

American Submariners Inc.
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404



The Silent Sentinel June 2018



Our Creed and Purpose

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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds 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 lifestyle we enjoy today.



Submarine Birthday Ball: Harold Staggs With Friends!

U.S. Submarine Veterans San Diego Base

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Joel Eikam

Scholarship Chairman
Paul Hitchcock

The Silent Sentinel via Email

To all of my Shipmates and families who currently receive our Great newsletter via the mail who would like it sent via email or continue to receive it via mail, please fill out the form and mail it to the base or myself. We are trying to cut the cost of the newsletter down from \$3700 to about \$1900 a year. By receiving the Silent Sentinel via email will cut down the printing and mailing cost. The other plus to receiving it via email is you can save it on your computer and not have the paper lying around the house.

A subscription to the Silent Sentinel newsletter will be available to surviving family members via internet email, at no charge, upon notification of the Membership Chairman. If a printed hard-copy is preferred, via US Post Office delivery, an annual donation of \$5.00 will be requested to cover costs.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Would like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed: YES _____ NO _____

USSVI Base Commander
c/o VFW Post 3787
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404

DUE TO LOGISTICS CONSTRAINTS, ALL INPUTS FOR THE SILENT SENTINEL MUST BE IN MY HAND NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK AFTER THE MONTHLY MEETING. IF I DO NOT RECEIVE IT BY THIS TIME, THE ITEM WILL NOT GET IN. NO EXCEPTIONS! MIKE

June 2018 Meeting

Our monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave., San Diego. Our next meeting will be on *June 12th*. The post is located one-half block West of Mission Gorge Road, just north of I-8. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The E-Board meets one hour earlier at 6 p.m.

*Check us out on the World Wide Web
www.ussvisandiego.org*

*Binnacle List
Joel Eikam and Frank Workman*

Submarine Losses in June Originally Compiled by C J Glassford



USS Herring (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

USS Golet (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

USS Bonefish (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

USS S-27 (SS-132)

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

USS O-9 (SS-70)

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

USS Runner (SS-275)

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



***San Diego Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc.
Minutes of Meeting - 8 May 2018
At VFW Hall, 4370 Twain Avenue, San Diego CA 92120***

1906 - Base Commander Warren Branges called the meeting to order.

Conducted Opening Exercises - Pledge of Allegiance lead by Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette

Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette lead the opening prayer.

Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette conducted Tolling of the Boats for boats lost in the month of May.

Base Secretary Jack Kane recognized Past Commanders, dignitaries and guests.

Base Secretary Jack Kane announced 17 members present.

Base Commander Warren Branges presented the Treasurer's report. A copy of the Report will be filed with these minutes.

Minutes of the April meeting were handed out. Minutes will be published in the Sentinel.

Base Commander Warren Branges called for Committee Reports

Binnacle List - Base Commander Warren Branges reported Frank Workman, Joe Peluso and Fred Fomby are on Binnacle.

Parade Committee - Base Commander for Joel Eikam. Next two Parades are Ramona on 19 May and La Mesa on 2 June.

Membership Committee - Chairman Ray Febrache. We have currently have 248 base members.

Scholarship Committee - Committee Chairman Paul Hitchcock - Chairman has received four applications for scholarships. The Committee is reviewing these applications. The Committee will present their recommendations at the next meeting.

Storekeeper - Paul Hitchcock - Base Commander and Storekeeper are still doing a turnover inventory.

Breakfast Committee - Base Commander Warren Branges. The 29 April 2018 breakfast netted \$109.92. Thanks to Bob Bissonnette, Jim Pope, Jim Potts, Chris Sultana and Mert Weltzien for working tables. The next breakfast is 29 July 2018. We need servers for that morning. See COB Bob Bissonnette to volunteer.

52 Boat Memorial - Chair Base Commander Warren Branges- The next two "ALL FLAGS DAYS" - will be 19 May 2018 - Armed Forces Day and 28 May - Memorial Day. We will put up flags at 0700 and take them down at 1700. The Three plaques that were out for repair are now back on display.

Float Committee - Chair David Kauppinen -. The Float is currently being stored at Naval Base Point Loma RV Lot. Thanks to Chris Sultana for helping put up the new Tent/Cover.

