


NOTICE OF SEPARATION FROM U. S. NAVAL SERVICE

NAVPERS-553 (REV. 8-45)

1. SERIAL OR FILE NO. 632-20-51		2. NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) ZUCCO Peter (n)		3. RATE AND CLASS/OR Gunner's Mate Third Class USNR V-6		5. PLACE OF SEPARATION PSC NB TI SAN PEDRO, CALIF.	
RANK AND CLASSIFICATION		4. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 219 W. Haley St. Santa Barbara, Calif. Santa Barbara County		6. CHARACTER OF SEPARATION HONORABLE		7. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT Same as #4	
8. RACE White	9. SEX Male	10. MARITAL STATUS Single	11. U.S. CITIZEN (YES OR NO) Yes	12. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 12-1-21-Red Lodge, Mont. Carbon Co.			
13. REGISTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		14. SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD OF REGISTRATION Santa Barbara, Calif. S. B. Co.		15. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 1020 Quinientos, Santa Barbara, Calif.			
16. MEANS OF ENTRY (INDICATE BY CHECK IN APPROPRIATE BOX) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED <input type="checkbox"/> INDUCTED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONED DATE 12-31-41		17. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 12-31-41		18. NET SERVICE (FOR PAY PURPOSES) (YRS., MOS., DAYS) 04 01 14		19. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE Santa Barbara, Calif. Santa Barbara County	
20. QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATES HELD, ETC. See Rating Booklet 15142 Gunner's Mate Third Class Qualified Submarine Man		21. RATINGS HELD AS S2c S1c GM3c		22. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE WORLD WAR II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
23. SERVICE SCHOOLS COMPLETED None		24. SERVICE (VESSELS AND STATIONS SERVED ON) USS TRITON USS PELIAS USS GRENADIER USS OZARK LSU-2					

IMPORTANT: IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTOR'S SUBDIVISION, VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.					
25. KIND OF INSURANCE NSI	26. EFFECTIVE MONTH OF ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUANCE 2-46	27. MO. NEXT PREMIUM DUE 3-46	28. AMOUNT OF PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH 3.25	29. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO CONTINUE INS. Yes	
30. TOTAL PAYMENT UPON DISCHARGE \$ 300.79	31. TRAVEL OR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN TOTAL PAYMENT \$ 6.80	32. INITIAL MUSTERING OUT PAY \$100	33. NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER LT. G. L. OWENS (SC) USN		

34. REMARKS Point System Asiatic-Pacific Area American Area Victory Medal World War II Good Conduct Medal Submarine Combat Insignia, Three Stars		35. SIGNATURE (BY DIRECTION OF COMMANDING OFFICER) J. B. WARNER, LT. COMDR. USNR	
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36. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST EMPLOYER Student		37. DATES OF LAST EMPL'MT. FROM none TO		38. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D. O. T. NO. Student 000.000	
39. JOB PREFERENCE (LIST TYPE, LOCALITY, AND GENERAL AREA) Physical Instructor, Santa Barbara, Calif.		40. PREFERENCE FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING (TYPE OF TRAINING) Physical Education			
41. NON-SERVICE EDU. (YRS. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED) GRAM.: 8 H. S.: 4 COLL.: 0		42. DEGREES none		43. MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD none	
44. RIGHT INDEX FINGERPRINT 		45. OFF DUTY EDUCATIONAL COURSES COMPLETED None			
46. DATE OF SEPARATION 2-14-46		47. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED Peter Zucco			

FOR CONVENIENCE, A CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY NO. **7972830** HAS BEEN
ISSUED BY THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO BE USED FOR THE FUTURE RE-
QUEST OF ANY GUARANTY OR INSURANCE BENEFIT UNDER TITLE III OF THE
SERVICEMEN'S READJUSTMENT ACT OF 1944 AS AMENDED THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE
TO THE PERSON TO WHOM THIS SEPARATION PAPER WAS ISSUED.
VARO, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

MAR 26 1968

Honorable Service, USNR Discharge Buttons,
and Discharge Emblems Issued.

