



June
2015

CORVINA BASE NEWS

Newsletter of the Year Awards

2014 Class 2 First Runner Up
2012 Western Region Class 2 Winner

2013 Western Region Class 2 Winner
2011 Class 1 Honorable Mention

World War II
submarine
US Flier,
sunk in 1944
found
In 2010.
Story on
page 10



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Denotes a Holland Club
member



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
and its Constitution.

I AM AN AMERICAN. Pure, plain and simple, that is what I am and that is what I will always be. I am not a Klingon-American, I am not a Martian-American, and I am not any other type of hyphenated-American. I was born in the United States of America. If folks can call themselves "Native-Californians" or "Native-Oregonians", then why can't I call myself a "Native-American"? Is it not allowed because of some form of political correctness? Is the term "Native-American" totally reserved for those originally indigenous to the North American Continent? A more correct term for those called Native-American is "aboriginal" which means they've been here almost forever. But have they really been here that long? Not really if you listen to anthropologists and archeologists who say they probably migrated across a land bridge from Asia to North America or perhaps from Polynesia. In fact, everyone's ancestors on Earth came from somewhere else.

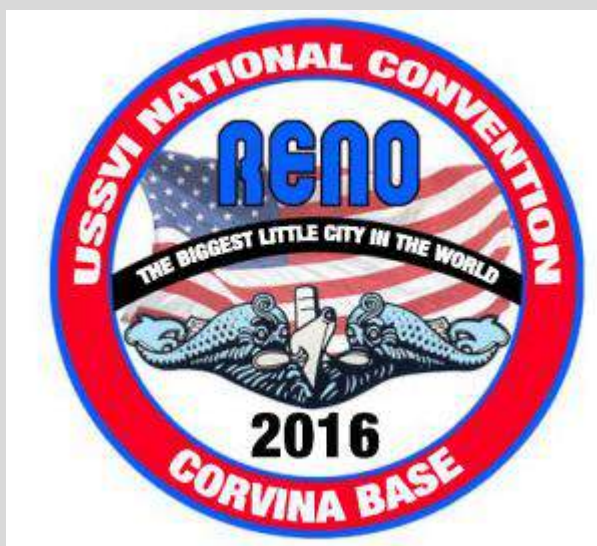
I have traced my ancestry back to 1724 and the colony of Maryland. I expect to go back a bit further than that. I am sure there are some amongst us who can follow their ancestry back even further. Where did my ancestors come from? As far as I'm concerned, they came from America. Growing up and knowing many of my ancestors, I never heard them, not once, state their nationality or ethnicity with a hyphen inserted between something and American. They were just Americans. It seems that the hyphenated ethnicity-nationality thing became prominent in just the last half century or so. More political correctness at play? Maybe....

So, why do I tell you all of this? Well, I guess it's because I see the culture of the United States becoming more and more divisive. I believe in part that's because everyone seems to have a penchant for wanting to be perceived as something or someone else other than just themselves. In recent news we've seen a white woman tell everyone she's black and then there's the Bruce/Caitlin Jenner situation. And everyone wants to put a hyphen in their nationality to bolster their ethnicity and oftentimes their marital status. The real question is: **WHY?**

I believe that the modern society of fast everything and the apparent need for instant gratification and celebrity status are the main causes. Selfie photos fly by the millions each and every day. Various internet media sites are always available to promote ones own self esteem. Everyone wants to be a famous someone or something - if maybe only for a few minutes so they get noticed.

Anyway, I'll just stay being a plain and simple and very proud American. I'll always respect and honor my ancestors but on Independence Day I'll fly my flags and participate in various celebrations as an American in celebration of America, the greatest and most exceptional nation in history. After all, July 4th, Independence Day, is the most important holiday for the United States of America. Please join me in that celebration. Fly your flags. Just be a plain, simple and proud American. Most all of us served our country under an oath that is never forgotten. I will always serve as and be an American.

