

Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base United States Submarine Veterans

June, 2016

Australia Attacked - Sydney Harbour

<http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/underattack/sydneyharbour.html>

In May and June 1942 the war was brought home to Australians on the east coast when the Japanese attacked Sydney Harbour from the sea. In the late afternoon of 31 May 1942 three Japanese submarines, *I-22*, *I-24* and *I-27*, sitting about seven nautical miles (13 kilometres) out from Sydney Harbour, each launched a Type-A midget submarine (picture at right) for an attack on shipping in Sydney Harbour. The night before, *I-24* had launched a small floatplane that flew over the harbour, its crew spotting a prize target - an American heavy cruiser, the *USS Chicago*. The Japanese hoped to sink this warship and perhaps others anchored in the harbour.



USS Chicago. CA-29

After launching the three two-man midget submarines, the three mother submarines moved to a new position off Port Hacking to await the return of the six submariners sent into the harbour. They would wait there until 3 June.

All three midget submarines made it into the harbour. Electronic detection equipment picked up the signature of the first (from *I-24*) late that evening but it was thought to be either a ferry or another vessel on the surface passing by. Later, a Maritime Services Board watchman spotted an object caught in an antisubmarine net. After investigation, naval patrol boats reported it was a submarine and the general alarm was raised just before 10:30 p.m. Soon afterwards, the midget submarine's crew, Lieutenant Kenshi Chuma and Petty Officer Takeshi Ohmorl, realising they were trapped, blew up their craft and themselves.

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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.



Base



Commander

Shipmates,

We had a nice turnout for the Base campout at Woolly Hollow State Park. Thanks to Greg and Barbara Schwerman for making the arrangements!

Due to scheduling conflicts, there will be **NO Base meeting in June!** Please plan on attending the July gathering at Dickey-Stephens Park on 23 July. **A short business meeting will be held at the meal.** Tickets are

\$16.00 per person payable to Paul Honeck. Thanks for making the arrangements, Chief. See you all there!



Jim Gates
Base Commander

Fair Winds and following seas,

Jim

Information Regarding the 2016 USSVI National Election.

Submitted by: Alfred H Singleman Jr on 6/13/2016

This POC contains information related to the 2016 USSVI National Election. Please read it carefully and distribute it to as many members as possible. This will insure that the election will proceed smoothly and there will be no confusion in the process.

The election will begin at 0001 on June 21. It will end at 2359 on August 10. Members may vote either online or by completing the ballot that is published in the current issue of The American Submariner and mailing it to the Election Master. You can also obtain a ballot by going to the USSVI web site (www.ussvi.org) and download and print a copy (or copies) of the ballot. Members may vote in only one format. If you vote using the printed ballot you may not vote online and vice versa.

Candidate's Statements and descriptions of the PA's are printed in The American Submariner. The Candidate's Statements and descriptions of the PA's are also included in the online ballot. To see them, click on the "view" button by the candidate's name and the title of the PA.

Important Reminders

- Members must complete their own ballots and in their own hand. Members may not complete ballots for other members (proxy voting).
- Base Commanders may print and bring blank ballots to Base meetings and members may complete their ballots at the Base meeting. Again, members must complete their own ballots.
- Base Commanders or other members may bring computers to Base meetings and members may vote online at Base meetings. Again, members must vote their own online ballot.
- If paper ballots are completed at Base meetings, the Base Commander may collect and package all the ballots and send them to the Election Master.
- When voting for Regional Director, vote only for the Regional Director for your Region. If you are unsure which Region you or your Base is in, check with your Base Commander, District Commander or the USSVI web site. Votes for Regional Director other than your own will be disregarded.
- MAL's do not vote for Regional Director.
- Associate members do not vote in National Elections. Paper ballots received from Associate members will be disregarded. The online system will not accept Associate members.

Procedure for Voting

If you are voting by paper ballot

Paper ballots are printed in The American Submariner. You may also go to the USSVI website and download and print a copy (or copies) of the ballot. Base Commanders may also print copies of the ballot and distribute them to the Base members. . Mark your ballot for the candidate of your choice and your choices for the PA'S (remember, the ballot is printed on both sides).

After you complete your ballot, please add your name and your Base at the bottom of the ballot in the space provided (we prefer that you print your name) - ballots without name and Base will be disregarded. We do this to "cross check" with the USSVI database to insure that there are no duplicate votes and to verify your Region.

Place your ballot in an envelope and send it to the Election Master at the address below. The Election Master's address is:

Tom Conlon, PNC USSVI Election Master 8 Davis Ave. Harrison, NJ 07029

When you mail the ballot insure that you mail it early enough so that it reaches the Election Master before August 10. Any ballots received after August 10 will be disregarded.

