

**USS**

*Mariano G. Vallejo*



**SSBN 658**

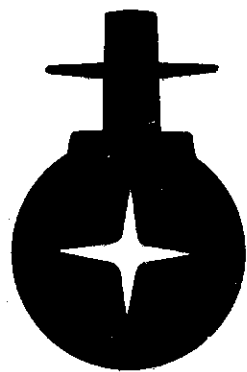
KEEL LAID  
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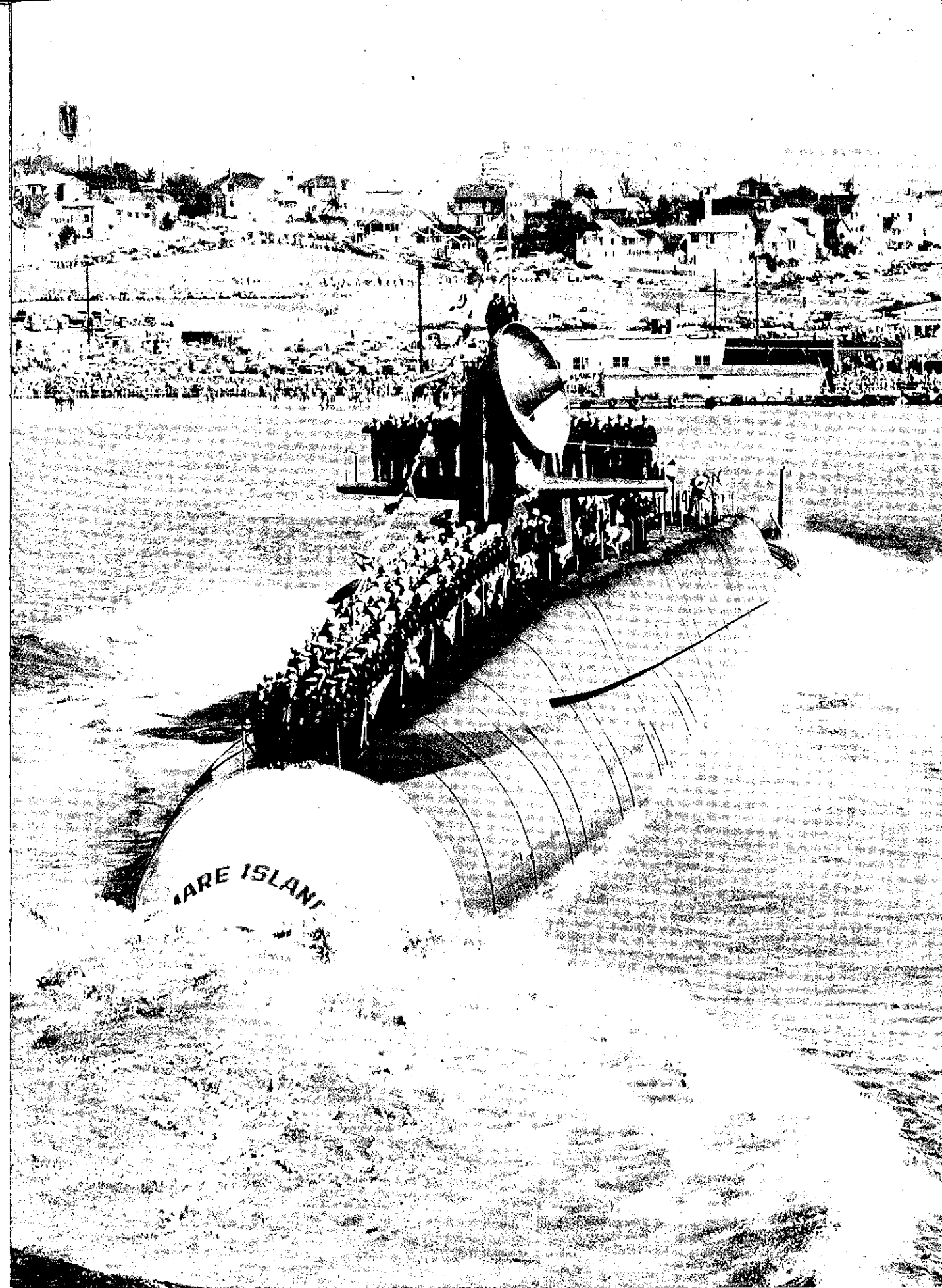
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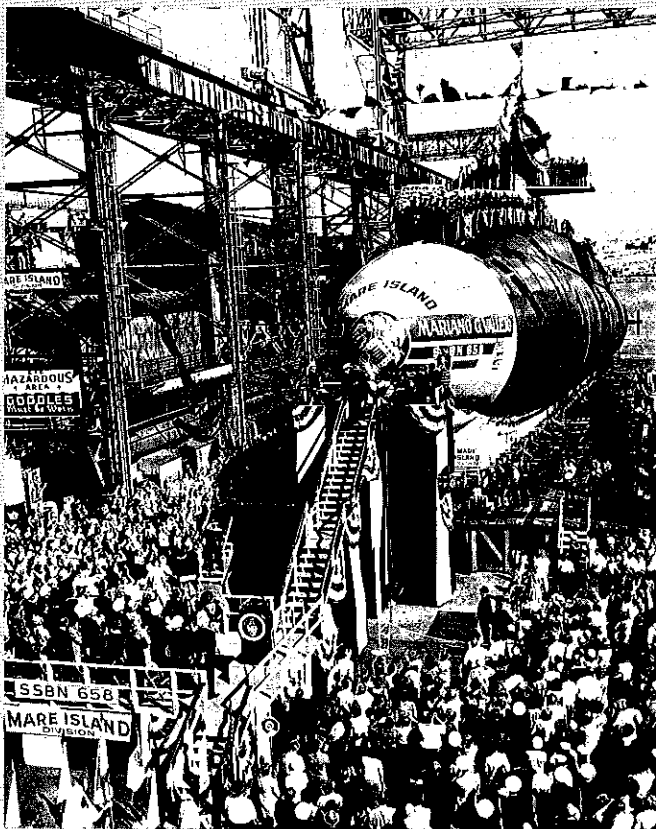
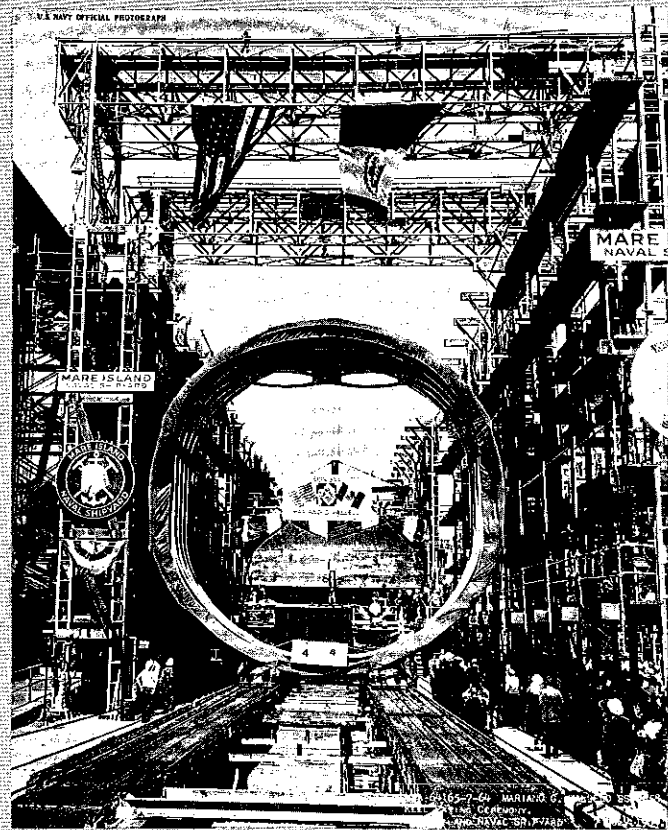
COMMISSIONED  
16 DECEMBER 1966



