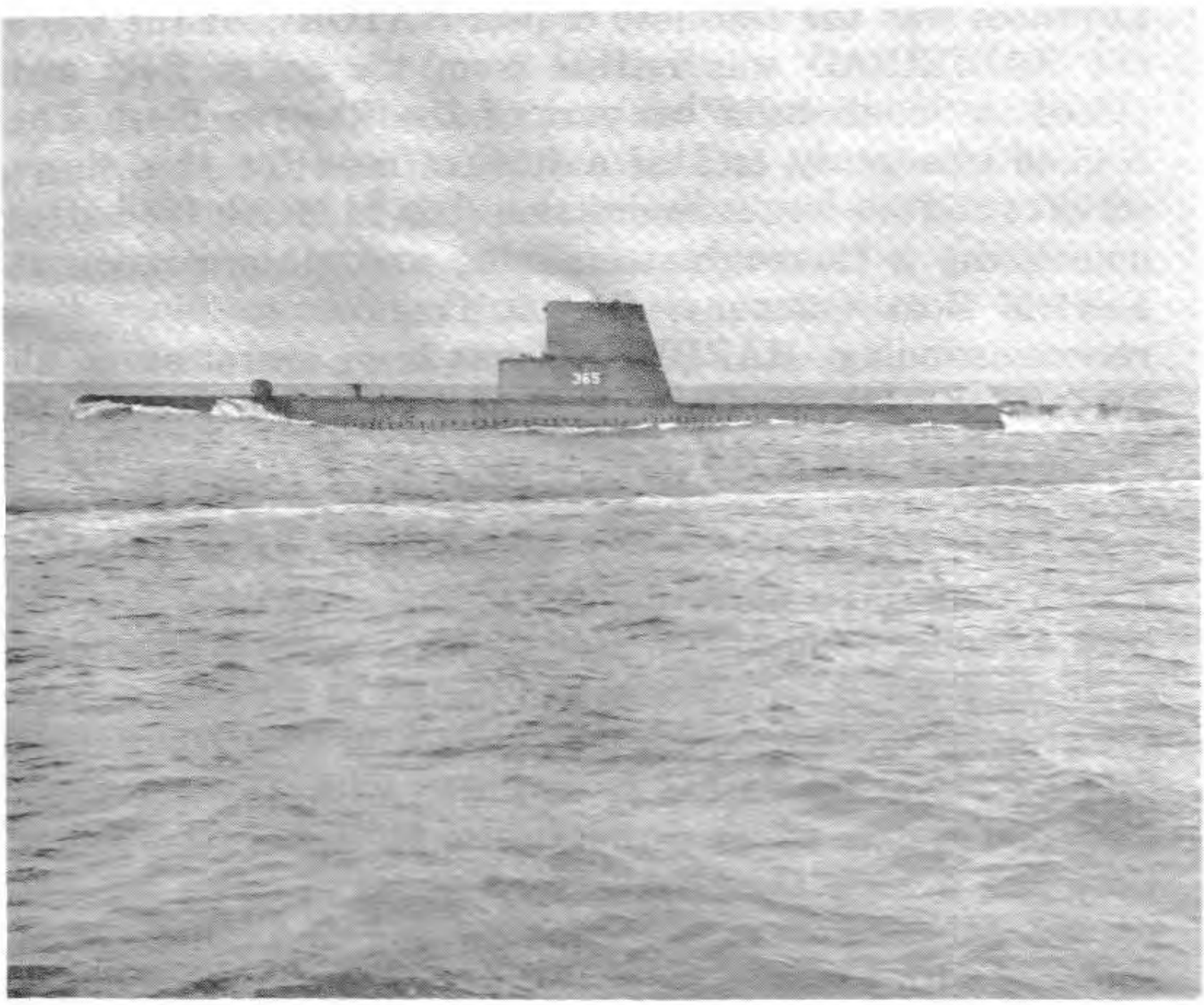
WELCOME ABOARD



USS HARDHEAD
SS-365

HISTORY OF U.S.S HARDHEAD

The HEARDHEAD was built by the Manitowac Shipbuilding Company, Manitowac, Wisconsin. She was launched on 12 December 1943 and placed in commission on 18 April 1944. During her participation in World War II HARDHEAD made six war patrols in Western Pacific waters sinking nine enemy ships. The most important victim of HARDHEAD's torpedoes was the Japanese cruiser NATORI. At the war's end HARDHEAD was retired from the active fleet and placed in "moth balls" as part of the Reserve Fleet. The Korean emergency created a further need for this ship's services and she was recommissioned on 24 March 1953 after undergoing a thorough steamlining and modernization at Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut. Since this recommissioning, HARDHEAD has been operating in all parts of the Atlantic Ocean area as a ready member of the nation's first line of defense.

The HARDHEAD is a unit of Submarine Development Group TWO operating out of the Submarine Base at New London, Connecticut. Her duties consist primarily of evaluating special equipment and tactics as a forerunner of the growing modern submarine force of the U. S. Navy. This "Guppy" type submarine is equipped with the "snorkel" induction system which permits extended submerged operations and a high capacity battery which provides for improved submarged characteristics. The HARDHEAD is equipped with a large amount of the most modern electronics equipment to permit her to carry out a wide variety of operations.

The Officers and men which man the HARDHEAD are selected from among the various other branches of the U. S. Navy. They must meet stringent physical, mental and

psychological standards to be selected for this service. All personnel are first trained at the Submarine School at New London, Conn. and later undergo a thorough qualification period aboard a submarine. When completed they earn the right to wear "Dolphins", the proud symbol of a qualified submariner.

