

Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans



October, 2015

A Brief History of Enlisted Rating Changes

John C. Barr

My source document for these articles covers the period 1775 to 1969. I have not been able to find sufficient material to cover the time after 1969. Hopefully I will before the November issue.

Following WWII there were not a great number of changes. The 1940s saw only 16 new ratings created – all in 1948. Half of these were aviation related: Airmen, Aviation Photographer's Mate, Air Controlman and Aviation Storekeeper. A rating for Chemical Warfareman was also created but was incorporated into Damage Controlman in 1954. Constructionman also included provisions for a Recruit and Apprentice. Medical ratings included Dentalman and Hospital Recruit. Also new were the Fire Control Technician and the Trademan mentioned in the last article.

At the end of June, 1949, the US Navy had 1 battleship, 11 fleet carriers, 4 escort carriers, 13 cruisers, 137 destroyers, 10 frigates and 72 submarines.

There were only eight additions during the 1950s: again, in the aviation area, Aviation Guided Missileman (but disestablished in 1959), Aviation Fire Control Technician, Aircraft Carburetor Mechanic, the latter soon disestablished in 1960, Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Technician, Aviation Submarine Warfare Operator and Aviation Maintenance Administrationman. Also created were Chaplain's assistant and Postal Clerk. A rating for Nuclear Weapons Man was also created briefly in 1957 but disestablished in 1961. Others were the Photographic Intelligenceman, Data Systems Technician and lastly, the Ocean Systems Technician. There were six Master Chief positions consolidated from other ratings in 1964. Not sure of the reasoning behind these but, as an example, they include the Master Chief Constructionman which was a consolidation of the ratings for Builder, Steelworker and Engineering Aide.

By the end of June, 1960, the US Navy had no battleships, 23 carriers, 13 cruisers, 226 destroyers, 41 frigates and 106 submarines.

(To be continued, possibly.)

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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,

The September meeting was short but productive. Thank you to all attendees!

The Base dinner and Holland Club induction will be on October 10th at Mike's in Conway. Please plan on attending and celebrating the birthday of our Navy. We will be inducting 3 more members to the Holland Club! Please ensure that your reservations and payment are sent to Sheri

Hollaway no later than October 8th.

As we approach the holiday season, let us not forget the brothers and sisters deployed doing their duty to protect us all.

I look forward to seeing you at the dinner!



Fair Winds and following seas,

Jim

**Jim Gates
Base Commander**

From Base Vice-Commander Billy Hollaway

The Base is collecting articles for the residents at Ft. Roots' VA Facility to be delivered on November 11. Toiletries, washcloths, socks, games (probably not electronic), etc. *AIMM* has agreed to hold the items until delivery by base volunteers.

Following the Ft. Roots activity, a short Memorial Service will be held at the *Snook Memorial* and from topside of *Razorback*. Those who so desire may join others for lunch.

We are attempting a Kapz4Kidz visit to Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock during Veterans Week. Details to follow when firm.

USS Hoga - YT-146 Is On Her Way!

The USS Hoga began her trip on September 25th to *AIMM* with a "wet tow" from San Francisco to San Diego, arriving there on September 28th. From there she will be transported by a yacht carrier through the Panama Canal to New Orleans.



Tentative plans are to have her on display for the *WWII Museum* in New Orleans for some time until towing on to North Little Rock. The intent is to have her at *AIMM* in time for a ceremony on December 7th in recognition of her service during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In September, the *Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum* was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the *Delta Regional Authority* and its partners (picture at left) for a museum expansion. This funding is critical given the significant costs to get the tugboat to Arkansas.



History of the Hospital Corps - United States Navy

Pharmacist's Mates in World War I

The massive wartime expansion in Hospital Corps strength necessitated additional schools to train the newcomers. Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, Illinois, had been established in January 1913. Wartime schools were created in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota, in New York at Columbia University, and at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. A school for Naval Reserve Force Hospital Corpsmen was set up at Boston City Hospital. Other crash-course schools for shipboard personnel were conducted at a number of other civilian hospitals. Hospital Corpsmen who were needed to serve as medical department representatives on small vessels such as destroyers were trained at the Pharmacist's Mate School at Hampton Roads, Virginia, the forerunner of the Independent Duty Hospital Corpsman School.