USS  
MARIANO G. VALLEJO  
SSBN 658



KEEL LAYING CEREMONIES,  
7 JULY 1964



LAUNCHING OF THE  
MARIANO G. VALLEJO  
23 OCTOBER 1965



# HISTORY OF USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO

MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN658) was authorized by the Congress of the United States as the fortieth Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine in a total of forty-one. On 7 July, the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, burned his initials by remote control from Washington in the keel of MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN658), during keel-laying ceremonies at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo California.

SPEAKING BY TELEPHONE from the White House to the assembly gathered at the builders ways, President Johnson said: "Citizens of Vallejo:

While I cannot be with you, I am proud to participate in this way in these unique and historic ceremonies.

With this new Polaris submarine, we honor a great American hero. Like so many of your nation's heroes, his is a name of Mexican ancestry.

As a soldier and as a statesman, General Vallejo was one of the first of the long line of courageous Mexican-Americans who have fought so bravely for freedom and worked so tirelessly for peace.

In honoring him we also honor the citizens of your city which bears his name. For 110 years, you have built more than 500 vessels to fulfill the Mare Island slogan, "Our Sole Mission Is To Serve The Fleet."

I am sure that in building the Vallejo you will surpass all your own past records.

The mission of this vessel will be a mission of peace.

We today live in peace with our good neighbor and friend, the Republic of Mexico. We of America work for a world in which all men of all lands may live side by side without fear, without suspicion, without war. To that goal, we dedicate this vessel now."

A little over fifteen months later, on 23 October 1965, MARIANO G. VALLEJO was launched and officially christened with appropriate ceremonies. Patricia O. V. McGettegan, great-great-granddaughter of General Vallejo, was the ship's sponsor, and the Honorable Mendel L. Rivers, Congressman from South Carolina and Chairman of the House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee delivered the principal address.

Placed "In Service" on 9 October 1966, initial sea trials were successfully conducted on 6 November 1966. These trials included full power runs both surfaced and submerged, and a dive to test depth.

Additional trials were conducted during the month of November to test various systems within the ship, and final acceptance trials were made 6-7 December 1966.

The ship was placed in commission on 16 December 1966 by Rear Admiral Clark, U. S. Navy, Commandant of the Twelfth Naval District, with the principal address made by Rear Admiral John H. Maurer U. S. Navy, Commander Submarine Force, Pacific. Commander Douglas B. Guthe, U. S. Navy assumed command of the ship and the Blue Crew, reporting for duty to Commander Submarine Squadron 15 as a part of the U. S. Pacific Fleet.

At this time, Commander John K. Nunneley, U. S. Navy, assumed command of the Gold Crew, also reporting for duty to Commander Submarine Squadron 15.



## THE FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE WEAPON SYSTEM

USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO is the fortieth of a total of forty-one Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) nuclear powered submarines which make up the Polaris Fleet of the United States Navy. Free to remain completely submerged for months, with an unlimited cruising range, the ship can remain undetected by any potential enemy, ready to launch her solid propellant POLARIS missile within minutes of receiving the command. Mobile, hidden, ready for instant action, USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO and her sister FBM's provide the United States with a powerful and credible deterrent to any enemy attack.

