



My Favorite German



The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-Boat peril...It did not take the form of flaring battles and glittering achievements, it manifested itself through statistics, diagrams, and curves unknown to the nation, incomprehensible to the public.

— *Winston Churchill* —

AZ QUOTES



The reason that the American Navy
does so well in wartime, is that war
is chaos, and the Americans practice
chaos on a daily basis.

— *Karl Dönitz* —

AZ QUOTES

EXTRA

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Wednesday, May 2, 1945

HITLER DEAD

The German radio announced last night that Adolf Hitler had died yesterday afternoon, and that Adm. Doenitz, former commander-in-chief of the German Navy, had succeeded him as ruler of the Reich.

Doenitz, speaking later over the German radio, Reuter said, declared that "Hitler has fallen at his command post."

"My first task," Doenitz said, "is to save the German people from destruction by Bolshevism. If only for this task, the struggle will continue."

Churchill Hints Peace Is at Hand

Winston Churchill indicated in a brief address to Commons yesterday that peace in Europe might come before long.

Although he seemed to give any statement on the reported armistice negotiations, the Prime Minister acknowledged that an important discussion was pending before the House adjourned Friday night. The admission was regarded as confirmation that the negotiations are well under way.

In Stockholm, meanwhile, Count Folke Bernadotte, head of the Swedish Red Cross, gave virtual denial at a press conference that he was acting as go-between in peace negotiations between the Allies and the German government.

Count Denies Visit

"I have not seen Himmler during my last visit to Germany and Denmark, and I have not forwarded any message from Himmler or other authoritative German to the Allies," said the Swedish nobleman shortly after his return by plane from Copenhagen.

The count previously had been regarded as the intermediary through (Continued on Page 8)

Truman Names New Aide

WASHINGTON, May 1 (AP).—President Truman today appointed Edward Daniel McKim, an Omaha, Neb., insurance executive, to be his chief administrative assistant.



Adolf Hitler at his height
Story of Hitler's Life on Page 8

The announcement preceding the proclamation by Doenitz said: "It is reported from the Fuehrer's headquarters that our Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen this afternoon at his command post in the Reich Chancellery, fighting to the last breath against Bolshevism and for his country. On April 30, the Fuehrer appointed Grand Adm. Doenitz as his successor. The new Fuehrer will speak to the German people."

The talk by Doenitz then followed, Reuter said. Doenitz said: "German men and women, soldiers of the German Wehrmacht, our Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen. German people are in deepest mourning and veneration."

"Adolf Hitler recognized beforehand the terrible danger of Bolshevism," Doenitz said, "and devoted his life to fighting it. At the end of this, his battle, and of his unswerving straight path of life, stands his death as a hero in the capital of the Reich."

"All his life meant service to the German people. His battle against the Bolshevist flood benefited not only Europe but the whole world. The Fuehrer has appointed me as his successor. Fully conscious of the responsibility, I take over the leadership of the German people."

(Continued on Page 8)



