



GRAPEVINE

JUNE 18, 1993

MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD



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Richard B. Russell inactivation ceremony July 2

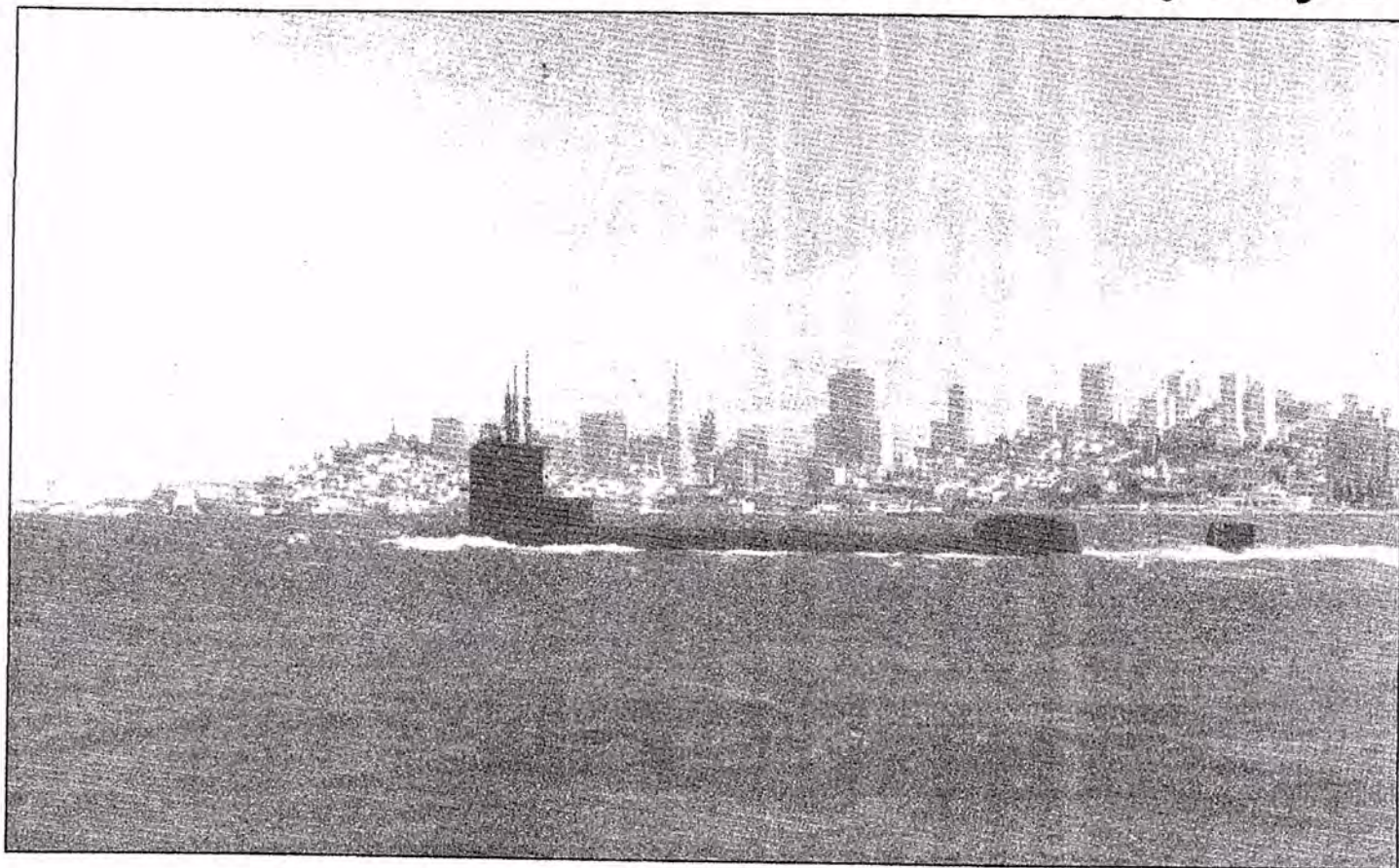


Photo by PH2 Ward Quayle
More on pages six and seven

Vice Admiral (Select)
Emery discusses cohe-
sive relationship of war-
fare communities

