

**Commander,
Submarine Group SEVEN**

December 23, 2010

Dear Mr. Kibbe,

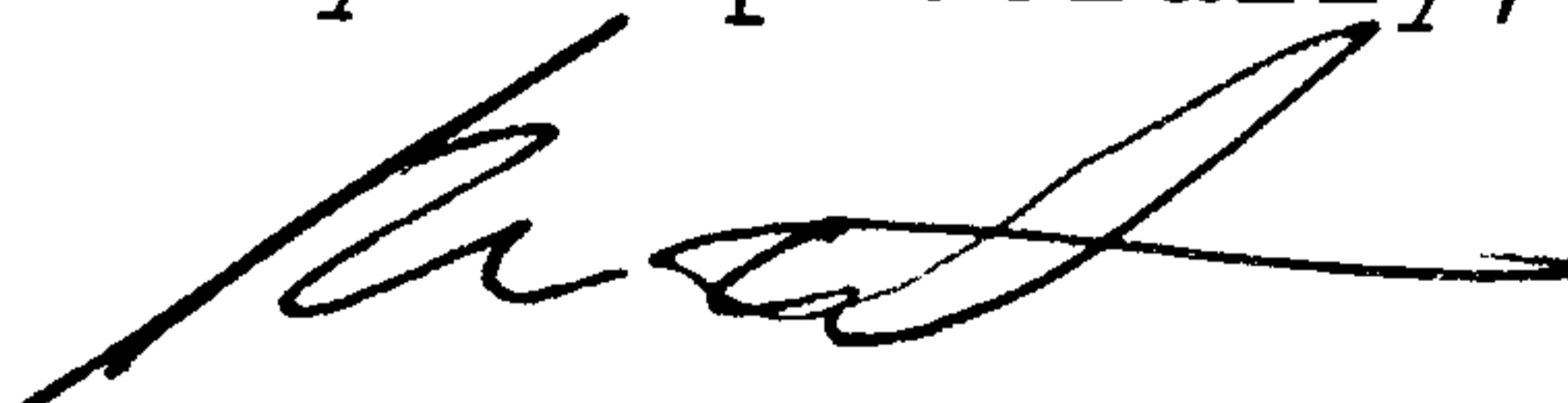
I sincerely appreciate the significance of locating the USS POMPANO to the families of the lost Sailors, especially the submarine community.

Because the presumed site is in Japanese territorial waters, this would have to be a coordinated search with permission and possible participation from the government of Japan. I have referred this matter to the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO), located in Mississippi, which conducts U.S. Navy survey operations. NAVO will evaluate whether a combined survey expedition with the Japanese is feasible, and what assets would be appropriate to dedicate to this mission.

I am sure you understand that resources are at a premium here in SEVENTH FLEET, and that operational requirements may limit the opportunities to task capable assets to conduct a search.

Thank you for your patience. I greatly appreciate your dedication to history and the memories of those who have gone before us.

Very respectfully,



J. C. BLEIDORN
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Mr. R. Keith Kibbe
7565 Glastonbury Road
Knoxville, TN 37931-1845



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE
1002 BALCH BOULEVARD
STENNIS SPACE CENTER, MS 39552-5001

5710 IN REPLY REFER TO:
Ser N83/90264064
31 MAY 2011

Mr. R. Keith Kibbe
7565 Glastonbury Road
Knoxville, TN 37931-1845

Dear Mr. Kibbe,

The Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) received your email request dated January 8, 2011, in which you request that the United States Navy conduct a search for the lost World War II submarine, USS POMPANO (SS-181) in Japanese territorial waters.

Please be advised that a thorough review was conducted concerning this request at NAVOCEANO and later by the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (COMNAVMETOCCOM).

However, COMNAVMETOCCOM, has decided that due to the nature of this request, it's believed that the evaluation and possible disposition should occur between the Commander, Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force. The request was forwarded to CNFJ on April 19, 2011.

The COMNAVMETOCCOM point of contact for this matter is Commander Brian Connon. Commander Connon may be reached at (228) 688-4301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. B. BROWN", written over a printed name.

