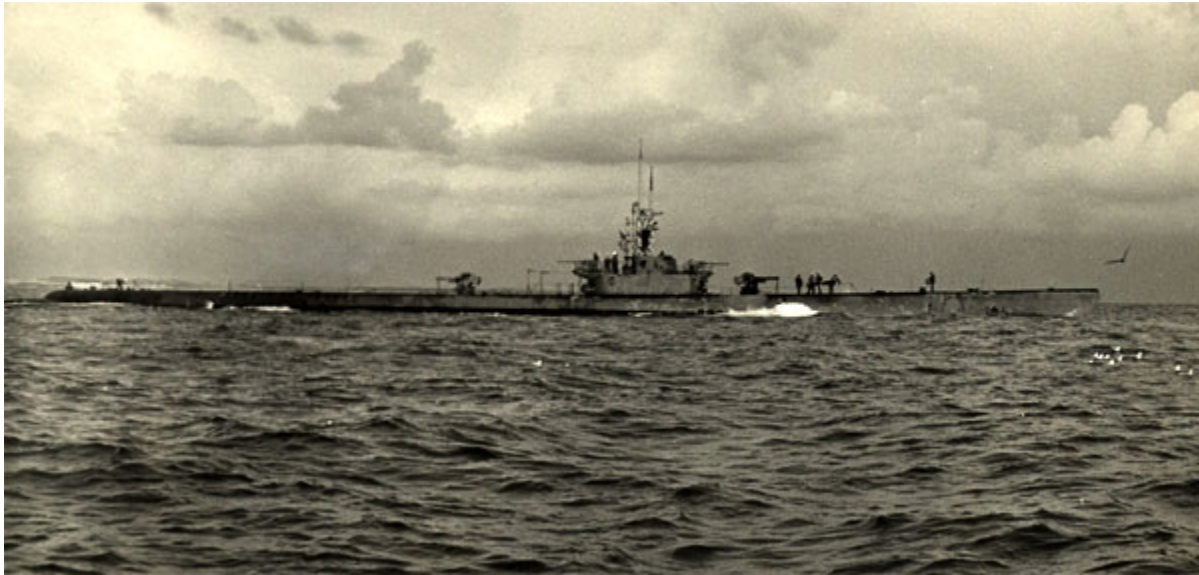


Holt, Clemson Alumnus, Annapolis Graduate, On Eternal Patrol



We tend to think of Mondays as routine, back-to-work days following relaxing weekends, but no day was routine in the submarine service during World War II. Submariners experienced the highest mortality rate of any branch of the US military during the war. On this particular Monday, the officers and crew of the USS *Bullhead* were patrolling Indonesia's Lombok Strait, searching for the dwindling ships of Japan's Imperial Navy and its merchant fleet. Lieutenant Commander Edward R. Holt, Jr. of Charlotte, NC was captain of the *Bullhead*. Just a month past his 30th birthday, Holt was reportedly the youngest submarine skipper in the Navy.

Holt entered Clemson as a member of the College's Class of '37 in the fall of 1933. After completing his sophomore year as an architecture major, Holt gained admission to the United States Naval Academy. He entered Annapolis in the summer of 1935 and graduated in 1939. By then, political tensions in the Pacific were rising in the face of territorial expansion by the Japanese. Once hostilities broke out, Holt made eleven war patrols aboard various submarines.



On the last day of July 1945, Holt sailed the *Bullhead* out of Fremantle, Australia to patrol in a wolf pack with two other US submarines, the *Capitaine* and the *Puffer*. The three were to patrol in the Java Sea until September 5th and then head for Subic Bay in the Philippines. The *Bullhead*, commissioned in December 1944, was on its third war patrol. A *Balao*-class submarine, the *Bullhead* on its previous patrols had rescued crew members of Army Air Force bombers unable to return to their bases; shelled Japanese radar installations; and sunk 1800 tons of enemy shipping.

On August 6, the *Bullhead* reported it had passed through Lombok Strait, one of the main passages that exchanges water between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The Strait, lying just off the coast of Bali, is surrounded by volcanic mountain peaks. Later that same day, a Japanese Army anti-submarine aircraft attacked the *Bullhead* in the same area. Using depth charges, the aircraft claimed two hits and witnessed gushing air bubbles and oil in the water. The proximity of Bali's peaks likely shortened the effective range of the *Bullhead's* radar,

preventing the submarine from receiving warning of the impending attack until too late. *Capitaine* and *Puffer* had no further contact with *Bullhead* and the ship, its officers and crew were reported lost.

Edward R. Holt, Jr. was awarded the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart. He and his shipmates were never recovered and are memorialized at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. Holt was survived by his wife of less than two years, Mary Herndon Davis Holt, his parents and sister.

HOLMES LOUIS C	SEAMAN 2C	USNR	ALABAMA
HOLMES WILLIAM A	MACHINIST'S MATE 1C	USNR	WASHINGTON
HOLMES WILLIAM E JR	SEAMAN 1C	USN	MARYLAND
HOLMES WILLIAM G	FIREMAN 1C	USNR	TEXAS
HOLMES WILLIS C	MOTOR MACHINIST'S MATE 2C	USNR	MISSOURI
HOLMSTROM TERRY W	SEAMAN 1C	USNR	FLORIDA
HOLQUIST DONALD E W	CHIEF MTR MACHINIST'S MATE	USN	CAL
HOLSTE FREDRICK W	SEAMAN 1C	USN	OREGON
HOLSTEN CLAUD C	LIEUTENANT	USNR	WASHINGTON
HOLT CHARLIE B	SEAMAN 1C	USNR	VIRGINIA
HOLT CLIFFORD D	RADARMAN 3C	USNR	CALIFORNIA
HOLT EDWARD R JR	LT COMMANDER	USN	NORTH CAROLINA
HOLT J C MELVIN	SEAMAN 2C	USN	TENNESSEE
HOLT JACK L	SEAMAN 1C	USNR	CALIFORNIA
HOLT JAMES W JR	CHIEF ELECTRICIAN'S MATE	USN	GEORGIA
HOLT JOHN G	QUARTERMASTER 3C	USNR	GEORGIA
HOLT LEO W	ELECTRICIAN'S MATE 3C	USNR	ILLINOIS
HOLT WILLIAM A	LIEUTENANT (JG)	USNR	DELAWARE
HOLT WILLIAM F	AVN ORDNANCEMAN 2C	USN	CALIFORNIA
HOLT WILLIAM M	LIEUTENANT (JG)	USNR	MONTANA

A little over three thousand miles away on that same Monday, August 6, 1945, a lone American bomber flew high over the city of Hiroshima. Its cargo, nicknamed "Little Boy," ushered in a new era of warfare and convinced the Japanese leadership to consider surrender. The end of the war would come too late for Holt, his officers and crew. The *Bullhead* was the last US Navy ship sunk during World War II and remains to this day, in submariners' terms, on Eternal Patrol.