

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
DIVISION OF NAVAL HISTORY (OP-09B9)
SHIPS' HISTORY SECTION

HISTORY OF SHIPS NAMED ARCHERFISH

USS ARCHERFISH (SSN-678) is named in commemoration of Fleet Submarine ARCHERFISH (SS-311) who earned the Presidential Unit Citation and 7 battle stars for operations in World War II. She is the second ship of the Fleet to bear the name of a fish (*Toxotes jaculator*) of the East Indies which downs its insect prey with a powerful spout of water.

The Archerfish swims at or just beneath the surface, the great eyes peering upward in a purposeful search for an insect on a water plant or a mangrove root. With snout just breaking surface, it lets fly a jet of water with an aim so remarkable that the first shot is usually successful at distances up to 2 or 3 feet. The insect, its wings doused with water, falls to the surface and is quickly devoured. The Archerfish attains a maximum length of about 7 inches, and is silvery in color with dark patches and bars on its flanks.

The first ARCHERFISH (SS-311) was built by the Portsmouth Navy Yard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Her keel was laid 22 January 1943. She launched 28 May 1943, under the sponsorship of Miss Malvina C. Thompson, secretary to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. The submarine commissioned 4 September 1943, Commander George W. Kehl, USN, commanding.

ARCHERFISH (SS-311) had a length overall of 311 feet, 6 inches; extreme beam of 27 feet, 3 inches; standard displacement of 1,526 tons; mean draft of 15 feet, 3 inches; submerged displacement of 2,391 tons; surfaced speed of 20.25 knots; submerged speed of 8.75 knots; and a designed depth of 400 feet. She was designed for a complement of 6 officers and 60 men. She was originally armed with ten 21-inch torpedo tubes; 1 5-inch .25 caliber gun, 1 40-mm machine gun, and 2 .50 caliber machine guns.

Following training out of New London, Connecticut, ARCHERFISH transited the Panama Canal 13 November 1943 and reached Pearl Harbor 29 November 1943 to prepare for combat in the Pacific. She put to sea 23 December 1943 to conduct her maiden war patrol in the vicinity of Formosa.

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Her torpedoes under-ran a light patrol craft 18 January 1944. She celebrated the first anniversary of her keel laying 22 January 1944 by attacking a 7-ship convoy hugging the west coast of Formosa. Following the firing of torpedoes, a tremendous explosion was felt by all hands on the bridge but the target was never identified. The submarine was attacked by an escort and held down by depth charges while the remaining enemy ships escaped. The night of 25 January she fired four torpedoes at a target for no results and was driven off by gunfire. She returned to Midway 15 February 1944.

ARCHERFISH departed Midway 16 March 1944 as one of the submarines assigned to take station to intercept enemy shipping that might survive and flee the first carrier aircraft strikes on bases in the Palau Islands. She did not find a single contact worthy of torpedo fire and returned to Pearl Harbor 27 April 1944. She gained a new commanding officer 18 May 1944 when Commander George H. Kehl was relieved by Commander William H. Wright, USN. She put to sea for her third war patrol 28 May and took lifeguard station for aircraft carrier strikes on the Bonins 14 June 1944. While on station 28 June she encountered the 800-ton frigate designated COAST DEFENSE VESSEL NO. 4. Four torpedoes spun through the sea for hits that disintegrated the target in flame, smoke and debris.

ARCHERFISH found a convoy forming only five miles from Iwo Jima 1 July and managed to launch nine torpedoes in broad daylight before aerial bombs and depth charges drove her down. She rescued an aviator 3 July 1944 from under the shore batteries on Iwo Jima. One salvo splashed ahead of her bow and two planes from the nearby enemy airfield strafed the submarine with her deck awash. When she surfaced, she found one antenna had been shot away and a shell fragment in the shears. She rescued a Japanese subject the afternoon of 5 July as she passed through waters where a convoy had been attacked. The submarine terminated her third war patrol at Midway 15 July 1944.

ARCHERFISH departed Midway 7 August 1944 to conduct her fourth war patrol off Kyushu. She found no target large enough to attack with torpedoes but dismasted an armed diesel trawler of about 300 tons with gunfire on the 13th of August. She returned to Pearl Harbor 29 September 1944. That day Commander William H. Wright was relieved as commanding officer by Commander Joseph F. Enright, USN. The fleet submarine put to sea 30 October 1944 for Empire waters south of Honshu. She replenished at Saipan 9-12 November, then took lifeguard station for B-29 bombers on the Nagoya-Tokyo route.