If you are voting on line

Go to the USSVI web site (www.ussvi.org) and log in with your user name and password. Then click on the Voting button in the upper left-hand corner. This will take you to the online ballot. Click on your choices for the candidates of your choice and your choices for the PA's. The online voting system "knows" your Region. You will only be able to vote for the Regional Director for your Region. Then click on Submit. You may begin voting at 0001 on June 21. Voting will end at 2359 on August 10.



(Continued from Page 1.)

Before midnight, alert sailors on the deck of *USS Chicago* spotted another midget submarine. They turned a searchlight on it and opened fire but it escaped. Later, gunners on the corvette *HMAS Geelong* also fired on a suspicious object believed to be the submarine.



The response to the attack was marred by confusion. Vision was limited and ferries continued to run as the midget submarines were hunted. At about 12:30 a.m. there was an explosion on the naval depot ship *HMAS Kuttabul* (picture to left), a converted harbour ferry, which was moored at Garden Island as an accommodation vessel. The crew of the midget submarine from *I-24* had fired at the *USS Chicago* but missed, the torpedo striking the *Kuttabul* instead. Nineteen Australian and two British sailors on the *Kuttabul* died, the only allied deaths resulting from the attack, and survivors were pulled from the sinking vessel.

A second torpedo fired by the same midget submarine ran aground on rocks on the eastern side of Garden Island, failing to explode. Having fired both their torpedoes, the crew made for the harbour entrance but they disappeared, their midget submarine perhaps running out of fuel before reaching the submarines' rendezvous point.

The third midget submarine from *I-22* failed to make it far into the harbour. Spotted in Taylors Bay and attacked with depth charges by naval harbour patrol vessels, Lieutenant Kelu Matsuo and Petty Officer Masao Tsuzuku, shot themselves.

The mother submarines departed the area after it became obvious that their midget submarines would not be returning. The submarine *I-24* is believed to have been responsible for a number of attacks on merchant ships as well as shelling Sydney Harbour a week later.



The bodies of the four Japanese crewmen from the midget submarines launched by *I-22* and *I-27* were recovered when these two midget submarines were raised. They were cremated at Sydney's Eastern Suburbs Crematorium with full naval honours. Rear Admiral Muirhead Gould, in charge of Sydney Harbour defences, along with the Swiss Consul General and members of the press, attended the service. The admiral's decision to accord the enemy a military funeral was criticised by many Australians but he defended his decision to honour the submariners' bravery. He also hoped that in showing respect for the dead men might help to improve the condition of the many

Australians in Japanese prisoner of war camps.

After the recovery of the two midget submarines a composite view was constructed using the bow section of one and the stern of the other. It was decided to use this composite Japanese midget submarine to raise money for the Royal Australian Navy Fund and the King George Fund for Merchant Sailors. The composite submarine was first put on display at Bennelong Point, now the site of the Sydney Opera House, and people paid a small fee to see it. It was then transported by truck on a 4000-kilometre journey through southeastern Australia raising the further funds. Eleven months after the submarine raid, the composite submarine was installed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

In 1968, Lieutenant Matsuo's mother travelled to Australia to visit the spot where her son had died. During her visit she scattered cherry blossoms in the water where her son's midget submarine had been located and later she presented a number of gifts to the Australian War Memorial.

In November 2006, part of the mystery of the midget submarine from *I-24* was solved when divers discovered the wreck of the submarine off Sydney's northern beaches. We will probably never know if Lieutenant Ban and his navigator, Petty Officer Ashibe Mamoru intended to rejoin their 'mother' submarine or whether they had no intention of returning and simply scuttled their vessel.





Lost Boats - June

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 sunk a freighter and a passenger-cargo ship. **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-cargo ship, **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, probably due to a mine.

Runner was on her 3rd war patrol. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargo ship 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.





Letter from Scout Camp

Dear Mom,

Our Scoutmaster told us to write to our parents in case you saw the flood on TV and got worried. We are okay. Only one of our tents and two sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily, none of us got drowned because we were all up on the mountain looking for Adam when it happened.

Oh yes, please call Adam's mother and tell her he is okay. He can't write because of the cast. I got to ride in one of the search and rescue Jeeps. It was great. We never would have found Adam in the dark if it hadn't been for the lightning. Scoutmaster Mike got mad at Adam for going on a hike alone without telling anyone. Adam said he did tell him, but it was during the fire so he probably didn't hear him. Did you know that if you put gas on a fire, the gas will blow up?

The wet wood didn't burn, but one of the tents did and also some of our clothes. Matthew is going to look weird until his hair grows back. We will be home on Saturday if Scoutmaster Mike gets the bus fixed. It wasn't his fault about the crash. The brakes worked okay when we left. Scoutmaster Mike said that with a bus that old, you have to expect something to break down; that's probably why he can't get insurance. We think it's a super bus. He doesn't care if we get dirty, and it's hot, sometimes he lets us ride on the bumpers. It gets pretty hot with 45 people in a bus made for 24. He let us take turns riding in the trailer until the policeman stopped and talked to us. Scoutmaster Mike is a neat great guy. Don't worry, he is a good driver. In fact, he is teaching Horace how to drive on the mountain roads where there aren't any cops. All we ever see up there are huge logging trucks.

