

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
DIVISION OF NAVAL HISTORY (OP-09B9)  
SHIPS' HISTORIES SECTION

HISTORY OF SHIPS NAMED SAND LANCE

USS SAND LANCE (SSN-660) is the second ship of the Fleet to bear the name of a fish in the Ammodytidae family. She is named in commemoration of Fleet Submarine SAND LANCE (SS-381) who was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for heroism during her first war patrol of World War II.

The Sand Lance may completely disappear by boring in the sand. It is silver colored with a dark mid lateral streak on its side and seldom exceeds more than six inches in total length. It is of great importance to the diet of such commercial species as salmon, codfish, and fur seals. The Sand Lance is found throughout the North Atlantic and Pacific regions. It ranges as far south as Northern California and the Gulf of Maine.

The first SAND LANCE (SS-381) was built by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, New Hampshire. Her keel was laid 12 March 1943. She launched 25 June 1943, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Edith Burrows, wife of Commander Albert C. Burrows, U. S. Navy. The fleet submarine commissioned at Portsmouth 9 October 1943, Commander Malcolm E. Garrison, USN, commanding.

SAND LANCE (SS-381) had a length overall of 311 feet, 9 inches; extreme beam of 27 feet, 3 inches; standard displacement of 1,526 tons; mean draft of 15 feet, 3 inches; submerged displacement of 2,424 tons; a designed depth of 400 feet, a surfaced speed of 20.25 knots, a submerged speed of 8.75 knots, and a designed complement of 6 officers and 60 men. She was armed with ten 21-inch torpedo tubes; one 5-inch .25 caliber gun; one 40-mm, one 20-mm and one .50 caliber machine gun.

SAND LANCE departed the Portsmouth Navy Yard 30 November 1943 for training out of New London, Connecticut. She sailed 18 December 1943, touching Philadelphia before passing through the Panama Canal 30 December 1943 to base war operations from Pearl Harbor. She reached her base 17 January 1944 and stood out on her maiden war patrol 8 February 1944. After a fueling stop at Midway, she pointed her bow towards the Kurile Islands. She would turn in a remarkable performance despite two typhoons, icefields, freezing weather, snow, shallow water, night attacks from the air, and a sustained 16-hour depth charge attack.

SAND LANCE passed through two typhoons before she entered her patrol area off Paramushiro 24 February 1944. She encountered vast fields of slush ice and patches of drift ice. The submarine was herself the victim of heavy icing and twice touched bottom in water as shallow as fifty feet

while she probed for the enemy. Her first success came 28 February 1944 when she found the 3,458-ton cargo ship KAIKO MARU taking shelter from a blizzard in the lee of Paramushiro's south east point. She sent that enemy to the bottom with well-aimed torpedoes and continued to patrol along the Kurile Island chain. Though her number one periscope had been severely damaged by drift ice, she pressed home attacks on a convoy the night of 2-3 March 1944 to sink the 4,541 ton cargo ship AKASHISAN MARU. She damaged other ships in this attack, then entered the Japan current where the water temperature rose from freezing to above seventy degrees.

The night of 12-13 March, SAND LANCE was surface-running towards Honshu. A little after midnight she dived in the bright moonlight to get away from a marauding aircraft. About two hours later, Commander Garrison upped periscope to find SAND LANCE in the middle of a five-merchantman convoy under guard of three heavily armed warships. "A beautiful sight to behold," reported Commander Garrison, "Worth the past four weeks of battling typhoons, blizzards, and icefields. We were completely surrounded by ships."

SAND LANCE had only six torpedoes remaining and Commander Garrison was determined to make each count a full measure. He fired two stern torpedoes at a freighter, two more at a light cruiser, and two bow torpedoes at a second freighter. All three targets were rent apart by explosions. At least two sank; the 3,300-ton Japanese light cruiser TATSUTA and the 4,667-ton Japanese cargo ship KOKUJO MARU.

SAND LANCE drew the wrath of Japanese destroyers who pounced upon her with a vengeance. For 16 hours she crept, halted, listened, and edged from under the thundering barrage of more than a hundred-depth charges. When the sea grew silent she set out for home. She reached Pearl Harbor 23 March 1944, terminating a maiden war patrol that was recognized by the award of the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action.

SAND LANCE second war patrol was spent in the area of the Mariana Islands and terminated on the eve of the American invasion of those islands. She contributed her share towards an easier American victory by depriving the Saipan supply system of war materials carried by four ships. She was just north of Saipan 3 May 1944 when she torpedoed and sank the 3,129-ton cargo ship KENAN MARU. Eight days later she heavily damaged the 4,441-ton passenger-cargo ship MITAKESAN MARU. She defied aircraft in making this attack and had a close call from an aerial bomb.

SAND LANCE added to her kill score 14 May 1944 when she sank the 4,291-ton freighter KOHO MARU off Apra Harbor, Guam. She found two more victims the 17th, lacing the waters off Saipan with torpedoes which sank the 2,633-ton passenger-cargo ship TAIOKU MARU, and the 3,843-ton cargoman FUKKO MARU. Having expended all her torpedoes, she headed for refit at Fremantle, Western Australia, arriving 5 June 1944.

