



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans



JULY, 2021

Russia's Gigantic Submarine, Belgorod, Sails For The First Time

Pr. 09852 K-329 Belgorod

OSCAR-II STRETCH Class Submarine
Provisional

Emblem of GUGI (Main Directorate of Undersea Research) who will operate the submarine

Payloads on back. These include a Bester Deep Sea Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) or a self-contained nuclear power plant to power undersea infrastructure like seabed sensor networks.

Integral hangar for a Klavesin 2P-PM (Harpisichord) underwater drone.

2015 'leak' showing Belgorod with Poseidon (then called Status-6)

Two nuclear reactors

Nuclear powered deep-diving midget submarine known as a Deep-Sea Station (AGS')

5 deck levels

Sonar

Escape capsule

6 x 2м39 Poseidon Intercontinental nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed autonomous torpedo

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To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

Hello to all from the beautiful state of Maine. We are enjoying New England very much and the weather has been fantastic. The annual trip to Dickey-Stephens' Park in North Little Rock is upon us. It may still be possible to get tickets from John Barr or they may be purchased at the sales window. Come on out and join us for a hot dog! I encourage you to contribute to the Booster Club, whatever you feel appropriate. The money is used to defray Base operating expenses. Our anticipated burial ceremony for Shipmate Jim Baker was cancelled. The family decided to place his cremains in his home state of Mississippi, near Gulfport. I would like to have a luncheon/.business meeting on Saturday, 24 July at American Pie in North Little Rock, Maumelle Av. at 1330. Please check the NEW Base Website page for updates.



Billy Holloway
Base Commander



(CONT FROM PG 1)

Belgorod will bring new capabilities to the Russian Navy. To be operated on behalf of the secretive Main Directorate of Undersea Research (GUGI), the submarine may be central to Russia's intelligence gathering capabilities. Yet she also carries a new strategic weapon, known as Poseidon.

The Russian Navy's latest 'Special Mission' submarine, K-329 Belgorod, has put to sea for the first time. Open source intelligence seen by Naval News indicates that the submarine left Severodvinsk on June 25 2021. This represents the start of sea trials which are critical to the delivery of the new boat to the Russian Navy.

Although detailed specifications have not been revealed it is clear that Belgorod is the largest submarine to be built for 30 years. In fact the only submarine type which is larger is the Typhoon Class. Her enlarged Oscar-II class submarine hull is estimated to be 178 meters (584 feet) long and about 15 meters (49 feet) across. Her displacement will likely be significantly more than the ~19,000 tons of the Oscar-II class on which she is based. This is bigger in every respect than the largest Western submarine, the U.S. Navy's Ohio Class.

The submarine was launched in April 23 2019 in Severodvinsk. Since then it has been moored to the quay there being fitted out and system tested. Russian media has reported tests of the new weapon system and also of the reactors. She had been expected to start trials in April, after the arctic ice had receded, but instead was taken back into the sheds. She remerged at the end of May and was identified undergoing degaussing on June 5 – 6. She has now finally sailed.

The ship left its berth for the first time on April 25. But instead of heading directly out to sea she was loaded into the floating dock and transferred back to the construction hall where she was built. By May 7 when another new submarine, Kazan, was being commissioned, preparations to bring her back out were visible.

Two Roles In One Submarine

Belgorod it's intended purpose presents Western analysts with an enigma. She will combine two seemingly contradictory roles. The first is as a host submarine (read 'mothership') for deep diving nuclear powered midget submarines. These are capable of working on cables and other objects on the sea floor. The concern in NATO is that these could include the undersea internet cables connecting Western countries. This is termed a 'special mission' in navy parlance (which is full of euphemisms for covert activities).

The second role is one of nuclear strike and deterrence. For this she will be armed with six '2M39' Poseidon torpedoes. These are a whole new category of weapon not fielded by any another navy. They have been described as 'Intercontinental Nuclear-Powered Nuclear-Armed Autonomous Torpedoes'. At over 20 meters (65 feet) long they are in effect they are giant underwater drones with practically unlimited range and a nuclear warhead. And their expected performance (around 70 knots and 1,000 meters depth) mean that they cannot be countered with existing weapons.

These two roles are seen as contradictory because performing one may compromise the other. The nuclear deterrence role requires remaining hidden and out of harms' way. While the 'special mission' may take her into potential harms way. And which role will be the primary one is also unclear.

For the Special Mission role, Belgorod is intended to host the Project 10831 Losharik submarine (AS-31). This suffered a serious accident on July 1 2019 however, just two months after Belgorod's launch. A fire in the battery compartment killed 14 'hydronauts' (the Russian term for the elite submarine crews who drive these deep-diving subs). Losharik is still undergoing repairs which may still take years to complete.

