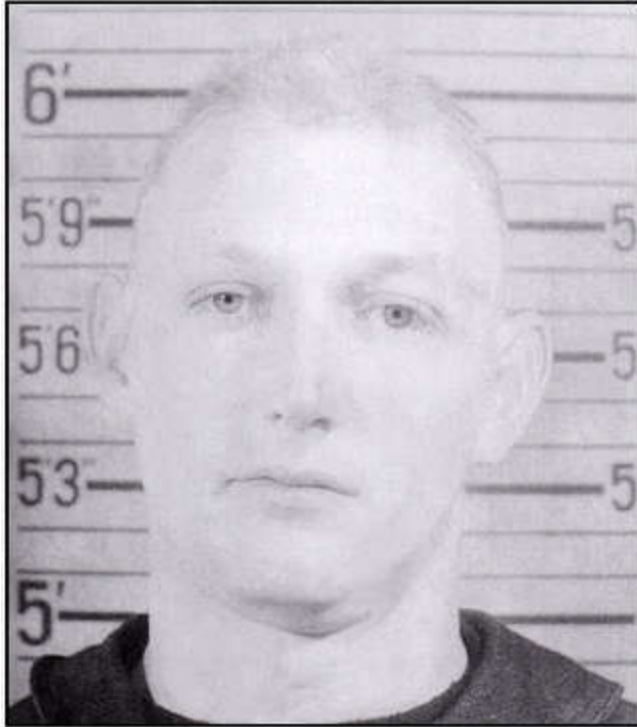


## Francis Aloysus Thoben Ship's Cook Third Class



Base New London on June 16, 1943, for assignment to new construction. He reported aboard USS Corvina at commissioning.

Francis Aloysus Thoben was born in Walkill, New York on October 27, 1916. He was the second child born to German immigrants, Herman and Rose Thoben. Herman was a helper in the railroad yard. Francis dropped out of high school after completing his junior year, going to work to help the family. Herman passed away in 1937 so in the 1940 census, it was just Francis and Rose at their home in Middletown, New York, and Francis was working as a grocery clerk.

Francis enlisted in the Naval Reserve (V6) on October 24, 1942. As a reserve he was sent to school after bootcamp to be a Ships Cook.

On April 30, 1943, Francis Aloysus Thoben married Florence Weitz in a ceremony in New London, Connecticut.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> Francis reported aboard USS R-2 for training and was then transferred to Sub

## James Leo Thomas Radioman Third Class



James Leo Thomas was born August 15, 1922 in New Albany, Indiana, to Bernard Leo and Verna Lee Thomas. Home was at 1830 Beeler Street, New Albany, Indiana until James enlisted. At nineteen years old he was working at the Indiana Ordnance Works in Charleston, Indiana.

James enlisted in the Naval Reserve (V6) on August 10, 1942 through Louisville, Kentucky. Being a reservist, he went to boot camp and then to Radioman school. It was nine months before he reported to USS R-2 on ay 19, 1943 as a Radioman Third Class. A month later he was transferred to new construction and reported on board USS Corvina at commissioning.

## Theodore Toms

### Motor Machinist's Mate First Class



Theodore Toms was born March 15, 1921, in Erie, Pennsylvania to Wasil and Marya Toms. Wasil was an Austrian immigrant who came to the US in 1913. Their home was on East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Erie. Theodore was the second of three children. He attended East High School in Erie.

Theodore enlisted in the US Navy on August 31, 1938 at 17 years of age. In 1939, the US Navy Fleet made a showing at the Worlds Fair in New York. In order to support the ships, a command established and personnel were assigned to the Worlds Fair itself. Theodore was one of the personnel sent there for his first assignment.

On November 8, 1939, Theodore was reported to the Naval Receiving Station, Philadelphia from the Worlds Fair. He was then transferred, on November 16<sup>th</sup>, to the USS Bernadou (DD-153). USS Bernadou had recently been recommissioned and was doing "Neutrality Patrol", sailing up and down the eastern coast.

On August 9, 1940, Theodore was transferred to the USS R-4 as a Machinist's Mate Second Class. The R-4 was served as training ship for the next ten years on



rotating duty between the New London Submarine School and the Yale University NROTC unit. An interesting incident took place during this assignment: according to one enlisted man (trainee), the submarine became stuck in the winter ice on the river and the trainees had to walk back to base.



R-4 departed New London on 26 May 1941 for Key West, Florida, and patrol duty in the Florida Straits with Division 12. Back at New London for the first two weeks in July, she returned to Key West at midmonth and until March 1945 alternated duties for the Fleet Sonar School with patrols in the Florida Strait and the Yucatán Channel.

