



Hooter Hilites

A Publication of the USS Sea Owl Association
Web Site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~purtellr/index.html>

We still give a hoot!
December 2003 Issue



Shipmates & 1st Mates:

Here we are again, preparing for another Holiday Season. Time to enjoy our families, time to give thanks for all the great things that this country gives us each day.

As everyone knows, the Sea Owl reunion, held in Mobile, Alabama, on October 6 – 11, 2003, is now history. As always, it was great to see and visit with everyone that attended, and it is always enjoyable to welcome new shipmates. After all, this is what it's all about! Your Association Officers truly hope that everyone had a great time.

One highlight of our reunion had to be during our Association business meeting where we were treated to a surprise guest, Tommy Whitman, who sang the National Anthem for us. Tommy is the Grandson of Tom & Suzy Gilbert. Everyone could tell that this was not his first time performing in front of an audience; he did such a great job! From my vantage point during his performance, it was clear that everyone was truly enjoying it. Our thanks go out to Tommy Whitman and to Tom & Suzy for allowing him to perform for us. Thanks, Tommy!!!

I would also like to thank shipmates Howie Stein IC 59-61, Mike Jansen (Maysonet) TM 59-62, and Frank Kenyon ST 68-69 for their efforts in running a 50-50 raffle during the buffet. Thanks guys for helping support the Association.

2004 Sea Owl Reunion

The Sea Owl 2004 reunion will be in Baltimore, MD, September 21st thru the 25th. Our host will be the Days Inn at Glen Burnie, MD. The room rate will be \$68.00 plus tax. We are planning a tour of Washington, DC monuments on Wednesday, the 22nd, with lunch at the Smithsonian Institute; a tour of the US Naval Academy on Thursday, the 23rd, with a box lunch at the Academy; and, right now, Friday, the 24th, is open for touring the local venues in Baltimore. Our dinner & business meeting are going to be held at a local yacht club where Shipmate Henry Fulkoski EN 68-69 is a member. We will have a bus take everyone from the Days Inn to the club for dinner and the meeting. Henry is very involved in helping set up this reunion. We also have the help of Shipmate Peter Boyne LT 64-65 in setting up the tours of Washington & the Academy.

Mark your calendars for this reunion. It will be one you won't want to miss. More information will be forthcoming, as we get closer to September.

Future Reunion Sites

As anyone who has been present at our business meetings knows, selecting where we go each year is the hardest part of these meetings. To help with this process, I offer this: There are always those who want to have the reunion in their area. Here is your chance. If you're interested in having the reunion in your area, go to your local hotel or visitors bureau of your city; let them know you're interested in having us come to your town. Have them prepare a

written proposal: It must contain which hotel would be the host, room rates, what if any charges for meeting rooms, any charges for parking, any other charges, such as bellboy charges, audio setup charge in the business meeting. You should include a list of possible tours available in the area. Once the proposal is put together, bring it to the reunion or get it to me. These proposals will be on display during our reunion so shipmates can look them over and then make a choice based on the information submitted. If you need any help, don't hesitate to contact me. Only written proposals will be considered.

Future raffles

In the past, either Ed Welch or myself have gathered items that we thought would make good raffle items. I would like to try this: Each shipmate brings to the picnic or reunion or send to me an item that you think would make a nice raffle item. This can be something that you make yourself, or something that you think a shipmate would like to have. I have seen baskets of wine, baskets of assorted breads, or just a single bottle of wine or spirits. One will never know what can show up as a raffle item. The item does not need to be of a nautical theme, it can be anything. For those shipmates that are participating, if you could let me know that you are bringing something as a raffle item, it would be appreciated.

USS Sea Poacher Association

As you know, during our Mobile reunion, the USS Sea Poacher sailors attended their own reunion with us. At this time, they also formed an Association, electing Bill Brinkman, who was an FN onboard Sea Owl 59-60 as their Association President. Good Luck Bill !!!

Tom Gilbert Honored

Shipmate Howie Stein IC 59-61 proposed during the business meeting that Tom Gilbert MM 63-66 be given a Lifetime Membership for his service in starting the Sea Owl Association. I seconded this proposal. Tom Gilbert, for his services and as past-president, has now been given a Lifetime Membership in the Sea Owl Association. Congratulations Tom !!!

Shipmates in Hospital

On November 18th I found out that shipmate Don Clouse EM 52-54 was put into the hospital for pneumonia. Since turning 70, this is the second time Don has had to fight pneumonia. He's not too keen on turning age 70.

