

HISTORY OF USS BOARFISH (SS 327)

After four Pacific war patrols during World War II, USS BOARFISH continued active with the fleet, making several experimental cruises including one under the ice of the Bering Strait along the Siberian coast. The submarine was then transferred, along with BLUEBACK, CHUB and BRILL to the Star and Halfmoon ensign of Turkey.

The keel of USS BOARFISH was laid in the yards of the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut on 12 August 1943. The submarine was launched on 21 May 1944, and christened by Miss Barbara Walsh, daughter of Senator Walsh of New Jersey. BOARFISH was commissioned at the Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut on 23 September 1944, and was assigned to Submarine Squadron 30. Her first commanding officer was Commander R. L. Gross, USN.

BOARFISH departed New London on 29 October 1944, and, after training exercises at Panama, arrived in Pearl Harbor on 2 December. The submarine refueled and provisioned in Saipan and on 5 January 1945 departed for the South China Sea to conduct her first war patrol off the coast of French Indo China.

Her first attack came in the early morning of 21 January when she made a night surface radar attack on a convoy of five or six small ships. BOARFISH attacked three times over a period of three hours, firing 16 torpedoes, each of which apparently ran under the targets. The attack finally had to be broken off when daylight appeared, and contact was not regained.

Ten days later BOARFISH again attacked a convoy of two escorted 6500-ton cargo ships. Gunfire from the escorts drove her off during her first attempt, but an attack at periscope depth produced hits in each of the merchantmen. As the submarine began evasive actions, one of the targets was seen sinking and the other was headed for the beach. After a minor depth charge attack, BOARFISH tried unsuccessfully to close the beached ship to insure destruction. Thirty-six hours later the ship was still burning furiously and the attack was abandoned as it was plain that the Japanese would not be using her again.

BOARFISH returned to Fremantle, Australia on 15 February 1945, returning an aviator previously rescued by CHARR. The Combat Submarine Insignia was awarded for a successful war patrol.

The submarine's second foray began on 11 March 1945, when she departed Fremantle for her patrol area off the coast of French Indo China. Only two convoys were contacted, and alert escorts foiled attacks on both. During her patrol, BOARFISH carried out two reconnaissance missions along the east coast of French Indo China. The patrol ended in Subic Bay, Luzon on 21 April.

Lieutenant Commander E. C. Blonts, USN, assumed command of BOARFISH for her third war patrol which was conducted in the Java Sea. The sub left Subic Bay on 16 May and patrolled for 23 days before returning to Fremantle because of material damage.

Her first action came when a small two-masted junk was sighted on 27 May. A boarding party went aboard, and finding no arms, contraband or Japanese, the junk was allowed to proceed.

Two days later three ships accompanied by two escorts were sighted and BOARFISH closed in for the kill. She fired four torpedoes at the leading ship, and then lost firing position by temporarily losing depth control. An explosion was heard which was taken to indicate damage to the target. Going back to periscope depth, BOARFISH raised her periscope, to find it filled with a vivid picture of a charging escort, coming in fast and close aboard. The chart showed 240 feet of water, and BOARFISH started down, meaning to put 215 of its between her and the escort.

At 216 feet, however, the submarine grounded, knocking off her sound gear and making enough noise for even the most inattentive sound operator to track. Eight depth charges quickly followed, as BOARFISH tried to back off her submerged hull, damaging the port propeller in the process.

Easing up to 180 feet, the submarine made good her getaway, but the damage sustained in grounding forced her early return to Fremantle, where she arrived on 8 June 1945.

For her fourth war patrol, BOARFISH departed from Fremantle on 5 July. From 12 to 28 July she patrolled in the Java Sea off the north coast of Bali and Java in a coordinated patrol directed by the commanding officer of BLENNY. No enemy contacts were made except for planes, one of which dropped a depth bomb on 8 July with no damage.

BOARFISH performed life guard duties for an Allied Air Force strike on Singapore on the 29th, and spent the rest of her patrol off the Malay Coast with no contacts. She left the area on 6 August, arriving in Subic Bay on the 10th. The submarine was alongside the tender USS HOWARD W. GILMORE when the war ended.