[Handwritten Signature]

THIS IS A COPY OF AN AFFIDAVIT IN THE MATTER
OF THE MISTREATMENT OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF
WAR AT THE ASHIO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP 9-B,
HONSHU, JAPAN. CERTIFIED BY STANLEY A. CHILDS,
SPECIAL AGENT, CIC, 6TH ARMY ON AUGUST 26, 1947

I, PETER ZUCCO, being first duly sworn, upon my oath depose and state that; my full name is PETER ZUCCO, My present permanent home address is 1020 Quinientos Street, Santa Barbara, California. I was a Seaman First Class, Serial No. 632205, on the Submarine "Grenadier" when I was captured by the Imperial Japanese Forces off Singapore about the 21 April 1943. I was taken to an Interrogation Camp, Panang, Malay Peninsula, where I remained until sent to Singapore in July 1943. I was held at Singapore until about September 1943, at which time I was taken to the Ashio Prisoner of War Camp 9-B, Honshu, Japan, through the Ofuna and Omari Camps, Japan. I remained in the Ashio Prisoner of War Camp 9-B, Honshu, Japan, until liberated by the American Forces in September 1945.

ASHIO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP 9-B, HONSHU, JAPAN

The Ashio Prisoner of War Camp No. 9-B, Honshu, Japan, was commanded by a Japanese Officer named Shigeru Numajiri, whom I believe was a Lieutenant. He was about 5 feet 6 inches tall, of heavy build, wore glasses and about 45 years of age.

We were housed in a large barn-like wooden building which was inadequately heated in the winter. There were two tiers built in this building. These tiers, covered with rice straw, sufficed as beds for the prisoners of war, who slept as close together as possible in the winter in an attempt to keep warm. There were four small stoves in each of the two barnlike barracks. In the very coldest of weather fires were built in these stoves for about two hours of the day, if there was any wood to be had. Even when the fires were going they heated a space only about four feet around the stove. We were given three wood pulp Japanese blankets which were never enough to keep us warm. Almost all of the men slept and worked in the same clothes in an attempt to keep warm. We had no change and so were unable to wash our clothes until the warm weather started. The camp had one large cement tub in which all the men bathed. This tub would hold about twenty men. Once a month we were allowed to bathe. The 280 or so men in the camp would take turns getting in to the tub and by the time the last man got in the water was filthy. The latrines consisted of partially

covered pits at the rear of the barracks and nothing was ever put into these pits to kill the larvae and other bugs which infested the place. The Japanese did nothing to stop the spread of fleas and lice which infested every prisoner.

Although Red Cross supplies were shipped into the camp in the Fall of 1944 we received none of the medical supplies which were contained in this shipment. I know there was medicine in the Red Cross supplies because I saw the labels on the boxes which the Japanese had stored in the camp. Early in 1945 I developed pneumonia and was running a very high fever, but the only treatment which I received was the hot towels administered by the Prisoner of War First Aid Men. To my knowledge the Japanese issued very little, if any, medicine to the sick prisoners in this camp.

The Japanese kept the Red Cross food parcels stored in the camp and issued them out periodically at the rate of about three eleven-pound boxes for twenty men. At this rate each prisoner got a very minute quantity of the several articles in the parcels. The Japanese issued a total of two boxes per man in this manner over a period of time. I saw Numajiri, the Camp Commander, eating Red Cross food on numerous occasions. He was very bold about it and made no attempt to hide the fact that he was rifling the Red Cross supplies. I saw the Japanese Sergeant, who was second in command the last three or four months I was in this camp eating Red Cross food on several occasions. This Sergeant was about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches tall, of slender build, about 25 years of age, and was second in command of the camp from about March 1945 until the end of the war. I saw several of the camp guards eating Red Cross food, but I am unable to identify them in any way.

In August 1945 Lou Pass, Wallace Hall and Jose Quintana were given a severe beating by the Japanese because they had been caught trading with the Koreans. This beating took place in my barracks and I witnessed it as did most of the other prisoners in the barracks. Numajiri the Camp Commander and the Sergeant who was second in command were present and participated in this beating, but I do not know their names and am unable to identify them. The

but I am unable to recall who administered these beatings or the details of the beatings. I can recall that Gallion died and that he had been placed in confinement, but again I cannot recall the circumstances surrounding the incidents.