Hospital Corpsmen were assigned to the multitude of duty types and locations needed to support a Navy involved in a world war. Naval hospitals were opened and staffed. Ships and aircraft squadrons were given medical support. At sea, the dangers of the new war were ever present.

Naval training facilities and shore establishments needed Hospital Corpsmen, as did occupation forces in Haiti and other bases around the world. But World War I provided the Hospital Corps a role that would afford it some of the most dangerous challenges it would ever face: duty with the Marine Corps.

Assignment to Marine Corps units was not completely new. Hospital Corpsmen were serving with Marine occupational forces in Cuba, Haiti, and Santo Domingo at the outbreak of the war, and they had seen other similar service. It was the change of the Marine Corps' role to one of expeditionary forces in a large-scale ground war that changed what Hospital Corpsmen would do. Sick call and preventive medicine were continuous roles that remained unchanged. Facing artillery, mustard gas, and machine gunfire were new experiences.

A heritage of valorous service with the Marines was born, as evidenced by two Hospital Corpsmen receiving the Medal of Honor. Other decorations to Hospital Corpsmen included 55 Navy Crosses, 31 Army Distinguished Service Crosses, 2 Navy Distinguished Service Medals, and 237 Silver Stars. A hundred foreign personal decorations were granted to Navy Hospital Corpsmen, and 202 earned the right to wear the French Fourragère shoulder aiguillette permanently. Their 684 personal awards make the Hospital Corps, by one account, the most decorated American unit of World War I.

Pharmacist's Mates in World War II

World War II became the period of Hospital Corps' greatest manpower, diversity of duty, and instance of sacrifice. Between 1941 and 1945, the ranks of this small organization swelled from its prewar levels of near 4,000 to more than 132,000 personnel. This increase came to fulfill new responsibilities with new technologies at new duty stations. In the face of great adversity, the Hospital Corps would cement its reputation for effectiveness and bravery.

The Navy's fleet expanded to thousands of ships, and the Marine Corps grew from a few regiments to six divisions. A two-ocean war produced horrific numbers of casualties, and the Hospital Corps grew to meet the needs of casualty collection, treatment, and convalescence. To educate the influx of new Sailors, Hospital Corps Training School at Portsmouth, Virginia, was augmented by a temporary school at Naval Hospital Brooklyn, New York. The school at Great Lakes was recreated in 1942, and others were started at Farragut, Idaho, and at Bainbridge, Maryland, in 1943. A separate Hospital Corps Training School was established for women at Bethesda, Maryland, in January 1944. (Picture at right.) Specialized schools were opened to train pharmacist's mates for independent duty and for service with the Marines. Additionally, courses were established to instruct personnel on new equipment and techniques in dozens of developing medical fields.



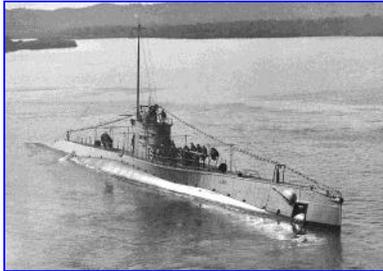
(Continued on Page 6.)



Lost Boats - October

USS Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on October 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by *USS Rowell*, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook *Seawolf* for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another destroyer. *Seawolf* ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.



USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on October 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. *S-44* was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, *S-44* found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Lost on October 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, *Wahoo* was on her 7th war patrol. *Wahoo* had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.



USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on October 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on October 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.



USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on October 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. *Shark* was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on October 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by *USS Dace*. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, *Darter* had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.



(Continued on Page 5.)



(Continued from Page 4.)

USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on October 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. *Tang* was on her 5th war patrol. *Tang* ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, *Tang* was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by *SS Abangarez* off the Panama Canal.

