





# MEMORIAL DAY



# COASTAL CAROLINA SUBMARINE VETERANS REMEMBER & HONOR



**Carl Henery "Sonny" Gerbensky**

IN MEMORIAM  
USS S-28 (SS-133)  
50 SAILORS ON ETERNAL PATROL  
4 JULY 1944

USS S-28 (SS-133) WAS LOST DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE ON 4 JULY 1944.  
SHE WAS LOST OFF PEARL HARBOR AT 21-20N, 158-23W, IN 1400 FATHOMS  
(8400 FEET) OF WATER, PRECLUDING ANY POSSIBILITY OF SALVAGE.  
THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS.

LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

JAMES I. APPLING, BM2  
LEVI BOLTON, STM1  
JOHN F. BROWN, S2  
RUDOLPH F. BUZEK, EM3  
ARTHUR G. CHAPMAN, MoMM3  
GENE A. COX, EM3  
DONALD A. DURKEE, F1  
JOHN R. HANEY, MoMM1  
H.L. HESTER, ENS  
NORBERT J. W. HIZER, MoMM1  
KEITH KEIRN, MoMM2  
STEVE LIKEVICH, JR., PhM1  
MARVIN R. McMILLAN, RM3  
CHESTER M. MOFFITT, SM1  
CHARLES E. NELSON, LTJG  
JOHN F. PURCELL, EM1  
JOSEPH J. SALERNO, EM3  
FRANK S. SMITH, SC2  
WALTER T. WHITTED, MoMM1  
ALEXANDER W. WOOD, RM3

JAMES K. BENNETT, JR., GM3  
HUGH D. BROWN, MoMM2  
HOWARD M. BULLARD, TM2  
JACK G. CAMPBELL, LCDR (CO)  
CLAUDE W. COVINGTON, LTJG  
JOHN F. DURANT, F2  
JOHN GRESSWELL, JR., MoMM3  
R.F. HARSMA, ENS  
LEONARD E. HIGHFILL, S2  
NEAL K. JOHNSON, MoMM3  
A.J. KUNKEL, JR., S1  
ROBERT MADSEN, ENS  
ROBERT T. McNEELA, RT3  
EDWARD J. MORRISON, F1  
GEORGE V. PEET, MoMM2  
GEORGE R. RUNNELLS, TM3  
EARLE C. SCHREIER, MoMM2  
JAKE SPURLOCK, CK2  
WALTER T. WHITTED, MoMM2  
KENNETH A. WURTZ, F1

(SHIPMATES IN TRAINING)

E.F. ANDERSON, F2  
E.W. GARDNER, QM3  
C.H. GERBENSKY, MoMM3  
W. NOTTAGE, GM3  
J.W. SPRADLEY, S2

J.L. CONNELL, F1  
J.D. GARZA, MoMM2  
J.F. McGUINNESS, PhM2  
D.M. OUDERKIRK, MoMM3  
E. VAUGHN, S1

SAILORS, REST YOUR DARS



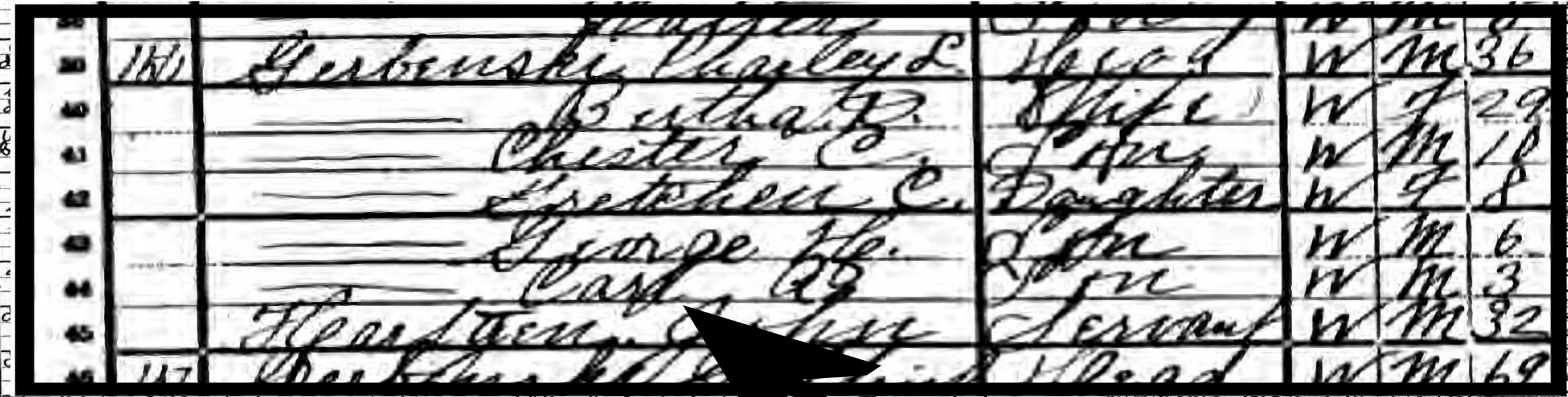
Carl H. Gerbensky was born November 16, 1902 to German immigrant, livery man, and saloon keeper Charley Gerbensky and his wife Bertha of Hartland, Wisconsin.

