

## USS CABEZON (SS334)

### PRE-COMMISSIONING AND COMMISSIONING DATA:

The keel of the USS CABEZON (SS334) was laid at the Victory Yard, of the Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut, on 18 November 1943. She was launched on 27 August 1944 and sponsored by Mrs. T. Ross Cooley, wife of Rear Admiral Cooley, U.S. Navy. The CABEZON was commissioned 30 December 1944 at the U.S. Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut. She was presented by W.W. Foster, representing the Electric Boat Company and accepted for the Navy by Captain H. W. McLean, U.S. Navy, commanding officer of the submarine base, who then turned her over to her commanding officer, Commander George W. LAUTRUP, Jr., U.S. Navy.

### PRE-WAR PERIOD:

After commissioning, the CABEZON received thirty days of training in Long Island Sound, during which time all contract trials were completed. On 19 February 1945 she departed for Key West, Florida, where three weeks were spent furnishing services for the Fleet Sound School, after which she departed for Panama. After eight days of training and voyage repairs in that area under Commander Submarine Squadron THREE, during which twenty-six torpedoes were fired, the CABEZON departed for Pearl Harbor, T.H. on 29 March 1945, arriving there on 15 April 1945.

### WAR NARRATIVE:

At Pearl Harbor, additional training was received, as well as the very latest equipment. On 8 May 1945, a serious casualty occurred when the outer doors of the after torpedo tubes were accidentally opened, through no negligence of the ship's personnel, while two of the inner doors were open. The after torpedo room immediately flooded and only through the immediate and courageous action of the three men working the room was the ship saved from loss. These men were subsequently awarded the Navy Marine Corps Medal for their heroism. CABEZON departed on her first war patrol on 25 May 1945. The entire patrol was spent in the Okhotsk Sea and Kurile Islands Area, where Commander Lautrup was commander of a coordinated attack group consisting of the CABEZON, APOGON, DACE and MANTA.

During the patrol, CABEZON made only one contact, this being in the early morning of 19 June 1945, in a dense fog. Three torpedoes were fired at this vessel, all of which hit. The target sank immediately. The target was never sighted, but was the only remaining vessel of a four ship escorted convoy attacked earlier by the APOGON. CABEZON was credited with 4000 tons for this sinking.

On 7 July 1945, after thirty days on station, CABEZON departed from the area and arrived in Midway, T.H. on 11 July 1945, the length of the patrol thus being forty-six days. The Submarine Combat Insignia was authorized for this patrol.

The usual two weeks refit was effected by Submarine Division THREE TWENTY TWO, and after a week of training and loading, CABEZON departed for Saipan, the Marianas, on 4 August 1945, arriving on 13 August 1945. A matter of hours before she was due to depart on her second war patrol, hostilities ceased and the sailing was cancelled. CABEZON remained in Saipan for three weeks, during which time she provided target services for various surface craft. On 31 August 1945, she departed for Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, where she arrived on 7 September 1945.

SUMMARY OF PATROL RESULTS:

| <u>No. of Patrol</u> | <u>No. and Type of Ships Sunk</u> | <u>Total Ton-<br/>age of Ships<br/>Sunk</u> | <u>Number and Type<br/>of Ships Damaged</u> | <u>Total Ton-<br/>age of Ships<br/>Damaged</u> | <u>Total No.<br/>Victims<br/>Rescued</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| 1                    | 1 Unknown                         | 4000  | 0   | 0  | 0  |

ADDENDUM TO SHIP'S HISTORY, 7 SEPTEMBER, 1945 to 1 JANUARY, 1945

This entire period was spent at Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, where the new Submarine Squadron Five was formed. Submarines present were the USS Chub, USS Brill, USS Bugara, USS Bumper, USS Cabezon, USS Sea Devil, USS Sea Dog and USS Sea Fox.

The month of September was spent in upkeep, and training of the crew, and included three days of underway operations. On 30 September, Cabezon departed for Makati, P.I. for a six day recreation period, returning to Subic Bay on 5 October.

All of 22 October was utilized for upkeep except for six days of underway operations.

