

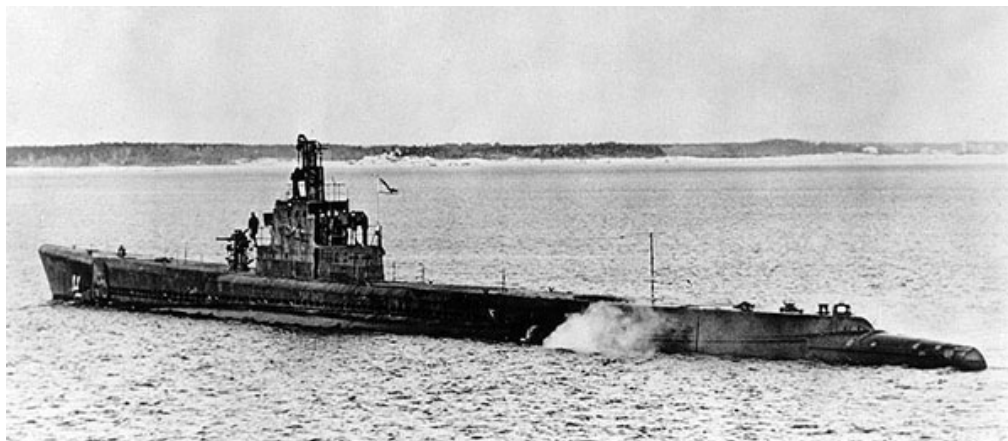
Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Research

Our records reflect public information gathered from the National Archives, Indiana State Library, Indiana War Memorials World War II Veterans Database, US Navy Memorial, ABMC, National Registry and On Eternal Patrol. Additional details have been received from librarians, historians, genealogists, journalists and families of these Indiana heroes. We are not an affiliate of Manila American Cemetery.



Victor Gregorini

United States Navy
Service Number - 8217424
Home – Hazzard, Pennsylvania
USS Snook (SS - 279)
Lost April 9, 1945
DOD – May 6, 1946 (presumed dead and not rescued)
Officially Missing in Action
Name is honored on the Tablets of the Missing
Manila American Cemetery - Philippines
Purple Heart



USS Snook SS-279

Compiled by Paul W. Wittmer and Charles R. Hinman, originally from:

U.S. Submarine Losses World War II, NAVPERS 15,784, 1949 ISSUE

SNOOK (Cdr. J. F. Walling) departed Guam on 25 March 1945 in company with BURRFISH (SS312) and BANG (SS385) to carry out a coordinated patrol with Commander Walling commanding the group. They were to patrol Luzon Strait, the south coast of China, and the east coast of Hainan, and to perform lifeguard duties if so directed by despatch. SNOOK returned to Guam for emergency repairs on 27 March, and departed on 28 March to rejoin her group. The patrol was SNOOK's ninth.

In accordance with her orders, weather reports were received daily from SNOOK as she proceeded westward until 1 April, when she was told to discontinue making them. On the same date, SNOOK was directed to proceed westward to join a coordinated attack group under Commander Cassedy in TIGRONE.

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BANG and BURRFISH already had been assigned lifeguard stations, and were not available for the attack group as originally planned.

Although the last message received from SNOOK by shore bases was on 1 April, TIGRONE was in contact with her until 8 April, at which time SNOOK's position was 18°40'N, 111° 39'E. On 9 April TIGRONE was unable to raise her by radio, nor was she ever able to afterwards. TIGRONE being unable to raise her may be explained by the fact that on 10 April SNOOK was directed to move eastward toward Luzon Strait, and on 12 April she was ordered to lifeguard duty for British carrier based air strikes. Her position for this duty was in the vicinity of Sakeshima Gunto, about 200 miles east of northern Formosa. No acknowledgement for these orders was required. On 20 April the Commander of a British carrier task force reported he had a plane down in SNOOK's vicinity, but could not contact her by radio. SNOOK was ordered to search the area and to acknowledge these orders. When she failed to make a transmission, BANG was sent to make the search and to rendezvous with SNOOK. Although BANG arrived on the scene and rescued three aviators, she saw nothing of SNOOK. When SNOOK had not appeared or been heard from by 16 May, she was reported as presumed lost on her ninth patrol.

