

# USS HADDO (SSN 604)



Volume 1, Issue 12

April 1995

Greetings once again former shipmates. April has come along so fast I feel like I just finished the last newsletter only a week ago. The volume of response to the last edition has been tremendous, so I'll get right to business after the usual reminder... As always, if you have addresses for non-listed former crewmembers, please send them on to me:

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

## Special Note...

Depending on when I get this edition in the mail, you will already know, or will soon find out, that we've been "discovered" by the Submarine Force Library and Museum Association, Inc., Box 501, Naval Submarine Base, New London, Groton, CT 064349. On December 3, 1994, I received a phone call from Ms. June Johnson, Administrator at the museum. Someone sent her a copy of our Newsletter #11, and she called me to ask for information about our "organization" and whether I would assist with the Museum's effort to feature the USS Haddo for the "Sub in the Spotlight" feature article in their next issue of The Klaxon, the Museum's newsletter. Of course I said yes immediately, and sent Ms. Johnson the following letter, along with a collection of Haddo memorabilia I've been saving (and collecting from all of you) for years.

Mike's letter:

Dear Ms. Johnson;

Thank you for your recent inquiry and mailing regarding USS Haddo SSN-604. I am the (somewhat self-appointed) author and editor of the Haddo Newsletter, through which you became aware of our "organization's" existence. I consider it a great honor to respond to your inquiry on behalf of Haddo and her former crewmembers.

Enclosed with this letter is a variety of memorabilia I've collected on Haddo, most of which was sent me by former crewmembers for safe-keeping. I believe there would be no better place for this material than in the Sub Force Library and Museum and

therefore commit it all to your custody. Perhaps one day the Museum can make up a Haddo "Boat book" and use some of these items.

I also enclose a few items of a more personal nature regarding my experiences on Haddo. Hometown newsclips of my enlistment, Haddo operations, photo of Captain Richard Scales pinning on my dolphins, and (bizarre, but true) a homemade "Award" presented me by my ELT crew (I was Leading ELT on Haddo for 2 years) for an unusual reactor evolution. This last item is one of my cherished possessions and now faded and wrinkled, and very hard to read. The text says:

"Achievement Award presented to Michael C. Gann, MM 2, for his diligent efforts in gathering 2.75 pounds of crud, which exceeds the past record of 2.15 pounds held by Joe Schwartz of SSN 105. The above named man also broke the record for the number of crud-burst causing operations held by any single ELT."  
Congratulations

Presented by "The Board of Directors", Don, Rick and Rat

This will not mean anything to you I'm sure, but it will be understood, and appreciated for its humor, by every ELT that ever served on a nuclear submarine.

I have asked my co-producer of the Haddo Newsletter to update our membership rosters, and send copies to you along with address labels. I don't expect he will be able to complete the job before the holidays are over, however. I would expect he would send something to you in January or February. The person doing this is:

Mr. Bill Cook  
12 Pheasant Run  
Windsor, CT 06095  
(203) 688-1005

Now, I have one question for you. As you can tell from reading the newsletters I've written, there is considerable interest amongst the former Haddo crew in a reunion. Would (or could) the Sub Force Library and Museum help us in any way to set up and hold such an event? I cannot commit my time to this effort, as writing and distributing the Haddo newsletter is about all I can handle. Yet, since I write the newsletter, the crewmembers look to me to try and get something going. Can you help?

Finally, I will write about this contact and the intentions of the Sub Force Library and Museum to feature an article on Haddo in the Klaxon in the next edition of the Haddo newsletter (due to go out in April 1995). I'm sure the guys will be thrilled. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. If you need anything further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Michael C. Gann

Upon receipt of the letter and package, Ms. Johnson called again to say that Haddo would definitely be the featured boat in the next Klaxon, and that, yes, the Museum could be of some help in organizing a reunion, perhaps to include a Museum tour, Submarine Base tour, and/or a

tour of one of the newer operational boats. You all can't imagine how delighted I was to get this response! Maybe, just maybe, we can get something set up for late 1995, or more likely, 1996.

