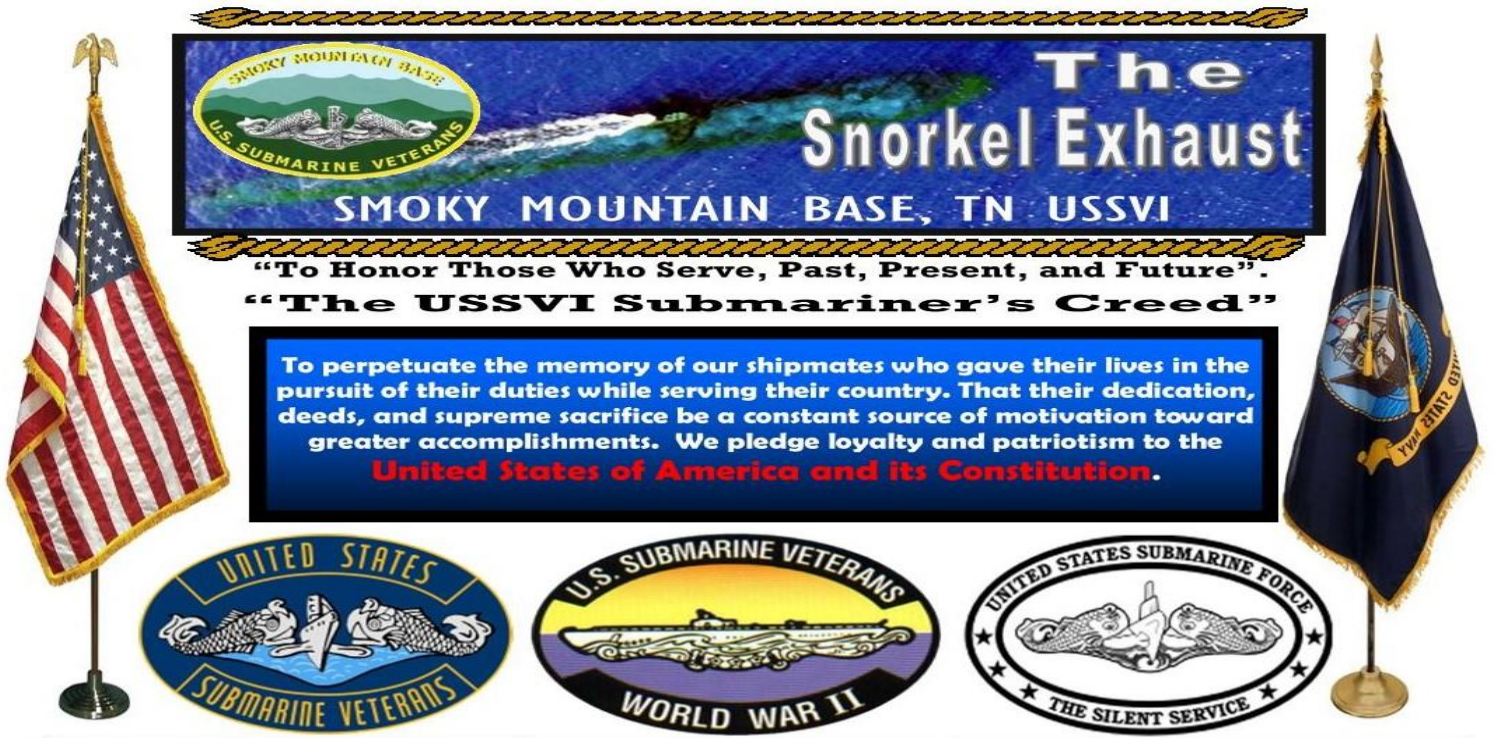




OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR FOUNDERS

OUR BROTHERHOOD

Our Mission

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



Scheduled Meetings

Base meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Thursday of each month at:
MIMI'S CAFÉ,
10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800
Meeting @ 1900
(Guests are Invited)

SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX

JULY 2026

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Follow us on Facebook at:
Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



BASE COMMANDER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.
Holland Club Chairman



