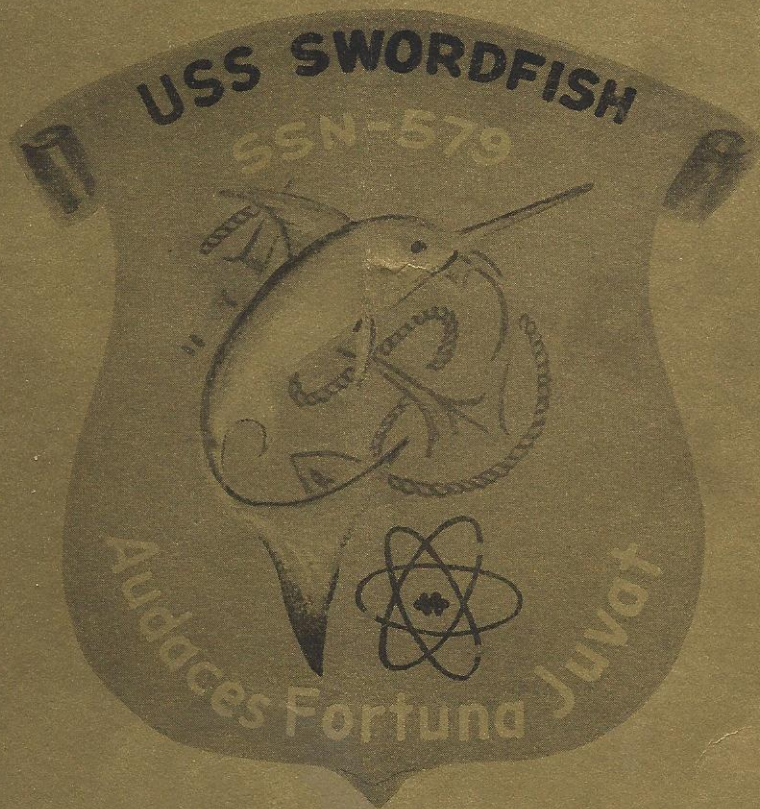


COMMISSIONING
OF
UNITED STATES SHIP
SWORDFISH



PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD
UNITED STATES NAVAL BASE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

15 SEPTEMBER 1958

COMMISSIONING OF USS SWORDFISH (SS(N)-579)

This ceremony marks the placing in commission of USS SWORDFISH (SS(N)-579).

The submarine SWORDFISH is one of a new class of four nuclear powered submarines, two of which are being constructed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. These submarines are the first to be designed as a result of the experience gained with the NAUTILUS water cooled nuclear reactor. They are designed as "attack" submarines whose primary function it is to seek out and destroy enemy ships of all types. Her atomic engines will drive SWORDFISH at high speed both on the surface and at great depths beneath the surface. She will be able to stay submerged for long periods of time. This will give SWORDFISH a great advantage both in offense and in defense. SWORDFISH and her three sisters will share a major role in realizing for the United States Navy the sea power potential of nuclear propulsion.

U.S.S. SWORDFISH

(SS(N) 579)

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Built by
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

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Keel laid	25 January 1956
Launched	27 August 1957
Provisional acceptance	2 June 1958
Placed in Service	12 July 1958

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SPONSOR
Mrs. Eugene Carter Rider

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Commissioned
15 September 1958
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
United States Naval Base
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

HISTORICAL

The submarine being commissioned today is the second United States Submarine to bear that name. She is named for the swordfish, the only representative of the xiphiidae family of fish also known as the broadbill.

The first SWORDFISH was built by the Mare Island California Naval Shipyard and was commissioned on 22 July 1939. Her first commanding officer was Lieutenant C. C. SMITH, USN who is now Rear Admiral C. C. Smith USN. In December 1941 SWORDFISH was at the Cavite, Philippine Islands Naval Base. When hostilities commenced she was immediately dispatched to a patrol station off Hainan Island in the South China Sea.

The SWORDFISH sank her first Japanese ship on the day following the Pearl Harbor attack and therefore had the distinction of being one of the first U. S. naval ships to inflict damage on the enemy. With this beginning the SWORDFISH continued to amass an excellent war record during her entire career and throughout the Pacific area. SWORDFISH made a total of 12 war patrols and is officially credited with sinking a total of 12 Japanese ships for a total tonnage of 48,000 tons. The last war patrol of the SWORDFISH commenced on 22 December 1944 when she left Pearl Harbor under the command of Commander Keats Montross, USN. Her mission was to conduct a photographic reconnaissance of the Nansei Shoto Islands including the islands of Okinawa preparatory to the invasion of those islands by American amphibious forces. The SWORDFISH was last heard from on 3 January 1945. At that time she was on her patrol station. Although it is not definitely known how SWORDFISH met her end it is presumed that she struck a mine in the heavily mined waters around Okinawa in the execution of her assigned mission. She perished with all hands without a trace. It is altogether fitting that a new and modern submarine should bear the name SWORDFISH to perpetuate the memory of a gallant ship and her brave crew.



Sponsor, Mrs. Eugene C. Rider, Christening SWORDFISH

Vice Admiral John L. McCrea,
USN (Ret)



Rear Admiral F. B. Warder, USN
*Commander Submarine Force,
U. S. Atlantic Fleet*



Rear Admiral Carl F. Espe, USN
Commandant First Naval District



Rear Admiral Robert L. Moore, Jr., USN
Commander Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

U.S.S. SWORDFISH (SS(N) 579)

COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES

Band Selections

Boston Naval Base Band

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Invocation

*Lieutenant W. F. Hollis, CHC, USN
U. S. Naval Base, Portsmouth, N. H.*

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Welcoming Remarks

*Rear Admiral Robert L. Moore, Jr., USN
Commander, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard*

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Introduction

Rear Admiral Carl F. Espe, USN
Commandant First Naval District
by

Rear Admiral Moore

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Introduction of the principal speaker
Vice Admiral John L. McCrea USN (RET)
by

Rear Admiral Espe

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Address

Vice Admiral McCrea

Reading of Navy Department Orders to Commission
SWORDFISH (SS(N)-579)

Rear Admiral Espe

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Commission Pennant is hoisted as the band
play the National Anthem

The Ship is now in commission

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Commander Shannon D. Cramer, Jr., USN reads his
orders and assumes command

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Commanding Officer gives orders for the personal flag of
Commandant, First Naval District
to be broken.