Now I know the east coast is tough for those of you out west, but maybe, just maybe, we could set up a concurrent reunion on the west coast and link the two together for a brief time via teleconference. I'll explore the possibilities a little further with the Museum, but that's as far as I can go. What we need now is a handful of volunteers to call and say "I'll work on the reunion committee!" I'll connect you all together and you can go do work on it. Guys, I just can't take this on myself, so please call. By the way, Ms. Johnson wrote again on February 5 to say that the Museum already has a Haddo "Boat Book" and she would see that the material I sent was incorporated. I'm going to go to the Museum myself one day, reunion or not, to see that book. I hope many of you will be able to do the same...It's part of our heritage.

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

As I said, the 10<sup>th</sup> edition produced a lot of response. My apology if I don't cover it all thoroughly enough.

October 25, 1994: A long and very interesting letter arrived from Dick Noble with lots of stories from Haddo's early days. To do it justice I should really photo-reduce it and include it herein, but there's just not enough space with all the other news to report (next edition maybe, Ed.). Dick expressed strong interest in a reunion and suggested the teleconference idea I mentioned earlier. Dick asks if anyone knows the whereabouts of one Claude Shelton ST2 Naval Reserve, Philadelphia, PA, who served on Haddo 1965-67. Can anyone help? Dick also provided an address for Dennis Snyder.

November 17, 1994: A letter from John Briquet arrived with a copy of the book Lead On: A Practical Approach to Leadership, by Read Admiral Dave Oliver, Jr. (Former XO Haddo). One of the lessons RADM Oliver offers on leadership relates directly to a situation that occurred on Haddo, but you'll have to read the book yourself to find it - I'm not revealing it. The book spoke loudly and clearly to me, as my organization has been going through an agonizing self-evaluation for two years now, without identifying what's right and what's wrong. I plunked copies of the book on several of my superior's desks, anonymously, in hopes that someone would read it and understand a little more about leadership that they could apply to our organization. An easy reading book of substance and force!

November 20, 1994: Tom Warner called and promised to send some commissioning crew lists, which I now have. Tom asked about the prospects of a reunion, and for copies of letters I had received from Fred Holmes and Charles Pittman.

November 21, 1994: A letter from John Bailey with a list of commissioning crewmembers arrived. Five addresses were included - these have been cross-checked with the address file and appropriate updates completed. Thanks, John!

November 25, 1994: An unsigned letter was received - sent in a "Hale Koa Hotel" envelope and postmarked November 21 in Honolulu - obviously one of our Hawaii members. Many names of commissioning crewmembers mentioned, as well as the desire for a reunion.

November 28: A letter and card were received from Tony DiNicola noting his new address and expressing his interest in a reunion and willingness to help. Thanks, Tony!

A second letter on November 28 was from Walt Sullivan, (CAPT USN (Retired) and commissioning XO of Haddo. Walt sent a \wealth of commissioning memorabilia, all of which

has been sent to the Submarine Museum for inclusion in the Haddo "Boat Book" - thanks very much, Walt! Among these materials was a complete hour-by-hour itinerary for Haddo's first sea trials. Great stuff!!

December 5: A phone call (followed on December 8 by a letter) from Paul Callahan with a long list of Haddo crew members compiled in 1991 in anticipation of a ceremony for Haddo's decommissioning. All have been cross-checked with our master address list. Thanks, Paul!

December 10: A long and informative letter arrived from Larry Page, another commissioning crew member. Larry sent lots of information of early crewmembers. Again, I really should photo-reduce the letter in its entirety and include it herein, but space limitations prevent that for this edition - maybe next one.

Over the holiday period, Christmas cards were received from Tom Tiletich, Mike Lintner, John Briquelet, Jack Nobbs, Jeff Summy, Jack Garrison and Don Koeppen. Tom provided an address for Jim Eppstein and noted that Charles C. Koon and Buck Taylor of Merritt Island, FL, are one and the same person. Corrections have been made.

