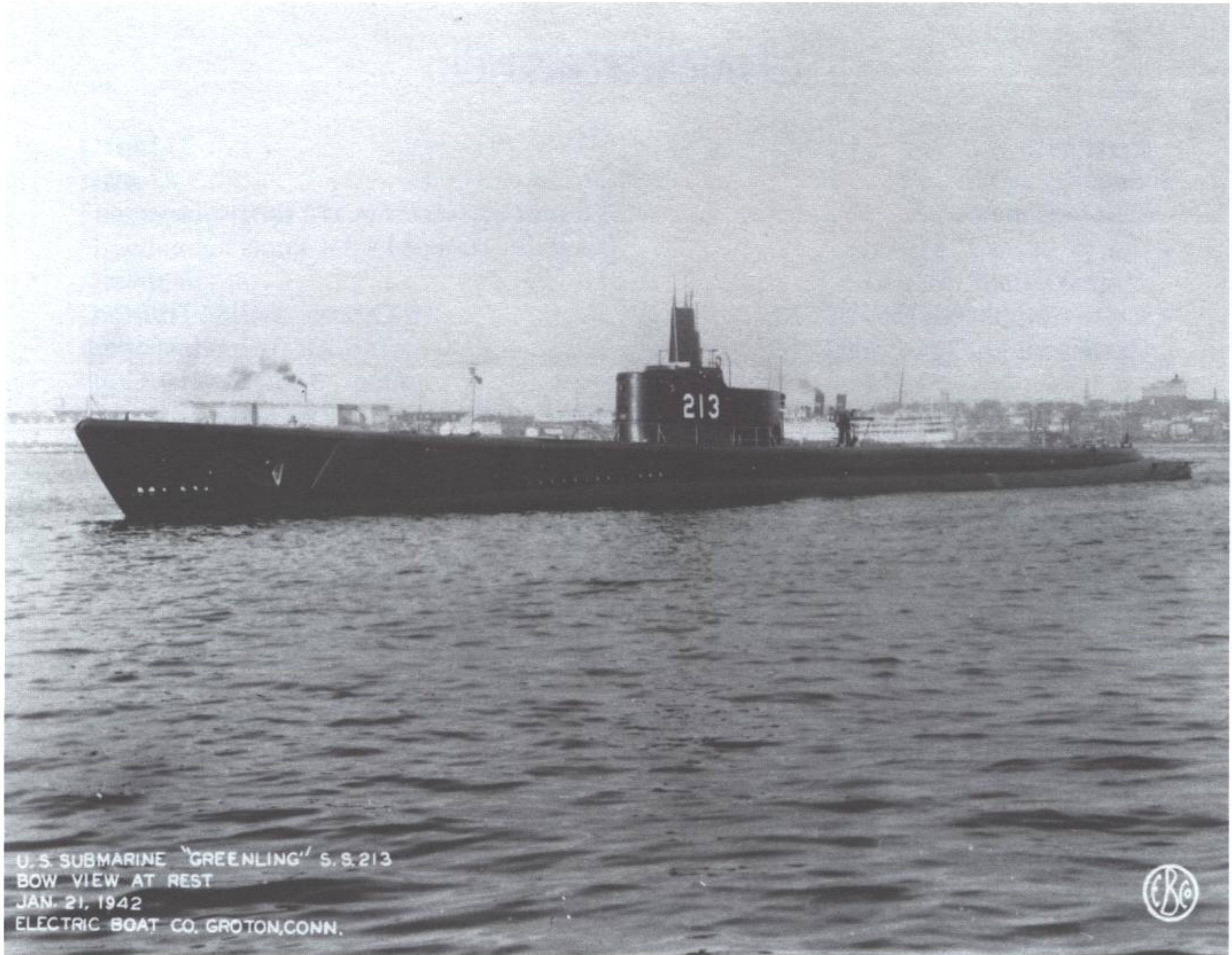


# COMBAT HERITAGE

## GREENLING (SS 213)

USS GREENLING (SSN 614), named in commemoration of the submarine GREENLING (SS 213), is the second ship of the fleet to bear the name of fish known scientifically as *Hexagrammidae*.



