

USS HADDO (SSN 604)



Volume 1, Issue 17

November 1997

Hello again, former Haddo shipmates! It's already November - the nights are getting cooler, the days shorter, and the leaves are all colored up and falling. Where did the summer go?

This newsletter is going to be a little different from all the previous ones because I've decided to make it my last. I have sustained the newsletter for over eight years (longer than I was in the Navy), and after consulting with my faithful partner and publisher, Bill Cook, we've mutually agreed that it's time to give it up. This decision is not easy for me. I feel a certain sense of betrayal of the trust and expectations you all have in me. I am comforted, though, by the fact that over the years our list of "rediscovered Haddoites" grew to its present 170+ members. So, if nothing else, we have provided some entertainment and a resource through which many old friends and former shipmates could reconnect with one another.

The correspondence since the May edition has tapered off to almost nothing. Bill and I have never minded the time and effort involved in the newsletter and hope that those of you who may have gotten back in touch as a result, have enjoyed the experience as much as we have. But we both seem to have greater demands on our time over the past few years.

If there is any among you who has the time and desire to keep the newsletter going, by all means do so. I would gladly contribute a letter with an anecdote once in a while from the dim recesses of my Haddo memories. Certainly we would provide a disk copy of the address list to a new managing editor.

And so, my former friends and shipmates, we say goodbye with the last bits of news received since the last edition, and a little list of "funnies" for consideration by the Department of Defense as it ponders the future of ASW efforts - just to end on a high note. Hope you all enjoy them - one of our former crewmembers sent them to me years ago, and I never found the space to publish them. Now seems like a good time. But first, the news.

Notes from the Crew...

As I said, the last edition prompted only a few communications, but here they are:

On May 14, a letter and donation arrived from Ray Butters. Ray asked if there ever might be a Haddo reunion. He described one organized for the USS Gurnard last September which had a

very good turnout. (Although I frequently wrote about trying to set up a Haddo reunion, I was never able to devote the time and effort necessary to bring it off. Perhaps some of our enterprising shipmates will still pull it off sometime in the future.) Ray also provided a new, but likely short-lived address, which we have added to the mailing list.

Also on May 14, a note arrived from Dave Waddell (last COB on Haddo) with a new address. So noted. Thanks, Dave.

Finally an e-mail arrived, signed only "Roni." The note contained several address updates for which we are grateful.

Bill Cook adds that he also received some correspondence - all by e-mail. Mike Zielinski sent a note pointing out that one former crewmember has established a Haddo home page (homeport??) on the web. Try entering "Haddo" in any of the search engines.

A Note from the Publisher...

I'll be happy to send by e-mail (assuming I can figure out how to do it) an MS Word (Mac or Windows) copy of the address file. I can also probably get it into MS Excel or MS Access if anyone wants.

And Now On To the Funnies...

How to Catch a Submarine

High on the Navy's list of priority problems is that of ASW. The detection and localization of a submarine has proven to be a very difficult problem, indeed. The following are a few ideas to help in this area:

- (1) The Physicist's Method: Irradiate the ocean with neutrons so that H_2O becomes $4H_2O$. Submarines will become excessively buoyant and unable to submerge. Their disposition can then be undertaken at leisure.
- (2) The Chemist's Method: Place in the ocean large quantities of lysergic acid di-ethylamide (LSD). The fish population will become terrified at the thought of loneliness and will cluster about submarines in a frenzy of affection and admiration, thereby constricting movement of the submarines to a level of ineffectuality.
- (3) The Engineer's Method: Construct a large filter having a mesh size of about 8 meters, and pump the ocean through it at a rate of $1.5E6$ liters per day. Because of the mesh size, only submarines will be caught.
- (4) The Mathematician's Method: Construct a large Klein bottle that can contain the necessary number of submarines. Note that the submarines are initially outside the bottle. However, since the outside of a Klein bottle is also its inside by definition, the capture of submarines is at hand. Two-dimensional submarines may be disposed of by use of a Mobius Ship.
- (5) The Ballistician's Method: Equip all Anti-Submarine ships with green paint. On detecting a submarine, spread the paint over the surface of the ocean and remain quiet. When the submarine rises to investigate, its periscope becomes covered with the green paint. It,

therefore, believes itself to be underwater and continues to ascent. When it has reached a convenient altitude, shoot it down with anti-aircraft fire.

- (6) The Economist's Solution: Induce the nation to use seawater instead of gold to support its currency.. The French will immediately start to sequester it in their vaults in such quantities that, by the time the supply and demand curves cross, the submarines will either be (a) aground, or (b) securely lock up in French safe-deposit boxes.

Credits, Thanks and Miscellaneous...

Envelopes and postage paid for in part by generous donation of Ray Butters. Thanks one and all for your support over the years --- for the letters and calls, for the kind words, interest and memorabilia. For the record, items of Haddo memorabilia that have been sent to either of us over the years have generally been turned over to the Submarine Museum at New London where they can be enjoyed by all. These donations have been formally recognized by the Navy and we pass along the appreciation of the Navy and the Museum Association.

If anyone has an interest in continuing the newsletter, please contact either Bill at (860) 688-1005, or me at (518) 377-2560.

It's been a long and enjoyable "run" - longer than any WestPac cruise or Med run - but it's now time for a long overdue port call and extended R&R. Good-bye and God bless you all.

Mike Gann
Author/Editor