

USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN., INC.

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The Raven

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Shipmates & Associate Members:

I hope that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday and wish you and your families the best for the upcoming holidays.

I have completed moving (only across the parking lot) and only had one problem: I cannot locate a thumb drive that had a lot of Sam Houston-related and other important stuff on it. That drive had remained installed in the rear of the computer and served as permanent storage for important files about the SHVA and Destroyer Leader Assn. of which I am the Roster Administrator. Fortunately, neither of the rosters were lost as I keep daily backups of those in four places. As you might have guessed, those rosters are the heart of the operation of the two military-reunion groups. What's ironic about the whole matter is that the thumb drive was the first item made ready for the move by simply removing it from the rear of computer and saying to my wife, "This thumb drive is important; so, I'm removing it now to prevent it from being lost in the move." I have no idea where it is! Anyway, life and the SHVA go on.

I expect to have a signed contract with the host hotel by the time this newsletter is issued. Don't forget that the reunion is being set for 11-13 (Th—Sa) Sep 2014 in Seattle, Wash.

Inside is an interesting article concerning the Soviets retrieving an Exercise Torpedo fired by Big Sam!

On a sad note, I received notification since issuance of the previous edition of "The Raven" that two shipmates are on Eternal Patrol—one received his Final Orders since that newsletter. Those shipmates are mentioned in a subsequent article.

Please ensure that you have my correct postal address that follows.

Fair winds and following seas,

Howard Dobson [ETR2(SS), Gold, 1969-1972]
28 Colony Blvd
Wilmington DE 19802-1402

Phone/Fax: 302-764-1197

E-Mail: howardvaldobson@verizon.net

2014 REUNION UPDATE

The contract with the host hotel should be signed by issuance of this newsletter or shortly thereafter. On a parallel path, the Reunion Committee is selecting menus for our group buffet on Friday evening and banquet on Saturday night. The contract concerns group sales agreements—primarily guest room reservations—and establishes some basics for a separate catering contract. Meeting Rooms and their setups and meals are catering functions. The catering contract is easier and faster to deal with.

The Reunion Committee has yet to arrange for our tours but has some idea of suitable attractions based on information from the Seattle Convention & Visitors Bureau and suggestions from members in the area. One of the anticipated activities on Friday, 12 Sep, is a tour of the Trident Base in Bangor. Changes are being made for security purposes at all military bases because of the Washington Navy Yard shooting a few months ago. This situation, coupled with the government sequestration, has things on hold regarding arrangements for our base tour. This does not equate to no tour—it's a wait and see. The person at the base with whom I am dealing seems optimistic that we will get a base tour that will include a tour of a boomer. The Reunion Committee expects that all tours for the reunion will be arranged by mid-Feb 2014. We will incorporate alternates for the Trident Base tour should it be cancelled at the last minute. For Thursday during the reunion, we will be visiting attractions in the Seattle area that will include a visit to Pike Place Market for lunch and shopping in that area. Additionally, access to downtown Seattle from the host hostel will be easy via the Link (light rail) for those who want to “do their own thing.” The 35-min. ride costs \$2.75.

I expect to issue the Reunion-Registration Packet no later than mid-Mar 2014. Meanwhile, please begin your plans to attend. As usual, you will not need to rent a car to get to the host hotel if all you will do is participate in the reunion. If you use any form of public transportation to arrive in Seattle, you will be able to arrive at the host hotel either by the hotel's complimentary airport shuttle or a combination of the Link from downtown Seattle to the airport and then the hotel's complimentary shuttle. The packet will provide more details.

We should have good attendance at this reunion as many of you have told me that you plan to attend. We may exceed the contracted block of guest rooms, but this will not be a problem as the hotel will be able to accommodate any overages at the contracted room rate as long as you make reservations before the cutoff date. Having fewer guest room reservations at the cutoff date than the contracted amount is the problematic situation.

HENRY HOLLIS

Henry Hollis [TMC(SS), Gold, 1964—1969] poses in front of a United State Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) float of the Conning Tower of USS Bonefish.