After a week of local underway operations, Cabezon in company with the other submarines of Squadron Five, the USS Chanticleer, and the Destroyer Escorts, Holt, Lay, and Jobo, under the command of Rear Admiral James Fife La Bugara departed for Wizard Bank on 19 November. Simulated war patrol tactics were employed against the surface ships during the two day trip.

A landing party from each ship was sent ashore on the island of Itu Aba to look for remaining Japanese, after which all of the ship's company was allowed to inspect the ruins of the island.

Returning to Subic on 23 November, the remainder of the month was spent in upkeep and local operations.

Cabezon returned to Manila for a week of recreation on 1 December. On 15 December, Submarine Squadron Five, USS Chanticleer, and the Destroyer Escorts, Olsen and Slater departed from Subic Bay for a week cruise around the island of Luzon, conducting training exercises enroute. Short stops were made in Lingayen Bay and Casiguran Bay and a two day stay was made at the town of Legaspi. The cruise was completed via San Bernardino Straits to Subic Bay.

The remainder of the month was spent enjoying the first peacetime holiday season in Cabezon's history.

## SHIP'S HISTORY OF THE USS CABEZON (SS334)

The fleet-type submarine Cabezon was built by the Electric Boat Co. at Groton, Conn., and was commissioned at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn., on ~~December~~ 30, 1944.

After a training period of approximately three months the Cabezon departed for Pearl Harbor, arriving there on April 15, 1945. While at Pearl Harbor the Cabezon suffered a severe casualty in the flooding of her after torpedo room and as a consequence did not depart for her first war patrol until May 25, 1945.

During her patrol the Cabezon is credited with sinking one enemy vessel of <sup>large</sup> 4000 tons. A matter of a few hours before she was due to depart on her second war patrol, hostilities ceased and the sailing was cancelled.

Immediately after the war the Cabezon was ordered to the Submarine Base at Subic Bay, P.I., for duty. She departed from there on Jan. 12, 1946, for San Diego, via Pearl Harbor. After a period of local operations, rehabilitation leave for the crew, and upkeep for the ship, the Cabezon returned to her home port of Pearl Harbor. The entire stay at Pearl Harbor was spent in local operations climaxed by the sinking of the ex-Japanese submarine I-401 on May 31.

After a Navy Yard overhaul at Mare Island, Calif., the Cabezon returned to her home port on Nov. 13, 1946. She participated in local operations and in an eight-day exercise enroute to and from French Frigate Shoal, plus a night bombardment of Necker Island. She returned ~~Returning~~ to Pearl Harbor on December 14 and ~~the exercises~~ until Christmas made preparations for ~~the exercises~~ a forthcoming training patrol to the Far East. On December 26, the Cabezon departed for Samoa on the first leg of the patrol. On her cruise to the Far

East the ship visited Samoa, Truk, Guam, Okinawa, Midway, and Yokosuka, <sup>OSUKA,</sup> Japan. She returned to Pearl Harbor on March 9, 1947. In February 1948 she was nominated for the Battle Efficiency Pennant.

In October 1948 the Cabezon sailed for Seattle, Wash., in company with the submarine tender Sperry and four other submarines to participate in fleet exercises. After completing phase I of the exercises, the Cabezon returned to Pearl Harbor, arriving November 11.

She remained there until June of the following year, when she again sailed for Seattle, as the first stop on a two-month <sup>voyage</sup> ~~trip~~ that ~~included~~ ~~that~~ ~~trip~~ included a two-week Naval Reserve training cruise to Kodiak, Alaska; ~~and~~ services to the ~~Naval~~ Air ~~Group~~ <sup>Fleet Wing</sup> at Port Angeles, Wash.; <sup>and</sup> services to the Canadian Navy,

The Cabezon returned to Pearl Harbor on August 17 and operated in that area until September 30. She then went to the <sup>Pearl Harbor</sup> Naval Shipyard at ~~Pearl~~ for a three-month overhaul, which she finished December 30.

On March 18, 1950, the Cabezon departed ~~for operations out of Yokosuka,~~ <sup>for operations out of Yokosuka,</sup> Japan. She returned to Pearl Harbor July 29 and has operated in that area since her return.