

THE 52 SUBMARINES LOST DURING WORLD WAR II

During World War II the U.S. Navy lost 52 submarines with 374 officers and 3131 enlisted men. This list gives the names of those ships, the building shipyard, cause, location and date of loss, and some indication of what cover collectors might expect to find when searching for covers from these ships.

<u>NAME and NUMBER</u>	<u>YARD</u>	<u>CAUSE OF LOSS</u>	<u>LOCATION WHERE LOST</u>	<u>DATE LOST</u>	<u>CANCELS USED</u>	<u>SCARCITY OF COVERS</u>
ALBACORE SS-218	EB	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Nov 7, '44	C	C
AMBERJACK SS-219	EB	OD	Off New Britain	Feb 16, '43	C	C
ARGONAUT SS-166	PTS	SS	Off New Britain	Jan 10, '43	A	A
BARBEL SS-316	EB	OD	Off Borneo	Feb 4, '45	D	D
BONEFISH SS-223	EB	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Jun 18, '45	C	C-D
BULLHEAD SS-332	EB	OD	Java Sea	Aug 6, '45	B	D
CAPELIN SS-289	PTS	OD	Celebes Sea	Dec 9, '43	C	C-D
CISCO SS-290	PTS	OD	South Pacific Ocean	Sept 28, '43	C	C-D
CORVINA SS-226	EB	OD	Marshalls Archipelago	Nov 16, '43	C	C-D
DARTER SS-227	EB	GRD	Palawan Passage	Oct 24, '44	C	C
DORADO SS-248	EB	ODP	Canal Zone, Panama	Oct 12, '43	C	D
ESCOLAR SS-294	CRAMP	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Oct 17, '44	G	D
FLIER SS-250	EB	OD	Off Borneo	Aug 13, '44	C	D
GOLET SS-361	MAN	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Jun 14, '44	C	D
GRAMPUS SS-207	EB	OD	Off New Britain	Feb 5, '43	A	B
GRAYBACK SS-208	EB	OD	Ryukyu Archipelago	Feb 26, '44	A	B
GRAYLING SS-209	PTS	OD	Philippine Waters	Sept 12, '43	A	B
GRENADIER SS-210	PTS	OD	Malayan Waters	Apr 22, '43	A	B
GROWLER SS-215	EB	OD	Philippine Waters	Nov 8, '44	C	C
GRUNION SS-216	EB	OD	Aleutian Waters	Jul 30, '42	C	C
GUDGEON SS-211	MI	OD	Marianas Archipelago	Apr 7, '44	A	B-C
HARDER SS-257	EB	OD	Philippine Waters	Aug 24, '44	C	C-D
HERRING SS-233	PTS	OD	Kuriles Archipelago	Jun 1, '44	C	C
KETE SS-369	MAN	OD	Ryukyu Archipelago	Mar 20, '45	G	D
LAGARTO SS-371	MAN	OD	South China Seas	May 3, '45	G	D
PERCH SS-176	EB	SS	Java Sea	Mar 3, '42	A	A
PICKEREL SS-177	EB	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Apr 3, '43	A	A
POMPANO SS-181	MI	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Aug 29, '43	A	A
R-12 SS-89	FR	ODE	Off Key West, Fla.	Jun 12, '43	F	D
ROBALO SS-273	MAN	OD	Off Borneo	Jul 26, '44	G	C
RUNNER SS-275	PTS	OD	Japanese Home Waters	May 28, '43	E	C
S-26 SS-131	BETHQ	CCL	Gulf of Panama	Jan 24, '42	D	C
S-27 SS-132	BETHQ	GRD	Amchitka Is., Aleutians	Jun 19, '42	A	D
S-28 SS-133	BETHQ	ODE	Off Oahu, Hawaii	Jul 4, '44	A	B
S-36 SS-141	BETHS	GRD	Straits of Makassar	Jan 20, '42	F	D
S-39 SS-144	BETHS	GRD	Off Rossell Isl, Pac.	Aug 14, '42	F	D
S-44 SS-155	BETHQ	OD	Kuriles Archipelago	Oct 7, '43	A	D
SCAMP SS-277	PTS	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Nov 9, '44	C	C
SCORPION SS-278	PTS	OD	East China Sea	Jan 5, '44	F	D
SCULPIN SS-191	PTS	OD	Gilberts Archipelago	Nov 19, '43	A	A-B
SEALION SS-195	EB	BD	Cavite, Philippines	Dec 10, '41	A	A-B
SEAWOLF SS-197	PTS	OD	Off Morotai Is., NEI	Oct 3, '44	A	A-B
SHARK I SS-174	EB	OD	Molucca Sea	Feb 11, '42	A	A
SHARK II SS-314	EB	OD	Off Hong Kong	Oct 24, '44	C	C-D
SNOCK SS-279	PTS	OD	Off Hainan Is., SCSea	Apr 8, '45	C	C
SWORDFISH SS-193	MI	OD	Ryukyu Archipelago	Jan 12, '45	A	B-C
TANG SS-306	MI	OD	Formosa Strait	Oct 24, '44	C	C
TRIGGER SS-237	MI	OD	Ryukyu Archipelago	Mar 26, '45	C	C
TRITON SS-201	PTS	OD	Admiralty Archipelago	Mar 15, '43	A	B-C
TROUT SS-202	PTS	OD	Ryukyu Archipelago	Feb 29, '44	A	A-B
TULLIBEE SS-284	MI	OD	Off Palau Island	Mar 26, '44	G	D
WAHOO SS-238	MI	OD	Japanese Home Waters	Oct 11, '43	C	C

WORLD WAR II SUBMARINE LOSSES

LEGEND

SHIPYARDS:

EB - Electric Boat Co., Groton, Connecticut
PTS - Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
CRAMP - Cramp Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
MAN - Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wisconsin
MI - Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California
FR - Fore River Shipbuilding Co., Quincy, Massachusetts
BETHQ - Bethlehem Steel Co., Quincy, Massachusetts
BETHS - Bethlehem Steel Co., San Francisco, California

CAUSE OF LOSS:

OD - Overdue from Patrol
SS - Sunk by surface ship
ODP - Overdue from Passage
GRD - Grounding
ODE - Overdue from Exercises
COL - Collision
BD - Bombed in Dry Dock

DATE LOST:

Reference is United States Submarine Losses World War II,
CNO Washington DC 1963

CANCELS USED:

A - Used name cancels
B - Used Branch Number cancels
C - Used Type Z (U.S. Navy) cancels
D - Cancels issued but details unknown
E - Never had postal service but used Type F or FZ cancels
F - Never had postal service but used straight-line or corner
card markings
G - Never had postal service; no markings known

SCARCITY:

A - Common
B - Fairly scarce
C - Very Scarce
D - Covers virtually unknown

Note - scarcity refers to covers from the boat itself and not
commemorative covers (such as keel laying, launching
or commissioning) cancelled ashore or on other ships.