

Chapter 11 – Skipper Dave Glatfelter and Ship 17's Land Base

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When Memory Lake was constructed at Camp Tuckahoe in the early 1950's, David Glatfelter, Skipper of Ship 17, came up with the idea of building a cabin by the lake and having the Sea Explorers manage the Camp waterfront. The Council, however, was not receptive to the idea. Therefore, in about 1960 when the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was constructing Pinchot Park, Skipper Glatfelter purchased land on the edge of

the new lake and constructed a Land Base for the use of Ship 17 and other Sea Explorer Ships. It consisted of a small cabin with a fireplace, and a larger building that accommodated 20 Navy bunks with rest room facilities and a kitchen. Ample boat storage was available on the ground floor. The property had access to Lake Pinchot, and the Sea Explorers used to launch their boats directly from the Land Base until Hurricane Agnes in 1972 made the launch area unsuitable. From then on, boats were trailered around to Landing #3 at the Park and launched from there.¹



Ship 17 and others continued to use the Land Base for many years even after Dave Glatfelter's death in 1974. Dave willed the property to Zion United Church of Christ at Penn Common. In 1981 Zion sold the property to Christ Lutheran Church of York, which maintains the property today as a Retreat Center.



The Glatfelter Land Base is still available for use by youth groups upon proper application to Christ Lutheran Church. Accommodations are limited to 50 persons for day use, and 20 persons for overnight use. To reach the facility, proceed north on Route 74 from York. At five and one-half miles north of Dover, turn right on Mockingbird Road (marked "No Outlet"), and continue to the end of the road.

¹ Allen Myers, telephone interview with George Kain, 12 February 2003.

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David H. Glatfelter

Skipper, SES SEA HOUND – Sea Explorer Ship 17
Eagle with Palms, Quartermaster, Skipper's Key
14 February 1906 – 4 January 1974

David Henry Glatfelter was born 14 February 1906. He became Scoutmaster of Troop 7 in York 30 June 1940. He earned his Eagle Scout award on 6 August 1942², a Bronze Palm 23 February 1943, a Gold Palm 20 September 1943, and a Silver Palm 20 May 1944. He went on to earn a 2nd Bronze Palm 11 November 1944, a 2nd Gold Palm 14 May 1945, and a 2nd Silver Palm 27 February 1946. He earned his 3rd and final Bronze Palm 23 March 1948.

He enlisted as a Seaman, First Class, in the United States Coast Guard Reserve on 24 September 1942 at Baltimore, MD. He attained the ratings of Seaman, First Class; Coxswain; and Boatswain's Mate, Second Class. He was assigned to the Coast Guard Base at Baltimore, to PSC #4 at Philadelphia, and back to Baltimore. He earned the Good Conduct Medal, and was honorably discharged on 8 October 1945.

² At this time in Scouting, there was no 18 years of age limit on earning Eagle or palms.

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By 28 February 1946, he was registered as Skipper of Ship 17. He earned the Able Sea Scout rank 29 April 1946, and the Quartermaster rank 21 June 1949. He earned his Skipper's Key on 1 December 1947, and the Silver Beaver award in 1950.

He was a charter member of Tuckahoe Lodge #386, Order of the Arrow, undergoing his O.A. ordeal at Nentico Lodge, Baltimore on 1 May 1948. He became a Brotherhood member by 1952, and received the Vigil member on 2 October 1954. His Vigil Indian name was Doat' Gadose, which is interpreted as "On the Watch."

He earned his Wood Badge beads on 9 February 1955, the second such recipient in the York-Adams Area Council, and one of the first 250 such recipients in the United States.³

He attended the National Boy Scout jamborees in 1937 in Washington, DC, 1950 and 1957 at Valley Forge, PA, in 1953 in Irvine, CA, and in 1960 at Colorado Springs, CO. He attended numerous training courses at Camp Tuckahoe here at home, and at Schiff Scout Reservation, Mendam, NJ, and Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM. He was recognized for completion of 50 years of service to Scouting on 2 July 1969.