Summary of US Submarine Losses

USSVI lists a total of 65 *Lost Boats*. We know not all were lost to direct enemy action. I thought a summary might be of interest.

Thirty-nine boats were lost by direct enemy action with a loss of 3,077 men. *USS S-44 (SS-155)* lost 56 men with 2 taken prisoner and surviving POW camp. The *Sculpin, SS-191*, lost 43 men. Of the 41 men captured, only 21 survived POW internment.

Five boats were lost after grounding - the *USS H-1 (SS-28)* losing 4 men. Five boats were lost due to collisions; 3 with civilian vessels and 2 with Navy Ships, for a total of 141 men lost. Two boats are listed as foundering with the loss of 54 lives.

Three boats were scuttled following enemy action with the loss of 132 men. One had 56 survivors of which 6 died in POW camp. Another had 72 survivors but 4 died as POWs. The third boat had 4 deaths with a fifth dying in a POW camp.

Eight boats were lost to various types of accidents with the loss of 328 sailors. Seventeen civilians were lost with the *Thresher* and 1 civilian on the *Cochino*. The fate of another boat, the *USS Dorado*, was lost with 77 lives – the cause unknown – while near Cuba in transit toward the Panama Canal. The 2 boats we know that were lost to circular runs of their torpedoes were the *Tang* and *Tullibee* with the loss of 157 men. Nine men from the *Tang* and 1 from the *Tullibee* survived POW camp.





(Continued from Page 3.)

History of the Hospital Corps, cont'd.

Shore-based duty sent Hospital Corps personnel to hospitals and dispensaries in the United States and abroad. Advance-base hospitals on newly captured Pacific islands formed a crucial link in the chain of evacuation from battle sites. Those facilities in Hawaii or England received casualties from their respective fronts, and wounded service personnel recuperated in stateside hospitals. Hospital Corpsmen made the treatment of American casualties possible at each of these by providing technical support and direct patient care.

Duty on surface ships afforded Hospital Corpsmen numerous challenges and abundant environments in which to face them. Hospital ships required the services of personnel in much the same way as shore-based hospitals, except that those on ship were afloat and subject to attack. Other classes of vessels, such as landing ships and patrol craft (LSTs and PCERs), became large floating clinics/ambulances which required additional Hospital Corps personnel. Additionally, combatant ships and transports in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean theaters took casualties from ships, aircraft, and submarines throughout the war, necessitating the service of well-trained Hospital Corpsmen.

Approximately 300 Hospital Corpsmen sat out all but the early days of the war when they were captured in the Philippines by the invading Japanese. In prisoner-of-war camps and huddled in POW "hell ships," they endured malnutrition, disease, torture, and brutality. One hundred thirty-two Hospital Corpsmen died as prisoners during World War II, a death rate almost 20 percent higher than among other American POWs.

Hospital Corpsmen served on the beaches not only in the island campaigns of the Pacific, but in Europe as well. Teams of Navy medical personnel formed aid stations with beach battalions at Sicily and Normandy, treating Army and allied wounded under fire. Hospital Corpsmen ensured the survival of these casualties until they could reach hospitals in England.

Of all the Hospital Corpsmen in World War II, Fleet Marine Force personnel endured, perhaps, the most grueling side of war. As they swarmed numerous beaches in the Pacific, they became targets themselves as they braved fire to reach downed comrades. At Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, Saipan, Tinian, Kwajalein, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, Hospital Corpsmen bled and died, often in greater numbers than the Marines for whom they cared. Hospital Corps casualties in the 4th Marine Division at Iwo Jima, for example, were 38 percent.

Members of the Hospital Corps treated some 150,000 combat casualties during the war. This number does not include thousands of others - those plagued by disease and injured in the line of duty - who were aided by their medical shipmates. The cost of this service was high: 1,170 Hospital Corpsmen were killed in action and thousands more were wounded. But their valor was rewarded. **Hospital Corpsmen earned 7 Medals of Honor (almost half of those awarded to Sailors in the war)**, 66 Navy Crosses, 465 Silver Star Medals, and 982 Bronze Star Medals.

(To be continued.)