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ARCHERFISH received word the morning of 28 November 1944 that there would be no raids that day. She had met with indifferent luck thus far and nothing seemed to indicate a change in routine monotony. As day passed into evening she picked up a long range radar contact while about 12 miles off Inamba Shima. Within an hour she identified an aircraft carrier zigzagging at 20 knots. The submarine was too far off track to close in with a submerged approach. Enright held his submarine on the surface in the bright moonlight and went in on the surface. As the range shortened, he sent lookouts below and awaited gun flashes from the carrier or her escorts (one on either beam, one ahead, and one astern). Contact report was sent out, hoping to guide some other submarines into an intercepting position.

ARCHERFISH found the carrier group was making a full knot better than her possible speed. "But his zig plan allowed us to pull ahead very slowly." At 0300 ARCHERFISH was ahead and five minutes later the carrier appeared in the periscope at 700 yards. At 0317, 29 November 1944, she fired all bow tubes. A hit was seen just inside the carrier's stern, near the propellers and rudder. A large ball of fire climbed the target's side. Five more hits penetrated into the target as ARCHERFISH went deep to evade the inevitable counter-attack.

ARCHERFISH had sunk the sister ship to the super battleships YAMATO and MUSHASHI - the largest warships ever built to that time by any nation. YAMATO and MUSASHI were well known and it was also known that a keel had been laid for a third giant warship of the same class. The ultimate fate of this third monster ship remained unknown to the allies until the close of World War II. Then it was learned that the huge battleship had been converted into a 59,000-ton super-aircraft carrier named SHINANO. She had been commissioned 18 November 1944 and had been sunk by ARCHERFISH on her maiden voyage to a port for final fitting out. Thus ARCHERFISH had the distinction of sinking the largest man-of-war ever sunk by submarine attack. Her daring surface run into combat was recognized by the award of the Presidential Unit Citation.

ARCHERFISH resumed her life guard station for B-29 bombers raiding Tokyo until 11 December 1944. She missed small escorts 9 December when her torpedoes passed under the light draft of the targets. She terminated her fifth war patrol at Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands, 15 December 1944.

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ARCHERFISH departed Apra Harbor 10 January 1945 to prowl Japanese shipping lanes running from Hong Kong to the southern tip of Formosa. She was flagship of a hunter-killer group which included BLACKFISH (SS-221) and BATFISH (SS-310). Her patrol turned up little prospects for torpedo attacks. There were fishing boats and more fishing boats. The evening of 14 February she commenced tracking a Japanese I-type submarine. Two salvos of four torpedoes each were fired at the enemy submarine. There was a large white flash that completely illuminated the target but a sinking was not confirmed in records available after close of war.

The next day ARCHERFISH rendezvoused with PUFFER receiving Ensign James Warren Goin who had indications of appendicitis for transfer to Saipan. She reached that port 19 February and stood out for Pearl Harbor the 22nd. She arrived at Pearl Harbor 3 March 1945 and departed the 6th for overhaul in the San Francisco Naval Shipyard 13 March-14 June 1945.

ARCHERFISH returned to Pearl Harbor 22 June 1945 and stood out 10 July to conduct her 7th War Patrol on life-guard station for B-29 bombers raiding Tokyo. She was engaged in this duty when hostilities came to an end 15 August 1945. She rendezvoused with "Benny's Peacemakers" the morning of 30 August and passed into Tokyo Bay the following day. ARCHERFISH was present there when the Japanese Government signed the instrument of surrender on board battleship MISSOURI 2 September 1945. She put to sea the 3rd for Pearl Harbor, arriving 12 September 1945.

ARCHERFISH remained in Hawaiian waters until 2 January 1946, then sailed for San Francisco, California, arriving 8 January. She was inactivated in the San Francisco Naval Shipyard and decommissioned in the Mare Island Naval Shipyard 12 June 1946. She was a unit of the Pacific Reserve Fleet until recommissioned in the Mare Island Naval Shipyard 7 March 1952, Lieutenant Maino des Granges, USN, commanding. Following training out of San Diego 31 May-20 June, she transited the Panama Canal 2 July for Key West, Florida, thence to New London, Connecticut, arriving 22 July 1952. She got underway eight days later for fleet warfare exercises reaching to Cuba, then put into Key West 17 August 1952. This was her base of operations as a unit of Submarine Squadron 12. Training exercises took her to Cuba and Haiti, and north to Charleston, Norfolk, and New London.

