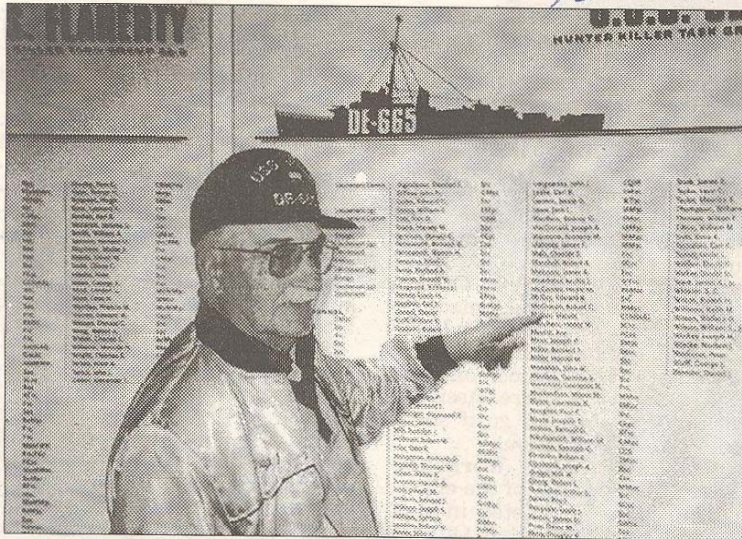


June 22, 05 F.A. record



Marvin Melius points to his name on the crew listing for the USS Jenks. It is part of the permanent exhibit with the U-505.

## Local W.W. II vet attends German U-Boat ceremony

Marvin Melius of rural Faulkton attended the June 4 dedication of the U-505, the newest exhibit in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. The U-505 is a German U-boat captured by the US Navy on June 4, 1944 off the coast of west Africa. Melius operated a torpedo station aboard the USS Jenks, one of the destroyers that helped capture the submarine.

The U-boat was the first and only vessel captured by the US Navy since the War of 1812.

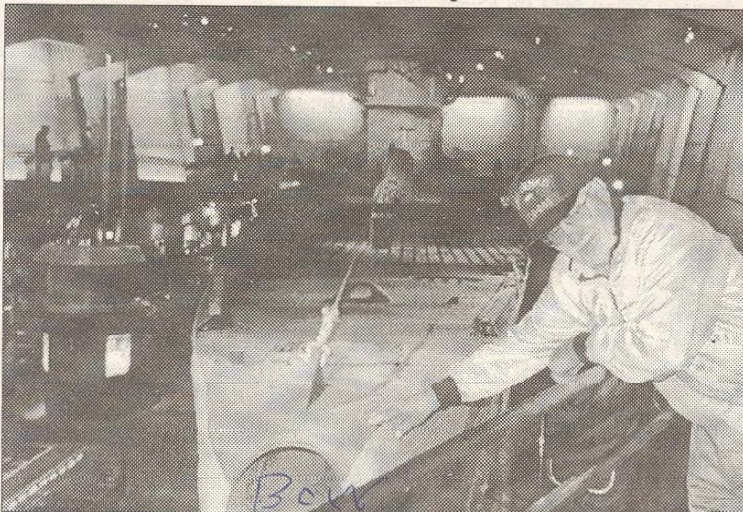
The capture of U-505 was critical in the Navy's battle against U-boats in the last two years of the war. Upon its capture, the Navy obtained the Enigma machine from the sub. The code machine was used by the German Navy to transmit communications to all its submarines. Because the Navy secured the code machine, the capture of U-505 was kept top secret so the Germans would not know their codes were broken.

Word of the capture was only released after the war when each of the crewman who helped capture the sub was awarded a Presidential Citation.

Melius was invited to the Chicago ceremony along with all the surviving personnel involved in the capture. Two members of the U-boat's crew also attended the dedication.

Seven years in the making, the \$35 million dollar exhibit includes a 35,000 square-foot climate-controlled underground space to house the sub and numerous exhibits that include the sub's periscopes and torpedoes. The 700 ton boat is 252 feet long and carried a crew of 58.

Melius is a member of Guadalcanal Task Group 22.3, the name of the hunter-killer group assigned to the eastern Atlantic. The group included several destroyer escorts and one small aircraft carrier, the Guadalcanal. Members of Task Group 22.3 have formed an



Melius touches the nose of the 252 foot long U-505.

association composed of the surviving crewman. Over 150 members of the association were the honored guests of the dedication ceremony. Melius traveled to Chicago with his son Ken of Pierre.

A native of Faulkton, Melius was present at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked and he served on destroyers in the Atlantic and Pacific throughout the war. The capture of the U-505 has been depicted in movies, documentaries and books.

A virtual tour of the exhibit is available on the museum's web site [www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org).