**Schedule No. 1—Population.**  
 Enumeration of the inhabitants in the Village of Hartland in the county of WAUKESHA State of Wisconsin, on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1905.  
 John A. Pauling Clerk.

NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1905, was in this family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY		OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION of each person FOURTEEN YEARS of age and over.	HOW			
		Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of Parents of this person.		Months employed.	Owned or rented.	Usual time occupied.	Place or home.
126 Polyn Henry	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
127 Lawrence John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	72	0	7	H
128 Jensen Hans	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
129 Peterson Walter	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
130 Verducci Fred	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
131 Mattson Fred	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
132 Hansen Fred	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
133 Andrews George	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
134 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
135 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
136 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
137 DeWitt August	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
138 Hansen John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
139 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
140 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
141 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
142 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
143 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H
144 Johnson John	Head	Denmark	Denmark	Wagoner	70	0	7	H

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144 Gerbensky Charley	Head	Germany	Germany	Livery Man	36	0	7	H
145 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	29	0	7	H
146 Gerbensky Chester	Son	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	18	0	7	H
147 Gerbensky George	Son	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	6	0	7	H
148 Gerbensky Carl	Son	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	3	0	7	H
149 Gerbensky Mary	Servant	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	32	0	7	H
150 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
151 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
152 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
153 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
154 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
155 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
156 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
157 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
158 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
159 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
160 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
161 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
162 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
163 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
164 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
165 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
166 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
167 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
168 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
169 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H
170 Gerbensky Bertha	Wife	Denmark	Denmark	Housekeeper	69	0	7	H



