an anonymous military official, "It's not about homosexuality as much as it is about the young boys.. Some of the Afghans have their own young boys they use for sexual purposes ...creating a cycle damaging to boys and young men:

Pashtun boys face a ... experiences that mold their beliefs regarding sexuality as adults ... underpinnings of Afghan culture itself." Afghan women ... have complained about beatings ... from the inability ... to become pregnant and produce sons, highly valued in Afghan society.

...virtually all of the younger men who beat their wives (over their inability to become pregnant) had been ... "apprentices" of older Afghan men, who used them for their sexual pleasure. Upon ... marriage, whatever the men knew of sex had been learned during their "apprenticeship," ... the younger Afghans were **unfamiliar with the required mechanics for conception**.

... It may be the only time in the history of warfare that an army has been required to explain sex to the native population ....

While no one in Kabul (or the Pentagon) will admit it, the recent repeal of DADT may complicate the "sex ed" mission in Afghanistan. From the western perspective, there is a difference between relations among consenting, adult members of the same military, and young boys being traded into sexual bondage with older men. But the Afghans don't see it that way--and that may lead to problems down the road.

... the Pashtuns will accuse the U.S. of hypocrisy. Once they learn that "DADT" is gone, the Afghans will ask us: "Why do you discourage us from activity you condone?" ...

Obviously, Congress wasn't thinking about the Pashtun situation when it rescinded DADT in our military. But in our rush to grant equal rights to a very small minority, our elected leaders inadvertently created more problems on the battlefield. Go figure.

## Devil in the Details of DADT's Repeal Patrick Bady | December 27, 2010

With a stroke of the President's pen -- and after much wrangling on and around Capitol Hill -- "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" has been repealed. Now what?

Some say a retired military guy criticizing the military is like being a fox in the chicken coop. Retired military folks were never foxes in the coop but we do know the coop. Right now the coop keeper is a fox -- Robert Gates; perhaps wolf is more aphorismic. There has never been a coop keeper like this man. Before this fox is done he will have done more damage to the coop than any Secretary of Defense in history. He and Robert McNamara stand side by side in the gallery of military infamy.

Let's look at one of his multiple fiascoes, the repeal of military law prohibiting homosexual conduct in the military and the formation of a quad sexual force. (Although I heard rumors that bisexuals and transgenders will not be allowed to join, which is insane since what they do sexually is no different than gays or lesbians).

Gates was a holdover from President Bush not only to support a new president sadly clueless militarily (confuses Corps with corpse and fails to salute the first new living Medal of Honor recipient since Vietnam ), but to help the president keep faith with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

One of his first acts was to fire a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs general Peter Pace who, in support of the law, opposed legalizing homosexual conduct in military barracks, foxholes and communities. Gates then hired a fellow homophile, Admiral Mike Mullen who admitted knowingly flouting military law by ignoring the presence of illegal homosexuals. What if an emergency arose and blood was needed. I wonder if Mullen would accept a

combat blood transfusion from one of his homosexual friends -- or allow it for a fellow sailor?

But Mullen Gates and Obama could not quad sexualize the military alone. They required a complicit media. If you ask any American if Homosexuals can serve in the military they will say yes but not openly. That is a lie. Until the law and the uniform Code of Military Justice are changed, Homosexuals cannot serve legally -- period. Yet virtually every media outlet says homosexuals will now be allowed to "openly serve."

President Clinton, after he was rebuked in his effort to change the military law prohibiting homosexual conduct, took the question on homosexuality out of the recruiting questionnaire thus propagandized the great media lie "don't ask, don't tell," which promotes dishonesty and confuses the issue. The 1993 veto proof law, passed by congress after Clinton's efforts, and after 12 legislative hearing and numerous field trips, declared homosexual conduct incompatible with military service. How could the military discharge someone who served legally even if surreptitiously?

Dishonesty marked Pfc. Bradley Manning's service. He is allegedly the source of the WikiLeaks scandal that has endangered lives and damaged national security and international relationships. Manning is a homosexual. Manning's homosexuality may have nothing to do with his alleged traitorous acts but his character does. Manning broke the law and lied to enlist and in so doing compromised his integrity. Dishonest people, people without integrity, become traitors.

The recently released Pentagon study on ending the ban on military service for LGBTs is also a fraud. Only the results favoring



a quad sexual military were emphasized. Coverage of numerous military studies with the opposite result were mostly ignored. Where was it reported that 1167 retired general and flag officers support the ban on homosexuals as do some current Chiefs of services especially the Marine commandant? Why weren't the headline that the vast majority of our combat troops and Marines oppose a quad sexual military? The Marines may have been the most honest of all those surveyed because they knew their commandant had their back.