His community honors included the Golden Deeds Award from the Exchange Club of York on 23 October 1962 and special recognition from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on 31 May 1971.

Skipper Glatfelter was also for many years the motive force behind the Memorial Mall at Camp Tuckahoe, and he left a legacy in his will for the Mall's maintenance and improvement.

As a Sea Scouter, Dave was particularly proud of his merit badge sash. On it, he carefully

sewed each one of his 57 merit badges, his rank patches from land and Sea Scouting, his Wizard Safari patches, his national jamboree patches, and other special patches that were near and dear to his heart. One of the rarest patches on his sash is this Senior Scout Titles

³ Eugene F. "Shorty" Rabenstine from our Council earned his Wood Badge beads the year before David Glatfelter.

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patch. It is even especially rare in that it has the Sea Scout center, and the segments are backed in Sea Scout blue. Senior Titles was a concept from the Senior Scout program that was in effect in the B.S.A. from 1942 to

Merit badges were grouped into logical areas called titles, and then to earn the title patch for that area, the Senior Scout had to 1) earn at least 5 of the merit badges within that title, 2) do advanced work within that title above and beyond the merit badge requirements, 3) plan and carry out a service project within the title field, and 4) make a presentation within the title field to his unit leader and his unit.⁴

For example, the merit badges within the Scout Seaman field were: Angling, Canoeing, First Aid, Life Saving, Radio, Rowing, Seamanship, Signaling, Swimming, and Weather.

Dave earned the following titles (starting at 12 o'clock and proceeding clockwise): Scout Seaman, Scout Citizen, Scout Woodsman, Scout Journalist, Scout Radioman, Scout Artisan, Scout Sportsman, Scout Gardner, and Scout Craftsman.⁵



There were some other rare patches on Dave's merit badge sash. Some of them are shown in the following album along with a Sea Explorer Quartermaster Score Card:

⁴ Boy Scouts of America, *Adventuring for Senior Scouts*, 1946, No. 3639, pp. 20-23.

⁵ Boy Scouts of America, *Senior Scouting Guidebook*, 1942, No. 25000542, p. 17.

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<p>Sea Explorer _____ of Ship No. _____ is in good standing and is recommended for the rank of QUARTERMASTER.</p> <p>Signed _____ Crew leader</p> <p>Signed _____ Skipper</p> <p>Approved by ship's officers at a quarter-deck meeting for certificate and badge.</p> <p>Signed _____ Boatswain</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>No. 3176 10M566</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>QUARTERMASTER SEA EXPLORER SCOREBOARD</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Ship _____</p> <p>District _____</p> <p>Council _____</p> <p>BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">QUARTERMASTER SCOREBOARD</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>IDEALS</th> <th>INITIALS</th> <th>DATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Lead discussion</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Submit paper</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. 75 percent attendance</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Present program</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Service project</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">SPECIAL SKILLS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Boats</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Marlinspike seamanship</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Ground tackle</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Piloting</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10. Signaling</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11. Drill</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12. Swimming</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13. Cruising</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14. Safety</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15. First aid</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16. Rules of the Road</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17. Weather</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18. Quartermaster electives</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">(Do any three of the following: sailing, engines, radio, boat maintenance, electricity, navigation.)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	IDEALS	INITIALS	DATE	1. Lead discussion	_____	_____	2. Submit paper	_____	_____	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP			3. 75 percent attendance	_____	_____	4. Present program	_____	_____	5. Service project	_____	_____	SPECIAL SKILLS			6. Boats	_____	_____	7. Marlinspike seamanship	_____	_____	8. Ground tackle	_____	_____	9. Piloting	_____	_____	10. Signaling	_____	_____	11. Drill	_____	_____	12. Swimming	_____	_____	13. Cruising	_____	_____	14. Safety	_____	_____	15. First aid	_____	_____	16. Rules of the Road	_____	_____	17. Weather	_____	_____	18. Quartermaster electives	_____	_____	(Do any three of the following: sailing, engines, radio, boat maintenance, electricity, navigation.)		
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