GREENLING (SS 213) at Commissioning in New London

The first GREENLING was a GATO class fleet-type submarine of the latest all-welded design, displacing 1500 tons at a length of 307 feet and a beam of 27 feet and equipped with ten torpedo tubes. With its 6400 horsepower diesel all-electric drive, it could cruise the ocean at 20 knots on the surface. The SS 213 distinguished herself in the Pacific theater of operations by sending over 59,000 tons of Japanese shipping to the bottom. Through twelve war patrols, her skippers earned two Navy Crosses, one Silver Star and one Legion of Merit. Although official Navy records only credit GREENLING with fifteen definite kills, her logs relate the sinking of twenty-two Japanese vessels for a total of 102,500 tons plus damage to an aircraft carrier and two large tankers.





Mrs. Rachal Holmes  
Sponsor of GREENLING (SS 213)

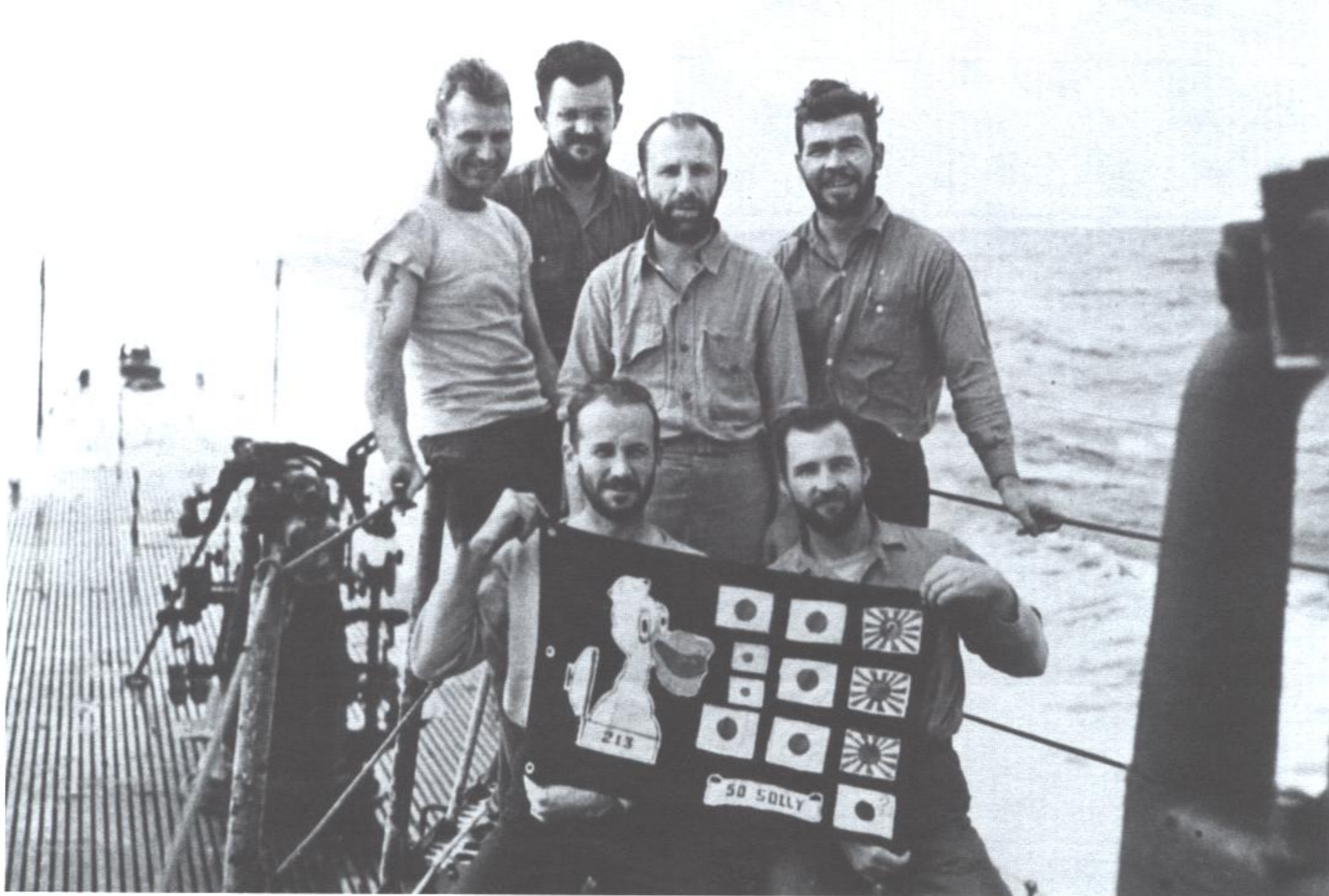
The SS 213 history originates at the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut. The keel was laid on November 12, 1940, and she was launched September 20, 1941, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Rachal Holmes who resided at 3051 N Street NW, Washington, D.C. Mrs. Holmes was the wife of Rear Admiral Ralston S. Holmes, USN, a member of the general board of the Navy Department. The SS 213 officially joined the U.S. Navy when she was commissioned January 21, 1942, Lieutenant Commander Henry Chester Bruton, USN, commanding.