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE VICE COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



MMC(SS) USS Nautilus SSN-571 '67



BASE SECRETARY
Ernie Ball



MMC(SS) USS LaFayette (SSBN-616) '75



BASE TREASURER
Jim Rock



MM1(SS) USS Andrew Jackson SSBN-619 '76

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



BASE CHIEF OF THE BOAT
Terry McBride



MMC(SS) USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) '93



SOCIAL CHAIRMAN
Dick Love



ETMC(SS) USS Darter SS-526 '64



BASE STOREKEEPER
Max Gildner



ET1(SS) USS Tullibee (SSN-597) '71



MEMBERSHIP / RECRUITER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



WEBMASTER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE NEWSLETTER
Max Gildner



ET1(SS) USS Tullibee (SSN-597) '71



BASE PHOTOGRAPHER
Bruce Eltzroth
Associate Member

ET1(SU) USS Sculpin (SSN-590)



BASE CHAPLIN
David Pope, EAWS
Associate Member

OMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Calendar

JULY - 2026

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Scheduled Meetings:

Base meetings are
on the 3rd Thursday of each month
at
MIMI'S CAFÉ, 10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE
located in **Turkey Creek,**
Knoxville, TN



Published by: Smoky Mountain Submarine Base

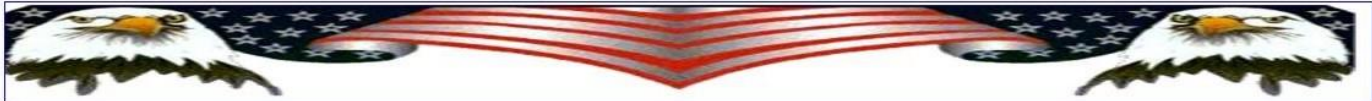
A Subsidiary of USSVI, a non-profit - 501(C)(19) Corporation. Published monthly on the Base's website.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

08/20 – Smoky Mountain Base Meeting & Holland Club Induction

AUGUST

S M T W T F S

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



VETERANS ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES

Operation Vet Rescue

Rescuing & Rebuilding Lives of Homeless Veterans



(865) 284-3188

info@ovrtn.org

P.O. Box 23, Greenback, N 37742

VA Regional Office Benefits Assistance on every 4th Friday at 1557 Downtown West Blvd. Units 20-21 Knoxville, TN 0900-1400 Hours

East TN Military Assistance Council Calendar of Events web site: www.etmac.org/calendar

U.S. Military Veterans Discounts

Tennessee State Discounted Fees and Taxes

- ☐ \$10 one-time fee for hunting and fishing license for eligible disabled veterans.
- ☐ Distinctive motorcycle and vehicle license plates; no fee for currently enlisted personnel.
- ☐ Exemption from motor vehicle privilege tax for eligible permanently and totally disabled veteran or former POW.
- ☐ Reduced fee state park lodging, camping, and golf.
- ☐ Veterans Designation on drivers license.



(SS) CHALLENGE COINS LLC

www.SSChallengeCoins.com

31889 Marshall Rd

Jacksonville, Missouri

65260-2011

816.261.7784



Shelly Saxton

CEO/Owner

SubmarineCoins@gmail.com



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078 meets at **The Redemption Church** located at **3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, Knoxville, TN** on the **2nd Tuesday** of



The Honor and Remember Flag has been designated as the official TN state symbol of remembrance to honor fallen military service members for their service.

For information on obtaining one refer to:

<http://www.honorandremember.org/the-flag/flag-presentation>.

VETERAN'S HOTLINE

988#1

OR

(844) 647-1354

SUBVEST

Serving those
Who Already Have.

