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FROM THE QUARTERDECK

EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: UNITED BY THE GAME–SOCCER IN THE US NAVY



US Navy, Photo by Chief Petty Officer Shamira Purifoy

This summer, 11 American cities, along with three in Mexico and two in Canada, will host the world's best soccer teams as they compete to become FIFA World Cup Champions. The FIFA World Cup will bring thousands of fans to destinations across the United States, including Miami, Boston, Seattle, and Kansas City, to name a few, and demonstrates the sport's growth in popularity within the country. To capitalize on this exciting opportunity, the Puget Sound Navy Museum will be opening a new exhibit on June 10, titled "United by the Game: Soccer in the US Navy." This exhibit explores soccer's role in sailors' lives and how the game enhances team building and fosters relationships with foreign navies and local communities. If you are traveling to Seattle for the tournament or passing through the Emerald City, be sure to stop by and learn about naval history in the Pacific Northwest!

UNDER THE SEA: THE DISCOVERY OF THE USS *HERRING*

On June 1, NHHC's Underwater Archeology Branch announced the discovery of the wreck site of USS *Herring* (SS-233), a World War II submarine that was lost off the coast of Matsuwa Island, Japan. Launched in January 1942, *Herring* completed eight war patrols in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters, and is credited with sinking multiple enemy ships, including four Japanese vessels during its final patrol. On June 1, 1944, enemy shore batteries scored two hits on *Herring*, sinking the submarine with all hands. In 2017, the Russian military and Russian Geographic Society (RGS) reported discovering a submarine wreck in the area where *Herring* was hit. The data collected by RGS was analyzed by two American researchers and one Japanese researcher, with NHHC confirming the discovery. The submarine rests at a depth of over 300 feet and displays damage around the conning tower. A commemorative plaque was installed to honor those lost.

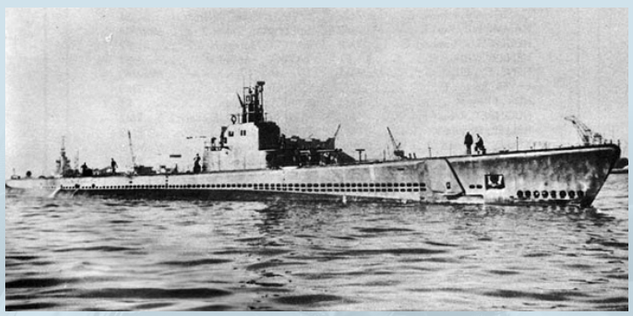


Photo from NHHC collection

SAIL 250: NEW ORLEANS

Last month in New Orleans, the Navy kicked off Sail 250, a multinational and multiport maritime festival. Making its first stop in the Big Easy, Sail 250 welcomed the public on board for once-in-a-lifetime tours of 12 tall ships and naval vessels from the United States, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Netherlands, Peru, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Sweden. The main attraction was the USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3) tour, which allowed members of the public to explore an active-duty Navy vessel. As part of the week-long festivities, NHHC representatives set up at Julia Street Cruise Terminal, where the USCGC *Eagle* and *Kearsarge* were moored. This prime location allowed NHHC to interact with over 3,600 people from around the world, sharing vital Navy history information and answering questions about the connections between the US Navy and the city of New Orleans. Sail 250's next stop will be in Norfolk—see you there!



NHHC, photo by Rafael Avelar

USS *CLEVELAND* (LCS-31) COMMISSIONING



NHHC, photo by Rafael Avelar

On May 16, Acting Secretary of the Navy Hung Cao officially placed the USS *Cleveland* (LCS-31) into service. NHHC attended the ceremony to educate the public on commissioning traditions and the history of the three previous Navy vessels named in honor of the city. With the previous *Cleveland* vessels serving in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terrorism, *Cleveland* (LCS-31) has a storied legacy to uphold. During the ceremony, NHHC outreach coordinators set up at the entrance of the event, handed out the official commissioning books, interacted with over 2,000 attendees, and discussed the purpose of the Command and all things Navy history. Commissioning events are important to NHHC's mission because they serve as an opportunity to engage with the crew on the history of the ship on which they are serving, helping instill pride in their ship's heritage.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT: OSTRICH EGG

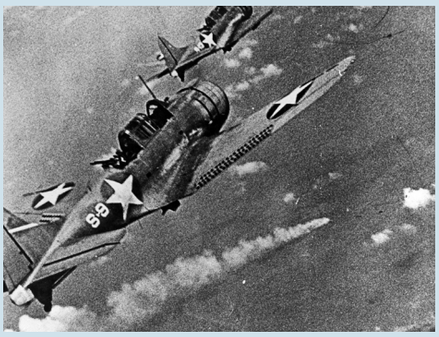
In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many people joined the Navy for the opportunity to travel and see faraway places in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. During foreign port calls, sailors often purchased various souvenirs. This ostrich egg, obtained and decorated by Seaman Andrew Raiche, was most likely acquired in Aden, present-day Yemen, in 1889. On the egg, Raiche drew several scenes he observed during his voyage, including two ostriches and a sphinx, pyramid, cobra, and a mongoose. This artifact not only showcases the reach of the Navy at that time, but also the type of mementos sailors brought home from their journey. This egg is one of the 250 artifacts highlighted in NHHC's upcoming book, *America's Navy at 250: The Historic Collections of Naval History and Heritage Command*, which commemorates the Nation and Navy's 250th birthdays. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting publication!



