



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS



"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future"

January 2010

Volume 11, Issue 1

**Lest We Forget —
"The USSVI Submariner's 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.

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1300, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman's Club, Rondout, IL (near Lake Bluff). Includes lunch. Guests always welcome!
 - a. JANUARY 16, 2010
 - b. FEBRUARY 20
 - c. MARCH 20
2. **Duty Cook Roster:**
 - a. January – Larry Warnke and Dave Cribbins
 - b. February – Chris Gaines
 - c. March – Clay Hill
3. **Dues** are still coming in although about a dozen of our shipmates are dink.
4. Mark your calendar for our Submarine Birthday Ball on **Saturday, April 10, 2010**. Details to follow.
5. The Cincinnati Base will host the **2010 USSVI and WWII Submarine Veterans National Convention** at the Drawbridge Inn in Fort Mitchell, KY The Convention will be August 30 through September 6.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes December 19, 2009

Attendees:

Clay Hill
Glenn Barts, Sr.
Herman Mueller
Allen Tuider
Martin Salvador
Frank Walter
Scott Jaklin
Larry Warnke
Dave Cribbins
Vic Vanhorn
Frank Voznak, Jr.
Lou Llorca
Chris Gaines
Bob Fleck
Brent Basara
Greg Miller

1. The meeting was called to order at 1323 by Clay Hill followed by the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and a round of introductions.
2. The Secretary's Report was given by Chris Gaines. Scott Jaklin moved to accept; Frank Voznak seconded; vote was unanimous.
3. Treasurer's report given by Clay Hill; checking account about \$5220; shares account balance \$1173.69. Glenn Barts moved to accept; Frank Walter seconded, vote was unanimous.
4. Old Business
 - a. Ball Financial Review –Ten checks and one money order totaling \$1930 of which we have received duplicates for a total of \$1365.
 - a. Clay Hill will mail Holland Club materials to outstanding HC members.

- b. USO – collected \$116 at Christmas Party; will deliver to USO O'Hare; Suggest revisit in a few months to consider a direct donation.
5. New Business
 - a. 50-50 – Dave Cribbins won.
 - b. Officer Installation ceremony conducted by Vic vanHorn. The officers are Clay Hill, Commander through 2011, Bob Fleck Vice-Commander through 2010; Glenn Barts, Sr., Treasurer through 2011; and Chris Gaines, Secretary through 2010.
 - c. Dues Report – Six shipmates have not paid national or base dues and an additional 13 have not paid base dues for 2010.
 - i. Vic said they pay and send a note to the dinks asking in a friendly way to send a check.
 - ii. GLB has six unpaid; Scott sent another letter including a note if having problems, call us.
 - iii. Phone calls do not work according to some.
 - iv. Options are call, pay and send a card, send another letter. Frank Voznak moves to adopt Vic's plan. Bob Fleck seconded. Unanimous. Treasurer will send a check to National for \$120; Commander will send letters describing our actions and requesting reimbursement.
 - d. Ball 2010 Planning
 - i. Date is April 10, 2010.
 - ii. Venue
 1. Possible venues are Lake Lawn, IL Beach, and Manitowoc.

2. Should it be a subsidized or revenue-neutral event?
3. Lake Lawn room rate is \$90; bogey for dinner is \$20-40.
4. Frank Walter suggests \$35 tickets and asks the committee to evaluate it against each venue and recommend whether to subsidize.
5. Less driving to Lake Lawn than Manitowoc.
6. Committee to get quote from Manitowoc – is April 10 available and what can she offer? Clay will contact Kerry.
- iii. Band
 1. Try Navy Band
 2. Try Freddie and Lorrie
- iv. Keynote speaker
 1. Herman may know a retired MD non-sub
 2. Bring names to January meeting
6. Duty Cook – January is leftovers from the Christmas party; need someone to prepare; Dave may be away but would set something up for our access; Larry has stuff at his house; Larry and Dave for January; Chris for February; Clay for March. Frank Voznak and I offered to arrive early in January to help cook and prepare.
7. Good of the Order
 - a. Carl Schmidt is running for National Commander and asks for our vote.
 - b. Tom Barnes is running for National Treasurer; he has a financial background. Tom asks for our support.
 - c. Anyone who wants to run for district, regional, or national office simply notifies John

- Peters and identifies the office and why you think you are qualified.
- d. Vic's vice-district commander office is appointed but Vic will run for District Commander.
 8. Next meeting January 16, 2010 at 1300, Knollwood Sportsmans Club.
 9. Glenn Barts moves to adjourn; Scott Jaklin seconds; vote is unanimous.