Let's see if we can put this study in perspective. The commander, President Obama, gives the order to take the hill. Now, he has in place a sergeant major who favors the attack, i.e. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and a first sergeant i.e. Joint Chiefs Chairman, Mike Mullen, who does also. But the sergeant major decides that we should first poll the troops. Does anyone believe the troops will refuse to take the hill? The study presented those polled with a fait accompli, not if but how. Amazingly, they never asked those polled if they actually favored repeal! Why? They said they didn't want the troops voting on policy. Excuse me. The whole purpose of the poll was to support a vote on policy subsequently jammed through Congress.

As a further tribute to the bias of this study, before it was released, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, The Army's personnel guru, in a bigoted statement, said Soldiers who morally oppose sodomy were bigots and if they oppose the new policy either get with it or get out. Mullen has said essentially the same thing. So much for careers.

Few Americans object to working with LGBT folks – an emphasis of the study, but most do not want to live with them. Forced intimacy is not an American favorite as we see in the outrage over pat downs in air ports. Intimacy is common, indeed, necessary in the military. Who wants to share showers, bathrooms and sleeping areas with those who see them as sexual objects (71 percent in the study oppose open showers)? Unbelievably, it has been reported that privacy concerns will be ignored. Rather than asking if our troops were biased against LGBTs in the workplace, they should have asked questions concerning forced intimacy, forced morality and the LGBT medical readiness issues.

Military communities are different. Try searching someone who enters a gated civilian community if you doubt that. Is the military OK with LGBT clubs on posts and near posts; and same sex couples in military housing? Do military families agree to their children being taught the goodness of same sex in on-post schools? Are they OK with forced morality at

church? Imagine a gay pride parade at your post. I have seen them in San Francisco; no child should be exposed to one.

Many Americans may be OK with the civilian chain of command dancing together, i.e., Gates and Obama, but many Soldiers will have a problem if their commander is seen romancing another male at the O'Club.

Did they not know that once we legalize Sodomy in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (and this will have to be done to legalize a quad sexual service) we will have to do the same with Adultery? We know the evils of power in sex and military rank is power. Sexual harassment and fraternization, morale killers in a military unit, will not be definable.

Most egregiously, the military will have to be retrained – and re-moralized -- before implementation since there will be zero tolerance for opposition to homosexual conduct. What does that mean? Soldiers will have to abandon their belief system? Are they serious? How do you re moralize Chaplains? Think draft.

We don't allow obese people to serve. Not because they are not patriotic and could not do a good job, but for health reason. Multiple studies document significant, and costly, health disparities in rates of disease and mental health among sexual minorities resulting in loss of productivity (sickness), reduced life span, attempted suicide and substance abuse.

When will some brave media person headline the tragic health disparities in the LGBT community? An active homosexual cannot give blood. Soldiers are walking blood banks, vital in combat. Who would knowingly receive a transfusion from a homosexual? How can we put a person who cannot give blood on the battlefield? Women traditionally have not been allowed in direct combat. We may not even be able to deploy LGBTs to combat.

Nothing in the study cited benefits to readiness (24 percent in the study would leave or consider leaving); and, astonishingly, the logistics of implementation were ignored. The military has a saying: Amateurs talk tactics, professionals talk logistics.

Consider just the logistics of privacy. Several American universities added special toilet units for transgendered people with privacy concerns costing \$2,500 each at one university. Extrapolate this cost to all the posts camps and stations of our military, the ships at sea and under the sea. Then add similar facilities for lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Considering the past price of military toilet seats, the cost could be a show stopper.

Amateurs did this study.

**Beer:: Helping ugly people have sex since 3000 B.C.! W.C. Fields**

## **NTINS: The Men With the Pin** by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong



They returned ... Thousands of them... No, they numbered in the hundreds of thousands... Faces weather beaten, tanned... Smiling as they stepped down from trains all over America. Smiling that smile, universally recognized as that 'Damn!! It's great to be home!' smile.

They were home again... Those that were left. The survivors of a generation who left their homes and families to undertake the obligation of freedom-loving men to go into combat and ultimately defeat

some of the most vile proponents of evil. They wore the story of their deeds and where they had been in rows of multi-colored, mute reminders above their pockets. What they had seen... What they had done and the personal losses they had suffered, would forever be in their minds when they looked up at their national colors floating gently in the breeze.

They are rapidly passing into the cold pages of history. The

awesome respect in which they were held a half-century ago has given way to the gentle view point of the Monday Morning Quarterbacking of those who have grown up in a world of safety and extravagance... Of promiscuity and excess made possible because of *their* self-sacrifice.