Japanese anti-submarine attack reports available at this time give no information of an attack which might have been on SNOOK. There were mines in the vicinity of Sakeshima Gunto, but SNOOK had information of these, which had been gained from captured enemy documents. It is improbable that she would have gone into the minefields unless intentionally to rescue a downed aviator. She was not asked to penetrate any minefield in effecting any rescue.

A number of enemy submarine contacts were reported in the vicinity of SNOOK's lifeguard station during the period in which her loss occurred. During April and May 1945, five Japanese submarines were sunk in the Nansei Shoto chain. The circumstances surrounding SNOOK's loss suggest the possibility that one of these lost submarines may have torpedoed her while she was surfaced during her lifeguard duties and it was not reported. It is known that such tactics were suggested to Japanese submarine commanders by their superiors.

No attacks had been reported by SNOOK prior to her loss on this patrol. She was, however, responsible for sinking 22 enemy ships, totaling 123,600 tons and damaging 10 ships, for 63,200 tons, on her eight patrols prior to her loss. Her first patrol was from mid-April to the latter part of May 1943, along the China Coast from Formosa to the Empire. She sank four freighters, a patrol craft, a sampan and a trawler. In her second patrol, SNOOK covered the East China Sea area. She sank two freighters and damaged two tankers, one of the latter being a very large ship. During her third patrol, SNOOK covered areas in both the Yellow and East China Seas, and sank a transport and freighter, and damaged a sub chaser. Her fourth patrol was along the Empire trade routes to the south. Here she sank two freighters and damaged three more.

SNOOK went to the East China Sea again on her fifth patrol, and sank four freighters and a freighter-transport, while she damaged a fifth freighter. In the same area on her sixth patrol, SNOOK damaged one freighter. Her seventh patrol was in the Luzon Strait area and the northern South China Sea. She sank three freighters and damaged a fourth freighter and an unidentified vessel. SNOOK patrolled the Kurile region north of Japan on her eighth patrol, but contacted only three ships. Two were Russian and the other was not able to be attacked.



Crew of USS Snook (SS-279)

GREER FRED W	AVN MACHINIST'S MATE 2C	USN	TEXAS
GREER HERBERT AUSTIN	TORPEDOMAN'S MATE 3C	USN	ARKANSAS
GREER JAMES ASBURY	ELECTRICIAN'S MATE 1C	USN	CALIFORNIA
GREESON LOUIS W	FIREMAN 1C	USN	NORTH CAROLINA
GREGG JOHN HENRY	BOILERMAKER 2C	USNR	TEXAS
GREGG OSMER D	COXSWAIN	USNR	OKLAHOMA
GREGORIK RICHARD L	ELECTRICIAN'S MATE 1C	USN	MICHIGAN
GREGORINI VICTOR	BAKER 2C	USNR	PENNSYLVANIA
GREGORY ALLEN B JR	QUARTERMASTER 2C	USNR	CONNECTICUT
GREGORY EDGAR A	ENSIGN	USN	MISSISSIPPI
GREGORY GARLAND G	FIREMAN 1C	USNR	KENTUCKY
GREGORY GEORGE A	MACHINIST'S MATE 2C	USNR	FLORIDA
GREGORY JAMES A	SEAMAN 1C	USNR	NEW MEXICO
GREGORY JAMES P	SEAMAN 2C	USNR	SOUTH CAROLINA
GREGORY ROBERT A	RADIOMAN 3C	USN	NEW MEXICO
GREGORY ROBERT B JR	MACHINIST'S MATE 2C	USN	TEXAS
GREGORY STANLEY E	SHIP'S COOK 3C	USN	IOWA
GREGORY WALTER M	LIEUTENANT (JG)	USNR	TENNESSEE
GREGSTON BREVIS M	SEAMAN 1C	USN	TEXAS
GREIF MATTHIAS D	WATER TENDER 3C	USNR	PENNSYLVANIA
GREIFZU FREDERICK C	FIREMAN 1C	USNR	PENNSYLVANIA
GREIG WALLACE D	SEAMAN 2C	USNR	WASHINGTON
GREMILLION ROY C	MACHINIST'S MATE 2C	USN	LOUISIANA
GRENIER RAYMOND A	RADIO TECHNICIAN 1C	USNR	N H
GRESHAM JAMES HOWARD	SOUNDMAN 3C	USNR	ALABAMA

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