Lost Boats

USS Scorpion (SS-278)	1/5/44
USS Argonaut (SS-166)	1/10/43
USS Swordfish (SS-193)	1/12/45
USS S-36 (SS-141)	1/20/42
USS S-26 (SS-131)	1/24/42

Diesel Sub Skipper Recalls Historic Soviet Sub Chase

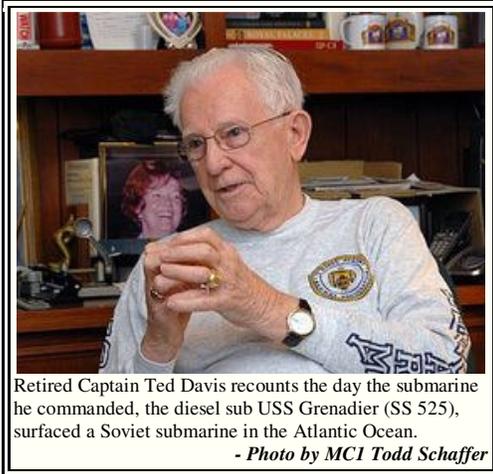
*Story by MCC Dean Lohmeyer
Commander, Submarine Force Public
Affairs*

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA - The former commanding officer of the Tench-class diesel submarine USS Grenadier (SS 525) recounted the experience of his crew 50 years ago; the events of May 28, 1959 impacted submarine warfare, especially during the Cold War era.

Captain Ted Davis, a native of Gloversville, NY, who now makes his home in Virginia Beach, VA, was commanding officer of Grenadier that day and can still recall the events as if they

happened only five years ago.

After 18 hours of tracking a



Retired Captain Ted Davis recounts the day the submarine he commanded, the diesel sub USS Grenadier (SS 525), surfaced a Soviet submarine in the Atlantic Ocean.

- Photo by MCI Todd Schaffer

contact through the icy waters of the Northern Atlantic Ocean, the captain and crew of the Grenadier would force the surfacing of a Russian Zulu-class missile-firing submarine. It marked the first time visual and photographic proof of the presence of Soviet submarines in the Atlantic was able to be captured.

Grenadier left its homeport of Key West, FL, in April 1959, along with USS Amberjack (SS 522), USS Atule (SS 403) and USS Grampus (SS 523), to conduct special antisubmarine exercises in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. Their mission was to patrol the "GIUK gap," a chokepoint from Greenland to Iceland to the United Kingdom.

However, their unofficial goal was much different.

During Grenadier's overhaul in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Davis learned of a proclamation from Adm. Jerauld Wright, then commander-in-chief of the Atlantic Fleet. The proclamation was more of a challenge in the form of an award to the first naval unit in the fleet that could prove the presence of a "non U.S. or known friendly" submarine. The first to do so would be presented an award that was certainly a sign of the

times - "one case of Jack Daniels Old No. 7 black label Tennessee sour mash whiskey."

When word came down that Grenadier and three other submarines would conduct operations in the Northern Atlantic after her homeport shift from New London, CT, to Key West, Davis informed his crew of the added incentive for the deployment.

"I put out at quarters, 'Hey guys, there's a case of Jack Daniels involved,'" said Davis, who was 36-years old at the time. "It was a challenge, but I knew the odds of us running into a Russian submarine were about one in a million."

Grenadier was on station for several days when Davis received word from his messenger that a contact was nearby.

"The messenger came in and told me that sonar had a Soviet submarine," said Davis. "The first thought that came to my mind was that the crew was so good that if they said it was a Soviet submarine, it was a Soviet submarine."

Davis, however, wasn't about to take it for granted. He asked his crew how they were so sure the contact was Russian.

"They said they'd been listening to submarines for a long time, and they knew this guy didn't fit any other pattern we had," said Davis. "No American submarines, no British submarines -- this was it."

Then the contact disappeared only moments after Davis had been convinced by his sonar operators the contact was Soviet.

The sonar crew estimated the course of the contact, believing the submarine was heading home to a port in

the Soviet Union. Its range was about 20,000 yards and speed about five knots.

