



# Sea Lions

## in the NAVY



by Meish Goldish

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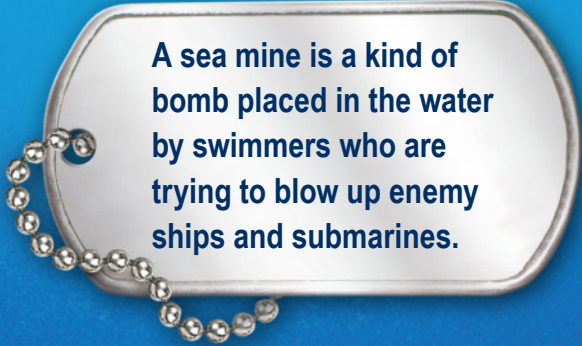
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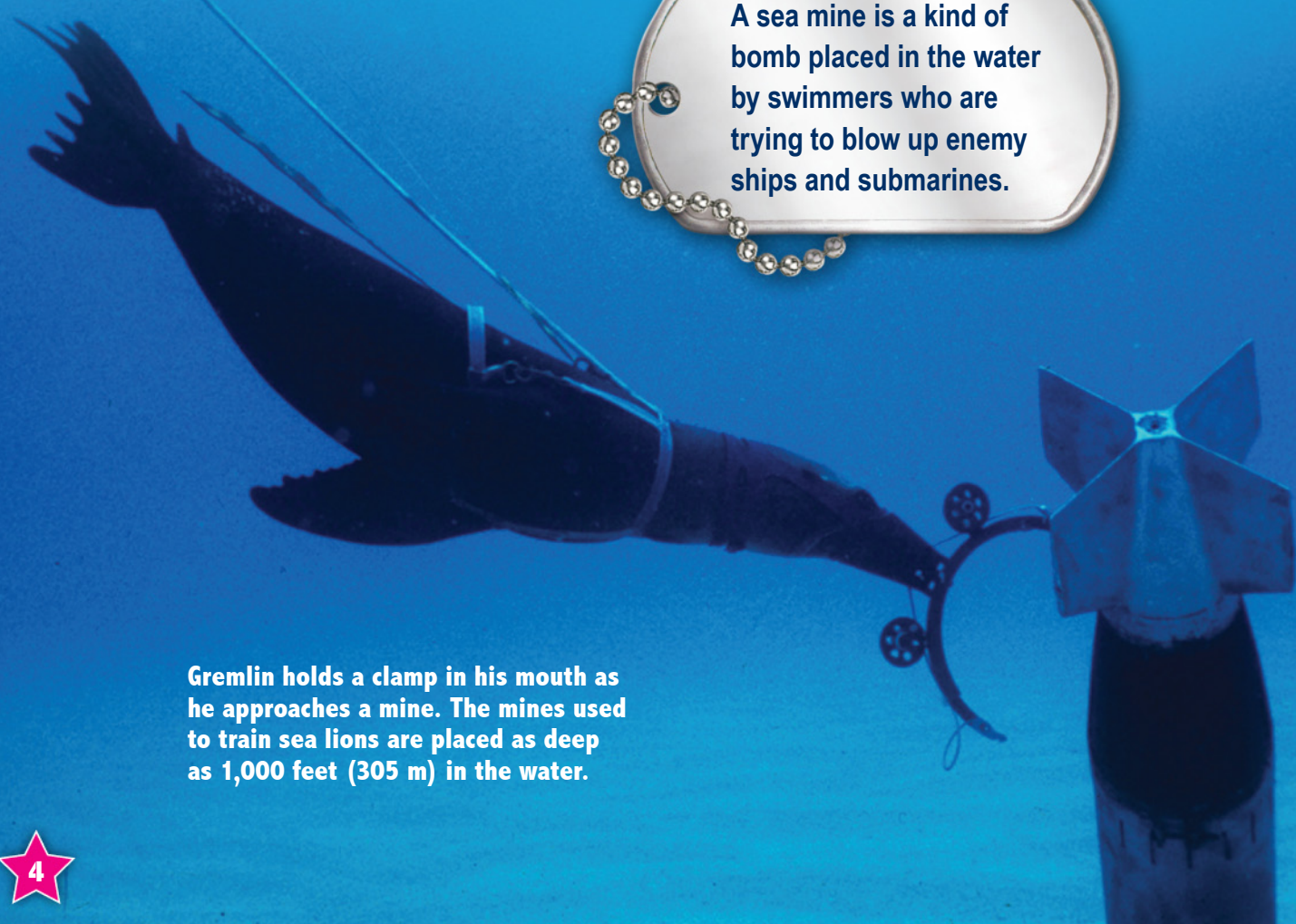


# Bomb in the Water

Gremlin slid off his **raft** and dove deep into the water. Moving quickly, the expert swimmer soon spotted what he was looking for—a sea mine that had been placed on the ocean floor. Without wasting a second, he quickly attached a **clamp** to the mine. Workers on the raft held one end of a rope that had been tied to the clamp. They were now able to safely pull the bomb out of the water.



A sea mine is a kind of bomb placed in the water by swimmers who are trying to blow up enemy ships and submarines.



Gremlin holds a clamp in his mouth as he approaches a mine. The mines used to train sea lions are placed as deep as 1,000 feet (305 m) in the water.



It had taken Gremlin just a few minutes to do his job. Amazingly, Gremlin isn't even a human—he's a sea lion! He was trained by the U.S. **Navy** to protect American sailors and ships from danger. The mine that Gremlin found wasn't real. It was actually part of a Navy **exercise** to test his skills.



Gremlin is about to enter the water.



# Why Sea Lions?

Gremlin is one of about 30 California sea lions that work for the U.S. Navy. They are trained, along with **bottlenose dolphins**, to **patrol** sea and **coastal** waters. The animals are part of the Navy **Marine Mammal** Program, based in San Diego, California.



This bottlenose dolphin was trained by the Navy Marine Mammal Program to find sea mines.



Why does the Navy sometimes use sea lions instead of people to help guard the water? One of the main reasons is the animals' speed. Sea lions swim much faster than humans do. In addition, their long, narrow bodies let them weave easily through tight spaces. Sea lions also see five times better than humans in the deep, dark ocean. They hear better, too. They can easily pick up the sound of something moving far away in the water.

A sea lion can swim at a speed of up to 25 miles per hour (40 kph). That's about five times faster than a swimmer in an Olympic race.

A sea lion can make many deep dives without getting tired or suffering from a dangerous type of pain called "the bends," which human divers often experience.

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## Learn More Online

To learn more about sea lions in the U.S. Navy, visit  
[www.bearportpublishing.com/AmericasAnimalSoldiers](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/AmericasAnimalSoldiers)

## About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, where the local aquarium celebrated its first birth of a California sea lion in 2010.



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# Sea Lions in the NAVY

Gremlin slid off his raft and dove deep into the water. Moving quickly, the expert swimmer soon spotted what he was looking for—a sea mine. Without wasting a second, he quickly attached a clamp to the mine so that workers could safely pull it out of the water. It had taken Gremlin just minutes to do his job. Amazingly, Gremlin isn't even a human—he's a sea lion!

Look inside to learn more about Gremlin and other sea lions that are trained by the U.S. Navy to protect American sailors and ships from danger. From hunting for deadly sea mines to searching for enemy divers, these heroic animals help out in ways that no human ever could.

**Dolphins  
in the Navy**

**Sea Lions  
in the Navy**

**Horses, Donkeys,  
and Mules in the Marines**

**War Dogs**



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