HOWARD DOBSON VISITS THE NAUTILUS MUSEUM

I attended a reunion of the Destroyer Leader Assn. near Providence, R.I. at the end of Sep 2013. One of the tours during that reunion was the Submarine Force Library & Museum of which the Nautilus is the museum ship. While there, I noticed the bells of two boats on display. This prompted me to attempt to find out what happened to the bell (and other stuff) from **USS Sam Houston**. The “important” stuff from decommissioned ships ends up under the control of the Naval Heritage & Command Center at the Washington Navy Yard. It is impossible to contact someone there, and with the government sequester in effect, the center is essentially shut down. The museum is under the control of the center, and its curator has volunteered to attempt to learn what happened to the stuff from Big Sam. I have not heard anything yet.

Anyway, I took a picture of the “41 For Freedom” display with the crests of those boats.



Upon leaving the museum and passing alongside the main gate at Naval Submarine Base New London, I took a picture from inside of the coach. There is no resemblance to the old guard house!



SHIPMATES VISITED WHILE I WAS IN THE NEW ENGLAND AREA

During a lull in activities of the Destroyer Leader Assn., I visited **Jerry Jensen** [EMC(SS), Gold, 1968—1971], in Preston, Conn. We stood many-a-watch in the Engineering Spaces. Jerry and his wife, Barbara, are “snowbirds” and have flown the coop for Florida.



At the end of the Destroyer Leader Assn. reunion, I decided to head home through Springfield, Mass. and attempt to visit the husband and wife at whose house I stayed while attending nuclear prototype training in Windsor Locks, Conn. from Oct 1968—May 1969. I found them alive and well and thanked them for the part that they played in my life. I had not seen or contacted them since about 1970.

Before heading home, I called **Ray Higgins** [MM1(SS), Gold & Blue, 1965—1970] of Holyoke, Mass. to see if he was available for lunch. He was, and we had lunch at a restaurant in Enfield, Conn.



After lunch, I hit the highway only to encounter a lengthy traffic delay around New York City—almost a 3-hour delay for a normal, 5-hour total trip! The delay was acceptable because I had visited a shipmate.

SUB SCHOOL CLASS PICTURES

Your Sub School graduation picture might be on the USSVI's web site. What follows is a "News Flash" that I recently received from the USSVI:

NEWS-01: Submarine School Graduation pictures

Submitted by: Office on 10/21/2013

The video linked at the bottom explains how to find your Submarine School Graduation picture in the SUB SCHOOL PICS section of the USSVI website at www.ussvi.org.

If your Grad Picture does not appear AND you have a copy to share, PLEASE contact our Sub School Photo manager so that he can post your School Picture in this collection. Be sure to identify where you are in the photo. If you know other students in the photo, please also send their names, rate / rank (at the time) and their location in the photo.

Sub School Photo Manager

Shawn D Brown

6425 Dane Ave

Cocoa FL 32927-3123

321-639-8168

sbrown1@cfl.rr.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLKeA7cj2Fg

I recall many years ago that someone else had embarked on the same project of posting Sub School Class pictures, but he apparently abandoned the project because Sub School did not keep those pictures. Now that someone from the USSVI is devoted to the project, it should progress especially because he is requesting copies from the graduates. Unfortunately, mine is not on the web site, and I don't have a copy. Hopefully, someone else who does will submit it.

You do not have to be a member of the USSVI to view the on-line pictures or submit one for the library.

PERSONAL VIDEO WITH SCENES ONBOARD AND OFF SAM HOUSTON

Peter Speen [ETN1(SS), Blue, 1976-1980] sent the following message regarding a video that can be viewed on the "YouTube" web site. I am unsure who posted that video. It has a variety of scenes.

"An old shipmate sent me this YouTube video of the blue crew back in 1977. Not sure if you have seen this before? Thought I would pass it along anyway. I almost didn't recognize myself...skinny with no gray hair (1:59...mustache guy)."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKZBUcC-s8>

IN SEARCH OF . . .

