

# *Commissioning*

United States Ship  
**FLASHER** (SSN 613)



U. S. NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT

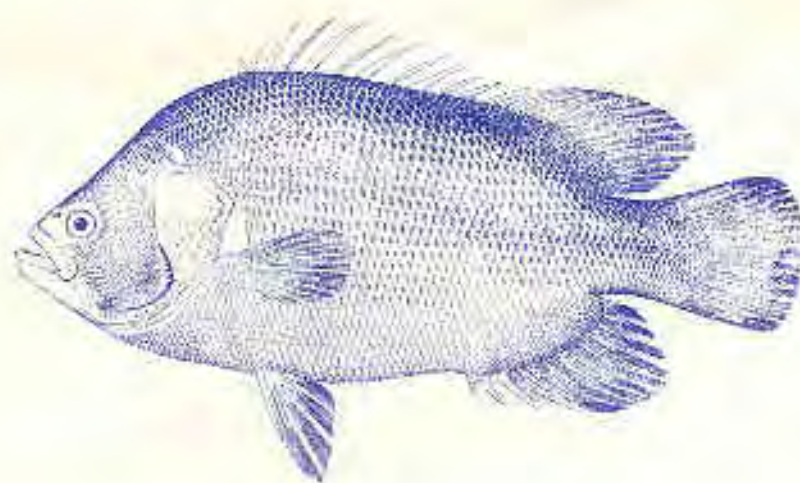


## *Commissioning of a Navy Ship*

The commissioning ceremony marks the acceptance of a ship as a unit of the Operating Forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking the commissioning pennant, USS *FLASHER* (SSN 615) becomes the responsibility of the Commanding Officer who, together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation in peace or war.

\* \* \*

The commissioning pennant is believed to date from the 17th century, when the Dutch were at war with the English. The Dutch Admiral TROMP hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. This gesture was answered by the English admiral who hoisted a horse whip, indicating his intention to chastise the Dutch. The English were victorious and ever since, the narrow, or coach whip, pennant (symbolizing the original horse whip) has been adopted by all nations as the distinctive mark of a ship of war.



## *The Fish Flasher*

The Flasher or Tripletail belongs to the fish family *Lobotidae*. Characteristic of this family is the unusual placement of the second dorsal and anal fins, which are located posteriorly on the body, close to the tail. When these fins are folded back they produce a superficial appearance of three tail lobes, hence the name Tripletail.

The Flasher is known scientifically as *Lobotes uranemensis*. It is circum-tropical in distribution living in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans as well as the Mediterranean Sea. Along American shores it is common in the Gulf of Mexico and from South Carolina southward along the Atlantic coast. It takes a baited hook readily and is an excellent food fish, reaching a length of about three feet.

Coloring is variable, it may be dusky greenish, dark to light brown, or light tan. The lower sides are silvery. Several dark bands are present on the face and head.





## *Heritage*

### USS FLASHER (SS 249)

Built by the Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut, the USS FLASHER (SS 249) was launched on 20 June 1943. Mrs. W. A. Saunders of New London, Connecticut, wife of a Navy Cross winner who was serving in the submarine service at that time, was the sponsor. FLASHER was commissioned on 25 September 1943 at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut. Lieutenant Commander Reuben T. Whitaker served as her first commanding officer.

FLASHER commenced her first war patrol four months later and returned to Freemantle, Australia after 54 days, having sunk 10,528 tons of enemy shipping.

FLASHER's second, third, and fourth patrols were eminently successful bringing her score up another 46,985 tons.

Lieutenant Commander George W. Grider relieved Lieutenant Commander Whitaker as Commanding Officer for the fifth war patrol. During this patrol FLASHER sank an estimated 45,522 tons, 28,600 of it in one day.

After the fifth patrol, FLASHER was overhauled in San Francisco just seventeen months after leaving New London. During this brief period she had sunk or damaged an estimated 152,000 tons of enemy shipping. By directive dated January 1947 FLASHER was placed out of commission in reserve, attached to the U. S. Atlantic Reserve Fleet.