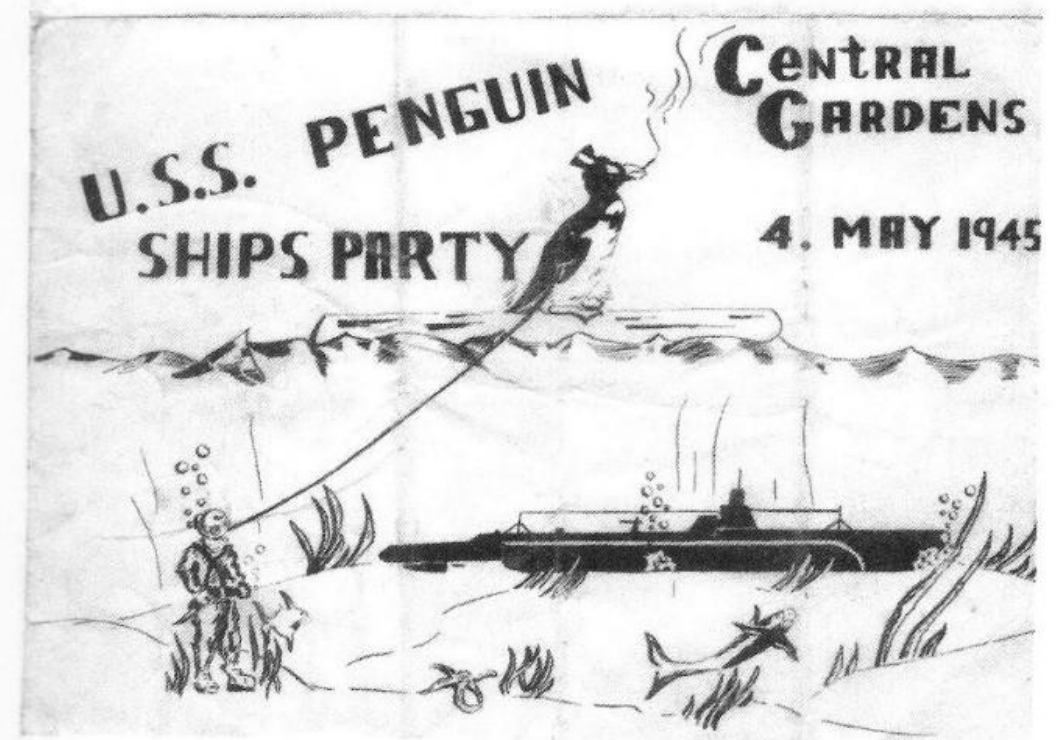


**Helmut Froemsdorf, the 24-year-old
commander of the U-853.**

On the evening of May 4, 1945, the officers and crew of the salvage and submarine rescue vessel USS Penguin ASR-12 were celebrating the apparent end of WWII in the Atlantic theater.



Buoyed by the April 30 suicide of Adolf Hitler and the appointment of Admiral Karl Doenitz as Fuehrer, the Groton, CT. based vessel would be called into action in just two days.



"NIGHT ORDERS"

- 1900 -- Set the maneuvering watch. Bartender and cook man your stations.
- 2000 -- Secure from maneuvering watch. Make ready the photographer. All hands to stations for pictures.
- 2015 -- *****SNAFU*****

That same morning of May 4, Doenitz knowing full well the end was near for Germany issued the following order: “All U-boats. Attention all U-boats. Cease fire at once. Stop all hostile action against allied shipping. Doenitz”



On that same fateful night of May 4, Doenitz issued his cease hostilities order to go into effect the next morning at 0800 Berlin time, the German submarine U-853 was lurking off the coast of R.I. seeking prey.



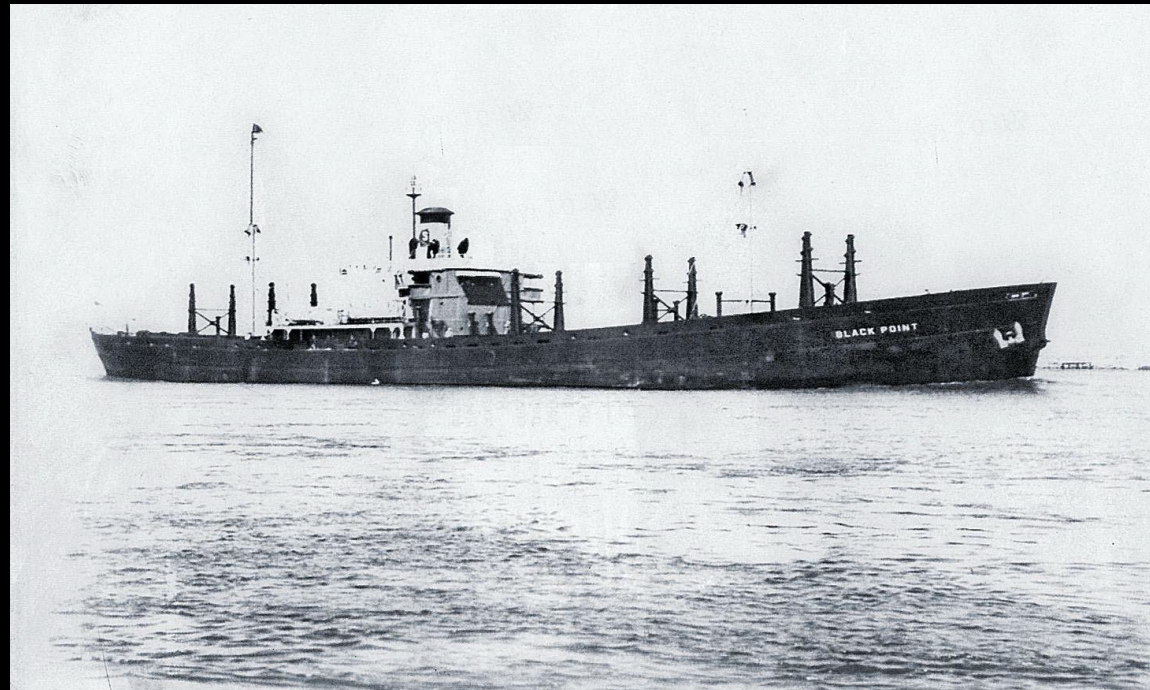
She was under the command of Oberleutnant Zur See Helmut Fromsdorf who was replacing Helmut Sommer who was badly injured on a previous patrol when 853 was strafed by American aircraft from USS Croatan while on the surface. After escaping from that almost certain destruction U-853' crew began to refer to her as “der Seiltanzer” or the Tightrope Walker while her American pursuers referred to her as Moby Dick due to her elusive nature.

