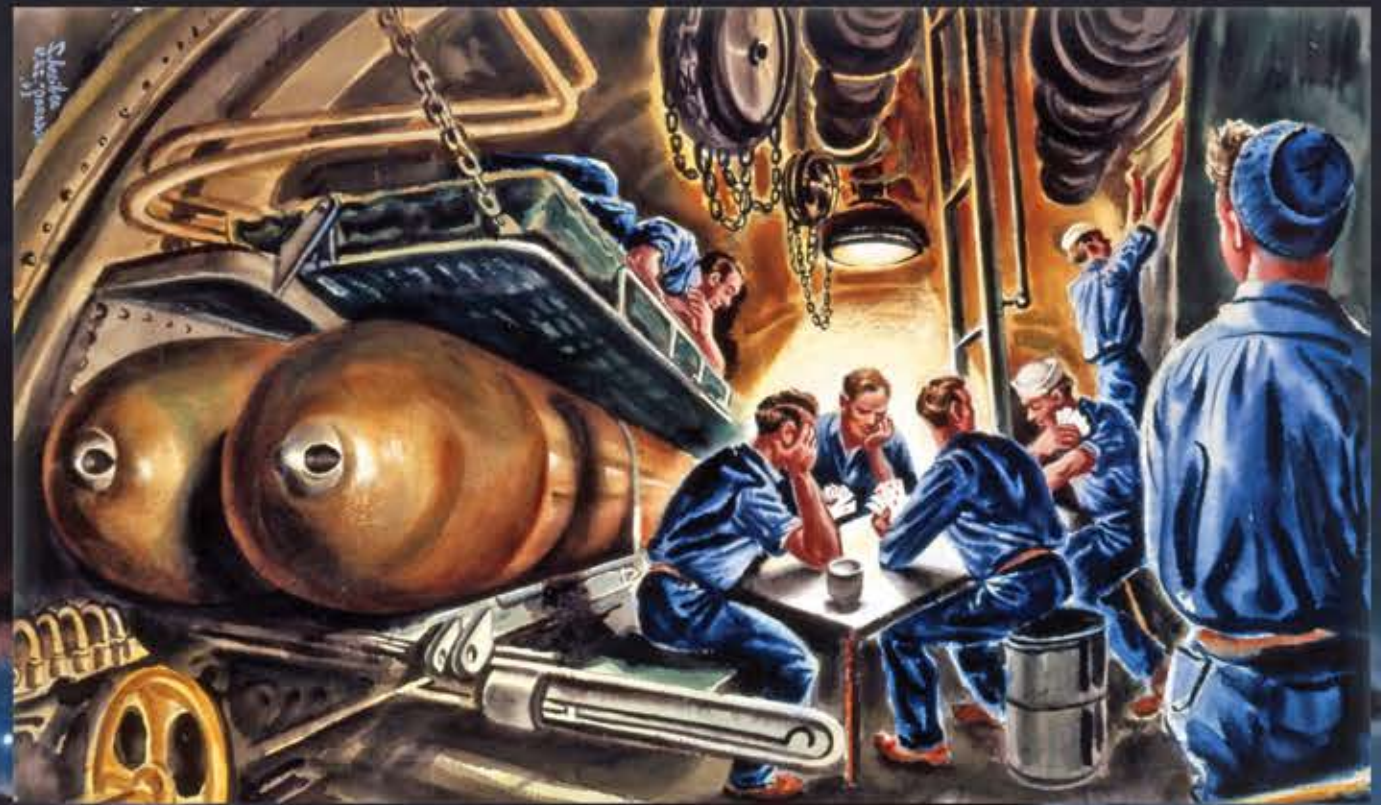


ART OF THE SILENT SERVICE

THESE PAINTINGS WERE PART OF A TRAVELING EXHIBIT PUT ON BY THE US NAVY AND ABBOTT LABORATORIES DURING WORLD WAR TWO. THE 1943 EXHIBITION WAS DESIGNED TO INFORM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ABOUT THE HEROIC ACTION OF THE AMERICAN SUBMARINERS. THE PAINTINGS WERE DONE BY TWO FAMOUS ARTISTS AND ARE NOW PART OF THE NAVY'S PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

BY ROD ELMSDORF

PAINTINGS COURTESY OF THE NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



This watercolor painting was created in 1943 by artist Georges Schrelber and is titled *All Hands Below*. It depicts the some of the more boring aspects of the Silent Service — while waiting for action, these sailors play a round of cards as a shipmate kibitzes from his bunk. However, the tension was already there and one never knew when a call to battle stations would happen. To the left are two of the sub's deadly torpedoes — ready for loading. As can be seen, every inch of the interior had its own purpose even with a bunk directly above weapons.

Surface is a watercolor on board done in 1943 by artist Georges Schrelber. The fearsome nature of the submarine is depicted as the vessel rises from the depths to charge its batteries under the safety of darkness. The WWII submarine commander had to play a tricky game with his vessel — sometimes staying on the bottom all day and then rising at night to perform vital recharging and get some fresh air. It truly was a game of cat and mouse.