Davis, a 1947 graduate of the US Naval Academy, instructed his crew to set up two plotting teams, one in control and one in the wardroom, to plan to intercept the contact.



ARGENTIA, Newfoundland, Canada - Then-LCDR Ted Davis sports a medal created for him by crew members of the submarine USS Grenadier. The medal, fashioned from a jar lid and pieces of an old flag, was dubbed the "Arleigh Medal" after then-Chief of Naval Operations Arleigh Burke. Some 45 years later Davis returned the award to Willie Dunagan, an RM2 aboard Grenadier, who was one of several Sailors who created the medal.

- Archive photo

At the time, Grenadier's battery was strong, having charged all night, but later in the day the air inside Grenadier became a little fouled. Technology that would provide submarine

s the ability to clean the air inside the submarine had yet to be invented, so submarines would have to surface to vent the sub and take in clean air.

Additionally, smoking cigarettes aboard the boat was common and not restricted to the engine room.

"A strong battery was more important than anything else," said Davis, allowing his crew to plot a course to intercept the Soviet sub at a speed of about eight knots.

"The waiting went on into the early afternoon, when all of a sudden, sonar hollers, 'Contact! Close aboard! Port bow!'" said Davis.

"To this day, I couldn't tell you if that guy knew where we were, but we could hear him."

The Soviet sub immediately "came roaring down at us," said Davis. It reminded him of a recent incident during which a Soviet submarine fired a torpedo deep under a US submarine. The torpedo was intentionally fired deep, but the action achieved the intended effect – the US boat was forced to take evasive action, while the Soviet sub was able to sneak off in the confusion and noise from the torpedo, effectively breaking the contact.

Davis believed the actions by the Soviet sub commander this day might have the same intentions, including forcing the Grenadier to identify its presence by going to full speed to evade the oncoming Russian sub. He also felt the Soviet commander might try to clip Grenadier's screws, stern planes or rudder, leaving the boat helpless to continue the pursuit but not in a life-or-death situation.

Grenadier didn't back down, however, maintaining position and most importantly stealth.

Davis instructed two of his officers who were manning passive and active sonars to basically maneuver the ship using the sonars' info.

But there was one specific instruction – always turn into the contact to avoid presenting the stern to the other submarine. Davis didn't want to present his rudder or screw to the other ship because doing so would leave him

vulnerable to a "bump" from the Soviet sub that could damage Grenadier's screw or rudder. Damage to either would force Grenadier to abandon the pursuit, letting the Soviet sub slip away.

"He came within 400 and 800 yards of us, which is awfully close" said Davis. "When I thought that it was about time to turn, I heard, 'Left full rudder! All ahead flank!' The officers in conn were on top of the problem. As he went down our port side, we just curved right in behind him.

"He thought he heard something behind him, but he wasn't sure, so he turned around and did it again," said Davis. "Then we did the same thing and fell right in behind him again. Then he took a course for home."

The Soviet sub was deep at a speed of five knots; Grenadier trailed 2,000 yards astern.

Davis decided to surface. Not only was the air fouled, but it was getting hard to light a cigarette, demonstrating the increasing amount of carbon dioxide in the boat.

While surfaced, he sent a message to Commander Submarine Force Atlantic Fleet: "Have contact on Soviet submarine, can track indefinitely." Davis also requested support from a P-2V anti-submarine patrol aircraft from Patrol Squadron 5 (VP-5) at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland.

According to a report Davis wrote later, he decided to then remain surfaced as long as possible, creating a greater advantage for himself over the Soviet submarine. Topside watches were organized, and Executive Officer Lt. Commander Ed Welsh took over as plot coordinator.

"We were ready to hold contact for as long as it took to exhaust the adversary," wrote Davis in his report.

Shortly after the P-2V was vectored in, sonar reported the Soviet sub coming up, probably to take a look.

One of Davis' junior officers, Lieutenant Dave McClary, wanted to be a pilot when he first entered the Navy, but poor eyesight prevented further pilot training. He took this opportunity to vector the P-2V over the Soviet sub and was manning the con when the sub's periscope broke the surface. He then expertly directed the P-2V right over the Russian, performing the task to perfection.

Flares dropped from the P-2V landed in the water right beside Ivan's periscope. Davis still laughs when he thinks about it.

"I swear, that periscope came up, and the flare went 'boom' right beside it," said Davis. "I said to myself, 'I'd like to see the look on his face, whoever was looking up through that periscope.'"