FLASHER earned six Battle Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Ribbon for the war patrols she conducted during the period 6 January 1944 to 13 March 1945. She was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation in recognition of heroism during the third, fourth, and fifth patrols. She was officially credited with sinking more tonnage of Japanese shipping than any other submarine during World War II (100,230 tons, 24 vessels) and was the only submarine officially credited with exceeding the 100,000 ton mark.

## USS FLASHER (SSN 613)

The keel for USS FLASHER (SSN 613) was laid on 15 April 1961 at the Electric Boat Division of the General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. In the nation's only simultaneous twin launching, FLASHER and TECUMSEH (SSBN 628) were launched on 22 June 1963. FLASHER was christened by Mrs. Paul B. Fay, Jr., wife of the Under Secretary of the Navy. Vice Admiral Elton W. Grenfell, then Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet delivered the principal address.

Originally laid down as the tenth submarine in the PERMIT class building program, FLASHER was extensively modified during the construction period. These modifications consisted of lengthening the hull, lengthening the sail, and upgrading the watertight integrity of sea water systems.

FLASHER's primary war time mission is to detect, track and kill enemy submarines. In order to achieve this capability she has been equipped with an elaborate sonar system, a highly advanced installation capable of searching for and detecting targets on the surface and submerged at great ranges. To utilize the increased capabilities of her sonar, FLASHER has installed a modern computer controlled submarine weapon system, designed to permit the attacking and sinking of submarines at great distances. Her weapon system is capable of firing the latest in this country's arsenal of anti-submarine weapons including the SUBROC missile.

FLASHER combines the endurance and environmental independence of nuclear power with deep submergence, high speed, quietness, and the most advanced weapons and electronics capabilities. These characteristics make her one of the Navy's most effective anti-submarine warfare weapons. She and her sisters serving with the Navy's fleets in all parts of the World are a constant reminder to any and all potential enemies of the United States' power for peace.



MRS. PAUL B. FAY, JR.  
Sponsor





CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

15 July 1966

Dear Captain,

On the occasion of the commissioning of USS FLASHER (SSN 613), I congratulate you on your new command and wish you, your officers and crew a very rewarding tour of duty.

USS FLASHER is another step forward in the development of combatant ships and is the cumulative result of the combined efforts of many segments of the United States Navy. Upon her and all the ships and craft of the fleet, lie the future hopes and aspirations of our Navy, and her very existence will be a further strong deterrent to aggression.

I am confident that under the leadership of you, your officers and petty officers, the highest standards of devotion to duty will be achieved, and USS FLASHER will meet the challenge of her tasks ahead in such manner as to reflect the highest credit upon the United States Navy.

I extend to you and each member of your ship's company my best wishes for fair breezes and God's help in the many tasks ahead.

Sincerely,



DAVID L. McDONALD

Commander Kenneth M. Carr, USN  
Prospective Commanding Officer  
USS FLASHER (SSN 613)  
Supervisor of Shipbuilding, USN  
Groton, Connecticut

# Commissioning United States Ship *FLASHER* (SSN 613)

## *Program*

### *INVOCATION*

Lieutenant Commander Charles W. Rugg, (CHC), USNR  
Chaplain, United States Coast Guard Training Station, Groton, Connecticut

### *WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT, ELECTRIC BOAT DIVISION GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION*

Captain Harry A. Jackson, USN  
Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Groton, Connecticut

### *REMARKS*

Mr. J. William Jones, Jr., President  
Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation

### *INTRODUCTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMANDANT, THIRD NAVAL DISTRICT*

Captain Harry A. Jackson, USN

### *REMARKS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE AND READING OF THE COMMISSIONING DIRECTIVE*

Captain V. F. McCormack, USN, Chief of Staff and  
Aide to the Commandant, Third Naval District

### *HOISTING OF THE COMMISSIONING PENNANT*

National Anthem  
United States Coast Guard Band

### *ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND*

Commander Kenneth M. Carr, USN  
Commanding Officer

### *SETTING OF THE WATCH*

Lieutenant Commander Harold A. Glovier, Jr., USN  
Executive Officer

### *RENDERING OF HONORS*

The Commanding Officer orders the personal flag of the Commander Submarine Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, to be broken with appropriate honors.