One Retired - Another Commissioned



Lt. Commander Jason T. Dunnahoo had a retirement party at *AIMM* the 18th of September. Enlisting in 1989, he began his career as a NAV-ET on the *Stonewall Jackson*. He was commissioned in 1999. He is retiring back to Sheridan, Arkansas.



Matt Homeier volunteered at *AIMM* while waiting for his nuclear power school class to begin in Charleston. He had served in the Maritime Service and was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy. **Good luck to Matt!**



October + Birthdays	
James W. Barnes	1
Scott Pursley	2
Edward M. Lemke	10
Robert C. Howard III	12
Dexter D. Bates	13
Don L. Booker	15
James William Mason	15
Mark Taylor	18
John F. Cameron	20
David E. Dinwiddie	25
Michael J. Wingeier	28
Forest E. Harrell	29
<i>November</i>	
Enrile Del Fierro Trinidad	1
Donald L. David	2
Paul G. Plemmons	2
Kenneth E. Chambers	4
Richard Herbert Delozier	4
James Paul Hammack	4
Emma Jane Farmer	8

<i>Booster Club</i>	
Avery (TX) Class of 1958 in	
Memory of Bob Stiltz, Jr. (4)	
Suzann & John Barr (11)	
Bruce Dart (4)	
Wesley Dodson, Jr. (0)	
James Flanders (4)	
George Fore (4)	
James & Susan Franks (3)	
Ron Hines (4)	
Terence & Kathleen Murphy (13)	
Ann & Tom Salisbury (9)	
Frank C. Tillery (14)	
Fred Weilminster (4)	
Barbara & Ray Wewers (1)	
George Wrightam (9)	

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).

TREASURER'S REPORT		SEPTEMBER 2015
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 15,273.64
General Fund Beginning Balance		\$ 5,614.86
DEPOSITS		
Base Dues		\$ 15.00
National Dues		\$ 40.00
General Fund Ending Balance		\$5,669.86
Designated Funds Beginning Balance		\$ 4,183.50
Maintenance Fund Beg. Balance		\$ 2,405.64
Booster Club		
John Barr		\$ 50.00
Terence Murphy		\$ 100.00
Maintenance Fund End. Balance		\$ 2,555.64
Charity Fund Balance		\$ 372.00
Snook Memorial Fund Balance		\$ 1,405.86
Designated Funds Ending Balance		\$ 4,333.50
Checking Balance (Gen. + Designated Funds)		\$ 10,003.36
Other Funds		
CD Balance		\$ 5,223.28
Cash on Hand		\$ 252.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE		\$ 15,478.64
Respectfully submitted,		
Mark Taylor, Base Treasurer		

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Base Activities and Notes

- October 10th - Navy Anniversary Dinner. At Mike's Place in Conway. Cash bar at 5:45 and dinner approximately 6:15. Contact Sheri Hollaway at cpasjh@earthlink.net or 501-758-3266 for reservations.
- November 28 - Base meeting. TBD.
- December - Christmas Party. TBD.



Razorback Association in Town for Reunion



Okay, so I did not get many pictures this time when the *Razorback* sailors were in time for their reunion. As always, it was good to see them again and enjoyed their visit to *AIMM*. Seemed to be a lot of sitting around with visiting and sea stories. (Haven't you guys heard all of them by now?) Good picture to the left of Opplle doing what he does best. 😊



Picture to left shows Bruce Dart, Base member and Master Welder, working with Joe Mathis on new metal decking, Really looking good!



Base Officers			
Base Commander	Jim Gates	501-580-4680	gates.jim@sbcglobal.net
Base Vice Commander	Billy Hollaway	501-758-3266	retldousn@earthlink.com
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	VACANT		Volunteer needed!
Membership	Greg Schwerman	501-804-0386	gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Past Base Commander			
Base Newsletter	John C. Barr	501-663-6622	jcbar346@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 Chair man			
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@aimm.museum
Past Base Commander			
Past Base Commander	Paul Honeck	501-319-5888	pneckerar@gmail.com