FBM submarines are divided into three classes: The George Washington class which are about 389 feet long and displace about 5900 tons; the Ethan Allen class with are about 410 feet long and displace about 6900 tons; and the Lafayette class which are about 425 feet long and displace about 7000 tons. USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO is of the Lafayette class. Both the Ethan Allen and Lafayette class submarines can accommodate all three generations of Polaris missile (A-1, A-2 and A-3). The George Washington class had an A-1 missile capability only, but are presently being refitted to carry the A-3 missile.

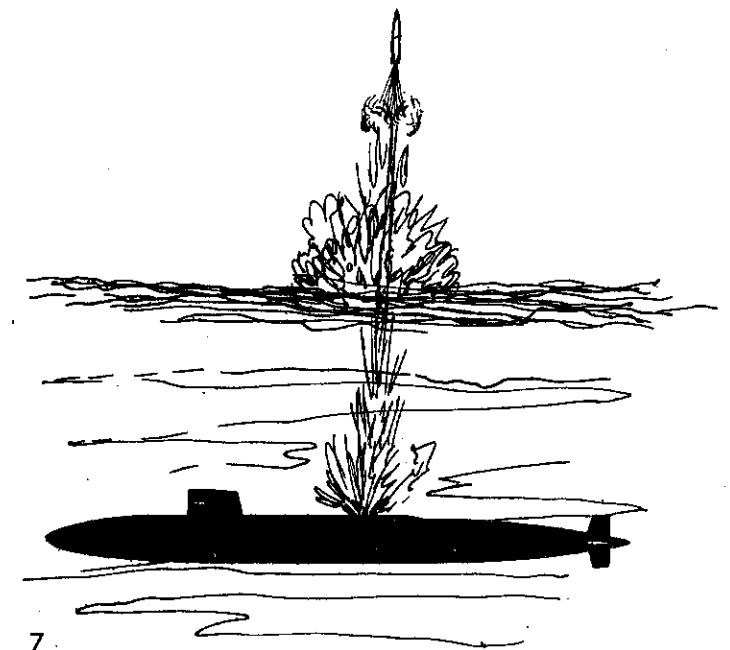
USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO has two complete, equally trained crews, referred to as the "Blue Crew" and the "Gold Crew." Each crew has about one hundred forty officers and men. In order to maximize patrol "on station" time, the crews are rotated at regular intervals. During the period that one crew has the ship on patrol, the other crew is at their home port undergoing refresher training, taking leave, and in general preparing to go back on patrol.

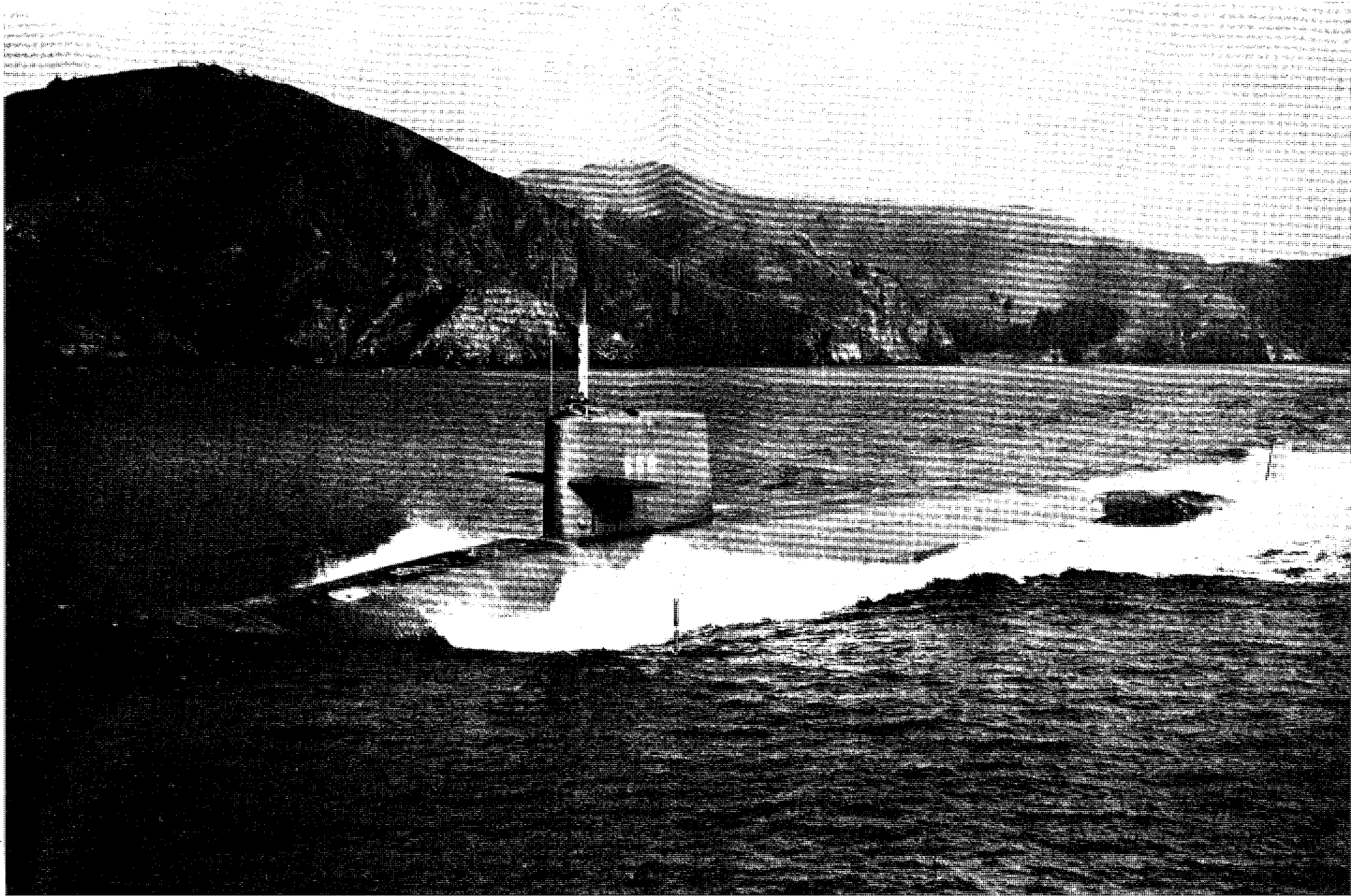
Personnel selected for FBM duty are all volunteers and must meet stringent educational and personality criteria. They are given highly specialized training to enable them to maintain and operate the many complex equipments of the POLARIS weapons system. Special schooling for more than two years is required for many technicians. The goal of this highly specialized training is to provide the technician with the necessary skills to enable him to handle his assigned responsibilities from the day he reports on board. While on patrol the ship is isolated from any outside support and must be entirely self sufficient.