Peter Speen also had the following request:

*"I'm looking for an old shipmate from the Blue Crew: **Walter E Kramel**, NAVET ~ 1976 to 1980. Please add him to your list . . . perhaps someone knows how to get in-touch with him.*

*Also, **Russell E Hanson**, Blue Crew, NAVET, ~ 1975 – 1979, <hansonxyz@yahoo.com>."*

If anyone has contact information on these two shipmates, please share that information with myself and Peter. I e-mailed Russell, but have neither received a response nor an undeliverable notice.

Howard Dobson

SHIPMATE STILL A DJ & MUSICIAN

Roger Brakefield [RM2(SS), Blue, 1976—1979] who performs under the name *Dallas McCord* submitted the following information:

"I will be performing at Yellowstone National Park for my third summer in 2014. I perform out of the Roosevelt Lodge doing the Cowboy Supper/Dinner show. Been there the past two summers and had a ball. We take 250 visitors on a three-mile, covered wagon or horseback trip to an all-you-can-eat steak meal. I have a monolog before we leave the coral, and I play guitar and sing for 90 minutes while folks enjoy their meals."

Come see me.

*In harmony,
Dallas*

www.dallasmccord.com

AWA Disc Jockey of the Year
KNND 1400AM; Sundays, 1PM to 4PM
Cowboy Culture Corner
"Keep out of the wire!"
Dallas McCord

SERIOUS CONCENTRATION

Walter Gawrysiak [ET1(SS), Gold, 1966—1971, Eternal Patrol], RC Div. LPO, and **R. Barkhurst** [LT, Gold], RC Div. Officer, are engaged in deep study in the foreground. Judging by the size of the book, it is likely one of the many "volumes" of the Reactor Plant Manual. Their discussion probably lasted for at least half of the patrol! **Pat Pecorelli** [IC2(SS), Gold, 1969—1972] is against the bulkhead. I don't know the name of the other shipmate in the side view. I was able to contact Maryanne Gawrysiak, Walt's widow, thanks to the **Jensen's** who have maintained contact with her. I remembered that I had this picture but do not remember who sent it to me. I sent her the picture, and she was grateful. The thanks goes to whoever sent me the picture. Let me know, please. Walt was my LPO when I reported aboard.



COMMENT ABOUT THE "SILENT SERVICE" VIDEOS

Tony Iachovelli [MT2(SS), Gold, 1965—1970] had the following comment about the *Silent Service* DVDs that he purchased from the SHVA:

*"I, too, was overly inspired by the TV series, **The Silent Service**. I was so inspired [that] I enlisted in the Submarine Reserves while still in high school! Upon graduating in June 1958, I attended Sub School for two weeks. In July 1958, I enlisted in the USN.*

I attended Guided Missile School in Dam Neck, Va. after Boot Camp. At that time, two people from each class could volunteer for sub duty. Because they accepted people at the top of the class, I was not chosen. The next class only had one volunteer; so, they asked me if I was still interested. I said "yes," but I did not pass the physical (overweight). I had orders to attend Terrier [Missile] School on the west coast in three weeks. They gave me three weeks to lose 30 lb. By dieting, exercising, and 'greenies,' I lost 10 lb. in one week, 10 more in week two, but only 7 lb. in week three. The doctor said "no!" Everyone at Dam Neck knew what I was trying to do, especially the Corpsmen at the base hospital. They went into the doctor and said that this guy busted his ass; you have to let him go. He did. I went to Virginia Beach that night and had two lobsters with drawn butter and have not seen 190 lb. since!

I went to Sub School and got orders to USS George Washington (SSBN 598) in January 1960. I was aboard her when the first missile was fired from a sub. I served on four subs: 598, 601, 608, and 609 and made 12 Polaris Patrols. I was, and still am, inspired by those men of the "The Silent Service."

Tony "Ike" Iachovelli
12 Oct 2013

"SILENT SERVICE" TV SERIES DVD & MP4 FILE FORMATS AVAILABLE

You can still purchase the entire "Silent Service TV Series" episodes from me for the give-away prices of only \$30 for the episodes (13 disks) in the DVD format or \$15 for the mp4 format (2 disks). But, you can view and/or download the mp4 format for free at the web site <www.olgoat.com>. (Select the "Downloads" link near the bottom of the web page.) Please refer to the 3d Edition 2013 of "The Raven" for more details concerning the episodes and formats. I have received great comments from all of those who ordered the DVD format. Thanks to the generosity of USSVI Northern Virginia Base member, Ray Stone, these episodes became available.