Sommers' injuries prevented him from joining 853 on what proved to be her last patrol but despite his many wounds he had some words of advice for Fromsdorf before the latter left Germany for her last patrol. According to Sommer's wife in a 1974 letter, he told Fromsdorf that "the end of the war was near and he hoped so much that all the fine fellows of the crew could survive" and repeatedly urged him not to act frivolously.

While the Penguin's crew were enjoying themselves, S.S. Black Point, a 396-foot-long collier, was on her way from Virginia to Boston with a cargo of 7,595 tons of coal for the Boston Edison power plant. She was built in 1918 and originally named USS Fairmont by the U.S. Navy after being acquired for convoy duty to France to aid the American Expeditionary Forces during WWI.



She was armed with a six-inch gun and one six pounder for use by her five-man US Navy Armed Guard crew. After the WWI ended, she was sold to a private shipping company and renamed the Nebraskan and sold again in 1927 to C.H. Sprague of Boston and named S.S. Black Point. Mariners being a superstitious lot believe that changing a ship's name invited bad luck, in this case superstition became reality.



Four-Armed Guard crew survived the attack as did the remaining Merchant Marine crew including Captain Prior, all of whom were rescued by several nearby vessels which responded to the SOS tapped out by radioman Ray Tharl. The Yugoslavian freighter Kamen witnessed the attack and sent out an SOS and rescued the majority of Black Point's crew, the remainder were picked up by crash boats and brought into Point Judith and Newport.



The exploding torpedo was heard by Boatswain's mate Joe Burbine at Coast Guard station Point Judith who immediately notified Naval District HQ in Boston which relayed the message to Eastern Sea Frontier in New York City. They in turn dispatched the only ASW group in the vicinity, Task Group TG 60.7 which had left NYC earlier that day after escorting a convoy across the Atlantic.



TG 60.7 consisted of Ericsson DD-440, Amick DE-168, Atherton DE-169 and Moberly PF-63, all were on their way to Boston for overhaul. All had extensive ASW experience and upon receiving orders to the sinking area proceeded there quickly. Fromsdorf could not have picked a worse time or place to sink an American vessel, especially in such shallow water, approximately 100 feet. Captain Sommers, 853's previous skipper, told his wife Klara Marie that "He never had attacked a ship in such a situation. U-853 was lost from the beginning with such little water under her keel and so near the coast".



Moberly PF-63

In what seems like an only in Hollywood scenario, as the Atherton was helping to locate and destroy a German submarine just below her, a far more peaceful and compassionate operation was underway in her sickbay. German POW Private first-class Franz Kroner was undergoing an emergency appendectomy performed by Lt. Maurice Vitsky, a USN surgeon of Jewish descent.



Kroner had been transferred to Atherton in Gibraltar on 20 April for the trip back to the U.S. During the Atlantic crossing, Dr. Vitsky and Pharmacists Mate 3rd class Thomas J. Ciaccio cared for Kroner who was suffering from acute appendicitis. Kroner survived the operation and the war and died on May 5, 2008, sixty-three years to the day that Fromsdorf fired that fateful torpedo.

