

USS SWORDFISH (SS193)

SWORDFISH, under Commander K. E. Montross, left Pearl Harbor on 22 December 1944, to carry on her thirteenth patrol in the vicinity of Nansei Shoto. She topped off with fuel at Midway on 26 December and left that day for her area. In addition to her regular patrol, SWORDFISH was to conduct photographic reconnaissance of Okinawa, for preparation of the Okinawa Campaign.

On 2 January, SWORDFISH was ordered to delay carrying out her assigned tasks in order to keep her clear of the Nansei Shoto area until completion of carrier based air strikes which were scheduled. She was directed to patrol the general vicinity of 30°-00'N, 132°-00'E until further orders were received. In the last communication received from SWORDFISH, she acknowledged receipt of these orders on 3 January.

On 9 January 1945, SWORDFISH was directed to proceed to the vicinity of Okinawa to carry out her special mission. It was estimated that the task would not take more than seven days after arrival on station, which she should have reached on 11 January. Upon completion of her mission, SWORDFISH was to proceed to Saipan, or to Midway if she was unable to transmit by radio. Since neither place had seen her by 15 February, and repeated attempts to raise her by radio had failed, she was reported as presumed lost on that date.

In the report of her loss, mention was made that KETE, which at the time was patrolling the vicinity of Okinawa, reported that on the morning of 12 January she contacted a submarine by radar. It was believed that contact was with SWORDFISH since it was in 27°-00'N, 128°-40'E. Four hours later KETE heard heavy depth charging from this area, and it was believed that this attack might have been the cause of SWORDFISH's loss.

Japanese information on antisubmarine attacks does not mention the attack heard by KETE on 12 January, and records no attacks in which SWORDFISH is likely to have been the victim. However, it is now known that there were many mines planted around Okinawa, since the Japanese were expecting an Allied invasion of that island. The majority of the mines were planted close in. It is considered about equally likely that SWORDFISH was sunk by depth charge attack before she reached Okinawa for her special mission or that she was lost to a mine at that place.

SWORDFISH, in the twelve patrols before her fatal thirteenth, sank twenty-one ships, amounting to 113,100 tons, and damaged an additional eight, totaling 45,800 tons. Her first patrol began the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and was conducted west of the Philippines. SWORDFISH sank four freighters, varying from 3,900 tons to 9,400 tons, and damaged a fifth. At the time, this was the most successful patrol in the war. She conducted her second patrol in the lesser Philippine group and among the small islands between Celebes and New Guinea. Here she sank three medium freighters and a tanker. She also evacuated President Quezon, his family, Vice President Osmena, Chief Justice Santos, and three officers in the Philippine Army from Corregidor and took them to Panay, where they boarded a motor tender. SWORDFISH returned to Manila Bay and evacuated eleven more Philippine officials. SWORDFISH's primary mission on her third patrol was to deliver 40 tons of supplies to the beleaguered Corregidor. However, on 10 April 1942 ComSubsAF told SWORDFISH to neglect her special

mission and patrol offensively. SWORDFISH made no attacks on this patrol, but did perform reconnaissance of several islands.

The South China Sea area was the scene of the ship's fourth patrol, and she sank a freighter and a tanker, while she damaged two freighters. She returned to the South China Sea for her fifth patrol, but did no damage to the enemy. SWORDFISH went to the area west of Bougainville for her sixth patrol, and sank a medium freighter and damaged a second freighter. She went again to the Solomons for her seventh patrol and sank a freighter. On her eighth patrol, SWORDFISH covered the Palau-Truk-Rabaul areas during August and September 1943. Here she sank a freighter and a transport, while damaging a freighter-transport. Her ninth patrol was made south of Japan, but she made no attacks, and the patrol was cut short by material defects in SWORDFISH. On her tenth patrol, in the same area as her ninth, SWORDFISH sank a freighter-transport, and two medium freighters.

This ship covered the Marianas on her eleventh patrol; she damaged two freighters. On her twelfth patrol, conducted in the Bonins, SWORDFISH sank a freighter and two small trawlers, while she damaged a third trawler. In addition, during this patrol, on 9 June 1944, SWORDFISH sank the Japanese destroyer Matsukaze in a night submerged attack as the enemy ship was bearing down for an attack. SWORDFISH was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the period of her first, second and fourth patrols.

USS SWORDFISH (SSN579) was named in honor of USS SWORDFISH (SS193).

Navy Department  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Division of Naval History (Op-9)  
Ship's Histories Section

### HISTORY OF USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)

USS SWORDFISH (SS-193) was named for the Swordfish, the only representative of the Xiphiidae Family of Fish, which is also known as the "Broadbill."

SWORDFISH was built by the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California, where her keel was laid, 27 October 1937. She was launched on 1 April 1939 under the sponsorship of Miss Louise Shaw Hepburn, niece of Rear Admiral Arthur J. Hepburn, USN, commander of the Twelfth Naval District. The ship was placed in commission, 22 July 1939, when Lieutenant Chester C. Smith, USN, assumed command. Until early 1940, SWORDFISH visited ports along the West Coast and voyaged to Pago Pago, Samoan Islands, thence to Pearl Harbor, before returning to Mare Island Naval Shipyard for post-shakedown repairs. She then conducted operations out of San Diego, California and Pearl Harbor until November 1941.

On 3 November 1941, the tender HOLLAND (ARG-18), escorted by SWORDFISH and submarines SALMON, STURGEON and SKIPJACK, departed Pearl Harbor, steaming for Manila. Owing to the deteriorating situation in the Far East, the submarine escorts carried warheads, arriving Manila on 22 November, as reinforcements for the Submarine Force, Asiatic Fleet.

SWORDFISH remained at Manila until the advent of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Her first war patrol commenced 8 December 1941 when she steamed for the coast of Hainan Island, off China, to patrol off Sama Bay and Yulikan Bay. On 9 December 1941, she sighted and made a surface approach on a steamer, firing two torpedoes, then diving to avoid possible gun attack. An explosion was heard but a sinking was not confirmed. On 11 December 1941, she fired two torpedoes, in a surface attack on a steamer without obtaining a hit. She again made a surface attack on a steamer, 14 December, submerging to avoid gunfire. No explosion was heard and Lieutenant Commander Smith returned to conduct two submerged attacks, firing two torpedoes for two hits which caused the enemy to list but clear observation of damage could not be ascertained owing to darkness.