Proudly American,
Dennis Wiley



Your help will be needed
To make it a great convention

Base Officers

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Bill Conklin
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Past Base Commander

Dave Aunkst
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June Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order by Commander Wiley at 1400 as COB Heaps sounded two blasts on the klaxon. After an Invocation by Chaplain Paul Allen, the Pledge of Allegiance, reading of the USSVI Creed, Tolling of the Boats, and Moment of Silence for all departed submariners, shipmates, family and friends followed in their usual order. There were 32 members and guests present.

This month's submarine history presentation consisted primarily of Del Schwichtenberg giving an oral presentation of the event for which he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. After the presentation, Commander Wiley read the Citation that accompanied the medal and Del showed pictures of the bent periscope shaft. We thank Del for his outstanding service and for sharing the story with us.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter.

XO Steve Salzman had no significant new items to report.

Secretary Pete Akerson reports that no new mail requiring base action has been received.

Treasurer Robert Talbert was not at this meeting, but Commander Wiley made a report for him that shows the Base to still be in good financial condition.

Chaplain Paul Allen reports no changes to the Binnacle List in the last month.

Recruiter Don Brown reports one new member has been added to the Roster in the last month.

COB Bob Heaps reported that the June 'Lunch Bunch' gathering would be held at the Red Robin Restaurant in the Galleria Shopping Center on June 19.

Newsletter Editor Norm Peterson had no new information to report.

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Terry Bolen reported that the next convention meeting would be in the Board room of the Grand Sierra on June 13th.

Kaps4Kids Chairman Bill Conklin reports that the funding for the program is growing quickly. No events have been scheduled yet, but will start soon.

Corvina Base will be participating in the Fourth of July Parade in Fernley, NV. Paul Young's wife will drive the tow vehicle. The assembly point and time will be announced as soon as they are available

There is no new word on the status of the WRD 5 review of Corvina Base Documents.

The next Base Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 11th at Denny's

The Base picnic will be held at Davis Creek Park in Washoe Valley on August 1, at 1000.

The Base Bi-annual Yard/Garage sale will be at Pete Akerson's house, 7269 Bold Venture Ct in Hidden Valley on August 15th at 0800.

The Annual Corvina Base Memorial Service will be held on September 5, 2015 at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley.

After a brief recess, the monthly 50/50 raffle/drawing was held with the following results:
Candy - Larry Shipman – Computer Part - Paul Young Knife - Paul Young Cup - Don Brown – T-shirt Frank Ely – Wine DeDe Salzman Tomato Plant – Ken Anderson Mug – Clyde Weber Mug – Linda Ely Wine – Frank Urbani Wine – Mary Ellen Schwichtenberg Wine – Mercedes Parsons Bottle Opener – Frank Urbani The \$76.00 Cash Prize was won by Frank Urbani.

After a Benediction by Chaplain Allen, the meeting closed at 1529 as COB Heaps sounded three blasts on the klaxon.

Respectfully,
Pete Akerson, Secretary



Treasurers

Report

1. All account balances are available at Base meetings.

2. Deposits:

\$ 76.00 – Raffle
18.00 - USSVICF Memorial fund
30.00 – 1 year membership
=====

\$ 124.00

3. Checks issued:

\$20.00 – National Dues
\$82.00 – USPS PO Box, 1 year
\$38.50 -US Bank Safebox, 1 year
=====

\$140.50

oxymoron's:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Clearly Misunderstood. | 2) Exact Estimate. |
| 3) Small Crowd. | 4) Act Naturally. |
| 5) Found Missing. | 6) Fully Empty. |
| 7) Pretty Ugly. | 8) Seriously Funny. |
| 9) Only Choice. | 10) Original Copies. |

And people say the Mother of all Oxymoron's is:

11) "Happily Married"

The Corvina Base News is published monthly for the use of the Corvina Base Members. Distribution is by E-mail along with 11 copies sent by the USPS. Submission of articles must be received by the 25th of the month. Holland Club Members are denoted in the newsletter with the symbol: Each member will show up every third month.

