



# USS HADDO NEWSLETTER



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## From the Editor:

The following is retrieved from the “American Submariner” publication Volume 2016 Issue 1, page 21. By permission from Editor , Charles (Chuck) Emmett

? Submarine ?

When asked about where and when you were really a submariner there is finally a legal answer we can give without losing a clearance.

“yes...on the sub I was on we did some of the stuff we did, and we didn't do some of the other stuff we did, because if we did it, it was secret, So we didn't do some of the other stuff we did because if we did do it, it was secret. So we really didn't do it. Even though we really did. But not really. Those medals me and my shipmates got that we didn't get for doing what we didn't do that we did. I really got those. Except not. But, Yeah. That's because we never went where we were, so we weren't there where we were. And even though we weren't where we were, we did do the stuff we didn't do while we weren't there, not doing it.

As far as what boat we on when we didn't go there on it, and didn't do the stuff we did while not doing that either. So the bottom line is that while we weren't on the boat I won't mention, not doing what we were doing where we weren't....we didn't do that either.

I hope that clarifies things. I really was a submariner.”

Unclassified

Author: unknown

## Recommended Links

<http://warisboring.com/articles/secretive-u-s-navy-submarine-went-on-a-dangerous-mission/>

Submarine Warfare of World War II rare documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ4KmpdHUVs#t=4524.438>

U Boat Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-sq0nTaYdk#t=156.594>

Submarine Pictures

[http://www.subbasepearl.com/pages/Silent\\_Service\\_Photo\\_Index](http://www.subbasepearl.com/pages/Silent_Service_Photo_Index)

## Haddo 604 Memories

### The “Big Angle”

There are moments in every submariner's life that will live forever in his memory. Although this story has been told and retold many times over the years, it bears re-telling every so often. I was aboard Haddo and witnessed this breath-taking, heart-stopping casualty. I'm certain every single member of the crew that was aboard for this event will remember it.....vividly! The following is my recollection:

We are in the Med on one of the two runs we made there in the early 1970's. We are engaged in some sort of NATO “exercises”. We are running at high speed and at great depth when a massive hydraulic rupture occurs in the Engine Room, causing a loss of ALL hydraulics. The stern planes “fail” to full-rise. The boat immediately turns to an almost unimaginable up-angle in a matter seconds. (I was told later that only a few more degrees of “up angle” and the air in the ballast tanks would have spilled, to be replaced by seawater, a loss of buoyancy and a stern-first trip to oblivion. To this day I do not know how true that is, but I still believe we all came within a whisker of losing our lives that day.) Of course many immediate and coordinated actions by the crew are taken to try and

level off the boat which are ultimately successful. Among these are the desperate use of the emergency "hand pump" hydraulic backup system to level the stern planes by two of our most experienced Machinist Mates (Walter Urbanowicz and Gary True) who by some quirk of good fortune were in the ERUL when the casualty occurred. I believe their immediate actions, in an engineroom filled with a rich fog of hydraulic oil and pitched up an angle beyond anyone's prior experience, may very well have saved our lives that day. I also recall the Captain's (Richard Scales) clear orders and calm demeanor during and immediately following this incident which served well in reassuring us all that the boat was in good hands and would recover. I was inside the tiny Nucleonics Lab during the entire 3 or 4 minutes of this episode, terrified, and trying to keep a 5-gallon jug of radioactive, discarded reactor coolant from chemistry sampling, from overturning. I played no part in saving the boat, myself.

In the aftermath of this incident, many crew members wrote letters home with their versions of what had occurred, myself included. Needless to say many wives were very upset, and voiced their concerns with Mrs Scales, who served as the principal contact for the wives back home during our deployments. This got back to Captain Scales, who for the only time I can recall, admonished the crew for writing such "scary" letters home, filled with exaggerations, inaccuracies, half-truths and "Classified" information. We were ORDERED, in no uncertain terms, to stop writing letters home about this episode in Haddo's history.

Michael C. Gann MM1(SS)/LELT

### **Haddo Base**

Haddo Base Trailer missing

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/31215199/uss-haddo-submarine-veterans-victims-of-theft-trailer-still-missing#.VsMkxyquqg.facebook>

### **Emails**

Dear Mr Hergert (I hope that's correct?), I am Mike Gann, a fellow who served on Haddo 1969-1974. I am responsible for starting the Haddo Newsletter some years back. I maintained it through the late 1980's and early 1990's, when I finally had to give it up. But it was picked up by others who have done a fine job of carrying it on, including yourself, currently. I have been rather "off the radar" for the last 10 years or so, but I have enjoyed receiving and reading the Newsletter throughout that time, right up to the present issue. Dean Nyffler's recounting of some of the happenings on the 2 Med runs I also made on the boat, reminded me of the incident described in the

attached. It is only my personal recollection and the recollections of others may be different, but I offer it to you now for possible use in the NEXT Haddo Newsletter. It would be interesting to hear how others who went through this episode remember it now. Warm regards to you and to all the former Haddo crew members.

