



# Hawgfish Scuttlebutt

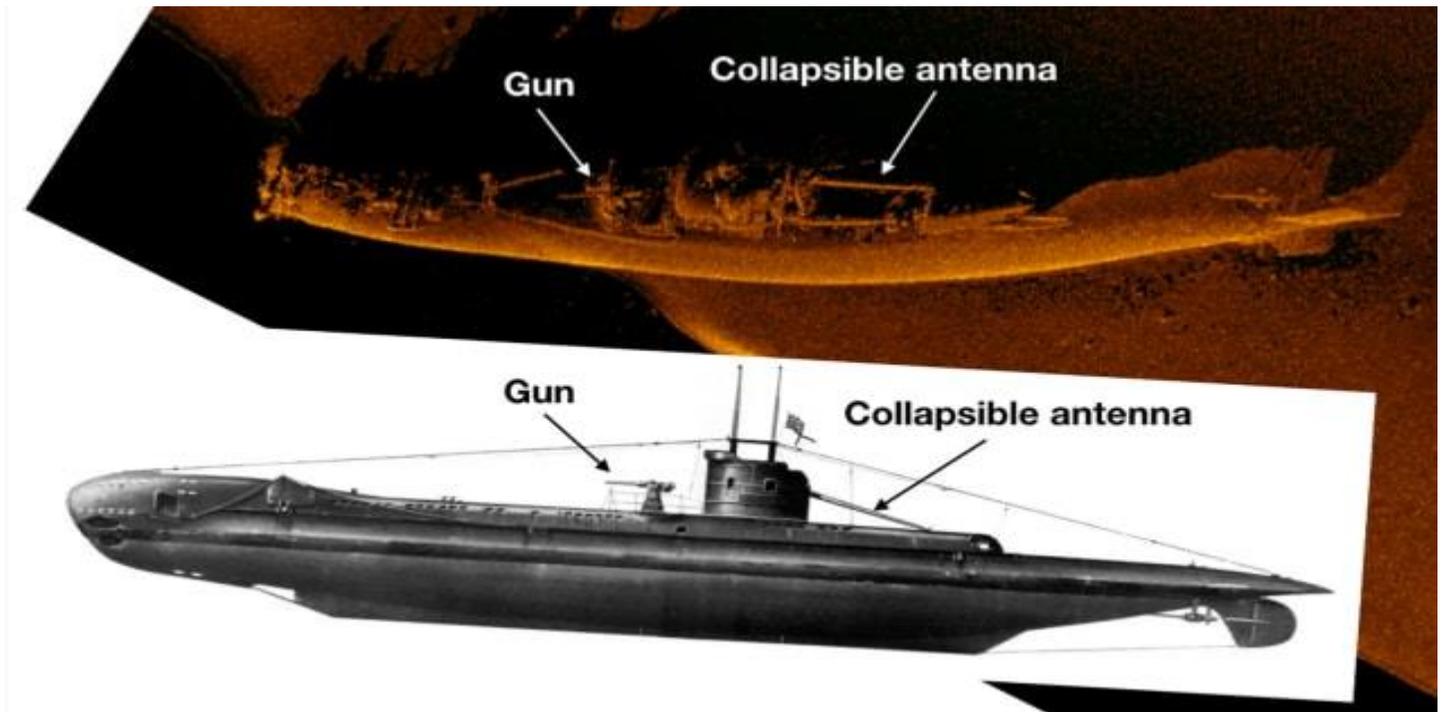


Razorback Base  
United States Submarine Veterans



NOVEMBER, 2019

**Submarine that disappeared  
mysteriously in World War II found  
after 77 years**



(CNN) — The wreck of a British submarine that went missing during World War II with 44 people on board has been found off the coast of Malta.

HMS Urge -- part of Britain's 10th Submarine Flotilla -- left the Mediterranean island of Malta on April 27, 1942 but never made it to its destination of the Egyptian port of Alexandria. Until its discovery this summer, both the reason for the ship's disappearance and its final resting place were unknown.

*Continued on page 3*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<i>SUBMARINE FOUND</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>COMMANDER'S CORNER</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>SUB FOUND (CONT)</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>LOST BOATS</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>TREASURER'S REPORT</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>MINUTES</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>BASE OFFICERS</i>	<i>10</i>

**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.**

### ***COMMANDER'S CORNER***



Happy November. How time flies! We are just a few short weeks from Thanksgiving. Hopefully everyone has a great start to the holiday season. We had a great time at our first membership drive and it was a success since we signed up a new member. His name is Ron Hudson and his wife is Sherry. On behalf of the base, I'd like to say welcome aboard. We will be decorating our parade sail on Nov 30 at the RV park down by the boat. Also, we need help with candy to throw out and of course shipmates to throw that candy out.