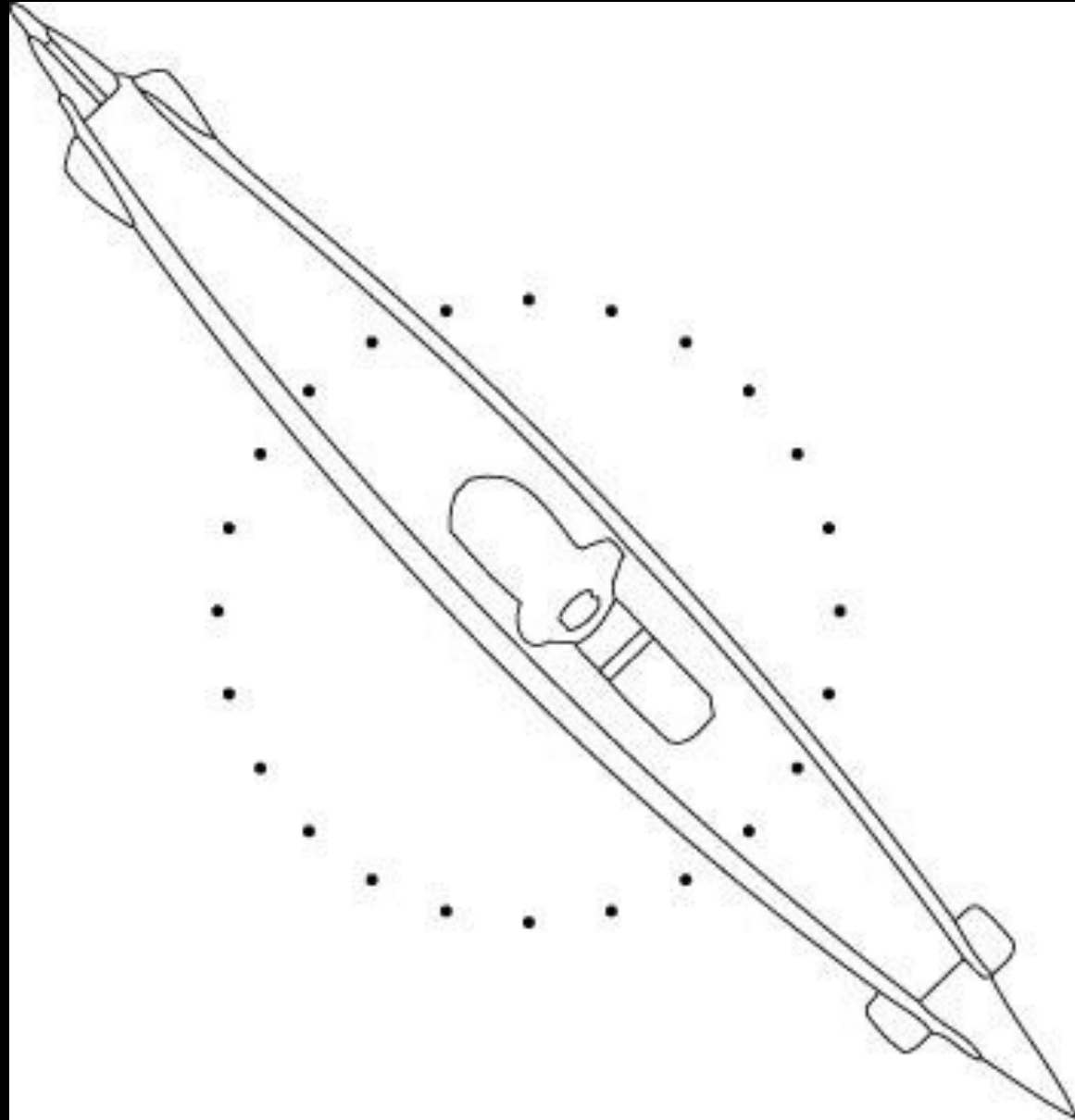


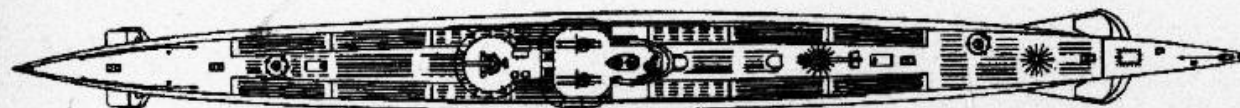


Keep 'Em Frying!