For any questions or corrections contact:
Norm Peterson
Editor
775-322-5193
1971tr6@charter.net



Chaplains Report

Independence Day – July 4, 2015

Good news! I don't have anyone new to put on the Binnacle List, but we all have some aches and pains. This reminds me of my tour of duty at the Naval Training Center San Diego (Boot Camp) in Dec. 1961. Twice each day our Company Commander, in my case was Engineman 1st Class Mr. Gallery, would line us up for morning and evening chow, inspect us, and then would say, "sick and lame fallout." Once I did fallout with a temperature of 104.8 degrees. I lived to become an engineman on the USS Blackfin SS-322 from 1963 to 1966. Three of us in the Corvina Base qualified on the Blackfin, Ken McCray, Don "Brownie" Brown, and myself. Don and I served together in 1964, '65, and part of '66. July 4th or Independence Day, is coming in a few days and the Corvina Base will celebrate by being in the parade in Fernley, NV. That's an ex-



tra special day for the history of the Blackfin because it was commissioned on July 4 1944 in Groton, Ct, sponsored by Mrs. Charles A Lockwood, wife of the famous submariner, Rear Admiral Charles A.

Lockwood. I was 9 months old at the time of the commissioning and 20 years old when I qualified which means since I am 71 yrs. old the Blackfin would be 71. The Blackfin now lies on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, off San Diego, from 13 May 1973. I've included two photos of those years. One of the Naval Training Center in San Diego and a photo from the Navy "All Hands" magazine featuring our COB Chief Torpedoman, Jack Hunt. Don Brown is the second face on the left with yours truly in center.



On Saturday, June 20, 2015 Dave Aunkst and I attended the open house at the Carson City Airport which is an annual event, but I felt that this year was the best one yet. I wore my Blackfin cap and was approached by two men that saw I was a submarine vet.

One man, who had flown his plane from Napa for the open house had qualified on the USS Barb (SSN-596) and did not know about USSVI, so I gave him one of our cards and informed him about the 2016 convention in Reno. The other man was a volunteer for the Carson City Cactus Air Force Museum, owned by Rick Clemens, who is a descendant of the Mark Twain family through Mark Twain's (Samuel Clemens) brother, Orion Clemens.

Nevada Veterans Home

On Friday, June 12, Gov. Brian Sandoval held a signing ceremony at the Reno American Legion Post in

Reno that provides \$14 million with the Federal Gov. kicking in about \$28 million toward a 96-bed veterans' nursing home in Reno to be finished by late 2016. He said this was an effort to make Nevada the most military – and veteran – friendly state in the nation.

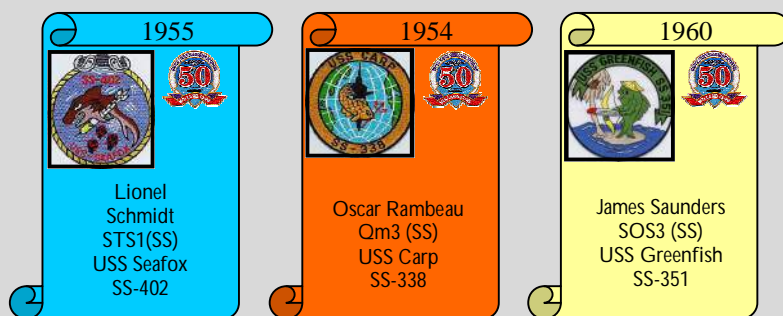
Scripture: Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord ..."

Prayer: Father God, we are thankfully blessed here in these United States of America with an independent freedom when on July 4, 1776, 56 brave committed men were willing to risk their lives by signing the Declaration of Independence. Truly God, we are blessed as a nation and we humble ourselves before you and ask for your divine help that we will remain a nation committed to independence and liberty. Thank you, Lord, for hearing and answering our prayers! Amen!

Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain

SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)	Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)
Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)	Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)
Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)	Robert Rich EN1 (SS)
Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)	Francis Signore CSC (SS)
Harold Lister EN3 (SS)	Stanley Blair ICC (SS)
James Avitt RM1 (SS)	Richard Burdette LT. (SS)
Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS)	Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)
Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)	Larry Garrelts ETCS(SS)
Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)	Melvin Schreckengost ET2
Norm Snyder EM1(SS)	Charles Hyman MM2(SS)
James T. Wright III	Gordon Lane RMC(SS)
Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)	Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)
Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)	Richard Ekenberg , ETC(SS)
Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)	Richard C. Barringer SOSN(SS)
Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)	Jack Quade SMSN(SS)
Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)	



Subject: A Sailor's Thoughts.....

Submitted by Dave Aunkst

Thank you, Nelson Coleman, for sharing this... A Sailor's Thoughts:

Some random and rambling thoughts accumulated from various quarters over the years. A bit of introspection from an "older" sailor.

A sailor will walk 10 miles in a freezing rain to get a beer but complain mightily about standing a 4 hour quarter-deck watch on a beautiful, balmy spring day.

A sailor will lie and cheat to get off the ship early and then will have no idea where he wants to go.

Sailors are territorial. They have their assigned spaces to clean and maintain. Woe betide the shipmate who tracks through a freshly swabbed deck.

Sailors constantly complain about the food on the mess decks while concurrently going back for second or third helpings.

Some sailors have taken literally the old t-shirt saying that they should "Join the Navy. Sail to distant ports. Catch embarrassing, exotic diseases."

After a sea cruise, I realized how much I missed being at sea. We are now considering a Med cruise visiting some of my past favorite ports. Of course I'll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for the privilege. To think, Uncle Sam actually had to pay me to visit those same ports 50 years ago.

Cont. page 7

You can spend two years on a ship and never visit every nook and cranny or even every major space aboard. Yet, you can know all your shipmates.

.

Campari (Italian liqueur considered an aperitif) and soda taken in the warm Spanish sun is an excellent hangover remedy.

.

E5 is the almost perfect military pay grade. Too senior to catch the crap details, too junior to be blamed if things go awry.

.

Never be first, never be last and never volunteer for anything.

.

Almost every port has a "gut." An area teeming with cheap bars, easy women and partiers. Kind of like Bourbon St., but with foreign currency.

.

If the Guardia Civil tell you to "Alto," you'd best alto, right now. Same goes for the Carabinieri, gendarmes and other assorted police forces. You could easily find yourself in that port's hoosegow. Or shot.

.

Contrary to popular belief, Chief Petty Officers do not walk on water. They walk just above it.

.

Sad but true, when visiting even the most exotic ports of call, some sailors only see the inside of the nearest pub.

.

Also under the category of sad but true, that lithe, sultry Mediterranean beauty you spent those wonderful three days with and have dreamed about ever since, is almost certainly a grandmother now and buying her clothes from Omar the Tent maker.

.

A sailor can, and will, sleep anywhere, anytime.

.

Do not eat Mafunga, ever! (An entree often served at college parties. Most often in the form of an erect penis served deep fried, sometimes even on a stick.)

.

Yes, it's true, it does flow downhill.

.

In the traditional "crackerjack" uniform you were recognized as a member of United States Navy, no matter what port you were in. Damn all who want to eliminate or change that uniform.

.

The Marine dress blue uniform is, by far, the sharpest of all the armed forces.

.

Most sailors won't disrespect a shipmate's mother. On the other hand, it's not entirely wise to tell them you have a good looking sister.

.

Sailors and Marines will generally fight one another, and fight together against all comers.

.

If you can at all help it, never tell anyone that you are seasick.

.

Check the rear dungaree pockets of a sailor. Right pocket a wallet. Left pocket a book.

.

The guys who seemed to get away with doing the least, always seemed to be first in the pay line and the chow line.

.

General Quarters drills and the need to evacuate one's bowels often seem to coincide.

.

Speaking of which, when the need arises, the nearest head is always the one which is secured for cleaning.

Three people you never screw with: the doc, the paymaster and the ship's barber.

.

In the summer, all deck seamen wanted to be signalmen. In the winter they wanted to be radar man.