**The only place to get
CUSTOM SEWN**

**Submarine Vests, Hats,
Jackets, Shirts & MORE!**

**A Base Storekeepers Dream...
Discounts & No Stock to order
Call to set up an account!**

www.SUBVEST.com

Jenny Dugan - Sewing Wench

757-318-0138 B4 8pm



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE COMMANDER



Next meeting we will be inducting four Holland Club members. We will read introductory statements on the Holland Club. We will then bring the inductees forward. First, we will read a brief bio of each. They will be presented with certificates from national and the base. National sent challenge coins and a patch for each member. The base will add some swag of our own. Hoping for a good turnout we typically take a picture of the new inductees and then one of all Holland Club members present at the meeting. This is followed by a picture of each member then a picture of them with family members present

VICE-COMMANDER

No Report Submitted

BASE TREASURER

On July 16th, we had a balance of : **\$5,272.77**

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN

BASE NEWSLETTER

This issue of the newsletter looks a bit different as it was generated without the use of Microsoft Publisher that is going inactive in October. Comments good or bad are appreciated.

BASE STORESKEEPER

We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White, Pink, or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hats w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron-on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. USSVI or SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. White SMB 11 oz. Coffee Mugs - \$16.00. "Nuke, I am your father" coins — \$20.00 each or 6 coins for \$100.00. Comical Submarine poster print - \$10.00.

[Remember, all purchases go to support your Smoky Mountain Base](#)



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE MEETING MINUTES



Date: July 16, 2026

Presiding: Marlin Helms Base Commander

Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours Dove the boat.

The Base Chaplain presented the Invocation.

The Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Vice Commander read the USSVI Creed.

COB and Vice Commander led the Tolling of the Boats.

COB hosted member/guest introductions.

Number of Attendees: 11 members, 4 guest/wife's

Base Commander: June Meeting Minutes read and approved.

Base Treasurer reported - \$5272.77 in the account.

Correspondence/Discussion -

Committees -

- Newsletter – Man Gildner- need officer inputs
- Library – Marlin Helms - nothing new
- Storekeeper – Max Gildner - Buy Stuff
- Membership – stable
- Scouting – Marlin Helms- still no contact
- Media Manager – Marlin Helms- nothing new
- Social Committee — Dick Love nothing for now
-

Old business – None

New Business –

Holland Club induction in August

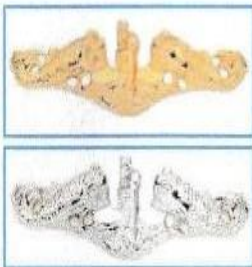
Good of the Order

- 50/50 - \$75

Next Meeting: 1900 hrs. Thursday, August 20, 2026, at **MiMi's Café, 10945 Parkside Dr., Knoxville, TN 37934.**

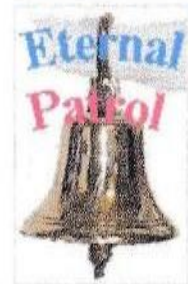
Meeting Adjourned at 1945 hrs. Boat surfaced.

Marlin Helms
for
Ernie Ball, Secretary



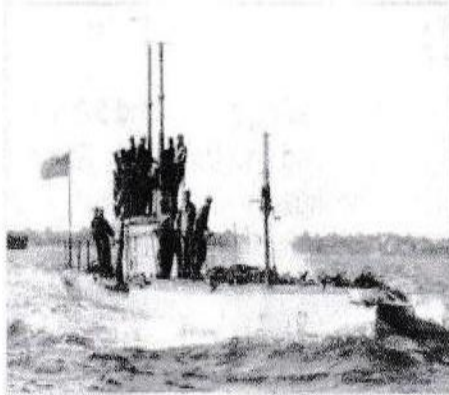
Lost Boats of July

Pre WW-II Lost Boats



G-2 (SS-27) (TUNA) - 30 July 1919

3 MEN LOST



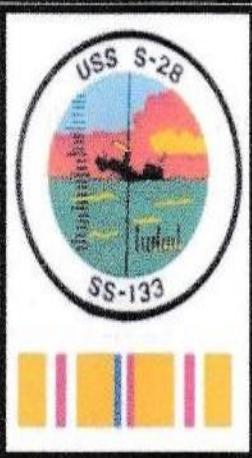
G-2 was named **Tuna** when her keel was laid down on 20 October, 1909 by the Lake Torpedo Boat Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut, making her the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the tuna. During inspection by a six-man maintenance crew on 30 July, 1919, the boat suddenly flooded and sank at her moorings in Two Tree Channel near Niantic Bay. She went down in 81 feet of water, drowning three of the inspection crew. Too deep and too old to salvage, the submarine was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 11 September 1919.