Soon it will be impossible to find a combat pilot who stared at oncoming aircraft through a rotating propeller blade... A sailor who passed 40 mm shells to a loader in a battleship gun tub... A soldier who carried rifle ammo in eight round clips and ate crap that resembled dog food out of an olive drab can... In a Dutch ditch... In the rain.

Men who fought wars that lasted years, rather than days and ended with a clear-cut result. For those of us who rode boats that went below the surface, there were men who rode our boats when the close aboard sound of fifty pounds of TNT detonating would be clearly heard through several inches of steel. That 'steel' was U.S. built pressure hull and audible public prayer could be heard in every compartment. And when it was over, hardened men could hug each other, secure in the knowledge that no one would feel that they might be gender-confused.

These same men knew the sound of torpedo hits and the telltale sound of the result of such hits as the bulkheads of an enemy target collapsed while the enemy vessel made it's way to the bottom. Pressure-folding steel is a sound most of us will never hear, thanks to what these men did.

They had executed their war way beyond the established battle lines... Deep within the home waters of the Jap Empire. At a time when the Jap emperor and his militaristic toadies were assuring their easily duped people that they were secure, the people of Japan witnessed their merchant ships burning all along their coastal horizons. Ships, whose burning hulks were disappearing nightly, compliments of our *Undersea Warriors*.

So they returned ... What was left of them. They crossed the brow of boats that wore freshly painted enemy flags... Flags that chronicled their kills... A silent statement of their contribution to our victorious effort in the Pacific. It may have been a *Silent Service*, but little Jap flags painted on the sides of conning towers made it clear that the presence of our submarine force had been felt.

And above the jumper pockets of the men crossing to the pier, could be found the sterling silver representation of a submarine. The pin itself and each star worn below it, represented a war patrol which resulted in excess of ten thousand tons of enemy shipping sent to the bottom. The man or men who wrote the requirements for the awarding of that insignia wrote those requirements in such rigid and specific terms that the pin has never been watered down and reduced to the

'Crackerjack' prize that so many other military badges have become.

Today, the U.S. Submarine Combat Patrol Pin remains a symbol of men who have gone to sea and have drawn blood in defense of their country and way of life at the risk of their personal safety... If not the sacrifice of their futures.

Someday, the powers that decide such things, will come to their senses and will stop naming our submarines after geographical locations and hack politicians and start naming our undersea warships after the heroes who wore *'The Pin'*. Why they feel compelled to look elsewhere when we have such towering heroes of our own makes no sense to this old E-3. They named a whole *class* of tin cans after Admiral Arliegh Burke, proving that they can do it right... times.

But, the men who parked torpedoes in the sides of so many enemy ships, held no inflated sense of their own importance. When you try to thank the old meat-eaters, they always reply with,

"Hell, I was young, scared and just doing my job."

Volunteering for submarine duty in wartime has never been routinely expected of U.S. Sailors. Volunteering has never been an exercise in goat-roping the timid and reluctant. The Draft Board never forced any citizen to fill the ranks of the Submarine Service. Any man, who found wartime employment inside a pressure hull, was there because he put himself there.

"Just doing my job."

Right!

Who in their right mind would choose a line of work that included sitting, sweat-soaked in darkness, 400 feet below fresh air and sunshine listening to canisters of high explosive detonate and shatter gauge faces and incandescent bulbs?

No, can't buy, "Just doing my job."

To buy that, would mean that our Submarine Force was comprised of the world's largest collection of complete raving lunatics. The last idiot who called a World War II submariner a complete lunatic is still trying to get used to his new glass eye, figuring out how to talk with his new teeth and walk upright.

They are ours... They handed us an unblemished record of service *'faithfully performed'*... A gallant record of deeds performed by incredibly brave and dedicated men.

*Their ranks thin daily. We do not have a lot of time left to buy them a beer... Listen to their amazing stories and thank them for what they gave us and left in the pages of the history of The United States Navy.*

## Eternal Patrol

† 9 Nov 2010 from Glenn Hydock: "My father was Robert James Hydock ICFN. I believe he was on her from 57 to middle of 59 his next ship was USS Grayback 574 as a main controllerman. Sadly he passed away of a heart attack on April 25, 1986 in Watertown, NY. I found this site for the Sabalo and wanted to have you update his info. I don't know his nicknames as he spent longer tours on the Grayback and USS Redfin 272. He was on the Redfin when they had to look for the Thresher. Just wanted to let you know as I see that an active search was indicated on the Roster. He retired from the Navy as a Petty Officer First Class in 1967-68. (He actually had passed the qualification for Chief six months prior, but his CO would not approve unless re-enlisted for another tour, something he was not willing to do as my three older brothers were still young and he wanted to see his kids grow up.)"