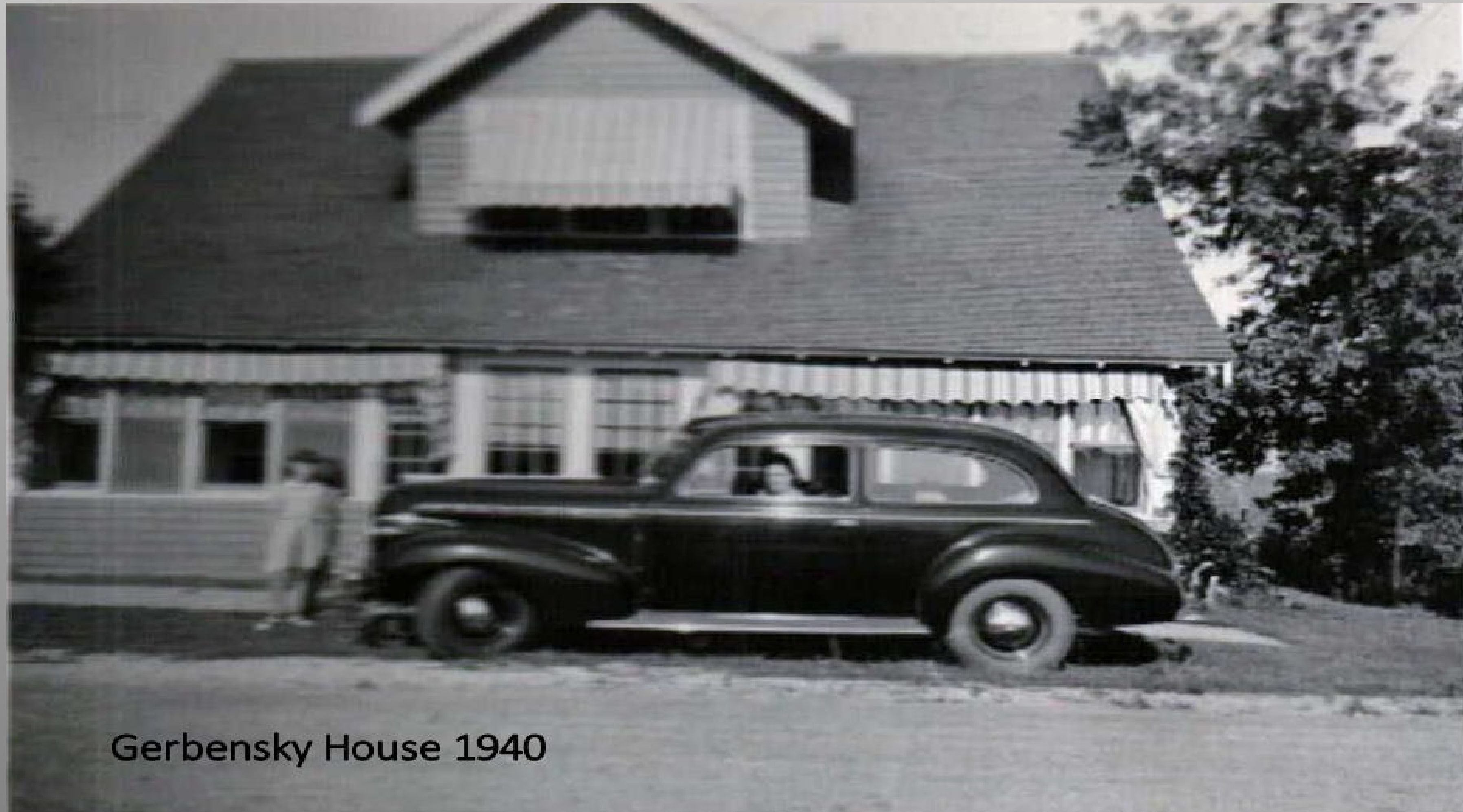
“Sonny”, as Carl was known, grew up in the small Town of Hartland, Wisconsin.



By the age of 18, Sonny had attended Beaver-Hartland High School and was working as an automobile mechanic.



By 1930, Sonny had lost his father, married, had a 9 year-old son, Chester, and was painting houses while living in the home of his mother with his brother George, his family, and his sister Helen.



Gerbensky House 1940



Gerbensky's son, Chet, was a star baseball pitcher, and by 1940 was in his first year of college, worked as a bookkeeper in the local brewery, and being scouted by the major leagues. He was the light of his father's life.



Sonny was a member of the Wisconsin National Guard, but decided to enlist in the Army when his son enlisted in the fall of 1940. When he turned 40 years old in 1942, he was discharged from the Army due to age on a medical discharge. He immediately enlisted in the Navy to be near his son, who was in combat in New Guinea at the time. He was assigned to submarine duty as a Motor Machinist Mate trainee on the S28.

*(Deceased)*

**REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)**

SERIAL NUMBER T <b>1606</b>	1. NAME (Print) <b>CARL HENRY GERBENSKY</b> (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER T <b>11846</b>
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) <b>135 W. Park St. Hartland Waukesha Wis.</b> (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS <b>135 West Park St. Hartland Waukesha Co. Wis.</b> (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE —	5. AGE IN YEARS <b>40</b> DATE OF BIRTH <b>Nov. 16 1902</b> (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH <b>Hartland Wis.</b> (Town or county) <b>WISCONSIN</b> (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS <b>George Gerbensky - 135 W. Park St. Hartland Wis.</b>		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS —		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS —		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ GPO 16-21630-2		<b>Carl H. Gerbensky</b> (Registrant's signature)

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

**DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT**

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>5'8"</b>	<b>138</b>	Sallow	
	EYES		Light	
Negro	Blue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blonde	Ruddy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gray	Red	Dark	
Oriental	Hazel	Brown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Freckled	
	Brown	Black	Light brown	
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown	
		Bald	Black	
Filipino				

