

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

HISTORY OF USS CLAMAGORE (SS 343)

USS CLAMAGORE is named for a fish known scientifically as Scarus caeruleus (pronounced: Skar-us see-rool-e-us). It belongs to the family Scaridae or Parrotfishes, so-called because the teeth in the jaws are more or less fused into a parrot-like beak. The Clamagore has an elongated body of uniform turquoise blue, with bases of the vertical fins a much deeper blue. The small jaws have smooth edges, whitish in the adult and rosy in the young, and the teeth are pale reddish. The lower jaw is bordered by a brownish-yellow to reddish stripe and faint wine-colored shades are present on the sides of the head below and behind the eye. This important food fish attains a length of three feet and a weight of twelve to twenty pounds. It feeds chiefly on vegetation about coral reefs of tropical seas and ranges south from Florida throughout the waters of the West Indies. In rare instances it has been found as far north as the Chesapeake Bay.

CLAMAGORE (SS 343) was built by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut. Her keel was laid 16 March 1944 and she was launched 25 February 1945, under the sponsorship of Miss Mary Jane Jacobs, daughter of Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs, U. S. Navy. The fleet submarine was commissioned at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, 28 June 1945, Commander Sam Colby Loomis, Jr., USN, in command.

CLAMAGORE conducted preliminary training in the area of Long Island Sound and cleared New London on 10 August 1945 for battle practice off Panama which would be her final preparation for service in the combat zones of the Pacific. The surrender of Japan terminated these plans and she was ordered to base at Key West, Florida, where she arrived on 5 September 1945. She became a unit of Submarine Division Forty-One and the flagship of Submarine Squadron FOUR. The next few years were filled with schoolship training cruises for students of the Fleet Sonar School of Key West in waters extending from that port to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. She took time out for overhaul in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (7 September-10 December 1946) and was converted to a snorkel equipped submarine in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard (5 December 1947-19 July 1948).

CLAMAGORE resumed operations from Key West on 6 August 1948. Continuing as the flagship of Submarine Squadron FOUR, she assisted destroyers and aircraft of the Atlantic Fleet in their anti-submarine warfare training, and worked with the Operational Test and Evaluation Force in their studies of new weapons systems. Though much of her time was spent in waters along the Florida coast, six major fleet tactical exercises conducted by the end of 1955, found her cruising in waters

reaching as far north as Argentia, Newfoundland, and as far south as Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. In the latter two ports, she often based one-month tours of anti-submarine warfare training services to fleet units operating under Commander, Fleet Training Group. This duty was intervened on 3 February 1953 when she sailed from Norfolk for anti-submarine warfare tactics and practice barrier patrol with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. She returned from this cruise to Key West on 16 April 1953 to resume her usual cycle of operations until 23 September 1957 when she sailed for anti-submarine warfare training exercises with North Atlantic Treaty Organization Forces in the central North Atlantic areas. She visited Portsmouth, England, then touched at Argentia, Newfoundland, on her way back to Key West where she arrived 7 December 1957 for service to the Fleet Training Group in Guantanamo Bay, and anti-submarine warfare and fleet tactics along the eastern seaboard.

CLAMAGORE entered the Charleston Naval Shipyard on 29 June 1959 for overhaul. While in this upkeep status on 29 July 1959, the home port of her Squadron FOUR was changed from Key West to Charleston, South Carolina. The squadron was reorganized, effective 1 August 1959, and CLAMAGORE was relieved as squadron flagship by DARTER (SS 576). Her overhaul was completed in December and she joined Submarine Division 42, Submarine Squadron FOUR, for barrier patrol exercises with anti-submarine warfare forces in waters reaching to New London, Connecticut. This service was followed by operations for the Operational Test and Evaluation Force in waters of Florida, and project operations off Bermuda, British West Indies. On 5 April 1960 she put to sea from Charleston for maneuvers with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. Practice barrier patrols and anti-submarine warfare tactics with air and surface units marked this cruise which provided liberty for her men in such ports as Cannes, France; Naples and Genoa, Italy; Valencia and Rota, Spain. She cleared the last named port on 11 July 1960 and entered Charleston Harbor on the 23rd to spend the remainder of the year in anti-submarine warfare tactics along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

LIST OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commander Sam C. Loomis, Jr., USN:	Jun 1945 - Jun 1946
Commander Edward F. Steffanides, Jr., USN:	Jun 1946 - Jun 1947
Commander Walter L. Small, USN:	Jun 1947 - Jun 1949
Commander John F. Bauer, USN:	Jun 1949 - Jun 1950
Commander Thomas B. Denegre, Jr., USN:	Jun 1950 - Jun 1952
Lieutenant Commander George F. Morin, USN:	Jun 1952 - Jun 1954
Lieutenant Commander Joseph H. Buescher, USN:	Jun 1954 - Jul 1956
Lieutenant Commander Jack F. Heard, USN:	Jul 1956 - Sep 1958
Commander Arthur K. Keevil, USN:	Sep 1958 - Aug 1960
Lieutenant Commander Howard L. Matthews, Jr.,:	Aug 1960

SHIP'S HISTORY
USS CLAMAGORE (SS343)

REV 1-68

The keel of the submarine USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343) was laid on 16 March 1944 at Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 25 February 1945 and was christened by Miss Mary Jane Jacobs, daughter of Admiral Randall Jacobs, who at that time was Chief of Naval Personnel. CLAMAGORE is named after a medium-sized tropical fish known more widely by its common name, "Blue Parrot Fish".