B. B. BROWN
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Copy to:
COMNAVMETOCCOM (N5)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER
NAVAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY COMMAND
1100 BALCH BOULEVARD
STENNIS SPACE CENTER MS 39529-5005

5710
Ser N5/115
19 Apr 11

From: Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command
To: Commander, Naval Forces Japan

Subj: USS POMPANO (SS-181)

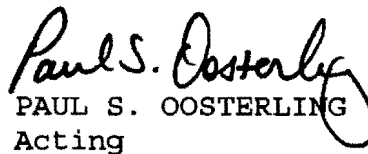
Encl: (1) NAVOCEANO CSO E-mail of 10 Jan 11

1. Enclosure (1) is a request received by the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) from Mr. R. Keith Kibbe of Knoxville, Tennessee. Mr. Kibbe has conducted research that he believes sheds light on the final resting place of the lost World War II submarine, USS POMPANO (SS-181). Mr. Kibbe requests that the United States Navy conduct a search for the USS POMPANO (SS-181) in Japanese territorial waters (TTW).

2. Given the nature of this request, and fact that the submarine is believed to be located in Japanese TTW, I am respectfully passing enclosure (1) to Commander, Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) for evaluation and disposition. I believe dialogue between either CNFJ or Commander, Seventh Fleet with the appropriate representatives from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force is the first step toward that disposition.

3. My staff is standing by to support any potential bilateral effort that might be undertaken. We have a long history of cooperation with both the JMSDF and Japan Coast Guard, and meet routinely to address areas of mutual concern. If deemed of interest by both USN and JMSDF, this topic could be included in future working group discussions.

4. My point of contact is CDR Brian Connon, who can be reached at DSN 828-4301, Commercial (228) 688-4301, or via E-mail at brian.connon@navy.mil.


PAUL S. OOSTERLING
Acting

7565 Glastonbury Road
Knoxville, TN 37931-1845
(865) 938-1467
kandjkibbe@comcast.net

August 6, 2011

Commander, Navy Region Japan
Commander, U. S. Naval Forces Japan
PSC 473 F12
FPO AP 96349-0001

Subject: USS Pompano SS-181

Reference and Enclosure: Navy Memo, 5710, Ser N5/115, 19 Apr 11

Dear Sir:

SUMMARY

I am taking the liberty of contacting you regarding the referenced and enclosed Navy memo. The subject matter is new information recently extracted from Japanese military archival records that identifies what may be the final resting place of the USS Pompano which disappeared in September, 1943. I recognize the many good reasons for the standard Navy policy of not searching for ships lost in prior wars, but I respectfully request that you might consider an exception in this case because of the specificity of the location information. I would appreciate receiving a point of contact in your command regarding this matter.

DISCUSSION

I will not repeat any of the technical specifics since it is my understanding you now have received from the Commander, Naval Meteorology and oceanography Command, the entire package of information I have assembled. I have previously contacted Rear Admiral R. L. Thomas and sent him a detailed memo and several attachments that contained specific information. After reviewing the information, Rear Admiral Thomas forwarded my package to the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center, MS. After further review of my package, on April 19, 2011, the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, forwarded my package to your Command for review because of the need to interact with the Japanese government if a search is to be made of the location. Please see the enclosed letter of transmittal.

I recognize that since the location is in Japanese Territorial waters close to shore off the northern tip of Honshu, in the mouth of the Tsugaru Strait, that any effort to check the site out will require government-to-government interaction with the Japanese, and it is my understanding that such interactions fall within the scope of your Command. I respectfully request that you consider taking the matter up with the Japanese to seek their permission, and cooperation, to determine if this location is where the Pompano lies. If it is, I would hope it would be declared a military Sea Grave with diving not permitted unless specifically authorized by the Navy.

I note in the enclosed letter that the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command is prepared to support any bilateral effort that may be undertaken.

My children's biological grandfather, CmoMM Charles Albert Wilson, served on all seven Pompano War Patrols and was lost with the ship. I am in contact with other descendants of Pompano crewmen who are also anxious to learn of this is the resting location of the Pompano.

If you need any additional information, or another copy of my package of information, please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from your point of contact, and I remain optimistic that you will conclude this is a worthwhile effort to pursue.

With best regards,

R. Keith Kibbe

Cc: Captain Greg A. Ulses, Naval Meteorology and Oceanographic Command