After intensive shakedown training operations out of New London, the SS 213 departed March 7, 1942, for combat operations in the Pacific. She transited the Panama Canal, arriving in Pearl Harbor April 3, 1942, and sailed April 20, 1942, for her maiden war patrol. GREENLING drew her first blood in the war in approaches to Truk, with the sinking by a single torpedo of a 3,262-ton armed cargo ship. In this first war patrol, GREENLING set an example of daring aggressiveness and tenacity that did not go unrewarded. It became the hallmark of her gallant crew that made her one of the most valuable units of the Pacific Submarine Force. After fifty-seven days at sea, she returned to Pearl Harbor June 16, 1942.

During GREENLING's second, third, and fourth war patrols, she continued her achievements. GREENLING saw action in the waters off Truk, participating in a chain of U. S. submarine war patrols off of Honshu, Japan, and patrolling the Tokyo-Aleutian shipping lanes. GREENLING continued to wreak havoc upon the Japanese merchant marine into the beginning of 1943.

Lieutenant Commander Bruton brought GREENLING into Brisbane, Australia, from her fourth war patrol January 31, 1943. By this time, GREENLING had sunk 11 ships totalling 54,557 tons. For brilliant exploits during her first three war patrols, she was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The holder of three Navy Crosses, two Legions of Merit and a Commendation Ribbon, Lieutenant Commander Bruton (later promoted to Rear Admiral) was succeeded in command of GREENLING by Lieutenant Commander James D. Grant, USN.





CDR H. C. Bruton (standing in center) and Shipmates  
Displaying the GREENLING Battle Flag

The next three war patrols were conducted out of Brisbane. During the fifth war patrol, she conducted operations in the Solomons-Bismarck area and landed a party of intelligence agents on the east coast of New Britain. The seventh war patrol was a special mission that included the landing of a party of Marine Raiders in the Treasury Islands.