### *REMARKS BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER*

Commander Kenneth M. Carr, USN

### *INTRODUCTION OF THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER*

Vice Admiral Vernon L. Lowrance, USN  
Commander Submarine Force, United States Atlantic Fleet

### *ADDRESS*

The Honorable George W. Grider, House of Representatives

### *BENEDICTION*

Lieutenant Commander Charles W. Rugg, (CHC), USNR  
Chaplain, United States Coast Guard Training Station, Groton, Connecticut



## *Principal Speaker*

The Honorable George W. Grider, Representative from the 9th District of Tennessee is a native of Memphis. He entered the United States Naval



THE HONORABLE  
GEORGE W. GRIDER  
*Representative from Tennessee*

Academy in 1932 as a member of the class of 1936. While at the Naval Academy he served as Captain of the swimming team and Vice-President of his class. After graduation in 1936 he served in the Battleship MISSISSIPPI and the Destroyer RATHBURN until 1939 when he entered the Submarine Service. During World War II he made 9 War Patrols, serving in WAHOO, POLLACK, HAWKBILL and FLASHER. It was while serving as Commanding Officer of USS FLASHER (SS249) during the period November 1944 to March 1945 that his ship sank over 28,600 tons of enemy shipping in a single day. He was awarded the Navy Cross, the

Silver Star and the Bronze Star. Two years after the War Captain Grider suffered a mild heart attack which resulted in his retirement from active duty. He then returned to school, graduating from the University of Virginia Law School in 1950. He began his law practice in Memphis, Tennessee, served on the County Planning Commission in 1956-57 and in 1959 was elected to the Shelby County Quarterly Court (a county legislative body) where he served until 1964 when he ran for Congress. Congressman Grider is a member of the National Board of the United Services Organization, the Memphis Academy of Arts, city, state and national Bar Associations, the Navy League and the President's Council of Southwest at Memphis College. He served as the original Chairman of the Greater Memphis Race Relations Committee and is President of the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations. Congressman Grider is a member of the House Judiciary Committee and the District of Columbia Committee. He is married to the former Ann Curlin of Memphis and has four children; Lieutenant (junior grade) George W. Grider Jr., USN, Mrs. James Gurley of Memphis, Miss Sally Grider of Chicago, Illinois, and Wilson Grider, a student at Tennessee Military Institute.

## *The Commanding Officer*

CDR Kenneth Monroe CARR was born in Mayfield, Kentucky, 17 March 1925, and graduated from High School in San Bernardino, California in 1941.



COMMANDER  
KENNETH M. CARR  
*Commanding Officer*

After attending San Bernardino Valley College for two years, CDR CARR enlisted in the Navy in 1943 as a seaman. He was a crewman on an LCPV in Standard Landing Craft Unit #16 attached to the USS PRESIDENT JACKSON (APA18) in late 1943 when she was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for action in landings at Bougainville, Solomon Islands Campaign. CDR CARR was awarded a second battle star for participation in the initial landing in February 1944 at Green Island, Bismarck Archipelago Campaign. In May 1944 he was promoted to Coxswain. In June 1944, he entered the University of Louisville in Kentucky as a selectee in the V-12 Officer