† AUGUSTA, Ga. - John William Clemenger, 73, retired Naval Officer, died Nov. 6 [2010] after a brief illness. Clemenger joined the Navy as a Seaman at 17 and served on destroyers and submarines before retiring as a Naval Commander in 1988. His career included service on submarines the USS Blenny, USS Sabalo, USS Gudgeon, USS Cod, and USS Henry L. Stimson. He served as Commanding Officer of the USS Oak Ridge, Chief of Staff of Submarine Squadron 16, and as U.S. Navy submarine attaché to the British Royal Navy. After retiring from the Navy, Clemenger was active as a grandfather and volunteered in support of several causes. In addition to his wife, Martha, he is survived by his son, two daughters, and four grandsons. He is also survived by his brother and two sisters. A memorial

Mass was held in the chapel at Eisenhower Army Medical Center on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

† Adams, Donald Lee, CDR (Sabalo XO Apr-Aug/46) d. 1 Jul 2007

† [From Capt. Denver McCune]- Remember QM1 Lester Joslin? [Sabalo '58-60] Sabalo was on special ops "Up North" one afternoon in mid-1958 and I was OOD and Les was the QM on watch. We were shooting BS in the conning tower (as usual) and we amazingly discovered that back in 1940, 18 years previously, I had ripped all the strings out of his guitar, trying to play the darned thing! He then walloped the devil out of me. Yep, it's true! We discovered that his dad was the brother of my grandfather in Eugene, Or. I was 12 years old at the time, and both Les and I were visiting my grandfather with our parents. Les had later enlisted for WWII and spent the war on a battleship and then moved to submarines. He later retired as a Chief Petty Officer in New London, Ct. and moved to Nebraska, where he had a second career as a Correction Officer in the state prison. "Cousin Joz" passed away [in 2007] in Florida. R.I.P. Oh, yes, I never did learn to play a guitar!

† "Jeff: Place Dave Scott on your list of deceased shipmates. Scotty passed away on Oct 7th. Don"

Jeff's response: On my list of Sabalo things to do there has been a long lingering item. I'll try to make the story short. Dave, in his retired years, picked up a sideline, whether it was a hobby, or a profitable deal, I don't know. But he had a machine to make custom pin-on buttons. He first made a batch for the 2003 reunion in Reno, and then for the 2005 get together in St Louis. Both times, I told him numerous times that funds from the reunion would have built-in charges to pay him but he wouldn't take any money (and paid shipping) from his Sabalo shipmates.

He seemed to be getting very forgetful as time passed. Everything was fine in 2003, but in 2005 they arrived late and I had to send them out post-reunion to the attendees. In 2007 in San Diego, he again volunteered to make the buttons, and was going to attend, but, neither he nor the buttons showed. Again in 2009, he spoke up without me asking to make the buttons. This time I thought that I would repeatedly remind him of the upcoming dates and sent him first a preliminary list, a final list, and numerous phone updates, and related the details and dates, etc. Since, in 2009 I would be elk hunting immediately prior to our get together and out of touch for about two weeks prior, I gave Dave explicit instructions on who to ship the buttons to, and when they needed to arrive. No buttons were on hand and on the last day of our reunion he called my home and left a message with my wife that the buttons were ready—what should he do with them?

Not wanting to embarrass Dave, or make him feel bad about missing the dates, especially since he had again refused to accept payment, I procrastinated on calling him to see what happened.

This weekend our subvets base hosted the meeting for the District 3, Eastern Region. One of the topics was awarding Holland Club certificates. Some bases have a big ceremony, maybe twice a year, and make a really big deal of it. However, the majority opinion was that these things should be immediately given to the man in as formal a way as immediately as possible, and if more ceremony is desired, then make a second recognition at that time.

Now you might ask how does this relate to Dave? Well, in the first USSVI base I belonged to, we had a man who was far overdue for his Holland Club. He was a Sabalo sailor from 1945, Ezra Swartz. I was a newcomer to USSVI then, and not in any office of

the base, but I could see that recognizing this man expediently was important. Ezra was hospitalized in the VA Veterans Home here in Scranton. He was mostly paralyzed from a stroke and had been that way for about seven years.

