



# RED BIRD MISSION

## SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

### A Salute to Daniel Emery Allen, Class of 1940

Daniel Emery Allen (1923-1942) graduated from Red Bird School in 1940. One of eighteen students to graduate that year, he was class salutatorian and by all accounts a very nice young man. The Honorable Keen Johnson, 42nd governor of Kentucky, delivered the commencement address at Daniel's graduation.

Governor Johnson was the first governor of Kentucky to visit the remote region of Bell County where the mission originated. Since it was before the construction of local roads, he could not travel all the way by automobile. He had to ride in a railroad car and in the cab of a logging train during his journey. In his speech to the graduating class, Governor Johnson said that there were plenty new, unconquered frontiers for youth with courage and the will to learn. He was an accomplished speaker and no doubt influenced more than one young person to look for adventure and a bright new future.

Shortly after Daniel graduated from Red Bird, he enlisted with the Navy and was assigned to the SS Grunion in 1942. The SS Grunion was a submarine commanded by Lt. Commander Mannert L. Abele. The Grunion set off on its maiden voyage to Pearl Harbor in late June, 1942. Shortly thereafter, the Grunion and her crew were in the midst of battle. On the 15th of July, the Grunion reported that they had been attacked. Although the records are unclear, it appears that the Grunion sank two Japanese submarine chasers and damaged a third vessel in that attack.

The SS Grunion's last transmission was received on July 30 when she reported heavy antisubmarine activity and a complement of only 10 torpedos left. The Grunion was ordered to return to Dutch Harbor that day, but there was no further contact with the SS Grunion or her crew of 70 men. After a search proved unsuccessful, the Grunion was reported lost on August 16, 1942.

But, the story does not end there. Lt. Cmdr. Abele had three sons that searched many years for information and clues to find out what actually happened to the SS Grunion. In 2002, some new information gave the Abele brothers a place to start a physical search for the Grunion. This information indicated that a Japanese vessel, the Kano Maru, was attacked by the SS Grunion on July 31, 1942. Apparently, the Grunion fired several torpedos at the Kano Maru-most of which were duds. The Grunion tried to surface so they could sink the Kano Maru by gunfire, but took a devastating hit by the Japanese vessel and was sunk.

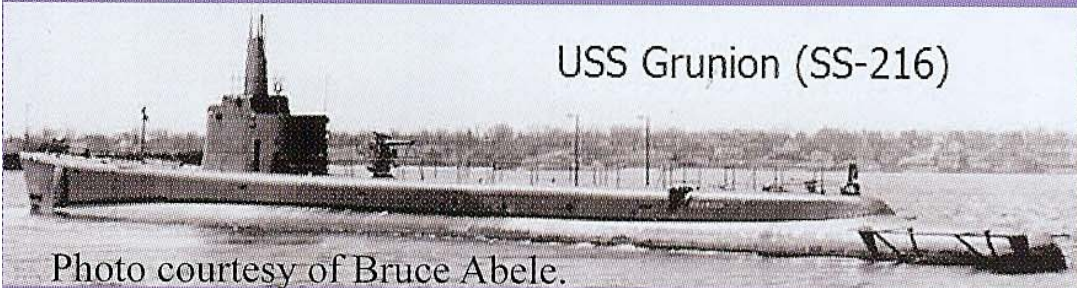
In 2007, the SS Grunion was located by the Abele brothers. They had finally accomplished their goal and found their father's final resting place. The exact details of how the SS Grunion was sunk may never be known, but we can honor the 70 men that were lost on that vessel. Please take a moment to remember Daniel Emery Allen and all the other men and women that have given their lives for our country. They may be lost to us, but they should never be forgotten.

## A SALUTE TO DANIEL EMERY ALLEN, CLASS OF 1940



Photo courtesy of Ray Reed.

Left to right, front row: Rachel Slusher, Jewell Messer, Mildred Jane Slusher, Jean Howard, Governor Johnson, Matilda Mae Knuckles, Ethel Wilson, Charlotte Louise Slusher, Golda Nantz, Frances Collett. Back row, left to right: Ray Reed, Howard Glenn Wilson, Olin Hubbard, Edward Brown, Ross Earl Jones, Daniel Emery Allen, Edmond Burkhardt, Herman Roark.



USS Grunion (SS-216)

Photo courtesy of Bruce Abele.

For more information on the SS Grunion, please check [www.ussgrunion.com](http://www.ussgrunion.com).



Photo courtesy of Eternal Patrol Site, Charles Hinman, Bowfin Museum, HI

The submarine force has the highest casualty rate by percentage of all the armed forces. During WWII, we lost 52 subs and their volunteer crews.

### Daniel Emery Allen

Birth Date: Feb 3, 1923

Rank: Signalmen 3rd class

Decorations: Purple Heart

Submarine: USS Grunion

Loss Date: July 30, 1942