Eagle Scout Program - Co Chairs Nihil Smith and Glenn Gerbrand. An Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held for Troop 959 at San Carlos Methodist Church on 15 June. Nihil Smith and Glenn Gerbrand will make the presentation. All are invited to attend. Wear your vest and help us "show our colors". Glen's presentation on 21 April was exceptional and was commented on by many in attendance including the Troop Scoutmaster.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION - Shipmate David Kauppinen showed a video and made remarks on WWII Submarines rescuing downed pilots. David's article on the same subject was published in the last Sentinel.

1936 - Base Commander called for a break. 50/50 Raffle held.

1946 - Unfinished Business

NAVY MUSEUM in ALPINE. The planned trip/meeting scheduled for 19 May will not happen. We will try to re-schedule for the fall. We have a conflict with the Ramona Parade.

NATIONAL ELECTIONS will be held from 16 August 2018 through 15 October 2018. Ballots are available on the National Website and in the next American Submariner. Candidates are:

National Commander, Wayne Standerfer. National Senior Vice Commander Jon Jaques. National Junior Vice Commander Steve Bell. National Treasurer Paul Hiser. National Secretary Ray Wewers. Western Region Director Jim Denizen. Several Constitution and ByLaw changes will be on the ballot. Please read up on them and make sure you vote.

The Western Region Roundup was held at SAM'sTown Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, April 23-27 2018. The final head count for the Roundup was 85. Submariner's came for all over the Western U.S. including Fred Ashcraft and family from Alaska. A boat trip on Lake Mead was included as one of the activities. The Auction raised funds for "seed money" for next year's Roundup. Western Region Director Bob Bissonnette's Ice Camp Presentation was well attended. Len Heiselt (Scamp Base) is already working on the details for next year's Roundup.

The Submarine Birthday Ball - Southern California Bases will sponsor WWII SubVets Charlie Tate, George Kinnison, Harold Staggs and Colly O'Gorman at the Submarine Birthday Ball. Southern California bases have contributed to offset the costs. San Diego Base, LA/Pasadena Base, Scamp Base, Bonefish Base and District 6 all contributed. The District 6 Commander also made a personal donation. We will present Harold Staggs, Charlie Tate and George Kinnison plaques recognizing and celebrating the 75th Anniversary of their Submarine Qualification. Former MCPON Rick West will be the Keynote Speaker. Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette will not be able to attend due to family situation. His ticket is available. See the Base Commander if you want to attend.

2000 - New Business

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS - will be on the ballot this election cycle. Everyone is encouraged to read up on this subject and are encouraged to vote in this election. This initiative will have a lasting impact on the USSVI for years to come.

2044 - Good of the Order

2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION will be the Caribbean Cruise from Fort Lauderdale October 27 - November 3, 2018. Information and registration forms at the National Website (<http://ussviconvention.org/2018/>). 273 members are signed up. The following boats will hold reunions on the cruise: SS-241 Chivo, SS-484 Odax, SSN-585 Skipjack, and SSBN-619 Andrew Jackson.

OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON/TOLLING OF THE BOATS will be held at Roncador Memorial on Naval Base Point Loma - Friday 11 May at 1100. \$20 each for lunch. Our own Captain Don Mathiowetz will be the reader for the Tolling Ceremony.

THE SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL is scheduled for Saturday, 12 May 2018. Former MCPON Rick West is Guest Speaker. Tickets are \$70.00

MEMORIAL DAY/TOLLING OF THE BELLS Ceremony will be held at Roncador Memorial on Naval Base Point Loma - Monday, 28 May 2018 at 1000. Need Volunteers to help with Base Access.

ANNUAL SUBMARINE VET PICNIC - Saturday 14 July 2018 - All Day. Submarine Tours as operational schedules allow. Volunteers see Base Commander to sign up.

SAN DIEGO BASE CHRISTMAS PARTY - 8 December 2018 - Saturday

OUTYEAR CONVENTIONS are: 2019 Austin TX, 2020 in the Western Region probably Tucson, 2021 Orlando at the Rosen Shingle Creek.

Captain Don Mathiowetz highly recommends that everyone read Thunder Below by Adm Fluckey.