While the powers that be wrangled over just when to hold a big deal at his bedside, with the coordination of base members and Ezra's relatives not meshing, the event never had a firm date. In the meantime, I decided to visit him as fellow Sabalo vet. I took one of the two extra Sabalo ship's patches I had, and spent a couple hours with him. One of the staff got a push pin and put the patch up on his small bulletin board. He seemed proud that he now had something to show off his submarine days. He had nothing else hanging there that even identified what branch of service he'd served in.

Ezra made one request. Could I possibly locate a patch for him for his other boat, probably his real love, the boat that carried him through WWII and numerous depth charge attacks, USS Whale (SS-239). Because of his wartime experience he was sent to 'new construction', the Sabalo, just prior to war's end. The Whale had been decommissioned in 1957 and I had no luck in finding a patch for him. What I did do was copy all of what I could find on the Internet about the Whale, including a number of photos. One of which was of a mascot dog they had aboard. I returned to visit one more time with my collection of Whale info and a picture of Sabalo, and we had another nice visit of a couple hours. He was especially happy to see that picture of the dog which had been out of his memory for 55 years, and related that the most senior chief aboard took custody of him once they got home because Navy regs didn't allow mascots like that on board.

Ezra never did get to see his Holland Club awards, and I never saw him again after that second visit. Indecision had cost him the chance to have a few more moments of pride in his service. I had only been a member of USSVI six months at that time when he passed away in August 2001, and began to wonder about the value of the organization. As a new member I didn't have any real appreciation for the significance of Holland Club either at that point.

I made a vow then that I would never delay recognizing someone right away again. Crusty old submariners, who have passed that 50 year point of qualifying, have a way of slipping their moorings before one even thinks it possible.

I didn't bring up this episode at our district meeting as a prime example of why it's important to act promptly with any matter amongst the majority of us smoke boat relics, but I did raise my voice with those in favor of "Getting with the program—now!"

I relate this all to you out of my guilt in not checking back with Scotty about his problem problem and his health. I know he suffered a big trauma a couple years ago when his house burned and he lost a lot of his life's accumulations. I think his button machine was somehow one of the survivors. I guess it will have to be just another reminder to adhere to the old adage, "don't put off until tomorrow, what you can do today".

Thanks for your indulgence, and thanks for serving,  
Your shipmate, Jeff

† At the time of his death on Jan 2nd, 2011, R.G. Holden of Sturgeon Base was the senior USSVI member qualified in submarines (1930) and one of only 22 remaining in USSVI who qualified in the 1930s. He served aboard USS R-13(SS-90) from 1929 thru 1932.

Today, the most senior USSVI shipmate is Frank S Kimball, CDR (Ret) of Hawkbill base, who qualified in submarines aboard USS S-33 (SS 138) in 1932. Tied for second place are Thomas G Rice LCDR (Ret) of Seattle Base, who qualified in submarines aboard USS S-23 (SS-128) in 1935 and Charlie T Odom of Smoky Mountain Base and the Sabalo Association, who also qualified in submarines that year aboard USS S-1 (SS-105).

## It's Not Just a Job

When a Veteran leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and others, who may have already retired, wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.

We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was, and in his heart, still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see, or choose to ignore, and will always look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty. So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

## And, you can always depend on a submariner

When you are looking sad,  
I will help you to get drunk and plot revenge  
On the sorry bastard who made you mad.

When you are feeling blue  
I will throw you down and try to dislodge  
Whatever it is that's choking you.

When you smile, I will know that you are happy,  
You can count on me to remind you  
That even little girls don't act that sappy.

When you are scared and distraught,  
I will rag on you every chance I get,  
Until you're NOT.

When you are worried, I'll be outlining  
How much worse it could be—  
Until you quit whining.

When you are confused I will try  
To use only little words,  
You poor simple guy

When you are sick, stay the hell away from me  
'till the germs in you have decided to flee.

When you fall, I'll laugh at your clumsy ass,  
but I'll help you up, just as if I had class.

Now keep this straight,  
You're cool and suave you may think,  
But you've been my shipmate,  
Since the days when you really did stink.

You're not a debonair friend,  
Tho' others' minds you might bend,  
But whatever they may think,  
I know you were born as a dink.

This is my oath .... I pledge it to the end.  
'Why?' you may ask;  
Because you wear dolphins, my friend.

Friendship is like peeing your pants,  
everyone can see it, but only you  
can feel the true warmth.