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Departing Key West 4 January 1955, ARCHERFISH cruised by way of San Juan, Puerto, Rico to Clarence Bay, Asension Island; thence to Trinidad and back to Key West, arriving 24 February 1955. She remained at Key West until 2 May, called at Annapolis, then entered the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard 4 May 1955. She was taken in tow 27 August for New London, arriving 29 August 1955 for inactivation. She decommissioned 21 October 1955 and remained a unit of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet until recommissioned 1 August 1957, Lieutenant Charles E. Beck, UNS, commanding.

ARCHERFISH was again assigned as a fleet training submarine at Key West, arriving 12 October 1957 to join Submarine Squadron 12 for duties that included cruising to Cuba. On 13 January 1958 she began a cruise under the technical supervision of the Navy Hydrographic Office. This mission took her to Puerto Rico, Trinidad, British West Indies, and Recife, Brazil. She returned to Key West 10 March 1958 to resume fleet training duties. On 1 October 1959 she submerged to 302 feet to enable a new record of bouyant ascent by two Navy men which gives new hope to submariners who may become trapped on the ocean floor. Commander George F. Bond and Chief Petty Officer C. G. Tuckerfield made the record-breaking ascent off Key West. They used no auxiliary breathing apparatus and were clad in bathing suits, face masks and "Mae West" life jackets.

Before leaving ARCHERFISH the men were place in her escape trunk which was pressurized to about 135 pounds per square inch - the same as the water pressure at that depth. Taking a deep breath and then expelling normally, the two men floated upward for 53 seconds as pressure in their life jackets was gradually reduced and the rapidly expanding air in their lungs expelled. Neither man had any ill effects. Commander Bond believed any submariner could escape from a disabled submarine at that or greater depths if other means were not available.

ARCHERFISH continued fleet training duties out of Key West until 25 January 1960. Four days later she entered the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard to prepare for hydrographic survey duty. She was reclassified from a fleet submarine (SS-311) to an auxiliary submarine (AGSS-311). Her conversion was complete 6 May 1960 when she sailed for New London, Connecticut, to become a unit of Submarine Development Group II. She departed New London 18 May 1960 with Navy Hydrographic Office scientists on board for the first phase of "Operation Sea Scan" which was conducted in the North Atlantic. For nearly seven months, she aided

the study of marine weather conditions, water composition, ocean depths and temperature ranges. Visits were made to Portsmouth, England; Hammerfest and Bergen, Norway; Faslane, Scotland; Thule and Goothaab, Greenland; Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Belfast, Ireland. She returned to New London 3 December 1960, completing phase one of "Operation SEA SCAN."

ARCHERFISH departed New London 20 January 1961 for Willemstad, Curacao; and Kraiendijk, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. From there, she transited the Panama Canal 6 February 1961 to begin the Pacific Phase of her "Sea Scan" operations. She touched San Diego enroute to Pearl Harbor, then ranged to ports of Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand, Ceylon; Fremantle, Western Australia; the Marianas and Samoan Islands. She entered the San Francisco Naval Shipyard 27 April 1962 for an overhaul completed by 20 September 1962.

On 8 October 1962 ARCHERFISH departed San Diego to begin Phase III of "OPERATION SEA SCAN" which took her to Pearl Harbor, Midway and back to San Diego for the Christmas holidays. She passed out to sea again 10 January 1963, bound by way of Pearl Harbor to Yokosuka, Japan. She retraced her wake back to San Francisco (13-22 April), then surveyed in Hawaiian waters and off the northwest coast of the United States.

ARCHERFISH arrived in Yokosuka 19 July 1963, having sailed from Vancouver, British Columbia. Hydrographic survey took her to Australia and back off the Marianas, the Marshalls, Hawaii, and the Pacific Northwest. She returned to Hawaiian waters 19 August 1964 and sailed 9 September for the South Pacific. She called at the Fiji Islands enroute to Auckland, New Zealand; visited Wellington, thence off Japan, the Marianas, the Carolines, and the Philippine Islands. She arrived back in Pearl Harbor 13 February 1965 and sailed 3 March for overhaul in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington, arriving 15 March 1965.