Sincerely yours,

Michael C. Gann (Former MM1(SS)/LELT, USS Haddo (SSN604), 1969-1974)

PS: I have a new address and E-mail, which are, respectively:

104 Glen Eddy Drive  
Niskayuna, NY 12309  
gannm@gleneddy.com

Dear Shipmates,

One of our members tried to make reservations for the reunion scheduled for September 2015 using the instructions in the latest newsletter. When he called the hotel he was told they don't have our group listed. I checked with the hotel employee handling our reunion and she informed me that they would like us to wait until after January 1, 2016 to make our reservations. They don't want to be too far out ahead of the event. Don't worry. There will be plenty of rooms, but if you are planning on attending please wait until after the first of the year to make you hotel reservations. I apologize for the confusion and inconvenience.

Ralph Stroede

Reunion Chairman

From: Kipp C. Van Aken

Damned if that was not a boat, and all the others, that had been through hell.! Can you believe the boys on 255! Talk about spam. No admiral ever claimed to leadership. Hundreds of us. We did it. The damned job got done by the young men who did the damned job. If we were lucky, we lived. Sure, We got a thank-you, a National Defense ribbon, or a Navy Good-Conduct Sure we are proud of our conduct. There are no medals to be given for what we all gave. Just be damned proud that we did it.

,KcvA

Eric Neasham

Director, IT Infrastructure

Spencer's and Spirit Halloween Stores

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[eric.neasham@Spencergifts.com](mailto:eric.neasham@Spencergifts.com)

"Train people well enough so they can leave, treat them well enough so they don't want to." Richard Branson

Giving Tours on the sub

### **Eternal Patrol**

It is with a heavy heart I inform you, William (Bill) Mack who served on the USS Haddo 255, from 1942 until he was transferred to the USS Grouper 214, in 1945. attached a few picture of my dad, and if you could please put me on the mailing list thanks.

John Mack  
JohnnyMack1983@aol.com  
Boot camp



Pearl Harbor 1943



Hi John,

We as a Haddo "family" want to offer you and your family our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your father. I have removed his name from the Crew List and added it to the Eternal Patrol. I have added your name to the Crew List. Please check it and make sure I did it correctly. Thank you. Would you please send me your physical address and phone number so that we may add you to our Master Mailing List? You will be receiving our Newsletter April and Oct. at your email address.

Welcome Aboard and Welcome Home!

Ralph Stroede

MM1(SS)N

1964-1968

Plank Owner

**From:** Bill Candy [<mailto:saltyd0g44@att.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 3, 2015 8:31 PM

**To:** Trudy Stroede <[tstroede@hughes.net](mailto:tstroede@hughes.net)>

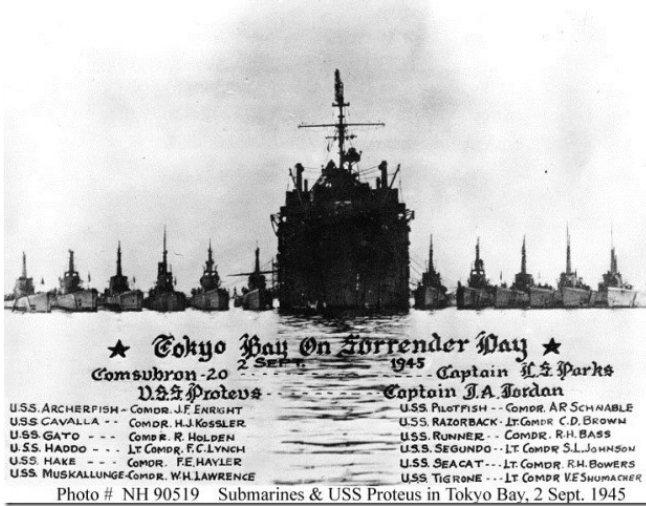
**Subject:** Re: Hotel reservations for the Haddo Reunion 2016

Thanks for this update Ralph,

I am going to try to make this reunion -

I thought given the prior newsletter on the passing of Elton Porter, these two photos I found should be of interest. He may be on deck in the one taken in 1945?:

August 10th 1945 Haddo departed Guam on her 10th war patrol, soon terminated by the surrender of Japan. Haddo headed for Tokyo Bay where she witnessed the signing of the surrender onboard the Battleship Missouri, then departed for home.



**From:** Neasham, Eric  
 [mailto:Eric.Neasham@spencergifts.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2015 9:49 AM  
**To:** webmaster@haddobase.org  
**Cc:** rstroede@hughes.net  
**Subject:** Passing of Ed Neasham

Hello,

I found documents of Dad's induction to the Holland Club and information documenting USSVI, Haddo Base (He was a plankowner on SSN-604). Because of this I am sharing this information.