Also Shipmate Ed Singer RM 62-65 is going to have surgery on his back December 1st for decompression of the spinal cord at C5-6 with a bone fusion and plate. Ed told me "I will have so much metal in me I will never get through airport security . . ."

Good luck shipmates !!!

Ship's Stores

We have a few remaining Sea Owl throws available at a cost of \$45 each (includes shipping) through storekeeper Ed Welch CS 66-69. Contact Ed for availability. (See the June 2003 Hooter Hilites for a further description and photo of this item.)

Sea Owl Muster List

Thanks to shipmate Bill Brinkman FN 59-60 we are getting the names of those shipmates that were onboard Sea Owl for each year from '44 thru '69. These lists have everyone's name plus the date that they qualified. I plan to have the list up on our web site soon. Those shipmates that are online can view them there. If you're thinking of joining the USSVI Holland Club for being qualified 50 years or more, contact me, I may be able to give you the date that you qualified, providing that you qualified onboard Sea Owl

Our Thanks to Bill Brinkman for starting this project; it has been a huge project for Bill. Thanks Bill !!!

Association Dues

Sea Owl Association dues are due November 1st. If you have not yet sent John Leers YN 53-57 your dues for 2004, now is the time. Yearly dues, \$10.00; lifetime memberships are available for \$100.00. John's address is 1453 Marty Drive, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068, tele #(614) 866-3707.

I would also like to welcome our newest members, Bob Tingley TM 67-69 and Mike Toomey ET 63-64. Both were present at Mobile. It was good to see both of you. Thanks for supporting your Sea Owl Association.

Sharing & Caring

As we have done in past years, your Sea Owl Association has again donated \$350.00 to help provide holiday dinners to Navy families, active & retired, living in the Groton area. Last year the Groton Base of USSVI, who sponsors these dinners, fed about 450 people through this program. The money that Groton Base has remaining is given to USSVI to support other such dinners that are put on by USSVIBases throughout the country.

E-mail addresses

I have had to switch to a new program for e-mail. If you haven't received anything from me, send a message to purtellr@earthlink.net, I may have overlooked your address while moving everything to the new program.

USSSEAOWL.COM has arrived

Shipmates, we now own the domain name usseawol.com. Our web pages will be moved to this new url as soon as I can get it done.

This site also comes with mailboxes. If you want a mailbox that ends in usseawol.com, send me a message at roy@usseawol.com

These mailboxes could come in handy for those of you who don't want to receive messages from me in your business mailbox. You can have a mailbox at usseawol.com, then check it periodically to receive those messages that I send out to the crew. This is only being made available to those shipmates that are paid up members of the Sea Owl Association.

Groton Summer Picnic

Our picnic this summer will be the 11th, 12th & 13th of June. Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss this one! Hope to see you there !!!

Rising Tide: The Untold Story of Russian Submarines That Fought the Cold War

By Dr. Gary Weir and Walter Boyne

Book review by Ken Johnson

This book is a must read for anyone interested in Cold War history. Through extensive interviews with former Soviet submariners, the authors have compiled a series of stories of Russian submarine operations during the Cold War and many photographs never before published. In some respects you could think of this book as "Blind Man's Bluff" as told from the other side.

From intelligence gathering to descriptions of Arctic operations and "sting" operations to test our ASW defenses, this book provides much fascinating reading about our Cold War adversary.

Of particular interest is Igor Kurdin's account of the Kursk disaster. Kurdin, now retired, is Chairman of the St. Petersburg Submariners Club. I had the pleasure of meeting him and another Russian, retired Radm Lev Chernavin, several of whose photos are included in the book, when I attended the International Submariners 40th Convention at Chatham, UK last May.

Included also as an appendix to this book is a critical review by the authors of a book called "Red Star Rising at Sea" which was written by Soviet Admiral Sergei Gorshkov in the early 70s. Adm Gorshkov was Commander in Chief of the Soviet Navy for 20 of the most intense years of the Cold War. This book reflects Gorshkov's view of the history of seapower from a Russian perspective. It is currently out of print, but an English translation was published by the Naval Institute Press in 1974. Some used copies are available and can be obtained through Amazon.com.

"Rising Tide" will be added to my growing list of recommended reading for any student of Cold War submarine history.