On January 21, 1943, Motor Machinist's Mate First Class, Theodore Toms was transferred to SubBase New London for new construction. He reported aboard USS Corvina at commissioning.

## Carl Albert Trojan

### Torpedoman's Mate Second Class



Carl Albert Trojan was born April 17, 1915, in Lake Township, Wisconsin to Albert Jack and Mabel Dolly Belden Trojan. Carl lived at home until he was old enough to get a job. In 1940, Carl and his brother Michel were living in a rented room in Wheaton, Wisconsin, working as laborers on the local sewer project.

Carl enlisted in the US Navy through Minneapolis, Minnesota, on March 31, 1941. After training he is sent to new construction and reports aboard the USS Haddock (SS-231) on March 14, 1942, at commissioning.

On March 21, 1942, Carl married Alda Rosita Taraboletti in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He and his new wife set up a home at 31 East Pittsburg Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

After shakedown and training cruises off New England, Haddock sailed for the Pacific on 19

June 1942 and arrived Pearl Harbor 16 July. She departed on her first war patrol on 28 July, the first submarine to do so with the new SJ radar. This equipment added greatly to her power in seeking out and destroying enemy ships in darkness or reduced visibility.

Penetrating into the Bonin Islands–East China Sea area, Haddock attacked a freighter on the surface on 22 August, sinking troop transport Tatsuho Maru (6334 tons). Tatsuho Maru had suffered engine trouble and had fallen back; being left behind by her convoy making her easy prey for the new boat and crew. Haddock put a torpedo into her port side #4 hold where 10,000 gallons of aviation gasoline was stored. This caught fire and exploded. The ensuing damage took Tatsuho Maru down by the stern in five minutes, taking 26 passengers and 12 crewmen with her. In the Formosa Straits on 26 August Haddock fired four stern shots at Teinshum Maru (formally vichy french TAI SEUN HONG) but missed; the submarine swung around to bring her bow tubes to bear and sent the 2251 ton cargo ship to the bottom. Haddock patrolled off Okinawa before returning to Midway 19 September 1942.



Haddock's second war patrol, commencing 11 October from Midway, was carried out in the Yellow Sea. After two attacks without hits, the submarine torpedoed Tekkai Maru (1925 tons) amidships on 3 November, breaking her in two. She was forced to break off another attack on 6 November after damaging the IJA converted troop transport French Maru (5828 tons) because of

destroyers and search aircraft, but during the night of 11–12 November blew off the stern of cargo ship Venice Maru (6571 tons) east of the island of Honshū. Haddock damaged another ship on Friday 13 November, only to be prevented from finishing her off by escort craft, and she expended her last torpedo on Nichinan Maru (6503 tons) on 16 November. After a brief gunfire duel with her victim, (the merchantman sunk later that day.) the submarine headed for Pearl Harbor, arriving on 4 December.

Haddock departed Pearl Harbor on 28 December on her third war patrol, this time to the oceans south of Japan. She was attacked by two destroyers raining depth charges, and when she finally surfaced to clear the area, Haddock found herself surrounded by Japanese patrol craft. The submarine sped out of the trap just in time to avoid destruction.

A few days later, 17 January 1943, she sank an unidentified/uncredited freighter of 4,000 tons, and on 19 January Haddock detected six cargo vessels steaming in double column. Gaining attack position on the last ship, she scored two hits and sent her to the bottom. Aerial attack and depth charges kept her from bagging the other members of the convoy and bad weather forced Haddock to return to Midway on 17 February.

Haddock cleared Midway on 11 March for her fourth war patrol, and saw her first action on 3 April off Palau, when she encountered the converted fleet oiler Arima Maru (7,389 tons) fully loaded with 7,880 tons of heavy oil, protected by a corvette (postwar analysis identified the escort as the Destroyer Yuzuki.) The submarine launched one torpedo at the corvette, but the torpedo apparently ran under without exploding. Haddock then turned her attention to the tanker and succeeded in sinking her with a spread of three torpedoes. Following the torpedo tracks, the corvette dropped 24 depth charges, many directly over Haddock, causing her to lose buoyancy and she descended to 415 ft. The attack also damaged her conning tower and radar system. The following day she was ordered to terminate her patrol early due to the severity of the damage, and she returned to Pearl Harbor on 19 April 1943. On May 9, 1943, Carl was

transferred to SubBase New London to new construction again. He reported aboard USS Corvina at commissioning.