

RAY's Virgil Block was first assigned to USS SCORPION. That boat then went into the shipyard for an abbreviated repair period. Block was transferred to RAY. After a trip to the Med SCORPION sank 22 May 1968 while returning to Norfolk. RAY was also returning to Norfolk at that time.

Virgil's last signature on his SCORPION qualification card is dated 10 July 1967.

Scroll down.

USS SCORPION (SSN-569)
 QUALIFICATION TRAINING CARD

NAME Last <u>BLOCK</u> First <u>VIRGEL</u> Int. <u>P.</u>	RATE <u>RM3N</u>	SERVICE NO. <u>114 90 51</u>	DEPT. ASSIGNED <u>WEAPONS</u>
Date Reported Aboard	Passed Exam On Ship's Organization & Orders.	Date.	Div Off.

REMARKS

A. SYSTEMS

Group I - GENERAL		Petty Officer	Date
Tanks and Compartment Arrangement	8	<u>P. L. Best</u>	<u>3/12/67</u>
Escape Equipment and Procedures	8	<u>P. G. Jackson RM3N</u>	<u>3-14-67</u>
Trim and Drain Systems	10		
Ventilation System	8		
Snorkel System	5	<u>Paul A. Slater MM2(SS)</u>	<u>6-14-67</u>
Low Pressure Blow System	5	<u>Robert J. Cowan</u>	<u>3-31-67</u>
Ballast Control Panel	10		
<u>64</u>	10	Officer Examiner	Date

Group II - GENERAL		Petty Officer	Date
Radiation and Health Physics	8	<u>Christman</u>	<u>6-13-67</u>
Atmosphere Control	7		
Air Conditioning and Heating Systems	8	<u>Paul A. Slater RM3N</u>	<u>6-30-67</u>
Refrigeration System	6		
Fresh Water System	7		
Sanitary System	7	<u>J. Bradley SP2(SS)</u>	<u>6-22-67</u>
<u>53</u>	10	Officer Examiner	Date

Group III - AIR AND HYDRAULICS		Petty Officer	Date
High Pressure Air System	5	<u>M. Henry MM2(SS)</u>	<u>4-3-67</u>
Ship's Service Air System	7		
Main and Vital Hydraulics Systems	10		
Steering and Diving Hydraulics Systems	7		
External Hydraulics System	5		
<u>44</u>	10	Officer Examiner	Date

Group IV - ORDNANCE		Petty Officer	Date
Fire Control System	7		
Torpedo Tubes and Handling Gear	8		
Signal Ejectors	5	<u>Robert D. Demaree</u>	<u>JUNE 15</u>
Magazine Flooding System	5	<u>R. D. Demaree</u>	<u>JUNE 15</u>
Torpedoes, Small Arms and Pyrotechnics	8		
<u>43</u>	10	Officer Examiner	Date

Group V - ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS		Petty Officer	Date
Basic Electrical System	8		
Electrical Distribution	8		
Battery and Associated Systems	8		
IC Systems	8		
Electronic Systems	8	<u>Others and ET/SS</u>	<u>11 MAR 67</u>
Sonar Systems	8	<u>M. Henry RM3N</u>	<u>28 MARCH 1967</u>
Radio Systems	8	<u>J. D. Bradley RM3N</u>	<u>2 July 1967</u>
<u>66</u>	10	Officer Examiner	Date

A. SYSTEMS (Cont.)

Group VI - ENGINEERING		Petty Officer	Date
Reactor Primary Systems	10	<i>Paul H. Slater</i>	7-10-67
Steam and Propulsion Systems	8		
Feed and Condensate Systems	8		
Main and Auxiliary Sea Water Systems	7	<i>Paul H. Slater</i>	7-7-67
Fuel Transfer and Compensating Water Systems	17	<i>Paul H. Slater</i>	7-3-67
	50	Officer Examiner	Date
	10		

B. COMPARTMENTS

Torpedo Room	10		
Operations Compartment - 1st. Level	10		
Operations Compartment - 2nd. Level	5		
Operations Compartment - 3rd Level	10		
Reactor Compartment and Tunnel	3		
Auxiliary Machinery Space	10		
Engine Room and Maneuvering	10		
Topside and Bridge	5		
65			

C. WATCHES

Station	Petty Officer	Date	Officer	Date
Topside (Inst.)	<i>Paul H. Slater</i> (Sect. Leader)	1 Feb 67		
Topside (Inst.)	<i>Paul H. Slater</i>	1 Feb 67		
Topside (Inst.)	<i>Paul H. Slater</i>	1 Feb 67		
Topside	(COB)		<i>Paul H. Slater</i> (Gun Off.)	3/1/67
Lookout (Inst.)	(COW)			
Lookout	(COB)		(Gun Off.)	
Helmsman (Inst.)	(COW)			
Helmsman	(OMC)		(Navigator)	
Planesman (Inst.)	(COW)			
Planesman	(COB)		(Diving Off.)	
Radar Op (Inst.)	(Lead ET)			
	(Lead SO)			
	(Sect. Leader)			
Below Decks (Inst.)				
Below Decks (Inst.)				
Below Decks (Inst.)				
Below Decks (Inst.)				
Below Decks (Inst.)				
Below Decks	(COB)		(Diving Off.)	