(Info & photo from Wikipedia)

WW-II Lost Boats

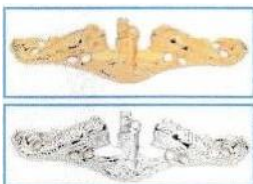
USS S-28 (SS-133) - 4 July 1944

50 MEN LOST



On August 13, 1943, the **S-28** ended her sixth patrol at the submarine base at Massacre Bay on Attu Island. On September 8, 1943, she sailed from there for her seventh and last war patrol. On October 18, 1943, the **S-28** ended her last war patrol at Dutch Harbor before arriving at Pearl Harbor on November 16, 1943, for overhaul and use as a training vessel. On July 3, 1944, the **S-28**, captained by reservist Lieutenant Commander Jack G. Campbell, left the submarine base at Pearl Harbor to conduct training exercises with the Coast Guard cutter Reliance. On July 3 and 4, she acted as a target for Reliance's crew to help train them in American antisubmarine warfare techniques. During the late afternoon of **July 4, 1944**, all contact with the S-28 was suddenly lost. The **S-28** was awarded **one battle star** for her service in World War II.



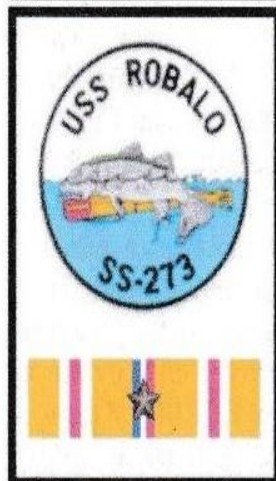


Lost Boats of July



USS ROBALO (SS-273) - 26 July 1944

84 MEN LOST



On June 22, 1944, the **Robalo**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Manning M. Kimmel, departed Fremantle to conduct her third and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol in the South China Sea in the vicinity of the Natuna Islands. The Operation Order for the **Robalo's** final patrol directed her to top off her fuel at Operation Potshot in Exmouth Gulf, and then proceed via Lombok Strait, Makassar Strait, Sibutu Passage, Balabac Strait, and south of Dangerous Ground to her assigned patrol station in the South China Sea. On **July 2, 1944**, Kimmel made a contact report stating **Robalo** had sighted a Fuso-class battleship with air cover and two destroyer escorts, just east of Borneo at 3°-29' N, 119°-26' E. However, he did not state whether or not he had attacked it. The contact report on **July 2, 1944**, was the last message ever received from the **USS Robalo** and when she did not return from patrol, she was reported as presumed lost. The **Robalo** earned **two battle stars** for her World War II service.

USS GRUNION (SS-216) - 30 July 1942

70 MEN LOST



On June 30, 1942, the **Grunion**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Mannert L. Abele, left Pearl Harbor for her first and final war patrol. The **Grunion** reached Midway Island and then headed for the Aleutian Islands. On July 15, 1942, she reported she had been attacked by a Japanese destroyer and had fired three torpedoes at it, which all missed. She later reported that she had sunk three destroyer-type vessels. Japanese reports examined after the war indicated she sank two patrol craft and damaged a third. On July 19, 1942, the **Grunion**, the **USS S-32 (SS-137)**, the **USS Triton (SS-201)**, and the **USS Tuna (SS-203)** were ordered to take positions in the approaches to Kiska harbor. The **Grunion's** last transmission was received **July 30, 1942** reporting heavy anti-submarine activity at the entrance to Kiska harbor, and that she had ten torpedoes remaining. On the same day, the **Grunion** was directed to return to Dutch Harbor. She was never heard from again. Air searches off Kiska were fruitless. On October 5, 1942, it was announced that she was assumed lost with all hands. The **Grunion** received **one battle star** for her World War II service.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE MEMBERS ON ETERENAL PATROL