On 16 December 1941, off Gaalong Bay, SWORDFISH sighted six steamers convoyed by two destroyers, firing three torpedoes in a submerged run on the first ship, cargo steamer ATSUTASAN MARU of 8,662 tons. Hit amidships, ATSUTASAN MARU erupted in a cloud of smoke, flame and escaping steam as she settled by the stern (18°-06'N; 109°-44'E). On 19 December, she sighted a trawler and destroyer. She made a submerged attack on the destroyer without obtaining a hit and two minutes later, eight depth charges detonated on both sides of SWORDFISH who escaped with very minor damage fifteen minutes later to continue her patrol.

On 21 December 1941, SWORDFISH sighted a steamer hugging the coast from the direction of Sama Bay, firing one torpedo with no results. Later in the day, she made a submerged attack on a steamer under escort of a destroyer, after which three explosions were heard. Shortly thereafter, twelve depth charges were dropped close to SWORDFISH by an enemy aircraft which returned to drop many more. Five were dropped fairly close by the destroyer and four dropped

well astern, apparently by the destroyer or a fast torpedo boat. SWORDFISH escaped after about six hours, with negligible damage.

On 22 December 1941, SWORDFISH was directed to return and while enroute, 23 December, received orders directing her to commence anti-submarine patrol in a sector about thirty miles off Corregidor and entrance to Manila Bay.

Manila was declared an open city on 25 December 1941, resulting in the loss of the Cavite Naval Base. Before leaving Manila, the Submarines Asiatic Command Staff was divided in two groups as a precautionary measure to avoid the enemy from wiping out the entire higher echelon at one stroke. It was decided that the S-boats and certain of the Fleet submarines, including SWORDFISH, should use the Dutch Submarine Base at Soerabaja, Java. Captain John Wilkes was assigned to this base with the operational section of the divided submarine command staff.

On 27 December 1941, SWORDFISH headed toward the mined entrance to Manila Bay and anchored off Mariveles. Here she embarked Captain John Wilkes along with the organizational staff, and on 31 December she steamed through the minefields of Manila Bay for Soerabaja, Java, arriving 7 January 1942.

SWORDFISH departed Soerabaja, 16 January 1942, on her second war patrol which was conducted in Fira Bay, north of Ambon Island, Netherlands East Indies Dema, Colobes Islands, Netherlands East Indies; and off Mindanao and Manila Bay in the Philippines. On 24 January 1942, SWORDFISH came upon two cargo ships at anchor in the roadstead off the port of Kema. She submerged to squeeze through the lower part of narrow Lembah Strait, hugging the Lembah shoreline to escape detection, to torpedo and sink the nearest cargo ship HOKKEN MARU of 4,124 tons (1°-22'N; 125°-05'E). She fired two torpedoes at the second ship, after which explosions were heard but results were not observed. SWORDFISH then dove deep in the channel and sped for open water. On 26 January, in the southern limit of her patrol station near Davao, she made a submerged attack on a tanker without results and continued patrol of the Davao-Palao line, heading for Dema on 28 January.

On 2 February 1942, as SWORDFISH was clearing the north tip of Lembeh Island, several destroyers were sighted and being silhouetted by the moon, detection was inevitable. She dove as the destroyers closed in for depth charge attack but escaped without damage after six charges exploded nearby. On 5 February, she commenced a surface approach on a convoy of three large cargo ships when a destroyer was sighted approaching at high speed, causing SWORDFISH to crash-dive to escape ramming. After dropping four depth charges, the destroyer rejoined the convoy, leaving SWORDFISH to continue her patrol. While off the coast of Mindanao, 14 February 1942, SWORDFISH fired two torpedoes scoring a hit to damage a tanker of estimated 9,500 tons.

On 19 February 1942, off Subic Bay, she fired two torpedoes at a ship. Explosions were heard and a few minutes later, eight depth charges were dropped close by but not near enough to cause damage. After taking on thirteen torpedoes and 44,900 gallons of diesel oil from a Fuel Barge, 20 February, she submerged in the entrance to Mariveles and lay on the bottom until darkness when she surfaced to embark President Manuel L. Quezon of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Mrs. Quezon, two daughters and son; Vice President Osmena; Chief Justice Santos; General Valdes, Colonel Nieto; Captain Oritz (chaplain), all of the Philippine Army; and departed through the minefield for San Jose,

Panay, Philippine Islands. She arrived at San Jose, 22 February, where President Quezon and his party were transferred to a motor tender. Returning to Manila Bay on the night of 24 February 1942, she rendezvoused with a motor torpedo boat, steamed through the minefields, and lay to off the turning buoy. Here, she embarked High Commissioner to the Philippines, F.B. Sayre, Mrs. Sayre, and a party of nine. The high commissioner and his party were to be transferred to Soerabaja, Java, but while enroute orders were received to sail to Fremantle, Australia, where she arrived on 9 March 1942.

SWORDFISH departed Fremantle, 1 April 1942, to conduct her third war patrol. Her primary mission was to deliver forty tons of provisions to Corregidor, Philippine Islands and make one shuttle trip, Corregidor to Cebu and return to Corregidor to supply additional provisions from Cebu. In order to provide for carrying cargo, only eight torpedoes were carried, (one in each tube) and service and small arms ammunition was reduced to a minimum. However, Corregidor fell before she could carry out her mission and on 12 April, she was ordered to patrol in the vicinity of Ambon Island. During this patrol only nine ships ranging from patrol boats to coastal freighters were sighted, and each beyond effective torpedo range. SWORDFISH returned to Fremantle on 1 May 1942.

