

Monday Maritime Matters

Description

Related reading: [Sunday Ship History: U.S. Navy in Africa](#) and [Fred Fry's Maritime Monday 97](#).

CDR David Connoles, USN

CDR David Connoles, USN

Commander Connoles made his mark on US Naval history as a submariner and the skipper of [USS TRIGGER \(SS-237\)](#) in WWII. As with [many heroes of the submarine force](#), CDR David Connoles and his crew were lost at sea due to enemy action on March 26th, 1945. It was the TRIGGER's 12th and last war patrol. A more detailed story of the TRIGGER's war record is found in [Submarine!](#) by Edward Beach. CDR Connoles was awarded two Silver Stars for his wartime record. Who was David Connoles? Here is what I could find:

The Connoles family name is Irish with David Connoles's grandfather, Anthony, immigrating from County Clare, Ireland in the mid-1800s to LO Carroilton, Illinois. David R. Connoles was born on September 8, 1912 in Madison, IL as the first son of Henry Connoles and Mary Rickart Connoles. He did well in school and also became an Eagle Scout. After attending Illinois College for two years, he gained entrance to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1932 and graduated in 1936. For the next three years, he served aboard the cruiser USS Boise then entered Submarine School.

From December 1939 to August 1943, Commander Connoles served aboard the submarine USS Pompano which was involved in numerous war patrols in the Pacific. He then became executive officer of the USS Cuttlefish. In 1944, he took command of the USS Sennet and in 1945, he became the commanding officer of the USS Trigger. The U.S.S. Trigger was lost in battle off the coast of Japan in March, 1945.

Commander Connoles was awarded two Silver Star medals, the Bronze Star medal and the U.S.S. Trigger earned the Presidential Unit Citation for three war patrols.

Vida Wimbrow was born on June 8, 1917 and raised in Annapolis, Maryland. She and David met in 1935 and were married in 1938. This young Navy couple lived in New London, Connecticut, San Francisco, California and Honolulu, Hawaii. During the war years, Vida lived in Annapolis. Their only son, Rickart Alan Connoles, was born in September, 1944. David last saw his son at Rick's christening in November, 1944.

In 1949, Vida married Captain Roy S. Benson who, by coincidence, commanded the U.S.S. Trigger in 1942 and was an instructor of navigation to David Connoles at the Naval Academy.

USS CONNOLES (FF-1056)

Commissioned on August 30th, 1969, the USS CONNOLES (DE-1056) (Later FF-1056) was the ship that

honors the memory of CDR Connoles. The CONNOLE served in the Atlantic Fleet, and was decommissioned on August 30th, 1992 and transferred to the Greek Navy as the *HHMS Ipiros (F-456)*, being decommissioned in that navy in 2003. A cruise book for the 1981 Med cruise was found [here](#). Photos of the commanding officers from 1969 to 1992 were located [here](#).

Category

1. Navy

Date Created

February 11, 2008

Author

admin

default watermark