BOARFISH sailed from Subic Bay on 5 September in company with HOWARD W. GILMORE and 17 other submarines. Later she proceeded to Apra Harbor, Guam and reported to Submarine Squadron 36, being assigned to the active Pacific Fleet.

After a period of peacetime duty including various experimental work, BOARFISH was transferred to Turkey, pursuant to a Directive of May 1948.

USS BOARFISH earned one Battle Star on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Ribbon for the following action:

1 Star/First War Patrol -- 24 December 1944 - 15 February 1945

BOARFISH earned the Navy Occupation Service Medal for the period 21 - 23 October 1946.

* * * * *

STATISTICS

OVERALL LENGTH	312 feet
BEAM	27 feet
SPEED	20 knots
DISPLACEMENT	1525 tons

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COMMANDER SUBMARINES
PACIFIC FLEET

COMMANDER SUBMARINE
PACIFIC FLEET
ADMINISTRATION

30 September, 1945.

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

From: The Commanding Officer.

To : The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: U.S.S. BOARFISH (SS327) - History of.

Reference: (a) ALPAC #202.

Enclosure: (A) Subject History.

1. In accordance with the directive contained in reference (a), the history of the U.S.S. BOARFISH (SS327) has been prepared and is forwarded herewith as Enclosure (A).

E. C. BLONTS, Jr.,
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy.

U. S. S. BOARFISH (SS327)
c/o Fleet Post Office
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

SS327/ A16-3

Serial:

CONFIDENTIAL

30 September, 1945.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE HISTORY OF THE U.S.S. BOARFISH (SS327),
PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALPAG #202.

12 August, 1943

- Keel laid at Electric Boat Company, Ship-
building Yard, Groton, Connecticut.

21 May, 1944

- Launched at Electric Boat Company, Groton,
Connecticut, and christened by Miss Barbara Walsh,
daughter of Senator Walsh of New Jersey.

23 September, 1944

- Commissioned at the Submarine Base, New London,
Connecticut. Assigned to Submarine Squadron 30.

Commissioning Officers

Commander R.L. Cross, U.S. Navy, Commanding.
Lieutenant J.B. Copeland, U.S.N.R., Executive.
Lieutenant A.F. Rawson, U.S. Navy, Engineering.
Lieutenant J.M. Dickson, U.S.N.R., Torpedoes.
Lieutenant W.B. Spencer, U.S.N.R., Gunnery.
Lieutenant R.W. Phipps, U.S. Navy, Communications.
Ensign C.B. Nelson, U.S. Navy, First Lieutenant.
Ensign J.H. Thornton, U.S.N.R., Assistant Engineering.

Commissioning Crew

ABY, Arthur Duane	377 69 10	TM3c	USN
ATER, Richard William	622 87 58	EM3c	V-6, USNR
ATKINS, Jack Porter	632 85 77	SC1c	V-6, USNR
BAHL, Burl Lee	565 77 38	S2c	V-6, USNR
BAKER, Kenneth Otto	338 57 61	S2c	USN
BARLOW, Arthur Claude	403 03 18	SM1c	USN
BASS, George Alfred	560 88 82	F1c	V-6, USNR
BENNETT, Alfred James	813 77 73	MoMM3c	V-6, USNR
BERRY, James Marion	264 50 94	EM1c	USN
BOSSUET, Thomas Edward	238 85 40	MoMM2c	USN
BOWDEN, Jack Ford	652 06 77	MoMM2c	V-6, USNR
BROWN, Arthur Shearer	807 81 18	S1c	V-6, USNR
BROWN, Carr Bates	274 57 84	RM1c	USN
BURRELL, Robert Anthony	224 28 63	Y1c	USN
CAROTHERS, Everett L.	866 89 68	MoMM3c	V-6, USNR
CHILDERS, James Ruben	668 26 94	GM1c	V-6, USNR
CLOUSE, Fred Wayne	628 16 91	TM2c	V-6, USNR
COCHRANE, Kenneth H.	811 98 86	MoMM3c	V-6, USNR
COX, William Henry	952 63 77	StM2c	V-6, USNR
DAVIS, Alvin Delbert	945 03 82	StM2c	V-6, USNR

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PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AIFAC #202. (Continued)