SWORDFISH departed Fremantle, 15 May 1942, on her fourth war patrol in the South China Sea. She steamed through Lombok Strait, north through Makassar Strait and Sibu Passage to Balapac Strait, then along the northwest coast of Borneo and between the Great and South Natuna Islands and vicinity of Anambas Island. Afterwards, she continued along the east coast of the Malay Peninsula as far as Patani Roads, thence to Pulo Wai and southeast along the Bank to Balabac Strait. On 29 May 1942, she torpedoed and sank an unidentified Japanese cargo vessel of an estimated 1,900 tons ( $7^{\circ}-33'N$ ;  $116^{\circ}-18'E$ ). On 6 June, she attack two cargo ships in a daylight submerged attack after which explosions were heard but results not confirmed. In the Gulf of Siam, 12 June she sank cargo ship BURMA MARU of 4,584 tons ( $10^{\circ}-08'N$ ;  $102^{\circ}-34'E$ ), and damaged a freighter. SWORDFISH returned to Fremantle, 4 July 1942.

SWORDFISH departed Fremantle, 27 July 1942, to conduct her fifth war patrol in the area of the Sulu Sea, between Borneo and the Philippines. She attack three enemy ships during this patrol with unverified results. SWORDFISH returned to port 21 September 1942. On 10 October she sailed for Sydney, Australia where she received torpedoes from DOEBIN, departing 27 October for Brisbane, arriving 29 October 1942.

SWORDFISH departed Brisbane, Australia, 1 November 1942, on her sixth war patrol in areas to the south and west of Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands. She scored hits on a freighter estimated at 4,000 tons, and another estimated at 6,000 tons. Although Lieutenant Commander Smith believed he had sank the 4,000 ton freighter, confirmation was not found in captured Japanese records. SWORDFISH returned from this patrol, 19 December 1942.

Commander Chester C. Smith, who commanded SWORDFISH during her first six war patrols, was awarded the Navy Cross and a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism and outstanding courage during the first and second war patrols. He was awarded a Silver Star Medal for conspicuous

gallantry and intrepidity in action against enemy Japanese forces during SWORDFISH's fourth War Patrol, and received a letter of commendation from Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, for meritorious conduct in action during her sixth War Patrol. SWORDFISH earned the Navy Unit Commendation for outstanding heroism in action against enemy Japanese surface forces in the South China Sea during her first, second and fourth War Patrols. On 3 January 1943, Commander Smith was relieved as Commanding Officer of SWORDFISH by Commander J. H. Lewis.

SWORDFISH departed Brisbane, Australia, 9 January 1943, to conduct her seventh war patrol while enroute to Pearl Harbor. On 19 January 1943, she sank cargo ship MYOHO MARU of 4,122 tons ( $5^{\circ}-30'S$ ;  $156^{\circ}-00'E$ ). She concluded this patrol on 23 February 1943. In May 1943, Commander Lewis was relieved of command by Commander Frank M. Parker.

After overhaul and refit, SWORDFISH departed Pearl Harbor on 29 July 1943 for her eighth war patrol in the Palau-Truk-Rabaul shipping lanes off Midway and Wake Islands. Targets were not sighted until 22 August 1943, when she sank cargo ship NISHIYAMA MARU of 3,016 tons ( $2^{\circ}-40'N$ ;  $137^{\circ}-10'E$ ). On 5 September, she intercepted a convoy and sank cargo ship TENKAI MARU of 3,803 tons ( $1^{\circ}-10'N$ ;  $142^{\circ}-10'E$ ) and damaged a freighter estimated at 6,000 tons. She concluded this patrol at Brisbane, Australia on 20 September 1942.

SWORDFISH departed Brisbane, 8 November 1943, on her ninth war patrol. She was in her assigned area just south of the Japanese home islands for only ten days when material defects caused her to return to port on 5 December 1943. Commander Parker was awarded the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action during the eighth war patrol of SWORDFISH. He was relieved of command in December 1943 by Commander Karl G. Hensel, USN.

Shortly after 25 December 1943, repairs were complete and SWORDFISH steamed to conduct her tenth war patrol in shipping lanes south from Tokyo Bay. On 14 January 1944, she sank passenger-cargo YAMAKUNI MARU of 6,921 tons ( $33^{\circ}-16'N$ ;  $139^{\circ}-30'E$ ). Two days later she sank converted gunboat DELHI MARU of 2,182 tons ( $34^{\circ}-04'N$ ;  $139^{\circ}-56'E$ ). On 27 January she fired two torpedoes at converted salvage vessel KASAGI MARU of 3,140 tons, which broke in half and sank soon after the explosion ( $33^{\circ}-31'N$ ;  $139^{\circ}-36'E$ ). She returned to Pearl Harbor on 7 February 1944. Commander Hensel was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism as commanding officer of SWORDFISH during her tenth war patrol. He was relieved of command, 8 February 1944, by Commander Keats E. Montross, USN.

SWORDFISH commenced her eleventh war patrol out of Pearl Harbor, departing 13 March 1944 to an area west of the Marianas Islands. On 5 April she commenced a twenty-four hour chase of a convoy comprising five cargo ships, two destroyers, and two patrol craft. This convoy had daylight air escort, during which time the submerged attack was prevented by continuous radical zig zagging. However, in a night radar-guided surface attack, she fired four bow torpedoes after moonset, scoring a hit on one cargo vessel which caught fire. Minutes later, she fired four stern torpedoes at another cargo vessel, obtaining two hits for damage. The two cargo vessels damaged were of estimated 5,000 tons each. During the next day SWORDFISH was twice driven down and depth charged by destroyers while attempting to maintain daylight contact. Later in the day

of 6 April she intercepted the same or similar convoy which she chased for forty-eight hours but abandoned after twice being bombed by aircraft on the second day. She concluded this patrol at Majuro on 29 April 1944.

SWORDFISH departed Majuro, 22 May 1944 to commence her twelfth war patrol in the area of the Bonin Islands. On 9 June 1944, Commander Montross found Japanese Destroyer MATSUKAZE of 1,270 tons, clearly silhouetted against the horizon and sank her with two torpedoes from bow tubes (26°-59'N; 143°-13'E). On 15 June, SWORDFISH torpedoed and sank cargo ship KANEISHI MARU of 4,804 tons (29°-30'N; 141°-11'E). Japanese ships of a large size were now becoming hard to find, so SWORDFISH began to concentrate on small trawlers and sampans. Three surface attacks were made on these small types, 26-27 June, in which one trawler was sunk by gunfire, one probably sunk and another damaged. SWORDFISH concluded this patrol, 30 June 1944, when she arrived at Pearl Harbor where equipment to enable photographic reconnaissance missions was installed.