There will be a veterans day program on the boat. It starts at 11a.m. on Veterans Day. Lastly, our Christmas party and dirty Santa party is on December 7. Cocktails start at 5 o'clock. I hope to see all of you there.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

V/r,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Boyer'.

David Boyer  
Base Commander



(continued from page 1)

According to the researchers who located the wreck, the vessel was sunk by a mine off the island. It now lies on the sea bed, approximately 400 feet down.

The hunt for the submarine began in 2017, when Francis Dickinson, grandson of the Urge's commander, contacted the University of Malta (UM) to ask about its work mapping the seabed.

Timmy Gambin, a professor in the university's Classics & Archaeology department who worked on the project, told CNN that UM had spent 20 years "systematically surveying the seabed off the Maltese Islands," covering more than 1,200 square kilometers (463 square miles) to date. On the afternoon of July 1 a fire broke out in the battery compartment of Losharik. The submarine is constructed from seven cylindrical titanium hulls strung together, except for the uninhabited rear two which contain the nuclear reactor and machinery. The orb-like hulls, although not visible from the outside thanks to a streamlined outer hull, are where the submarine's nickname comes from.

He added: "The Urge was found as part of this broader survey but the areas searched were decided upon with the specific intention of locating the submarine."

Although the wreck was discovered over the summer by an autonomous underwater vehicle, which used sonar to generate images of the seabed, news of the find was delayed until Britain's Ministry of Defence could confirm that it was HMS Urge.

Gambin told CNN that this was especially important given previous speculation about the submarine's whereabouts -- a few years ago, a diver claimed to have discovered it off the Libyan coast, far from its intended course.

He added: "When a shipwreck where persons have been lost is discovered -- there is more to the site than just another underwater archaeological site. This is the burial place for those serving/travelling on board.

"The site also becomes a (previously unavailable) focal point for the memorialisation of those lost in the incident."

The wreck's exact location has not yet been disclosed.

In a statement released on Thursday on its website, the Royal Navy said HMS Urge had been "conclusively located and identified."

Urge was one of 13 small "U-class" submarines lost in the Mediterranean during World War II, according to the navy's statement. During its patrols there, it damaged the Italian battleship Vittorio Veneto and sank the Italian cruiser Bande Nere.

Dickinson, whose grandfather, Lieutenant Commander Edward Tomkinson, commanded the submarine, told CNN: "It was a privilege for our project to see clear colour images of this special submarine for the first time since 1942. The crew fought for freedom but above all wanted peace."

He added: "Work is under way to establish a memorial in Malta in 2020."

# Razorback Base Christmas Party!

**Tis the season!**

**We hope to have a good turn out!**

As always, the Base will be providing the meat for the potluck. Base members are asked to bring a dish of your choice. Please email Myna ([mmiller@aimmuseum.org](mailto:mmiller@aimmuseum.org)) and let her know what you would like to bring. She will be making a list and sending it out periodically to keep everyone informed. It will also be posted on our webpage.

Volunteers are welcome to plan & decorate! The limit for Dirty Santa will be \$20.00.

Date

**December 7,  
2019**

Time

**1800HR**

Place

**AIMM**



**My new plan is to include more of a story about a WWII submarine and how it was lost vice a list of names. I feel this may be more personal to the readers. I have started with the USS Tang, one of the most famous and the boat which resulted in O'Kane receiving the Medal of Honor.**

**Editor**

After a refit, Tang stood out to sea on 24 September for her fifth war patrol. After topping off her fuel at Midway Island, she sailed for the Formosa Strait on 27 September. In order to reach her area, Tang had to pass through narrow waters known to be heavily patrolled by the Japanese. A large area stretching northeast from Formosa was known to have been mined by the enemy, and O'Kane was given the choice of making the passage north of the island alone, or joining a coordinated attack group (Silversides, Trigger, and Salmon, under Commander John S. Coye, Jr., flag in Silversides) which was to patrol off northeast Formosa, and making the passage with them. Tang chose to make the passage alone and these vessels never heard from Tang, nor did any base, after she left Midway.

The story of Tang's fate comes from the report of her surviving commanding officer.