If you wish to order either of the formats for convenience, please send a check or money order payable to "USS Sam Houston" to me at the address below. Specify the format that you are ordering.

Howard Dobson
c/o USS Sam Houston Veterans Assn
28 Colony Blvd
Wilmington DE 19802-1402

One of the disks in the DVD format.



2 disks with the
mp4 format.



FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JAY MEADOWS

On 20 Nov 2013, it was an honor that I was able to attend the Funeral Service at Arlington National Cemetery for **Jay Meadows** [TM3(SS), Gold, 1970—1973]. We served together for about 2 years.

Jay is buried in Grave 4463 of Section 12. This grave is about a 15-min. walk from the Welcome Center.



Jay's widow, Maryann, receives the memorial flag from a member of the Honor Guard.

OTHERS ON ETERNAL PATROL

Since the previous edition of "The Raven," I also learned that the following shipmates received their Final Orders:

Russell Mann [ET2(SS), Blue, 1968—1973]
Left for Eternal Patrol: 1995

Dr. Richard F. Schillaci (CAPT, ret.), [on-board information unknown]
Left for Eternal Patrol: 25 Sep 2013



MORGAN EVANS, NEWLY FOUND SHIPMATE

Morgan Evans [RMCS(SS), Blue, 1976—1979] submitted the following information.

“Made warrant (CWO2) while at sea on Robert E. Lee (one patrol only as they needed someone in communications) and they pinned me, but when I made land, was told it was not official date yet so reverted back to Senior Chief and went back on the Sam Houston. I believe it was a short time later (1980) when Commander Klinger and my wife, Margaret, then pinned me again. When I was pinned on the Robert E Lee, came back to find the Chiefs had thrown my rack into the passageway and wouldn't let me back so I headed for officer quarters!”

The picture below is Morgan with his son, Morgan, clutching his sleeping bag as they prepare to go on a three-day patrol—probably around 1978. They slept down by the torpedoes and loved the experience.



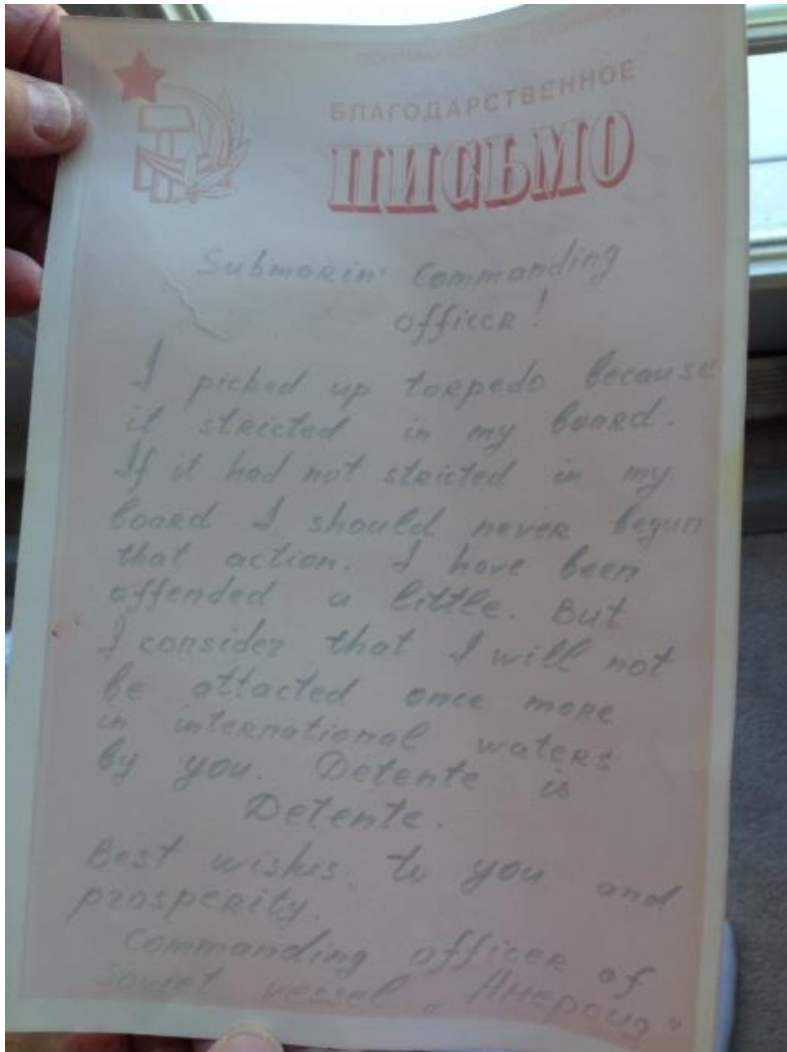
SOVIETS NAB ONE OF BIG SAM'S EXERCISE TORPEDOES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Morgan Evans was aboard and remembers a few details about the incident.