Under command of Commander Keats E. Montross, SWORDFISH departed Pearl Harbor, 22 December 1944, to conduct her thirteenth patrol in the vicinity of Nansai Shoto. She put in at Midway on 26 December to receive fuel and departed the same day for her area. In addition to her regular patrol, she was to conduct photographic reconnaissance of Okinawa. She acknowledged a message on 3 January 1945, that she was to stand clear of the Nansai Shoto Islands until a series of carrier-air strikes had been completed. In the meantime, she was to patrol the shipping lanes off Yaku Island below the Japanese Island of Kyushu. Six days later, SWORDFISH was directed to proceed to Nansai Shoto, Archipelago and perform photographic reconnaissance of defense installations on Okinawa. Upon completion of this mission, she was to proceed to Saipan unless she was unable to transmit by radio, in which case she should go to Midway.

It was estimated this mission would not take more than seven days after arrival on station, which SWORDFISH should have reached by 11 January 1945. No further word of the SWORDFISH was received and on 15 February after repeated attempts to contact her by radio had failed, she was reported as presumed lost on that date. KETE, patrolling in the vicinity of Okinawa on the morning of 12 January 1945, contacted a submarine by radar. This was believed to be SWORDFISH since the contact was 27°-00'N; 128°-40'E, the estimated location of SWORDFISH. Four hours later, KETE heard heavy depth charge explosions from this area, and this attack might have been the cause of SWORDFISH's loss.

Japanese information on anti-submarine attacks does not report the depth-charge attack. However, their records show that waters off Okinawa, especially within the 140-fathom mark where SWORDFISH would have been operating, had been heavily mined. A report was not made of mines exploding in that area on 12 January 1945. The exact cause of loss has not been definitely established.

Commander Montross was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry and intrepidity in action as Commanding Officer of SWORDFISH during her twelfth war patrol.

In addition to the Navy Unit Commendation awarded for her first, second and fourth war patrols, SWORDFISH earned eight battle stars for operations as stated below:

- 1 Star/PHILIPPINE ISLAND OPERATION: 8-27 Dec 1941; 16 Jan-9 Mar 1942
- 1 Star/GUADALCANAL (THIRD SAVO): 12 Nov-15 Nov 1942
- 1 Star/CAPTURE AND DEFENSE OF GUADALCANAL: 9 Jan 8 Feb 1943
- 1 Star/MARIANAS OPERATIONS
  - 2nd Bonins Raid: 24 June 1944

## SUBMARINE WAR PATROLS PACIFIC:

- 1 Star/15 May-4 Jul 1942
- 1 Star/29 Jul-20 Sep 1943
- 1 Star/9 Dec 1943 - 7 Feb 1944
- 1 Star/13 Mar 29 Apr 1944

American Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp: 8 Sept 1939-7 Dec 1941  
 Philippine Defense Ribbon: 8-27 Dec 1941; 16 Jan-9 Mar 1942  
 Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge: 8-27 Dec 1941;  
 16 Jan 9 Mar 1942

## STATISTICS

LENGTH:		310 feet, 1 inch
BEAM:		26 feet, 10 inches
DISPLACEMENT:	Standard:	1450 tons
	Submerged:	2350 tons
DESIGN SPEED:	Surface:	20 knots
	Submerged:	8.75 knots
COMPLEMENT:		5 officer 59 men
ARMAMENT:		1, three-inch .50 caliber 2, .50 caliber 2, .30 caliber 8, twenty-one inch Triple torpedo tubes

COMPILED AND STENCILED Oct 1957



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This ship covered the Marianas on her eleventh patrol; she damaged two freighters. On her twelfth patrol, conducted in the Bonins, SWORDFISH sank a freighter and two small trawlers, while she damaged a third trawler. In addition, during this patrol, on 9 June 1944, SWORDFISH sank the Japanese destroyer Matsukaze in a night submerged attack as the enemy ship was bearing down for an attack. SWORDFISH was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the period of her first, second and fourth patrols.

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12-10/A16-3(15)/(16)

Serial 01472

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
20 July 1944CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to  
SWORDFISH Report of  
Twelfth War Patrol.

NOTE: THIS REPORT WILL BE  
DESTROYED PRIOR TO  
ENTERING PATROL AREA.

CONSUBSPAC PATROL REPORT NO. 468.  
U.S.S. SWORDFISH - TWELFTH WAR PATROL.

From: The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via : The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. SWORDFISH (SS193) - Report of Twelfth War Patrol.  
(22 May to 9 July 1944)

1. The twelfth war patrol of the SWORDFISH was conducted in the Bonin Island Area.

2. This patrol was aggressively conducted. Particularly outstanding was the tenacious chase of a convoy and the final successful attack on the night of 14-15 June. Attack No. 1 against a destroyer in the early morning hours of June 9 was likewise well executed. In addition to the torpedo attacks, the SWORDFISH conducted successful gun attacks against trawlers and sampans.

3. This patrol is designated as "Successful" for Combat Insignia Award.

4. The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, congratulates the Commanding Officer, officers, and crew for this aggressive and successful war patrol. The SWORDFISH is credited with having inflicted the following damage upon the enemy:

S U N K

1 - Destroyer (FUBUKI Class)	-	1,700 tons (Attack No. 1)
1 - Freighter (BUZYON MARU Class)	-	4,800 tons (Attack No. 2c)
1 - Trawler (OI Class)	-	400 tons (Gun Attack No. 2)
1 - Trawler	-	100 tons (Gun Attack No. 3)
TOTAL	-	7,000 tons

D A M A G E D

1 - Trawler (OI Class)	-	400 tons (Gun Attack No. 1)
GRAND TOTAL	-	7,400 tons

Distribution and authentication  
on following page.

C. A. LOCKWOOD, Jr.

FC5-4/A16-3

Serial: 0265

Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.,  
17 July 1944.CONFIDENTIALSECOND ENDORSEMENT to:  
USS SWORDFISH Report of  
Twelfth War Patrol.