ARCHERFISH departed the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard 4 August 1965 for San Francisco, thence to Hawaii, the Marshalls, ports of Australia, the Marianas, Midway and special operations out of ports of Japan. She departed Yokosuka 28 September 1966 for operations reaching to Midway Atoll and was repaired in the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard 5 November-3 December 1966. She stood out of Pearl Harbor 3 December 1966 for the western seaboard of Mexico, thence north to San Diego, back to Hawaii, thence to the Pacific Northwest ports of Victoria, British Columbia,

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and Portland, Oregon. She arrived in San Francisco from Portland 22 September 1967 and shifted operations to San Diego 15 October 1967. A unit of Submarine Development Group One, she ranged south off the coast of Mexico before finally decommissioned at San Diego, California 1 May 1968. Her name was struck from the Navy List the same day. She was stripped for salvagable material, then sunk as a fleet target on the coast of California.

ARCHERFISH (SS-311) was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action during her Fifth War Patrol when she dealt a fatal blow to one of the enemy's major fleet units. She also received seven battle stars for the World War II operations listed below:

1 Star/FIRST WAR PATROL-PACIFIC: 23 Dec 1943-15 Feb 1944

1 Star/ASIATIC-PACIFIC RAIDS, 1944:
Palau, Yap, Ulithi, Woleai Raid: 30 Mar-1 Apr 1944

1 Star/MARIANAS OPERATION:
First Bonins Raid: 15-16 Jun 1944
Second Bonins Raid: 24 Jun 1944
Third Bonins Raid: 3-4 Jul 1944

1 Star/FOURTH WAR PATROL-PACIFIC: 7 Aug-29 Sep 1944

1 Star/FIFTH WAR PATROL-PACIFIC: 30 Oct-15 Dec 1944

1 Star/SIXTH WAR PATROL-PACIFIC: 10 Jan-3 Mar 1945

1 Star/THIRD FLEET OPERATIONS AGAINST JAPAN:
29 Jul-15 Aug 1945

LIST OF COMMANDING OFFICERS - USS ARCHERFISH (SS-311)

Commander George W. Kehl, USN:	4 Sep 1943-18 May 1944
Commander William H. Wright, USN:	18 May 1944-29 Sep 1944
Commander Joseph F. Enright, USN:	29 Sep 1944-15 Nov 1944
Commander William S. Finn, USN:	15 Nov 1944-16 May 1946
Commander Charles J. Beers, USN:	16 May 1946-12 Jun 1946
Lieutenant Commander Miano des Granges, USN:	7 Mar 1952-21 Jul 1954
Lieutenant Commander Stanley R. McCord, USN:	21 Jul 1954- 2 Apr 1955
Lieutenant John George Now, USN:	2 Apr 1955-21 Oct 1955
Lieutenant Commander Charles E. Beck, USN:	1 Aug 1957- 5 Sep 1959
Lieutenant Commander William Evans, USN:	5 Sep 1959- 4 Mar 1960

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Lieutenant Commander Kenneth Woods, USN:	4 Mar 1960-8 Sep 1962
Lieutenant Commander Jack N. Lyman, USN:	8 Sep 1962-19 Nov 1963
Lieutenant Commander Thomas R. Eagye, Jr, USN:	19 Nov 1963-24 Nov 1964
Lieutenant Commander Gordon W. Enquist, USN:	24 Nov 1964-29 Nov 1965
Lieutenant Commander Robert B. McComb, USN:	29 Nov 1965-1 Sep 1967
Lieutenant Commander Joseph P. Wood, USN:	1 Sep 1967-1 May 1968

The second ARCHERFISH (SSN-678) is under construction by the General Dynamics Corporation, Electric Boat Division, Groton, Connecticut. Her keel was laid 19 June 1969. The nuclear powered submarine is scheduled to launch 16 January 1971, under the sponsorship of Miss Mary C. Warner, daughter of the Under Secretary of the Navy.

ARCHERFISH (SSN-678) is a STURGEON-Class submarine designed for a length overall of 292 feet, 3 inches; extreme beam of 31 feet, 8 inches; a surfaced displacement of 3,800 tons; submerged displacement of 4,600 tons; and accommodations for 12 officers and 95 men.