VALLEJO is designed to carry sixteen Polaris A-3 missiles which are of significantly greater capability than the older A-1 and A-2 missiles. The Polaris A-3 missile is designed to be launched from the ship's missile tubes while the ship is either surfaced or submerged. The designed range of the A-3 is 2500 nautical miles (2880 statute miles), providing FBM submarines the capability of reaching targets anywhere on the earth. While Polaris A-3 will leave no spot unreachable by FBM submarines hidden in the oceans of the world, the effectiveness of the Polaris system is best measured by the deterrent strength this capability gives to our country in its ceaseless efforts to prevent nuclear war and to maintain peace.

In order to aim a POLARIS missile accurately at a target, the position of the target and the position of the ship must be known precisely. Since the position of the ship is constantly changing, great importance is placed on navigation. A high order of precision in determining the ship's position is provided by the Ship's Inertial Navigation System (SINS). SINS, a complex system of gyroscopes and accelerometers, accurately measures the movement of the ship, and provides a continuous display of the ship's position on the face of the earth.

In order to answer the demands of the 1970's as they are now seen, an even more effective submarine missile system, named POSEIDON, is being developed. Designed to fit the ship's present missile tubes, only a few modifications will be required to enable VALLEJO to carry POSEIDON. The increased capabilities of the POSEIDON missile coupled with the inherent survivability of the nuclear-powered submarine give every assurance that the Fleet Ballistic Missile System will continue to be a reliable and credible force for peace in the years ahead.





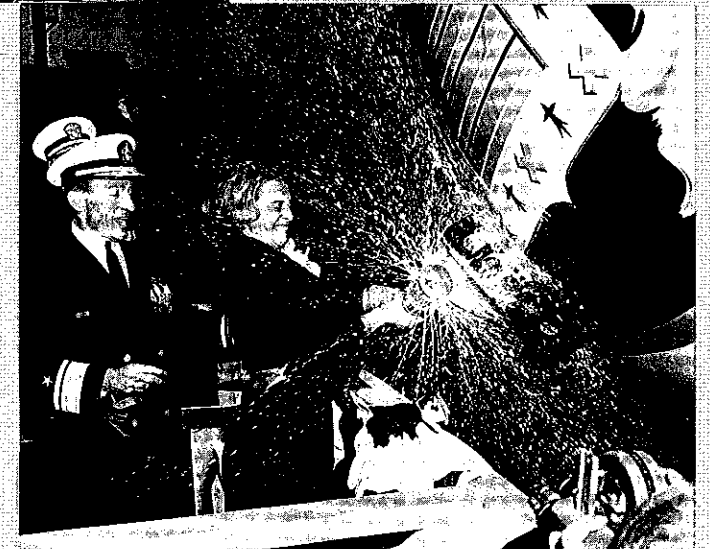
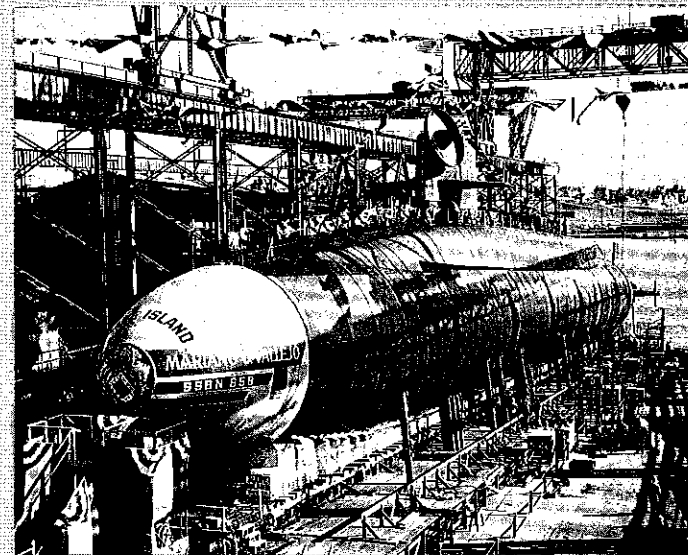


## THE SPONSOR

Miss Patricia O. V. McGettigan, the sponsor of the USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO, is the great-great granddaughter of General Mariano G. Vallejo. She is a native of California born in San Francisco. Patricia's father is a member of the McGettigan family which figured prominently in the early history of the City of Vallejo. Her paternal grandmother was Francisca Vallejo, daughter of General Vallejo's son, Platon.