“Near Guam and probably in 1978, Big Sam Blue Crew had fired an Exercise Torpedo that a Soviet AIG had picked up and later returned with a letter! May have been Patrol 50. After the Russians picked up our exercise torpedo, we followed the Russian AIG towards the Sea of Japan where eventually the torpedo was returned with a letter and bottle of vodka!

“All I remember was that we were firing our exercise torpedo, and the next thing I heard was that a Russian AIG had picked it up. I was in the Communications Room at the time of the incident and, eventually as I remember, the State Department became involved. The situation made national-TV news as my spouse became aware of the incident. The name of the submarine was not mentioned; so, she was not sure until we came home that it was our sub. The incident is mentioned in the book, Blind Man's Bluff.”

CAPT David Klinger (CO, Blue, 1979—1981?) signed the back of the letter from the Soviets and gave it to Morgan for “his part in the incident.” Pictures of that letter are on the next page. Morgan did not receive the bottle of vodka with that letter. My guess is that the Wardroom consumed it!

SOVIETS NAB ONE OF BIG SAM'S EXERCISE TORPEDOES (cont.)


←

Submarine Commanding Officer!

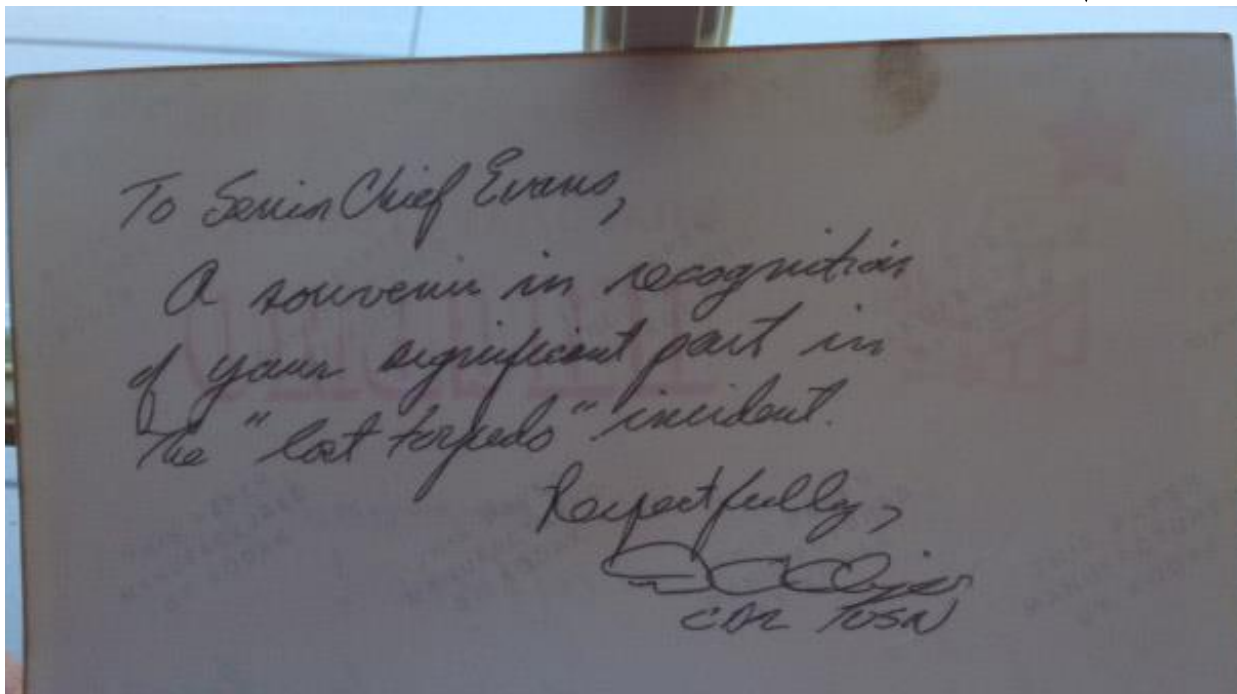
I picked up torpedo because it stricted in my board. If it had not stricted in my board I should never begun that action. I have been offended a little. But I consider that I will not be attached once more in international waters by you. Détente is Détente.