[stolen and then edited by RonG]



## Submarines Outsmart Somali Pirates by [James Dunnigan](#) July 12, 2010

When the Netherlands recently announced that it was sending one of its Walrus class submarines for the anti-piracy patrol off Somalia, many people found this puzzling. But the Dutch subs have a well deserved reputation for their ability to secretly collect information at sea using subs. Most recently it has done this off Iraq, Bosnia and in the Caribbean. The special ingredient here is stealth. Entering service in the early 1990s, the Walrus subs can spend 46 days, moving at 16 kilometers an hour, at periscope depth (with only a small air intake/exhaust snorkel above the surface). A submarine can watch portions of the Somali coast, without the pirates knowing they are being observed. This makes it easier to detect new tactics by the pirates, and counter these moves more quickly.

## Kodachrome .... [and Quartermasters, are now History] By A. G. SULZBERGER Dec 29, 2010

PARSONS, Kan. — An unlikely pilgrimage is under way to Dwayne's Photo, a small family business that has through luck and persistence become the last processor in the world of Kodachrome, the first successful color film and still the most beloved.

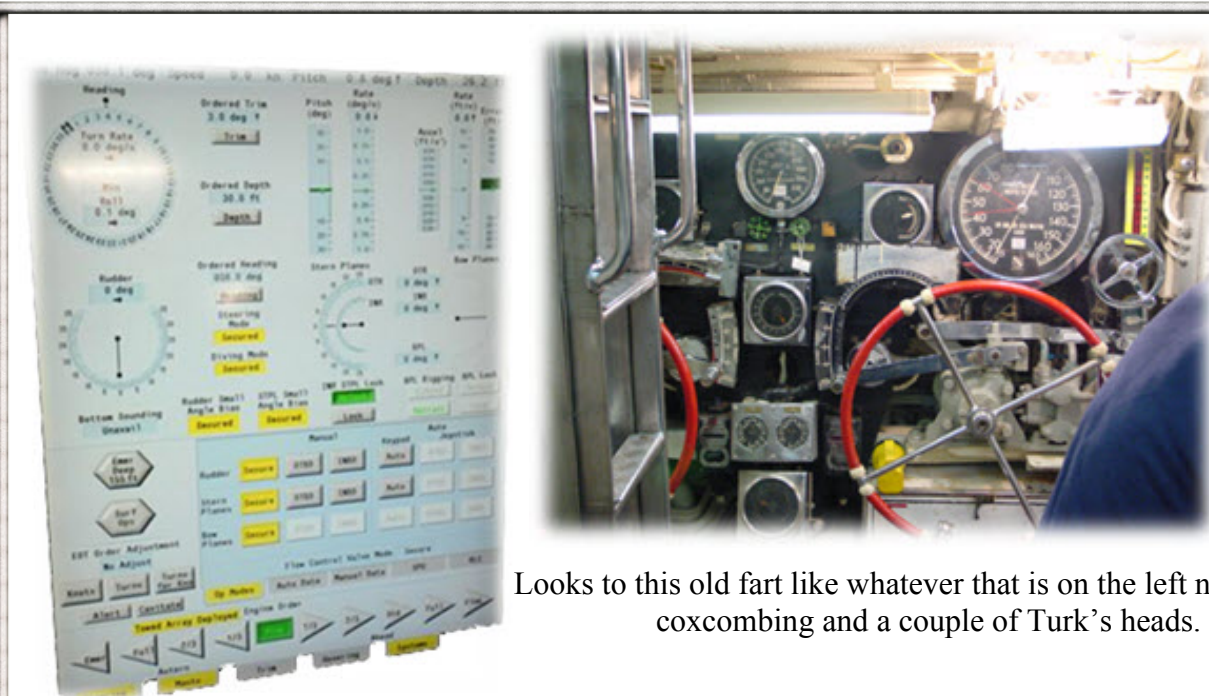
Kodak stopped making Kodachrome film in 2009.

Dwayne's Photo will be processing the final rolls of it Thursday [12/30/2010]. That ...75-year run ... is scheduled to come to an end ... when the last processing machine is shut down ...sold for scrap.

Kodachrome: 1935-2010 [Quartermasters did a little bit better]

This is Lewis "Carl" Smith on Sabalo's 5"25 gun ca1951-52. This and all remaining guns on Sabalo were removed during the snorkel installation at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard during 1952.

From Wikipedia: 5"/25 guns removed from pre-war battleships (especially those rebuilt after Pearl Harbor) had their barrel linings chromed. These guns then began being mounted on submarines in late 1943 for extra firepower against small boats and sampans often encountered off the coast of Japan. The Mark 17 gun in the Mark 40 submarine gun mount used semi-fixed ammunition (case and projectile handled separately) and had a range of 14,500 yards (13,260 m) at the maximum elevation of 40 degrees.



Looks to this old fart like whatever that is on the left needs some coxcombing and a couple of Turk's heads.

Hold your bubble, hell ! I can't even find it!