ARCHERFISH is a deep-diving submarine characterized by high submerged speed, a good ship control at periscope depth and quiet operations. Her design emphasizes the elimination of self and radiated noise and provides excellent sonar performance at high submerged speeds. This greatly enhances her ability to locate and destroy surface shipping and makes her especially adept in offensive operations against other submersibles. Highly suited as a "killer submarine" in operations with anti-submarine warfare task groups and units, she has added capabilities as a minelayer, supporter of underwater demolition team operations, and as a weather reference station. Her propulsion power can keep the nuclear powered submarine under the ocean almost indefinitely. Vast range and immense striking power through torpedoes are the hallmark of the nuclear powered submarine.

Welcome Aboard

U.S.S. ARCHERFISH (AGSS-311)



PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

THE FLEET TYPE SUBMARINE

ARCHERFISH is a Fleet Type Submarine, the same class which attained such success in World War II. ARCHERFISH has received some modern equipment since the war but remains essentially the same as she was when she sent the SHINANO to the bottom. The boat displaces 1807 tons and is 311 feet in length. For propulsion on the surface, the boat is powered by four nine-cylinder opposed piston diesel engines driving attached DC generators which in turn furnish electrical power to the main motors that are geared to the two propeller shafts. Upon diving, the electrical power source for the propulsion motors is shifted to the two storage batteries, each composed of 126 cells. The cells are of the standard lead-acid variety and each weighs approximately one ton. ARCHERFISH has ten torpedo tubes, six forward in the bow and four aft in the stern. Due to her mission as a hydrographic survey vessel, ARCHERFISH has been demilitarized by removal of her torpedoes and torpedo director equipment, and the boat would require a major overhaul to regain her capability for war. At a cruising speed of 12 knots, ARCHERFISH can sail 12,000 miles without refueling.

after starting on her maiden voyage following a construction period of more than four years. This ship displaced 71,000 tons and was initially designed as a YAMATO class battleship. However, it had been converted during construction into a gigantic aircraft carrier which remained the largest ship ever built until the advent of the FORRESTAL class carriers nearly ten years later. For this ARCHERFISH and her officers and men were awarded the coveted Presidential Unit Citation.

The end of the war saw ARCHERFISH return to peacetime operations before being deactivated in June, 1946. In 1952, the reactivated ARCHERFISH joined the U. S. Atlantic Fleet and was homeported at Key West, Florida. Another tour in "mothballs" followed during the period 1955 until 1957. In 1958, ARCHERFISH was introduced to hydrographic work and in 1960, she was selected for Operation SEA SCAN, an extensive hydrographic survey of both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, upon which she is still engaged. In order to perform this mission, ARCHERFISH seldom visits her homeport, Pearl Harbor, and spends a great majority of her time at sea. Most months see her sail at least 5,000 miles and during her best month to date, she covered over 10,000 miles. Due to the nature of her operations, the officers and men are all volunteers and nearly all are unmarried. The advantages of such a mission are the variety and number of exotic foreign ports visited.

We sincerely hope you have an interesting and enjoyable visit aboard ARCHERFISH.

Thank you for coming.

A History of the U.S.S. ARCHERFISH (AGSS-311)

Welcome aboard. It's a pleasure having you visit our boat and to help you to more thoroughly enjoy the time spent with us, we take this opportunity to acquaint you with the United States Ship ARCHERFISH.

The keel was laid on January 22, 1943, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and four months later, ARCHERFISH was launched and christened.

After a period of fitting out and intensive training, ARCHERFISH passed through the Panama Canal and reported for duty to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in Pearl Harbor on November 29, 1943.

ARCHERFISH then began a series of seven war patrols deep into enemy waters which ended with the capitulation of Japan while the ship was within sight of Hokkaido, the northernmost main island of Japan.

Only one year to the day had passed since the laying of her keel before ARCHERFISH first drew blood by sending torpedoes into a 9,000 ton enemy freighter on January 22, 1944.

The high point of her wartime service occurred on the evening of November 28, 1944, while patrolling off Tokyo Bay. A large aircraft carrier screened by four destroyers was sighted departing the bay on a southerly course. An undetected chase ensued which ended just before dawn on November 29 with the firing of six torpedoes. Four direct hits proved fatal to the carrier which sank at 1055 hours that morning with the loss of 500 men. Although it was not known at that time, ARCHERFISH had successfully attacked the SHINANO only 17 hours





