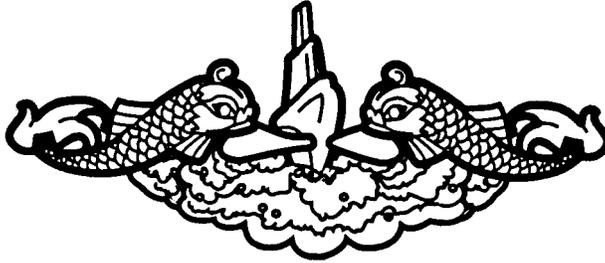


# USS HADDO (SSN 604)



Volume 1, Issue 8

May 1993

## ***Editor's Note...***

If it's May, then it's time for another Haddo Newsletter. Many more new names and addresses were obtained following the last edition - so check the list. And, if you have names and/or addresses of crewmembers still not listed, please take a moment to send them on to:

**Mike Gann**  
1468 Via Del Mar Rd.  
Schenectady, NY 12309  
Tel. (518) 377-2560

## ***From the Publishing and Mailing Service...***

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition mailing resulted in a half dozen returns of the "Addressee Unknown" type. Some from new listings, some from old and previously successful delivery listings. Nothing is more characteristic of the Navy life than frequent moves - but if you'd like to keep getting the newsletter, don't forget to send a note with your new address to Mike.

## ***News from the Crew...***

The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition reaped a plentiful bounty of phone calls and letters, so here goes...

November 25<sup>th</sup> brought a call from **C. Guy Mendenhall**, former LT (now retired and working for Northeast Utilities). Guy passed along info that he had run into **Phil Rainha**, former MM/ELT, and would send his address. He expressed interest in a Haddo reunion and suggested The Submarine League and the Submarine Force Museum and Library might be helpful in spreading word of the Haddo Newsletter - and he indicated he'd contact both on our behalf. Guy was once assigned to NR-1 during his Navy career, helped set up reunions for that boat, and offered to help organize ours if we'd like. (As self-appointed editor of the Newsletter, I'd sure welcome the help!) Lastly, Guy reports that **Greg Larson** (last CO of Haddo) is now on staff at the War College after being a student there.

On December 8, a letter arrived from former LT (A-Gang) **P.T. O'Brien** (now LCDR and XO USS San Onofre AFD-30). Pat served on Haddo 1974-76, was then involved with DSRV Mystic, DSV Sea Cliff. Pat provided some information on other crewmembers:

- **Steve Buescher**, now CDR, USNR, recently relieved as CO of one of the reserve detachments on the USS Dixon AS-37.
- **Pat McGahan**, now CAPT, is serving as senior inspector on the Pacific Fleet ORSE Board. Also doing duty as an inspector is **Don Miller**, now CAPT.
- **Chris Pratt** moved to SUBASE New London as Supply Officer.
- **John Almon**, now CAPT, is CO of the New London Sub School.
- **Jack Johnson**, now CAPT, was CO of USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641) and CO of USS Seahorse (SSN-669). Also Commander SUBDEVGRU 1 and currently destined for Norfolk, VA as Operations Officer at SUBLANT. Jack was followed at SUBDEVGRI 1 by another former Haddo officer, **Gerald Corcoran**, now CAPT.
- Pat also reports regularly seeing **Darrel Brown**, former MM-A-Gang, as Darrel regularly visits San Diego for reserve training.

On December 17, a letter was received from **Tim France**, former LT, now CAPT, who has just been relieved as Chief of Staff, Commander Naval Base, Charleston, to assume temporary duty at CONSUBGRU 6, awaiting a permanent assignment in Washington, D.C. Tim sent along some info on the Submarine League (I'll join) and a long list of names, addresses and who-doing-what information too long to recount in full, but all addresses updates are on the list.

A Christmas note was sent by **Calvin Elam**, former EM with one new name/address (for **Henry Legros**) and a couple of corrections.

A Christmas card and note with a donation and name and address for **Thomas "Denny" Weaver** was received from **Jim Parker**, former MM.

On January 12, 1993, **Darrel Brown** called to say he'd just gotten a copy of Newsletter #3 and was interested in catching up. I sent a copy of Newsletter #7 immediately. He said that he has kept in touch was 10-15 former crewmembers and would send a list.

February 8 produced another letter from **Tim France** with news that he will retire from the Navy in July 1993. Along with a donation to the Newsletter. Tim reported seeing **Bill Galvin**, former Chief of the Boat, speaking with **Guy Mendenhall** on the phone. Tim also sent addresses for five more crew members, all of which have been added to the list.