Program. Prior to being commissioned in 1945 he was appointed to the U. S. Naval Academy as a member of the class of 1949. After graduation in 1949 he served as Assistant Gunnery Officer of the USS EVERSOLE (DD789) from which he was assigned to submarine school in 1950. He served in USS FLYING FISH (SS229) in 1950 and later recommissioned USS BLACKFIN (SS322) in 1951 as Supply Officer and served in her as Gunnery Officer and Engineer Officer until September 1953. In 1953 he was assigned to the pre-commissioning detail of the USS NAUTILUS (SSN571) and was a member of her commissioning crew as Gunnery Officer. With the exception of the period from June 1956 to May 1957, when he was in Nuclear Power Training, CDR CARR served in NAUTILUS until December 1960 in various capacities. He was Electrical Officer during the 1958 polar crossing and served as her Engineer Officer throughout her first overhaul in 1960. In December 1960 he was assigned to duty as Executive Officer of USS SCORPION (SSN589) and while serving in this capacity was cited by Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet for performance of duty. CDR CARR was next assigned to duty as Executive Officer, USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN622) from March 1962 until February 1964 when he was assigned as Prospective Commanding Officer of USS FLASHER (SSN613). He is married to the former Molly Pace of Burkesville, Kentucky and resides at 38 Atlantic Avenue, Groton Long Point, Connecticut.



## *The Executive Officer*

LCDR Harold A. Glover, Jr. was born in Cranford, New Jersey and graduated from Cranford High School in 1949. He entered Rensselaer Polytechnic



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER  
HAROLD A. GLOVIER, JR.  
*Executive Officer*

Institute in Troy, New York with the class of 1953. While at Rensselaer LCDR GLOVIER was appointed to the United States Naval Academy Class of 1954 by then Congressman, now Senator, Clifford P. Case of New Jersey. After graduation in 1954 LCDR GLOVIER served in the USS DEUEL (APA160) as Deck Division Officer and Gunnery Officer. He attended Submarine School in 1956 reporting to the USS STERLET (SS 72) in July 1956. While attached to STERLET LCDR GLOVIER served as Assistant Engineer, Supply Officer, Gunnery Officer, Communications Officer and Operations Officer. He left STERLET in September 1958 and served 3 months Temp-

orary Duty as Submarine Division 72 Engineer enroute to the Advanced Nuclear Power School Class convening in New London in January 1959. On graduation from Nuclear Power School LCDR GLOVIER reported to the U. S. Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he was a trainee and served as Training Officer at the S1W Nuclear propulsion plant prototype. LCDR GLOVIER served in USS NAUTILUS (SSN571) from March 1961 until June 1963 during which time NAUTILUS made three extended deployments. While assigned to NAUTILUS he served as Gunnery Officer, Reactor Control Officer, Electrical Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant. LCDR GLOVIER reported to the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (SSBN 600) in July 1963 for duty as Engineer after a short tour of duty under instruction at the Atomic Energy Commission Bettis Plant in Pittsburgh, Penna. While attached to ROOSEVELT as Engineer he made three Polaris patrols. LCDR GLOVIER reported to FLASHER as Executive Officer in December 1965. He is married to the former Mary Elizabeth Coffee, of Cranford, New Jersey. They have 3 children and reside at Overlook Road, Glenwoods South, Gales Ferry, Connecticut.



## CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

Wyllie, Walter G. Jr., STCS(SS) Chief of the Boat

Baker, James E., CSC(SS)  
 Buchanan, Donald R., ENC(SS)  
 Bugbee, Alden K., HMCS(SS)  
 Carlos, George B., FTC(SS)  
 Channell, Robert E., QMC(SS)  
 Coker, Harry, RMC(SS)

Cutler, Robert M., EMC(SS)  
 Davis, Webster C. Jr., ENC(SS)  
 Fields, "M" "J", EMC(SS)  
 Green, Robert D., ENC(SS)  
 Huckaby, John, TMC(SS)  
 Johnson, Robert D., STC(SS)

Jones, Paul W., STC(SS)  
 Patterson, Harry W., QMC(SS)  
 Rapinan, Leopoldo M., SDC(SS)  
 Von Behren, Erwin H. Jr., MMC(SS)

