
Launching Program

U. S. S. HALIBUT

SSGN-587



9 JANUARY 1959

MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

MRS. CHET HOLIFIELD, SPONSOR

THE SHIP

The submarine HALIBUT, which is being launched today, is the first ship of the United States Navy to combine the advantages of nuclear propulsion and the capability to carry, launch, and guide missiles. She is the second nuclear-powered submarine built on the west coast propelled by a water-cooled reactor similar to that pioneered in the USS NAUTILUS. This type of propulsion results in submerged range and endurance limited only by human frailties.

HALIBUT is the first submarine designed specifically as a guided missile ship. This has resulted in a more efficient missile handling and stowage system and in a more streamlined hull form. In addition to her missile capability she is also provided with a potent torpedo battery.

HALIBUT is the 29th submarine and the 496th craft to be built in the Mare Island Naval Shipyard during its 104 year history.

THE SPONSOR

Mrs. Chet Holifield is the wife of Representative Holifield of California's 19th Congressional District. They reside in Montebello, California. Congressman Holifield is a member of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

One of the Holifields' four daughters, Mrs. Donald Williams, will be Matron of Honor to the Sponsor.

THE SPEAKER

Rear Admiral Elton Watters Grenfell, USN, is the Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. He is a native of Fall River, Massachusetts, and a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, class of 1926. A veteran submariner, he first served in the R-4 from 1929 to 1933. In 1941 he assumed command on commissioning GUDGEON, built at Mare Island. GUDGEON was the first submarine to go on war patrol from Pearl Harbor, departing on 11 December 1941. After commanding TUNNY, he was ComSubDiv 44, ComSubRon 34, Chief of Staff for ComSubPac, ComSubFlot One, Special Deputy to CNO, and Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel. His many decorations include the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal and the Legion of Merit with Gold Star. In January 1959 he leaves his present command to become Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics.

- 0700 Muster Launching Crew on Station.
- 1010 First Rally.
- 1025 Second Rally.
- 1040 Third Rally.
- 1110 Commence Removal of Keel Blocks.
- 1130 Captain E. R. Tilburne, USN, Production Officer, informs visitors of the Progress of Launching Operations.
- 1200 Sponsor's Party arrives at Building Ways.
- 1210 Captain Tilburne presents Rear Admiral M. J. Lawrence, USN, Commander Mare Island Naval Shipyard.
- 1210 Remove Bilge Cribs. Set wedges and remove ram rails. Burn Clips and touch up.
- 1212 Rear Admiral Lawrence introduces guests. Remarks.
- 1220 Rear Admiral Lawrence introduces speaker, Rear Admiral Elton W. Grenfell, USN, Commander Submarines, Pacific Fleet.
- 1239 Launching Prayer by Commander H. Buckingham, CHC, USN.
- 1240 Band Plays National Anthem.
- 1242 Production Officer orders "Clear Building Ways." Three long blasts on siren.
- 1244 Production Officer reports Ready in All Respects for Launching to Shipyard Commander.
- 1244-30 Three Buzzers stand-by signal from Sponsor's Platform.
- 1244-40 Two Buzzer stand-by signal from Launching Control Platform.
- 1244-50 One Buzzer signal from Launching Control Platform.
- 1245 Senior Shipyard Employee, Mr. I. H. Whitthorne Releases Trigger and launch HALIBUT.
- Sponsor breaks bottle on bow "In the name of the United States of America, I Christen thee HALIBUT".

The submarine being launched today is the second United States Navy Submarine to bear the name HALIBUT. The first HALIBUT was built by the U. S. Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N. H., and commissioned 10 April 1942. This earlier HALIBUT began her first war patrol on 9 August 1942 and operated around the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. She completed a total of ten patrols. The HALIBUT sank a total of twelve enemy vessels totalling 45,257 tons, including a destroyer sent to the bottom during the battle of Leyte Gulf. She received seven Patrol Stars, a Navy Unit Citation, and the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation. As a result of battle damage received in Luzon Strait during November 1944, HALIBUT returned to the States. Damage was too extensive to justify repair and she was placed out of commission in Portsmouth, N. H., in July 1945 and was scrapped in 1947.