Stephen Springer -- 7/1/2012

Herbert Bell -- 7/20/2016

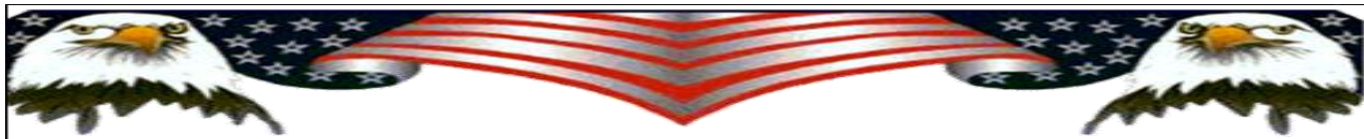


SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE USSVI LENOIR CITY PARADE JULY 4, 2026



The day started under threatening weather conditions and even hotter than usual for a July 4th. However our intrepid crew and the area citizens turned out to enjoy a nice July 4th celebration and parade.





HOMETOWN HEROES

Banner Program

The Hometown Heroes Banner Program is a community-based way of honoring past and present military personnel. The honoree must meet one of the following criteria: 1) be currently an active service member; 2) be an honorably discharged veteran; 3) be a retired veteran; or 4) have died in the line of duty. Some communities have expanded the eligibility to include past or current first responders in service to their community.

The banners are typically displayed on utility poles along principal streets. They are also typically displayed from Memorial Day thru Veteran's Day.

Kingston Tennessee has recently added Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veteran Bruce Eltzroth to their Hometown Heroes display in honor of his long-time residency and his 81st birthday.

The program is believed to have started in Harrisburg Pennsylvania in 2006.





CUSTOM SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE APPAREL



I'm sure many of you have already seen one of these t-shirts that are fashioned after the USSVI vest. The ones currently out there admittedly appear a bit faded but were limited by the available processes at the time. Today's printing processes are much better with brighter colors rivaling embroidering. The clothing is Navy Blue in color

Shirts start at \$35. If you're interested in ordering one (or more) of these shirts, including a variety of t-shirts and sweatshirts, please use the link below. Orders are being taken exclusively via the form at the link below.

<https://forms.gle/vz1rnuKoRghB1AYZ7>

A sample mockup is pictured below.



I've also added SUBMARINE SWEETIE and SUBMARINE WIFE designs for your significant others.

Editor's Note: The order form is easy to use and offers various forms of payment for your order. Half of the net profits will go to support our base.



2026 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION



OMNI HOTEL IN CORPUS CRISTI, TEXAS

EVENT DATES SEPTEMBER 6TH – 11TH

Plan of the Week Rev.2 (6/2026)

SUNDAY Sept 6, 2026

0900 – 1600 Vendor/Exhibit Set-Up
1200 – 1800 Registration/Info Desk Open
1600 – 2200 Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Game

MONDAY Sept 7, 2026 (LABOR DAY)

0530 – 1400 Fishing Trip #1 (Gulf) out of Port Aransas
0800 – 1800 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1700 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0900 – 1200 Texas State Aquarium Trip
0900 – 1200 Sightseeing Historical/WWII Heritage Trail Tour
1230 – 1430 Railroad Brewery Luncheon
1900 Welcome Aboard Party

TUESDAY Sept 8, 2026

0700 – 1300 Fishing Trip #2 (Bay) Corpus Christi
0900 – 1700 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1500 Grand Excursion Tour
0900 – 1700 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0800 – 1100 USSVI Pre-ABM/CF Meeting
1130 – 1630 Beer-BBQ and Spirits Tour #1
1300 – 1430 SS-Bob Martin Radio Controlled Model Subs
1500 - 1600 SS-Butch Jordan-The Albacore Project
1800 – 2100 Buccaneer Cruise - Sight Seeing
1800 – 2100 Texas Tease Sunset Bay Cruise