Edwin 'Ed' Neasham, 75 passed away in his sleep on Sunday December 13, 2015 in Kennewick Washington. He was born September 22, 1940 to Dessie (Hearing) and Eldon Neasham in The Dalles Oregon.

Ed enlisted in the US Navy in 1959 and retired as a Lieutenant Commander after 22 years of service, including time spent 'in country' during the Vietnam war. He was proud to have been a 'diesel boat' Submariner aboard USS Aspro (AGSS-309) and later a nuclear power specialist aboard USS Haddo (SSN-604).

After his retirement from the Navy he went on to work for Bechtel, the Umatilla Chemical Depot and WPPSS/Energy Northwest where he had his final retirement.

Ed was a volunteer firefighter with Benton County Fire District #2 for several years until his health prevented him contributing the way he wanted.

He was an avid Pontiac lover and in the early 60's could be found racing his Pontiacs in several different classes and was most proud of his 'B Stock' a wins. Year later, after relocating to the TriCities, he was a member of the Radioactive Redskins Pontiac club.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Lynette Ward.

Ed is survived by his wife Irene, his children by RaNae Neasham Bradshaw; Eric Neasham of Port Republic NJ, Angela Combs of Pasco WA, Kathleen Kasper of Richland WA and Timothy Neasham of Richland WA, and more grandchildren and great grandchildren then he needed to count.

There will be a memorial service Monday December 21, 2015 at the Sunset Event Center, 915 Bypass Highway, Richland, WA 99352

Please let me know if you would like anything else.

Regards,

EDWIN 'ED' NEASHAM



**2016 USS Haddo Reunion – Planned Events  
September 22 – 26, 2016**

**St. Louis, MO**

**THURSDAY**

**ROOMS:** Crowne Plaza at the Airport. Room Rate will be \$109.00 plus taxes which comes to \$129.02 per room but also **includes 2 full breakfast buffets daily**. You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. **Call 1-866-282-4643** between 7:30AM and 7:30PM Monday-Friday and request **In-House Reservations**. Tell them you are with the **USS Haddo 604 Submarine Reunion** to ensure our group rate. Reservations must be made by **August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016** to secure this special rate.

**Cancellations must be made by 6:00 PM the day of arrival in order to avoid charges as a no show. The Crowne Plaza operates a complimentary shuttle to/from the airport. This special rate can be used 3 days before and after reunion dates for extended stays.**

**Registration:** begins at noon (12:00 hours) in the Hospitality Room. Hospitality Room will be open from 10:00AM till ????? daily. Snacks, beer, wine and soft drinks will be provided.

**PLEASE NOTE: Departure times are notated by each event. Please arrive 15 minutes before departure time so we can load the bus and be underway on time.**

**FRIDAY'S EVENTS**

**A Day with Nature**

Friday, September 23, 2016

9:00 AM Depart the Crowne Plaza for the Shaw Nature Reserve via Mid American Coaches.

Sit back, relax and maybe get a couple of extra ZZZZ's while we travel to the Shaw Nature Reserve which will take about 45 minutes. Once there, we will hop on the Wilderness Wagon for a one hour guided tour of the grounds featuring the Trail House and the Wetlands Complex.



11:30 AM We will embark on our coach again and head to the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Upon arrival there, lunch will be on your own in the Sassafras Café, featuring garden themed salads, soups, sandwiches, snacks and daily specials. After lunch we will board a tram for a 25-30 minute guided tour through the complex with stops at the Kemper Center, Japanese Garden and the Victorian District and Tower Grove House.

2:30 PM We will depart the Botanical Gardens for the return trip to the Crowne Plaza.

Pricing for this event is \$20.00 per person and includes transportation from/to the Crowne Plaza and to both the attractions along the way.

**We're not done yet.**

### **Gateway Arch Dinner Cruise**

6:00PM Depart Crowne Plaza for the Tom Sawyer Paddlewheel Boat



This cruise is approximately 3 hours long and travels the Mississippi River. Dinner aboard the cruise will be a buffet style dinner featuring:

- Carved Roast Beef
- Breast of Chicken with Seasonal Sauce
- Baked Cod
- Green Beans Almondine
- Vegetable Medley
- Roasted Baby Potatoes
- Mixed Green Salad
- Pasta Romano
- Fruit Salad
- Chef's Dessert

Be entertained by a Dixieland Duo as you enjoy your meal and the sites of the Missouri skyline and the Gateway Arch.

Pricing for the event is \$46.00 per person which includes transportation to and from the Crowne Plaza.