### Statistically Speaking

In WWII, Japan 's highest ranking naval officer was Isoroku Yamamoto. Although he was Japanese, and his loyalties were unquestionably with The Empire, he studied for many years in America, graduating from Harvard University. There is an oft-repeated (and sometimes disputed) quote attributed to him regarding the possibility of any nation taking a war to American soil: "You cannot invade the mainland United States . There would be a rifle behind every blade of grass."

Here is why he was correct: America 's Hunters. The World's Largest Army.

The state of Wisconsin has gone an entire deer hunting season without someone getting killed. That's great, considering there were over 600,000 hunters that got permits this year. Allow me to restate that number.

Over the last two months, the eighth largest army in the world - more men under arms than Iran; more than France and Germany combined - deployed to the woods of a single American state to keep the deer population under control. But that pales in comparison to the 750,000 who are in the woods of Pennsylvania this week. Michigan 's 700,000 hunters have now returned home. Toss in a quarter million hunters in West Virginia , and it is literally the case that the hunters of those four states alone would comprise the largest army in the world. And that is just FOUR states. The total population of registered hunters in America today ranges from 23 million to 43.7 million individuals. (Based on annual data provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

As long as the American Hunter retains his right to Bear Arms, America will forever be safe from foreign invasion of troops Hunting - it's not just a way to fill the freezer. It's a matter of national security.

#### Year to date statistics on Airport screening from the Department of Homeland Security:

Breast Implants	59,301
Enlarged Prostates	8,249
Hemorrhoid Cases	3,172
Hernia's	1,485
Transvestites	133
Natural Blondes	3
Terrorist Plots Discovered	0



Escape tank, New London

#### Submariner, USN, Ret.



### Escaping a Submarine

NEW LONDON, Conn. (Ivanhoe Newswire)Reported August 2010 -- Escaping from a Navy jet is easy -- just pull the eject lever. But when you're in a submarine, more than 800 feet below the ocean's surface in frigid water, it makes escaping a lot more difficult. Now the Navy has a new way to train submariners how to escape, when they have no other way out.

The person inside this suit is preparing for the worst. At the naval submarine base New London in Groton, Connecticut, sits an 84,000 gallon trainer tank, the only one in the United States.

"The intention of this trainer is to give submariners confidence that when they go out on their submarine, in the unlikely event that something catastrophic happens, they will have the ability to escape," Raymond Miller, Head of the High Risk Division at the Naval Submarine Base New London, CT, told Ivanhoe.

Thirty-seven feet below the surface, students put on a specially designed suit and step into a chamber identical to one found on a submarine. The door is sealed behind.

"This is the most realistic submarine escape training in the world," Miller explained.

As the chamber floods with water, the submariner attaches his suit to a valve, inflating it with air.

"You got this hand plugged in and this hand holding on, so you're holding yourself how because as the water comes up, this is really buoyant," Miller said.

Buoyancy is the force that helps you float. It's also what propels the submariner and his inflated suit to the surface when the hatch opens. The submariner moves at a speed of 600 feet per minute, taking just seconds to reach the top.

"You feel like a giant balloon pretty much rocketing to the surface," Schipper Matthew C., submariner, explained.

As he rises to the surface, the submariner exhales as much air from his lungs as he can to prevent CO2 from getting into his bloodstream.

"What we do is we have them say, 'Whoyah,' on the way up," Miller said.

Trainers confirm the submariner is okay. Experts agree training like this is critical.

"It's like any environment where there is inherent risk," Michael Lilburn, submariner, said. "You do everything you can to minimize and mitigate that risk."

"Well I guess you hope that you'll never have to use this training that we went through, but yeah, it's good to have done it and to know what's coming if you ever have to use it," Natharn Randall said.

"It's a peace of mind," John David Maranda, explained.

With help from physics: preparing for worst, but hoping for the best. The suits the submariners wear are also equipped with a life raft that can be immediately inflated when they get to the surface. The British have tested this emergency escape equipment at 600 feet under sea water.

### The prestige, privilege and burden of command at sea BY R.L. SCHREADLEY Friday, January 7

*'Only a seaman realizes to what great extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to understand. But it is so! A ship at sea is a distinct world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of fleet units the Navy must*

*place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command. In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who ultimately is responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire, and morale of his ship. He is*

*the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.*

*This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless Command is the spur that has given the Navy its great leaders.*

*It is a duty that most richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world ... CAPTAIN.'*

— Joseph Conrad

The recent firing of the commanding officer of the USS Enterprise, a nuclear powered aircraft carrier, by chance coincided with publication in the January issue of the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings of an article titled 'How Are the Mighty Fallen.' The article was authored by retired Navy Capt. Kevin Eyer, an officer with extensive command experience. In it he notes that as of midyear 2010 (when the article was written), 15 Navy commanding officers, six of them ship captains, had been relieved for cause.

