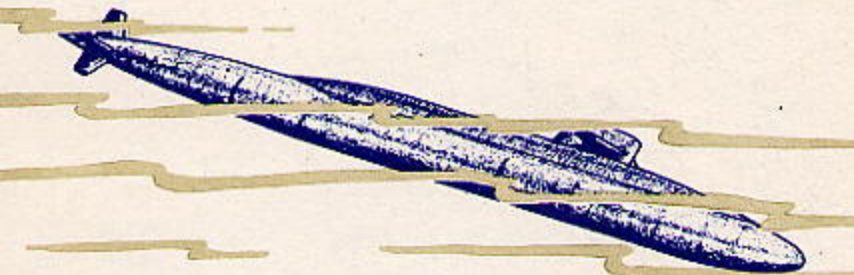


U.S.S.

George Bancroft

SSBN 643





Welcome Aboard

the

United States Submarine

GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN643)





JOE WILLIAMS, JR.
COMMANDER, U. S. NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN643) BLUE

Commander Joe WILLIAMS, Jr., USN, the Commanding Officer of the USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN643) BLUE, is a native of Arkansas. Born in Magnolia, he now lists Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as his official residence. After enlisting in the Navy in 1940, Commander WILLIAMS served on various surface ships while progressing to the rate of Chief Machinist Mate in 1943. In 1944 he accepted a commission as Ensign, USN, and finished the war as Commanding Officer of the USS LCI(R) (225), a rocket launching unit that carried him through multiple assault landings in New Guinea and the Philippines. A tour as Staff Officer and as Gunnery Officer of a Destroyer preceded his entry into Submarine School in 1949. Subsequently, he served in various diesel powered submarines, attended the University of California and the Naval War College, and Commanded the USS BLUEGILL (SSK-242) for the two years preceding his entry into nuclear power training. Upon graduating from the one year Nuclear Power Course, Commander WILLIAMS reported as Commanding Officer of the USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN601) GOLD just prior to the commissioning of that ship in September 1960 and is a veteran of six Polaris patrols on her. He reported as Commanding Officer of the USS GEORGE BANCROFT in September 1964, during BANCROFT's construction phase.

Commander WILLIAMS is holder of the American Defense, American Campaign, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, Asiatic Pacific Campaign, World War II Victory, National Defense, Korean Service, United Nations, China Service Extended and Philippine Liberation Medals.

He is married to the former Margaret Helen SMITH of Cotton Plant, Arkansas. The couple and their three children make their home in Gales Ferry, Connecticut.



**WALTER M. DOUGLASS
COMMANDER, U. S. NAVY**

**COMMANDING OFFICER
USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN643) GOLD**

Commander Walter M. DOUGLASS, USN, the Commanding Officer of the USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN643) GOLD, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude A. DOUGLASS of Shelbyville, Missouri. After graduation from Shelbyville High School he attended Culver Stockton College in Canton, Missouri, for two years. He entered the Naval Reserve in late 1942 and the United States Naval Academy in the summer of 1943, graduating with the class of 1947. On graduation Commander DOUGLASS reported to USS ROGERS (DDR876). He entered Submarine School in July 1948 and, after graduation, served three years in USS BESUGO (SS321) based at Pearl Harbor. He recommissioned USS ARCHERFISH (SS311) in 1952 and after two years aboard reported for instructor duty at the U. S. Naval Academy. In June 1955 he reported to USS TIGRONE (SSR419). He assumed duties as Executive Officer of TIGRONE in July 1956 and command in June 1957 until she was decommissioned in late 1957. Commander DOUGLASS then served on Submarine Squadron SIX and Submarine Division SIXTY-THREE staffs as Operations Officer until taking command of USS CHIVO (SS341) in June 1959. Upon completion of his command tour, he attended nuclear power training at Naval Reactors Branch in Washington, D. C. and reported as Prospective Officer (BLUE) of USS LAFAYETTE (SSBN616) in April 1962. Commander DOUGLASS assumed command of USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (BLUE Crew) on 23 May 1963.

Commander DOUGLASS is holder of the American Theatre, China Service, Japanese Occupation, World War II Victory, Korean Service, United Nations and National Defense Medals.

He is married to the former Betty Joe DEW of Magadore, Ohio. They have one daughter, Elizabeth Joann.

USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN643)

The USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN643) is the United States Navy's thirty-fourth Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine. This ship, embodying the concept of marrying the Polaris Missile with a nuclear powered submarine, is the finest example of American Sea Power.

As the fourth ship of a new class of Polaris carrying submarines, the GEORGE BANCROFT is the proud product of many months of round-the-clock construction and testing effort put forth by highly skilled personnel of General Dynamics Corporation, Electric Boat Division, the nation's original submarine construction activity. Launched at Groton, Connecticut, on 20 March 1965, the ship will be commissioned in December 1965.

GEORGE BANCROFT is approximately 425 feet long with an approximate submerged displacement of 8000 tons; about the tonnage of a World War II light cruiser. In comparative size the ship is almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as a football field and as high as a five story building. Inside the hull there are three platform decks complete with staircases.

The nuclear propulsion system contains an enriched uranium core in a water cooled reactor plant which makes the ship independent of the atmosphere and capable of indefinite periods of submerged operation. This capability, when connected with the Navy's newest version of the Polaris Missile and the world's finest fire control system, will indeed make the GEORGE BANCROFT an awesome deterrent to any aggressor.

Living conditions aboard submarines have improved tremendously since the launching of the USS HOLLAND, the United States Navy's first submarine, here at Electric

Boat. Every effort has been made to provide pleasant, comfortable surroundings for the dedicated men who will operate and maintain the USS GEORGE BANCROFT during the long patrols ahead. The atmosphere in the ship will be continuously purified and replenished with oxygen; food preparation will be performed in a modern, well equipped galley; and recreational facilities will include stereophonic records and tapes, movies, athletic equipment, and a well stocked library of professional and nonprofessional books.

As the Polaris submarines which have preceded her down the ways, the USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN-643) is a well constructed, powerful naval ship which will carry a force capable of more destruction than all of the explosive power unleashed during World War II. As such, she is truly an outstanding example of our nation's technology, and one in which every American can take pride. May she never have to fire in anger.

PAX PER SCIENTIAM

FIRST
HISTORY
OF THE
UNITED
STATES



USS GEORGE BANCROFT
SSBN 643