Mr. Matt Brower presented his case. He is running for Superior Court Judge in the upcoming elections. Primary is Tuesday, June 5th.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2022

/s/ Jack E. Kane

Jack Kane, Secretary
Sailing List for 8 May 2018

Members

Nihil Smith
Joel Eikam
Jack Kane
Warren Branges
Matt Baumann
Bob Bissonnette
David Kauppinen
Bill Earl
Bob Farrell
Chris Stafford
Ray Febrache
Dennis Mortensen
Paul Hitchcock
David Martinez
Chris Sultana
Phillip Richeson
Don Mathiowetz

***San Diego Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc.
Minutes of Meeting - 10 April 2018
At VFW Hall, 4370 Twain Avenue, San Diego CA 92120***

1904 - Base Commander Warren Branges called the meeting to order.

Conducted Opening Exercises - Pledge of Allegiance lead by Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette
Acting Chaplain David Ball lead the opening prayer.

Acting Chaplain David Ball conducted Tolling of the Boats for boats lost in the month of April.

Base Secretary Jack Kane recognized Past Commanders, dignitaries and guests.

Base Secretary Jack Kane announced 26 members and 1 Guest present.

Base Treasurer Joe Peluso gave his report. A copy of the Treasurers Report will be filed with these minutes.

Minutes of the March meeting were handed out. Minutes will be published in the Sentinel.

Base Commander Warren Branges called for Committee Reports

Binnacle List - Acting Chaplain David Ball reported and Frank Workman and Fred Fomby are on Binnacle.

Parade Committee - Base Commander for Joel Eikam. We won't have a enough members in town to participate in The Linda Vista Parade on 28 April. The Base Secretary will let the Parade Committee know we are cancelling.

Membership Committee - Chairman Ray Febrache. We have currently have 249 base members. Same number as last month.

Scholarship Committee - Committee Chairman Paul Hitchcock - Chairman has received three applications for scholarships. Next step is for Committee to review and make recommendations to the Chair. Please see Paul if you want to volunteer for the Committee and help do the review. The review will done electronically.

Storekeeper - Paul Hitchcock - No Report.

Breakfast Committee - Chair Base Commander Warren Branges. The next Breakfast will be 29 April 2018. The one following will be 29 July 2018. We need servers for both.

52 Boat Memorial - Chair Base Commander Warren Branges- The next "ALL FLAGS DAY" - will be 11 April 2018. We will put up flags at 0700. SUBRON Eleven has been asked to join us for putting up and taking down the flags. The Committee is also researching how to include the Memorial in National Wreath Day. The Next National Wreath Day is 7 December 2018. Wreaths will cost \$15 to \$16 each. More information to follow as the program is filled out. Three of the Plaques are of display while being repaired.

Float Committee - Chair David Kauppinen -. The Float is currently being stored at Naval Base Point Loma RV Lot. A motion was made, discussed and approved to reimburse the Base Commander \$110.00 for the cost of a Portable Garage Canopy to protect the Float.

Eagle Scout Program - Co Chairs Nihil Smith and Glenn Gerbrand. An Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held for Troop 959 at San Carlos Methodist Church on Sunday 21 April at 7:00pm. Nihil Smith and Glenn Gerbrand will make the presentation. All are invited to attend.

1920 - Base Commander called for a break. 50/50 Raffle held.

1944 - Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette gave a presentation and Ice Camp Summary Report.

2015 - Unfinished Business

NAVY MUSEUM in ALPINE. Base Secretary Jack Kane will contact Terry Ulmer again about touring his property in Puetz Valley. We will ask Terry if having a half-day outing/tour would be feasible on 19 May 2018. We will have a go/no go answer by 15 April.

Call for Scholarship Packages. Deadline for Packages is 15 April. Several members volunteered at the break. Chairman Paul

Obtaining Glassware with the Base Logo for the Base Store is proceeding. Base Commander Warren Branges will be placing an order for glassware. The cost will be approximately \$850 for the initial order.

National Website - The new National Website was rolled out. Serious problems were indentified and the Old site was put back in service until problems with the new site are worked out. The new site probably won't be online until after this year's elections.

The Submarine Birthday Ball - The Base will sponsor WWII SubVets Charlie Tate, George Kinnison and Colly O'Gorman at the Submarine Birthday Ball. Base Commander Warren Branges will ask The Western District Commander to solicit funds from other Southern California Bases to help sponsor the WWII Vets. We will also present Charlie Tate and George Kinnison plaques recognizing and celebrating the 75th Anniversary of their Submarine Qualification.

