COMMANDER SUBMARINE FORCE
PACIFIC FLEET, ADMINISTRATION
MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
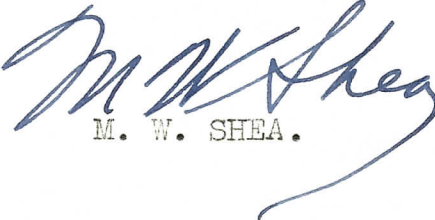FF12-10/ (ADMIN)/

SERIAL:

24 April 1951

MEMORANDUM

From: Chief Staff Officer
To: Mr. Wickels

Subj: U.S.S. BLUEGILL (SS-242) History

1. Enclosed are two copies of the U.S.S. BLUEGILL (SS-242) history.

2. The BLUEGILL will be placed in commission on 3 May at 1500 local time.

M. W. SHEA.

U. S. S. BLUEGILL (SS-242)

c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SHIP'S HISTORY

The BLUEGILL's Keel was laid in the South part of the Main Yard at Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut on December 17, 1942.

On August 8, 1943, she was christened by the Sponsor, Mrs. W. Sterling Cole, wife of Congressman Cole from New York State.

The U.S.S. BLUEGILL was commissioned at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut on November 11, 1943. Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Commander E. L. Barr, Jr., U. S. Navy. After the commissioning ceremony the Officers and Crew took over.

On January 3, 1944, the BLUEGILL sailed for U. S. Naval Base, Balboa, Panama, stopping at Key West, Florida. She arrived at U. S. Naval Base, Balboa, Panama, on February 2, 1944, where she had a training period. On February 22, 1944 the BLUEGILL departed for the South West Pacific, stopping briefly on February 25th at South Seymore Island Naval Base, Galapagos, where King Neptune came aboard.

The BLUEGILL arrived at Milne Bay, New Guinea, on March 23, 1944 and moored alongside the U.S.S. EURYALE.

On April 1, 1944, the BLUEGILL departed for her first War Patrol. In the following months, the BLUEGILL made six (6) War Patrols sinking 12 ships, miscellaneous sailing vessels and capturing Pratas Island. The total tonnage of ships sunk was 51,158 and total tonnage of ships damaged was 12,000 tons.

The BLUEGILL was relieved on the 6th of June 1945 with orders to proceed to Pearl Harbor via Saipan. She arrived in Pearl Harbor, T. H. on the 21st for a short rest.

A week later she was enroute for the west coast and passed below the Golden Gate Bridge on the morning of July 2. She went to Bethlehem Steel Submarine Repair Basin where she started undergoing a navy yard overhaul.

Upon completion of navy yard overhaul at Bethlehem Steel, the BLUEGILL reported to Mare Island Naval Shipyard where she went into mothballs on March 1, 1946.

The BLUEGILL was a member of the zipper fleet until the call of her country came once again. On April 20, 1951, the

U. S. S. BLUEGILL (SS-242)

c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SHIP'S HISTORY (Con't)

reactivation of the U.S.S. BLUEGILL was started with commissioning date of 3 May 1951.

The BLUEGILL's new Commanding Officer is Lieutenant Commander C. M. Esler, Jr., a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, Class of 1942.

The Officers and Men of the U.S.S. BLUEGILL will once again carry out the fine traditions of the BLUEGILL in this, her second call.