The submarine forces of the U. S. Navy are flexible and potent part of the deterrent and defensive strength of Armed Forces of the United States. The advent of nuclear propulsion, improved designs and advanced weapons have combined to make the modern submarine capable of accomplishing tasks which vary from Arctic penetration to providing anti-submarine protection.

WELCOME ABOARD

The Officers and crew of HARDHEAD heartily welcome you aboard with the sincere hope that you will enjoy your visit. We are proud of our ship and will be only too happy to answer your questions and to show you around our home.

CHARACTERISTICS

Displacement - 1526 Tons
Length - 307'
Armament - 10 - 21" Torpedo tubes
Machinery - 2 Propellers
3 Diesel engines
Complement - Approximately 80 men and 8 officers

WELCOME ABOARD

USS HARDHEAD (SS 365)

USS HARDHEAD (SS 365) was built by Manitowac Shipbuilding Company, Manitowac, Wisconsin and was launched on 12 December 1943. Commissioned on 18 April 1944 under the command of LCDR FITZHUGH McMASTER USN, she left Pearl Harbor three months later on her first war patrol.

HARDHEAD conducted six war patrols during WW II, operating primarily in the Philippine Sea, South China Sea, and South Pacific Ocean. During the patrols, she sank one light cruiser, two tankers, one cargo ship, one submarine chaser, two anti-submarine vessels, one auxiliary and one coastal defense vessel.

With the war's end, HARDHEAD steamed home and was decommissioned on 10 May 1946. She remained in "mothballs" at Mare Island until the outbreak of the Korean conflict, when in May 1952 HARDHEAD got underway for New London, Connecticut where she underwent a complete conversion to a "Guppy" type submarine. The submarine was then recommissioned under the command of LCDR VITO L. VITUCCI, USN and she has been engaged in Atlantic operations since that time.

HARDHEAD is attached to Submarine Squadron TWO and is based at New London, Conn. Her duties consist primarily of participating in Fleet and Force excercises. She is equipped with a "snorkel" induction system which permits extended submerged operations, and a high capacity battery for greater submerged endurance and speed.

HARDHEAD won the Submarine Squadron TEN Battle Efficiency "E" in 1958 and won the Submarine Development Group TWO "E" in 1959, 1960 and 1961. In August 1966 HARDHEAD went to Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for a regular overhaul until December 1966.

When the U. S. entered World War II, the Atlantic Submarine Force, thanks to an active training program, was on the alert and in fighting trim for the full dress conflict. It was in the readying of submarines and their crews that SUBLANT made its major contribution to the overall war effort. The mainspring of the training activity was the Submarine School in New London. Its graduates numbered practically all U. S. Navy Submarines. The primary task of Commander Submarine Force (COMSUBLANT) was the procurement and training of personnel for both Atlantic and Pacific duty.

For the first few years after the close of World War II, there appeared to be no conventional targets on the horizon for submarines. Consequently, submarines were trained, converted or built for a variety of tasks, which included minelaying, radar picket duty, guided missile-launching, troop carrying, seaplane tending, and other miscellaneous assignments. However, not many years passed before the concentration of the Soviets on the construction of vast numbers of submarines alerted the Navy and our Submarine Forces to the real challenge that lay ahead. Consequently, commencing about 1949, U. S. Submarine Forces began to train and concentrate on ways of using submarines in the ASW role. The addition of array sonar and snorkels contributed greatly to this capability. On 17 January 1955 at Groton, Conn., a New era of sea navigation was born. NAUTILUS, world's first nuclear ship and first "true" submarine, stood out for the open sea. Our "Nuclear Navy" had commenced operations. Some 26 months later SEAWOLF followed. Then, on 23 December 1957, SKATE was commissioned . . . . lead ship of a class of four attack-class SSN's.

Into a radically different type hull a nuclear power plant was placed: result, SKIPJACK. Hydrodynamically superior to all her predecessors and with a power plant that culminated a decade of research and development in the field of nuclear propulsion. SKIPJACK heads up a six-ship class of truly advanced attack submarines.

On 30 December 1959, the first unit of the great new Naval war deterrent, the Fleet Ballistic Missile Force Atlantic —USS GEORGE WASHINGTON—, was commissioned. It is the first of nine similar submarines—each essentially a mobile, underwater launching platform with 16 Polaris missile launchers.

The GEORGE WASHINGTON class was followed by the ETHAN ALLEN class FBMs. Larger than their forerunners, the ETHAN ALLEN class was followed up by another more advanced design, the LAFAYETTE class.

The Navy's new submarines—possessing nuclear power, armed with advance type missiles and equipment, possessing exceptional speed, maneuverability and endurance—hold tremendous potential for the future.

Traditionally the submarine has been the weapon of the offensive which has led the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of the opposition through two world wars to the present day. As the Communist Bloc adds to its present submarine strength with the acquisition of nuclear power and submarine missile launchers of improved design we in the Submarine Force intend to rise to the challenges of the future as our predecessors have risen to similar problems over the past six decades. As the unofficial maxim of the Submarine Force says it, we pledge ourselves to remain.

READY

RESOLUTE

RESOURCEFUL

USS HARDHEAD (SS-365)
Aerial Stern View About 135° Off C.L. (ST'BD. Side)
Phila. Naval Shipyard, 28 May 1964