Ruffles and flourishes. Admiral's March

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Remarks

Commander Cramer, Commanding Officer

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Benediction

Lieutenant W. F. Hollis, CHC, USN

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Band Selections

Boston Naval Base Band

Commander SHANNON D. CRAMER, Jr.,
Commanding

Commander Shannon D. Cramer, Jr. is a native of Washington, D. C. He attended Central High School and graduated in February 1939 as President of his class. He attended Admiral Farragut Naval Academy



at Toms River, New Jersey from June 1939 to June 1940. He entered the U. S. Naval Academy in 1940 and graduated in 1943 (Class of 1944) due to the accelerated war program. He served in destroyers USS LAUB (DD 613) and USS FURSE (DD882) in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters until 1946, entering the U. S. Naval Submarine School at New London, Conn. in 1947. He has served in submarines COCHINO, CORPORAL, HALFBEAK, and COBBLER. He had command of USS SIRAGO (SS485) from 1954 to 1956.

From 1951 to 1953 he was an instructor at the U. S. Naval Submarine School. In 1956-1957 he served in the Naval Reactors Branch, Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D. C.

He married the former Elizabeth Stewart of Philadelphia, Pa. and they presently reside in Kittery Point, Maine with their four children, Shannon, III, John, Elizabeth, and Susan.

U. S. S. SWORDFISH (SS(N) 579)

OFFICERS

COMMANDING OFFICER

CDR Shannon D. CRAMER, Jr., USN

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LCDR Jeffrey C. METZEL, Jr., USN

CDR Andrew MC KANE, III, MC, USN .. Medical Officer

LT Gerald E. SYNHORST, USN Engineer Officer

LT Joe E. FULLER, USN Gunnery Officer

LT Glen C. MERRITT, USN "M" Division Officer

LT James R. LEWIS, USN "E" and "RC" Div. Officer

**LT Carlisle A. H. TROST, USN "A" Division, Supply and
Commissary Officer**

LT David G. SMITH, USN Electronics Officer

LT David E. JOHNSON, USN Communications Officer

ENS James F. NEWELL, Jr., USN..... Assistant Navigator

ENS Harry D. BROWN, USN First Lieutenant

ELEC Hillary M. MITCHELL, USN Assistant "E" Div. Officer

U. S. S. SWORDFISH (SS(N) 579)

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

G. W. FIELDS, TMCA(SS), USN

Chief of the Boat

F. M. CABALLERO Chief Electrician's Mate

W. A. DAVIS Chief Commissaryman

R. D. ICE Chief Electrician's Mate

W. C. KARNES, JR. Chief Engineman

K. R. LIMSTROM Chief Electronics Technician

W. V. ROGERS Chief Electrician's Mate

G. G. SLYTER Chief Interior Communications Electrician

W. J. SPOULOS Chief Electrician's Mate

L. W. STROUD Chief Fire Control Technician

E. L. TELLES Chief Radioman

L. M. HESTER	Electrician's Mate First Class
J. W. HICKS	Quartermaster Second Class
H. L. HOLDEN, JR.	Electrician's Mate Third Class
R. L. HOOVER	Torpedoman's Mate Second Class
R. N. JAMES	Engineman Second Class
B. L. JENNINGS	Quartermaster Second Class
G. A. JOHNSTON	Interior Communications Electrician Second Class
J. M. KARATKIEWICZ	Engineman Second Class
J. G. KIRKUS	Electrician's Mate First Class
F. P. KONICKI	Sonarman Third Class
W. T. LEDBETTER, JR.	Engineman Second Class
W. G. LENHARD	Engineman Second Class
J. R. L. LE TOURNEAU	Electronics Technician First Class
R. L. LILAND	Radioman Second Class
J. B. LINK	Yeoman Third Class
R. E. LLOYD	Seaman
L. A. LOVE	Engineman Third Class
J. C. MALONE	Electrician's Mate First Class
L. P. MC NEICE	Electronics Technician First Class
C. B. MC CURLEY	Radioman First Class
D. D. MEYER	Engineman First Class
J. B. MOSER	Torpedoman's Mate Third Class
J. J. O'MEARA, JR.	Fire Control Technician Third Class
M. G. O'NEILL	Seaman
M. G. REMINGTON	Interior Communications Electrician First Class
L. C. ROGERS	Electronics Technician First Class
S. J. SCHMEL	Quartermaster Second Class
S. D. SCHUMAN	Yeoman First Class
J. W. SEYMOUR	Interior Communications Electrician Third Class
J. SHELESKY	Electronics Technician Second Class
M. D. SHELTON	Torpedoman's Mate First Class
R. P. SILVERBERG	Quartermaster Third Class
H. M. SMITH	Electronics Technician Second Class
P. F. SVAGDYS	Hospital Corpsman First Class
P. D. TENNYSON	Electrician's Mate Third Class
R. H. THIMMESCH	Torpedoman's Mate Second Class
L. L. TIDMARSH	Sonarman First Class
R. R. WARNER	Quartermaster Third Class
R. G. WYLIE	Seaman
R. L. YOUNG	Engineman Third Class

