

The Advocate, Thursday, December 16, 1982

*A touching ceremony*

# Men of the S-4 remembered

By Margaret Ryan

In a dignified and touching ceremony at St. Mary of the Harbor Episcopal Church in Provincetown, the 40 men who died in a submarine accident off Wood End 55 years ago were remembered Sunday with prayers and an 11-gun salute.

Several whose lives were touched by the tragedy traveled long distances to attend the Sunday morning service, including the daughter of the submarine's captain, Jacqueline Jones Hull, of Washington, D.C. and Frank Boober of North Kingstown, R.I., a former Navy man who helped put the sub in a Boston dry dock after it was recovered.

The ceremony has been held at St. Mary's every year since 1937. It commemorates the tragedy that occurred on Dec. 17, 1927, when the Navy submarine S-4 collided with the Paulding, a Navy destroyer being operated by the Coast Guard to chase rumrunners, neither captain having been aware of the other's presence in Provincetown waters.

For three days the world's attention was riveted on Provincetown as heroic but futile efforts were made to raise the submarine in time to rescue the remaining crewmen still alive. But the S-4 remained at the bottom of the harbor for three months before it was finally recovered and towed to the Boston Navy Yard.

The altar at St. Mary of the Harbor Church, was decorated with flowers given in remembrance of their S-4 shipmates by the Massachusetts Chapter of the Submarine Veterans of World War II. State Commander of the Rhode Island chapter, John Brazil, also attended the service.

The sermon was given by Capt. Stan J. Beach, Navy

chaplain and director of the Naval Chaplains School in Newport, R.I. A Baptist minister, Beach served in the Navy for over 22 years. During his sermon, which was on the subject of hope, he spoke briefly about the S-4 disaster, and quoted from a poem by Walter Bishop, one of the men who died on the S-4. The poem began, "We like the life beneath the sea..."

Following the service, memorial rites were scheduled to take place in the churchyard, at a cross built out of ship's timbers and dedicated to the S-4 in 1937. But a snowstorm beginning early that morning necessitated that at least part of the remembrance take place indoors.

At the rear of the church, with the congregation turned to witness the ceremony, the Rev. John N. McLaughlin, vicar of St. Mary's, blessed two pine wreathes decorated with blue ribbons. One was to be placed at the cross. The other will be taken to the area off Wood End where the S-4 went down, by Capt. Anthony Jackett of the Plymouth Belle, a fishing boat.

After a prayer by Father McLaughlin, Douglas Park, president of the Cape Cod branch of the Fleet Reserve Association, read a message from the national association, and presented two flags.

A color guard by members of the Coast Guard and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lewis A. Young Post 3152, preceded the wreath out to the churchyard, where it was placed at the cross. Eleven members of the VFW drill team were already assembled in the snow behind the cross. In a salute that was spine-tingling, and somehow more elo-

quent than words, the team fired three loud volleys up into the gently falling snow.

Then, in a particularly moving moment, Mrs. Hull, the daughter of the R.K. Jones, the S-4's captain, was assisted to the cross, where she knelt in the snow for a minute, in silent prayer.

Taps, the military "lights out" bugle call was then played on the trumpet, by Donald Belisle of the VFW.

Afterwards, parishioners and guests moved to the parish house, where coffee was served, and Hull presented a Navy ribbon and a picture of her father to the church.

Leaving the church, one must pass by the tall cross, now bearing its memorial wreath. If one wipes away the snow, a brass plaque, donated by the Fleet Reserve Association, can be read.

The plaque lists the names of the men who went down on the S-4. They are: Lt. Commander R.K. Jones, Lt. Commander William F. Callaway, Lt. J.A. McGinley, Lt. Donald Weller, Lt. G.N. Fitch, Clarence Bethke, Walter Bishop, Earl Welch Boone, Charles F. Burrell, Charles B. Callcott, Elmer L. Cash, Russell A. Crabb, William Dempsey, Robert Diefenbach, John Joseph Fennell, Charles A. Ford, Daniel Michael Galvin, Donald Goering, Peter Haaland, Dewey Victor Haney, Buster Harris, Aaron Albert Hodges, Arthur Frederick Hodges, Paul Kempser, J.H. Long, Fred O'Shields, George Pelmar, Mariano Petar, John Powers, Rudolph Rose, Alfred Seaton, Joseph Sherman, Richard L. Short, Frank Snizek, T.W. Sternman, Joseph Stevens, Carl Strange, Carl Thompson, Walter Tolon and James White.

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*Attends memorial service at St. Mary's*

# Daughter of S-4 skipper visits here

By Margaret Ryan

Sunday's memorial service for the submarine S-4 at St. Mary of the Harbor Church was not only a moving and spiritual event, but it was also one in which history sprang to real life, especially after talking to the daughter of the submarine's captain.

The memorial service was in observance of the terrible accident 55 years ago that killed 40 men aboard the S-4 when the destroyer Paulding, operated by the Coast Guard, accidentally rammed the submerged submarine on Dec. 17, 1927.

Jacqueline Jones Hull was still Jacqueline Jones, a seven-

year old girl living at her uncle's home in Baltimore, Md. She was waiting for her father, Navy Cmdr. Roy Kehlor Jones, the skipper of the S-4, to come back from Massachusetts, where he was testing the repair work on the submarine he had captained for two years. As history showed, he didn't come back.

Today Mrs. Hull is an elegant and charming woman in her early 60s. After driving from Washington, D.C. with her husband William and the family priest, the Rev. Henry Lovett, to attend the memorial service, she spoke candidly about her memories and the way the S-4 accident affected her family's lives.

Hull still vividly remembers the time of the accident, and of her father.

"He was a most glamorous person," Hull said of her father, who was 34 years old when the accident occurred. Her mother was glamorous, too. The former Evelyn Bond Jones, was the daughter of Richard Hewett Bond, co-founder of the McCormick spice company. Mrs. Hull's mother had once been voted the most beautiful girl in Baltimore.

"I'll always remember my father in his white uniform," Mrs. Hull said. "He and my mother were the most glamorous couple in the submarine world."

Mrs. Hull said her family originally heard about the accident at the Baltimore home of her uncle, Richard Bond, when reporters began to besiege them. In 1927, the terrible submarine accident made front-page news in both na-