I saw other beatings of prisoners of war by the camp guards but I am unable to recall any specific incidents, victims or perpetrators.

Early in 1945 I was sent to work in the nearby copper mine. I was forced to dig ore in the tunnels and load the small cars with the loosened ore. I worked in this mine until the end of the war. During this time I worked periodically under a civilian mine guard nicknamed "Blue Coat". This guard was constantly slapping and beating prisoners of war. "Blue Coat" would beat the prisoners with the heel of his hand and a saber-shaped club which he invariably carried. About March or April 1945 I was beaten by "Blue Coat" and two other mine guards whom I am unable to name or describe. At this time I was suffering from dysentery and had to make several trips to the latrine during the day. "Blue Coat" and the other two guards called me to attention and started slapping me in the face and yelling at me because I was always leaving my work. I told them the food the Japanese fed me was no good. "Blue Coat" then started beating me on the head and back with the saber-shaped club which he carried. One of the other guards started beating me with the handle of a cutress, a tool we used for raking the ore. I was beaten by first one of these guards and then another. Sometimes two of them would beat on me at the same time. I was knocked to the ground at least three times and then dragged to my feet and beaten some more. Several of the blows on my back were so hard that I suffered a severe pain for several months and I am still having a great deal of trouble with my back as a result of this beating. Several blows were struck while I was lying on the ground. I would estimate that the beating lasted for about 20 or 25 minutes before I was released and sent back to work. I had numerous bruises and welts on my body.

"Blue Coat" gave me another beating about a month after this. I was working in the mine and was unable to keep working because I had a very high fever and was very sick.

Shortly after this I was allowed to stay in camp because it developed I had pneumonia. I had been working very slowly and when I straightened up because I could work no longer "Blue Coat" started beating me with his fists and the saber-shaped club which he carried. He struck me several blows with the saber-shaped club while I was lying on the ground. I had numerous welts and bruises on my head, arms and body after the beating. This beating lasted about 10 or 15 minutes.

"Blue Coat" struck me in the face with his fist on numerous occasions for little or no reason. He struck me with one or two hard blows of his fist. I was not knocked down but the blows dazed me.

Many other prisoners of war were beaten by "Blue Coat" and other mine guards but I am unable to cite any specific incident, victims or perpetrator.

This is all the information I am able to recall relative to the mistreatment of prisoners of war at the Ashio Prisoner of War Camp 9-B, Honshu, Japan.

(Signed)

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

March 8, 1946

My dear Mr. Zucco:

I have addressed this letter to reach you after all the formalities of your separation from active service are completed. I have done so because, without formality but as clearly as I know how to say it, I want the Navy's pride in you, which it is my privilege to express, to reach into your civil life and to remain with you always.

You have served in the greatest Navy in the world.

It crushed two enemy fleets at once, receiving their surrenders only four months apart.