From: Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR.  
To: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. FLEET.  
Via: (1) Commander Submarine Force, PACIFIC FLEET.  
(2) Commander-in-Chief, U. S. PACIFIC FLEET.

Subject: U.S.S. SWORDFISH (SS193) - Report of Twelfth  
War Patrol.

1. Forwarded.

2. Inasmuch as the commanding officer saw and heard a torpedo explosion on Attack #3 without evidence of damage to either trawler, the possibility exists that a Type "X" or "Y" towed barge was hit. The low freeboard of these barges would make them impossible to see at night, 1800 yards away, without unusual light conditions.

3. Excellent use was made of the gun armament to destroy targets too small for torpedo fire.

4. All aspects of the hydraulic training gear for the SJ radar developed by Lt.(jg) P. S. McKibben will be fully investigated by the Submarine Base E&R Department and their report submitted in the next issue of the monthly "Engineering Bulletin". Lt.(jg) McKibben is commended for his research, ingenuity and perseverance in the development of this method of power train.

5. The Squadron Commander congratulates the commanding officer, officers, and crew of the SWORDFISH on this aggressive patrol.

C. F. ERCK.

Serial 077

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

13 July 1944

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
CO SWORDFISH Conf. Ltr.  
SS193/A16 Serial 02 of  
7/9/44.

From: The Commander Submarine Division FORTY-FIVE.  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via : (1) The Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR.  
(2) The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.  
(3) The Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. SWORDFISH (SS193) - Report of War Patrol Number TWELVE.

1. The Twelfth War Patrol of the U.S.S. SWORDFISH was of 49 days duration of which 29 were spent in her assigned patrol area in the vicinity of the BOEENS.

2. On the afternoon of June 8th SWORDFISH commenced tracking a FUBUKI class destroyer which joined a convoy of three freighters and two other escorts about midnight. While commencing a moonlight submerged approach on this convoy the DD closed in to 1200 yards range with a 10 port angle on bow at which time SWORDFISH fired four Mk. 18 torpedoes from the stern tubes at the DD, torpedo run 920 yards, gyro angle 190, depth setting 4'. Two timed hits were heard. Echo ranging and screws stopped. Breaking up noises were heard in that direction. Another escort dropped random distant depth charges. When SWORDFISH regained periscope depth one hour after the attack one freighter and one escort were sighted at 16,000 yards, angle on bow 90. A float plane was patrolling in the direction of the convoy. Surface chase was later commenced but abandoned when it became apparent another attack could not be made before the convoy arrived at CHICHI SHIMA, its estimated destination.

3. Contact was made with a convoy of four ships and five escorts the afternoon of June 14th. SWORDFISH trailed for night attack. At 2256 four Mk. 14-3A torpedoes were fired from bow tubes at one of the medium freighters in a night surface attack, range 1975 yards, 116 starboard track, nearly zero gyro angles, depth setting 7'. No hits were obtained. SWORDFISH was detected by the bow escort just before firing after passing 1200 yards astern of this escort. Another small escort on the convoy's quarter closed to 200 yards but both were evaded on the surface. The convoy scattered.

4. SWORDFISH selected a ship similar to the BUZYON MARU with one escort ahead and one escort astern for next attack. At 0025 June 15th four torpedoes were fired from bow tubes while on the surface, range 1500 yards, gyro angles 5 degrees right, 95 port track, depth setting 6'. All torpedoes missed.

## SUBMARINE DIVISION FORTY-FIVE

FB5-45/A16-3

Serial 077

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

13 July 1944.

SUBJECT: U.S.S. SWORDFISH (SS193) - Report of War Patrol Number TWELVE.  
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5. One half hour later four torpedoes were again fired from bow tubes on the surface at the same target, range 1000 yards, 95 port track, gyro angles 5 right, depth setting 6'. This time SWORDFISH was rewarded with three hits, seen and heard, which sank the freighter.

6. On June 22nd several groups of trawlers were contacted. One group of two trawlers appeared worthy of torpedoes. At 2310 two Mk. 18 were fired in a surface attack, range 1800 yards, 90 starboard track, depth setting 2'. One explosion was seen and heard at proper time interval but as neither trawler appeared damaged the torpedo may have hit a net or sweeping gear in tow of the trawlers.

7. A ship identified as HOKKO MARU with escort and air cover sighted on June 23rd could not be closed for attack before entering anchorage at HAHASHIMA.

8. On the night of 26-27 June one trawler was damaged and another destroyed in a gun attack. On the evening of June 30th one of three trawlers in company was attacked by gunfire and probably destroyed.

9. All torpedo and gun attacks were aggressively made and pressed home to close range.

10. SWORDFISH will be overhauled at the Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, before departing on another patrol.

11. The Commanding Officer, officers, and crew of the SWORDFISH are congratulated on the damage inflicted upon the enemy during this well conducted twelfth war patrol.

K. C. HURD.

SS193/A16

U.S.S. SWORDFISH

Serial 02

Care of Fleet Post Office;  
San Francisco, California,  
9 July 1944

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via : (1) The Commander Submarine Division FORTY-FIVE.  
(2) The Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR.  
(3) The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.  
(4) The Commander-in-Chief; United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. SWORDFISH - Report of War Patrol Number TWELVE.

Enclosure: (A) Subject Report.  
(B) Track Chart for Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.

1. Enclosure (A), covering the TWELFTH War Patrol of this vessel conducted in the BOMINS during the period 30 May 1944 to 28 June 1944, is forwarded herewith.

K.E. MONTROSS.

(A) PROLOGUE:

Arrived MAJURO April 29, 1944; and commenced refit by Submarine Division One Hundred One, Relief Crew and U.S.S. SPERRY. As a Rest and Recuperation Center, the camp set up at MAJURO by Commander Task Group 17.6 was excellent. Training period May 16 to 18 by Commander Submarine Division ONE HUNDRED ONE. Loading period May 19 and 20; departed for patrol May 22, 1944.

