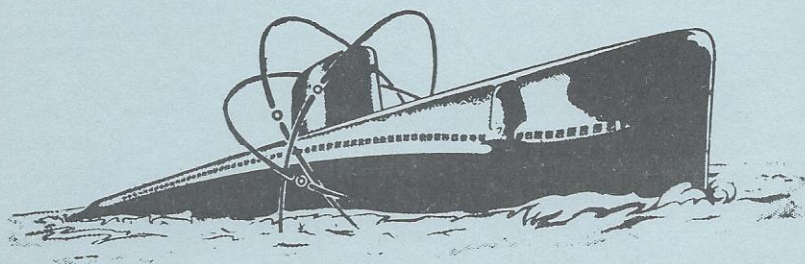
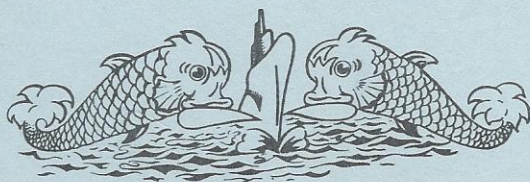


**LAUNCHING PROGRAM  
NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINE  
"SWORDFISH"**



**SSN 579  
27 August 1957**



**PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD  
PORTSMOUTH, N. H.**

## THE SUBMARINE

The submarine SWORDFISH is one of a new class of four nuclear powered submarines which are being constructed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and at two other naval shipyards. 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. The many employees of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard are proud to have had a part in the beginning of this new field of naval shipbuilding.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Standard Displacement .....	2412 Tons
Length .....	267.7 ft.
Beam .....	25.0 ft.
Complement .....	Officers - 8
	Crew - 75

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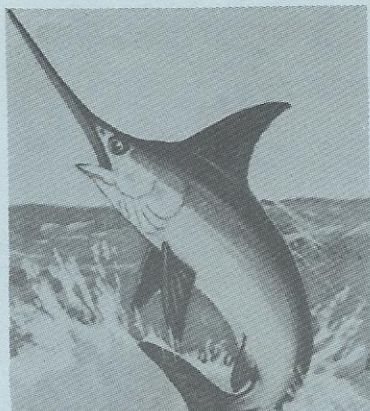
## THE SPONSOR

Mrs. Eugene Carter Rider, the sponsor of the submarine SWORDFISH which is being launched here today, is the widow of the late Commander Keats Edmund Montross, USN, who was the Commanding Officer of the former USS SWORDFISH (SS193), when that ship was lost to enemy action during World War II. Mrs. Rider is now the wife of Captain Eugene C. Rider, USN, and makes her home in Newport, Rhode Island.

Commander Montross was born in Saginaw, Michigan, on 1 May 1912. He entered the Naval Academy on 7 July 1931 and was appointed Midshipman, USN. He was graduated from the Naval Academy with the class of 1935 and was commissioned Ensign, USN, on 6 June 1935. Ensign Montross was ordered to the Submarine School, New London, Connecticut, in 1938 to begin his service in submarines. After graduating from submarine School, he was ordered to the submarine 0-4 and later served as Commanding Officer of the 0-4. In February 1944 he was ordered to the USS SWORDFISH as Commanding Officer and served in that capacity until the SWORDFISH was lost to enemy action in the Pacific somewhere off the Island of Okinawa in January 1945. Commander Montross was awarded the following decorations: Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 1025 Launching crew muster on station.
- 1105 Commence rallies.
- 1240 Captain Walter E. Baranowski, USN, Production Officer, informs visitors of the progress of launching operations.
- 1300 Sponsor's party and guests of honor arrive at Building Ways.
- 1310 National Anthem.  
Invocation by the Chaplain, CDR C. C. Marley (ChC) USN
- 1313 Captain Baranowski presents Captain R. L. Moore, Jr., USN, Commander, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.  
Welcome by Captain Moore.  
Presentation of employees' gift to the sponsor by Mr. Edward J. Campbell, chairman of the Shipyard Employees' Joint Council.
- 1320 Captain Moore presents Captain Alan B. Banister, USN, Acting Commander Naval Base, Portsmouth, New Hampshire representing the Commandant First Naval District.  
Address by Captain Banister.
- 1325 Captain Moore presents Rear Admiral C. C. Smith, U. S. Navy, U. S. Representative, Military Committee, Standing Group, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and a former Commanding Officer of the first USS SWORDFISH.  
Address by Rear Admiral Smith.
- 1337 Three minute warning. Two blasts on the klaxon horn. "All clear on ground except at dog shores and trigger." Production Officer reports to Shipyard Commander: "SWORDFISH is ready in all respects for launching."
- 1339 Blessing of the ship by the Chaplain.
- 1339:50 One-bell signal to sponsor to "be ready."
- 1340 Release triggers and launch ship. Sponsor breaks bottle on bow and says, "In the name of the United States of America, I christen thee SWORDFISH." Band plays Anchors Aweigh as ship slides down the ways.



## — HISTORICAL —

The submarine being launched 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 and the principal speaker and guest of honor for this occasion. In December 1941 the 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.

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