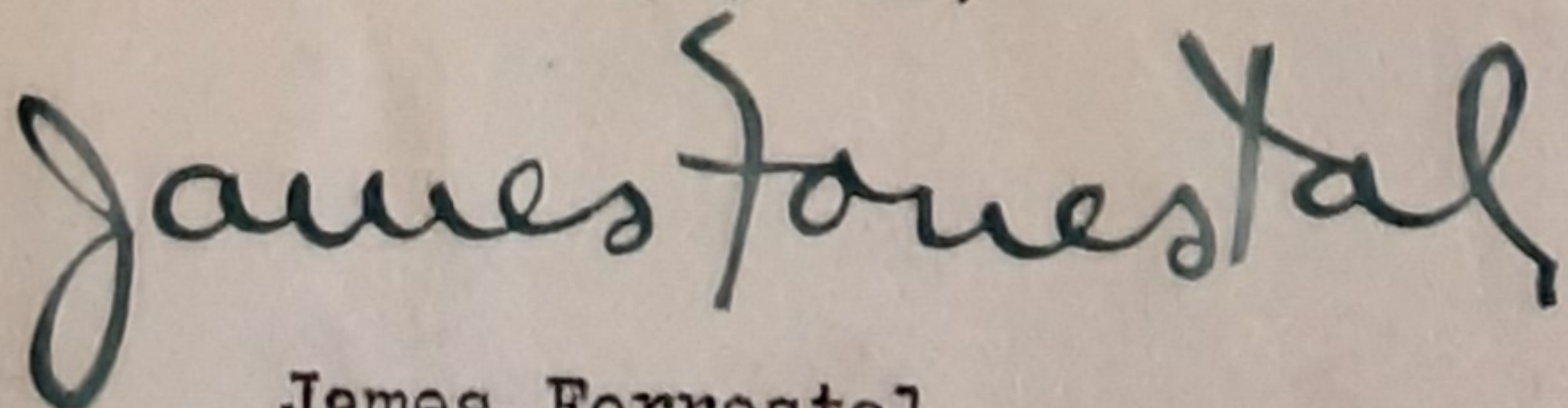
It brought our land-based airpower within bombing range of the enemy, and set our ground armies on the beachheads of final victory.

It performed the multitude of tasks necessary to support these military operations.

No other Navy at any time has done so much. For your part in these achievements you deserve to be proud as long as you live. The Nation which you served at a time of crisis will remember you with gratitude.

The best wishes of the Navy go with you into civilian life. Good luck!

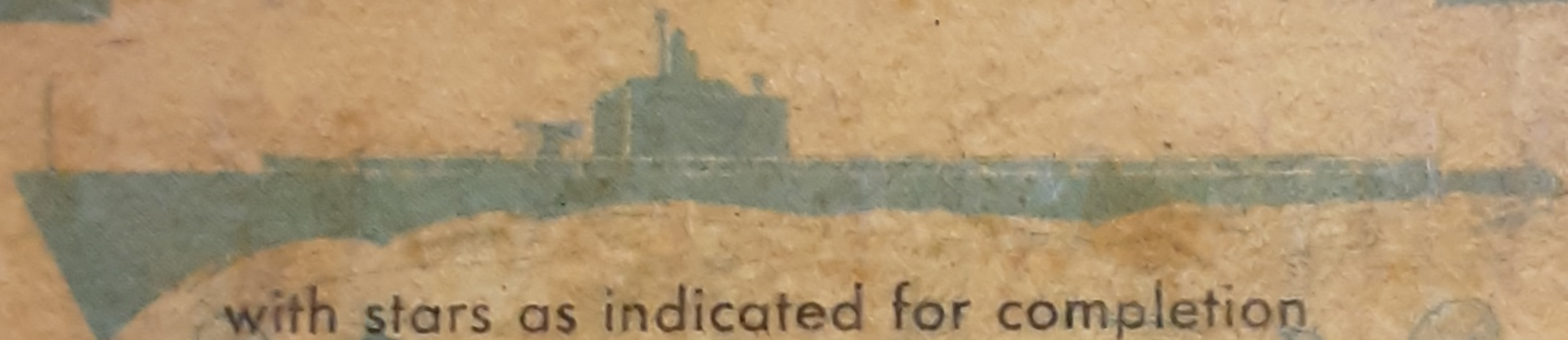
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James Forrestal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

James Forrestal

Mr. Peter Zucco
219 W. Haley St.
Santa Barbara, California

The Submarine Central Insignia



with stars as indicated for completion
of successful patrols has been

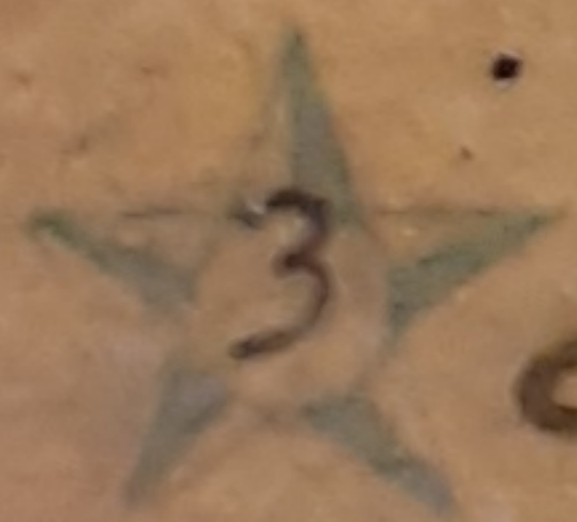
Awarded to:

ZUCCO, Peter, 632 20 54 20 27c USN

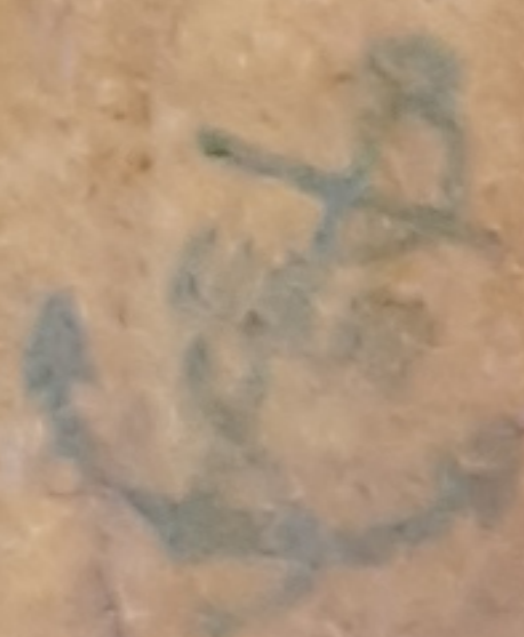
on 14 December

by F. M. SMITH,

Commander, U. S. NAVY



1945



This card is to be carried at all times
by the wearer of the
SUBMARINE COMBAT INSIGNIA

033000
Authority for Discharge

deu
ALNAV 395-45

FOLLOWING DATA TRANSCRIBED FROM NAVPERS-553, NOTICE OF SEPARATION:

Serial or file number 632 20 51

Date and place of birth 12-1-21 Red Lodge, Mont.

(Date)

(Place)

Date of entry into active service

12-31-41

Highest rank or rating held

GM3c

Service (vessels and stations served on)

USS TRITON

USS PELIAS

USS GRENADIER

USS OZARK LSU-2

Remarks

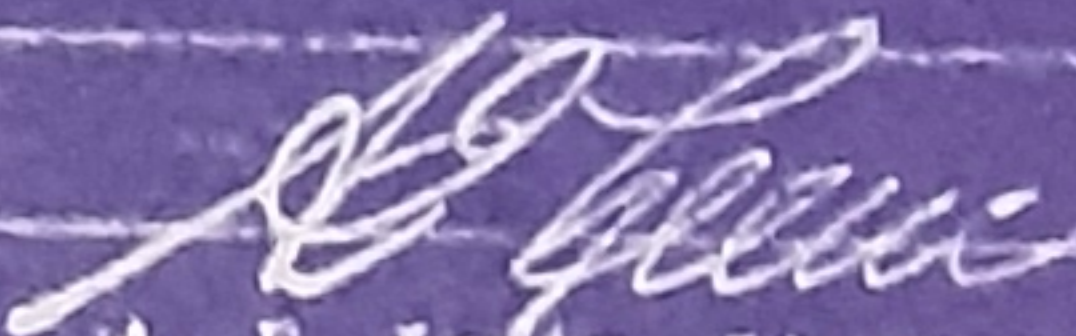
VICTORY MEDAL WORLD WAR II

AMERICAN AREA

ASIATIC-PACIFIC AREA

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

SUBMARINE COMBAT INSIGNIA, THREE STARS


A. E. Lewis, Lieut (jg), USN,
Asst. to Records Officer.

U.S.N. (R)

Other entries previously made hereon now covered by NAVPERS-553, Notice of Separation.



UNITED STATES NAVY
RATING DESCRIPTION

GUNNER'S MATE, Third Class

Peter Zucco 632-20-51

Name and Service Number

Gunner's Mate 3/c

Rating

Signature of Certifying Officer

L. H. Morgan

Date of Issuance

FEB 13 1948

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

NAVPERS 15142

Many other prisoners of war were beaten by "Blue Coat" and other mine guards but I am unable to cite any specific incident, victim or perpetrator.