Awards Submission - The cutoff date for National Awards Submission is 30 April.

2040 - New Business

National Elections will be held this year starting August 16th and ending on October 15th. Candidates are:

National Commander, Wayne Standerfer. National Senior Vice Commander Jon Jaques. National Junior Vice Commander Steve Bell. National Treasurer Paul Hiser. National Secretary Ray Wewers. Western Region Director Jim Denizen and Len Heiselt. Several Constitution and ByLaw changes will be on the ballot. Please read up on them and make sure you vote.

FISHING TRIP Drawing - Last month's minutes did not include the full list of winners. Third Place Winner was Robert Leider from Scamp Base. Second Place Paul Hitchcock San Diego Base, First Place Mert Weltzien San Diego Base.

2044 - Good of the Order

2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION will be the Caribbean Cruise from Fort Lauderdale October 27 - November 3, 2018. Information and registration forms at the National Website (<http://ussviconvention.org/2018/>). 273 members are signed up. The following boats will hold reunions on the cruise: SS-241 Chivo, SS-484 Odax, SSN-585 Skipjack, SSBN-619 Andrew Jackson and SSN-687 Richard B. Russell.

WESTERN REGION ROUNDUP will be held at SAM' TOWN Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, April 23-27 2018. 78 Signed up so far.

OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON/TOLLING OF THE BOATS will be held at Roncador Memorial on Naval Base Point Loma - Friday 11 May at 1100. \$20 each

THE SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL is scheduled for Saturday, 12 May 2018. Former MCPON Rick West is Guest Speaker. Tickets are \$70.00

MEMORIAL DAY/TOLLING OF THE BELLS Ceremony will be held at Roncador Memorial on Naval Base Point Loma - Monday, 28 May 2018 at 1000. Need Volunteers to help with Base Access.

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SAN DIEGO BASE CHRISTMAS PARTY - 8 December 2018 - Saturday

ETERNAL PATROL MEMORIAL REEF information on the back table. Their website is eternalreefs.com. Eternal Reefs is asking each state to make a Proclamation.

THE ARIZONA SILENT SERVICE MEMORIAL will hold a Raffle at the Western Region Roundup. See flyers on back table.

RAY FEBRACHE has Library Book - THUNDER BELOW - with a personal inscription by the author. Anyone who may be interested in obtaining this copy from the Library see Ray.

JIM POPE pointed out the fact that initial funding for The USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL in Pearl Harbor was provided by Elvis Presley.

INFORMATION on a Blog/Audio/Radio program with Joel Greenburg frmrlly USS SEAFOX is available on the back table.

DAVID KAUPPINEN distributed Stars for Troops to each member. The Oceanside American Legion makes these Star Mementos from U.S. Flags that are slated for burning. This may be project for future using stars from 52 BOAT MEMORIAL Flags.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2100