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Very Involved Parent
honored by Mare
Island Elementary
School

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MWR opens Rodman
Theater and Rhyno's
Gym to civilian
patrons

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RUSSELL inactivation ceremony today

By Diallo Uhuru

At the moment the commissioning pennant is broken, a ship becomes the responsibility of the commanding officer, who, together with the ship's crew, has the duty of making and maintaining her for any service required by our nation, whether at peace or

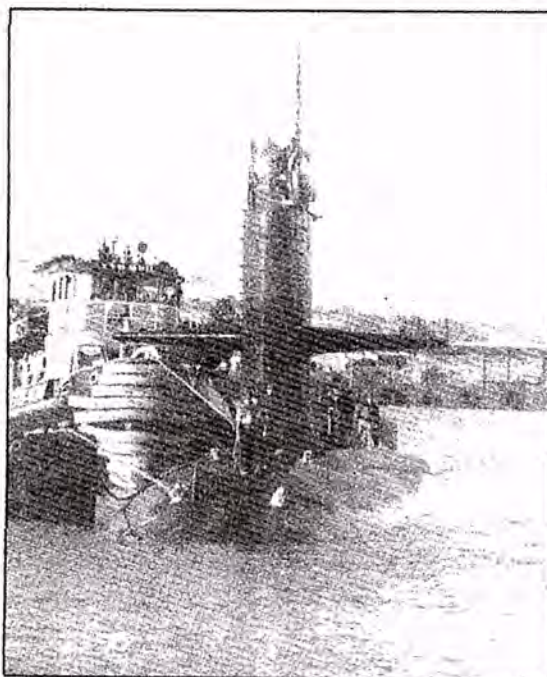
commissioning pennant, ensign and jack are hauled down for the last time is a dedication to the total operational success of the ship and the men who have served aboard her.

Under the command of Commander John C. Brons, the ship was launched on January 12, 1974. The initial nuclear reactor plant

sideration of the protracted and distant operations of fleet units, the Navy places great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

On each ship, there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gun firing and morale of his ship. He is the commanding officer. He is the ship. This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as commanding officer, that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless, command is the spur that has given the Navy its great leaders. Today, the commanding officer of the RICHARD B. RUSSELL is Commander Paul Stephen Stanley.

While assigned to the Submarine Development Squadron Twelve for over six years, the RUSSELL enjoyed a fast-paced operational schedule. Participating in a variety of challenging submarine operations, the ship demonstrated the inherent versatility, flexibility, mobility, endurance and stealth of a modern nuclear powered attack submarine. She departed Groton, Connecticut for the last time in January 1982, enroute to a new homeport at Mare Island. Transiting the Panama Canal, the ship arrived at Mare Island and began a 20-month overhaul on January 29 of the same year. The ship was assigned to Submarine Development Group One following completion of the overhaul in 1983, and resumed underway operations from Mare Island. The ship's operations over the following ten years included submarine rescue and deep submergence rescue vehicle operations, numerous submarine research and development projects and several other



submarine exercises. The ship was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, six Navy Commendations and seven Battle Efficiency "E" awards during its period of

service.

Fair winds and following seas to the commanding officer and crew of the USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN 687).



Commander Paul Stephen Stanley
Commanding Officer, USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL

at war. The USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN 687) has a 22-year history, since her keel was laid on shipway number five at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company; Newport News, Virginia on October 19, 1971. Named after the late Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, the ship was the 37th and last Sturgeon-Class nuclear attack submarine to be built.

The RUSSELL will be inactivated on July 2 and the ceremony will pay a tribute to the ship and its crew, as they prepare for decommissioning, the time-honored end of a ship's life. One of the events marking deactivation is when the ship's commissioning pennant will be hauled down and watches secured. The solemn ceremony, when the

criticality was achieved a year later on March 23, 1975. With Admiral Hyman G. Rickover on board, the ship got underway for initial sea trials on June 15 of that year. She was again christened on August 16, 1975 and assigned to Submarine Development Squadron Twelve in Groton, Connecticut. The ship's motto, "They saved the best for last" refers to her lineage as the last 637-class submarine built.

The ship's length is 300 feet, submerged displacement was 5,140 tons, speeds in excess of 20 knots and diving depth in excess of 400 feet. The RUSSELL is complemented with 16 officers and 140 enlisted personnel.

A ship at sea is a distant world in herself and in con-

KINGS BAY
Georgia
"Housing Fair"
Saturday, July 10th
9 am - 7 pm
Holiday Inn - Vallejo
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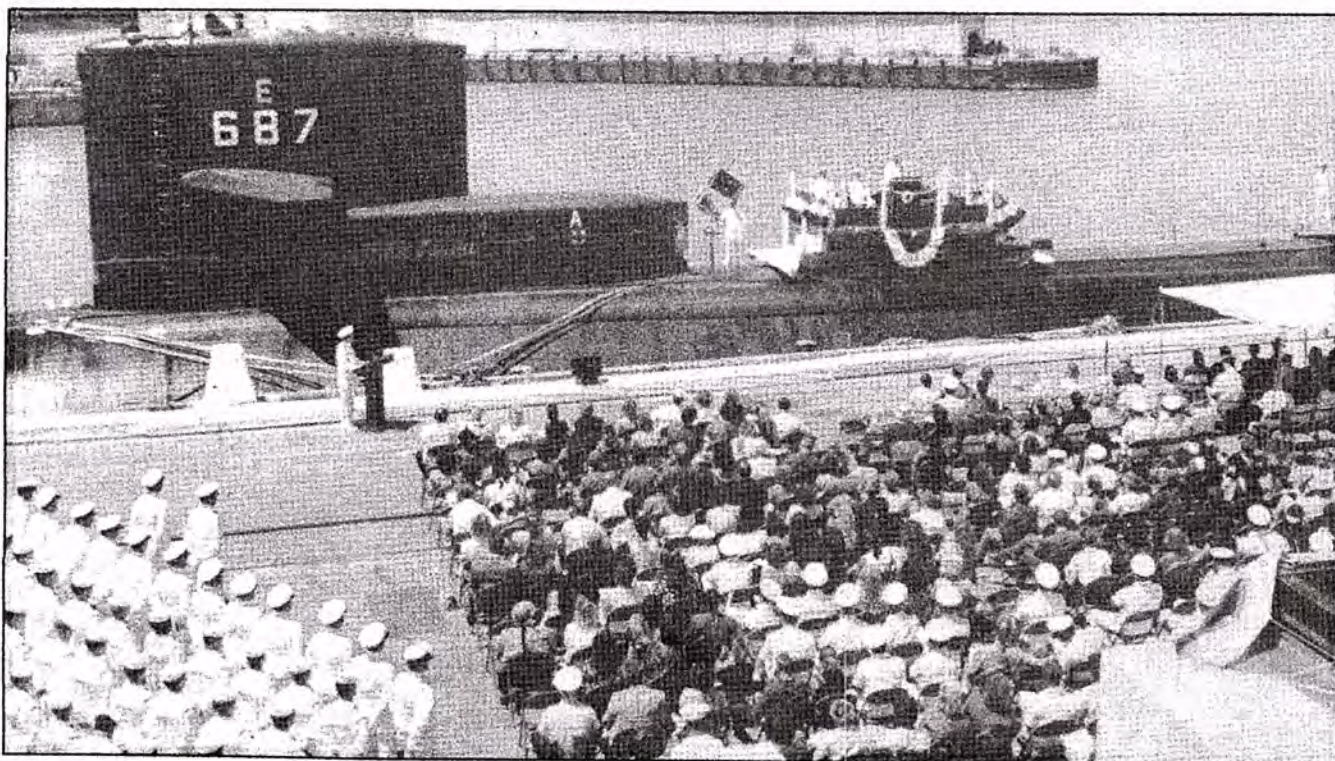
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USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL bids a formal farewell



The USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN 687) held her inactivation ceremony on July 2, at the pier she has been berthed since 1987. To the left, the flag is hauled down for one last time; above, Commanding Officer Commander Paul S. Stanley is shown with Mrs. Betty Shingler Talmadge, who christened the ship in 1974 and Rear Admiral Arlington F. Campbell, who was the second commanding officer of the USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL from 1977 through 1979.

Photography by PH2 Ward Quayle and PH2 Chris Saunders