From the Editor

I hope you like the background image on page 1. You may also notice that Howland Owl has ditched his usual wizard cap for this issue in favor of more seasonal headgear. I felt that this issue needed a more festive appearance and take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year. I had hoped to get a good picture of the Sea Owl "Christmas tree" for this issue. At one time it was on display at Albacore Park in Portsmouth, NH, but it was stored away some time ago. I am told it may go back on display later in the winter when they redo their exhibit. I will keep an eye out for it to reappear.

Let me just say something about the Caring and Sharing donation mentioned by Roy. Through your support of and membership in the Sea Owl Association each and every one of you contribute to this. While some members may object, in my opinion this is a worthwhile and appropriate thing for the Sea Owl Association to do. Most of the money that enables us to do this is raised at reunions and the Groton picnic through raffles. Sea Owl Association's generosity in this and other charitable causes is much appreciated by the Groton Base. As a Groton Base member, I can testify first hand to this.

A popular item at Mobile was my photo insert card with 4 x 6 inch photo of the sea owl fish. Included on the back of this card is the text of the letter shipmate and plankowner Stan Ainley received in 1948 from the Smithsonian Institution (see the June 2002 issue of "Hooter Hilites"). It seemed particularly popular with those who had brought their families along, a chance to show them there really is a sea owl fish. I have other ideas for Sea Owl cards and continue to offer the National Submarine Memorial (East) cards through the USSVI Groton Base as a fund raiser to help maintain this memorial.

The Sea Owl cards are cream colored, blank inside and come with matching envelopes. Ideas for future cards are welcome. I often use these cards myself for personal correspondence with shipmates.

You may order these cards from me by mail for \$1.50 each. Price includes postage. Send orders to:

Ken Johnson
P.O. Box 561
Oakham, MA 01068

Lots of photographs are available from our reunion at Mobile, so many in fact that it was hard to pick which to put in this newsletter. Those of you who attended will find an extra bonus included in this issue, Walmart prints of you at the reunion. Roy Purtell has posted many photos from Mobile to the Walmart Photo Center where prints can be ordered. He provided these prints to me for inclusion in your newsletter. We hope you enjoy them. I have also received many more photos from Tom Moniz and have several of my own as well. Digital photography makes it easy to distribute memories of these occasions. Through the Walmart service, we can order prints for you that you can pick up at your local Walmart store. The cost is only \$.26 (plus tax as appropriate) for each 4 x 6 print.

If you would like contact sheets with thumbnail images of the photos from Mobile, you can send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope and I will forward them to you. Any photos you would like prints of can be ordered through me if you do not have on line access to the Walmart site albums.

This issue, for those of you receiving it via "snail mail" is the first printed entirely on the Sea Owl Association's new Hp 5650 printer. It has cut down the time required to print it and get it in the mail to you dramatically. Now I just need to work on the mental block I sometimes get over just what to put into it. More "sea stories" are coming in from shipmates and "Howland Owl" is back in this issue with one that I hope you enjoy.

Memories of Mobile

By Ken Johnson



Always a pleasure at reunions is the opportunity to meet the families of shipmates and to share memories with them. I will not try and name them all, but just mention the little boy in the front row. This is Tommy Whitman, grandson of Tom Gilbert who later treated us on Friday evening to his own special version of the National Anthem to start off the annual meeting. Yes, that's Lamar Taylor in the front row as well and in case you are wondering that is a SR-71 Blackbird

behind them, one of the featured attractions in the aviation building where we had our luncheon.

Another featured attraction at Battleship Memorial Park is the USS Drum, sort of a fish out of water as it is on display here.



Yet another feature of Battleship Memorial Park is the Lower Alabama Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



In the last issue I mentioned Bill Atkeison, nephew of one of the survivors of the loss of the USS Perch during WW II. This is Bill standing next to a bronze statue, which is part of the Memorial that he designed and helped build. There is much symbolism to this statue that the casual visitor to this Memorial would easily miss. I was fortunate enough to have Bill describe it to me and have since prepared a photo insert card describing it that may soon be offered for sale at the Battleship Memorial Park gift shop.

Sailors Rest Your Oars

One of the saddest parts of doing the newsletter is the listing of those shipmates who have departed on "eternal patrol" since the last issue. We have learned since the last newsletter of the passing of these shipmates:

Don Abel, TM – 68-69 – November 20

Richard J. Hadley, LCdr - 46-48 – November 19

Don Abel's passing was a particular shock to Roy Purtell as they served together on the Owl. Richard Hadley later became a "plankowner" aboard USS Nautilus. We extend our deepest sympathy to families and friends of our departed shipmates.