This is all the information I am able to recall relative to the mistreatment of prisoners of war at the Ashio Prisoner of War Camp 9-B, Honshu, Japan.

PETER ZUSCO

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of September, 1947, at Santa Barbara, California.

JOSEPH P. STAPOWICH
Captain, TC
Summary Court

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) SS

I, Stanley A. Childs, Special Agent, CIC, 6th Army, certify that Peter Zusco personally appeared before me on the 26th day of August 1947, at Santa Barbara, California, and made the foregoing statement concerning war crimes.

Stanley A. Childs
STANLEY A. CHILDS
Special Agent, CIC,
Sixth Army

Honorable Discharge



from the

United States Navy

This is to certify that

Peter ZUCCO

a Gunner's Mate Third Class, USNR

U.S. NAVAL PERSONNEL SEPARATION CENTER
U.S. NAVAL BASE, T.I., SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

is Honorably Discharged from the

and from the Naval Service of the United States

this 13th *day of* February 1946

*This certificate is awarded as a Testimonial of Fidelity and
Obedience.*

W. L. GOTTENBERG

W. L. GOTTENBERG
LIEUT. (S) USNR
DISCHARGE OFFICER
BY DIRECTION OF THE
COMMANDING OFFICER

Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

CPL PETER ZUCCO, ER 19 373 682, QMC-USAR, WHO ENLISTED 16 MAY 1950

was Honorably Discharged from the

Army of the United States

on the 18th *day of* JULY 1950 *This certificate is awarded*

as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

Fred B. Lyle

Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

CPL PETER ZUCCO, ER 19 373 632, GMC-USAR, WHO ENLISTED 16 MAY 1950

was Honorably Discharged from the

Army of the United States

on the 18th *day of* JULY 1950 *This certificate is awarded*
as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

Fred B. Lyle

FRED B. LYLE
Colonel FA



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS GRENADIER (SS 210)

April 22, 1943

4 Men Died as Japanese POW's

Contributing writers: Hwa Mei Shen and Gou Kene Loon.



Patrolling in Lem Voalan Strait in the northeast Indian Ocean, on her sixth war patrol, GRENADIER under Lt. Cmdr. J. A. Fitzgerald met her end on 22 April 1943. The following account of her fate is taken from statements made by her Commanding officer and five of her men after they had been recovered from Japanese camps.

On the night of 20 April 1943, having had poor hunting for two or three days in Lem Voalan Strait (northwest of Penang on the Malay Peninsula), GRENADIER ventured out ten miles west of that place to see what she could find. She found two ships, but before she could attack, they turned away.

Figuring that they would come back to their original course in

an hour and a half, Fitzgerald planned an attack to meet them on their course at that time. About 15 minutes before time to dive and prepare for the attack, a plane came in on GRENADIER, and she dived. As she was passing 120 feet, a violent explosion shook the ship, and all lights and power were lost. She was brought to rest on the bottom at about 270 feet. The hull and hatches were leaking badly aft, and a fire in the control cubicle kept the ship without propulsion. A bucket brigade kept the motors dry, and later a jury rig pump was called into service to perform the task, while the electricians worked all day to restore propulsion. Heat and