(B) NARRATIVE:

May 22, 1944

1300 L Departed MAJURO in company with USS GROOPER and USS WEAVER (DE 741) as escort in accordance with Comsubpac Operation Order 169-44.

May 23, 1944

0530 L Released escort and proceeded independently.

May 24 to 28, 1944

Enroute Area

May 29, 1944

Enroute Area.

0805 K Sighted Plane headed toward us. (Aircraft contact #1).

0806 K Dove.

0900 K Surfaced.

May 30, 1944

Enroute Area.

0930 I Sighted 2 small Patrol Boats (Ship contact #1).

0938 I Dove.

1826 I Surfaced.

2152 I Entered area at Lat. 26-30 N., Long. 141-30 E.

May 31, 1944

0440 I Dove

1827 I Surfaced.



June 1, 1944

- 0834 I SD Radar contact 15 miles (Aircraft contact #2). Dove.  
1813 I Surfaced.  
1950 I SJ Radar interference Bearing 040° (T).

June 2, 1944

- 1146 I Dove 10 miles off MUKO SHIMA.  
1800 I Surfaced.

June 3, 1944

- 1145 I SD Radar contact 15 miles (Aircraft contact #3). Dove.  
1803 I Surfaced.

June 4, 1944

- 0827 I SD Radar contact 24 miles (Aircraft contact #4). This contact staid on SD screen until  
0848 I Closed to 12 miles so dove.  
1200 I Sighted 2 planes thru periscope (Aircraft contact #5).  
1830 I Surfaced.

June 5, 1944

Patrolled on surface 10 to 30 miles off MUKO SHIMA  
REITO across TOKYO - CHICHI SHIMA route. When 10 miles  
from MUKO SHIMA made extremely careful search thru-out  
entire band of CUO (40 to 600 Megacycles). No indica-  
tion of Jap Radar. At nite closed to 4 miles. Still  
no indication of Radar.

- 1303 I SD Radar contact 23 miles (Aircraft contact #6).  
1730 I Sighted patrol plane 12 miles (Aircraft contact #7).  
Dove.  
1835 I Surfaced.

June 6, 1944

Surface Patrol.

June 7, 1944

Surface patrol.

1536 I Sighted plane distant 20 miles (Aircraft contact #8).

June 8, 1944

0730 I Dove.

0815 I Heard distant depth charging.

1415 I Surfaced.

1525 I Sighted Destroyer bearing 290° (T), distant 18,000 yards. (Ship contact #2). Turned toward DD to try and pick up convoy he might be escorting but could see none. Manned CUO Radar Detector and from now until completion of attack next morning there was indication of Jap Radar operating on 550 Megacycles. Kept DD in sight thru periscope and closed to sight and Radar contact at night until

23 I Radar contact bearing 125° (T), distant 16,000 yards, 2 ships.

2355 I Sighted in bright moonlight 6 ships: - 3 Freighters, 2 other escorts, and DD we had been following (Ship contact #3). Commenced end around run.

June 9, 1944

0315 I Ahead of convoy, distant 16,000 yards. Went to Battle Stations.

0337 I With Radar Range 10,900 yards, dove to Radar depth. Almost full moon. At 8,000 yards went to periscope depth, targets soon visible. While making approach on Freighter, DD Escort ahead of convoy commenced zigging over toward us. Shifted set up to DD and at

0414 I With range of about 1400 yards to DD, angle on bow 10° port, DD shifted to short scale and at

0416 I With range 1200 yards, angle on bow 10° port, torpedo run of 920 yards, and gyro's 190°, fired four Mk 18's. Went deep. (See attack #1).

0417 I Heard 2 timed torpedo explosions.

0419 I One depth charge. Believe this depth charge was knocked off DD's stern when he was hit.

June 9, 1944 (Cont'd).

- 0421 I Sound reports ship breaking up aft, echo ranging has stopped, no screws heard.
- 0424 I Weak echo ranging long scale at 345° Relative, followed by 4 very distant depth charges. This must have been other escort.
- 0427 I Fast screws and echo ranging at 320° relative.
- 0428 I 6 distant depth charges.
- 0434 I 8 distant depth charges. Believe this depth charging was being done by port quarter escort.
- 0530 I Came to periscope depth. Sighted escort and 1 Freighter, distant 16,000 yards, angle on bow about 90° port. Also sighted float plane (J.M.E) in direction of convoy, distant about 5 miles (Aircraft contact #9).
- 0735 I Surfaced and commenced chase.
- 0900 I Now only 50 miles from CHICHI SHIMA. Decided convoy must be headed there. Abandon chase as we had not yet picked up convoy and would not have been able to get ahead for another attack.
- 1335 I Sighted plane distant 15 miles headed toward us. (Aircraft contact #10). Dove.

1830 I Surfaced.

June 10, 1944

Surface Patrol.

June 11, 1944

- 0402 I Dove 12 miles off CHICHI SHIMA. Conducted submerged patrol and observed the following:
- 3 Radio towers at Lat. 27-05-30 N.  
Long. 142-12-48 E.
- 3 Radio towers at Lat. 27-05-06 N.  
Long. 142-12-54 E.
- Possible bedspring Radar screen at  
Lat. 27-04-06 N.  
Long. 142-13-02 E.
- 1850 I Surfaced.

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June 12, 1944

- 0634 I Sighted plane distant 10 miles (Aircraft contact #11).  
Dove.
- 0915 I Surfaced.
- 1029 I Sighted plane distant 10 miles (Aircraft contact #12).  
Plane banked and headed toward us so dove.
- 1830 I Surfaced.

June 13, 1944

- 0700 I Sighted plane distant 15 miles (Aircraft contact #13).
- 1143 I Sighted plane distant 20 miles (Aircraft contact #14).

June 14, 1944

- 1315 I SD Radar contact 10 miles (Aircraft contact #15). Dove.
- 1410 I Sighted smoke and at
- 1700 I Sighted convoy consisting of 4 ships and 5 escorts.  
(Ship contact #4). Angle on bow about 60° port,  
distant 20,000 yards. Decided to trail convoy and  
make night surface attack. Two escorts appeared to be  
well out on each bow of the convoy, two were on the  
quarters and one small escort astern.
- 1715 I Lost sight contact with convoy.
- 1815 I Surfaced and commenced chase.
- 2048 I Regained radar contact with convoy.
- 2120 I Commenced approach from the port beam of convoy.
- 2135 I Broke off this approach when it appeared that we would  
cross too close across the bow of the escort on the  
port quarter. Worked over to starboard side of convoy  
and commenced approach from starboard bow.
- 2248 I With bow now pointed at starboard leading escort,  
planned to cross his stern before firing at leading  
freighter.

