



Twin Christening

October 14, 1966



Quincy division of General Dynamics



General Dynamics has been awarded contracts for 18 ships since it acquired the Quincy division, including the three Apollo Instrumentation ships shown above.

The Quincy Division

The Quincy division was founded in 1884 as the Fore River Engine Company at East Braintree, Massachusetts, by Thomas A. Watson, Alexander Graham Bell's associate during the development of the telephone. Watson, then retired from the telephone business, had developed an interest in the small engine field.

In September 1898, naval ship construction began with the building of two torpedo boat destroyers. Shortly thereafter the yard was moved to a larger area on the Fore River waterfront, a part of the present Quincy division.

In 1901, the company's name was changed to the Fore River Ship and Engine Company, and two years later was reorganized as the Fore River Shipbuilding Company. During the next several years, the yard built 82 vessels, both naval and commercial, including a number of submarines.

Bethlehem Steel Corporation purchased the company in 1913 changing the name in 1917 to the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation Ltd. During the next two years, the yard received contracts for 100 ships. In 1919, the peak World War I production year, 69 vessels were delivered and employment reached 26,000.

Construction of the old aircraft carrier Lexington, two cruisers and two heavy cruisers kept the yard operating in the lean years following World War I.

When World War II broke out, war contracts began pouring in and a new 16-way yard at Hingham was acquired in a large expansion program. That shipyard turned out 227 ships in 39 months, and employed 23,500 persons. The Quincy yard, with increased facilities and a workforce of 32,000 launched 98 ships, including five famous Essex-class aircraft carriers — Lexington, Wasp, Bunker Hill, Hancock and Philippine Sea.

Quincy entered the nuclear age on December 2, 1957, when the keel was laid for America's first nuclear-powered, guided missile cruiser, the Long Beach. Quincy also built the Bainbridge, the first nuclear-powered, guided missile frigate.

In 1962, Quincy launched the Manhattan. At 940 feet and 108,590 deadweight tons, the tanker was the largest commercial ship ever built in the U. S. at the time of her delivery.

On December 31, 1963, the shipyard was purchased by General Dynamics and became the Quincy Yard of its Electric Boat Division. Earlier this year it achieved status as a division of General Dynamics.

USS WHALE



Mrs. Russell B. Long
Sponsor



Lt. Cmdr. W. M. Wolff, Jr., USN
Prospective Commanding Officer

Program

NATIONAL ANTHEM	<i>First Naval District Band</i>
INVOCATION	<i>Lt. Cmdr. P. F. Brudzynski, (ChC), USN</i>
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	<i>Robert V. Laney</i> General Manager Quincy Division General Dynamics
REMARKS	<i>Roger Lewis</i> President General Dynamics
ADDRESS	<i>The Honorable John A. Volpe</i> Governor of Massachusetts
INTRODUCTION OF SPONSORS	<i>Mr. Lewis</i>
CHRISTENING - WHALE	<i>Mrs. Russell B. Long</i>
CHRISTENING --SUNFISH	<i>Mrs. Robert C. Byrd</i>

USS SUNFISH



Mrs. Robert C. Byrd
Sponsor



Lt. Cmdr. B. G. Balderston, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer

USS Whale

The nuclear attack submarine Whale is named for a submarine that served with distinction in World War II.

Launched on March 14, 1942 at the Mare Island, California, Naval Shipyard, Whale sailed off to battle a little less than seven months later. All told, she was to make 11 successful patrols and by war's end she sank nine ships totaling 57,716 tons.

On special missions she rescued 15 downed Allied airmen during invasions of Pacific islands.

Whale was a tough ship. She was once so badly battered by depth charges that she spent two months in repair at Pearl Harbor. On another occasion a typhoon caused extensive damage to her, but it failed to prevent the submarine from torpedoing an enemy vessel.

Following the war Whale was decommissioned and placed in the U. S. Atlantic Reserve Fleet. In 1960 she was stricken from Navy records.

The keel for Whale's nuclear namesake was laid May 27, 1964. Whale, 292 feet long and displacing 4,100 tons, is scheduled to become operational next year.

USS Sunfish

Sunfish is named for a battle veteran of World War II which was launched May 2, 1942 at the Mare Island, California, Naval Shipyard. A Fleet Type vessel – the class that bore the brunt of undersea war in the Pacific – Sunfish was 311 feet long and displaced 1,500 tons.

Sunfish made her first war patrol before the end of 1942. It was uneventful, the only one of 11 to be so. She sank her first ship on the second patrol. Fifteen more were to follow for a score of 59,815 tons.

For her ninth and eleventh war patrols Sunfish was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, one of the few submarines so cited during the war.

The submarine's distinguished but brief career came to an end at the close of 1945 when she was decommissioned and placed in reserve. The name Sunfish was stricken from Navy records five years later.

On January 15, 1965 the keel was laid for the nuclear attack submarine Sunfish. A sister of Whale, Sunfish is 292 feet long and displaces 4,100 tons. She is scheduled to become operational next year.