On the night of 10–11 October, Tang sank the cargo ships Joshu Go and Ōita Maru. The submarine continued on patrol until 23 October, when she contacted a large convoy consisting of three tankers, a transport, a freighter, and numerous escorts. Commander O'Kane planned a night surface attack. Tang broke into the middle of the formation, firing torpedoes as she closed on the tankers (later identified as freighters). Two torpedoes struck under the stack and engine room of the nearest, a single burst into the stern of the middle one, and two exploded under the stack and engine space of the farthest. The first torpedoes began exploding before the last was fired, and all hit their targets, which were soon either burning or sinking. As the submarine prepared to fire at the tanker which was crossing her stern, she sighted the transport bearing down on her in an attempt to ram. Tang had no room to dive, so she crossed the transport's bow and with full left rudder saved her stern and got inside the transport's turning circle. The transport was forced to continue her swing to avoid the tanker, which had also been coming in to ram. The tanker struck the transport's starboard quarter shortly after the submarine fired four stern torpedoes along their double length at a range of 400 yd (370 m). The tanker sank bow first and the transport had a 30° up-angle. With escorts approaching on the port bow and beam and a destroyer closing on the port quarter, Tang rang up full speed and headed for open water. When the submarine was 6,000 yd (5,500 m) from the transport, another explosion was observed, and its bow disappeared.

On the morning of 24 October, Tang began patrolling at periscope depth. She surfaced at dark and headed for Turnabout Island (25.431493°N 119.93989°E). On approaching the island, the submarine's surface search radar showed so many blips that it was almost useless. Tang soon identified a large convoy which contained tankers with planes on their decks and transports with crated planes stacked on their bows and sterns. As the submarine tracked the Japanese ships along the coast, the convoy's escorts became suspicious, and the escort commander began signaling with a large searchlight. This illuminated the convoy, and Tang chose a large three-deck transport as her first target, a smaller transport as the second, and a large tanker as the third. Their ranges varied from 900–1,400 yd (820–1,280 m). After firing two torpedoes at each target, the submarine paralleled the convoy to choose its next victims. She fired stern torpedoes at another transport and tanker aft.

As Tang poured on full speed to escape the gunfire directed at her, a destroyer passed around the stern of the transport and headed for the submarine. The tanker exploded, and a hit was seen on the transport. A few seconds later, the destroyer exploded, either from intercepting Tang's third torpedo or from shell fire of two escorts closing on the beam. Only the transport remained afloat, dead in the water. The submarine cleared to 240 ft (73 m), rechecked the last two torpedoes which had been loaded in the bow tubes, and returned to finish off the transport. The 23rd torpedo was fired at 900 yd (820 m) and was observed running hot, straight, and normal. Tang's score for the night would later be confirmed as the freighters Kogen Maru (6600 tons) and Matsumoto Maru (7000 tons).

At 02:30 on the morning of 25 October, the 24th and last torpedo (a Mark 18 electric torpedo) was fired. It broached and curved to the left in a circular run. Tang fishtailed under emergency power to clear the turning circle of the torpedo, but it struck her abreast the aft torpedo room approximately 20 seconds after it was fired. The explosion was violent, and men as far forward as the control room received broken limbs. The ship went down by the stern with the aft three compartments flooded. Of the nine officers and men on the bridge, including O'Kane, three were able to swim through the night until picked up eight hours later. One officer escaped from the flooded conning tower and was rescued with the others.

The submarine bottomed at 180 ft (55 m) and the thirty survivors crowded into the forward torpedo room as the aft compartments flooded, intending to use the forward escape trunk. Publications were burned, and all assembled in the forward room to escape. The escape was delayed by a Japanese patrol which dropped depth charges, and started an electrical fire in the forward battery. Beginning at 6:00 AM on 25 October, using the Momsen Lung, the only known case where it was used, thirteen men escaped from the forward torpedo room. By the time the last had exited, the heat from the battery fire was so intense, paint on the bulkhead was scorching, melting, and running down. Of the 13 men who escaped from the forward torpedo room, only five were rescued. One sailor who was near the group of five but injured during the ascent was not rescued. Three who were on the bridge were rescued after swimming for 8 hours. Another survivor escaped the conning tower and used his pants as a flotation device. A total of 78 men were lost. Those who escaped the submarine were greeted in the morning by the sight of the bow of the transport they sank the previous night sticking straight out of the water.

Nine survivors, including O'Kane, were picked up the next morning by Japanese frigate CD-34. Survivors of Tang's previous sinkings were on board, and they beat the men from Tang. O'Kane stated, "When we realized that our clubbing and kickings were being administered by the burned, mutilated survivors of our handiwork, we found we could take it with less prejudice." The nine captives were placed in a prison camp at Ōfuno until the end of the war, where they were interrogated by Japanese intelligence.