This morning all of the guys were diving off the rocks and swimming out to the rapids. Scoutmaster Mike wouldn't let me because I can't swim, and Adam was afraid he would sink because of his cast (it's concrete because we didn't have any plaster) so he let us take the canoe out. It was great. You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood. Scoutmaster Mike isn't crabby like some scoutmasters. He didn't even get mad about the life jackets.

He has to spend a lot of time working on the bus so we are trying not to cause him any trouble. Guess what? We have all passed our first aid merit badges. When Andrew dived into the lake and cut his arm, we all got to see how a tourniquet works. Steve and I threw up, but Scoutmaster Mike said it was probably just food poisoning from the left-over chicken. He said they got sick that way with food they ate in prison. I'm so glad he got out and became our scoutmaster. He said he sure figured out how to get things done better while he was doing his time.

By the way, what is a pedal-file? I have to go now. We are going to town to post our letters and buy some more beer and ammo. Don't worry about anything. We are fine and tonight it's my turn to sleep in the Scoutmaster's tent.

(Thanks to Jack Harrell for this - a little late; sent to me 6/10/2013)



Museum Ships on the Air

USS Razorback participated in the **Museum Ships on the Air** amateur radio event. John Moore, call sign K4JNB, and Don Whitney, call sign KC0WTT, from Kansas City, MO used their radio and the *USS Razorback's* long wire antenna. During the 48 hour event, *USS Razorback* made contact with **181 other operators** from around the country; including the museum ships *USS Alabama*, *USS Texas*, *USS Grandcamp*, LST 325, *USS Indianapolis*, *USS Hazard* and *USS The Sullivans*.

(ED: Thanks again gentlemen. Hopefully next time we can find some Base members to help with your efforts.)



Above: John Moore to left with Don Whitney. Picture at right is Joe Mathis who submitted this article and assisted as an AIMM staff member.

Hunters Point Basic Submarine Training

Editor: In the past (May) issue I asked if anyone knew about a basic submarine school for reservists at Hunters Point. I had never heard of it. And, of course, of all people who knew something, I hear from Bob (boB is preferred spelling) Sykes. boB is a retired Master Chief electrician and seems to have been everywhere. (Think there was a song about that.) Here's s what he had to say.

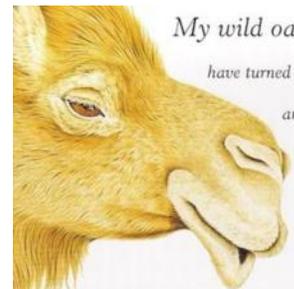
In answer to your question from the May *Scuttlebutt*, yes Hunters Point sub school is a fact and I served there as XO from May 1965 to May 1967. It was a full fleet boat training facility with conning tower, Askania diving trainer, a torpedo tube with fish, 6 class rooms, two barracks for enlisted men and berthing for subs undergoing overhaul for the crew to stay in, a mess hall, BOQ and more. We had 1 or 2 subs in overhaul at the shipyard most of the time while I was there and their cooks took care of the mess hall. There was housing for the married men on base and we had a great PX. Hunters Point has the largest dry dock on the west coast if not in all of the USA. The *Enterprise* was in dock while I was there. The base also had an enlisted man's club (which I ran for 15 months), a chief's club and an officers club. We were a branch of Com Sub Group San Francisco Mare Island. Want to know more, sit down and talk with me someday.



Darter sub vets enjoyed another reunion at AIMM the first weekend in June. Had a really nice wood-carved board shown at left. Thanks for coming again!!!



"Wake up. The cat's got your teeth."



My wild oats
have turned into prunes
and All-Bran.



June + Birthdays

William E. Butler	4
Doug Kearns	5
John C. Barr	7
John Hertzberg	8
Ralph E. Slutts	8
Ronald W. Hines	9
David B. Boyer	12
James F. Murphree	13
Terence Michael Murphy	15
Curtis D. Borud	17
Clifford Thomas Swires	17
Calvin Moon	18
William N. Smith	20
William T. Wiedeman	20
Frederick 'Carl' Schmidt	21
Harold D. Butler	23
James F. Franks	30

July

Walter A. Gossfeld	1
Michael Rainwater	3
John Webber	3
Alan Sabatino	4
William J. Holland	5
Ronald D. Gorence	6
John T. Hardin	6
Mary Christians	10

