

# Squalus Lamp Or a hoax?

*by Tom Stranko*

This all brass Koehler was purchased by me in 1988 in a shop just over the Mass. border in Maine. It had a note attached proclaiming that "this lamp was removed from the US submarine SQUALUS sunk off the Atlantic coast in 1939. It was raised in mid Sept 1939 from 243 feet of water. The Navy had to see exactly why it sank because it was the first of a new class of sub and if the design was bad, the Navy had to know what was wrong. (seems it was a shipyard error. Someone left a length of small pipe inside another larger pipe and the pipe inside slid and jammed a valve)

Now, I don't usually bite on every claim made on the price tag of an antique but since they only wanted \$15. for the lamp and I thought who would know that they would have had one or more safety lamps in the battery compartment? Would someone make this up? The thing had obviously been handled quite a bit. Last summer I picked up the picture of the raised and renamed Squalus ( now USS Sailfish)and , anyway , here it is.