Best wishes to you and prosperity.

**Commanding Officer of Soviet Vessel
"Amepoug"**

Back of the letter
signed by CDR Klinger

↓



PICTURE AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE US NAVY

Noel Barnett [EM2(SS), Gold & SSN, 1980—1982] poses a question:

“I was in DC several months ago and visited the Navy Museum at the Navy Yard. I saw this photo in the “Cold War” exhibit and had to get a shot of it. Maybe someone will remember when they were on the boat when this was shot?”

This picture was taken in May 1963 upon returning to Holy Loch, Scotland after a patrol. This information appears in the caption of the picture. This picture appears on a lot of web sites. At that time, USS Hunley (AS 31) was the sub tender and had just relieved USS Proteus (AS 19) in May 1963.



JACK HARDEN ACCLAIMS THAT HE EXHIBITS “NOTHING BUT CLASS”

Jack Harden [RM2(SS), Blue, 1963—1966] and his wife, Joyce, are with Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North who co-authored the book *American Heroes on the Homefront: The Hearts of Heroes*. Jack and Joyce were apparently at a book-signing event with Col. Oliver North.



MEMORABILIA FROM RICHARD ROCCO

Richard Rocco [TM3(SS), Blue, 1967—1969] submitted the following memorabilia. These should bring back memories for most of us.