Possibly to mitigate the delays in returning Losharik to service, there have been reports that another deep-diving midget submarine is being adapted to fit Belgorod. AS-15 is a Project 1910 Kashalot class submarine (known as the Uniform class by NATO). She was laid down in 1983 and launched 30 years ago in 1991. But despite her age the titanium hull is likely to be in good condition so the idea of upgrading her is not far-fetched. But the Uniform class was never intended to be carried under a host submarine so the modifications would have to be very extensive. At this point these reports are unconfirmed and should be treated with caution.

The Poseidon weapon will also take a few years to be deployed, so it may take Belgorod several more years before she is truly operational. Recent Russian media reports suggested that the submarine will serve in the pacific, as opposed to the Arctic-based Northern Fleet. This seems counterintuitive as it would stretch the logistics for the deep diving submersibles which are based in the Northern Fleet. All the same she is a unique and impressive submarine which analysts will be following closely.

Business Meeting

There will be a Business meeting lunch on 21 July, 1 130 at American Pie, Maumelle Blvd, NLR Hope to see you there.



ON ETERNAL PATROL

USS FLIER (SS 250)

1	<u>Alexander Julius Abrahamson</u>
2	<u>Victor John Anderson</u>
3	<u>Herbert Albert Baehr</u>
4	<u>George Joseph Banchemo</u>
5	<u>Clyde Banks</u>
6	<u>Paul Francis Barron</u>
7	<u>William Harry Bivens</u>
8	<u>Thomas Leroy Bohn</u>
9	<u>Ervin Anthony Borlick</u>
10	<u>William Jeremiah Brooks</u>
11	<u>Elton Stanley Brubaker</u>
12	<u>James Francis Peder Cahl*</u>
13	<u>Edwin Canady</u>
14	<u>John Edward Casey**</u>
15	<u>Christian John Christensen, Jr.</u>
16	<u>Charles William Clawson</u>
17	<u>Roland John Cosgrove</u>
18	<u>Charles Leon Courtright</u>
19	<u>William Francis Cowhey</u>
20	<u>John William Cowie</u>
21	<u>Robert Allen Cushman</u>
22	<u>Waite Hoyt Daggy</u>
23	<u>Peter Anthony Daros</u>
24	<u>Thomas Armstrong Donovan</u>
25	<u>Walter Edward Dorricott, Jr.</u>

26	<u>Earle William Dressell</u>
27	<u>James Edward Elder</u>
28	<u>Harry Godfrey Ericson</u>
29	<u>Frank Walter Falowski</u>
30	<u>Fred Elias Fender</u>
31	<u>Bernard Vincent Fite</u>
32	<u>Walter David Freeman</u>
33	<u>Peter Adolf Gaideczka</u>
34	<u>Joseph John Galinac</u>
35	<u>Clyde Arthur Gerber</u>
36	<u>Melvin George Getchell</u>
37	<u>Joseph Wilmer Grimshaw</u>
38	<u>Kenneth Leroy Gwinn</u>
39	<u>Gale Winstone Hardy</u>
40	<u>Eugene Wilson Heller</u>
41	<u>Harry Stanley Holtyn</u>
42	<u>Edgar Walker Hudson**</u>
43	<u>Sol Kantor</u>
44	<u>Oliver Wayne Kisamore</u>
45	<u>Walter Joseph Klock</u>
46	<u>Paul Knapp**</u>
47	<u>Joseph William Kucinski</u>
48	<u>George Robert Laderbush</u>
49	<u>Richard Anthony Lambert</u>
50	<u>James LeRoy</u>
51	<u>Boyd Odell Lindeman</u>
52	<u>Gerald Francesco Madeo**</u>
53	<u>Philip Stanley Mayer**</u>

54	<u>Edward Howard McCoy</u>
55	<u>Vernon Clair McLane</u>
56	<u>Herbert Ambrose Miner</u>
57	<u>Vernon Leo Moench</u>
58	<u>Victor Joseph Murawski</u>
59	<u>Harvey Loyal Myers</u>
60	<u>Joseph Gordon Nicholson</u>
61	<u>David Harold Nordhof</u>
62	<u>Charles William Parker</u>
63	<u>Chester Payne</u>
64	<u>George William Phillips, Jr.</u>
65	<u>Mason Poole</u>
66	<u>Charles DeWitt Pope**</u>
67	<u>Kit Joseph Pourciau</u>
68	<u>William Laughlin Reynolds**</u>
69	<u>Michael Nicholas Ricciardelli</u>
70	<u>Robert Clifton Rose</u>
71	<u>Donald Nesser See</u>
72	<u>Alvin Leroy Skow</u>
73	<u>James Earl Snyder</u>
74	<u>Jarrold Clovis Taylor***</u>
75	<u>John Clyde Turner</u>
76	<u>Paul Arthur Vest</u>
77	<u>James Frank Vogt</u>
78	<u>Lucius Polk Wall</u>
79	<u>James Edgar Westmoreland</u>