Commissioning ceremonies took place at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, on 28 June 1945. Commander Sam Colby Loomis, Jr., USN assumed command at that time.

World War II came to end while CLAMAGORE was on a training cruise off Panama. In January 1946, CLAMAGORE became flagship of Submarine Squadron FOUR based at Key West, Florida. CLAMAGORE carried the Squadron Flag until 1 August 1959.

The U. S. Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the site of CLAMAGORE's conversion to high speed GUPPY III (Greater Underwater Propulsion Power) submarine in the spring and summer of 1948. During this conversion, she received the snorkel installation.

During 1949 Fleet Tactical Exercise, CLAMAGORE was accorded the honor to being selected flagship for Vice Admiral Duncan, USN, Commander Task Fleet, and Rear Admiral Fife, USN, Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

During 1955 CLAMAGORE made two trips to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, rendering services to the Fleet Training Group for the periods 25 March to 25 April and 22 August to 16 September. Other ports visited during 1955 were Havana, Cuba; Fort Lauderdale and Pensacola, Florida. In November CLAMAGORE entered Charleston Naval Shipyard for installation of a new battery.

Upon leaving the shipyard in February 1956, CLAMAGORE returned to Key West for operations. She visited Tampa, Mayport, and Miami, Florida; and Havana and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; prior to entering the Charleston Naval Shipyard in September 1956, for a regular scheduled overhaul.

The overhaul was completed in February, 1957 and CLAMAGORE went to New London Connecticut and Newport, Rhode Island prior to returning to Key West. A trip to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba preceded an extended cruise to Portsmouth, England, which was followed by liberty in Argentina, Newfoundland, on the return to Key West in December.

In February, 1958, CLAMAGORE participated in ASWEX 1-58. From June to August, CLAMAGORE was in Charleston Naval Shipyard for a battery renewal. During the local operations from Key West, CLAMAGORE visited Savannah, Georgia; Mobile, Alabama; and Tampa and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Local operations from Key West and a trip to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba were made from January to April, 1959. In April, CLAMAGORE participated in Exercise LANTBEX 1-59 and returned to Key West in June. The Arrival of CLAMAGORE at

Charleston Naval Shipyard for an overhaul on 29 June coincided with the change in home port of Submarine Squadron FOUR to Charleston. Overhaul was completed in December. From April to July, 1960 CLAMAGORE served with the U. S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

During January and February 1961, CLAMAGORE participated in Operation Springboard in the Caribbean. From August to December, 1961, CLAMAGORE participated in Operation UNITAS II which was a joint anti-submarine warfare training exercise with eight South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay. During this cruise under the command of CDR H. L. Matthews CLAMAGORE steamed around the southern tip of the South American Continent.

CLAMAGORE entered Charleston Naval Shipyard in May, 1962, for conversion to a GUPPY III type submarine. During this conversion, the ship was cut in half and a 15 foot, 35 ton section was added. The latest and most sophisticated electronics and fire control system was also installed. On 2 July 1962 the new hull section was christened by Miss Ann Beshany, 16 year old daughter of Captain P. A. Beshany, the Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR. The conversion to a GUPPY III was completed in February, 1963. On 1 June 1963 CLAMAGORE changed homeports to New London, Connecticut at which time she was transferred from Submarine Squadron FOUR to Submarine Squadron TWO. During January and February of the following year, CLAMAGORE participated in Springboard 1964, visiting San Juan in Puerto Rico and Saint Croix in the Virgin Islands. In late May she entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for battery renewal. Leaving the shipyard in July, CLAMAGORE visited Portsmouth, England in September, 1964. After an extended cruise, CLAMAGORE returned to New London in November, 1964.

In early April, 1965, CLAMAGORE departed New London for a joint NATO operation south of Iceland with British, Dutch, American, and French submarines and aircraft. Upon completion of the very successful exercise, CLAMAGORE visited Londonderry in Northern Ireland in late May 1965, for a wash-up conference. Following her return to New London in June, CLAMAGORE entered the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 23 July 1965. During this overhaul, CLAMAGORE received an extensive repair of its hydraulic system, the installation of the STEINKE Escape System, the modernization of its fire control system, and the overhaul of its main propulsion motors and generators. These and other repairs cost approximately \$1,650,000. This shipyard overhaul was completed on 19 January 1966.

Upon completion of the yard overhaul the ship conducted sea trials and fire control exercises preparing for a six week deployment to the Caribbean. While participating in OPERATION SPRINGBOARD the ship provided services for aircraft from the U.S., Canada, and the Netherlands. Numerous torpedoes were fired during this period also. Following SPRINGBOARD the ship spent five weeks in local operation areas. The month of June, 1966, saw the CLAMAGORE participating in the North Atlantic Training Exercises after which the ship visited Portsmouth, England for a week. The next few months were spent conducting weekly operations in the local area. From November 22 until the end of the year CLAMAGORE was moored in New London holding upkeep.

