

Holland Club History (Fact or Fiction)

(February 22 2001) Rev 2012 ph

The following information was compiled by William 'Bill' Britt, Holland Club Commander.

"I have used as many sources shipmates, records, American Submariner magazines, Base newsletters etc, as were available to me. I know there will be mistakes and some misinformation.



When I start to publish this information I will be corrected by the readership. That's exactly what I want, so have at it shipmates. Help set our record straight.

To the best of my knowledge and from information supplied from shipmates the Holland Club concept was originally proposed by Charlie Marin San Diego Base and Past National Commander 1994 - 1996.

The Holland Club was established in May 1994 and was adopted as part of the Constitution and bylaws that year.

The Holland Club was originally established to recognize those members who had been qualified in Submarines 50 or more years. Just think looking back from our founding in 1964 fifty years and the Submarine force would only be 14 years old. Truly we are talking about the pioneers of our Submarine Navy.

The original Holland Club membership card was a paper membership card with the words "Holland Club" stamped on it.

Later, about 1994 a newly designed card was introduced. This was a plastic card with the USSVI emblem and the words Holland Club and the members name embossed on it.

In 1996 the Perch Base submitted a Holland Club Patch designed by Frank Rumbaugh, of Perch Base, denoting the 50 years of service.

This Patch along with a Holland Club Membership card and Certificate is now presented to new Holland Club members.

The requirements for membership remained the same as originally adopted until 1998 when a change was voted to allow Sub Vets of W.W.II members who had been members in good standing for at least one year the opportunity to become Holland club members.

The first information I found concerning Holland Club was in the American Submariner January March 1996 issue where I found a Holland Club membership roster containing 68 names. To my knowledge these were the original plank owners and our commissioning crew.

This sailing list identifies our first Holland Club Commander Leroy Hoppe, Thresher Base, who qualified on USS S-39 in 1925.

Amongst the names listed were 4 Admirals and one Captain.

- Admiral B. L. Carr
- Admiral Ignatius Joseph 'Pete' Galantin
- Vice Admiral Phil Beshaney
- Vice Admiral Eugene Fluckey (MOH)
- Rear Admiral John M. Barrett
- Captain Henry B. Sweitzer

The earliest qualification date listed (Hoppe) is 1925 the latest is 1945. Some of these men qualified on such Boats as the O-4, R-4, S--11, and SS-67. Leroy Hoppe received his final Patrol Orders on 6 April 1999.

Pride Runs Deep

William E 'Bill' Britt

Holland Club Commander 2000-2008

(Born Dec 25, 1927, On Eternal Patrol June 3, 2012)

Additional Information:

William E "Bill" Britt of Requin Base was elected Holland Club Commander in 2000 and served in that capacity until 2008. Gilbert P 'Gil' Shaddock of Snug Harbor base was appointed Holland Club Vice Commander in 2004. Franklin A 'Frank' Lister of PC Stryker Base relieved Bill Britt as Holland Club Commander in 2008 and still serves in June 2012. The Position title changed at Frank's request to Holland Club Chairman in 2008.

** As of June, 2012 there are 5,478 members of Holland Club