Several more flares were dropped over the next few hours. Davis knew without a doubt the Russian sub was aware of the plane and most likely was now fully aware they were being tracked by a submarine as well.

"I thought that was good because if he had any ideas about trying to sink us we've got a witness in the air," said Davis.

After several hours of tracking the Soviet sub from the surface, sonar lost contact. Davis immediately brought Grenadier to all stop.

"I passed the word that if you're smoking, dump your ashes in your hand...don't let your ashes hit the deck,"

said Davis. "That's how quiet I wanted the boat to be."

Davis' sonar officer suggested they go active on sonar, but Davis felt the other sub was deep and hovering, and going active would only help him verify Grenadier's position in one last attempt to escape.

"We were both dead in the water, so we were just going to let him sit," said Davis.

At the same time, the P-2V was running out of fuel and was replaced by another P-2V out of Keflavik.

"The second guy was dropping sonar buoys all over the place," said Davis. "I needed that like a hole in the head."

By this time, it was almost midnight on May 28. And Davis knew the time was near.

"I thought, this guy was out of air; he's out of battery, he's running out of everything, and he's going to surface at the darkest part of night," said Davis.

Davis had his sound-powered phone talker pass the word through the ship that the CO expected the submarine to surface a little after midnight. The XO laughed, saying, "There you go again!"

"I thought, what the hell, we have to do something to keep (the crew) laughing," said Davis. "But sure enough, at 15 minutes past the hour, sonar hollers, 'He's surfacing! He's surfacing!' So we vectored the airplane over the top of their deck."

The P-2V shined a light on the Soviet submarine and took dozens of photographs. Some of the photos showed Russian crewmembers trying to cover the sail area with canvas to hide two missile tubes.

"It turned out that we found the first real evidence of a missile-firing Soviet submarine, something our intelligence community was trying hard to get the dope on," said Davis. "Here we had all the information they needed. We not only satisfied Jerauld Wright ... but this was a real break for the intelligence community as well."

The Russian sub stayed on the surface for more than 24 hours, and Grenadier's

crew recorded as much information as possible. Once Grenadier



ADM Jerauld Wright, then-Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Fleet, personally congratulates each member of the crew of the submarine USS Grenadier (SS 525) after presenting the crew the Jerauld Wright Award and "a case of Jack Daniels Old No. 7 Black Label Tennessee Sour Mash Whiskey." Grenadier earned the award for providing proof that the Soviet Union was conducting submarine operations in the Atlantic Ocean.

- Archive photo

had gathered enough information, they were ordered back to their station to continue their participation in the exercise.

Once the exercise was over and Grenadier returned to Key West, an awards ceremony was held, during which Wright presented a case of Jack Daniels Old No. 7 black label Tennessee sour mash whiskey to the crew.

The crew of Grenadier would have to accept that as their reward for a job well done because no unit award was presented to the boat for surfacing the Soviet Zulu, but Davis believes the crew

was just as happy with the success and the Jack Daniels.

"That whiskey was gone at the next crew party," said Davis, who still has a Jack Daniels bottle from the original case. Empty, of course.

Along with the case of whiskey, Wright presented a proclamation to Davis and the crew. The proclamation stated that the presence of unidentified submarines had been reported in the sea lanes off the coast of the US, and those submarines were uncooperative in declaring their identity and intent. But "...through actions of USS Grenadier (SS-525) tangible evidence these surreptitious operations are being conducted has been produced."

Davis gives credit for the success of this mission to his crew, many of whom were extremely well qualified.

"They were truly a magnificent team," said Davis.



A bottle of Jack Daniels, labeled with the signatures of his crewmen, sits on the shelf of the home office of retired CAPT Ted Davis. The bottle commemorates the 40th anniversary of the surfacing of a Soviet submarine by Davis' boat, USS Grenadier (SS 525).

- Photo by MC1 Todd Schaffer

Although the significance of the incident can never be fully credited to Grenadier'

s success, many changes in both navies followed soon after. The Navy

commissioned America's first fleet ballistic missile submarine USS George Washington (SSBN 598) in December 1959, and the Russians soon scrapped their Zulu class of ballistic missile submarines.

Davis is very proud of the accomplishment, and he fondly remembers "29 May '59" any time someone asks him about it.

"We were in the right place at the right time with a great crew," said Davis.