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The 40's

December 2003 Issue



Shipmates at Mobile

Shown here from left to right are Don Hewitt, EM 45-47 with his firstmate, Mary; Bob Evans, EM 44-45 with his firstmate Donna and Ralph Lucas, TM 44-46 with his firstmate Jimmie. This is actually a composite of two photographs as you can see and you can spot the seam if you look closely.

National WW II Memorial

By Ken Johnson

Some time ago Jim Campbell contacted me about helping him put a photograph on the registry for the new National WW II Memorial in Washington, DC. At the time I didn't know that much about the memorial aside from the fact that actor Tom Hanks and former Senator Bob Dole had worked very hard to see that one was created for those who served during WW II.

Recently, after registering himself and Stan Ainley, Jim suggested we honor Warren Hall which we did with the help of his daughter. Well, if we are going to honor Capt. Hall, why not Capt. Bennett as well, Sea Owl's first CO, but why should we stop there?

Thus began my latest project, to enter the names of ALL who served aboard Sea Owl during her three war patrols in WW II. Using the information we have in our data base of Sea Owl shipmates, from war patrol reports, and other sources, I have begun adding these names to this registry. All such entries will be listed as "HONORED BY Sea Owl Shipmates".

Those of you WW II shipmates who receive this newsletter will find a printout of your entry in the registry as I have entered it. Please review it and return it to me with any additions or corrections you wish to

make. There is a provision in the Registry for entry of HOMETOWN. What they want is your Hometown during WW II from which you entered the Navy and not where you live today. An entry for State is required when making the initial entry. In most cases I do not know the correct Hometown or State to enter.

These entries can be reviewed on line at www.wwiimemorial.com along with others that have been entered. You cannot edit the entry directly as I must do it through my established account. If you would like to add a photo to your entry, you can send it to me along with a check for \$10.00 which is the fee for uploading a photograph. I will scan and upload the photo for you.

The official dedication of the National WW II Memorial is scheduled for May 29, 2004. Prior to that time, I would like to have all names entered into this registry. If you can help in any way, please contact me. I consider it an honor to be able to do this, but lack some details.

Not content to leave it at this, I have further suggested through USSVI that the names of all who served on the 52 lost boats of World War II be entered into the registry as well. While the names of those who perished as a result of the loss of these boats are there from National Archives or other records, these entries do not contain any details of their service, the boat they were lost on, the date lost, etc. Furthermore those who survived the loss of these boats and may have suffered as POWs are, in many cases, not entered at all. While USSVI may have already been considering such a project, it was John Carcioppolo, Bas Commander of the Groton Base who came up with the idea of getting the Submarine School involved. Each Sub School class, as it turns out is named for a lost boat and it will become a class project of that class to enter the names of the men who served aboard into this Registry.



The 50's

December 2003 Issue



Lamar Taylor writes, October 2003:

"To: Shipmates of Sea Owl:

As always, it was a pleasure to be with "Old Shipmates" and to meet more who have not attended our reunions. I strongly urge the alumni of the Sea Owl to attend our next reunion which will be in Baltimore, Maryland. This year's reunion in Mobile was one of the most enjoyable, and the best reunion I have attended which includes many other ships, military and civilian reunions. Besides listening to old and new "sea stories", the most important thing to me is to see how ALL our shipmates and their families have succeeded in life. WELL DONE!

Ken Johnson drove me to and from my home to Mobile and back. THANKS, Ken. During the reunion, everyone was very kind to me, for which I am very grateful.

During my long career of being in the lumber business, 1936 – 1940; my Navy career, 1940 – 1962 (consisting of one BB, 2 seaplane tenders, one cruiser, various shore billets, and six submarines); health industry for 40 years, I remember my tour (1952 – 1955) on the Sea Owl as the most enjoyable of all my careers.

Periodically, I receive letters or telephone calls from Shipmates or from others who have served on the Sea Owl. It is always great to hear from people – such as the Purtells, Leers, Ken Johnson, H.L. (Pete) Brailey, Bill Farnsworth's widow, Rex Smallie, etc. My family owns 3 computers (I, however, do not know how to turn a computer on), but my e-mails are telephone calls.