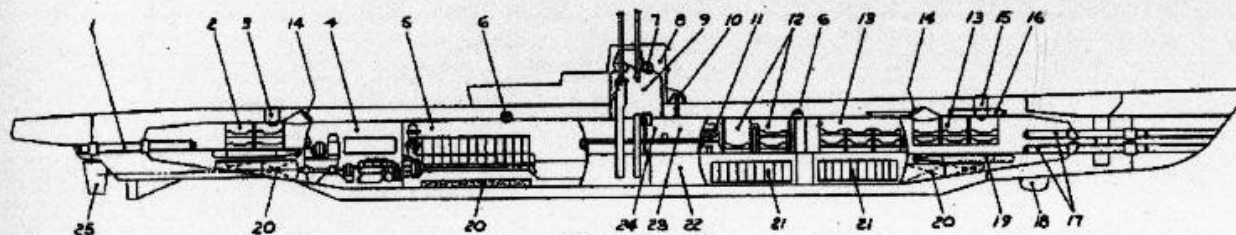




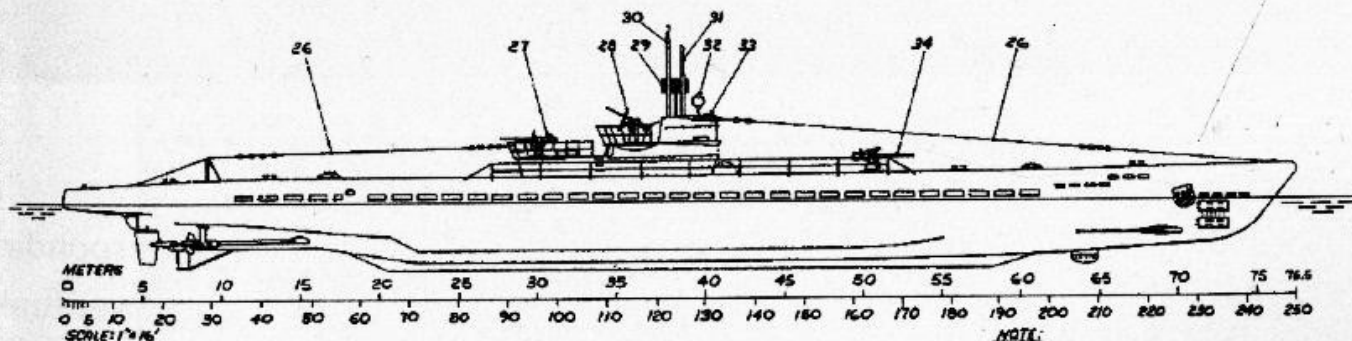




PLAN-MAIN DECK



INBOARD PROFILE



OUTBOARD PROFILE

- 1 AFT TORPEDO TUBE
- 2 AFT CREWS QUARTERS
- 3 AFT HATCH
- 4 MOTOR ROOM
- 5 ENGINE ROOM
- 6 HATCH
- 7 CONNING TOWER HATCH
- 8 BRIDGE
- 9 CONNING TOWER
- 10 MAGNETIC COMPASS
- 11 RADIO ROOM
- 12 OFFICERS QUARTERS
- 13 CREWS QUARTERS
- 14 TORPEDO HATCH
- 15 FORWARD HATCH
- 16 AIR FLASKS
- 17 TORPEDO TUBES
- 18 SONAR HOUSING
- 19 TORPEDO
- 20 FUEL OIL TANKS
- 21 BATTERIES
- 22 SONAR ROOM
- 23 RADAR ROOM
- 24 CONTROL ROOM
- 25 RUDDER
- 26 AERIAL
- 27 SMALL DECK GUN
- 28 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN
- 29 RADAR AERIAL
- 30 ATTACK PERISCOPE
- 31 SKY PERISCOPE
- 32 RADIO DIRECTION FINDER
- 33 TORPEDO AIMER
- 34 MAIN DECK GUN

NOTE:

ANCHOR ON STB'S SIDE ONLY



PARTIAL PROFILE - PORT
AT CONNING TOWER



CONNING TOWER

GERMAN SUBMARINE TYPE IX-C

U-853

LAUNCHED: 1940 DESCHIMAS, BREMEN, GERMANY.

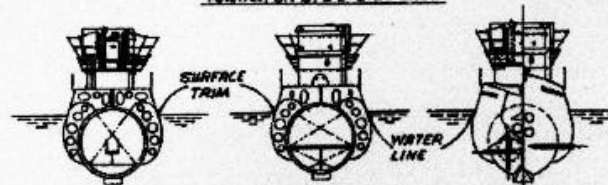
DISPLACEMENT: 1120 TONS (SURF.), 1832 TONS (SUB.).

DIMENSIONS: 250'-8" LONG, 14'-5" DIA., 21'-4" BEAM, 18'-1" DRAFT @ SURFACE TRIM.

COMPLEMENT: 48

ARMAMENT: 1-105 MM., 1-37 MM., 4-20 MM.

TUBES: 6-21" 4 BOW, 2 STERN.



SECT. AT 100
LOOKING FWD.

SECT. AT 150
LOOKING FWD.