December 16: Dave Crannell sent a letter noting his new address. Thanks, Dave!

December 22: Received from one of our "address unknown" members, Jack Johnston, a letter providing his address. So now Jack is an "address known" member. Jack served on Haddo from 1967-71. His 27 years in the Navy also included command tours on Simon Bolivar, Seahorse, Nuclear Power School, and SUBDEVGRU1. Jack is presently occupied as plant manager of a cogeneration plant in Camden, NJ. He passed along addresses for Tom Kinder and CAPT Gerald T. Corcoran. Thanks, Jack... and welcome aboard!

January 10 (we're in 1995 now): A letter arrived from CDR Will Jordan, noting he is no longer CO USS Boston, but has transferred to Hawaii on CINCPACFLT staff. A new temporary address was provided, along with an address for CDR Robert Noonan, another Haddo shipmate from 1976-78. Thanks, Will!

January 24: A letter from David "Country" Howk, relating lots of great Haddo sea stories - far too much to cover here - but great stuff none-the-less! Apparently Country's dad was a submariner, too, serving on the old R-14 out of Key West and Shad, based at Guam. I put Country onto the Sub Force Library and Museum for information on these "old timers" - hope you made out OK, and thanks for the letter.

January 27: Fernley (not Fernlee) Wagner provided a letter relating how he got to be names "Fern Lee" as a joke, probably perpetuated by Elmer Mann or Bill Heuer. Anyway, the nickname stuck right up to the present, but now we've given Fernley back his correct name.

February 3: A change of address from Jim Traa. Thanks, Jim!

February 6: Another letter from John Briquelet, this time noting the retirement ceremony held for RADM Dave Oliver at Andrews Air Force Base on January 31, 1995. John attended the ceremony and mentions the attendance of other former Haddo shipmates Dick Hillman, Fred Carter and Dick Scales.

February 6: A letter received from June Johnson of the Submarine Force Library and Museum provided three more addresses: ADM Powell Carter (Ret), CAPT Gerald Johnson, USN (Ret), and CAPT Harry L. Mathis, USN (Ret). All have been added to our master list. Thanks, June!

February 8: A letter arrived from Bill Heffelmire, another Haddo plankholder. Bill relates that three of the Haddo plankholders were previously COBs on other boats: Bill King (Barb), Joe Rustin (Flasher), and Bill, himself, (Plunger). Bill is very interested in a reunion and has offered to help set one up. Also passed along a new address for Bill King. Thanks a lot, Bill!

February 24: A brief note from Darrell Brown provided his new address. Thanks, Darrell!

February 24: Harold Clark called to express continued interest in the newsletter, interest in a reunion, and to reminisce over old sea stories and what's happened to us all since. Great to hear from you, Hal.

March 7: Another letter from June Johnson informing us that the "old" Haddo (SS-255) has a considerable number of crewmembers who hold a reunion every other year! A name and address was provided - I will contact.

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

Envelopes and postage paid for in part by generous donations of Dick Noble and Paul Callahan. Typing and address list maintenance by Bill Cook who apologizes for any misspellings and typos that scrape past Microsoft Word, and adds that this is a newsletter, not a pre-crit.

Special thanks to June Johnson at the Submarine Force Library and Museum Association for her interest in Haddo and anticipated assistance in organizing a Haddo reunion.

If you don't find an updated address list with this edition, it has been omitted in the interest of keeping this mailing within the one ounce limit at the new 32 cent rate, and an update will be provided with the next edition.

Down scope...until next time...probably November.

If you're interested in helping organize a reunion (East Coast or West Coast) please call me ASAP. I'd like to see a committee formed immediately so I can announce it in the next newsletter. Call me by the end of July (absolute latest) if you're interested.

Mike Gann  
Author/Editor