Tang was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 8 February 1945.

The following men were two of the 78 who perished with the TANG.

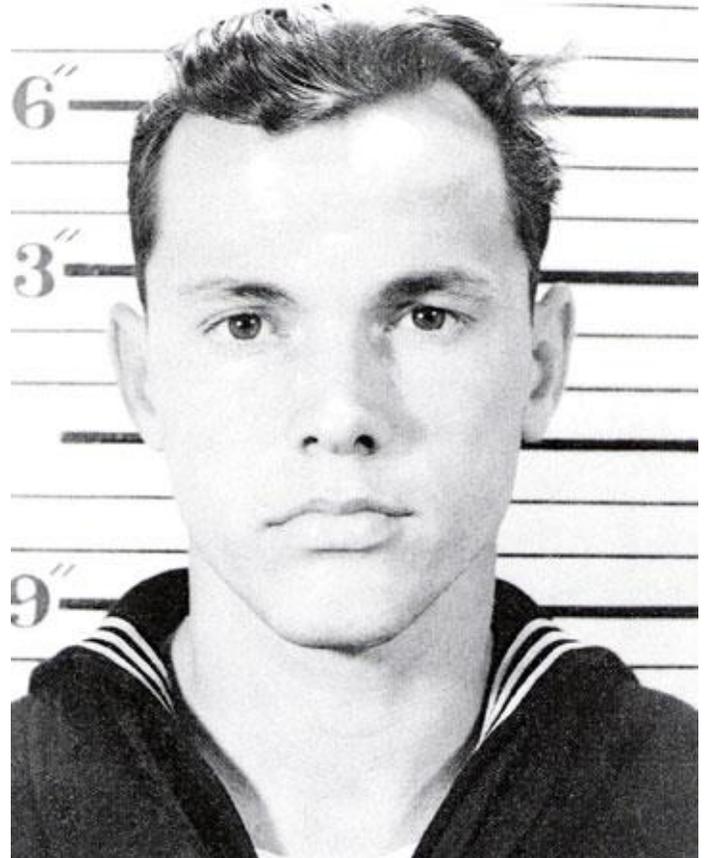


# John George Accardy



Rank/Rate Signalman, Third Class  
 Service Number 878 97 32  
 Birth Date March 12, 1925  
 From San Diego, California  
 Decorations Purple Heart  
 Submarine USS Tang (SS-306)  
 Loss Date October 25, 1944  
 Location Formosa Strait near Turnabout Island  
 Circumstances Sunk by circular run of own torpedo  
 Remarks John was born in Darien, Connecticut.

# Ellroy Lytton



Rank/Rate Motor Machinist's Mate, First Class  
 Service Number 407 30 76  
 Birth Date January 22, 1922  
 From Houston, Texas  
 Decorations Purple Heart  
 Submarine [USS Tang \(SS-306\)](#)  
 Loss Date October 25, 1944  
 Location Formosa Strait near Turnabout Island  
 Circumstances Sunk by circular run of own torpedo



TREASURER'S REPORT		OCTOBER 31 2019	
<b>TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE</b>		\$	<b>13,617.34</b>
<b>General Fund Beg. Balance</b>		\$	<b>3,908.94</b>
<b>Booster Club Bill Woods</b>		\$	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Dues</b>		\$	<b>455.00</b>
<b>General Fund Ending Balance</b>		\$	<b>4,463.94</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>			
<b>Maint. Fund Balance</b>		\$	<b>2,502.66</b>
<b>Charity Fund Balance</b>		\$	<b>372.00</b>
<b>Snook Memorial Fund Balance</b>		\$	<b>1,386.86</b>
<b>Designated Fund Balance</b>		\$	<b>4,261.52</b>
<b>Checking Balance (General + Designated Funds)</b>		\$	<b>8,725.46</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>			
	<b>CD Beg. Balance</b>	\$	<b>5,299.88</b>
	<b>Interest</b>	\$	<b>29.87</b>
	<b>CD Ending Balance</b>	\$	<b>5,329.75</b>
	<b>Cash on Hand Balance</b>	\$	<b>147.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE</b>		\$	<b>14,202.21</b>

