

**UNITED STATES NAVY FLEET SUBMARINE (SS)
ALLOWED COMPLEMENT**

1	Unit	Officers	Seaman Branch	Artificer Branch	Engine Room Force, Artificer Branch	Commissary Branch	Special Branch	Steward Branch	Total
2	Commanding Officer	1							1
3	Wardroom Officer	6							6
4	TOTAL COMMISSIONED	7							7
5	1st Grade, including		1	3	2				6
6	Chief Electrician's Mate			(2)					(2)
7	Chief Motor Machinist's Mate				(2)				(2)
8	Chief Radioman			(1)					(1)
9	Chief Torpedoman's Mate		(1)						(1)
10	2nd Grade, including		6	4	6	2	2		20
11	Baker, 1st Class					(1)			(1)
12	Electrician's Mate, 1st Class			(2)					(2)
13	Fire Controlman, 1st Class (Maint.)		(1)						(1)
14	Gunner's Mate, 1st Class		(1)						(1)
15	Motor Machinist's Mate, 1st Class				(6)				(6)
16	Pharmacist's Mate, 1st Class						(1)		(1)
17	Quartermaster, 1st Class		(1)						(1)
18	Radioman, 1st Class			(1)					(1)
19	Radio Technician, 1st Class			(1)					(1)
20	Ship's Cook, 1st Class					(1)			(1)
21	Signalman, 1st Class		(1)						(1)
22	Torpedoman's Mate, 1st Class		(2)						(2)
23	Yeoman, 1st Class						(1)		(1)
24	3rd Grade, including		4	5	5				14
25	Electrician's Mate, 2nd Class			(3)					(3)
26	Motor Machinist's Mate, 2nd Class				(5)				(5)
27	Quartermaster, 2nd Class		(1)						(1)
28	Radioman, 2nd Class			(1)					(1)
29	Radio Technician, 2nd Class			(1)					(1)
30	Torpedoman's Mate, 2nd Class		(3)						(3)
31	4th Grade, including		5	4	7	1			17
32	Electrician's Mate, 3rd Class			(3)					(3)
33	Fireman, 1st Class				(7)				(7)
34	Quartermaster, 3rd Class		(1)						(1)
35	Radioman, 3rd Class			(1)					(1)
36	Ship's Cook, 3rd Class					(1)			(1)
37	Torpedoman's Mate, 3rd Class		(4)						(4)
38	5th Grade, including		10					1	11
39	Seaman, 1st Class		(10)						(10)
40	Steward's Mate, 1st Class							(1)	(1)
41	6th Grade, including							1	1
42	Steward's Mate, 2nd Class							(1)	(1)
43	TOTAL ENLISTED		26	16	20	3	2	2	69
44	AGGREGATE	7	26	16	20	3	2	2	76

This information extracted from "Fleet Submarine General Information Book", US Navy Yard Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for SS381-383 (Balao) class submarines, dated 1 October 1943.

The Balao submarine class had 4 diesel engines and ten 21" torpedo tubes (six forward, 4 aft).

Deck armament included one 4"/50 cal. gun and two 20-mm anti-aircraft machine guns.

Small arms carried included:

- 2 - .30 cal. M1919A4 Browning machine guns
- 2 - .30 cal. M1918 Browning Automatic Rifles
- 2 - .45 cal. M1928 Thompson sub-machine guns
- 6 - .30 cal. M1903 rifles
- 12 - .45 cal. Colt automatic pistols
- 2 - 12-gauge M1897 riot shotguns

Ammunition carried included:

- 24 - 21" torpedoes
- 100 - 4"-50 cal. cartridges
- 3,960 20-mm cartridges
- 2,000 - .45 cal. Cartridges
- 19,500 - .30 cal. Cartridges

Commanding Officer rank was Commander or Lieutenant Commander.