23 September, 1944 (Continued)

Commissioning Crew (Continued)

BILLHOFF, Joseph Thomas	855 95 48	F1c	V-6, USNR
BREWER, William Harry	403 87 76	QM1c	USN
DUNBAR, Robert Marion	829 74 53	F1c	V-6, USNR
DURDA, Rudolph John	842 04 07	S2c	V-6, USNR
FERRER, Homer Aloys	287 51 14	MoMM1c	USN
GANNON, Thomas Martin, Jr.	245 97 16	RM3c	USN
CARLOCK, Loyd Lester	368 48 87	FO2c(M)	USN
GERHARD, Clarence F., Jr.	246 04 08	F1c	USN
GOOLSBY, Glenn Edward	876 54 50	F1c	V-6, USNR
GUNDERSON, Lawrence Richard	812 67 41	S1c	V-6, USNR
GUTHRIE, John Wise	300 49 87	TM2c	USN
HAYNIE, Howard Williams	604 23 13	QM2c	V-6, USNR
HEAD, Dolmer Keith	872 88 18	S2c	V-6, USNR
HEATH, Richard Eugene	238 85 75	TM3c	USN
HELMES, Robert Wilson	360 34 81	QM2c	USN
HORSMAN, Howard Frederick	807 71 90	S1c	V-6, USNR
HOUGHENS, Perry (n)	272 13 08	CMOMM(AA)	USN
JONES, Clyde Laverne	360 18 01	MoMM2c	USN
JORDAN, Samuel Scott, Jr.	273 83 48	CM(PA)	USN
KELLY, John Douglas	657 87 26	F1c	V-6, USNR
KRANS, George William	328 87 63	MoMM1c	USN
LEVANGIS, Donald Francis	762 31 77	S1c	V-6, USNR
MARTIN, James Henry	653 89 28	S1c	V-6, USNR
MCDONALD, Thomas John	642 00 87	MoMM2c	V-6, USNR
MCINTYRE, Andrew Campbell	632 50 89	TM2c	V-6, USNR
MERK, Robert Newell	207 16 09	MoMM1c	USN
MORGAN, Donald John	380 71 13	CMOMM(PA)	USN
MYERS, Patrick Francis	818 08 08	S1c	V-6, USNR
NORTON, Robert Simon	342 02 06	CTM(AA)	USN
OWEN, Russell Tucker	626 20 74	RM2c	V-6, USNR
PADO, John Edward	864 09 63	F1c	V-6, USNR
PALONIS, Frank Joseph	250 39 99	EM1c	USN
PAULSEN, Henry John	812 53 86	TM3c	V-6, USNR
PIERSON, Nels Oscar	300 43 40	MoMM2c	USN
PIERSON, Raymond Edward	942 35 05	S2c	V-6, USNR
FONTILLO, Michael (n)	234 20 58	MoMM1c	USN
FRESTON, Alfred Anderson	209 17 06	F1c	V-6, USNR
ROBINSON, William Francis	243 59 47	TM1c	USN
ROUX, Arthur Joseph, Jr.	360 47 32	EM2c	USN

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE HISTORY OF THE U.S.S. BOARFISH (SS327),
PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALFAC #202. (Continued)

23 September, 1944 (Continued)

Commissioning Crew (Continued)

RUPERT, Richard Dale	895	80	68	F1c	V-6, USNR
SIMMS, Basil Edward	234	37	45	QM3c	USN
SKIDMORE, Roger William	867	70	08	S1c	V-6, USNR
SKINNER, Richard Fahnstock	328	32	53	CDM(PA)	USN
SMITH, Edward James	652	53	62	SC2c	V-6, USNR
STINGER, Dale Wayne	322	01	34	F1c	USN
STONE, Leonard Ray	574	28	28	EM3c	V-6, USNR
STROEBEL, Fred Harold	867	43	78	S2c	V-6, USNR
TATE, Hugh Asher, Jr.	311	48	15	MoMM1c	USN
THOMAS, William Henry	640	49	44	EM2c	V-6, USNR
THOMPSON, Thomas Eugene	410	97	77	RT1c	V-6, USNR
TUCKER, Milton Wilbur	316	56	14	CPDM(AA)	USN
VAUGHN, Robert Leo	660	25	85	RM2c	V-6, USNR
WALKER, Charles "J"	337	73	44	EM2c	USN
WALKER, Frank Leo	613	55	71	F1c	V-6, USNR
WARNER, George Edward	342	46	10	TM2c	USN
WISSINGER, Paul Bruce	985	64	91	S1c	V-6, USNR

29 October, 1944

- Departed New London after completion of training period.