This man has completed the necessary Departmental Qualifications required for Submarine Qualification.

DATE _____ DEPARTMENT HEAD _____
 FINAL EXAMINATION I hereby certify that the above man has fully and properly fulfilled the requirements for qualification in Submarines as set forth by the Submarine Force Commander and the Commanding Officer, U. S. S. SCORPION (SSN-589)

DATE _____ QUALIFICATION OFFICER _____
 Designated as "Qualified in NUCLEAR SUBMARINE".

DATE _____ COMMANDING OFFICER _____

NOW FOR DETAILS:
(SEARCH)

A 50-MILE-WIDE STRIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC FROM THE AZORES TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, IS BEING SEARCHED TODAY FOR THE MISSING SUBMARINE "SCORPION." THE NUCLEAR-POWERED SUB AND HER 99-MAN CREW FAILED TO RETURN TO NORFOLK YESTERDAY FROM MEDITERRANEAN TRAINING EXERCISES. NO WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT THE SCORPION MIGHT BE IN ANY TROUBLE. IF SHE SHOULD BE IN TROUBLE, AND SHOULD BE LOCATED SUBMERGED HER MEN STILL COULD NOT BE RESCUED FROM DEPTHS GREATER THAN ABOUT 650 FEET.

THIRTY-SEVEN SHIPS, RANGING IN TYPE FROM CONVENTIONAL SUBMARINES TO DESTROYERS, AND NUMEROUS PLANES ARE TAKING PART IN THE SEARCH.

-DASH-

(THE SCORPION HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM FOR ONE WEEK. BUT SHE HAD NOT BEEN EXPECTED TO CONTACT NORFOLK BECAUSE SHE WAS TRAVELING HOME SUBMERGED FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN EXERCISES. HOWEVER, SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HEARD FROM ABOUT NOON MONDAY, AS SHE APPROACHED THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH STRETCHES ABOUT 55 MILES OUT FROM NORFOLK, AND BEGAN TO SURFACE. BY 7 P.M. LAST NIGHT IN NORFOLK, THE NAVY OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE SCORPION OERDUE. CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS ADMIRAL THOMAS MOORER MENTIONED THINGS THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED--LIKE THE VERY BAD ATLANTIC WEATHER WHICH MIGHT HAVE SLOWED DOWN THE SCORPION AND BLANKED OUT A MESSAGE ABOUT THE DELAY. BUT THE MYSTERY REMAINS.

(THE SCORPION LAST REPORTED WHEN SHE HAD LEFT THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR, HOMEWARD BOUND FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND WAS JUST SOUTH OF THE AZORES. SHE WAS HEADED ALMOST DUE WEST--FOR NORFOLK.)

(DETAILS)

THE SCORPION'S DISAPPEARANCE IS THE THIRD INVOLVING A SUB THIS YEAR. THE ISRAELI SUB "DAKAR" VANISHED AT THE EASTERN END OF THE MEDITERRANEAN LAST JANUARY WITH A CREW OF 69. AND WITHIN 48 HOURS, THE FRENCH SUBMARINE "MINERVE," WITH 54 ABOARD, DISAPPEARED ON MANEUVERS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

-DASH-

(THE SCORPION IS A SUB OF THE "SKIPJACK" CLASS--AN OLDER GENERATION THAN WAS THE SUBMARINE "THRESHER," WHICH DISAPPEARED OFF CAPE COD IN 1963 WITH 129 MEN ABOARD. THE SCORPION IS 252 FEET LONG AND WAS BUILT IN 1962. IN 1962 SHE SET AN ENDURANCE RECORD FOR SEALED ATMOSPHERE OF 70 CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

(SHIPS FROM NORFOLK, CHARLESTON, NEW LONDON, KEY WEST; MAYPORT, FLORIDA; NEWPORT; FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS, AND ROTA, SPAIN, ARE TAKING PART IN THE SEARCH. THEY INCLUDE 21 DESTROYERS; TEN SUBS. BOTH NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR; FOUR