He also remembers how some senior officers tried to put the surfacing in a different light.

"The briefing for (the chief of naval operations) with all his staff was amusing in that the surface force admirals were trying to say that it wasn't a submarine that did it because Grenadier was on the surface when the Soviet surfaced," he said. "I just smiled and concluded my remarks emphasizing that it was submariners that did the job, not the submarine itself. In short, it was submariners who got the Jerauld Wright Award, which gave the sub force a great boost."

Wisconsin Veterans Homes Update 02

A plan to raise rent at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove by as much as 37% starting 1 JAN has not only confused and concerned residents and their families, it has stymied the board appointed to oversee the agency that runs the home. Veterans Affairs Board members have been trying to get answers from Department of Veterans Affairs officials as to how rates at Union Grove have been set since it opened in

2001, board chairman Marv Freedman said. Board members are concerned about the size of the rate increase at Union Grove, one of two homes the agency runs, Freedman. There are no proposed rate increases at the Veterans Home at King next year, officials have said. Board members have been trying to get answers since NOV 08, when the issue was first brought to their attention by current Veterans Affairs Secretary Ken Black, Freedman said. The rate increase at Union Grove is one of the issues that spurred the board in September to ask the state to conduct a comprehensive audit of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since that time, the board fired former secretary John Scocos, blaming him for a host of financial and communications problems within the agency, and replaced him with Black. Scocos is now suing the state and the board.

Some residents and their families are concerned they can't afford the rate increases at the Union Grove home.

Some plan to move. Others plan to stay and see what the board does at its next meeting in January. The meeting was supposed to take place this month, but was canceled due to weather. Freedman said the board cannot evaluate the issue of rate setting at Union Grove until it gets answers to what he considers fair and appropriate questions. "We realize some of those we won't have answers to until the audit is completed," Freedman said. "We take these concerns dead seriously and because we haven't been able to get answers to some of these questions it heightens the concern when we hear from residents and their families." The state Legislative Audit Bureau is in the process of auditing the management and operations of both veterans' homes at King and Union Grove. The report is expected to be finished sometime this summer. [Source: The Journal Times Paul Sloth article 16 Dec 09 ++]

Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) Bulletin ymd-100101

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

Commander – Clayton Hill, 195 Clover Lane, Cedarburg, WI 53012; 262-377-5332 (work number) or bisi@ameritech.net

Vice-Commander – Bob Fleck, bobfleck@ameritech.net

Secretary (POC) – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or cggaines@mindspring.com

Treasurer – Glenn C. Barts, Sr., 2000 Jamestown Drive, Palatine, IL 60074; 847-934-7418; gcbarts@msn.com

COB – Larry Warnke, l_warnke@msn.com

Chaplain – Glenn Barts, Sr.

Storekeeper – Herman Mueller, 503 Lynn Terrace, Waukegan, IL 60085; 847-445-5034; Herman.mueller@rosalindfranklin.edu

Newsletter Editor – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or cggaines@mindspring.com

Base Historian – Frank Voznak, franklin2@comcast.net



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 further proof of my eligibility for Regular or Life membership, including an Honorable Discharge and U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by proper authority.

Signature: _____ **Date:** ___/___/___

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

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

Your E-Mail Address _____

The Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your choice of option: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr dues: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr dues: \$ 55.00; 1 yr dues (Jan-Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec + 1 yr): \$ 25.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 = \$200; 56 thru 65 = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
 Base/chapter dues is separate and additional. Crash Dive Dues \$15 annually.

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____
 Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA (New Members/Updates/Changes)

Please provide the information requested below. This information will be retained in the National and/or Base Database. Individual Bases may request additional data for their specific use only.

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 you entered Service: _____ **YR you left Service** _____ (Include any reserve time as well.)

Qual Boat: _____ **Hull#** _____ **Qual Date (MM/YY)** ___/___ **From Yr.** _____ **to** _____

Other Boats: _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to** _____

Your Spouse or other Next of Kin: Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ___ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____

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

Applicants serving on active duty are requested to provide a permanent address through which they may be contacted.

(Continue on back if necessary)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership dues to the appropriate base officer, or mail to: Crash Dive Secretary, Chris Gaines, 513 W. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718
 Upon receipt by the Membership Coordinator and your National and Base membership dues, you will be entered on the USSVI roll and you will receive a welcome aboard letter and the quarterly magazine "American Submariner".