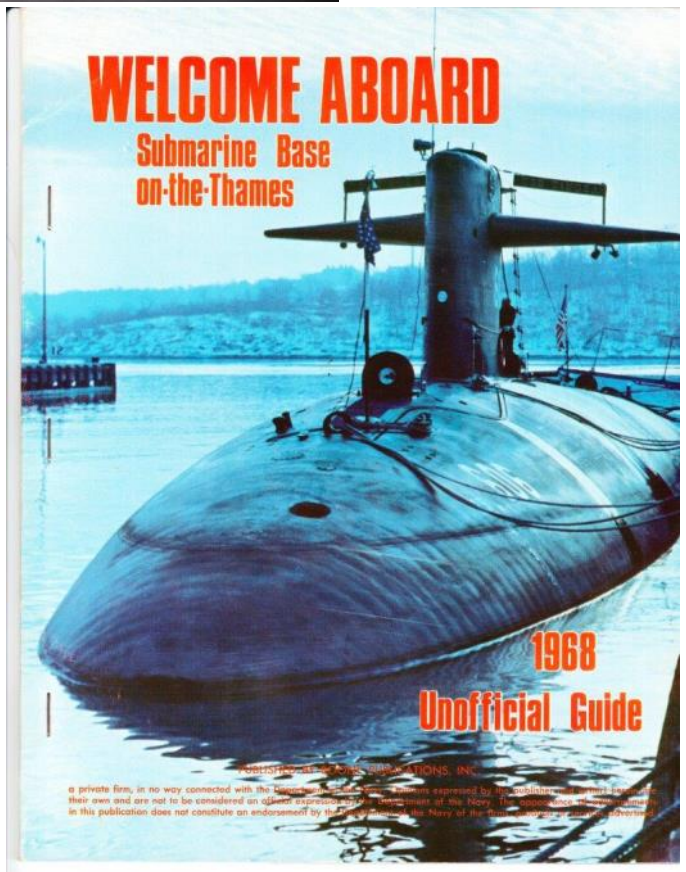
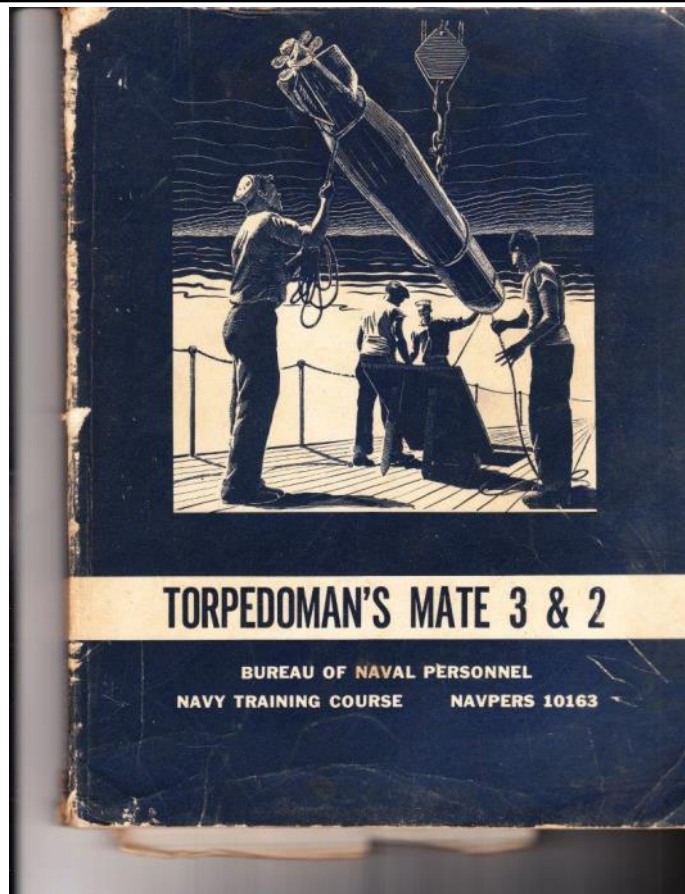


Cromwell Hall, Submarine School



The Submarine Insignia

MORE MEMORABILIA FROM RICHARD ROCCO (cont.)



MORE MEMORABILIA FROM RICHARD ROCCO (cont.)



CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know Ye, that by authority vested in me and reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities of

SN(SU) Richard Allen ROCCO, USN

I do hereby appoint you to the rate of

Torpedoman's Mate Third Class

in the

UNITED STATES NAVY

to rank as such from the 16th day of April, nineteen hundred and Sixty Eight

TO THE APPOINTEE

Your appointment as a petty officer in the United States Navy makes you heir to a long and proud tradition of Naval leadership. By accepting this appointment, you are charged with demonstrating those standards of performance, moral courage, and dedication to the Navy and the Nation which may serve as an enviable example to your fellow Navy men and women.

Your desire to excel and to guide others must be boundless; your appearance must be a model for others and your performance must be a continual reflection of your sincerity, attention to duty, and moral responsibility. By exhibiting unflinching trust and obedience toward superiors, cooperation and loyalty to your peers, and understanding and strength to your subordinates, you will contribute greatly to the effectiveness and good name of the United States Navy.

