



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND  
805 KIDDER BREESE STREET SE  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5060

IN REPLY REFER TO

5720  
Ser HAD/0682  
July 23, 2015

John Greenwald  
The Black Vault



Dear Mr. Greenwald:

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST CASE NUMBER  
DON-NAVY-2015-007410

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of July 10, 2015, in which you requested ship logs for USS TREPANG (SSN 674) for the dates of February 1, 1971 through April 31, 1971, as well as the ship manifest and crew roster for March, 1971. Your request was received by this office on July 10, 2015 and assigned the case number DON-NAVY-2015-007410.

Unfortunately, NHHC only has cognizance of deck logs from Navy ships for a period of 30 years after which time these records are transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for permanent retention. If you wish to inquire about the existence and availability of deck logs for USS TREPANG, you may contact NARA directly:

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)  
Modern Military Records Branch  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Telephone: (301) 837-3510

Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) does not maintain ship manifests or crew rosters. Per the Navy Records Management Manual, these logs were not retained as permanent records. Master-at-Arms records are destroyed after they are two years old.

As responsive to your request, enclosed is the Command History Report for USS TREPANG for 1971. This is the only record in the custody of Naval History and Heritage Command that is responsive to your request.

A review of the enclosed report revealed that it is partially exempt from public disclosure under the FOIA. Specifically, the names of individuals serving in sensitive, overseas, or routinely-deployable positions were redacted under exemption (b) (6) of the FOIA, as release of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individuals involved in this incident or their next of kin.

Because this response constitutes a partial denial of your request, you have a right to appeal this determination, in writing, to:

Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Code 14)  
1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be postmarked within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter to be considered. A statement as to why your appeal should be granted should be included and the enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. Both the appeal letter and the envelope should bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

For the purpose of assessing FOIA processing fees, you have been categorized as a member of the news media. As such, you are entitled to 100 pages of duplication free of charge but are responsible for the payment of any duplication fees exceeding your free entitlement. In this instance, since the fees do not exceed your free entitlement, there is no fee charge for the processing of your request by this office.

Please direct any questions concerning this request to our FOIA Office at comm: (202) 433-3642 or email [NHHC\\_FOIA@navy.mil](mailto:NHHC_FOIA@navy.mil).

Sincerely,



M. S. WALKER  
By direction

Enclosure: 1. Command History Report, USS TREPANG (SSN 674), 1971.



**USS TREPANG (SSN 674)**  
**FLEET POST OFFICE**  
**NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501**

SSN674:01:s1  
5750

Ser: 281

30 JUN 1972

From: Commanding Officer, USS TREPANG (SSN 674)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History for period January 1971 - January 1972

1. As required by reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

  
D. R. SACKETT

USS TREPANG (SSN 674)  
Fleet Post Office  
New York, New York 09501

COMMAND HISTORY  
JANUARY 1971 - JANUARY 1972

USS TREPANG is a 637 Class Fast Attack submarine commissioned on 14 August 1970. TREPANG is presently attached to Submarine Development Group TWO and homeported at the Naval Submarine Base, Groton, Connecticut.

In addition to the normal mission of a Nuclear Fast Attack submarine, TREPANG is engaged in the testing of prototype sonar systems. A great deal of work in 1971 was devoted to the improvement of sonar hardware, software, and operating techniques.

Commander Dean R. SACKETT, USN has served as Commanding Officer since new construction. The present Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Robert R. BEATON, relieved in August 1971. The Department Heads during 1971 were: Navigator/Operations Officer; Lieutenant Commander (b) (6) (b) (6) Engineer Officer; Lieutenant Commander (b) (6) (b) (6) Weapons Officer; Lieutenant (b) (6) (b) (6) and Supply Officer, Ensign (b) (6) (b) (6)

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 1971

During January TREPANG operated in the local Narragansett Bay area in Submarine versus Submarine evolutions and prepared for deployment to the Arctic Ocean. The first half of February was spent in upkeep at the Naval Submarine Base. The last half of February found the crew of TREPANG making final preparations for her trip in the Arctic Ocean.

From 22 February to 22 March TREPANG operated under the Arctic ice. The purpose of this trip was manifold; extensive testing was accomplished which provided valuable data for new and improved weapons systems. TREPANG carried with her the noted ice scientist Mr Walter Whittman who performed many experiments concerning the movement, composition and geological history of the Arctic Ice Cap. TREPANG proved her ability to operate safely among the navigational and environmental hazards north of the Arctic Circle.

From 25 - 27 March TREPANG was moored for a port visit in Faslane, Scotland.

After completing a successful deployment, TREPANG arrived back in New London on 6 April.

On 22 April TREPANG departed for Norfolk, Virginia where the officers and crew were honored by a visit for lunch from the Secretary of Defense, Melvin R. Laird, his wife and friends.

On 27 April TREPANG proceeded to St Croix, Virgin Islands. From 2 May until 8 May TREPANG participated in weapons system acceptance and operational trials. During this time TREPANG made a port visit to St Croix.

TREPANG arrived in New London on 14 May and proceeded to the Electric Boat Company at Groton for a Post Shakedown Availability. The scope of this period was to make changes and improvements to various machinery components and systems.

After completion of Post Shakedown Availability on 16 July, TREPANG spent the week of 19 - 24 July in Prospective Commanding Officer operations in the local operating areas. These exercises consisted mainly of training new Commanding Officers in Submarine versus Submarine and Submarine versus Surface Ship tactics.

TREPANG returned to New London on 1 August and spent the first part of the month in type training in the local operating areas.

During the week of 23 - 30 August the ship participated in various sonar tests in the Tongue of the Ocean near Nassau in the British West Indies.

During the period 30 August to 2 September the ship visited Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The period from 18 October to 26 November was spent in type training and sonar calibration in preparation for an upcoming deployment.

In late November TREPANG departed her homeport for an extended deployment in the North Atlantic. During this deployment the ship demonstrated its ability to operate for long periods of time in a completely independent manner.

A Documentary Annex to this Basic History, enclosure (1), is the Roster of Officers and Crew who were assigned at the commissioning of USS TREPANG.