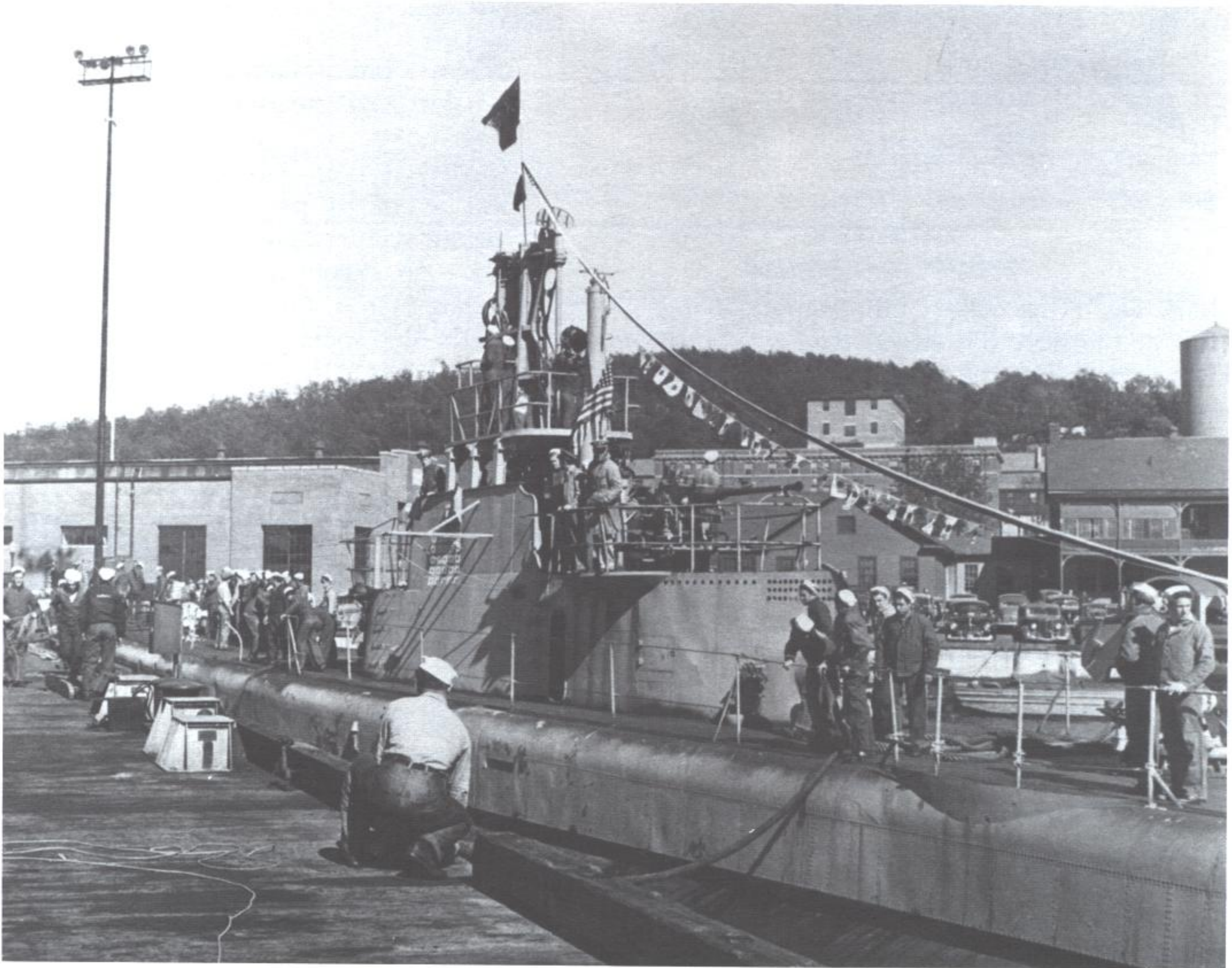
After the seventh war patrol, GREENLING was routed via Pearl Harbor to San Francisco. Her overhaul at the Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard lasted from September 25 to November 28, 1943, and she returned to Pearl Harbor on December 5, 1943, to renew action in the Pacific.

During the next several war patrols, GREENLING conducted operations in the vicinity of the Caroline Islands and conducted photo reconnaissance of Guam, Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas. She returned to Pearl Harbor on May 12, 1944, with valuable intelligence for planning the capture and occupation of the Marianas Islands. Lieutenant Commander John D. Gerwock, USN, took command of GREENLING from Lieutenant Commander Grant on June 17, 1944.



Her 12th and last war patrol was carried out in the Nansei Shoto Islands. Departing Pearl Harbor December 26, 1944, she found no targets until January 24, 1945, when she intercepted a nine ship convoy. On approach, she received an unexpected salvo of 19 depth charges, went deep and was boxed in by four high-speed escorts. For two and a half hours, the enemy above worked her over systematically, dropping a total of 95 depth charges uncomfortably close. Minor damage mounted as she was first shaken and later knocked down about 60 feet in the next to last attack. She evaded her pursuers after firing false target shells to confuse them.