Naval War College Museum

NAVY HISTORY MATTERS: REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

June marks the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, the decisive naval battle that shifted the Pacific War in the Allies' favor. Prior to Midway, the Japanese military seemed unstoppable, conquering territories and inflicting serious damage on the US Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander of the Pacific Fleet, recognized the precarious situation facing the Navy. He knew that if his forces failed to repulse the enemy, the security of Hawaii would be in jeopardy. Navy cryptanalysts successfully broke the Japanese code and determined the time and location of the next attack, encouraging Nimitz to dispatch a force of 360 aircraft and 42 vessels to Midway to ambush the Japanese fleet. At the conclusion of the three-day battle, the United States was the clear victor, sinking four carriers and destroying 256 Japanese aircraft, allowing the Navy to go on the offensive.



National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 80-G-17054

EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: TEMPORARY EXHIBIT AT THE US NAVY MEMORIAL



Graphic by Darnell Surles

Although the National Museum of the United States Navy (NMUSN) is temporarily closed, history lovers in DC can still see one of the museum's exhibits! This summer, NMUSN opened a temporary exhibit called *250: The Navy and the Nation* at the US Navy Memorial near the National Mall. The exhibit includes an interactive display that focuses on notable sailors and their contributions to the service and features a timeline of important Navy events over the last 250 years. By partnering with the US Navy Memorial, NMUSN is able to showcase information that highlights Navy history near the Mall during the various America 250 celebrations. As NMUSM works toward opening a new museum, temporary displays are vital to honoring and sharing the story of the men and women who served in the Navy.

THE ORIGIN STORY OF "AMERICA" WITH NAVY ART

On May 19, NHHC hosted retired Rear Admiral (RADM) Paolo Bembo of the Italian navy to speak about America's namesake, the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. This special presentation was part of NHHC's year-long America 250 celebrations. Amerigo Vespucci was a sixteenth-century explorer whose cartography and navigational skills led him to conclude that Christopher Columbus had landed on a new continent. This discovery inspired the German mapmaker Martin Waldseemüller to publish a world map that identified the new continent as "America" in honor of Vespucci. At the conclusion of RADM Bembo's presentation, he highlighted another honor bestowed upon the explorer, the Italian navy training ship *Amerigo Vespucci*, a tall ship that was commissioned in 1931. Later this summer, ITS *Amerigo Vespucci* will sail to New York City as part of Sail 250 to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.



NHHC, photo by Kristina Higgins

SHARING KNOWLEDGE WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS

In May, NHHC's Conservation Branch presented to Cornell University students in the "Introduction to Color Science/Physics and Chemistry of Color" class, which guides them through an in-depth analysis of how color is created, assessed, and perceived and prepares them for numerous career opportunities. During the presentation, NHHC's conservators gave students examples of how the color of artifacts is analyzed, including hyperspectral imaging, chromochronology, and multispectral imaging. Information about the original color of historic objects helps conservators to protect them from ultraviolet damage such as fading and to highlight their historical significance for researchers and the public. Opportunities to work with universities like this allows NHHC experts to develop new partnerships, share best practices with students interested in STEM, and showcase the Navy's work in preserving naval artifacts.



NHHC, photo by Conservation Branch

NAVY HISTORY MATTERS: D-DAY–OPERATION NEPTUNE



NARA, US Coast Guard Collection

From the moment the United States joined World War II, Allied military leaders began planning the eventual liberation of Europe. In June 1944, the pivotal moment finally arrived after years of intense planning and training. To succeed, the Allies would need to carry out the largest seaborne invasion in history—a feat that relied heavily on the US Navy transporting Allied troops, bombarding German forces, and removing obstacles on the landing beaches. The Navy contributed over 2,000 vessels and no less than 60,000 sailors and marines to the invasion of Norther France. D-Day was an extremely bloody and risky operation with nearly 10,000 Allied casualties. It is important to remember all of those who fought that day, particularly those who perished on the beaches of Normandy. Their sacrifices were critical in liberating millions of people from Nazi rule and ending the deadliest war in history. For more information, please visit our website.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- **United by the Game: Soccer in the US Navy Exhibit Opens:** June 10, Puget Sound Navy Museum, Bremerton, Washington
- **Navy Week Omaha:** June 15–21, Omaha, Nebraska
- **Richmond SailFest:** June 12–14, Wharf Street, Richmond, Virginia
- **Sail 250 Maryland and Airshow Baltimore:** June 24–30, Baltimore, Maryland
- **Sail4th 250:** July 3–8, Port of New York and New Jersey
- **Sail Boston:** July 11–16, Boston Harbor, Boston, Massachusetts