WEDNESDAY Sept 9, 2026

0800 – 1100 Sightseeing Historical/WWII Heritage Trail Tour
0800 – 0915 Base Officer Meeting (VC, Tres, Yeoman, Chaplain, etc.)
0900 – 1700 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1700 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0930 – 1045 DC/BC Meeting
1130 – 1330 Holland Club Luncheon
1400 – 1830 Spirits – BBQ and Beer Tour #2
1330 – 1430 Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Meeting
1445 – 1545 Museum and Memorial Meeting
1600 – 1700 CFC Ambassador Program
1900 Halfway Night Party

THURSDAY Sept 10, 2026

0900 – 1300 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1330 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0800 – 0900 Ham Operators
0800 – 0900 USSVCF Fleet Outreach Program Brief
0830 – 0930 SS-Ryan Walker-Historical Research/Henry Breault
0830 – 1030 ISA Meeting
0930 – 1030 Ladies Meeting
0930 – 1045 SS-Luis Garcia-Surface Transit MS. River by kayak
1100 – 1300 Luncheon
1600 – 1700 Tolling Ceremony*
1700 – Til (2100) Post Tolling BBQ Dinner

FRIDAY Sept 11, 2026 (9/11 - 25th ANNIVERSARY)

0900 – 1600 Registration/Info Desk Open
1100 – 1600 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0830 – 1100 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (All members encouraged to attend)
1130 – 1230 Post ABM/CF Meeting
1700 – 1800 Pre-Banquet Social Hour
1800 – 2100 Annual Awards Banquet



NOTES

- All Times subject to change – as much advance notice as possible will be given, POD updated on web page, social announcements and listed at registration desk.
- Pre-Registration Required NLT Aug 20th, case by case after
- Off site tours-Pre Registration required-will add if open seats, check at registration Desk
- *To ensure proper reverence and allow as many attendees as possible to participate, the vendor room will close early at 1330.



SUBMARINES IN THE MOVIES

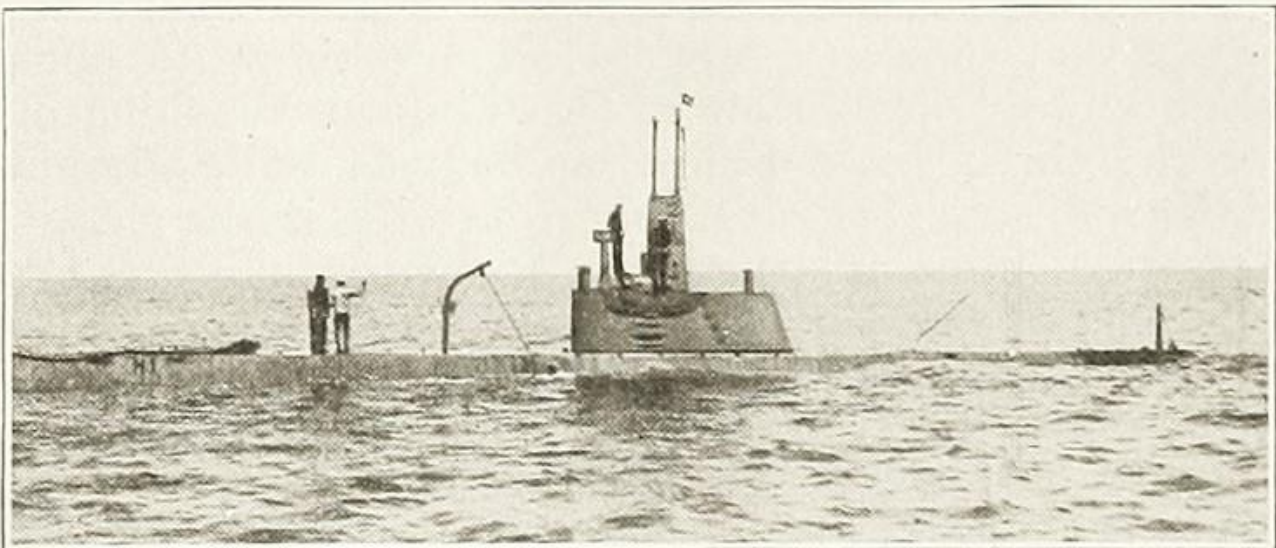
PART 1 – PRE-WORLD WAR TWO

WAP TWO WORLD WAP TWO



There has been, is, and most likely will be something that attracts one's interest into life that is in our seas and oceans. For the idea that we, as humans, can go there and function in special vessels beneath the surface holds a special fascination. Maybe that is why movies about submarines (accurate or not) have a special mystic. It is this inherent mystic that has prompted movie makers to produce submarine movies for over 90 years. It is also no wonder that most submarine movies have been, to one extent or another, successful.