/s/ Jack E. Kane
Jack Kane, Secretary
Sailing List for 10 April 2018

Members

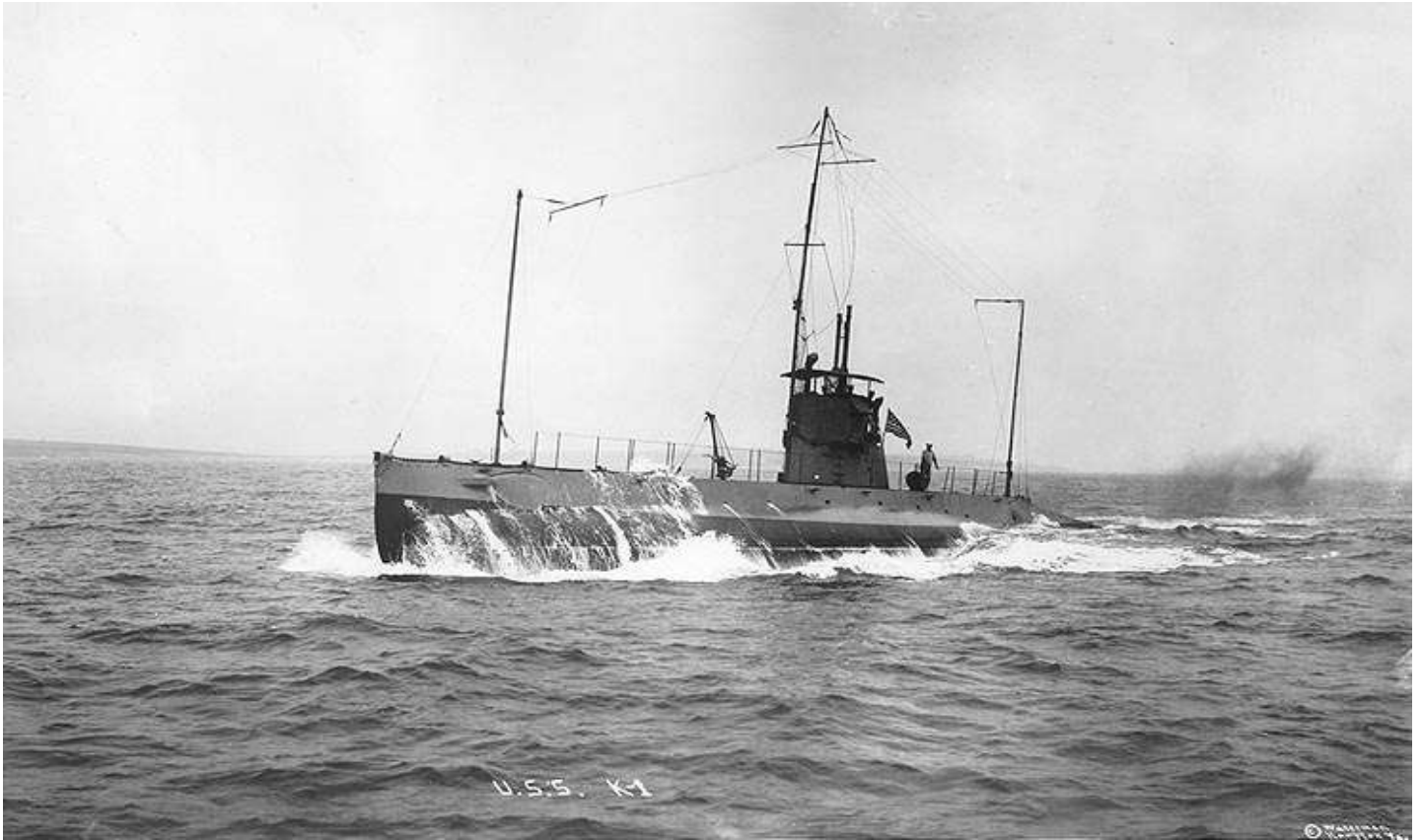
Nihil Smith	Mert Weltzien	David Martinez
Joel Eikam	Bob Farrell	Russ Filbeck
Jack Kane	Bill Earl	James Pope
David Ball	Ed Farley	Chris Sultana
Warren Branges	Chris Stafford	Phillip Richeson
Matt Baumann	Ray Febrache	Don Mathiowetz
Joe Peluso	Dennis Mortensen	Guest
Bob Bissonette	Jim Harer	Jessie Chang Farley
David Kauppinen	Paul Hitchcock	
Rocky Rockers	Peter Lary	

Submarine Patrols in World War 1 - Perpetuating the Memory

by David Kauppinen

On May 7, 1915 German submarine U-20, under the command of Lt. Commander Walther Schweiger, fired one torpedo at the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania 11 miles off the southern coast of Ireland. After traveling 897 yards, the torpedo hit amidships and the Lusitania sank in 18 minutes. The Germans justified the sinking by stating the ship was carrying munitions for the British war effort (which turned out to be true). Since 128 American citizens were among the 1,198 passengers and crew who died, this caused an uproar among the American public and politicians. Interestingly, the U.S. remained neutral for two more years. The British blockade of German shipping continued to have detrimental effects on the German war supply effort, so on February 1, 1917, Kaiser Wilhelm III declared unrestricted submarine warfare. Over the next 3 months, ten American merchant ships were sunk by German U-boats with additional loss of life. These attacks acts, coupled with the Lusitania sinking, precipitated a *casus belli* and formal declaration of war by the United States on April 6, 1917.

At the beginning of 1917, the United States Navy had 43 submarines in service. All were designed for coastal defense duties. Consequently, very few U.S. submarines participated in WWI. The newest submarines were the K-Class and L-Class boats.



