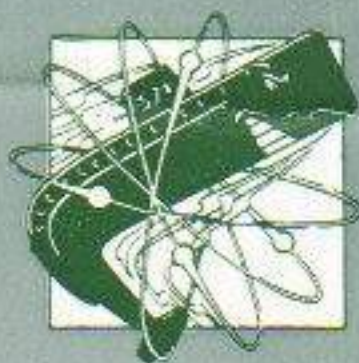
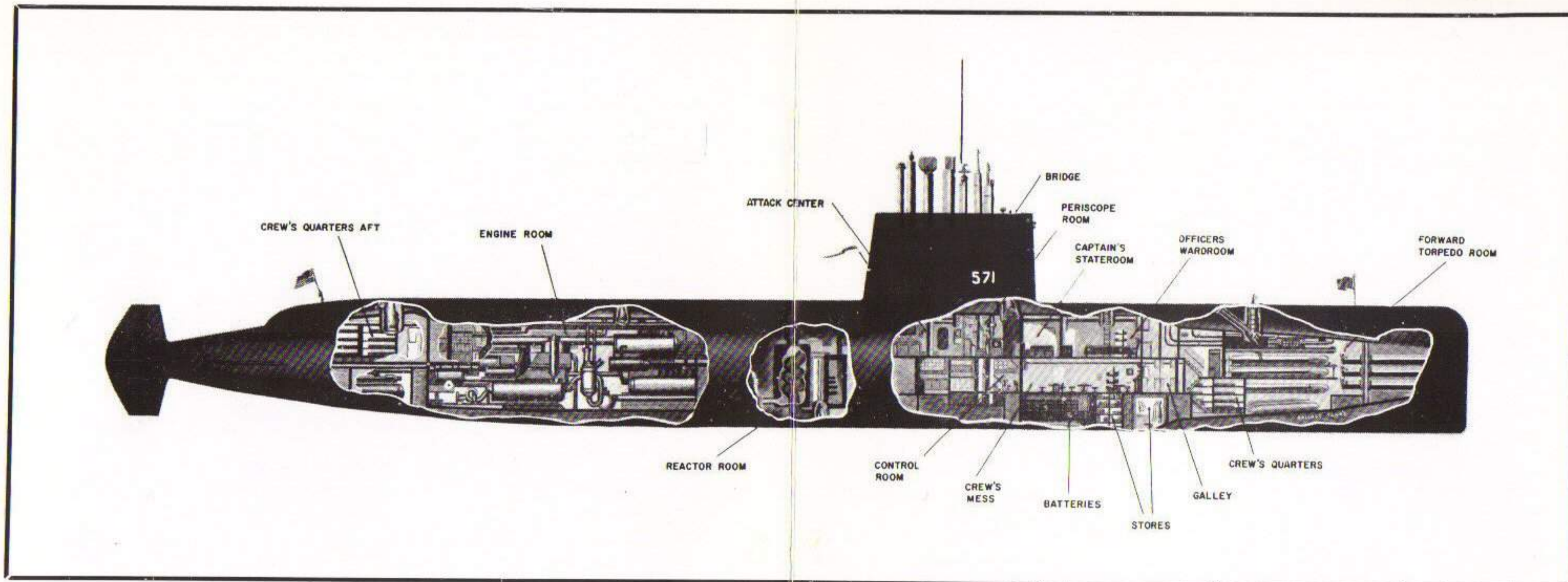


USS NAUTILUS

(SSN 571)





USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571)

AT 1100, 17 January 1955 a message flashed from the bridge of this ship to the Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet: "Underway on nuclear power."

As the ship's propellers bit into the waters of Connecticut's Thames River, slowly at first, then gradually increasing in power and speed until they churned up a milky wake, a 3,000-year history of seafaring reached a climax.

It was a turning point, too, of the 180 years of the United States Navy, of the 50-odd years of the submarine service, and the mere ten-year period since atomic energy had been prodded into malevolent life.

Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered means of transportation, took two and one-half years to build and cost more than \$50,000,000. She represents the labor of thousands of Americans and is one of our nation's finest achievements. Her keel was laid at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation on 14 June 1952 by President Harry S. Truman. She was christened Nautilus by the wife of another President, Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, on 21 January 1954. The ship was placed in commission on 30 September of the same year.

This is the sixth ship and the third submarine of the United States Navy to bear the name Nautilus. The first one fought with Commodore Preble at Tripoli. The other four carried on that fighting tradition in the war with Mexico and the first and second world wars.

Earlier Nautilus submarines include one built by Rob-

ert Fulton and Jules Verne's mythical ship in the novel "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."

Thanks to her unique power plant the Nautilus does not have to surface to recharge batteries and needs to refuel only at infrequent intervals. Therefore she was built as a "true" submarine, designed to cruise submerged for extended periods.

Special consideration has been given to making the living quarters more "habitable" and simplifying the operational controls as much as is possible. Far from private or commodious, living and recreational facilities on the Nautilus are still roomier and more comfortable than on other submarines.

The Nautilus has a complement of 100 officers and men, is 320 feet long with a beam of 28 feet. She displaces about 3,000 tons and cruises at speeds in excess of 20 knots.

In her first two years the Nautilus rewrote the record book. At 8:30 p.m., February 4, 1957, the Nautilus reached the fabled 20,000 league mark (60,000 miles) set down so long ago in Jules Verne's undersea epic. On a trip to Key West, Florida, the Nautilus traveled totally submerged, averaging a speed of over 20 knots. During her travels on the original core, the Nautilus covered over 36,000 miles submerged.

Shortly after passing the twenty thousand league mark Nautilus returned to her builder's dock and was refueled for the first time. She got underway on her second charge of uranium on April 11, 1957, the fifty-seventh birthday of the United States Submarine Service.

KEEL LAID:	14 June 1952
LAUNCHED:	21 January 1954
COMMISSIONED:	30 September 1954
MAIDEN VOYAGE:	17 January 1955
DELIVERY:	22 April 1955
BUILDER:	General Dynamics Corporation Electric Boat Division
POWER PLANT DESIGN:	Westinghouse Electric Corp.