On 23 October 1965 Miss McGettigan christened "MARIANO G. VALLEJO" by smashing a bottle of California champagne across the ship's bow during launching ceremonies at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. At the time of the launching Miss McGettigan was a student in the senior class at the University of California at Berkeley and a member of KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA sorority. She majored in history and graduated from the University in June 1966.

Miss McGettigan volunteered for work in the "Peace Corps" and she departed San Francisco in November 1966 for Puerto Rico to receive "Peace Corps" training which unfortunately precluded her from attending the ship's commissioning ceremonies in December. However, her younger sister Molly S. V. McGettigan represented her at the commissioning ceremonies.





### GENERAL MARIANO G. VALLEJO

General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo for whom the ship was named was born July 7, 1808 in the settlement of Monterey. His father, Sergeant Ignacio Vallejo, was stationed in Monterey with the Mexican army when Mariano was born. Young Mariano entered the Monterey Presidial Academy at the age of 15.

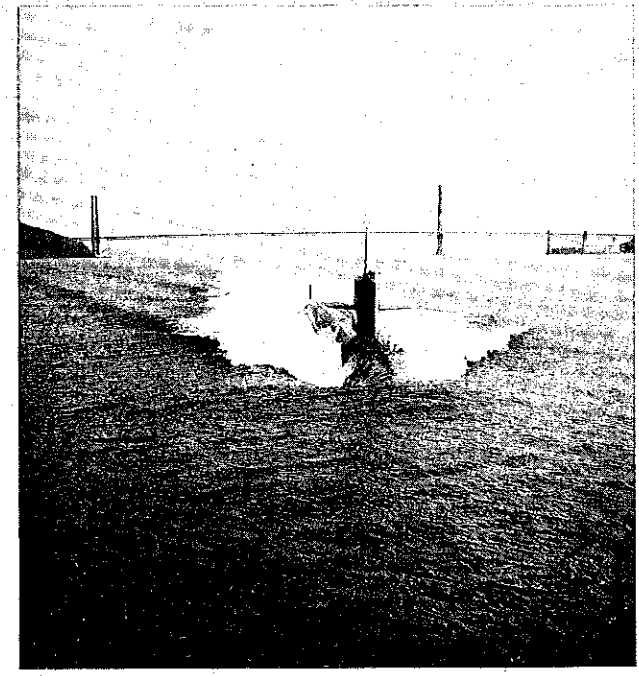
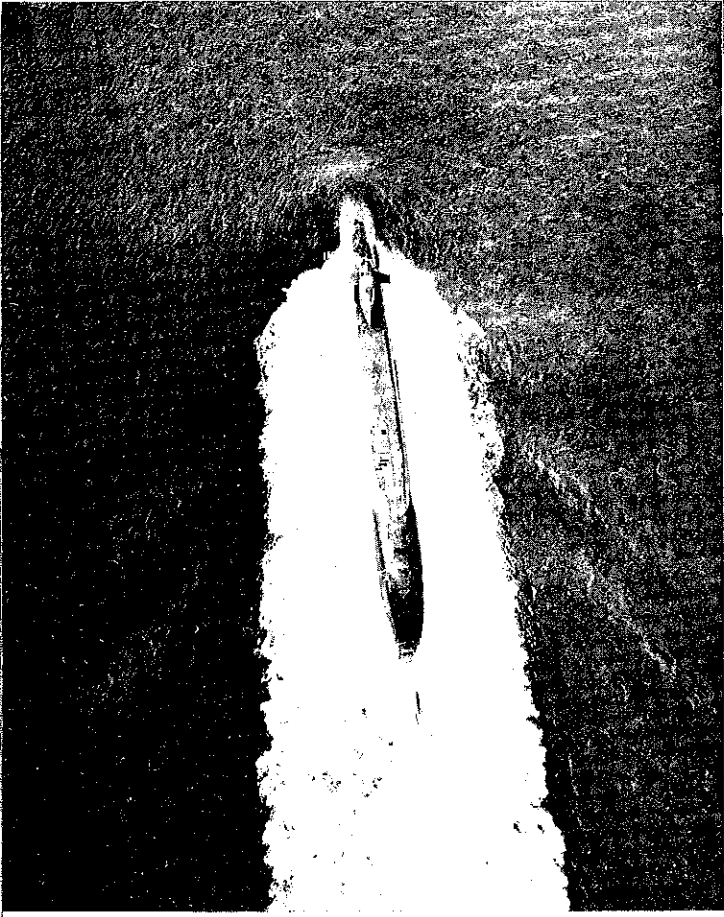
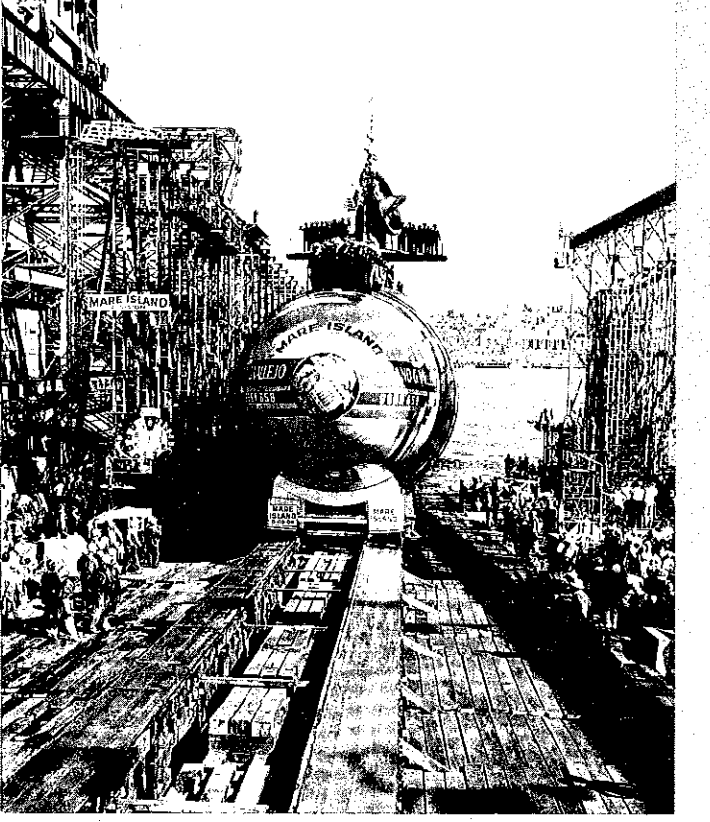
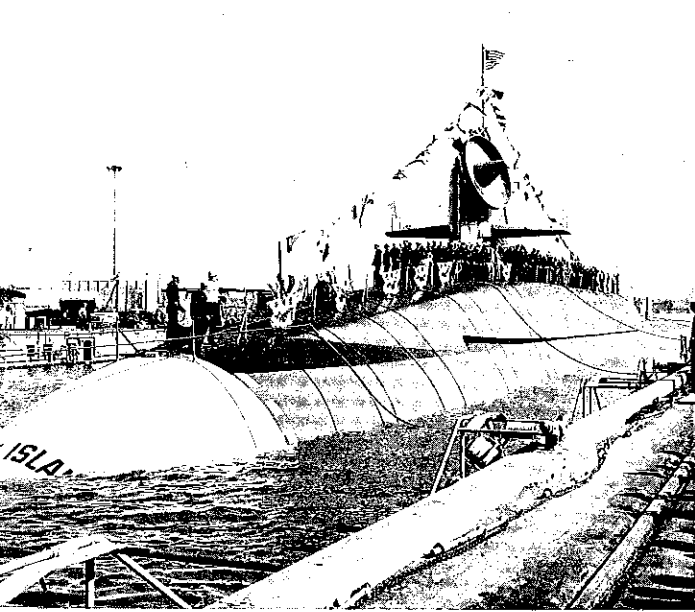
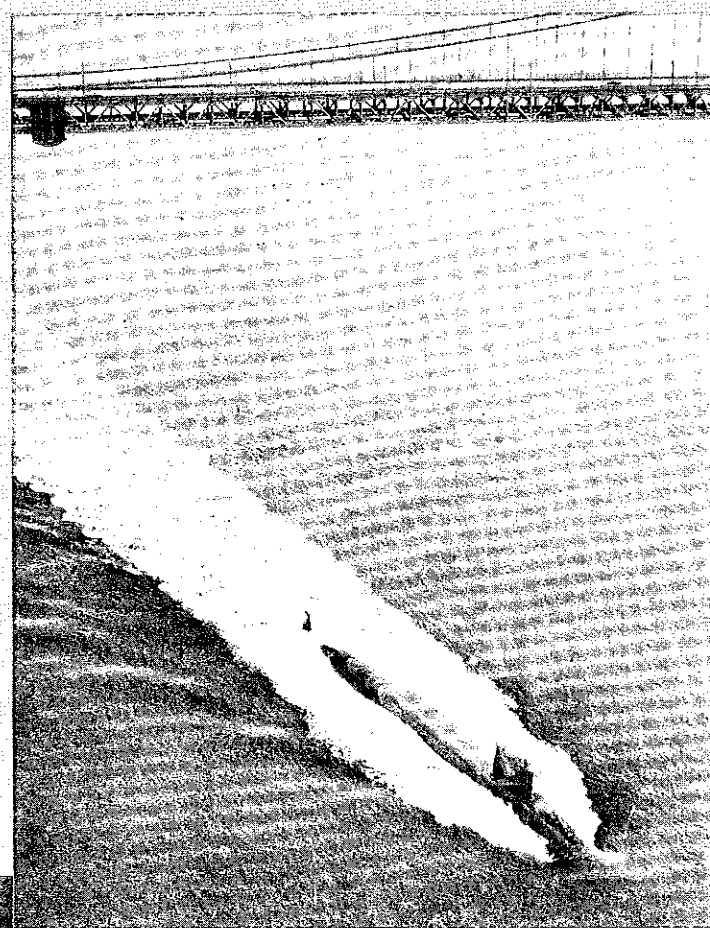
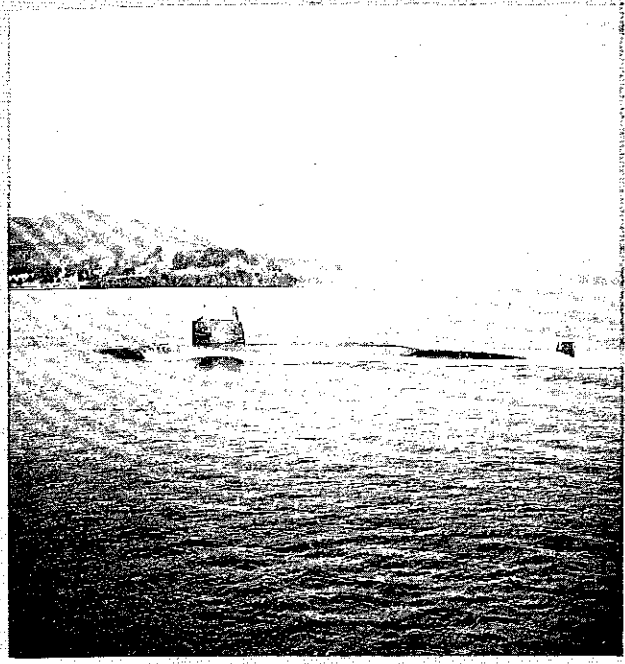
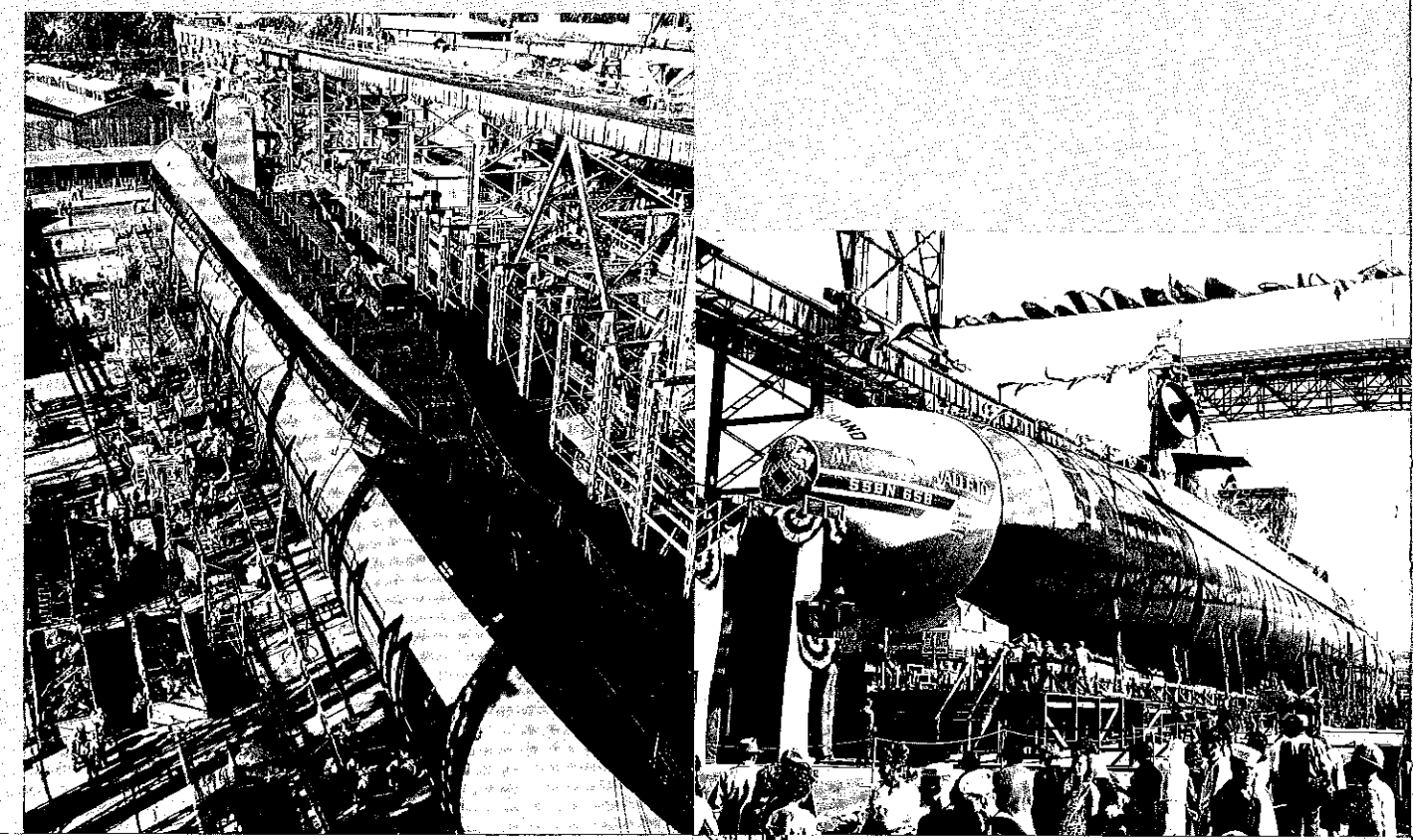
In 1825, he was appointed secretary to the Mexican Governor of California. Vallejo served as Commander of the Presidio at San Francisco for several years and in 1836 was appointed Commandante General and Director of Colonization of the Northern Frontier which was the highest military command in Northern California. As Commandante General, his major objective was to discourage further Russian settlement in California and to hold the savage indian tribes in check. The General's appointment terminated on June 14, 1846 during the Bear Flag revolt, when General Vallejo enthusiastically supported the separation from the Mexican Government and the peaceful annexation of California by the United States.