'While the total number of ships in commission has continued to decline to what is now the smallest inventory of ships since 1916, the total number of ship C.O.s being relieved is steadily increasing year by year,' he wrote. It used to be that ramming a pier, a collision at sea, or a grounding led to most firings of ship C.O.s (A story that then made the rounds was that after one such collision, the unfortunate captain deemed responsible was signaled, 'What are your intentions?' To which he replied, 'Buy a farm.') According to Capt. Eyer, however, this no longer is the case: 'You can still get fired for collision or grounding. Not always, but sometimes. ... As for personal misconduct, one might also think that a given number of C.O.s, for example, are fired for alcohol-related incidents. Again, this is untrue. Even if alcohol is cited as a contributing factor, it is almost never the central issue. In fact, by far the main reason captains are being fired is for charges connected to fraternization, sexual misconduct, or reasons connected to either of these....'

'Casual observers — those who have never served in a fully integrated ship's company — seem convinced that men and women can serve together in ships with utter disregard for one another's sex. That sounds ridiculous, because it is. It only sounds sensible to people so determined to make something work that they are able to discount fundamental human nature. Simply put, you cannot put men and women in a small box, send them away for

extended periods of isolated time, and expect them not to interact with one another. They're like magnets put into a box and shaken — they stick. It is what has kept our species going for 250,000 years.'

What many have thought, but relatively few have had the guts to say!

Capt. Owen Honors, the relieved-for-cause, ex-skipper of the Enterprise, did indeed show appallingly poor judgment by appearing live on camera in videos meant to be morale boosters for men and women deployed too long, crews too often deprived of what the old Navy used to call 'liberty.' Though the videos aired three and four years ago, when Honors served as the ship's executive officer, it was not until the Enterprise was being readied for yet another deployment to the Middle East that someone, as yet unidentified, made them available to the Virginian-Pilot, a Norfolk newspaper. Honor's firing came shortly thereafter, and his formerly distinguished naval career almost certainly has come to a less than distinguished end.

At least one other senior officer's head would seem to be at risk in this sad affair — the commanding officer of the good ship Enterprise when the videos were first aired, now a Washington-based admiral. For if command responsibility still means anything, he bears prime responsibility for the chain of events that led to his then executive officer's disgrace.

And speaking of responsibility for one's actions, I wonder how many of those now applauding Capt. Honors' relief from command (there have been no allegations that his conduct went beyond ill-considered buffoonery) have considered it in context with former Commander-in-Chief Bill Clinton's

l'affaire Lewinski?

Clinton's transgression was by far more egregious than Honors', and it included what many then considered lying under oath.

What double standards are applied between those who wear their country's uniform and those who never did. The former are shorn of command. Bill Clinton completed two terms as president of the United States and is now a most distinguished senior statesman.

Whoever said life was fair? (R.L. Schreadley is a former Post and Courier executive editor and a retired naval officer whose service assignments included three commands at sea.)

**You're never too old to learn something stupid.**

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**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc (USSVI)** seeks to honor those deceased submariners who taught us our craft. This great organization—worthy of our support—will support us by posting our reunions and rosters on their website or their quarterly publication. Be aware that USSVI dues have nothing to do with the Sabalo Association. If you are interested, USSVI National membership is \$20/year, plus \$10-\$20 for local bases.

Go to [ussvi.org](http://ussvi.org) for application forms and location of Bases near you.

**USSVI now has a Virtual Online Submarine Museum.** The site features sub bases, weapons, other museum sites, boat interior photos, art and more. This is another service that USSVI provides at no cost to all submariners in fulfillment of our purpose to honor our fallen heros and to promote the brotherhood. Its a work in progress, so drop back often, and suggestions for improvement are always welcomed.

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/USSVI-Virtual-Museum/366223061298?ref=ss>

•If you received a hard copy of this Newsletter through the mail, but have access to the internet, **please send me an email with your current email address**— Printing/Postage is our biggest expense. [Ed]

**Footnotes:**

**UQC** –An underwater telephone (AKA *Gertrude*). Sabalo’s voice call-sign was Clever Boy

**NTINS** –Now This Is No Sh\*t. (As opposed to Nursery rhymes, which begin with ‘ Once upon a time...’)

**TBT** - Target Bearing Tracker (on the Bridge)

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----- Pride Runs Deep -----

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