







Over three hundred years ago, Mother Shipton, famous English prophetess, predicted the coming of the submarine when writing, "under water men shall walk, shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk."

Submarines have been invented which were propelled by oars, sails, treadles, hand-operated screws, clockwork, springs, steam stored in tubes, chemical engines, compressed air, stored gases, electric motors, and nuclear power.

Only the cream of Navy man-power is considered acceptable for submarine service. Volunteer applicants are given exhaustive psychological screening before being accepted for training. Those who make the grade are trained in the Submarine School at New London and on operating submarines, those who pass all tests may wear the "Dolphins," insignia of the submarine service.

Insignia of the Navy's submarine service is a submarine flanked by two dolphins. Dolphins, or porpoises, traditional attendants to Poseidon, Greek God of the Sea and patron deity of sailors, are symbolic of a calm sea, and are sometimes called the "sailors' friend." In addition to the Dolphins, World War II submariners wear a Submarine Combat Insignia indicating participation in successful combat patrols.

The first submarine which actually sank another enemy vessel under combat conditions was the Confederate "Hunley" built during the Civil War. The Union frigate Housatonic on blockade station in Charleston, S.C. was the victim. The incident occurred on February 11, 1864.

A typical modern submarine may require as many as 2,000 working drawings for the more than 7,000,000 items used in its construction. Blueprints from these drawings if placed end to end would make a strip 250 miles long.

