



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER SUBMARINE GROUP TEN

1050 USS GEORGIA AVENUE

KINGS BAY, GEORGIA 31547-2609

23 April 1996

Exercise Tiger Association
c/o Walter Domanski, Jr.
215 W. 22nd St.
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008

Dear Walt, Angelo, Bud, Earl, Jack, Ray, Tom,
all of the more than 4,000 soldiers and
Sailors who participated in Exercise Tiger,
and especially... 'Guns',

I am very proud and honored to have been a part of your Exercise Tiger Memorial Ceremonies for the 49th, 50th, and 51st anniversaries of the battle. Tiger was an event that I and my staff in the Public Affairs Office at Naval Base Philadelphia looked forward to each year. Yours is an invigorating spirit. Thank you for sharing it with us. I wish I could join you again this year, but the Naval Submarine Base in Kings Bay, Georgia is just a little too far away.

I think it is safe to say all of you who are Tiger Veterans share something with our Submarine Veterans of World War II and that is your Silent Service. During the war, secrecy kept your sacrifice from the American public. Exercise Tiger was hidden from the world under a blanket of operational security. Yet your tremendous efforts and the silence that followed, set the stage for the greatest amphibious landing the world has ever seen. You and your brothers in arms gave 'Ike' what he needed to kick the Nazi's butts off the beaches of Normandy, across the hedgerows of France and all the way to the Elbe. When Allied Headquarters finally did release your story, the very landings you made possible, overshadowed it.

In much the same fashion out in the Pacific the Submarine Service toiled in silence. Like Tiger, war time secrecy precluded much of the publicity that other units received. Like you, their accomplishments were staggering. With only two percent of the Navy's total World War II manpower, the Submarine Service sank five and a half million tons of Japanese shipping, an astounding 55 percent. And also like Tiger, 3,505 of them paid for those victories with their lives.

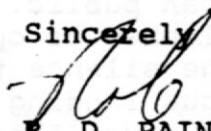
Today your descendants, the Navy's Amphibious Ready Groups, based on big-deck Amphibious Assault Ships, prowl the world's oceans, forward deployed, ready at a moment's notice to show the flag in peacetime presence, respond to a crisis or fight, forward... from the sea. Likewise, the descents of our Navy's Submarine Service also patrol the world's seas, whether with in support of a carrier battle group, performing special forces operations, or providing the security of a deterrent patrol, our submarines remain at the ready under the oceans of the world.

Here in Kings Bay, Georgia we are homeport for eight TRIDENT II Ballistic Missile Submarines. They are part of a legacy of deterrence that has served to help ensure American freedom for more than 35 years.

Even as Walt is reading this letter, Captain Bill Hendrickson, Commanding Officer of USS NEBRASKA (SSBN 739) (Blue - crew), is reading a few words to his crew in memory of your service in Exercise Tiger. NEBRASKA's ceremony covers several firsts. It is the first time a memorial ceremony for Exercise Tiger has been conducted aboard a Navy Ballistic Missile Submarine during a deterrent patrol. It is the first time such a ceremony has been done beneath the waves. And it is the first time one 'Silent Service' has taken the opportunity to recognize the silent service of so many others. Today, NEBRASKA's location is a closely guarded secret, just as Tiger was. Happily, when their mission is complete they will return home. May we always honor the memories of those, both submariners and Tigers, who did not return -- and honor as well, the memories of those who today join us only in spirit.

Guys, I wish you and yours all the best. Sorry I could not join you again this year. I know the ceremony will be fantastic. With Walt 'Young Guns' Domanski in your corner, you can't go wrong.

Sincerely



R. D. RAINE
LCDR USN
PAO, SUBGRU TEN