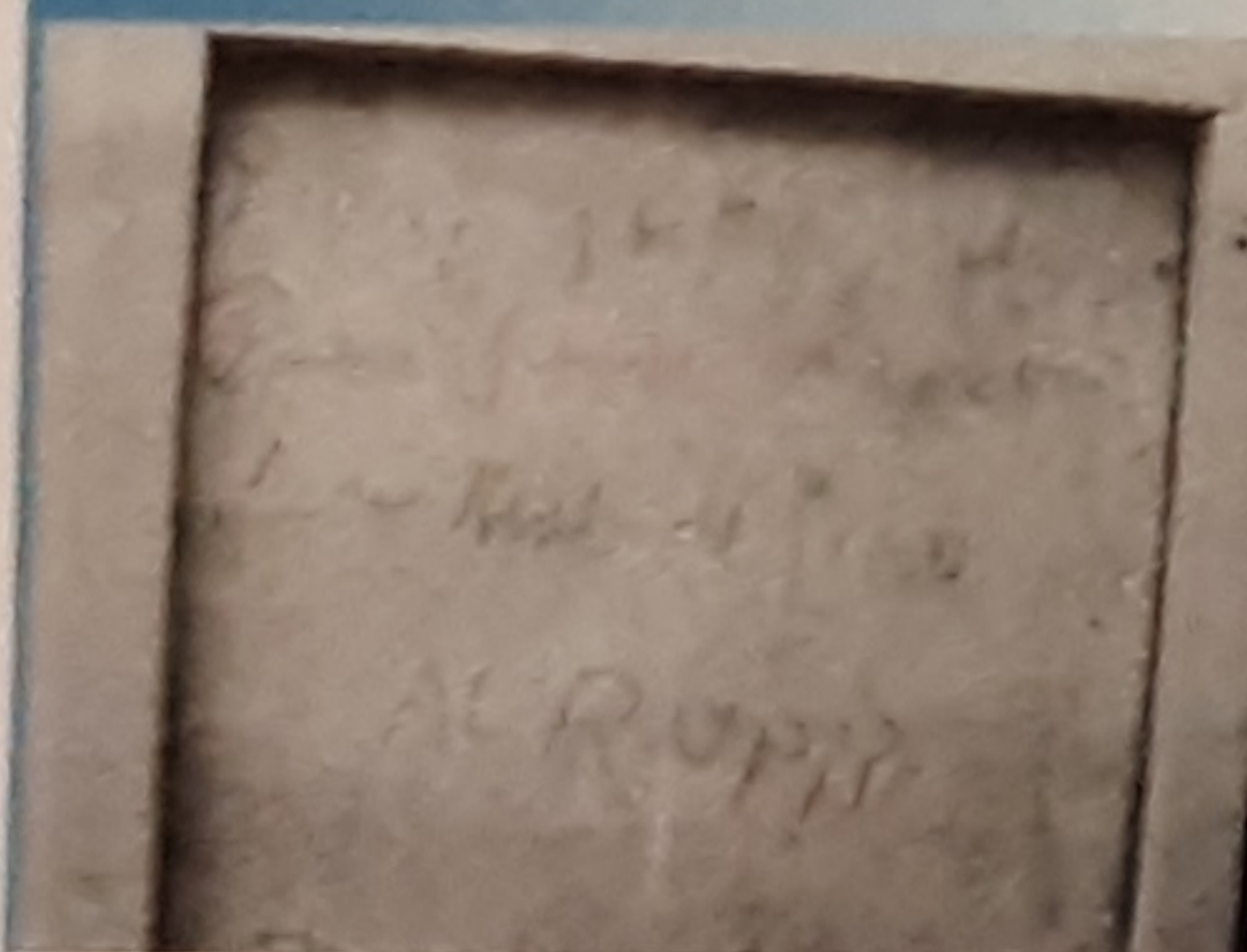
exertion prostrated several men, but the work went on.



At dusk, GRENADE surfaced and continued the work of trying to restore herself. Finally, they were able to turn over one shaft very slowly, but everything possible had been done, and no more speed could be expected.

Toward morning what appeared to be a destroyer, but was actually an 1800-ton merchantman and an escort vessel were seen on the horizon, and a plane was driven away by gunfire. The skipper decided to scuttle the ship then, and it was done, with all hands being taken prisoner by the enemy merchant ship. The statements of the men relate the brutal treatment they received at the hands of the Japanese and how their spirit was kept up by their Commanding officer. The enemy gained no information from this gallant crew, despite the worst they could inflict, and all but four members of the crew were recovered from prison camps at the close of the war.