“A Submarine Pirate” (1915) was a silent 24-minute-long film and one of the first uses of a Navy submarine in movies. It was filmed, in part, at the San Diego Navy Yard and made with the assistance of then Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels. The film was made by the Keystone Film Co. famous for their slapstick Keystone Cops films. It starred Syd Chaplin (Charlie Chaplin's older half-brother) and is the story of a bumbling waiter who discovers a plot to hijack a Navy submarine to commit piracy on the high seas against a cruise ship filled with wealthy passengers. The first half of the film is typical slapstick comedy while the second half is scenes shot from the boat. I believe the interior scenes were sets ashore. The film is available on-line for viewing.



View of the Government submarine that was used in staging the Triangle-Keystone picture “A Submarine Pirate.”

“Hell Below” (1933) was an MGM movie about World War One submarine adventure that offers interesting details of underwater technology in 1918 doing battle with the Germans in the Adriatic Sea. The movie starred a cast of actors who would later become rather famous: Robert Montgomery, Walter Houston, Robert Young, Jimmy Durante, Stirling Holloway and Eugene Pallette.

The film was based on Commander Edward Ellsberg's novel *Pigboats*. Lt. Commander Robert D. Gilmore served as technical advisor on the film, which won praise for its believable attention to detail. The film was made in Hawaii and Pearl Harbour. The fictional boat USS *AL-14* was portrayed by the USS *S-31*. The S-Class is much larger than any L-Class ever was. However, as both classes were of the same design era, they shared some similarities and therefore pass as good enough for Hollywood.



“Submarine D-1” (1937) Warner Brothers film is a lack-luster movie adaptation of the book *Submarine 262* by Frank Wead but does offer a rare glimpse and reasonably accurate depiction of the pre-World War II submarine service. The story line is about a submarine changing home port from New London, CT to San Diego, CA. via the Panama Canal. The boat running on the surface at night collides with a merchant ship off Point Loma, CA. and sinks.

What is of most interest is the technology of the rescue: the telephone buoy that floats to the surface for communications and vessel location; the hard hat suited diver that goes down to attach a cable to the boat to guide the McCann Rescue Chamber to a hatch; and includes a scene where the crew uses Momsen escape lungs to abandon their boat trapped on the bottom.

In the film, the interior shots and the surface shots were aboard the USS *Dolphin* (SS-169). The underwater shots were of a 1/8th scale model of the *Dolphin*.



This movie eerily predicts rescue efforts with the loss of the USS *Squalus* (SS-192) two years later.

(Editor's Note:) This movie does not reflect the service of the actual USS *Narwal* (SS-17) (D-1)



USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

OUR CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)

(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

☐ I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____ Tel: (____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ Base/Chapter Desired: _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$140.00; 3 Yr term: \$85.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$30.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$35.00;

Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$120.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$240; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$360.00; 46 thru 55 = \$500.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 600.00;

Smoky Mountain Base dues are \$15 per year (\$10 after August 1st).

How did you find USSVI? ☐ Friend, ☐ Boat Assn, ☐ Local Event/News, ☐ Internet, ☐ Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? (Mandatory for Associate Members) _____

Associate Applicant is: ☐ Veteran, ☐ Spouse of Veteran, ☐ Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): _____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ YR left Mil Service _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

☐ Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946, June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from Aug 2, 1990 to date.

☐ Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

2. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

3. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

4. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

5. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____

(Leave this address line blank if it is the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to Marlin Helms, or if you do not know of a base near you, mail to
USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870. Questions: Call Marlin Helms @ (865) 387-5625.