GREENLING reached Saipan on January 27, 1945, for emergency repairs. From there she was routed onward via Pearl Harbor to San Francisco, then to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. After overhaul in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, she was decommissioned in New London, Connecticut on October 16, 1946, with 10 battle stars and the Presidential Unit Commendation.



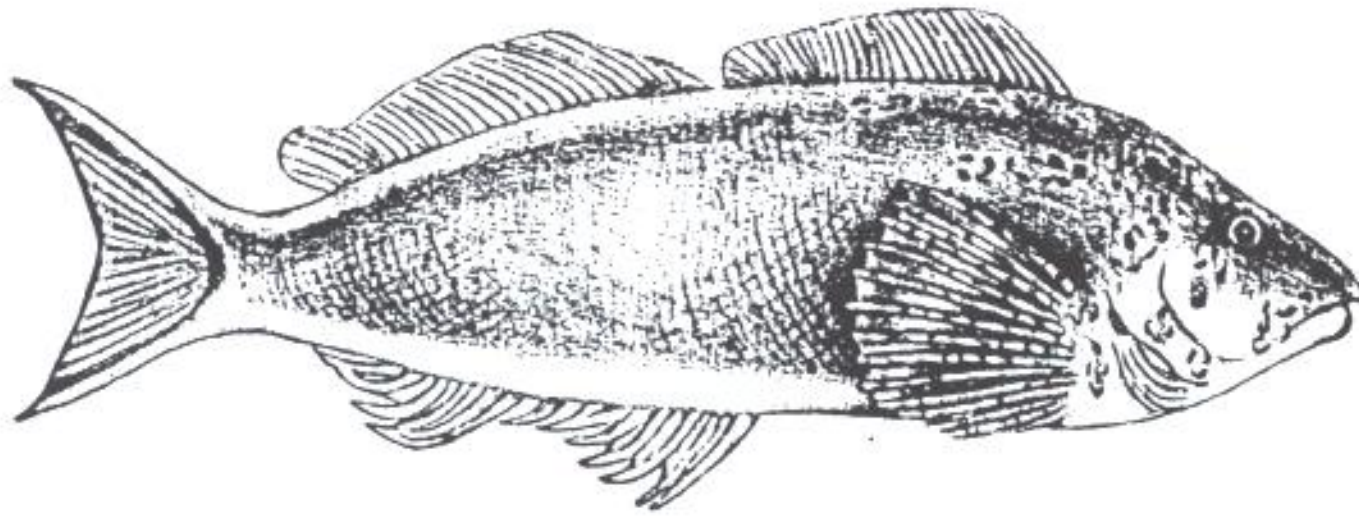
GREENLING returning to the Submarine Base, New London

In December, 1946, GREENLING was placed in service of the First Naval District. Stationed in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and later Boston, she continued a vital role of training the Organized Reserve. On March 18, 1960, she was placed out of service in the Boston Naval Shipyard, and she was sold for scrapping June 16, 1960, to Minichiello Brothers, Chelsea, Massachusetts.



# THE FISH GREENLING

While highly appropriate, the name "Greenling" is not itself a species of fish, but a family of fishes known scientifically as *Hexagrammidae*. Thus "greenling" does not apply to a unique species unless accompanied by a descriptive adjective. Common names of greenlings include the painted greenling, the ling cod (no relation to cod), the whitespotted greenling, the masked greenling, the rock greenling, the kelp greenling, Atka mackerel and two Japanese species, "Aburaco" and "Kujimi." All nine species qualify as "greenlings" as they are in the greenling family, but popular usage restricts greenlings to the five species with "greenling" in their name.



