

## Five Subs Given Unit Citation at M.I. Ceremonies

[An undated newspaper article apparently from the San Francisco bay area because “M.I.” is always understood to mean “Mare Island”. It was contributed to the *Bluegill* website by Carol Hare Mier from her father’s memoirs. The photograph is the same one from the original article but came from a nicer print of the same photograph which Ray (Basil) Phipps’ daughter had contributed to the *Bluegill* website from her father’s memoirs.]



[begin caption]

ADMIRAL R. S. EDWARDS, COMMANDER Western Sea Frontier, presents the Navy Unit Commendation ribbon to officers and men of the Submarine *Bluegill* during recent ceremonies aboard the U. S. S. *Tunny* at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The submarine was commended for sinking a light cruiser, a destroyer escort, two large freighters and other vessels for a total of 45,000 tons. Lt. D. D. Duncan, USN, Vallejo, Calif., receives the award as Orland C. Hare, Chief Electrician's Mate, USN, Middletown, Conn., J. E. Richards, Boatswain's Mate Second Class, USN, Corpus Christi, Texas, and other members of the *Bluegill's* crew look on. At right of Admiral Edwards are Comdr. P. G. Selby, USN, and Comdr. Sinclair B. Wright, USN. (Official U.S. Navy photograph.)

[end caption]

Five submarines today received one Presidential Unit Citation and four Navy Unit Commendations for extraordinary heroism in action on war patrol, at ceremonies at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Admiral R. S. Edwards, USN, commander, Western Frontier, awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the navy's highest honor to a ship, to the USS *Tunny*, a Mare Island built submarine, and the Navy Unit Commendation to the USS *Sunfish*, USS *Guitarro*, USS *Bluegill* and USS *Aspro*.

Ens. Avery L. Willis, USN, who was attached to the *Tunny* during the war patrols for which the Presidential Citation was awarded, accepted the honor in the name of the former commanding officer, Captain John A. Scott, USN, Grand Rapids, Mich.

The following officers accepted the four Navy Unit Commendations: *Guitarro*, Comdr. W. G. Brown, USN, Bloomington, Ill.; *Bluegill*, Lt. Comdr. G. C. Hinman, USN, Oakland, Calif.; *Aspro*, Comdr. J. L. P. McCallum, USN, Vallejo; *Sunfish*, Comdr. B. M. Ganyard, USN, Ashland, Ohio.

### **GREETED AT M. I.**

Rear Admiral D. B. Beary, USN, commandant, Twelfth Naval District, accompanied Admiral Edwards to the ceremonies. They were received at Mare Island by Rear Admiral M. S. Tisdale, USN, commandant, San Francisco Naval Base; Rear Admiral G. C. Klein, USN, commander, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, and Captain Howell C. Fish, USN, commander, Mare Island group, Nineteenth Fleet.

The *Tunny*, commissioned in October, 1942, was cited for sinking four ships, including [a] Japanese I-class submarine, and extensively damaging a battleship, two aircraft carriers and a destroyer.

The Navy Unit Commendation, entitling officers and men of the ship to wear the Navy Unit Commendation ribbon, was awarded to the *Guitarro* for her first, second and third war patrols, when she was commanded by Comdr. E. H. Haskins, USN, Merden, Conn.

The *Sunfish* received the Navy Unit Commendation for her ninth and tenth war patrols in command of Comdr. J. W. Reed, USN, Coronado, Calif.

The *Bluegill*, commanded by Comdr. E. L. Barr, USN, Corning, N. Y., received the Navy Unit Commendation for her first war patrol.

The *Aspro* was cited for her first and second war patrols in command of Cmdr. H. C. Stevenson, USN, and Cmdr. W. A. Stevenson, USN, brothers.

At the same ceremonies, the Presidential Unit Citation was pinned on Torpedoman W. E. Walters, USN, Vallejo, Calif., who was attached to the submarine USS *Parche* during her first and second war patrols. For these patrols the *Parche's* commanding officer, Comdr. Larson P. Ramage, USN, received the Congressional Medal of Honor.