Given under my hand at New London, Connecticut
this 9th day of May in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and Sixty Eight

A. C. BIVENS, CDR, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN609) (GOLD)

EXCERPTS FROM "THE SHAFT" PATROL 23 [KEN MARCUM]

HOME OF J. H. COOK III
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

PARCE OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 1969

AT HOME

73

DAYS LEFT

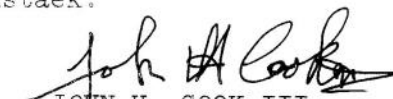
15

0615-Breakfast
 0800-Depart home for ship's office
 0830-Arrive ship's office commence undue harrassment of crew
 1000-1400 Lunch hour
 1500-Depart ship's office for home
 1530-Arrive home change from J. H. Cook III, ogre of SAM
 HOUSTON, to J. H. Cook III, mild mannered husband

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO IRVING SCHWARTZ III

NOTES:

1. Drill Yesterday's open tube of toothpaste on the bathroom floor drill was one of the "sloppiest" drills in the house thus far. Let's try to be a little more careful of contaminating the rest of the house next time. One thing learned from this drill, however, is that toothpaste is very hard to get out of the living room carpet.
2. Word to the Wise In case of fire, yell, "FIRE".
3. Big Words Promulgate, reiterate, nefarious, concur, etc.
4. Mistake Here is today's mistaek.


 JOHN H. COOK III
 Executive Officer

(Captured by TL 29 on a raiding mission to the home of a well known figure)

EXCERPTS FROM "THE SHAFT" PATROL 23 [KEN MARCUM] (cont.)

SHAFT INTERVIEWS THE DOCTOR

As you know the doctor plays an important role on board an FBM during patrol. We were lucky enough to fit into the doctor's busy schedule and obtain this exclusive interview for SHAFT.

SHAFT: Good afternoon Doctor Gortner, hope I didn't wake you up.

DOCTOR: No, I wasn't asleep. I was just checking my eye lids for leaks.

SHAFT: This is quite an unusual office you have here. Would you describe it for our readers.

DOCTOR: Well, here in the center is my boiling pot where I mix up most of my potions ... er, that is medicines.

SHAFT: That's very interesting. You mean you make all your own medicine?

DOCTOR: Oh yes, I never did think much of them new fangled drugs.

SHAFT: I see you have several bottles and containers lying around. Are these the ingredients you use?

DOCTOR: Yes. Here we have the eye of a toad, and over there is some mare's sweat, and this is dried bats blood, and heres some snake oil.

SHAFT: What kind of medicine could you possibly make out of this mess?

DOCTOR: Doc Gortner's Youth Tonic, of course. Would you like to buy a bottle, only one dollar.

SHAFT: You mean you sell this stuff to the crew?

DOCTOR: You don't think I'd give away something that took years to perfect do you? Besides, it helps to pay off my poker debts.

(Captured by TL 29 on a raiding mission to the home of a well known figure)

EXCERPTS FROM "THE SHAFT" PATROL 23 [KEN MARCUM] (cont.)

SHAFT: Does this stuff really work?

DOCTOR: Of course, look at Mr. Larson. Would you believe he's 84 years old.

SHAFT: That is pretty unbelievable. Do you have any other big customers.

DOCTOR: Yes, Chief Walsh is one of my best customers.

SHAFT: Well it certainly doesn't appear to have worked on him.

DOCTOR: On no? You should have seen him before.

SHAFT: Well doctor, do you do anything besides make youth tonic?

DOCTOR: Yes, I cast spells and put curses on people. Would you like a demonstration?

SHAFT: No thank you, but I'll keep you in mind. How do you go about putting a curse on someone.

DOCTOR: Well I mix up a few secret ingredients and say some magic words to summon up the spirit world, and put on a gruesome mask.

SHAFT: That's quite a terrifying mask you have on right now.

DOCTOR: What mask? I'm not wearing a mask.

SHAFT: Oh, I'm sorry...By the way have you become involved in any of the famous transplant operations?

DOCTOR: Oh yes, hearts, livers, kidneys. We've got a special on hearts today. Only \$500, plus trade-in of course.

SHAFT: Have you made any important discoveries in the field of medical research?

DOCTOR: Yes, I've discovered a cure for Channel Fever. It's called a "two week extention".

SHAFT: Thank you, doctor, for your time.

*Thanks to Ken Marcum [MT3(SS), Gold, 1969—1970] for submitting
"The Shaft" to share with our members.*