

An 'epoch event' from 1919

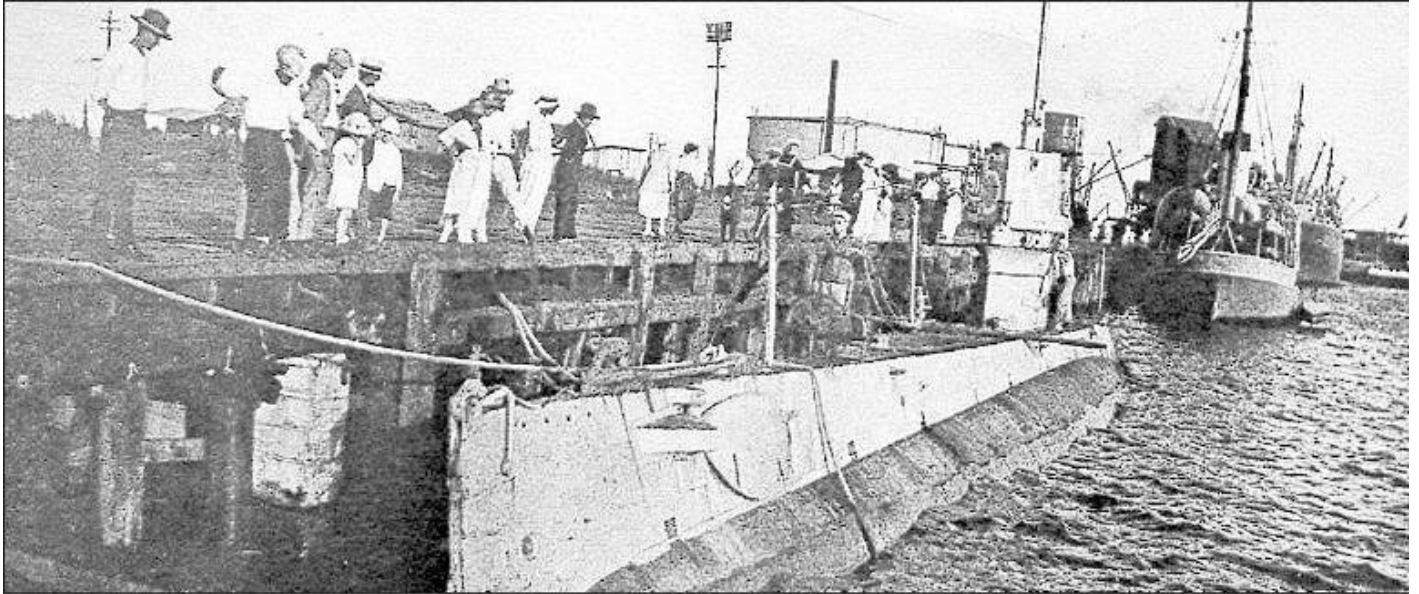
The Daily Herald called it an "epoch event" and businesses and schools closed on July 27, 1919, when an Anti-submarine Flotilla on a recruiting mission arrived for a three-day stop at Gulfport.

The cities of Gulfport and Biloxi joined forces to welcome the crews of the mothership Peoria, a destroyer, an American K-5 submarine, three sub chasers, and three "bombing" seaplanes. But the main focus of attention was the submarine.

Hundreds toured the 150-foot vessel. Built in Quincy, MA in 1914, the sub carried a crew of 25 and a total of eight torpedoes. On the surface it drew 13 feet. It traveled at 6 knots submerged and 14 knots on the surface.

The flotilla carried its own band, which played in concerts in both Gulfport and Biloxi, and its own baseball team, which competed with locals. The crews were feted with dances and banquets before they got under way again for Key West.

Murella Powell, a local historian, writes Flashback. To submit a photo, please send a description with your name, address and daytime phone number to Flashback, the Sun Herald, P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39535, or call 896-2424.



COURTESY PAUL JERMYN

The K-5, pictured in the Gulfport harbor, was the first American submarine to be sent overseas during World War I, and was the first to be open to public inspection, a privilege withdrawn when it left Gulfport.



FLASHBACK

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