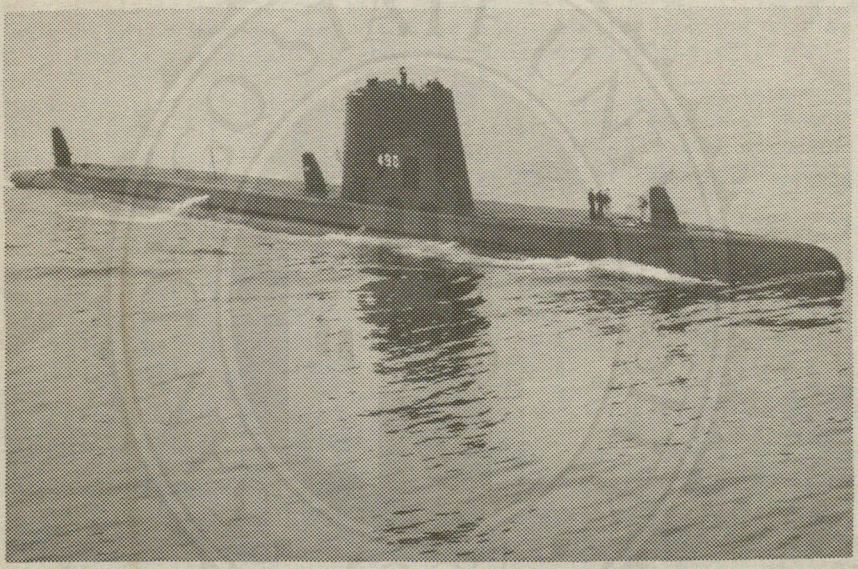
[NB-0414-904-004.002]

Welcome Aboard



U.S.S. VOLADOR (SS490)

HISTORY USS VOLADOR (SS490)

At the end of World War II the USS VOLADOR was left, about one third completed, on the building ways U.S. Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth New Hampshire. Construction resumed in August 1947 and she left the way 21 March 1948.

Upon commissioning 1 October 1948 and completing builders trails in January 1949, the VOLADOR became one of the latest guppy snorkel attack type submarines, capable of high submerged speeds and sustained periods of underwater cruising.

Assigned to the Pacific Fleet in 1949 she departed the east coast and proceeded, via the Panama Canal, to San Diego to operate locally. While enroute Pearl Harbor, T.H., in June 1950, on a routine reserve training cruise, the Korean situation erupted, delaying her return to the San Diego area for two months.

VOLADOR has been operating out of San Diego since reporting to the Pacific Fleet. She has made several deployments to the Western Pacific and participated in numerous large scale fleet exercises in that area. VOLADOR has also operated in the PUGET SOUND area on many occassions.

In April 1962, the VOLADOR entered the San Francisco Naval Shipyard to under go conversion to GUPPY III. For four months the VOLADOR was in an INACTIVE STATUS, but not decommissioned The fifth day of September, 1962, was a proud day for the VOLADOR, as she was put back on the active list. In March 1963, the VOLADOR as one of the world's most modern conventional submarines, departed San Francisco to resume operations as a member of the Pacific Submarine Force.

The USS VOLADOR is assigned to Submarine Squadron FIVE based at San Diego, California, and is commanded by LCDR Kurt F. DORENKAMP, U.S. Navy of Philadelphia, Pennsylvainia.

THE SUBMARINE'S MISSION

One of the most versatile weapons in the Navy's arsenal, the submarine, has been assigned missions as varied as the operation of war itself. These missions may be to penetrate enemy-controlled waters, to deliver torpedo attacks against his shipping, to sink enemy submarines, or to deliver missile attacks against military installations or fleets at sea, and to mine harbors and channels. In support of fleet operations, they may be utilized as weather stations, as early warning radar stations, as radar picket ships, and in scouting and reconnaissance missions. They may provide amphibious assaults with landing of troops and underwater demolition teams. Disposed along the air routes to the enemy's homeland, they are readily available lifeguard stations for downed aviators. They may be used to supply cargo, arms, ammunition, fuel or to evacuate besieged areas.

Not the least of the submariner's duties is the valuable service they perform by helping our own forces perfect anti-submarine warfare, one of the Navy's primary missions. An additional mission of the Submarine Service since World War II is that of Hunter-Killer: the locating and destruction of enemy submarines.

Until the complete conversion of our submarine fleet to nuclear power, submarines like the VOLADOR will continue to act as our far front line of defense deep in the heart of any enemy waters.