June 14, 1944 (Cont'd).

- 2255 I After having crossed astern of leading escort about 1200 yards, the escort on the starboard quarter either sighted us or detected us by sound. The water was very phosphorus so it is quite likely he saw our wake. In any event, he turned on a red light. This was soon followed by the escort on the port quarter turning on a red light. The first escort soon fired a white rocket. As the TDC seem to have a good set up and target did not seem to be zigging decided to fire so at
- 2256 I Fired tubes 1,2,3, and 4 on a 116 starboard track, torpedo run of 1975 yards, gyro angles 000. No hits but heard torpedo explosion 3 min. 6 secs. after firing. (See attack #2i).
- 2258 I Sighted small escort 20° on starboard bow, range 500 yards. This quickly closed to 200 yards before we were able to maneuver to avoid. This must have been trailing escort which radar failed to pick up in time. Escorts dropped no depth charges. Convoy now seemed to disperse so commenced trailing one unidentified ship which seemed to be separated from the rest and at

June 15, 1944

- 0006 I Commenced approach on single ship, (Identified as BUZYON IMRU), with one escort ahead and one small escort astern and at
- 0025 I Fired tubes 1,2,3, and 4 on a 95 port track, torpedo run of 1500 yards, gyro angles 005. Again all torpedoes missed. (See attack #2B).
- 0029 I Heard 2 torpedo explosions. Trailing escort now appeared to drop behind to investigate but no depth charges were dropped. Commenced another approach on same target and at
- 0104 I Fired tubes 1,2,3, and 4 on a 95 port track, torpedo run of 1000 yards, gyro angles 005 (See attack #2C). 41 secs. to a minute after firing saw and heard three torpedoes hit the target. Saw wake of 4th torpedo pass ahead of target. Bow quickly settled in water. Escort now turned back. Target last seen with only stern out of water. Radar kept contact with target with pip getting smaller and smaller until at
- 0118 I Radar pip on target disappeared at range of 4500 yards. Escort dropped a few depth charges and apparently circled the target to pick up survivors.

June 15, 1944 (Cont'd).

0154 I Abandon chase of remainder of convoy due insufficient information as to probable course remainder of convoy was on.

0453 I Dove.

1226 I Surfaced.

1455 I SD Radar contact 4 miles (Aircraft contact #16). Dove.

1610 I Surfaced.

June 16, 1944

0915 I SD Radar contact 7 miles (Aircraft contact #17). Dove.

1032 I Surfaced.

1235 I SD Radar contact 10 miles (Aircraft contact #18). Dove.

1801 I Surfaced.

June 17, 1944

0715 I SD Radar contact 5 miles (Aircraft contact #19). Dove.

1033 I Surfaced.

June 18, 1944

Surface patrol across CHICHI SHIMA - TOKYO Route.

June 19, 1944

0748 I Sighted two planes, distant 8 miles (Aircraft contact #20). Dove.

0956 I Surfaced.

June 20, 1944

Surface patrol.

June 21, 1944

1100 I SD Radar contact 2 miles (Aircraft contact #21). Dove.

1322 I Surfaced.

June 21, 1944 (Cont'd).

- 1330 I Sighted two planes distant 12 miles (Aircraft contact #22). Dove.
- 1848 I Surfaced.

June 22, 1944

- 0507 I Dove.
- 0628 I Sighted seven small 250 ton trawlers (Ship contact #5). Close to identify. All in column not zigzagging. Appeared too small to torpedo. All were diesel driven. Some had 2 masts and others only one. Headed for IWO SHIMA.
- 1844 I Surfaced. Sighted 2 trawlers (Ship contact #6). Identified as similar to SENDAI MARU, 475 tons, listed in ONI 208-J (Revised). Commenced tracking.
- 1910 I Heard distant depth charging.
- 1914 I Radar contact on the 2 trawlers, distant 10,000 yards. Commenced end around run with target to port. These trawlers were apparently headed for IWO SHIMA - course 200° (T).
- 2042 I While getting ahead of targets, got radar contact on 2 other ships on starboard beam, range 5500 yards. Tracked on course 030° but pips appeared small so continued tracking original 2 targets. (Ship contact #7).
- 2126 I Ships now visible at radar range of 7200 yards.
- 2225 I Ahead of target all stopped. With stern pointed at target, and on targets track, let target come up astern gradually working off track and keeping stern to target until at
- 2310 I Fired tubes 7 and 8 on a 90 starboard track, torpedo run of 1800 yards, and gyro angles 180. (See attack #3). One minute and fifty secs. after firing 1st torpedo an explosion was heard and seen, however, neither ship appeared to be hit. Torpedo may have exploded in target's wake.
- 2318 I Heard 2nd torpedo explosion. After firing 2 torpedoes with what appeared to be a perfect set-up on the TDC and missing, it was not considered advisable to fire more torpedoes at such a small target.

June 23, 1944

- 0530 I Dove.
- 1245 I Sighted smoke bearing 278° (T), distant 25,000 yards.
- 1300 I Made out masts of ship. (Ship contact #8). Came to normal approach course and after running standard speed for one hour, ship was still 12,000 yards away, angle on bow 120° starboard. Identified as HONKO MARU (5385 tons), page 265 of ONI 208-J (Revised). Ship headed for HULL SMITH.
- 1545 I Surfaced and commenced chase. Now sighted tops of escort and one float plane over target (Aircraft contact #23).
- 1806 I Abandon chase when target was seen to turn and stand into anchorage at HULL SMITH. In closing anchorage, we were sighted by escort and at
- 1831 I Escort commenced to close us. Range closed to 10,000 yards at which time we commenced to open out.

