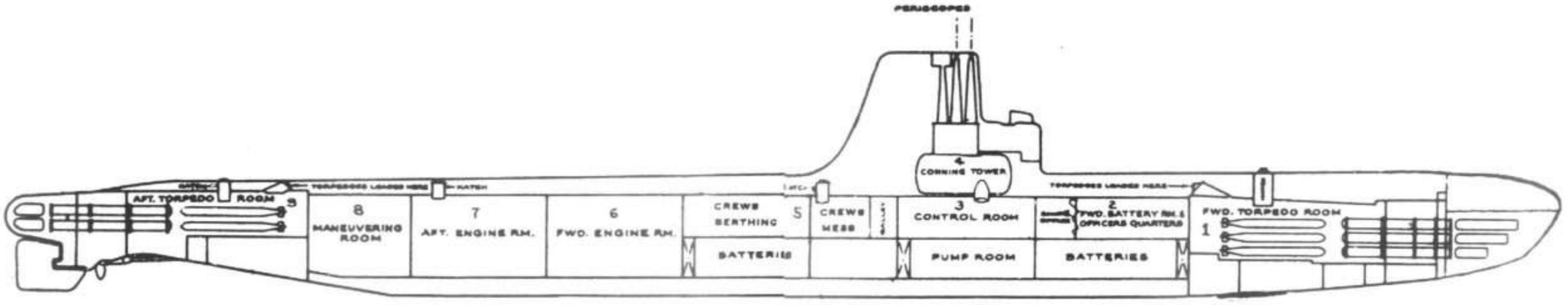
U.S.S. QUILLBACK SS-424

The fish QUILLBACK is a medium sized fresh water fish found in the brackish waters of the Mississippi River. It gets its name from the fact that the fin on its back is larger and longer than that of the ordinary fish, and is constructed so that it resembles quills.

WELCOME ABOARD!

THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE QUILLBACK ARE PLEASED THAT YOU ARE HERE AND HOPE THAT THEY CAN HELP YOU IN GAINING A PORTION OF THE "DOLPHIN LORE" AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX MECHANISMS AND SYSTEMS THAT MAKE A SUBMARINE UNIQUE IN THE REALM OF THE SEA.



1. FORWARD TORPEDO ROOM. There are six torpedo tubes in the foremost part of the room. Reload torpedoes are carried in the room and bunks for a portion of the crew are spaced around the torpedoes. The torpedoes are loaded through a specially designed loading hatch located in the overhead at the after part of the room. The small compartment above the torpedo room is the escape trunk which allows several persons at a time to isolate themselves from the torpedo room while equalizing with sea pressure. When this has been accomplished the trunk door can be opened and the men can escape from the submarine.

2. FORWARD BATTERY COMPARTMENT. The upper half of this compartment contains the berthing, working, and recreation space for the officers and Chief Petty Officers. You will see a small pantry for food service, the Wardroom, Officer's staterooms and a small ships office. The lower portion of the compartment contains half of the batteries which provide propulsion power when submerged. There are 126 battery cells, each one about five feet high and weighing about three quarters of a ton.

3. CONTROL ROOM. This room contain the controls for diving and surfacing. There are controls for the bow and stern planes which direct the ship up and down while submerged, operating levers for opening and shutting vents and valves which allow water to enter the ballast tanks, manifolds for supplying air and water to various tanks to assist in controlling the ship or surfacing, and an auxiliary steering station.
Also in this compartment are the master and auxiliary gyro compasses and a radio room is located in the after section. Below the main deck area is an electronics equipment compartment on the port side and an auxiliary machinery compartment on the starboard side.

4. CONNING TOWER. The conning tower, located above the control room, is the operation station for the periscopes, navigation, and other control equipment. The bridge is located above the forward part of the conning tower.

5. AFTER BATTERY COMPARTMENT. The upper level contains the ships galley where all the food is prepared, a dinette and recreation area and a main berthing area for the enlisted members of the crew. Under the main level is a battery consisting of 126 cells which supplies electrical power when submerged.

6. &7. FORWARD AND AFTER ENGINE ROOMS. These rooms contain the diesel engines and auxiliary equipments such as fresh water distilling units, high pressure air compressors and air conditioning units.

8. MANEUVERING ROOM. This room is the main control area for the ships propulsion power. Levers are used to direct electrical energy from either the generators of batteries to the main motors located in the lower half of the compartment.

9. AFTER TORPEDO ROOM. There are four torpedo tubes in the after part of the room and reload torpedoes are carried in the room.
Also located in this after section is a signal ejector. It is a miniature torpedo tube for launching signal flares to surface ships and aircraft. Bunks for a portion of the crew are arranged around the torpedoes. The torpedoes are loaded through a specially designed hatch, located in the overhead at the forward end of the compartment.

HISTORY OF THE USS QUILLBACK

The QUILLBACK was built at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire and first commissioned 29 December 1944. She participated in World War II and made her maiden patrol off the coast of Kyushu, Japan. Quillback is credited with the destruction of one suicidemotorboat and rescuing one downed aviator near the heavily armed shoreline. The award of the Submarine Combat Insignia was authorized for this patrol.

After the war, Quillback engaged in training operations with the Submarine School in New London, Connecticut and the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean prior to being decommissioned in May 1952. She was converted for Greater Underwater Propulsion Power and designated a GUPPY II A type submarine in recommissioning ceremonies at Portsmouth. New Hampshire, 27 February 1953.

Quillback is 306 feet in length, has an extreme beam of 27 feet and displaces 1800 tons on the surface. She is propelled by three 1600 horsepower diesel engines driving three generators which in turn supply power for double armature motors connected to each of her two shafts. When submerged, electrical power is supplied by two 126 cell batteries direct to the motors. A Snorkel System (breathing tube) also permits operation of the diesels when submerged.

There are six torpedo tubes forward and four aft. Reload torpedoes can be carried in each of the torpedo rooms.

Quillback's primary mission in the event of war is to seek out and destroy enemy submarines. Her mission in peacetime is training and good will. She has also been called upon for special operations in crises such as Lebanon in 1958 and Cuba in 1962.

In 1959, Quillback participated in Operation Inland Sea to help commemorate the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. During this voyage, she visited six cities situated on the Great Lakes.

Frequently, breaks in the rigorous training schedules permit visits to such cities as New Orleans, St. Petersburg, Miami, Tampa, and Fort Lauderdale, in the United States and to such Carribean ports as St. Thomas, Kingston, Ocho Rios, Montego Bay, and Port Au Prince.

Peacetime training operations are varied but generally involve U.S. Atlantic Fleet and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ships and aircraft in exercises which include realistic war games. Quillback has deployed on four occasions with the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea and on several others to the stormy North Atlantic for training exercises.

USS Quillback plays a prime role in the Free World's first line of defense and will continue to do so until replaced by a modern nuclear powered submarine in the future.

Presently Quillback is a unit of Submarine Squadron Twelve and is home-ported in Key West, Florida.