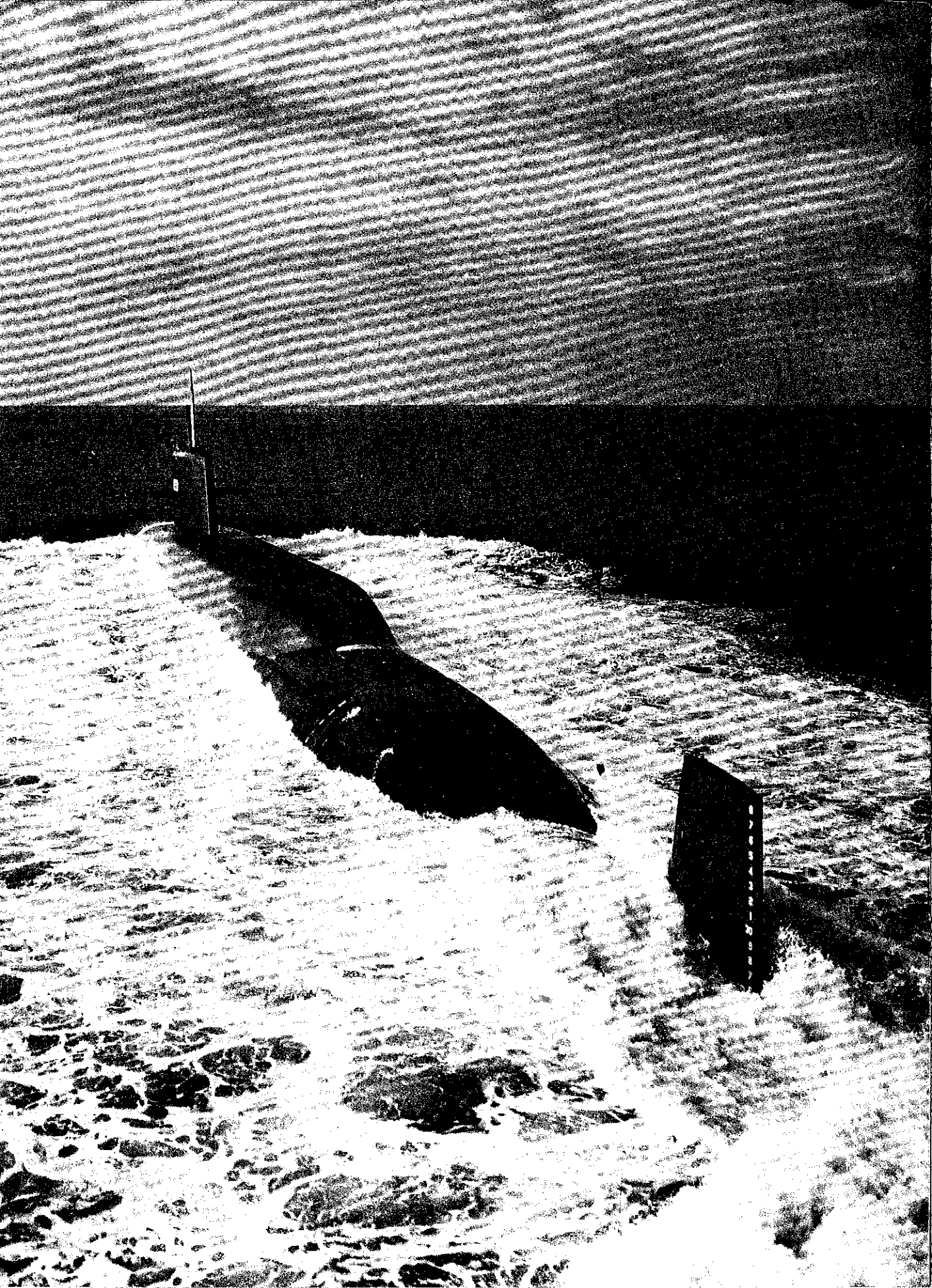
In 1849 General Vallejo attended the constitutional convention in Monterey. He helped frame the State Constitution which was signed in October 1849. An influential member of the convention, he was appointed as head of a commission to recommend names for various counties of the State of California. General Vallejo was subsequently elected a member of the first State Senate which met in 1850.