My phone rang again on February 20, and at the other end was **J.W. Simpson**, former Auxilliaryman, who'd just gotten an earlier Newsletter via **Dana Johnson**. J.W. made copies and sent them on to several other former Haddo crewmembers he's kept in touch with over the years. He passed on **Dave Gronbeck's** address, also former Auxilliaryman, and indicated that he and Dave were both members of the Tennessee Submarine Veterans organization. Lastly, J.W. and Dave are planning an informal get-together (I was asked not to call it a reunion) of any interested Haddo crewmembers during the final week of August in St. Croix. Apparently they've got some sort of access to a cabin complex there. Anyone interested should contact Dave Gronbeck ASAP for information (Honest, Dave, J.W. said to use your name!)

Finally, out of the blue on March 27, I received a call from **Dave "Country" Howk**, former cook. Country passed along another good submarine info source, U.S. Sub Vets, Inc., 1533 Capistrano Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977-4532. I'll get in touch to see what they offer. Apparently they publish the magazine - American Submariner. Country's enjoyed the

newsletter for quite a while, now, and has passed along a few stories that I won't repeat here - but great ones, none-the-less.

And that's the news since #7. Since there was no much to report, I'll delay (or is "belay" the right Navy word?) writing about the 9<sup>th</sup> War Patrol of Haddo (SS-255) saving it for the next edition.

## ***Reunion???***

I promised to write on another topic in this edition: Reunions. Many of you have asked me to cover this in some manner and have expressed interest in attending if one can be arranged.

Unfortunately, I have no personal experience in setting up such an event, although I guess I know the fundamentals: How often? Where? For how long? Time of year? Specific arrangements?

How often? Most groups that have reunions do so annually, or maybe every two or three years. My Dad's WWII Army Units meets annually, for example, so it seems like annually would be a good way to go, particularly if the reunion can be moved about the country from year to year. This would make it easy for all to attend at least one every two or three years. Which leads to ...

Where?: Since we're scattered all over the country, in order to even out cost of travel to some extent, we ought to move the reunion about the country. Perhaps three zones would do - East, Central, West, for example. Locations might be chosen that have some submarine point of interest nearby. Possibilities:

East\_        New London, CT - Portsmouth, NH, Charleston, SC - Kings Bay, GA

Central -    Submariner's Shrine, Wisconsin - Pascagoula, MS - Battleship Park, AL -  
Nimitz home/Museum, TX

West -        San Diego, CA - Mare Island - Bremerton, Sub School, Idaho

Time of Year? I think summer (kids are out of school), but not major holiday weekends like Memorial Day, July 4 or Labor Day. Suppose we choose the first full weekend in August of each year?

How Long? Cheapest airline travel fares are for over a Saturday night, so I suggest Friday travel with some sort of evening activity for those who can make it. Then a full day of activities on Saturday, followed by a half day of activities and travel on Sunday.

Specific Arrangements? This covers a lot of territory, which I can't possibly over on my own. Once a location is picked, then someone from that part of the country must investigate hotel "package" rates, local points of interest, activities, kid's stuff, etc, etc...

## **A Proposal...**

Having thought about all this, I suggest that the first Haddo reunion be planned for the New London area, August 5-7, 1994. Now all we need is a volunteer or two to work on some of the preliminary stuff (Mr. Mendenhall perhaps would be willing to coordinate a few other volunteers in the New England area??). In 1995, we would plan to move to a Central U.S. location, and in 1996, a Western U.S. location.

So please give me a call or drop a note with your reaction and ideas. I know that events like this take a lot of time and work to set up, as much as a year or more in advance. Our "membership" roster of 108 people includes nearly 60 from the Eastern part of the nation, so it is easy to imagine that we could gather 100 or more people, spouses and children included.

## ***Credits, Thanks and Miscellaneous ...***

Envelopes and postage paid for in part by donations from:

Jim Parker

Tim France

In the next edition I'll report on any reaction to the reunion suggestions and try to fit in some narrative on the 9<sup>th</sup> war patrol of Haddo (SS-255).

Since I received some information about various submarine organizations, here are their addresses:

Naval Submarine League  
P.O. Box 1146  
Annadale, VA 22003  
703-245-0891

Quarterly Publication  
"Submarine Review"

U.S. Submarine Vets, Inc.  
1533 Capistrano Avenue  
Spring Valley, CA 91977-4532

Publication  
"American Submariner"

Down scope! Surface with us for the next edition in October or November.

Mike Gann  
Author/Editor