### **SATURDAY'S EVENTS**

#### **Tour of Historic St. Louis**

9:30 AM Pick up at the Crowne Plaza by Trolley



We will begin with the tour which is approximately 1-1/2 hours with St. Louis Fun Tours.

Some of the sites you will see along this trolley tour will be:

- Laclede's Landing (historic/entertainment district)
- Gateway Arch
- Busch Stadium
- Millionaires Row
- The U-City Loop (Blueberry Hill – remember Fats Domino?/St. Louis walk of fame)
- And much more with a promise of getting a chuckle or two out of it.

At the conclusion of the tour, we will be stopping at the Lumiere Place Casino. Here you will have time on your own to explore surrounding areas, grab some lunch on your own at one of several eating establishments and maybe even try your hand at Lady Luck.

2:00 PM Board trolley for the return trip to the Crowne Plaza

Price for this tour is \$20.00 per person.

5:00 PM **Group Pictures**

We will begin taking the group pictures at 5:00PM. Please be prompt so when your group is called for the picture everyone is available for the photographer. Group pictures will be available for purchase directly from the photographer. The photographer will have request forms available. Just complete the request form and make check payable to the photographer.

6:00 PM **Banquet**

Saturday night, September 24, 2016 we will host the 2016 Reunion Banquet. Choices for meals are as follows:

**Pot Roast** with mashed potatoes, garden salad, vegetable, rolls and butter, and dessert. - \$34.00 per person.

**Chicken Saltimbocca** with mashed potatoes, garden salad, vegetable, rolls and butter, and dessert – \$29.00 per person. Chicken Saltimbocca is stuffed with proscuitto, mozzarella.

**Vegetarian Meal** – Chef's choice. - \$29.00 per person

Costs for the various meal choices are included on the registration form. Make your selections on that form and submit payment along with your registration form. Meals for children up to age 12 will be half off the posted price.

**Keynote Speaker for the banquet will be Paul Callahan.**

For those not wanting to participate in the pre-planned activities, there is a host of other things to do and see in St. Louis. To mention just a few:

Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour & Gift Shop

Historic Daniel Boone Home & Heritage Center

Ride the Gateway Arch & Tour

Scott Joplin House/Tour

## **SUNDAY**

Join shipmates and friends for a **no host breakfast** at the buffet to say farewells until the next reunion

**USS Haddo SSN-604 and SS-255 Reunion  
2016 Registration Form**

**Please submit no later than August 15, 2016**

The 2016 USS Haddo Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza at the Airport, St. Louis, MO from September 22nd through September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**ROOMS:** Room Rate will be \$109.00 per room plus taxes which comes to \$129.02 per night. Room rate also includes 2 full breakfast buffets daily. You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. Call 1-866-282-4643 between 7:30AM and 7:30PM Monday-Friday and request **In-House Reservations**. Tell them you are with the **USS Haddo 604 Submarine Reunion** to ensure our group rate. Reservations must be made by **August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016** to secure this special rate.

**Cancellations must be made by 6:00 PM the day of arrival in order to avoid charges as a no show. The Crowne Plaza operates a complimentary shuttle to/from the airport. This special rate can be used 3 days before and after reunion dates for extended stays.**

**Registration Fee** for the reunion will be \$30.00 per person. If you have more than 2 people in your party, please make copies of this form. No registration fee charge for children under 12.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg Fee     \$30.00    

<b>Banquet Dinner Choice: Pot Roast</b> _____	<b>Chicken Saltimbocca</b> _____	<b>Vegetarian</b> _____	
(Check One)	\$34.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
			Price _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg Fee \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Banquet Dinner Choice: Pot Roast</b> _____	<b>Chicken Saltimbocca</b> _____	<b>Vegetarian</b> _____	
(Check One)	\$34.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
			Price _____

**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Please enter your names above as you would like them to appear on your name badges – First and Last Name.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Shaw Nature Reserve Tour/Arboretum Tour.** The cost for this tour is \$20 per person.

Please check the line above if you are participating in the tour. Number of people attending. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$\$ for tour..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Riverboat Cruise on Friday Evening.** Cost for this tour is \$46.00 per person Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the line above if you are participating in this event.

**Total** \$\$ dinner cruise..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **St. Louis Trolley Tour/Casino** . The cost for this event is \$20.00 per person. Number of people attending. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the line above if you are participating in the tour

Total for TrolleyTour/Casino ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** remittance for the USS Haddo Reunion: Registration, and all Events Indicated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the **USS Haddo Reunion**. Mail the check and this registration form to

Ralph Stroede 41517 Alderlick Road Wellsville, OH 43968	Please feel free to contact Ralph with any questions email: <a href="mailto:rstroede@hughes.net">rstroede@hughes.net</a> Phone: 330-532-4238
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Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Years Served on the USS Haddo \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact during reunion: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_