

USS TRITON (SSR(N) 586)  
Care of Fleet Post Office  
New York, New York

Submerged. Makassar Strait  
4 April, 1960

Dear Admiral Benson:

I had already addressed an envelope to you in Arlington when the dispatch from CSP told about your having relieved Admiral Farrell as ComSubPac. I'll wager that if anyone had foretold this particular eventuality back in 1943, when as your prospective Exec I navigated our good old TRIGGER through the sub-solar point, we'd both have considered it a long shot in the dark. Especially if nuclear submarines had been mentioned, and the present fact that I am taking the world's biggest and best submarine around the world submerged and non-stop.

We entered your domain on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, and it now looks as though we'll leave it on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, via the Indian Ocean. While in the Pacific we passed Easter Island & Suva close aboard and then entered the Philippines. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April we passed Cebu, entered HILUTANGAN Channel on the other side of Mactan Island, and thoroughly reconnoitered Magellan Bay. There was a monument

to Magellan located there, on the shore of the bay, close, presumably, to the spot where he was killed. What a shame, too, to have brought his fantastic expedition so near to success - for the remainder of the trip was old stuff to Portuguese mariners of that day - and then to lose the whole thing through an onslaught of religious fervor!

Anyway, we entered the bay and photographed the monument, in the midst of a number of pleasure and commercial craft sailing about. Were sighted, near the end, by a dark-faced gent in a dug-out canoe, whom we found to be paddling along abeam during a "safety sweep" through the periscope. I remembered the time, in TRIGGER, when you deliberately passed under a tiny Japanese fishing boat, with periscopes about 6 feet away, scaring the six old bearded ones half out of their skins. This gent was not exactly scared, though. After we got clear of the bay we ejected a "hydro bottle" - ordinary medicine bottle with plastic cap, containing a hydrographic office form. This one, and a few others, were inscribed "HARR, NOBLE CAPTAIN, IT IS DONE AGAIN!"

Now we're nearly through the Celebes Archipelago. Will be exiting into the Indian Ocean, via Lombok

P.S. Thanks loads for the personal note in your first serial! Strait, tomorrow morning. Thence, Ho for Cape of Good Hope, St. Paul's Rocks, and thence home. At St Paul's Rocks, off the bulge of Brazil, we will actually have finished the circumnavigation, since we went by there deliberately to establish a check point.

Having done a second photo-recon of "the Rock" - as she is known in Triton - we'll be ready to go wherever wanted. Possibly they'll have us go to Spain - Cadiz - before heading back to the U.S.A. This idea is in the mill, and the only reason for treating it somewhat vaguely here is that the decision will have been made and results known long before this letter reaches you. The purpose of the voyage, of course, is for geophysical and oceanographic exploration; I think the hydrographic scientists we took along are really gathering a lot of badly needed data. They act that way, at all events. To us, however, the big thing is the actual establishment of the submarine's boast of being able to go around the world submerged. And the biggest of all is the belief that by so doing we are instrumental in bringing honor to our United States of America.

Please give Ingrid and my sincerest regards to Vida & Pickie - and accept same for yourself -

Sincerely & Respectfully - Ned Beach