

Original Message

On Tue, May 24, 2011 at 12:50 AM, Fred Tollison wrote:

Sandy,

As we discussed this weekend, I was in Portsmouth, NH, from September 1968 until USS Grayling (SSN646) construction was complete in late 1969 and we departed for NORVA (deperming) and the Caribbean (weapons testing) and eventually home port in Charleston.

On 11 November 1969, I watched and photographed the Sand Lance launching from the Grayling barge. I had a new camera and didn't fully understand it, so the photos (slides originally) aren't very good. Still, you can get a sense of the launching. One Sand Lance MSIV (was it isolation valve or cutout valve?) and the anchor (and probably many other items) went to sea before the rest of Sand Lance because we had to scavenge these items for the Grayling due to its various equipment issues.

Ken Strahm was XO of Sand Lance at the time, but to my detriment I didn't know him at the time. Thank goodness our paths crossed later on at INPO.

Hope these photos bring back some good memories for you, Mike, and Ken.

Warm regards, Fred

Message Reply

From: Ken Strahm

To: Fred Tollison

Cc: Sandy & Donna Hastie; Mike & Joanie Covell; BERNARD301

Sent: Tue, May 24, 2011 3:36 pm

Subject: Re: Launching of USS Sand Lance (SSN660)

Thanks, Fred, I was the one on the bridge, the PCO hadn't arrived. I remember that it was very cold. The tugs about lost the ship with the outgoing tide (that's the truth). Harvey Cybul was the Navigator/Ops Manager. I was in charge for three months until the PCO arrived; my first action was to shut off all access to Sand Lance parts. We had exceeded our budget by three and had nothing to show for it. Thanks for the pictures I forwarded them to Harvey.















