



FIRE ABOARD SARGO—Firemen pour foam into torpedo room of nuclear submarine Sargo after fire and blast aboard vessel yesterday at Pearl Harbor

Naval Base, Honolulu. Craft was partially submerged to smother blaze which started as sub was taking on supply of liquid oxygen.—(AP) Wirephoto

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Blaze, Blast Rock A-Sub

PEARL HARBOR (UPI) — The Navy today recovered the body of a man killed when fire and explosion ripped the after torpedo room of the nuclear submarine Sargo.

A second man was unaccounted for. Officials said he may not have been aboard the Sargo at the time of yesterday's accident. The men were not identified.

The fire started in the after torpedo room. The area was flooded by submerging the Sargo's stern at an angle of about 30 degrees.

The Navy said the vessel's atomic reactors were sealed off, and there was no danger of an explosion from the reactor compartment.

The fire started at a leaking high pressure line as the submarine was taking on oxygen at a pier.

Witnesses said flames shot 25 feet into the air. Six minutes later the Sargo was jolted by a big explosion.

Fire control units battled the blaze for nearly 45 minutes without success. Then ships officers took the Sargo a short distance from the dock and partially submerged it.

When the blaze was extinguished, the Sargo was surfaced, and pumping operations began.

The Sargo, first nuclear-powered vessel in the Pacific Fleet, was being readied to take the King and Queen of Thailand and Adm. Herbert Hopwood, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, on a cruise around Oahu Island today. The couple arrived last night to begin a U.S. visit. They will make the cruise now on the submarine Growler.

The Sargo carries a crew of 90 men and 10 officers.