### **Booster Club**

Mark Taylor (8)  
 Pete Jilek (18)  
 John Barr (8)  
 Tom Salisbury (5)  
 Greg Zonner (8)  
 Bob Christians (8)  
 Joe Mathis (8)  
 Greg Schwerman (8)  
 Alan Malone (8)  
 Bill Woods (9)

### **Birthdays for Nov.**

Enrile Del Fierro	1
Trinidad	
Donald L. David	2
James Paul Hammack	4
Kenneth E. Chambers	4
Emma Jane Farmer	8
Jerry D. O'Neal	13
Charles M. McMinn	16
Bernard C, Carroll	17
Greg Nelson	17
Robert L. Cagle	18
Bill Woods	19
Eugene L. Prohl	24
Wanda Malone	24
Bill Keel	28
Roger Allen Lyle	30

**USSVI Razorback Base Meeting**  
**October 26, 2019**  
**Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum in NLR, AR**

Alan Malone gave the invocation at 1745HR before food was served.

10 attended with 2 guests.

Meeting was called to order at 1818HR followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

David Boyer read the Creed.

Joseph Mathis and David Boyer did the tolling of the Lost Boats followed by a moment of silence.

Last minutes read and motion to accept carried.

Treasury report read and motion to accept carried.

**Old Business:**

2020 Calendar orders need to be turned into Billy Holloway as soon as possible.

Mark Taylor will be working on starting a Facebook page for the Razorback Base and Wanda Malone will also be a moderator.

**New Business:**

Motion was made for Myna Miller to help with the Christmas Party/Pot Luck, that will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at AIMM, by sending out an email asking members what food they wish to bring and following up with emails periodically to members with the results. Cocktails starting at 1800HR. Motion to accept carried.

Motion was made for a \$20.00 limit on the Dirty Santa at the December 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party. Motion to accept carried.

Motion was made to participate in the NLR Christmas Parade on Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1000HR. Members are needed on Saturday, November 30 at 1200HR at Downtown Riverside RV Park in the pavilion to help decorate the float. Members are also encouraged to donate candy, which can be brought to AIMM prior to or on the day of the parade. Motion to accept carried.

**Good of the Order:**

There will be a Veterans Day Ceremony at AIMM on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1100HR to 1130HR.

There will be a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony at AIMM on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1400HR to 1500HR.

The Shorty Ride will be Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> starting in the AIMM parking lot. If you have any items you would like to donate you can take them to AIMM prior to or the day of the ride.

Motion to adjourn carried at 1910HR



## **Base Officers**

<b>Base Commander</b>	<b>David Boyer</b>	<b>479-227-9633</b>	<b>chopper1267@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Base Vice Commander Mem. and Ceremonies, Base Treasurer</b>	<b>Mark Taylor</b>	<b>501-416-2488</b>	<b>empty704@aol.com</b>
<b>Chaplain, COB</b>	<b>Joe Manning</b>	<b>501-366-0331</b>	<b>joe.manning@att.net</b>
<b>Newsletter, Past Base Commander</b>	<b>Alan Malone</b>	<b>501-206-7248</b>	<b>o5retired@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Holland Club &amp; Storekeeper, Past Base Commander</b>	<b>Billy Hollaway</b>	<b>501-758-3266</b>	<b>retldousn@earthlink.net</b>
<b>Base Historian National Archives Chairman</b>	<b>Joe Mathis</b>	<b>501-565-6021</b>	<b>rnc95ret05@gmail.com</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Johnny Baker</b>	<b>607-426-6492</b>	<b>johnnie@smarthomeintegration.net</b>
<b>Base Webmaster Past Base Commander</b>	<b>Greg Zonner</b>	<b>501-307-5522</b>	<b>gzonner@aimmmuseum.org</b>
<b>Activities Past Base Commander &amp; USSVI Sec</b>	<b>Jim Gates</b>	<b>479-967-5541</b>	<b>gates.jim@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Past Base Commander</b>	<b>Paul Honeck</b>	<b>501-580-4680</b>	<b>pneckerar@gmail.com</b>
<b>Past Base Commander</b>	<b>James Barnes</b>	<b>501-319-5888</b>	<b>jimandsue59@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Past Base Commander</b>	<b>Carl Schmidt</b>	<b>501-778-6583</b>	<b>bonnyclyde@classicnet.net</b>
<b>Past Base Commander</b>	<b>Ray Wewers</b>	<b>501-843-7855</b>	<b><a href="mailto:raywewers@gmail.com">raywewers@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Past Base Commander</b>	<b>Greg Schwerman</b>	<b>501-804-0386</b>	<b>gschwerman@suddenlink.net</b>