TREASURER'S REPORT		MAY 2016
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 18,096.50
General Fund Beginning Balance		\$ 6,286.77
EXPENSES		
Camp Site		\$ 70.00
General Fund Ending Balance		\$6,216.77
Designated Funds Beginning Balance		\$ 6,530.52
Maint. Fund Beg. Balance		\$ 4,752.66
Charitable Foundation Xfer to AIMM		\$ 2,000.00
Maint. Fund End. Balance		\$ 2,752.66
Charity Fund Balance		\$ 372.00
Snook Memorial Fund Balance		\$ 1,405.86
Designated Funds Ending Balance		\$ 4,530.52
Checking Balance (Gen. + Desig. Funds)		\$ 10,747.29
Other Funds		
CD Balance		\$ 5,227.21
Beg. Cash on Hand		\$ 52.00
Camp Out Drawing		\$ 110.00
Food (Sam Cecil)		\$ 80.00
End. Cash on Hand		\$ 82.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE		\$ 16,056.50
Respectfully submitted, Mark Taylor, Base Treasurer		

Funds from the *Booster Club* will be used for restoration of the *USS Razorback* and other special projects appropriate to the mission of *USSVI*. Your donation will be recognized for 12 issues of the newsletter. The number beside your name below is the number of times remaining to be listed.

Send donations to Razorback Base – USSVI, 9 Broadview Dr., Little Rock, AR 72207-5113 (Memo – Booster Club).

Booster Club

Jim Baker (5)
 Suzann & John Barr (3)
 Bruce Dart (10)
 Ron Hines (9)
 Billy Hollaway (5)
 Terence & Kathleen Murphy (5)
 Ann & Tom Salisbury (1)
 Bill Smith (7)
 Mark Taylor (9)
 Frank C. Tillery (6)
 Fred Weilminster (10)
 George Wrightam (1)



Base Campout - May 2016

Published monthly by the *USS Razorback Base, United States Submarine Veterans.*

Editor, John C. Barr
 501-663-6622
 jcbarr346@att.net



Base Activities and Notes

- NO MEETING June 25.
- The Base night with Traveler's is confirmed for **Saturday, July 23**, 2016 at Dickey Stephens Park in North Little Rock, AR. Game time is 1915 and gates open at 1815. The Base has reserved the special event room from 1815 until? for food and drinks and those wishing to visit. Cost per person is \$16 and includes reserved seating and food/beverage (non-alcoholic only). Paul Honeck is contact for this activity.

Minutes - USSVI Razorback Base May 21, 2016

The Razorback Base meeting was called to order by Bob Christians at 1200 at Woolly Hollow State Park in Greenbrier, AR. There were 24 in attendance including guests.

The invocation was led by Alan Malone. "America the Beautiful" was led by Wanda Malone. Tolling of the Bell for Lost Boats and Crewmen was read by Bob Christians.

Minutes of the March 19, 2016 meeting was read. Motion made to accept as read carried. Treasurer's report was read by Mark Taylor. Motion made to accept as read carried.

Old Business:

There will be no meeting in June.

Base Meeting at Dickey-Stephens Park on July 23rd. \$16.00 per person paid to Paul Honeck. Gates open at 6:15, game starts at 7:30. Same meeting room as last year.

New Business:

Bob Christians had several books, a computer game and a challenge coin to raffle. Alan Malone took money for the tickets. \$110.00 was collected on the raffle.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 1240PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Myna Miller, Razorback Base Yeoman**

Base Officers			
Base Commander	Jim Gates	501-580-4680	gates.jim@sbcglobal.net
Base Vice Commander	Billy Hollaway	501-758-3266	retldousn@earthlink.net
Memorials & Ceremonies, Storekeeper & Past Base Commander			
Chief of the Boat	Bob Christians	501-922-8451	bobchristians@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain	Joe Manning	501-366-0331	joe.manning@att.net
Base Treasurer	Mark Taylor	501-416-2488	empty704@aol.com
Yeoman	Myna Miller	215-360-5960	mynamiller63@hotmail.com
Membership	Greg Schwerman	501-804-0386	gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Past Base Commander			
Base Newsletter	John C. Barr	501-663-6622	jcbarr346@att.net
Holland Club Representative	Tom Salisbury	501-337-0788	tomann311@gmail.com
Base Historian	Joe Mathis	501-565-6021	usnjrm@yahoo.com
National (USSVI) Archives Committee Chairman			
Past Base Commander	James W. Barnes	501-778-6583	jimandsue59@sbcglobal.net
Activities	Ray Wewers	479-967-5541	raywewers@gmail.com
Past Base Commander & USSVI Secretary			
Past Base Commander	Alan Malone	501-206-7248	o5retired@yahoo.com
Past Base Commander	Carl Schmidt	501-843-7855	bonnyclyde@classicnet.net
Base Web Master	Greg Zonner	501-307-5522	gzonner@aimmmuseum.org
Past Base Commander			
Past Base Commander	Paul Honeck	501-319-5888	pneckerar@gmail.com