.

Do snipes ever get the grease and oil off their hands?

.

Never play a drinking game which involves the loser paying for all the drinks.

.

There are only two good ships: the one you came from and the one you're going to.

.

Whites, coming from the cleaners, clean, pressed and starched, last that way about 30 microseconds after donning them. The Navy dress white uniform is a natural dirt magnet.

.

Sweat pumps operate in direct proportion to the seniority of the official visiting.

.

Skill, daring and science will always win out over horseshit, superstition and luck.

.

We train in peace so that in time of war the greater damage will be upon our enemies and not upon ourselves.

.

"Pride and professionalism" trumps "Fun and zest" any day.

.

The shrill call of a bosun's pipe still puts a chill down my spine.

.

Three biggest lies in the Navy: We're happy to be here; this is not an inspection; we're here to help.

.

Everything goes in the log.

.

Rule 1: The Captain is always right. Rule 2: When in doubt refer to Rule 1.

.

A wet napkin under your tray keeps the tray from sliding on the mess deck table in rough seas, keeping at least one hand free to hold on to your beverage.

.

Never walk between the projector and the movie screen after the flick has started.

.

A guy who doesn't share a care package from home is no shipmate.

.

When transiting the ocean, the ship's chronometer is always advanced at 0200 which makes for a short night.

When going in the opposite direction, the chronometer is retarded at 1400 which extends the work day.

.

If I had to do it all over again, I would. Twice.

.

When I sleep, I often dream I am back at sea.

.

Good shipmates are friends forever

When asked what I did to make life worthwhile in my lifetime....I can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served a career in the United States Navy."

Corvina Base Booster Club

Dennis Wiley
Peter Akerson
Gloria Allen
Don Brown
Dell & Mary Ellen Schwichdenberg
Frank Kenyon
Mercedes Parsons



*Meetings are held on
the first Saturday Of
each month at Denny's
Coffee Shop, 205 E.
Nugget Ave. Sparks NV
At 1400 hours.*

Tolling of the Boats for July

USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

1963



Paul Allen
EN1 (SS)
USS Blackfin
SS-322

1959



Daniel Moran
EN3 (SS)
USS Jallao
SS-368

1961



Dave Craig
ETC (SS)
USS Croaker
SS-246

1954



Clyde Webber
ETNSN (SS)
USS Trumpfish
SS-425



Thanks to Dan Moran our
memorial in Fernley
Now has a flag pole.



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World War II submarine, *USS Flier*, sunk in 1944, found

By William Cole
Advertiser Military Writer

February 2010: On the night of August 13, 1944, Ensign Al Jacobson was topside on the USS Flier (SS-250) as the submarine raced to intercept a Japanese convoy reported to be off Palawan in the Philippines. Jacobson, then 22, was taken by the beauty that surrounded him. "He said it was actually one of the prettiest moments of his life. There were mountains all around and the sunset and just extraordinary beauty," his son, Nelson, recalled his father saying. It was a moment of tranquility that was suddenly replaced by the hellish reality of war. The 311-foot sub sank in 30 seconds when a hole was torn in the hull by what survivors and historians believe was a mine. Only 14 men made it out. Just eight of those, including Jacobson, made it to safety.

The U.S. Pacific Fleet submarine force yesterday (February 1, 2010) confirmed that a sunken sub found in the Balabac Strait in 330 feet of water is the USS Flier. "I am honored to announce that, with video evidence and information provided by a team from YAP Films and assistance from the Naval History and Heritage Command, USS Flier has been located," said Rear Admiral Douglas McAneny, commander of the Pacific submarine force. "We hope this announcement will provide some closure to the families of the 78 crewmen lost when Flier struck a mine in 1944." Flier is the fifth sunken World War II U.S. submarine to be found since 2005. The Flier's sinking highlights the danger faced by Pacific Fleet submariners during World War II. According to the United States Navy, of the 288 submarines deployed in the Atlantic and Pacific during World War II, 52 were lost, with 48 destroyed in the Pacific war zones.