If we haven't started, I suggest that we compile sea stories, events, during our tours of duty on the Sea Owl such as mine – 1952 – 1955.

Hope all will come to Baltimore because, not only is it a great city, but you will enjoy our shipmates.

Keep sailing, smooth and following seas and fair weather.

Thanks,

Lamar (Ace) Taylor"

The Great Rice Caper

By Howland Owl

During the loadout (food, fuel, weapons etc.) for a barrier patrol, Frank LaFemina shows up at the Sonar Room hatch below the Crew's Mess & says "What are you guys going to store for this trip?". I was smart enough to know that there was no dodging this bullet and hopeful that we'd get something like cookies or at least small cans of fruit. I told Frank to send down anything he didn't have room for elsewhere. I think we got several cases of canned tomatoes, canned green beans and similar stuff. All #10 tin cans. Dra! The hatch closed and I figured that was it. A bit later Frank gives the "knock-knock" signal & we open the hatch again. He asks if we can take some rice. Biting my tongue, I said sure, so he lowers down about three or four 40 pound bags of rice. I figured we must be headed for China (we'd not been told yet where we were headed). Once underway, a routine we fell into was responding to the "knock-knock" on the Sonar Room hatch to periodically hand our stored food

up to the cooks/mess cooks. Canned goods were straight forward. One can of this - two cans of that. When it came to the rice, the folks topside would pass down a "gunboat" with a scoop in it and we'd close the hatch. We'd open up the "duty rice bag" & put the number of scoops in the gunboat that had been asked for. It was usually four or six. We'd bang on the hatch, the cook/mess cook would open the hatch & we'd send up the rice. This went smoothly for several weeks. I guess the crew liked rice 'cause I don't recall any bellyaching among them on this issue. I was yet to learn just how much the Captain liked rice! One day Frank "knock - knocks" on the hatch, hands me the gunboat & scoop and says "five scoops". When I handed it back up to him I said "Frank - there's not much more rice down here - we're getting close to the last of it". He looked at me quizzically but disappeared as the hatch closed. A day or three later I was down in the Sonar Room & a mess cook "knock - knocks" on the hatch & hands it & the scoop below. I handed it back to him & told him that all the rice was gone. He closed the hatch & within ten minutes Frank was asking to come down in the Sonar Room to enquire into the "rice matter". Nothing was going on, so I invited him down & he grilled me on "rice". I told him we'd gotten so many bags & they were all gone now. He said he was sure he'd put eight or ten bags down but I showed him how & where we stowed it & said there was no way we had that many bags. I think he believed me (why shouldn't he - such a nice clean cut young Petty Officer as I !!) so Frank leaves and about 20 minutes later Ens. Rashley (Sonar & Commissary Officer) shows up & gives me the "third rice degree". The only thing missing was a bright light & sweat on my brow ! I told him the same as I told Frank & he disappears. Not too long after there is a full scale, all hands, boatwide search for the missing rice. Of course none showed up. I understand the climate in the Ward Room was a little icy following this. That's when I began to appreciate just how much the CO's rice ration meant to him. Things settled down after a few days until Pink Neal got in the act. Pink (our Chief Radioman) always took the 8-12 and stayed up after midnight to complete skeds and put together our "newspaper" with "filler" ComSubLant stuffed here & there in the "skeds" to make sure they were all of roughly the same transmit duration. Major sports scores & incidental tidbits were "par for the course". Pink would fill out the remainder of the newspaper with "stuff" of boat-wide interest and had started a "For Sale" column toward the end of the paper. Common items were "Previously wet - but now dried out" cigarettes for 5 cents a pack"; "Mad Comics 20 cents each"; etc. etc. One night not long after the big "boatwide rice search" Pink puts an ad in the newspaper : "For Sale - 40 pounds of high quality rice. See the Phantom Fence". The Captain did not take kindly to this. All Sonarmen got another "third rice degree" from Mr. Rashley - only this time it was "ratcheted up to around the fourth degree"! I guess the CO was really steamed. Needless to say it took at least a week before things "blew over". As I recall, the best explanation for the "rice deficit" was simply that Frank had loaded less rice than he thought he had.



The 60's

December 2003 Issue



Sharks !!

