

POW / MIA PROFILES

The purpose of the State POW/MIA Committee is to “provide increased awareness of POW / MIAs, to organize the Department and Posts’ POW / MIA activities and to provide education to the public”. To realize this duty a profile of a WI resident who is or has been classified as POW / MIA will be presented each month for your reflection. It is with great respect that we present this month’s Profile.

LOST AT SEA

On 1 August 1943, the USS GOLET (SS361) was launched from the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company, Manitowoc WI. On 30 November 1943, she was officially commissioned with Cmdr. James Clement in command. The USS GOLET departed Manitowoc on 19 December 1943 via the Mississippi River for New Orleans, arriving on the 28th. Her crew of 82 included S2 Herbert C.Goetz , a local from the area around Hartford, WI.

After shakedown training in Panama and final battle practice in Hawaiian waters, GOLET departed Pearl Harbor 18 March 1944 for her maiden war patrol off the Kurile Island chain, Southern Hokkaido and Eastern Honshu, Japan. Severe combinations of fog, rain, and ice were encountered and only one ship worth a torpedo came into view. This enemy proved too fast for GOLET to gain torpedo range and she returned to Midway on 3 May 1944.

Under the new command of Lt. Cmdr J.S. Clark, GOLET leaves Midway en route to her second patrol on 28 May 1944. Their mission was to patrol the entire area off the Northeast coast of Honshu. The patrol was to depart the assigned patrol area on 5 July and was expected back at Midway on 12 or 13 July. On 9 July a message was sent to GOLET, which required an acknowledgment, but no such acknowledgment was received. On 11 July, a sharp lookout was posted at Midway for a submarine coming in without being able to transmit. By 26 July, the ship had not returned and was reported as presumed lost.

In reports covering Japanese antisubmarine attacks, made since the war’s end, one is recorded as having been on 14 June 1944. This attack report is considered to explain

GOLET's loss since the enemy, in his report, states "on the spot of fighting we later discovered corks, raft, etc. and heavy oil pool of 50 by 5,200 meters."

The Committee wishes to thank Franklin Tennies, member of Courtney-Carr-Milner Post 19, Hartford for bringing this story to our attention. S2 Herbert C. Goetz was the brother of his aunt, Verabelle Tennies of Cedar Lake, WI. Please contact Tom Ingram, Chairman, State POW/MIA Committee at tingram5@wi.rr.com or Robert Miller, Vice Chairman at bmillerplake@charter.net, 262-279-6429 if you have any information to help our endeavor. Thank you !