There were 8 K-Class submarines built between 1912 and 1914: 521 tons submerged, 153' 7" long, 16' 8" beam, 14 knots surfaced, 10.5 knots submerged, depth limit 200', four 18" torpedo tubes, and a crew of 2 officers and 26 enlisted men. Both the K- Class and L-Class boats had a short sail (less than 5 feet high) which was designed for extended surface operations. To protect the crew when topside, they were fitted with a temporary piping and canvas weather structure. However, that feature made crash diving impossible.



The Silent Sentinel, June 2018

There were 11 L-Class submarines built between 1914 and 1917 which were the first ocean-going long range boats in the U.S. Navy. These submarines were similar to the K-Class, but 14 feet longer, 27 tons heavier, and had one partially retractable 3"/23 deck gun.

Shortly after the declaration of war, the USS L-4 (SS-43) went on an anti-submarine patrol of the East Coast of the U.S. on April 14, 1917. This was the first ever war patrol by a U.S. submarine.



Six months later in October 1917, submarines K-1, K-2, K-5, K-6 and E-1 were transferred to the 6th Submarine Division at Ponta Delgada, Azores.



This was followed in January 1918 by submarines L-1, L-2, L-3, L-4, L-9, L-10, and L-11 being transferred to the 5th Submarine Division, located at Berehaven, Ireland. All of these submarines had to be towed to their new assignments overseas. The new submarine divisions were formed to conduct anti-submarine patrols, protect convoys, and keep the Azores from becoming a refuge for German U-boats. To avoid confusion with British L-Class subs the U.S. boats were re-designated with "AL" for American L-Class. In addition, at the insistence of the British Navy, U.S. submarines installed a permanent chariot style bridge to eliminate the cumbersome temporary weather structure and allow faster diving.

On May 22, 1918, the USS L-1 (SS-40) attacked a U-boat near the Scilly Islands, United Kingdom and received return fire by the Germans. This was the first U.S. submarine to be attacked by an enemy warship. In July 1918 while patrolling the Irish sea the USS L-2 (SS-41) was attacked by a U-boat, but the torpedo exploded 25 feet away, rocked the sub, and heavily dented her hull plates. The L-2 saw the periscope and tried to ram the German sub, but the U-boat was faster and escaped.

U.S. submarines did not sink any U-boats in WWI, however, they did chase away several during their deployment. The Submarine Division 5 boats made 8 to 10 day patrols which, up to that point, was unheard of for American submarines. Both Submarine Division 5 and 6 boats acquired valuable experience about submarine operations in bad weather and rough seas, and, additionally, in war tactics. This experience went into the newer submarine designs and submarine training programs. When the Armistice was signed on November 11, 2018, two new submarine classes designed for ocean-going operations were under construction; 27 boats of the R-Class and the 52 boats of the S-Class.

It is interesting to note the effect German submarines had on WWI shipping: U-boats sank almost 5,000 ships (13 million tons), 178 U-boats were sunk, and 5,000 German submariners were lost.

A very interesting [first hand account](#) can be read about the USS K-2 (SS-33) transit in October 2018 from Punta Delgada, Azores, to Bermuda, and then the Philadelphia Navy Yard. It is amazing what the crew had to endure. After clicking the above link, scroll down a few pages to the K-2 section and the sailor standing in front of what is now a hundred year old car.

References

- 1) Submarine The Ultimate Naval Weapon – Its Past, Present and Future, by Drew Middleton, Playboy Press, 1976.
- 2) United States Submarines, David R. Hinkle (Editor in Chief), Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Inc. 2002.
- 3) United States K-Class Submarines, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_K-class_submarine
- 4) United States L-Class Submarines, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_L-class_submarine
- 5) Pig Boats, K-Class and L-Class, <http://pigboats.com>
- 6) Adrift on a Disabled Submarine, Norman A. McKinnon, <http://pigboats.com/subs/k-boats.html>

Submarine Birthday Ball and Old Timer Luncheon Photos



San Diego Base Commander Warren Branges and Wife



Tolling of the Boats Ceremony



Bob Farrell



George Kinnison and Friend



Mike Williamson



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Quinlin R. Holmes
Owner / Notary Public

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