Jacobson was the last of the Flier survivors when he died in 2008. He had gathered as much information as he could about the Flier's demise and location to fully understand what happened, his family said. They carried on the quest after he died. In spring 2009, with the aid of the Jacobson family, a team from Toronto-based YAP Films located the wreckage of the Flier. The Navy said father-and-son divers Mike and Warren Fletcher of the television show "Dive Detectives" captured the first footage of the rusting submarine since it went down, and provided the imagery to the Naval History and Heritage Command to confirm the identification. "It's an emotional and exciting time for us, and obviously it's not just my father's sub, it's the whole crew, and the whole idea that we're sort of bringing closure to this extraordinary story," said Nelson Jacobson, who lives in Michigan. His father was "very blessed later in life with a successful career, and he was an engineer and problem solver and wanted to really understand what happened that evening," he added.

The Flier had left Pearl Harbor in January 1944 but ran aground at Midway Island. After repairs in California, the Flier again left Pearl in May of that year and attacked several Japanese ships. The night of the sinking, as the 1,525-ton Gato-class submarine made 18 knots, nine men were on deck on lookout.

Cont. page 11



Jacobson was sitting in the gunner's seat of the aft gun when the sub exploded and started going down, his son said. "All he could think about were those great big brass propellers churning right past him," Nelson Jacobson said. The explosion came at 10 p.m. In the darkness, the survivors treaded water until the moonrise provided some light, and at about 4 a.m. the men began to make their way toward a silhouette of land, said Michael Sturma in his book, "The USS Flier, Death and Survival on a World War II Submarine." By then, some of the men had disappeared. The remaining men clung to palm trunks and swam landward. For the next five days the survivors swam and used makeshift rafts to hop from one coral outcropping to another, surviving on coconuts, before they were aided by Filipinos. Clad only in underwear, the Flier survivors were severely sunburned, and their feet were gashed and bleeding from walking across sharp coral, Sturma said. Sturma said the eight Flier sailors were the first Americans of the Pacific war to survive a submarine sinking and make it back to the United States.



"#%&!!! Lift your feet."

23

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." – Western Union internal memo, 1876



Book review



Torpedoman

By Ron Smith

There are many books about WW II U.S. submarine patrols in the Pacific. Many of these books are fascinating in their descriptions of tactics and leadership. A few books are almost as dry as official patrol reports. What unifies these books is that almost all of them have been written by officers, frequently skippers. In the last few years, books like "Hell Above, Deep Water Below," have appeared, written about or by enlisted submariners, which is how the vast majority of the force served. Ron Smith's "Torpedoman" is the latest addition to the submarine genre and it's a doozy. The book follows his time training to be a submariner, through the Seal's outfitting, and on through a number of harrowing patrols. The book captures the camaraderie of the sub's crew and the way more experienced submariners looked out for the new sailors and showed them the ropes. The book appears self-published. Author Ron Smith's (apparently) unedited language is unvarnished and the story often isn't pretty or very noble and he makes no apologies. For that we can be thankful as Smith brings a sense of character, and a sense of time and place, that are unlike that of any other sub narrative I've read. Smith reports the mundane, day to day routine (monotonous watches, what he had for breakfast, laundry) alongside the dramatic (depth charge attacks, fights with Marines, other sailors, and civilians, drinking binges). At one point he and fellow crewmen sit on the oily, wet deck of the aft torpedo room, eating sardines and canned pineapple in the dark, trying to hide their fear by telling dirty jokes as the Seal sits at a 30 degree angle unable to trim, below their test depth, trapped by seven destroyers off the coast of Honshu, quickly running out of air and batteries. But this book is also interesting because of Smith's descriptions of the changing life stateside. Along the way, we learn about San Diego, Mare Island, Vallejo, Honolulu, and Hammond Indiana from a sailor's point of view, with a particular eye towards the sexual mores of the era. People did speak and behave differently then and "Torpedoman" captures this better than any other book I can think of. I would strongly recommend this book to those interested in submarines tales.