## ENLISTED PERSONNEL

Anderson, Duane J., RM1(SS)  
 Arquette, Daniel J., FTG2(SS)  
 Bacon, Robert F., ET1(SS)  
 Bloemer, Frederick J. Jr., SK1(SU)  
 Brown, Richard D., ETR2(SU)  
 Burgess, William R., YN1(SS)  
 Byron, Douglas J., SA(SU)  
 Case, Robert T., SN(SU)  
 Cornell, David T., MM1(SS)  
 Crisp, Bennie G., SN(SU)  
 Crofford, Lynn H. Jr., RM3(SS)  
 Danford, Martin R., ETR2(SS)  
 Daproza, Elpidio Q., Jr., SD2(SS)  
 Darron, Charles W., EM1(SS)  
 Davis, Harry J. Jr., TM2(SS)  
 De Witt, Peter R., ET1(SS)  
 Doherty, Daniel J., II, EM3(SU)  
 Douglass, Stephen R., STSSA(SG)  
 Duarte, Victor G., QM2(SS)

Edwards, Lloyd I., SN(SU)  
 Ford, Charles L., ST1(SS)  
 Fulcher, Tom. Jr., CS2(SS)  
 Fuller, Robert L. Jr., EM2(SS)  
 Gilliland, Dean C., MM1(SS)  
 Greene, Richard D., EN3(SU)  
 Gregory, Gary E., ETR2(SS)  
 Harrington, David T., STS2(SS)  
 Hedman, Richard C., TN(SU)  
 Hemrich, Frank M., EM2(SU)  
 Hiler, Robert E., QM2(SS)  
 Hill, Frank J. III, ENFA(SU)  
 Hittle, Gerald E., EM2(SS)  
 Hobbs, Ralph J., TM1(SU)  
 Impastato, Lawrence B., EN3(SU)  
 Koelbl, Richard L., MM2(SS)  
 Lairson, Jimmy D., RM2(SU)  
 Mallisk, David W., ST1(SS)  
 Marchi, Joseph A., ST1(SS)

McMinn, Charles M., MM2(SU)  
 McCarthy, John J., SA(SU)  
 Mitzel, John T., MM1(SS)  
 Morris, Garold A., EN1(SS)  
 Olson, Dennis R., EM1(SS)  
 Pinkley, Thomas E., YN1(SS)  
 Potvin, Donald E., MM3(SU)  
 Powers, Ronald S., IC2(SS)  
 Przybyla, John D., EM3(SU)  
 Rapelye, David K., TM1(SS)  
 Raynard, Terry L., FTG2(SS)  
 Reynolds, Raymond C., MM1(SS)  
 Robb, Charles G., ST(ET)1(SS)  
 Robinson, Stephen M., MM1(SU)  
 Rodies, Frank H. Jr., MM3(SU)  
 Roy, Raymond L., ET1(SS)  
 Ryan, George A., MM2(SS)  
 Sbrana, Alfred P., EN3(SU)  
 Schafer, George W., IC3(SS)

Seeley, Gary J., CS3(SU)  
 Shearer, Orrin H., ETN3(SS)  
 Shevelin, Thomas A., MM2(SS)  
 Sims, George L., TM2(SS)  
 Skipper, Robert L., MM2(SS)  
 Smith, Kenneth E., MM2(SU)  
 Snow, Clifton J. Jr., IC2(SS)  
 Soles, Franklin D., EN1(SS)  
 Spear, Jimmy L., SN(SU)  
 Tall, Donald E., ET1(SS)  
 Tall, Richard E., SN(SU)  
 Thier, Dennis W., IC2(SS)  
 Townsend, Herbert D., ETR2(SU)  
 Wallace, Joseph M., MM2(SU)  
 West, Byron R., MM2(SU)  
 Williams, Edward R. III, ENFA(SU)  
 Wilson, Earl L., MM1(SS)  
 Garren, Dennis A., IC2(SU)  
 Gleave, Dale V., FA(SU)  
 Pace, Ronald D., EM3