June 24, 1944

- 0630 I Sighted plane, distant 15 miles (Aircraft contact #24). Dove.
- 1430 I Sighted 2 planes, distant 12 miles (Aircraft contact #25).
- 1845 I Surfaced.

June 25, 1944

- 0550 I SD Radar contact 10 miles (Aircraft contact #26). Dove. Closed to 4 miles before reaching 50 feet.
- 1215 I Sighted one BETTY, distant 4 miles flying very low. (Aircraft contact #27).
- 1845 I Surfaced.

June 26, 1944

- 0430 I Dove.
- 1903 I Surfaced.
- 37 I Radar contact distant 7300 yards. (Ship contact #9).



June 26, 1944 (Cont'd).

- 2147 I Sighted 6 trawlers. Decided to attack by gunfire. These trawlers were tracked on course 140° (T), which headed them for CHICHI SHIMA.
- 2317 I Commenced approach on port quarter of rear ship.
- 2328 I Commenced firing all guns at rear ship; range 1000 yards. (See Gun Attack #1).
- 2330 I Ceased firing - pulled away to clear jam on 3"/50 cal. gun. The 20mm. fire was very effective. Saw a small fire start on ship fired on. He stopped and dropped from column. Now planned to try and cripple another and then finish both of them off.
- 2350 I Commenced another approach on the 5th ship from the van.

June 27, 1944

- 0010 I Commenced firing all guns, range 900 yards. (See Gun Attack #2). From now until 0120 made runs on target at ranges of 1000 yards to 500 yards and finally stopping 300 yards from target and blasting away. First hit made with 3" at 0022.
- 0120 I As other ships had increased speed to 10 knots, it was estimated that they would arrive CHICHI SHIMA before we could intercept them so with present target afire from stem to stern and main deck almost awash, commenced search of trawler previously damaged.
- 0215 I Abandon search for other trawler.
- 0445 I Dove.
- 0925 I Sighted through periscope 3 planes, distant 6 miles. (Aircraft contact #28).
- 1607 I Sighted small patrol boat bearing 190° (T), distant 10,000 yards, angle on bow 100° port; apparently standing in to CHICHI SHIMA. (Ship contact #10).

June 28, 1944

- 0544 I Sighted plane distant 12 miles (Aircraft contact #29). Dove.
- 1123 I Sighted plane through periscope, distant 10 miles. (Aircraft contact #30).
- 1906 I Surfaced and departed area at Lat. 27-31 N. Long. 141-51 E., and set course for Midway.

June 29, 1944

Enroute Midway.

June 30, 1944

- 1000 K Sighted patrol plane distant 25 miles (Aircraft contact #31).
- 1412 K Sighted nests of three small trawlers (Ship contact #11). Took course to get ahead of them.
- 1715 K Drove ahead of trawlers, estimated speed at this time was 7 kts., course 330° (T). Sighted thru periscope after diving. Numerous rain squalls obscured target. Targets did not close. Apparently stopped.
- 1936 K Surfaced - Trawlers in sight.
- 1955 K Radar contact 6300 yards on the 3 ships. Decided on Gun action. Commenced approach.
- 2027 K Commenced firing all guns on rear ship, range 900 yards. (See Gun Attack #3). Enemy promptly returned fire with small caliber machine guns. 20mm. soon silenced his fire. From now until 2145 made runs on target at ranges of 1000 yards to 500 yards. Target's speed about 10 knots. Each time we would come in, target would give us a 180° angle on the bow. Once he attempted to ram.
- 2150 K Secured from battle stations. Ship now down by stern with water up to deckhouse amidships; listed 20°; fires still burning. As other two trawlers left scene at the beginning of the action and ammunition supply was low, made no attempt to search for them.

July 1 to 3, 1944

Enroute MIDWAY.

July 4, 1944

- 1805 M Lookout and J.O.O.D. report sighting periscope. Sent contact report. (Ship contact #12).

CONFIDENTIAL - U.S.S. SWORDFISH - Report of TWELFTH War Patrol.

(B) NARRATIVE: (Cont'd).

July 5, 1944

0300 Y           Rendezvoused with GAR.  
0609 Y           Moored alongside BARB at Sub Base MIDWAY.  
1525 Y           Departed MIDWAY for PEARL in company with GAR and  
                  BARB.

July 6 to 8, 1944

Enroute PEARL.

July 9, 1944

0700 VW           Rendezvoused with escort - PC 485.  
1215 VW           Arrived PEARL.

USS SWORDFISH  
SS-193

"She was the First"

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Swordfish was the first United States Submarine to sink a Japanese ship on December 16, 1941.

This page is dedicated to 89 Sailors  
who were lost when she was sunk on January 15, 1945 ...  
Now On Eternal Patrol

I'LL NEVER FORGET

By A.C Myers December, 1949

I

Yes, they're marching by those men  
Past the window of my mind  
I see them even now, as then,  
What a mottley crew I find.

II

All the many men I've known  
All the types of men I've met  
They've seemed to've grown a part of me  
All those men I can 't forget.

III

When I stop to think about it  
As they pass by in review  
Oh 'tis then I ne're can doubt it  
That I'm glad I chose the blue.

IV

There were yankees, there were rebels  
Who still fought that ancient fight!  
There were those who'd aired their troubles  
If you'd listen, day or night.

V

There were short men who seemed tall  
By their natures, big and bluff  
There were big men who seemed small  
'Cause they didn't "have the stuff".

VI

There were men who swore and cursed  
With a tongue as tough as steel  
But they'd open up their purse strings  
For a mate whose need was real.

VII

There were men who'd hoot at ladies  
In a manner uinrefined  
But they'd sooner burn in hades  
Than to commit an actual crime.

## VIII

Some were noisy, some were quiet  
Some were loud and course and rough  
Some just needed a dare to try it  
Thyv never learned the word "enough"

## IX

There are many of my shipmates  
Who I'll never see again  
But to God I'm giving thanks  
For having known those glorious men.  
Used by Permission of Author (Art Myer was a crew member for patrols #10,11 and 12).

Swordfish Launching, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California  
April 3, 1939

**SWORDFISH's FIRST CAPTAIN - CHET SMITH**