Mason Poole



Rank/Rate	Chief Electrician's Mate
Service Number	359 83 16
Birth Date	September 10, 1914
From	Manning, South Carolina
Decorations	Bronze Star, Purple Heart
Submarine	USS Flier (SS-250)
Loss Date	August 13, 1944
Location	In Balabac Strait near Mantangule Island
Circumstances	Sunk by a mine

The Loss Of USS FLIER (SS-250)

August 14, 2014 admin Submarine History

On 11 July 1943, USS FLIER (SS-250) slid into the Thames River in Groton, CT. Built by Electric Boat Company, the vessel was 311 feet long and 27 feet in diameter; she displaced just over 2,400 tons submerged. After being commissioned in October, FLIER headed for Pearl Harbor. She ventured out on her first war patrol on 12 January 1944.

Just four days later, bad luck reared its ugly head for the first time. FLIER ran aground near Midway island and USS MACAW (ASR-11), a submarine rescue ship, managed to run aground herself and sink before she could render assistance. USS FLORIKAN (ASR-9) was able to wrench the sub free and tow her back to Pearl Harbor. From there, she was towed to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California for repairs. On 21 May FLIER was finally ready for action once more.

The boat headed for Luzon, one of the Philippine islands, in the South China Sea. On 4 June she found her first contacts, a convoy of five merchant ships. After firing a total of six torpedoes, FLIER sank Hakusan Maru, a transport. She hit another ship, but was forced to evacuate the area to avoid retaliation before she could ascertain the extent of the damage she caused. Nine days later, FLIER came upon a heavily guarded convoy of 11 ships; once again she was forced to flee before a full damage report could be made. 22 and 23 June were probably her most successful days: on the 22nd she launched six torpedoes and made four hits on two cargo ships; the following day she went three for four against another cargo vessel.

After a month-long refit in Fremantle, Australia, FLIER set out on her second war patrol at the beginning of August. Unfortunately, this patrol would not be nearly as successful as the first. Just ten days in, at 2200 on 12 August, FLIER struck a mine while transiting the Balabac Strait. In sixty seconds the boat had sunk beneath the waves; 14 men, out of a total complement of 86, made it out. After spending 15 hours in the water, eight of the survivors, severely sunburned and with skin shredded by coral, managed to reach Mantangula Island. A coast-watcher, to whom the men were guided by a friendly local, orchestrated a rescue by another submarine, USS REDFIN (SS-272), on the night of 30 August. Other locals and a guerilla group ensured the Sailors' safety during the two weeks between the sinking and the rescue.

Sixty-five years after FLIER's loss, the U.S. Navy announced that Mike and Warren Fletcher, a father-son dive team, had located the boat. The divers were part of a team from YAP films, which investigates nautical mysteries. Al Jacobson, one of the FLIER survivors, had spent much of his retirement investigating the sinking; the Jacobson family provided YAP with all the information he had collected to aid in the search. Today FLIER, located almost exactly where Jacobson predicted she would be, lies in 330 feet of water with the 72 crewmembers who went down with her.



TREASURER'S REPORT		Jun-21
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 14,152.50
General Fund Balance		\$ 4,225.79
Designated Funds		
Maint. Fund Balance		\$ 2,652.66
Charity Fund Balance		\$ 372.00
Snook Memorial Fund Balance		\$ 1,386.86
Designated Fund Balance		\$ 4,411.52
Checking Balance (General + Designated Funds)		\$ 8,637.31
Other Funds		
	CD Balance	\$ 5,368.19
	Cash on hand	\$ 147.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE		\$ 14,152.50

Booster Club

Mark Taylor (1)

George Fore (1)

John Barr (2)

Mem. Of Lee Huss (2)

Walter A. Gossfeld	1
John Webber	3
Michael H. Rainwater	3
Alan Sabatino	4
William J. Holland	5
John T. Hardin	6
Ronald D. Gorence	6
Donald B Brown	7
Mary Christians	10
Bill L. Garrison	11
James A. Flanders	12
Donald L. Underwood	13
Sharon J. Hollaway	13
James Caton	14
Richard James Pressly	14
A. Royce Meredith	16
David M. Higgins	17
Ronald T. Sagaert	18
David J. Grove, Jr.	22
Allen D. Hutchinson	26
Sidney R. J. Logan	29
Derrell F. Clements	30
Lynn C. Richard	30

Birthdays for July >>>



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