General Vallejo died quietly in his home in Sonoma on January 12, 1890 and was buried on a hill overlooking Sonoma. His many years of service, loyalty and devotion to California throughout its early settlement, development and statehood have been given just recognition through the naming of the USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN658).











April 2, 1846.

When

the Native Californians debated the fate of the Province of California  
Mexican Assembly, Monterey, California:

"I pronounce for annexation to France or England . . . but I hear some one say: "No Monarchy" . . . "But is not Monarchy better than Anarchy?"

General Jose Castro

"I cannot, gentlemen, coincide in opinion the cession of our country to France or England. It is most true that to rely any longer upon Mexico to govern and defend us would be idle and absurd . . . My opinion is made up that we must persevere in throwing off the galling yoke of Mexico . . . We have indeed taken the first step by electing our own governor but another remains to be taken, and that is annexation to the United States. By contemplating this consummation of our destiny, I feel nothing but pleasure, and I ask you to share it . . . When we join our fortunes to hers, we shall not become subjects, but fellow-citizens, possessing all the rights of the people of the United States and choosing our own federal and local rulers . . .

We shall have a stable government and just laws.

California will grow strong and flourish, and her people will be prosperous, happy and free. . . . Look not, therefore, with jealousy upon the hardy pioneers who scale our mountains and cultivate our unoccupied plains; but rather welcome them as brothers, who come to share with us a common destiny."

General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo

