

WELCOME ABOARD



USS SABLEFISH (SS 303)

## HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SHIP SABLEFISH (SS 303)

The sleek form of the modernized fleet submarine SABLEFISH looks very little like the submarine she was when she was commissioned on 18 December 1945. Today her steel pressure hull is sheathed by a fiberglass plastic superstructure over most of her length, and her conning tower is surrounded by a high, streamlined "sail" with a high bridge.

Today, SABLEFISH is still a ready unit of the United States Atlantic Submarine Force. Modern Weapons and weapon systems improvements incorporated in this World War II submarine make her an even more potent element of the undersea arm of the Navy than she was when she was originally commissioned.

SABLEFISH was launched at the Cramp Shipbuilding Company in Philadelphia in June 1944. Since her commissioning a year and a half later, she has operated from the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut. She has served numerous times with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, as a part of the United States Navy's front-line cold war force, and has made numerous trips to Caribbean and Canadian ports. She is the only submarine to have twice made the winding trip up the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Great Lakes. She was one of 29 warships to make the journey when the Seaway was opened in 1959, and returned alone in the summer of 1961 to train Naval Reservists and allow midwesterners to see a part of their salt water Navy. Since then she has been included in various training exercises in the Atlantic and participated in activities related to the Cuban incident.

SABLEFISH is a 311 foot long fleet snorkel submarine manned by a volunteer crew of some 73 men and 8 officers. With the snorkel, a retractable breathing tube added to the ship in 1951, she can cruise submerged on her diesel engines for weeks at a time. Below the depth at which she can use the snorkel she takes her propulsion power from two large storage batteries.

SABLEFISH, in order to be ready at a moments notice to defend the United States on the high seas, is kept in peak material readiness, and with enough food, fuel and supplies aboard to support operations at sea for an extended duration. The crew is kept in a high state of readiness by frequent training exercises and drills.



Welcome aboard the United States Submarine USS SABLEFISH (SS 303). We, the officers and men comprising the crew of this ship hope your visit will be an enjoyable and informative one.

Each man aboard this ship is a volunteer for submarine duty and has undergone intense and rigorous training prior to being assigned to SABLEFISH. Once aboard he has been required to complete a qualification program that insures his complete knowledge of his duties and a solid understanding of submarine construction and operation. This training is a prerequisite to safe operation of a ship that performs in the third dimension of the world's oceans, and each man knows that his is a vital part of his own and his shipmates' safety. Therefore, from this selection process, the training and the continuing demand for faultless performance has come a comraderie of esprit-de-corps that is unequalled throughout the military services.

The mission of SABLEFISH during wartime is to search for and destroy enemy shipping assisting in maintaining control of the seas for our country and its allies. Other associated missions for which a submarine is ideally suited are covert surveillance, intelligence gathering and offensive mining.

During peacetime SABLEFISH becomes a training platform for submarine personnel and the units of the Navy's ASW team. This training which incorporates the latest in tactics and procedures insures top performance from this front line submarine at all times.

During your visit feel free to ask questions of any SABLEFISH personnel and we hope you leave SABLEFISH as proud of this ship as those that serve aboard.



USS SABLEFISH



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