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrar for Local Board **33** **Waukesha Wis.**  
(Number) (City or county) (State)

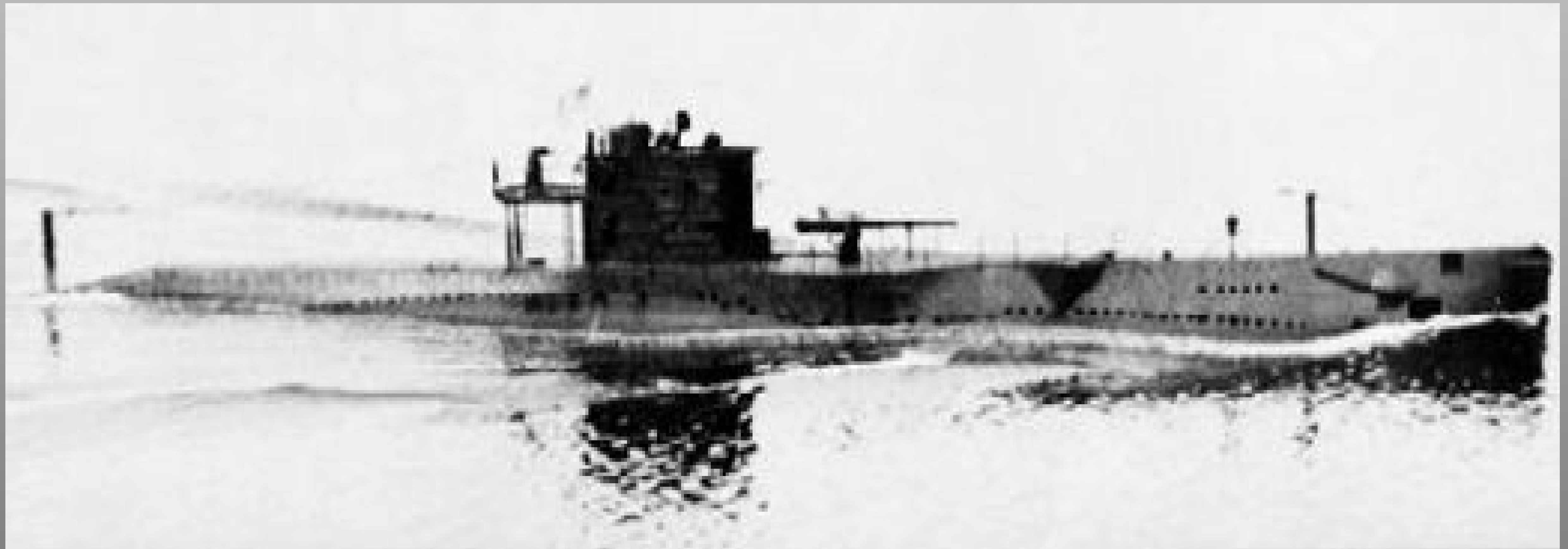
Date of registration **June 30, 1942**

**LOCAL BOARD No. 33**  
7218 W. NORTH AVE.  
WAUKESHA  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16c-21630-1

On 3 July 1944, S-28 began training operations off Oahu with the United States Coast Guard cutter Reliance. The anti-submarine warfare exercises continued into the evening of 4 July. At 17:30, the day's concluding exercise began. Contact between the two became sporadic and, at 18:20, the last, brief contact with S-28 was made and lost.



Carl Gerbensky was lost on July 4, 1944 with the entire crew of S28.

As far as we know, he did not re-unite with his son in the Pacific theater.

Carl's son, Chester "Chet" Gerbensky used his pitching arm to great advantage, throwing grenades against Japanese bunkers in New Guinea, for which he was later awarded the Silver Star. After the war he was awarded a commission and became a prominent officer in the Wisconsin national guard, taking command of troops responding to riots in Milwaukee in the late sixties.

In 1955, Chester presented the first Carl Gerbensky award to the most outstanding Wisconsin National Guard member of the year.

The remains of S-28 were found on 20 September 2017, at a depth of 8,500 feet off the coast of Oahu.

Carl has many descendants still residing in  
Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