By Bill Brinkman

While underway on the surface on the USS Sea Owl, our Captain Dave Wessinger decided to conduct man overboard drills. We found a cardboard box which had held steaks to simulate our "man". While moving at about 20 knots, the Captain would fling the "man" overboard. As soon as it hit the water, one of us lookouts would yell out "Man overboard starboard side!" The Conning Officer would then proceed ahead, make the 180 turn and pull up next to the "man". All the time, the Captain was watching and judging his performance. I noted that it took about 3 minutes to do this maneuver. This time the Captain had the Conning officer close his eyes as we went past the "man" a second time, so that we could repeat the drill. As we were about to make the 180 turn, I was looking back at our "man" through my binoculars. A 15 foot shark was rolling around and around our "man". Apparently, the little blood in the bottom of the box attracted him. The shark was on the box five minutes after the box hit the water!

What Sea Owl and the Navy Mean to Me

By Ken Johnson

Among the stories I most enjoy when attending reunions are those discussions of how the Sea Owl and the Navy helped to shape the lives of those who served aboard. I thought I would share a bit of what it has meant to me.

I entered the Navy through the Brown University NROTC program in the days when they still had such a program there. When I was just 15 years old my father suffered a stroke and was never able to work again. I was faced with the dilemma of how to pay for a college education. If the truth be known, my first choice was to try and get an appointment to the then new U. S. Air Force Academy. I got as far as spending three days of intensive testing, physical and otherwise, at Westover Air Force Base. I failed to meet the strict eyesight requirements in effect at the time. It was then I learned of the Regular NROTC program and that it was offered at Brown so I applied and was accepted initially as a Contract NROTC student and later made it into the Regular program through which my tuition was paid by the Navy. Incidentally, tuition to Brown was only \$1,600 per year in those days. Today it is ranks among the most expensive colleges in the country. I will always be grateful to the Navy for the opportunity it provided me to get a first rate education.

Why did I go on to become a submariner? Well, I would credit, or blame, the TV show, "The Silent Service", for that along with trips to the Submarine School in Groton as part of my Boy Scout troop's activities. I certainly have never regretted the choice nor have I ever regretted being assigned to Sea Owl on graduation from Submarine School. While its physical presence is long gone, the memory of Sea Owl lives on in each of us and will always be a part of us.

Reunions over the years were never a big thing for me. I have never attended a high school or college reunion, largely because I never thought I shared much in common with anyone I would be likely to

meet again there. Furthermore, Brown University no longer has a NROTC unit. It became a victim of the student protests of the 60s. Lyman Hall, where the Naval Science Department was housed, is now a performing arts center. While some may consider this a more appropriate use of the building, I will remember it as the place where I learned the basics of how to be a Naval Officer. Sea Owl is where I finally became one. While I later went on to greater responsibilities and more exciting "adventures" aboard Halfbeak, a sexier Guppy II, Sea Owl is and will always remain a special boat.

I knew there was a Sea Owl Association, but did not attend any reunions until the Groton picnic in 2002. I enjoyed it so much that I later volunteered to take over as Editor of "Hooter Hilites" and have made every Groton picnic and reunion since. Sea Owl reunions are a good time and they keep getting better.

New Face at Mobile

By Ken Johnson

Among the new members to the Sea Owl Association attending their



first Sea Owl reunion was John Kolodziej aka "Sam Koolaid" or "Sampan Sam". (Who can ever pronounce Kolodziej?) He looks pretty much as he did back in the 60s. Never did have a lot of hair as I recall.

John brought back many (mostly good) memories, some of which I hope he will be willing to share with us in future issues. I hope to see John at future reunions and I hope Baltimore brings out more of the early 60s Wardroom as well. I know there are several of

you in the Baltimore-Washington, DC area.

John never made it to Vietnam. We all thought he was crazy to want to go in the first place. He did go on to have a successful Navy career and I understand his daughter is following in his footsteps.

More Stories Please!

Let's keep those sea stories coming, shipmates! I know they are out there waiting to be told. E-mail or "snail mail" your stories to Roy Purtell or Ken Johnson. If you are too bashful to put your byline on it, "Howland Owl" is always willing to take credit for your stories. We have bits and pieces, for example, of a time when Sea Owl tried to pass as a fishing boat. Let's get the details for a future article.

Shipmate Walt Deal TM 62-65 has mentioned another event where an electric torpedo battery compartment exploded in the torpedo tube while he was sitting at the GSIR (jeep) The GSIR is that small control panel between the tubes. Walt went on to say, that the only thing that prevented him from reaching the Aft. battery was the length of the cord on the sound powered phones. (He probably changed his underwear shortly thereafter.)