LOOKING
FWD.
AT
WATER
LINE

GENERAL NOTE:

LOST OFF BLOCK ISLAND
5 MAY 1945 IN ACTION WITH
U.S.S. ATHERTON AND MODERLEY.

CHARLES A. ZIMMERO-1978-

USS Atherton







U853 interior while under attack





















Insignia on Piece of Chart





Open a medium













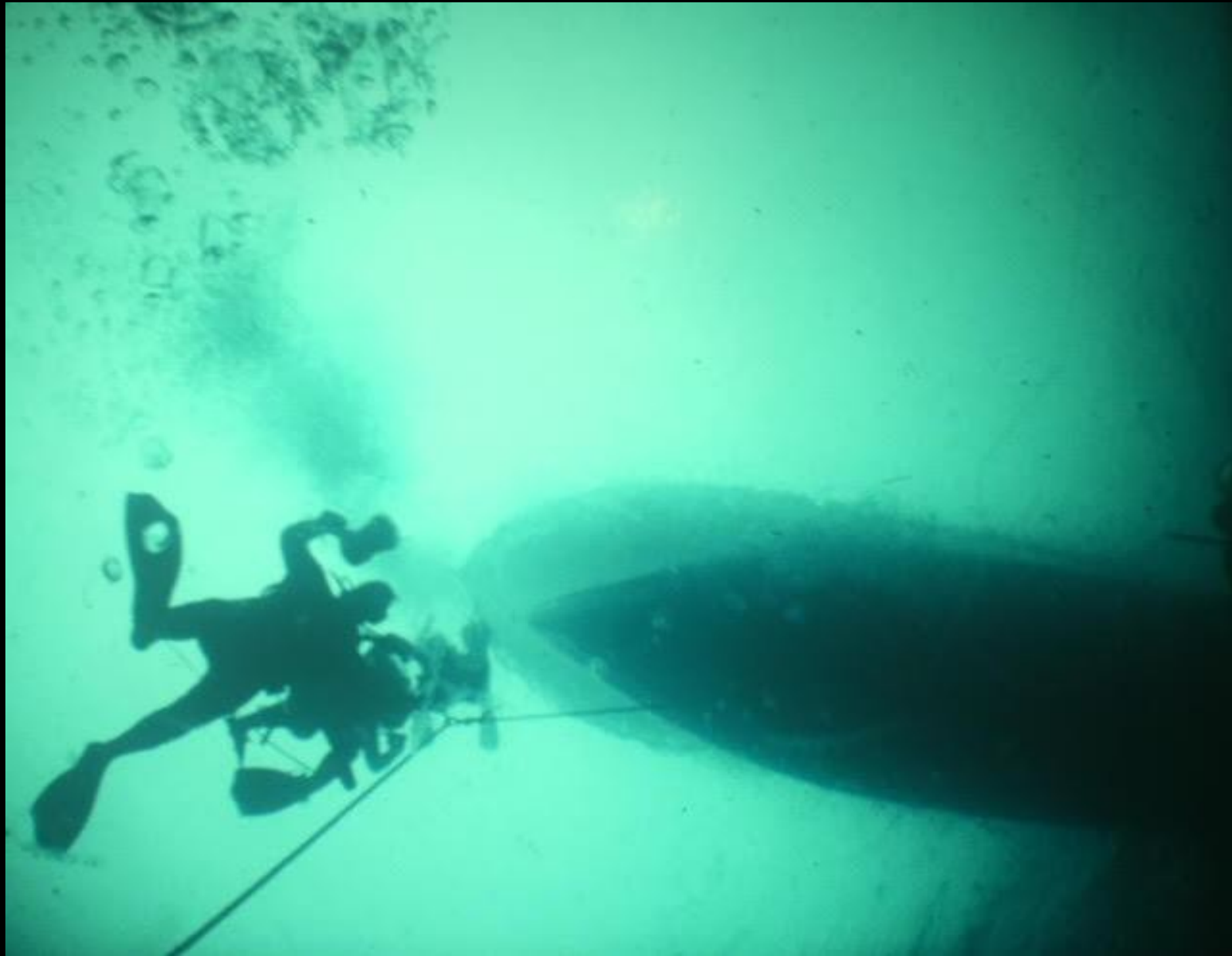


Squalus Marine Divers













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MISSISSIPPI'S \$1,000,000 BANDIT LOOT

NEW ENGLAND
BOTTLE BONANZA

H'ing FLORIDA'S
RAILROADS

REPAIRING
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THE
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MORE
TREASURE CLUES!