Crewman Thomas R. Courtney described the two-year stay in captivity as a "living hell." The prisoners spent most of their time confined in small classrooms and cells in a convent in Malaysia, facing hunger and extremely harsh treatment. It was during their incarceration that the men scratched their names on two sections of a wall and one of the wooden doors (pictured below). In 1982, surviving crewmembers began sending money to the convent to support its work. Crewmember Robert W. Palmer began writing to the school board chairman, Sister Francis de Sales. Sister Francis replied, "For many years 'the writing on the wall' which we regard with such reverence was, to a certain extent, shrouded in mystery. All we knew was that these brave men were the crew of an American submarine, who suffered cruel torture on our premises at the hands of the Japanese."



These initial contacts sparked an exchange of letters between Sister Francis and the crew, in particular Palmer, as well as their family members. With the march of time, many of the players in the Grenadier saga are now gone. Sister Francis passed away on July 24, 1998. Be that as it may, the etchings and other displays in the classroom will remain a poignant reminder of what went on in the convent grounds during the war and the remarkable good that came out of that episode in the years that followed.

GRENADE's record prior to her loss was six ships sunk, for 40,700 tons,

and two ships damaged, for 12,000 tons. Her first patrol, beginning in February 1942, was conducted off the coast of Japan, and GRENADIER sank a freighter. Going to the Formosa shipping lanes for her second patrol, GRENADIER sank a large transport and a freighter. On her third patrol, she sank a large tanker. GRENADIER's fourth patrol was a mining mission in the South China Sea, and she damaged no enemy shipping. On her fifth patrol, this vessel patrolled the Java Sea area, and sank two small freighters and a sampan. In addition she damaged a freighter.

Sailors Who Died In Prison Camp Following Capture of USS GRENADIER (SS-210) 4-22-43

Doyle, C. MOMM1
Guico, J. G. STM1
Linder, C. F. MM2
Snyder, G. W., Jr. MM3

Survivors

Adkins, R. L. EM1, Albertsen, N. A. TM1, Andrews, D. "J" TM1, Barker, L. L. EM2, Barrington, C. W. TM3, Clark, L. R. SM1, Courtney, T. R. S2, Cox, G. C. S1, Critchlow, J. N., Jr. LT, Cunningham, W. M. J. S2, Embry, J. C. MOMM1, Erishman, C. A. CMOMM, Evans, R. R. RM3, Evans, R. E. SC3, Fitzgerald, J. A. LCDR, Fourre, G. R. EM2, Fulton, B. H. EM2, Garrison, R. J. SC1, Gunderson, J. H. S1, Harty, K. D. LT, Herbert, C. W. F1, Hinkson, R. J. EM2, Ingram, J. G. MM2, Johnson, C. E. EM3, Keefe, W. H. RM1, Keysor, R. H. TM3, Knutson, J. S. RM1, Landrum, J. D. EM1, Leskovsky, J. TM3, Leslie, R. G. MOMM1, Loftus, I. C. F2, Mc Beath, J. J. PHM1, Mc Coy, C. H. S1, Mc Gowan, D. E. F1, Mc Intyre, A. G. LT, Minton, J. A. QM3, O'Brien, E. A. EM1, Ouillette, V. A. F1, Palmer, R. W. Y1, Pianka, J. K. MOMM1, Poss, L. RM1, Rupp, A. S1, Simpson, J. E. S1, Stauber, G. F. MM2, Taylor, O. A. FC2, Toulon, A. J., Jr. LT, Trigg, T. J. MATT1, Ver Valin, C. H. MOMM1, Walden, J. S. GUN, Westerfield, C. W. CCSA, Whiting, G. H. LCDR, Whitlock, C. H. CEM, Wilson, C. M. MM1, Wise, W. E. GM2, Withrow, W. C. CTMA, Witzke, B. W. MM3, York, R. F. EM2, Zucco, P. S1, Zufelt, F. GM1

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Peter Zucca

Seaman 1st class

Serial # 632205

Submarine Grenadier

Captured about 21st of April 1943
off Singapore. Taken to an interrogation
camp. Panang, Malay peninsula.
Remained until was sent to Singapore
in July was held there until about Sept.
of 1943, at which time was taken to
the Ashie Prisoner of War Camp 9-B,
Henshu, Japan, until liberated by
American Forces in September 1945

Abbeduto's

of Peter Prisoner

experience