Wardroom officers usually included:

- Executive Officer & Navigator (Lieutenant Commander or Lieutenant)
- Gunnery & Torpedo Officer (Lieutenant or Lieutenant, Junior Grade)
- Engineering Officer (Lieutenant or Lieutenant, Junior Grade)
- First Lieutenant (Lieutenant or Lieutenant, Junior Grade)

The balance of the officers were assistants to the above listed officers, or performed other duties such as Communications Officer, etc., or were officers under general instruction with the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade or Ensign.

As war progressed additional officers and ratings were added to the submarine's crew to operate additional equipment (e.g. RADAR, etc.) and weapons or to provide additional watch standers. By war's end the crew complement could reach as high as 10 officers and 80 enlisted men.

As an example the actual crew assigned to the USS Tang (SS-306) on her fifth war patrol is listed on the following page.

**USS TANG (SS-306) ACTUAL ASSIGNED CREW
FIFTH WAR PATROL (24 September 1944 - 24 October 1944)**

1	Unit	Officers	Seaman Branch	Artificer Branch	Engine Room Force, Artificer Branch	Commissary Branch	Special Branch	Steward Branch	Total
2	Commanding Officer	1							1
3	Wardroom Officer	9							9
4	TOTAL COMMISSIONED	10							10
5	1st Grade, including		4		3	1	1		9
6	Chief Bos'n's Mate		(1)						(1)
7	Chief Commissary Steward					(1)			(1)
8	Chief Electrician's Mate				(1)				(1)
9	Chief Motor Machinist's Mate				(2)				(2)
10	Chief Pharmacist's Mate						(1)		(1)
11	Chief Quartermaster		(1)						(1)
12	Chief Torpedoman's Mate		(2)						(2)
13	2nd Grade, including		3	2	8				13
14	Electrician's Mate, 1st Class				(3)				(3)
15	Gunner's Mate, 1st Class		(1)						(1)
16	Motor Machinist's Mate, 1st Class				(5)				(5)
17	Radioman, 1st Class			(1)					(1)
18	Radio Technician, 1st Class			(1)					(1)
19	Torpedoman's Mate, 1st Class		(2)						(2)
20	3rd Grade, including		3	2	8		1	1	15
21	Cook, 2nd Class							(1)	(1)
22	Electrician's Mate, 2nd Class				(3)				(3)
23	Motor Machinist's Mate, 2nd Class				(5)				(5)
24	Quartermaster, 2nd Class		(1)						(1)
25	Radioman, 2nd Class			(2)					(2)
26	Torpedoman's Mate, 2nd Class		(2)						(2)
27	Yeoman, 2nd Class						(1)		(1)
28	4th Grade, including		15	2	6	2	4		29
29	Coxswain		(3)						(3)
30	Electrician's Mate, 3rd Class				(3)				(3)
31	Fire Controlman, 3rd Class		(1)						(1)
32	Gunner's Mate, 3rd Class		(1)						(1)
33	Motor Machinist's Mate, 3rd Class				(3)				(3)
34	Quartermaster, 3rd Class		(4)						(4)
35	Radioman, 3rd Class			(2)					(2)
36	Ship's Cook, 3rd Class					(2)			(2)
37	Signalman, 3rd Class		(1)						(1)
38	Torpedoman's Mate, 3rd Class		(5)						(5)
39	Yeoman, 3rd Class						(4)		(4)
40	5th Grade, including				9			2	11
41	Fireman, 1st Class				(9)				(9)
42	Steward's Mate, 1st Class							(2)	(2)
43	TOTAL ENLISTED		25	6	34	3	6	3	77
44	AGGREGATE	10	25	6	34	3	6	3	87

Wardroom officers consisted of:

1 - Lieutenant Commander, 2 - Lieutenants, 5 - Lieutenants, Junior Grade, and 1 - Ensign.

Note that by this time in the war :

- 1) Electrician's Mates had been moved from the Artificer Branch to the Engine Room Force.
- 2) Engine Room Force now had 3rd class petty officers included in the 4th Grade and Firemen, 1st Class were now included in the 5th Grade.