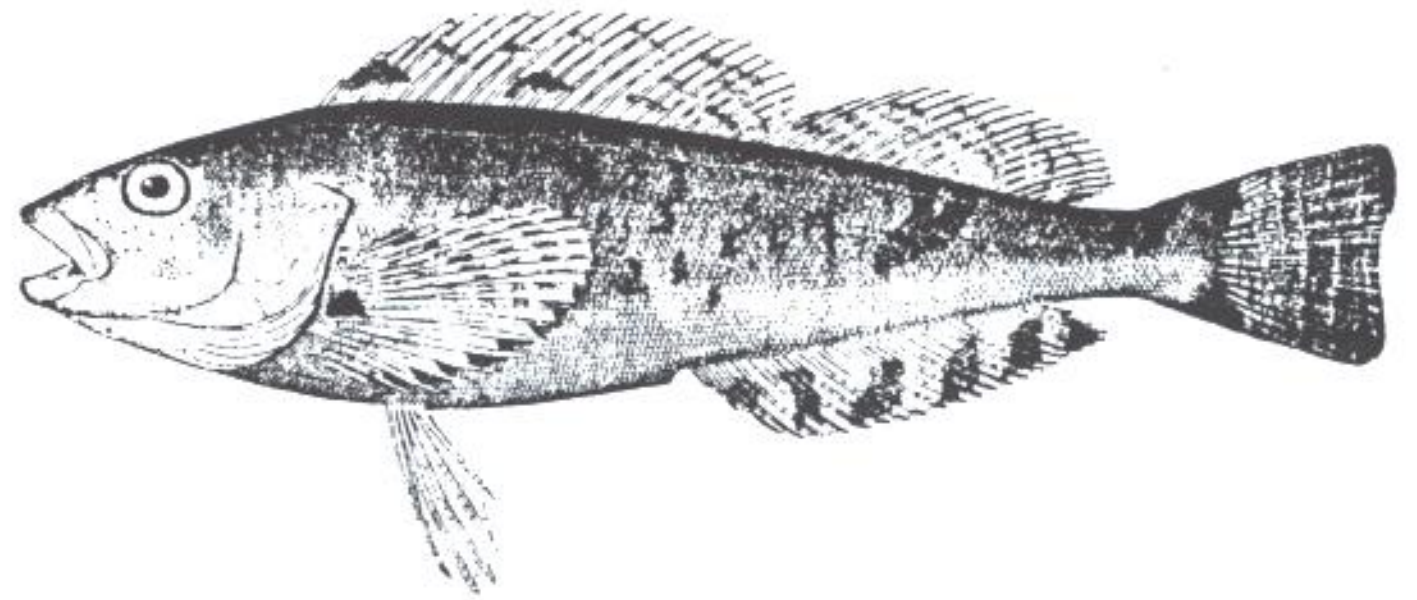
Kelp greenling  
*Hexagrammos decagrammus*

ability lies in the males of the kelp greenling. During breeding season, the head, forepart of the body and forward fins are covered with small, brilliant, electric blue spots that are surrounded by black spots to give the fish a very colorful appearance. Very few fishes in the world are so brilliantly marked.

Most species in the greenling family are medium sized, males slightly larger, maturing to a size of about one foot. The Japanese species and painted greenling are a little smaller, the ling cod is much larger and can reach a size of five feet and about one hundred pounds. The greenling is an elongated, fine scaled fish with a large mouth provided with small, but deadly, sharp teeth. Its cone shaped head, symmetrical body and well

developed fins enable this predatory species to swim swiftly in pursuit of its prey. All greenlings lack air bladders, so all tend to be strongly negatively buoyant and must perch on the bottom or cruise about using their pectoral fins as planes. One of its most remarkable features is its elaborate sensory systems, five lateral lines on each side, three along the back, one between the pectoral and pelvic fin and one along the lower side. These structures are sensitive organs for feeling vibrations in the water and serve as a sonic system for detection and location of its enemies or prey.

Greenlings inhabit the shallow coastal waters, ranging from the surf zone to 100 meters or so. Although the family is distributed across the arc of the North Pacific from Japan to Baja Mexico, all but the Kujimi and Aburaco occur in American Territorial Waters, with various ranges between the Aleutians and California.



Masked greenling  
*Hexagrammos octogrammus*