15 November, 1944

- Arrived Panama, conducted training exercises.

21 November, 1944

- Departed Panama for Pearl Harbor.

2 December, 1944

- Arrived Pearl Harbor.

24 December, 1944

- Completed training exercises and voyage repairs. Departed for Siapan.

4 January, 1945

- Arrived Siapan, refueled and took on provisions.

5 January, 1945

- Departed for first war patrol in South China Sea off coast of Indo China.

15 February, 1945

- Arrived Fremantle, Western Australia, after completion of First War Patrol. Received normal refit by Submarine Repair Unit and ComSubDiv 301 Relief Crew in U.S.S. BURYALE.

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15 February, 1945 (Continued)

- Lt. J.B. Copeland, USNR, was detached. Commander H.M. Lindsay, Jr., USN, reported on board as P.C.O. and Lt(jg) W.H. Rathgeber, reported on board as Electronics Officer..

11 March, 1945

- At completion of 5-day training period, departed this date for Second War Patrol in South China Sea, off Indo China coast.

21 April, 1945

- Arrived in Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, after completion of Second War Patrol. Received normal refit by Relief Crew Number 2 of SubDiv 261 in U.S.S. ANTHEDON.

6 May, 1945

- Commander R.L. Cross, USN, relieved as Commanding Officer by Lieut-Comdr., E.C. Blents, Jr., USN. Lt. A.F. Rawson, USN, was detached and Lt. J.B. Copeland, USNR, reported aboard as Executive Officer.

16 May, 1945

- Departed for Third War Patrol in Java Sea. The patrol was of only twenty-three days duration, having been terminated early as a result of damage received in bottoming on 29 May, 1945.

8 June, 1945

- Arrived in Fremantle, Western Australia, after completion of Third War Patrol. Received normal refit by Relief Crew of SubDiv 301 in U.S.S. CLYDE.

23 June, 1945

- Lt(jg) O.B. Nelson, USN, was detached and Lt L.A. Franz, USN, and Ensign R.H. Watson, Jr., USN, reported aboard for duty.

5 July, 1945

- Departed for Fourth War Patrol in Java Sea and South China Sea in company with U.S.S. CHUB and U.S.S. BLENNY.

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- 10 August, 1945 - Arrived in Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, after completion of Fourth War Patrol. Received normal refit by Relief Crew of SubDiv 222 in U.S.S. HOWARD W. GILMORE.
- 26 August, 1945 - Lt J.B. Copeland, USNR, and Lt J.M. Dickson, USNR, were detached and Ensign R."E". Bilger, USNR, reported aboard for duty.
- 30 August, 1945 - Departed Subic Bay in company with U.S.S. HOWARD W. GILMORE and 17 U.S. submarines.
- 5 September, 1945 - Parted company with U.S.S. HOWARD W. GILMORE, proceeding to Apra Harbor, Guam, in company with U.S.S. BLEMNY and U.S.S. BLUEBACK. Arrived Apra Harbor, Guam. Transferred from Submarine Squadron 30 to Submarine Squadron 36 in U.S.S. SPERRY upon arrival.
- - - - -
- 15 February, 1945 - Credited with following damage to the enemy:-
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunk - 1 AK (Large EU) | 6,500 tons (Attack #4) |
| * $\frac{1}{2}$ AK (Large EU) | 3,300 tons (Attack #4) |
- * Tonnage is shared with Fourteenth Air Force which completed destruction of this ship.
- 21 April, 1945 - Two special missions of secret nature were performed during this patrol.
- 8 June, 1945 - Being credited with the following damage:-
- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Damaged - 1 AO (Large EU) | 10,000 tons |
|---------------------------|-------------|

E. C. BLONTS, Jr.,
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy,
Commanding Officer.