January 1967 again found CLAMAGORE on her way to OPERATION SPRINGBOARD in the Caribbean. While there she fired many torpedoes as well as provided services for Atlantic Fleet Destroyers and aircraft. She also visited various ports of call in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Immediately upon return north in March CLAMAGORE entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for a battery renewal which lasted until early May.

The next few months were spent in weekly operations out of New London and a pre-deployment upkeep prior to deploying to the Mediterranean and duty with the U. S. Sixth Fleet in early July.

During an interesting four months Mediterranean deployment CLAMAGORE distinguished herself in various Sixth Fleet and NATO operations. The highlight of the cruise was the visits to such ports as Athens, Palma, Malloca, Malta and Naples.

From November through early January 1968, CLAMAGORE spent her time out of New London conducting weekly operations and enjoying a well deserved Holiday leave and upkeep period broken up by a weekend visit to New York City.

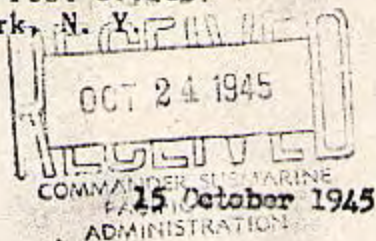
During her commissioned service she has had thirteen commanding officers: Commander Sam C. Loomis, Jr., (June 1945-June 1946); Commander Edward F. Steffanides, Jr., (June 1946-June 1947); Commander Walter L. Small (June 1947-June 1949); Commander John F. Bauer (June 1949-June 1950); Commander Thomas S. Denegre, Jr., (June 1950 - 1952); Lieutenant Commander George F. Morin (June 1952-June 1954). Lieutenant Commander Joseph H. Beuscher (June 1954-July 1956); Lieutenant Commander Jack E. Heard (July 1956-Sep 1958); Commander Arthur K. Keevil (Sep 1958-August 1960); Lieutenant Commander Howard L. Matthews (August 1960-July 1963); Lieutenant Commander Stanley B. Neander (July 1963- June 1965); Commander William J. Gunn (June 1965-June 1967). In June 1967 Lieutenant Commander Donald M. Ulmer became her thirteenth Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Commander Ulmer had previously served aboard Clamagore in an enlisted status and received his silver dolphins on board prior to his appointment to the United States Naval Academy in 1949.

During her commissioned service CLAMAGORE has won 7 Battle Efficiency "E"s. In 1949 while commanded by Commander Small, in 1951 while commanded by Commander Denegre, and in 1955 and 1956 while commanded by Commander Beuscher, CLAMAGORE attained the highest standards of Battle Efficiency in Submarine Squadron FOUR and was awarded the Squadron "E". In 1962, while under the command of Lieutenant Commander Matthews, the Battle Efficiency Competition was judged on a Division basis, and CLAMAGORE was awarded the Division 42 "E". Again in 1963, while still commanded by Commander Matthews, CLAMAGORE was awarded the Battle Efficiency Award of Division 42 for the second year in a row. In 1964, while commanded by Lieutenant Commander Neander, CLAMAGORE received Submarine Division Twenty-One's award for Fire Control Excellence. In 1965, under the command of Commander Neander, CLAMAGORE received her seventh Submarine Battle Efficiency "E". In 1965 CLAMAGORE was nominated by the Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, for the Annual NEY AWARD. In the previous year, CLAMAGORE had been nominated by Commander Submarine Squadron TWO for this Award.

U. S. S. CLAMAGORE (SS343)
c/o Fleet Post Office # 7142
New York, N. Y.

SS343/AL2

Serial (81)



From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Narrative Ship's History - forwarding of.

Reference: (a) ComSubForPac ltr WFL2-10(A)/AL2 Serial 3199
of 24 September 1945.
(b) ALLant 59
(c) Subslant Dispatch 051631.

Enclosure: (A) Subject History.

1. In accordance with reference (a), (b), and (c),
enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

S. C. LOOMIS, Jr.

cc:

Com-7
CinClant
Subslant
CinCPac
SubsPacAd.

U. S. S. CLAMAGORE (SS343)
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N. Y.

The U.S.S. CLAMAGORE was built at the Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut. Construction was begun on March 16, 1944. She was launched on February 25, 1945. The Sponsor was Miss Mary Jane Jacobs, daughter of Vice Admiral Randall M. Jacobs, Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. Commissioning ceremonies took place at the U.S. Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut on June 28, 1945. Commander S. C. Lewis, Jr., U.S. Navy, the present commanding officer, was placed in command at the time of commissioning.

The preliminary shakedown of the CLAMAGORE took place in the Long Island Sound area. Further shakedown activities included torpedo trials at Newport, R.I. and extensive training in the Panama area.

The CLAMAGORE was enroute to Panama, headed for the war zone, when V-J Day was celebrated.

ENCLOSURE (A)