## SHIPS NAMED SAND LANCE

SAND LANCE put to sea 3 July 1944 to conduct her third war patrol in the western part of the Molukka Sea and in the Celebes Sea. She sank the 2,984-ton converted gunboat TAIKI MARU on the 14th of July. There were damaging hits on another merchant ship in this attack southwest of Celebes. Four days later she bore in on a large transport in Tapiantana Strait, Sulu Islands. But two fast Japanese patrol craft foiled this attack and gave the fleet submarine a good shaking with exploding depth charges.

SAND LANCE hunted in vain for a target until 1 August when she damaged a freighter just south of Lembeck Island. Two days later she barely escaped from aircraft bombs which almost caught her in shallow Amoesang Bay in north Celebes. She hurried back through the restricted entrance to the bay for deeper water. Aircraft bombs exploded close astern the morning of 6 August as she tracked small freighters hugging the coast of Celebes. The entire submarine lifted several feet by the force of the explosions and her port reduction gear became noisy.

Enemy escorts were overhead when it was discovered that a torpedo was running hot in the tube. The submarine came up to 100 feet while the escorts were attacking and fired the torpedo to rid herself of the threat of an exploding warhead. The torpedo prematurely exploded only eight seconds after leaving the tube, adding to the already damaged stern. But the explosion of this torpedo apparently caused the Japanese to believe the submarine had been destroyed. She received no further depth charging.

SAND LANCE surfaced after dark but could not repair the damaged reduction gear. She made the trip home on one shaft, arriving at Fremantle, 19 August 1944. She departed 10 September for Pearl Harbor and was routed from there 26 October for repairs in the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, arriving 1 November 1944.

SAND LANCE repairs were complete by 13 March 1945 when she sailed to resume operations from Pearl Harbor. She departed that base 10 April 1945 to search for the enemy along the eastern coast of Honshu and south of Hokkaido. But no enemy came her way except for an unidentified small coastal freighter which she torpedoed 14 May 1945. She returned to Midway 6 June 1945. The fleet submarine received a new commanding officer 25 June 1945 when Commander Malcolm E. Garrison was relieved by Lieutenant Commander James G. Glaes, U. S. Navy.

SAND LANCE departed Midway 5 July 1945 on her fifth and last war patrol of World War II. After fueling in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, she took life-guard station for bombers striking along the coast of Kyushu. She remained on station until the close of hostilities with Japan 15 August 1945. The next day she departed her area, bound by way of Midway (30 August) and Pearl Harbor (30-31 August) to San Francisco. She entered the San Francisco

## SHIPS NAMED SAND LANCE

Naval Shipyard for inactivation overhaul 7 September 1945 and decommissioned there 14 February 1946.

SAND LANCE remained inactive until designated for loan to the Government of Brazil under terms of the Military Assistance Program. After reconditioning in the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, she recommissioned there 6 April 1963, Commander Carl H. Sebenius, Jr., U. S. Navy, Commanding. She departed Pearl Harbor 24 June 1963 and reached San Francisco 1 July to embark officers and men of the Brazilian Navy for training. She stood out of San Francisco Bay 5 July 1963 and was back in Pearl Harbor seven days later to train her prospective new officers and crew. This was completed by 7 September 1963 when she decommissioned for service in the Brazilian Navy as RIO GRANDE DO SOL (S-11).

SAND LANCE (SS-381) was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism during her first war patrol (8 February - 23 March 1944). She also received five battle stars for the World War II operations listed below:

- 1 Star/FIRST WAR PATROL-PACIFIC: 8 Feb-23 Mar 1944
- 1 Star/SECOND WAR PATROL-PACIFIC: 20 Apr-5 Jun 1944
- 1 Star/THIRD WAR PATROL-PACIFIC: 3 Jul-19 Aug 1944
- 1 Star/OKINAWA GUNTO OPERATION:  
Assault and occupation of Okinawa Gunto: 2 May-1 Jul 1945
- 1 Star/THIRD FLEET OPERATIONS AGAINST JAPAN: 20 Jul-15 Aug 1945

## LIST OF COMMANDING OFFICERS - USS SAND LANCE (SS-318)

Commander Malcolm E. Garrison, USN:	9 Oct 1943-21 Jun 1945
Lieutenant Commander James G. Glaes, USN:	21 Jun 1945-14 Feb 1946
Lieutenant Commander Carl H. Sebenius, Jr., USN:	6 Apr 1963- 7 Sep 1963

The second SAND LANCE (SSN-660) was constructed by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Her keel was laid 15 January 1965. She was launched 11 November 1969, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Thomas J. McIntyre, wife of U. S. Senator McIntyre.

SAND LANCE (SSN-660) is a STURGEON-Class nuclear powered submarine. She is designed for a length overall of 292 feet, 3 inches; extreme beam of 31 feet, 8 inches; surfaced displacement of 4,249 tons; submerged displacement of 4,779 tons; and accommodations for 12 officers and 95 men. Her armament will include 4 midships torpedo tubes.