

Office of Naval Records and History
Ships' Histories Branch
Navy Department

History of USS TROUT (SS 202)

The TROUT was authorized by Act of Congress March 27, 1937 and her building was allocated to the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on September 1, 1938. Her keel was laid August 28, 1939 and she was launched May 21, 1940. Mrs. Walter Browne Woodson, Coronado, California, christened the vessel. Mrs. Woodson is the wife of Rear Admiral Walter Browne Woodson, U.S.N. now retired, who was then Judge Advocate General of the Navy. The TROUT was commissioned November 15, 1940.

In accordance with the policy of the Navy of naming submarines for fish, the U.S.S. TROUT is named for the fish. The trout is a well known fresh water game and food fish.

Lieutenant Commander Albert H. Clark, USN, who was the commanding officer of the TROUT at the time of her loss is reported as missing.

His wife Mrs. Mary Crane Clark resides at: 35 Irvine Drive, Orinda, California.

The USS TROUT on May 5, 1943 was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation as follows;

"For outstanding performance in combat during numerous highly successful patrols in enemy-controlled waters. Carrying out her missions with great daring and dispatch, the TROUT sought out her targets and sank a total of 43,000 tons of enemy shipping and damaged an additional 31,500 tons, including a hostile aircraft carrier. Her fine record of achievements in battle and the fulfillment of several vital strategic missions attest the exceptional skill and fighting spirit of her officers and men."

The first commanding officer of the TROUT was Commander Frank Wesley Fenno, Jr., USN, who has been awarded the Navy Cross and two gold stars in lieu of the Second and Third Navy Crosses. The Army also has awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross.

The TROUT was identified as the United States submarine that was stealing past enemy shore batteries under the cover of darkness, made her way into Manila Bay before the fall of Corregidor and brought out a vast amount of gold, silver and securities belonging to the Philippine Commonwealth, and to banks, mines and residents of the islands. (Navy Department Press Release, May 15, 1942)

For this action Commander Fenno was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the entire crew were awarded the Silver Star Medal by the Army. The presentation of these awards was made in March 1942 in a ceremony at Pearl Harbor when Lieutenant General

DeLoe B. Emmons, USA, then commanding the Hawaiian department, decorated the men. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, witnessed the ceremony.

The USS TROUT (SS 202) earned eleven (11) battle stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Ribbon for the following operations and war patrols:

One Star--Pearl Harbor--Midway:.....7 December 1941

One Star--Philippine Islands Operation
(including Guam and other concurrent
Asiatic Fleet Operations):.....12 January to 3 March 1942

One Star--Midway:.....3 to 6 June 1942

One Star--Anti-Submarine Assessment:.....9 September 1943

One Star--Submarine War Patrol:.....24 March to 17 May 1942

One Star--Submarine War Patrol:.....27 August to 13 October 1942

One Star--Submarine War Patrol:.....26 October to 23 November 1942

One Star--Submarine War Patrol:.....29 December 1942 to 25 February 1943

One Star--Submarine War Patrol:.....22 March to 3 May 1943

One Star--Submarine War Patrol:.....27 May to 20 July 1943

One Star--Submarine War Patrol:.....8 February to time of "reported missing."

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S T A T I S T I C S

LENGTH.....298 feet

BEAM.....27 feet, 3 inches

DISPLACEMENT.....1475 tons

ACCOMMODATIONS.....10 officers and 57 enlisted men

Compiled: 22 July 1944
Restencilled: 7 January 1950